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IT'S FOOTBALL SEASON



PHOTO BY BOB MARRA

SAFE PASSAGE: Sporting a protective Guardian Cap over his helmet, an East Boston runner picks up yardage against Winthrop in a scrimmage August 28. See Page 5 for more photos.

ZBA approves projects on Bremen and Geneva Streets

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

At its hearing last week, the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) voted to approve two projects in the neighborhood, one at 246 Bremen Street and the other at 9 Geneva Street.

The first project up for discussion was at 246 Bremen Street, where the applicant proposes to convert the preexisting three-story building, which has a two-family legal occupancy, to a four-unit building. Further, the proposal includes a rear vertical addition.

"This was filed prior to the enactment of the amendments to Article 53 in East Boston. However, we've designed this project to be in compliance with the proposed provisions," said Attorney Richard Lynds, who presented the project to the ZBA.

The proposal's unit mix includes four two-bedroom units, and the three upper-level units include a den or workspace.

As the presentation continued, Lynds com-

pared the proposal to other projects completed in the neighborhood and noted that the site's zoning sub-district is EBR (East Boston Residential)-4, meaning buildings can stand as tall as four stories and 50 feet.

"There are a number of other projects along this corner of Bremen Street that have actually increased the height to four and, in some cases, five stories," said Lynds.

After outlining floor plans, renderings, and elevations, Lynds highlighted how the project aligns with the subdistrict's zoning regulations.

Specifically, the project complies with the use, height, lot coverage, and permeable area requirements in EBR-4. According to Lynds, due to exceptions in the code for shallow lots, it also complies with the rear yard setback.

The project is not compliant with the side yard setback. However, Lynds

See ZBA Page 3

City of Boston recognizes International Overdose Awareness Day

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) are calling attention to the heartbreaking consequences of the opioid epidemic as they marked International Overdose Awareness Day on Saturday, August 31. The entire City of Boston extends heartfelt condolences to residents from all corners of our community who have lost a loved one to a fatal overdose. Mayor Wu, her administration,

and the BPHC are also highlighting their ongoing commitment to expanding access to lifesaving care and crucial harm reduction services through events and programming for National Recovery Month, which begins on September 1.

To mark International Overdose Awareness Day, and the upcoming start to National Recovery Month, Boston is again joining with volunteers and State partners in planting more than 20,000 purple flags

on Boston Common to memorialize the lives lost to overdoses over the past decade across Massachusetts. Throughout National Recovery Month, the BPHC is also reminding all Boston residents that the overdose-reversing drug naloxone is safe and easy to use. BPHC is partnering with community organizations to connect residents and organizations with this life saving resource. BPHC is also launching an educational ad campaign that will teach the public about

the importance of naloxone and how they can access it for free.

"The opioid crisis touches lives across our community, and I'm so grateful for the work our many departments are doing to help dismantle the dangerous stigma of substance use disorder and help those suffering," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We are committed to connecting individuals with services that put them on the

See AWARENESS Page 2

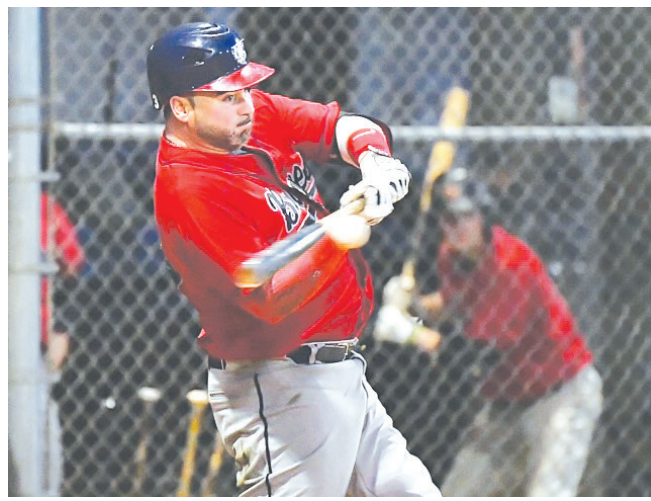
Still slugging after all these years

Special to the Times-Free Press

When a 31-year old amateur baseball player rips up his left knee and fractures a tibia in a skiing accident, it usually means that any future need for a bat and glove is pretty much finished. Competitive athletics is a young person's pursuit.

But no one told that to Steve Walsh--and if they did, he didn't believe it. Walsh, now 43 and eleven years beyond his skiing mishap, last week completed his 25th season in the Yawkey Baseball League—and he's probably not finished yet.

Walsh was the unquestioned leader on a team filled with players about half his age that missed out on a Yawkey League



COURTESY PHOTO

Steve Walsh connects for a base hit during Yawkey League playoff game action.

Championship in a Game 7 loss to the rival Brighton Black Sox on August 26. Walsh enjoyed a torrid playoff season and led all players with 16 post-season hits. He credits his

youthful teammates for his motivation.

"These young players keep me going," Walsh said. "Their energy and love for the game a made (the 2024) season special,

even though we fell short in game 7. After having a great postseason with these talented group of young players, I feel as though we have unfinished business to take care of."

Whether Walsh plays next year or not, his lifetime is already stamped with baseball accomplishments. The East Boston native, with extensive family connections in Revere, cultivated his love for baseball in the same way many kids do: by swinging at a wiffle ball pitched by his Dad in the back yard. From there, it was on to Little League at age 7, then eventually East Boston High School, where he graduated in 1999.

See WALSH Page 5

Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway salutes end of summer with world class entertainment

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway presented an incredible evening of world class entertainment with renowned accordion player Cory Pesaturo featuring Eastie's own Sonja Tengblad on August 30, at Bremen Street Park Amphitheater.

Smooth360, a trio of accomplished musicians including East Boston resident Dennis Sullivan, Toronto's Angelo Traikos and Boston's Bob Enik, opened up for Cory and Sonja with saxophonist

Tucker Antell of Westford accompanying Cory on various arrangements.

Sonja performed beautiful arias and tunes to the large crowd in attendance, while Cory played various songs from jazz to pop. It was an incredible night.

At the age of nine Cory was playing accordion, piano, clarinet, and saxophone, and quickly became the youngest winner of the National Accordion Championship.

He has won championships playing on borrowed accordions - unheard of in accordion championships,

See CORY Page 6



PHOTO COURTESY AGNIESZKA RYTCH-FOSTER PHOTOGRAPHY

Accordion player Cory Pesaturo entertained those who attended.

For the latest news in East Boston that you need to know, check eastietimes.com



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RED SOX AND PATS ARE TAKING THE FANS FOR GRANTED

For the third year in a row and fifth time in six years, the Red Sox appear doomed to fail to reach the playoffs, a stretch of futility that the Patriots promise to mimic almost precisely if they fall short of the playoffs for their third straight season and fourth time in five years.

Both of our beloved teams enjoyed unprecedented success through the first two decades of this century, with the Pats winning six Super Bowls and the Sox winning four World Series.

Thanks to that streak of success, both the Sox and the Pats rank among the most valuable sports franchises in the world, even amidst an exponential increase in the value of all pro sports teams worldwide.

Both the Sox and Pats enjoy an incredibly loyal fan base -- and the ownership knows it. They have calculated that the fans will continue to shell out large sums for the "experience" of being at Fenway and Gillette in person, even if it's to watch a mediocre (or worse) product.

