

East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

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VERONICA ROBLES CULTURAL CENTER CELEBRATES THREE KINGS DAY

DEREK KOUYOUJIAN PHOTOS



The Three Kings, or Magi, were portrayed by Jeiner Corrales, Jhon Cardozo, and Sebastian Zapata with Delailah Mur as the Shepherd, Martín Cabello de Alba as Joseph, Mariangel Giraldo as the Virgin Mary, Isabella Mazo Jaramillo as the Angel, and Veronica Robles.



Emily and Gabriela Cardozo hold Emily's present which ended up being an electric guitar. We look forward to hearing some music in the future.



Carol Valentina with her parents Arturo and Cristina Mena at The Veronica Robles Cultural Center celebration of Three Kings Day on January 6. See Page 6 for more photos.

HVNA supports two projects

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

In the first Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA) meeting of the year on Monday, those in attendance voted in support of two projects: one on Saratoga Street and the other on Byron Street.

The first project up for discussion and a subsequent vote was at 682 Saratoga Street. The proposal is to demolish the existing one-family, two-and-a-half-story building and erect a three-story, five-unit building.

Additionally, the proposal is slated to include five parking spaces, and the units are intended for homeownership and will be sold as condominiums.

Regarding the unit mix, there are plans for three two-bedroom and two three-bedroom units,

which is a change from what was initially presented to the HVNA.

While Attorney Richard Lynds, who presented the proposal, explained that they are operating under the current zoning code, he mentioned that the proposal aligns more with zoning changes proposed in the Boston Planning and Development Agency's (BPDA) neighborhood planning initiative PLAN: East Boston.

Lynds also went through some of the violations that require relief. These violations under current zoning include use, side yard, rear yard, floor area ratio, height, and parking.

However, Lynds said, "For the most part, this plan generally aligns with

See HVNA Page 3

OHNC next meeting is Jan. 16

The Orient Height Neighborhood Council (OHNC) will be meeting on Tuesday, January 16, at the Ashley St. YMCA, starting at 6:30 p.m.

On the agenda will be the vote for a project at 28-30 Swan Ave. The project proposed are two buildings with four units in each.

An update from Boston Police Department with a focus on the uptick in crime related to the Orient Heights Housing Project.

The meeting will be on Tuesday instead of the usual Monday due to the holiday.

Elsa Flores joins Project Bread's Inaugural Council of Experts with lived experience

Special to the Times-Free Press

Elsa Flores, of East Boston, has joined Project Bread's new Council of Experts with Lived Experience, which is designed to engage people who have experiences with food insecurity in conversations to shape the resources and policies that directly impact them. Flores will be among eight inaugural council members who will bring their expertise and co-create programs and policies that make it easier for others living in Massa-



Elsa Flores.

achusetts to access and afford food with dignity.

Project Bread is the leading statewide food security organization in Massachusetts with a radical approach to ending hunger. The nonprofit engages residents, elected officials, and businesses to act against hunger so everyone in the Commonwealth has reliable access to food, using the key lever of policy, prevention and partnerships to implement sustainable solutions to hunger.

Through this inaugural 10-month program, Council Members, like Flores, will have the opportunity to be part of strategy development, planning, and decision-making that will strengthen their leadership skills, build their expertise as a community leader and advocate, and provide significant value in co-creating impactful and effective solutions to food insecurity.

"We firmly believe that hunger can be resolved when we collectively share our strategies, and we work together towards solutions informed by the experiences of the people we aim to serve," says Project Bread Vice President of Engagement, Catalina López-Ospina, a Colombian immigrant who's seen food insecurity in her own family and made it a mission in her work. "Our vision is for Massachusetts to become the first hunger-free state

in the nation. The Council of Experts will play a vital role in helping us to achieve our vision. With their knowledge, input, and ideas, we are confident that we will make significant progress toward impactful, sustainable, and systemic solutions to end hunger in Massachusetts."

Flores is a Salvadoran mother who lives in East Boston with her husband and three children. As an education professional, Flores is highly motivated, enthusiastic, and dedicated to the success of children and families. She will be working closely with Project Bread's Child Nutrition Outreach Program on various projects this year. With 11 years of teaching experience in El Salvador and two decades of working with families and children in the Boston community,

See FLORES Page 7

Plastic Free Mass urges legislators to fix recycling system

Special to the Times-Free Press

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), Just Zero, Be the Solution to Pollution, and other members of Plastic Free Mass are calling on legislators to update the state's beverage container deposit return system (aka Bottle Bill), which remains unchanged from when it was passed in 1982. Under the Bottle Bill, consumers make a deposit of 5 cents on some beverages, which they can redeem when they return the empty containers for recycling. If the program were updated to include all beverage containers and the deposit were increased to 10 cents, litter would be reduced in Massachusetts

by as much as 85%.

"Massachusetts beaches and waterways are choking with trash," said CLF attorney Mara Shulman. "Across the state, volunteers are spending countless hours picking up litter. This is unsustainable. Updating the Bottle Bill will not only slash litter, but it will also reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions. It's time for legislators to meet this moment and stop relying on volunteers to clean up litter when a legislative solution is at our fingertips."

"The data is clear," said Kirstie Pecci, Executive Director of Just Zero. "Modernizing Massa-

See RECYCLING Page 3

**TRASH
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Due to the Martin Luther King Holiday on Monday Jan. 15, 2024, trash will be delayed by one day
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DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. NEVER GAVE UP

For those of a certain age, it is hard to imagine that 2024 will mark 56 years since the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis while he was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968. Recalling how we felt when he first heard the news of Dr. King’s murder still brings chills and a deep sense of sadness that never has subsided.

For those who are too young to have been alive in that era of American history, there are a few things that everyone should know about Dr. King that should provide inspiration to all of us.

First, Dr. King was fearless. He knew from the inception of his rise to prominence of the Civil Rights movement that he would become a target for those who opposed change. Yet, even though he often told others that he believed his death would be imminent, he did not relent in his fight to continue his work in the civil rights movement.

Second, Dr. King stood for the rights of all Americans, not merely those of color. He was in Memphis working with striking sanitation workers, whose pay and working conditions he was seeking to help improve. He was an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War because he knew it to be an unjust war, not only for poor Americans who could not get a college deferment for the draft, but also for the people of Vietnam, whose homeland was being bombed into oblivion at great profit for the American military-industrial complex.

If Dr. King were alive in the present era, there is no doubt that he would have been in the forefront of the Black Lives Matter movement that has highlighted the ongoing racism and economic inequality that oppresses Americans of all races today.

Dr. King’s words ring as true today as they did two generations ago; his “I Have A Dream” and “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” speeches are among the most powerful not only in American history, but in all of Western civilization.

