

# East Boston

## TIMES-FREE PRESS

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

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### 11TH STRAIGHT WIN

The Jets continued their remarkable roll, winning their 11th straight after an 0-4 start, taking a 54-36 win over Boston Latin Academy (10-4) Friday at East Boston High School.



**FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE:** Eastie's Draggo Tejeda Feliz avoids the defense of Latin forward on the way to the basket.



**LOOKING FOR SPACE:** Alejandro Garcia is wide-eyed as he gets under a Latin defender and sees the basket. See Page 4 for more photos.



**QUICK RELEASE:** Xander Boutros gets off a pass in front of Latin Academy's Randiel Jimenez.

## Coletta reviews past year and what's ahead at HVNA meeting

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

City Councilor Gabriela Coletta joined the Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA) during its monthly meeting on Monday to discuss several topics, including some highlights over the past year, PLAN: East Boston, her plans for the future, and much more.

At the beginning of her presentation, Coletta highlighted her annual report that was released this past December, which can be accessed in English at <https://bit.ly/ColettaReport2023> and in Spanish at <https://bit.ly/GigiReporte2023>.

"We discuss budget and policy wins, constituent services, community initiatives, and what we're

looking forward to working on," said Coletta, referencing the annual report. "It is truly comprehensive, and I'm very proud of my staff for taking the time to put that together for me."

After highlighting her annual report, Coletta discussed what she calls the "bread and butter" of her job: constituent services. Not only did she identify key triumphs in this area, such as aiding the paving of Saratoga Street, but she also outlined specific concerns that constituents have voiced.

For example, she pointed to concerns such as the infrastructure of streets and sidewalks and the time it takes for repairs to be completed, the techno-

See HVNA Page 5

### EBCCS SCIENCE FAIR



The East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) 7th and 8th grade presented a science fair in celebration of Catholic Schools Week on February 2. Shown are Keillen Munoz and Stephanie Mondono, 7th grade, with their project, "Elektron." See Page 3 for more photos.

## Boston City Council accepts anti-terrorism grant that impacts region

By Adam Swift

Last week, the Boston City Council voted to accept a \$13.3 million anti-terrorism grant that the previous council had narrowly voted against accepting.

The grant will impact surrounding communities, including Chelsea, Revere, Everett, and Winthrop, who are all part of the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region.

The grant from the Department of Homeland Security is designed to provide planning exercises, training, operational needs, and response to

terrorism threats, including biological, chemical, nuclear, and explosive incidents.

The funding was reintroduced by Mayor Michelle Wu several weeks ago and the council initially voted to send the request to committee.

But Councilor Ed Flynn put the request forward for a vote at last week's council meeting. Flynn noted that other communities in the homeland security region, including Chelsea and Quincy, are dependent on the money and that the council should not delay the vote.

See GRANT Page 5

## Rally held in Maverick Square to demand justice for Marco Flores

Special to the Times-Free Press

Family, neighbors, and local community organizers came together Monday, February 5 in Maverick Square to hold a peaceful demonstration to demand Justice for Marco Flores.

At six years of age, Marco came to the United States from El Salvador, as an immigrant with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) - a designation granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to foreign-born na-

tionals unable to return to their home countries due to safety concerns. Once in the US, Marco allegedly fell victim to repeated sexual abuse. The experience caused Marco to suffer physically, mentally, and emotionally for many

years. At age 17, Marco did the unthinkable, and took the life of his rapist to protect a younger sibling.

After completing his 15-year sentence for good behavior, Marco was re-

See RALLY Page 4



Families, neighbors, and community organizers are pictured at the peaceful demonstration Monday in Maverick Square demanding justice for Marco Flores.



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# Forum

## GUEST OP-ED

### A little bit of kindness to protect Massachusetts parklands and foster community

By Brian Arrigo

Just under a year ago, I had the honor of being appointed to lead the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the state’s largest landowner and steward of roughly half a million acres across Massachusetts. It’s been an amazing first year – I’ve traveled across the state, getting to know our beautiful state park system, and the incredible and dedicated staff, who work every day to preserve these spaces for generations to come.

Growing up in and later serving as mayor of Revere, I loved being close to Revere Beach – America’s first public beach – and would often start my day by clearing my head with a run along the beach. As the fastest growing city in the Commonwealth, the Revere community and so many others depend on our beaches, parks, reservations, reservoirs, and other open spaces that

serve as urban oases and retreats.

The pandemic showed us how important these spaces are for our mental and physical wellbeing. They connect us with nature and our neighbors, building healthy and diverse communities of all ages and backgrounds. With more people than ever visiting and experiencing the beauty of our state parks, it’s important to be mindful of the impacts our actions have on each other and the environment.

With this in mind, I’m excited to invite everyone to join us in the Be Kind! public awareness campaign, that we launched last fall in partnership with the Friends of the Fells and the Friends of the Blue Hills. Be Kind! encourages all of us to act with kindness while visiting our state parks – to the people around us, park staff, and the plants

and animals that call these spaces home.

Be Kind! suggests actions that park visitors can take to ensure they are being respectful of one another and of our natural environment. Specifically, it encourages all, whether they are regulars in our DCR parks or first-time visitors, to:

Listen for other people on trails and make space for others to pass;

Keep dogs leashed outside of designated off-leash areas;

Leave no trace of litter or waste; and

Stay on the trails – on foot, paw, or bike.

Whether hiking, biking, or walking your dog, keep an eye out for Be Kind! signs along the trails at the Middlesex Fells and Blue Hills Reservations. While these parks are piloting the program, we are excited to expand this initiative to parks across the state in the future.

You can join us in sharing the Be Kind! message on social media using #BeKindMA and we would love to see your photos and stories of kindness in our parks.

As part of DCR’s commitment to providing access to natural, recreational, and cultural resources, we look forward to collaborating with more groups, elected officials, civic leaders, and communities across the Commonwealth to grow this movement of kindness, protect our precious spaces, foster community, and create unforgettable memories for all. Let’s Be Kind!

For more information about the Be Kind! public awareness campaign, visit <https://www.mass.gov/guides/be-kind-massachusetts>.

*Brian Arrigo is Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)*

### Coletta highlights the need for transparency in the Article 80 development review process

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta introduced a hearing order regarding ongoing efforts to reform Article 80 in Boston’s Zoning Code. While the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) began undergoing a revamp of the process last year, the general public and the Boston City Council have largely been left out of conversations and therefore have been neglected the opportunity to influence reform of the development review process to benefit their neighborhoods. Co-sponsors include newly-elected Councilor John FitzGerald (District 3) of Dorchester and Councilor Tania Fernades Anderson of Roxbury (District 7).