When the current owners took over the Sox and the Pats more than 20 years ago, they vowed to reinvigorate what had been moribund franchises for decades -- and they delivered on those promises. For the ownerships of both teams however, the Pats and the Sox today constitute just a piece of their global sports enterprises.

Sad to say, it would appear that the owners of both the Sox and the Pats are content to sit on their past laurels. It would seem that they've grown weary of the pursuit of excellence -- with the result that for local sports fans, there's no longer any joy in Mudville on Sunday afternoons.

THE HOSTAGES ARE JUST PAWNS

The brutal deaths this past week of six innocent civilian hostages who were taken captive by the Hamas terrorists on October 7 has shone a bright light on a simple reality: The hostages are nothing but pawns, if even that, in the ongoing conflict between the Hamas and Israeli governments.

The execution-style murders of the hostages, who reportedly were shot in the head at close range, is shocking but not surprising. Hamas terrorists have the full backing and funding of the Iranian government whose sole, stated goal is to wipe the State of Israel off the map and to kill every Jew they can lay their hands on.

But the barbarity of Hamas and its Iranian masters is nothing new. These are regimes that treat their own people, especially women, with cruelty and inhumanity. Any hint of dissent is crushed with torture, sham trials, and executions.

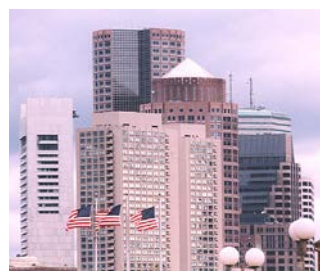
As for the Israeli leaders, the sad and tragic deaths of the hostages this past week have made it clear that they are not interested in securing the hostages' release. The brutal war in Gaza, in which thousands of innocent civilians have been killed, has dragged on for 11 months with no end in sight. Negotiations to bring about a ceasefire for the remaining hostages to be freed have gone nowhere, with both Hamas and the Israeli government blaming the other for the lack of progress.

Whether one believes that the position being taken by the Israeli government is either morally or strategically defensible, the bottom line is that the Israeli government has not prioritized the plight of the hostages, which is painfully evident to the members of the hostages' families, who said in a statement this week, "For 11 months the Israeli government led by Netanyahu failed to do what a government is expected to do—return its sons and daughters home. A deal for the return of the hostages has been on the table for over two months. If it weren't for the thwarting of the deal, the excuses and the spins, the hostages whose deaths we learned of this morning would probably be alive."

All of us join with the family members of the six deceased hostages in mourning the deaths of their loved ones and sharing in their grief. Hopefully, their loss will spur all parties to come to an agreement that will bring the remaining hostages home.

But given the apparent intransigence and indifference of the Hamas and the Israeli leaders, we fear this will not be the last time that family members of the remaining hostages will endure further anguish.

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



Forum

Healey Proclaims September as 'Emergency Preparedness Month'

Special to the Times-Free Press

Governor Maura Healey has declared September 2024 as Emergency Preparedness Month to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and to encourage planning for disasters and other types of emergencies.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and other state, local, and nonprofit agencies will promote preparedness through various public outreach efforts throughout the month. These efforts are part of a month-long national campaign themed "This is why I prepare." The goal is to personalize the reasons why local leaders and officials prepare for emergencies while encouraging others to do the same.

"Lieutenant Governor Driscoll and I have visited communities across Massachusetts impacted by the devastating effects of severe flooding and other significant weather events. We know that emergency readiness is essential to our

collective ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from hazards and threats," said Governor Healey. "After the floods experienced by Massachusetts communities in 2023, I proposed and the Legislature enacted Massachusetts' first Disaster Relief and Resilience Fund to increase support for municipalities and strengthen resiliency statewide. During preparedness month, I encourage all residents to assess their readiness and rely on the many resources available to prepare for the unexpected."

"The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Department of Public Health, and other public safety agencies collaborate closely with Massachusetts communities and across all levels of federal, state, and local government to increase our readiness amid evolving threats to our landscape," said Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll. "Emergency Preparedness Month provides an opportunity to build upon our strong partnerships and continue the important work of preparing for the unexpected."

"Preparedness is vital to recovery and resilience. Emergency Preparedness Month reminds us about the importance of taking proactive steps to protect loved ones and reduce the impacts of an emergency or disaster," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. "I'm grateful to MEMA and our many public health and safety partners for their dedication to enhancing statewide readiness and providing Massachusetts residents with essential preparedness planning resources."

"Before, during, or after a disaster, it's important to be a good neighbor and to help one another," said MEMA Director Dawn Brantley. "During Emergency Preparedness Month, ask how you can help a loved one or member of your community prepare, especially those who may be more vulnerable due to a disability, age, or medical conditions."

"No matter what the disaster may be, our commitment is to work with and support communities, providing them the resources

and services to effectively respond and swiftly recover," said Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. "To protect public health and safety we must engage with the community, foster resilience, and focus on equity and humanity. The importance of preparation cannot be overstated, and all of us share in this responsibility."

Throughout September, MEMA and DPH will share information on their social media accounts about emergency preparedness topics, including emergency planning, building an emergency kit, preparing for disasters, youth preparedness, ways to get involved in community preparedness, and more.

Visit Mass.gov/ready to find emergency preparedness tips available in several different languages, safety tips for specific threats and hazards, preparedness resources from the MEMA, DPH, and the Massachusetts Office on Disability, and other information.

Awareness // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

path to recovery and supporting families who have lost loved ones to this ongoing crisis."

State data showed a 12% increase in opioid-related overdose deaths in Boston from 2022-2023 while there was a 10% decrease in those deaths statewide. The Boston Public Health Commission's Health of Boston Data Update 2024 report showed that from 2019 to 2023, there was a 40.5% increase in the drug overdose mortality rate for Boston overall. The report also found communities of color continue to be uniquely impacted by this crisis. During the five-year period, the overdose mortality increased 124.5% for Black residents and 44.2% for Latinx residents, while remaining close to unchanged for white and Asian Boston residents. Boston has allocated \$250,000 per year to provide financial aid and grief support to families who have lost a loved one to overdose, drawing on dollars the city received from settlements with opi-

oid companies.

"Opioid overdose deaths have occurred in every community and every neighborhood in Boston and can be prevented," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "One way that we can honor lives tragically cut short is by increasing access to harm reduction, including naloxone which reverses opioid overdoses, and treatment to anyone who is struggling with substance use disorder."

In response to the continued impacts of the opioid crisis, the BPHC previously announced \$7.5 million in new funding to expand overdose prevention and access to care. The Centers for Disease Control awarded the BPHC \$6.5 million over five years to distribute naloxone, place substance use navigators in three Boston community health centers, and work with the Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center to provide

ongoing training to medical providers. Additionally, Boston is distributing \$1 million in grants to community organizations that will hand out naloxone throughout Boston neighborhoods and teach more residents about how to recognize and respond to overdose. These grants are funded by the opioid settlements, which Boston will receive incrementally through 2038, for an estimated total of \$37 million.

National Recovery Month is an opportunity to honor those living in recovery and share resources for people experiencing substance use disorder. The City of Boston and the Boston Public Health Commissioner are partnering with organizations on several activities this September:

- The BPHC, Boston Public Library, and MOAC created a curated list of books about recovery and harm reduction.

- A calendar of additional Recovery Month events sponsored by BPHC community partners can be

found here.

- On the last day of September, Boston will light City Hall purple in recognition of Recovery Month.