All of us should learn from the example set by Dr. King that in each of us is the power to change the world -- that each of us has the capacity to inspire others, whether through our words or deeds, whether on a small or large scale, to make the world a better place.

Many of our fellow citizens have followed the path set by Dr. King and many more will do so in the years ahead. So as we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day this Monday, let us recall not only his memory and the many things that he accomplished, but let us also resolve never to give in to the forces of intolerance, prejudice, and hate that continue to plague our country and the world today.

REPLACE BELICHICK? GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!

As we are writing this at the beginning of the week, there is rampant speculation that the Patriots are going to fire Bill Belichick, who undeniably is the greatest football coach of all time.

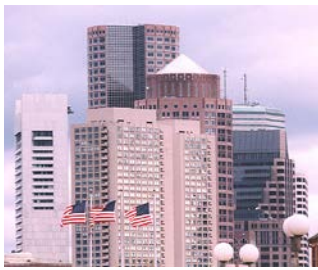
Yes, he had a great quarterback in Tom Brady, but Belichick’s genius was in taking players such as Brady (who, after all, was the 200th pick in the draft) and turning them into pros who could fill a niche (Teddy Bruschi, Julian Edelman, and Kevin Faulk being prime examples) on his teams. Belichick’s Patriots were a classic case of the sum of the whole being greater than the sum of the parts in much the same way that Red Auerbach, another coaching genius, did for the Celtics.

Belichick’s attention to detail was unparalleled, which explains why he routinely could allow great players to leave -- think Lawyer Milloy, Ty Law, Richard Seymour, Vince Wilfork, etc. -- and still be able to turn unheralded replacements into top-notch players.

To be sure, Bill Belichick wasn’t perfect -- we still have never heard a logical explanation for why he did not play Malcolm Butler in that Super Bowl with Philly -- but when you look around at all of the so-called “new wave” of football coaches, there is a lot of mediocrity, and even the best are not in his league. (The only current coach who comes close to Belichick is an old school guy, Andy Reid of Kansas City.)

The Patriots need to rebuild and if there’s anyone who knows how to do that, it is Bill Belichick (although even he will have a hard time unless the Pats can draft a quarterback who can compete with Ryan Allen, Mahomes, Tua, Joe Burrow, Lamar Jackson, Justin Herbert, and C.J. Stroud).

Our prediction is this: If Belichick goes, whoever is his replacement will last about three years -- and the Pats and their fans will realize that there was only one Bill Belichick, the G.O.A.T.



Healey-Driscoll Administration advances tuition equity

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Healey-Driscoll Administration took a significant step forward in expanding access to higher education for all Massachusetts residents by launching the new Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA). The Department of Higher Education released the form on their website today, which will allow currently-enrolled undocumented college students in Massachusetts to apply for state need-based financial aid for the first time. Students can access the application at mass.edu/MASFA.

The MASFA is an alternative form that provides students who cannot complete the Free Application for State Financial Aid (FAFSA) due to their immigration status a way to apply for state need-based financial aid. The application launch follows the August 2023 passage of Massachusetts’ Tuition Equity Law, which allows students who have completed at least three years of high school in Massachusetts and received a high school diploma or its equivalent in the Commonwealth to access in-state tuition and be eligible for financial aid, regardless of immigration status.

Eligible students began receiving the in-state tuition rate in Fall 2023. The MASFA released today is for additional need-based financial aid opportunities. It is based on the FAFSA for the 2023-2024 academic year and should be completed by students who are beginning college in Spring 2024 or were enrolled in the Fall 2023 semester and may qualify for financial aid. To receive financial aid for the 2023-2024 school year, students are encouraged to apply by May 1, and no later than June 30, 2024.

Students who apply for need-based state financial aid under the new “High School Completer” pathway created by the Tuition Equity Law must meet the existing eligibility criteria for each financial aid program for which they are seeking access.

“Quality higher education should be accessible to all Massachusetts high school graduates,” said Governor Healey. “Students who have long been part of our communities in Massachusetts should be eligible for the historic financial aid programs we

have launched this year, and they should have every opportunity to grow their careers and be part of building our state’s workforce. We’re grateful for the Legislature for their partnership in passing this historic policy, and we’re proud to be launching this application so that students can start accessing financial aid.”

“This has been a banner year for educational access in Massachusetts, following the passage of MassReconnect, MASSGrant Plus Expansion, and Tuition Equity,” said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. “The MASFA will open doors to need based financial aid for students looking to attend any public or private Massachusetts college or university.”

“Tuition equity is about giving students who have long called Massachusetts home equal access to higher education,” said Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler. “With the MASFA form providing access to millions of dollars in need-based financial aid, we will be able to give the greatest number of students access to the life changing opportunities that our institutions of higher education offer here in the Commonwealth.”

“The Department of Higher Education is committed to increasing socioeconomic mobility for all residents of Massachusetts, particularly those who have historically been underserved and underrepresented in higher education,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Noe Ortega. “The MASFA is a key tool for advancing equitable access to the Commonwealth’s many great colleges and universities.”

“Ensuring that all Massachusetts residents, regardless of immigration status, have access to the Commonwealth’s higher education system is critical not just for those students, but for the betterment of Massachusetts,” said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). “I want to thank my colleagues in the House and our partners in the Senate for making this initiative possible, as well as the Healey-Driscoll Administration for working to implement it and for their support.”

“Tuition equity is about giving every high schooler in Massachusetts who wants to go to college the same ability to do so, re-

gardless of who they are or where they are from,” said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). “I’m thrilled to see the Executive Office of Education take this important step in implementing what the Legislature included in the budget, and break down a major barrier for young people whose families have settled in our state.”

“The Healey-Driscoll Administration’s launch of the MASFA is groundbreaking, helping to provide state need-based financial aid for undocumented immigrants who aspire to higher education,” said Representative David Rogers (D-Cambridge), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education. “This initiative will continue the Commonwealth’s commitment to increased access to the life-changing opportunities within our higher education system.”

“Every student should have the same access to higher education in Massachusetts,” said Senator Brendan Crigh-ton (D-Lynn). “The launch of this tool is another significant step forward, ensuring that our commitment to equal access is transformed into actionable opportunities. By breaking down barriers and extending financial aid to these students, we are not only shaping individual futures but also contributing to the collective prosperity of Massachusetts.”

“As a first-generation, Cabo-Verdean American whose parents immigrated to Boston with nothing but hope in their hearts and a pair of working hands, I too come from a mixed status family, and access to state financial aid for all eligible students in the Commonwealth, regardless of immigration status, will be a lever of opportunity that shapes a generation,” said Senator Liz Miranda (D-Boston). “This opportunity will enable thousands of talented, hard-working individuals to build a life of meaning and purpose here in the Commonwealth, embracing the very best of who we are as a state.”

