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Wednesday, May 1, 2024

THIRD ANNUAL MARATHON DAFFODIL DASH



The third annual Marathon Daffodil Dash was held on The Track at Suffolk Downs. Above, the 9-and-10-yearolds start their run. Right, runners are cheered on by fellow runners. See pages 4 and 5 for more



Vincent Phan receives 'Poet of the Year Award'

Patrick J. Kennedy School (PJK) 6th grader, Vincent Phan, received the Boston Scores "Poet of the Year Award," on April 26 in recognition of his eloquence and performance. The 12-year-old was the winner of a poetry slam amongst over a dozen Boston Public School students. He was applauded for his articulateness and creativ-

Vincent's composition, "Achievements," describes tenacity, taking pride in oneself, and the thrill of



"swallowing 10 marshmallows" or setting a personal

"world record."



Boston Scores "Poet of the Year," Vincent Phan, standing with his fellow soccer team, as he recites his award-winning

poets' banquet, where two students from all of our schools write an original poem, memorize it, and perform it in front of an audience," said Rebeca Villatoro, Elementary School Enrichment Coordinator, Boston Scores. "The judges felt particularly impressed by Vincent's poem. Multiple people from my office tell me that when they need a little bit of energy, they'll read his poem. It's so motivating."

Villatoro presented Vincent with a plaque and Boston Scores' first "Poet of the Year" scholarship. Boston Scores is a non-profit organization that collaborates with Boston Public Schools to provide urban youth with after-school soccer and enrichment classes.

Retired PJK teacher, Cynthia Grant-Carter, Soccer/Writing Coordinator, Boston Scores, commended Vincent for his hard work, congratulated him for his accomplishments, and expressed her confidence in him as he continues his education next year at Boston Latin School.

Zoning Commission approves latest **PLAN: East Boston** zoning amendments

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

After years of work, the zoning recommendations laid out in the Boston Planning and Development Agency's (BPDA) neighborhood planning initiative, PLAN: East Boston, are set to be enacted after the Boston Zoning Commission approved text and map amendments to the neighborhood's zoning during a hearing last week.

PLAN: East Boston, which the BPDA Board adopted in January, has

been in the works since 2018 and sets out to guide growth in the neighborhood, according to Kristina Ricco of the BPDA.

After six years of comengagement, which included more than 200 events, meetings with an advisory group, and more, PLAN: East Boston was developed and includes recommendations for the public realm, transportation, policy considerations, as well as land use and built form — also

See PLAN Page 8

GSCA discusses recent **Mount Carmel meeting**

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

At its monthly meeting on Monday, the Gove Street Citizens Association (GSCA) discussed the potential development of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church after a meeting was held regarding the subject last week.

Last week, a preliminary meeting was held regarding the potential development of Mount Carmel Church. Essentially, a new local proponent is in talks to buy part of

a project from RISE Together that was previously approved by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA).

However, the prospective proponent has a new preliminary plan instead of purchasing part of the project and building what was previously approved at the church site -14 condos-four affordable—and 13 parking

The preliminary

See GSCA Page 8

Coletta pushes ZBA to uphold and enforce new zoning with **PLAN: East Boston**

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta (District 1) submitted comments to the Boston Zoning Commission last week regarding the zoning text amendment of Article 53, East Boston Neighborhood District from PLAN: East Boston. A central tenet of Coletta's comments included calling on the Mayor's administration to hold the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) accountable to the approved zoning amendment. She requested written correspondence to ensure the ZBA will uphold new zoning regulations set under the recently

approved plan. In her letter, Councilor Coletta said, "It is vital that the Zoning Board of Appeals be held accountable to uphold and enforce these zoning changes approved by the BPDA and this Commission, should it codify the proposed text amendment. It would be devastating for the ZBA to unravel five years of deep partnership, and ultimately wasting valuable city resources, by granting variances to the new rules we

See ZONING Page 9



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COLLEGE PROTESTERS SHOULD EMBRACE **BEING ARRESTED**

Acts of civil disobedience by definition imply that a person knowingly is breaking the law and is willing to accept the legal consequences. When Rosa Parks took a seat at the front of that bus

in Alabama and was arrested in 1955, she set off a legal battle -- which eventually resulted in the striking down of the segregationist law as unconstitutional -- that ignited the modern civil rights movement.

Photos of Parks being fingerprinted at the police station galvanized Americans everywhere (well, except in the Deep South) and made her an icon of the struggle for justice and equality.

Just a few years ago, the 1960s peace activist Jane Fonda, now in her 80s, was at it again, being arrested on the steps of the Capitol building weekly, this time to protest the lack of action by the government to tackle climate change.

Being arrested has been a badge of honor by protesters for whom being placed into handcuffs represents the ultimate act of defiance of those in power.

But the students today who are occupying college campuses in violation of university policies want to have it both ways: They want to defy the authorities, but feel that they are entitled to have carte blanche to do so without any consequences.

Admission to a prestigious school does not entitle a person to special treatment when it comes to laws that apply to everybody. Yes, the students have a right to protest. But school officials also have the obligation to keep their campuses open and safe for all students. When these protesting students break the law and the rules of their campuses, they should be willing -- with defiant joy -- to accept the consequences.

Unless these students are willing to have some skin in the game, so to speak, their moral outrage amounts to nothing more than a frivolous exercise.

OPPONENTS OF AID TO **UKRAINE SHOULD** WATCH FRANKLIN

Here's the plot-line: A world superpower, led by a ruler-for-life who does not tolerate dissent, invades a young sovereign nation, which at one time had been part of the superpower, with a large military force in order to restore the young nation to its sphere of influence. The young nation seeks the aid of another superpower in the world in order to fight off the invading force and to assert its claim to independence and freedom.

This very well could describe the situation today among Ukraine, Russia, and the United States, but that's also the scenario that unfolded 250 years ago when the United States proclaimed its independence from England and needed military assistance from France in order to fight back against the might of the British Empire.

The new Apple TV+ series, Franklin, chronicles the effort by Benjamin Franklin (who is played superbly by Michael Douglas) to enlist the aid of France in our fight against King George, who invaded America with a vastly-superior army and navy to squash our quest for freedom and democracy.

The Americans lacked everything -- uniforms, muskets, artillery, ships -- that they needed to fight off the British. Without Franklin's diplomacy that persuaded the French to provide America with the means to defend itself, we never could have won the Revolutionary War, which lasted a long eight years from the firing of the first shots at Concord in April, 1775, to the Treaty of Paris in September, 1783.

Prior to the French government formally declaring its alliance with the United States, French citizens who sympathized with the Americans, most notably the Marquis de Lafayette, defied their country's official policy and fought with the Americans, providing both moral support to our army and highlighting the justice of our cause to everyone around the world.

Those who oppose our aid to Ukraine (which Congress finally approved after a delay of six months) in order to help the Ukrainians repel the barbarous invasion by Vladimir Putin would do well to watch the Franklin

mini-series on Apple TV+.

They would be reminded that the lesson of history is plain: Freedom isn't free and, to paraphrase Martin Luther King, tyranny anywhere is tyranny everywhere.

Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway,

Revere, MA 02151. Letters may also be e-mailed

to editor@eastietimes.com.

Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.



Forum

PLANTING TREES ON ARBOR DAY



Mayor Michelle Wu (fourth from left) joins Tree Eastie, their founder Bill Masterson and many volunteers as they plant a series of new trees to celebrate Arbor Day at the East Boston Memorial Park.

Suffolk Downs Concert Series discussed at community meeting

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Two weeks ago, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) invited residents to participate in a meeting in which the plans for this year's rendition of the Suffolk Downs Concert Series were outlined.

As part of the presentation, Josh Bhatti of The Bowery Presents, the venue's Operator, reviewed some general information about the venue, reviewed last year's series, and discussed changes coming this

The venue, dubbed the Stage, will hold 8,500 people and will have a season from May through October.

Bhatti went through a typical show schedule for this year, which indicated soundchecks would be early in the afternoon, with parking lots opening at 4:00 p.m. and doors opening at 5:30 p.m.

