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Alejandra Conte Conte drives the baseline against an Excel defender.



Grace Gans-Linnane keeps the ball away from an Excel defender.

JETS HOOP ACTION

The show improvement on the court as they continued their quest for a first win of the season, but lost to Excel-South Boston 47-16.

GSCA majority supports Geneva Street project

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

A project at 12 Geneva Street, initially presented to the Gove Street Citizens Association (GSCA) in November, returned for its second presentation during a meeting with the association last week and was subsequently supported.

The project entails constructing a new four-story building with four units, all of which are intended for homeownership. Further, of the four units, there are slated to be three three-bedroom units and one two-bedroom unit, and the sizes range from around 1,050 square feet

to 1,231 square feet.

As part of the presentation, Attorney Richard Lynds walked through the anticipated zoning relief for the project. Under current zoning, the lot is in the multi-family residential (MFR) zoning subdistrict. It would need variances for minimum lot width, side yard, rear yard, floor area ratio, height, open space, and parking.

However, under zoning that has been proposed through PLAN: East Boston, which was adopted by the Boston Planning and Development Agency's (BPDA) Board earlier this

See GSCA Page 2

D.A.'s office creates animal cruelty task force

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Suffolk County District Attorney's office has taken a major step in addressing the escalating issue of animal cruelty.

Last week, Suffolk County DA announced the creation of the county's first Animal Cruelty Task Force.

Hayden, a dog owner, said the task force will improve the quality of information and methods used among the participating agencies in investigations of crimes against animals.

"Anyone who has

ever loved or owned a pet knows the joy and happiness they bring to our lives," Hayden said. "All these pets ask in return is to be sheltered, fed and cared for when they're sick or hurt. Sadly, too many animals and pets end up getting hurt through malicious intent or conscious neglect.

"This task force will improve our ability to investigate, charge and prosecute these cases and, hopefully, reduce them."

The task force will cen-

See TASK FORCE Page 2

Councilor Coletta tapped to chair powerful committees

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta was named Chair of the Boston City Council's Government Operations and Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks Committee at the Boston City Council meeting on Wednesday, January 24.

"I'm honored to serve as Chair of the Government Operations and the Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks Committee," said Coletta. "This is a unique opportunity to utilize my newfound leverage to advance policies that ensure a vibrant and equitable Boston for all residents. I have a deep respect for the City Council as a legislative body and its ability to produce



COURTESY PHOTO
City Councilor Gabriela Coletta.

better policy outcomes for my district and the city. I look forward to working collaboratively with my colleagues and the administration for a productive legislative term."

The Government Operations Committee oversees all proposed ordinances and special laws, examines ordinances for

See COLETTA Page 2

Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission announce the 'Family Overdose Support Fund'

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) today announced the creation of the "Family Overdose Support Fund," a new fund that will provide financial support to Boston families who have lost a loved one to opioid overdose. The fund is the first use of the City's payments from multistate settlements with opioid manufacturers and distributors, and was established after an extensive community engagement process that invited residents

to inform how the money should be spent.

"The grief and trauma of losing a loved one to overdose has a lasting impact on our communities," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This fund will help support our families and our communities by easing the financial burdens that undermine a healthy grieving process. I want to thank everyone who participated in our public engagement process and our many state and city colleagues who worked for years to secure these funds and bring a measure of justice to families in Boston and

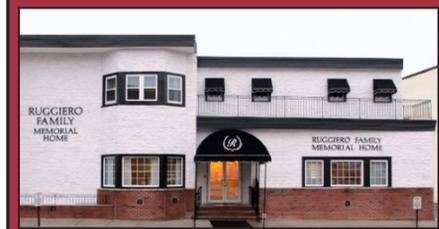
across the country."

"The opioid epidemic has taken the lives of many loved ones throughout Boston's communities. Children have lost parents. Parents have lost sons and daughters. Families have suffered an enormous emotional toll and are also shouldering a significant financial burden," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "The Family Overdose Support Fund will alleviate some of that burden by providing direct financial assistance to sup-

port childcare, funeral expenses, and other services to those who have been impacted by this ongoing tragedy."

The Family Overdose Support Fund will launch later this year with \$250,000 to distribute to Boston families who have experienced the loss of a family member due to opioid overdose. Families can use the funds to cover funeral expenses, therapy, legal services, childcare, and other financial burdens.

See FUND Page 4



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ENVIRONMENTALISTS: PUTIN'S 'USEFUL IDIOTS'

Vladimir Lenin used the term “useful idiots” to refer to journalists, labor leaders, and politicians in the West who extolled the virtues of Lenin’s new Communist regime in Russia as a “worker’s paradise.” They were in the vanguard of the world-wide Communist movement who tried to import Lenin’s brand of Communism into their own countries.

The reason Lenin referred to them as “useful idiots” is because they were oblivious to what actually was going on in Russia during Lenin’s (and later, Stalin’s) transformation of that nation into a Communist regime: mass starvation, authoritarianism, political executions, and use of the Siberian gulag.

In short, the “useful idiots” for Lenin and Stalin were those in the West whose fervent belief in the ideology of Communism blinded them to the reality of what actually was happening in Russia in the 1920s and 1930s.

A century later, democracy and freedom are being challenged by another Vladimir, Vladimir Putin, whose invasion of Ukraine and genocidal campaign of executions, rape, bombings of civilians, and deportation of children poses a substantial threat to Western Europe and ultimately, the United States.

Western European nations stopped purchasing natural gas from Russia -- which had a pipeline directly into Western Europe -- shortly after the invasion began in order not to finance Putin’s war machine. These countries were able to do so thanks to a combination of sacrifice (lowering their thermostats and reducing industrial energy use), switching to dirtier forms of energy (coal and oil) for their power plants, and the ramping-up of the importation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the United States, with the promise that even more LNG will be forthcoming from the U.S. in the future.

However, President Biden, bowing to pressure from environmental groups, last week issued a directive that imposes new environmental rules on future LNG terminals that essentially has brought to a halt the construction of new LNG export facilities in the U.S. The move has alarmed our Western European allies, who have been able to withstand their embargo on Russian natural gas because of the promise of additional LNG from America.

There is no question that climate change, fueled by the burning of fossil fuels, represents a huge risk to the future of our planet. However, the threat posed by Putin and other dictatorial regimes, such as China and Iran, pose an immediate threat to our way of life today. An article in yesterday’s New York Times highlighted the fear of Western European leaders that they will be next in line if Putin succeeds in Ukraine.

In addition, the irony of Biden’s new environmental rules for future LNG plants in the U.S. is that Europe will continue to use oil and coal, which are far worse for the environment than natural gas. In addition, if the U.S. is unable to supply natural gas to Western Europe, those countries simply will turn elsewhere.

In short, the action by Biden at the behest of environmentalists accomplishes nothing (and even is a negative) in our battle against climate change in both the short and long terms. However, what it does accomplish is this: It encourages sociopathic dictators like Putin, who want to see the Western nations divided, to continue their campaign against democracies across the globe. The “inconvenient truth” for environmentalists is that the fight against Putin and his ilk requires that America must be united with our allies, no less than we were in World War II, when the free world similarly fought against the Axis of Evil at that time. The environmentalists whose rigid ideology regarding climate change blinds them to the reality of the immediate, existential threat posed by today’s Axis of Evil are the “useful idiots” of the dictators of the 21st century.



Forum



Area police, officials gather for the Suffolk County DA announcement of the creation of the county’s first Animal Cruelty Task Force.

Task Force // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tralize the various agencies involved in animal abuse cases into a group of designated individuals with animal law knowledge. This streamlined approach will improve information flow, create a more proficient understanding of animal cruelty investigations and prosecutions, and identify necessary legislative improvements to the state’s animal protection laws.

The task force will be chaired by Assistant District Attorney Amelia Singh, chief of the DA’s office in Chelsea District Court, and will include members of the Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop and Revere police departments, the Massachusetts State

Police, the Massachusetts Environmental Police, the Animal Rescue League of Boston, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture and the animal control departments in Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop and Revere.

The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) handled 684 investigations involving animal abuse in 2023.

Last year, 17 individuals were charged in Suffolk County with at least one animal cruelty related offense. Sixteen of the defendants were adults and one was a juvenile.

The owner of a dog

training and boarding facility in South Boston was charged last May following an investigation by the Animal Rescue League after three dogs lost significant amounts of weight and/or were injured during their stay at the facility.

A Revere man was charged with assaulting his roommate and killing his dog in August. First responders entering the man’s apartment found a dog covered in blood, suffering from at least five stab wounds.

According to the Domestic Violence Awareness Project, up to 70% of domestic violence victims have pets and of those with pets, 48% to 71% report that their pets have

been abused or killed.