“On behalf of the state’s 15 community colleges, we are excited to celebrate

the launch of the MASFA,” said Jim Vander Hooven, president of Mount Wachusett Community College and chair of the Community College Council of Presidents. “The new tuition equity law is already making a significant positive impact on our students, and we’re thrilled that the MASFA will streamline access to state aid for eligible undocumented students.”

“On behalf of the Commonwealth’s State Universities, I am thrilled that the Governor continues to increase access to a college education for all people that reside in Massachusetts,” said Salem State University President and Chair of the Council of Presidents for the Massachusetts State Universities John D. Keenan. “The Governor’s leadership continues to make college more affordable than ever before to Massachusetts students. The MASFA provides students who are not eligible to apply for Federal Financial Aid access to state financial aid. This, along with in-state tuition for Massachusetts high school graduates, is another important financial aid tool to help them reach their goal of earning a college degree.”

“The creation of a state financial aid application is another smart, common sense step by the Healey-Driscoll administration to break down existing financial barriers to higher education,” UMass President Marty Meehan said. “The MASFA will make college more affordable for numerous Massachusetts students, empowering them to support their families and contribute to the state’s economy.”

“The MASFA is a crucial tool for advancing tuition equity in Massachusetts,” said Rob McCarron, President and CEO of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts. “Our private colleges and universities in Massachusetts are committed to serving all students who wish to attend college, as well as ensure that all students who are eligible can access need-based state financial

See TUITION Page 7

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DIRECTORY

617-567-9600 • 781-485-0588

President

Stephen Quigley

stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com

Advertising and Marketing

Debra DiGregorio – deb@reverejournal.com

Assistant Marketing Director

Maureen DiBella – mdibella@winthroptranscript.com

Senior Sales Associates

Sioux Gerow – charlestownads@hotmail.com

Legal Advertising

Ellen Bertino

ebertino@eastietimes.com

Editorial

Reporters, Regular Contributors

Cary Shuman — cary@lynnjournal.com

Copy Editing, Layout

Scott Yates – scott@chelsearecord.com

Kane DiMasso-Scott – kdscott@thebostonsun.com

Business

Accounts Executive

Judy Russi

judy.russi@eastietimes.com

Printer

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Your opinions, please

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East Boston man charged with New Year’s Day attack on woman

Special to the times-Free Press

An East Boston man was ordered held on \$5,000 bail today after being arraigned for assaulting and seriously injuring a woman Monday while the woman’s children were present in the apartment, District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

ERICK AREVALO, 23, was charged in East Boston BMC with armed assault with attempt to murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (knife), assault and battery and assault and battery on a family or household member. Judge Shelley Joseph ordered Arevalo held on \$5,000 bail. Arevalo will return to court February 12 for a probable cause hearing.

At about 12:21 a.m. Monday, Boston police responded to an apartment on Princeton Street in East Boston for a domestic violence call. Upon arrival officers found a female victim suffering from multiple lacerations to her head and neck and one of her hands.

Officers gained a description of the woman’s attacker, later identified as Arevalo, and learned that he had fled the scene in the

victim’s car. Officers also learned that when driving from the scene Arevalo struck a stone wall and three parked cars. Arevalo also briefly left the vehicle and punched a second victim, who had yelled at Arevalo for striking the driveway, in the face.

Police were able to make contact via cell phone with Arevalo and at about 1:40 a.m. arrested him in Brighton.

“This was a brutal assault, made even worse by the fact that it occurred while the victim’s children were present in the apartment. The quick work by investigators with help from those with knowledge of what happened helped make for a quick arrest,” Hayden said.

The victims of any crime, including domestic or sexual violence, should call 911 in an emergency. SafeLink, a statewide DV hotline, can be reached at 877-785-2020. SafeLink is answered by trained advocates 24/7 in English, Spanish and Portuguese, as well as TTY at 877-521-2601. It also has the capacity to provide multi-lingual translation in more than 140 languages. Help is also available at www.janedoe.org/findhelp.

Help is also available for members of our LGBTQ+ community experiencing domestic or intimate partner violence through The Network/La Red by calling 617-742-4911 or 800-832-1901.

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.



VERONICA ROBLES CULTURAL CENTER
CELEBRATES THREE KINGS DAY

The Three Kings, Sebastian Zapata, Jhon Cardozo (with his daughter Emily), and Jeiner Corrales with Veronica Robles at The Veronica Robles Cultural Center celebration of Three Kings Day on January 6. See Page 6 for more photos.

Recycling // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

achusetts’ Bottle Bill will drastically reduce litter, curb pollution, improve recycling, and create local green jobs at no cost to taxpayers. But even better than that, Bottle Bills set us up to transition to refillable beverage systems. In Europe, countries are collecting, washing, and refilling glass bottles because they know that this is where we get the most climate impact. Massachusetts can be a regional leader and blaze the way right now towards a future where single-use beverage containers are a thing of the past.”

“Month after month, our volunteers return to the same beaches and rivers,” said Mary Lou Nicholson, coordinator for Be the Solution to Pollution. “In 2023, my group cleaned up over 3,000 pounds of litter on just 6 Massachusetts beaches. It’s a Sisyphean task, coming back again and again to clean up the same spots. But it doesn’t have to be this way. With a better Bottle Bill, we would see litter in Massachusetts reduced by leaps and bounds.”

Single-use beverage containers, a common source of litter, comprised

a large proportion of the trash that resident volunteers cleaned up in Massachusetts in 2023. Massachusetts is one of 10 states in the U.S. with a Bottle Bill. But our Bottle Bill is sorely outdated. Not only does the deposit program include only 40% of the beverage containers sold in our state, but the deposit hasn’t changed from when it was established at 5 cents in 1982.

Legislators can stop this problem at its root by expanding the program to include all beverage containers and raising the deposit to 10 cents.

HVNA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the new zoning, although it does require relief under the current zoning.”

He also added that the project complies with other proposed requirements for zoning from PLAN: East Boston, including lot coverage, permeable area, and the rear yard setback.

Sharon Gentges from Joy Street Design, the architect for the proposal, was also part of the presentation and spoke about the design, saying it is “Doing something that feels contemporary but also blends in with what’s on the street right now.”

Specifically, she spoke about using bay windows and materials like fiber cement siding, among other design details.

Following the presentation, the floor was opened up for questions. One attendee had asked about the permeable area and where it is.

the project by a vote of 12 to 9.

The other project that was discussed and voted on was at 206 Byron Street. The proposal, presented by Attorney Marc LaCasse, is to convert the existing two-family building at the site into a three-family.

