

East Boston

Times-Free Press

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MARCH IS THE CRUELEST MONTH

Spring officially arrived this week, with March 19 marking the vernal equinox. According to meteorologists, “meteorological spring’ began even sooner on March 1.

The poet Emily Dickinson extolled the arrival of March (“Dear March—Come in— How glad I am—”). But we always have viewed March as the ultimate tease. Emily Dickinson lived in Amherst, far from the coast, where ocean breezes off the still-frigid Atlantic -- water temps are their coldest in March -- can lower the dreaded wind-chill factor by 10 degrees even on sunny days.

For those of us who have been lifelong residents of Eastern Mass., March is the month on the calendar that we long for with great anticipation after the harsh winter season. But it always disappoints, like an object of desire who fails to live up to our expectations.

Admittedly, these past few winters have not been too tough to take, both in terms of the lack of cold and snow, which environmental scientists tell us is the beginning of a long-term trend of warmer winters because of climate change. Those milder winters have given us all the more reason to hope that March would be even more temperate compared to the past, but our hopes have been dashed.by Mother Nature.

To be sure, we had some warm weather last week and the crocuses and snowdrops have been pushing through the ground for a while now, especially in the areas of our gardens in full sun. But the cold weather that is forecast for the coming week, with below-freezing temperatures every night and early-morning, is anything but a harbinger of the coming spring season.

One of the earliest memories of our childhood was learning the aphorism, “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.” Despite the onset of climate-change, that saying remains as true today as it was then.

IT’S A SAD, SAD, SAD, SAD WORLD

It is fair to say that for everyone reading this editorial, the world is in a greater state of chaos than at any time in our lives.

Although the decades in the aftermath of World War II brought us the Cold War and two “hot wars” in Korea and Vietnam, plus the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the world overall was a more orderly place, divided between the Western democracies and the Eastern European Communist autocracies. Everyone knew where they stood and played by the rules. Both sides possessed huge nuclear arsenals that could destroy the other 10 times over, but that equilibrium brought us relative peace thanks to the concept of mutually assured destruction, appropriately known by the acronym MAD.

Even during the height of the Cold War, we could laugh at movies such as “The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming,” and the Beatles could make a parody of Chuck Berry’s “Back in the U.S.A.” and the Beach Boys’ “California Girls” with their song, “Back in the U.S.S.R.”

But since the demise of the Cold War’s hierarchy, turmoil has erupted in many places that had been relatively-peaceful. The civil wars that engulfed Somalia, Rwanda, and the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s presaged the terrible situations we have today.

Those relatively-contained civil conflicts have evolved into the ongoing cross-border wars in Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, Syria, and sub-Saharan Africa, where civilians are being bombed, murdered, raped, and displaced by the millions. No one is making jokes about the evils of Vladimir Putin and Hamas or the dire situation in Gaza.

In our own hemisphere, Haiti has collapsed into complete and total chaos, ruled by warring criminal gangs, and the Central American nations of El Salvador and Honduras are not far behind. In Mexico, the drug cartels effectively control large swathes of the country.

Venezuela has descended into desperate poverty despite having oil reserves that made it one of the wealthiest nations in South America just 10 years ago when its GDP was five times what it is today.

Even Chinese citizens are fleeing their country, where there is a huge crisis in the real estate market, because of economic stagnation that has brought record-high unemployment and a lack of opportunity to a nation that had known exponential growth for three decades.

It is estimated that 280 million people worldwide today are migrants, of whom 110 million are refugees, asylum-seekers, and others who are internally displaced people and in need of international protection. Both of those numbers are all-time records and are growing parabolically year-after-year.

The New York Times columnist and best-selling author Thomas Friedman has divided the post-post-Cold War world into two camps -- the nations of order vs. disorder. America remains a beacon, not only among the disorderly nations, but also compared to the industrialized world. We emerged from the pandemic as the strongest economy on earth, with an historically-low unemployment rate and a taming of post-COVID inflation that by far have outpaced our peers in Western Europe and elsewhere.

But despite our success, the news headlines each day inform us that the world today is a sad, sad place, instilling in all of us a sense that our relative strength and stability is fragile and cannot be taken for granted.



RESPECT OUR COMMUNITY’S CHARACTER AND LIVABILITY

To the Editor,
As a concerned community member, I am compelled to address the coverage of the proposed development at 112 Marginal Street in the East Boston Times-Free Press. While the recent article, “Fiery Debate: 112 Marginal Presentation Leads to Heated Discussion at JPNA Meeting,” highlighted developer concessions, it overlooked the broader implications of these changes and the depth of community concerns.

1. Health and Safety Concerns and Historical Precedent

The project’s revised plan, despite being framed as a compromise, introduces health and safety issues through overcrowding by eliminating all setbacks and depriving neighbors of light and air. The essence of the problem can be encapsulated in two words: “light shaft.” The proposed design evokes the dark, poorly ventilated tenement buildings of the past, with some interior spaces receiving light and air only from a small air shaft. The New York State Tenement House Act of 1901 was one of the first

laws that sought to eradicate these conditions in housing. Re-creating them in East Boston in 2024 as a misguided solution to the housing affordability crisis is not just a step backward; it’s a disregard for the quality of life and safety of city residents.

2. Legal and Procedural Fairness

Our ability to engage in meaningful dialogue about the project is hampered by the dynamics at public meetings, where civilians are up against a lawyer. While the overwhelming opposition to the project, as evidenced by the neighborhood vote against it (5 in favor, 26 opposed), underscores the community’s collective concerns, the developer’s threat of SLAPP suits against opponents undermines our right to participate in discussions on matters of public interest.

3. Media Coverage and Sensationalism

The tenor of the front page news coverage of the neighborhood meeting raises concerns about the accuracy and impartiality of reporting. The description of the opposition as “fiery” and neighbor’s concerns being qualified as “alleged” suggest bias, potentially influencing public perception unfairly. Furthermore the failure to examine the confused

explanations by the developer for the inaccuracies within the project’s zoning documentation and renderings (“depth in the back with a bump”), foster mistrust. For a constructive dialogue to occur, transparency and precision are essential.

The current proposal, if approved would set a concerning precedent for the Jeffries Point neighborhood. We advocate for a solution that respects our community’s character and livability. We would support a two-family condo conversion on the existing footprint, a compromise that remains unexplored by the developer. We strongly oppose the re-creation of a 19th century tenement district.

It is crucial for the media to contribute to rather than detract from constructive debate by fairly reporting on the issues and refraining from using inflammatory language as this project advances to a hearing before the ZBA.

Sincerely,
Michael Dwyer
Jaye Woodstock

MORE POOLS OPEN THIS SUMMER

To the Editor,
Thanks to interagency collaboration between

BPS, BCYF, the Public Facilities Department, and the Property Management Department, investments of City funding, and improved facilities assessment, the City is on track to have more pools open this year than in previous summers, including the BCYF Clougherty, Draper, Marshall, and Mattahunt. The BCYF Clougherty outdoor pool is in the midst of a two year renovation and is expected to open this summer with temporary restrooms and changing areas. More information will be available as we get closer to summer. The BCYF Charlestown Community Center has an indoor pool which is open.

The City also has more opportunities for lifeguards through a residency waiver which allows us to hire more lifeguards and the lifeguard academy and hiring days that BCYF has been hosting in collaboration with the Office of Human Resources. Additionally, through the SwimSafe program the City is providing more free swim lessons for children in partnership with the YMCA of Greater Boston (9 pools), Boys and Girls Club (4 pools), Dorchester House (1 pool), and USA Swimming.

Sandy Holden

JPNA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

aged 4-7. Ages 8 and up would be out on the pier. In addition to hiding eggs on the pier, we need “egg agents” who would loiter on the pier and drop additional eggs after they were grabbed by a kid, effectively extending the hunt. Someone could do this dressed as a secret agent, or go full bunny. We are reaching out to local high schools, but welcome any business or group who thinks any of these sound fun. If you are able to volunteer, please email margaret.farmer@jeffriespoint.org.

The event was founded by John Tallutto and Joanne Pomodoro in Cuneo Park, in 2017. Asked

why they started the event, John Tallutto stated “I thought this would be a great event for the community, something kids would really enjoy”. Margaret Farmer added “It is so expensive for families today. This is a free event that can hopefully become a family tradition for families to really enjoy.” Like last year, the Non-profit organization Knucklebones, out of Charlestown, will be running games to get kids moving and keep them active. Knucklebones Team Member Erin said their goal was “Send the kids home tired, but happy, having had some real fun”.

Families are encour-

aged to be in place a few minutes before 11 AM because egg activities will begin on time. For more information, please check Facebook. We will collect empty egg shells at the end of the event for families who do not wish to take them home, to re-use again next year!

How can you help? In addition to volunteers, we are hoping for donations of stuffed, or unstuffed eggs! Nick from Carmella’s on 86 Cottage Street

in East Boston has offered to accept and hold eggs. They can be dropped off anytime during business hours, Monday through Saturday 8 AM to 6 PM and Sunday 9 AM to 3PM.

This event is completely free and open to the entire community. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please contact margaret.farmer@jeffriespoint.org for more information on the event, to volunteer or with questions!

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Your opinions, please

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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.

The Irish Experience in Boston’ discussion

Story & Photo by Marianne Salza

Historian, Chris Daley, presented “The Irish Experience in Boston” at the Charlestown Branch of the Boston Public Library on March 7. Daley’s interest in the topic began when he started examining his genealogy. The recently retired teacher was shocked by what he had learned about Irish struggles and achievements.