A Boston man was charged after a neighbor noticed a strong odor emanating from his Chelsea apartment. A well-being check led to the discovery of a feces-covered apartment and a decomposing dog.

In November, a Boston woman was charged after multiple witnesses reported seeing her punch, kick, and strike her dog with a glass bottle in the Boston Common area.

Animal cruelty cases are increasing in Suffolk County and statewide. According to the Massachusetts Trial Court, animal cruelty cases have increased more than 70% from 2019-2022.

Coletta // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

validity, and reviews the efficiency and effectiveness of City programs. As Chair, Coletta will act as the lead negotiator and last check of accountability in the Council for new legislation before it is sent to the Mayor for passage. Former Chairs of Gov-

ernment Operations include now State Senator Lydia Edwards, Councilor-At-Large Michael Flaherty, and Former Clerk Maureen Feeney.

The Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks oversees all environmental issues and works to

conserve and develop the City’s parks while ensuring all Boston residents have access to open spaces. Coletta intends to meet with all Environmental Justice organizations around the city. If you would like to set up a meeting, please feel free to

contact her office.

In addition, Coletta will serve as the Vice-Chair for the Arts, Culture, Entertainment, Tourism, & Special Events and Rules & Administration committees.

GSCA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

month and awaits adoption from the Boston Zoning Commission, the lot falls within a new zoning subdistrict East Boston Residential (EBR)-4.

Therefore, Lynds pointed out that the items listed previously, which require variances under current zoning, largely comply with the proposed zoning from PLAN: East Boston.

It should be noted that Lynds listed both the open space and parking requirements as facets of the project that would “to be determined” regarding their compliance with proposed zoning.

Specifically, he said they were “pretty confident” in terms of compliance with the open space requirement.

As for parking (zero proposed spots), Lynds asserted that only one space would be required under the proposed zoning.

“We believe the interpretation under zoning will be one space, and the reason for that is under proposed zoning, the first three units — up to three units — does not require any off-street parking. It’s

only when you get to four units that one space per unit is then required,” said Lynds.

“We believe that the intent of the code is that anything under four units does not require parking; it’s only the fourth unit that starts the parking requirements, and therefore, again, for the same reasons, we believe one parking space is all that’s necessary and that the city would prefer not to have access by way of either curb cut or off-street parking for one spot based upon its policy as articulated by the Boston Transportation Department,” he added.

Later, during the meeting, Sebastian Parra from City Councilor Gabriela Coletta’s office clarified the parking requirements under proposed zoning, which conflicted with Lynds’ interpretation.

“I have spoken at length about this specific topic with the team at [the] BPDA for PLAN: East Boston, and they have explained to me that it is — starting at four exactly a one-to-one parking ratio,

and I had them specifically mention that it was at four units you are required to have four parking spots,” said Parra.

In response, Lynds, in part, stated, “We go to purpose and intent of the code, and the intent of the code is to exempt the first three units from parking requirements and therefore just because we go to a fourth unit shouldn’t mean that we have to go to four parking spaces and we’ll have to argue that but that’s our position based upon past practice with parking interpretations.”

There were also several comments and questions about the project before the GSCA meeting ended. One primary concern from multiple attendees was the lack of parking proposed.

“A three-bedroom unit is more typically seeing three cars. To add this many units to the street, I don’t know where those cars are all going to park in a neighborhood that already is struggling for parking,” said one attendee.

“We need to stick to

that; we need to stick together to prevent these buildings to just go up without these spots. At some point, it just doesn’t work,” said another attendee, referencing the parking requirements under proposed zoning.

Lynds also discussed the abutters’ meeting for the project and explained that the questions about parking during the GSCA meeting were similar to the abutters’ meeting. He also said that, for the most part, the building was “received.”

It should also be noted that an abutter confirmed concerns about parking during the abutters’ meeting and also brought up the point that there was some concern regarding the distance between buildings.

Ultimately, as previously mentioned, the GSCA supported the project by a vote of 10 to 5, and construction is predicted to begin this summer following a Zoning Board of Appeal hearing, BPDA design review, and permit issuance.

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Malden Catholic High School welcomes Ndaba Mandela

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

Over 800 students, board members, Xaverian brothers, previous headmasters, and local officials stood in the Malden Catholic High School (MC) gymnasium, extending their arms with conviction, as Leadership Series speaker, Ndaba Mandela, urged them to. Confidently, they repeated Mandela's affirmation in unison, "I am a leader. What I dream, I can achieve."

Like his "granddad", Nelson Mandela -- a resilient humanitarian and 1993 Nobel Peace Prize recipient -- Ndaba Mandela believes that youth are the leaders of a hopeful tomorrow. Mandela's January 24 presentation fostered inclusion, love, and equality.

"Young people need to take lead today. You are more powerful than you think you are," said Mandela, who urged students to choose a cause that speaks to their hearts. "Your parents want you to be diamonds and shine."

Mandela encouraged listeners to stand up for the marginalized, explaining that leaders allow others to become champions.

"Leaders serve their community. Be a voice for those who are voiceless," Mandela advocated. "Engage with people you want to help. God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason: so you can listen more than you talk. The first thing you do when you want to help people is listen. Often, the people who are experiencing challenges also have solutions."

Mandela is confident that youth will lead the nation, amplifying a message of peace and equality.

"My grandfather said if a person can be taught to hate, then a person can be taught to love, because love comes more natural to the human condition," Mandela recognized. "Do not make your choices out of fear. Make your choices out of hope that you will achieve unity."

Mandela asserted that fellowship is strength. Kindness and patient attentiveness are necessary to uplift voices.

"The future of this school is in diversity. There is power in diversity. We learn how to do things in a different, more efficient, and innovative way," acknowledged Mandela to the student body that is 40% diverse, including international students.

"When we have an open heart, we are able to learn and become better," expressed Mandela, who implored students to apply his grandfather's principles in their own communities. "My grandfather

had a lot of compassion. Compassion is what we need in this world."

His grandfather's wisdom and gentleness bolstered Mandela's belief that he could make a difference. Mandela encouraged students to vote and be aware of who represents them in their district so their concerns can be heard.

Ndaba Mandela was born in 1982, during the apartheid regime in South Africa. He described the system as so brutal that if a child was born from a mixed race couple, he or she would be removed and placed in a separate area of mixed race people.

Ndaba Mandela's grandfather, Nelson Mandela, was the leader of an anti-apartheid movement that brought liberation and peace to South Africa. Mandela -- who had a sense of humor and enjoyed dancing -- raised his grandson to be understanding, passionate, and genuine.

Now Mandela promotes positive change through collaboration, tolerance, and respect. He is co-founder and chairman of the African community-based foundation, Africa Rising. Mandela was involved in creating the International Day of Happiness at the United Nations. His book, "Going to the Mountain: Life Lessons from my Grandfather, Nelson Mandela," chronicles his life, telling the story of Nelson Mandela from his grandson's perspective. Mandela is presently organizing the 95th Nelson Mandela International Day on July 18, in celebration of his grandfather's birthday.

Principal Jeff Smith felt that one of the most important topics that Mandela discussed was about "dreaming big."

"It reinforced working hard, and continuing to push yourself out of your comfort zone," explained Principal Smith.

Malden Catholic President John Thornburg feels that Nelson and Ndaba Mandela's story is a new level for students, faculty, and staff to aspire for.

"His message about compassion and understanding others fits well with our school mission," noted President Thornburg.

Senior, Jackson Norales, concurs that Mandela's presentation reinforced Malden Catholic's Xaverian values of simplicity, compassion, trust, and zeal. Norales is the secretary of the National Honor Society, and the key spiritual leader of his grade's community service organization.

"When I started at MC, courage was something I



Africa Rising Co-Founder and Chairman Ndaba Mandela explaining to Malden Catholic students what it means to be a civil rights leader.



Yolandy Vargus and Sixtine Masek, Class of 2024 applauding Ndaba Mandela.



Christopher Torres, Class of 2025, extending his arms to recite, "I am a leader. What I can dream, I can achieve."

struggled with -- trust in myself that I could be a leader in this world," revealed Norales, a Malden resident. "Community and group work will lead to the most change."

Mandela's pride in his country, and his grandfather's courageousness resonated with Norales, who enjoyed learning about personal narratives, like attending soccer games.

In addition to service and charity, Norales and senior classmate Sachelle Sterlin agree that coming together as a group is one of the most vital lessons they learned from Mandela's lecture. Sterlin is a member of the African American Policy Forum, which supports human right and the expansion of racial justice and gender equality.

