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COURTESY PHOTO

With temperatures hitting a balmy 50 degrees outside, hundreds of splashers cooled off in the 39 degree water of Boston Harbor to raise money for free children and family programs all summer long.

THE JETBLUE SHAMROCK SPLASH ON CONSTITUTION BEACH

Special to the Times-Free Press

On Sunday, March 10th the clouds parted and the sun shone brightly on over 200 Splashers, Dashers and Spectators at the 14th Annual JetBlue Shamrock

Splash on East Boston's Constitution Beach. All together, the event raised \$55,000 to support Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches Program partnership with the Department of Conservation

& Recreation, including at least \$5,405 for South Boston events and programs.

"On behalf of my colleagues at the State including our MBC Co-Chairs Senator Brendan Crighton

and Rep. Adrian Madaro, I want to thank all of the splashers and fundraisers for your effort to support our beaches and community," said Rep. Jessica

See SPLASH Page 8

EBNHC looking ahead with excitement and optimism

By Cary Shuman

After a major announcement last week that East Boston Neighborhood Health Center will rebrand its health system as NeighborHealth, President and CEO Greg Wilmot said he is looking ahead with excitement and optimism about the future.

EBNHC currently operates nearly a dozen clinical sites throughout Greater

Boston, including East Boston, Winthrop, Everett, Revere, and the South End. It serves approximately 120,000 people and has about 2,000 employees. EBNHC operates the fourth-busiest emergency department in the City of Boston, with more than 45,000 visits in 2023. "It's a very busy place," said Wilmot.

Rebrand to NeighborHealth begins in June.

"I think the rebrand does a few things," said Wilmot. "It unifies our organization which has really grown to a multi-site, multi-community organization and it allows us to reflect that to our patients during their care journey with us," said Wilmot. "It also works well for our staff, who may serve patients at one location or another, but we really wanted to make sure that

everyone felt part of the same organization with the same values across our organization."

Wilmot added that when EBNHC joined forces with the South End Community Health Center in 2020, "it was important for us to have a unified brand to avoid confusion, but also to make sure everyone felt connected to the same institution."

See EBNHC Page 3

Fiery Debate

112 Marginal presentation leads to heated discussion at JPNA meeting

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

For the third time, representatives for a proposed project at 112 Marginal Street presented their plans during Monday's Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association (JPNA) meeting — plans that have frustrated abutters.

Attorney Jeff Drago, who owns the property along with Tom Falcucci, presented the proposal. It involves changing the occupancy of the existing building from a one-family to a three-family, building a rear addition, and building a roof deck.

"The building to the right of us, to the left of us, to the left beyond that are all three-unit buildings... there's a number of four-story multi-family residential as well," said Drago.

"We felt this was a very reasonable proposal — eventually to turn these into condominium units over time," he added.

As Drago progressed through his presentation, he reviewed changes made to initial proposals for the building based on

feedback from the JPNA and other neighbors.

These modifications included removing a proposed fourth-floor addition, reducing the unit count from four to three, and reconfiguring rear window layouts to address abutters' concerns about privacy.

Drago then continued to outline the context of the current site by showing images and highlighting four-story buildings in the area.

Additionally, he reviewed the projected zoning relief needed for the project. While new zoning developed through PLAN: East Boston awaits approval from the Boston Zoning Commission, Drago indicated they would have to work under the current zoning parameters.

"This was filed while we still had the existing zoning code so we would be grandfathered in," said Drago.

However, he did mention, "Although all of the BPDA (Boston Planning

See DEBATE Page 9

HVNA reviews two new projects

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

During its monthly meeting last week, the Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA) listened to presentations regarding two new projects in the area: one on Homer Street and the other on Addison Street.

The first proposed project up for discussion was at 66 Homer Street and was presented by Attorney Richard Lynds.

As part of the proposal, the existing one-family home on the site would be demolished, and a three-story, five-unit building with five parking spaces would be built in its place.

Additionally, Lynds explained that there would be a mix of four three-bedroom units along with one two-bedroom unit and that they are intended for homeownership.

Later in his presentation, Lynds went through the zoning information for the property. Under the

current zoning, the lot is in the 2F-2,000 subdistrict, whereas under new zoning developed through PLAN: East Boston, the lot is in the East Boston Residential (EBR)-3 subdistrict.

"At this time, we're sort of in a gray area because the Boston Zoning Commission has to finalize that zoning. Until that happens, we operate under the old zoning until the new zoning is actually fully adopted," said Lynds.

"So when we do the analysis, we sort of have to look at the old as well as the new zoning to determine which one may apply ultimately," he added.

Lynds also explained that the lot could be subdivided under the current zoning, and two two-family homes could be built. Further, he explained that the lots could be subdivided under new zoning, and two three-family dwellings could be built without parking.

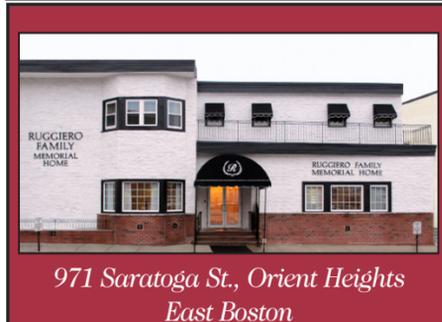
See HVNA Page 8

CONGRATULATIONS ON A SUCCESSFUL SEASON



PATRICK O'CONNOR PHOTO

The East Boston Times-Free Press extends congratulations to the East Boston High School Boys Basketball team for a successful season that ends with a record of 16-7. After starting 0-4, the Jets went on a 14-game win streak, lost to Everett and then beat Gloucester and then qualified for the city league championship losing in the playoff round to Burke. In the Division 3 state tournament round, the Jets beat Hanover and then lost a close game to Norwell by three points, 49-46.



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THE VERDICT IS IN: WE ARE EATING OURSELVES TO DEATH

Most Americans by now are aware that we are among the most overweight people on earth: 40 percent of us are obese and another 32 percent are overweight, which means that a total of 72 percent of Americans -- that's almost 3 of every 4 among us -- have an unhealthy body weight.

That's bad enough, but scientists say that if current trends continue, by 2030 that number will increase to 80%, so in a few more years, about 4 out of 5 Americans will range from overweight to obese.

Although the new weight loss drugs -- which originally were formulated to combat diabetes (Ozempic/Wegovy by Novo Nordisk and Mounjaro/Zepbound by Eli Lilly) and then were shown to have the "side effect" of bringing about substantial weight-loss in those who take the drugs -- hold the promise of solving our national excess weight problem, a host of hurdles stands in the way of helping every American who might benefit from them.

The high cost of those drugs (which presently are not covered by health insurance companies for weight loss), the potential for side-effects (they clearly are not for everyone), and the fact that they have to be taken for life, may leave many Americans who struggle with their weight on their own without the benefit of these medications.