Under Article 80, communities have the opportunity to engage in the large development review process and extract adequate and fair mitigation for their neighborhoods. However, the current process is seen by many in the community as flawed and that it lacks clear assessment of community needs to better inform this mitigation negotiated by the BPDA. This leads to investments that frequently do not address issues related to a lack of affordable housing, workforce development, public realm improvements, open space and parks creation, and expansion of arts & cultural spaces.

“The current process as it relates to community benefits lacks clear assessment of community needs and subsequent in-



Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta.

vestments. It is largely an ad hoc process that takes place within the BPDA and I’m hopeful this reform will change that,” said Coletta. “There’s no rhyme or reason or designated equation for community mitigation under Article 80. It is imperative that Councilors provide their experience and perspective to better inform how to center community feedback and development mechanisms to extract adequate and fair mitigation for our neighborhoods.”

Additionally, the existing comment period under Article 80 is an open call for feedback with little to no understanding from residents of how the BPDA synthesizes and applies public comments to reflect project changes. The existing method makes it difficult for individuals who don’t have the capacity to attend multiple city-sponsored meetings or who aren’t familiar with local bureaucracy.

In 2023, Mayor Wu announced efforts to modernize Article 80 to comprehensively update the BPDA’s development review process. A steering committee composed of real estate and civic leaders was formed to advise

the Mayor’s Office and the BPDA on improvements for community engagement as well as internal operations.

The goal of Councilor Coletta’s docket is to provide oversight and accountability to ensure the new version of Article 80 will truly consider how to maximize mitigation and meaningfully reflect neighborhood sentiment. The hearing will also provide an opportunity for the public to engage in the ongoing process, comment on how to make Article 80 successful, and have influence over the reform outcomes.

This docket was referred to the Committee on Planning, Development, and Transportation chaired by Councilor Sharon Durkan (District 8) of Beacon Hill. A date for the Article 80 Modernization hearing will be noticed on [www.boston.gov/public-notices](http://www.boston.gov/public-notices) and on the Councilor’s social media. Members of the public are encouraged to provide

written or oral comments.

Additionally at the second Council meeting for the 2024-2025 legislative session, Councilor Coletta presented refiles from the previous legislative session, such as:

- An ordinance establishing street food enterprises in the City of Boston Municipal Code by inserting Chapter 17, Section 22, Permitting and Regulation of non-motorized street food carts.
- An ordinance formally creating the Office of Food Justice and establishing a food recovery program in the City of Boston
- Hearing regarding implementing coastal resilience strategies for Boston’s waterfront
- Hearing regarding an Environmental Justice and Climate Change Curriculum pilot program in BPS
- Hearing regarding menstrual product accessibility in the City of Boston
- Hearing regarding technological infrastructure improvements across city departments.

### ....AND THOSE ON-LINE SPORTS BETTING COMPANIES ARE NOT FAR BEHIND....

A while back we wrote an editorial about the clear and obvious evils of the easy availability of sports gambling via smartphones. This past Sunday evening, the news program 60 Minutes had a segment on exactly that topic, highlighting how young men under the age of 25 have become addicted to on-line sports gambling, where they can place a bet not only on the outcome of a game, but also literally wager on every play, pitch, and moment across the international sporting world, simply with the push of a button on their smartphones at all hours of the day and night.

The report noted that many young men have gambled away their college loan money and their inheritances because of their addiction to these so-called sports books. The advertising for these gaming sites, such as Draft Kings and FanDuel, pitched by high-profile celebrities, makes it look like harmless fun. But as 60 Minutes noted, the reality is far darker.

We have no problem with sports betting when it is done at a casino or similar venue. However, allowing it to happen via a smartphone invites addictive behavior, especially by young people, that can lead them to financial ruin and a lifetime of gambling addiction.

In our view, it is clear that the companies such as Draft Kings, FanDuel, and others are nothing less than predatory monsters that seek to take advantage of vulnerable young people.

Just as our state legislature realized two generations ago that lowering the drinking age to 18 was a societal disaster, we call upon our state legislators to revise the laws that allow these sports betting houses to prey on vulnerable individuals 24/7/365.

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EAST BOSTON CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL HOLDS SCIENCE FAIR

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

The East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) 7th and 8th grade presented a science fair in celebration of Catholic Schools Week on February 2. Students examined blood under a microscope, designed a working kaleidoscope, and investigated the buoyancy of a submarine. Partners, Keillen Munoz and Stephanie Mondono, shared what they observed about static electricity while working on their project, “Elektron.”

“The purpose of this project is to see whether an object is carrying a charge or not,” said Munoz and Mondono, 7th grade. “When the Styrofoam and wool are rubbed together, they create friction. The electrons travel through the metal wire and make the foils move apart. The farther apart the foils are, the bigger the charge.”



Diego Garcia, 8th grade, explaining the buoyancy of a submarine that he created with partner, Dishawn Newton.



Luis Antonio Rivero and Carlos Hincapie, 8th grade, explaining their observations about which drinks have the most electrolytes.



Gia Allen and Kayla Gomes, 8th grade, demonstrating their project, “Illusion,” with LED light reflections that appear to move towards infinity.



Hanna Munoz, 8th grade, demonstrating the paper airplane launcher that she created with partner, Elena Gonzalez.



Mia Santillana and Alanna Newhook, 7th grade, with their project, “Crystal Garden.”



Luciana Malpica and Sophia Plagenzo, 7th grade, with their project, “Hot Colors.”



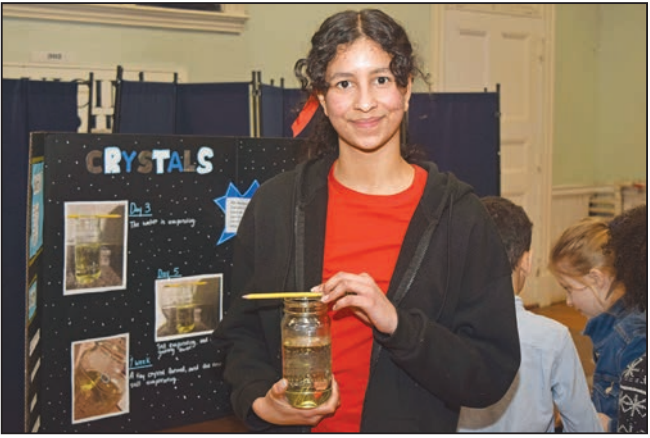
Isabella Santoro and Kelsey O'Connor, 8th grade, with their project, “KI Camera.”



