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THE APRIL 2024 ECLIPSE



The path of the eclipse overhead this past Monday, April 8.

NANCY MARTEL PHOTO

Zero Waste info and event plans shared with JPNA

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

At the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association's (JPNA) monthly meeting on Monday, a member of the city's Zero Waste team shared information about waste programs and some upcoming events.

Hannah Mermin is on the Zero Waste team and presented to the JPNA. Speaking about the team, Mermin said, "There's about six of us that work to help manage waste that is produced but also to help limit the amount of residential waste that we're all producing."

Mermin went on to explain the idea behind Zero Waste and displayed a pyramid that provided information on limiting consumption, consuming wisely, using items more than once, and recycling. She also mentioned that the city's trash goes to waste-to-energy facilities.

In addition to providing a waste reduction tip, which was to use cloth napkins or dish towels instead of paper towels, Mermin went through the city's waste programs. The first program Mermin outlined was re-

cycling, which is done through weekly curbside pickups. Recyclable items can be placed on the curb before 6:00 A.M. on collection day or after 5:00 P.M. the night before.

"Please do not put any plastic bags in the recycling; it can damage the sorting equipment used at the recycling facilities and they're not recyclable," said Mermin.

The city also has two food waste collection programs — Project Oscar and curbside collection. According to Mermin, Project Oscar is a "community food waste collection" with a bin at Memorial Stadium Park. The pin to use the Project Oscar bin is 2-1-4.

Curbside pickup is an option for those living in buildings with six units or less. Visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/food-waste> to sign up, where you will receive a bin for your counter and an outdoor bin that can be placed outside the same day trash and recycling are picked up.

"Food waste collection is important because instead of having food waste

See JPNA Page 3

MBTA announces service information for the 2024 Boston Marathon

Special to the Times

The MBTA has announced the service information for Monday, April 15, the day of the 2024 Boston Marathon. Every year, the MBTA prepares for the Boston Marathon across all departments in many ways. It supports the annual event with increased service to accommodate spectators and runners, acknowledges the crucial role of public

transit during this celebratory time, and expresses sincere appreciation for its ridership and dedicated workforce.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of MBTA leaders from various departments, including operations, track, signals, and safety, will be monitoring the

system throughout the day, ready to troubleshoot any unforeseen issues that may arise. The MBTA's Security team will have representatives in the Unified Coordination Center, located at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency's headquarters in Framingham, which

serves as the central hub for public safety operations on race day. The Transit Police Department will also continue to monitor the system with robust support available as needed. Additional staff and Transit Ambassadors will be strategically positioned throughout the system to assist with passenger flow and answer any questions or concerns from riders.

See MBTA Page 3



City of Boston invests in enhanced emergency and coastal resilience planning with floodmap

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the City of Boston has awarded the City of Boston Flood Modeling RFP to FloodMapp to provide real-time flood monitoring to enhance emergency preparation, response, and recovery during flood events, marking a significant step forward in the city's resili-

ence, an important part of the Mayor's Green New Deal.

"Making Boston a Green New Deal city involves having the best means of preparing for, handling, and mitigating the long-lasting effects of climate change, including flooding," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Climate resilience begins with a sense of urgency for how these

issues impact our communities today, while creating and adjusting both short-term and long-term plans to deal with them."

This collaboration underscores Boston's proactive approach in confronting the escalating challenges caused by climate change, particularly intensifying flooding and sea-level rise. As a low-lying coastal city,

vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, Boston is experiencing more intense storms, frequent heavy precipitation, extreme flooding, and higher sea levels. This can pose hazards to the community, its residents, and emergency managers, causing impacts to infrastructure, property damage, and more.

"We are looking forward to taking this critical step towards enhancing the City's ability to be more informed about flooding across Boston," said Chief Shumeane Benford from Boston's Office of Emergency Management. "This tool will support the interagency coordination within the Emergency

See FLOODMAPS Page 3

SEN. EDWARDS HOSTS CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF



Mayor Michelle Wu speaks to the crowd during Sen. Lydia Edwards campaign kick-off held on April 3 at Kelly's Pub. Many supporters including residents, and local officials attended. See more photos on Page 6.

TRASH DELAY
Due to the Patriot's Day Holiday on Monday April 15, 2024, Trash will be delayed by one day
Capitol Waste Services, Inc.

Our office will be closed in observance of the Patriots' Day holiday on Monday, April 15
Ad deadline for next issue is Friday, April 12.

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NEWS BRIEFS

REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES CAUTIONS PUBLIC TO BEWARE OF DECEPTIVE AND MIMIC WEBSITES

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is reminding customers to use only Mass.Gov/RMV for information or to perform many transactions, including when trying to renew a license or registration. While there has been no sharp increase in reports of deceptive and mimic websites to the RMV, this is a busy time of year for customer transactions so the RMV is issuing this reminder to the public about sites which have been created to mislead customers into thinking they have reached the official RMV website.

“We urge everyone to be vigilant when performing transactions or providing information online for RMV-related services. Customers should avoid using any unofficial third-party websites claiming to assist with

RMV services, and inform their relatives and friends about this as well,” said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. “On our official website Mass.Gov/RMV, customers can look up how much specific services cost and see which services are available to them at no charge.”

To ensure you are accessing the official RMV site, please remember the following:

- In Massachusetts, we use the term “Registry of Motor Vehicles” and “RMV,” so log-off if the site references the “DMV” or the “Department of Motor Vehicles.”

- At Mass.Gov/RMV, you will never be charged to check your license, registration or title status.

- At Mass.Gov/RMV, you will never be charged to access Registry forms and information.

- At Mass.Gov/RMV, you will never be charged to change your address on file.

The Registry actively posts online about this topic including on X @ MassRMV, and a warning regarding third party web-

sites remains featured in the RMV’s Driver’s Manual.

Reports of fraudulent websites can be directed to the Attorney General’s Office at <http://www.mass.gov/ago/consumer-resources/consumer-assistance/consumer-complaint.html> and the Federal Trade Commission: <https://www.ftc.gov/>.

In addition, customers should beware of text messages or emails which claim to be from MassDOT or the RMV, as these communications often are dangerous phishing scams and not official MassDOT and RMV sources. These fraudulent texts and emails may include links, which do not lead to official MassDOT or RMV websites, and customers should not follow the links nor reply to these messages with personal information.

Customers with additional questions about how to identify and avoid scams can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation by calling the Consumer Hotline at (617) 973-8787,

or toll-free in Massachusetts at (888) 283-3757.

For the latest Registry updates and information, follow the RMV on X @ MassRMV.

LOCAL AUTHOR PAUL M MARKIS HOSTS BOOK SIGNING EVENT

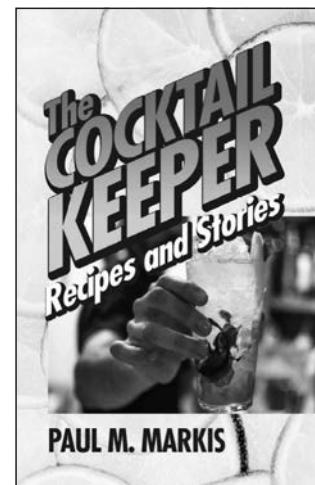
Join local author Paul M Markis for a book signing event on Saturday, April 13th, from 11 am to 1 pm at the Winthrop Book Depot located at 11 Somerset Street, Winthrop, MA.

Markis, a resident of Winthrop for the past 20 years, was raised in East Boston. Many may remember him from his 25-year tenure as a bartender at Jeveli’s Restaurant.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own copy of Markis’s book, “The Cocktail Keeper: Recipes and Stories,” or purchase one at the event to receive a personalized handwritten message from the author.

“The Cocktail Keeper” is a collection of recipes, stories, anecdotes, and more, aimed at entertain-

ing the reader. The book provides insights into successful bartending techniques, along with recipes for unique cocktails explained in simple terms. Markis also shares humorous stories from his forty years in the hospitality industry.



The 134-page paperback, priced at \$15.00 (eBook \$10.00), features a variety of cocktail recipes, famous toasts, medicinal cures, cocktail-making techniques, quips, fun facts, trivia, and real-life stories, making it a valuable addition to any home bar.

Don’t miss this opportu-

nity to meet the author and get a signed copy of “The Cocktail Keeper: Recipes and Stories.” Follow “The Cocktail Keeper” on Facebook or Instagram for a preview of what’s inside.

UPCOMING EVENT ON THE EAST BOSTON GREENWAY SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE MARYELLEN GREENWAY

Join Ramon owner and farm operator of “Microgreens By The Sea” on April 18, 2024 for a microgreens planting demonstration, live harvesting and samples of tasty microgreens. Adults and children are welcome to participate. Supplies will be provided. Participants will take home a personal kit to grow microgreens at home. In front of the East Boston Library

Earth Day Clean Up. Volunteers needed.

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Meet at the Caboose, Bremen and Marginal Street entrance

Massachusetts requires analysis of cumulative impacts for air quality permits near EJ populations

The Healey-Driscoll Administration moved to address air quality issues in or near environmental justice areas by announcing amendments to state air pollution regulations. The communities of Revere, Everett, Chelsea, Charlestown and East Boston are considered in environmental justice areas. The changes require certain facilities seeking air emissions permits in or near communities with environmental justice populations to conduct a cumulative impact analysis, which evaluates existing local environmental and health conditions in a community. The regulations also require enhanced public outreach to, and meaningful involvement of, environmental justice populations in the permitting process. The new regulations are now in force and apply to permit applications filed with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) on or after July 1, 2024.

“Our administration is committed to addressing longstanding environmental injustice,” said

Governor Maura Healey. “Massachusetts is proud to make history as the first state in the nation to launch a statewide program to require a detailed, site-specific evaluation of cumulative impacts to consider public health and other factors. We hope to set the standard for others to follow as we seek to right past wrongs and build healthier, more inclusive communities.”

“A cumulative impact analysis will offer a more complete picture of environmental and health conditions in affected communities and equip residents to be involved in the permitting process from the very beginning,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “This is a significant development as our administration continues to prioritize participation, transparency, and protection of public health in permitting decisions.”

“This approach takes a holistic look at what existing conditions might be worsened by a new or increasing source of air pollution,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper.

“It provides opportunities for residents to meaningfully engage in the permitting process to help identify mitigation strategies and ensure that these facilities are a benefit to – not a further burden on – environmental justice communities.”

People are exposed to pollution through air, water, and land. Over time, these exposures can add up and interact with each other, and combined with existing health and socioeconomic conditions, can cause adverse health impacts.

Communities that are home to numerous sources of pollution – such as highways or waste facilities – often have higher rates of asthma and other serious health conditions. This is especially true in communities with environmental justice areas, where residents have higher instances of health issues related to socioeconomic conditions. Current air pollution regulations do not require new facilities to assess potential pollution in light of existing environmental and health conditions or existing pollutant sources in the area. By requiring new and expanding facilities that will emit air pollution to conduct a cumulative impacts analysis prior to applying for an air permit, residents will be empowered with practical information about potential impacts to their health and community.

“The cumulative impact analysis gives our agency and the public a better basis to evaluate project proposals in real-world contexts,” said MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple. “MassDEP has developed innovative tools and compiled comprehensive datasets that can be used by permit applicants and interested residents to assess local impacts.”