In explaining the conversion, LaCasse said it would be done by “turning the unused attic space into an additional unit.” Later, adding that there would be “no expansion of the footprint of the existing building, simply converting the top floor there into a dwelling unit with additional dormers.”

Additionally, as part of the project, more space would be created for unit one by extending the living area into half of the basement. With this extension, the unit would be about 1,600 square feet,

while unit two and the proposed unit in the attic would be about 1,150 square feet each.

It should be noted that all of these units, including the proposed unit in the attic, are two-bedrooms, and the building is slated to be owner-occupied.

LaCasse also went through the zoning violations that would need relief, which he called “relatively minor in degree and scope.”

Following the presentation, there were only a couple of questions from those in attendance. One question concerned what the building would look like after the work was completed, and LaCasse showed some renderings from the presentation.

In the end, the proposal received overwhelming support by a vote of 20-3. The next HVNA meeting is slated for February 5th.

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2022 ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS & PLANNING REPORT (ESPR) INFORMATION SESSION

Massport will host a hybrid information session (in-person & virtually) to provide an update on the 2022 Logan ESPR. The topics that will be discussed include: ground transportation, activity levels/forecasting, aircraft noise, air quality, regional transportation, sustainability and resiliency, and airport planning. This information session will be streamed in English and Spanish.

The hybrid information session will take place:

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.
Cathy Leonard-McLean Community Room
Logan Airport Rental Car Center*
15 Transportation Way
East Boston, MA 02128

To access the meeting link and for more information, please visit:
<https://www.massport.com/logan-airport/about-logan/environmental-reports/>

Additional languages for the Public Information Session on the 2022 Boston Logan International Airport Environmental Status and Planning Report will be available upon request. Requests for additional languages are due by Friday, January 12, 2024. For more information or to request translation services please contact community@massport.com.

**The Rental Car Center is accessible via the MBTA Blue Line Airport Station by way of Massport’s On-Airport Shuttle (Route 22, 33 and 55).*

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Sports

EAST BOSTON GIRLS BASKETBALL IN HOOP ACTION AGAINST CHARLESTOWN

The East Boston girls played a strong game but just could not get their shots to fall, losing 37-10 at Charlestown Friday, January 5. The Lady Jets show defensive strength and, with a little luck on offense, have the chance to be in the win column often this season.



ON HER TOES: Alexandra Collado (1) shows some ballerina balance as she is guarded by a Charlestown defender.



FLOOR HUSTLE: Grace Melendez (11) dives to the floor in her attempt to get the ball to a teammate.



BOARDS BATTLE: Alexandra Collado (1) fights for rebound with a Charlestown forward.



KEEPING IT IN PLAY: Grace Gals-Linnane (3) chases down loose ball.



NO TRESPASSING: Grace Melendez (11) blocks an in-bounds pass.



MAKING IT DIFFICULT: Grace Gans-Linnane (3) has a determined look that no one is getting past her.



OH MY!: Jenna DaSilva (2) likes what she sees as she escapes a Charlestown defender and prepares a drive to the basket.



ALL FUN: Gianna Troville (4) seems happy with her shot at the basket.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

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Deli

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VERONICA ROBLES CULTURAL CENTER CELEBRATES THREE KINGS DAY

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

The Veronica Robles Cultural Center celebrated Three Kings Day with an evening of music, dance, and pageantry. Children were able to ask the Three Kings for presents and presents they received. It was an evening of fun for all to mark the official end of the Holiday Season.



Mariangel Giraldo as the Virgin Mary.



The Three Kings, Sebastian Zapata, Jhon Cardozo, and Jeiner Corrales with Veronica Robles.



Leandra Thienemann takes a picture of her daughter Justina with the Three Kings who were portrayed by Jeiner Corrales, Jhon Cardozo, and Sebastian Zapata.



Emma Mejia, Sofia Arias, and Lucas Mejia.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta and her chief of staff Elizabeth Sanchez.



Veronica Robles Cultural Center staff and volunteers: Diana Canadulce, Daniela Miranda, Flor Rincon, Adriana Zubietta, and Diana Casas.



Sol Reyes and Jennyfer Fernandez.



Pamela Pineda holds her gift from the Three Kings.



Children await opening their presents on Three Kings Day.



Valentin Caballero and Nathaly Valencia were some of the many performers who entertained the gathering at the Veronica Robles Cultural Center.



Jackie and Camilla Sierra.



Joana and Alejandro Mazo celebrate Three Kings Day.



The Three Kings, Sebastian Zapata, Jeiner Corrales, and Jhon Cardozo with Veronica Robles Cultural Center staff Adriana Zubietta.



The Three Kings arrive and make their way through the crowd.



The Veronica Robles Cultural Center was packed with people to celebrate Three Kings Day.



The Nativity was depicted by Delailah Mur as the Shepherd, Martín Cabello de Alba as Joseph, Mariangel Giraldo as the Virgin Mary, Isabella Mazo Jaramillo as the Angel, and Veronica Robles.



The audience watches the performance of the arrival of the Magi.

Tuition // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

aid, which for many students is essential to their goal of achieving a higher education.”

“MIRA Coalition extends heartfelt appreciation to the Department of Higher Education for their inclusive and collaborative efforts in implementing monumental tuition equity reform,” said Jonathan Paz, Policy Advocate for the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition. “Tuition equity offers substan-

tial benefits to students from all socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as to our state’s economy, which desperately needs more workers. We thank the Healey-Driscoll administration and the legislature for making this policy a reality and look forward to watching students from across the Commonwealth achieve their dreams.”

Filling out the MASFA does not commit any student to enrolling in a college or university, but it is

the essential first step to applying for the financial assistance for which they may qualify to make college a reality.

To be eligible, Massachusetts residents must meet the following criteria:

- Was admitted to a public or private institution of higher education within the Massachusetts system of public higher education.
- Have attended at least three academic years at a high school in Massachusetts.

- Have graduated from high school in Massachusetts or have received the equivalent of a high school diploma (for example, a GED) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- Have applied for military selective service, if eligible.
- If the individual is not a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States, that person must provide a completed the DHE Affidavit stating that the individual will file an

application to become a citizen or legal permanent resident within 120 days after the individual becomes eligible to do so.

An updated MASFA for the 2024-2025 academic year will be available in late winter/early spring and will be based on the 2024-2025 FAFSA, which is due to be released by the federal government on December 31, 2023.

The MASFA ensures that all students who qualify can access the signifi-

cant investments made into higher education by the Healey-Driscoll administration this year, including MassReconnect, which made community college free for Commonwealth residents ages 25 and older regardless of income, and MASSGrant Plus Expansion, which covers the cost of tuition and fees for low-income students and reduces out-of-pocket costs for middle income students.