In 2023 BPHC distributed over 23,000 doses of naloxone to residents and community partners and made 2,389 referrals for substance use treatment. The Commission also hosts training programs to equip opioid users, their families, and healthcare providers with the knowledge and skills to prevent, identify, and intervene during a drug overdose using naloxone. For more details on these training programs, please visit our overdose prevention website.

To find out more about recovery services and where to seek help, please call 311 or visit www.boston.gov/recovery. Grief and trauma support services can also be found here. If you suspect an overdose, don't hesitate to call 9-1-1 immediately. Fatal overdoses can be prevented through proactive education and harm reduction efforts.

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

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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

ZBA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

noted that under new zoning, there is a provision that allows non-conforming structures to be expanded as long as the existing non-conformity remains the same and the project complies with the rear setback and height limit.

Finally, the project does not comply with off-street parking regulations. "I would point out that this project is located directly across from Bremen Street Park, as well as the entrance to Airport Station is less than 150 yards [away]," said Lynds.

"This would be very consistent with the design of buildings along Bremen Street that do not have driveways or off-street parking."

Regarding public comments about the project, Eva Jones, a Community Engagement Specialist with the city, noted that one person attended the abutters meeting for the project and raised concerns about increased density with no parking.

Jones also indicated that the proposal went before the Maverick Central Neighborhood Association and was supported.

Sebastian Parra from Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata's Office also testified, saying Coletta Zapata supported the project but acknowledged the lack of parking.

Ultimately, the ZBA voted unanimously in favor of a motion to approve the project with the proviso that it receive review from the city's Planning Department.

Later in the hearing, the ZBA discussed and eventually voted on the project at 9 Geneva Street.

Specifically, the proposal involves demolishing a single-family home and auto-repair site. Seven lots would be combined to erect a five-story residential building with 28 units and 16 garage parking spaces.

Additionally, the project includes bike storage, a rear courtyard, a dog run, and about 5,000 square feet of open space.

As for the unit mix, there are plans for four one-bedrooms, 20 two-bedrooms, and four three-bedrooms.

Lynds also presented this project to the ZBA, indicating that several community benefits would accompany the proposal. These benefits include roadway improvements and five Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) units.

It should also be noted that this proposal is classified as an Article 80 project and was approved by the Boston Planning

& Development Agency (BPDA) Board in June.

As Lynds continued the presentation, he noted the area's current context. He said, "This board has recently approved a number of multi-family projects for Geneva Street, and this sort of continues in that vein with respect to the type of uses that are generally being accepted in this area."

He also reviewed renderings and highlighted plans to work with other developers on Geneva Street to improve the private way. Moreover, Lynds mentioned that a sidewalk on that side of the street stretching to Maverick Street, along with trees, would accompany the project.

Later, Lynds responded to some of the areas where the project had been cited as violating zoning regulations. This project is also situated in the EBR-4 sub-district.

Specifically, while the project had been cited for violating off-street parking, Lynds noted that under new zoning, Article 80 projects have their parking determined by the BPDA.

Moreover, Lynds mentioned citations for insufficient lot area, insufficient additional lot area, and excessive floor area ratio are no longer applicable under the new zoning in EBR-4.

Regarding height, while the building appears to be five stories, which would exceed the maximum height allowed in the sub-district, for zoning purposes, the project is being proposed as a four-story building due to its presence in the Coastal Flood Resilience Overlay District (CFROD).

"Because we're in the Coastal Flood Resilience Overlay District, there are exceptions to the dimensional requirements or the application of dimensional requirements, especially when it comes to height," said Lynds.

With these exceptions, a building's height is measured from the design flood elevation instead of from grade or the sidewalk.

"So in this particular case — the design flood elevation being higher than the sidewalk — is where the actual height of the building is measured. So even though this building shows as 51 feet, four inches, as being building height under the zoning, we are allowed to have additional height because of the presence of the CFROD," said Lynds.

Lynds also spoke about the height in stories in that Article 2 of the zoning code states that the first

story is "that which is 65% or more above grade," but in CFROD, grade is determined at design flood elevation instead of the sidewalk.

"So while the garage level for all intents and purposes would be the first story, the first story for zoning purposes is actually the level above the garage, and therefore, this would be considered for zoning purposes a four-story building because of the Coastal Flood Resilience exceptions," said Lynds.

After outlining some other zoning aspects, Lynds opened the floor to questions from the ZBA. For example, Board Member Jeanne Pinado asked if Geneva Street would remain a private way, to which Lynds said he believed so.

Following questions from the Board, it was time for public testimony. First, Parra read a statement.

"The councilor is in conversation with the BPDA on how CFROD aligns with PLAN: East Boston, seeing as it was not analyzed or taken into consideration by the community during the planning and for any project in front of the ZBA Board that has additional elevation to comply with CFROD we will leave it up to the discretion of the Board until we have received those guidelines," read Parra.

Lynds responded to this statement by saying, "I know that there is some conversation about the applicability of the CFROD, which I believe is an important component for resiliency and resilient design in the City of Boston."

Adding, "The design that we do have complies entirely with Article 25A (CFROD), has been reviewed by resiliency staff at the BPDA, and they are satisfied that we've met the requirements for design and resiliency for this project."

Conor Newman from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services deferred judgment to the Board and noted that a majority from the Gove Street Neighborhood Association supported the project.

Ultimately, the ZBA unanimously voted to approve the proposal with a proviso of continued BPDA design review.

EAST BOSTON SOCIAL CENTERS' ACTIVE ADULTS SENIOR PICNIC

The East Boston Social Centers program is hosting their Annual Active Adults Senior Picnic on Monday, September 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Piers Park, 95 Marginal St, East Boston.

The picnic is the perfect way to celebrate the end of summer, and will include a day full of activities including Qi Gong, Line Dancing, and Bingo all in the efforts for our seniors to have an active, social, and joyful day! It's a great opportunity to connect with others and be part of a community that prioritizes staying active, social, and joyful! We are looking forward to seeing everyone there! Tickets are available for just \$5 and can be purchased from our Active Adults Coordinator, Dawn Panos.

The Active Adults program provides opportunities for adults 55 and older to stay healthy, active, and joyful. The year-round activities, classes and programs offered keep East Boston's active adults connected to their peers and community, and work to sustain a high-quality life for all.

The East Boston Social Centers, a multi-service agency and community center that cultivates community, belonging, and joy, has been in the business of changing lives for 106 years, providing East Boston (and Chelsea, Winthrop and Revere) residents with critical high-quality services that support community health, well-being, and joy. The programs offered by the Social Centers are designed to meet people's educational, social, and recreational needs and to build community and strengthen families. As reflected in its motto, "When all give, all gain," the Social Centers seek to create a welcoming and supportive environment, characterized by a spirit of goodwill and caring,

NEWS IN BRIEF

in which members of the community are empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

Learn more about us at ebsocialcenters.org

For inquiries, contact: Carolina Espinoza, Marketing & Communications Coordinator, cespinoza@ebsoc.org

HARBOR VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association will be on September 9, 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 Harbor View Neighborhood Association esta en 9 de septiembre 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 principal por la calle Byron o la entrada en calle de Wordsworth. La entrada de calle Wordsworth no tiene escaleras por personas con discapacidades. El cubre bocas sera opcional puesto que estaremos adentro.