Moreover, concerts are typically scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 10:30 p.m., with the parking lots emptying by 11:30

"A little different than 2023, where those were more festival-based events where the gates opened earlier in the day. Music started around 3:00 p.m. for those and ran til 10:30 p.m.," said Bhatti.

"This is kind of looking for a more typical concert schedule with a headliner and a support act or two," he added.

There are also plans for a live event hotline that people can text or call, which will be monitored during events. The hotline is 617-945-4208.

After outlining general information about the venue, Bhatti reviewed improvements slated for the concerts this year. "We're always continuing to improve our operations at our venues," said Bhatti.

While Bhatti thought that the concerts held last June "went well," regarding noise complaints, he acknowledged that during a Friday concert in September, there were "a number of" noise complaints that were then addressed at the following day's show.

monitored in the venue, and

Regarding sound mitigation for 2024, the venue's decibel limit is being lowered, the sound will be

a sound engineer will record sound readings in the neighborhood.

As for access improvements, paved paths will be added throughout the venue. Regarding traffic, Bhatti spoke about the continued use of a comprehensive traffic management plan and working with departments such as Boston, Revere, State, and MBTA

He also discussed continuing to work with companies like Lyft and Uber to improve geofencing so that GPS sends drivers to the correct pick-up and dropoff locations.

"We had problems with some drivers picking up riders outside of the geofenced area, so we're really working with them [Lyft and Uber] to drill that down as well as within the site once the drivers get into the site," said Bhatti.

Other changes include improved lighting around roadways and parking lots. Improved lighting on Tomasello Way was specifically mentioned in the pre-

sentation. Moreover, there are plans to stop selling alcohol 30 minutes before a con-

cert's scheduled end time. Finally, regarding security and the venue's emergency response plan, there will be more monitoring at entry points and more EMS and ambulance services. Bhatti also mentioned working with Boston Police to improve its security

As for the 2024 concert schedule, there could be up to 12 this season. The projected schedule displayed at the meeting, which is subject to change, was as follows:

May 18th - The Avett **Brothers**

June 7th - Tentative/

TBD

June 28th - A Day to Re-

July 27th - Faye Webster August 9th - TBA August 17th - TBA

August 19th - King Gizzard and The Lizard Wizard August 29th - TBA

August 30th - TBA September 6th - Tentative/TBD

September 7th -Tentative/TBD

September 14th - Tenta-

tive/TBD "Some of these are tentative concerts that may or

may not happen — espe-

cially the ones in September — we're still in the planning phases there but wanted to put those out there," said Bhatti.

After the presentation, the floor was opened for the audience to ask questions and provide comments. One attendee had asked

if the team had considered other venue layouts, such as where the stage and other amenities are located. Tom O'Brien of the

HYM Investment Group, Suffolk Downs' owner, indicated several options were considered. Specifically,

O'Brien listed several factors in developing the site layout, such as sound, emergency access to the site, and access to the stage for equipment, and said, "We did think carefully about a lot of different ideas, and this we believe is the best."

Another attendee spoke about sound concerns and said that his son was hearing the concerts from Win-

O'Brien acknowledged that friends of his in Winthrop had told him they could hear the sound on the aforementioned Friday concert last September and apologized.

"I think the problem was that one September 15th show, and again, lesson learned, we're posting more in the way of sound monitoring, we're going to try and direct the sound a little bit better," said

Another attendee spoke

on behalf of the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, indicated the importance of animal species at the marsh, and asked if there was consideration to directing sound onto route 1A instead of the marsh.

In response, O'Brien in part, reiterated his previous point about all the factors considered in developing the layout and pointed out working with Friends of Belle Isle Marsh and making investments to help the marsh.

"We like to consider ourselves as people who have been allies of the people who care about the marsh as well," said O'Brien.

District A-7 Police Captain Dean Bickerton also had some questions about the concerts. First, he asked about sound mitigation during weekday concerts, especially if they fall on a day when school is in ses-

Bhatti had indicated they thought they avoided concerts on school days this year. They are working to identify sound impacts on schools and will use that information in the future for concerts that might fall on

school days. It should be noted that Manuela Villa Gomez, East Boston's Neighborhood Liaison, mentioned that some of the Charter Schools in the neighborhood

school in August. Bickerton also asked about parking on Walde-

See CONCERTS Page 3

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With nearly 40% of food going unsold and uneaten and tens of millions of people facing food insecurity in the United States (including over 500,000 in Massachusetts alone), food recovery organization, Spoonfuls, debuted its "Pledge to Waste Less" this month.

The pledge aims to engage individuals, businesses, schools, and community groups across the Commonwealth in commitments to curb their wasted food footprints, with participants including U.S. Congressman and Chair of the Hunger Caucus, Jim McGovern, State Representative Hannah Kane (along with all seven of her co-chairs on the bipartisan, bicameral Massachusetts Food System Caucus), and Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta.

In a speech on the House floor last week, McGovern, whose decades-long political career has centered on opportunities to end hunger and build a stronger food system, said he's focused on policy solutions, including building support for food recovery. "I've always said that, in America, we have a mismatch: Acres of fresh fruits and vegetables and some of the most talented farmers in the world, yet nearly 40 million Americans go hungry. We have enough food to feed everyone, yet so much goes to waste."

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree of Maine concurred. A member of House Agriculture Committee and Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Interior and Environmental Subcommittee, Pingree cited the environmental impacts of wasted food as an impetus



COURTESY PHOTO City Councilor Gabriela Coletta.

for her participation in the Pledge to Waste Less.

Said Pingree, "The staggering amount of food waste in America is not only costly for families, businesses, and farmers but also has a huge environmental impact. As I work in Congress to support food recovery, like fixing our outdated and confusing food date labeling system, I pledge to do my part at home to curb my food waste by

using leftovers, making

and sticking to grocery

lists, and rethinking food

date labels. For the sake of

our planet, I urge others to consider taking the pledge, Spoonfuls' pledge is part of a larger effort by the organization to call attention to the problem of wasted food and its impact on people, planet, and the economy. By debuting the pledge during Earth Month, the organization,

which picks up still-good, unsold food from retailers, like grocery stores, and distributes it to food programs across the state, hopes to leverage broad interest in climate-focused initiatives to spotlight the role reducing wasted food

The pledge is available online and paired with real-time recommendations for concrete action steps participants can take to curb their wasted food footprints. It has applications for households and businesses, which are each responsible for roughly 50 percent of landfilled food in the U.S.

Said Spoonfuls' Senior Director of Communications & Public Affairs, Joni Kusminsky, specifically engaging policymakers in the pledge is a nod to the importance of public policy as a critical driver in making long term, systemic change in the food system. "We need individual action to curb waste and feed people," said Kusminsky. "But sound public policy can help to underscore the importance of those actions, drive future action, and make it possible for more people and businesses to take steps to reduce wasted

Kusminsky points to Massachusetts' Organics Waste Ban and pending state and federal legislation aimed at expanding food literacy and standardizing date labels as opportunities to bolster individual action. "With wasted food con-

suming over 6% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and 24% of landfill inputs, preventing wasted food is a way to honor the resources it took to produce that food in the first place, mitigate the climate emergency, and ensure more people have the food they need for their health," said Kusminsky.

To learn more and participate in the Pledge to Waste Less, visit: spoonfuls.org/earth-month.

Through food recovery and food distribution, education, and advocacy, Spoonfuls works to address the health, environmental, and economic impact that wasted food has on people and the planet. Learn more at spoonfuls.

EASTIE MAN PLEADS GUILTY

Alvaro Larrama, 40. of East Boston pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the March 2022 stabbing death of Marine veteran Daniel Martinez, 23, who was in Boston with friends for St. Patrick's Day weekend. The stabbing occurred outside of the Sons of Boston bar, where Larrama was working as a bouncer. Judge Josh Wall sentenced Larrama to 17-20 years in prison. Many of Martinez's family members and friends were present at the hearing and delivered impact statements, which are attached.