Flores // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

she is an expert in diverse areas such as math and Spanish literacy, and advocates for linguistic justice and inclusion. Flores has received numerous awards and recognitions from various Boston organizations and political offices for her leadership, volunteer work and community service.

“My childhood instilled in me the value of education, service to others, and fighting to achieve your goals,” says Flores. “Despite difficult situations,

my mother never gave up and always worked hard. I’m deeply connected to the public school system, and my children have benefited from free and reduced-price school meals. As part of the inaugural cohort of the Council, I’m eager to continue my work with Project Bread to help fight food insecurity through community-based solutions.”

The Council of Experts with Lived Experience was curated through a self-nom-

ination system. Individuals who speak English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Haitian Creole were encouraged to apply. Experts are serving from October 2023 through July 2024, and have committed 10 hours of engagement per month. During their term, council members will not only actively contribute to Project Bread’s key organizational projects but also have the opportunity to enhance their community and civic

leadership. This will enable them to advocate for their priorities and those of their communities. The nonprofit’s goal is to empower the community to advocate for effective solutions that meet the needs of all.

This past year, Project Bread led the Feed Kids Coalition in successfully campaigning for the passage of permanent free school meals in Massachusetts, and the nonprofit’s work in schools to expand school breakfast programs

and food quality continues. Project Bread is also leading nationally on addressing hunger through the health care system, partnering with health care centers statewide for referrals to their FoodSource Hotline, and individual case management for patients with complex diagnoses facing food insecurity. The Council of Experts will advise on these programs and policies, and more, to increase food security statewide.

For more information,

visit: <https://www.projectbread.org/council-of-experts>.

Project Bread, the leading statewide anti-hunger nonprofit, connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible—so that no one goes hungry. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU24P0010EA
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Estate of: Jaroslav Kohout
Date of death: 10/20/2023
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Jonathan Belcher of Boston MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Jonathan Belcher of Boston MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the petition from the petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/14/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affi-

davit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 03, 2024
Stephanie L Everett, Esq., Register of Probate
01/10/2024
EB

LEGAL NOTICE
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. C. 190B, §5-304
Docket No. SU24P0011GD
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
In the matter of:

Brooks Pierpont
Of: East Boston, MA
RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Brooks Pierpont is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Jessica Libby of Milton, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 02/01/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or

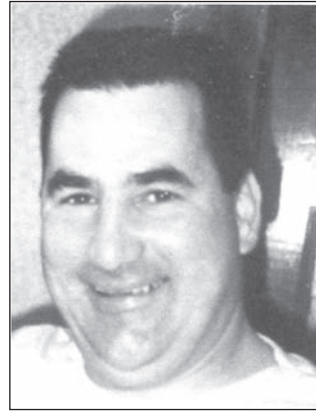
financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 04, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett
Register of Probate
01/10/24
EB
LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate And Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405
Docket No. SU24P0013PM
In the matter of: Brooks Pierpont
Of: East Boston, MA
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Brooks Pierpont is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Jessica Libby of Milton, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator

to serve Without Surety on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 02/01/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 04, 2024
Stephanie Everett,
Register of Probate
01/10/24
EB

OBITUARIES

Stephen Livingstone

Devoted father and beloved brother



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved brother Stephen Livingstone of Peabody who departed peacefully from this earthly life on December 22nd at 69 years of age.

The loving son of the late Harland and Angelina (Beatrice) Livingstone, Stephen grew up in East Boston and was educated in Boston Public Schools.

Stephen was a dedicated father to Stephen John and devoted brother of Charles, Elizabeth, Susan and Mark. He is also survived by loving nieces and nephews.

He will be remembered

To place a memoriam in the Times Free Press, please call 781-485-0588

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Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
30 Monmouth Street LLC	Sambataro Rt	30 Monmouth St	\$1,060,000
Parillo, Marissa G	44 Cottage Street LLC	44 Cottage St #4	\$995,000
73 Falcon-Ys Vent Fund LL	Zaluski, Mary A	73 Falcon St	\$670,000
Sanchez, Matthew	93 Cowper LLC	93 Cowper St #2	\$625,000
Meade, Thomas C	Schraffa Nancy Est	94 Princeton St	\$925,000
Depauw, Nicolas	Dobson, Adam J	123 Saratoga St #1	\$450,000
Depauw, Nicolas	Dobson, Adam J	123 Saratoga St #2	\$704,000
Colaylat, Maher	Garcia, Luis E	234 Saratoga St	\$880,000
292 Marginal St Unit One	Hunter, Lorraine	292 Marginal St #1	\$480,000
Hussain, Sana	War Canoe Red LLC	309-R Sumner St #3	\$535,000
Hoi, Sydney C	839 Saratoga Street LLC	839 Saratoga St #6	\$865,000
Brewer, Dominique	839 Saratoga Street LLC	839 Saratoga St #5	\$825,000
Howard, Madeline M	839 Saratoga Street LLC	839 Saratoga St #2	\$735,000
Temple, Daniel J	839 Saratoga Street LLC	839 Saratoga St #4	\$799,000

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OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper.

Includes photo.No word Limit.

Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

REP. RICHARD VOKE DEAD AT 76

CHELSEA - Richard Voke, who served as Chelsea’s state representative from 1976 to 1996, died on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023, at Massachusetts General Hospital Boston. He was 76.

Voke was first elected in Chelsea to the House of Representatives in 1976 when it consisted of 240 members. When the governmental body was reduced to 160 members and the Chelsea and Charlestown districts were merged, Voke ran for the seat and defeated Rep. James P. Collins of Charlestown in a hard-fought election.

Voke rose through the ranks and served as Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee and as House Majority Leader. Voke lost a battle for the House speakership to Thomas Finneran in 1996 and decided to step down from his position as state representative.

Visiting hours will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, at Carafa Funeral Home, 389 Washington Ave., Chelsea. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow the visitation at 12:30 p.m. at the Our Lady of Grace Church, 59 Nichols St., Chelsea.

The following are remarks from local leaders and friends on the passing of Richard Voke:

Jay Ash on Richie Voke:

A Legacy to Remember
The year was 1993; we were sitting around the strategy table thinking about the best way to frame a campaign ad for his upcoming re-election bid. It became clear to those of us who wanted to see Chelsea State Representative Richard Voke secure his 10th election day victory that all we had to do was let his actions speak for themselves. The resulting ad featured a star on the map of Chelsea for every place Rep. Voke had “delivered” on something, like the new school buildings that were being planned because of his historic legislation to get them all built. There wasn’t a neighborhood in the city that had not seen the “results” of Rep. Voke’s advocacy, in fact there were so many stars on the ad it looked like the field from an American flag. No matter that he didn’t have an opponent; what a great ad it was in that it represented one person’s impact on the community he was dedicated to serving.