“Boston is the perfect place to talk about the Irish because they came in droves,” began Daley. “The Irish came to these shores as servants, prisoners, and as half-dead refugees. They endured ethnic and religious persecution and bigotry. They endured wretched poverty, and back-breaking menial labor; but in the end, they overcame, they surmounted, and they prevailed.”

Daley explained that many Irish arrived in America as indentured servants. Ideally, English landlords would provide funds for passage to America. In exchange, the Irish would sign themselves over to bondage for five to seven years, during which time, they would learn a trade, and move on their ways; however, that was rarely the case.

In the 1650s, over 100,000 Irish children were taken from their Catholic parents and sold as indentured servants to the West Indies, Virginia, and New England, where they were assigned to Puritan masters..

“They arrived to Boston not willingly; probably in chains,” described Daley. “A lot of times, as soon as they were placed, they ran away. Often, the Irish and Africans would help each other and run away in tandem, and hide. The Irish could blend into the population as long as he didn’t start speaking Gaelic. A lot of times, too, they’d be stopped, brought back, and mistreated.”

As punishment, the Irish would be restrained in stocks or pillories to be publically humiliated. Townspeople would taunt the captured, throwing of-fal from their farms and garbage at offenders.

“If you continued to disobey, you’d be whipped and dragged through the town so everybody could take a whack at you,” Daley depicted. “Much of this punishment happened in Boston at the old Town House. It was a place for commerce and meetings. Eventually it burned down and was replaced [by the old State House].”

When rumors stirred that a Jesuit priest was holding mass in the woods and in basements, the Anti-Catholic Law of 1647 was issued by the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony to prohibit the practice of Catholicism. The penalty for repeat offenders was death.

The Irish began to emerge and celebrated their first service in 1788, in a building that was abandoned by the Huguenots near the corner of School and Washington Streets, Boston. It was the first Catholic mass in all of New England.

“The first Irish migration to America was in the 1820s; and it began as a trickle. It was because, back in Ireland, which was controlled by England, laws were passed by Parliament, stripping away the rights of Irish Catholics,” said Daley. “As an Irish Catholic, you couldn’t run for office, practice your own religion, or work for the government. If you had land, you couldn’t farm it, fish on it, use it to cut timber, or even sell the grass. The one thing you could do was sell it to an Englishman. That’s what a lot of people did. They got out and they came to America.”

The population of Irish in Boston was about 2,000 in 1820; and by 1830, it had increased to an estimated 7,000, with Boston’s total population at 61,392.

An early conflict arose in 1834 at the Ursuline Convent on Mount Saint Benedict, located in what was then Charlestown, and is now Somerville. The Ursuline Convent was a private school with Puritan students, such as Rebecca Reed, who, according to the nuns, was deeply involved in her studies. Reed had shown interest in converting to Catholicism, and even became a novice. A few months after Reed had abruptly left the convent, a manuscript was released detailing accusations that students were chained and being brainwashed by nuns.

“Even though this was an unpublished manuscript, it made the rounds, and people in Charlestown started clucking. People were upset,” described Daley. “All the stories floating around were not true, but gossip continued to build.”

On August 24, 1834, a mob formed and began looting the convent, throwing pianos out the windows, and setting it ablaze. One man stole the host from the tabernacle, and by the end of the night,

was waving it around a barroom.

A massive migration of Irish to America occurred during the Potato Famine, which began in 1845, when a fungus diseased the vital crop. At the time, the Irish were tenant farmers working on expansive, English farms. They grew corn and beans for export; but were not allowed to eat them. Whatever they could fit in their cottages was what they were able to keep.

“The only thing that you could plant in the little space, and survive on was the potato. It grew deep, and you could live for a whole year on the potato. When the blight happened, it ruined the potato crop for several years, and they were bereaved of their sustenance,” exclaimed Daley. “The Great Hunger could have totally been obverted.”

Soup kitchens and work houses were set in place; but when the conservative government took office, they adopted a laissez faire attitude, and blamed the Irish for the problem. While thousands were dying, Parliament passed a law deeming the landlords responsible for those suffering. Too weak to work, landlords evicted them, and many lived in the woods and roadside, struggling to find food. British newspaper artists depicted Irish families scrounging around the dirt, searching for morsels, and eating shoe leather and bark.

Often, landlords would pay for their tenants’ journey to America, South America, or Canada.

“The ships they were jammed aboard were aptly named, ‘coffin ships.’ They were wretched, leaky, wooden, sail ships,” Daley described. “Many of these people were sick already with typhoid, dysentery, and cholera. They had heard the streets were paved of gold and that there was opportunity in paradise; but what they found was quite unlike what they thought.”

Those who had families in America were dropped off in Philadelphia, New York, and Boston slums. In 1846, 80,000 Irish arrived in Boston and were placed in already crowded neighborhoods along the waterfront, North End, and East Boston.

“The conditions were horrendous,” exposed Daley. “They were stuffed into sheds, barns, stables, basements – wherever they could shove people in the most unsanitary conditions available. In some instances, one sink might serve a

whole tenement building. These people came here diseased already, and they continued to die once they got here.”

Daley discovered that the paternal side of his family migrated to America in the 1850s. His great, great, great grandfather, Michael Daly, traveled to Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, and walked to Bangor, Maine. By the end of his life, Michael Daly owned a lumber yard. Two of his sons were bare-fisted boxers. Family lore believes that an “e” was added to “Daly” to make the surname sound more American.

What was available for the Irish to work was limited. Women could serve as maids or washer women, scrubbing the floors of the Brahmins on Beacon Hill. Men had more options, such as waiters, grocers, sweatshop factory workers, ditch diggers, and long-shoremen or stevedores, carrying cargo on their

backs to load onto ships.

“You could literally say the city was built on the back of Irish labor. You can thank the Irish for the progression of Boston,” said Daley. “A lot of these men worked themselves to death. A lot of them died before they were 50. One thing notable politicians in Boston had in common was their fathers died early and they had to take over and be the man of the house.”

James Michael Curley was one of those prominent Irish, Catholic politicians. At a young age, his father, a ditch digger, died from a brain aneurysm while lifting a bolder. His mother was a scrubber woman washing floors on her hands and knees. He left school in 8th grade to work as a druggist clerk.

Curley served as a councilman, mayor of Boston four times between 1914-1955, governor once, and a congressman twice. One of the first executive orders he made when he took office



Historian, Chris Daley, presenting, “The Irish Experience in Boston,” on March 7 at the Charlestown Branch Library.

was to provide scrubber women with mops.

“He had a gift of oratory. He had a booming voice. Every time he ran for office, his constituents knew he was willing to stick his neck out for his people; and it got him elected over and over again. But he was crooked as they day is long, and had a violent streak,” added Daley. “They call him the first, modern politician. I think the title that he cherished the most was ‘the mayor of the poor.’”

News Briefs

GSCA MEETING AGENDA

Gove Street Citizens Association (GSCA) Agenda for Monday, March 25, 2024, at 6:30 PM

Please register for this virtual meeting on our website: <https://www.govestreet.org/meetings>

Agenda (approx. 50-80 min)

Community Updates (20 min)

Updates from BPD (Sgt. Cintolo)

Updates from City Hall (Mela Villa Gomez)

City Hall Zero Waste Team with an update on Trash, Recycling, and Compost programs as well as special events for waste collection

Community discussion (30-60 min)

How do we build a sense of community?

We want to hear the community’s ideas! We plan to discuss events we can host and other suggestions.

Potential name change of GSCA to be inclusive of all neighbors

We would like the Gove Street Citizens Association community to consider changing its name. More than 40% of GSCA residents were born outside the United States. While we acknowledge that “Citizens” is rightly a source of pride for many, for others it may signal that they are not welcome at our meetings.

GSCA Community Meeting - March 2024

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/tye-vbua-uct>

Or dial: (US) +1 929-299-3552 PIN: 916 818 785#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/tye-vbua-uct?pin=6921995419234>

Our next meeting after the March meeting will be on Monday, April 22, at 6:30 PM.

CHAMBER TO COMMEMORATE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION DAY MARCH 21

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce Commemorates the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21.

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce will

be placing a display of American flags to commemorate the upcoming International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21, at the Daniel H Solari Square outside the Chamber of Commerce office at 464 Bremen Street.

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was established and recognized by the United Nations (UN) in 1966 after the Sharpeville, South Africa tragedy in 1960 which captured worldwide attention. This event involved police opening fire and killing 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against the apartheid “pass laws” on March 21, 1960. The day aims to remind people of racial discrimination’s negative consequences. It also encourages people to remember their obligation and determination to combat racial discrimination. The UN called on the international community to increase its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination when it proclaimed the day as a UN Day of Observance. The UN continues its work to fight against all forms of racial intolerance.

Please note that the flags are for display purposes. If anyone wishes to obtain a flag, please feel free to contact the Chamber at eastbostonchamberofcommerce@gmail.com to purchase a flag.

PEDESTRIAN STRUCK

At about 8:40 p.m. on Sunday, March 10, Sofia Isabel Mejia Zambrano, 28, of East Boston was walking across the street at 169 Squire Road in Revere when she was struck by a vehicle. Ms. Zambrano was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver remained at the scene and no charges have been filed. The incident remains under investigation.

Massachusetts State Police assigned to District Attorney Kevin Hayden’s office notified Ms. Zambrano’s husband, who lives in Ecuador, of her death.

“We wish to extend our deepest sympathies to Ms. Zambrano’s husband and family. To lose a loved

one, especially at such a young age, is a terrible tragedy,” Hayden said.