“These new regulations will empower communities with information about the impacts of air pollution on their health,” said Undersecretary for Environmental Justice and Equity María Belén Power. “As new facilities seek to come into neighborhoods, environmental

justice communities will have the data and transparency they deserve. This is an important step towards achieving justice for all people in Massachusetts.”

Community Engagement

Early community engagement and advance notification are key requirements of the new rules.

The regulations apply to projects that would emit significant amounts of air pollutants in or near environmental justice communities – for example, certain power plants, large boilers, and manufacturing facilities. At least 60 days before applying for a new or modified air permit, the permit applicant must provide a notification and fact sheet about the proposed project to nearby environmental justice populations, local officials, and MassDEP. The applicant also must provide public involvement opportunities and document and respond to comments and concerns raised by the public.

Comprehensive Analysis

The new rules require permit applicants to assess existing community conditions by evaluating 33 environmental, health, and socio-economic indicators. These indicators help characterize existing pollution sources, health vulnerabilities, and other stressors that could be worsened by increased air emissions from the proposed project. The updated rules require a more comprehensive analysis of the impacts of these projects to local communities, including consideration of:

- Existing air pollution and health conditions.
- Vulnerabilities in affected communities; and
- Socioeconomic and demographic indicators.

MassDEP has developed guidance and tools in support of the new regulations that can be used by permit applicants and environmental justice populations. These include guidance on how to conduct a cumulative impact analysis, including public outreach, assessment of existing community conditions, and analysis of cumulative impacts; a Mapping and Data Appli-

cation for use in the assessment of existing community conditions; and a Massachusetts Air Toxics Risk Screening Tool (MATRIST) that can be used in the cumulative impact analysis to estimate cumulative air toxics risks from proposed projects.

MassDEP plans to review this program within two years of the effective date of the regulations, including by soliciting input and feedback from the public regarding potential updates.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has made environmental justice central to its climate and environmental agenda. Under Governor Healey, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs created the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity, led by Undersecretary María Belén Power and secured \$7 million for environmental justice staffing and initiatives across agencies, including MassDEP. The Office of Environmental Justice and Equity also recently announced the state’s first Environmental Justice Strategy, which includes MassDEP’s department-specific strategy to meaningfully engage with environmental justice communities.

“The new Massachusetts air permit regulations take a bold step to protect overburdened and underserved communities in a new way, requiring consideration of cumulative impacts from environment, public health and socioeconomic conditions as part of the permitting process,” said EPA New England Regional Administrator David W. Cash. “The combination of considering cumulative impacts and enhanced community engagement to address community priorities early in the process is foundational to environmental justice. We hope that this will serve as a model for other states across the country and bring new air quality and public health improvements to Massachusetts residents.”

“For environmental justice communities and advocates, the concept of

cumulative impact assessment – that some communities bear a greater collective burden than others – is fundamental. We applaud the Healey-Driscoll Administration and, in particular, the Department of Environmental Protection for moving the ball forward and incorporating cumulative impact assessment in the Commonwealth’s air permitting process,” said GreenRoots Executive Director Roseann Bongiovanni. “But we know that cumulative environmental impacts affect more than just the air we breathe; it affects our water and is reflected in the land use decisions we make. We look forward to continuing to work with the Administration to fully implement cumulative impact assessment in all aspects of the Commonwealth’s equitable protection of our environment and the health of its residents.”

“Cumulative Impact Assessments will vastly improve our ability to protect air quality by making fact-based, historically informed decisions about permitting in vulnerable communities. We applaud the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Department of Environmental Protection for taking this first-in-the nation step to ensure cleaner air for all Massachusetts residents,” said Amy Boyd Rabin, Vice President of Policy for the Environmental League of Massachusetts.

“Safeguards for overburdened communities that already experience too much pollution and health damage are sorely needed and are critical to make sure we don’t deepen environmental injustices,” said Cindy Luppi, National Field Director, Clean Water Action. “We’re grateful that the Healey-Driscoll Administration wants to address this on-going pattern of injustice in some of the Commonwealth’s low-income and BIPOC communities. Meaningful regulations offer the promise of a healthier and more just tomorrow and we hope that many more states follow Massachusetts’ lead.”

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Wu supports Avangrid's New England Wind 1 offshore wind proposal

Mayor Michelle Wu announced her support of Avangrid's New England Wind 1 offshore wind proposal in response to the multi-state procurement for offshore wind power by Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. If Avangrid's bid is selected by the state, this transaction would be a first for a US city to contract for offshore wind. This endorsement reflects Boston's commitment to decarbonizing the city by investing in clean energy and creating sustainable economic opportunities for its residents. If awarded, part of the energy generated through the project will be used to power Boston's municipal buildings and residences enrolled in our municipal energy aggregation program, Bos-

"Boston must lead the way in building a sustainable future, and we're proud to set a new standard with a direct stake in innovation to create clean energy and good jobs for our residents and communities," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This partnership advances our climate goals while bringing thousands of green jobs to our region, creating a pathway for generations to come."

The City of Boston and Avangrid have agreed upon a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which the City of Boston could purchase up to 15 megawatts of energy as part of a future agreement, the equivalent of one wind turbine, from the New England Wind 1 offshore project, if the Commonwealth se-

New England Wind 1 project has the potential to deliver up to 800 megawatts of renewable energy to the New England grid, enough to power up to 400,000 homes and businesses in the region. The project is estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 1.5 million US tons of carbon dioxide per year, equivalent to taking over 280,000 cars off the road. The amount of electricity that the City of Boston may purchase under the terms of a potential agreement is equal to nearly a third of all the electricity used annually by Boston Public Schools in addition to nearly 5,000 homes. Avangrid has also offered to implement vocational training for Boston Public School students, meaning that this collaboration

create an investment in the green jobs pipeline, an important part of Boston's Green New Deal.

"The City of Boston is thrilled by the chance to participate in the offshore wind revolution" said Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space. "I would particularly like to thank David Musselman, Boston's Director of Municipal Energy, who has spearheaded innovative energy projects like this in Boston and will be retiring next month."

Offshore wind is an industry on the frontlines of the climate crisis, building energy cost resilience in a market that has been increasingly destabilized by its reliance on fossil fuels. The City of Boston believes Avangrid could potentially deliver a transformational project to Massachusetts that would help the state meet its critical energy needs and secure new economic opportunities for its residents.

"Mayor Wu and the City of Boston are among the country's foremost climate champions, so we saw a natural opportunity with our New England Wind bid and the City's leadership to form this exciting partnership," said Avangrid CEO Pedro Azagra. "Our goal with New England Wind is to bring the region's historic communities into the very blueprints of our project, and we're thrilled to establish this partnership with the City to ensure that Boston benefits from the clean power and economic opportunity that offshore wind offers."

The City of Boston recognizes the significance of this opportunity to advance its renewable energy goals and support the growth of the green economy. By collaborating with Avangrid, Boston aims to lead the way in sustainable energy development and contribute to a cleaner, greener future for all.

This opportunity is one

example of the innovative energy projects that the City has implemented to achieve its carbon neutrality goals. Renew Boston Trust's energy performance contracting reduces energy use and emissions from the City's buildings and exterior lights. Renew Boston Trust projects are expected to save the City \$2.3 million and reduce carbon emissions by 3,600 mtCO₂e annually. The City of Boston has also secured a \$250,000 grant from the Barr Foundation to pilot the City's Equitable Electrification Initiative in one of our environmental justice neighborhoods and previously supported the state in the creation of the Massachusetts Community Climate Bank. Through collaborative efforts like these, the City of Boston continues to pave the way for a more sustainable and equitable future, driving positive change for generations to come.

MBTA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ton Community Choice Electricity.

Riders are encouraged to hold handrails and use care and caution while traversing stairs and escalators due to anticipated crowding and high ridership. Additional porters will also proactively identify and address cleaning needs throughout the system, from sweeping floors and disposing of trash to maintaining restrooms and replenishing supplies.

MBTA Service Information for the 2024 Boston Marathon:

For the first time ever, the Route 1 bus will operate with increased Saturday service from 9 AM to 9 PM with buses arriving as frequently as every 5 minutes (the Route 1 typically operates every 9-15 minutes on Saturdays) – the Route 1 travels across both sides of the Marathon route, making it an easy way for spectators to traverse the Marathon to cheer on runners. The Framingham/Worcester Commuter Rail Line will also offer additional inbound and outbound trips to accommodate anticipated increases in ridership.

To find the best Marathon viewing location on the T, riders are encouraged to visit the MBTA's Boston Marathon Guide at mbta.com/Marathon, which highlights MBTA stations closest to the Marathon route and includes other helpful information on purchasing fares, parking, and more.

lects Avangrid as one of their awardees. Avangrid's Line.

- From approximately 10 AM to 6 PM, above-ground Green Line stops at South Street (B branch), Kent Street (C branch), and St. Mary's Street (C branch) will be closed.

- In the interest of public safety, the MBTA may adjust service or temporarily close additional stations near the finish line.

Service Information:

- The Green, Red, Orange, Blue, and Silver lines will operate a regular weekday schedule on April 15 with additional service before and after the race.

- Buses will operate a Saturday schedule on April 15 with some routes detoured to accommodate the Marathon and other festivities. Route 1 will operate an increased Saturday schedule from 9 AM to 9 PM on Marathon Monday with buses arriving approximately every five minutes.

- o Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts for more information on bus route diversions. Visit mbta.com/Marathon for a complete list of changes.

- All Commuter Rail lines will operate a regular weekday schedule on April 15. There will be a special Marathon Monday schedule in effect on the Framingham/Worcester Commuter Rail Line offering four additional inbound and five additional outbound trips with more information on mbta.com soon.

- All ferry and RIDE paratransit services will operate a regular weekday schedule. The RIDE may be detoured to accommodate the Marathon and related events.

- Bicycles are prohibited onboard all MBTA subway vehicles (including folding bicycles) for

would not only advance Boston's climate goals but the entire day on April 15.

Additionally, bikes and scooters (including folding ones) will not be allowed on board Framingham/Worcester Commuter Rail Line trains starting at 5 PM on Sunday, April 14 (the first inbound train impacted is No. 2512 and the first outbound train impacted is No. 2513) through end of service on April 15 due to anticipated extra Marathon ridership. Backpacks, coolers, cans, bottles, and large items are not permitted at the Marathon.

Paying Fares:

- On the Commuter Rail, the MBTA recommends purchasing the \$10 Holiday Weekend Pass, which will be available for passengers to travel all weekend from Saturday, April 13, through Monday, April 15. The \$10 Holiday Weekend Pass is valid for all Commuter Rail lines and zones with unlimited hop-on and hop-off travel. Passengers should note that Holiday Weekend Passes are not valid on subway or bus.

- For subway and bus travel for those that do not already have a monthly pass, the MBTA recommends loading at least \$5 on a CharlieCard on Marathon Monday, which is enough fare for a round trip on the subway.

- For those traveling to the Boston area, a 7-day pass might be the most useful – the MBTA's 7-day passes are \$22.50 and provide unlimited travel for a week from the date of purchase on the subway, buses, Commuter Rail Zone 1A, and Charlestown and East Boston ferries.

- For more information on paying fares, visit mbta.com/fares and mbta.com/Marathon.