"We did research to promote legislation that improves the conditions in America for black women," described Sterlin, of Malden, about her Young Scholars Program internship. "The message that impacted me the most today was Mr. Mandela's message about youth being the catalyst for social change, and us picking up the movement from the older generations."



Former MC Headmaster Brother Richard Cook (far right) performed the South African and United States nation anthems with his a capella chorus, Blue of a Kind, a Melrose-based band that has been singing together for some 20 years.



Declan Kelly, with Robert Gregory, MC Boys Division Leader, addressing Ndaba Mandela.



Malden Mayor Gary Christensen presenting a citation to Ndaba Mandela in appreciation of his continued mission for social justice and equality.

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Gonzalez receives East Boston Central Catholic School Garrity Scholarship

East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) is very excited and proud to announce that Elena Gonzalez has been named as a 2024 Garrity Scholarship recipient from St. Mary's High School in Lynn.

The Garrity Scholars Program is a four-year, full tuition scholarship program offered by St. Mary's Lynn that has been given to students entering Grade 9. The Garrity Scholars is a competitive merit award program that recognizes the best and brightest students interested in a transformative, Catholic and STEM focused education offered at St. Mary's Lynn.

The program is named in honor of Monsignor Paul Garrity, who was the pastor for 18 years at St. Mary's Parish in Lynn with responsibility for St. Mary's Marian Division and High School.

Under his leadership, St. Mary's Lynn was transformed and took its rightful place as one of the premier Catholic high



Elena Gonzalez.

schools in the north shore region. Monsignor Garrity is a storied and revered figure in the St. Mary's community.

The Garrity full tuition scholarship is the most prestigious award offered at St. Mary's and acknowledges excellence through focus on STEM education, personal leadership qualities, and a commitment to the St. Mary's pillars of excellence. All hallmarks of the life of Monsignor Garrity.

The scholarship is awarded for the duration of a four-year period of full-time enrollment, and

supersedes any previously awarded merit scholarship. The scholarship covers full tuition and mandatory fees for four years.

Elena joined East Boston Central Catholic School in Pre-K and has been a regular on our honor roll list since arriving. Elena resides in Lynn with her proud parents, Shaila and Mauricio Gonzalez.

Elena is now the second EBCCS student to be named as a Garrity Scholarship recipient in the past 3 years. Additionally, Elena's classmates, Carlos Hincapie Gutierrez was named as a Catholic Schools Foundation Inspiration Scholar and Luisantonio Rivero was named as a Catholic Schools Foundation Guaranteeing Opportunities (GO) Scholar earlier this year.

EBCCS was established in 1974 as the first multi-parish collaborative elementary school in the Archdiocese of Boston. The school currently serves students from Pre-K through Grade 8

from East Boston and the surrounding communities.

EBCCS is also proud to have as part of our teaching faculty two Excellence in Academic Award winning teachers from the

Archdiocese of Boston: Sharon Rozzi, grade 5, and Kathy Summa, Pre-K.

EBCCS is dedicated to Equity, Excellence and Education. Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year is

now open. Please visit the school website at EBCCS.org to learn more and rediscover excellence for your child.

Congratulations Elena!

\$4 M in grants awarded to combat human trafficking and other gender-based offenses

During Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced awards through two grant programs that will enhance enforcement and victim services for survivors of human trafficking, domestic and sexual violence, and stalking. The awards were announced today during a meeting of the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking.

Suffolk County received two grants. One grant was for \$98,242 for training and \$146,915 for Prosecution Award.

Grants totaling \$472,428.50 were awarded to six District Attorney's Offices through the FY24 Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant Program. Now in its second year, this state grant program was designed to support prosecutors' efforts to combat human trafficking and enhance their capacity to identify, assist, and provide referral services to those most impacted.

In addition, \$3,311,842.74 in federal funding was awarded to 43 state, local, and non-profit agencies through the FFY23 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program. Agencies selected through a competitive application process to receive awards in 2022 were invited to apply for continued funding.

The recipients are eligible for up to two additional years of funding, which is provided through the Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR) manages and administers both grant programs in Massachusetts. OGR program coordinators will work with grant recipients to provide reporting and programmatic assistance throughout the grant period.

"In recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, we reaffirm our deep commitment to ensuring that every person can live with dignity, respect and free from fear and abuse," said Governor Maura Healey. "This grant funding will support survivors of domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking, and stalking by investing in programs that promote healing and justice. These grants allow professionals from diverse sectors to provide survivors with access to culturally appropriate and trauma-informed services."

"These grants represent our ongoing commitment to ending exploitation, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking," said Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, chair of the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking. "The grant recipients have a

proven record of delivering quality services to prevent, reduce, and address these crimes and to provide victims with the services they need and deserve as they move toward healing."

"Everyone deserves to feel safe. These grant programs support the vital efforts of community service providers to help survivors as they recover and rebuild their lives. This funding also supports law enforcement and their ability to send a clear message to the perpetrators that they will be held accountable for these heinous crimes," said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy.

"The VAWA program is a longstanding initiative allowing us to build partnerships with service providers and law enforcement to support effective approaches to reducing sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and human trafficking. The Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant Program is a new, innovative program assisting in investigations, prosecutions, outreach, and delivery of services," said OGR Executive Director Kevin Stanton. "We are committed to working with program partners to strengthen responses to these crimes from courts, law enforcement, and prosecutors while enhancing the services available to survivors."

Fund // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This will be one of several investments from Boston's share of the State's opioid settlements. Boston will incrementally receive at least \$22 million through 2038.

This announcement marks a new chapter in years of litigation, including a suit brought by the City of Boston against drug makers and opioid distributors for fueling the opioid epidemic. From July 2021 through December 2022, then-Attorney General Maura Healey announced four settlements that will provide almost a billion dollars to Massachusetts over 18 years. A portion of those funds gets distributed across the Commonwealth to cities and towns for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.

In Boston, BPHC conducted an extensive and equitable community engagement process,

asking those impacted by overdose to inform how the funds should be spent. Throughout the summer of 2023, more than 600 people participated through community and provider listening sessions, surveys, and long-form responses. A majority of respondents wanted to prioritize the needs of grieving families by providing direct financial support. Respondents also expressed strong interest in housing support and low threshold housing for people with substance use disorder, community-based equity initiatives to address substance use, overdose prevention and prevention centers, and youth prevention. The full report is now released and can be found here.

BPHC is hiring an opioid settlement project director to implement and oversee the Family Overdose Support Fund

and other settlement investments. Additional investments will include low threshold housing and community grants, and ongoing community engagement will continue to inform the funding process over the settlement period.

For more information on the city's opioid remediation settlement funds, visit boston.gov/opioid-settlements.

Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is the country's oldest health department. We envision a thriving Boston where all residents live healthy and fulfilling lives. To accomplish this, BPHC works in partnership with communities to protect and promote the health and well-being of all Boston residents, especially those impacted by racism and systemic inequities. Learn more about our work at boston.gov/bphc.

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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- 3 Persons, \$110,650
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- 5 Persons, \$132,750
- 6 Persons, \$142,600

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Condos are sold by lottery. Only qualified applicants may enter. The units are deed-restricted; owner-occupancy requirements apply. Income and asset limitations apply. **Requirements:** First time homebuyer. Homebuyer will need to complete an approved homebuyer education course prior to closing. **Preferences:** Boston Residency preference. Preference for one (1) person per bedroom. Income limits for qualified buyers are 80% and 100% Area Median Income Limits based on HUD data that was refined and calculated by MHP and the City of Boston. **Please note:** Persons with disabilities and those with limited English language proficiency are entitled to request a reasonable accommodation.

CITY of BOSTON



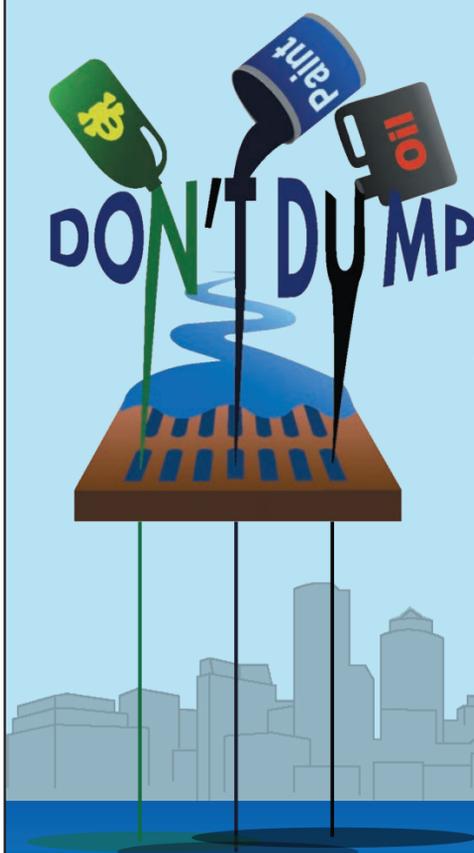
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Sports

EAST BOSTON GIRLS IN HOOP ACTION AGAINST EXCEL-SOUTH BOSTON

PHOTOS BY BOB MARRA

The Jets continued to show improvement on the court as they continued their quest for a first win of the season, but lost to Excel-South Boston 47-16 in a game that was played more closely than the score indicates.