WARD 1 DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS ELECTS MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE STATE CONVENTION

The Ward 1 Democratic Caucus met on Saturday, March 16th at the Salesians Boys and Girls Club and elected 19 representatives to the State Democratic Convention Scheduled for June 1st at the DCU Center in Worcester.

More than 40 community members gathered at 10 AM on Saturday to choose 19 people to represent East Boston at the upcoming State Democratic Convention. After passing a gauntlet of nomination papers for local elections and positions, the group began meeting downstairs. There was no pre-chosen slate at the meeting, and the group elected volunteers who spoke 4 languages found in East Boston. All committed to attending the State Convention.

Committee Chair Brian Gannon stated “Every year is important, but a Presidential election year is especially. The platform we vote on will have a national impact on the party. It is important that we ensure community voices and points of view are well represented.” One of those elected, Sandra Nijjar, head of the East Boston Soup Kitchen stated “Going to the convention is a privilege. We are able to directly vote on the party platform. I enjoy going.”

The Ward 1 committee is looking for people to get more involved, and as seats become open, they welcome community members to join and participate.

The committee meets monthly, but the next social event is scheduled for June. On Thursday, June 6th the Ward 1 Committee will have its next Quarterly Social event at Boston East on 126 Border Street from 6 to 8PM. All are welcome to learn more about the committee, hear about the convention, and find out how they can get involved in local elections and issues.

Herald’s Danny Ventura writes about the MIAA state basketball championships

By Cary Shuman

East Boston’s own, Donato “Dan” Ventura, was high above courtside Saturday at the Tsongas Center in Lowell covering the MIAA State Basketball Championships for the Boston Herald.

It was a fitting perch for the beloved sportswriter who has reigned like a journalistic king over the high school scene for 33 years. His official title is regional high school sports editor of Digital First Media, consisting of the Boston Herald, Lowell Sun, and Fitchburg Sun Sentinel. But to athletes and high school sports fans from Cape Cod to Cape Ann, he is universally known simply as “Danny V.”



East Boston resident Danny Ventura is pictured in the press box Saturday at Tsongas Center in Lowell where he covered the MIAA.

Ventura always draws a crowd at high school sporting events. On this day, his wife, Carla Ventura, had accompanied him to Lowell, witnessing first-hand the adulation and esteem in which her husband is held by ath-

letes, coaches, parents, and school administrators.

Ventura, whose “Sweet Sixteen” rankings are can’t-miss columns each week in the Herald, said he remains excited and enthusiastic about high school sports and sports-writing.

“Like my father [the late Pompeo Ventura] said, maybe you’ll get a real job someday,” jested Danny. “It’s a labor of love, but it’s a great job.”

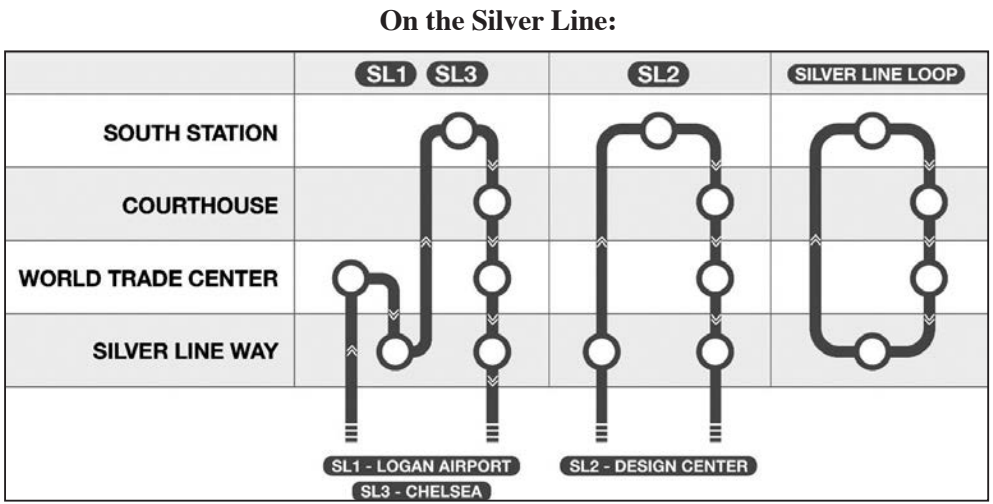
Ventura said the newspaper industry has changed “due to the social media aspect.”

“I think that social media is a game-changer, with Twitter and YouTube and things like that. In the old days, there were

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

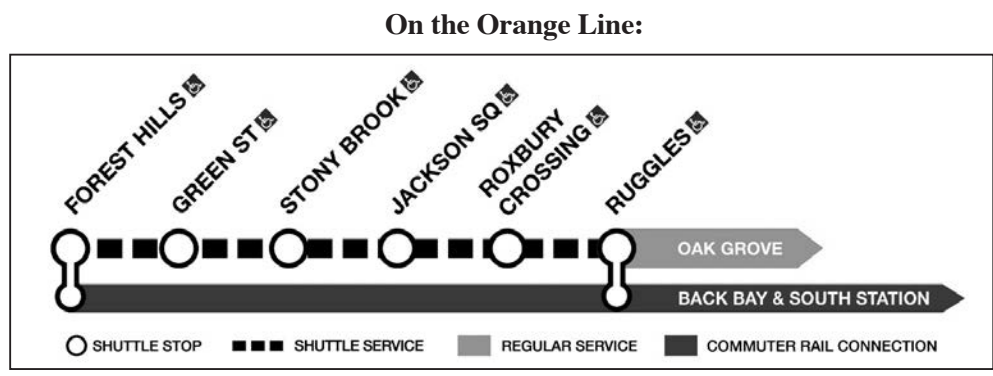
The MBTA today announced service changes in April on the Silver, Orange, Blue, Red, Kingston, Middleborough, Greenbush, Haverhill, and Newburyport/Rockport lines. The MBTA will continue working to maintain its infrastructure and improve reliability across the

system. 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.



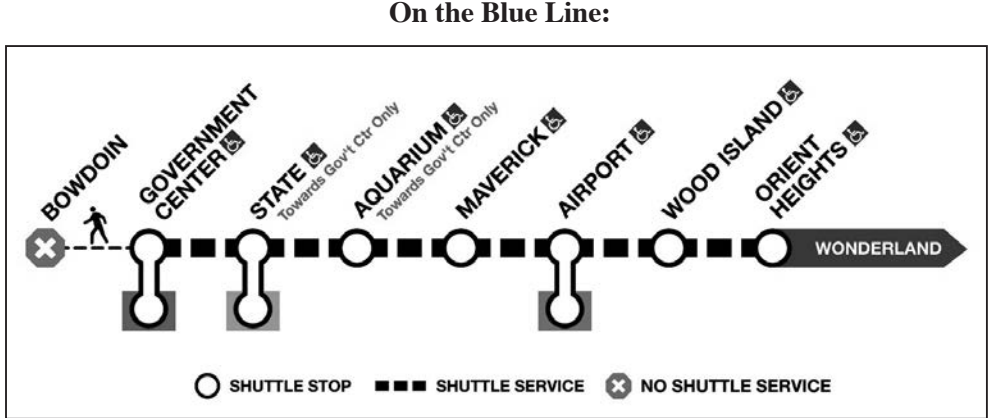
- Silver Line Routes 1, 2, and 3 will operate at the street level beginning at approximately 8:45 PM through the end of service on April 6.
- Riders can make connections at the following street-level stop locations:
 - Connections for South Station can be made on Summer Street @ Atlantic Avenue (at the Federal Reserve Building)
 - Connections for

- Courthouse Station can be made at Congress Street @ Thompson Place.
- Connections for World Trade Center Station can be made on Congress Street @ World Trade Center Station.
 - Connections for Silver Line Way Station (outbound) can be made at 601 Congress Street.
 - Connections for Silver Line Way Station (inbound) can be made at
- Congress Street @ The Renaissance Hotel (between D Street and Harborview Lane).
- This service change will allow for the removal of the overhead wire system from the west side of D Street to the end of Silver Line Way. Silver Line buses operate on battery power in this area, making the overhead wires no longer necessary.