Agenda
Welcome/Introduction (5min)

CPA Eligibility Form was submitted 8/29/2024 and that we will know in October if the project to repair the walls was approved to apply for funding

ONS Roberto Gomez (5min) Neighborhood announcements. Update on rat control measures

Announcements (5min) Greenway Council, Tree Eastie, Eastie Farm Energy Study in collaboration with Northeastern University flyers available; Summer Music/Art Series brought to you by The Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway: Chica Fuego & the Gringos, September 21, 6pm-8pm (Bremen Street Amphitheater); St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive, September 28th and 29th at St. Lazarus Church Parking Lot; Save the Harbor and the Metropolitan Beaches Commission Climate Workshop, September 23, 10am-11:30 or September 24, 5:30pm-7pm, both sessions via Zoom only.

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

McLean Park (5min) Update from Chairperson Subcommittee, Barbara Puopolo.

82 Homer Street (30min) 1st Presentation Attorney Richard Lynds for owner/developer Brian Rivas. The proposed plan is to subdivide the lot, raze the existing house and erect two 3-unit residential dwellings on the newly created lots. Anticipated variances: Lot coverage; building depth; minimum permeable area; and rear yard.

Italian Heritage Day (5min) Barbara Puopolo/Steve Scire will update us on the ongoing plans for the October 13, 2024, celebration to be held at Salesian Boys and Girls Club Parking Lot.

638 Bennington Street (15min) The discussion will focus on the status of the proposed bar/restaurant in the neighborhood.

The next meeting of the HVNA will be on October 7, 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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City of Boston extends a welcome to new, returning college and university students

Special to the Times-Free Press

The City of Boston announced an update on the City's preparations as college and university students move in across Boston to ensure they have a smooth transition into their new homes and communities. A cross-departmental effort, Boston is sharing information on how to access City services including 311, mattress pick up, inspections, BlueBikes, as well as sharing information on parking restrictions and improper storage of waste. "Students bring so much life to our City, and we are thrilled to welcome them this week," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I want to thank the many city workers and departments who have prepared all summer to welcome our students back, and to ensure that all of our new residents have safe housing, access to city services and all the information they need. The City of Boston is proud to be home to world-class colleges, universities, and institutions that bring so many brilliant students

into our community."

"My team and I are excited to welcome new and returning students to Boston. We are committed to ensuring their communities are safe, sanitary and code compliant," said Inspectional Services Commissioner Tania Del Rio. "We also encourage students to do their part by properly disposing of their trash and keeping their units clean."

New and current residents are encouraged to connect with Boston 311 to report non-emergency issues and get information. There are three ways to do so:

- Call 311 (if outside Boston, please call 617-635-4500)

- visit boston.gov/311,
- or download the BOS:311 app.

The BOS:311 app is available in the Google Play and iOS stores and currently has a student move-in specific section to streamline reporting.

"The Community Engagement Cabinet is excited to connect with students to help make Boston feel like home. There are

many ways to engage with our Cabinet," said Community Engagement Cabinet Chief Brianna Millor. "I encourage all of our new and returning neighbors to call 311 to identify their neighborhood liaison in the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. If they are interested in meeting new neighbors and becoming civically engaged, they should reach out to the Office of Civic Organizing to sign-up to participate in Love Your Block, a neighborhood clean-up or attend our next Civic Summit."

The City's Inspectional Services, Transportation, Office of Neighborhood Services, Fire, Police and Public Works departments are conducting housing inspections upon request, trash inspections, and distributing informational brochures in neighborhoods with large student populations.

The Inspectional Services Department (ISD) will deploy over 50 inspectors throughout the neighborhoods heavily populated with students. Inspectors will conduct

walkthroughs of areas heavily populated with students including but not limited to; Allston, Brighton, Back Bay, Fenway, Mission Hill and Beacon Hill. While canvassing these areas inspectors will distribute informational flyers, offer on the spot inspections and answer questions related to city services.

The City encourages students to avoid used furniture and to notify their landlord immediately in the event of a suspected infestation. In addition, information pertaining to rodent control can be found here and questions regarding the housing code can be found here.

The Boston Transportation Department will be implementing on-street parking restrictions on streets in Allston, Fenway, Mission Hill, and Roxbury to help provide parking spaces for vehicles being used by new residents and students moving into those areas. In these areas, ISD is not granting permits for construction from Friday, August 30 through Sunday, September 1 in order to alleviate traffic and parking concerns and promote safety. In addition, on-street parking restrictions signage will be posted in affected neighborhoods. The City encourages residents, students, and families to pay attention to posted signs. For more information on street restrictions, visit boston.gov/moving.

The City also encourages residents and visitors to maintain an accessible path of travel on sidewalks and at intersections. Additionally, the City urges residents and visitors to not block accessible parking spaces designated for people with disabilities while moving in or out.

"Boston is home to almost 80,000 people with disabilities, so please remember not to block sidewalks or corner curb ramps, including tactile warning pads," said Boston Disability Commissioner Kristen McCosh. "Also please be aware of on-street parking spaces that have signs designating them as accessible parking for people with disabilities. These spaces can only be used by vehicles with a valid HP/DV parking placard."

Bluebikes is Boston's public bike share system. With more than 400 stations and 4000 bikes, it's a fast and convenient way to get around the Greater Boston area. Many of Boston's colleges and universities provide discounts on annual passes for students, faculty, and staff. Students are encouraged to check with their university's transportation office to see if they are eligible. More information is available at boston.gov/bluebikes. For more information on biking safely in Boston, visit boston.gov/boston-by-bike. For more information about street safety for pedestrians with disabilities, visit boston.gov/boston-brakes.

The Public Works Code Enforcement Division will be issuing citations for the improper storage of household trash. Residents are asked to place their trash and recycling on the curb by 6:00 a.m. on their scheduled collection day, or set it out the night before after 5:00 p.m.

Due to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) ban, mattresses and box springs are no longer collected curbside as part of routine trash collection. Residents are required to

make an appointment for a free curbside pick-up at: Boston.gov/mattress. The residential mattress program does not service buildings with seven units or more. Those residents should consult with their property manager to learn the proper protocol to recycle their mattress. Roughly 75 percent of all mattresses and box springs components can be disassembled and recycled. The recovered materials are used to manufacture a variety of new products including foam padding, fabric, steel springs and wooden frames.

While household furniture can be left curbside on your scheduled pick-up day, we strongly encourage residents to donate the items to a charity or organization that can pass them along to others in need. Items such as televisions, air conditioners and refrigerators require a special pick-up. To schedule an appointment, contact 311. Residents are reminded not to block sidewalks with trash or household furniture set out for pick up. Items should be placed along the curb, leaving room for pedestrians, including people with disabilities or those pushing strollers, to get by. New residents are strongly encouraged to download the City's free Trash Day app at: boston.gov/trash-day. Residents can view their collection schedules, set reminders, and search a directory of hundreds of household items to find out the right way to dispose of them.

Students are encouraged to visit boston.gov/moving for more information regarding parking restrictions and permits, trash removal and restrictions, and rental requirements.

Italian Feast of Saints Cosmas & Damian this weekend

It's that time of year again when the streets of East Cambridge will come alive for the 99th Annual Italian Feast of Saints Cosmas and Damian this weekend - September 6, 7 & 8 on Warren, Cambridge and Porter Streets in East Cambridge. The three-day fun family event features a wide variety of sweet and savory food, a beer garden, amusement rides, games, parades and music that spans four decades of dance, pop, and rock. Festivities begin on Friday at 6:00pm when Saints Cosmas and Damian accompanied by members of the Society, the North End Marching Band, and the faithful process from their permanent home at 17 Porter Street in East Cambridge to the outdoor chapel overlooking the festival concourse on Warren Street. At 7:00pm, a special healing service with the holy relics of Saints Cosmas and Damian and led by Monsignor Anthony Spinosa (formerly from East Cambridge) from the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon will take place at the outdoor chapel.