Parking Information:

- Riders planning to park in an MBTA garage or lot on April 15 should allow additional travel time and note that some garages and lots may fill very quickly due to heavy parking demand.

- More information is available at mbta.com/Parking.

For more information, visit mbta.com/Marathon 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.

JPNA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

really be waste, we can turn it into clean energy, or we can turn it into nutrient-rich soil," said Mermin.

Mermin then touched briefly on trash collection, which, like recycling, is picked up curbside weekly and shares the same guidelines for when bins should be placed outside.

Textile collection was also discussed. Boston residents can schedule curbside pickup if they have at least three bags, but textiles can also be donated at Helpsy bins or brought to Zero Waste Day drop-offs.

East Boston has a drop-off bin at 166 London Street. "Textiles are actually a waste-ban item in Massachusetts, which means that technically they can't go in the trash, so try to bring them to these drop-off bins," said Mermin.

"They're open all the time. Really, you can dump pretty much any textile in as long as it's not like moldy," she added.

Regarding mattress collection, curbside collection can be scheduled for those in buildings with six units or fewer. To make an appointment, call 3-1-1 or 617-635-4500.

"The important thing here is just, as you probably all know, Boston has a lot of leases that turn over on June 1st and September 1st, so if you are moving at that time, try to plan in advance and request your mattress pick-up in advance because we do get a little overwhelmed," said Mermin.

Yard-waste collection, which started on Monday, coincides with trash and recycling days during certain weeks. There are also yard-waste drop-off days in the city. "Make sure you check the schedule," said Mermin.

Finally, hazardous waste collection, which occurs during Zero Waste Day drop-off events, was discussed. "We accept things like electronics, textiles, hazardous liquids,

paint, computers, you name it," said Mermin.

The first Zero Waste Day event is scheduled for May 18th. However, a Zero Waste pop-up event that accepts "similar items" is scheduled for April 13th at 58 Dana Avenue in Hyde Park from 8:30 A.M. to noon.

Other events to keep an eye out for include a free compost giveaway on April 27th from 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at Refectory Hill in Franklin Park and a Compost Certification program session, which begins on May 11th.

For more information on the compost certification program, visit www.massaudubon.org/programs/boston-nature-center/92560-boston-compost-certification-program.

Visit www.Boston.gov/zero-waste to learn more about what items are accepted in each program, upcoming events, and how to schedule pick-ups for specific waste.

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A FREAKY FRIDAY.....

Did you feel the earthquake Friday morning?

We were sitting in our recliner in our home when the whole house started shaking and the chair started moving rapidly back and forth. We live on the coast, so at first we thought it might be a change of direction or increase in the velocity of the wind, which can cause our house to creak and the windows to rattle a bit.

But we saw no change in the ripples on the water, so we then thought that perhaps a big truck was on the roadway. But there was no truck. Those two thoughts came in rapid succession within about five seconds, so as the shaking of our chair continued, our next, panicked thought was, "It's an earthquake!"

Five seconds later -- about 10 seconds in total -- the shaking and rattling stopped.

We immediately looked out our windows to see if the water was receding from the shoreline, thinking that if it were an off-shore quake, under the ocean, there might be a tsunami. (Of course, there wasn't.)

We then went on the internet to search for "Boston earthquake," and there were a bunch of posts on X and other social media confirming that there had indeed been an earthquake.

The earthquake's center was in New Jersey, where the seismographic recording was a 4.8. The effect in our area was considerably less.

Although there was no damage reported from the quake (even at its epicenter in New Jersey), we have to admit we were shaken to our core. Our otherwise calm Friday morning had been upended by the most random event we could have imagined -- an earthquake. It made us realize how fragile our existence is and how at a moment's notice, our world can be upended.

It also made us empathize with those who are the victims of a major earthquake and for a few seconds, we understood the sheer terror that one feels amidst an event such as that.

We realize that some might say, "It is what it is," but we have a better one: "Everything is good....until it isn't."

.....AND A MANIC MONDAY

We had not intended to view the eclipse, so despite the hype, we had not purchased special eclipse eyewear. We figured we'd focus on what was happening around us -- the birds and other animals, the shadows, the suddenly-cooler air -- rather than on the interplay between the moon and the sun.

But a neighbor drove up as we were standing outside our home and mentioned that he had an extra pair of eclipse eyewear, which he offered to us. So we took it and got a chance to view the eclipse safely -- and we are so glad we did.

Watching that black moon disc slide over the glowing sun (to about 92% of totality here in the Boston area) was indeed a spectacle that was jaw-dropping. Although the news was filled with reports of traffic jams and millions of people traveling to watch the event in places where the eclipse was 100%, viewing the actual eclipse itself brought about a sense of calm and serenity that we can't describe. It was as if our brains were hypnotized in some way by a celestial, supernatural event.

All of us take the sun and the moon for granted each and every day. But Monday's eclipse created a sense of wonderment that never will be forgotten by those who viewed it.

STATE BUDGET WOES: HERE WE GO AGAIN

With state revenue falling off a cliff and almost \$1 billion being spent (on an annualized basis) to house, feed, and care for immigrants who have made their way to Massachusetts from the southern border (and with no end in sight), the outlook is bleak for our state's finances.

Gov. Maura Healy last week announced a hiring freeze for state employees. In addition, the governor's \$58 billion budget proposal's allocation for local aid, particularly for education assistance, is falling far short of the needs of many cities and towns who are dealing with the influx of new migrant students.

For those of us who have been around for a while, we are well-familiar with the ups and downs of the state budget cycle. The down cycles seem to hit their trough every 12 years or so. The last downturn occurred during the Great Recession of 2008-09, but the state avoided a down-cycle during the pandemic thanks to the massive federal spending that occurred during COVID and its aftermath.

However, the unrestricted COVID funding stream has run dry and state budgets now have to deal with the new reality of less aid from the federal government amidst a time of falling revenue and increased spending.

Hopefully, with federal infrastructure spending coming on-line and unemployment still at record lows, we'll get by with a little bit of belt-tightening -- and we'll avoid the starvation-diet mode that marked previous state budget troughs.



Forum

Boston hosts Citizenship Day

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA), and Project Citizenship are hosting Citizenship Day on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury. The annual event is an opportunity for people who are eligible for naturalization to get free legal help with their citizenship application. People must first call 617-694-5949 to make an appointment.

"Citizenship Day is an important and beloved tradition for our Office for Immigrant Advancement in welcoming so many community members," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As the daughter of two immigrant parents who became naturalized citizens, I know the pride and deep connection that can come from officially becoming a citizen, so it's especially meaningful to collaborate on removing barriers to the citizenship process. I want to thank Project Citizenship for their partner-

ship and the hundreds of volunteers who make this event possible."

Between the costs of legal fees and the USCIS application fee, the process to become a U.S. citizen can be prohibitively expensive. But on Citizenship Day in Boston, hundreds of community volunteers, law students, and pro bono attorneys help people fill out their citizenship application for free. Applicants still need to pay the USCIS application fee, but those who are low-income may qualify for a fee waiver.

"Citizenship can be a life-changing benefit that allows for increased family reunification, freedom from deportation, and opportunities to become more civically engaged through voting and running for office. We are proud to have sponsored this event for 10 years," said Monique Tú Nguyen, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement.

"Citizenship shouldn't

just be for those who can afford it. By providing free legal help, we make sure everyone eligible has the opportunity to participate fully in our democracy," said Gail Breslow, Executive Director of Project Citizenship. "Not only do they and their families benefit, but so do their communities, the city of Boston, and the United States of America."

The City of Boston has partnered with nonprofit Project Citizenship for this event since 2014. It is the largest citizenship workshop in New England, serving more than 3,000 people to date.

About 30,000 Boston residents are eligible for U.S. citizenship. Applicants must be at least 18 years old; a permanent legal resident for five years or three years if married to a U.S. citizen; able to read, write and speak basic English (some exceptions apply); and not have traveled extensively outside the U.S. in the past five years. Project Citizenship will

tell people if they qualify when they call 617-694-5949 for an appointment.

To learn more about Citizenship Day in Boston, eligibility, and the benefits of becoming a U.S. citizen, visit boston.gov/immigrants.

The Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) strives to strengthen the ability of immigrants to fully and equitably participate in economic, civic, social, and cultural life in Boston. MOIA also promotes the recognition and public understanding of the contributions of immigrants to the City. To learn more, visit boston.gov/immigrants.

Project Citizenship is a nonprofit agency that provides free, high quality legal services to permanent residents to help them become U.S. citizens. Project Citizenship offers free workshops, eligibility screening, application assistance, legal referrals and all materials needed to apply for U.S. citizenship.

Floodmaps // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Operations Center (EOC), improve operational preparedness, response, and recovery actions of individual City departments, focus and strengthen our City's resilience planning, and enhance public risk communication before, during, and after a storm!"

FloodMapp will work alongside the City of Boston in its ongoing efforts toward resilience and mitigation of the effects of climate change. The contract supplies the City of Boston's Office of Emergency Management with FloodMapp's ForeCast, NowCast, and PostCast products. With FloodMapp, the City of Boston aims to improve the City's operational response to flood hazards. This new level of insight supports targeted evacuation planning and risk mitigation, helping to protect lives and property. ForeCast shows the predicted extent and depth of a flood on a map which can support emergency managers with targeted alerts and evacuations, proactive road closures, deployment of flood barriers and resources, and more. NowCast is a dynamic, live mapping feed that shows the current extent and depth of a flood in real-time, providing up-to-date situational

awareness of the flood impact on people, property, and critical infrastructure. This supports emergency response activities such as search and rescue and eliminates the need to deploy personnel to dangerous environments to confirm the flood extent. PostCast is a map of the maximum flood extent after the water has begun to recede, which supports targeted distribution of disaster relief resources and supports rapid damage assessment, ultimately fast-tracking the recovery process.

"We are honored to partner with the City of Boston and work collaboratively to build resilience. We're truly inspired by the city's innovative leadership, and our team is excited to integrate FloodMapp ForeCast, NowCast, and PostCast into the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to improve the city's operational preparedness, response, and recovery," said CEO and Co-Founder of FloodMapp Juliette Murphy. "Working together with cities like Boston to build a safer future is rewarding in a way that I can't put into words."

As the City of Boston continues to focus on the

impacts of these stronger and more frequent weather patterns on its residents, the partnership enhances the City's commitment to safety and resilience. In addition to taking near-term action to adapt to a changing climate, the City's Climate Ready Boston program is a roadmap for planning for the short-and-long term impacts of a warming planet in Boston. The City of Boston has completed coastal resilience solutions, planning for all 47-miles of Boston's coastline and announced a partnership

with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assess coastal storm management, and determine eligibility for federal funding. With an unprecedented allocation of capital funding for coastal resilience initiatives, Boston is poised to lead by example in confronting the growing challenges of climate change. Through proactive partnerships, innovative solutions, and strategic investments, Boston is forging a path towards a safer, more resilient future for all its residents.

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House leadership to propose \$555 Million in record investment for the MBTA

Special to the Times

As part of its budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), the House Committee on Ways and Means will propose a record investment of \$555 million for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), as well as \$184 million for the Regional Transit Authorities that serve commuters across Massachusetts. The House Committee on Ways and Means will release its full FY25 budget proposal tomorrow, April 10.