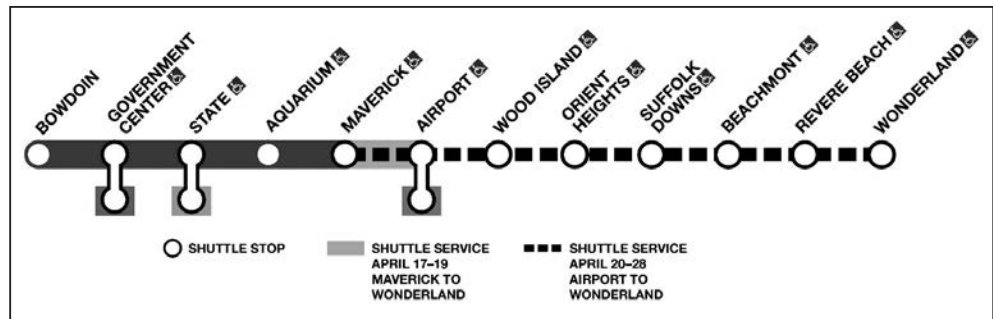
- Orange Line service will be suspended between Forest Hills and Ruggles stations during the weekends of March 30-31, April 6-7, April 20-21, and April 27-28.
- Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all

- 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 Commuter Rail fares should be pur-



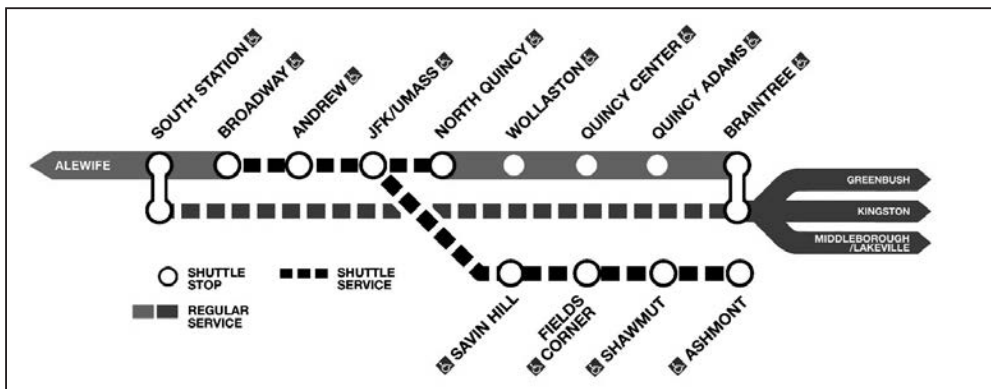
- Blue Line service will be suspended between Bowdoin and Orient Heights stations beginning at approximately 8 PM through the end of service each day from April 9-11.
- Free and accessible shuttle buses will make stops between Government Center and Orient Heights.
- Riders should note that shuttle buses will not stop at Bowdoin station. Riders can instead utilize shuttle buses at Government Center, which is about a quarter mile away (or about a four-minute walk).
- This service change

- is in place as part of the MBTA's Track Improvement Program. Crews will perform track and tie replacement work with the goal of removing speed restrictions near Aquarium Station. Crews will also maximize the outage by performing signal work and station amenity upgrades, including new lighting, painting, tiling, and power washing, and more.
- As previously announced, Blue Line service will be suspended between Maverick and Wonderland for three days from April 17-19 and be-



- .On the Red Line:**
- Red Line service will be suspended between Broadway and Ashmont stations and the Ashmont Branch and between Broadway and North Quincy stations on the Braintree Branch during the weekend of March 30-31 as previously an-
- nounced as well as the weekend of April 6-7.
- 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.
- This service change is in place to allow crews to perform necessary work as part of the Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replace-



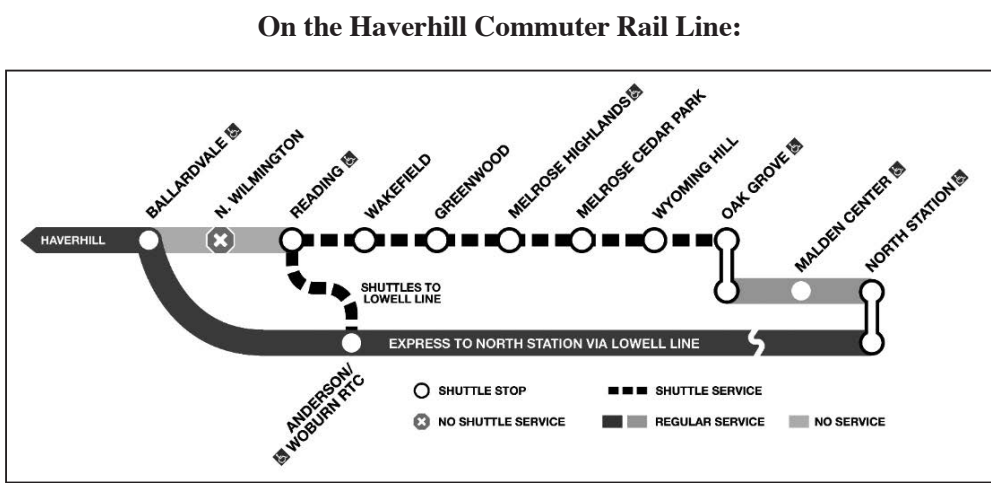
ment Project. Originally built in 1925 and last rehabilitated in 1975, the bridge will be replaced to protect its structural in-

tegrity and ensure reliable service. When complete, this project will result in safer, more reliable Red Line service. The MBTA

will also perform upgrade work to the Red Line signal system.

- On the Kingston, Middleborough, and Greenbush Commuter Rail lines:**
- Kingston, Middleborough, and Greenbush Commuter Rail line service will be suspended between South Station and Braintree Station during the following days and times:
 - As previously announced, beginning at approximately 7:30 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.
 - Beginning at approximately 7:30 PM through
- the end of service on Friday, April 5, and continuing all day from start to end of service during the weekend of April 6-7.
- Free and accessible shuttle buses will replace trains between South Station and Braintree. Express shuttle buses will operate directly between South Station and Braintree. The diversion schedule will be available online soon at mbta.com/CommuterRail.
 - Passengers should note that bicycles are not allowed on shuttle buses,

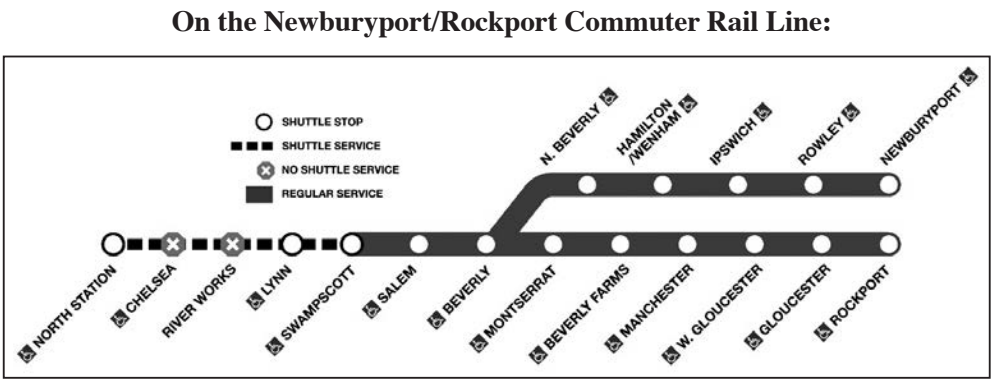
- and regular Commuter Rail fares will be collected between Kingston, Middleborough, Greenbush, and Braintree stations.
- Keolis Customer Service Agents, MBTA staff, and Transit Ambassadors will be on site at impacted stations to support riders.
 - This service change is in place because these Commuter Rail lines run adjacent to the Red Line where Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replacement Project work is taking place.



- Haverhill Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between Ballardvale and North Station during the weekend of April 6-7 and for nine days from April 20-28.
- A dedicated diversion schedule will be available soon on mbta.com.
- Free and accessible shuttle buses will replace train service between Reading and Oak Grove where passengers can connect to Orange Line subway.
- A free and accessible shuttle bus will also provide service between Reading and Anderson/Woburn for connections to the Lowell Line and

- Haverhill Line.
- Regular Commuter Rail fares will be collected between Haverhill and Ballardvale.
 - 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 Line service at Wilmington Station instead.
 - Train service for passengers between Ballardvale and Haverhill will be re-routed along the Low-

- ell 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.
- Bus Route 137 will be fare free.
 - 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.



- Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail Line service will be suspended between North Station and Swampscott during the weekend of April 6-7 and for nine days from April 20-28.
- Shuttle buses will make stops between Swampscott, Lynn (within the busway at the legacy station), and North Station. Chelsea passengers are asked to utilize the Silver Line 3 for service to the downtown area. A dedicated diversion schedule will be in effect and available on mbta.com soon.
- Passengers should note that this service change

- overlaps with a planned shuttle bus diversion on the Blue Line. More information is available above and at mbta.com.
- This service change allows 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 March. 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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ASSUMPTION CHURCH HOLDS A SAINT PATRICK’S GALA DINNER

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

Our Lady of the Assumption Church held its Saint Patrick’s Gala Dinner on March 15 in celebration of the Feast of Saint Patrick. One hundred fifty guests gathered for the fundraiser to benefit the repair of nine stained glass windows in the church. During this

Lenten time of abstinence, parishioners were granted dispensation from fasting to enjoy a chicken dinner. The community event invigorated the parish spirit, and included musical entertainment by DJ Elmer Osorio, and Maurizio Catano, who played his saxophone at each table.



Our Lady of the Assumption Church gathering for the Saint Patrick’s Gala Dinner on March 15. See Page 5 for more photos.



Christine and Daniel Ohman, Peter Heidkamp, and Greg and Donis Tracy.



Margarita Gil, Martha Velasquez, and Youany Tabares, raffle basket and silent auction volunteers.



Carmen Ortiz and Alexander, 14-months-old.



Maya Merino, Anamaria and Sophia Moreno, Alicia Ortezt, Monica Enrique, and Father Ignatius Mushauko.



A parishioner enjoying the Saint Patrick’s Gala Dinner.



Elmer Osorio, DJ, and Kevin Ventura, MC.



Father Hilario Sañez and Father Ignatius Mushauko with Abigail and Angel Duarte, Rosario and Alessandra Rizzo, and Maurizio Catano.



The Neo-Catechumenal Way community group.



The Avilar Family.



Father Ignatius Mushauko with The Clavel Family.



Father Ghuanni Argote and Father Ignatius Mushauko with the First Community, Revere.