"The loving memories expressed today by so many of Daniel's family and friends point to a young man very loved and very missed, a person who served his country honorably and gave unselfishly to his family, friends and community at all times. I extend my most sincere sympathies to Daniel's loved ones and I thank them for their moving words today," District Attorney Kevin Hayden said.

Assistant District Attorney Caitlin Grasso represented the Commonwealth. Larrama was represented by Attorney Gerasimos Antzoulatos.

HARBOR VIEW **NEIGHBORHOOD** ASSOCIATION **MEETING**

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association will be on May 6, 2024, at 6 p.m. The meeting is In Person only but will be streamed via Facebook for archival purposes. Attendance on Facebook does not qualify for voting. The meeting will be held in the Salesian Boys and Girls Club cafeteria, across from the Brooke Charter School on Byron Street. You can access the meeting from the front door on Byron Street

or from the rear door on Wordsworth Street, which is the handicap entry, to avoid the stairs. Since we are indoors, masks are optional for those in attendance.

La proxima reunion de

News in Brief

Harbor View Neighborhood Association esta en 6 de mayo a las 6pm. La reunion esta en persona y via Facebook. La asistencia en Facebook no califica para vota. Llega a la cafeteria del Salesian Boys y Girls Club por la calle Byron al otro lado de Brooke Charter School. Pueda usar la entrada pricipal por la calle Byron o la entrada en calle de Wordsworth. La entrada de calle Wordsworth no tienne escaleras por personas con discapacidades. El cubre bocas sera opcional puesto que estaremos adentro.

Agenda

Welcome/Introduction (5min)

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

Announcements (5min) Greenway Council, Tree Eastie, Love Your Block Thanks. St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive at St. Lazarus Parking Lot, May 4th and May 5th. ZBA hearing on 682 Saratoga Street, May 7th 1pm. Salesian Boys and Girls Club 15th Annual Summer Camp Scholarship Auction Fundraiser, June 20, 2024, at 6pm.

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

(15min) Mark Loring, COO, Brooke Charter Schools. VOTE on plans for 609-611 Bennington Street. Boston Scores (15min)

Kathryn Fenneman, Director of Communications to meet HVNA and share progress of the ongoing project.

Energy Savings (15min) Sarah, energy advocate, City of Boston, will present some energy saving opportunities.

The next meeting of the HVNA will be on June 3, 2024. Visit us at http:// www.facebook.com/ groups/harborviewna or check our website at harborvieweastboston.com or board@harborviewna.org

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Time: 12 PM - 5 PM (Stop in anytime!)

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Let's value what matters, together.

Madaro joins leading healthcare experts to discuss successful substance use disorder initiatives

On Wednesday, April 3, Mass General Brigham partnered with Senator John C. Velis and Representative Adrian Madaro, co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, for a State House presentation titled, "Mass General Brigham's Strategy on Substance Use Disorder: Centering Equity and Partnering with Communities."

The presentation was delivered by three leading experts on substance use disorder treatment: Sarah Wakeman, MD, Senior Medical Director, Substance Use Disorder, Mass General Brigham, Gene Lambert, MD, MBA, Medical Director, Addiction Consult Service, Massachusetts General Hospital and Jasmine Irvin, Senior Project Manager of Health Equity, MGH

Program in Substance Use and Addiction Services.

Dr. Wakeman and Dr. Lambert discussed the current landscape of substance use treatment in Massachusetts, along with an overview of our comprehensive efforts to expand access to high-quality substance use disorder (SUD) care. Because there is no one-size-fits-all approach, Mass General Brigham offers a spectrum of SUD care, including inpatient consult teams, Bridge Clinics, integrated SUD treatment in primary care, and perinatal SUD program, which offer patients access to a wide variety of resources and care plans. Jasmine Irvin presented Mass General Brigham's community health strategy, with a focus on collaborations with community organizations and how they leverage

Community Care Vans to "meet people where they are" in their own neighborhoods.

"Successful substance use and addiction services need to be tailored to the communities they serve. I commend Mass General Brigham for its mission to shape its high-quality substance use disorder care to meet the unique needs of individuals across Massachusetts." said State Adrian C. Madaro (D - East Boston).

The forum is the latest in a series co-sponsored by Mass General Brigham and legislative leaders. This past year, Mass General Brigham leaders provided updates on efforts to advance health equity through the system's United Against Racism initiative as well as child and family mental health.

PLEASE RECYCLE

Concerts // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 mar Avenue, the issue of

concertgoers parking there, and whether there has been progress in working with the Transportation Department to make the area resident-only parking.

Bhatti responded, "I don't think we have a final discussion. Obviously, we have no opposition to that - I think that would be desirable if BTD (Boston Transportation Department) is in favor of it.'

As the discussion continued, several union representatives spoke in favor of the concert series.

Additionally, one attendee had asked if concerts could be added to the list shown, to which the answer was no. The attendee also emphasized the importance of trash pick-up. Ultimately, several other

topics, such as the timing of sound checks, especially when school is in ses-

St. Vincent de Paul

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sion, were discussed before the end of the meeting. O'Brien made the point that in the future if there are concerts during school days, sound checks will not occur until after school has been dismissed.

Following this meeting, The Bowery Presents had an Entertainment Application hearing that Thursday

for the concerts. The matter was said to be under advisement, and a written decision would be issued.

As of Monday afternoon, the Mayor's press office indicated a decision has yet to be made.

For more information about this year's concerts, visit https://stageatsuffolkdowns.com/.



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THIRD ANNUAL MARATHON DAFFODIL DASH

The third annual Marathon Daffodil Dash was held on The Track at Suffolk Downs. Children of all ages came to race a 50-yard dash, to have some fun, and show they're Boston Strong.



Andrea Mygrant with Darien, her favorite runner.



Emilia, Ella, and Michael Polsonetti with Gioia and Mila Heigelman are ready to do some running.



Rocio Alarcon works on her mom Lucia's hair.



Angela Gutierrez gives her son David Giraldo a pep talk before his run.



Isabella Walsh won Quarter Mile with cousin Mia Madrid holding daffodils behind her.



Edith and William Mejia take a rest on the rail of the racetrack.



Eddie O'Keefe handles his run like a super-



Members of the Suffolk County Sheriff staff were on hand to lend their support for the 5K.



Ali Abdula helps his daughter Maya Ali



Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe and Sports and Fitness Coordinator John Leone with Bos City Councilor Erin Murphy.



Neil Marino with his two runners Isabela, and Crew.





Allison McLean keeps pace with her daughter Keveigh.



Mia Madrid cheers enthusiastically as the 7-and-8-yearolds make their run.

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THIRD ANNUAL MARATHON DAFFODIL DASH

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS





Runners dart on the Suffolk Downs Racetrack for a half-mile run.



The 3-and-4-year-olds take off on their run.



Edith and William Mejia hold some daffodils.



Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe and his four-legged friend Vinnie, Revere Director Of Parks and Recreation Michael Hinojosa, Sports and Fitness Coordinator John Leone, and the Correa Family Runners.

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Council members hear from rat control consultant

In a scene in a Three Stooges film, a patient in a mental health hospital, pointing to a button-hole on his shirt, tells the Stooges, "I've seen rats come out of that hole!" and everyone in the audience

Well, the rats are coming out of the holes in the ground in the Boston parks where children play and out of the cracks in the Boston sewer masonry walls, but it is not funny. And their population is growing fast.

That's the message that a subcommittee of the Boston City Council heard from research scientist and rodentologist Dr. Bobby Corrigan at a meeting in the Council Chambers on April 9. Corrigan has been hired by the city as a consultant on the rat problems in the city.

The problem is only going to get worse in the coming years, said Corrigan, as the global population of rats is increasing. In cities such as New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, the rat population is expanding even faster, thanks to the many food sources for rats to feast on, such as open trash containers and plastic bags filled with food on the streets, as well as large burrowing holes for rats to breed.

District 9 Councilor Liz Brendon, a sponsor of the hearing, told her colleagues that this is the fifth hearing on rats that she has attended in as many years, but now there is talk of hiring a rat czar and establishing a separate department to deal with what many councillors are calling a quality-of-life issue.