Reflecting on my 11 years of working for and with the leader people simply called “Richie,” there is more than the physical signs of his stewardship that are important to remember now that Chelsea has lost one of our greatest champions. When Chelsea had its greatest needs,

it was Richie Voke who came to the rescue, time and again. The tumult of those days only made his resolve even more resolute. He was the protagonist who refused to let Chelsea succumb, the leader who took it upon himself to fight for better for his beloved city and his fellow residents.

Chelsea’s schools were failing in the ‘70’s & ‘80’s; Richie Voke stood tall and, in the face of national teachers union opposition, led the effort to initiate a controversial plan to allow John Silber and Boston University to “takeover” the Chelsea School System. We did not realize then that an even more ominous takeover would be on the horizon, but, with Chelsea city government in chaos and teetering on bankruptcy in 1991, Richie spearheaded the legislation that put the city into “state ordered receivership.” That, despite the political angst that swirled from those who had a vested interest in the “status quo” – even if that status quo meant city government would continue to fail its constituents.

I sat in the room as he made those difficult yet courageous decisions. Those rooms were previously taken up by less drastic attempts to head off the dysfunction, but once such widespread “rot” set in, the only way to avoid total collapse was to ultimately go in and carve out that which was eating away at Chelsea’s very foundation. The BU/Chelsea Partnership produced major gains in public education; no, not everything was perfect, but the school system has been better equipped and has provided quality education since. Chelsea city government since the four years of receivership? A string of nearly 30 balanced budgets; capable management that has spun-off leadership elsewhere, like our current lieutenant government, and two All-America City national titles and more, are all highlights of the progress Richie Voke enabled Chelsea to later enjoy by his refusal to leave bad enough alone.

Oh, and back to the physical, a renovated library, new police station, new court house, a state data center, rehabilitated public housing, parks that were updated or built new, a Boys & Girls Club, the stopping of the commuter rail (yes, for 25 years, the train didn’t stop in Chelsea until then House Ways & Means Chairman Voke threatened to hold up state transportation funding for other projects until it did), and other critical projects came to Chelsea in frequencies that made others envious. For those who remember the Burma Road projects flooding during bad rain storms,

you haven’t seen people taken out of their units by boat in decades because Richie Voke fought for a \$10 million project to widen the culvert under Route 1. Like so many of the nagging problems that Chelsea faced because of decay or disregard for decades, it was Richie who made those problems go away.

It was my first “real” job out of college, working for Rep. Voke, yet little did I know that my “real” education was just beginning. I learned so much about governing from the statesman who continued his elevation of importance in the Mass House, going from Chairman of Health Care, to the Chairman of Ways & Means, and eventually the House Majority Leader. One of his lines I heard the most had to do with Chelsea’s school kids; “I wish I had a big yellow bus to put all our kids in it and drive them around to see the rest of the world,” he frequently said. He was talking about helping Chelsea’s students to imagine the opportunities to which they had not been exposed, but he was also talking more broadly about helping Chelsea to unlock its fullest potential. Maybe he even knew that a future Chelsea City Manager was listening and learning, and might some day take Chelsea to even greater successes.

When Richie Voke died this past New Year’s Eve, those of us who had such a great mentor and role model began reflecting on all we had learned from him and how much he impacted more than just our lives. So many people, in Chelsea, in his entire district, and throughout the state, benefitted from his fierce and effective advocacy.

A funny thing happened during one of those other re-election campaigns - by the way, Richie won that re-election with the largest number of votes of any of the other 159 state representatives that were on the ballot that year. We were door knocking in Prattville when one of the residents responded to greet the man who had become the second most powerful man in the Massachusetts House. “Richie,” he said, “we’re all proud of you, but do you think you’ll ever be able to become mayor some day?” That was a classic Chelsea encounter; in a world that revolved around Chelsea, being mayor then was the most prestigious post. (At that point, Chelsea’s budget was probably \$40 million, and Ways & Means Chairman Voke was responsible for crafting the Mass House’s \$25 BILLION budget.) As mayor after mayor found it impossible to live up to that standard, they called upon Chelsea’s greatest benefactor, Richie, to produce, and produce he con-

REVERE LEADERS OF 2024 SWORN INTO OFFICE



City of Revere Clerk Ashley Melnik swears in the Revere City Council on January 1.

tinually did. As the man closed his door, I joked to Richie “doesn’t he realize how much more than a local politician you’ve become.” “Jay,” he said, “I’m nothing without his vote and not much more with his vote if I don’t keep on using the power I’ve achieved to continue to deliver for Chelsea!”

I learned a lot from him that day and every day that I worked with him. Many of us are still striving to be equal to the courage, wisdom, devotion, and delivery Richie Voke dedicated every day to the position he cherished so much, being a public official representing his beloved Chelsea. We lost a great one, but the great ones leave legacies that make it impossible to forget them. Richie Voke will never be forgotten.

Jay Ash started as an assistant legislative aide with Rep. Voke and rose through the ranks with him to become his staff director in the Office of the House Majority Leader. He left legislative service shortly before Rep. Voke to serve as Planning & Development Director and then Chelsea City Manage. Following a 4-year stint as a member of the cabinet of Governor Charlie Baker as Secretary of the Executive Office of Housing & Economic Developments, Ash went on to his present position, CEO of the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership, a business association of 19 of the state’s largest businesses focused on the competitiveness of the Massachusetts economy.

House adjourns in memory of Richard Voke

Tuesday during the conclusion of the first year of the annual session, the House members accepted a motion placed by House Speaker Ron Mariano and State Representative Judith Garcia that the house adjourn in respect to the memory of former State Representative Richard Voke of Chelsea.

“The passing of Richard Voke leaves a void that resonates across the Commonwealth. His wealth of leadership, marked by a decades-long tenure in the Massachusetts House where he held distinguished roles, like Majority Leader, has shaped the state’s political landscape. As we mourn the loss of Mr. Voke, we reflect on the enduring impact of a man whose dedication to service and bipartisanship has become a beacon for myself and future public servants,” said State Rep. Judith Garcia.

Speaker of the House Ron Mariano reflects on the passing of Richie Voke

“I knew Richie Voke for over 30 years, and while we were close friends, I was also fortunate enough to work with him on a number of issues and see firsthand how he ap-

proached difficult problems. Richie’s ability to wade through complicated issues, listen to folks with different perspectives, and ultimately make a sound decision that benefited his constituents, and the Commonwealth as a whole, was unmatched. Throughout my career, especially during challenging moments, I often leaned on lessons that I learned from Richie. On behalf of the entire House, I offer my condolences to Richie’s family, and to all those mourning this tragic loss.”

