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EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL TRACK TEAM

Members of the East Boston High School track team (above) and senior group (right) get together for a group photo on Tuesday, February 6. The annual event was held at the Reggie Lewis Track Center in Roxbury. Overall, the girls came in third place and the boys in eight place.



JPNA set to vote on Everett Street project

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

A project proposed at 200 Everett Street was presented for the third time to the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association (JPNA) at its monthly meeting on Monday and is now scheduled to go to a vote this week.

The project, which Attorney Richard Lynds presented, is to renovate the existing two-story building through a vertical addition and to change its occupancy from a one-family to a three-family.

"A three-family dwelling is currently a conforming use in the district, so up to three units are allowed currently on a single lot," said Lynds. He also identified that the proposed use would conform to the new zoning initially proposed in PLAN: East Boston, which has been adopted by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA).

As part of the project, there are plans for one three-bedroom bi-level unit covering 1,159 square feet, one 747 square foot two-bedroom unit, and a 612 square foot one-bedroom unit, all intended for homeownership.

Lynds explained that

life safety upgrades would also be made to the building in conjunction with the project, and a roof deck is also proposed.

He also reviewed the zoning variances that would need relief for the project to proceed. Under current zoning, the project would require variances for minimum lot size for additional dwelling, open space, floor area ratio, and parking.

However, it should be noted that Lynds showed a chart depicting that the project would not require variances under the new zoning that awaits adoption from the Zoning Commission.

"Essentially, this is going to be pretty much in line with what the zoning will require under new zoning. Because we filed this under current zoning, we are still identifying the variances that we require and [when] we get before the board, depending upon when that is, if the zoning has changed by that time, then these variances will disappear, and we essentially will probably just go for some technical interpretation issues under the

See JPNA Page 2

EBNHC appoints Mimi Gardner as Vice President and Chief Equity Officer

Special to the times-Free Press

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) announced the appointment of Mimi Gardner, MPH, MA as Vice President and Chief Equity Officer, bringing over 30 years of experience and leadership rooted in health equity to the health center's team.

"We could not be more excited to welcome Mimi to our leadership team," said EBNHC President and CEO, Greg Wilnot. "We know that what happens outside of the exam room is just as important as what happens inside the exam room when it comes to community health and wellness. Mimi's appointment furthers our efforts



Mimi Gardner.

to work closely with our community partners to eliminate health disparities."

In her new role, Gardner will provide leadership, strategy, and guidance to EBNHC on continued

equity efforts and will be responsible for engaging with community leaders and partners throughout the Commonwealth to develop and drive the prioritization of a health-informed community equity agenda.

"I am overjoyed to be joining a team that is committed to supporting underserved and marginalized populations with a collaborative and community-centric vision for growth," said Gardner. "My career thus far has been defined by enacting change and I am excited to help serve EBNHC's community in moving towards a more inclusive future."

Prior to joining EBNHC, Gardner was the Chief Clinical Officer at Charles River Community Health

Center, where she brought her equity experience to the forefront of clinical operations by working with diverse stakeholders to implement systematic change. As Chief Behavioral Health and Addiction Officer at HealthLinc Community Health Center, she developed programs to promote healthy living, address chronic illness and provide treatment for those struggling with addiction.

Gardner holds a Master's of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health and a Master's in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work. She completed her undergraduate degree in sociology from the University of Chicago.

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) is one of the nation's largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 100,000

See GARDNER Page 7

Coletta stands up for Arts and Culture Space

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta is doing her part in the preservation and creation of arts and culture space in the City of Boston by penning a letter to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) describing the need for arts and culture space to be included in the draft zoning text amendment associated with the Squares + Streets initiative.

According to the BPDA's website, Squares + Streets is "a new planning and zoning initiative that will focus on housing, public space, small businesses, arts and culture, and transportation in neighborhood centers and along main streets."

As part of the initiative, the BPDA is crafting a zoning text amendment to update zoning in order to "guide development that




Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta.

encourages a mix of building uses and heights, creates housing diversity and growth opportunities, and encourages active streets," per the BPDA's website.

Specifically, Coletta has asked that the BPDA "include language in this text amendment that requires redevelopments to provision any existing arts or cultural space onsite or provide an equal financial contribution for the development of new arts and cultural space."

See COLETTA Page 6

The Independent Newspaper Group Office will be Closed on Monday, Feb. 19th in observance of President's Day. We will reopen on Tuesday at 9:30 am. Deadlines are Friday, Feb. 16 at 12 p.m.



TRASH DELAY

Due to the President's Day Holiday on Monday Feb. 19, 2024, trash will be delayed by one day

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Forum

Wu announces grantees of latest youth development fund, totalling \$1.7 million

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the recipients of \$1.7 million in grants to youth development organizations through the city’s Youth Development Fund (YDF), a grant program that supports non-profit organizations to provide high quality, engaging programming for youth and young adults ages 14-24. The goal of this grant is to increase the variety of free youth programming in the City and provide a positive outlet for youth outside school hours.

Local Youth Development FY2024 Grantees are:

Veronica Robles Cultural Center for Arts
Zumix for Arts

Piers Park Sailing for Sports

This year’s grants prioritize programs that support Mayor Wu’s Connect, Learn, Explore: Commitment to Youth, a commitment to giving Boston youth an opportunity to explore and discover their passions. This commitment aims to increase access for youth to sports, swimming, arts, growing food and biking.

“The future of Boston lies in the hands of our youth and our commitment to their growth,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Through the Youth Development Fund, we are investing in community organizations focused on creating fun, safe and engaging programming for our youth, allowing for more opportunities for advancement and empowerment. We’re grateful to all our partners for their commitment to our young people in the City of Boston.”

This year’s grants prioritize programs that support Mayor Wu’s Connect, Learn, Explore:

Commitment to Youth, a commitment to giving Boston youth an opportunity to explore and discover their passions. This commitment aims to increase access for youth to sports, swimming, arts, growing food and biking. This year’s YDF allocation provides \$550,000 for community-based youth sports programs, \$400,000 for arts programming, and \$170,000 for programs that introduce youth to cooking and growing their own food.

“I’m excited that the Youth Development Fund is aligned around the Mayor’s commitment to support the healthy development for youth in key areas of growth,” said José F. Massó, Chief of Human Services. “Making investments today in skill-building for young people will make Boston stronger now and in the future.”

The 2024 YDF funds three tracks of grantees: Emerging Leader Grantees, which are generally eligible for grants up to \$10,000; Uplift Grantees, which receive up to \$20,000; and Sustaining Grantees up to \$30,000 which are available to the largest organizations. Grantees qualify for each track based on their organizational budget.

The new approach to YDF is intended to increase opportunities for small nonprofits to grow and thrive in Boston through the Emerging Leader Learning Community. In addition to funding, the Emerging Leader grantees will receive a tailored curriculum to help advance their skills, increase their organizational capacity, and create durable connections among the cohort. The Emerging Leader cohort will be

made up of 24 organizations. They will meet once a month to learn business management skills, be paired with a mentor from a larger nonprofit organization, and be given the opportunity to network with other nonprofit leaders in Boston. Successful applicants in the two other tracks of the grant may be asked to serve as panelists in the learning sessions or as mentors for the Emerging Leaders.

“We are thrilled to join the Emerging Leader Learning Community, a program that aligns perfectly with Jamad Basketball Camps’ vision of growth and community power,” said Jamad Fiin, Founder of Jamad Basketball Camps. “This opportunity to collaborate and learn from fellow leaders and seasoned experts in Boston is invaluable. We look forward to this journey of shared learning and to further amplify our impact of breaking barriers in sports.”

This year’s applicant pool numbered more than 200 applications, which was narrowed through a review process that considered each program’s potential to contribute to the Mayor’s Connect, Learn, Explore initiative as well as positive youth development. The programs funded will serve all neighborhoods in the city, with a higher number available to youth in Dorchester, Roxbury and Mattapan. These investments dovetail with the City’s goal of providing high quality out of school time programming in addition to building connections with youth-serving organizations across the city.

“It’s great to see the YDF continue its long

tradition of strong support and partnership with youth-serving organizations,” said Pedro Cruz, Executive Director of the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement. “I’m excited to see that programming will be expanded in every neighborhood and that the City is working to enhance the capacity of emerging leaders in the youth space.”

This year’s YDF grantees will enhance the landscape of positive youth development opportunities that are available to young people in Boston. Research shows that positive youth development programs help youth to develop their social skills, form healthy relationships with their peers and with caring adults. YDF grantees seek to meet youth where they are - in neighborhoods and schools.

The Human Services cabinet oversees six departments that provide direct services to Boston residents: Boston Centers for Youth & Families, Boston Public Library, Age Strong Commission, Office of Youth Engagement & Advancement, Office of Returning Citizens and the Office of Veterans’ Services. The mission of the Human Services cabinet is to provide equitable access to high quality services, resources, and opportunities so that every Boston resident - especially those with the greatest needs - has what they need to thrive. In pursuit of this mission, the departments in the Human Services Cabinet meet residents where they are - in their homes, neighborhoods, and communities - to break down barriers to critical resources.

JPNA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

new zoning,” said Lynds.

Lynds also explained that an abutter to the left of the property had concerns, which have been addressed through some changes. These changes include removing the proposed parking spot and reducing the decks in the project.

Additionally, permeable surface has been added, and a walkway has been created, which, according to Lynds, will become an “additional recorded means of egress” for the abutter.

Also, a wall depicted in the elevation rendering will be designed to ensure that any expansion of the abutting building could be done “relatively easily without much modification,” per Lynds.

After Lynds wrapped up his presentation, there were only a few questions from the audience. One attendee had asked if a three-foot easement was at the back of the lot, which Lynds indicated was correct.

Another attendee had asked why parking was eliminated from the pro-

posal, to which Lynds, in part, said, “When weighing the concerns and interests, there’s not a one-size-fits-all for every project. In this case, the direct abutter was prioritized more simply because there were some very specific concerns about access to their property.”