But there may be another solution. A recent study has concluded that the true culprit for our obesity epidemic may lie in the kind of food we eat -- the so-called ultra-processed foods.

It is estimated that 70% of the food supply in the U.S. consists of ultra-processed foods. Two-thirds of the calories children consume in the US are ultra-processed, while about 60% of adult diets come from ultra-processed foods.

What constitutes an ultra-processed food is not always easy to figure out. There's a wide range of food items between fresh fruits and vegetables (which are not processed at all) and, say, Twinkies, which perhaps are emblematic of the ultimate ultra-processed "food." On the other hand, a shorthand way to think about ultra-processed foods is whether they are found in nature: Twinkies don't grow on trees.

According to the authors of a recent meta-analysis (they examined 45 studies involving almost 10 million human subjects), eating high intakes of ultra-processed foods substantially raises the risk of developing dozens of diseases and health conditions that are related to excess weight, with diabetes, heart disease, and cancer being chief among them.

That's because what goes into an ultra-processed food product is not real "food" at all. If you look at the ingredients on the label of a typical packaged-food product, they consist of chemically-manipulated ingredients such as modified starches, sugars, oils, fats, and protein isolates, with little if any whole food added,

But it is not just our physical health that is at risk from diets high in ultra-processed foods. Many of these fake foods, which are loaded with sugar, sodium, and are low in fiber and high in fat, also are thought to have negative effects upon our mental health, including anxiety, sleep disorders, and depression.

Moreover, given the addictive nature of these foods (the sugar rush to the brain and the lack of fiber that leaves you never feeling full), they create a feedback loop (no pun intended), so that the more we eat of these products, the more we want to eat.

Convenience is the driving force behind the ever-increasing use of ultra-processed foods by Americans. Frozen pizzas and dinners are a quick-and-easy meal solution for harried parents. Fast-food restaurants, with their triple-bacon cheeseburgers, chicken nuggets, fries, and super-size soft drinks, are everywhere.

By contrast, it should be noted that local restaurants typically do NOT serve the ultra-processed foods of the fast-food chains and that frozen meals prepared in-house in local grocery stores do not rely heavily on ultra-processed products.

For example, the list of ingredients for french fries at one famous national restaurant chain is this: Potatoes, Vegetable Oil (canola Oil, Corn Oil, Soybean Oil, Hydrogenated Soybean Oil, Natural Beef Flavor [wheat And Milk Derivatives]*), Dextrose, Sodium Acid Pyrophosphate (maintain Color), Salt. *natural Beef Flavor Contains Hydrolyzed Wheat And Hydrolyzed Milk As Starting Ingredients.

(Yuk! After reading that list of ingredients, who would want to put that in their body?)

On the other hand, if you order a baked potato with your dinner at a local restaurant, you get the whole potato and nothing but the potato.

We realize that eating fewer ultra-processed foods is easier said than done. On the other hand, some of the solutions to avoiding ultra-processed foods are quite straightforward: Buy real food and cook it at home; read and compare product labels and try to choose less processed alternatives (for example, swap flavored-yogurt for plain yogurt with added fruit); add fresh, frozen, or canned fruits, vegetables, beans, and legumes to your diet; avoid sugar-sweetened beverages that have no nutritional value and instead drink water; and, when eating out, go to local restaurants instead of fast-food chains.

If we can significantly reduce ultra-processed foods from our diets, we can go a long way to solving the national epidemic of obesity that literally is killing us.



Forum

East Boston Museum and Historical Society to celebrate Memorial Day with a 'Salute to East Boston Military Veterans'

The East Boston Museum and Historical Society (EBMHS) will mark Memorial Day 2024 with a "Salute to East Boston Military Veterans." The Society requests that East Boston veterans and their military families join the celebration by providing a photo from their military service for public display. Each veteran's photo, and a brief summary of their military career, will be on display for the public on Saturday, May 11, from 2-4 p.m. at the East Boston Public Library on Bremen Street.

"East Boston and its residents have a long, proud history of military service that stretches back

more than 100 years, as our men and women answered the call of duty to serve and protect America," said EBMHS President Debra Cave. "The Museum and Historical Society is here to preserve the history of our community, and we are proud to celebrate Memorial Day with our first-ever photo display that will 'Salute' our local veterans. I invite the community to join us that day."

To participate in the Salute to East Boston Military Veterans, the EBMHS is asking veterans of East Boston -- or natives of East Boston -- or their military families to provide a photo of their veteran in

uniform, as well as a summary of their military service (200 words or less) to the Society. Each summary should include the veteran's name and East Boston address or former address, branch of the military, brief service record and dates of service, and any honors or medals awarded. Each photo and write-up will then be displayed for public viewing on May 11.

Photos and service summaries can be dropped off to an EBMHS member during office hours at the East Boston Public Library, located at 365 Bremen Street, East Boston, during the following days and times:

- Thursday, March 14, 2024 -- 2-4 p.m.;
- Thursday, March 21, 2024 -- 5-7 p.m.; and
- Saturday, March 23, 2024 -- 12 noon-2 p.m.

Following the Salute event, the original photo can be returned to the veteran or military family, or it can be donated to the Society to be included in its East Boston military archives section.

Light refreshments will be served during the Salute.

For more information on the East Boston Museum and Historical Society, please visit the Society's website at www.eastbostonmuseum.org.

EV charging station update provided at GSCA meeting

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

As part of a City of Boston demonstration program, new electrical vehicle (EV) charging ports are slated to come to different areas throughout the city -- including East Boston -- and the Gove Street Citizens Association (GSCA) learned about the projected whereabouts of these ports during its monthly meeting last week.

Matthew Warfield of the Boston Transportation Department presented the abovementioned demonstration program to the GSCA that would bring 120 curbside EV charging ports to 30 citywide locations.

Of the 30 total locations slated to receive these charging ports, three are in East Boston. While Warfield indicated that the city has been installing charging stations at municipal lots, he said, "East Boston is lacking in public access [to] EV charging."

Moreover, he indicated that this past summer, two requests for proposals (RFP) were released to gather more information regarding "getting private operators to operate EV charging stations from the public right-of-way" and "what it would cost the city to own and operate charging stations at these locations," which led to this program.

As for why the city has decided to pursue this, Warfield laid out several reasons, including the growing demand for EV charging, a city goal of all households without a private parking space be-

ing within a five-minute walk of a publicly accessible charging station, and more.

Regarding where these ports will be installed in East Boston, there are plans for four level II charging ports in each location, which are at the front of the building at 150 Orleans Street, across from 62-74 Prescott Street, and at 1 Prescott Street.

"We chose these locations based on a pretty significant analysis that used a number of metrics. Everything from how wide is the sidewalk, does this physically fit here, to is this ADA accessible, are there trees nearby, is there utility things, have we received request, demand," said Warfield.

