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TIMES-FREE PRESS

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

"The Captain" (Tim White) watches over the belly flop contest.

Polar Plunge for Polio vaccines

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Belle Isle Rotary Club is a combined efforts of the East Boston, Revere and Winthrop communities. Last Saturday morning the club held their annual Polar Plunge at the East Boston Yacht Club. The Rotary clubs are required to raise 1000 dollars a year to help with the distribution of Polio vaccines. There is no charge from the club per person, all funds raised are by donation, all funds

See POLAR PLUNGE Page 6

Rotary District Governor -elect Tom Hankard with Vera Carducci, President Stephen Miliotos, Amy Miliotos, Felicia Puopolo, and Brynn Mulry.

Coletta announces community budget town halls

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta is hosting a series of Budget Town Halls in District One. This is an effort to hear directly from constituents about their priorities before entering into Council's annual budget review for fiscal year 2025 - 2026.

"I'm excited to host a second round of budget town halls in every community. Last year, we built a platform of advocacy together that centered around prioritizing enhanced capacity

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta.

for faster street and sidewalk repairs, additional inspectors for pest control, additional transportation parking enforcement officers, expanding our tree

canopy, and more," said Coletta. "It is essential that we leverage investments that enhance vital city services and address systemic issues like housing affordability, climate preparedness, and equitable access to a high-quality education."

This will be the third year the Boston City Council can reject, reduce, pass, or amend line items in the city's operating budget. The Mayor's Office will submit the first iteration of the operating, capital, and Boston Public Schools budget to

the Council in April. Budget hearings, chaired by Councilor Brian Worrell (District 4), will begin shortly thereafter and continue until July. The body historically votes on a finalized budget at the end of June, and if approved, goes into effect on July 1st, 2024.

This budget cycle will include the first city-wide participatory budgeting cycle with the Office of Participatory Budgeting which allows residents to

See COMMUNITY Page 3

OHNC discusses Suffolk Downs Concert Series

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Those in attendance at the Orient Heights Neighborhood Council's (OHNC) monthly meeting last week spoke about the future of the Suffolk Downs Concert Series and voiced concerns about traffic, noise, and parking problems stemming from last year's iteration.

To start the discussion, District A7 Police Captain Dean Bickerton, who attended the meeting whilst on vacation to speak spe-

cifically about the topic, stood alongside HYM's Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer Thomas O'Brien to address concerns from last year from those in attendance.

One attendee spoke about traffic issues and explained that it took her almost an hour to get home from Revere to Orient Heights during last year's concert series.

"When he [O'Brien]

See OHNC Page 5

Edwards announces re-election campaign

By Adam Swift

State Senator Lydia Edwards has officially announced that she is running for a second full term in office.

Edwards represents the Third Suffolk District, comprising Revere, Winthrop, and portions of Boston including East Boston.

Edwards won a special election to replace former state Senator Joe Boncore in early 2022 and then

State Senator Lydia Edwards.

won the regular election for the Third Suffolk seat

See EDWARDS Page 5

Eastie Farm offering a revamped CSA program

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Eastie Farm, a local non-profit, is expanding its Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program to expand its reach and provide fresh produce to residents from all socio-economic backgrounds.

Essentially, the organization's program allows residents to sign up for and purchase shares containing a weekly supply of fresh produce from Massachusetts farms and even Eastie Farm itself.

This year, the non-profit is offering discounted, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) eligible and even free CSA shares to get fresh produce on the tables of more residents.

The updated program contrasts with last year,

in which Michael Zayas, Eastie Farm's Food Distribution Coordinator, explained there was mainly a large and small share option.

Along with the shares mentioned above, Eastie Farm is offering a market-rate share along with what has been coined the helping hand share, where a percentage of proceeds from every sale goes back to the organization so it can provide more discounted and free shares.

"This year, we've made it more inclusive for everybody. There's cheaper points of entry for people who maybe aren't able to afford the helping hand share; they can get a discounted share; if they can't afford the discounted share, we could try to get them a free share," said

See EASTIE FARM Page 4



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TUESDAY IS THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

This Tuesday, March 5, is the quadrennial Presidential Primary Election Day when Democrats and Republicans (as well as the members of the Libertarian Party) will have an opportunity to choose their candidates for President.

In addition, although those who are registered as Democrats, Republicans, or Libertarians must vote in their own party’s primary, those who are registered as Unenrolled (also known as Independents) may choose to vote in any party primary.

On the Democratic side, the candidates are President Joe Biden, Marianne Williamson, and Dean Phillips. For the Republicans, the only remaining announced candidates, Donald Trump and Nikki Haley, will be on the ballot.

We would note that there also is a separate line on the ballot for “No Preference.” Although the consensus is that the selections of the major party candidates, Joe Biden for the Democrats and Donald Trump for the Republicans, are a foregone conclusion, voters still have the opportunity to express their overall regard for those candidates by filling in the oval for “No Preference.” Nikki Haley recently was on the Republican ballot in Nevada (Trump was not) and she actually lost to the choice for “None of the above” -- truly a harbinger for her candidacy.

Tuesday’s primary also serves as the election for the candidates for the State Committees (male and female) and the local city and town committee members for each party. The Presidential Primary serves as the once-every-four-years opportunity for party voters to choose the future direction of their party with the election of their state and local party committee members.

Early voting for the primary already is underway. We urge all of our readers either to vote early or on March 5. Every election has consequences and only by voting at every possible opportunity can we express our preferences to our elected and party leaders.

THANK YOU, MAURA SWEENEY DOYLE

We wish to take a moment to offer our sincere thanks to Maura Sweeney Doyle, a native of Winthrop, who announced last week that she will not be seeking re-election to the office of Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) for Suffolk County, a post she has held for the past 28 years.

Although the clerk’s job is elected only by the voters of Suffolk County, the clerk serves the entire state in two important areas. The first is that the office handles all petitions to a single justice of the SJC from throughout the state. Requests for injunctions and other emergency relief, including all petitions for which there is no specific statutory authorization to another court, are handled through the office of the SJC Clerk for Suffolk County.

The other is that the office handles applications for the Massachusetts Bar (every lawyer in Massachusetts is sworn-in by the Clerk of the SJC for Suffolk County, who signs every bar admission certificate) as well as all bar disciplinary proceedings.

Generally speaking, both of these functions are what are referred to as under-the-radar in terms of the public’s perception (although SJC single justices have handled many high-profile matters over the years), and only when there is a mishap do they receive public scrutiny.

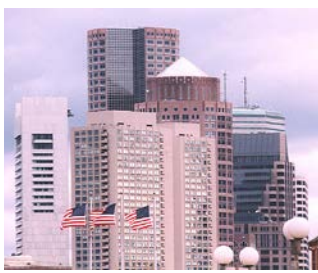
However, during Maura’s 28-year tenure as the clerk, there never was even a suggestion of anything improper, which is another way of saying that she performed her job with the utmost degree of professionalism and integrity.

During an era when public service is viewed under a microscope and criticized for everything imaginable (whether fairly or unfairly), Maura Sweeney Doyle epitomized the ideal of a public servant who went about her job day-in and day-out without fanfare and with a deep commitment to serving the public interest.

We know we join with all of our fellow citizens of the Commonwealth in thanking Maura for her three decades of exemplary service and wishing her the best in her retirement years.

Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@eastietimes.com. Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.



Forum

ATLANTIC WORKS GALLERY NEWS

ATLANTIC WORKS GALLERY TO HIGHLIGHT NEW MEMBER WORKS IN MARCH

Atlantic Works Gallery (AWG) announced that its March exhibition will be Contemporary Dialogues, a group show of three of the gallery’s newest members, Richard Dorff, John Greiner-Ferris, and Joan Ryan. The exhibition examines multiple forms of artistic dialogue, and opens Saturday, March 2 with a reception from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. and closes Saturday, March 30. There will be an AWG traditional “Third Thursday”—the gallery’s friendly, cultural community get-togethers—on March 21.

Dorff is a visual artist and set designer who works in sculpture and installation, and in this exhibition his primary interest is with the space his work occupies and how that space and the objects themselves interact with one another. “By making these connections primarily through lighting and placement, objects and space create installations that extend beyond their own physical dimensions,” he explained.

On Saturday, March 23 at 3:00 p.m., in conjunction with Dorff’s work, Fort Point Theater Channel, where Dorff is co-artistic director, will present Stations of the XX , a work-in-progress performance piece using sound and movement.

Greiner-Ferris, a politically motivated visual artist who is informed by the theater, combines his love of images and words in assemblage. “You don’t lean back in a theater seat and say, ‘Entertain me.’ For the actors to do their jobs well, the audience has to be just as involved as the actors to give the actors something to respond to,” he said. “Nor do you walk

into a gallery and just look at pictures on a wall. Pictures are something you engage with. The worst thing I could think that could happen to my art is if someone leaves the gallery and says, ‘Well, that was nice. Do you want to get some ice cream?’ I want people to discuss and fight about art.”

Ryan uses painting and drawing as a critical language to explore contemporary society, politics, and concepts of identity. In her most recent works, she incorporates a wide variety of images, cartoons, fairy tales, and political iconography combined with heightened color to confront the viewer at an intersection of a broad range of cultural moments. “This junction of imagery creates dynamic interplay and peculiar juxtaposition with the past and present,” she said. “We no longer live in a world of neat patterns , and my work imitates the way knowledge often comes to oneself, which is by fits and starts and indirection.”