“Including parking may have prevented that access from occurring, and our commitment in response to their stated opposition at prior hearings was to incorporate the three-foot easement that will allow them access, and that would be incompatible with including a parking spot,” he added.

Lynds also commented that the aforementioned abutter had communicated with the JPNA that they had withdrawn their opposition to the project due to the modifications.

This comment is critical because it was not acknowledged by the abutter or anyone on the JPNA Board, which caused a bit of a kerfuffle later in the meeting.

Later in the meeting, Lynds requested that an

email sent to the JPNA Board from the abutter be read out to get the withdrawal of opposition on the record since the project is going toward a vote.

It should also be noted that the meeting agenda on the JPNA website listed a presentation from an abutter of the project, but it never occurred.

Lynds’ request was eventually granted, but a JPNA Board Member mistakenly read out an email from the abutter that was supposed to be private between the abutter and a Board Member.

The email inadvertently shared during the meeting seemed to catch Lynds off guard and frustrate him. Lynds explained that he was forwarded a different email from the abutter and proceeded to recite it.

The email read by Lynds said, “I will not need my spot for an abutter presentation tonight as we were able to work with the developer to designate a proposed easement and reduce the rear scope of the project. I really appreciate this opportunity as well as the opportunity

at the P&Z (Planning and Zoning) meeting.”

It continued, “The ability to present really enhanced my ability to share my concerns and negotiate with the developer. We worked out a way to retain the easement and limit the rear scope of the project. We will withdraw our formal opposition.”

After some tense back and forth between Lynds and the Board Member, another member of the JPNA Board clarified that the email Lynds read was, in fact, sent to the JPNA Board.

The abutter also later confirmed in the meeting that the email Lynds read out was sent to the JPNA Board and that they were withdrawing opposition.

The Board Member who accidentally read out the private email immediately apologized for the error. Ballots for the vote are set to be sent out to eligible voters, with the vote closing on Friday. The next JPNA meeting is scheduled for March 11.

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Local school receives award to protect nonprofits from hate crimes and extremism

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced \$3.8 million in grant awards to support security enhancements for 80 Massachusetts nonprofits at high risk of hate crimes or attacks by extremists. Grant recipients that include East Boston Central Catholic for \$35,000 and other faith-based organizations, health care providers, social service providers, and other community-based organizations whose beliefs or missions make them potential targets for attack.

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR), an agency that is part of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EO-PSS), awarded grants totaling \$3,800,000 through the FY24 Commonwealth

Nonprofit Security Grant Program and the FY24 Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Personnel Grant Program. The Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Grant Program awarded grants totaling \$3,500,000 to 66 nonprofits to enhance physical security at their locations. An additional \$300,000 was awarded through the Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Personnel Grant Program to assist nonprofits with the cost of contracted security personnel.

In addition to the grant awards announced today, OGR is offering another \$4.75 million in funding for similar nonprofit security. The funds will help nonprofits enhance building safety and security for their members, visitors,

and staff.

The Massachusetts Nonprofit Security Gant Program will utilize federal funds made available through a State Fiscal Recovery Funds allocation from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Award announcements are expected this Spring.

“Every individual deserves the fundamental right to practice their faith without fear. These grant programs allow us to invest in the faith-based and nonprofit organizations that serve as the cornerstones of our communities,” said Governor Maura Healey. “We will combat bias on every front and ensure that sacred spaces are protected from the threat of violence and extremism.”

“Our administration is committed to promoting the safety and protection of houses of worship, medical facilities, cultural venues, and other gathering places. These grants provide the tools and resources needed to strengthen our community institutions and ensures Massachusetts ability to uphold our core values of diversity and inclusion,” said Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll.

“Public partnerships and collaborations with faith-based and nonprofit organizations have been vital to community safety. These organizations are part of the social fabric of our neighborhoods and our region. This funding allows us to support and protect these nonprofits as

they continue providing essential services in our communities,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy.

“Nonprofit organizations are there for community members in their time of need – whether they’re seeking medical assistance, pastoral care, education, or services. We have a duty to ensure that these institutions and all who pass through their doors are protected from threats and violence. I’m proud of my office’s work partnering with nonprofits across the state to create safer gathering spaces for our communities,” said OGR Executive Director Kevin Stanton.

The announcement of these recent grant awards strengthens the adminis-

tration’s steadfast commitment to safeguarding diverse communities and promoting inclusivity. A newly formed Massachusetts State Police (MSP) unit, the Hate Crimes Awareness and Response Team (HART), was rolled out in November 2023 in order reinforce the statewide response to hate crimes and hate-based incidents.

The administration announced in November that \$461,920 in Hate Crime Prevention grants were being designed to expand and support programs to assist educators, administrators, students, and staff to reduce incidents of bias in schools.

Old North Church & Historic Site opens its doors during February School vacation

Known for “one if by land, and two if by sea,” and the midnight ride of Paul Revere, the legacy of Boston’s oldest surviving church as a symbol of American independence and active citizenship is discussed in history and civics classrooms nationwide. During February School Vacation, Old North Church & Historic Site will open its doors to visitors who will get an in-depth look into our nation’s founding while also discovering the origins of Old North Church and its role in shaping America’s past and present.

Located in the heart of Boston’s North End neighborhood, visitors can follow the famous Freedom Trail to the national landmark, which was designated a Site of Conscious by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience in 2023. With a new exhibit, group and self-guided tours, and retail experience featuring American-made products from BIPOC- and women-owned businesses, the Old North campus offers something for everyone.

The historic site, which is typically closed to the public during the winter

season, will be open Feb. 17 through Feb. 24 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (12:30 to 5 p.m. on Sunday). General admission tickets, which are offered at \$5 per person, include a self-guided tour of the church’s sanctuary, a new exhibit, and the chance to ask questions to knowledgeable Educators. A special \$10 bundle includes general admission, a self-guided tour of the historic crypt where 1,100 bodies are buried, and an immersive audio guide. For more information or to purchase tickets in advance, visit: www.oldnorth.com.



The Old North Church in Boston.

Healey-Driscoll administration announces \$5M in grants awards to local Fire Departments

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced \$5 million in awards to 321 Massachusetts fire departments through the state’s Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program. The City of Boston received \$37,293.99.

“Every single day, firefighters across Massachusetts put themselves in harm’s way to protect their communities,” said Governor Maura Healey. “They deserve our thanks and our support. The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program is just one way we can express our appreciation for that selfless dedication.”

“From structure fires and water rescues to hazardous materials and building collapses, firefighters never know what life-threatening risks the next call will bring,”

said Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll. “These grants will support the purchase of fundamental tools and specialty equipment to help them do a dangerous job more safely.”

Fire departments across Massachusetts were invited to apply to the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program, which provides reimbursement on purchases of 135 different types of eligible equipment. Eligible items include hoses and nozzles, turnout gear, ballistic protective equipment, gear washers and dryers, thermal imaging cameras, hand tools and extrication equipment, communications resources, hazardous gas meters, and more. In many cases, the purchase of this equipment will help departments attain compliance with Occu-

pational Safety & Health Administration or National Fire Protection Association safety standards. This is the fourth year that funding has been awarded through the program.

“For the second year in a row, many fire departments are using this program to provide their personnel with ballistic vests and helmets so they can make life-saving rescues in active shooter situations,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy. “As we confront this growing threat and other emerging hazards, we are proud of the way Massachusetts fire departments have risen to every challenge.”

“While smoke and flames are the most obvious threats to firefighters’ safety, occupational cancer is the leading cause of

death in the fire service,” said Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey. “We now know that wearing the right type of protective gear and cleaning it properly can reduce that risk. This program will give many firefighters access to tools that will help protect them from the number one threat to their health and well-being.”

“The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants are an investment in the health

and safety of Massachusetts firefighters,” said State Fire Marshal Jon Davine. “The flexibility of the program is especially valuable because it allows each department to make purchases based on their specific needs and resources. It has become a vital part of the way the Massachusetts fire service prepares for the constantly evolving threats in the world around us.”

“Firefighters who have

the proper protective gear and contemporary rescue tools are much better able to protect themselves and the residents they serve,” said Hyannis Fire Chief Peter Burke, President of the Fire Chiefs’ Association of Massachusetts. “These grant awards will have immeasurable impacts on public safety in Massachusetts for years to come.”

Lyric Stage Boston presents ‘Thirst’

Lyric Stage Boston presents Thirst, playwright Ronán Noone’s captivating and compelling look into the Irish immigrant experience and the struggles in building a meaningful life in a new world.

Imagine if behind the drama of Eugene O’Neill’s classic drama Long Day’s Journey Into Night there was an equally compelling story happening in the kitchen of that same home amongst the cook, maid, and chauffeur. There’s a whole other story unraveling on the other side of the kitchen wall.

Two Irish immigrants, including a disappointed cook whose shuttered heart only blooms when she has a bottle in her hand and a vibrant young maid who survived a trip on the Titanic, pass the day amid their gloomy daily chores alongside a resilient American chauffeur with a troubled past. As tensions rise, high-spirited humor and harsh cynicism boil over as

the trio confront abandoned dreams and heart-breaking misfortunes. Underneath it all, hope is not as far away as it seems.

Director Courtney O’Connor says, “This is a story near and dear to my heart as I honor the journey of my own great-grandmother leaving Ireland to pursue a life in America. Ronán Noone takes us behind the walls with the servants in the kitchen, with yearning souls and lyrical banter. This will be the second-ever production of Ronán’s play, giving us the opportunity to support this important local playwright. And thanks to the brilliance of our entire artistic team, there will be actual eggs and bacon cooking on stage.”

Performances begin Friday, February 23 and run through Sunday, March 17.

Press Performance is Sunday, February 25 at 3pm.

Email heather_darrow@lyricstage.com for tickets.

Featuring Aimee Doherty*, Kate Fitzgerald, and Michael Kaye*.