Regarding the stations themselves, the plan is to install Flo CoRe+ Max single or dual port stations, which charge at 19.2 kW per hour, "which is the highest charge you can have for a level II station," according to Warfield.

Additionally, new regulations would be associated with the installation of these ports. The charging stations will be available 24/7, except for street cleaning or a snow emergency, and parking at these stations will be restricted.

"They'll be regulated as no parking except for electric vehicles while charging, and there will be a four-hour limit in place," said Warfield.

"We're going to have that four-hour limit in place around the clock, just understanding that people have different schedules. Some folks

might work during the day, or some folks might work at night, you know, get back at different hours, so this isn't really about allowing folks to park their car overnight and charge; it's really about maximizing the number of people that can access these stations," he added.

Moreover, non-EVs, EVs not charging, or those that have been there longer than four hours can be ticketed.

In terms of cost, a to-be-determined charge between \$0.25 and \$0.35 per kWh will be assessed. "This isn't necessarily making us money; it's offsetting the cost a little bit," said Warfield. Also, an overtime fee will be implemented to ensure residents move their cars after charging is complete.

Following his presentation, Warfield took several questions from those in attendance. One attendee had a concern about the 150 Orleans Street port locations, and Warfield pulled up a street view of the area and demonstrated that the ports would be out in front of the building.

Enforcement was also

discussed, and Warfield spoke thoroughly about working with traffic enforcement. "If we can get them to be more present for these spaces, then they'll also be present for other violations," he said.

Finally, Warfield provided more information on a timeline for installation and indicated that the plan is to have all 30 locations "installed and operational" by the end of August.

To learn more about the city's plans for EVs and more, visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/recharge-boston-electric-vehicle-resources>.

"We do have on our website, at recharge Boston, we have a link where you can go and request or suggest a location for charges because we do -- if this works out well -- we plan on continuing to install in other areas," said Warfield.

"So it's a great way for us to get feedback from folks of where they think, particularly curbside charging would work well."

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EBNHC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Becoming a national model and an award-winning health center

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center is the largest community-based primary care health system and community health center in Massachusetts and one of the largest in the United States.

“We find ourselves connecting with communities across the nation to talk about the work that we’ve done for many years,” said Wilmot.

One of the health center’s most recent achievements was being honored by the U.S. Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) as one of the top-performing Federal Qualified Health Center in the nation, with specific recognition for its work in maternal and child health, where it received a gold badge for quality – earning EBNHC status in the top one percent of community health centers in that category. EBHNC also received a gold badge for its HIV treatment and care.

“Some of the ways we were able to achieve those national awards is based on the innovative model of care that we have here,” noted Wilmot. “I am proud of our continued accomplishments. What is true is that our health center is 55 years old. We’re born out of an acknowledge-

ment and recognition of community-based access, and I’ve been privileged to continue to serve that mission. It is a mission that has been served by many. I’m the third CEO of this organization, but I feel like I’ve been handed the baton and just continuing to run a race that was started many, many years ago.”

Expanding life expectancies

On average today, people in the United States are living a lot longer.

“What’s really important is that people not just live longer, but that they live high quality lives as well,” said Wilmot. “We believe that families, especially our aging population, should have the opportunity to age in the community, which is important to improving quality of life, but also improving health outcomes ultimately. So, programs like PACE (Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) are one of the ways that we support seniors.”

Addition of behavioral health services at EBNHC

Last October, EBNHC introduced behavioral health urgent care services at its site at 10 Gove St. in East Boston where it shares a location with its emergency department.

“Those services are meant to allow patients who are having an urgent behavioral health issue to receive their care in an appropriate setting,” said Wilmot. “Often times, patients might go to an emergency department for that care, which isn’t a great place for behavioral health care services. So, we created this very unique access point to make sure that our patients could receive their care in a high-quality environment and receive treatment from behavioral health providers that are trained in emergency and urgent behavioral health care services. And then we connect those patients back to treatment in primary care.”

Active in their communities

Greg Wilmot, who stands a towering 6 feet, 6 inches, has become a highly visible and charismatic presence in the Greater Boston community. He is active in many organizations and causes and attends numerous events.

“I’m active in the community as are many members of our staff,” said Wilmot. “What’s really interesting about our organization is that 50 percent of our employees are residents of the communities we serve. Our new name, NeighborHealth, was a little bit of a nod to that, because we are, in fact, serv-



EBNHC President and CEO Greg Wilmot is pictured with Revere PACE Center Manager Marcy Nicholson during a visit to the center Monday.

ing our neighbors. We live in the communities that we serve. It’s important that we maintain that deep connection to our communities.”

Future growth and expansion

EBHNC has become widely known for its excellence and being a national model in the health-care industry. Many cities and towns in Massachusetts would welcome a health center as comprehensive and well estab-

lished as the one founded in East Boston a half-century ago. For example, EBHNC opened a center for senior care in the City of Everett in 2023.

Wilmot said that EBHNC will “continue to grow to meet the needs of our communities.”

“If that means new services, new locations, we are here to serve, and based on our history, that has been something we have done, and I think it’s something we will continue to do,” said Wilmot. “I

think our name change allows us to do that flexibly and engage with our new communities in an inclusive way.”

Asked about EBHNC’s record of success and accomplishments, Wilmot credited his staff. “We have 2,000 amazing staff members,” said Wilmot. “We have a great team of professionals that have a deep commitment to what we do, and that’s the thread that connects every person in this organization.”

WIND DAMAGE AT SHAW’S



MARGARET FARMER PHOTOS

At 4:40 p.m. last Monday, a light post fell at the Shaw’s in East Boston. One car had minimal damage, no injuries reported.



FBIM annual meeting set for March 24

The Friends of Belle Isle Marsh (FBIM) will be holding their Annual Meeting on March 24 from 2-4PM. The event is free and open to the public, and will be held at St. John’s Episcopal Church Hall, 222 Bowdoin Street, Winthrop.

Keynote Speaker will be Conor Ofsthun. Conor Ofsthun serves as a coastal scientist for Woods Hole Group, working on a variety of projects ranging from local redevelopment projects to regional planning studies. He prepares studies on the topics of coastal hazards (erosion, flooding) evaluation, sea level rise planning and adaptation, shoreline and sediment management, living shorelines, beach nourishment, wetland res-

toration, inlet and harbor dredging, and environmental conditions assessments. He specializes in coastal processes assessment and adapting our shorelines to present and future conditions for the mutual benefit of the environment and society.

There will also be:

- Keynote Speech and Updates from Board
- Election of Officers
- Refreshments

If you are a member in good standing and are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, or would like to nominate a member in good standing, please send an email with the subject “nomination” to contact@friendsofbelleislemarsh.com.