Alexandra Collado and an Excel forward reach to keep a ball in play.



Grace Gans-Linnane moves between a pair of Excel defenders.



Elisen Bonilla maintains control of the ball despite tight defense by a pair of Excel defenders.



Alexandra Collado dribbles down the sideline as she is guarded closely by an Excel defender.



Camila Giraldo Zapata (20) guards an Excel forward.



Elisen Bonilla defends against an Excel forward.

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Hellmann's Mayonnaise 30 oz	2/¢11.00
Campbell's Chunky Soups	2/¢5.00
Hunts Snack Pack	4/¢5.00
Hunts Large Size Canned Tomatoes 28 oz. 2/	¢4.00
Duncan Hines Frosting	2/¢5.00
Pepperidge Farm Layer Cakes	¢3.99
California Kitchen Pizza	¢7.99
Philadelphia Cream Cheese Brick Pack	2/¢5.00
Daisy Sour Cream 16 oz.....	2/¢4.00
Stonyfield Yogurt Pouches.....	2/¢3.00

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Fresh & Tasty Bite Size Grape Tomatoes..	¢2.99

MEAT

Boneless Beef Sirloin Strip Steaks	¢8.99/lb
Best Yet Cooked Shrimp 21-25 ct 1 lb bag	¢8.99

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DOC announces plan to conclude operations at MCI-Concord in the summer of 2024

The Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) announced its intention to conclude operations at MCI-Concord, a medium-security men's prison. Amid the state's lowest prison population in 35 years, the announcement reflects the Department's ongoing efforts to enhance operational efficiency, advance cost-saving solutions, and deepen investments in programming and services.

The strategic decision to end operations at MCI-Concord and relocate its staff and population is based on a thorough assessment of decreased housing needs and the aging facility's high maintenance costs. Furthermore, this proposal allows the Department to dispose of the property, making it available for non-correctional purposes and poten-

tial redevelopment to the benefit of the surrounding community.

Opened in 1878, MCI-Concord is the oldest men's correctional facility in Massachusetts. Its aging infrastructure has become too costly to maintain and requires significant investments.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration's Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Budget proposes closing MCI-Concord which will result in substantial savings, including nearly \$16 million in operating costs and negating the need for \$190 million in capital projects for decarbonization, cooling, and deferred maintenance at the nearly 150-year-old facility.

"During its first year, the Healey-Driscoll Administration has worked closely with the Legislature, community partners,

and advocates to invest in justice initiatives that have contributed to the lowest rates of incarceration and recidivism in decades," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. "Strategically consolidating DOC resources makes financial sense and enables the Department to build upon the proven, evidence-based rehabilitative programs that support successful reentry and improve outcomes. I commend Commissioner Mici and her leadership team for their continued commitment to enhancing operations while delivering effective services to those in their care."

"This proposal underscores the Department's commitment to responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources while ensuring the fulfillment of our rehabilitative mission,"

said DOC Commissioner Carol Mici. "The strategic consolidation of resources eliminates redundancies and empowers us to enhance efficiency and ensure a more effective and impactful correctional system for our incarcerated population, the people who work there, and the community."

MCI-Concord currently operates at 50% capacity with an incarcerated population of approximately 300. Individuals living at MCI-Concord will complete a reclassification process in the coming months and be transferred to an appropriate facility.

In recent years, MCI-Concord has offered several unique programs focused on rehabilitation. These include the nationally recognized Building Responsible Adults Through Validation and

Education (B.R.A.V.E) Unit for emerging adults and educational opportunities to complete advanced studies at Tufts University. These programs will continue to be operational. The Department is developing plans to transition these programs to other comparable facilities in the system.

The DOC will begin the process of transferring correctional officers and incarcerated individuals throughout this fiscal year with the expectation that this process will be complete by the summer of 2024. Once the safe transfer and closure is complete, the property will be made available for potential redevelopment.

Massachusetts has long been a leader in reducing incarceration. The most recent state-level incarceration trends from the

Vera Institute show that the rate of incarceration in Massachusetts is 122% lower than the national rate. Reports from the Vera Institute for Justice found that Massachusetts' incarceration rate is consistently the lowest in the nation, decreasing nearly 5,000 over the past decade, resulting in a record low of nearly 6,000 incarcerated people.

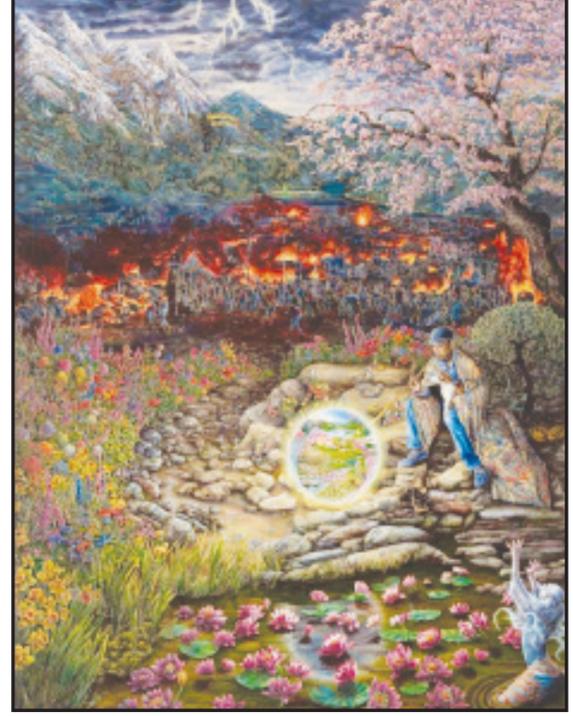
Under Massachusetts law, closing a correctional facility and disposing of the property requires the approval of the state legislature. The Administration's FY25 Budget proposes language to address this requirement.

The Department has published an FAQ to provide families and loved ones with more information about the decision to conclude operations at MCI-Concord.

Raqib Shaw's work on display at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

Fantastical paintings encompassing an eclectic fusion of the natural world, global artistic influences and memory are the core of Raqib Shaw: Ballads of East and West, on view at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum from February 15 – May 12, 2024. The exhibition features the puzzle-like paintings of London-based Kashmiri artist, Raqib Shaw, who blends Eastern and Western cultures to conjure a paradise in the wake of violence and displacement. To create his intricate compositions – populated with vibrant flowers, hybrid beasts and snow-capped mountains – Shaw uses porcupine quills and fine needles to manipulate glossy enamel and metallic paint outlined in embossed gold, usually onto birch wood panels. Shaw incorporates a range of literary, art historical, and spiritual references in his work.

"Raqib Shaw's love of Asian art and European Old Masters, his fascination with textiles and patterning, his interest in



One of Raqib Shaw paintings on display. COURTESY PHOTO

horticulture and natural detail, even his profound relationship to his dog, all find a kinship in Isabella Stewart Gardner's life and passions. It is thrilling to show Raqib's work in the context of the Gardner Museum and

to discover the utopias and dystopias that he so artfully envisions. Every visitor will find their own personal meaning in his work, just as they do in the Museum's wide-ranging collection," says Peggy Fogelman, Norma Jean

Calderwood Director of the Gardner Museum.

Raqib Shaw was born in Calcutta (now Kolkata), India, in 1974, and grew up in the valley of Kashmir, surrounded by gardens, lakes and the Himalayan mountains – a place that he remembers as paradise on earth. Due to growing religious tensions and violent insurgencies, Shaw's family relocated to New Delhi in 1992, before moving to London in 1997. Shaw's paintings are deeply self-reflective, filled with associations to the beauty and trauma of his childhood.

Raqib Shaw: Ballads of East and West brings together more than twenty works from private and museum collections worldwide. The exhibition was co-organized by the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and the Frist Art Museum in Nashville, TN, and co-curated with Dr. Zehra Jumabhoj. The Gardner Museum is the second stop for the exhibition, following the Frist Art Museum (where it was on view September 15 – December 31). The exhibition will travel from Boston to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston in Texas (June 9 – September 2, 2024) and The Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California (November 16, 2024 – March 3, 2025).