Daniella Lopez and Anayah Augustave, 8th grade, with their project, “Oobleck vs. Slime.”



Luis Antonio Rivero and Carlos Hincapie, 8th grade, explaining their observations about which drinks have the most electrolytes.



Nathalia Lopez, 7th grade, demonstrating how sugar sticks to a string as water evaporates, creating crystals.



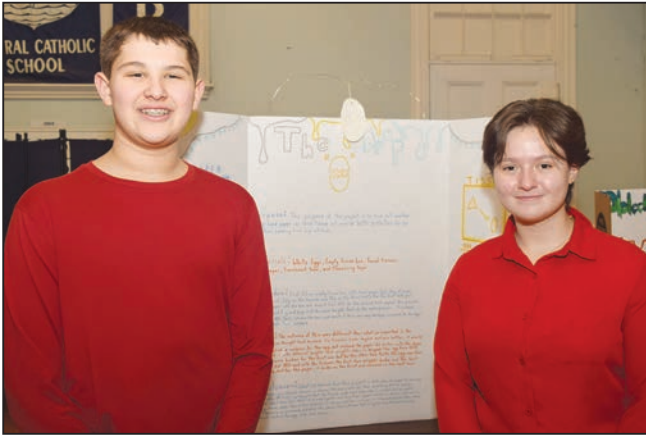
Samara Mejia, 8th grade, with her project, “Wind Energy,” and Lilly Ezaquiel-Blake, 8th grade, with her project, “What does blood really look like?”



Sebastian Salmoran explaining his “Hover Craft.”



Jesus Guizar and Mia Macaluso, with their project, “Spherification.”



Thomas Rozzi and Adriana Puerta, 8th grade, with their project, “The Egg Drop Test.”

AWG

ATLANTIC WORKS GALLERY

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work by Renato Viganego

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EBHS JETS WIN 11TH STRAIGHT WITH 54-36 VICTORY OVER BOSTON LATIN

The Jets continued their remarkable roll, winning their 11th straight after an 0-4 start, taking a 54-36 win over Boston Latin Academy (10-4) Friday at East Boston High School. The victory solidified the Jets MIAA Division III Power Ranking at No. 13.



ARM IN ARM: Caleb Florence is slowed by the defensive effort of Latin’s Ja Works.



TWIN TOWERS: Latin’s Krem Amparo finds himself on the short side of a duo-defensive effort of Eastie’s Christian Sanders and Javon Wise Normil.



LONG REACH: Christian Sanders extends a long reach to keep a rebound from Latin Academy’s Francisco Bailey.



SURROUNDED: Eastie’s Caleb Florence (left) and Islam Mohammed have Latin’s Willy Olin-to fenced in.



ROUGH ROAD: Caleb Florence fights his way between Latin’s Francisco Bailey (0) and Randiel Jiminez.



WALL OF DEFENSE: Draggo Tejeda Feliz (11) presents an impassible barrier to Latin Academy’s Willy Olin.



The Boston Globe

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Rally // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

leased, but is now a convicted felon, and has lost his TPS designation. The system has failed Marco again. Now held in ICE custody, Marco is set to be deported to El Salvador, a country which he has not stepped foot in since he left as a six-year-old child. With this, Marco will suffer a second punishment. Many in the community see Marco’s deportation as unjust. Like many victims of abuse, Marco has never been allowed to heal from his trauma. Deportation to

El Salvador, where he has no support, will only contribute to his suffering.

The supporters at the

rally were seeking justice for Marco Flores and advocating for all victims of child abuse.

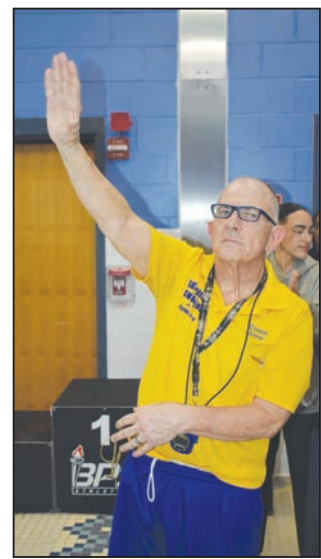


State Sen. Lydia Edwards (center) is pictured with community organizers Evelyn Gomez (left) and Noemy Rodriguez (right) at the rally in Maverick Square demanding justice for Marco Flores.

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EBHS SWIM TEAM COMPETE IN BPS SWIM CHAMPIONSHIP



Coach Dave Arinella was honored with a round of applause as he retires as head swim coach for the past 48 years.



Coaches Arinella and Hall and captains Delia McCray and Jared Pacita are presented the runner-up plaque at the annual BPS swim championship held last Thursday, February 2, in Mattapan. Overall, competing against Latin Academy and O'Bryant, the Jets came in third.



The East Boston High School swim team get together for a group photo.

Grant // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Following last December’s 6-6 vote that failed to accept the grant, a number of first responders, politicians, and other bodies urged the council to accept the \$13.3 million grant.

Congressman Jake Auchincloss sent a letter to the council and Council President Ruthzee Louijeune urging them to accept the grant. He stated that the Israel-Hamas war has heightened the region’s need for anti-terrorism funding as reports of anti-semitism are on the rise.

Earlier this year, Chelsea City Council President Norieliz DeJesus and several other councilors introduced a late motion requesting that the Boston City Council accept the grant funding, however, that motion did not move to a vote.

In the resolution, the councilors noted that Chelse typically receives approximately \$400,000 per year in funding from the grant, which in the past has helped fund the purchase of ballistic shields, cameras, maritime equipment, radios, trainings and a firearm trailer.

The decision to block the funding drew widespread criticism, including from then-Boston

City Council President Ed Flynn, the Boston Police Patrolman’s Association, Boston Firefighters IAFF Local 718, the Professional Firefighters Association of Massachusetts, Representative Jake Auchincloss (who represents Brookline), the Boston Globe Editorial Board, the Boston Chamber of Commerce, and the Massachusetts Catholic Conference, the resolution further stated. It added that the decision also drew criticism from the Massachusetts Legislature, with State Senators Nick Collins (D-Boston) and Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) introducing bipartisan legislation to strip local elected bodies of their authority to approve public safety grants.

Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez said the annual funding is a tremendous support for the city, particularly in its emergency response, emergency management, and public safety infrastructure.

With this round of funding, Maltez said the focus of the police and emergency management departments would be to increase the amount of surveillance they have available around the city, particularly related to street cameras.