Scenic Design by Janie E. Howland**, Costume Design by Mikayla Reid, Lighting Design by Karen Perlow**, and Sound Design by Dave Remedios**.

Aimee Doherty* (Bridget Conroy) – Lyric Stage: Preludes (Dahl), A Gentleman’s Guide to Love & Murder (Sibella), Into the Woods (The Witch), On the Town (Claire), Follies (Young Phyllis), Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play (Bart), Grey Gardens (Young Edie) and Animal Crackers (Arabella). Recent credits include: Indecent (Halina/the Middle) at Wilbury Theatre, The Addams Family (Morticia) at Wheelock Stage, Umbrella Stage: 42nd Street (Dorothy Brock), and The Stranger (Edith) at the Barnstormers Theatre. Other regional theaters include: The Huntington,

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LOCAL ARTISTS ORGANIZE EASTIE ARTISAN FAIR

Hundreds of people dropped by the Clipper Wharf Commons Room to shop unique handcrafted items at the Eastie Artisan Fair. The event was organized East Boston residents: Michelle Miller, owner of Sew What

Amazing Crafts, Theresa Malione, owner, Crochet by Teshy and Revere resident, Maria Rago, event planner. Vendors included: Plant Ahead by Christine Gatti, A La Pearl, Isabel's Soaps

Designs by Donna Charlotte's Crafts, Fresh Cut Yarn, Sky Dog Photography, Carmela's Market, Soulmates Plush, Kristen Freitas Art, Cee Cee Stitchery, Scents for Cents, Sunset Studios Art

Maverick Youth Makers, Crochet by Teshy, June Krinsky-Rudder Art, Artify by Tasha. Special thank you to State Senator Lydia Edwards, Rep. Adrian Madaro, Eagle Hill Cafe, and Globas y Fiestas.



Rep. Adrian Madaro with planners Theresa "Teshy" Malione, Michelle Miller and Maria Rago.

SCENES FROM THE EASTIE ARTISAN FAIR



Thirst // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Shakespeare & Company, Company One, Moonbox Productions, SpeakEasy Stage Company, Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Bal-

let, New Repertory Theatre, Greater Boston Stage, Gloucester Stage, and Theatre By The Sea, among others. Aimee soloed with

the Boston Pops under the baton of Keith Lockhart and appeared in the film Don't Look Up. She is a two-time recipient of the Elliot Norton Award and a three-time recipient of the IRNE Award for Outstanding Actress in a Musical. www.aimeedoherty.net

Kate Fitzgerald (Cathleen Mullin) – Lyric Stage: A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder (Swing). North Shore Music Theatre: Peter Pan (Wendy). The Gamm Theatre: The Children's Hour (Rosalie Wells). Goodspeed Opera House Festival of New Musicals: Double Helix. Bay Street Theatre: Double Helix. Trinity Repertory Company: House and Garden, A Christmas Carol. Boston Theatre Marathon: Cir-

cles. Boston Conservatory: Candide (Cunegonde), Her Naked Skin (Eve). Kate is a recent Boston Conservatory graduate with a BFA in Musical Theatre and a specialization in Playwriting/Dramaturgy. Special thanks to the Fitzgeralds, the McCartys, and the rest of her Irish ancestors for getting her where she is today. Website: KateFitzgerald.net, Instagram: @katefiitz

Michael Kaye* (Jack) – Lyric Stage: Ears on a Beatle, Book of Days. Boston area credits include: The Huntington: Common Ground, Art of Burning, Dead End and Two Lives Admissions. SpeakEasy Stage Company: Mothers and Sons, Clybourne Park. New Repertory Theatre: Good, Broken Glass, Opus,

Amadeus, Straight White Men, Lonely Planet, The Elephant Man and Silence. Actors' Shakespeare Project: A Midsummer Night's Dream. Michael has worked in various regional theatres all over the country including D.C., Chicago and New York. Michael received both his BFA and MFA from the Boston University School of Theatre where he is currently an Assistant Professor of Acting.

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States
** Represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE
° Stage Directors and Choreographers Society
Five Dollar Fridays

On Friday, February 23, Lyric Stage offers Five Dollar Friday which makes tickets affordable for all for \$5 each. There will be a limited number of \$5 tickets available for sale with code THIRST5. Five Dollar Fridays are possible through the generous support of Jan and Stuart Rose.

"Lyric for All" Affordable Price Options
In an effort to integrate live theater into the lives of all residents of Greater Boston, Lyric Stage offers multiple options including \$30 Under 35, advanced Student Tickets, Senior Tickets, and partnerships with MassWIC and EBT Cardholders that allow audiences to visit as often as they like. More information at: <https://www.lyricstage.com/tickets/lyric-for-all/>

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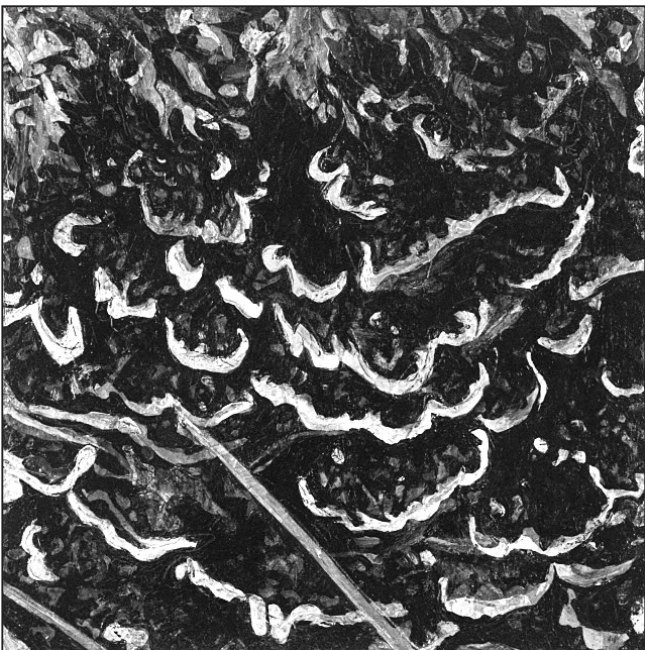
East Boston

Times-Free Press

Atlantic Works Gallery Announces its April exhibition

Atlantic Works Gallery announced that its April exhibition will be a two-person show by Boston-based painters and gallery members Joan Ryan and Julie C Baer composed of paintings and drawings inspired by nature. In the Woods: Nature-Inspired Paintings and Drawings by Joan Ryan and Julie C Baer will open Saturday, April 5 and run until Saturday, April 27. There will be an opening reception on April 6 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the gallery and an AWG traditional “Third Thursday” reception—the gallery’s friendly, cultural community get-togethers—on April 18 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

“The impetus for my work is what the Naturalists and Romantic landscape painters referred to as Ruckenfigur, where a figure is placed in a sprawling landscape contemplating life’s quandaries,” explained Ryan. But in her work, Ryan replaces the human figure with discarded objects from Western culture, specifically with the “iconic and nostalgic television set.” Ryan’s paintings contrast a lush, unabashedly beautiful “nature” to



One of the painting that will be on display at Atlantic Works Gallery.

objects such as discarded TV monitors and computer-related “techno/trash.” Also on view in the exhibition will be Ryan’s installation of 300 5”x7” small works called Street Life, a survey of discarded televisions in one Boston neighborhood. Along with this installation are large mixed-media drawings that represent an entropic outlook on our propensity for consumption.

Baer explained, “My work reflects my close observation and sensory impressions of the shift-

ing light, variegated colors, constant movement, regular yet unique shapes, and visual patterns of the natural world around me, wherever I am.” Baer’s paintings trace the seasonal unfolding of natural life cycles within local ecosystems. She works abstractly, yet botanically accurately. Her aim is to surprise viewers with unusual views and compositions to induce them to look and look again, just as she has done. As Visiting Artist at the Native Plant Trust, she is cur-

rently making large-scale yet intimate mixed-media paintings abstractly depicting the patterns and designs of fungi and lichen growing on old trees and leaf litter. Baer is exquisitely aware that nature is our collective home and humans have caused irreparable habitat, resource, and species loss. Her work responds to ecologists’ call for native ecosystem rediscovery and restoration, and collectively embodies biodiversity. Her work offers ongoing opportunities for discovery, inviting viewers to go outdoors and look around, and to care for themselves and their own habitats. Atlantic Works Gallery, 80 Border Street, Boston, MA 02128, now in its twenty-first year, is an artist-run collaborative space for art and ideas located in East Boston. The gallery is open to the public every Friday and Saturday, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. For private viewing, contact contact@atlanticworks.org, or call 857-302-8363 during gallery hours. For more information, visit <https://atlanticworks.org/>.

Coalition builds momentum for Ranked Choice voting in Boston

The coalition group Ranked Choice Boston (RCB) announced the addition of a new partner to its campaign, as it continues to build momentum to promote rank choice voting in the City of Boston. RCB, along with the voting rights group MassVOTE, last night held a gathering with its new group partner Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE), a Latinx-led organization that advocates for inclusive democratic processes and just public policies to create a vibrant economy and environment for all of East Boston.

RCB has witnessed an increase of support from allied groups around the City with currently over thirty coalition members since its launching on August 2023, marking a significant step toward its collective mission to create a more just and inclusive democracy.

“Our most active members and volunteers have expressed that with the implementation of Rank Choice Voting, we strongly feel we have the opportunity to have authentic representation in Boston” said Enilda Lovo, Lead Coordinator of NUBE. “We are extremely excited at the possibility of enacting in the near future this fairer system of voting in Boston”

Among those who participated at the event include Boston At-Large City Councilors Julia Mejia and Henry Santana, City Councilor Enrique Pepén, and RCB Co-Chair Rahsaan Hall, who is President and CEO, Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, as well as Latinx leaders from the East Boston community.

“We are proud to join fellow democracy advocates and justice seekers in this growing coalition

to advance ranked choice voting. Our collective efforts will seek to mobilize Bostonians of every neighborhood to have a strong presence in their communities and at the ballot box,” said RCB Co-Chair Rahsaan Hall.