For the Gardner presentation, Shaw's works unfold across the entire Museum –predominantly in the Hostetter Gallery (second floor of the new building), but also in the Fenway Gallery (first floor of the palace), which will focus on the artist's process. A new work, commissioned by the Gardner, will be on view on the new building's façade.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE SAN ROCCO SOCIETY OF BOSTON

Join us in celebrating our 36th annual banquet, on March 2nd, 2024, at 7:00 pm, at our new venue, Spinelli's of Lynnfield.

There will be a sit down dinner with open bar. A DJ for your dancing pleasure. A Photo Booth to capture your wonderful night.

Games to show your skills, at attempting to win a bottle or two of fine wines and of course a raffle.

The raffle consists of items donated by local businesses, individuals and members of our society.

In keeping with the benevolent spirit of San Rocco, All the proceeds from the raffle and the games, will be donated to the Make A Wish Foundation of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

For tickets email VSR-BOSTON@GMAIL.COM or call Giovanni Leone 781-346-3512.

Please come. It's all for a worthy cause!

HARBOR VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING AGENDA

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association will be on February 5, 2024, at 6pm. The meeting is In Person only but will be streamed via Facebook for archival purposes. Attendance on Facebook does not qualify for voting. The meeting will be held in the Salesian Boys and Girls Club cafeteria, across from the Brooke Charter School on Byron Street. You can access the meeting from the front door on Byron Street or from the rear door on Wordsworth Street, which is the handicap entry, to avoid the

stairs. Since we are indoors, masks are optional for those in attendance.

La proxima reunion de Harbor View Neighborhood Association esta en 5 de febrero a las 6pm. La reunion esta en persona y via Facebook. La asistencia en Facebook no califica para vota. Llega a la cafeteria del Salesian Boys y Girls Club por la calle Byron al otro lado de Brooke Charter School. Pueda usar la entrada principal por la calle Byron o la entrada en calle de Wordsworth. La entrada de calle Wordsworth no tiene escaleras por personas con discapacidades. El cubre bocas sera opcional puesto que estaremos adentro.

Agenda Welcome/Introduction (5min)

ONS Manuela (Mela) Villa Gomez (5min) Neighborhood announcements.

Announcements (5min) Greenway Council, Tree Eastie, Sumner Tunnel update, Registration for East Boston Little League is open, City of Boston Youth Job and Resource Fair set for March 23, 2024, at Reggie Lewis Track Complex 1350 Tremont Street, CPA 2025, Grant Funding deadline is 8/30/24, funding limits 3K to 1 million dollars. McLean Park Update.

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

City Councilor Gabriela Coletta (30min) Councilor Coletta will share her work over the past year as well as what she is advocating for in the new year. She welcomes your ideas. Brief Q&A.

30 Moore Street (30min) 2nd Presentation and VOTE, Attorney Mary Campbell for owners Kevin & Meghan Kirwin. The proposal is to add decks with stairs to the first and second floors; indoor renovations to include replacing windows on first and second floors; gut renovation of first floor with new kitchen and bathroom; remove and replace cabinets on second floor; remove the chimney.

Eastie Farm (15min) Morgan Barlin, Education & Food Program Assistant will share Youth Job opportunities and the Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) program.

The next meeting of the HVNA will be on March 4, 2024. Visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/harborviewna> or check our website at harborvieweastboston.com



My first valentines day is coming and I can't wait to celebrate with the best mommy and daddy ..
Love Julian

Send us your Valentine Lovelines!



Happy Valentine's Day from Jax & Bella

Published February 14 & 15

ALL VALENTINES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE EAST BOSTON TIMES FREE PRESS, REVERE JOURNAL, EVERETT INDEPENDENT, CHELSEA RECORD, WINTHROP SUN TRANSCRIPT, & CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT BRIDGE

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OBITUARIES

Joan Bennett

Well known at her Lighthouse Nursing Care residence for her love of Bingo



She was predeceased by her father and mother, Aloysius and Regina Bennett, sister, Margaret "Peggy" Paiva, lifelong love, Robert DeWart, nephew, Ronald Paiva and niece, Sheri Melito.

Her Funeral was held from the Rogers Funeral Home, East Cambridge on Saturday, January 13, with a Funeral Mass at Sacred Heart Church, East Cambridge.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Heart Association.

Joan N. Bennett of East Boston, formerly of East Cambridge, with loved ones by her side, passed away peacefully in her sleep following a long illness on January 6 at age 81.

She was well known for her love of Bingo, playing three times a week at Lighthouse Nursing Care in Revere where she resided for the last few years as well as a love of Raymond Burr of Perry Mason and music.

She is survived by her son, David, Sr., his wife Renee, her two grandchildren, David, Jr. and Quinn, her sister, Carolyn Burke and her husband, Joe, her niece, Cheryl Williams, nephews: Frank Paiva and his wife, Norma, Joe Burke and his wife, Katherine, Paul Burke and his wife, Paula, as well as many great nieces and nephews.

Leona M. "Leigh" Orlando

A woman of great integrity and Godly character



excellence and her gift of administration was over the top.

Leigh had a very prominent Christian faith. She was a woman of great integrity and Godly character. She had an incredible gift of intercessory prayer and was a very proud leader of Insight Ministries United States Prayer Force a national prayer group, who has said, "That She was the fire that ignited the flame in each of us. More precious than much fine gold."

Leigh had a special call and gift that encouraged pastors and leaders to believe in a God who says, "All things are possible." She was a worshiper who loved to study and share the Word of God. Leigh looked for beauty in all things and tried to make a difference where needed.

She was the beloved wife of 39 years to John A. Orlando of Revere, the beloved sister of Patricia A. O'Hara - DiGenio and her husband, Joseph of Newmarket, NH., and the late Dorothy M. McGrath, James E. O'Hara Jr., Richard F. O'Hara Sr., Kevin P. O'Hara Sr. and Carol L. Pepi and her surviving husband, Gerald Pepi of Winthrop. She is also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to The Tunnel to Towers Foundation www.t2t.org. For online condolences please visit: www.vertucciosmithvazza.com

Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend visiting hours on Thursday, February 8th from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St. Revere for Leona M. "Leigh" (O'Hara) Orlando who entered fully into the presence her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, January 28th. A Funeral Service will take place in the funeral home on Friday, February 9th beginning at 10:30 a.m. followed by the service at 11 a.m. Interment will be held privately.

Leigh was born in Boston to her late parents, Boston Police Detective James E. O'Hara Sr. and Dorothy M. (Breault) O'Hara on September 8, 1949. She was one of seven children who were raised and educated in East Boston.

Leigh was a graduate of East Boston High School, Class of 1967. Following high school, Leigh began to work as an Administrative Assistant for the Bethlehem Steel Corporation in East Boston until her retirement upon its closing in the fall of 1982.

Leigh married her cherished husband, John A. Orlando on September 21, 1984. They first lived in Everett for several years, before moving to Revere in 1987.

Leigh loved life, she was always smiling and making harmless jokes that made everyone all around her happy, safe and comfortable to be in the moment together. Leigh had a deep and loyal love for family and enjoyed caring for those she loved, including the 4-legged ones. She was also a lover of the beach and would often be seen walking Revere Beach, no matter the season. Her gift of writing was one of great

Frank Schettino

Outstanding Athlete and Northeastern University retiree



Frank T. Schettino of Revere, formerly of East Boston, has passed away.

He was the beloved husband of 64 years to Carmella (Milly) Pellegriti Schettino, the son of the late Frank and Susie (Ruggerio); loving father of Frank Jr. and his wife, Kristen of Atlanta, Georgia, loving grandfather of Aidan and Siena Schettino; brother of the late Vincent Schettino and his late sister, Jeanette Constantine. He is also lovingly survived by many nieces and nephews.

Frank graduated from English High School where he lettered in football and baseball. Two of his memorable accomplishments were scoring the winning touchdown against arch rival Boston Latin on Thanksgiving Day at Harvard Stadium to win the Boston City Championship and representing the Boston City Baseball All-Stars at Fenway Park against the Catholic High School All-Stars. In 1986, Frank was inducted into the Boston English High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

After High School and before attending college, Frank played football for the East Boston Tornados of the Boston City Park League. That year he was selected as East Boston's Outstanding Sandlot Athlete.

Frank attended Northeastern University where he earned both Bachelor and Masters degrees. He also lettered in football and baseball. In his football senior year, he was selected to the All City, All New England, and All ECAC East teams. Voted the Most Valuable Player on the football team as he led the team in receptions, kickoff returns, and scoring.

After a brief tryout with the Boston Patriots, he played with the Boston Sweepers of the Atlantic Coast Football League. In 1988 Frank was inducted into the Northeastern University Athletic Hall of Fame. Frank served as President of both the Northeastern Varsity Club

and Alumni Association.

