

East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

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CHRISTMAS TIME IN EASTIE



Shown above, students from East Boston Central Catholic School entertained the guests with many Christmas selections during the annual Eastie Elves, now in its 20th year. Shown below, Nina Gaeta Coletta was presented the Elf of the Year Award, her husband Ed, by her side, along with daughter Councillor Gabriela Coletta and members of the Madaro Foundation and the East Boston Key Club and Soccer Team. See more photos on Pages 6 and 7.



Marisa DiPietro, Director of Community Engagement, East Boston Social Centers, with Santa during the 36th annual NOAH Community Dinner at Spinelli's.



Santa with Phil Giffie, Executive Director, NOAH, during the annual NOAH Dinner on December 14. See more photos on Page 9.

Piers Park II is completed

New park brings more green space to Eastie waterfront

Special to the Times

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), members of the Piers Park Advisory Committee (PierPAC), local elected officials and community members last week celebrated the opening of Piers Park II on the East Boston Waterfront. This new park is adjacent to the award-winning Piers Park, which was completed over twenty years ago. With the addition of Piers Park II, Massport now owns and operates approximately 38 acres of green space throughout East Boston.

"We are thrilled to cele-

brate the opening of Piers Park II, creating more green space for the residents of East Boston," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. "The State and Massport are happy to participate in this joyous collaboration of community members that brought this project to life."

In collaboration with the PierPAC, Massport worked with East Boston residents to design the project. While the original Piers Park was designed for unstructured activity, Piers Park II is an active

See PIERS PARK II Page 3

EBNHC joins local civic organizations to bring holiday lights back to East Boston

Special to the Times

The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center is proud to partner with the East Boston Holiday Committee, the East Boston Chamber of Commerce and East Boston Main Streets to bring holiday cheer to our community with festive new wreaths, garlands and lights in Maverick Square, Central Square, Day Square and Orient Heights.

"We are very excited to announce our corporate sponsorship from the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center," said Holiday Committee Chairperson and longtime East Boston resident, Lisa Cappuccio. "Our first year bringing back lights and decorations in the squares has been successful with

the support of businesses and agencies such as the EBNHC, which is more than a healthcare facility -- they are partners in our community, always participating and giving back in numerous ways. We are fortunate to have EBNHC in our community and are very thankful for their extremely generous donation."

See HOLIDAY LIGHTS Page 2

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East Boston

Times-Free Press

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

This is the most wonderful time of the year, to paraphrase the popular song, with holiday music playing in the malls and on our car radios, resurrecting our earliest childhood memories of Christmases-past.

We choose just the right tree, decorate it carefully with our family-heirloom ornaments, and when we first turn on the lights, it brings a smile to the faces of even the most-jaded among us.

Despite our hectic rushing to and fro’, everybody, it seems, is in a good mood. We endure the traffic and the long lines in stores because we know that what we are doing will bring joy and happiness to others.

For those of us with young children, we get to see Christmas through their eyes, giving us a second chance to experience the wonder and joy that we felt when we were their age.

Although all of us celebrate the holiday season in our own way, the common thread is one of peace, joy, and happiness, regardless of religious or secular beliefs. Whether it be Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or a Seinfeldian Festivus, the spirit of the season imbues us with a sense of togetherness that transcends whatever negativity may exist both in our own lives and in the world around us.

We wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

THERE’S STILL TIME TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

The stock market is booming and unemployment is near an all-time low, but there was the depressing news this past week that homelessness among Americans has increased by 12 percent in the past year.

The cold, harsh reality for many Americans in 2023 is that the promise of a booming economy still is only a dream in our country, where even those who are lucky enough to work full-time are barely getting by thanks to the crushingly-high cost of housing.

And for those who cannot find a job, or who are unable to work -- and especially for their children -- the holiday joy that most of us take for granted is just an illusion.

We recognize that in our hurry-hurry world where we barely have time to think, the Christmas season brings with it the pressure of last-minute shopping and holiday preparations. But we urge all of our readers, who have the means to do so, to take a deep breath and a brief “time-out” in order to consider doing something to make the holiday season a bit brighter for those who are less fortunate.

We can assure our readers that any gift of charity that you make, whether it be to a Toys for Tots program or to a Salvation Army Santa or a food bank donation, will be the most meaningful — and most satisfying — act that you can make this holiday season.

ENJOY THE LONG HOLIDAY WEEKEND SAFELY

The upcoming long-weekend means that most of us will be partaking in traditional gatherings with our families, friends, and co-workers to share the joy of the holiday season.

Unfortunately, this also means that many among us will be overindulging in holiday “spirits.”

It is the responsibility of each of us to ensure that where alcohol is present, it is used responsibly, not only by ourselves, but by those around us at our holiday gatherings. None of us wants to wake up the next morning with the regret, “If only I had taken their car keys.”

We wish all of our readers a happy, and safe, holiday weekend.