RCB’s mission is to empower individuals and foster civic participation, ensuring that every voice is not only heard but also honored. To that end, RCB has called on the support of key voices in the voting rights and community empowerment space to help lead this effort with campaign Coalition Co-Chairs Cheryl Clyburn Crawford, Executive Director of MassVOTE; Tanisha Sullivan, Voting Rights advocate and President of the Boston NAACP; and Rahsaan Hall, President, CEO of Urban League of Eastern MA.

“Boston is excited for ranked choice voting. 62% of Boston voters supported Ranked Choice in 2020, and our coalition of supporters keeps growing. RCV is easy, equitable, and will give voice to all voters,” said RCB Director Ed Shoemaker.

In addition to NUBE and MassVOTE, the coalition includes the New England United 4 Justice; Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts; Union Capital Boston; Right to the City Boston; Represent Women; Represent Us; Dunk the Vote; NAACP Boston; Boston Teachers Union; MPDC (Madison Park Development Corporation); Fairvote Action; South End-Roxbury community partnership; The RoxVote Coalition; Progressive WRox/Roz; JP Progressives; Veterans for All Voters; Brazilian Worker Center Inc.; Ward 15 Democratic Committee; Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee; BLOC (Black Local Organizing

Committee); Mass Dems Ward 11 Boston; Common Cause Massachusetts; MAHA (Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance); Our Revolution Massachusetts; ML (MassLandlords, Inc.); Not On My Watch Mentoring Inc.; Marcus Anthony Hall Educational Institute; Boston Ward 19; IRIE Jamaican Style Restaurant; YDMA (Young Democrats of Massachusetts).

RCB’s goal is to enact a Home Rule Petition for Ranked Choice Voting in Boston’s Municipal Elections, and will seek the backing of the Boston City Councilors to vote to submit the petition to the state legislature. This will need to pass the City Council with a minimum of 7 votes and have the support of the Mayor. Once that passes, it needs to be approved by the state legislature and then will likely require a referendum vote by Boston voters. This system of voting upgrades both preliminary and general elections to use ranked choice voting, for council district seats, council at large seats, and mayor, and will affect Boston’s elections for Mayor and City Council, both the preliminary and the general election.

What’s more, instead of

being restricted to picking just one candidate, Ranked Choice Voting gives you the power to rank candidates in the order that you like them. With Ranked Choice Voting, your top choice is never harmed by ranking additional “backup” choices. And if your favorite candidate lacks the support to win, your ballot automatically counts for your next choice.

Boston has made incredible progress over this decade with diverse candidates competing for and winning office. In the 2021 mayoral preliminary election, an astounding 95% of Boston voters cast their vote for a woman of color. Ranked Choice Voting will protect and extend these gains. By allowing voters to express their wishes more fully with ranked ballots, Ranked Choice Voting is able to ensure that candidates with the greatest overall support of the broadest majority of voters win each election. In US cities in the past two decades, studies have shown that Ranked Choice Voting breaks down barriers to people of color and women, allowing them to run for office and win like never before.

NEWS BRIEFS

ATLANTIC WORKS GALLERY ANNOUNCES ITS FEBRUARY SHOW

Atlantic Works Gallery (AWG), the East Boston artist-run collaborative space for art and ideas, announced that as part of its traditional new year’s focus on its newest members, Renato Viganego will have a solo show in February: Lo Immenso... Cotidiano. Bodegones. The Immense...Daily. Still Lifes. Viganego will show work that revolves around the still life and human figure where the oil paint on the canvas plays an essential part of the piece. The show will run until Saturday, February 24. There will be a “Third Thursday” reception at the gallery on February 15, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

“My inspiration comes from emotion,” says the Columbian-born artist. “From my emotion, the line is infinite, the drawing is my language and the drawing is a faithful response of emotion and nothing can be truer.”

Viganego’s compositions, painted in oil on linen, focus on everyday objects: jars, vases, vessels, dishes, cups, sugar bowls, milk pitchers, crystal plates. “For me it is important to always keep smaller details in context of the larger forms,” he said.

Lo Immenso...Cotidiano. Bodegones. The Immense...Daily. Still Lifes (details)

- “Third Thursday”; February 15, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

- Show closes Saturday, February 24

Atlantic Works Gallery, 80 Border Street, Boston, MA 02128, now in its twenty-first year, is an artist-run collaborative space for art and ideas located in East Boston. The gallery is open to the public every Friday and Saturday, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. For private viewing, contact contact@atlanticworks.org. For more information,

visit <https://atlanticworks.org>.

THE EAST BOSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMEMORATES PRESIDENT'S DAY

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce will be placing a display of American flags to commemorate the upcoming President’s Day on Monday 2/19/24 at the Daniel H. Solari Square outside the Chamber of Commerce office at 464 Bremen Street.

President’s Day is a celebration of United States’ Presidents. It is a day to remember the founding of our nation. Did you know George Washington was the only president unanimously elected? Please note that the flags are for display purposes. If anyone wishes to obtain a flag, please feel free to contact the Chamber at eastbostonchamberofcommerce@gmail.com to purchase a flag.

La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston conmemora el Día del Presidente.

La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston colocará una exhibición de banderas estadounidenses para conmemorar el próximo Día del Presidente el lunes 20 de febrero, 2023 en Daniel H. Solari Square, frente a la oficina de la Cámara de Comercio en el 464 Bremen Street en East Boston.

El Día del Presidente es una celebración de los presidentes de los Estados Unidos. Es un día para recordar la fundación de nuestra nación. ¿Sabías que George Washington fue el único presidente elegido por unanimidad? Tenga en cuenta que las banderas son para fines de visualización. Si alguien desea obtener una bandera, no dude en comunicarse con la Cámara en eastbostonchamberofcommerce@gmail.com para comprar una bandera.

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EAST BOSTON IN HOCKEY ACTION AGAINST ATTLEBORO

PHOTOS BY BOB MARRA

East Boston shut out Attleboro in the third period but the Jets couldn't get their offense going as they dropped a 6-0 decision to Attleboro Saturday at the Porrazzo Rink.



Eastie's Caiden Brown (17) and an Attleboro forward duel for a puck behind the East Boston net.



Nick Calderon (1) is on the doorstep of the Attleboro net but his shot is kicked aside.



Caiden Brown (17) backchecks an Attleboro forward along the boards.



Ryan Thomas (3) loses sight of the puck as he brings it out of the East Boston end.



Goaltender Finn Kempainen (30) protects the post as an Attleboro shot goes wide.

Coletta // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Coletta voiced fears about losing this type of space in her letter, writing, "I remain concerned about the ongoing loss of arts and culture space throughout the City of Boston."

"Last year, I heard from many of my constituents who were struggling to find music rehearsal space or were actively being evicted from a former arts space," she added.

In her letter, Coletta cites Boston Creates, an analysis from the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture (MOAC), which illustrated "a need for new affordable cultural spaces and facilities, and difficulties in meeting the costs of and maintaining existing spaces and facilities."

As well as "an acute and increasing lack of affordable housing and work space for Boston artists, and significant imbalances and gaps in funding for Boston artists and arts and culture organizations," per Coletta's letter.

Further, Coletta co-signed recommendations made in a letter from the MOAC to the BPDA, which can be found at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IKOxIBPkNPRjX9TmLrKr6lbt_

o57k_uFIQsvBC2Vq_w/edit.

Several recommendations were made in the MOAC letter, and the letter also speaks to the office's goal of not seeing a "net loss of cultural space" in the city.

"This means that any cultural space that is under threat needs to be secured or re-provided and that new cultural space should be created to make up for past spaces lost. Boston is well positioned to act on this goal through the Squares + Streets planning processes," reads the MOAC letter.

Later in her letter, Coletta points to the debilitating effects of the COVID pandemic on artists in that it became increasingly difficult to pay for workspaces and that other spaces were shut down.

She even cites a statistic from Chief of Arts and Culture Kara Elliott-Ortega, that "over 100,000 sq. ft of cultural production space, such as studios and rehearsal spaces, have been lost over the last five to seven years, along with numerous live music venues, gathering spaces and specialist retail."

It should be noted that

the BPDA revealed some updates to its zoning text amendment at a public meeting on Tuesday and made some changes in response to conversations and a letter from the MOAC.

These updates include making art galleries a type of retail store, allowing incidental sales in art studios, adding an extra small entertainment/events category for up to 250 people, and not including art exhibits with nudity in the adult entertainment category.

To view Coletta's letter in its entirety, visit https://bit.ly/Coletta_Squares, and to learn more about the Squares + Streets initiative, visit <https://www.bostonplans.org/planning/planning-initiatives/squares-streets#about>.

"Please consider me a partner in ensuring that the City of Boston is able to provide both artists and residents with abundant and resilient arts and culture spaces. I look forward to working with the BPDA and MOAC collaboratively to ensure we see this vision for our City through," wrote Coletta.



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APPRECIATION

Joseph “Joe” Giuliotti, distinguished journalist, dedicated coach, devoted husband and father

By Cary Shuman

So many people knew and admired Joseph “Joe” Giuliotti from so many perspectives that it presented somewhat of a challenge for John Giuliotti to cover all fields in his father’s eulogy.

But John Giuliotti did it masterfully, encapsulating all that “Joe” accomplished in his life, most notably rising to the top of his profession as a legendary sports Boston Herald sportswriter covering the Red Sox.

There was also Joe Giuliotti, the widely respected high school hockey assistant coach at Shawsheen Tech who was inducted into the State Hockey Coaches Hall of Fame, and of course, Joe Giuliotti, beloved husband, father, and grandfather.

A great teller of stories

Joe “Gill” as many called him, maintained his enthusiasm for journalism and Boston sports beyond his retirement as writer. He would be stopped often by long-time readers of the Herald who yearned to hear his opinion on the current-day Red Sox organization.