After graduation, he worked for Raytheon Corp, and then began work at Northeastern University, a career that spanned over 40 years. Frank has been a Trustee of the Revere Public Library since 1993 serving as Chairman for the past 12 years. Frank was an active member in Revere's St. Anthony's Holy Name Society serving as past President. He was the recipient of both the Holy Name Spirit Award and Lifetime Achievement Award. For many years, he served as an usher at St. Anthony's Sunday masses.

Frank and his wife loved traveling especially to visit their son and his family in Atlanta. Members of the Rossetti-Cowan Senior Center, they enjoyed the vast array of programs and activities especially the indoor bocce competition.

Family and friends are invited to attend Visiting Hours on Friday, February 2nd from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere. His funeral will be conducted from the funeral home on Saturday, February 3rd at 10 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Anthony of Padua Church, 250 Revere St., Revere at 11 a.m. Interment will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. Remembrances may be made to the American Heart Association, PO Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692.

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.

Francis Doran

Of East Boston



Francis J. Doran of East Boston passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on January 27th.

He was the beloved husband of Beatrix (Brugman) Doran; devoted father of Michael Uiterwijk, Michael Doran, Karen Doran, David Doran and the late Wanda Bigelow; cherished grandfather of Danielle Acevedo, Monique Bigelow, Patrick Adams and Andrew Adams; dear great grandfather of Jonathan Acevedo Jr. and Ethan Acevedo.

Family and friends will honor Francis's life by gathering at the Ruggerio Family Memorial Home, East Boston, today, Wednesday, January 31st from 3 to 7 p.m. and again on Thursday morning, February 1 at 10 a.m. for a funeral service in our serenity chapel. Ser-

vices will conclude with Francis being laid to rest at Highland Cemetery in Norwood.

Courtesy valet parking at the front entrance of Funeral Home.

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

Frances Vennoch

She embodied the best of qualities: love of her family, strength of spirit and commitment to her faith



Frances L. Vennoch of Stoneham, passed away peacefully with her family by her side at the age of 98.

Frances was born to Michael and Anna Pelosi and raised in East Boston along with her two brothers Agostino and Anthony. Theirs was a traditional close knit Italian family where she was a devoted daughter and loving sister. She graduated Girls High, Class of 1942 and went to work at the bank as a secretary/stenographer. In 1973, she returned to the workforce as a secretary at the PJ Kennedy School in East Boston.

Frances met Joe Vennoch at a USO dance during the war and were married in 1946. They moved to Stoneham in 1962 where they raised a family and enjoyed a wonderful life. Together they were a true partnership; dedicated and supportive of each other and in love until the end. He always said he had married "the most beautiful girl in East Boston."

Frances was an excellent cook - the late Mayor Tom Menino once said her eggplant was the best he had ever tasted - and a natural talent in many ways, with a special knack for finding a great bargain. She was a 62 year communicant at St Patrick Parish and a Eucharistic minister, loved to tend to her plants, work in the yard, read, and travel with her girlfriends. She was an exceptional bridge player and participated in many weekly games at the Stoneham, Wakefield, and Reading Senior Centers.

Frances embodied the best of qualities: love of her family, strength of spirit, and commitment to her faith. She wanted to give her children more opportunities and a better life than she had herself and worked extremely hard to do so. Her life reflected selflessness and dedication, always putting her family first. She never hesitated to sacrifice for what she thought they needed and was always their biggest supporter.

Frances was the beloved wife of 44 years to the late Julius J. Vennoch and predeceased by her parents, brothers, and sister in law Dolores Pelosi. She was the devoted mother of Janet and William Maguire of West Barnstable, Thomas and Joan Venno-

chi of Melrose, John and Pam Vennoch of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Joanne and Thomas St. Pierre of Stoneham. She was especially proud of her four grandchildren: Conor Maguire and his wife Julie, Nicholas Vennoch and his wife Hannah, Anna Vennoch and her partner, Matthew Giolito, and Sarah Vennoch, along with her grandson in spirit, Ben Nadworny and his wife Madison. She was delighted to meet her five great grandchildren: Claire, Simon, Walter, Gio, and baby Greta. Frances was especially close to Rose Leone of Lynnfield, Ann Valerio of Melrose, and her cousin Frances McKinnon of Humarock and also is survived by many loving cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends.

Her departure comes with great sadness. We are thankful for the impeccable care from Kara at Lاهی Health at Home and her aides Donna, Karen, Lourdes, Arlene, Wistha, Becky, and Marta who all gave great love and attention to her every need.

Funeral from the Barile Family Funeral Home, 482 Main Street Stoneham, was on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 9 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass celebrating Frances' Eternal Life in St. Patrick Church, 71 Central Street, Stoneham. Interment was private.

Family and friends also gathered to share memories with the family on Monday, January 29 in the funeral home from 4 to 7p.m.

The family deeply appreciates your support during this difficult time. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St Jude Children's Research Hospital 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105, or My Brother's Table 98 Willow St, Lynn, MA 01901.

For directions or to send a memorial condolence www.barilefuneral.com or www.facebook.com/BarileFamilyFuneralHome.

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Networked geothermal heating announced for Franklin Field Apartments

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu joined the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) and National Grid to announce that Franklin Field Apartments has been selected for National Grid's Networked Geothermal Demonstration Program. The project will be the first networked geothermal pilot project in the City of Boston and the second in National Grid's Massachusetts program. Switching energy sources from gas to electric is an important step to create green, healthy communities for residents. This is important in accelerating the Mayor's goal for BHA to be fossil fuel free by 2030. At the project's conclusion, the seven buildings in the pilot will be fossil-free.

Networked geothermal is a highly efficient renewable heating technology and source of energy that uses the ground temperature to provide heating and cooling to buildings through an underground piping network. The underground temperature serves as a heat source during winter and transfers indoor heat to the ground for cooling during the summer.

"Being the greenest city in America means that we will be best able to take care of not only the places we live, but the people we love," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We want to be a city where the benefits we are bringing when it comes to energy efficiency and green energy are not just around being able to check off boxes and hit goals, but that we are able to empower and support the people in our community who make it possible for Boston to do everything that we do. Every

Boston family deserves a home that is affordable, safe and healthy."

"As Boston tackles the challenge of climate change, it is vital that our public housing communities come first," said Kenzie Bok, Administrator of the Boston Housing Authority. "Our partnership with National Grid is an exciting opportunity to showcase geothermal technology as a fossil-fuel-free alternative for multifamily housing, while also improving resident quality of life by providing 129 BHA families with efficient, state-of-the-art heating and cooling."

"We are excited to partner with the Boston Housing Authority and the City of Boston to meet our collective climate change, clean energy and equity goals by pursuing this networked geothermal project at Franklin Field, bringing efficient and clean heating and cooling to its residents" said Lisa Wieland, President of National Grid New England. "We are taking the initial learnings from our first project in Lowell and applying them here, which has been extremely valuable. Key to transitioning away from fossil fuels is to develop and expand reliable alternatives. Networked geothermal has significant potential to be a solution, especially for larger buildings and campuses, and this partnership will allow us to demonstrate that and bring the benefits of the clean energy future to the Franklin Field community, today."

The geothermal pilot will replace an aging gas boiler loop currently serving 129 units at seven federal public housing buildings at the BHA's Franklin Field community in Dorchester. The Boston

Housing Authority will invest federal Capital Fund Program resources to support electrification of the heating and domestic hot water equipment within the buildings. National Grid will develop the geothermal network leading to the building's exterior, and both parties will collaborate on complementary energy efficiency investments funded by the state's energy efficiency programs.

In addition to replacing the boiler loop for heat, the ground source heat pumps and geothermal network will give residents in-unit cooling, a feature that is only accessible at present through inefficient window air conditioners purchased by residents. The project will begin design in early 2024, with construction activity to take place in 2025. BHA will lead resident engagement concerning the project in 2024 with National Grid's support.

As part of the pilot, National Grid will connect Buildings 7-13, located on Ames Way, Ames Street, and Stratton Street in Dorchester, with a horizontal distribution loop and a thermal bore field. Geothermal bore holes will allow the system to extract and deposit heat from the ground. National Grid will also install a pumphouse on BHA property to operate the geothermal network serving the designated Franklin Field buildings. BHA will be responsible for all work within the envelope of the connected buildings necessary to convert these buildings from gas heating to networked geothermal heating and cooling, including retrofits, electrical upgrades, and appliance and heating equipment replacement. Construction will cause

minimal disruption for residents, and require no more than a few days of temporary relocation.