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LAKERS WIN EBYBL CHAMPIONSHIP

On Saturday March 16, the Lakers defeated the previously undefeated Blazers in an exciting back and forth contest 33 to 29. With 13 seconds left Irie Hobart sunk two clutch free throws to seal the victory. Chase Triant dominated the game scoring twenty. He was a tremendous teammate all year. Damian David and Charlie Bauer, who threw a game saving pass to Irie at the end rounded out the scoring for the team. Catcher Free and Maria Forbes were excellent all day defensively. Henry Forbes did an impressive job controlling the boards all day. Coach Dan Nucci said after the game that he was proud of his team.

The Blazers coached by Michael Etheridge had an impressive season, finishing 10 and 1. They were led all year by the talent-

ed Raffie Suazo and Ryan Maloney and Saturday was no exception with Suazo scoring thirteen and Maloney 10. Lavaris Freeman-Taylor played very well at point guard. Edson DeAndre, Delvin Hacket, and Maddie Santos played great defense and scored the remaining points. Aaliyah Copeland, Adrian Nunez, and Giacobbi Gunn contributed timely defense. Rose Andujar rebounded well.

Over 170 boys and girls participated in the program this year and we are grateful to our many volunteers and sponsors. The staff at the Pino Center were tremendous. Lauren Logan, Deanna DiMarzo, John Ortiz, Michael Brennan, and Julie DeLeo were always there for us. Special thanks to Director Joe Weddleton who is retiring in April. Joe is

a former EBYBL player and coach. Also, thanks to our loyal sponsors Joe Mario, Cora Electric, Volare Restaurant, Carmella's, Nick Moulaison, and Loreen Schettino and The East Boston Foundation. We could not operate without them. In addition, our volunteers are tremendous. The Forbes Family, Michael, Allison, Mellissa, Mikayla, and Anthony all coached and refereed. Vin Guarino, Kayla and David Free, Brian Lynch, John DiGiacomo, Julie Trouville, Dennis Leary, Dan Nucci, and Michael Etheridge did a fantastic job coaching. Tony Galotto and Jen Rock managed the scorer's table. Finally, special thanks to John Forbes Jr., Anthony Forbes, Bill Gore and League President Michael Gaeta for their extra efforts this year!

COURTESY PHOTOS



The Champion Lakers team with Coach Dan Nucci. See Page 5 for more photos.



The White team with coach Julie Trouville and John Digiacam.



The Green team with Coach Mikayla Forbes.



The Jr. Yellow team with coach Vin Guarino.



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The Blue team with Coach Anthony Forbes

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LAKERS WIN EBYBL CHAMPIONSHIP

COURTESY PHOTOS



The Yellow team with Coach Vin Guarino.



The Jr. White team with Coach Brian Lynch.



The Jr. Blue team with Coaches Michael and Allison Forbes.



The Jr. Panthers team with Coach Dennis Leary.



The Forbes family.

CHAMBER MOVIE NIGHT EVENT

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce Community Networking and Movie Night Event. In early March the East Boston Chamber of Commerce held a community networking and movie night at ZUMiX at 260 Summer Street in the Jeffries Point section of East Boston. The movie featured was Miracle (2004) the fact-based story of

how the underdog USA Olympic hockey team defeated the Soviet Union at the 1980 Lake Placid, NY winter Olympics and went on to capture the gold medal. It was a great event and there were local restaurant gift certificates given away. The Chamber thanks ZUMiX for their partnership, their venue, and support for this event.



Shown are Madeleine Steczynski of ZUMiX and Salvator Giarratani at the East Boston Chamber of Commerce Community Networking and Movie Night event recently held at ZUMiX.

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Ocean Spray Cranberry Juice 64 oz.....	2/¢5.00
(ex: 100%)	
Hellmann's Mayonnaise 30 oz.....	¢5.99
Prince Pasta	4/¢5.00
(ex: lasagna-jumbo shells-gluten free)	
Prego Pasta Sauce.....	2/¢5.00
Wishbone Salad Dressing 15 oz	2/¢5.00
Nestles Chocolate Morsels	2/¢7.00
Ocean Spray Cranberry Sauce.....	2/¢4.00
Stove Top Stuffing.....	2/¢5.00
Eggo Waffles.....	2/¢5.00
(ex: thick & fluffy)	
Cool Whip 8 oz	2/¢4.00
Pepperidge Farm Layer Cakes	¢3.99
Philadelphia Cream Cheese Brick Pack 8oz. ..	2/¢5.00
Daisy Sour Cream 16 oz.....	2/¢4.00
Pillsbury Cinnamon Rolls.....	2/¢6.00
Pillsbury Cookies (ex: character type)	2/¢6.00
Yoplait Yogurt	10/¢6.00
Gold Medal Flour (ex: organic)	2/¢7.00

Produce

Tropical Sweet Golden Pineapples	¢2.99
Fresh & Sweet Large Size Cantaloupes.....	2/¢5.00
Fresh & Tasty Greenhouse Grown Cluster on the Vine Tomatoes	¢1.69/lb
Fresh & Sweet Greenhouse Grown Yellow Bell Peppers	¢2.89/lb
Fresh & Sweet Greenhouse Grown Orange Bell Peppers.....	¢2.89/lb
Fresh Tender Green Asparagus	¢1.99/lb
California Large Artichokes.....	2/¢3.00

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Carando Genoa Salami	¢8.99/lb
Hans Kissle Seafood Salad	¢8.99/lb
Dietz & Watson Oven Classic Turkey Breast .	¢10.99/lb
Land O' Lakes American Cheese	¢4.99/lb
Kretschmar Black Forest Ham.....	¢7.99/lb

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Chicken Leg Quarters	99¢/lb
Split Chicken Breast	¢2.29/lb
Best Yet Cooked Shrimp 16-20 ct	¢9.99
Simply Mashed Potatoes	2/¢6.00
Kayem Bacon 12 oz.....	¢5.99

Bakery

Mini Eclairs 5 ct.....	¢3.99
8" Blueberry Pie	¢7.99
5" Lemon Coconut Cake	¢6.99

Weekend Specials

Friday, March 22nd through Sunday, March 24th

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Our Own Bagels	¢2.99
Our Own Blueberry Muffins 4pk.....	¢4.99

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Dietz & Watson Buffalo Chicken Breast....	¢8.99/lb
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PRODUCE

Fresh & Sweet Crunchy Red Seedless Grapes.....	¢2.99/lb
--	----------

MEAT

Boneless Chicken Breast	¢2.99/lb
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GROCERY

Simply Orange Juice	2/¢7.00
Brigham's Ice Cream.....	2/¢9.00

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EBNHC appoints Gioioso as Vice President of Campus Operations

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC), soon to be NeighborHealth, announced the appointment of John Gioioso, CFM, MCR as Vice President of Campus Operations. Bringing with him over 30 years of experience in the healthcare and financial asset management sectors, Gioioso will support and advance the health center’s commitment to expanding access to care and providing a patient-centered healthcare experience in its facilities.

As Vice President of Campus Operations, Gioioso will be responsible for overseeing the operation of more than 20 properties owned and leased by EBNHC for patient care and administration, as well as spearheading new development and renovation projects in the communities EBNHC serves, including East Boston,



John Gioioso.

Revere, Everett, and Boston’s South End.

Former Vice President of Campus Operations Stephen Fraser will be instrumental in helping transition John into his new role and will continue to work closely on a part-time basis with EBNHC leadership to execute special projects across the EBNHC campus as he transitions into retirement.

“With campus locations across Greater Boston, we are confident that John’s extensive knowledge and experience will help ensure that our health system provides an exceptional environment for patient care,” said EBNHC Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Ryan Boxill. “We at EBNHC would also like to extend a great deal of gratitude and thanks to Stephen for his many years of service which have been invaluable in creating an environment that facilitated exceptional care to our patients.”

Prior to joining EBNHC, Gioioso oversaw project management for Mass General Brigham’s Northshore Physician Group’s clinic locations. In this role, he expertly managed new development and renovations, while working with both contractors and the community to promote

best-in-class standard operating construction procedures. Gioioso is also well-versed in tenant fit-ups and built environment enchantment project management from his time with commercial real estate firm Keypoint Partners.

“As an East Boston native, I am excited to bring my expertise to a community so close to my heart,” said Gioioso. “I look forward to ensuring that EBNHC’s properties continue to be well-maintained and represent the best in community-based patient care.”

In addition to his leadership role at EBNHC, Gioioso is an adjunct professor at Boston University and Wentworth Institute of Technology. Gioioso holds a masters’ degree from Cambridge College with a concentration in facilities management. He received his bachelor’s de-

gree in management from Suffolk University and his associate’s degree in management from Northshore Community College.

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center is one of the nation’s largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 120,000 people and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a National Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, EBNHC has offered access to comprehensive primary care, specialty care and emergency care for patients in the Commonwealth. In a first-of-its-kind merger in 2020, EBNHC joined forces with the South End Community Health Center and expanded services to patients who live and work in Boston’s South

End and Roxbury neighborhoods.

EBNHC champions innovative care models to actively bridge health equity gaps in our low-income and immigrant communities with services unique from other health care providers in our state. In addition to primary and specialty care, EBNHC operates Massachusetts’ only satellite Emergency Department, which is the fourth busiest ED in Boston and is co-located with advanced radiology, including CT scan services, same-day Behavioral Health Urgent Care and an integrated pharmacy. Today, EBNHC remains dedicated to promoting and sustaining healthy communities, families, and individuals both in and out of the exam room by providing accessible, person-centered, compassionate, and high-quality health care services.