Atlantic Works Gallery Contemporary Dialogues (details)

- Show opens Saturday, March 2; reception 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- “Third Thursday”; March 21, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Stations of the XX ; Saturday, March 23; 3:00 p.m.
- Show closes Saturday, March 30

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/>.

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

The East Boston Times-Free Press reserves the right to edit letters for space, accuracy and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The East Boston Times-Free Press publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The East Boston Times-Free Press.

Text or attachments emailed to editor@eastietimes.com are preferred.

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 Ruckengfigur, 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 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 shifting 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 currently making large-scale yet intimate mixed-media paintings abstractly depicting the patterns and designs of fungi and lichens 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 In the Woods: Nature-Inspired Paintings and Drawings by Joan Ryan and Julie C Baer (details)

- Show opens Saturday, April 5; reception 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- “Third Thursday”; April 18, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Show closes Saturday, April 27

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>.

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Emerald Necklace Conservancy files suit to stop redevelopment of White Stadium

By Adam Swift

Mayor Michelle Wu and members of her administration touted how a redeveloped White Stadium will benefit the city's students and residents at a virtual community outreach meeting on Feb. 12.

A little over a week after the Feb. 12 meeting, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and 15 citizens filed suit against the city of Boston, Wu, Boston Unity Soccer Partners LLC, Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, and others to stop what it characterizes as the proposed privatization of White Stadium and 1.5 acres of surrounding public parkland in Franklin Park.

Boston Unity Soccer Partners have a public-private partnership with the city of Boston and Boston Public Schools to renovate White Stadium to bring a professional women's soccer team to Boston in 2026.

Under the agreement with the city, Boston Unity will redevelop the west grandstands and create a public area called the Grove just outside the entrance of the stadium. The city would be responsible for the redevelopment of the east grandstands as well as the field itself.

Boston Unity would have full use of the stadium for about 20 game days from May through November, while the updated stadium would be open for use by the city, school sports and other activities, and possible community events the rest of the year.

"The Project Site, a portion of Franklin Park, has been held in trust for over 74 years for the beneficiaries of the White Fund Trust-the residents of Boston," the complaint from the Emerald Necklace Conservancy reads. "In

that time, the Project Site has been used as an open space for public recreation, public school sporting events, and numerous music and cultural festivals. In 2023, the City began discussions with Boston Unity Soccer Partners, LLC to undertake a joint venture to redevelop the Project Site as the home for a professional sports team (the "Project)."

The project, if permitted to go forward, would illegally transfer the public trust lands constituting the Project Site to private parties, ensuring extensive, exclusive use of public trust lands by a private party for the operation of a professional sports team and associated uses, the complaint further states.

"Although White Fund Stadium has fallen into disrepair and is in need of substantial renovations, the City has failed to consider any alternatives to the Project, all while rapidly pushing forward the Project and ignoring the terms of the White Fund Trust and the requirements of Article 97," the complaint states.

Wu stated that she is excited about the opportunity the redevelopment of the stadium represents, and that it would triple the number of hours that it could be used by the Boston Public Schools and the public.

"The soccer team is just a small portion of how it would actually be used," Wu told Boston25 news.

During the Feb. 12 meeting, Wu said she understood that the White Stadium project was a complex project involving the park, the schools, and the community.

The mayor also said the redevelopment of White Stadium would uphold the vision of Frederick Law Olmstead to increase activity for the public in public parks.

Karen Mauney-Brodeck, the Executive Director of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, spoke at the Feb. 12 virtual meeting, and said she understands that the stadium needs work.

"I don't want to slow this down, but it's regrettable that the community was not asked first: no one from the community was asked if it wanted a professional Women's soccer team," Mauney-Brodeck stated.

Concerns about traffic and an influx of people to the neighborhood were also raised in the complaint, which was received in Superior Court on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

"It would fundamentally alter the nature and feel of a significant portion of Franklin Park during the majority of fair weather weekends each year," the complaint states. "Boston Unity Soccer Partners, LLC proposes to host at least 20 home games on Saturdays between April and November, causing a rapid influx of over 10,000 people on those days, and radically changing the public open space of Franklin Park, well beyond the boundaries of the Project Site, for a huge portion of summer weekend days. This does not even factor in the additional exclusive use of the Project Site during practice sessions for the professional soccer team on at least 20 additional Friday evenings, and the continuous, exclusive use of the West Grandstand buildings and the "Grove" portion of the Site by Boston Unity Soccer Partners, LLC."

The Grove portion of the project is a proposed outdoor space in front of the stadium that would be used for public events and gameday activities, according to the developers.

HARBOR VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING SET FOR MARCH 4

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association will be on March 4, 2024, at 6pm. The meeting is In Person only but will be streamed via Facebook for archival purposes. Attendance on Facebook does not qualify for voting. The meeting will be held in the Salesian Boys and Girls Club cafeteria, across from the Brooke Charter School on Byron Street. You can access the meeting from the front door on Byron Street or from the rear door on Wordsworth Street, which is the handicap entry, to avoid the stairs. Since we are indoors, masks are optional for those in attendance.

La proxima reunion de Harbor View Neighborhood Association esta en 4 de marzo a las 6pm. La reunion esta en persona y via Facebook. La asistencia en Facebook no

NEWS IN BRIEF

califica para vota. Llega a la cafeteria del Salesian Boys y Girls Club por la calle Byron al otro lado de Brooke Charter School. Pueda usar la entrada principal por la calle Byron o la entrada en calle de Wordsworth. La entrada de calle Wordsworth no tiene escaleras por personas con discapacidades. El cubre bocas sera opcional puesto que estaremos adentro.

Agenda

Welcome/Introduction (5min)

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

Announcements (5min)

Greenway Council, Tree Eastie, Sumner Tunnel weekend closure 3/1-3/4. The CPA did not choose McLean Park for funding this year. March 5th is election day, please vote! Shamrock Splash 3/10 at Constitution Beach 11-1:30pm. Eastie Budget Town Hall 3/25, 6:30pm BCYF Paris Street.

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

Figueroa.

Tree Eastie (10min) Bill Masterson will present his 2024 Activities for Tree Eastie and another Free Tree Giveaway. Volunteers are always welcome and needed.

66 Homer Street (30min) 1st Presentation by Attorney Richard Lynds for new owner/developer Joseph Trichilo. The proposal is to raze the existing single-family home and erect a three story five-unit residential dwelling with 5 parking spaces. Variances: Use, Parking, FAR, Stories, Height, Side yard and Rear yard.

117 Addison Street (30min) 1st Presentation by Attorney Richard Lynds for owner/developer Claudio Gomes. The proposal is to raze the existing dwelling and erect a 6-unit residential dwelling.

The next meeting of the HVNA will be on April 1, 2024. Visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/harborviewna> or check our website at harborvieweastboston.com.

Traffic stop yields two illegal high-capacity firearms from driver

Special to the Times-Free Press

An East Boston man has been ordered to home confinement with GPS monitoring after being charged with illegal possession of two guns with large-capacity magazines loaded with 47 total rounds, Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

Takhari Robinson, 22, was charged in East Boston BMC Tuesday with illegal possession of firearms, illegal possession of ammunition, possession of large-capacity magazines, illegal possession of loaded firearms and several traffic violations.

Judge Margaret Albertson found Robinson dangerous and ordered him to home confinement with GPS monitoring, to be revisited when Robinson provides his work schedule to the court. Albertson also ordered Robinson to not possess firearms or any other weapons and to commit no new offenses. Robinson will return to court February 29 for appointment of counsel.

On Monday at about 1:24 p.m., Massachusetts State Police troopers pa-

trolling Maverick Square in East Boston observed a white GMC Terrain fail to stop while turning left on Decator Street onto London Street. When the troopers pulled the vehicle over, the driver, later identified as Robinson, exited and began to walk quickly away. Robinson continued to walk away despite multiple commands to stop. Troopers noticed Robinson "blading," or turning his upper body away from their sight lines. When the troopers apprehended Robinson they found a black Glock 17 9mm pistol with one round in the chamber and 30 rounds in the magazine, outfitted with a fixed laser attachment, in his sweatshirt pocket. Troopers found a second gun, a Glock 9mm with 16 rounds in the magazine, in Robinson's left sweatpants pocket.

"This man was carrying a frightening amount of destruction in his pockets. This is a good example of the illegal firepower we in law enforcement see far too often, as well as the unpredictability of police officers' daily field interactions. I'm relieved these

weapons are off the street and grateful that the incident resulted in no injuries to the troopers involved," Hayden said.

All charged individuals are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office serves the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Mass. The office handles over 20,000 cases a year. More than 160 attorneys in the office practice in nine district and municipal courts, Suffolk Superior Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Boston Juvenile Courts. The office employs some 300 people and offers a wide range of services and programs to serve anyone who comes in contact with the criminal justice system. This office is committed to educating the public about the services we provide, our commitment to crime prevention, and our dedication to keeping the residents of Suffolk County safe.

Community // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

engage and make recommendations in the budget process. For more information on how to get involved in Participatory Budgeting, visit boston.gov/departments/participatory-budgeting

The Budget Town Halls will take place on the following dates.