Mayor Wu also announced that the City of Boston has received \$1 million in federal funding to retrofit 80 gas stoves to electric, including induction stoves. This grant was received through the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program (EJG2G), which funds state, local, territorial, and tribal-level government activities that will have measurable environmental or public health impacts in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms. The City has partnered with the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) and Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation (CSNDC) to identify units to retrofit, replace gas appliances with electric, and train residents on induction stove usage. The City is also partnering with Boston University (BU) to study the indoor air quality impact of the retrofitting project to estimate implications of future similar projects.

The funds, which will be used to retrofit 40 stoves each at the CSNDC's Talbot Bernard Homes and the BHA's Franklin Field Apartments, aim to bring health, environmental, and green workforce benefits to Dorchester residents. After conducting building and unit assessments, each stove replacement will come complete with the proper electric infrastructure to best support it, which may potentially include adding 240 V outlets; adding 50 amp breakers to electric panels; and upgrading electric panels. This component of

the project will upgrade the electrical capacities of buildings, leading to opportunities to electrify other appliances, such as clothes dryers and heating systems.

"For many residents, new home appliances that make life better and healthier can be the starting point to decarbonization. This project will result in invaluable findings on air quality benefits, as well as a template for how we can scale up delivery of electrical upgrades and fossil fuel-free equipment for residents who live in affordable and public housing," said Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Director of Boston's Green New Deal. "I am especially excited that this grant represents such a well-coordinated partnership on Boston's Green New Deal among city agencies, academia, and a neighborhood non-profit—and of course the Federal government."

Building on the Mayor's Green New Deal to improve public health and quality of life for communities, the City plans to implement indoor air quality monitors and utilize resident surveys to estimate health and financial implications associated with reduced pediatric asthma exacerbations in a future rollout of stove replacements. Studies show that the elimination of gas stoves reduce incidence of childhood asthma and may yield health and healthcare cost improvements.

In the City's continued efforts in investing in climate, socioeconomic, and health injustices across the neighborhood of Dorchester, the project plans to collaborate and engage with the community as it implements the pilot. To educate and train residents, the City will be utilizing completed

unit installations, such as stoves that were replaced in community rooms or vacant rooms, to conduct a series of community wide cooking demonstrations that promote healthy eating and explain the harmful impacts of gas stoves. Through the demonstrations, the City seeks to help residents understand both changes to cooking and cleaning that electric stoves may introduce, as well as the science behind induction cooking.

Geothermal heat pumps have a coefficient of performance (COP) of 4, meaning that they are four times more efficient than standard electric resistance heating. Due to their efficiency, a recent report by the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that widespread deployment of geothermal heat pumps in the United States could result in up to \$1 trillion in cumulative savings, reducing the wholesale price of electricity by up to 12%.

In January 2023, Mayor Michelle Wu called on the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) to pursue complete decarbonization of its portfolio and retire its gas heating assets. At Franklin Field, the BHA has redirected more than \$2 million of previously proposed fossil fuel heating investments to support space heating electrification and will add additional resources to electrify domestic hot water systems. Outside of the Geothermal Pilot, the City of Boston has separately invested \$32 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds in Boston Housing Authority projects to improve energy efficiency and indoor air quality at public housing, including at Franklin Field, Alice Taylor, Roslyn and Rockland apartments.

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Registration opens Feb. 1 for Summer Sports Centers

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce registration will open on February 1 for the 2024 Summer Sports Centers at White Stadium in Franklin Park, Almont Park in Mattapan, East Boston Memorial Stadium in East Boston, Garvey Playground in Dorchester, and Ronan Park in Dorchester. For more information or

to register online please visit boston.gov/sports.

Each location offers instruction in several popular sports from July 8 through August 16. All Summer Sports Centers are offered free of charge to Boston residents and open to children ages 7 to 14. Parents may register their children for just one week or the entire summer.

East Boston Sports Center

East Boston Memorial Park

143 Porter Street

East Boston

Please note that lunch will be provided but participants must provide their own transportation. Pre-registration is required for both groups and individuals.

Call (617) 635-4505 or

parks@boston.gov

for more information. To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, visit boston.gov/Parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

February school vacation week activities

Children, parents, and caregivers are invited to join the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for February school vacation week. Online registration and more information on all these free family activities can be found at boston.gov/parks.

Softball Hitting and Fielding Clinics

Tuesday, February 20 and Wednesday, February 21, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Bubble at Carter Field, 709 Columbus Avenue.

The program features UMass Boston softball players and coaches and is

open to teams and individual players of all skill levels.

Pre-registration required Ages 10 and up

boston.gov/sports

Children's Winter Festival

Wednesday, February 21, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Boston Common (corner of Beacon and Charles Streets)

This beloved annual festival offers winter activities, inflatable attractions, and fun giveaways.

All ages

boston.gov/winterfest

Baseball Hitting and Fielding Clinics

Thursday, February 22

and Friday, February 23, 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The Bubble at Carter Field, 709 Columbus Avenue.

The program features UMass Boston baseball players and coaches and is open to teams and individual players of all skill levels.

Pre-registration required, Ages 10-14

boston.gov/sports

Open Gym

Thursday, February 22 and Friday, February 23, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Bubble at Carter Field, 709 Columbus Avenue.

Open Gym is available

to students, families, and community members to play pick-up sports such as kickball, wiffleball, soccer, football, run laps, and more. Ages 7 and up

boston.gov/sports

Call (617) 635-4505 or email parks@boston.gov for more information. To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, visit boston.gov/Parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on X, Facebook, and Instagram.

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CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU24P0087EA
Estate of:

Michael M. Imperato
Date of Death: 12/02/2023
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Daniel M. Imperato of Marlborough, 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: Daniel M. Imperato of Marlborough, 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 02/27/2024. 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 affidavit of objections within thirty days (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 inven-

tory 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 19, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate

1/31/24
EB

National Grid reminds customers to take advantage of available energy programs

As winter weather and colder temperatures persist, the National Grid is reminding Massachusetts customers to take advantage of energy programs that can help them manage their energy bills.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), commonly referred to as Fuel Assistance, provides eligible households with help in paying a portion of winter heating bills. Enrollment for LIHEAP is free and open through April 30, 2024, and covers energy usage from November 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024. LIHEAP is open to both homeowners and renters, including households whose cost of heat is included in rent, and eligibil-

ity is based on household size and the gross annual income of every household member 18 or older. Household income cannot exceed 60% of estimated state median income. The program provides assistance through a fixed benefit amount for the cost of the primary source of heat, which includes, but is not limited to: electricity, oil, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood and coal.

“National Grid recognizes that energy bills can be a real challenge for many customers – especially in these colder winter months,” said Helen Burt, Chief Customer Officer at National Grid. “The LIHEAP program can provide much needed assistance for customers

who are struggling to keep up with their energy costs. We also encourage customers to look at options in our Customer Savings Initiative, to consider a payment program, or see if they are eligible for rate discounts.”

To apply for LIHEAP:
• Apply online at <https://www.toapply.org/MassLIHEAP>

• Visit and apply at an agency in your area.

For more information concerning LIHEAP:

• Visit <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap>.

• Customers may also call the Cold Relief Heatline at (800) 632-8175.

National Grid recog-

nizes winter bills can pose challenges for customers. National Grid’s Customer Savings Initiative is designed to help customers reduce their energy use and lower energy costs, manage their energy bills and payments, and help them secure available energy assistance.

Along with LIHEAP, National Grid has several programs dedicated to helping income-qualified families and customers needing special assistance meet their energy needs. Programs include but are not limited to:

• Discount Rates where qualifying income-eligible customers may receive a discounted rate on electric and gas service, as well as no-cost energy

efficiency upgrades.

• The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to any Massachusetts residents who, because of temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month’s energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal energy assistance.

Several bill help options and payment plans are available for customers in need of assistance. Customers may enroll in programs such as the Budget Billing Plan, which spreads monthly payments out more evenly throughout the year to offset periods of high energy usage.

Customers can visit ngrid.com/heretohelp to learn more.

National Grid (NYSE:

NGG) is an electricity, natural gas, and clean energy delivery company serving more than 20 million people through our networks in New York and Massachusetts. National Grid is focused on building a smarter, stronger, cleaner energy future — transforming our networks with more reliable and resilient energy solutions to meet state climate goals and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information, please visit our website, follow us on X (formerly Twitter), watch us on YouTube, like us on Facebook and find us on Instagram.

Celebrate Presidents’ Day week at the JFK Library with family-friendly activities

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum offers several family-oriented activities and programs throughout Presidents’ Day week, including its signature Presidents’ Day Festival on February 19, featuring presidential storytelling, activities and performances, and a Celebrate! family performing arts program. The Celebrate! performance of Stories of Hope and Joy with Len Cabral features folktales, myths, and personal accounts brought to life with humor, wisdom, and compassion by international renowned storyteller Len Cabral. Audiences of all ages will be inspired by stories of the power of hopeful actions in honor of Black History Month.