Boston wants to hear from you

The City of Boston is developing a five-year Consolidated Plan for an estimated \$143 million in funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and we want to hear your thoughts on the needs and priorities of the City. The funds may be invested in housing, homeless assistance and community development programs that serve low-to moderate-income residents over a 5-year period from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029 through these HUD programs:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)

- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
 - Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
- To ensure robust citizen participation, we are offering multiple ways to provide input on the Plan and hope that you will help us get the word out by sharing this email with your contacts and community members. Please encourage them to visit the Consolidated Plan website, complete the Multilingual Survey for Residents, or the Survey for Organizations or submit comments by calling 617-635-0363 or by sending an email to mohcomments@boston.gov.

Project // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in touch with MassDOT to have them explain the plans and listen to concerns.

McKenna noted that the council has tried to set up a meeting with MassDOT and has not heard back.

“They want to change everything, but they don’t come and tell the people

they are going to do it to, they just do it,” said McKenna.

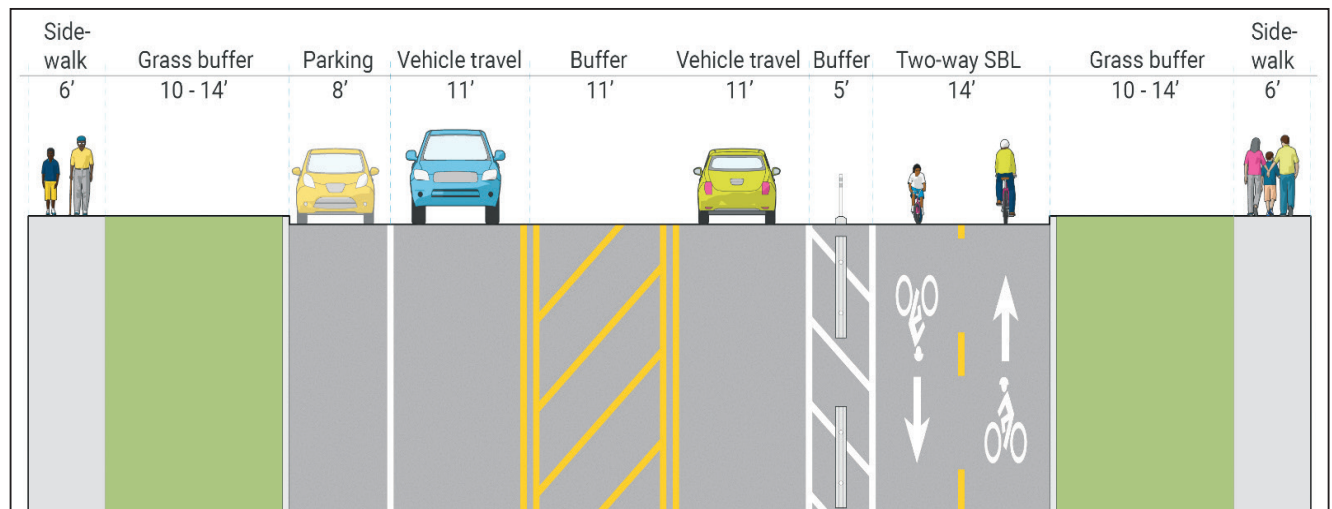
Ward 5 Councillor Angela Guarino-Sawaya said she supported McKenna’s motion, and asked if there was a way the city could hold MassDOT responsible for not listening to its concerns.

Council President Anthony Cogliandro said he supported sending the letter, but was not optimistic that MassDOT would listen to the concerns.

“Ultimately, they are going to do what they want,” said Cogliandro. “There is a difference between moving forward into the future

and being dragged there ... and that is sometimes what it feels like.”

In addition to the letter, Councillor-at-Large Michelle Kelley said there could be a petition from the city and residents outlining the negative impact of the proposal and the opposition to it.



An artist rendering of the Bennington Street bike lanes.

OHNC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the PLAN: East Boston as well as the existing code,” said Drago.

Further, David Choi, the Project Architect, walked through what he did regarding the design of the proposed building and talked about how he wanted to create a structure that looks like it is supposed to be in the neighborhood.

“If my son or my daughter asked, ‘Well, what did you do here?’ I think I’m proud to tell you, to the neighbors, that I did my job,” said Choi.

After Drago and Choi talked a bit more about the project, the floor was open

to attendees, who could ask questions or comment.

One attendee criticized the project’s noncompliance with PLAN: East Boston. “This is embarrassing. We literally just wasted all that time. Every single thing that has come across this organization and Harbor View [Neighborhood Association] since that’s been actually officially done has not followed PLAN: East Boston,” said the attendee.

In response, Drago, in part, said, “I think as time goes on — these projects were filed years ago — it’s a long process, so I think

as time goes on, you’ll see that will likely change and probably more and more will align with the code, but we do meet a number of the criteria in the code.”

Drago and attendees then had a back-and-forth about the difficulty of producing a functional building that is 100% in compliance with the city’s zoning code and the Zoning Board of Appeal evaluation process.

Another attendee commented, thanked the developer for revising the proposal, and pointed out that this process could have been smoother if

they had initially come with this version.

“Come to us with this first. Don’t waste our time with this four-story, nine-unit thing because it’s a waste of our time. It creates animosity; it doesn’t even create debate. This, at least now, is maybe a debate,” they said.

“If you had come with this years ago, you would have been building now,” they added.

Following the presentation, the project went to a vote and, as mentioned, was opposed. The final vote was 15 in opposition and seven in support.

Notice of Open Waiting List

We are pleased to announce that Brandywyne Village will be accepting applications for the 1, 2, and 3-bedroom Section 8 affordable waitlists.

Applications will be available from March 19th 2024 – April 19th, 2024. Only applications received between these dates will be included in the lottery. Applications received after April 19th, 2024, will be placed on the waitlist based on date and time of application receipt, until the waiting list is closed. Applications may be picked up in person from the Management Office located at

88 Brandywyne Drive, East Boston, MA 02128 between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. You may also request an application by phone 617-569-2255 TTY/TTD Relay #711 or email at info@brandywynevillage.com. Placement on waitlist is by random selection process. For more information or for reasonable accommodation, contact Brandywyne Village at 617-569-2255 TTY/TTD Relay #711.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Ann Pufall LLC	Mcatus LLC	152 Trenton St	\$1,995,000
Christian, Joshua R	181 Coleridge St LLC	181 Coleridge St #E	\$985,000
Rivera, Juan D	Catoggio, Joseph A	196 Brooks St	\$725,000
Beigi, Peynman	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #608	\$675,000
Siddiqui, Abid	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #303	\$689,000
Brooke Charter School	Marx Jr, Robert A	609-611 Bennington St #1	\$625,000
Brooke Charter School	Zhou, Yang	609-611 Bennington St #2	\$630,000

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OBITUARIES

Joseph A. Bossi Sr.

A gentle giant with a huge heart and an “Eastie Guy” through and through

Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend a Memorial Visitation on Monday, March 25th from 12 Noon to 2 p.m. in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for Joseph A. “Joe” Bossi, Sr., who died on Sunday, March 17th at Tufts Medical Center in Boston following a brief illness. He was 83 years old. A Funeral Service will be conducted in the Funeral Home at 2 p.m. Interment will be private.

Joe was born on June 14, 1940 at the Winthrop Hospital to the late Domenic J. and Ida (Accomondo) Bossi. He was one of four children raised in Orient Heights in East Boston. Joe was educated in Boston Public Schools and was a graduate of East Boston High School, Class of 1958. Joe was a High School Football standout and was awarded an athletic scholarship to play football for the University of Tennessee. Joe returned home and after a year, he began a career in the oil industry. For many years he worked alongside his father Domenic for Bossi Oil. Joe also worked as a Marine Terminal Operator for Coastal Oil in East Boston and Revere. Joe knew everything and worked in every aspect of the oil industry.

Joe married his one and only love, Jackie (Ciampa) on October 25th, 1964. They remained in East Boston and together they raised their daughter and son. Joe was an “Eastie Guy” through and through. He was proud of his family and being a dad, however, he was most proud of his title of Papa. Joe’s life was his family, and he cherished being with them and enjoying his time with them. Joe loved sports and



even more so, loved talking sports. He was a collector of all types of sports memorabilia. He will be forever known as a gentle giant with a huge heart, who truly loved to give.

He was the beloved husband of 59 years to Jacqueline A. “Jackie” (Ciampa) Bossi of East Boston; loving father of Karen A. Cornell and her husband, Eric F. of Danville, NH, and Joseph A. Bossi, Jr. and his companion, Lisa Thiesfield of Hartford, CT; cherished Papa of Madison P. Cornell of Winther Park, FL, Kaitlyn A. Cornell of Danville, NH and the late Mackenzie M. Cornell; the brother of Rosemarie Sartori and her husband, James and Donna Gillis and her husband, Roland, all of North Carolina and the late Ann P. Bossi. He is also lovingly survived by several nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, cousins and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Padre Pio Foundation, 463 Main St. Cromwell, CT 06416. 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, Revere.

Kara Kelley

A beloved member of the Winthrop Community

Kara Kelley, a beloved member of the Winthrop community, passed away on March 17, 2024.

Kara was known for her infectious smile that could light up any room. She was a friend to everyone she met and touched the lives of many. Kara dedicated many years of her life to working for ROCA, where she passionately helped youth in need. She was also an active member of the recovery community for many years, offering her support and kindness to those on their own paths to healing. Her absence will be deeply felt by all who knew her, but her spirit will live on in the memories of those whose lives she brightened with her warmth, compassion, and unwavering friendship. Rest in peace, dear Kara.