Joe was certainly a crowd favorite at the Independent Newspaper Group offices in Revere where he would pick up his weekly copies of the East Boston Times Free-Press and Revere Journal and regale the staff with Red Sox stories,

truly inside stuff about players, coaches, and team owners.

“Joe was a natural storyteller, funny and expressive and always informative,” said former Journal writer Dave O’Connor. “He was opinionated, but always respectful. It’s no wonder he found such success as a columnist.”

“By reputation and as a reader, I knew Joe first as a prominent member of Boston’s high-energy sports media scene. But to know him personally was to quickly understand how much he loved high school hockey and coaching. He talked about his Shawsheen players with as much passion and details as he could recount a story about the ’78 Red Sox.

“I genuinely enjoyed his weekly visits to the Revere Journal offices,” said O’Connor. “He never failed to tell something I didn’t know or share a story that I wouldn’t forget.”

At Fenway Park, ballpark personnel could always count on Joe for a friendly greeting. On game days, when he used to walk up the aisle behind home plate on his way to the press box, he would stop to chat with vendors, ushers, and other ballpark personnel. He always found the time to lift everyone’s spirits.

Admired by colleagues

NBA writer Steve Bulpett, who started at the Boston Herald in 1985,

was a long-time colleague of Joe Giuliotti in the sports department.

“Joe was a solid reporter who knew everything about the sport he was covering,” lauded Bulpett. “And when you strip away all the other stuff, that’s really the key to the job. He was so knowledgeable about baseball, but he was also a hockey guy. When I would run into Joe, we were more likely to talk about hockey than basketball or baseball.”

Bulpett said Joe Guiliotti was always professional, personable, and helpful. “I was originally hired at the Herald to be the backup person on Red Sox and Bruins beats. Back then, that meant doing sidebars for home games. I worked with Joe on baseball early in my career. It was great to work with a guy with

that kind of experience, that kind of knowledge. Having Joe as your colleague, that’s like having the golden ticket.”

Former Boston Herald sportswriter Tony Massarotti, Boston Globe columnist Bob Ryan, and Red

Sox beat writer Bill Ballou of the Worcester Telegram were among the many professional colleagues who came to St. Lazarus Church to pay their respects to Joe Giuliotti, one of Boston’s greatest

sportswriters of all time.

(Next week the East Boston Times-Free Press will feature more remembrances of Joe Giuliotti, as told by his son, John, in a beautiful tribute to his father, in the eulogy).



Joe Giuliotti presents an award at the Boston Baseball Writers Dinner to Hall of Famer Jim Rice in recognition of being the 1987 American League home run champion with 39 home runs.



Legendary Boston Herald sportswriter Joe Giuliotti holds a laminated copy of a story he wrote about Boston Red Sox pitcher Roger Clemens after he won the first of seven Cy Young Awards.



Joe Giuliotti, pictured at a birthday celebration with his wife, Anne (Nee) Giuliotti, with whom he shared 64 years of marriage.



Joe Giuliotti greets Los Angeles Dodgers Manager Tommy Lasorda and Boston Red Sox Manager John McNamara at a spring training game in Florida.

Gardner // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

patients and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a Health Center Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, EBNHC has offered access to comprehensive care for the underserved populations of Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Winthrop, Everett and Boston’s South End. EBNHC is dedicated to promoting and sustaining healthy communities, families, and individuals by providing accessible, person-centered, compassionate, and high-quality health care services, including primary care, 24/7 emergency care, behavioral health care, specialty care, and various other health and wellness programs, to all who live and work in our service area. For more information, visit www.eb-nhc.org

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) announced the appointment of Mimi Gardner, MPH, MA as Vice President and Chief Equity Officer, bringing over 30 years of experience and leadership rooted in health equity to the health center’s team.

“We could not be more excited to welcome Mimi to our leadership team,” said EBNHC President and CEO, Greg Wilmot. “We know that what happens outside of the exam room is just as important as what happens inside the exam room when it comes to community health and wellness. Mimi’s appointment furthers our efforts to work closely with our community partners to

eliminate health disparities.”

In her new role, Gardner will provide leadership, strategy, and guidance to EBNHC on continued equity efforts and will be responsible for engaging with community leaders and partners throughout the Commonwealth to develop and drive the prioritization of a health-informed community equity agenda.

“I am overjoyed to be joining a team that is committed to supporting underserved and marginalized populations with a collaborative and community-centric vision for growth,” said Gardner. “My career thus far has been defined by enacting change and I am excited to help serve EBNHC’s community in moving towards a more inclusive future.”

Prior to joining EBNHC, Gardner was the Chief Clinical Officer at Charles River Community Health Center, where she brought her equity experience to the forefront of clinical operations by working with diverse stakeholders to implement systematic change. As Chief Behavioral Health and Addiction Officer at HealthLinc Community Health Center, she developed programs to promote healthy living, address chronic illness and provide treatment for those struggling with addiction.

Gardner holds a Master’s of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health and a Master’s in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago, Crown Fami-

ly School of Social Work. She completed her undergraduate degree in sociology from the University of Chicago.

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) is one of the nation’s largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest commu-

nity-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 100,000 patients and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a Health Center Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, EBNHC has offered access to comprehensive care for the

underserved populations of Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Winthrop, Everett and Boston’s South End. EBNHC is dedicated to promoting and sustaining healthy communities, families, and individuals by providing accessible, person-centered, compassionate, and high-quality health

care services, including primary care, 24/7 emergency care, behavioral health care, specialty care, and various other health and wellness programs, to all who live and work in our service area. For more information, visit www.eb-nhc.org

LEGAL NOTICE

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Of Request for Proposals for WIOA Youth Program Provider(s)
The Metro North Regional Employment Board, d/b/a MassHire Metro North Workforce Board (MNNWB), has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure Youth Program Provider (s) starting Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). The RFP is released as of January 30, 2024 with a bidder’s webinar scheduled for February 13, 2024 at 2 p.m. The RFP and related documents can be accessed on the MNNWB website: <https://masshiremetronorth.org>. MNNWB is an EOE/AAEEO organization.
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Residents learn about Mystic River Watershed study of air quality in region

Special to the Times-Free Press

Residents met with air quality and climate health professionals Feb. 8 in Charlestown to learn about the Mystic River Watershed Association’s three-year study (CLENAIR) of air quality that will focus on the communities of East Boston, Everett, Malden, and Charlestown.

Everett Councilor-at-Large Katy Rogers, who attended a Jan. 17 informational workshop in Everett about the MRWA air quality study, said, “The meeting was well attended and informative. I learned there is a device on top of Everett City Hall measuring the pollution in our community. This is an issue we should be concerned about, and I appreciate there are tangible measures being taken to address it.”

Nicole Fina, who is the civic engagement and advisory manager for Everett Community Growers



Mystic River Watershed Association Executive Director Patrick Herron and Project Manager Karina Ramos.

(ECG), attended meetings in Everett and Charlestown. ECG is a part of the CLENAIR project team.

Fina said that 36 residents attended the Feb. 6 meeting in Everett. She added that two physicians from CHA participated in the meeting.

“We talked about the monitor located on top of City Hall, and we had res-



Nicole Fina of Everett Community Growers is pictured at the MRWA Air Quality Listening Session in Charlestown.



CHA Epidemiologist Lauren McNulty speaks at the MRWA Air Quality Listening Session in Charlestown.



Nicole Fina, civic engagement and advocacy manager at Everett Community Growers, joined Mystic River Watershed Association and CHA representatives at the Air Quality meeting Feb. 8 in Charlestown. Front row, from left, are Nicole Fina, MRWA Project Manager Karina Ramos, Community and Engagement Consultant Dr. Greer Hamilton. Back row, from left, are Community Engagement Consultant Adrianna Spindle-Jackson, Wig Zamore, Tufts Air Quality Scientist Neelakshi Hudda, Tufts student Kyrielle Lord, CHA Epidemiologist Laura McNulty, and AmeriCorps member Shannon Collins.

idents pick out an area in Everett where air quality monitoring could be done and where there are concerns,” said Fina.

Fina said the long-term monitoring of air quality in Everett “will take two to three years for the results to come in.”

Much of the air quality study is focusing on transport-related air pollution, according to Fina.

“I found the meeting in Everett to be very productive,” said Fina. “We had a very good turnout and a wide demographic. People gave their feedback about how different causes of air pollution could affect them in their daily lives, like walking to school or work or taking the bus. I think people were really able to contextualize everything and put the pieces together why we’re doing air quality monitoring in Everett.”

Mystic River Watershed Association Executive Director Patrick Herron said, “We’re holding learning sessions to meet with res-



Kevin Vurreff, Rayen Willis, Maddy Santos, and her mother, Maria Santos, are pictured at the MRWA meeting in Charlestown.

idents to learn about the concerns they have and also have them share their knowledge with us so we can understand the hot spots and where air quality might be poor in the com-

munities. “The end result is if we can learn where the problems are and better understand them with some really sophisticated monitoring – that gives us a change to talk with

municipal planners and businesses, and try to find solutions.”

A date for an MRWA listening session in East Boston has not been announced.

FRESH AND LOCAL

Food as a love language

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Food is a love language for an Italian Nonna who repeats “Mangia! Mangia!” as she serves her family a multi-course meal she spent hours preparing. However, you don’t have to cook to express your love through food. The person who slips out to buy a coffee and croissant and serves it to you in bed also uses food as a love language.

Think of all the ways we connect food with love. If you read the Boston Globe feature “Getting Salty,” you notice how many people in the hospitality industry talk about their initial connections to food through someone they love. Many will also

say that they enjoy making people happy through the food they offer.

Food as an expression of love is behind the tradition of serving breakfast in bed on Mother’s or Father’s Day. Inviting friends to join your holiday meal is loving. Dropping off a dish to someone going through a difficult time shows that you care about them. Adapting a menu for someone with allergies or dietary restrictions shows you want what is best for them. Even sneaking a delicious tidbit to a pet is done out of love.