Conor Ofsthun holds a bachelor’s degree in geological sciences and environmental studies from Tufts University, and a master’s degree in coastal processes and physical oceanography from the University of South Carolina. He has lived and worked on the Atlantic coast, Gulf coast, and Pacific coast, and aims to take a holistic approach to problems and an innovative approach to solutions.

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BELLE ISLE ROTARY CLUB HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL GALA AT EAST BOSTON YACHT CLUB

It was the first, but it was a success, the Belle Isle Rotary's Gala for its members. President Stephen Miliotos welcomed everyone to the East Boston Yacht Club, the facility has a beautiful view overlooking Boston Harbor, and welcomed the rotary club that includes members from East Boston,

Winthrop, and Revere. The evening started with a delicious buffet from Anthony's Italian Specialties from Stoneham and followed by a very tasty dessert table with coffee. Following the meal, the dance floor was opened for all to enjoy the rest of the evening.



The DeCicco, Puopolo, Mulry, and the McGowan families and friends enjoyed themselves at the Belle Isle Rotary Gala last Saturday evening at the EBVC.



Barbara Tscoyeanes was the big winner of the bucket of scratch tickets, shown with President Stephen Miliotos.



The hosts from the East Boston Yacht Club, Matthew Gleason, Jay DeAmaral, and Rebecca Moran.



Belle Isle Rotarians, Sterling Sobey, President Stephen and Amy Miliotos, Peter Scolaro, Felicia Puopolo, Vera Carducci, President-Elect Joe Stefano and Mike Triant.

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Sports

MAVERICKS ARE EBYBL MARTY PINO DIVISION CHAMPIONS

The EBYBL concluded its 2024 season Saturday at Paris St. Community Center with the Mavericks coached by Xavier Ortiz defeating the White team coached by Bill "Pa" Gore and Julie Trouville in an exciting overtime game. Special thanks to Xavier and Christian Lopez league directors for an outstanding job. Also, thanks to Patrick Santos who did a great job officiating. Finally, the coaches worked very hard this year to ensure that players had a great experience. The coaches were Ayman and Yasim Amghar, Joe Torguson, Julie Trouville, Nabil

Hamouti, Christian Lopez, Xavier Ortiz, and Bill Gore. This year Michael Pineda won the Marty Pino sportsmanship Award. Michael is a fine young man who attends Excel Academy and was unanimously chosen by the coaches! The award was presented by Marty's wife Coleen. Marty was a long time community leader and youth worker who had a tremendous impact on countless youths in East Boston. As a coach he stressed sportsmanship and Michael exhibited many of those qualities. Congratulations Michael!



The champion Mavericks with coach Xavier Ortiz.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Coleen Pino, Christian Lopez, and Xavier Ortiz presenting the Marty Pino Award to Michael Pineda, who is accompanied by his family.



The champion Mavericks and runner up Skittles with coaches Bill Gore and Julie Trouville.

Harvard Travellers Club to host record-breaking transatlantic oarsman Bryan Fuller on April 9

The Harvard Travellers Club will feature Bryan Fuller, holder of the American record for the fastest transatlantic crossing by oar, achieved in 2012. Fuller is owner and founder of Power Rowing Studio in Brookline, a company he started after giving in to his passion for rowing and making it his full-time job. Interestingly, Fuller came to rowing relatively late, after a career in the military as a counterintelligence agent. Suffering from PTSD as he exited the service, Fuller managed to gain admission to the MBA program at Boston University's Questrom School of Business and began a new career in auditing and accounting. But then he found rowing. After experiencing a rowing machine in 2011 he became obsessed with the sport, joining Community Rowing and raising \$10,000 for veterans with his first record-breaking transatlantic crossing in 2012.

Fuller is planning another transatlantic expedition for June 2024, when he and three others will try to raise \$50,000 for veterans and attempt to cover the 3,500 miles in 50 days or less. In Bryan's presentation at the Harvard Club, he will describe the challenges faced by his first crossing and discuss "lessons learned" that will

help make this second, more northerly (and thus more dangerous) crossing safe and successful.

This April 9 presentation will mark the 913th consecutive meeting of the Harvard Travellers Club since its founding in 1902. The Club traces its roots to Harvard's eminent geographer, Professor William Morris Davis who, in association with Copley Amory, Archibald Cary Coolidge, Roland B. Dixon, and Hames J. Kidder, invited Harvard colleagues to meet in an effort to promote and discuss "intelligent travel and exploration". The Club continues to accept new applicants.

While the Golden Age of geographical exploration during which the Club was founded has long since passed, the spirit behind the founding of the Club remains intact. Today, members continue to commit themselves to intelligent travel and continue to be curious about other landscapes, cultures and scientific discoveries. Definitely unchanged is members' enjoyment in learning of one another's travels.

In 1913 the club began to meet at the Harvard Club on Commonwealth Avenue - a tradition which continues to this day. The Club currently meets eight times a year

for cocktails, dinner, and a lecture. Among the speakers this season have been Behzad Larry, who spoke to the Club about snow leopard conservation in Ladakh, India; Polly Letofsky, who circled the world on foot; and Dylan Wickrama who rode his motorcycle around the world including a stint atop a raft for part of the

way. We also heard from two of our members about excavations in Ethiopia and dog-sledding on Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic.

"Our members join together to share stories of distant places, rugged climbs, boating expeditions, foreign cultures and traditions", says Council member and North Shore

resident Peter Creighton. "Member presence and participation propels this club forward and I love learning about other members' adventures".

To that end the Club welcomes potential new members and interested parties to attend the dinner in April to meet the membership committee. Membership in the Harvard

Travellers Club is open to persons who have a background or interest in world travel.

Visit <http://www.harvardtravellersclub.org> for more information, and contact jenniferlenox-craig@gmail.com if you are interested in attending the dinner and Bryan Fuller's lecture.

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WIHA hosts 'The Lightship Service' presentation during dinner meeting

Story and Photos
by Marianne Salza

Operating a lightship was considered to be the most jeopardous responsibility in the United States Coast Guard. The floating lighthouses were crewed by 10-12 sailors, and anchored some 10 miles offshore to guide other vessels through unwieldy terrain, dense fog, and vicious hurricanes.

"The purpose was to mark dangerous shoals or reefs at important entrances where it was impractical to build a permanent lighthouse structure," defined Robert M. Mannino, Junior, Founder/President, United States Lightship Museum.

Lightships were stationed throughout the country, predominantly in the northeast; but the most hazardous location was Nantucket Shoals, off the eastern coast of Nantucket Island. Water depth could be as shallow as 3-feet along the 50 miles of sandbars, weather was violent, and there was constant risk of being struck by passing freighters, ocean liners, or tankers.

"Lightship duty was extremely treacherous, especially in the Nantucket Shoals, the most remote station in the world. The lightship there was anchored 100 miles off the coast of the United States," explained Mannino.