HVNA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

logical system infrastructure to respond to constituent services, and more.

“I love being an urban mechanic; that’s something that goes back to [Thomas] Menino. I love making City Hall, and just the city run better, faster, stronger, so working through these issues is something I really love and care about,” said Coletta.

Coletta’s work in the community was also presented, which includes facets such as an anti-trash initiative, neighborhood walkthroughs, coffee hours, town halls, and more. Moreover, it should be noted that Coletta is hosting an East Boston budget town hall on March 25th at 6:30 P.M. at the BCYF on Paris Street.

Speaking of the budget, Coletta pointed to some of the wins in the fiscal year 2024 budget, which include a wage increase study, modernization of technological systems, and expanding language access.

As for this coming budget — the fiscal year 2025 — Coletta underscored priorities such as quicker street and sidewalk repairs, enhancing the resiliency, accessibility, and inclusivity of the waterfront, adding trees in the neighborhood, and more.

PLAN: East Boston, one of the most significant topics in the neighborhood over the last year, was discussed. Specifically, Coletta pointed out wins for the community, such as new zoning consistent with the neighborhood’s character, protecting the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway from “irresponsible” development, and more.

Coletta also pointed to the fact that the neighborhood was able to obtain commitments from the Boston Planning and Development Agency to conduct a neighborhood needs analysis in conjunction with PLAN: East Boston and for a written agreement to challenge the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) to uphold the new zoning regulations outlined in the plan.

To wrap up her presentation, Coletta detailed her appointment to the Chair of both the City Council’s Government Operations and Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks Committees and called attention to some priorities and policy initiatives, such as establishing street food enterprises in the city.

Following her presentation, Coletta took some questions and comments from those in attendance. One question concerned the Office of Food Justice, which relates to a priority of hers, which is to formally create the office and introduce a food recovery program.

Coletta explained that the Office of Food Justice already exists, but she wants to formalize it. She said the office, “Just makes sure that hungry people have food to eat. Hunger right now in East Boston is so prevalent, but you would never know because it’s really stigmatized.”

She also expanded on the food recovery program, saying it “Would compel large retailers, so think Whole Foods, Shaw’s, Stop & Shop, Panera Bread to sell — or not sell because they would be giving away to soup kitchens and churches — safe to consume food to eat within the expiration date.”

Coletta was also asked about her process for supporting or opposing projects that go through and are voted on by the neighborhood groups in East Boston. Specifically, Coletta spoke to a statistic that she has agreed with the vote of neighborhood groups on 89% of projects that have gone before the ZBA.

One attendee was of the mindset that being in agreeance on 89% of projects was not enough. “It should be 100% on our side; you should go to the community meetings and listen to the majority; very simple. You should not be going against the community at all, ever,” they said.

Another attendee alleged that donations given to Coletta factored into what projects she decided to support or oppose.

However, Coletta vehemently denied that notion, saying, “Listen, I don’t so-

licit these; people can give me money if they want to, but other than that, I don’t use that as a consideration for my stances. I just walked through what I consider; this isn’t even on my brain, and so to insinuate that — I’m so sorry you don’t even know who I am.”

“I care about this community, and I will not be bought and sold for a community that I absolutely love.”

Ultimately, Monday’s conversation with Coletta eventually came to a close, and she was thankful for the time with the HVNA.

“I do just want to thank you all so much for this robust conversation. Really, I’m here to talk at any time if you want to grab coffee, like I said, to discuss anything that was mentioned here,” said Coletta.

“Please know that I am at your disposal; I work for you.”

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## EAST BOSTON BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM CELEBRATES 'SENIOR NIGHT'

Prior to the start of the Friday night basketball game at home on Feb. 2 against Latin Academy, the team honored five seniors with a round of applause as fans and families looked on proudly. The five seniors are Alex Franco, Draggo Tejeda Feliz, Alejandro Garcia, Christian Sanders and Javon

Wise Normil. After starting the season, 0-4, the Jets have since won 12 straight games and senior night ended with a 54-36 win over the boys from Latin Academy. As we go to press this week, four games remain in the regular season. The city league play-offs are scheduled for the week of Feb. 19-23.



Senior Alejandro Garcia.



Senior Javon Wise Normil.



Senior Christian Sanders.



Senior Alex Franco.



Senior Draggo Tejeda Feliz.



The five EBHS boys basketball team seniors were honored Prior to the start of the Friday night basketball game at home against Latin Academy.

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# Wu announces free tax prep services available to residents

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the launch of the Boston Tax Help Coalition’s (BTHC) twenty-second year of providing free tax preparation services. Area residents earning \$70,000 or less annually can file safely while maximizing their refunds and credits at over 30 neighborhood tax sites. Tax preparation is available remotely and in-person in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Cape Verdean Creole, Portuguese, French, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Cantonese. The schedule can be found at [boston.gov/tax-help](http://boston.gov/tax-help).

“Boston residents can save hundreds of dollars per household through the Boston Tax Help Coalition’s free tax preparation,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “These free, multilingual tax assistance services are available at over thirty neighborhood locations and serve as a critical resource that supports thousands of Boston residents every year in maximizing their refunds safely. I encourage every qualified Boston resident to take advantage of this valuable program.”

Led by the Center for Working Families, the Boston Tax Help Coalition is a partnership of nonprofits, businesses, and community organizations that has been promoting the economic independence of working individuals and families since 2001.

The BTHC’s free tax preparation service gives Boston’s low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents a financial boost by eliminating tax preparation fees and allowing them to keep more of their earned income. The Coalition’s IRS-certified tax preparers also assess filers’ eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a credit for low- and middle-income workers, and the Child Tax Credit. In 2023, BTHC prepared tax returns for nearly 11,000 taxpayers, generating \$17.2 million in tax refunds, including \$6.3 million in EITC, and saving families approximately \$2.7 million in predatory, for-profit, tax preparation fees.

“Our special thanks to the hundreds of Coalition volunteers who generously give their time and talent from January through April, including an entire weekend of training prior to serving our residents,” said Chief of Worker Empowerment Trinh Nguyen. “These volunteers learn to prepare taxes, do intake, and/or provide credit building, while making a difference in our community. We value their contribution to this important work.”

“As a co-founder of the Boston Tax Help Coalition, ABCD is always pleased and excited to launch a new tax season with the City of Boston,

Mayor Michelle Wu and so many other community partners,” said ABCD President and CEO Sharon Scott-Chandler. “Free tax preparation is vital to underserved communities who can benefit from this service, and is a program that returns millions back into the community. Most people will receive a refund, which is essential during these times when prices for basics like food and housing are soaring. It also provides an opportunity to save for emergencies or longer term goals.”