Speaking of delicious tidbits, in some cultures, it’s a sign of respect and love to offer the best of what is on the table to the

family’s elders or special guests. There was a time in this country when the family would have hamburgers while the breadwinner ate a steak.

Simply eating together can be an act of love. Waiting for someone to arrive home to eat or planning family meals enhances relationships. In the hospitality industry, a “family meal” allows everyone on staff to enjoy food together. Different staff members often prepare this meal, which can be a way of sharing the food each cook loves.

Food and Romance

Think of all the ways we connect food with romance. Brides and grooms



A person who slips out to buy a coffee and croissant and serves it to you in bed uses food as a love language. (Photo by Stephan Mahlke)

feed one another wedding cake. We give chocolate for Valentine’s Day, plan a romantic dinner for two, or tuck love notes into the lunches we prepare for family. Lady and the Tramp sharing a strand of spaghetti became a cultural image of romance for Disney fans.

Finally, think of the foods considered aphrodisiacs by various cultures. The very word comes from Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. These range from the horny goat weed used in Chinese folk medicine to oysters, figs, and chocolate in Western culture.

Cooks Share Love in Many Ways

Sharing recipes is another way of showing love. However, a good cook may tell you the ingredients and instructions when you ask for a recipe. If your version doesn’t measure up, it might be because they add a dash of love in the small steps they take from shopping to serving that make a difference.

Despite being urged by her family, many an Italian Nonna never actually sits down to eat herself. After all, she had spent hours shopping, cooking, tasting, and refining the food you are eating before her

family sat at the table.

As a recipient, how can you return the love the cook put into a meal? It can be by helping with the cleanup if your chef is comfortable with this. You can buy a favorite treat for the cook and serve it with a beverage after the meal. Or, give the cook a day off from cooking by taking a turn to provide a meal, whether homemade or takeout.

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

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

OBITUARIES

Juana “Mercedes” Lidilia Santana

Family and friends were of the utmost importance to her

Juana “Mercedes” Lidilia (Collado) Santana of East Boston, formerly of Arlington, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at the Community Hospice House in Merrimack, NH following a brief illness on February 2nd.

She was the second youngest of eight children born to farmers Bruno and Lidilia Collado on August 28, 1939 in Sabana Iglesia, Dominican Republic. Following her schooling, she moved to New York where she met the love of her life and eternal dance partner, Camilo Santana. They had 63 wonderful years together, raising a deeply cherished family in the Boston Area.

Family and friends were of the utmost importance to Juana. With a corded phone perched under her ear, she kept in regular contact with those near and dear to her heart all over the world. Being physically together was a core value of hers, bringing people together with a sancocho or visiting loved ones in New York, Dominican Republic, and anywhere else you could get on a tank or two of gas. She thought that connections between people were sacred, even in her work life, organizing Birthday parties, gatherings and special events to celebrate life’s moments big and small.

Juana worked for Colonial Provision Company fulfilling various roles and finished her career retiring from the City of Boston under Mayor Menino.

She leaves behind her sister, Carmen Rowley and was predeceased by her mother, Lidilia Collado, father, Bruno Collado, brothers and sisters: Ana Collado, Manuel Collado,



Australia Genao, Hilda Lugo, José Collado and Rosita Reynoso.

Juana is survived by her loving husband, Camilo Santana; sons: Camilo Santana and his wife, Cindy and Eduardo Santana; daughters: Nancy Ossinger and her husband, Donald, Evelyn Santana-Nola and her husband, Michael, Nelly Vozzella and her husband, Anthony and her son in law, Scott Caldwell. Additionally, she leaves 14 loving grandchildren: Brandon and Alexander Ossinger, Austin Santana, Wes Caldwell, Andres Gautreau-Santana, Anthony Vozzella Jr., Tia Caldwell, Stephen Vozzella, Grace Santana, Camilo and Gianna Vozzella, Ava Nola, Dominic Vozzella, and Leo Nola. Juana also leaves behind countless relatives and friends.

Relatives and Friends are invited to Juana’s Memorial Mass on Saturday, February 17th at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph - St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashley Street, East Boston, and immediately following, a celebration of her life at Winthrop Elks Lodge, 191 Washington Street, Winthrop.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Community Hospice House at 210 Naticook Road, Merrimack, NH 03054-4601.

Maureen Baggs-McGunigle

Retired executive secretary to Jack Cradock MD, head of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center

Maureen F. (O’Keefe) Baggs-McGunigle of Andover, formerly of East Boston and Mesa, AZ, died on February 8.

The beloved wife of the late John F. McGunigle and the late Walter H. Baggs, she was the loving mother of Audrey Marinelli and her husband, John, Timothy Baggs and his wife, Hollie, Kori A. Moses and her husband, Brock and grandmother of Paige, Ava and Liv Marinelli, Haley, Torin and William Baggs, Kayla and Brennan Moses. She is also survived by her nephews, Robert and John Baggs.

Maureen worked for many years as the executive secretary to Jack Cradock MD, head of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. Maureen lived a full and vibrant life, always seeking out new experiences and she loved spending time with her friends and loved ones. In her 88 years, she remained active and engaged; never content to sit still for long. Sledding at the age of 80 and riding on the back of her grandchildren’s four-wheeler at 85 are examples of her desire to live her best life. She cherished her daily meet-ups with friends at McDonald’s for morning coffee (friendships she made while living in Mesa, Arizona and, most recently, Andover.)

Maureen loved returning to East Boston to get her hair done and to visit with friends or relatives. She loved reading romance novels and would often finish a good book in a week. She enjoyed knitting and crocheting creating beautiful blankets, sweaters, and scarves that



she gifted to her family and friends. She was tech savvy and loved posting pictures and staying connected with her Facebook friends.

Maureen always held on to her passion for driving and took many cross-country road trips (most recently at the age of 84 driving solo from Arizona to Massachusetts in her 2004 VW Jetta); creating wonderful memories. She was an avid sports fan, who loved rooting for her beloved Bruins, Red Sox and New England Patriots and found joy and camaraderie in the spirit of the game (she was a true “80 for Brady” fan). Maureen lived life her way. She will be lovingly remembered and forever missed by all her family and friends.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Funeral Mass in the Most Holy Redeemer Church, 72 Maverick St, East Boston on Friday morning, February 16, at 10:30 a.m. Committal of ashes will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Maureen’s memory to Susan G. Komen for the Cure would be appreciated. Please leave messages of condolence for her family on Maureen’s Tribute at MagrathFuneralHome.com.

James T. Doyle

1942 - 2024

James (Jim) T. Doyle of Agawam, 81, passed away peacefully Sunday surrounded by his loving family.

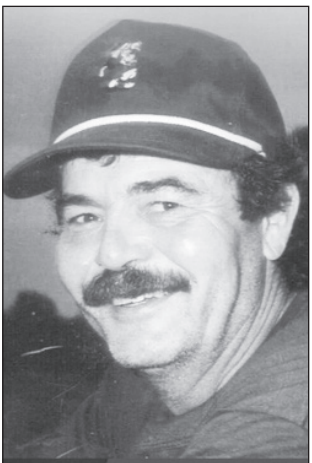
He was born in East Boston, the son of the late Ralph and Marion (Webb)

Doyle. He grew up in East Boston and has lived in Agawam for the past 30 years.

A 1959 graduate of East Boston High School, he attended Mass Bay Community College, graduated from Westfield State College and received his Master of Education from Westfield State College in 1971. Jim was a 33-year veteran of the West Springfield Public Schools and was awarded the Outstanding Teacher of Underprivileged Children in 1969. He proudly served as principal of Main St. School, John Ashley School, Tatham School and Cowing/Coburn School. He was a member, and past president of the West Springfield Teacher’s Association, member of the Massachusetts and National Teacher’s Association and the Massachusetts Principal’s Association.

At 17, Jim enlisted in the United States Army Reserve. He was a long-time member of the West Springfield Lion’s Club, Tatham Social Club, Dante Club, St. Mary’s Men’s Club, the Sons of Erin, Powers Four O’clock Club and various golf, bowling and softball leagues, as well as the Society of American Baseball Research.

While in High School,



he lettered in Baseball, Football, Basketball and Track. He was the Boston District League Champion in the Indoor 175-yard dash and outdoor 50-yard dash and participated in the State Track Relays at the Old Boston Garden. At EBHS, Jim played as a Baseball All Star Game at Fenway Park. He also played Semi-Pro Baseball and Football in the Boston Area.

He is survived by his loving daughter, Kate Doyle, his beloved partner, Christina Rini; two grandsons, Nick and Sam Florek, his former wives, Mary O’Neil and Gene Doyle, two sisters. Maureen and Kathleen and many cousins, nieces, nephews and dear friends. In addition to his parents, Jim was predeceased by two sisters, Patty and Christine, and a brother, Father Tom Doyle.

For online condolences, please visit curranjones.com. Donations may be made to a scholarship fund for Nick and Sam c/o Freedom Credit Union, 58 Union Street, West Springfield MA 01089 or to the West Springfield Boys & Girls Club, 615 Main Street, West Springfield, MA 01089.

John P. Papa

He will be remembered for his kindness, big smile, quick wit and deep booming laugh

John P. Papa, 65, of Boston died peacefully surrounded by his family after a brief fight with cancer.

John was born in Boston to Vincent and Dorothea Papa on November 27, 1958. He grew up on White Street in East Boston alongside his four loving siblings. John was a talented football player who loved to relive his successes on the field and as an avid fan could be found yelling advice at Coach Belichick on Sundays to make sure his beloved Patriots won - he never did get the coaching paycheck his wife told him he deserved.

John was incredibly intelligent and attended Suffolk University while concurrently attending East Boston High School his senior year. Later in life, he found a love of gardening and was an amazing gardener with the greenest thumb out there. He always seemed to know how to do things and what he didn’t know how to do innately, he always figured out. His “knowing” and ability to patiently teach those around him will be missed.