Forum

EBCC announces all the winners of their 50/50 Raffle and 2023 Deck the Windows holiday decorating contest

Special to the Times

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce co-hosted with Veronica Robles Cultural Center the annual holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 9th. All winners were announced at the Holiday Bazaar. The Chamber’s 2023 Deck the Windows holiday decorating contest was held over the weekdays of December 6 to 8. Businesses participated by decorating their storefront windows with decorations of the

season and by having their decorations photographed and submitted to the Chamber. From the many decorations and out of 80 participants, three winners were chosen (first, second, and third place) as the best decorated windows by an East Boston business in 2023. Certificates will be awarded to the three winners along with a congratulatory letter from the East Boston Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, the 1st place winner

will receive \$300 (Three Hundred Dollars.) The 2nd place winner will receive \$200 (Two Hundred Dollars.) And 3rd place winner will receive \$100 (One Hundred Dollars.) The Chamber would like to thank each and every business in East Boston for their decorating, beautifying, and demonstrating the spirit of the holidays in our community.

Congratulations to:

1st Prize winner – El Valle de La Sultana Mar-

ket on Bennington Street

2nd Prize winner – Taco Mex at Maverick Square

3rd Prize winner – Mario Real Estate Century 21 on Bennington Street

Also, the Chamber’s 50/50 raffle winner was drawn for a prize of over \$1,800 (One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars.) The prize winner was Martha Bernal-Gamba.

The awardees will be recognized in person by the Chamber in the coming week.

NSPO presents the 2023 Sounds of Christmas

Special to the Times

Music filled the air Sunday night when the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra performed the 2023 Robert A. Marra Memorial “Sounds of Christmas” concert before a huge audience that packed St. Anthony’s Church. Music Director Robert Lehmann and guest soprano Katie Oberholtzer had the crowd on their feet and calling for more as the Orchestra concluded the concert with the traditional “Let There Be Peace On Earth.”

Concert patrons started to stream into the church

an hour before the 4 p.m. start, and they were generous with their donations to the Revere Food Pantry in the Food Drive that is part of the holiday season celebration. “It’s a wonderful audience,” said Music Director Lehmann, who has led the conducted the concert since 2000. “Every year you can feel their heart is in the season, and their donations to the Food Drive prove that... and their love of the music. My holiday season doesn’t begin until we play this concert”

“To me it’s a magical experience,” said Ms. Oberholtzer, who was



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MARRA

Singer Katie Oberholtzer enthralled the audience at St. Anthony’s Church with her soaring renditions of holiday music during the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra’s 2023 performance of the Robert A. Marra Memorial Sounds of Christmas concert.

making her first appearance with the North Shore Philharmonic. “To be in the middle of the orchestra and singing to so many people, bringing joy the crowd in the holiday spirit

,” Katie told a RevereTV audience after the concert. “It really is magical.”

The audience loved Ms. Oberholtzer’s sparkling

See NSPO Page 7

Holiday Lights // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

EBNHC is one of the nation’s largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 100,000 patients and recognized by the Health Resources and Services

Administration (HRSA) as a National Quality Leader. EBNHC is a major employer with nearly 2,000 staff, and a nine-time awardee of Boston Globe’s Top Places to Work recognition.

“We know that the health of our community is

not just about high-quality, compassionate healthcare, but about bringing light and gladness to the thousands of community members who enjoy these busy public spaces each day,” said Greg Wilmot, CEO and President of East Boston Neighborhood Health

Center. “We are thrilled that our neighborhood’s civic and business organizations can come together to beautify our community and spread joy during the holidays and throughout the year.”



Pictured from left to right- Greg Wilmot, President & CEO, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC); Dr. Ryan Boxhill, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, EBNHC; Laura Piscopo, Development Officer, EBNHC; Miguel Vargas, Executive Director of East Boston Main Streets; Lisa Cappuccio, Chairperson of the East Boston Holiday Lights Committee; Shirley Fabbo, President of the East Boston Chamber of Commerce. Steven Snyder, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, EBNHC; Susana Elman, Communications Manager, EBNHC; Emily Martin, Director of Communications, EBNHC.

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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News in Brief

CITY OF BOSTON WINTER FITNESS SERIES RETURNS

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), has announced the launch of the 2024 Boston Parks Winter Fitness Series. This program is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts and offers free virtual classes from January 7 through April 6.

Certified fitness instructors will offer a range of winter classes, including Afrobeats Dance, Cardio Kickboxing, Chair Yoga, Dance Fit, Strength and Balance, Strength and Conditioning, Yoga, and Zumba. Class descriptions, dates, and times have been posted on the winter fitness website: boston.gov/fitness.

The program is designed to cater to the different interests of residents, with classes that are accessible and age-friendly, as well as classes for

people who are new to group fitness. Regardless of fitness level, everyone is welcome to join. By encouraging physical activity across the city, BPHC and the Parks Department aim to reduce the barriers to active living and ensure that Bostonians have plenty of opportunities to stay active throughout the year.

Participants can follow @healthyboston and @bostonparksdept on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter or call (617) 961-3047 for cancellations and class updates. Additionally, to stay up to date with seasonal fitness offerings as well as news, park improvements, and events, sign up for the Parks email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails.