A key priority of the BTHC is integrating free tax preparation with the needs of the disability community. The BTHC partners with DEAF, Inc. to provide the service to hearing-impaired taxpayers at its Allston headquarters. Additionally, the Coalition is in its second year of its Visually Impaired People (VIP) pilot, providing tax services and necessary accommodations to visually impaired area residents. The VIP program will be available on Wednesdays, February 7 through April 10, 2024 at the Center for Working Families in Nubian Square. More information can be found at [boston.gov/vip-pilot](http://boston.gov/vip-pilot). Site coordinators receive training to serve disabled taxpayers at all locations.

“I applaud the City’s commitment to providing fully inclusive and acces-


sible tax preparation services to residents who are legally blind,” said Massachusetts Commission for the Blind Commissioner John Olivera. “I encourage eligible residents to take advantage of this program and make tax season less stressful.”

In addition to helping LMI taxpayers maximize their refunds, the Boston Tax Help Coalition connects residents to free financial services to improve their economic wellbeing. For example, at eight locations individuals can receive a Financial Check-Up (FCU), a light-touch credit advising session where a trained Financial Guide assists individual taxpayers in understanding their current financial situation, including a review of their credit report and FICO score, a personalized one-year plan to help improve their credit, and relevant service referrals. Boston Builds Credit, the City’s credit building initiative, will follow up in six months with an updated credit report to measure improvement. In 2023, the BTHC provided credit advising and financial education to 1,300+ tax clients, up from 486 in 2022. More information on the Boston Tax Help Coalition’s free tax services, including locations, can be found at [boston.gov/tax-help](http://boston.gov/tax-help).

# OBITUARIES

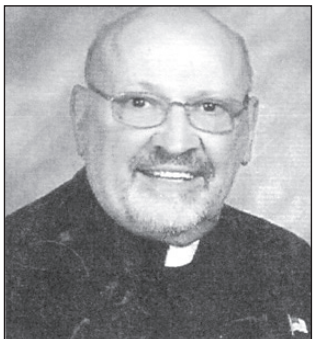
## Rev. Albert Joseph Sallesse

Served East Boston Churches

 A Funeral Mass was celebrated for Rev. Albert J. Sallesse on Friday, February 2 at St. Patrick Church in Watertown and interment followed in the parish cemetery. He died on January 27 at Regina Cleri in the West End of Boston. He was 91 years old.

Born August 13, 1932, the sixth of seven children of Pasquale and Adelina (Frissora) Sallesse, he grew up in Watertown. After high school, he served in the US Navy. He was ordained on May 26, 1966 by Cardinal Cushing.

His first assignment was to Most Holy Redeemer Parish in East Boston, from 1966 to 1974. During his time there, he was appointed to the Mass Port Authority by Governor Sargent in April of 1970. After assignments to parishes in Medford, Stoneham and Randolph, he came back to East Boston to serve as pastor of Sacred Heart, from 1988 to 2000.



The 125th anniversary of the parish was commemorated with a Mass of Thanksgiving with Cardinal Law in June of 1998. He then went on to serve as pastor of Resurrection Parish in Hingham (2000-2002) and St. Bernadette in Randolph (2002-2003). In retirement, he assisted at parishes in Quincy, Bellingham and Saugus and then entered Regina Cleri in 2013.

He is survived by his siblings: Jeannie Sallesse of Watertown and Mary Velardi of Burlington and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by Philomena Reena, Anthony Sallesse, Catherine DeCamillis, and Margaret Tramontonzzi.

## Steven DeMarco

He loved spending time with his family

Steven DeMarco of Revere, formerly of East Boston, died unexpectedly at home on February 4.

Steven was born and raised in East Boston and is a retired member of Local 22. He enjoyed walking on the beach and especially spending time with family.

He was the son of the late Rose (DeFreitas) and Anthony “IE” DeMarco.

He was the beloved father of Anthony DeMarco and his wife, Jennifer of Norfolk and Kayla Ventura and her husband, Lionso of Natick; loving grandfather of Amalia Ventura; dear brother of Lorene DeMarco of East Boston, Robin DeMarco of Medford, Erika Ragusa and her husband, Phil of Florida, Kris DeMarco and his wife, Marisa of Wilmington and Justin DeMarco and his wife, Lauren of Hanover. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Visiting hours in the



Magrath Funeral Home, 336 Chelsea St. [at Day Sq] East Boston will be on Friday, February 9 from 4 to 8 p.m. Relatives and friends invited. Funeral Mass in St. Anthony of Padua Church, Revere Saturday morning, February 10, at 11 o’clock. Please meet at church.

Please omit flowers. Donations in his memory to Wounded Warrior Project or any other organization to benefit veterans would be appreciated. Please leave messages of condolence for the family on his Tribute Page.

# Wu announces largest ever award to support nonprofit organizations

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the City of Boston has received more than \$47 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support nonprofit organizations providing services to individuals experiencing homelessness. This award represents the City’s largest ever Continuum of Care award. The funds will be distributed among 18 nonprofit organizations that provide critical services and support to Boston’s unhoused residents and advance Mayor Wu’s goals to end homelessness in the City.

The funding is made available through the HUD’s annual Continuum of Care awards, a grant program coordinated by the Mayor’s Office of Housing (MOH). Over the last nine years, MOH has grown the funding the City receives from this grant by more than 111 percent, from \$22.6 million in 2015 to \$47.7 million this year, as a result of their competitive application and demonstrated ability to deliver results in collaboration with partner agencies.

“Boston residents and families in every neighborhood deserve the opportunity to reside in secure, stable, and affordable housing,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “In our ongoing commitment to make Boston a city where everyone has a home, the Continuum of Care grants from HUD play a vital role in assisting organizations dedicated to providing essential services and support for our unhoused residents. I extend my gratitude to HUD Secretary Fudge and the entire Massachusetts Congressional delegation for securing the City of Boston’s largest Continuum of Care award to date and for their unwavering support as we collaboratively strive to eradicate home-

lessness in our city.”

The City will allocate this federal HUD funding to organizations that offer a range of services and supports including housing search, the creation of housing for people experiencing long-term homelessness, rapid re-housing funds, and stabilization services to allow newly housed families and long-term-homeless individuals to receive the support they need to succeed. In total, this \$47 million award will continue to provide crucial support for nearly 1,900 homeless and formerly homeless households, offering tailored services to help them obtain and maintain permanent housing.