Kara was the loving daughter of Paul Kelley and his late wife, Virginia Maxwell and Mary (Cohan) Donovan and her late husband, Thomas Donovan. She is survived by her devoted sister, Erin Kehoe and her husband, Nathan. Kara was a cherished niece of Lois Cohan, Diane Cohan, Robert Kelley, Thomas Kelley and was predeceased by Claudia Kavanaugh, Bernadette Davis, Francis Cohan, Joseph Cohan, Ethel Kelley, and Ann Kelley. She was also an adored aunt



to Norah and Spencer and she leaves behind many cousins and friends. She also leaves behind her beloved canine companion, Fitz.

Kara’s family and friends will gather to honor her life at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston, on Wednesday, March 27th, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. before leaving in procession to St. John the Evangelist/St. Michael the Archangel Parish for an 11:30 a.m. mass. Kara will then be laid to rest at Winthrop Cemetery, Belle Isle Section. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the MSPCA Animal Care and Adoption Center, MSPCA-Angell, Attn: Donations, 350 South Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02130. Rest in peace, dear Kara. To leave an online condolence visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Cheryl Gambale

Known for her creative spirit, passion for her garden, love of cooking for a crowd, love for her family and her tenderness towards animals

Family and friends are invited to attend Visiting Hours on Thursday, March 21, from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for Cheryl E. (Wheatcraft) Gambale who passed away peacefully at Central Maine Medical Center on March 17th at 83 years old. A Vigil Service will be held during the visitation at 6:30 p.m. Her Funeral Service will be conducted in the Funeral Home on Friday, March 22nd at 10 a.m. followed by entombment in Holy Cross Cemetery – Community Mausoleum, Malden.

She was the beloved wife of the late Antonio P. “Tony” Gambale, dear sister of Kathy McVey of Conesville, Ohio and her children, Kevin McVey and Ava Rawn and Ida Ellen Mahr of Auburn, Maine and cherished aunt of Robert (Mike) Mahr, David Mah, and Stefanie Mahr Damien of Auburn, Maine and cherished great aunt “Auntie” of Zoe Rohan and Hannah Julien; dear sister-in-law of George Gambale, Carmela D’Amore, Alfonso Gambale and the late Philip Gambale, Angelina Scarpetta, Charles Gambale, Jennie DiMinico and Nicholas Gambale. She is



also lovingly survived by many other nieces, nephews and cousins.

Cheryl was known for her creative spirit, passion for her garden, love of cooking for a crowd, sharing her love for her family and her tenderness towards animals. She helped to foster and care for numerous stray felines throughout the years. She was called home peacefully on the Feast Day of St. Gertrude, the Patron Saint of Cats. Due to her affection for her feline friends, please consider, in lieu of flowers, donations in her memory to the Greater Androscoggin Humane Society, 55 Strawberry Ave, Lewiston, ME 04240

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, Revere.

Theresa Merino

July 19, 1928 – March 10, 2024

Theresa V. (Meads) Merino of Peabody, formerly of Chelsea and East Boston, passed away peacefully at home on March 10, after a short illness. She was 95 years old.

Theresa was born in Boston on July 19, 1928 to the late Manuel F. Meads and Julia (Diaz) Meads. She was one of six children raised in East Boston. Theresa was educated at the Barnes School and was a graduate of East Boston High School. Growing up she worked in local bakeries as a donut maker and later worked at Conrad Chandler and Commercial Union Insurance Company.

On November 5, 1950, she married Arthur R. Merino and remained in East Boston to raise her family. She later moved to Chelsea and returned to work at the Commercial Union Insurance Company where she was a Records Keeper Manager. The family then moved to Peabody where they have lived for the past 37 years.

Theresa loved nothing more than her family and was completely devoted to her husband and four children. She was blessed to be a Nan to her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was a deeply religious woman with a great faith.

She was a late member of the St. Johns Portuguese Church in East Boston and a member of the Empire of the Holy Ghost in East Boston. She will be forever remembered by all who loved her.

She was the beloved wife of 54 years of the late Arthur R. Merino, Sr., the loving mother of Arthur R. Merino, Jr. of Peabody, Laurie Resca and her husband, James of North Reading, Bobbie Merino and Steven Merino, both of Peabody; the cherished “Nan” of Kristen A. Desmarais and her husband,



Bill of Wilmington, Steven J. Resca and his wife, Shamima of Dracut and Gage Merino and his sister, Chloe of Boxford; the treasured great grandmother of Claire and Evelyn Desmarais, Amaan Shaikh and Adara Resca, sister-in-law of Philomena Meads and cherished friend of Elisabeth Desmarais and the dear sister of the late Manuel Meads, Mary E. (Meads) Burns, Ernest L. Meads, Stanley Meads and Anthony J. Meads. She is also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Family and friends are respectfully attended visiting hours were on Sunday, March 17, in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere and a funeral was conducted from the funeral home on Monday, March 18, followed by a Funeral Mass at Sacred Heart Church, 45 Brooks St., East Boston. Interment followed in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Care Dimensions, 75 Sylvan St. Danvers, MA 01923.

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.

Ventura // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

newspapers and that was it. Now it’s everything. You want to be first, as opposed to getting it in the paper. So that mentality has changed,” said Ventura.

Ventura, 64, said he enjoys living in East Boston where he is forever recognized during visits to restaurants, coffee shops, stores, and markets. “We’re old school – Santarpio’s is No. 1,” related Ventura, who has been an Eastie resident for 27 years.

He is a supporter of East Boston High School sports teams, crediting boys bas-

ketball head coach Tyrone Figueroa “for doing a nice job with the team.”

“It’s the best team that Eastie has had in a while, and I think a lot of that is due to the coaching,” said Ventura. “It’s good to see because Tyrone is such a wonderful young man.”

The National High School Sportswriter of the Year in 2004, Danny Ventura has moved on to the spring sports season. One thing for sure, high school sports fans will be reading and enjoying his stories and columns daily in the Boston Herald or online.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

ATTENDANCE IS UP AT CHELSEA SCHOOLS

CHELSEA - While not totally unexpected, there was good news on the school attendance front in February.

At last week's school committee meeting, Deputy Superintendent of Schools Adam Deleidi presented the monthly indicators of success for the district, including attendance and the drop-out rate.

The district compares the prior month's attendance rates to the month previous to that, as well as the year-to-date attendance at the previous year at the same time, Deleidi said.

"In the month of February in all grades, we beat our attendance rates over January with the exception of grade two, which started exactly the same at 91.5 percent, and our post graduate," he said. "Everyone else actually improved their attendance rates."

Compared to this time last school year, Deleidi said every grade is on pace to have a better attendance rate, with the exceptions of grades six and nine.

"Now, before we get too excited, I will say ... last year we were dealing with the tripledemic of flu, Covid, and RSV," said Deleidi. "We talked about that last year, so we expected improvements, but we are glad that we are seeing them here."

While the attendance rate has seen improvement, there has been a slight increase in the drop-out rate for the current school year.

So far this year, there have been 95 drop outs, while at this time last year, there were 75, Deleidi said.

"We do have more students this year, so the percentage of students who had dropped out at this point last year was 4.25 percent, this year at this point it is 5.13 percent," said the deputy superintendent.

The dropout rate was highest for multilingual students at 9.7 percent. The rate for students with disabilities was 3.63 percent, and for students who are both multilingual and have special needs was 6.95 percent. The drop out rate for students who are neither multilingual nor have special needs was 2.78 percent.

There was good news with the dropout rate, as Deleidi said only one student dropped out in February, and that student was redirected to an adult education program.

Overall in February, the district saw 59 new students while 37 left the district.

"We continue the pattern of more students enrolling than they are leaving," said Deleidi.

EVERETT FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

EVERETT - Everett Affordable Housing Coordinator Zerina Gace presented the specifics of the Everett First-Time Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance Program at Monday night's City Council meeting.

Following her informative remarks, the Council unanimously approved to accept and expend a state grant of \$400,000 that will establish the program.

Gace, who was appointed to her position in January, said that 20 separate grants will be awarded for up to \$20,000. A total of \$300,000 will be granted to Everett residents looking to purchase homes in Everett. A total of \$100,000 will be granted to Everett employees looking to purchase a home in Everett.

Gace, who works in the Planning and Development Department led by Director Matt Lattanzi, will be overseeing the application review process, determining whether candidates are income-eligible for the grants.

"The income would be between 60 and 100 percent area median income, so it's like a working-class family," said Lattanzi. "This is a first-time program in Everett that originated from the Office of Mayor Carlo DeMaria. We feel this program is going to do some great things for the city. Overall, it's going to be great project."

Council approves Rogers' resolution declaring April as Earth Month in Everett

The Council unanimously approved a resolution by Councilor-at-Large Katy Rogers declaring the month of April as Earth Month in Everett.

Earth Day is celebrated nationally on April 22 to show support for the environment.

"April is time to raise awareness on environmental issues that impact everyday life in Everett," said Rogers. "Our city faces many challenges affecting the entire community such as air-quality concerns and access to our riverfront property. We officially do a cleanup once a year on April 20. Since we don't necessarily celebrate Earth Day on April 22 each year, designating the month of April would open opportunities to raise awareness of environmental issues in our community while allowing inclusivity beyond just one day. With this resolution, the Council recognizes that celebrating our outdoor space exceeds a single day of the year should be encompassed within daily life in Everett, especially throughout the month of April."

Rogers requested that Mayor Carlo DeMaria's Administration join the Council in recognizing April as Earth Month going forward.