During a March 5 Winthrop Improvement and Historical Association (WIHA) dinner meeting in the Deane Winthrop House barn, Mannino emphasized the vital role of lightships, and the importance of preserving their history with his presentation, "The Lightship Ser-



Robert M. Mannino, Founder/President of the United States Lightship Museum.

vice: 1820-1985."

Lightship service started in the United States in 1820. Transoceanic commerce increased dramatically by the mid-19th century; and so to prevent shipwrecks, the Nantucket Lightship was established in 1854. It provided navigational aid for famous vessels such as the S.S. United States, the Queen Mary, and the Normandie.

"The Nantucket Lightship station was called the 'Atlantic Gateway into the United States,'" said Mannino. "All shipping -- mostly going to and from Europe -- was guided by Nantucket Lightship."

The vessel itself -- which was the initial lightship to be outfitted with a Marconi radio system -- was referred to as the "Statue of Liberty of the Sea" because it was the first landmark for immigrants traveling from Europe.

Nantucket Lightship/LV-112 was built as a steam-powered vessel by the United States Lighthouse Service in 1936, and embarked on its maiden voyage in Boston. In 1960, the 150-foot-long ship was refitted with an eight-cylinder engine.

"A lightship is built like a battleship," exclaimed Mannino. "The Nantucket has 43 air-tight compartments, is double-hulled, and double-plated. It was made of high-quality, high-grade steel. It's built to withstand a collision."

The Nantucket Lightship/LV-112 was at sea for 39 years, only returning to shore ones or twice a year for service at a facility in Chelsea. Adjacent to the Meridian Street bridge, where the Eastern Minerals salt piles are today, was the Buoy and Lightship Depot, built by the U.S. Lighthouse Service.

Mannino also discussed the evolution of light beacons. Early lightships were equipped with steel, cast iron baskets with a live flame lit by whale oil. Lightships typically used two beacons at a time; but newer lightships were configured with one beacon, like a conventional lighthouse.

As light beacons modernized, they became more efficient, such as with the addition of mechanical devices to rotate the beacon around a mast. Another generation was gimballed so the beacons remained level when ships rocked.

The Nantucket Lightship has two-duplex Fresnel lenses on rotating light beacons that have 500,000 candle power, and a flashing pattern designed to be seen from 20 miles at sea.

In 1985, Nantucket Shoals became the final U.S. lightship station to be discontinued. The Nantucket Lightship/LV-112 was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1989. Since its decom-

See WIHA Page 7



United States Lightship Museum volunteers: Robert M. Mannino, president, Robert Nickologianis, and Ronald J. Janard, director.



Winthrop Improvement & Historical Association members gathering in the Deane Winthrop House barn on March 5 for "The Lightship Service" presentation by Robert M. Mannino.



Kathy Vorse, vice president, Stephanie Honan, treasurer, and Claire and Dave Hubbard.



Volunteers, Kathy Masse, Susan DePippo, and Kim Witthaus, served corned beef and cabbage dinners to members.

Real Estate Transfers

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Martha C Masinton RET	T&j Rt	178 Webster St	\$1,200,000
Hanlon, Mark	181 Celeridge St LLC	181 Coleridge St #G	\$1,170,000
Pinet, Aaron W	181 Coleridge St LLC	181 Coleridge St #C	\$799,900
Almeida, Maria E	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #313	\$907,500
Osmani, Arif	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #402	\$665,000
Fouad, John	33 Leyden St LLC	33 Leyden St #4	\$615,000
Humphries, Emily E	33 Leyden St LLC	33 Leyden St #5	\$425,000
336 Meridian Corp	336 Meridiab St T	336 Meridian St	\$1,000,000
Ryan, Patrick S	Fasano Vincent Est	40 Breed St	\$1,275,000
Gaulin, Michael	69 Falcon Prime LLC	65 Falcon St #2	\$750,000
Kenney, Brian M	69 Falcon Prime LLC	65 Falcon St #2	\$635,000
Wood, Megan K	69 Falcon Prime LLC	65 Falcon St #2	\$665,000

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WIHA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

mission, the lightship has since been utilized as a museum. When it came at risk of being scrapped in 2008, Mannino was determined to save it. "Knowing how valuable the lightship was historically, we had a surveyor look at it. It was in terrible condition," Mannino revealed. "The ship was badly scarred. The inside was a mess. It was full of rain water. Nothing worked."

Mannino founded the United States Lightship Museum as a non-profit organization, and purchased Nantucket Lightship in 2009. When he contacted the U.S. Coast Guard Lightship Sailors Association, former lightship sailors gathered from around the country every weekend in 10° temperatures to prepare the Nantucket Lightship for towing to Boston from Long Island, New York.

heating system, ventilation, and engines. Over \$2.5 million have been invested in the venture; and another \$2 million is projected to complete the renovations. All funding has been provided through donations from individuals, corporations, and grants.

Nantucket Lightship/LV-112 is now berthed in its home port at the Boston Harbor Shipyard and Marina, 256 Marginal Street, East Boston, where it serves as a floating learning center.

"We have a lot of seniors, local school groups, and people from all over the world visit the ship. We have classes here," Mannino mentioned. "When people visit, they're able to talk on the phone, steer the wheel, climb the ladders, and do fun things. It's one of a kind."

Nantucket Lightship/LV-112 will be open to visitors 10am-4pm, from the last Saturday in April through the last Saturday in October. The cost of admission is an \$8 donation, and children under the age of 5 are free. Individual and tour groups can be arranged by appointment throughout the year. For more information visit www.NantucketLightshipLV-112.org or call (617) 797-0135.

"It's an important maritime treasure," said Mannino. "When we bring kids on, we try to inspire and motivate them to become interested in historic preservation. We're trying to get young people invested as much as possible so they can pick up the reins from where we leave off."

Louijeune is 2024 People's Champion of Democracy

Common Cause Massachusetts board and staff announce the selection of Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune as this year's People's Champion of Democracy.

The People's Champion of Democracy award is given to a standout leader working to strengthen and defend democracy throughout their professional, political and personal lives. Common Cause Massachusetts regularly celebrates the influential leadership of exceptional individuals who champion the values of protecting the power of everyday people against special interests and defending democracy at the national, statewide, and/or local level. This year, Common Cause Massachusetts is proud to announce that Boston City Council Pres-



Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune.

ident Ruthzee Louijeune is named their 2024 People's Champion of Democracy.

"It's an honor to accept the People's Champion of Democracy award from Common Cause Massachusetts which has been a reliable partner in the work at all levels," says Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune. "I've had the ability to contribute meaningfully as an attorney, as

an advocate, and now as City Council President to ensure that our democracy is working for everyone. At a time when democratic institutions are under attack, I am more committed to the work than ever."