“Boston has a successful network of experienced non-profit organizations committed to serving our homeless,” said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. “This funding award allows us to continue the important work of moving our homeless residents from shelters and the street into housing that they can afford with the services they need to be successful. Given the high cost of housing in Boston and the region, this funding award, the largest in our Continuum’s history, is more important than ever.”

Four new programs sponsored by three providers received funding through this year’s award. Hildebrand Family Self-Help, Inc. will receive funding to create a permanent supportive housing program with wrap-around services for Boston families experiencing long-term homelessness. Justice 4 Housing will create a new program to swiftly serve survivors of domestic violence with safe housing and case management. Victory Programs will fund two new projects that will serve survivors of gender-based violence and LGBTQ+ youth, ages 18 - 24.


“This funding will provide more than \$47 million to homeless service providers throughout Boston who provide crucial resources in the fight to prevent and end homelessness,” said HUD New England Regional Administrator Juana Matias. “We will continue to work together with our Continuum of Care partners to find solutions that ensure every Bostonian has a safe place to call home.”

“I am thrilled Hildebrand Family Self-Help Center is a new awardee in the Boston Continuum of Care,” said Shiela Y. Moore, CEO, Hildebrand Family Self-Help, Inc. “The Supportive Housing Team of the Mayor’s Office of Housing have been great partners, and we look forward to deepening our work together in reducing family homelessness. Given that Hildebrand is on

the frontlines of providing emergency shelter, this funding allows us to add 12 permanent supportive housing units for children and families currently unhoused.”

“We are incredibly grateful for this new Continuum of Care funding, which will allow Victory Programs to expand our commitment to addressing critical needs to include survivors of gender-based violence and LGBTQ+ youth,” said Sarah Porter, Executive Director of Victory Programs. “We appreciate the strong efforts of Boston’s supportive housing team; a phenomenal partner. Together, we are opening doors to healing and empowerment for 48 extremely vulnerable households, and I am profoundly thankful for the collaborative spirit that drives us forward.”

See SUPPORT Page 8



10th Anniversary

**Rich Ford**

2-9-2014 2-9-2024

In our thoughts and prayers,  
We cherish your memory.  
Ten years may have gone by,  
But you’re always with us.

We Love and Miss You Very Much,  
Dad, Mom and Jennifer

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CITY PAWS

The less said...

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Recently, Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D., CAAB Emeritus, an applied animal behaviorist, wrote a piece on how training dogs and editing her writing have much in common. In both cases, she recommends cutting the words used to communicate.

She points out that dogs spend their day trying to translate human words into action. She wrote, “It must be exhausting to continually try to figure out what we are saying, what we want, and what we don’t want. What a relief it must be when our verbal cues are clear and succinct.”

Listen to Yourself

Training an animal begins with training yourself. The first step is to listen to your current communication efforts and evaluate how well your words achieve your goals. We’ve noticed that most people do a great job with dog training ba-

sics: sit, down, stay, come, and leave it. Not only are these simple words, but they have hand gestures to accompany them in many cases.

As you work on training yourself, you may learn that your dog understands your body language, tone of voice, and gestures more than words. For example, “Wait” would be better than “Wait for me” when about to leave a dog at home. However, if you now use a longer chain of words, you can shorten it over time.

Body language is a dog’s natural means of communication. Think of a play bow when they approach a canine friend, a happy tail wag when greeting you, or that adorable tip of the head that may actually mean, “I don’t quite understand what you want!”

When dogs use vocal communication, it is usually a clear bark, growl, or whine that alerts you to what the pup is concerned about.

Build on Success!

Once you’ve adjusted to using fewer words, work on your tone of voice and body language. Put yourself in your dog’s place and think about what would encourage you to run to a person calling “Gelmek.” (“Come” in Turkish).

Would you run towards or away from someone with a nasty tone and angry body language? How about someone with a happy, encouraging posture and excited, welcoming arm gestures?

It happens to all of us from time to time. Our dog does something we don’t want or something dangerous, and our reaction tells our dog we are angry. Remembering to put all your retraining together will take discipline, but doing that is more likely to get the result you want.

What Works for Your Dog

As you work on editing your canine communication skills, note what



Dogs are better at understanding, tone, body language, and gestures than words. (Photo by: Zbynek Pospisil)

works for your dog. Our Poppy is a barker when she hears another dog in the building. We’ve tried “No Barking” and “Hush!” to no avail. However, if we call out a happy “Come,” she will often bounce over to one of us, looking for a reward. To ensure we are not rewarding the barking, we’ll ask her to do some simple things she knows

well, like sit and down, and then give random treats.

When you note how your dog reacts to the word directions you use, you may also notice other simple words that evoke a response in your companion. One day, our Maggie rolled in the grass and unclipped her leash. Penny remembered that Maggie

did not like anyone leaving her pack and would do her best to stop them. Penny said, “Goodbye, Maggie,” and slowly backed away. Maggie ran right to her, and the loose dog crisis was over.

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

ABCD offers free tax preparation for area residents

ABCD urges all residents of Boston and the Mystic Valley who earned \$64,000 or less in 2023 to schedule a FREE in-person tax prep appointment right away at one of our neighborhood sites by calling 617-348-6329 or visiting [bostonabcd.org/](http://bostonabcd.org/) tax.

ABCD is a co-founder of the Boston Tax Help Coalition, a public-private collaboration with the City of Boston and a number of other non-profit organizations, which seeks to ensure the full participation of all Boston residents in the City’s economic vitality and future. Additionally, as a member of the Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) network, ABCD offers free tax preparation services in the Mystic Valley. Both the Boston and Mystic Valley coalitions fall under the federal VITA program.

ABCD’s IRS-certified tax preparers will be at our 11 neighborhood sites and two satellite locations to prepare and electronically submit returns through in-person appointments and document drop off. In addition, we are offering evening tax prep services at Brookside Community Health Center in Jamaica Plain. VITA volunteers provide credit advising and financial education to clients in the form of the Financial Check-Up (FCU) – a light-touch credit advising session in which a trained Financial Guide assists taxpayers in understanding their current financial situation, including a review of an individual’s credit report and FICO score, a personalized one-year plan to help improve their credit, and relevant service referrals. Our tax volunteers

are multilingual – fluent in eight languages including English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Cape Verdean Creole and Haitian Creole. ABCD meets people where they are.