“Ensuring that the Commonwealth is equipped with a safe and reliable public transportation system is critical for the prosperity of our residents and

communities, and will be vital in our future efforts to grow the economy. That’s why the House is proposing a record investment in the MBTA, an investment that will allow the new leadership at the T to meet the immense challenges that they face head on,” said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). “Given the workforce recruitment and training challenges that have plagued the MBTA, I am particularly proud of the House’s proposal to establish an MBTA Academy that would help to bolster their workforce development efforts. I want to thank Chairman Michlewitz for working diligent-

ly to craft a proposal that provides the MBTA with the support that they desperately need.”

“Having a well-run transit system is critical to the success of the Commonwealth. This record amount of funding shows the House’s commitment to improving our transportation infrastructure in every area of the Commonwealth,” said House Committee on Ways and Means Chair Representative Aaron Michlewitz (D Boston). “I want to thank Speaker Mariano and Chair Straus for their hard work and determination on this issue and I look forward to renewing our commitment to adequate-

ly funding the MBTA, our Regional Transit Agencies, and all other sectors of our transportation needs.”

The proposed funding represents the largest investment in the MBTA by the House of Representatives in an annual budget, representing a 41 percent increase from FY24. The investments rely on the General Fund and funds generated by the Fair Share ballot initiative that voters approved in November of 2022, which established a surtax of 4 percent on annual income above \$1 million.

The House’s proposed transportation investments for FY25 include:

- \$314 million operating transfer to the MBTA
- \$184 million to support operations and transit improvements at the state’s 15 Regional Transit Authorities
- \$75 million for MBTA capital investments in physical infrastructure
- \$65 million for projects that address safety concerns at the MBTA related to the findings of the Federal Transit Administration’s Safety Management Inspection initiated in April 2022
- \$40 million to create an MBTA Academy to support recruiting and training efforts, and establish a pipeline for a skilled workforce across depart-

ments

- \$35 million to create a Resilient Rides program to support climate adaptation and climate readiness capital improvement projects in the stations are rails located in the most climate-vulnerable areas of the system
- \$20 million for reduced MBTA fares for riders with low incomes
- \$5 million for grants for ferry services

The FY25 budget proposal will be released by the House Committee on Ways and Means tomorrow, April 10, and up for debate by the Massachusetts House of Representatives starting Wednesday, April 24.

OBITUARIES

Diane DiMare Russell

Of Revere, formerly of East Boston

Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend visiting hours on Sunday, April 14 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for Diane E. DiMare – Russell who passed away on Monday, April 8th at the Elmhurst Healthcare in Melrose following a brief illness. She was 80 years old. A Prayer Service will take place immediately after the visitation in the funeral home at 5 p.m. Interment will be held privately.

Diane was born in Revere on September 23, 1943, to her late parents Santo DiMare and Esther (Dellaria) DiMare. She was raised in East Boston, along with her two brothers. She was a graduate of Fitton Central High School, Class of 1961. Diane worked in the Insurance Industry as an Auto Adjuster. She was later married, and proudly became a mother of three daughters.

She left work and moved to Revere in 1970 and happily raised her girls. She embraced her role as mom and loved every minute of it. Diane returned to working as an auto adjuster, picking up where she left off. Diane’s life was her family and taking trips to Rockport, Ocean City NJ, New York, and going to Mohegan Sun to play the slots. Treasuring her many trips to Rockport for its coastal charm and beauty, which started a love for collecting model ships and light-



houses. You also would find her on the dance floor at any party or wedding. In 2001 and then 2004, she was privileged to also take on the role of Nana and made her life complete.

The beloved mother of Kimberly A. Goodwin and her husband, Robert of Saugus, Kristin J. Russell – Pellerossi and her husband, John of Odessa, FL. and Dawn M. Nelson and her husband, Carl, Jr. of Saugus, she was the cherished Nana of Ashley D. Nelson, Gabrielle M. Goodwin and James C. Nelson, all of Saugus; the dear sister of Sebastian “Subby” DiMare and his wife, Rose of Hudson, NH., and the late Joseph J. DiMare and his surviving wife, Jean DiMare of Revere. She was the dear companion of the late Vincent Juliano and is also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and the Juliano family.

In lieu of flowers remembrances may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research hospital 501 St. Jude Pl. Memphis, TN 38105. For online guestbook, please visit: www.vertucciosmithvazza.com.

Annette Reilly

Owned tanning salons and distributed tanning products internationally

Annette M. (Mazzone) Reilly of Saugus passed away peacefully on Monday, April 1 at home after a long illness at the age of seventy-nine, just shy of her 80th birthday.

Annette, formerly of East Boston, Winthrop and Revere, was a resident of Saugus for many years. The cherished daughter of the late James V. Mazzone and Pauline (Paolino) Mazzone, Annette is survived by her husband, Robert G. Reilly; her daughter, Cherylann Reilly-Tremblay and her husband, James Tremblay of Saugus and her son, Scott Michael Reilly and his wife, Lisa Reilly of Saugus as well as her grandchildren, Sophia Reilly and Scott Michael Reilly. Annette is also survived by her brother, James V. Mazzone of Rowley.

Annette was born in East Boston and devoted her life to raising her children.

Annette and Robert opened their first Tanning Salon (Tanorama) on Cambridge Street in Boston next to the Massachusetts General Hospital. It was the busiest tanning salon in Boston. Annette worked every day at their Salon. They opened their second salon in Boston’s South End (Metropolitan Tanning Salon). Robert and Annette opened International Tan Makers, Inc. (ITM) in Revere after selling their Boston salons. The Company (ITM) had distributors of its products both in the United States and in Europe.

Annette was a wonderful business owner and, being an international



company, Annette and Robert traveled extensively (including China, Hong Kong, Italy, Russia, and Greece, among other countries) and experienced diverse cultures and customs through their travels around the world. Annette loved traveling and particularly enjoyed cruising adventures.

Family and friends are invited to honor Annette’s life by gathering at the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach Street, Revere on Friday, April 12th from 4 to 8 p.m. Parking is available at the rear of the funeral home.

Her Funeral will be conducted from the Funeral Home on Saturday, April 13th at 10 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Anthony of Padua Church, 250 Revere Street, Revere at 11 a.m. Entombment will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery - Community Mausoleum, Malden. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Alzheimer’s Association, 311 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA 02472.

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.

Elizabeth “Betty” Salton

Retired secretary

Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend Visiting Hours today, Wednesday, April 10th from 3 to 7 p.m., in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for Elizabeth A. “Betty” Salton, who died on Saturday, April 6th at the Lighthouse Nursing Care Center in Revere following a brief illness. She was 75 years old. A funeral will be conducted from the funeral home on Thursday, April 11th at 9 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass in Immaculate Conception Church, 133 Beach St. Revere at 10 a.m. Interment will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

Betty was born on January 14, 1949 in East Boston. She was raised in the Jeffries Point section of East Boston, along with her brother Eddie. Betty had a parochial school education, beginning at her neighborhood parish Our Lady of the Assumption, then Fitton High School for Girls, graduating in 1967.

Betty lived at home with her parents and also cared for them in their later years. Betty’s entire working career was spent in the life insurance industry, where she worked in a secretarial capacity. She split her time between Prudential & AIG. Betty moved to Revere about 16 years ago, where she made her home. She was an avid reader of all types of books and would enjoy taking her daily walks. Bett also



enjoyed going to the Rossetti-Cowan Senior Center where she was able to socialize, meet with friends and take part in the activities. Family was always very important to her, and she treasured her brother, Ed, who cared for her as well as her nephews, and cousins.

She was the devoted daughter of the late Franklin “Salty” Salton and Rose M. (Mirasolo) Salton, loving sister of Edward F. Salton, Sr. of Revere, cherished aunt of Edward F. Salton, Jr. of Saugus and Christopher M. Salton and his wife Alexis of Peabody; treasured grandaunt of Bennett and Daylan. She is also lovingly survived by many cousins and friends.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made in Betty’s memory to St. Jude children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

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.

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

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SEN. LYDIA EDWARDS HOSTS CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

Courtesy Photos

Senator Lydia Edwards hosted her reflection campaign kick-off on April 3rd at Kelly's Pub in Eastie.

Many supporters including residents, and local officials from East Boston and neighboring cities attended.



Sen. Lydia Edwards speaks to her supporters at Kelly's Pub.



From left to right, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Revere Councilor Paul Argenzio, Revere Councilor and Democratic State Committee Member Juan Pablo Jaramillo, State Sen. Lydia Edwards, Revere Councilor Chris Giannino, Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe, State Rep. Jeffrey Turco, State Rep. Jessica Giannino and State Rep. Adrian Madaro.



Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe speaks to the crowd at Kelly's about what Sen. Edwards has accomplished during her time in office.



State Representative Christopher Worrell, State Senator Lydia Edwards, State Representatives Brandy Fluker Oakley & Sam Montaño.



Kelly's Pub was full with supporters of the senator on April 3.

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Times-Free Press

Chelsea Council meeting addresses temporary shelter at former Soldiers' Home

By Adam Swift

Chelsea City Councilors raised questions and concerns about the use of the former Chelsea Soldiers' Home as a temporary shelter for migrants at a special meeting with state officials last Thursday.

The use of the vacant Quigley Building was announced by Governor Maura Healey on Monday, March 25 as part of efforts to handle the overflow of migrants into the state over the past year. City officials were first notified of the plan the day before the announcement.

It is expected that the shelter will be open for six to 12 months, according to the governor's staff, and will serve 100 families, the first of which should be in place later this month.

Thursday night, officials from the Healey administration outlined how the migrant influx has multiplied exponentially over the past two years, as well as how the state plans to operate the temporary shelter.

It was also announced that Chelsea nonprofit La Colaborativa will be the service provider for the families at the shelter.

Council President Norieliz De Jesus, who works for La Colaborativa, recused herself from the discussion after outlining the timeline and efforts the council made once being informed of the temporary shelter plan.

"In my capacity as council president, although this shelter falls outside my district line, I have diligently pushed for transparency within our community," De Jesus said. "There were definitely challenges that we confronted with communication. We got a very short timeframe to be fully briefed for the public questions that came about."

De Jesus noted that the council and city administration met quickly to meet with the governor's staff about the plan, as well as to reach out to the neighborhood around the Old Soldiers' Home.

"The reality is we are all confronting a crisis that is beyond our city and our state," she said.

De Jesus stressed that the special meeting did not pertain to the determination of the establishment of the shelter.

"This property falls under state jurisdiction, therefore we have no control over it and this decision has already been made by the governor," said De Jesus. "Tonight's focus is on comprehending the procedural, logistical, and operational aspects of this site so that our families in Chelsea have a clear understanding of what to expect as this moves forward."

General Scott Rice, the state's emergency assistance director, gave an overview of the migrant influx that has seen as many as 1,000 families come into the state per month in recent months.

As the state met its shelter capacity, it started contracting with underutilized hotels throughout the state

as supplemental shelters.

"In October and November, we could clearly see the number of shelters and providers, and the cost to manage the whole, they just became insurmountable, and that's when we decided to implement a policy of a cap at 7,500 families in the system," said Rice.