In a previous meeting, Ward 8 City Councillor Sharon Durkan stressed the urgency of addressing the problem.

"Residents should reach out to my office if they see an uptick of rat activity on the streets, as this is a major priority for my office," Durkan said at that time. "My team has been working closely with the hardworking staff at the Inspectional Services Department to make sure

rat burrows and sewers are baited, and I'm glad we have such dedicated partners at ISD for our rat mitigation efforts."

During the April 9 hearing, District 2 City Councillor Ed Flynn asked how many inspectors from ISD are working on rodent control. He was told by the city's Chief of Operations, Dion Irish, that there are 14 full-time inspectors who work basically Monday through Thursday. Flynn noted that many problems occur during the weekend when there are no ISD inspectors working, though Irish pointed out that there are other inspectors from other departments who are on-call and who can address a rat

However, the overall tone at the hearing was upbeat in view of the city's hiring of Corrigan as a consultant to design a rat control program for the city.

In addition, in March councilors established the Boston Rat Action Plan (BRAP) to identify possible steps to address the problem.

Corrigan told the committee that a simple solution is "no food, no rats." He also showed some of the rat-proof barrels that are in use. Corrigan, who is completing his report for city officials and expects it to be ready in a few weeks, thanked the city workers who helped him to go into the field to find the places where rats live and breed, such as alleys with food and the sewers, where rats peer from cracks in the brick walls.

He also offered some "band-aid approaches" for the time being, such as making sure that construction projects are done with thought about the consequences to adjacent areas so that the rats do not migrate to a quieter place, creating a new problem in a new area.

And there was a final, sobering piece of advice that Corrigan offered: Just one rat-infested property can affect up to 10 other adjacent properties that never have had a problem with rats and mice.



One of the signs of rats is their burrows as seen in this photo taken on the Boston Common..

Seeing rats? Tips for controlling them

The New York State Department of Health has issued the following tips on controlling rats:

Controlling the Rat -**A Community Effort**

Rats like to live where people live. They quickly adjust to the neighborhood. Rats can thrive on just an ounce of food and water daily, so when they enter a neighborhood and gain access to meat, fish, vegetables and grains, they will stay. Rats prefer to feed in and around homes, restaurants and businesses. But they will settle for scraps from trash bags and cans, private yards and what they find at the community refuse disposal and transfer station. Rats get the shelter they need from tall weeds and grass, fences and walls, rubbish piles and abandoned appliances.

If rats are living in your neighborhood, there are steps you should take, even if they aren't in your home. Rats move freely in and out of buildings in the neighborhood, so any steps that your neighbors take to control rats will encourage them to move into a nearby building (maybe yours!). A community effort works best, where everyone in the neighborhood takes steps at the same time to prevent rats from entering the buildings and to remove their food and shelter.

Checking for Rats

The sooner you know rats have entered your home, the easier it will be to get rid of them. Here's how to check.

Listen.

After dark, turn on the lights in a dark room or basement and listen for any scurrying sounds.

Listen for gnawing sounds when it is quiet.

Look.

Move stored materials and furniture to uncover any hiding places.

Look at packaged goods, doors, windows, baseboards, and electrical cords for chewed spots, tooth marks, woodchips or shavings.

Check for freshly dug earth near holes around foundations, walls, and embankments. Look under sidewalks, floors and platforms.

Check for rub marks - dark smears along hallways, or near pipes, beams, edges of stairs or around gnawed holes.

Check near walls, food supplies and pathways for droppings. Fresh droppings are dark and soft; old droppings are hard, or gray and brittle. Fresh droppings are a sure sign of a current infestation.

Watch.

Dusty areas often show signs of pawprints or tailmarks. Sprinkle flour around the area and check for tracks for a few days.

Place a small quantity of food where rats can get at it, and check daily for signs of feeding.

How Rats Get In

Once you know how rats come into a building, you can check your home for places they could use and take steps to prevent them from moving in. Rats (and mice) can enter buildings:through cracks or holes in walls or foundations, even holes as small as a dime;



Rat traps are one way to combat the rodent. Shown above is the dead rat in

by digging under house foundations if they are shallow enough;

through open windows, doors, sidewalk grates, or vents (check in the basement or walls for vent openings);

by squeezing through openings in the foundation or wall for pipes or wires; through floor drains, quarter inch gaps under doors, letter drops and fan openings; and from inside large packages of food or merchandise.

Keeping Rats Out It is much easier to keep rats out

than to get rid of them once they have moved in. But, taking these steps help control rats once they have come in. It's a three-step ap-

Don't feed rats. Limit their food source by placing trash in covered metal or heavy duty plastic trash containers. The heavy duty plastic cans on wheels are resistant to rats' chewing, and so are metal cans. Fix plumbing leaks to cut off their water source. Keep the house and yard neat and clean. Remove uneaten pet foods. Don't fill up your bird feeder. Clean up food spills. Store food in rat-resistant containers. Avoid storing food in basements.

Remove rats' shelter. Indoors, replace wooden basement floors with poured concrete. Place storage racks at a height of 18 inches above the floor. Move appliances, sinks and cabinets so they are flush against the wall or out far enough that you can clean behind them. Outdoors, restrict their shelter by rat-proofing all buildings in the area and removing outside shelters like appliances, junk piles, old fences and walls. Keep the property, including alleys and yards, clean and trash-free. Pile wood and other stored items at least 18 inches above the ground and away from the walls. Clean out the area behind wooden steps, especially those leading into the house.

Keep them out. Put in self-closing doors that open outward, and use latches or spring locks to keep doors closed. Check to see that doors and windows close tightly, and use metal screens on all windows that are kept open. Protect basement windows with a 1/2 inch wire mesh (called hardware cloth). Cover the edges of doors, windows and screens, which can be gnawed, with sheet metal or hardware cloth. Make a collar around pipe and wire

openings into the house with pieces of sheet metal or tin cans. Rats cannot easily gnaw through metal. Fasten floor drains tightly to keep sewer rats from coming in.

Getting Rid of Rats

The two best ways to remove rats are traps or poison. The use of either requires caution!

Traps. Choose wooden base snap traps, and enlarge the traps by fastening a 2-inch square of cardboard to each trigger. Set out several traps at a time - at least 10 if you think there are many rats. Place the traps behind boxes and against walls, so that the rats must pass over the trigger. Be sure the traps are out of the reach of children and pets! Fasten food attractive to rats, such as peanut butter, raisin bread, bacon or gumdrops, tightly on the trigger of each trap. Don't let the trap run out of bait. An advantage to traps is that they are less of a hazard to

children and pets than poison. Poison. Warfarin, chlorophaconone, and Pival are all rat poisons. They work by making the rats' blood unable to clot, so the rats die of internal bleeding. Rat poisons must be fed daily for six to 10 days. Read the poison label before you begin, and be careful to follow all steps. Watch out for children and pets! Make sure the baits are clearly marked, and put them in low traffic, secure areas that might attract rats, such as under or behind boards, boxes, pipes or cans, and out of the rain and snow. Remove the baits when all signs of rats are gone. Follow what the label says about how to dispose of the leftover poison. If, after a month or two, there are still signs of rats, skip a month and start again. Stopping for a month and then starting helps keep the rats from building

up resistance to the poison. Keeping Rats Under Control

If you do have rats, it's a community problem and the entire neighborhood should work together.

Once the rat infestation is under control, the goal is to prevent them from coming back. Help yourself and your neighbors by keeping trash picked up and placed in covered, rat-resistant containers. Promptly remove or repair any shelter areas, such as fences and old appliances. Periodically check for new entry holes into neighborhood buildings, and seal them up quickly.