Warren Street Party Night will begin at 7:30pm with a performance by 1980's sensation SNAP! Featuring Thea Austin singing mega hits "I Got The Power", "Rhythm Is A Dancer" and more. Then 1990's icon Brenda K. Starr comes to the stage to sing her many top hits such as "I Still Believe", "What You See is What You Get", "Breakfast in Bed". In addition, MC Freddie B and Club Classic DJ Ricky (former STAR FM) will keep the



Motown and Grammy Award Winning Legend Thelma Houston.

night going and make sure everyone is dancing in the streets!

On Saturday, the festivities begin at 1:00pm as the savory aromas of pizza, fried dough, Italian sausages, peppers, zeppoles, and much more permeate the air around Cambridge, Porter, and Warren Streets, along with continuous entertainment, including Dom Catino's Sounds of Sinatra show and New England's internationally acclaimed vocal duo, P2.

At 6:30pm Saints Cosmas and Damian accompanied by members of the Society, the North End Marching Band, the award winning Everett High School Marching Band and the faithful process from their permanent home at 17 Porter Street to the outdoor chapel.

Beginning at 8:00pm, 1980's hit machine The Original Cover Girls come to Cambridge and sing their many huge hits such as "Because of You", "Inside Outside", "Show Me", "We Can't Go Wrong", and "My Heart Skips a Beat". Don't miss this high energy show! At 9:00pm Motown and Grammy Award Winning Legend direct from FOX-TV's Masked Singer, the iconic Thelma Houston

takes the stage! She will be singing all her hits, including her #1 Billboard song and disco anthem "Don't Leave Me This Way", "Sunday Morning", and "Saturday Night". Don't miss seeing this legend at our feast!

The grand finale of the Feast on Sunday begins at 10:30am with an outdoor Mass in honor of the Healing Saints Cosmas and Damian on the Warren Street Stage. At 1:30pm the grand procession with the Saints, accompanied by the North End Marching Band, Northeast Marching Band, winds through the streets of East Cambridge and Somerville as it has for nearly 100 years. Don't miss this highlight!

Local favorites Stephen Savio and Seabreeze as well as Smokin' Joe and his band entertain throughout the day as the food and fun flow through the streets. The parade arrives back on Warren Street at 7:00pm for a welcome back confetti celebration followed by a performance by the founding lead singer LaLa Brooks of the Crystals singing their huge hits from the 60's and 70's "Da Doo Ron Ron", "Then He Kissed Me", "Be My Baby" and more! Brooks was also the star of the Original Broadway Musical "Hair". In addition, parking is available in Twin City Plaza next to the feast all weekend. Come have a bite to eat, go on a ride, play a game, and enjoy all of our great free entertainment. See you at the Feast! For Feast and vendor information, call (617) 407-1256 or visit www.cosmas-and-damian.org.

Health officials announce two additional human cases of West Nile Virus

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced two additional human cases of West Nile virus (WNV) in Massachusetts this year, bringing the total number of human cases to six. One is a man in his 50s who was exposed in Suffolk County; the other is a man in his 80s with exposure in southern Middlesex County.

As a result, WNV risk levels in the following area communities are being raised to high: Saugus in Essex County; Arlington, Belmont, Malden, Medford, and Melrose in Middlesex County; and Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop in Suffolk County.

"The risk of West Nile virus in Massachusetts will continue until the first hard frost. While the temperatures may be a bit cooler, September is still within the peak time for West Nile virus activity in Massachusetts," said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. "As we all adjust to our post-summer schedules, one routine that everyone should continue is using mosquito repellent when outdoors."

There have been 286 WNV-positive mosquito samples so far this year detected from Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Hampden, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties. The risk of human infection with WNV is moderate or high in

Greater Boston (Middlesex, Norfolk, and Suffolk counties) and is also elevated in parts of Barnstable, Bristol, Essex, Hampden, Plymouth, and Worcester counties.

WNV is usually transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. There were six human cases of WNV and no animal cases in 2023. No animal cases of WNV have been detected so far this year.

People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes.

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient, such as DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), or oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-menthane-3,8-diol (PMD) or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early

morning in areas of high risk.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wearing long sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools - especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes.

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Wu announces call for Boston's next Poet Laureate

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture today announced the City of Boston is seeking applications and nominations for its next Poet Laureate. Established in 2008, the Boston Poet Laureate Program has been a cornerstone of Boston's creative sector, drawing residents into the rich and transformative world of the literary arts. Poetry has the unique power to capture our history, illuminate the present, and spark hope and change for the future. Porsha Olayiwola currently holds this role. Building on the work she has done since becoming Poet Laureate in 2019, Olayiwola will be teaching in the English Department at Emerson College and opening a bookstore, justBook-ish, in Fields Corner.

"One of the most unique and special roles in our City has opened," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The Poet Laureate is a very important role in our artistic community and beyond. I encourage all residents who have a passion for the literary arts to apply, and I look forward to seeing the ways in which the next Poet Laureate will serve the City through their passions and creativity."

Boston's Poet Laureate serves as an ambassador for the city's literary and

creative communities, working in tandem with these partners to elevate the role of poetry in the everyday lives of Bostonians, and inspire critical reflection through written and spoken word.

"Boston's Poet Laureate is called upon not only to encourage a love of the literary arts in the city, but to create spaces for us to connect with and nurture our creativity," said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture. "They challenge us to think differently and to have the courage to express ourselves in community. I am grateful to Porsha for using her gifts to illuminate the beauty and complexity of our city and excited to see how the next poet laureate will inspire us with their unique voice."

Since its inception, the role of Poet Laureate has been held by three individuals: Sam Cornish was Boston's inaugural Poet Laureate, followed by Danielle Legros Georges, and currently Porsha Olayiwola holds this role. Porsha will be closing out her tenure with a workshop series this fall in conjunction with the Boston Public Library.

"Serving as the poet laureate for the city of Boston has been one of the greatest dreams of my work," said Porsha Olayiwola. "I've become embedded into the rich literary tra-

dition associated with the area. It is my only hope that I've, in turn, helped to propel the city's literary scene and push the possibilities of poetry."

The Poet Laureate is a ceremonial appointment with a term of four years. Some of the key responsibilities of the role include:

- Presenting works at civic events and attending official functions as a literary ambassador
 - Developing public programming across the city, including workshops and showcasing events
 - Enhancing current Boston Public Schools and Boston Public Library poetry programs through events, engagement, and outreach
 - Acting as the juror for the Mayor's Poetry Program at City Hall
 - Serving as a resource for the City, the literary community, and Boston's residents during National Poetry Month in April
 - Participating in the Youth Poet Laureate application and selection process
 - Mentoring the Youth Poet Laureate through regular meetings, public event preparation, published works, and holding relationships with Boston Public Schools and Boston Public Libraries
- To be considered for the role, applicants must be at least 21 years old, be a current resident of Boston

who has lived in the city for at least two years prior to nomination, be active as a professional poet, and produce work that reflects the vibrancy and life of the City of Boston.