With families continuing to come into the state, it got to the point where the state had to establish overflow sites. The Chelsea site will join overflow sites that have already opened in Quincy and Cambridge, Rice said.

The goal of the overflow sites, and the emergency shelter system as a whole, is to get people into stable housing, help them find employment, and become part of the community, Rice said.

There are currently supplemental shelters, mainly the hotels, in about 90 communities in the state. In November, Rice said the state hit the capacity of 7,500 families, with over 700 currently on the shelter waitlist.

The goal of the overflow sites, such as the one at the Old Soldier's Home, is to provide safe shelter and services for the most vulnerable on the waitlist. That includes those who are either pregnant or just gave birth, and those with major medical issues.

The families are vetted by state staff, according to Alicia Rebello-Pradas, the governor's chief of staff for legislative affairs.

Rebello-Pradas also ran through what a typical day would be like for the migrants at the Chelsea overflow site, as well as the services that will be provided by La Colaborativa and others. She said the shelter will provide services 24/7, and that there will be security on site at all times.

La Colaborativa will oversee the staffing and day-to-day needs of the families, including providing three meals per day, case management focused on stable housing and employment, school enrollment, and transportation from the shelter from the Family Welcome Centers and to necessary medical and immigration appointments. There will also be basic necessities such as diapers, formula, and hygiene items provided.

Additional services will include legal assistance for work authorization and on-site health screenings.

"The goal is to transition families from this site to other locations," said Rebello-Pradas. "Hopefully, that is stable housing, though some may enter the emergency assistance shelter system and be referred to other locations."

Jon Santiago, the state's veterans' services director, said there have been concerns expressed by veterans at the nearby domiciliary campus and the new veterans' home about security and transportation. He said there will be more conversations with the veterans about those concerns and that the state is committed to making sure they feel safe and secure.

When questioning from

the council opened up, Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson, who lives near the Old Soldiers' Home, expressed some of his frustrations and those of his neighborhood.

"First of all, where is the respect to the local public officials," said Robinson. "I received a call on Sunday evening that the governor would be making an announcement on Monday regarding placing families at the Soldiers' Home hospital. Why were we not notified by the governor or her staff?"

"This did not happen overnight; we should have been involved in the process."

Robinson also wanted to know if the temporary shelter would impact the schedule of the proposed Pennrose development of the domiciliary campus, as well as the impact on parking in the neighborhood.

He said the state should also have been on hand to answer more questions about the impact on public services and educational costs to the city. Robinson also raised some issues about the building itself, which was discontinued two years ago, and how it was going to be occupied.

The councilor also wanted to know if the facility had adequate bathroom and kitchen facilities for the proposed use.

"With respect to the Pennrose Development, this should not impact that at all," said Santiago, with an anticipated groundbreaking at the end of 2024 or beginning of 2025.

Officials noted that there are also fire alarm and safety updates being made to

the old Quigley building itself to ensure safety, and that there will be an occupancy permit from the state. In addition, they also said there would be adequate bathroom facilities, and that culturally appropriate food would be brought into the site for the three meals per day that will be provided at the shelter.

District 2 Councilor Melinda Vega asked if Massachusetts families would potentially be taken off the shelter waitlist and housed in Chelsea, as well. Rebello-Pradas said Massachusetts families would be eligible for shelter at the site.

Councilor-at-Large Roberto Jimenez-Rivera asked if there was an idea of what the demographics of those using the shelter might be so that providers might be better equipped to know what languages would be used when providing assistance.

The state officials noted that the vast majority of new arrivals to the state are Haitian.

District 7 Councilor Manuel Teshe reiterated the city should have been notified earlier, but he added that he applauded the governor for being able to take the initiative and help vulnerable families.

Teshe did ask if there was contact with the Chelsea school department about its current capacity to take in students.

"We have to make sure that wherever they go, that public education is prepared to take them," said Teshe.

District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor asked about the procedure for the migrants receiving work permits, which he said

he believed was a federal procedure and not done through the state.

The state officials noted that there have been nearly 4,000 work permits that have been filed through the services it has provided, with about 3,000 having received their work permits.

"I just want to make a general comment regarding this specific site at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home," said Taylor. "It is a site that is here that is probably a lot better than a lot of other sites that probably could have been used. I just want to reiterate Councilor Robinson's initial thing about - I didn't receive a phone call, I got phone calls from my colleagues, so I think there is room for improvement on that."

Taylor said what happens with the lack of communication is that not everyone has all the correct information about the situation and that it makes people nervous.

"You can understand why some of the residents, especially in that neighborhood, are nervous about this," said Taylor. "That being said, we have a significant problem here overall, and it seems like you guys are working hard to address it. My major concerns aren't with what is going to be done here right now, because we can do all of these things and make it work right now, but what are we going to do when the faucet is running, and people come, and there are only so many places that we have."

"We have a limited number of resources," he added. "It is all well and good, and I think all of us here want to help families ... but we also

want to be proactive about this problem"

Taylor asked what the state officials what they were doing to put pressure on the federal government so that there would not be a constant influx of people that would, at some point, break the bank.

At the end of the special meeting, Robinson, as the senior member of the council, was acting as chair so Taylor could speak. He denied a request to allow La Colaborativa to make a presentation, pointing out that the presentation was not on the agenda for the meeting and would have violated the open meeting law.

Jimenez-Rivera said it should have been up to the full council, not just Robinson as the acting chair, as to whether the meeting should have continued with a presentation from La Colaborativa.

"I think the big piece is that (Robinson) made a determination that this was not compliant with the agenda, and then Councilor Teshe disagreed and then I disagreed," said Jimenez-Rivera. "My understanding was that we were having a conversation about it."

Jimenez-Rivera said it would have been helpful for the council to get more information from La Colaborativa about its planned operation. Since the council did not know the organization was not going to be the services operator prior to the meeting, they were not given a seat at the table with the state officials. If it had been known, Jimenez-Rivera said the council could easily have made room for at least one representative from La Colaborativa to address questions and concerns.

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Turkey Hill Ice Tea & Lemonade	2/¢4.00

Bakery

White Pizza Dough	2/¢5.00
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Fresh Sweet & Tasty Raspberries	¢2.99
Italian Roma Plum Tomatoes	¢1.49/lb
Fresh & Crisp Jumbo Green Bell Peppers	¢1.79/lb
Sweet & Juicy Green Bartlett Pears	¢1.69/lb
Fresh & Crisp Super Select Cucumbers	89¢

Deli

Margherita Pepperoni Salami	¢4.99/lb
Great Lakes Swiss Cheese	¢4.99/lb
Dietz & Watson Roasted Chicken Breast	¢7.99/lb
Kayem Old Time Franks	¢6.99/lb
Dietz & Watson Pepper Turkey	¢9.99/lb

Meat

"Meat Cut Fresh Every Day"

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Grade A Chicken Drumsticks	79¢/lb
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DELI

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PRODUCE

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Strawberries 1lb pkg	2/¢6.00

MEAT

Grade A Chicken Tenders	¢3.29/lb
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GROCERY

New England Creamery Ice Cream	2/¢9.00
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North Shore Music Theatre's expanded 2024 musical season to include an encore performance of 'Jersey Boys' and an extended 3-week run of 'Disney's Frozen!'

Special to the Times

Bill Hanney's award-winning North Shore Music Theatre (NSMT) is set to return for an expanded season of exceptional musical entertainment for North Shore audiences. The season includes an Encore Production of "Jersey Boys", an extended premiere production of Disney's "Frozen", and the 35th Anniversary Production of "A Christmas Carol". The box office is open, and all tickets and discount packages are available to purchase online at www.nsmt.org, by phone (978) 232-7200 or at the Box Office located at 54 Dunham Road in Beverly, MA.

"I'm very excited to be working with the North Shore Music Theatre team to create an extra-long season for our audiences this year. We are working hard to surpass their high expectations and give them a full season of original productions unlike any they have ever seen," said Bill Hanney, NSMT's owner and produc-

er. "With the recent news about many theatres struggling to bounce back from the pandemic, I recognize how fortunate we are to have audiences returning in pre-pandemic numbers and a steady subscription base who continue to believe that we are their home for entertainment."

North Shore Music Theatre's 2024 Musical Season begins early with a special encore of the smash hit 2019 production of "Jersey Boys" playing May 7 thru May 19. Winner of the 2006 Tony® Award for "Best Musical," "Jersey Boys" is the compelling story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons featuring the legendary top ten hits Sherry, Big Girls Don't Cry, Walk Like a Man, Can't Take My Eyes Off You and December, 1963 (Oh What a Night). "Jersey Boys" is presented through special arrangement with Theatrical Rights Worldwide.

From June 4 thru June 16, audiences can celebrate life, love laughter and tradition, with the 60th anniversary production of

"Fiddler on the Roof", the story of milkman Tevye's search for husbands for his daughters to uphold his family's religious and cultural traditions in their small pre-revolutionary Russian village. The classic Tony® and Oscar® winning musical with a book by Joseph Stein, music by Jerry Bock, and lyrics by Sheldon Harnick features the classic songs "Tradition," "If I Were a Rich Man," "Sunrise, Sunset" and "Matchmaker, Matchmaker." "Fiddler on the Roof" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

When the heat is on in July, family audiences will melt for the New England regional premiere of Disney's "Frozen" playing a special extended 3-week run from July 9 thru July 28. This Broadway musical, based on the 2013 Academy Award-winning animated film following the story of royal sisters Elsa and Anna, who are torn apart by Elsa's mysterious icy powers. Disney's "Frozen", the worldwide

sensation, with a book by Jennifer Lee and music and lyrics by double Emmy®, Grammy®, Oscar®, and Tony® Award-Winners Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez, features the hit songs "Let It Go" and "Do You Want To Build A Snowman." North Shore Music Theatre's immersive production of Disney's "Frozen" will feature newly re-imagined staging & musical numbers, along with original sets and costumes being designed and created just for this production. Disney's "Frozen" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

The summer ends with an uproarious production of "Tootsie" playing from August 13 thru August 25. "Tootsie" is the laugh-out-loud love letter to the theatre telling the story of Michael Dorsey, a talented but difficult actor who struggles to find work until one show-stopping act of desperation lands him the role of a lifetime. Featuring a hilarious Tony® Award-winning book by

Robert Horn Book and an outrageously clever score by David Yazbeck, "Tootsie" is a joyful show so packed with punchlines, it should be called a "joke-box" musical. "Tootsie" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

The NSMT stage will rock this fall when the Tony® Award-winning "Million Dollar Quartet" plays from September 24 thru October 6. Set on December 4, 1956, an extraordinary twist of fate brings Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley together at Sun Records in Memphis for one of the greatest jam sessions ever. Audiences will relive the golden era of rock 'n' roll with hit songs including "Blue Suede Shoes," "Fever," "Walk the Line," "Sixteen Tons," "Who Do You Love?," "Great Balls of Fire," "Hound Dog," and more. "Million Dollar Quartet" is presented through special arrangement with Theatrical Rights Worldwide.