- North End/Wharf District on Thursday, March 7 at 6pm at the Nazzaro Community Center
- Latinx Community on Saturday, March 23 at 10am in the East Boston Public Library
- East Boston on Monday, March 25 at 6:30pm at BCYF Paris Street
- Charlestown on Tuesday, March 26 at 6pm at Knights of Columbus

Translation, babysitting, and food will be provided at all budget town hall meetings. Community members are encouraged to RSVP at https://bit.ly/Coletta_Budget

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March 2-30, 2024

Opening Reception: March 2, 2-6 pm

Third Thursday: March 21, 6-9 pm

On Saturday, March 23 at 3:00 pm, in conjunction with Dorff's work, Fort Point Theater Channel will present songs in progress for *Stations of the XX*.

For more information, visit www.atlanticworks.org or call 857-302-8363

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WINTER HARBOR CRUISE

How has Boston’s waterfront changed? What types of commerce continues? What challenges do we face along the waterfront?

On Saturday, March 2 at 10 a.m. join the Friends of the Boston Harborwalk (FBHW) for a 2 ½ hour cruise around Boston’s inner harbor on a multi-deck, heated vessel. FBHW tour guides will discuss the history of the city, its harbor, and how much the waterfront neighborhoods and the harbor continue to evolve – nearly 400 years after the city’s founding.

The tour departs from and returns to Long Wharf on a Boston Harbor City Cruises’ marine vessel. We will begin boarding at 9:45 AM and will depart at 10:00 AM (sharp) - returning at approximately 12:15 PM. Specific dock location and boarding information will be sent out days prior to the tour.

Cost \$20.

Register in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/friends-of-the-harborwalk-winter-harbor-cruise-tickets>.

Eastie Farm // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Zayas.

The non-profit is slated to work with up to 40 small local farms within the state as part of the program. “At the most the produce is traveling anywhere between 100 to 150 miles to get from the farm directly to our site at the greenhouse,” said Zayas.

Moreover, he explained that Eastie Farm will be ordering and offering produce that is not only in-season but is organic.

“A lot of what we’re going to be offering this year — it may not necessarily fall in line with what you’ll see at a grocery store,” said Zayas. “We are working with organic farms and farms who practice organic growing practices.”

Additionally, in a change of course from last year, the shares are “basically going to all be the same,” according to Zayas. He explained that this year’s shares will be standardized and contain 10-20 pounds of produce, eggs, honey, and more.

Also, Zayas explained that the free food distribution program, which ran last year and provided over 50,000 total pounds of produce to residents through weekly distributions, has been built into the CSA program this year to offer discounted or free shares.

“I think there could be a potential for us to do maybe some events at the greenhouse, not as consistently as we were doing it in 2023, but perhaps a once-a-month sort of thing or maybe like a one-off event where we’re able to distribute large quantities of food again,” said Zayas.

“For the most part, I believe we’re shifting into just providing more free CSA shares and discounted shares.”

This change will also enable residents to get their food quicker instead of waiting in lines and at times that work best for them.

As to why residents would be prudent to at least check the program out — Zayas had a few different reasons. Not only does this program allow residents to get fresh local produce, which is being harvested and shipped to the neighborhood within the same week, but it also gives residents a chance to connect with farms from around the state.

For example, Eastie Farm will host events for its CSA customers to connect the farms with the community.

“We are trying to not only bring their food into the community but also bring them into the community so that people can meet directly with the people who are growing their food,” said Zayas.

He also pointed out that the CSA program can help bypass the grocery store hassle. “For me, the CSA is an opportunity for people to kind of skip that hassle. We’re basically getting you the fruits and the produce that’s locally grown that you need, we’re giving you eggs, and we’re giving you some other dry-stock items that would be a good addition to anyone’s kitchen,” said Zayas.

Furthermore, the CSA will allow residents to try out some new seasonal food they might not get at the grocery store, like collard greens, kale, rutabaga, and more. The shares can also include guides and recipes to cook the food.

For those looking to get involved with the program, if you act quickly, you can take advantage of early bird pricing until March 1st, which offers a \$125 discount on the helping hand share.

To learn more about the program, visit <https://eastiefarm.com/csa/>, and to purchase shares or receive free shares, visit <https://eastie-farm-inc.square.site/>.

“We really wanted to build into our program the availability of the shares for everyone in the neighborhood, no matter what your socio-economic background is. So we’re really excited about that,” said Zayas.

OHNC opposes Swan Avenue project

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

During its regular monthly meeting last week, the Orient Heights Neighborhood Council (OHNC) voted against a project that would bring eight units to 28-30 Swan Avenue.

This project was initially presented to the council in November and has origins dating back to 2021 when 12 units were proposed for the area. Now, the proposal is to construct two separate “contextual multi-family dwellings,” according to Attorney Richard Lynds, who presented the project.

Each of the proposed buildings would contain four units, which are intended for homeownership and would be sold as condominiums. Additionally, there are plans for a total of eight parking spaces.

Under current zoning, the lots involved in the proposal, which are proposed to be combined and redivided, are zoned in the 2F-5,000 subdistrict. However, under new zoning developed through PLAN: East Boston, the lots are in the East Boston Residential (EBR)-3 subdistrict.

“I think the important part here is to look at the difference between the relief that’s necessary under Article 53 and the relief that will be necessary to the proposed new zoning,” said Lynds.

“For the most part, you can see there are less variances that are necessary with the proposed use,” he added.

The proposal would require variances for the use, side yard, rear yard, floor area ratio, and parking under current zoning. In comparison, the proposal would only require variances for use, rear yard, and open space under the new zoning.

As Lynds’ presentation progressed, he walked through some renderings and other plans and spoke about the changes to the project since 2021. Specifically, he talked about responding to feedback from abutters, in which the buildings are no longer in a three-story style, and roof decks have been removed.

“I think the response has been a little bit more positive to this design as opposed to the previous design that we had,” said Lynds.

When Lynds was wrapping up his presentation, he made a statement asking for support for the project, which caused a bit of a stir during the meeting.

Essentially, Lynds asked for support from those in attendance, even with the variances, and explained that under new zoning, the lot could be subdivided, and four separate triple deckers could be built at the site with roof decks and without parking as-of-right.

“Our client obviously wants to respond to what the neighbors said about the design of the building. So going with the eight units is something that he feels is an appropriate compromise here even though it may not specifically comply with PLAN: East Boston,” said Lynds.

Initially, one attendee spoke about the parking troubles on Swan Avenue and did not think the eight parking spots proposed were sufficient.

In response, Lynds again pointed to the as-of-right project he referenced when he asked for support, which some in attendance took as a threat to support the project and prevent the as-of-right plan from happening, though he insisted it was not.

“Just so we’re clear, the city says under its new zoning that if you build a three-family building — which we can do four of those here — you don’t have to put any parking. So we could do three units four times, separate triple deckers, no parking,” said Lynds.

“I love when people say threat. I’m telling you what the zoning allows. If you consider that to be a threat, then so be it,” he added.

As demonstrated by an attendee, the issue with this is that many residents were led to believe that the new zoning would help prevent developers from requesting and being granted variances for projects, and now the proposal before them is requesting variances under the new zoning.

“We went through a lot of pain for PLAN: East Boston — everybody was here for it, right — why did we fight for this and try to get some kind of stuff? We were told there would be no variances that was going to be it — no variances at all — and guess what there’s variances,” said an attendee.

The same attendee also believed that supporting the project would set a precedent for more projects in the neighborhood to receive variances under the new zoning.

Another attendee said, “We’ve gone through hell over the last five years to create a new zoning plan that we don’t like, but we’ve had to accept, but you still want three variances from the new plan. What good is the new plan if developers are still going to want variances after all we’ve gone through.”

However, Lynds had previously made the point that, ironically, the proposal before the OHNC that would require variances under new zoning would actually be better for the neighborhood instead of the as-of-right project he spoke about.

“If you want to fight this and say no variance, then we’re going to be left with no option but an as-of-right scenario, which is not what anybody in this room wants,” said Lynds.

“If the neighborhood says no, we don’t want any variances; they’re cutting their nose off to spite their face in this instance, and this is going to happen a lot in this neighborhood as new zoning takes hold.”

To be clear, Lynds prefaced the vote, indicating that even if the council voted no, they would still go to the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) to pursue support for the proposed project. However, he emphasized that if the ZBA says no, they will be left with “no option.”

In the end, the OHNC seemed to stand on principle and opposed the project by a vote of 21-10, with two voters abstaining.



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FRESH AND LOCAL

Switch it up!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Those of us who cook have a roster of dishes we make more often than others. When you dine in or have takeout from a favorite restaurant, you probably have a few dishes you usually order. If you or your eaters find the love for a long-time favorite fading, it may be time to switch it up.

Salad Revision

We often add a favorite arugula and grilled shrimp salad to our order at Piatini on Newbury Street. Penny has made it at home several times, but it has yet to measure up to the original. She just can't duplicate the restaurant's great balsamic salad dressing. However, she made an excellent replacement salad by switching things up.

Penny replaced the shrimp with grilled sweet chili salmon, the dried cranberries with unsweetened dried cherries, and candied pecans with roasted pecans. Finally, she

created a salad dressing from the remains of the sweet chili glaze from the salmon.