The position will be chosen by a Selection Panel, consisting of a distinguished group of literary professionals that will act as a search committee. The Selection Panel will evaluate all entries and hold interviews with the final candidates. The City will announce the new Poet Laureate in January 2025, with a term beginning on July 1, 2025 and ending on June 31, 2029.

Interested candidates can join the current Poet Laureate, Porsha Olayiwola, and Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture staff for an information session and office hours to learn more. There will be an information session on September 6, 2024, at 1 pm, and a second session on September 12, 2024, at 6 pm.

The deadline to apply is Monday, September 30, 2024 by 5 pm. Applications can be submitted online or by mail. Digital entries are encouraged but all entries will receive equal consideration.

Learn more and submit your application or nomination at boston.gov/call-for-poets.

OBITUARIES

Patricia Conti

Of East Boston

Patricia L. Conti of East Boston passed away peacefully on Monday, August 19, 2024.

The devoted wife of Guy DiGaetano, she was the beloved mother of Jolene Conti of East Boston and Marla DiGaetano of Malden and cherished sister of Ralph Conti of East Boston.

Services were held at Ruggiero Family Memorial Home. To leave an



online condolence please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Maria Alberto

She leaves behind a legacy of warmth and kindness

We bid farewell to Maria Alberto, a true beacon of light and love, who departed peacefully in her sleep on Wednesday August 28, 2024, after battling Alzheimer's for many years.

Maria was born on September 4, 1938 in Montevideo, Uruguay, where she later met her beloved husband, Carlos Alberto. Over their 61 years of marriage, they built new roots in East Boston, had two children, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and lived a life full of lasting memories.

Maria walked through life with a gentle strength, touching the lives of everyone she encountered with unforgettable grace. She devoted her time to her family, who fondly called her Nona. Maria was known for her fashion, from her stylish hair to her flashy jewelry to her bright colored outfits. She loved her sweets and made a wonderful arroz con leche and flan. A lover of music and dance, Maria was known for captivating friends and family by dancing tango with her husband. Maria had a contagious smile and always found beauty in life's simple moments and encouraged us all to do the same.

Maria is survived by her husband, Carlos Alberto, her daughter, Mariela LoGrasso and her husband, Oscar Fernandez, her son, Carlos Alberto Jr.



and his wife, Jackie Alberto. Maria is also survived by six grandchildren: Anthony and his wife, Antonella, Charlie and his wife, Kathryn, Rosanna and her husband, Joseph, Ceeva, Tyler and Bella and her great-grandchildren Aviana, Alessandra, Hailey, Joseph Jr. and Thomas.

Maria leaves behind a legacy of warmth and kindness. She will forever be remembered and missed. Sigue bailando y sonriendo nuestra querida Nona.

Family and friends are cordially invited to attend the visitation from the Caggiano-O'Maley-Frazier Funeral Home 147 Winthrop St., Winthrop today, Wednesday, September 4, from 4 to 7 p.m. followed by a funeral service in the funeral home at 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org.

For directions or to sign the online guestbook, go to www.caggianofuneralhome.com.

Walsh // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

That year, the East Boston Athletic Board awarded Walsh the Al Festa Memorial Award as Baseball Player of the Year, and the following year Walsh began his long and winding quarter-century of Yawkey League baseball.

"I started playing in the Yawkey League back in 2000 with the Boston Padres," said Walsh. He remembers that team manager Ed Neal had two teams, one in the Boston Park League and one in the Yawkey. "I played for both of his teams."

In 2002, East Boston became home to its own Yawkey League team, when Donald King and Paul Deleo launched the East Boston Blue Sox, and Walsh was on the hometown roster. Three years later, the team was re-christened as the East Boston Bombers. When the Bombers jumped to the Intercity League in 2007, Steve had to make a choice. "I've always stayed loyal to the Yawkey

League, so I joined the Harbor Point Dodgers." Walsh spent six years with the Dodgers but, never tiring of baseball, he simultaneously played a couple of seasons with the East Boston Intercity League entry.

The years went by, and baseball was on Walsh's calendar every summer. In February of 2013, however, Walsh was the victim of a skiing accident. He tore the anterior, median, and lateral cruciate ligaments in his left knee—the dreaded Unhappy Triad—and fractured his tibia. Surgery, and a long, exhaustive, and painful recovery period wiped out baseball for 2013 and seemed to spell the end of Walsh's baseball life.

But by the summer of 2014, he felt well enough to give baseball another shot, and he rejoined Yawkey Baseball with the Brighton Minutemen. In 2016, Walsh joined the Brighton Braves, his current team. The Braves

won the Yawkey League championship in 2018, and came oh-so-close to another championship this year.

Over his long haul of Yawkey League baseball, Walsh has racked up some impressive numbers. This summer he smacked his 400th hit in a game against the Al Thomas A's at Cunningham Park in Milton. Coincidentally, that's where Steve picked up his 350th hits a few seasons ago. He batted .400 during the 2022 season. Just last month, in Game 5 of the Yawkey League championship semi-finals, Walsh clouted a walk-off homerun to break a tie game and send the Braves into the League championship series.

He has lost count of how many times he's been named a Yawkey League All-Star, or won a League Silver Slugger or Gold Glove award—"a few," he says—but individual awards are secondary to team accomplishments.

It's the team accomplishments and team objectives that help Walsh manage the tough juggling act of baseball amid a full-time job at Massport and teaming with his partner Milena to raise their six year-old daughter, Isabella.

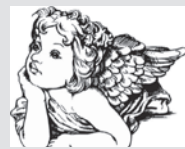
But as long as he can, and as long as the competitive spirit still burns, Steve Walsh will continue to play the game he loves. When the Yawkey season ended last week, he suited up for the Framingham Orioles playing in the annual Cape Cod Classic Tournament.

"I try to tell the young guys to continue to work hard and try to get better every day," Walsh says. "You're never too old to learn something new."

With that attitude, it's likely that Steve Walsh will keep his glove and bats nearby and ready to go for years to come.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Reyes, Brianda P	10 Geneva Street LLC	10 Geneva St #3	\$689,000
Glanz, Michael	100 White Street LLC	100 White St #2	\$875,000
Sabia, Amanda D	100 White Street LLC	100-102 White St #3	\$1,100,000
Grise, Christina	165 Everett LLC	165 Everett St #4	\$510,000
Tierney, Evan	Gehrman, Elizabeth	216 Webster St	\$1,275,000
273 Havre LLC	Kronick Fatigue LLC	273 Havre St	\$820,000
Lara, Elvin R	292 Lexington Street Rt	292 Lexington St	\$609,000
Chen, Cindy	Reyes, Brianda P	3 Emmons St	\$595,000
Rosenfield, Jennifer	Burgess, Miles	58 Homer St #2	\$570,000
Oh, Delinna	Trichilo Development LLC	70 Shawshen Rd #1	\$535,000
Chen, Mei L	First White LLC	81 White St #2	\$665,000



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OBITUARIES

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Cory // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and he broke the Guinness World Record for the longest continuous playing of the accordion. Among his many distinctions, he's the only world champion of jazz on accordion, and he's one of only four people to win championships on both acoustic and electronic accordions.

The Friends of the Mary

Ellen Welch Greenway has a few more events planned for the Fall. Please check our Facebook and Instagram pages and our website at www.maryellenwelchgreenway.org

Thank you to Agnieszka Rytych-Foster photography



Soprano Sonja Tengblad.