"Titanic" The Musical

sets sail on stage for what is sure to be the theatrical event of the fall from October 29 thru November 10. The stirring and unforgettable account of the first and last days of the "ship of dreams" is an epic musical featuring the real stories of people aboard the most legendary ship in the world - from the Third-Class immigrants dreaming of a better tomorrow to the First-Class passengers living a life of privilege. "Titanic" The Musical won five 1997 Tony® Awards, including Best Musical, features music & lyrics by Maury Yeston, and a book by Peter Stone. "Titanic" The Musical is produced thru special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

All tickets, discount packages, and gift cards & e-Certificates are available to purchase online (www.nsmt.org), by phone (978) 232-7200 or at the North Shore Music Theatre Box Office located at 54 Dunham Road in Beverly, MA.

Wu announces three opportunities for artists and community members to reimagine monuments

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture (MOAC) announced the launch of Un-monument | Re-monument | De-monument: Transforming Boston, a two-year investment in temporary art installations and free programming to help residents reflect on and engage with monuments in Boston and the narratives they create. Un-monument is funded by a \$3 million grant from the Mellon Foundation's Monuments Project.

"Our City is filled with stories that are reflected in our various monuments," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I encourage artists to apply to not only add to the embellishments of the City, but continue to spark conversations about the narratives that art creates."

The three opportunities are an open call to artists for temporary monuments, an application to participate in an Augmented Reality Artist Workshop, and an invitation to join an advisory team to provide community-thought partnership and offer feedback, connections, and recommendations for the duration of the Un-monument project.

Through the call to artists, the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture is looking for proposals from artists or artist-led teams for new temporary monuments, as well as "un-monuments"—artworks that don't take traditional monumental forms—to transform public places to reflect the city's cultural vibrancy in dialogue with Boston's collection of existing monuments.

"With this program's focus on temporary public art, our city and our communities have the flexibility to experiment with new

ideas and explore new ways of approaching memorials, commemoration, and public memory," said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts & Culture for the City of Boston. "We are eager to bring together curatorial partners from across the city who will help us realize this vision of commemoration that centers and celebrates the people, ideas, histories, and futures of Boston."

Un-monument will include temporary monuments proposed in response to this open call to artists, developed and released by the City, and monument-related temporary public art installations commissioned directly by five community collaborators: Emerson Contemporary, The National Center for Afro American Artists, The North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB), Now + There, and the Pao Arts Center. Additionally, the Massachusetts College of Art and Design will collaborate to develop supportive educational materials, including interpretation at artwork sites and online, and recordings of oral histories.

"Un-monument is designed to inspire meaningful experiential public art and reconnect us with the joy of storytelling. This program's collective approach and multiple points of view echo real history," said Karin Goodfellow, Director of Public Art for the City of Boston. "We sometimes oversimplify real people and events and lose the relatable complexity of the past and the beauty of art. Through creativity, community engagement, and critical discourse, we aim to transform Boston's landscape into a living memorial to our dynamic history."

Working with The Hutchins Center for Afri-

can and African American Research at Harvard University, the Friends of the Public Garden, and Embrace Boston, public conversations at The Embrace about democracy and justice will invite people to think about interconnections between monuments, public memory, and daily lives.

"Monuments aspire to tell our stories of shared peoplehood, pay homage to our losses, and reflect society's highest aspirations back to us," said Dr. Brandon Terry, co-director of the Institute on Policing, Incarceration, and Public Safety at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research. "The hope is to remind people that memorialization is just the beginning of an ongoing conversation about what matters that we must all take part in if our fragile democratic experiment is going to reflect our most significant concerns."

Artist Opportunity 1: Temporary Monuments

Proposals must be for new temporary monuments or "un-monuments" that are in dialogue with existing monuments. Projects may explore possibilities for future long-term projects. Potential artworks could include but are not limited to:

- Temporary sculptural installations and interventions
- Murals and re-creation or restoration of existing murals*
- New media, including augmented reality
- Social practice and community-engaged cultural practices
- Other, including interior installations or performances visible and/or audible freely to passersby in the public realm

*with permission from, or in collaboration with, the original artist if it's not you.

Artist Opportunity 2: Augmented Reality Artist Workshop

Augmented reality (AR) proposals are uniquely able to respond to existing monuments without permanently altering them. To encourage AR project

proposals, Emerson Contemporary will provide technical workshops designed to support 10 artists in gaining access to the skills and technology needed to either translate previous work, or create new work, in the medium of AR. The goal of the incubator is to provide training opportunities for artists who have traditionally faced an "access gap" due to the high start-up costs of these design tools and the cultural barriers within the new media art field.

These opportunities are open to all artists, including individuals, for-profit businesses, and nonprofits. Project proposals must be artist-led.

"Emerson College is thrilled to be a part of this exciting new and innovative public art initiative to commission temporary 'monuments' across the city. Our participation in Un-Monument provides us with an opportunity to invite both local and national artists to expand the conversation around Boston's memorial landscape, while asking whose stories should or could be told and the many new ways we can share these stories with the public." Dr. Leonie Bradbury, Distinguished Curator-in-Residence at Emerson Contemporary.

Community Opportunity: Advisory Team

MOAC is also seeking community members to apply for the Transformative Art and Monuments Advisory Team as part of Un-monument. Qualified applicants are Boston-area community members committed to the transformative growth of Boston's public art and commemorative landscape. Educators, activists, artists, content creators, journalists, religious leaders, business owners, non-profit leaders and others are encouraged to apply.

The overarching goal of this program is to promote a far more engaged, reflective, creative, and active relationship to the city's landscape and built environment and to engage in imagining the future of long-term monuments and their alternatives in Bos-

ton. As we consider our landscape, we will reflect on histories and peoples not memorialized, those who have been silenced, or are absent from the landscape of memorialization.

Un-monument would not be possible without the community collaborators:

- Boston Art Commission
- Embrace Boston
- Emerson Contemporary
- Friends of the Public Garden
- Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University
- Massachusetts College of Art and Design
- National Center for Afro-American Artists
- North American Indian Center of Boston
- Now+There
- Pao Arts Center

There will be virtual Q&A sessions on Wednesday April 10, 2024 at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. ET on Zoom. You can also submit written questions by email to unmonument@boston.gov.

Artists interested in applying for Opportunity 1 must submit their application by Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 5 p.m. ET. Applications for Opportunity 2 are due Tuesday April 16, 2024 at 5 p.m. ET.

As a way of reimagining and fostering discourse around Boston's monuments and memorials in a way that centers and amplifies a multiplicity of voices, Emerson Contemporary is commissioning a public art campaign by Kameelah Janan Rasheed that will respond to various Boston monuments through digital and analog exhibition in transportation ad spaces. They will also collaborate with Historic New England, Friends of the Public Garden, and the City of Boston's Archive to host artists-in-residence as research fellows working with collections, archives, staff, and residents to highlight local histories relating to the history of Boston.

The National Center of Afro-American Artists in Roxbury will bring together Paul Goodnight,

Robert "ProBlak" Gibbs, Robert Stull, L'Merchie Frazier, Laurence Pierce, Shea Justice, Hakim Raquib, and Johnetta Tinker to create an exhibition and forum at the museum, including new murals on the grounds. Entitled Cancel Violence: Artists Speak the collaborative project is anchored by two tenets: That artists have a responsibility to use their art for positive social benefits to their community, and that positive social change requires dialogue and engagement across the entire impacted community.

Building on over fifty years of advocacy for the urban Indigenous population of the City of Boston, NAICOB has proposed the reactivation of their building in Jamaica Plain as a monument through a combination of approaches such as landscape architecture, archival research, and visual art that will seek to remember the many stories and oral traditions among the Indigenous population, and further explore the deeper history of that site.

Now + There will present three works at Lot Lab in the Charlestown Navy Yard in partnership with the National Park Service by Ifé Franklin, Matthew Okazaki, and Hugh Hayden. The artists are responding to the theme of Presence by resurrecting, reclaiming, and transforming fraught histories unseen in Boston's commemorative landscape with empathy, imagination, and community gathering.

Curated by Lani Asunción, Pao Arts Center will share a series of temporary public art and performance-based events that seek to uplift AAPI voices and experiences while considering how public interventions can inspire residents, visitors, and artists all sharing part in the efforts to preserve and celebrate Chinatown as not only a neighborhood, but a cultural hub and monument within the City of Boston.

To learn more, visit boston.gov/un-monument.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

CITY MANAGER UPDATES COMMUNITY ON FIRST 90 DAYS IN OFFICE

CHELSEA - City Manager Fidel Maltez has placed an emphasis on communicating with residents since he took office in January. Earlier this week, Maltez recorded the latest in his series of public outreach videos to air on Chelsea Community TV. The text of his latest video, which focuses on his first 90 days as city manager, is below:

Hello residents of Chelsea. Welcome to Our Community. My name is Fidel Maltez and I am humbled to serve as your City Manager. It is with immense gratitude and a sense of purpose that I stand before you today, marking 90 days since assuming the role of City Manager of our beloved community.

These past three months have been a whirlwind of activity; a period of profound connection, learning, and inspiration. I have had the privilege of meeting with countless residents, engaging with our vibrant community-based organizations, immersing myself in the heartbeat of our schools, and sharing moments of reflection in places of prayer. Chelsea is a tapestry of diverse stories, bound together by resilience, compassion, and an unwavering spirit. Our city is special, and it is special because of you, because of us, who call Chelsea home. Our strength lies in our people, in their willingness to stand together, to support one another, and to embrace the challenges and triumphs that come our way.

Recent events of violence in our city have shaken us to our core. Let me be clear: our administration, alongside the Chelsea Police Department, is unwavering in our commitment to addressing these acts of violence. Public safety is our top priority. We will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to investigate every instance of violence, and we will bring those responsible to justice. But we cannot do this alone. We need each and every one of you to stand with us in this fight. Our police chief and I will be hosting monthly conversations on public safety in various neighborhoods across our city. These conversations are not just about dialogue; they are about action. We want to engage with you one-on-one, to listen to your concerns, and to assure you that we will be tough on crime and tough on violence. We need the involvement of every member of our community, especially parents. If you see something troubling, do not hesitate to contact the City Manager's office or the Chelsea Police Department. We will investigate it thoroughly.

We need your eyes, your ears, and your voices to help us combat violence in our community. We will be holding a peace rally and prayer vigil on April 27 at 1:00 PM on the City Hall lawn. I urge you to join us. Let us stand as a united front, showing that Chelsea will not tolerate violence in our streets. This vigil is just the beginning. Through-

out the summer, we will host several more events like this, because Chelsea is strongest when we come together to tackle our challenges head-on.

Today, I also announce the launch of a transformative initiative: the Chelsea Electricity Choice program. We understand the heavy burden of electricity costs on our residents. Fluctuating prices and predatory tactics of third-party energy suppliers have placed undue strain on our households. Many of our residents have to make the difficult choice between paying for electricity or meeting their basic needs. Chelsea Electricity Choice, is a program designed to empower our residents, protect them from predatory practices, and provide much-needed stability in energy costs. This initiative comes at a crucial time, offering relief and security to those who need it most.

Chelsea Electricity Choice provides three options. Chelsea Basic, the cornerstone of this initiative, provides electricity at a significantly reduced rate of 12.42 ¢/kWh, compared to Eversource's current residential price of 17.216 ¢/kWh. This means tangible savings of over \$18 per month for the average residential customer, a difference that can make a meaningful impact on household budgets.