DOC IMPLEMENTS NO COST PHONE CALLS

The Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) implemented no cost phone calls across its 14 correctional facilities to

provide equitable access to sustained communication between incarcerated individuals and their loved ones. The move results from legislation signed by Governor Maura Healey requiring calls be made available free of charge for individuals in state and county prisons. The Healey-Driscoll Administration supported this initiative in recognition that maintaining a connection between incarcerated individuals and their families is vital to enhancing rehabilitation, reducing recidivism, and improving community safety.

As of December 1, 2023, all calls from the standard facility wall phone will use the same call procedures outlined in the Department’s Telephone Access and Use Policy. However, phone calls will no longer incur any charge. Previously, the incarcerated individual or the person receiving the call would pay the fee. Under the change, there is no cap on the number of

calls.

“The Massachusetts Department of Correction recognizes the importance of incarcerated individuals maintaining bonds with their loved ones. No cost calls will alleviate the financial burden and remove barriers for an individual in MA DOC custody to stay connected with their outside support system. Strong family support helps to advance the rehabilitative process, reduces recidivism, and contributes to successful reentry upon release,” said DOC Commissioner Carol Mici.

To raise awareness about this change, DOC provided the population with written notification, posted signage in all residential units, and uploaded a message to each person’s department-issued educational tablet.

In anticipation of increased demand and call volume within each housing unit, DOC has proactively engaged the phone vendor, Securus Technol-

WINTHROP MARKETPLACE DRAWS RAFFLE FOR A CAUSE



Winthrop Marketplace is excited to announce the two winners of their \$500 Gift Certificates to the Winthrop Marketplace. Congratulations to Joanne P. and Don Bl “Thank you to all of our amazing customers for coming down to our store and purchasing raffle tickets in support of Mi Amore. With all proceeds of the raffle going to Mi Amore, a non-profit organization that helps Winthrop families in need, we hoped to raise a few thousand dollars so that these families can have a little extra cheer for the holidays. We never imagined that all of our customers would help raise over \$6,000 for this wonderful organization. We are so lucky to have such wonderful and supportive customers. Thank you to each and every one of you that purchased a raffle ticket. And we want to wish everyone Happy Holidays from all of us at the Winthrop Marketplace.”

ologies, to identify locations across the agency that may benefit from additional wall phones. DOC is also exploring ways to facilitate additional access, including the ability to make calls through tablets. In

addition, the Department provides other opportunities for incarcerated individuals to stay connected with loved ones through in-person visits, letters, and electronic messaging.

Piers Park II // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

park including a 1.07-acre active play area as the centerpiece, allowing multiple groups of people to participate in activities at the same time.

The design for the 4.5-acre park includes key resiliency features to help protect the area from flooding and sea level rise. Several sustainable elements have been incorporated into the park’s design to protect against flooding at a critical flood water pathway and reduce heat island effect in the dense East Boston community, including:

- Elevating the park site and creating landscape berms to provide flood protection;
- Replacing the gravel lot with 4.5 acres of green-space;
- Planting 72 new trees;
- Installing drinking fountains with bottle filling stations;
- Placing energy efficient lighting throughout the park and at the new Sailing Center building, and;
- Building a highly efficient heating and cooling system in the new Sailing Center building.



City and State officials join residents who gathered for the ribbon cutting on Piers Park II last week.

enhances the waterfront of East Boston and provides more open space and views for community members and visitors to enjoy,” said State Senator Lydia Edwards. “I’m thrilled that this project has become a reality after years of collaborative efforts.”

“Piers Park is one of our community’s most cherished, beautiful open spaces, and I am so excited to be celebrating the official opening of Piers Park II today!,” said State Representative Adrian Madaro. “This moment is one that has been a long time coming, and I want to thank Massport for their partnership in making Piers Park II a reality, as well as all of the community activists who have played a role in bringing this much-anticipated project to completion. East Boston will now

have even more waterfront open space to enjoy.”

“We are excited to celebrate the completion of Piers Park II, a green space that adds to the vibrant East Boston community,” said Massport Interim CEO Ed Freni. “This new park is a great addition to the East Boston Waterfront and we look forward to seeing the community and visitors enjoy this new space.”

The park contains several water features, a picnic grove, multi-generational exercise equipment, and a children’s area with a playground and wandering path with musical instruments. A new 1,600-square-foot building for the Piers Park Sailing Center and an open air pavilion structure was built on the park site, providing views of the waterfront activity for the staff

and participants.

“Open space along our waterfront is a priority for East Boston and we are thrilled to celebrate the addition of the now completed Piers Park II,” said Boston City Councilor Gabriella Coletta. “Our parks provide some of the most beautiful views of the Boston skyline and

will be cherished by the community for generations.”

“The East Boston neighborhood has long awaited the official opening of Piers Park II and I’m grateful to the active members of our community that have continued to support bringing this project to life,” said for-

mer Boston City Councilor and PierPAC member Sal LaMattina. “Residents and visitors of all ages will greatly benefit from the thoughtful design of this project.”

“Piers Park II is an excellent addition to the waterfront for all residents and visitors of the community to enjoy,” said Executive Director of the Piers Park Sailing Center Alex DeFronzo. “We are thrilled about the new building for the Sailing Center as we continuously work to improve and elevate our program, and create opportunities in the East Boston community to enjoy the waterfront and the harbor.”