"The Common Cause Massachusetts state advisory board unanimously selected Council President Louijeune as our People's Champion of Democracy for many deserving reasons including, but not limited to, her leadership as an attorney defending voting rights and defending against gerrymandering before the United States Supreme Court, advocating for a more inclusive local democracy, and leading Boston through a tumultuous redistricting process last year," says Patrick Roath, Chair of Common

Cause Massachusetts State Advisory Board.

City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune will be awarded the People's Champion of Democracy Award on Monday March 18th @ 6pm at Common Cause Massachusetts' fundraiser, "Long Live Democracy" which will be held at the Long Live Roxbury brewery located at 152 Hampden St in Boston. The event is open to the public and tickets to the event can be purchased here.

Past recipients of Common Cause Massachusetts awards include the Boston Globe Spotlight Team, Governor Michael Dukakis, Senator Ed Markey, Attorney General Maura Healey, and most recently Margaret Sullivan of Columbia University.

OBITUARIES

Virginia C. "Ginger" Pinabell
Retired after 25 years with the Mass Board of Industrial Accidents and retired again at age of 97 as a Case Manager for the Department of Consumer affairs in Revere

Family and friends attended visiting hours on Tuesday, March 12th in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for Virginia C. "Ginger" (Guerra) Pinabell, who died on Friday, March 8th at the Beverly Hospital. A funeral will be conducted from the funeral home today, Wednesday, March 13th beginning at 10 a.m. followed by an 11 a.m. Funeral Mass in St. Anthony of Padua Church, 250 Revere St., Revere and interment in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

Ginger, as she was affectionately known, was born on January 28th, 1923, to the late Vincenzo and Catherine (Adracchio) Guerra. She was one of ten children who were raised and educated in East Boston. She was a graduate of East Boston High School, Class of 1940. Ginger was married the following year to her husband, Anthony "Tony Bell" Pinabell. The couple remained in East Boston where they began their family and then later moved to Revere.

Ginger was a wonderful mother who devoted herself to her six children. She later returned to the workforce and was a supervisor for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the Board of Industrial Accidents. Her career would span 25 years, before she would retire. Her retirement didn't last long, she then worked for the Department of Consumer affairs in Revere as Case Manager, she worked until she was 97 years old.

Ginger later moved to Peabody, to be with her family. She enjoyed many things throughout her long life. Family was always first and foremost in her life and especially her heart. She enjoyed traveling and of course

Rose Pugliese
Talented seamstress and devout Catholic

Family and friends are invited to attend Visiting Hours on Thursday, March 14th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for Rose Pugliese, who passed away on March 9th at 107 years of age. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in Most Holy Redeemer Church, 65 London St. East Boston at 12 noon followed by interment in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

She was the daughter of the late Giuseppe and Isabella (Schiavone) Pugliese, adored sister of the late Sabatino Pugliese, the late Vincent Pugliese, the late Margarita Corvi and the late Theresa Pugliese. She is also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Rose was a very talented seamstress who worked for many years at Priscilla's in Boston, where she used her talents to produce



fine detail on bridal gowns. She was a devout Catholic who supported numerous charities throughout her life.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN

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.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
Commonwealth Of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Probate And Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
Docket No. SU24D0085DR
Daniela Maria Vargas Chalarca Plaintiff
vs.
Juan Fernando Upegui Londono, Defendant

ria Vargas Chalarca 151 Princeton St. Apt. 1. East Boston, MA 02128-1010, your answer, if any, on or before 04/16/2024. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 28, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett Register of Probate 03/13/24 EB

Defendant To the Defendant: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable. Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411. You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Yeny M. Rincon 22 West Shore Park Road, Kingston, NH 03848, your answer, if any, on or before 04/23/2024. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court. WITNESS, Hon. Frances M. Giordano, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 28, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett Register of Probate 03/13/24 EB

To the Defendant: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable. Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411. You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Daniela Ma-

LEGAL NOTICE
Commonwealth Of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Essex Probate And Family Court
36 Federal Street
Salem, MA 01970
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
Docket No. ES23D0165DR
Yeny M. Rincon Plaintiff
vs.
Fabian A. Perez,

Defendant To the Defendant: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable. Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411. You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Yeny M. Rincon 22 West Shore Park Road, Kingston, NH 03848, your answer, if any, on or before 04/23/2024. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court. WITNESS, Hon. Frances M. Giordano, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 28, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett Register of Probate 03/13/24 EB

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FRESH AND LOCAL

March holiday breads and pastries

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

March is a delicious month for those who indulge in the abundance of treats that celebrate the change of season and specific holidays. We're talking about Irish soda bread for Saint Patrick's Day, Zeppoles for Saint Joseph's Day, and pies for Pi Day. The Spring Equinox, Easter, Purim, Ramadan, and Holi celebrations all have associated bread or pastry. We have lovely local sources for many holiday pastries and breads.

Irish Soda Bread

A few years ago, we discovered Flour Bakery made soda bread as whole loaves on special order and individual scones in the pastry case in March. We order one loaf to devour around the 17th and another to freeze for future treats. This year, we plan to try the Clear Flour bakery version, which will be available through the end

of the month.

Year-round, you can pick up a delicious loaf at Greenhills Bakery in Adams Village. This bakery also supplies Irish brown bread without the raisins and caraway seeds. Plus, they carry a selection of Irish grocery items for your Saint Patrick's Day celebration.

Zeppole

For a Zeppole tasting around the 19th, you can visit the North End and pick your favorite from Modern Pastry, Bovas, or Mike's. Other cities and towns in the area have many great Italian bakeries that make their version of this seasonal treat.

Spring Equinox and Easter

This year, the Spring Equinox is on the 20th, and Easter is on the 31st. One of the most famous easter pastries, the Hot Cross Bun, originated in pagan Spring Equinox celebrations.

The British website Chef'n's article "The Pagan Origins Of Easter" explains, "These were taken from the Saxons, who would bake fresh bread in honour of the goddess Eostre. The fresh buns would be marked with a cross. At the time, the cross represented the four quarters of the moon, four seasons, and wheel of life."

Many local bakeries make hot cross buns in March. It's a great reason to visit your favorite bakery and try this item, especially if it is only on their seasonal menu. We'll be picking one up at Clear Flour.

If you visit the North End for Zeppole, you could select some excellent Italian Easter pastries and bread. You'll see Pane di Pasqua, Easter bread with colorfully dyed eggs as decoration. You might also want a beautifully decorated Sicilian Cassata cake or the more straightforward and not too sweet Ricotta pie.



Irish soda bread is one of many holiday treats available around Boston in March.

Other Excuses to Indulge!

Ramadan begins on the 11th, and a special bread called Ramazan Pides is baked in the Turkish Islamic community. We have yet to find a source but will reach out to Turkish cafes and bakeries that offer Halal food to see if we can find one.