It was not just delicious but seasonal with winter fruits and nuts. It was healthier, with less sugar and higher omega-3 fatty acids. It was not as expensive since it used less costly fish and pantry ingredients. We're already talking about switching up this salad for spring, summer, and fall using seasonal ingredients and seafood from farmers' markets.

Another way to change a salad like this is to take your inspiration from a different culture or food preference. It could become Asian and vegan with grilled tofu, shiitake mushrooms, crispy shallots, and a ginger sesame vinaigrette.

How Restaurants Do It

Some items stay, without change, on restaurant menus forever and are sorely missed when they disappear, such as the legendary Hamersley's roast

chicken. However, many chefs find ways to freshen their menus with seasonal flourishes.

For example, one of our neighborhood hangouts, Little Whale, keeps Ed's favorites, swordfish, and haddock, on the menu. However, as the seasons change, the sauces and sides offered with these standbys are adapted to use seasonal ingredients. This winter, a side of marble potatoes and roasted fennel, sauced with a country mustard beurre blanc, has Penny ordering swordfish and wishing that side was offered by itself.

Another option for home cooks and restaurant chefs is to change their regular menu to include seasonal ingredients intentionally. The local asparagus season is so short that we will incorporate it into our meals many times a week. We might roast it along with some chicken on a sheet pan. Sometimes, we peel it into ribbons to create a fennel



Our spicy grilled salmon, dried cherry, and pecan version of an arugula salad is a favorite busy-day meal.

and asparagus salad that we only eat in spring. In winter, we surround that chicken with roasted root vegetables.

Change something as routine as "Taco Tuesday" by brainstorming for other fillings. The taco is just the carrier for the meal. You could choose an Italian sausage, pepper, and onion taco or a pizza taco. Consider ordering from a different taco shop if your

tacos are take-out. There are dozens of discussions online about the best of any food category in the area.

Photos Are Reminders

One good thing about taking photos of our food is that we can check back at what we ate at home and when dining out this time of year. A glance at your pictures from the fall and winter could remind

you of a great truffle ravioli you had in the past.

Check your photos for meals you've enjoyed. Look at current restaurant menus that use local food well and be inspired to try a new take on an old favorite.

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

OHNC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was here the last time, he said the traffic was going to be under control. On 1A, it was not under control. Revere police were stopping people from making a turnaround right across from the gas station there — I was not allowed to go down Boardman Street — I had to go way down to the end to make the turn," said the attendee.

Bickerton, in response, said that Boardman Street should not have been shut off and spoke in depth about the traffic management plan.

Another attendee had talked about concertgoers parking on Waldemar Avenue and had suggested getting 24/7 resident-only parking for the days that there are concerts to prevent that from happening. "Huge issue for us because when we went through all the processes, we didn't want any of that to happen during the build-out of the entire site, so we'll work with BT

D (Boston Transportation Department) to try and get that done," said O'Brien. Another attendee had voiced frustration with the sound, saying, "I realize

it's a concert series. However, you probably should work with your sound engineer a little bit more because Swan Avenue is getting blasted."

O'Brien explained that there were no complaints regarding noise for the first round of shows last year, which occurred in June.

However, he did say, "Going into the second round of shows, it was a different type of music, and the speaker setup was set to kind of get the far end of the group of people who are gathered on the lawn, and that first night we got a lot of noise complaints."

He also added that they adjusted the speakers on the second night and "didn't receive much in the way of noise complaints on the second night."

O'Brien also indicated that they are not looking for the type of show that occurred during that second installment of concerts last September, which he described as a "techno sort of thing," to return.

To close out this part of the discussion Bickerton

went through specific asks he had for Suffolk Downs, HYM, and The Bowery Presents (the concert operator) regarding the concert series.

Specifically, Bickerton wants decibel readings to be done on the perimeter and to have them monitored in real-time, a better security team, increased lighting, crosswalks, and no sound checks during school hours.

It should be noted that decibel reading was done last year, and Bickerton is hoping the city sets a decibel level to maintain at the establishment.

Bickerton also mentioned that the group is looking for a seven-day license for the concert series.

In describing the ask for the seven-day license, O'Brien said, "The concerts have not been set, so at the end of the day, we hope to be permitted for, say, 15 shows and maybe 20 shows for next year, right, but you don't know what days they're going to be so in order to file a permit you have to file a seven-day permit because it could be Friday it could be Saturday."

Additionally, East Boston Neighborhood Liaison Mela Villa Gomez spoke about a community process that will occur regarding the concert series and indicated that the process is currently being developed.

Later in the meeting, O'Brien presented to the council about the Suffolk Downs redevelopment and the concert series.

In speaking about the concert series, he recapped last year's events. He reiterated that during the June shows, they "received very few if any complaints, traffic seemed to work fine, the noise levels seemed to work fine."

As for the second stretch of shows in September, he acknowledged "a ton of complaints" during the September 15th show, spoke about the changes made during the second show the next night, and received "next to no" complaints.

"Lessons learned. We're going to implement all those lessons learned. Hopefully, none of that kind of music and direct the music in a way that doesn't disturb the neighborhood," said O'Brien.

O'Brien also walked through what is planned for this year, which includes three confirmed shows on May 18th, July 27th, and August 19th, with more to be announced.

"We're thinking that there will be about 14 or so concerts this summer. On the seven-day permit question, because we don't know what the dates of those other concerts will be, we were advised to apply just for the seven-day permit, so it could be — if somebody wants to come on a Thursday — or whatever it is in the summer we're trying to be flexible in that regard," said O'Brien.

Additionally, O'Brien walked through the schedule of a typical concert with a new change in response to feedback, which was that sound checks would not occur before 3 P.M. so it does not interfere with schools in session.

An attendee suggested some schools still have students learning until at least 4 P.M. O'Brien and his team seemed amenable to pushing the sound check time further back.

He also indicated that there will be a traffic management plan and a sound, security, and emergency response plan.

Again, O'Brien took questions from those in attendance. One attendee asked about mitigation regarding weeknight concerts — especially concerning rush hour traffic — and O'Brien mentioned that they encourage concertgoers to use public transportation and that he would focus more on the scheduled Monday night concert.

Another attendee had made suggestions for further sound mitigation through the construction of a temporary structure or even a tent.

Overall, the topic of concerts at Suffolk Downs certainly fostered an extensive discussion, and residents should keep an eye out for the upcoming community process regarding the concerts. To learn more about the scheduled concerts, visit <https://stageatsuffolkdowns.com/>.

Edwards // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in November of 2022.

Edwards is a former Boston City Councilor who represented Charlestown, East Boston, and the North End.

"It's been more than 2 years since I was first elected as your State Senator in the Massachusetts State Senate, (it) has been the honor of my life serving you," Edwards stated in an email to supporters earlier this week. "We have achieved tremendous wins throughout these past years, from organizing the

first PRIDE potluck in Winthrop, celebrating the East Boston Latino Festival, passing tax relief for homeowners, advocating for millions of dollars for the 3rd Suffolk District, and now working on a major Housing Bond Bill that would provide \$4.1B to solve the current housing crisis in Massachusetts."

Edwards stated that she is currently collecting signatures to guarantee her name is on the ballot.

Over the past several years, Edwards has sup-

ported a number of local candidates for office, including Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe in his recent race against former mayor Dan Rizzo, as well as city councillors Juan Pablo Jaramillo and Marc Silvestri and School Committee member Jacqueline Monterroso.

In Winthrop, Edwards supported town councilors Max Tassinari, John DaRos, John Munson, and Suzanne Swope.

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Polar Plunge // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of this annual polar plunge go towards polio vaccines. Thanks to the generosity of the East Boston Yacht Club, the use of the facility was a donation to the Rotary, showing their commitment to the community.



President of the Belle Isle Rotary Club Stephen Miliotos calls everyone to hit the icy waters of Boston Harbor.



From Chelsea, the Seafarer's Friend Organization was at the EBYC collecting much need toiletries. This group of volunteers supports mariners that come into Boston, shown is Chaplin Brendan Hunter, David Huise and Katie Grotto.



Joe Stefano and Steve Russo hold up the official plunge tee shirt.



Commadore of Mass Bay and Yacht Club Assn. Phil Greenstein and Tim White supporting the Belle Isle Rotary Club.



Rotarian Jack Walsh (center) with Nick Querci and Sheelagh Walsh.



Rotary members Maryann Russo and Vera Carducci.



District Governor -elect Tom Hankard with the Parkway Club of West Roxbury.



The Belle Isle Rotary Club, Tom Hankard, Terri Curren, Tony Zambuto, Felica Puopolo, Amy and Stephen Miliotos, Jack Walsh, Sterling Sobey, Maryann and Steven Russo, Joe Stefano and Vera Carducci.



The 'Belly Floppers' in full costume started off the plunge into Boston Harbor, led by the "Captain" (Tim White) third from right.



From the EBYC, Tim White (right) with plungers from the East Boston Community Kitchen.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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



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CITY of BOSTON



Sports

A CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON



PHOTO BY PATRICK O'CONNOR

Players and coaches of the East Boston High School basketball team get together for a team picture celebrating their Boston North Division championship season on Wednesday, February 21 at Madison Park after losing a city league play-off game to Burke 71-66. Despite the loss and not advancing to the city league championship game won by Charlestown on Thursday, February 22, the Jets had a remarkable season ending at 15-6. The Jets hope to make a run for the Division 3 state title.