Working in concert with government, community and civic leaders throughout Massachusetts and New England, Massport is an active participant in efforts that improve the quality of life for residents living near its facilities and who make sacrifices every day so that the Authority can deliver important transportation services to families and businesses throughout New England.

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EASTIE’S ELVES CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY
AND THE CHILDREN THAT LIVE HERE

Eastie’s Elves has been a commitment to bringing holiday spirit to children from East Boston and surrounding communities, through the generosity of the residents for 20 years. The responsibility of the event has changed hands over the years, but has not missed a beat, in fact it has grown bigger and better. State Representative Adrian Madaro has recently been at the helm and has brought his love

and enthusiasm to the program, through the Madaro Foundation. Last Friday evening the gala event took place at the Logan Hyatt, admission was a new, unwrapped toy, toys were also being collected throughout the month at many locations in East Boston, Revere and Winthrop. The Grand Ballroom was filled with supporters, but the toys filled 3 other rooms. Nina Gaeta Coletta

and the East Boston High School Key Club were named the Albert “Junior” Lombardi “Elf of the Year”, for their dedication to helping others. Nina Coletta has been part of the Eastie’s Elves for 19 of the 20 years in existence. Thanks to this wonderful program and the dedication of many that continue the tradition of giving, hundreds of needy children will have a very happy holiday season.



State Representative Adrian Madaro with the dancers from the Beverly Richards Studio.




Members of the East Boston Key Club and the EB Boys Soccer Team help in the toy room.



Executive Director of the East Boston Social Center Justin Pasquariello and Marisa DiPietro were at the Hyatt last Friday evening.

The East Boston Times
wishes you a Merry Christmas
& a Very Happy New Year full of
health and happiness in 2024

Happy Holidays
& Happy New Year



FROM
State Senator
Lydia Edwards

Seasons Greetings!
Happy New Year!



State Rep. **Adrian Madaro** & Family

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EASTIE’S ELVES CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY
AND THE CHILDREN THAT LIVE HERE



Mayor Michelle Wu helps adjust Mateo Madaro’s holiday necklace.



Helping with the raffles, from left: Casey Waskiewicz, Allison Markowski, Maya Harel, and Mary Bancroft.



Representative Madaro with his family, Ariel, Mateo and Nico.



Ariel Madaro (center) and her co-workers from the East Boston Court Clerk’s Office: Analis Rivas, Karamarie Doherty, Jennifer Miranda and Iqra Moughal.



Representing the City of Revere, Councillor-Elect Bob Haas III, School Committee member Jacqueline Monterroso, State Representative Jessica Giannino, Ward 5 Councillor-Elect Angela Guarino Sawaya, and Councillor Marc Silvestri.



Shown above, former State Sen. Joe Boncore was on hand for the grand event, shown with Patricia Briand, Mohamed Mahoud, and State Reps. Adrian Madaro and Jeff Turco.



Lots of big smiles from these dancers, Felicity Shelton, Emma Buckley, and Magnolia Shelton.



State Representative Adrian Madaro with his parents, Debra Cave and Jacopo Madaro.

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GREENROOTS’ “TEACHING KITCHEN” OPENS IN CHELSEA TO BRIDGE NUTRITION, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND CULTURE

Special to the Times

On Thursday, December 14, GreenRoots, a community-based organization dedicated to improving and enhancing the urban environment and public health in Chelsea, East Boston and beyond, celebrated the grand opening of the “Teaching Kitchen,” a new space created by Chelsea residents to make and share food in the way they enjoy most – as an exchange of recipes and cultures that builds healthier communities.

Seeking to capture the flavors and traditions of the ethnically diverse communities represented in the city, the Kitchen will be a first-of-its-kind space in Chelsea. It will offer a place to gather as well as inclusive cooking, health, and wellness programming.

“As we prepare to celebrate GreenRoots’ 30th anniversary in 2024, the teaching kitchen is a testament to what we’ve been striving towards for years,” said Roseann Bongiovanni, Executive Director at GreenRoots. “Over the past three decades, to combat health disparities and reverse years of environmental degradation and toxic pollution, we have transformed urban land into lush growing spaces where fruit, vegetables and herbs have nourished our community. These growing spaces were incredibly important during the pandemic. Now, our Teaching Kitchen will further our environmental justice and health equity goals.”

The Teaching Kitchen is directly adjacent to two of GreenRoots’ six growing spaces, providing an urban “farm to table”

concept. GreenRoots’ Urban Farm offered fresh, healthy produce to 60 families weekly during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was incredibly important as Chelsea was one of the hardest-hit cities in the nation, with some of the highest infection rates per capita.

GreenRoots developed the teaching kitchen to be a fossil fuel-free building. The community largely informed the kitchen design and programming through meetings, workshops, and other engagements where people came together to discuss their vision and need for the space.

The Kitchen was funded through a \$1.05 million grant from Mass General Brigham, part of a larger community investment focused on chronic disease management, nutrition security, and mental health. In the future, the goal is for community members visiting The Kitchen to have the opportunity to get their blood pressure checked, be screened for diabetes, and partake in regular wellness workshops.