Atlantic Works Gallery announces two May exhibitions is another person's treasure" Amore and HUMORASher work combining dispa-Amore said. "Day after day, odds, remains hopeful. Hu-

Atlantic Works Gallery announced that its May exhibition will consist of two side-by-side solo shows from two member artists who have been using images and text throughout the course of their careers, but in entirely different ways. Amore, a former academic who taught for many years at the MFA Museum School, uses text in a poetical form, both in streams and bits and pieces. Kopec, who worked as a graphic designer, in his words, "... explores language (semantics and wordplay) and graphic iconic imagery and offers laconic commentary (toeing the line between the comic and tragic) on the doleful and farcical wallow

of our Humorassous." In Chance Encounters,

Amore delivers the span of

rate materials into a sculpturally artistic whole. With her series, Stepping Stones, Amore starts with photographs of faces that she made over a span of many years in Boston, New York, Singapore, Paris, Japan, along with photographs from old history books. "No one is famous. Everyone is anonymous. The panels were created during the Gulf War and made in protest against that war and in sympathy for the destruction of life," Amore said. Her text address immigration, a political flashpoint that continues today, as people were displaced from their homeland during the Middle East war. "These panels seem very relevant to me today as the Israeli/Hamas war drags on,"

the death toll rises and more people are displaced. The words that stream across the panels still ask the same eternal questions, 'Where is home?' 'Are we so different if we lie buried next to each other?"

Additionally, Amore is exhibiting work from her new series, Chance Encounters, from which her exhibition takes its name. "Just as the faces of the Stepping Stones panels have found their way together by chance, all of the elements of the new series have also found their way through chance," she explained. "I am constantly observing the sidewalks and streets where I walk and picking up the flotsam and jetsam of what has been discarded. The old

saying, "One person's trash

is true in my case, as all of these finds have made their way into a piece of art." Whereas Amore views

events from a distance that gives the viewer room for contemplation, Kopec employs immediacy and starkness, like the pop of a string of firecrackers, leaving us in the end with an emotional, world-weary viewpoint. "How did it come to this? This place where much of the most "advanced" culture in the history of the world has seemingly become a society of muddle and murk?" Kopec asks. "Where many seem to crave the spotlight as stand-up comics, where answers to serious questions are lip-synched or sunk into sound bites, jargon, and jok-

ey one-liners?"

bluer sky ahead." Atlantic Works Gallery

can act as a shield. "Con-(details) structed using concept-ap-• Show opens Saturday, propriate materials, my May 4: reception 2:00 work explores language (se-6:00 p.m. mantics and wordplay) and • "Third Thursday" regraphic iconic imagery and ception and artists' talk: offers laconic commentary (toeing the line between Thursday, May 16, 6:00 the comic and tragic) on the 9:00 p.m. doleful and farcical wallow of our Humorassous," he said. "While the individual pieces don't suggest answers, the work references

the frolic of contemporary

"reality" and "reasoning,"

commenting with a droll yet

serious eye on issues from

"Books Behaving Badly in

Florida" to "When Evan-

gelicals Speaketh..." and

the "Lament" of a hopefully

mor, no matter how dark,

• Show closes Friday, May 31

ar, is an artist-run collaborative space for art and

SOUS by Walter Kopec

ideas located in East Boston. The gallery is open to the public every Friday and Saturday, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m For private viewing, contact contact@atlanticworks.org or call 857-302-8363 during gallery hours . For more information, visit https://atlanticworks.org/.

Still, the artist, despite all Chance Encounters by B.

ZUMIX to Host 2024 Walk for Music on July 14

On Sunday, July 14, ZUMIX will host its annual Walk for Music. ZU-MIX community members and other participants will walk through East Boston's parks to support ZUMIX's award-winning music and youth empowerment programs. The event will begin at 260 Sumner Street in East Boston, and will run from 3-6 pm, including registration at the ZUMIX Firehouse and the walk itself, starting at 4 pm. Festivities will continue with a free **ZUMIX Summer Concert** in Piers Park, also a part of the annual Eastie Week celebration spearheaded by Boston Harbor Now.

Created as a response to the need for high-quality music programming in Boston's schools and communities, the Walk for Music has historically been an afternoon of music, celebration, and community for local music organizations. This year's event will highlight the neighborhoods and green spaces of East Boston, including Piers Park, Bremen Street Park, and the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway. Walkers can sign up to walk or fundraise in advance on the event page at https://secure.givelively.org/donate/zumix-inc/ walk-for-music-2024.

"Walk for Music is one of the best days for ZU-MIX every year," said Madeleine Steczynski, co-founder and executive director of ZUMIX. "It's a time to gather together, celebrate our work, and spread the word about how music and the creative arts can empower young people and transform their lives and communities."

Walk for Music is one of ZUMIX's largest annual fundraisers, helping to provide more than 1,000 youth with access to free and low-cost creative programs. ZUMIX offers programs for young people ages 7-18 in songwriting and performance, creative media and technology, musical theater, private lesson instruction, and instrumental ensembles.

On Sunday, July 14 at 3 pm, walkers will gather at the ZUMIX Firehouse at 260 Sumner Street for registration and begin the walk. In case of inclement weather, the concert and celebration after the walk will take place at the ZU-MIX Firehouse.

To donate, please visit https://secure.givelively. org/donate/zumix-inc/ walk-for-music-2024, text WALKFORMUSIC to 44-321, or send a check made out to ZUMIX to 260 Sumner Street, East Boston, MA, 02128. ZUMIX encourages local businesses and community members to sign up to walk and fundraise. To sign up, visit the GiveLively page above or sign up in person at ZUMIX the day of the event. The walk is family friendly and open to ev-

ZUMIX's mission is to empower young people to build successful futures for themselves - transforming lives and community through music, technology, and creative employment. ZU-MIX works with more than 1,000 young people ages 7-18 each year. Free and low-cost after-school programs are offered in instrumental music, songwriting, performance, radio, audio engineering, and audio and video storytelling. ZUMIX also partners with local schools to bring arts education opportunities to Boston's youth. In addition to youth programs, ZUMIX offers free concerts and events for all ages. For more information, visit www.zumix.org.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

deb@reverejournal.com

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a virtual public hearing will be held on May 22 2024, at 9:15 A.M., in connection with Text Amendment Application No. 520 and Map Amendment Application No. 772, filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

Said text amendment would add one (1) new Open Space subdistrict to Article 33. The Stadium Open Space (OS-S) subdistrict would create a new stadium and public amphitheater zoning district, in order to enable greater investment and enable more amenities in appropriate areas of the city's current and future open spaces. It would also make minor changes that add reference to the Stadium Open Space subdistrict in Article 3, Establishment of Zoning Districts; Article 33-1: Preamble; Article 33-2, Statement of Purpose; Article 33-5, Establishment of Open Space Subdistrict Categories; Article 33-6 Land Eligible for Open Space Designation. Out-of-date language referring to organizations that have reformed or been renamed, such as the Boston Natural Area Fund and Metropolitan District Commission, have also been updated. Said map amendment would map the newly created OS-S subdistrict in East Boston (East Boston Memorial Stadium) and Mattapan (White Stadium) neighborhoods.

This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. You can participate in this meeting by going to https://bit.ly/ BZC_May222024. Copies of the petitions and a map of the area involved may be obtained from the Zoning Commission electronically, and you may also submit written comments or questions to zoningcommission@boston.gov.

Interpreting services are available to communicate information at this hearing. If you require interpreting services, please contact the following: zoningcommission@boston.gov or 617-918-4308. The meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2024. Please request interpreting services no later than May 17, 2024.

For the Commission

Jeffrey M. Hampton

Executive Secretary

OBITUARIES

Dorothy Benoit-Scansaroli

Retired Purchasing Agent

Dorothy Benoit-Scansaroli of East Boston passed away at the Ruth McLain Hospice in Braintree on April 23, 2024. She was 84 years

Born in Framingham, she was the beloved daughter of the late Jennie (Alluzio) and Premo Scansaroli. A long-time resident of East Boston, she worked as a purchasing agent prior to her retirement.

She was the devoted wife of the late John E. Benoit and the dear sister of the late Arlene Chao and Jean O'Lasky. She is also survived by several loving nieces and neph-

A funeral mass was celebrated in St. John the Evangelist Church, 320



Winthrop St., Winthrop on Tuesday, April 30. Services concluded with interment in St. Michael's Cemetery, Boston.

To sign the online guestbook, go to www. caggianofuneralhome.