HONORING THE SENIORS



Members of the East Boston High School hockey team and the senior group get together for a team picture on Monday, February 19 at Matthews Arena at NU.

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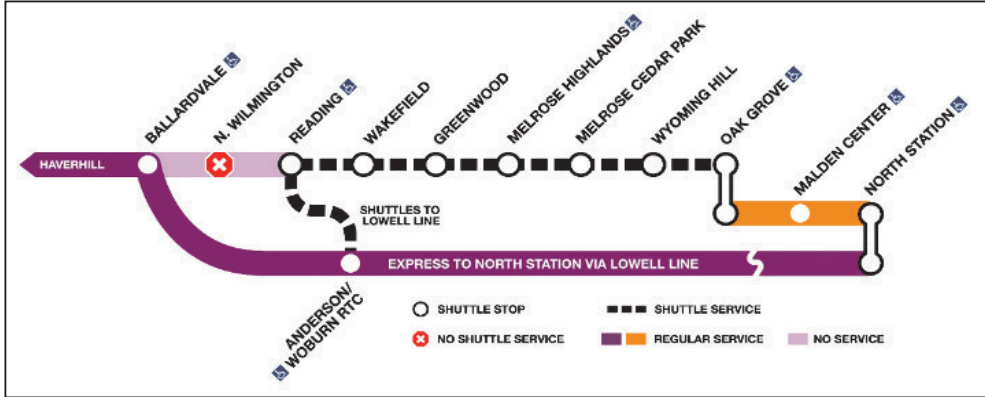
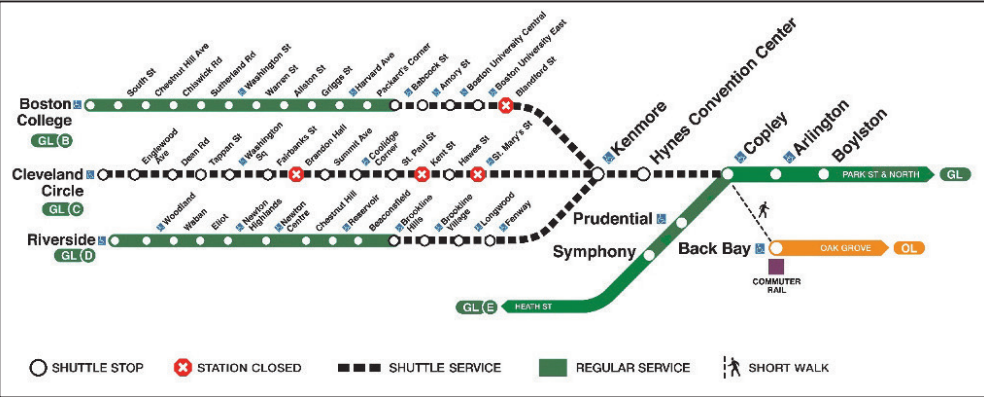
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March service changes: MBTA continues repair work to improve reliability across the system

The MBTA announced service changes in March on the Green, Red, Orange, Kingston, Middleborough, Greenbush, Framingham/Worcester, Haverhill, and Newburyport/Rockport lines. The MBTA will continue working to maintain its infrastructure and improve reliability across the system for riders.

Riders can find more information on service changes through in-station signage, in-station public announcements, and at mbta.com/alerts. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA, @MBTA_CR, and @MBTA_CR_Alerts for up-to-date service information.

On the Green Line:

As previously announced, Green Line service on the B branch between Copley and Babcock Street, on the C branch between Copley and Cleveland Circle, and on the D branch between Copley and Brookline Hills will be suspended all day from start to end of service for 18 days from February 20-March 8.

A page with dedicated information for riders is available at mbta.com/GreenLine.

B Branch: Free and accessible shuttle buses will operate between Babcock Street and Copley stations.

Riders should note that shuttle bus service will not be available at Blandford Street station in both directions and should instead utilize shuttle bus service at the next nearest stop.

Outbound B branch riders will not be charged a fare at Babcock Street (outbound/westbound only).

There will be free fares at Copley Station with the fare gates open.

Riders can also utilize the free Route 57 bus service for alternate travel between Kenmore and Packard's Corner.

C Branch: Free and accessible shuttle buses will

operate between Cleveland Circle and Copley stations.

Riders should note that shuttle bus service will not be available at Saint Mary's Street, Kent Street, or Brandon Hall in both directions and should instead utilize shuttle bus service at the next nearest stop.

There will be free fares at Copley Station with the fare gates open.

D Branch: Free and accessible shuttle buses will operate between Brookline Hills and Copley stations.

Riders are encouraged to consider walking 5-10 minutes from Brookline Hills and Brookline Village to Riverway station on the E branch for Green Line train service.

Outbound D branch riders will not be charged a fare at Brookline Hills (outbound/westbound only).

There will be free fares at Copley Station with the fare gates open.

The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between South Station, Back Bay, and Lansdowne stations during this Green Line service change. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond Lansdowne.

As a result of this service change, riders traveling on Green Line trains between Government Center and Copley are encouraged to plan extra time and should anticipate longer waits.

Riders are strongly encouraged to utilize the Orange Line in the downtown area as a service alternative, especially during morning and evening peak travel periods as there will be fewer Green Line trains in the downtown core. The fare gates at Back Bay will be open to riders, allowing free fares for riders who choose to utilize the Orange Line during this service change.

Riders should also note that this service change overlaps with a planned weekend closure on the Red Line between Harvard and Broadway from February 24-25[CN1] and between Park Street and JFK/UMass on March 2-3. Additional details are

available at mbta.com/RedLine.

As previously announced, this service change is in place as part of the MBTA's Track Improvement Program. To improve safety, reliability, and the customer experience, crews will perform track and tie replacement work; infrastructure upgrades; station amenity upgrades like new lighting, painting, tiling, and power washing; and more.

On the Red Line:

Red Line service will be suspended between Park Street and JFK/UMass stations all day from start to end of service during the weekend of March 2-3.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Park Street and JFK/UMass.

There will be free fares at Park Street and JFK/UMass stations with the fare gates open.

The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between JFK/UMass and South Station during this Red Line service change. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond JFK/UMass.

This service change is in place to allow crews to perform necessary inspections of Red Line tunnel infrastructure. Crews will also maximize the unencumbered access to the work area by performing power and signal work along the Red Line as well as station amenity upgrades like new lighting, painting, tiling, and power washing.

Accessible shuttle bus service will replace Red Line trains between Broadway and Ashmont Stations on the Ashmont Branch and between Broadway and North Quincy Stations on the Braintree Branch all day from start to end of service during the weekend of March 23-24.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Broadway and Ashmont / North Quincy.

There will be free fares at Broadway and North Quincy stations with the fare gates open. Riders boarding Mattapan Line trolleys at Ashmont also do not have to pay a fare.

The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between Braintree, Quincy Center, JFK/UMass, and South Station during this Red Line service change. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond Braintree.

This service change is in place to allow crews to perform necessary work as part of the Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replacement Project. Originally built in 1925 and last rehabilitated in 1975, the bridge will be replaced to protect its structural integrity and ensure reliable service. When complete, this project will result in safer, more reliable Red Line service. [CN2]

Accessible shuttle bus service will replace Red Line trains between Broadway and JFK/UMass Stations on the Ashmont Branch and between Broadway and North

Quincy Stations on the Braintree Branch all day from start to end of service during the weekend of March 30-31.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Broadway and JFK/UMass / North Quincy.

There will be free fares at Broadway, JFK/UMass, and North Quincy stations with the fare gates open.

The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between Braintree, Quincy Center, JFK/UMass, and South Station during this Red Line service change. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond Braintree.

This service change is in place to allow crews to perform necessary work as part of the Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replacement Project. Originally built in 1925 and last rehabilitated in 1975, the bridge will be replaced to protect its structural integrity and ensure reliable service. When complete, this project will result in safer, more reliable Red Line service.

On the Orange Line:

Orange Line service will be suspended between Forest Hills and Ruggles stations all day from start to end of service during the weekend of March 9-10.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Forest Hills and Ruggles.

The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between Forest Hills, Ruggles, Back Bay, and South Station. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond Forest Hills.

This service change is in place for crews to perform critical signal improvement work.

As previously announced, Orange Line service will be suspended between Jackson Square and North Station all day from start to end of service for four days from March 18-21.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between Jackson Square and Back Bay. From Back Bay, riders can travel less than a quarter mile (about a 5-minute walk) to Copley Station on the Green Line for continued service to the downtown area and North Station.

There will be free fares at Jackson Square and Back Bay stations with the fare gates open. There will also be free fares at Copley station inbound/eastbound on the Green Line with the fare gates.

The Commuter Rail will be fare-free between Forest Hills, Ruggles, Back Bay, and South Station. Riders should note that regular fares should be purchased beyond Forest Hills.

This service change is in place as part of the MBTA's Track Improvement Program. Crews will perform track and tie replacement work; infrastructure upgrades; station amenity upgrades like new lighting, painting, tiling, and power washing; and more

On the Kingston, Middleborough, and Greenbush Commuter Rail lines:

The Kingston, Middleborough, and Greenbush Commuter Rail lines, which run adjacent to the Red Line, will also experience service changes due to work on the Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replacement Project. Accessible shuttle bus service will replace all trains between South Station and Braintree during the following times and dates:

Beginning at approximately 8:45 PM through the end of service on Friday, March 22, and continuing all day from start to end of service during the weekend of March 23-24.