“Access to nutritious, affordable, culturally relevant food plays a critical role in overall health and the management of chronic illnesses like high blood pressure and diabetes,” said Elsie Taveras, MD, MPH, Chief Community Health and Health Equity Officer. “Mass General Brigham is committed to eliminating health disparities in the communities we serve, and nutrition-equity focused initiatives like the Green Teaching Kitchen are poised to deliver tangible, measurable impact.”

The Kitchen also received contributions from Eastern Salt Company, the International Union of



Shelagh McNamee of Eastern Minerals, who was instrumental in the GreenRoots Teaching Kitchen project with its generous support of the project, delivers remarks at the grand opening celebration.



Chelsea Housing Authority Supportive Services Manager Matt Frank, GreenRoots Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni, Chelsea Director of Elder Services Tracy Nowicki, Chelsea Housing Authority Executive Director Paul Nowicki, and District 7 Councilor-Elect Manuel Tesche.



Guest Chef Charlton Becker, Rep. Judith Garcia, John Valinch, and Guest Chef Jose Duarte.

Painters and Allied Trades Local 35, Home Décor Group and more.

The grand opening held Thursday, December 14, featured cooking demonstrations by Chefs Jose Duarte and Charlton Becker, both Chelsea residents, locally made foods, and the unveiling of a mosaic designed by Chelsea residents. Formal programming will begin in January.

For more information visit www.greenrootschelsea.org

GreenRoots is a women-led, resident-led, community-based organization whose mission is to

achieve environmental justice and greater quality of life through collective action, unity, education and youth leadership across neighborhoods and communities. GreenRoots began as a grassroots committee in 1994; grew into a formal program; and spun off into an independent organization in 2016 with the goal of more intentionally addressing root causes of environmental injustice. In our almost 30-year track record, we have achieved major accomplishments towards healthier and more just neighborhoods in Chelsea and East Boston.



Guest Chefs Charlton Becker of Charlton Becker Catering, Rep. Judith Garcia, Guest Chef Jose Duarte of Tambo 22, and GreenRoots Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni.



GreenRoots Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni, with her parents, Donna Bongiovanni and Nino Bongiovanni, at the grand opening of GreenRoots Teaching Kitchen, 63 Pearl St., Chelsea.



GreenRoots Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni, with her husband, Sandra Figarola, son, Luca Figarola, and mother, Donna Bongiovanni.



Cara Cogliano, Jen Kelly, Yahya Noor, and John Walkey.



GreenRoots volunteers Katie Lascalela and Matthew Jarrell, of East Boston.

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From left, Dan Adams, with children, Rainer Adams and Marine Adams, along with Michael McNamee, Shelagh Mahoney, and Joe McNamee of Eastern Minerals, generous donors to the GreenRoots Teaching Kitchen project.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth Of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING Docket No.

SU23D1272DR Lea B. Melara vs. Erick Joselito Melara To the Defendant: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on

file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411. You are hereby sum-

moned and required to serve upon: Lea B. Melara, 57 Marlborough St. Chelsea, MA 02150, your answer, if any, on or before 02/02/2024. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the

office of the Register of this Court. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 11, 2023 Stephanie Everett Register of Probate 12/20/23 EB

NSPO // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

renditions of “Ave Maria”, Mel Torme’s famous “The Christmas Song”, among others. Event co-chair Dom Bocchino remarked, “I was getting text messages from peopewatching the concert at home, saying how wonderful she said.

Mayor-elect Patrick Keefe addressed the audience during the concert, looking out at the audience and saying “This is the Revere I see, People coming together, enjoying each other’s company, and helping their neighbors,” he said.

As he introduced the evening’s guest narrator, Revere High senior Maya Merino, Mayor Keefe cited the accomplishments of previous Revere High seniors going back to 2015 who wrote essays that they read at the concert . “The Revere High students who have participated in this concert have told personal stories that reveal what is best about Revere, how precious it is to be their home,” Keefe said. “And the students, themselves, represent the best of Revere.”

In her essay, Merino cited several personal experiences and observed “... These moments all glitter, like snowflakes in my mind, each one unique and perfect,” she said. “The community and love that they hold is what distinguishes them as my defi-

nition of the holidays, reminding me that it doesn’t really matter what, when, or how you celebrate; it’s the simple act of being together with those that you love that make the holidays exactly what they are.”

Ms. Merino concluded her essay by asking the audience, “What memories are you reflecting on? Which ones will you go on to build?”

Event organizers praised the volunteers who devoted time and effort into making the concert and food drive a success. Members of the St. Anthony’s Church Confirmation class set up the altar area of the church with chairs for the concert and arranged hundreds of boxes to collect the food as patrons arrived. Members of the St. Anthony’s Holy Name Society welcomed the patrons and packed the boxes, and members of the Revere High football team contributed their strength and enthusiasm to load all the food—several tons of it—into a truck for transport to the Revere Food Pantry.

The Concert was principally sponsored by Bocchino Insurance, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Massport, Comcast, Astound/RCN Broadband, and Action Emergency Services.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MARRA

Music Director Robert Lehmann has led the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra in Revere’s “Sounds of Christmas” concert since 2000.