“ABCD is proud to be a longstanding partner of the MASSCAP VITA network and the Boston Tax Help Coalition,” said ABCD President and CEO Sharon Scott-Chandler. “Free tax preparation services bring millions of dollars back into our communities and help empower underserved residents in Boston and the Mystic Valley by providing IRS certified tax preparers at easy to access sites in the neighborhoods ensuring that clients receive every tax credit for which they are eligible. The Massachusetts Child and Family Tax Credit, Rental Deduction and Senior Circuit Breaker increases in 2023 are good news for residents burdened by the high cost of living. In Massachusetts, according to Prosperity Now, an estimated 24.3% of eligible households do not claim EITC. This credit can be claimed retroactively for the past three years. Eligible taxpayers, including some seniors, can qualify for a sizable sum.”

Last year, ABCD helped 3,103 residents complete their state and federal tax returns, generating \$5,395,219 in federal and state refunds combined. A total of 488 clients filed for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) which generated over \$1M in refunds. We filed 384 Child Tax Credits on behalf of our clients, generating \$498,691 in refunds. For over 30 years, ABCD has provided more than 150,000 people across the city with free tax preparation services. A

list of required documents to complete tax returns can be found here.

Those who may qualify for free tax preparation services include:

- People who earned \$64,000 or less in 2023
  - People with disabilities
  - Limited English-speaking taxpayers
- ABCD’S IRS-certified tax preparers will make sure that residents receive every tax relief measure to which they are entitled and that help reduce poverty rates among underserved households including:
- EITC – Earned Income Tax Credit – one of America’s most effective anti-poverty initiatives – EITC is a tax deduction that rewards work. This year, a Married Filing Jointly family with three or more children earning up to \$63, 398 and filing jointly will receive total federal and state EITC deductions of \$10,402 off their 2023 income tax. The IRS estimates that one out of five eligible taxpayers will not claim EITC and will lose out on this important credit.
  - CTC – CHILD TAX CREDIT – has increased to \$310 per qualifying child in 2023.
  - SENIOR CIRCUIT BREAKER – a state tax deduction providing seniors age 65 and older who pay unsubsidized rent or property taxes. The maximum credit amount for tax year 2023 has increased from \$1,200 to \$2590. If the credit owed exceeds the amount of the total tax payable for the year, the additional amount of the credit will be refunded without interest.
  - RENTAL DEDUCTION –which has increased from \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Support // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

“These new Continuum of Care grants will allow us to continue our work in housing our most vulnerable populations – those experiencing chronic homelessness and suffering from disabilities,” said Chris Norris, Executive Director of Metro Housing|Boston. “With the shortage of affordable housing in our region, these funds are crucial to the success of the CoC and to continuing the solid partnerships we have with participating service providers and the supportive housing team at the Mayor’s Office of Housing.”

Mayor Wu has made ending homelessness a priority. Boston offers services to homeless individuals by offering wrap-

around services to those who require the additional level of care. Chronically homeless individuals have barriers that create challenges to remaining housed. These barriers can include physical disabilities, substance use disorders, and mental health challenges. As part of Boston’s plan, the City is committed to a “housing first” approach to homelessness which is based on the belief that everyone should have access to permanent housing. In 2023, Boston housed 2,220 people experiencing homelessness, including 463 family households and 901 adult individuals. Among those are 119 unaccompanied youth and young adults as well as 157 veterans.

Last fall, a dozen City departments and partner agencies transformed how the City cares for unsheltered constituents impacted by substance use disorder, homelessness, and untreated mental illness, with a focus on the ‘Mass and Cass’ / Newmarket neighborhood.

Mayor Wu and the City of Boston extend their gratitude to the Biden-Harris Administration and HUD for their continued commitment to addressing homelessness and supporting communities nationwide. For more information on the HUD’s FY 2023 Continuum of Care Competition Awards, please visit HUD’s official press release.

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Estate of:  
Calogero Tinnirello  
Date of Death:  
December 25, 2022  
To all persons interested in  
the above captioned estate  
by Petition of Petitioner  
Pasqualina Buttiri of Wake-  
field, MA  
A Will has been admitted to  
informal probate.  
Pasqualina Buttiri of  
Wakefield, MA has been  
informally appointed as the  
Personal Representative of  
the estate to serve without  
surety on the bond.  
The estate is being

administered under informal  
procedure by the Personal  
Representative under the  
Massachusetts Uniform  
Probate Code without  
supervision by the Court. In-  
ventory and accounts are not  
required to be filed with the  
Court, but interested parties  
are entitled to notice regard-  
ing the administration from  
the Personal Representative  
and can petition the Court  
in any matter relating to the  
estate, including distribution  
of assets and expenses of  
administration. Interested  
parties are entitled to  
petition the Court to institute  
formal proceedings and to  
obtain orders terminating  
or restricting the powers of  
Personal Representatives  
appointed under informal  
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Petition and Will, if any,  
can be obtained from the  
Petitioner.  
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.  
Register of Probate Court

02/07/2024  
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BY PUBLICATION  
AND MAILING  
Docket No.  
SU23D2274DR  
Eduviges  
Cartagena  
vs.  
Sheila M.  
Campos  
To the Defendant:  
The Plaintiff has filed a Com-  
plaint for Divorce requesting  
that the Court grant a divorce  
for Irretrievable Breakdown.  
The Complaint is on file at  
the Court.

An Automatic Restraining  
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this matter preventing you  
from taking any action which  
would negatively impact the  
current financial status of  
either party. SEE Supplemen-  
tal Probate Court Rule 411.  
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your answer, if any, on or  
before 02/14/2024. If you  
fail to do so, the court will  
proceed to the hearing and  
adjudication of this action.  
You are also required to file  
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of this Court.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 20, 2023  
Stephanie Everett  
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02/07/24  
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Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Moghadam, Sadegh	Page, Tamara	11 Thurston St	\$1,220,000
Bennett, Angela M	Magnolia Boardman LLC	31-33 Boardman St #33-1	\$715,000
Sanchez, Yareni	Caralis, Lara G	39 Princeton St	\$1,675,000
Dunlap, Emmanuel	Hall, Ian	70 Webster St #1	\$730,000
Gibson, Christina	Faywood Rt	100 Faywood Ave	\$650,000

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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](mailto:deb@reverejournal.com)



# Wu leads the 44th annual Boston homelessness census

Special to the Times-Free Press

Last week Mayor Michelle Wu led a dedicated group of volunteers, including officials from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, City and State officials, homelessness service providers, local elected officials, and public health and first responders in conducting the 44th annual homelessness census for the City of Boston. The count of Bostonians experiencing homelessness plays a crucial role in guiding the allocation of City resources to aid people experiencing homelessness.