Arrangements were under the direction of the caggiano-O'Maley-Frazier Funeral Home, Win-

Anne T. Broder

Teacher and Assistant Principal at East Boston High School for over 35 years

Anne T. Broder, born April 12, 1942, beloved daughter of the late Lillian (Verdi) and Joseph Broder, passed away peacefully under hospice care on April 20, 2024 after a long illness. She was a life-long Winthrop resident, dedicating her life to her family, friends and community.

Anne was the dear sister of Elaine Broder Dillon of Winthrop, Richard Broder and his wife Poong-cha of New Mexico, Carol Broder of Revere and Robert Broder of Winthrop. She was the adored godmother of Susan Dillon and the loving aunt of Ben Broder of Somerville, Tina Denton of New Mexico, Michael Broder and Jennifer Duarte of San Diego, California and Ken and Kim Price of New Mexico; cherished great aunt of Richard and Shannon. She was also the dear friend to Sue Gray, the late Elaine Halkopoulos and her loving "adopted" niece Andrea Hall Phinney.

Anne was a high honors student at Winthrop High School, winning a four-year scholarship to Boston State College. She earned a BS in education. two Master's degrees and a CAGS degree. She was a gifted student who became a devoted English teacher and Assistant Principal at East Boston High School for over 35 years. She and her friend Elaine developed a Proscola program to help disadvantaged but bright students obtain local college scholarships.

Anne was truly a Renaissance woman of many interests and talents. She loved the theatre, was a member of MENSA, the



Winthrop Historical Society, an Election Precinct Captain, a Town Meeting Member, a part time employee at Winthrop Town Hall, treasurer of the Boston Teacher's Union and a part-time journalist and photographer for the East Boston Times. She was also a supporter of the Boston Theatre Guild, the Boston Symphony and a devoted fan of all Boston sports teams.

All who knew Anne will remember her as a quick-witted woman, one of kindness, warmth, integrity and an unwavering support in times of need. Always ready to lend a helping hand. She will be deeply missed.

Family and friends attended the visitation from the Caggiano Funeral Home, Winthrop Funeral Home, Winthrop on Monday, April 29 followed by a Funeral Mass in St. John the EvangelistChurch, 320 Winthrop St., Winthrop. Services concluded with the interment in Winthrop Cemetery (old section).

To sign the online guestbook, go to www. caggianofuneralhome.

Arrangements the direction of the Caggiano-O'Maley-Frazier Funeral Home, Winthrop.

George Walker

US Postal Service Retiree and substance abuse counselor at Meridian House in East Boston

Family and friends attended a visitation on Tuesday, April 30, in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for George F. Walker, who passed away peacefully with family at his home on Wednesday, April 24, following a long battle with lung disease. He was 72 years old. A Funeral Mass was celebrated following the visitation in the Immaculate Conception Church, 133 Beach St., Revere and interment followed at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

George was born in Boston and raised in East Boston's Eagle Hill neighborhood, one of four children. He was educated in his parish school, Sacred Heart Grammar School, where he also served as an "altar boy." He was a graduate of East Boston High School, Class of 1968. George continued to

further his education by attending Boston State College and Salem State College. George was a "Friend of Bill W" and he worked as a substance abuse counselor at the Meridian House in East Boston. George cared deeply and remained connected to the recovery community. He sponsored and helped many attain their own sobriety.

He married his love, Debra (Carino) on October 11, 1997, and they lived in Everett. He began a career for the United States Postal Service in 1982. His career spanned 26 years working, retiring as a supervisor due to his failing health. George was revered at the Postal Ser-



vice by many of his colleagues.

In his spare time, he had a great fascination and appreciation for all types of collectibles. He had a vast knowledge of many unique objects that interested him over many

He will be forever remembered as an intelligent, humble, and dedicated man to his family first, his friends from Bill W. and colleagues.

He was the beloved husband of Debra A. (Carino) Walker of 27 years of Everett, the loving stepfather of Tara E. DiFelice and her husband, Steven of W. Peabody; cherished grandfather of Lauren M. DiFelice; the treasured son of the late Mark T. Walker and M. Virginia (Hanlon) Walker and the dear brother of Frederick P. Walker of Billerica, Ginny Walker- Loughmiller of Squantum and John A. Walker of Medford. He is also lovingly survived by many

nieces and nephews. The staff at Vertuccio Smith & Vazza are most honored to have assisted the family in completing arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.vertucciosmithvazza.com.

OBITUARIES

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Plan // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

known as zoning.

Regarding zoning, the main topic of last week's hearing, Cyrus Miceli of the BPDA, said, "East Boston's current zoning does not reflect what exists there today.'

He also detailed that over the last year, East Boston has had the second-most non-compliant proposed projects in the

"This reliance on the ZBA (Zoning Board of Appeal) has done a number of things, but it has unpredictability created mostly and neighborhood development patterns and generally signals a need for zoning reform," said Miceli.

"The proposed amendments to Article 53 that we're bringing you today seek to remedy this condition," he added.

Miceli outlined four zoning amendment goals, recalibrating including residential zoning, providing more opportunities for mixed-use development, encouraging active streets, and simplifying and modernizing zoning.

After detailing these goals, Miceli provided specific recommendations for the amendments to East Boston's zoning.

First, use tables were updated and consolidated, while definitions were improved. "These updates cut the number of existing use categories in half while retaining the same clarity and specificity and land use regulation determined through the PLAN: East Boston planning process," said Miceli.

He also indicated that the updates, while specific to East Boston, are aligned with the BPDA's broader zoning reform initiatives.

Regarding residential zoning, the number of subdistrict types was reduced from 10 to three, and dimensional requirements were right-sized and simplified. Additionally, retail and service establishments will now be permitted on corner lots.

The three new residential subdistricts are East Boston Residential (EBR)- 2.5, 3, and 4, with the number corresponding to the maximum number of stories allowed in the area. Moreover, each residential subdistrict has its own maximum number of units and dimensional reg-

Similarly to residential zoning, mixed-use zoning will also have three subdistrict types: Mixed-Use (MU)- 4,5, and 7, again with the number corresponding to the maximum number of stories in an area, each with its own dimensional regulations.

Miceli explained that mixed-use zoning would allow residential and commercial uses to coexist in an area, concentrate around transit hubs, and introduce flexible formbased dimensional regu-

It should be noted that the places where this zoning would apply, including Maverick, Day, Central, and Orient Heights squares, were displayed during the hearing.

Concerning waterfront zoning, the amendments will decrease the number of subdistrict types from six to two, increase height and density, and relax land

However, Miceli said, "It's important to note that the majority of East Boston's waterfront remains subject to the regulations of state-controlled designated port areas. These regulations severely limit allowed land uses along the waterfront and ultimately supersede Boston zoning."

The waterfront subdistricts include a waterfront mixed-use subdistrict, which allows a maximum of five stories, 65 feet in height, and 2.0 FAR. Residential uses and PDAs (planned development areas) are also allowed in the mixed-use subdistrict.

Meanwhile, the waterfront economy subdistrict also permits a maximum of five stories, 65 feet in height, and 2.0 FAR but does not allow residential uses or PDAs.

As for economic development areas (EDAs), two have been created. There will be increases in height and density in these areas, and there will be relaxed land uses in specific EDAs to allow residential uses.

The new EDAs are the Porter Street EDA, which allows a maximum of four stories and 2.0 FAR, and the Bremen Street EDA, which allows a maximum of five stories and

Additionally, zoning amendments will expand coastal flood resilience overlay district regula-"These updates tions. prohibit the erection or extension of residential uses below the sea level rise design flood elevation," said Miceli.

Moreover, these updat-

ed regulations will apply

to all projects but not to uses such as parking, commercial space, and more. It should also be noted that Miceli said, "Our analysis shows us that there are no parcels within East Boston's residential fabric, where we're most concerned about height,

that sit at an elevation

deep enough to enable ad-

ditional floors of height." "Meaning that the height thresholds established by underlying zoning for these neighborhood residential areas will be able to hold as they are written," he added.