A full audience enjoyed the music as St. Anthony’s church was transformed into a grand concert hall, much like the historic churches of Europe where the great Masters of the art performed their music.



North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra horn player Annalisa Peterson dons a Santa hat as plays during the concert.



A young concert patron was one of a dozen who used Conductor Lehmann’s “Magical Baton” to lead the Orchestra in excerpts from The Nutcracker”

OBITUARIES

Florence Scapicchio
Of East Boston

Florence (Vecchio) Scapicchio of East Boston passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family on Wednesday, December 13 at 93 years of age.

The beloved wife of the late Louis Scapicchio, she was the devoted mother of Louis Scapicchio and his wife, Denise of East Boston and Richard Scapicchio and his wife, Beth of New Hampshire; dear sister of the late Mary Cilibrasi; cherished grandmother of Lindsey McGuinness and her husband, Kenny of Saugus, Leah Forbes and her husband, John of East Boston, Louis Scapicchio and his wife, Stacey of East Boston, Michael Scapicchio and his wife, Cinara of Peabody and adored great-grandmother of Gina, Mikayla, and Maria Forbes, Victoria, Catarina, and Isabella Scapicchio. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.



Family and friends honored Florence’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston, on Monday, December 18th and again on Tuesday morning before leaving in procession to Saint Joseph - Saint Lazarus Church, East Boston, for a Funeral Mass celebrating her life. Services concluded with Florence being laid to rest with her beloved husband at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. May they rest in peace. To leave an online condolence visit www.ruggieromh.com.

James R. “Jimmy” Rich
Retired Carpenter

Funeral Services were conducted in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals in Revere for James R. “Jimmy” Rich of East Boston who passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 7 at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, surrounded by his loving family. He was 84 years old. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Jimmy was born in Boston on April 12, 1939, son of the late Peter A. and Mary M. (Pomfrey) Rich. A lifelong resident of East Boston, he was a graduate of East Boston High School, Class of 1957. Jimmy had been employed by Metropolitan Construction working as a carpenter for several years until the time of his retirement.

He was a loving father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle and friend who will be missed by all who knew him.

He was the devoted father of Justin Rich of East




Boston; cherished grandfather of Joseph Rich of Swampscott; adored great grandfather of Jayce, Jackson, Jasper, Amelia and Ezmea; dear brother of Thomas Rich of Chelsea, Theresa Rich Pizzicone of W. Newbury, Dennis Rich and his wife, Jeannie Gayhart Rich of Ipswich and the late Timothy, Peter, Donald and Robert Rich. He was a beloved uncle to many nieces and nephews.

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

Rosemarie Y. (Mona) Leone

Dec. 23rd, 1935 — Dec. 23rd, 2023



Another Birthday year has come where we're not able to celebrate your birthday with you. The days, years, minutes get harder and harder without you, but you are at peace, and knowing that gives us all some relief.

We miss your beautiful smile, voice, but most of all your love, and nurture that you showed to each and everyone of us. Since you left us, our lives changed and we will never be the same. Today is your birthday, and we'd give anything to kiss, hug and celebrate with you. You will always be in our hearts and prayers and hope your celebrating with your loved ones in Heaven.

Ma, Happy Heavenly Birthday our Beautiful Angel

Rest Easy

We Miss and Love You Always! Your Loving Husband, Children, Grandchildren & Great-grandchildren

Angelo Novello Candreva
He touched the lives of those around him with warmth, kindness and a steadfast love for family

Angelo Novello Candreva, born on September 28, 1943, in Cosenza, Italy, peacefully departed this world on December 10, 2023, at home surrounded by his loving family after a brief illness.

Angelo was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend who touched the lives of those around him with warmth, kindness and a steadfast love for family. At the age of seven, Angelo embarked on a journey that would shape the course of his life, moving with his family from Italy to Argentina. As an adult, he further expanded his horizons, making a home in the United States.

Angelo was preceded in death by his parents, Andrea and Aida (Novello) Candreva and siblings: Adelina, Lucia, Antonio, Francesco, and Domingo. Angelo’s legacy lives on through his cherished children: Ida Candreva and her husband, Paulo Marques, Lucia Candreva-Johnson and her husband, Jeffre, and Andrea Candreva-Arroyo and her husband, Angel and their mother, Margherita Collins. He is also survived by his sister, Flora Rotondo, and will forever be remembered as the adoring grandfather of Stella and soon-to-be Adelina.

Angelo was a masterful mason, known for his skilled craftsmanship that left an indelible mark on the communities he served. His hands created lasting structures, but his heart cultivated vibrant gardens, and he found joy in nurturing life both in his work and at home. Angelo’s passion for gardening was matched only by his love




for spending time with his family, creating a haven of warmth and love that will be remembered for generations.

Family and friends celebrated Angelo’s life at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston, on Sunday, December 17th. The celebration continued on Monday morning departing in a funeral procession to St. Anthony of Padua Church on Revere St., Revere, for funeral mass in honor of Angelo. The final chapter of this celebration saw Angelo laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery in Saugus.