Rep. Dan Ryan on the passing of Richard Voke:

“Richie was one of the first elected officials I got to know as an impressionable young voter. His legacy in Chelsea and Charlestown, during pivotal years for both communities, is enormous. Even after leaving office, Richie remained quietly active in helping his former constituency through his involvement with the Boys and Girls Clubs and other endeavors that were near and dear to him. It is truly an honor to have served in the same seat he once represented. His presence is still felt on Beacon Hill and in the neighborhoods for which he staunchly advocated.”

Former State Rep. Eugene O’Flaherty on the passing of Richie Voke:

“When I succeeded Richie in the House in 1996, it was very evident of how effective a legislator he was for the district and the Commonwealth. His years of exemplary service improved the quality of life of so many and not just in Charlestown and Chelsea but throughout Massachusetts. His colleagues held him in high esteem, his constituents re-elected him year after year and it’s easy to understand why. He was a model public servant. May God rest his soul.”

Josh Kraft, former Jordan Boys and Girls Club executive director, on the passing of Richie Voke:

“There would no Jordan Boys and Club in Chelsea without Richie Voke. Thousands of kids and families have been impacted by the club. He’s touched all of them because of his passion and commitment to getting that building built and making a difference for so many. Personally, he was a great mentor to me. I learned so much from him. He’s a mentor and a friend, and I will miss him dearly.”

PARKING STICKER PROGRAM STARTS

EVERETT - Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pleased to announce the official start date for the 2024 Resident Parking Sticker program. Starting Tuesday, January 2, vehicle owners must submit an online application in order to obtain

their parking sticker for 2024. Please note there have been a few changes from last year.

After a resident has successfully submitted an on-line application, they will receive a confirmation email. Once the resident’s information is verified, they will receive an additional email to confirm that the order has been successfully processed. The parking sticker will then be mailed to the resident. Residents may apply for up to 4 stickers per on-line application. Information required to complete the application includes:

- Full Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- License Plate Number
- Name that Appears on the Registration

Resident stickers for 2024 must be obtained and displayed on the vehicle before March 1st. As a courtesy, from January 2nd to February 29th, stickers may be obtained for FREE. The \$10 fee per sticker will be reinstated on March 1st.

Please be advised that in order for a resident sticker to be approved, the vehicle must be registered to the City of Everett and be in good standing. A sticker will not be issued if the vehicle has overdue parking tickets or unpaid excise tax.

For residents applying for a first-time sticker or those with new plates or vehicles, please visit City Hall, Room 13, to apply. Please bring your vehicle’s registration and proof of address, such as a driver’s license or current utility bill, to obtain a parking sticker.

Please note that beginning on January 2nd, residents of the Lower Broadway area must visit City Hall, Room 13, in order to renew their Lower Broadway sticker and visitor placard. Please bring your registration and proof of Lower Broadway area address, such as a driver’s license, current utility bill, or last year’s visitor placard to renew.

The following are new changes that will be in effect beginning this year:

- Commercial vehicles must bring their registration to City Hall and pass an inspection to obtain a residential sticker. The vehicle must weigh under 10,000 lbs. and have no more than four wheels to obtain the sticker. Box trucks are not allowed to obtain a residential sticker. The cost of the sticker will be \$300.

- We allow 1-day visitor passes to be obtained at \$5 per pass. Also, you can obtain up to four 10-day parking placards per plate for \$25 per placard. To qualify, you must provide a valid registration

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Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

and proof of the Everett address (current utility bill or current lease).

The online Residential Parking Sticker Program application can be found at epay.cityhallsystems.com. For questions regarding the program or the online application, please contact 311 at 617-394-2270 or the Parking Clerk's Office at 617-394-2295 or 617-394-2275. If you have questions regarding your sticker order status, please contact City Hall Systems at 508-381-5455.

When applying online for the resident sticker, you may receive an email that the system does not recognize the address. In this case, the Collector's office will add the address into the system and then respond to the email notifying the address has been added. At this point, the resident may re-apply for the sticker online.

To apply or for more information, please visit: cityofeverett.com/city-hall/departments/parking/residential-parking-stickers.

HYM PRESENTS REVISED ONE-WAY PLAN FOR HARRIS ST.

REVERE - The Revere Traffic Commission held its regular monthly meeting on December 21 in the City Councillor Joseph A. Del Grosso Council Chambers of Revere City Hall. On hand for the session were chair Paul Argenzio (for whom this was his last meeting because of Argenzio's recent election to the City Council), City Planner Frank Stringi, Fire Chief Chris Bright, Acting Police Chief Sean Randall, and City Engineer Nick Rystrom.

The principal item on the agenda was the commission's revisiting of a controversial proposal from HYM, the owner-developer of Suffolk Downs, for significant changes and improvements to alleviate traffic congestion at the interchange of the Revere Beach Parkway, Route 16, and Route 145 (Winthrop Ave.). The proposal also calls for making Harris St. (which meets Winthrop Ave. just before the interchange) one-way for its entire length (away from Winthrop Ave.), which will achieve the twin goals of helping to alleviate traffic back-ups and removing cut-through traffic from that neighborhood.

The actual text of the proposal before the commission was as follows:

"The length of Harris Street between Winthrop Avenue and Beach Av-

enue will be converted from two-way to one-way Northbound, and a single block of Sewall Street from Harris Street to Bixby Street will be converted from two-way to one-way Eastbound. These changes are proposed to improve signalized intersection operations and reduce neighborhood traffic (Amend Schedule V of Title 10, One Way Streets). The Suffolk Downs development proponent will be installing traffic control signage, deriving from the improvements, at the Harris/Sewall, Harris/Butler, Harris/Beach, and Harris/Eustis intersections and provide the City of Revere an allowance, to be used at the City's discretion, for potential future traffic improvements in the area."

When the issue first came up at a public hearing a few months ago, it was met by fierce opposition from residents in the area. The commission tabled taking any action at that time and HYM agreed to revise its proposal based on the objections and feedback from the residents.

Doug Manz, a partner with HYM, Abigail Milton (also from HYM), and Ian McKinnon from Howard Stein Hudson, a traffic engineering firm, appeared before the commission to present the revised proposal and to answer questions.

Manz provided a brief overview of the proposal. He noted that the first building in the Suffolk Downs development will be completed this summer. He said the prime focus of the plan is the reconfiguration of the traffic light at the interchange. The major feature of the proposed design by HYM will provide for a double left-hand turn off Route 16 southbound onto the Revere Beach Parkway.

In addition, the goal of making Harris St. one-way is to prevent it from being used as a cut-through by commuters. He also added that HYM will be contributing \$35,000 for the city to use as necessary for additional design and other measures to aid with the implementation of the proposal.