John and Joan knew each other their whole



lives and in 2013 something changed, and a beautiful love bloomed. They shared a deep connection and could often be found making each other laugh. Despite finding one another later in life they loved one another deeply and set a beautiful example for everyone around them. Joan’s love changed John and brought his heart peace, giving his kids and grandkids an even more loving and compassionate dad and grandpa. John loved the sun, he often joked that it was female and “she loves me,” which is why his children grew up traveling the islands.

He loved to sit outside and smoke his cigars and make people feel loved and welcome. He told terrible dad jokes and lived to make people laugh. He never met a stranger and quietly helped more people than could be counted over the years. He will be remembered for his kindness, big smile, quick wit, and deep booming laugh.

He is survived by his wife, Joan (Capone) Papa, daughters: Alana (Papa) Goodman and her husband, Samuel Goodman of Norfolk and Alicia (Papa) de Oliveira and her husband, Vinicius de Oliveira of Hopedale; his son, Anthony Papa and his wife, Bethany (Mohr) Papa of Chicago and his son by marriage, Gerald Sarro of East Boston. John is also survived by his grandchildren: Sophia, Gabriella, Benjamin, Jacob, Nathanael, Caleb, and Hayden who were the light of his life; his siblings: Diana (Papa) Deeran and her husband, William Morton of Tucson, Linda (Papa) Scalfani and her partner, Eddie Lombardo of Fort Myers, Vincent J. Papa and his wife, Hildy Papa of Revere and Dorothy (Papa) DiMille

of East Boston and dozens of nieces and nephews he adored. He was preceded in death by his parents, Vincent J. Papa and Dorothea M. (Diorio) Papa and his brothers in law: James “Buster” Scalfani and East Boston’s #1 DJ, John M. DiMille.

Relatives and friends will be invited to attend a celebration of life in Boston at a future date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made to John’s favorite charity, St. Jude in his honor. Donate now to St. Jude and help kids fighting cancer - St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital (stjude.org)

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AUTHOR PETER H. REYNOLDS JOINS WORLD READ ALOUD DAY AT SHUBERT THEATRE

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

The Boch Center partnered with New York Times best-selling children’s book author and illustrator, Peter H. Reynolds, presented World Read Aloud Day at the Shubert Theatre on February 7. Read Aloud Day is a global literary movement that promotes the joy and imaginativeness of a joint reading experience.

“What I love most about being an author is sharing,” explained Reynolds, who enjoys reading with his daughter, son, and grandchildren. “You can read a book quietly, or share it with others. That’s why Read Aloud Day is important to me.”

Over 1,000 students from Boston Public Schools and Chelsea Public Schools participated in person. Two thousand classrooms registered for the virtual live stream, reaching an audience of some 50,000 students nationally, and throughout 16 countries, such as Australia, India, and Japan.

“World Read Aloud Day amazes me because of the response we’ve gotten to the event,” expressed Corey Evans, Vice President and Senior Director of Education, Boch Center. “It’s an opportunity for us to serve not just Boston, but a worldwide audience and celebrate art, creativity, and literacy. We have a firm belief that everyone should have the right to a creative life and education, regardless of socio-economic status or any other boundaries.”

Read Aloud Day featured an interactive workshop, and a reading of Reynolds’s book, “The Word Collector,” which was chosen by former president, Barak Obama, and First Lady Michelle Obama, as part of Chicago Public Library’s Live from the Library series during the pandemic.

“As an author and storyteller, I love words. I wrote a story to model that joy,” declared Reynolds.

Reynolds’s goal when writing “The Word Collector” was to make learning words more fun for readers than simply “vocabulary acquisition.”

“When I started learning my ABC’s, I realized I could put them together and make words, and connect those words to make sentences. I love the library and got inspired reading books,” remembered Reynolds, whose favorite word is “effervescent.”

Reynolds stressed the importance of reading aloud with loved ones. When he was a little boy, Reynolds was captivated by the Shakespeare and Charles Dickens books that his elder sister, Jane, would read to him.

“It takes a while to learn how to read by yourself; but until then, you can have a book read aloud to you,” acknowledged



Peter H. Reynolds offering advice to young writers.

Reynolds. “Eventually it clicks hearing and seeing the words. That’s magical.”

Reynolds discussed his process of writing, illustrating, and proof-reading a book. He hopes Read Aloud Day inspires the next generation of story tellers. His advice to young writers is to keep a journal and write their ideas during quiet moments when there are few distractions.

“It usually takes a second for me to come up with an idea. It’s like a lighting strike. Then I write it down quickly on a piece of paper so I don’t forget,” revealed Reynolds.

Reynolds explained his love of creating artwork through mediums such as watercolor, pencil, and digital sketching. During the workshop, he drew a mouse that likes to attend the theatre.

“I’m a big advocate for the arts. It’s something that schools need more of,” asserted Reynolds. “The Boch Center has been a champion of that.”

Boch Center teaching artists, Jasmine and Han, empowered students to sing and move their bodies with the goal of helping little ones understand that the performing arts are about sharing stories.

“Reading aloud is a way to bring a book to life. What’s wonderful about teachers is they know how to dive deeply into the book,” said Reynolds, owner of Blue Bunny Books, Dedham.

Reynolds and the Boch Center -- which offers free programming and community outreach opportunities to explore and participate in the arts – provided a copy of one of Reynolds’s books to every student in the audience.

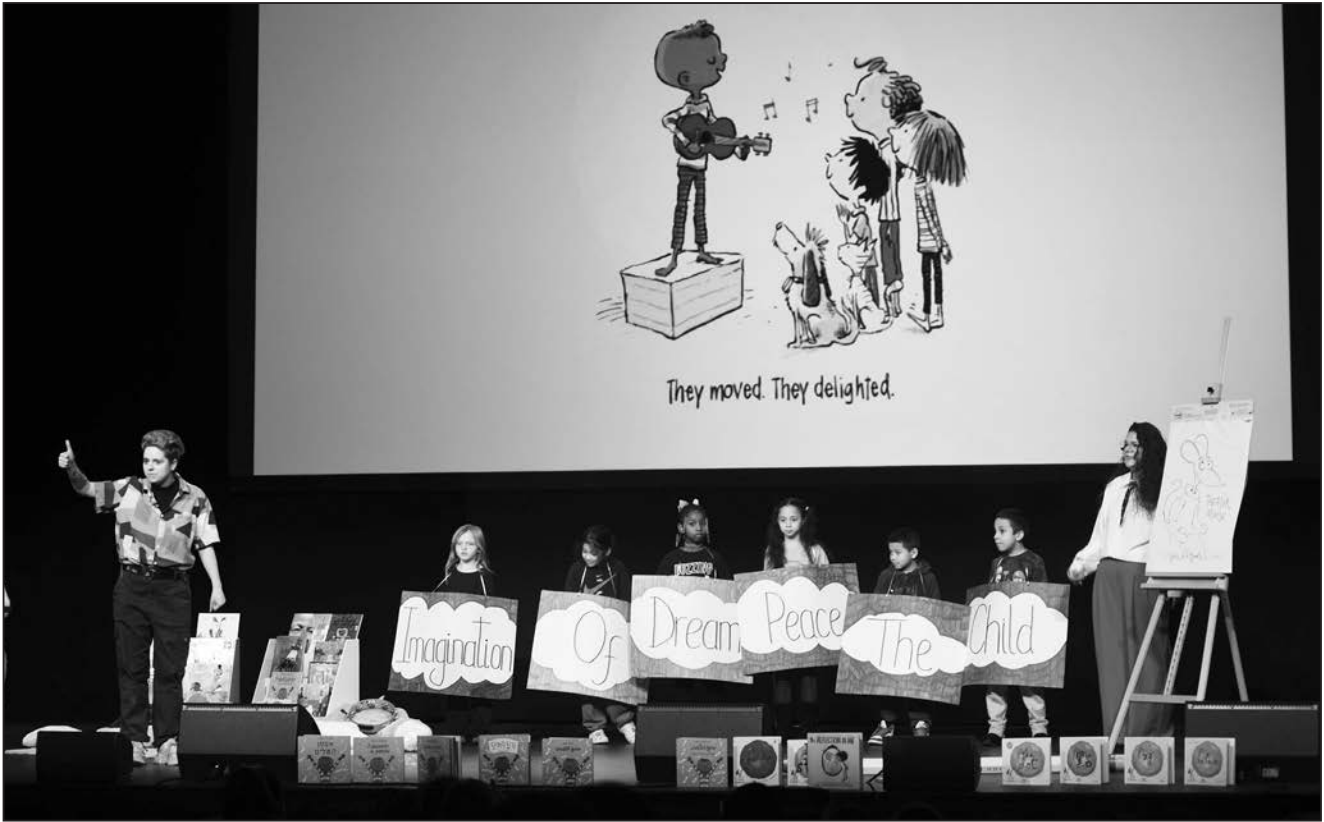
Reynolds hopes “The Word Collector” inspired children to use their words to shape stories. He emphasized that their voices matter, and that the world needs to hear them.

“Hate is louder than kindness. We have to amplify the kindness and encourage people to use their words,” said Reynolds. “If they’re too shy to use words, use music or sculpture.”

Read Aloud Day is part



Children enjoying a literacy workshop at the Boch Center Shubert Theatre for Read Aloud Day on February.