Finally, other zoning updates discussed by Miceli included parking, where minimums will be removed in mixed-use areas near transit hubs and

Following the presentation of the zoning amendments, the floor was opened for public testimony. Ellie Sanchez, Chief of Staff for City Councilor Gabriela Coletta, read a letter the councilor had penned into the record.

In her letter, Coletta thanked members of the BPDA and the community for their work in develop-

ing PLAN: East Boston and wrote, "East Boston now has the framework necessary to preserve, enhance, and grow in a responsible manner, which will ultimately serve the community well now and in the future."

She also stressed the importance of the ZBA keeping its end of the bargain by not approving projects that do not comply with the new plan.

Specifically, she wrote about concerns that folks in the community have after a project at 141 Addison Street, which did not fully comply with the zoning recommendations put forth in PLAN: East Boston, was approved in March.

Moreover, wrote that she has requested that the BPDA's Director Arthur Jemison write a letter to the ZBA setting expectations that it "will not continue to grant variances based on undefined hardships."

"I believe that holding the ZBA accountable to new zoning regulations will require specific and transparent parameters to ensure we do not repeat egregious variance approvals that led to the need for the creation of this plan," wrote Coletta.

Following the reading of Coletta's letter, other attendees provided testimony. For example, Attorney Richard Lynds spoke in favor of the zoning amendments, and another attendee, Meg Grady, talked about how the amendments benefit developers and do not protect single-family housing.

After the public testimony portion of the hearing, a few Commissioners gave their thoughts on the amendments.

While acknowledging Grady's comments, Commissioner Jill Hatton indicated that the zoning could always be enhanced and expressed her support.

Hatton also comment-

ed on Coletta's letter, saying, "We really as a Zoning Commission can only adopt these changes, which reflect what we think." "Issues like ZBA prac-

tices are really not part of our purview. We really can only do what we think we can do to adopt the best zoning amendments and code enhancements that preserve the form and components of the neighborhood," she added.

Commissioner Michael DiMella called the work impressive but expressed concerns that it needed to provide more opportunities for housing.

Commissioner Leff also commended the work and echoed DiMella's point about providing more housing opportuni-

Ultimately, the zoning amendments were approved unanimously by a vote of 8-0. To view a recording of the meeting https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQp_ Hzf8j8A.

GSCA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

discussed at last week's meeting would preserve parts of the church's facade and incorporate it into a new five-story building with 40 units and 30 parking spaces.

The East Boston Times covered this meeting in last week's edition of the paper. To learn more about the meeting, visit https://eastietimes.com/2024/04/24/ community-discusses-potential-mount-carmel-development-plan/.

Now, a week later, the GSCA used a portion of its meeting to discuss the preliminary plans and allow residents to make their voices heard.

After Neel Batra, a GSCA Board Member, recapped the meeting, Paul Passacantilli of Hanover Battery Strategies, who helped host last week's meeting along with the proponent — Nick Dilibero — was given the opportunity to speak.

Passacantilli, who indicated that the property was under agreement, thanked folks for coming to the meeting and stressed that it was truly preliminary.

"Myself and Nick Dilibero feel like there's an opportunity to take a building that's been sitting in disrepair whether it's been approved by the BPDA or not and create a project that will actually get built," said Passacan-

"We feel that there's a path forward. However, we're still waiting on guidance from the BPDA and the city on what that path looks like," he added.

Following Passacantilli's comments, the floor was open for attendees to provide feedback.

Marisa DiPietro spoke about a concern raised during last week's meeting regarding going through another approval process after development at the property has been in the works for years.

However, she said, "It sounds like the people who own the building — the land now — I don't think that they're going to do anything with it. So I think if we don't allow Nick and Paul to go forward with their plan, it's just going to sit there for more years to

DiPietro continued and thought that it would be prudent to allow Passacantilli and Dilibero to develop the church and complimented the plan of preserving some of the church's facade.

A GSCA Board Member, Jane O'Reilly, seemed to voice opposition to the plan, indicating that the building should not be built up to five stories. She also said, "We don't need 40 more condos there."

Passacantilli responded to O'Reilly's comments and talked about some of the pushback from neighbors about having five stories in an area that will only allow a maximum of four stories under new zoning. While Passacantilli un-

derstood the stance of residents who did not want to see the building at five stories, he said, "When we're trying to preserve a church that's been there 100 years, and obviously it's understood that the community knows it's going to be expensive I think we have to look at this through a very different

"The reason why the church isn't being built currently is feasibility, this idea of what it's going to cost and the idea of how could we truly get this project built," he added before acknowledging the fifth floor would allow enough units to save the church.

Passacantilli continued by talking about the six-figure cost of asbestos removal and public safety issues at the property revealed by Boston Police at the meeting.

"We're just trying to come in, and we're trying to figure out a way to add some life back into this building," he said. O'Reilly then asked for

more specifics regarding what part of the church would be preserved. Passacantilli responded, indicating that the preliminary plan includes keeping the facade along the Frankfort Street elevation from ground level to the roofline and about 20 or 30 yards down Gove Street. Another GSCA Board

Member, Lorraine Curry, believed the preliminary proposal should be taken seriously.

"If we have an opportunity to do something

with the church and the rectory, I think we should look at that very seriously because we have no clue what's going to happen with the convent and the parking lot," she said. The question of whether

RISE Together could sell part of the approved project and whether the buyer could propose something new was also pondered, and Passacantilli seemed to think there was no is-

As the discussion continued, there was debate about whether there was consensus supporting the preliminary proposal.

While DiPietro said she got the sense from people she spoke with that the community was behind the proposal, Batra disagreed. "I did not walk away

from that meeting feeling that there was an overwhelming sense that the community is definitely behind this new idea," said Batra. Paola Villatoro, a GSCA

Board Member, also indicated there were differing opinions but thought that some people who were opposed to the idea went into the meeting with the mindset that it was the old proposal or nothing. Before the end of the

discussion, there was a heated moment in which Passacantilli took exception to a question asked by an attendee in the chat. The attendee had asked

if DiPietro was a project proponent or just a citi-

zen providing feedback,

which Batra then relayed. as is customary in GSCA

meetings. While DiPietro indicated that she only has ties to the project emotionally. not financially, Passacantilli said that asking the question was aggressive and that the question itself

was unfair. Regarding the next steps, Passacantilli said. "We have a call into the BPDA, and so we're just waiting for the BPDA to respond. Once they respond, we'll have a follow-up meeting, and then

we'll take it from there."

Ultimately, several other comments about the preliminary proposal were made before the GSCA meeting ended, including one attendee who thought that the old plan needed to be let go of and another attendee raising concerns about motor vehicle density with the hotel, and other projects nearby impacting school children walking in

In the end, Passacantilli emphasized this is an ongoing discussion. "We're all about neighborhood engagement. As we make advancements, you guys will be in the know," he said.

the area every day.

After a productive discussion on Monday, it is important to note that the GSCA's next meeting will be on a different date than usual because of Memorial Day. The next GSCA meeting is scheduled for May 20.

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Yu-Ju, Chen	Trichilo Development LLC	169 Maverick St #2	\$660,000
Prekezes, John	173 Maverick Street LLC	173 Maverick St #203	\$750,000
Angel Academy LLC	Schepici, Steven	192 Chelsea St	\$1,210,000
4 Lexington LLC	Printing Press Lofts LLC	2-4 Lexington St #1C	\$240,000
Taborsak, Kellie A	Printing Press Lofts LLC	2-4 Lexington St #3A	\$479,000
Loh, Lip N	East Eagle Street Cbc LL	211 E Eagle St #1	\$550,000
Bacanurschi, Boris	Border Development LLC	301 Border St #410	\$815,000
Hayes, Nicole	304 Sumner St LLC	304 Sumner St #2	\$710,000
Blankley, Andrew	Stage LLC	41 Wordsworth St #1	\$695,000
Boyce, Micah	839 Saratoga Street LLC	839 Saratoga St #1	\$999,900







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Zoning // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

created together." Coletta also stated that it would be "fiscally irresponsible" to go back to the makeshift variance approval process the ZBA has historically undertaken, given the taxpayer dollars and time that has been dedicated to establish a development ceiling and predictability in East Boston.