On Pi Day, the 14th, you can pick up a great pie or slice from Petsi Pies in Somerville or one of the Tatte locations in the

area. Don't forget that pies and diners go together, so check out the pie selection at your favorite diner or bakery.

Purim begins on the 23rd and is known for Hamantashen pastries, which will be available at Clear Flour bakery until the 24th.

Holi, a colorful Hindu celebration of Spring, abounds with sweets and pastries. Check the dessert menus at your favorite Indian restaurant to see if

they offer Holi treats for the 21st.

March is when we enjoy learning more about other cultures by eating the foods they use to celebrate their versions of welcoming spring. Indulge since acceptance and education about others can begin with their food.

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

Splash // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Giannino, who was also participating in her fourth consecutive cold water plunge with Save the Harbor. "We might have to sacrifice a bit of our comfort jumping into the 39 degree water, but it's well worth it to have amazing programming on our beaches for our youth, seniors, families and everyone to enjoy all summer long."

Kennedy Elsey from "Karson and Kennedy" on Mix 104.1 was the event MC for the 14th year in a row. She and JetBlue's Donnie Todd judged the always popular costume contest, with winners Josette Williams from Dorchester (as a

"Sea Goddess") and Ohana New England Dragon Boat Team (in "Dragon Boat" team costume) each taking home a coveted round trip JetBlue flight as their prize. In total, six JetBlue flights were up for grabs for biggest fundraiser and biggest team as well as a raffle for anyone who raised over \$100.

"This event would simply not be possible or as fun without our friends and title sponsors at JetBlue, or our event sponsors at Tito's Handmade Vodka, Dorchester Brewing Company, Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel, and FMC Ice Sports," said Save the Harbor Executive Director, Chris

Mancini. "I'm so grateful to the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Healey/Driscoll administration for their important annual investment in the Better Beaches Grant Program and free beach events all summer long."

Mancini also thanked Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the Blue Sky Collaborative, Boston Consulting Group, Calamari Fisheries, Coast Cannabis, Comcast, David Nardella, EveryDejaVu, Harpoon Brewery, NamaStay Sober, Voloo Sports, Income Research + Management, Izotope, Jeff Reagan, John Murphy, Kennedy Elsey,

Mix 104.1, National Grid, P&G Gillette, the Richard Saltonstall Charitable Foundation, Topo Chico, and Vertex Pharmaceuticals, the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, the YMCA of Greater Boston, Youth Enrichment Services (YES) and the hundreds of people who took part in the JetBlue Shamrock Splash for their support.

Proceeds from this year's Shamrock Splash will be invested in free Better Beaches events and programs on the metropolitan region's public beaches in Nahant, Lynn, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy, and



Shown (left to right) are Save the Harbor Executive Director Chris Mancini, Rep. Jessica Giannino, and JetBlue's Donnie Todd hosted the JetBlue Shamrock Splash on behalf of the Better Beaches program and Metropolitan Beaches Commission on Constitution Beach.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Costume contest finalists, judged by Mix 104.1's Kennedy Elsey and JetBlue's Donnie Todd included Quint from Jaws, a Moose on the Loose and audience applause winners Josette Williams as "Sea Goddess" and Captain Allen Huang with his "Ohana New England Dragon Boat."

Hull. In 2023, this included over 200 free events including Diversity Matters Fest organized by the North Shore Juneteenth Association, the 19th Annual Endless Summer Waterfront Festival hosted by the Hull Nantasket Chamber of Commerce, yoga on Revere Beach hosted by

NamaStay Sober, Community Game Nights at the Beach hosted by South Boston en Accion, and more all over our region's beautiful beaches.

More information is available on the Save the Harbor/Save the Bay website at www.savetheharbor.org.

HVNA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We're proposing five units, which is somewhere in between the old zoning and the new zoning, and we are providing parking," said Lynds.

"We feel that this offers somewhat of a compromise between what the old zoning would allow and what the new zoning would allow as well," he said.

As the meeting progressed, Lynds went through the projected zoning relief for the project, floor plans, and more before the floor was opened to questions and comments.

One attendee had a few questions regarding the zoning gray area Lynds

had referenced, considering the proposal would require variances under current and new zoning, and had commented, "It just feels a little bit like cherry picking. With current zoning, we're going to do this; with PLAN: East Boston, we're going to do this."

However, Lynds had made the assumption that those in attendance were in favor of projects with fewer units and the inclusion of off-street parking.

"Even though it doesn't fully comply with PLAN: East Boston, it actually may be a better plan for the neighborhood," said Lynds.

Another attendee, who thought the proposal was

good overall, was concerned about the height variance that would be necessary under the new zoning.

"The moment that there is a non-compliant height in the neighborhood, every single developer is going to propose a variance on height," said the attendee.

It should be noted that Lynds responded to this attendee and thought that they could get the height in compliance.

Other topics discussed during the question and answer portion of the presentation involved trees, roof decks, and more.

The next proposal reviewed by those in attendance was at 117 Addison

Street and was also presented by Lynds.

As part of the proposal, a two-unit building would be demolished, and a four-story, six-unit building with four parking spaces would be built on the property.

According to Lynds, the unit mix includes three three-bedrooms and three two-bedrooms intended for homeownership.

Lynds again reviewed the property's zoning information. Under current zoning, the lot is in the McClellan Highway Economic Development Area (EDA) subdistrict. Under the new zoning, the lot is in the EBR-4 subdistrict.

He then reviewed the

projected zoning relief for the proposal and said, "The variances sort of disappear between the EDA as well as the EBR-4."

Shortly after, Lynds went through floor plans, renderings, and more and then began taking questions from those in attendance.

For example, there was a question and a short discussion regarding the parking regulations under the new zoning. An attendee pointed out that under the new zoning, buildings with more than three units should have a 1:1 parking ratio.

However, Lynds offered a different interpretation. "Our position, as we've

done with the old zoning code, is that once you hit four units, everything below that doesn't require parking spots."

While the attendee argued that the interpretation was incorrect, Lynds said, "We view it a little differently from a practitioner standpoint," and expanded on his interpretation.

Before the meeting ended, other topics discussed included the rear setback, the height, and more.

Since these were the first presentations for each project, no votes were held. The next HVNA meeting is scheduled for April 1.

Debate // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

& Development Agency) recommendations going forward are looking toward the new planning study.”

Drago detailed other facets of the project before the floor was opened up to questions, such as the unit mix and roof deck.

Each of the three proposed units is planned to be two bedrooms and 799, 864, and 833 square feet, respectively. Also, Drago pointed out that the roof deck, which is exclusive to the top unit, has been pulled back several feet in the front, back, and right side.

Initially, when the question and comment portion of the presentation began, everything seemed to be going swimmingly.

However, the presentation quickly became passionate when it came time for abutters to ask questions or comment.