Beginning at approximately 8:45 PM through the end of service on Friday, March 29, and continuing all day from start to end of service during the weekend of March 30-31.

Accessible express shuttle bus service will operate directly between South Station and Braintree Station.

Passengers should note that bicycles are not allowed on shuttle buses, and regular Commuter Rail fares will be collected between Kingston, Middleborough, Greenbush, and Braintree Stations.

Keolis Customer Service Agents, MBTA staff, and Transit Ambassadors will be on-site at impacted stations to support riders.

The diversion schedule will be available online at mbta.com/CommuterRail.

On the Framingham/Worcester Commuter Rail Line:

Framingham/Worcester Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between South Station and Framingham stations from start to end of service on March 2.

A dedicated diversion schedule will be in effect and available on mbta.com soon.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will replace service between South Station and Framingham.

Passengers are expected to purchase a regular subway fare and/or Commuter Rail interzone fare.

This service change allows crews to perform Automatic Train Control (ATC) work. ATC is a federally mandated safety system that sends signals to trains about potentially unsafe conditions, automatically slowing and stopping a train if needed.

On the Haverhill Commuter Rail Line:

Accessible shuttle buses are replacing Haverhill Line trains between Ballardvale and North Station during the weekends of March 9-10, March 23-24, and March 30-31. This service change allows crews to perform Automatic Train Control (ATC) work. ATC is a federally mandated safety system that sends signals to trains about potentially unsafe conditions, automatically slowing and stopping a train if needed.

Shuttle buses will replace train service be-

tween Reading and Oak Grove where passengers can connect to Orange Line subway.

A shuttle bus will also provide service between Reading and Anderson/Woburn for connections to the Lowell Line and Haverhill Line.

The shuttle service between Reading and Oak Grove will stop in Wakefield, Greenwood, Melrose Highlands, Melrose Cedar Park, Wyoming Hill, and Oak Grove.

North Wilmington Station will not have shuttle bus service with passengers encouraged to utilize Lowell Commuter Rail Line service at Wilmington Station instead.

Train service for passengers between Ballardvale and Haverhill will be re-routed along the Lowell Line after Ballardvale, making one additional stop at Anderson/Woburn and then running express to North Station. Riders desiring service to or from Reading and Oak Grove should disembark at Anderson/Woburn and board the shuttle bus service.

A dedicated diversion schedule will be in effect and is available on mbta.com.

On the Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail Line:

The entire Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail Line on both branches will be suspended between North Station and Newburyport and North Station and Rockport from start to end of service during the weekend of March 23-24. Service between North Station and Swampscott will also be suspended on the weekends of March 9-10 and March 30-31.

A dedicated diversion schedule will be in effect and available on mbta.com soon.

This service change allows for station improvement work at Beverly Depot station and for crews to perform Positive Train Control (PTC) / Automatic Train Control (ATC) work. PTC/ATC is a federally mandated safety system that sends signals to trains about potentially unsafe conditions, automatically slowing and stopping a train if needed.

The MBTA previously announced service changes in February. More information is available here.

The MBTA understands how these service changes affect riders' daily travels during this period, but we are committed to improving your travels long term with more reliable, timely, and safe service. We thank riders for their patience as we deliver this important work and for continuing to ride our system.

For more information, visit mbta.com or connect with the T on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

QUATIERI TO SERVE AS CHELSEA'S NEW FIRE CHIEF

CHELSEA - John Quatieri is the choice to serve as Chelsea's new fire chief.

Quatieri, who currently serves as deputy chief and has served in the department for 32 years, will take over for current Fire Chief Leonard Albanese.

Earlier this year, Albanese announced his retirement after eight years in the department.

"Upon this announcement, we posted the position and created a hiring committee," said City Manager Fidel Maltez. "The hiring committee was made up of a diverse body of members, all invested in the long term success of our Fire Department. The hiring committee interviewed all applicants and made a unanimous decision to proceed with John Quatieri as our next Fire Chief."

Quatieri's appointment will be effected on March 8, the date of Albanese's retirement.

Maltez said during the process, one thing that was a priority was hiring someone with a deep knowledge of the city and the department, and with 32 years in the department, Quatieri fits the bill.

"Mr. Quatieri has been a deputy chief since 2006, and for the last eight years, has served as deputy chief of operations, responsible for the day-to-day (operations) of the fire department," said Maltez. "Mr. Quatieri has the leadership skills and technical knowledge to lead Chelsea's Fire Department. Most importantly, Mr. Quaitieri is intimately involved in our city, leading various community efforts."

Maltez said he has asked Quatieri to set up meetings with each member of the city council over the next several months to continue the collaborative effort between the fire

chief and the council.

"John knows Chelsea, he was born and raised in Chelsea, and has spent 32 years in the department," said Maltez. "But more importantly, he has been running the show for the past eight years alongside Chief Albanese, and I see no one better prepared to lead the Chelsea Fire Department forward."

COUNCIL VOTES FOR SFRC

EVERETT - The City Council unanimously approved a motion by Ward 3 Councilor Anthony DiPierro at its Feb. 12 meeting to re-establish the School Finance Review Commission (SFRC) as a collaborative effort among three segments of city government.

The 13-member Commission would consist of representatives from Mayor Carlo DeMario's Office, the City Council, and the School Committee.

"This is not a Commission that I have just created, it's something that's been on the books here since 2012," said DiPierro in introducing his motion. "It [SFRC] hadn't met for a while. It was picked up in 2018 and it served its purpose."

DiPierro clarified that it was not his intention to "come from a place of oversight (for the Commission)."

"It's more to come from a place of collaboration," said DiPierro. "I think it only serves us all well if city government, this body in particular, works hand in hand with the School Department. This isn't just about school financing and budgeting. It's tasked with reviewing enrollment, School Department-related expenditures to include overcrowding, and the need for new space. I think this is a great opportunity for us to communicate more regularly in regard to the School Department's needs, rather than only

during budget season."

Councilor-at-Large Katy Rogers asked if it were possible "to expand the Commission to include a school space element, because space is an issue in our schools that is so directly related to finances."

"I think that is a great point," said DiPierro in response to Rogers' suggestion. "However, I'm just looking to revive this [Commission] at this moment. I'm just asking the Mayor to get together with Council President [Robert] Van Campen, School Committee Chair [Jeanne] Cristiano, and at least get the appointees together, and those topics can certainly be brought up at the meetings by whoever is appointed."

Ward 4 Councilor Holly Garcia asked how the membership of the Commission would be constituted.

Van Campen said it was his belief that he, as council president, would appoint the four members of the City Council to the Commission.

"I'm certainly happy to entertain any letters of interest from [Council] members," said Van Campen.

COUNCIL LOOKS TO COSTS AND FUNDING OPTIONS FOR BUILDING HIGH SCHOOL

REVERE - The City Council approved several motions related to the funding and costs associ-

PROSPECT HOUSE RESIDENTS PHOTO DISPLAY OPENING AT CITY HALL



CARY SHUMAN PHOTO

Pictured at the grand opening of the Prospect House's Photovoice exhibition at Revere City Hall are, from left, School Committee Member Anthony Caggiano, John Davidson, Ward 5 Councilor Angela Guarino-Sawaya, Mayor Patrick Keefe, Betty Snell, Anthony Crawford, Sharon Gellis, Kathleen Taussig, Councilor-At-Large Juan Jaramillo, School Committee Member John Kingston, and School Committee Member Aisha Milbury-Ellis.

ated with the building of a new high school on the Wonderland property at its meeting last week.

Ward 5 Councilor Angela Guarino-Sawaya introduced a motion requesting the mayor establish a program in which residents, developers, and corporations can purchase engraved walkway pavers for the purpose of raising funds to be deposited into the Revere High School Stabilization Fund.

The councilor said the idea for the motion was

brought forward by one of her constituents in response to conversations about how to ease the tax burden of the high school building project. Guarino-Sawaya said the program could offer pavers in assorted colors and materials to coincide with a tiered donation level (i.e. red \$100, white \$250, blue \$500, gold \$1,000, glass \$5,000, metal \$10,000).

"I'm very excited about this motion, as I feel it can bring in a couple of million dollars and be inclusive to

all while taking some of the burden off taxpayers," Guarino-Sawaya said.

High school students could also be involved with the design of the pavers to highlight the diversity of the school and the community, she said.

"I'm certain that graduates from Revere High School will come back and be honored to purchase a brick to help build the new school, and all proceeds from the bricks

See REGION Page 8

OBITUARIES

Walda Moschella

She and her late husband helped run the Loganeers Drum and Bugle Corps for many years

Funeral Services were held privately for Walda M. (Sprigg) Moschella who passed away on February 15th at Chestnut Woods Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center where she has been receiving supportive care. She was 85 years of age.

Walda was born Boston, the daughter of Mason and Helen (Lang) Sprigg. She was raised in East Boston and remained a longtime resident. She and her late husband, Edward J. Moschella helped to run the Loganeers Drum and Bugle Corps for many years. Although they never had children of their own, together they helped mold the next generation of young adults by being involved with numerous youth groups throughout the years and helping to coach children and guiding them on the right track to a bright future. Walda enjoyed a career that spanned over 30 years with the Commonwealth



of Massachusetts working in the Highway Division.