Saxophone Player Tucker Antell.



PHOTOS COURTESY AGNIESZKA RYTYCH-FOSTER PHOTOGRAPHY
Roberto Gomez and Valinda Chan enjoying the music.

CITY PAWS

Meeting new neighbors

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

September is a month for meeting new neighbors. Nationwide, most moves happen in the summer months. For some, it's from a desire to settle in before the new school year begins. In Greater Boston, thousands of

undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and educational support staff descend on the area with a crush of September 1st move-in dates.

Some of you will meet new people and dogs who have moved into your building, block, or neighborhood. Others will be

learning their way around a new home and may appreciate a friendly welcome. In either case, having a dog beside you will increase your opportunities to meet new neighbors.

How to Introduce Dogs

It's always best to intro-



Creating a happy pack of dogs who walk comfortably together takes time. But it's worth the effort.

duce dogs in neutral territory. We recommend not sharing close quarters with a new dog. Your dog may consider the hallways and elevators in your building part of its domain, while the new dog may still need to learn its elevator and common area manners.

One of the best suggestions we read was to think about how your dog reacts to other dogs on routine walks. Reactions may range from barking and growling to total indifference.

Most of your introductions to new dogs will happen serendipitously while you are out and about. You

must be alert for a reactive dog's sounds and body language as it approaches you. If your dog is reactive, put a hand up as a stop sign when a strange dog approaches and tell the person with the dog that your pup needs a little extra space.

We've had foster dogs who were afraid of their own shadows, scared of men, highly protective of Penny, and others who were friendly with everyone. These pups were also trying to adjust to a new home, new guardians, and new territory. For this reason, we try to be very understanding when ap-

proaching a new dog. After asking if we can say hello to the dog, we don't touch but instead offer the back of our hands for the dog to sniff.

Make a Date to Introduce Dogs

Occasionally, you'll want to introduce your dog to a specific friend or neighbor's dog. Dogtopia.com suggests you make this like meeting someone new for coffee rather than a dinner date. With a secure 4-6 foot leash (no retractable leashes for this task), pace a routine walk behind the dog you plan

See CITY PAWS Page 9

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EAST BOSTON IN FOOTBALL ACTION AGAINST WINTHROP

PHOTOS BY BOB MARRA

Winthrop took on neighboring East Boston in a controlled scrimmage Wednesday August 28 at East Boston's Memorial Stadium. The match gave coaches Jonathan Cadigan

(Winthrop) and his Eastie counterpart John Parziale a good chance to evaluate the strength of their rosters as the teams prepare for regular season play that begins September 6 when

Winthrop faces Stoneham in Woburn and East Boston kicks off against Boston Latin Academy at East Boston's Memorial Stadium.



ANOTHER CHALLENGE: East Boston football coach John Parziale is gearing up for his 27th season on the Jets sidelines.



CONTACT TIME: An East Boston defender takes down a Winthrop runner during the teams controlled scrimmage at East Boston Stadium on Wednesday, August 28.

Eat Boston High football season begins this week

By Patrick O'Connor

Football practice for the East Boston High School football team got underway last Friday morning on August 23 at Sartori Stadium and a scrimmage with Winthrop took place on Wednesday afternoon, August 28. The Jets will open the season at Sartori Stadium this Friday evening at 6 p.m. The visiting team will be the Boston Latin Academy Dragons, led by Rocco Zizza.

Beginning his fifteenth season as headcoach is John Parziale with a record of 79-64. Assisting him will be Coaches Patrick Aiken (2018), Shawn Torrici (2008), Juan Murcia (2011), Nathan Rivera

(2016), Brandon Ciacio (2006) and Sean Curtis (2022). All are East Boston High graduates and played for the team. The team numbers about 30 with ten seniors. Co-captains are seniors Chris Testa and Gio Angelico.

Last year, the Jets ended the season at 6-4. On Thanksgiving eve, the team was told the South Boston High football team would forfeit the 105th Thanksgiving Day game at White Stadium. The Jets came to Sartori Stadium on Thanksgiving morning and played a scrimmage anyway. This year, East Boston will clash with Chelsea on Thanksgiving Eve at Chelsea High School. At

a later time, the East Boston-South Boston High School football rivalry, dating from 1901 may resume.

It's year nine for an MIAA approved play-off system. Schedules are set for September and October. Games in November will be determined by a point system in which Eastern Massachusetts and Central Massachusetts schools will be split into two groups.



IT'S A HOT ONE: An Eastie football player tries to cool off during a scrimmage Tuesday August 28 with temperatures near 90 degrees.

East Boston	Division 7/North; Boston City Latin Academy (H)
F 09/06	Boston Latin School (Fens)
F 09/13	Brighton (H)
F 09/20	Lowell Catholic (H)
F 09/27	English (H)
F 10/04	O'Bryant
F 10/11	Arlington Catholic
F 10/25	Tech Boston
F 11/01	TBA
F 11/08	TBA
F 11/15	TBA
F 11/22	TBA
W 11/27	Chelsea



PATRICK O'CONNOR PHOTO

Ready to lead the Jets are senior captains Chris Testa and Gio Angelico



PATRICK O'CONNOR PHOTO

The team was on the home field getting ready for the new season

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Early education and child care programs receive \$8.5 million

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that 20 organizations across Massachusetts are being awarded \$8.5 million in capital funding to renovate early education and out-of-school time program facilities that serve primarily low-income families. At East Boston Social Center, Education Secretary Tutwiler, Early Education and Care Commissioner Kershaw and Director of Outdoor Recreation Jahni highlighted how this investment will support renovation projects to expand capacity and improve the indoor and outdoor quality and accessibility of learning environments for children, ensuring they have safe, healthy, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate spaces to learn, play, and grow.

“Making early education and care more affordable and accessible is a top priority for our administration. Capital investments are an important part of that. These capital grants give our hardworking child care programs the financial resources they need to provide modern, healthy, and safe environments for our kids to learn and play. This funding also helps us make progress on our climate goals, which is essential for ensuring our kids have secure futures,” said Governor Maura Healey.

“I am excited to see how this \$8.5 million investment in capital projects for our local early education and child care

programs will foster the kind of physical indoor and outdoor spaces our children deserve to learn and play in every day,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “These funds improve programs’ energy efficiency, ventilation and water conservation, accessibility for families and educators, add new security measures, update outdoor play areas, and so much more.”

As part of the Administration’s whole-of-government approach to addressing climate change, and in collaboration with the Climate Office, projects were prioritized that focused on clean energy and decarbonization. Projects that included security enhancements to prevent and respond to potential threats, such as active shooters and installation of security cameras and access control systems, were also prioritized. Examples of eligible funding use includes modifications to improve indoor air quality, roof replacements, upgrading electrical or security systems, and physical environment modifications addressing accessibility or other upgrades for classrooms, outdoor areas, and more.

“We are proud to be awarding \$8.5 million in capital funding to 20 child care programs across the state, promoting accessible, safe, and inclusive spaces for children of all backgrounds and abilities to grow, learn, and play,” said Secretary of Education Dr. Patrick Tutwiler. “It was great to be at



Shown (left to right) are Director of CEDAC, Theresa Jordan, Education Secretary, Patrick Tutwiler, State Rep. Adrian Madaro, Executive Director of East Boston Social Centers, Justin Pasquariello, State Senator, Sal DiDomenico, UPK Teacher, Jacqueline Carmenatty, UPK Student, Luca Buccella, and Early Education and Care Commissioner, Amy Kershaw.