Michael Dwyer, an abutter, had concerns about a rendering shown during the presentation in which he thought a wall was being built in the backyard on an easement, which would not be allowed.

In response, Drago confirmed that there was an easement in the back and had referred to a concrete item on his property from “somebody else,” which caused Dwyer to raise his voice at Drago.

One of JPNA’s Co-Chairs, Margaret Farmer, quickly shut down the loud retort and reminded everyone to be respectful before allowing Drago to continue.

Drago claimed they are not building a wall in the back as part of the project and that it is just a “depth in the back with a bump.”

Dwyer was unsatisfied with the explanation and still believed something was being built on the easement. Later, he said, “Forgive me for not tak-

ing you at face value, but to me, it looks like you plan to build a wall around your first-floor apartment and create a little yard in front of that sliding glass window.”

However, Drago again emphasized, “We are not touching that easement,” which prompted confusion from Dwyer and more discussion before Farmer insisted that they move on to other questions.

As the presentation continued, Drago answered other questions from abutters concerning trash storage, fire suppression, and more before the JPNA moved on to a presentation from an abutter.

In addition to Drago’s presentation, Kaitlin Andryauskas, an abutter, made one of her own, detailing her and other abutters’ concerns with the project.

During her presentation, Andryauskas walked through several projects under construction, slated to be under construction, and others that have been completed, pointing to issues with noise, traffic, and parking, which residents in the immediate area have had to endure.

Additionally, she pointed to other impacts of these aforementioned projects, such as the displacement of other residents and concerns about what the proposal at 112 Marginal would mean for the safety of some of the older abutting homes.

She also outlined concerns from direct abutters, including the proposed project being built to the property line, privacy, and more, and laid out questions they are looking to get answered.

Andryauskas also presented a table disputing some of the figures related to zoning parameters and spoke at length about trying to reach an enforceable agreement with the

developer to quell some of the abutters’ concerns.

“We have made efforts since November to come in good faith to work with the developer to come up with an enforceable agreement regarding these matters,” said Andryauskas.

Ultimately, the terms of an enforceable agreement could not be agreed upon, and Andryauskas claimed conversations did not continue after there seemed to be what she described as disagreement concerning what was enclosed in the proposed agreement.

It should be noted that Andryauskas also claimed that multiple abutters who opposed the project were sent letters indicating that they needed to remove alleged encroachments or they may face legal action.

The abutter presentation prompted more fiery moments both during and after the presentation. For example, Falcucci interrupted Andryauskas and claimed she was lying mid-presentation, which induced Farmer’s wrath.

After the presentation, Dwyer, referring to the letters concerning supposed encroachments from abutters, alleged Drago was abusing power, and the meeting once again turned tense, with Drago trying to defend himself and Farmer trying to bring about some order.

Finally, after more comments and questions from abutters, Drago was given the floor to respond.

He spoke at length about the changes made to the project and working with neighbors, saying, “We started this process working and listening to these neighbors, so for it to be said that we weren’t — that’s concerning to me.”

He also spoke about trying to come to an agreement with neighbors and how that fell through.

“What we got was an

agreement limiting our liability from any future lawsuits... I had concerns with it — I still do,” said Drago.

“We are willing to work with our neighbors but when neighbors hire lawyers, and now it becomes legalese in all of the writings, we have to be very careful about limiting liability. So I can’t just sign a good neighbor agreement that isn’t a good neighbor agreement and is designed

by an attorney to limit all liability,” he added.

Eventually, Drago and Andryauskas had a back-and-forth regarding the enforceable agreement and potential miscommunications, which seemed to move things in a more positive direction, which Farmer acknowledged.

“I’m happy to see — it seems to be that there’s a little bit of progress in terms of communication here, and that is good to

see. I am hopeful to see it continue,” said Farmer.

Overall, this project is slated for a JPNA vote. Ballots will be sent to eligible voters tonight, and polls will close on Friday.

To learn more about the project, the abutters presentation, and more, visit the JPNA website at <https://jefriesspoint.org/>. The next JPNA meeting is scheduled for April 8.

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A TASTE OF SPRING COMES TO PIERS PARK

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

East Boston residents and visitors from around the world walked through Piers Park on March 8 during the first clear and crisp afternoon in several days. One stroller from Taunton, Jean Tedesco,

was honoring the one year anniversary of the passing of her boyfriend, who lost his battle to cancer. She was joined by her family, including her mother, who traveled from rural New York to support her

daughter. "Today we are here to remember the good times with him," shared Tedesco, pausing along the waterfront. "He loved Boston."



Jean Tedesco with her mother, Lorna Almeida, visiting from Livonia, New York, aunt, Linda Marshall, and daughter, Jessica Copeland, strolling through Piers Park in memory of a loved one.



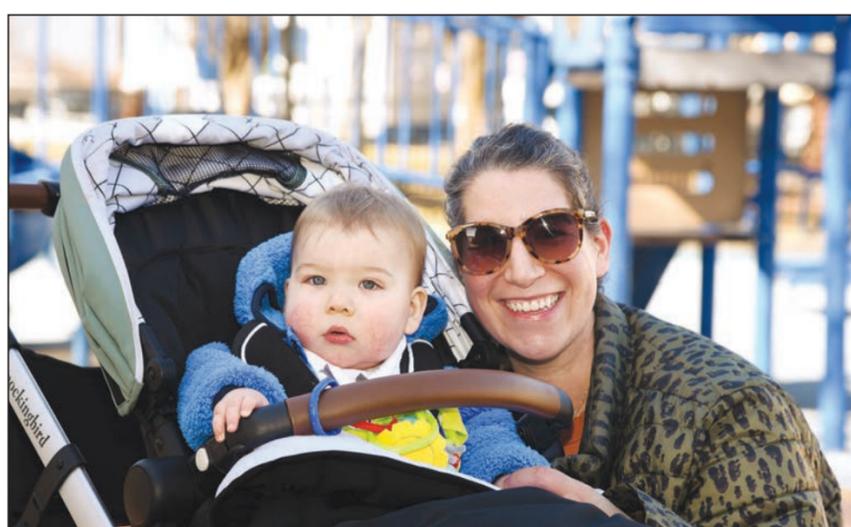
Maverick residents, Ghaya Arujunan and Shane Krisa, walk through Piers Park every day, regardless of the cold weather.



Maverick residents, Adam, 3, and his mother, Sara, enjoying the sunshine in Adam's favorite park.



Worcester Polytechnic Institute students, Manohar, Suma, Pavan, and Pavani, of India, enjoying the view of the Boston skyline.



Stephanie, and her 9-month-old son, Gus, who enjoys sitting on the swings, during their daily walk.



Former East Boston resident, Marlon Espino (right), now of Billerica, taking a brisk walk with his brother, Omar Espino.

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Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.

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Alessia, of Italy, visiting Piers Park with her cousin, who boasted about the beautiful view.