She was the beloved wife of the late Edward J. Moschella, cherished sister of Frances H. Sprigg of Revere and the late Joan Kiss, the late Barbara Capone and the late Walter Sprigg. She is also lovingly survived by many nieces and nephews.

To send online condolences, please visit www.vertucciosmithvazza.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals.

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Phyllis Pizzi

Loving daughter, beloved wife, devoted mother

Phyllis F. (Hall) Pizzi of East Boston passed away on February 26

The loving daughter of the late Thomas and Margaret (MacDougall) Hall, she was the beloved wife of the late Benjamin Pizzi, devoted mother of Karen Lynn Rogers and the late Kenneth and Peter Pizzi. She was predeceased by five sisters and one brother and the cherished grandmother of Ian Douglass Rogers and Alexandra Rogers. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Phyllis' life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home on Sunday, March 3 from 2 to 6 p.m. and again on Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church for a 10 a.m. mass. Services will conclude with Phyllis being laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. To leave an online condolence, visit www.ruggieromh.com.



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BHV and Cindy Sullivan Fitness team up to offer annual “Spring into Action” Senior Fitness Week

Special to the Times-Free Press

Spring is almost here, and so is Senior Fitness Week, “Spring Into Action!” Each year, Beacon Hill Village (BHV) and Cindy Sullivan of Cindy Sullivan Fitness partner to offer a full week of Senior Fitness classes from Monday, March 11th – Friday, March 15. This year marks the 7th time this program is being offered to adults aged 50 and over in Boston. This year the full week of programs is being offered free of charge to all participants. Four of the classes will be virtual and one will be offered in person.

Spring is a great time to jump into or strengthen your fitness routine. Exercise is a cornerstone of healthy aging, and fitting physical activity into one’s day can improve life in many ways. Regular exercise can improve strength and balance, boost mood and help manage or lessen the impact of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and osteoporosis.

“Running our Senior Fitness Week program for the seventh year fills me with immense excitement and pride,” said



Some of the members of last year’s “Spring into Action” event.

Cindy Sullivan, Certified In-Home Personal Trainer and Midlife/Senior Fitness Specialist. “It’s not just about the years we’ve been at it, but the countless lives we’ve positively impacted. This program isn’t just about exercise; it’s about fostering community, promoting vitality, and celebrating the incredible resilience of our senior participants!”

Fitness participant Nancy Serventi looks forward to Fitness Week each year. “Believe it or not, BHV Fitness Week is fun! It

gives you a good sense of how you are progressing, and what needs extra attention. The classes are also an opportunity to socialize with friends, which is important as we age,” said Serventi.

This year’s class lineup includes:

Monday, March 11, 9:30 AM – Stretch and Flow (Zoom): This no floor stretch class is designed to increase flexibility and range of movement to improve activities for daily living. There is a combo of dynamic or

flow stretching, with static stretching throughout class. At the end we will add deep breathing and final relaxation exercises to promote stress reduction and relaxation. Suitable for all fitness levels.

Tuesday, March 12, 11 AM – Total Body Workout (Zoom): Join us for our traditional weekly workout for Active Agers. This class combines a little bit of everything including low impact cardio, strength training, balance, and flexibility to target the entire body. Hand weights

(or alternative), a resistance band, and a chair will be needed. 10 minutes of mat work will be included. Can be modified for many levels.

Wednesday, March 13, 11 AM – Balance Training (Zoom): Exercises and tips on the importance of staying strong and preventing falls. Balance is the cooperation between the brain, nervous system, muscles, and bones; and the class will focus on improving that connection. Suitable for all fitness levels.

Thursday, March 14, 11 AM – Strength and Conditioning (Zoom): Learn the most important exercises to stay strong and independent. We will incorporate light hand weights (or alternatives such as canned goods), resistance bands (or towels), and body weight exercises into this fun class! Help to improve overall strength and balance and increase bone density. Can be modified for many levels.

Friday, March 15, 11 AM – Functional Fitness: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Inspired Workout (In Person at Suffolk University): Created as a tribute to the late, great RBG, sample some of the exercises she did with her trainer on a

weekly basis. The workout will improve your “activities of daily living” and includes functional exercises that support four fitness goals for seniors: endurance, strength, balance, and flexibility. Bring a mat or towel. Can be modified for many levels.

For this special week only, the class fee will be waived for all participants. Advance registration is required for all classes.

To register for one or any number of “Spring into Action” classes and discover new and fun ways to incorporate physical activity into your day, call the BHV office at 617-723-9713 or visit the website at www.beaconhillvillage.org. For questions on class descriptions or more event details email cindsullivanfitness@gmail.com. Don’t delay, classes are filling up fast.

Beacon Hill Village has been redefining aging in downtown Boston for two decades. We are a member-driven organization for Boston residents 50 and over which provides programs and services so that members can lead vibrant, active and healthy lives, while living in their own homes and neighborhoods.

Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

shall be put into the high school stabilization fund,” she said.

Guarino-Sawaya also introduced a motion asking that all revenue generated from the parking lot leases at Wonderland also go into the high school stabilization trust fund.

“This would help alleviate the burden on taxpayers by leveraging alternate revenue streams,” she said. “The community can fund essential projects without resorting to increased taxes and promote financial stability and equitable distribution of financial resources.”

The council also approved a motion introduced by Ward 1 Councilor Joanne McKenna and Council President Anthony Cogliandro related to the environmental testing of the Wonderland site. The motion requests the mayor hire an independent environmental assessment company for the purpose of conducting a full and complete environmental assessment and thorough geotechnical testing of the proposed high school site at Wonderland to ensure that there are no hidden site development costs associated with the existence of soil conditions, hazardous materials, wetlands, and other environmentally sensitive considerations.

Cogliandro stated that the motion would essentially allow a third-party consultant to conclude the

ANRAD (Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation) wetlands testing that was halted at the Wonderland site.

“My concern is that we need to restart that process so we know where we can and cannot build on that property,” said Cogliandro. “I ask that we get on top of the conservation on this property so we can really start getting into the finances, which is the number one concern for some of us up here.”

COUNCIL CONTINUES DISCUSSION OF MBTA 3A ZONING

WINTHROP - The state’s Section 3A zoning requirements continue to be a hot topic of discussion at Town Council.

By the end of the year, the town will be expected to present an approved multi-family zoning district to the state as an adjacent MBTA community under Section 3A of the state’s Zoning Act.

The purpose of Section 3A is to encourage the production of multi-family housing by requiring MBTA communities to adopt zoning districts where multi-family housing is allowed as of right, and that meet other requirements set forth in the statute.

Tuesday night, town Planning and Community

Development Director Rachel Kelly addressed some of the questions raised by councilors about the 3A zoning over the past several weeks.

Councilors and residents who spoke on Tuesday night continued to state that the zoning change, which calls for zones with the potential of building at least 882 multi-family housing units, puts an unfair burden on a town which has a small area and is already densely populated.

Several councilors also spoke out against the pressure the state is putting on Winthrop and other communities in the state to change their zoning against their will.

Council President Jim Letterie said he was ready to vote against approving any Section 3A zoning changes for the town.

“I’ll state again, I’m a no, I’m a no at 800 units, I’m a no at one unit,” said Letterie. “Not because of the number of units, but because we are being told what to do with our town.”

Letterie noted that there is already substantial growth in Winthrop without the MBTA zoning in place.

“We are going to make this number, not because they tell us to, but that is what we are doing,” he said. “That’s the way the CBD (Central Business District), that’s creating x amount of units. We just

shouldn’t be told, I think it is unconstitutional and I am a no.”

Precinct 2 Councilor John Munson said the town has to look at the best way to fight back and address the pressure being put on the town by the state.

“There is no way we would be able to afford a new school and all the public safety we would need if we were forced to comply, there’s just no way,” said Munson. “We are at 105 percent capacity now, we would have to build a new school. Where is that \$85 million going to come from?”

“It doesn’t make sense to be forced into this.”

Several councilors said the town needs more information about the penalties it faces if it does not comply with the zoning. Councilor-at-Large Max Tassinari said the council should meet in executive session with the town attorney to discuss its legal options.

Town Manager Tony Marino said it will be difficult for the town to comply with the 3A guidelines, which is one reason why the town drafted a letter to

Governor Maura Healey asking for relief from the guidelines.

“If you’re going to comply, you need to be at a minimum (classified) as an adjacent small town, or you are going to push back and go the other route,” said Marino. “But that is really the only way it is going to work is if we all push back. Town managers, when I was in my prior town three years ago when this first came out, we all wrote letters and pushed back.

“This one size fits all doesn’t work.”

Kelly addressed some of the questions about the timeline for the zoning changes, as well as the potential penalties the town faces if it doesn’t comply with the state.

According to information provided by Kelly, MBTA communities which do not comply with Section 3A would not be eligible for funds from the state’s Housing Choice Initiative, the Local Capital Projects Fund, and the Massworks Infrastructure Program. In addition, the communities would risk liability under state and federal fair housing laws.

Also, compliance with the law may be taken into consideration when applying for a number of planning and land use grants through the state.