Angelo Novello Candreva’s spirit will live on in the memories of those who were privileged to know him, and his legacy will continue to inspire love, resilience, and the importance of family bonds. May he rest in eternal peace.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to JDFR, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 60 Walnut St., Wellesley Hills, MA 02481, www.jdfr.org/donate or to Zumix, 260 Sumner St., East Boston MA 02128, <https://www.zumix.org/donate/>.

To leave an online condolence, visit www.ruggieromh.com.



Christmas Remembrance

H. Elaine Halkopoulos, Ed.D. “HP”

July 3, 1935 - November 25, 2016

Missing you on Christmas...and every day...

It’s Christmas and the sadness never goes away.

Christmas was always a special time for you.

It was your favorite holiday.

You made each Christmas special... You filled it with your love, kindness and generosity.

Your spirit will live on... not only on Christmas... but, with affection and love in our thoughts, hearts and prayers – Each and every day.

Love, Tony

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT HEADED TO MELROSE

CHELSEA -Deputy Superintendent of Schools Adam Deleidi has been selected to lead the Melrose public school department.

At last week’s School Committee meeting, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta announced that Deleidi was leaving the Chelsea school district in June to take the superintendent’s job in Melrose.

Deleidi was one of four finalists for the top school job in Melrose.

“We are all so proud of you and we are all going

to miss you, this entire community,” said Abeyta. “This is bittersweet for us, but we are very happy for you.”

Before serving as Deputy Superintendent in Chelsea, Deleidi was the principal of the Berkowitz Elementary School and an assistant principal in Revere.

“As a product of Chelsea Public Schools and a resident for 30 years, this community will always hold a special place in my heart,” said Deleidi. “While I am looking forward to this new challenge, I am certainly saddened to be processing what my departure will mean. I have learned so much from so many and want to thank

the community for allowing me the opportunity to serve Chelsea.”

Deleidi also had kind words for the Chelsea School Committee at last week’s meeting.

“I’d be remiss if I did not acknowledge the joy I’ve had working with all of you, but particularly, with the four of you who are leaving (the school committee),” he said. “As a prospective superintendent elsewhere, I can only hope that I can have the same kind of working relationship that I’ve been having as a deputy superintendent with you. It was really an important factor as I did my search to try to find a school committee that was as supportive and

DAVIS COMPANIES READY TO BUY SITE

EVERETT - Everett Landco, LLC, a real estate development venture led by affiliates of The Davis Companies (Davis) and Global Partners LP (Global), today acquired a 100-acre property in Everett, MA from Exxon Mobil Corporation. The development offers the venture and the City of Everett a generational opportunity to transform a site on which fossil fuels have been refined and stored for the last century into a dynamic 21st century residential and commercial center that embraces the creativity and vitality of the area while contributing to the community’s prosperity and environmental well-being.

The former Exxon parcels, located in Everett’s Lower Broadway Economic Development District, include a deep-water marine terminal on the Mystic River and two former tank farms close to Routes 16 and 99, the MBTA commuter rail, and the Encore casino.

“We have been attracted to the tremendous potential of this site for quite some time,” said Michael Cantalupa, Chief Development Officer at Davis. “The size and configuration of the tank farm parcels can accommodate a wide mix of uses, including critically needed housing, clean energy uses, advanced research facilities, and high-tech manufacturing.”

“More than a decade ago, we set out to make Lower Broadway a jewel for Everett and an entrance to the city that makes us all proud,” said Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria. “We look forward to working with this venture to remediate and re-develop the former Exxon site to advance this transformation and bring clean energy and green tech jobs to our city. Within another ten years, Lower Broadway will be of even greater benefit to all our residents and the broader community.”

With the acquisition now closed, Davis will embark on a multi-year environmental remediation of the site, which has operated as an oil tank farm since 1965. Davis has partnered with Global, a long-established and local family-founded company. As a leading provider of essential energy products in the Northeast and beyond, Global has extensive and deep exper-

talented as you all.”

COATS FOR KIDS HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER AT DRYFT



Revere’s Ward 5 Councillor-Elect Angela Guarino Sawaya (left), Ward 1 Councillor Joanne McKenna (center) and Felicia Napolitano shown with coats in hand to donate as part of the Eighth annual Ugly Sweater Praty for Coats for Kids, held at Dryft Restaurant on Revere Beach.

tise in the management and clean-up of properties with complex environmental conditions. The remediation will prepare the site for more efficient and progressive ventures, including green tech research and manufacturing. This venture and project are representative of the comprehensive approach Global takes to maximizing the value of its real estate holdings through diversification and optimization.

“The historic use of this land is emblematic of 20th century industry. Not only are we cleaning it up, but we have the chance to completely reimagine how this property will be used for the next century,” said Stephen Davis, President of Davis. “As a strong partnership between two local firms, it is an honor to have the opportunity to invest in Everett’s ongoing renaissance, rolling up our sleeves alongside city, state, and federal officials to dramatically transform a vital part of our own backyard. We look forward to collaborating with the community to unlock the potential of this site and add to Everett’s vibrancy, environmental resiliency, economic vitality, and culture.”