The two other options, Chelsea Standard and Chelsea 100% Green provide electricity sourced from renewable sources at competitive rates, further contributing towards a greener, more sustainable future. The City has partnered with Direct Energy to ensure the stability and reliability of these prices until June 2026. This contrasts starkly with Eversource's Basic Service, where prices are subject to change every six months, perpetuating uncertainty and financial strain for our residents.

Participation in Chelsea Electricity Choice is straightforward and accessible. For most customers, no action is required to benefit from this program. Automatic enrollment will commence in June, with notifications and detailed information mailed to eligible residents in mid-April. Opting out of the program is entirely within your rights, should you choose to do so. Whether at the outset or at any point thereafter, you have the freedom to opt out with no penalty or fee, ensuring that you retain control over your energy choices.

Our Administration is thrilled to announce the launch of the City's comprehensive master plan: Chelsea Pa'Lante, Chelsea Onward. Chelsea Pa'Lante is more than just a plan; it's a commitment to forward motion, upward mobility, and progress. It embodies the spirit of our community, the resilience of our people, and the determination to create a future that leaves no one behind. Chelsea Pa'Lante is a call to action, a declaration that we will not rest on our laurels, nor will we be content with past successes.

Instead, we will continue to evolve, to innovate, and to improve as a

Community. At the heart of Chelsea Pa'Lante is our unwavering dedication to incorporating the voices of our residents in

every decision we make. Too often, community plans are crafted behind closed doors, with little input from those who will be most affected by the outcomes. But not here, not in Chelsea. Our plan will be centered on the community, ensuring that every voice is heard, every perspective considered, and every idea valued. Chelsea Pa'Lante will seek to address the pressing issues that affect our daily lives.

From housing shortages to traffic congestion, from lack of parking, to providing economic opportunities for all residents. We will tackle these challenges with creativity, with innovation, and with a deep commitment to equity and inclusivity.

Chelsea Pa'Lante is about laying the foundation for a future that is brighter and more prosperous for generations to come. It is about building a city where everyone has the opportunity to thrive, where every voice is heard, and where every dream is within reach. Over the next 30 days, our Administration will work with our City Council to bring Chelsea Pa'Lante, Chelsea Onward into reality.

As I reflect on these past 90 days, I am filled with hope and optimism for the future of Chelsea. Despite the obstacles we may face, I am confident that together, as a unified community, we will overcome them. As we look ahead to the next 100 days of this Administration, we will carry the lessons learned, we will continue to listen, to learn, and to lift each other up. We will be bold in our aspirations, strong in our commitment, and compassionate in our actions. See you next time on Our Community. Thank you and May god bless the City of Chelsea.

COUNCIL TO VOTE ON NEW ROOF

EVERETT - The Everett City Council will vote on an order requesting approval to appropriate by borrowing \$11.4 million for improvements at the old Everett High School building at 548 Broadway.

The vote is crucial from the prospective of time. Mayor Carlo DeMaria, who gave a thorough presentation on the issue at a March 13 City Council Special Meeting, said the repairs must be made because the current insurance policy on the building expires in January and the City would not be able to secure a new insurance policy because of the unsafe condition of the roof.

At the Council's Special Meeting, Councilor Anthony DiPierro asked that the vote be postponed until April 8 so his colleagues could view the upper floors of the building before casting their votes.

Thanks to DiPierro's thoughtful gesture toward his colleagues, councilors have had additional time to take a closer look at the building and the potential expenses associated with its future upkeep.

In fact, Councilor-at-Large John Hanlon, who had missed some meetings due to an illness, will visit the old Everett High School building today.

"I have a 10 a.m. meeting (Wednesday) on top of the roof before I make any decision," Hanlon said Tuesday. "I'm going right up to the roof and while

I'm there, I'm going to examine the whole building."

Hanlon said he will ask Mayor DeMaria what his future plans are for the old Everett High School building.

"We have to maintain our buildings," said Hanlon. "I believe the old Everett High building is a fantastic building. I know we need additional school space for our students due to overcrowding issues. Someone has to look at this building and determine how we can fix it up. I will likely vote for the (\$11.4 million) appropriation so the building can continue to be used. It's just like it's your own building. You have to put a new roof on it. You can't let it fall apart. You have to do the repairs. It's not whether you want to do it - you have to do it, it has to be done."

The vote is shaping up as a close one. Ward 1 Councilor Wayne Matewsky said he is leaning toward voting in favor of the \$11.4 million request, while Councilors-at-Large Stephanie Smith and Katy Rogers said they will vote against the measure.

"I will most likely vote for the appropriation so we can repair the roof and the City can continue to use the building and not have to oust the people and programs (health and wellness center, Webster School Extension pre-K, and Broadway Boxing Club) that exist there now," said Matewsky. "I feel we need to keep the building safe and the pro-

grams up and running until further notice. I do not want to see the building close in January (due to the building not being insured)."

Councilor Smith said Tuesday, "At this time, I am not in favor of a new roof at the old EHS as I believe that it is not fiscally responsible to invest \$11 million-plus in a building that we do not have a long-term master plan for City usage."

Councilor Rogers weighed in on the crucial vote, stating Tuesday that, "As of now I'm voting 'no.' The old high school is more than half vacant and there is a lot of uncertainty on how the rest of the building could potentially be used. I would feel more confident voting in favor of a comprehensive plan that includes a discussion about utilizing more of the property for a public use."

OVERLOOK RIDGE LOOKS TOWARD COMPLETION OF DEVELOPMENT

REVERE - The developers of the Overlook Ridge development in Malden and Revere are seeking a zoning change to their district that will allow the development of the last two parcels on the Revere side of the project.

Last year, developer Veris Residential was before the council seeking a change in the Overlook Ridge zoning district that would eliminate the need

to build a hotel on one of the two remaining parcels on the site. Veris also sought parking relief for the remaining residential site on the property.

After going through a public hearing process last year, Veris was back before the city council last week. The developer is still seeking the elimination of the hotel requirement for the parcel near Salem Street, but is no longer seeking the parking relief for the planned 310 residential units on the other side of the development.

"Right now, the way this ordinance is written, we have a condition that we must build a hotel and we can have an accessory use of retail," said Marshall Tycher of Veris Residential at last week's council meeting. "This amendment we are seeking tonight is to remove the hotel as a condition. We'd like to build retail here."

Tycher said Overlook Ridge, which will have over 4,000 residents once the final residential units go up, has no neighborhood services. He said the 10,000 square feet of retail space could be used for a neighborhood market, small restaurant, and other local services.

"This is our opportunity to build retail," said Tycher. "We don't think a hotel is viable."

On the larger residential parcel, Tycher said Veris is no longer seeking parking relief and will have

See REGION Page 10

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Entries will be published with in the May 8th issue

Sod experts offer spring lawn care tips

With the first day of spring approaching, warmer weather signals plants to come out of dormancy and start flourishing again. The time for spring lawn care tips is right around the corner! Even if your lawn and garden never went fully dormant, you can still expect your home landscape to begin thriving with warmer temperatures.

Pretty soon, your lawn and garden will be full of color and activity again! If you have a warm season lawn, your turfgrass will come out of dormancy and if you have a cool season lawn, snow in your area will start to melt and you'll enjoy a greener environment.

1. Begin Mowing Your Lawn at the Proper Height Again

The timing for which the first mow of the spring for your mature, established turfgrass widely varies depending on the area you live in. Grasses come out of dormancy differently depending on the environment and temperatures your area encounters.

For example, if you live in South Florida, your grass may have never entered dormancy at all during the winter. Many homeowners who live in South Florida will mow their lawn every other week during the winter—oftentimes starting in September and resuming a regular, weekly mowing schedule again in mid-March.

Generally speaking, however, mid-March is about the time for you to begin your regimen for spring green-up and mowing. It's important to note that the first mow of the spring shouldn't take place while warm season grass is dormant.

Mowing heights vary for each grass type, but you should never remove more than a third of the leaf blade from any grass type. If you mow less than this, you may risk scalping the grass.

Lastly, a good tip for spring is to make sure your lawn mower blades are sharpened so that the mower blades neatly slice through the grass in place of ripping them. If the grass blades aren't cut neatly, the mower is ripping them and opens the grass up to the possibility of disease.

Performing regular maintenance on your mower is good practice for the end of the mowing season or before spring takes place.

2. Start Your Lawn Off Right with the Appropriate Spring Fertilizer This Year

Spring is one of the most important times of



the year to use fertilizer. Warm season grasses are coming out of dormancy, so you will want to promote healthy roots and the return of green leaf blades.

Be careful when making your first fertilizer application of the year though—a lot of homeowners see their grass green up and immediately pull out the fertilizer and lawn mower.

We advise that you typically wait until the last frost has hit.

If you fertilize your lawn and another frost hits, your grass will go right back into dormancy, and you'll have a harder time getting it to green up again. This does more harm than good.

With that being said, the date of the last frost varies from location to location. In the Florida Panhandle, for example, grass doesn't ever go truly dormant and reaches its full green-up in early February (depending on how cold the winter was).

Even then, you won't want to apply fertilizer until after Easter once the last frost has passed.

Sod University recommends two different options for spring fertilization: Lawnifi® Foundation, a slow-release granular option that comes in 25 lb. bags and lasts for three months, and our Lawnifi Spring Fertilizer Box, a liquid fertilizer program that includes three bottles of liquid fertilizer that can be applied monthly with a hose-end sprayer.

Each option covers 5,000 sq. ft. Our patented nano-fertilizers with Catalyst Technology™ give your lawn the jump-start it needs to emerge from dormancy, green up fast and thrive throughout the spring months.

Check out Why Use Lawnifi Fertilizer? for more information about Lawnifi.

Next, it is important to mention that if you have a warm season lawn, you may start to notice spots of brown or straw-like grass while the rest of your lawn comes out of dormancy. This is usually a sign of disease.

You do not want to apply fertilizer to a lawn with disease as the nitrogen in the fertilizer will feed the disease and promote its growth.

Apply a systemic fungicide first and then wait several weeks before following with a fertilizer application.

3. Set Up a Spring Irrigation Schedule

Dormant, warm season turfgrass doesn't need much water until the active growing season kicks in and your grass starts to green up. If you have a dormant, warm season lawn, it is not dead—it's just "sleeping."

Although dormant grass requires much less water than it would while it is actively growing, it will still need water. Once your grass starts to green up from winter dormancy, you should resume watering your lawn with about 1 inch of water per week including rainfall.

If you aren't sure how to measure how much water your lawn is receiving, an irrigation audit may be beneficial to you. Irrigation audits provide measurable information about how much water each area of your lawn is receiving within a given amount of time.

If you're a homeowner who lives far enough south and your warm season grass doesn't go dormant during the winter, you may continue to regularly water your lawn in the winter.

However, if you live in South Florida, for example, you may turn your irrigation off completely during the winter and during the months of June–August when it rains a lot.

The atmosphere in South Florida isn't usually evaporating much water and the grass isn't using it much during the winter, so frequent irrigation isn't needed.

The next few tips in this article discuss spring lawn treatment with fungicides, herbicides or insecticides. If any of these control products or fertilizers are

granular, you will need to water the product in so that your lawn absorbs it.

When watering granular products in, you will already be watering your lawn with the appropriate amount of water during the week of application.