Kelly noted that there is currently not a way to apply for a variance from the state, and that communities that fail to comply with the multi-family housing districts are subject to civil enforcement action.

Councilors also raised questions about whether the town needs to use the zoning districts drawn up in a previously completed study. Kelly stated that work done in 2023 was a small-scale grant used to collect baseline data and create a starting point for Winthrop’s 3A efforts, and that the zones were not set in stone.

In her presentation, Kelly stated that existing multi-family units in the town would not count towards compliance in any of the proposed districts. She stated that the town must have zoning that allows the required units to exist within the chosen 3A districts, regardless of how many units exist there currently.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
119 Addison East Boston L	119-121 Addison St Rt	119 Addison St	\$4,550,000
119 Addison East Boston L	119-121 Addison St Rt	121 Addison St	\$4,550,000
Kuchibhotla, Vindhya	173 Maverick St LLC	173 Maverick St #302	\$670,000
Osho, Asishana	173 Maverick St LLC	173 Maverick St #204	\$390,000
Bouhajib, Yassir	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #210	\$221,900
Faherty, Kevin P	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #305	\$699,000
N Munir Rt	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #405	\$715,000
Qiu, Wanli	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #201	\$186,400
Su, Yigang	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #309	\$221,900
Tabbah, Michael	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #611	\$810,000
Toprani, Sumeet	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #301	\$510,000
2 White St Pl LLC	Faweett Jr John J Est	42 White St	\$430,000
Masterson, Danielle	Au Rt	67 Frankfort St #101	\$460,000

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. C. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU24P0405GD Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 In the matter of: Rolando Arbaiza	Of: Boston, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Rolando Arbaiza is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Jose Arbaiza of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that	the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 03/26/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the	petition. If you fail the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs	or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 23, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett Register of Probate 02/28/24 EB
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LOCAL STUDENT EARNS ACADEMIC HONORS

SNHU ANNOUNCES FALL 2023 PRESIDENT’S LIST

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following East Boston student on being named to the Fall 2023 President’s List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Sara Haidar of East

Boston Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 91-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 225,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable path-

ways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

CASAVANT DEAN’S LIST AT NEBRASKA

Jonathan Casavant of East Boston has been named to the Deans’ List at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the fall semester of the 2023-24 academic year.

Casavant, a graduate student working toward a Master of Business Administration, was named to the Dean’s List for the College of Business.

More than 6,800 students at Nebraska were named to the Deans’ List for the fall semester.

Qualification for the Deans’ List varies among the eight undergraduate

colleges and the Explore Center. Listed below are the minimum requirements for each entity and the name of its respective dean or director. All qualifying grade-point averages are based on a four-point scale and a minimum number of graded semester hours. Students can be on the Deans’ List for more than one college.

- College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, 3.75; Dean

- Tiffany Heng-Moss.
- College of Architecture, 3.75; Dean Kevin G. Van Den Wymelenberg.
- College of Arts and Sciences, 3.7; Dean Mark E. Button.
- College of Business, 3.6; Dean Kathy Farrell.
- College of Education and Human Sciences, 3.75; Acting Dean Nicholas J. Pace.
- College of Engineering, 3.5; Dean Lance C. Perez.

- College of Journalism and Mass Communications, 3.7; Dean Shari Veil.
- Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, 3.7; Dean Andy Belser.
- Explore Center for undeclared, pre-engineering, pre-health and pre-law students, 3.6; Senior Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Undergraduate Education Amy Goodburn.

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Historic first Annual Summit for Black Elected Officials in honor of Black History Month

Special to the Times-Free Press

The First Annual Summit of State Elected Officials, celebrating Black History Month, commenced on February 16, marking a significant milestone in establishing a new tradition. This inaugural summit, hosted at the Massachusetts State House, gathered Black state elected officials from across New England. It provided a distinctive platform for dialogue, collaboration, and legislative innovation focused on addressing the pressing issues facing the Black community in New England today.

The summit’s agenda covered critical areas such as education, public health, criminal justice reform, housing, and economic development. Participants engaged in comprehensive discussions, sharing insights and strategies from their varied experiences and legislative backgrounds. The collaborative atmosphere facilitated an analysis of existing policies, acknowledgment of successes, identification of areas for improvement, and the development of new legislative paths.

State Senator Lydia Edwards highlighted, “This summit represents more than a gathering; it is a bold step towards unity, empowerment, and progress for the Black community. By uniting, we have established a tradition that not only honors our history but also paves the way for our future. It’s about learning from one another, celebrating our achieve-



The gathered Black state elected officials from across New England at the Massachusetts State House for the first Annual Summit for Black Elected Officials

ments, and addressing challenges together.”

The event also stood as a beacon of hope and a model for similar initiatives nationwide, showcasing the impact of collective action by state elected officials for the betterment of the communities they represent. “This is just the beginning,” added State Senator Edwards. “We anticipate this annual summit will grow, evolve,

and continue to inspire significant change across New England and the nation.”

In addition to legislative discussions, the summit featured keynote speeches from prominent leaders in the Black community, including Maine Speaker of the House Rachel Talbot Ross, workshops, and panel discussions aimed at fostering innovation and actionable solutions. Speaker Talbot Ross stated, “The New England Summit of State Elected Officials in Honor of Black History was more than a gathering; it was a powerful demonstration of the strength, resilience, and collective wisdom within our community. By coming together, we amplify our voices, cele-

brate our achievements, and chart a course for a future where Black history is actively shaped by those dedicated to servant leadership. I am grateful to Senator Edwards for organizing this event and look forward to the work ahead.”

Tanisha M. Sullivan, President of the NAACP New England Area, remarked, “This historic convening allowed state elected officials from across New England to collaborate and learn about policy priorities in their states. We thank Senator Edwards for initiating this event and look forward to ongoing collaboration among policymakers and community leaders to strengthen communities and families across New England.”

The participation of notable Massachusetts leaders, including Mayor Michelle Wu, Governor Maura Healey, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, NAACP President Tanisha Sullivan, Meet Boston President Martha Sheridan, State Representative Bud Williams, and Museum of African American History President Dr. Noelle Trent, enriched this year’s summit. Their presence and contributions added valuable perspectives, emphasizing the importance of state and local collaboration in advancing the interests of the Black community.

Governor Maura Healey remarked, “Our administration is committed to building a legacy centered on equity, always applying an equity lens to our work to increase access to education, housing, economic opportunity, and healthcare. This spirit is embodied in Senator Edwards and our legislators of color’s daily work. I thank Senator Edwards for organizing this summit, creating an opportunity to elevate Black leaders across New England, and celebrate Black history and social justice. I look forward to our continued collaboration to make Massachusetts a more equitable home for all and am excited about next year’s event.”

“Black history is American history, not only in February but throughout

the year. However, opportunities like this allow us to celebrate and acknowledge the incredible contributions of the Black community in Massachusetts,” stated Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “I am thankful to Senator Edwards for creating a space where leaders across New England can unite and support our Black communities, shaping history for years to come.”

Representative Bud Williams, Chair of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, expressed, “It is often said that it takes a vilage and that the squeaky wheel gets the oil. I firmly believe that through the collaboration of our elected officials, who address the diverse needs of constituents, agencies, and advocates, we will advance. We hear you, see you, and want you to know that your fight is our fight. Speaking for my colleagues at the State House, we pledge to do all within our power to continue this work. Change is coming—actually, it is already underway.”

“I have devoted many years to serving my community in the 11th Hampden District, both on civic and state levels. As the current House Chair of the Joint Committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights, and Inclusion, Chair of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, and a member of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Black Empowerment, I can unequivocally state that the New England 1st Annual Summit of State Elected Officials was a transformative event. Massachusetts has proven itself a leader on many fronts, and this summit adds to our achievements, demonstrating our commitment to racial equity, civil rights, and inclusion for all,” said Representative Williams.

Martha Sheridan, CEO of Meet Boston, remarked, “Attending and addressing the First Annual New England Summit of State Elected Officials was an immense honor. The summit sparked essential conversations on topics affecting our region and the nation. These discussions align with Meet Bos-

ton’s goals, especially in building equity within the visitor economy as part of a broader effort toward community economic development.”

“We were truly honored to be part of the First Annual Summit for Black Elected Officials as part of Black History Month,” said Dr. Noelle Trent, President & CEO, Museum of African American History Boston/Nantucket. “We all stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. I firmly believe that having elected Black elected officials of every age and background from across New England stand where Frederick Douglass, Lewis Hayden and other giants who fought for civil rights and social justice once stood will inspire the next generation of political leaders.”

A special thank you is extended to the fiscal sponsors: Massachusetts Building Trades Council, 1199 SEIU Union Healthcare Workers East, Local 103 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, The New Commonwealth Racial Equity and Social Justice Fund, Massachusetts & Northern New England Laborers’ District Council, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, United Auto Workers, and Meet Boston for making this event possible. Additionally, appreciation is conveyed to Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka for their support of the event. Lastly, gratitude is expressed to Pan de Bono, Blue Mountain Jamaican Restaurant, Sol y Sal Boston, and Neighborhood Kitchen for providing exceptional catering services.

As the first event of its kind, the summit not only commemorated Black History Month but also reaffirmed the commitment of public servants to uplift and advance the interests of their communities. State Senator Edwards and all participants extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this historic summit and look forward to the enduring impact it will have on the communities they serve

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