McKinnon said the major benefit of the plan will be to remove traffic from the local residential streets and move it onto the major roadways. He also noted that the proposal will reduce congestion on those major thoroughfares.

Residents of the Harris St. neighborhood had expressed strong opposition to the original plan (which had made Harris St. one-way only for part of its length) at a previous public hearing, but the new

proposal makes Harris St. one-way for its full length, increases signage on other streets, and adds a portion of Sewall Ave. to become one-way.

There were no opponents at this time and the commissioners unanimously voted to move the item to a public hearing for its next meeting, when it will take a vote on the matter.

The commission also took up a number of proposed amendments to the city's parking and traffic regulations.

The first amendment pertained to the following item: "Discuss Chapter 10.38 - Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Parking regarding: The installation of electric vehicle supply equipment upon the city's public ways; to provide a policy in which the City can install electric vehicle charging stations; and assess fees for electric vehicle charging stations."

Julie DeMauro from the Planning and Community Development Dept. presented the request to the commission. She noted that the present public charging stations are free of charge, but that the city would like to charge a fee per kilowatt hour. DeMauro also said that the proposal imposes fines for non-EVs that park in the EV bays. She also said that there is a need to develop a policy for installing public charging stations in the city's rights-of-way in the future.

Zach Babbo, the city's Parking Director, said the city simply is seeking to recoup some of the costs associated with the installation, maintenance, and the electricity costs of using the charging stations. DeMauro said that the lot at City Hall alone is costing the city about \$1000-\$1500 per month and all of the users are private vehicles. The fine will be \$20.

Ward 2 City Councillor Ira Novoselsky said he opposed placing any charging stations on Shirley Ave., where there currently are parking meters, because the charging stations will take away parking spaces on the avenue. However, DeMauro allayed Novoselsky's concerns. She said there presently are no plans to install charging stations on Shirley Ave. and that in any event, the Traffic Commission always will have the final say on the locations for future EV charging stations.

The commission unanimously approved the amendment.

The next matter was as follows: "Amend Schedule IV of Title 10 - Isolated Stop Signs by adding a

stop sign on Emmet Terrace at the intersection of School Street."

There were no opponents and the commission unanimously approved the amendment.

The next item was presented by Ralph DeCicco, the chair of the city's Commission on Disabilities, to "Amend Schedule XI of Title 10 Handicapped Person Parking by adding two handicapped signs at the following locations: 29 Trevalley Road, 540 Revere Street, and 76 Orvis Road." DeCicco informed the commission that the requests met all of the requirements for handicapped signage and the commissioners unani-

mously approved all three applications.

Also at DeCicco's request, the commission approved the removal of the handicapped sign located at 1465 North Shore Rd. because a new resident has purchased the property.

In addition to the proposal for changes to Harris St., the commission moved the following matters to a public hearing for its meeting next month:

-- "Approved on July 31, 2023, Council Order 23-181 submitted by Councillor Morabito: That Mayor Patrick Keefe requests the Traffic Commission to establish Hancock Street as a one-way heading towards Mountain Avenue."

-- "Approved on October 30, 2023, Council Order 23-245 submitted by Councillor Novoselsky: That Mayor Patrick Keefe requests the Traffic Commission to hold a public hearing for the purpose of amending Schedule IV of Title 10 to add a Stop Sign on Shirley Avenue Eastbound at Thornton Street."

Novoselsky presented the request to the commission. "People are flying down Shirley Ave. and this is a residential area," said Novoselsky, who pointed out that the aim of adding the stop sign is to slow down traffic.

The next meeting of the commission is scheduled for January.

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Edwards embarks on comprehensive housing tour to address Massachusetts’ unique challenges

Senator Lydia Edwards recently completed an extensive tour of Nantucket, Hyannis, and Provincetown, hosted by Cape and Islands Senator Cyr, to closely examine the housing challenges facing these areas. Accompanied by local leaders and advocates, the Senator’s tour underscored her commitment to understanding and addressing the housing crisis in the Commonwealth, especially in regions impacted by seasonal economies and soaring real estate prices.

The tour included visits to key locations and meetings with significant stakeholders. Participants included Tom Dixon, a member of the Select Board; Brooke Mohr of the Nantucket Resource Partnership; Brian Sullivan, a Real Estate Agent; Tucker Holland, the current Housing Director for Nantucket; and Kristie Ferrantella, the incoming Housing Director for Nantucket.

Senator Edwards’ visit began with a trip on the Hyannis Hy-Line Cruises, followed by a driving tour of various housing projects. This tour provided a firsthand look at the innovative approaches being taken to address housing needs in these communities.

A highlight of the visit was the tour of the Harbor Hill property in Provincetown. This unique housing development, which includes a range of units from studios to three-bedroom apartments, caters to residents earning between 80% and 200% of the Area Median Income (AMI). With rents ranging from \$1,200 to \$2,700, Harbor Hill represents a critical solution for families who earn too much to qualify for traditional af-



Senator Lydia Edwards, (left) and other officials toured parts of Massachusetts to discuss the housing challenges facing these areas.



Sen. Lydia Edwards and officials are pictured at a new housing construction site.

fordable housing but still struggle with the high cost of living.

The Senator also engaged in a walking tour of Hyannis Main Street and met with local advocates in Provincetown and the outer Cape to discuss broader housing issues and potential policy responses.


Cape and Islands Senator Cyr, a key figure in this initiative, remarked, “It was a genuine joy to host my friend Senator Edwards in Nantucket, Hyannis, and Provincetown for a housing tour. Senator Edwards did not

let any rough seas deter her on-the-ground approach to examining housing challenges in the furthest reaches of Massachusetts. I am grateful she took the time to listen to Cape Codders and Islanders to understand the unique obstacles we face in a seasonal economy with skyrocketing real estate prices. Senator Edwards’ dedication to crafting housing policies that reflect the needs of the whole Commonwealth will provide the Cape and Islands with the policy tools we need to stem our housing crisis.”h

Addressing Senator Cyr’s remarks, Senator Edwards noted “As I traveled through Nantucket, Hyannis, and Provincetown, the diverse housing challenges faced by our communities became vividly clear. From families caught between the cracks of traditional affordable

housing to the unique pressures of our seasonal economy, it’s evident that one-size-fits-all policies simply won’t work. I am committed to working tirelessly to develop nuanced, effective housing policies that recognize and address these distinct needs. Our goal is clear: to create sustainable, affordable housing solutions that strengthen our communities and support all residents of the Commonwealth.”

Senator Edwards’ visit underscores her commitment to not only understanding the unique challenges faced by different communities in Massachusetts but also to developing comprehensive policy solutions. This tour is a step towards ensuring that housing policies are inclusive and effective, addressing the needs of all residents across the Commonwealth.



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