PLAN: East Boston is a five-year planning initiative conducted in partnership with elected officials, Boston Planning and Development Agency staff, and community members. The initiative was spearheaded to codify planning to dictate development after many years of having developers take advantage of Boston's outdated zoning code. Coletta also noted, "Multiple iterations of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) membership allowed for precedent setting exceptions, or variances of hardship, and made them the rule. For many years in East Boston, zoning occurred on an ad hoc basis which led

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to irresponsible proposals inconsistent with existing design or uses."

She went on to say,

"Unfortunately, there is already concern that the ZBA will approve variances that are not in line with this text amendment. After the BPDA board approved PLAN: East Boston in January, my staff attended a ZBA hearing on March 12th to speak in opposition of 141 Addison Street due to misalignment with the plan. However, despite community opposition, the board approved the proposal. This is a concerning precedent for the ZBA to set that must be addressed if this zoning text amendment is approved."

Following the release of the first draft of PLAN: East Boston in 2022, there were several concerns from the community related to height, density, transit, and historic preservation. Coletta and the state delegation heeded those concerns and advocated for meaningful changes

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directly to the Mayor and the BPDA. They ultimately moved many aspects of the Plan to an iteration that is truly reflective of what residents wanted. The final iteration of the Plan includes changes to housing and transportation, such

- Pushed for zoning in residential areas consistent with neighborhood context while setting a ceiling for height, density, set backs, and parking requirements for future development; appropriate transition zones between sub districts;
- Protected the entirety of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway from irresponsible height and density levels that would wall off the rest of the neighborhood from this vital open space;
- Promoted the vibrancy of major squares and corridors by allowing for commercial and small business spaces with uses that are critical to the neighborhood; transit-oriented growth;

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• Established maximum heights where the BPDA holds unique powers in special zones like Economic Development Areas and Planned Development Areas;

- Prioritization in creating and preserving affordable housing by instituting a twenty percent minimum for Inclusionary Development Units (IDP) for Article 80 projects;
- Commitment to utilizing and growing the East Boston Neighborhood Housing Trust for smaller projects;
- Secured historic presconsiderations

across East Boston and strengthened recommendations to preserve existing structures;

- Pushed back on a one-size-fits all "road diet" strategy for Bennington, Meridian, and Border Streets and received a commitment for a thoughtful planning and design process in the fu-
- Encouraged creative solutions to multi-modal safety issues across East Boston including better signaling and signage, infrastructure on-street improvements like bump outs and speed humps; and

 Amplified ferry serrecommendations and improved regional

connections. To read the full text of Councilor Coletta's letter, please visit: https://bit.ly/

EB_Zoning The Boston Zoning Commission approved the new zoning amendment during their meeting on April 24, 2024.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Councilor Gabriela Coletta by phone at (617) 635-3200 or by email at gabriela.ramirez@boston.

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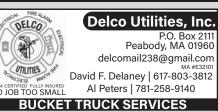
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East Boston Chamber of Commerce and East Boston Main Streets News and Notes

Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the grand opening of Mr. Pacho Colombian food truck

On Wednesday, April 24, the East Boston Chamber of Commerce and East Boston Main Streets hosted a Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the grand opening of Mr. Pacho Colombian food truck at Maverick Square in the East Boston business

community. Citations were presented from the office of the State Senator Lydia Edwards and from City Councilor Gabriela Coletta's office for business success to the owners Jael Misas and Francisco Ech-

Congratulations to Mr. Pachos on the opening of their East Boston busi-

If you are interested in joining the Chamber please email at eastbostonchamberofcommerce@ gmail.com or for more information about the Chamber visit the website at www.eastbostonchamberofcommerce.com.

El miércoles 24 de abril, la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston y East Boston Main Streets organizaron una ceremonia de corte de cinta para la gran inauguración del camión de comida colombiana del Sr. Pacho en Maverick Square en la comunidad empresarial de East Bos-

Se presentaron citas de la oficina de la Senadora Estatal Lydia Edwards y de la oficina de la Concejal de la Ciudad, Gabriela Coletta, por el éxito empresarial de los propietarios Jael Misas and Francisco Echeverri.

Felicidades Pachos por la apertura de su negocio en East Bos-

Si está interesado en unirse a la Cámara, envíe un correo electrónico eastbostonchamberofcommerce@gmail.com o para obtener más información sobre la Cámara, visite el sitio web en www.eastbostonchamberofcommerce.com.



Pictured: Mr. Pacho Colombian Food Truck Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting held on 4/24/24 with owners Jael Misas and Francisco Echeverri including supporters and representatives from State Senator Lydia Edward's office and City Councilor Gabriela Coletta's office and Miguel Vargas (East Boston Main Street) and Shirley Fabbo (East Boston Chamber of Commerce – not pictured.)

Ribbon Cutting for the grand opening of One Beauty Studio

On Thursday, April 4, the East Boston Chamber of Commerce and East Boston Main Streets hosted a Ribbon Cutting for the grand opening of One Beauty Studio at 917 Bennington Street in the East Boston business community.

A citation was presented from the office of the State Senator Lydia Edwards and a toast was made for business success to the owners Lina Gaviria and Juan David Jaramillo.

Congratulations to One Beauty Studio on the opening of their East Boston business.

If you are interested in joining the Chamber please email at eastbostonchamberofcommerce@ gmail.com or for more information about the Chamber visit the website at www.eastbostonchamberofcommerce.com.

El jueves 4 de abril, la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston y East Boston Main Streets organizaron un corte de cinta para la gran inauguración de One Beauty Studio en el 917 de la calle Bennington en la comunidad empresarial de East Boston.

Se presentó una cita del

despacho de la Senadora Estatal Lydia Edwards y se brindó por el éxito empresarial de los propietarios Lina Gaviria y Juan David Jaramillo.

Felicidades a Beauty Studio por la apertura de su negocio en East Boston.

Si estás interesado en unirte a la Cámara, por favor envía un correo electrónico a eastbostonchamberofcommerce@ gmail.com o para más información sobre Cámara visita el sitio web en www.eastbostonchamberofcommerce.com.



Pictured: One Beauty Studio Grand Opening and Open House on 4/4/24 with owners Lina Gaviria and Juan David Jaramillo including supporters of their East Boston business including Miguel Vargas (East Boston Main Street) and Shirley Fabbo (East Boston Chamber of Commerce – not pictured.)

Ribbon Cutting for the grand opening of Los Alebrijes

On Thursday, April 25, the East Boston Chamber of Commerce and East Boston Main Streets hosted a Ribbon Cutting for the grand opening of Los Alebrijes at 192 Sumner Street in the East Boston

business community. A citation was presented from the office of Edwards and a toast was made for business success to the owners Maria Rojas, Gerardo Espinoza, and Hector Ramerez.

Congratulations to Los Alebrijes on the opening of their East Boston busi-

If you are interested in joining the Chamber

chamberofcommerce@ gmail.com or for more information about the Chamber visit the website at www.eastbostoncham-

berofcommerce.com.

El jueves 25 de abril, la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston v East Boston Main Streets organizaron the State Senator Lydia please email at eastboston- un corte de cinta para la

gran inauguración de Los Alebrijes en el 192 de la calle Sumner en la comunidad empresarial de East Boston.

Se presentó una cita del despacho de la Senadora Estatal Lydia Edwards y se brindó por el éxito empresarial de los propietarios Lina Gaviria y Juan David Jaramillo.

Felicidades a Los Alebrijes por la apertura de su negocio en East Boston.

Si estás interesado en unirte a la Cámara, por favor envía un correo electrónico a eastbostonchamberofcommerce@ gmail.com o para más información sobre Cámara visita el sitio web en www.eastbostonchamberofcommerce.com.



Pictured: Los Alebrijes Grand Opening held on 4/25/24 with owners Maria Rojas, Gerardo Espinoza, and Hector Ramirez including Miguel Vargas (East Boston Main Street) and Shirley Fabbo (East Boston Chamber of Commerce.)





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