\$2 Off Museum Admission with Special Buzzword In celebration of Presidents’ Day week, the JFK Library will reveal a special buzzword during admission during the week of February 17-25, 2024 will receive \$2 off adult admission prices and youth ages 17 and under will be free.

Additional student, military, senior and EBT discounts are available.

Presidents’ Day Festival Monday, February 19,

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The 13th Annual Presidents’ Day Festival’s main activities will kick off at 11:00 a.m. Actors portraying Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Theodore Roosevelt, and First Lady Abigail Adams will share stories and engage visitors in conversation.

Festival-goers can enjoy Museum tours and activities that bring history to life for all ages. This year, the Festival will feature special election-themed activities – visitors of all ages can make their own Kennedy hats, design campaign buttons, and test their presidential trivia knowledge – to complement election day 2024. The Festival will close with a special free concert by the Harvard Din & Tonics, who will perform Kennedy campaign songs and popular music from the 1960s and today.

Visit www.jfklibrary.org/PresidentsDay for a detailed schedule of the Presidents’ Day Festival offerings. Registration is recommended.

Special Festival activities are free with paid adult admission.

The Harvard Din & Tonics closing concert is free for all. The Festival is especially appropriate for ages 7 and up.

Celebrate with Len

Cabral – Stories of Hope and Joy Thursday, February 22, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Internationally renowned storyteller Len Cabral shares stories of the power of hopeful actions and shared joy in honor of Black History Month. Folktales, myths, and personal accounts come to life with humor, wisdom, and compassion that will inspire listeners of all ages.

The Celebrate series, appropriate for family audiences and children ages 5 and up, highlights America’s rich cultural diversity through the arts. This program reflects President and Mrs. Kennedy’s concern for and support of the arts and culture as important components of a democratic society. In order to optimize your comfort and enjoyment, reservations are recommended for all visitors to this free program. Make reservations by visiting www.jfklibrary.org/celebrate or calling 617-514-1644 and leaving a message. Children are seated on the floor with their caretakers and space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Limited seats are available for people with disabilities, seniors, and others unable to sit on the floor. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Broth to warm and heal

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The 2023 uproar over some pasta companies discontinuing tiny star-shaped “pastina” was actually about the disappearance of a brothy, healing comfort food— pastina in broth. The Boston Globe called it “Italian penicillin.”

Penny recalls the first time she had it. She was dealing with a head cold while visiting a college friend. As soon as she arrived, the family’s matriarch hustled around in the kitchen and quickly presented her with a steaming bowl of rich chicken broth studded with tiny pasta stars. It was warm and soothing and made her feel better.

Pastina in broth has long been on our menus whenever we feel off or need a quick, soothing meal. Depending on our mood, we may add a little or a lot of grated parmesan to the bowl. Fortunately, some companies still make it, and pastina is not the only tiny pasta. Next

to a jar of Prince pastina, we have alternatives like acini di pepe, orzo, and toasty fregola sarda.

Why Chicken Soup Works

Today, the medical community knows why foods like chicken soup help with respiratory illnesses. In an article for the science website The Conversation, Colby Teeman, Ph.D., assistant professor of dietetics and nutrition at the University of Dayton, discussed several factors.

Chicken is a complete protein to combat infection, and vegetables provide vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. Adding pasta or rice provides the carbohydrates you need to recover. The water and electrolytes help with rehydration.

Chicken soup is also rich in umami, which can increase your appetite when you may not feel like eating. He adds, “Umami may also improve nutrient digestion which can reduce gastro-

intestinal symptoms.” Finally, sipping and inhaling warm broth vapor can do a good job of loosening mucus.

Teeman included a precaution that not all chicken soups are the same. He highly recommended homemade or at least one that is not ultra-processed and lacking in those essential nutritional factors that you would get from a minimally processed version.

Those who don’t eat meat can gain many of the same benefits from a rich mushroom broth filled with hearty vegetables and noodles.

World Broth Tour

We searched for dietary remedies from other cultures and found many broth-based ones. If you’re not up to making soup, you can find many options at local restaurants. Our first choice would be Vietnamese Pho. If you order this to go, you’ll receive a container of broth with the noodles, toppings, and seasonings



A steaming bowl of Vietnamese Beef Pho is the perfect take-out meal to bring to a sick friend. (Photo: Getty Images)

in separate containers. You can create your bowl of soup precisely the way you want. If you’d like a hit of sriracha to clear your head, add it. If you’re looking for simple soup, build it your way.

If you’re from Thailand, you might crave the hot and sour ingredients that balance out a spicy Tom Yum soup. Koreans agree! Their Dak Gomtang soup can be served unseasoned or with a big dollop of a

spicy paste or kimchi.

Ramen or Miso soup are Japanese options, and you could enjoy a Chinese wonton or egg drop soup. Greek Avgolemono adds lemon and eggs to their comforting chicken soup.

The Irish and British have always depended on “Beef Tea,” a rich beef stock, to heal what ails them. These were once prepared in UK hospital kitchens and prescribed for digestive problems, fe-

ver, or weakness.

Consider brothy soups or plain broth when the doctor says to drink plenty of fluids. The more you add to it, the more nutrition you’ll have for that important job of healing or just feeling better.

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

Protecting individuals with dementia from wandering during the winter

To help families protect their loved ones with dementia from the potential dangers of wandering in cold winter areas, where frigid temperatures, snow, and ice create additional safety risks, the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America (AFA) is providing four tips dementia family caregivers can use to reduce the chances of wandering and be prepared to quickly respond to an emergency.

Wandering is a common and potentially dangerous behavior in individuals with dementia. Once the individual shows signs of wandering, they are at high-risk of wandering away or becoming lost. They can become disoriented, unable to remember how to get back home, or know how, or who, to call for help. They could leave

the home without dressing appropriately.

“Wandering or getting lost can occur at any stage of Alzheimer’s disease. So there are serious risk factors that dementia family caregivers need to be mindful of, especially now in cold, windier weather areas,” said Jennifer Reeder, LCSW, AFA’s Director of Educational and Social Services. “The disease can cause disorientation and confusion, which can lead to the person getting when they may be in search of something or someone or attempting to escape excessive stimuli. Taking steps to address the reasons why someone may leave their environment, while also having an emergency plan ready, are two major ways family caregivers can protect their loved one’s wellbe-

ing during the winter and throughout the year.”

AFA offers these four tips to help families protect their loved ones with dementia:

Understand the causes of wandering. Walking outdoors can bring a feeling of purposefulness and pleasure to someone living with dementia, especially if they have lived an active lifestyle and enjoyed the outdoors before the onset of dementia. Identify consistent and sustainable ways to support these experiences in a safe environment, such as creating walking paths around the home with visual cue; engaging the person in simple tasks; and providing stimulating and enjoyable activities (i.e., exercise, music, crafts).

Wandering can also be a response to excessive

stimuli, triggered by the need to get away from noises and people, or an expression of an unmet need (i.e., hunger, thirst, a need to use the bathroom). Ensuring basic needs are met can reduce the chances of wandering.

Safeguard the home. Facilitate safe movement by avoiding clutter and eliminating tripping hazards. Be mindful of how objects like car keys, jackets, and purses might motivate the person to leave suddenly. Install electronic chimes or doorbells on doors so someone is alerted if the individual tries to exit. Consider utilizing a smart doorbell with an app that can notify you when someone is entering or exiting the home.

Be aware of your loved one’s patterns. Know what times of the day may be

more activating than others and provide activities during those periods. Encourage healthy sleep habits to reduce the chances the person might leave in the middle of the night. If your loved one does wander, keep a record of their patterns (frequency, duration, time of day, etc.) to help guide you in the future.

Develop a safety plan. Keep a list of places the person may go (i.e., previous home or place of employment, favorite spots around town), a recent close-up photo, and medical information readily accessible to give to first responders if needed. Maintain a list of people to contact if the person goes missing and ask neighbors to call you if they see the person out alone. See if your community has a

safety program for families affected by dementia, such as Project Lifesaver. These programs allow you to voluntarily enroll your loved one to receive locating technology. First responders can then activate the technology if the person goes missing. When possible, encourage and incorporate input from the person when developing the plan.

AFA’s Helpline, staffed entirely by licensed social workers who are specifically trained in dementia care, can provide additional information about wandering prevention tips. The Helpline is available seven days a week by phone (866-232-8484), text message (646-586-5283), and web chat (www.alzfdn.org).

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