PARKWAY BRIDGE PROJECT TO BEGIN IN 2026

REVERE - MassDOT officials and consultants

UNITED FIRST CHURCH HOSTS ST. PATRICK'S DAY BOILED DINNER



Families and friends lining the buffet table for corned beef and cabbage during the St. Patrick's Day Boiled Dinner hosted by United Methodist Church in Winthrop.

laid out the plans for the replacement of the bridge on Revere Beach Parkway that spans Broadway at a public meeting at City Hall last week.

The \$14 million project, which will be paid for through a mix of federal and state funds, is expected to get underway in 2026 and take three years to complete.

Currently, preliminary planning for the project is underway, and MassDOT is expected to hold another meeting in the fall with more concrete design plans.

The proposed project will also include improved intersections at the Revere Beach Parkway eastbound ramp at Broadway, with signalized intersection improvements, and at the westbound ramp with multimodal accommodations and ADA compliant curb ramps and crossings, according to consultant Paul Berthiaume of Howard Stein Hudson.

In addition, there will also be an acceleration and deceleration lane on Revere Beach Parkway for the length of the project.

"The primary goal of the project is to replace the existing structurally deficient bridge with a new, modern bridge while maintaining the existing Broadway traffic below it," said Berthiaume. "The existing bridge was constructed in 1930 and widened in 1958, and the bridge deck and superstructure are in poor condition. We are looking to restore the bridge but maintain its historic aesthetics."

The other goals of the project are to improve safety at the intersection, enhance multimodal access such as pedestrian and bike access, and minimize impacts to roadway users during construction, he said.

Revere Beach Parkway along the span will also need to be raised slightly to improve the vertical clearance over Broadway.

"We are proposing to make minor changes to Revere Beach Parkway in the final condition, however, we are proposing that the current westbound shoulder ... become an acceleration lane to assist traffic merging onto Revere Beach Parkway," Berthiaume said. "The project is proposing to connect back into the existing Revere Beach Parkway configuration at the project limit."

The project will also likely include the reconstruction of sidewalks on both sides of Broadway, bicycle accommodation, and bus priority measures where feasible.

There will also be improvements to both ramp intersections.

The new bridge itself will be a simple span steel bridge with a reinforced concrete deck, which Berthiaume said more closely represents the historic structure being replaced than other alternatives.

There is still design work underway on the final alternative for the Broadway portion of the project.

"We are currently working on the design of Broadway," Berthiaume said. "The cross section of Broadway is limited by the bridge span, since this site contains Boston blue clay, which restricts how big the bridge span can get without having significant costs for deep foundations."

The proposed construction approach calls for a design, bid, build contract approach with three stages of construction. Each stage of construction will take about one year.

The current schedule shows the contract going out to bid in the winter of 2026.

"Any necessary closings or reroutings of Broadway traffic will take place at nighttime only," said Berthiaume.

The first stage of construction will have the work zone on the Revere Beach Parkway eastbound exterior lane and will maintain two lanes eastbound and westbound. There will be no impact to Broadway and ramp access will be maintained, according to the consultants.

The second phase of construction calls for the work zone on the interior lanes of Revere Beach Parkway eastbound and westbound, with two lanes maintained eastbound and westbound. Once again, consultants stated there would be no impact to Broadway users during this stage, and ramp access would be maintained.

The third stage of the project would move the work zone to the Revere Beach Parkway westbound exterior lane.

The temporary night closures along Broadway would be required for specific activities, such as demolition and beam placement, and would take place between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.

According to the consultants, two lanes of traffic will be maintained on Revere Beach Parkway at all times, with temporary crossovers. Abutter access would be maintained at all times, as well.

GOODWIN APPOINTED NEXT POLICE CHIEF

WINTHROP - Fresh on the heels of Town Council President Jim Letterie's State of the Town address, there was a lot of big news about transitions in the town on Monday night, including the resignation of one town councilor and the selection of a new police chief.

Earlier this year, Police Chief Terence Delehanty announced he will be retiring this summer. On Monday night, Town Manager Tony Marino announced that Winthrop Deputy Police Chief John Goodwin will be the town's next police chief.

Marino said both the department's deputy chiefs were interviewed for the department's top job. He said Goodwin brings 30 years of police experience in both Winthrop and Revere to the chief's position.

Goodwin will be appointed chief on April 1, and Marino said there will be some time for the transition from Delehanty to Goodwin.

Monday night, Letterie also announced that Precinct 1 Councilor Richard Fucillo resigned his position on the council. The council presented a citation to Fucillo for his service, and announced that it is now seeking candidates to fill out the remainder of his term in Precinct 1.

"Rich is an incredible young man," said Letterie. "For 24 years of age, he has accomplished so much and we are so thankful. He joined the council a couple of years ago, and what did I do for his first task? I made him chair of the finance commission, which is just incredible."

"I know that I was on the council for six years before I was able to do that, and he did it at 22, 23."

Letterie said Fucillo brought youth and enthusiasm to the council and town politics.

"This is not an easy decision for Rich, but he was fortunate enough to buy a piece of property outside of the town," Letterie added. "We wish him nothing but the best."

In other town partings, Marino said that Town Planner Rachel Kelly is moving on to another position outside the town. He said the town will be looking at how to best replace Kelly, whether by hiring a new town planner or readjusting the position.

Marino said he has been involved with many of the planning issues in the town, and will stay on top of them until the transition is complete.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Irish dogs

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Since March is a month when we celebrate all things Irish, we'd like to introduce you to a few dog breeds originating in Ireland. Some, such as The Irish Wolfhound, Irish Setter, Irish Red and White Setter, Irish Water Spaniel, and Irish Terrier, carry their heritage as part of their breed names.

A few carry an Irish place name, such as the Glen of Imaal Terrier, Kerry Blue Terrier, and Kerry Beagle. However, you might be surprised to learn that the very popular Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier also traces its ancestry to the Emerald Isle.

We've met quite a few Wheatens, Irish Setters, and Wolfhounds over the years. All three made the top 100 in the American Kennel Club's (AKC) Most Popular Dog Breeds list at numbers 66, 71, and

89, respectively. We've had rare sightings of the Kerry Blue, Glen of Imaal, and Irish Setter but have never had the opportunity to see the others in the fur.

Big or Small:
Bred to Work

All these dogs were bred to work for hunting, retrieving, and destroying vermin. The largest, The Irish Wolfhound is said to be able to run down and kill a wolf. Despite its size and background, the breed is described as quiet, affectionate, loyal to its family, and, with proper training, good around children and other dogs.

Our first experience with a Wolfhound was when we walked our very feisty Westie Sassy around our suburban neighborhood. Down the street trotted Toby, a pony-size Wolfhound, with his person. Sassy, who was highly territorial, gave a sharp

bark and a low growl. Toby took one look at her, made a U-turn, and moved away at a much faster pace.

Unfortunately, we could only get to know Toby when Sassy was not with us. Worse, the encounter gave Sassy the mistaken confidence that if she scared away that giant, she could take on horses, cows, and any other large animal she met.

On the other end of the size scale, the AKC writes about the small but mighty Glen of Imaal Terrier: "They were bred to hunt small prey, such as rats, as well as larger targets, such as foxes and badgers (which could weigh more than the dogs, at up to 40 lbs). According to legend, Glens also had a role in the kitchen, turning a specially designed meat-cooking device called a turnspit—think of a dog-operated rotisserie."



The AKC reported, "Irish Wolfhounds were documented in Rome as early as the year 391 A.D. They were presented to the Roman Counsel as gifts..."

Irish Dog Names

We may have a few Irish dogs in the area, but many more dogs have Irish names. In our neighborhood, we've known dogs named Shamrock, Murphy, Erin, Quinn, Fio-

na, Bailey, Riley, Killian, Brady, Finn, and Finnigan. Perhaps it's this area's Irish heritage or just a love for the sound of Celtic words.

Dog's in Irish Pubs

If, like us, your imag-

ined view of an Irish pub includes dogs sitting beside the men at the bar or under the tables, it's not current. That image comes from popular culture and another age.

From the 1950s until the rules changed in 2017, owners of establishments that served food were only allowed to let service dogs inside. Today, the law is about the same as it is in Boston and some surrounding towns and cities. It is up to the restaurant or pub owner to decide if they will allow companion animals, and they must meet a set of rules to do so.

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

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SEN. LYDIA EDWARDS HOSTS COFFEE HOUR AT PAZZA ON PORTER

Sen. Lydia Edwards met Saturday, March 9, with many of her constituents at a Coffee Hour that she hosted at Pazzo on Porter Street.

Edwards spoke with residents about housing, education, and public safety. She also took questions from the audience.

The guests enjoyed breakfast treats including bagels and croissants, a selection of juices, and coffee.

Edwards has announced that she is running for re-election in the Third Suffolk District that includes East Boston, the North End, other parts of Boston, and all of Winthrop and Revere.



Travis Freedberg (left) and his father, Mike Freedberg, pictured with Sen. Lydia Edwards.



Sen. Lydia Edwards speaks with East Boston residents, including Rita Lara (left), at the Coffee Hour.



Jorge Henao, Sandra Nijjar, Sen. Lydia Edwards, Paulina Bastidas-Yale, and Arline Olivero.



Legendary vocalist and performer Veronica Robles joins Sen. Lydia Edwards for a photo at the East Boston senator's Coffee Hour.



Sen. Lydia Edwards is pictured with her mother, Retired Master Sgt. Bridgett Edwards, Saturday during the Coffee Hour at Pazzo on Porter.



Sen. Lydia Edwards is pictured with candidate for office, Allison Cartwright, an attorney whom the senator is supporting in the election for Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court in Suffolk County.

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