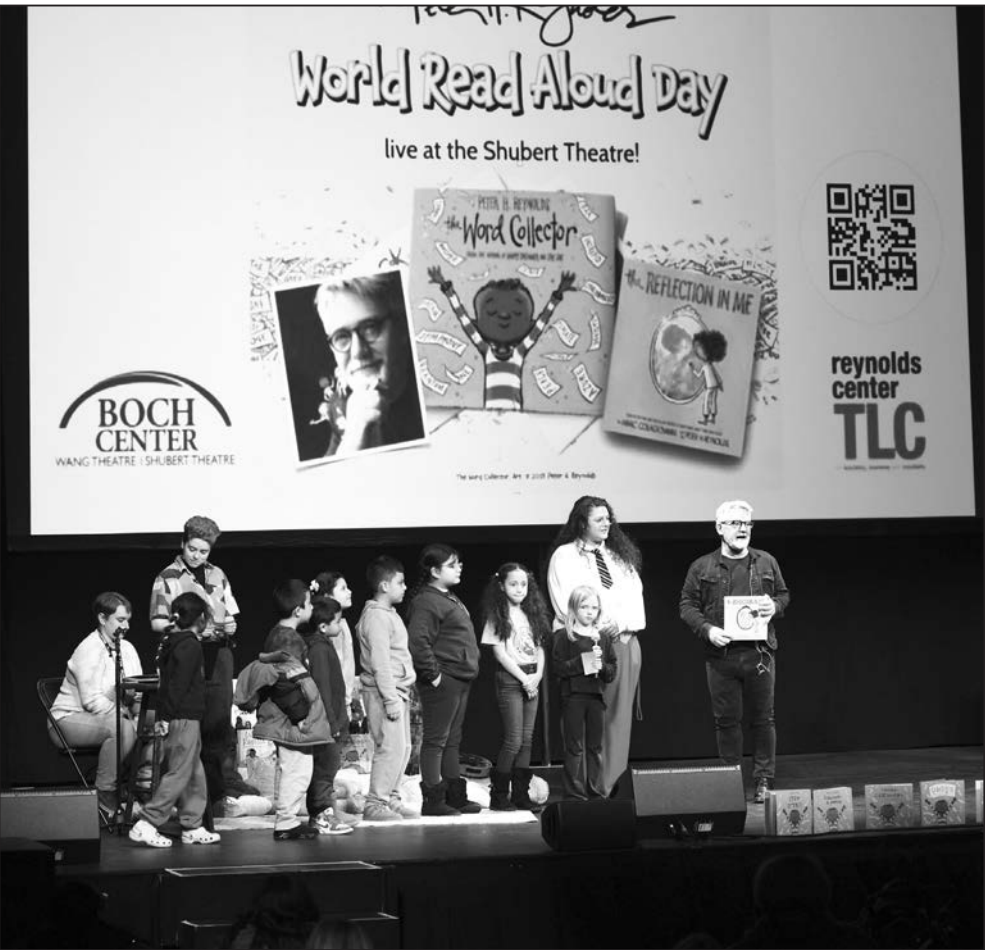
Boch Center teaching artists, Han and Jasmine, engaging students in a poetry activity.

of a collaboration with Reynolds’s educational, multimedia development company, FableVision Studios, in Boston’s Back Bay, and The Reynolds Center for Teaching, Learning, and Creativity (TLC), opening this spring at 390 Washington Street, Downtown Boston. Reynolds TLC is an interactive studio that Reynolds and his twin brother, Paul, founded to support hands-on technology skills.

“It’s designed to inspire teachers to recharge their creativity batteries. Kids are welcome, too. It’ll be 6,000-square-feet of creative tools,” beamed Reynolds.

The non-profit organization will offer professional development programs, student-driven digital story-telling opportunities, video, audio, and animation production resources, and story-powered social and emotional courses. Reynolds TLC will feature video and podcasting studios, green screens, and event space.

“I wanted to open up that cool experience to teachers and say, ‘you guys are story tellers. You’re inspiring the next generation of storytellers. You should tell your own stories – record them, act them, and share them,’” exclaimed Reynolds. “We think the world needs more creativity if we’re going to take care of everybody on the planet.”



Children’s book author and illustrator Peter H. Reynolds answer student questions from around the world.

Real Estate Transfers

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Amiji, Mansoor M	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #509	\$769,000
Hamani, Abderrahman	Borger Development LLC	301 Border St #304	\$327,900
Marinis, Emily D	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #205	\$670,000
Oshea, John M	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #204	\$874,900
Swaebe, Dylan	Borger Development LLC	301 Border St #412	\$645,000
Tao, Ying	33 Leyden St LLC	33 Leyden St #3	\$630,000
Hyc Development LLC	Lam, Rita Y	380 Chelsea St	\$1,330,000
Lubecsumner LLC	Lam, Rita Y	81 Lubec St	\$2,000,000
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Over 1,000 students participating in Read Aloud Day at the Boch Center Shubert Theatre on February 7.

Alarming new survey reveals how high MBTA fares are harming riders

On the heels of Governor Healey pledging to fund a permanent low-income fare for the MBTA in her FY25 budget, a groundbreaking survey of riders finds that they forgo meals, medicines, and other necessities as a direct result of the high cost of fares. The MBTA Board kicked off a formal process to adopt a low-income fare at their meeting on last week and riders and workers were there to make their voices heard on how a low-income fare would be life changing. Here’s what riders are saying:

“Transportation costs, rent, groceries, medical costs, and other costs are all rising rapidly and that puts a lot of pressure on us,” said Jie Zhen Li, MBTA rider and Chinese Progressive Association member. “There are often service disruptions or delays for the Orange Line,

which would make us get to work late and impact our wages, further causing us stress. Low-income workers should receive a low-income fare that is affordable and allows us to enjoy high-quality public transit services.”

“I use public transportation daily, and several times every day, and I would love for this fare to be approved by the MBTA Board” said Oneida Mejia, Chelsea resident and MBTA rider. “In Chelsea, most people travel everywhere by public transportation daily. When a low-income fare is approved, we hope that it will be accessible to all low-income residents, and that there will be no barriers that prevent people from obtaining it.”

The rider survey underscores how unaffordable fares are having a harmful effect on where Massachusetts residents can

live and work, and on the quality of their day-to-day lives. A survey of over 300 MBTA riders across the state from November 22 to December 8, 2023 found the following:

- More than 50 percent of respondents found the cost of fares too high to afford.
- 68 percent of respondents said they would use the MBTA more if the fare was half the current cost.

Governor Healey’s bold commitment to funding a low-income fare program would transform the lives of tens of more than 60,000 Massachusetts residents who count on the MBTA. For more than three years, MBTA riders and workers have united to demand a low-income fare and with the MBTA Board meeting, transit justice and affordability are within reach. As the report shows:

- A low-income fare

would benefit up to 63,000 riders by the end of a five-year implementation period.

- Riders would save about 50% on fares.
- For a daily rider on the bus and subway, this would save \$720 a year, while a Zone 5 Commuter Rail rider would save almost \$2,000 a year.

Survey participants said they use the MBTA to get to a range of destinations and MBTA riders continue to make daily sacrifices and face financial hardships due to the regular cost of riding the MBTA. Survey responses included:

- Not paying rent to afford bus costs
- Skipping meals or cut-

ting back on groceries

- Not paying phone bills and basic necessities
- Not filling prescriptions
- Skipping medical appointments
- Walking or biking instead of taking the bus or train

“It’s clear that transportation is one of the biggest needs for those in our community seeking to take advantage of employment opportunities or accessing services,” said Mike Vartabedian, co-Chair of the Public Transit Public Good coalition and Assistant Directing Business Representative of the International Association of Machinists District 15. “This report shows that

people are skipping meals, medicines, and appointments, just because they cannot afford the MBTA fare. These stories underscore the urgent need for a low-income fare program that takes into account the heavy financial burden borne by riders. We are so gratified to see the Healey administration and the MBTA taking real action to make the low-income fare a reality.”

Public Transit Public Good is a partnership of transit workers and riders throughout Massachusetts fighting for the future of public transit. Community Labor United convenes PTPG. Visit PublicTransitPublicGood.org to learn more.

Boston’s top ten dog names of 2023 unleashed

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department’s Animal Care and Control Division reminds city dog owners that the annual deadline for licensing their pets is March 31. All dogs in Boston require a new license each year.

“Licensing your pet is not only a legal requirement, but it also serves as their identification,” said Alexis Trzcinski, the Director of Animal Care and Control. “We always advise pet owners that having a license provides a quicker way for them to be reunited with you if they get lost.”

All dog owners must license their dogs by Thursday, March 31, 2024. Dogs must be licensed if they are older than six months. Owners must provide a copy of their dog’s current rabies certificate.

For spayed and neutered pets, owners must submit proof of spaying or neutering if they have not done so previously.

Licensing fees are \$15 for a neutered male or spayed female or \$30 for an intact male or female. The dog licensing fee is waived for service animals and residents age 70 and older. Owners must also pay any outstanding Animal Care and Control fines. The fine for an unlicensed dog is \$50.

In preparation for the 2024 licensing deadline, the Animal Care and Control Division analyzed licensing data from the previous year to reveal the most popular dog names of 2023.

Female

Luna, Bella, Daisy, Lucy, Rosie, Penny, Lola, Stella, Millie, and Winnie.

Male

Charlie, Teddy, Max, Milo, Cooper, Leo, Finn, Winston, Oliver, and Oliver.

For an in-depth guide on dog licensing, including a link to license your dog online, visit Animal Care and Control’s how-to article. Please call (617) 635-5348 or email animalcontrol@boston.gov with any questions about the licensing process or to update your information in the database.

The City of Boston will also host a series of dog licensing and pet vaccine clinics from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays from March 2 to June 15 at seven BCYF community centers. For details, fees, and locations please visit boston.gov/animals, or call (617) 635-1800.

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Happy Valentine's Day



Emmalia, Alianora, and Noah
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EVERYDAY! I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH!
♥ MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS! ♥
LOVE ALWAYS & FOREVER, YOUR MOM



To Our Cool Kid Milo,
We love you!
Mom and Dad



♥ Happy Valentine's Day
Malcolm! ♥



Happy Valentine's Day To Our Family
Love Rosie & Michael Jr.



Happy Valentine's Day
Love Julian



Happy Valentines Day
to Moe & Stephanie
Love Kobe



Happy Valentine's Day!
Love Jet



Happy Valentine's Day
Nannna and Papa!
From your 2 princesses



Happy Valentine's Day!
From Eddy & Hazel Mae



Happy Valentines Day, Janine!
♥ Jake