“Boston’s annual homelessness census is an opportunity to evaluate the needs of unsheltered Bostonians and connect individuals to services,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “The data from the census is crucial for the City as we act with urgency and care to create an inclusive Boston for everyone. We are grateful to our state and federal partners and the dedicated volunteers throughout the City for their collaboration in making this year’s census possible.”

The street count is an integral part of the City’s comprehensive yearly census, encompassing unsheltered adults, youth, and families in emergency shelters, transitional housing, domestic violence programs, and individuals living outside. This year, more than 270 volunteers canvassed 45 areas after midnight, covering every City neighborhood, Logan Airport, and the transit and parks systems. Volunteers canvassed assigned areas, identified those sleeping on the street, conducted a short survey, and provided



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JOHN WILCOX  
**Mayor Michelle Wu (center) participates in the 44th Annual City of Boston Homeless Census.**

individuals with important safety information and items to help them keep warm.

“The Annual Point-In-Time count is an important undertaking because it provides a national estimate of the men, women, and families in need of a home, many who are struggling to survive,” said Juana Matias, HUD New England Regional Administrator. “We are grateful to be able to take this opportunity to join Mayor Wu, the City of Boston, and community partners to provide a local estimate of Boston’s numbers and ensure this data can be leveraged to efficiently connect people experiencing homelessness to housing and supportive services. The Biden-Harris administration believes that homelessness is solvable and is committed to helping localities to tackle this growing crisis.”

The data from the in-person surveys of unsheltered individuals will undergo a thorough analysis for accuracy and will be cross-checked and combined with the results of the shelter count. The annual

homelessness census, mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is an important requirement for Boston receiving federal grant funding from HUD for housing and services for those experiencing homelessness.

“I want to thank our partners, our network of experienced non-profit organizations and our dedicated volunteers for joining us for the point and time count of people experiencing homelessness in Boston,” said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. “The census helps to guide the critical work of moving our homeless residents into housing with the services they need to be successful. We look forward to continuing to work together with our partners to help prevent and end homelessness in Boston.”

“This census isn’t just about numbers. It’s about assessing the needs of our most vulnerable and finding ways to meet those needs,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission.

## \$4M 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 another 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. in federal funding was awarded to 43 state, local, and nonprofit 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 per-

son 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

“At BPHC, we know many of our unsheltered residents by name —and we know their situations —and I am grateful to the City and all our partners for their commitment to treating our unsheltered residents with compassion and helping them get the care they need.”

The City of Boston, with its partners, continues its work to end chronic and veteran homelessness using the Housing First approach. This evidence-based approach aims to provide permanent and stable housing without preconditions like sobriety or treatment. In recent years, City agencies and community partners have significantly redesigned the way services are delivered to homeless

individuals, increasing resources devoted to housing and deploying new technologies to match homeless individuals with housing and services.

“The annual Homeless Census, conducted by the City of Boston, provides Pine Street Inn and other agencies a critical snapshot of trends in Boston,” said Lyndia Downie, president and executive director, Pine Street Inn. “This important data helps guide our strategies and programs, as we focus our efforts on moving individuals off the street, out of shelter and into a permanent home. Boston’s street homelessness rate is around 3%, one of the best in the nation, but any person on the street is one too many,” she added.

Last fall, a dozen City departments and partner agencies transformed how the City cares for unsheltered constituents impacted by substance use disorder, homelessness, and untreated mental illness, with a focus on the ‘Mass and Cass’ / Newmarket neighborhood. In September 2023, the City of Boston submitted a grant proposal of \$44 million to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support Boston’s homelessness programs in 2025 through HUD’s McKinney Homeless Continuum of Care program.

This year’s homeless census results will be available in the coming months.

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# EBNHC announces new Geriatric Complex Case Management Pilot Program

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) today announced the launch of a Geriatric Complex Case Management (GCCM) Pilot Program in partnership with TD Bank. In an effort to ensure that our oldest community members stay connected to vital medical and wellness resources and coordinated senior care, GCCM will improve EBNHC’s ability to provide wraparound healthcare and supportive services to seniors ages 55 and over.

“Older adults often face additional barriers to accessing vital care and resources. With the support of TD Bank, we aim to bridge those gaps by linking seniors with co-ordinated care programs and support services that solve for both medical and social needs,” said Greg Wilmot, EBNHC President and CEO. “This innovative program will give seniors the attention and care they deserve and help them live more healthful lives in our community.”

Of the 15,000 seniors who receive care at EBNHC annually, approximately 3,000 may need additional services beyond traditional care. To address this growing need, GCCM will help seniors understand their treatment programs and connect them to coordinated care programs, while also supporting seniors who are ineligible for those programs due to current asset and income-eligibility requirements. GCCM program navigators will evaluate patients for program eligibility, make referrals, and if needed, assist with enrollment into specialty programs, including Neighborhood PACE and Senior Care Options (SCO).

“At TD, we are dedicated to the wellbeing of our communities, and this initiative aligns with our commitment to improve access to healthcare for all,” said Shelley Sylva, Head of U.S. Corporate Citizenship at TD Bank. “We’re proud to stand behind local organizations that are identifying these critical needs and prioritizing innovations that enhance the quality of life for residents. I’m thrilled that we’re able to support East Boston Neighborhood Health Center and look forward to seeing the positive outcomes of this pilot and the difference it will make in the lives of older adults.”

Capitalizing on TD’s educational resources, EBNHC will also partner with TD Bank to provide financial literacy and education opportunities for EBNHC patients, including education and training to prevent seniors from unintentionally engaging in financial and other scams, whether online, by phone, or in person.

“Thanks to the TD Grant, we will be able to better connect seniors in the community to both medical care and support services like food and nutrition programs, housing assistance and transportation, ensuring that the growing needs of the older adult population in our community are being met,” said Calay Ip, Vice President, Senior Care Programs, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center.

EBNHC’s Neighborhood PACE and SCO programs serve approximately 1700 seniors living in East Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop, Revere, Everett, Malden, Melrose, Medford, Stoneham, and surrounding towns in the greater Boston area. Offering highly personalized, home-based coordinated care, Neighborhood PACE and SCO programs allow seniors to maintain independence and thrive in the community, ultimately giving patients and caregivers peace of mind and community connection. Neighborhood PACE and SCO are supported through agreements with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, MassHealth, and the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center.



EBNHC volunteer Rose DelloRusso (left) and East Boston resident and PACE participant Joseph Cinelli.



Wannetta Sarro, (left) Neighborhood PACE participant receiving physical therapy at Revere PACE on Garofalo Street and Annette Cogliani, EBNHC Rehabilitation Aide.

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