Davis is a vertically integrated real estate investment, development and management firm that leverages five decades of experience, the strength of its leadership team and employees and a diversified portfolio to deliver maximum value for its investors and tenants. Headquartered in Boston and investing across the United States, Davis prides

itself on taking a nimble, collaborative approach to delivering best-in-class results from complex opportunities. With \$12.5 billion in gross asset value invested through real estate equity, debt and fixed-income securities, Davis today owns a real estate portfolio of approximately 14 million square feet of healthcare and life science, industrial, retail, office and hospitality properties and more than 5,000 residential units across the United States. For further information, visit www.thedaviscompanies.com.

COUNCILLORS SEEK ADA PLAYGROUNDS

REVERE - Ward 5 City Councillor John Powers wants to put safety first at the Oak Island Playground.

At last week’s council meeting, Powers submitted a motion asking Mayor-elect Patrick Keefe to use Community Improvement Trust Fund money to resurface the playground with a handicap accessible rubberized surface.

“The park at Oak Island is probably the park in the city that doesn’t have a rubberized mat,” said Powers. “The mulch is not that effective, and I think that the people down there in Oak Island certainly deserve this. If this saves one child from being injured or worse, then we have spent money well and we have done our job.”

Councillor-at-Large Gerry Visconti said he supported the motion.

See REGION Page 9

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NEIGHBORHOOD OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING HOLDS 36TH ANNUAL DINNER



Lynn Peterson, NeighborWorks America, Ed and Nina Coletta, NOAH board, and Robert Schmidt, NOAH board, Leticia Rave, Rockland Trust, a key sponsor, Karla and Francisco Reyes, NOAH volunteers, and Ashwin Acharya, Cambridge Savings Bank, key sponsor.



Camilla Escobar, Assistant to Home Ownership Services, Carlos Grajales-Thrall, Foreclosure Prevention Counselor, Nathalie Kallab, Home Ownership and Finance Services Advisor, and Leslie Toledo, Home Ownership Services Assistant.



Alberto Vasallo III, President/CEO of El Mundo, and Ruben Azocar.



Yeimi Trigueros, Siomara Sorto, and Kristel Gomez, selling raffle tickets.



State Representative Adrian Madaro with East Boston Social Centers members and staff.



State Representative Adrian Madaro commending NOAH for its impact in the community.



Deputy Director of the Office of Housing Stability, Danielle Johnson, Esq., was presented a certificate of recognition from State Representative Adrian Madaro for providing shelter to over 1,900 migrants to the City of Boston in 2023



NOAH volunteer Meg Reagon, with NOAH residents Helen Herrera, Stephanie Munguia, Marta Polanco, Geronimo Tamayo, Monica Barrera, Ismael Tamayo, Santos Taya, and Manlio Mendez.



Members of the community gathering at Spinelli's for NOAH's 36th Annual Dinner on December 14.



State Representative Adrian Madaro and Phil Giffie, Executive Director, NOAH.



Phil Giffie, Executive Director, NOAH, and Celsa Moreno-Barker, NOAH Vice President of the Board.

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

The Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) held its 36th Annual Dinner at Spinelli's on December 14. The organization was commended for not only providing affordable housing, but offering English as a second language classes, addressing environmental issues and food insecurity, and engaging with youth. "This is a special event that allows us to come together as a community and celebrate the wonderful and impactful work of the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing," said Representative Adrian Madaro, who served as

vice president of the board before being elected. Representative Madaro was raised on Eagle Hill, next to a NOAH building, and believes that NOAH's success is in keeping the community whole. He believes that NOAH is especially vital today, as residents are being displaced from their homes due to unaffordable rent increases. "One of the most beautiful things is that NOAH has been able to purchase properties in the community, and keep people in their homes for decades," noted Madaro. "That's how you keep a community stable."

Region// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"I believe we chatted about this issue at the park at the budget hearings this year knowing that there were problems with that park," said Visconti. "Thank you for putting this motion in. I know the administration was aware of this, and I would just love to see this

get done because I know that there are quite a few kids who utilize the park." Visconti added that there have also been some needles found at the park, and that the city needs to be proactive to keep the area safe and clean. "There is money in that

account, let's utilize it for the residents," said Visconti. Powers added that the Community Improvement Trust funds are not raised through taxes. "When a developer builds something in the city, these are some of the

rewards, if you want to call it that, that we get in return, a certain amount of money where we can handle these problems," said Powers. Councillor Marc Silvestri said that Ralph DeCicco, the head of the city's disability commission and its

ADA compliance director had reached out to home and asked that the playground at the Paul Revere School be added to Powers' motion. "The playground at the Paul Revere School currently has wood chips and that is against ADA com-

pliance," said Silvestri. Powers said he had no objection to that playground being added to the motion, but added that he would like to see the cost involved and how much money the city has in the Community Improvement Trust Fund.

independent's 2023 Christmas Kids



Milo



Clark Joseph.



Bri, Sam, Alexa, & John



Leilani & Juliette Jonathas



Adiella, Jayliella, Michel, & Jadiel



Julianna & Anthony Merlina



Charlotte and Oliver



Cinnamon Jr.

◀◀◀◀
Gavin, Violet, Sienna, & James Dougherty
Adeline, Sloane & Andrew Morris