The same can be said with any liquid products as they are either products that attach to the end of your garden hose or require tank mixing with water.

Above all, read and follow label instructions thoroughly before watering any products in.

4. Control Weeds with a Pre- or Post-Emergent Herbicide

Pre-emergents should be applied during the spring when ground temperatures reach about 55 degrees Fahrenheit. A pre-emergent herbicide functions to prevent weeds from emerging from the surface of the soil, as its name suggests.

The exact dates for these applications differ depending on the area you live in, but generally speaking, pre-emergents should be applied between the beginning and middle of March in the spring.

Apply post-emergent herbicides throughout the spring as needed to control summer annual and perennial broadleaf weeds like crabgrass, goosegrass, sandspurs, dallisgrass, dandelion, chickweed,

white clover, knotweed, spurge, dollarweed, dove-weed and lespedeza.

5. Watch Out for Insects That May Begin Coming Out

If your lawn has suffered from insect damage around this time in the past, it is a good idea to apply a broad spectrum insecticide at this time to prevent them from coming back again.

If the insecticide is a granular product, be sure to water it in so that it soaks into your soil. On the other hand, if it's a liquid product, you will either need to attach it to the end of your garden hose or tank mix it.

Some of the most common of insects in the springtime are white grub worms, chinch bugs, sod webworms and billbugs. White grub worms can be found in most turfgrasses at this time while chinch bugs are more likely to be spotted in St. Augustine grass, sod webworms in bermuda grass and billbugs in zoysia grass.

Sod webworms are typically more of a summer or fall pest, however, they can still cause a significant and costly nuisance to lawns located throughout the Southern regions of the U.S. during the spring season.

6. Prevent Disease as Temperatures Begin to Warm Up

As previously mentioned, if you have a warm season lawn, circular brown or yellow spots, also known as spring dead spot, may start to show up as it comes out of dormancy.

Other potential disease outbreaks include brown patch and gray leaf spot.

If you notice any disease outbreaks, you may need to make applications of a systemic fungicide. Even if you don't have disease in your lawn, it's still good practice to apply it preventively to keep disease from taking over—especially if you've had disease in the

past around this time.

Systemic fungicide applications should take place before you apply any spring fertilizer. If you have fungus in your lawn, the nitrogen found in fertilizers oftentimes feeds it and helps it spread. Apply a systemic fungicide and wait a few weeks before applying any fertilizer.

Read product labels thoroughly.

There are a few other optional things that can be done to help your lawn thrive in the spring.

Before the onset of summer heat, lawn patchwork and light top dressing with a sand and topsoil mix is a great way to recover any weak areas. Plugs can be purchased to fill in areas of the lawn with bare spots.

Aerating your lawn is also an ideal way to help deliver nutrients and really break up compacted soils. We typically recommend doing this once every couple of years. If you notice thatch that is thicker than 1/2 inch, dethatch in late May.

Spring maintenance tips somewhat differ from maintenance practices that take place during the rest of the year because the weather is starting to warm up and everything starts to turn green again.

Although cool season grass doesn't usually go dormant during the winters, snow in a lot of the areas up north starts to melt and your lawn will receive more sunlight. It is important to partake in spring maintenance so that you can set your lawn up for success for the rest of the year.

Want to learn more about achieving a great lawn? Check out more Sod University tips and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

This article was written by Sod Solutions Content Strategist, Valerie Smith.

Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

the two parking spaces per unit required under the district zoning.

That property is zoned for 370 units, but Veris is proposing only 310 units, with 15 percent being offered at affordable housing rates.

Tycher also addressed several other concerns that were raised last year, including a shuttle service for the entire Overlook Ridge development that was stopped during the Covid pandemic. He said the service is fully operational again.

Planning and Community Development Director Tom Skwierawski said the city supports the zoning ordinance change.

"I understand the importance of bringing in hotel tax revenue to the city, and I will strongly advocate for those areas in which it seems appropriate," he said. "But this isn't one of those areas. There is a real need for neighborhood amenities such as restaurant and retail; we need to see more of that in North Revere, and we've heard that from residents."

Skwierawski also praised the inclusion of the affordable housing component of the project.

"This is the most aggressive support for affordability that we have seen from a private sector partner that is not having the project subsidized through state or federal dollars," he said.

Councillor-at-Large Anthony Zambuto said he

was initially hesitant about eliminating the hotel requirement, but noted that since the original zoning was approved, the city has seen a number of hotels built in other areas.

The council's zoning subcommittee will take up the proposed ordinance change at its April 8 meeting before it comes back to the full council for a final vote.

COUNCIL DISCUSSES CLIMATE RESILIENCY ISSUES

WINTHROP - With another big storm predicted to hit the coast at the end of the week, several town councilors took a step back to look at longer-term climate measures for Winthrop at Tuesday night's meeting.

Some of the issues discussed included the possibility of hiring an assistant town manager who would also handle planning and grant opportunities for the town, as well as looking at ways to expedite funding for climate resiliency design and flood mitigation efforts. Councilors also discussed the possibility of establishing a climate resiliency committee.

"Our town planner has left in budget season, so it has been a little difficult managing the grants that (former planner Rachel Kelly) has done, but we are getting a job descrip-

tion for the town planner out on the streets," said Town Manager Tony Marino. "I hope to move that eventually into an ATM (assistant town manager) role, but given the restrictions of the budget, that is not going to happen this year, so we will have a town planner."

Precinct 6 Councilor John DaRos discussed a number of the efforts and planning the town is currently undertaking to address climate and flooding concerns. He was also one of several councilors who suggested Marino take a closer look at tying the town planner position into an assistant town manager role.

"I think everybody can tell that we are doing the best we can to address the immediate needs to respond," said DaRos. "Still, a month ago, the town council meeting with the room full of people from areas where it floods all the time really stays with all of us, so we are committed to this action."

DaRos said several residents from his precinct urged him to raise the flooding and climate issues to the town manager and the council.

"The costs are real, especially the financial toll it is taking from repairs and rising insurance rates, as well as the mental health tolls from the damage, stress, and anxiety these residents, as well as the DPW and public safety experience in addressing them."

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Party in the Park 20th anniversary luncheon to take place May 15

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy announces that the 20th Anniversary of Party in the Park, the city's beloved annual luncheon to raise awareness and funds for the Emerald Necklace parks, will take place on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at Franklin Park. All proceeds from the fundraiser support the 1,100-acre park system that serves as a backyard for residents and a destination for more than one million park users each year. The Conservancy stewards the Emerald Necklace through advocacy,

maintenance and restoration, education, access improvements, public programs and the promotion of park stewardship through youth education and volunteer programs.

Party in the Park will feature the presentation of the Liff Spirit Award to former Massachusetts House of Representative Byron Rushing and activist and community organizer Frieda Garcia. Over the decades, their extensive work organizing communities, speaking up for those in need, and advocating for racial justice

make them exemplars of public and civic service. The award is named in honor of the late Boston Parks Commissioner Justice Mee Liff, who served from 1996 until her passing in 2002. Party in the Park benefits the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and continues Liff's legacy of bringing people together to support and champion these vital urban green spaces.

Founded in 2003, Party in the Park attracts the area's most generous green-space supporters and civic leaders for a stylish tented

luncheon in the Emerald Necklace. Guests don their finest millinery at this "must-attend" fundraiser to herald the coming of spring to Boston. For the upcoming fundraiser, table sponsorships and tickets are now available.

"This will be the 20th Anniversary of Party in the Park, marking a milestone year. We're looking forward to welcoming public park supporters to help raise funds for the vital work the Emerald Necklace Conservancy does to maintain Boston's largest

park system," shared Alex Ablon, Caroline Balz, Gabi Crimaldi and Georgia Lee, Co-Chairs of the 2024 Party in the Park.

"Party in the Park is our signature fundraising event which funds essential tree care and capital projects in 1,100 acres of parks," noted Karen Mauney-Brodek, President of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. "It also supports our education programs, free public programming, resources for park users, advocacy efforts and special initia-

tives. We are extremely proud of the work the Conservancy has done for the past 25 years to steward and improve the Emerald Necklace, connecting all Bostonians and visitors alike over a dozen neighborhoods stretching from Dorchester to the Back Bay, and to be honoring Byron Rushing and Frieda Garcia with the Liff Spirit Award this year."

For more information and tickets, visit www.emeraldnecklace.org/party-in-the-park.



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Atlantic Works Gallery holds 'Contemporary Dialogues' reception

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Atlantic Works Gallery (AWG) held its Third Thursday reception for "Contemporary Dialogues," featuring artwork by Joan Ryan, Rick Dorff, and John Greiner-Ferris, on March 21.

In contrast to her love of monochromatic charcoal pieces of the past, Ryan's most recent oil on paper series emphasizes intense color. In the summer of 2023, while sitting in her garden, she was struck by the overwhelming vibrance and beauty of her two, bright yellow chairs and red carpet that were being illuminated by the sun. From then on, color has motivated Ryan.

"For the first time in many years, I began to look at heightened color around me in a different way. That was the inspiration," explained Ryan. "I found a lot of freedom in color. I wanted the interaction within the work to be secondary to the experience of color, and what that does when someone looks at the work."

Ryan hopes that view-



Carmen Sasso and John Keys.

ers are viscerally affected when looking closely at her surrealist-like paintings. Fanciful and absurd, contradictory images are combined in an effort to comment on how society is often unaware of what is happening around them. Ryan's work encourages spectators to reflect about the purpose or meaning in a person's own environment.

"It's the idea that we frequently ignore what's around us, whether it's beauty or pain," said Ryan. "We put on blinders and get on our phones. I think the work talks, hopefully not too forcefully, about that."

Rick Dorff's stackable sculptures – constructed using wood, plaster, fabric, paint, Mylar, and ink – reflect his interest in symmetry, and how various shapes reflect light.

"I care about how things fit into space, and how it affects the space, and what the space is after the piece is in it," described Dorff.

Artist, John Greiner-Ferris, is deeply moved by the mutual respect and appreciation he shares with Dorff and Ryan. He feels that their pieces throughout the exhibition compliment and talk to one another.

"You don't buy a ticket, go into a theater, and say, 'entertain me.' The actors on stage do that. When you go to a concert, you're dancing and the band is on stage," Greiner-Ferris explained. "All that energy that goes back and forth belongs in the gallery, too. When you look at something, it should push back."

Influenced by theater, Greiner-Ferris uses text to speak directly to the viewer. It is his way of break-



Kristen Freitas and other Atlantic Works Gallery members enjoying the March 21 artist talk.

ing the picture plane and approaching the three-dimensional.

"I combine text and images to make assemblages to comment on society,"

described Greiner-Ferris. "I work across a lot of disciplines, and it all merges."

Greiner-Ferris' "low-tech" mixed media work

disputes the concept that art must be serious, and perfectly polished by presenting meaningful and ludicrous illustrations that provoke laughter.



Jean Bernstein and John Greiner-Ferris.



Joan Ryan explaining the inspiration behind the vibrant colors of her latest series of paintings.



Rick Dorff explaining his stackable sculptures.



B. Amore and John Greiner-Ferris in front of "Life is Nothing But A Book"



Joan Ryan explaining her series during the Third Thursday reception of "Contemporary Dialogues" at Atlantic Works Gallery, on March 21.

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