East Boston Social Center today to learn how this grant will support their accessibility project to improve movement in and out of the center, especially for children and adults with limited mobility.”

“Today’s announced grant awards are infusing funds into our local communities, like here in East Boston, to renovate, repair, and expand child care facilities, enabling our kids and educators to spend time in newer, greener and more accessible and safe high-quality learning environments. Capital investments like these are making Massa-

chusetts a better place to live, go to school, work, raise a family, and build a better future,” said Early Education and Care Commissioner Amy Kershaw.

“Outdoor play and resilient facilities are fundamental for healthy childhood learning and development, but the impacts of climate change may threaten these essential features of early education,” said Director of Outdoor Recreation, Paul Jahni. “These grant support resilient outdoor play spaces and low-carbon, resilient facilities. Improving the quality and accessibility our learning environments ensures that our youngest residents have healthy and safe spaces to play and grow.”

The capital opportunities are administered by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) in partnership with the Children’s Investment Fund (CIF), an affiliate of the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC). This funding is available through the administration’s FY24 - FY28 Capital Investment Plan Early Education and Out-of-School Time (EEOST) fund and from the Early Education & Care Provider Capital funding delivered in the fiscal year 2024 state budget. For the first time, for-profit child care centers and out-of-school time programs that serve at least 50% of children who receive public benefits were eligible.

“We are absolutely thrilled to celebrate the immense, transformative impact of these grants. Massachusetts remains at the forefront of state invest-

ment in early education and care facilities, and this year is no exception, with 20 projects awarded funding,” said Theresa Jordan, Director of the Children’s Investment Fund.

“With this EEOST small project grant, East Boston Social Centers will make essential repairs and updates to our elevator, which was first installed in the 1990s. This will ensure disability or mobility challenges will never be a barrier to our Early Learners and Bright Minds School Age children accessing our high-quality programming that supports their joy, learning, and thriving. By supporting investments to update and improve aging buildings and spaces, these grants ensure children learn in high-quality spaces, and ensure programs can invest our resources in the compensation our educators deserve and the programming materials our children need,” said Justin Pasquariello, Executive Director of East Boston Social Center.

Programs are eligible to receive \$200,000 - \$500,000 in funding per project. Awardees include: Angela’s Preschool and Daycare (Peabody) - \$500,000

Funding supports improvements to the security system, replacement of windows and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) upgrades, as well as kitchen ventilation and upgraded bathroom fixtures.

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke - \$421,000

Funding supports security upgrades including installation of keyless entry system, new fence and

parking lot gate system, as well as installation of metal rolling shutters on room windows and main hallway.

Bright Futures Early Learning Center (Springfield) - \$500,000

Funding will add a handwashing sink in 1 classroom, add bathrooms for 3 classrooms, create a lightwell in a classroom that has no access to natural light, build an enclosure at the entrance for kids waiting for transportation, build a shed for playground equipment, and purchase lockdown emergency kits.

Child Care of the Berkshires (North Adams) \$483,000

Funding supports new fencing, landscaping and play structure installation, as well as replace windows, flooring in two classrooms, the roof system and the steam boiler, adding a dual fuel burner and installing an air conditioning condenser.

Children’s Express Child Care (Dorchester) - \$500,000

Funding supports purchasing and installing a new all-electric hot water system and piping, a new fire and water tie-in to the street, and a temporary chiller and boiler during their larger HVAC system transformation.

East Boston Social Centers - \$246,000

Funding supports updating the elevator controller, wiring, traveling cable, two door operators, four floors of door equipment, and electrical upgrades, as well as procuring evacuation chairs to aid individuals with limited mobility in exiting the building during emergencies.

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September is College Fire Safety Month

Special to the Times-Free Press

With thousands of new and returning college students settling into dorms, apartments, and other living spaces, Massachusetts fire officials are reminding them, their resident advisors, and others to be sure they have working smoke alarms, carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, and two ways out in an emergency.

As Massachusetts kicks off College Fire Safety Month, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine said 2,538 fires occurred in college dormitories, fraternities, and sororities in Massachusetts between 2019 and 2023. These fires caused three civilian injuries, 11 fire service injuries, and more than \$2.5 million in estimated damages. More campus fires were reported in September than in any other month, and unsafe cooking practices were the most common cause.

He said fire officials are also concerned about fire safety in apartments and

other types of off-campus student housing, where two Massachusetts college students died in separate, unrelated fires in 2013. Statewide, almost 50% of residential fires in Massachusetts take place in apartment buildings and other multi-family dwellings.

“It doesn’t matter whether you live in a dorm, apartment, Greek housing, or one- or two-family home,” said State Fire Marshal Davine. “Everyone should have working smoke and CO alarms on every level of their residence, and test them monthly to be sure they’re working properly. Never, ever disable an alarm, and don’t waste precious time retrieving personal belongings if you hear it sound – just get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1.”

“If you’ve just moved into a new living space, take some time to identify two ways out of your unit and the building – and two ways out of each room, if possible,” said Foxbor-

ough Fire Chief Michael Kelleher, president of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts. “Plan and practice your escape routes before you need to use them in an emergency. Today’s residential fires burn faster than ever before, and they create toxic smoke that can travel throughout the home. A practiced home escape plan could save your life.”

While September has been designated as College Fire Safety Month, State Fire Marshal Davine and Chief Kelleher said fire safety should be a priority all year long. Windows, doors, and stairways should always be clear of boxes, furniture, bicycles, and any other obstructions so you can escape and firefighters can enter in an emergency. Fire doors should never be blocked or propped open.

Working alarms, clear exit routes, and practicing a plan for using them are crucial for when a fire breaks out, but students can also take steps to pre-

vent them from starting in the first place:

- **Cooking:** Stand by your pan! Don’t leave pots and pans unattended on a lit stovetop, and keep flammable items away from burners. In the event of a grease fire, smother the flames with a lid and then turn off the heat. Cook only when you’re alert, not when you’re drowsy or impaired.

- **Lithium-Ion Batteries:** Use the charging equipment provided by the manufacturer and disconnect it when the device is charged. Charge phones, laptops, e-cigarettes, e-bike batteries, and other devices on a hard and stable surface – never a bed, couch, or pillow. If you notice an unusual odor, change in color, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises, stop using the device right away. If you can do so safely, move it away from anything that can burn and call your local fire department.

- **Smoking:** There is no safe way to smoke, but

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if you must smoke then do it responsibly. Don’t flick cigarettes or other smoking materials on the ground, where they can smolder and ignite debris, or grind them out on porches or steps. Use a heavy ashtray on a sturdy surface and put it out, all the way, every time.

- **Electrical:** Always plug appliances such as air conditioners and space heaters into wall sockets that can handle the current, not power strips or extension cords. Don’t

overload outlets with multiple devices.

- **Heating:** Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to sleep. Never leave a space heater unattended.

- **Candles:** Never leave candles burning unattended. Extinguish them before leaving the room. Even better, switch to battery-powered candles.

For more fire safety tips for both on and off campus, visit www.mass.gov/dfs.

Keolis and MBTA launch NaviLens pilot to help blind and low vision riders navigate stations

Special to the Times-Free Press

Keolis Commuter Services, the operating partner for the MBTA Commuter Rail, has introduced a pilot to test NaviLens at North Station and Salem Station. This technology allows passengers who are blind or have low vision to navigate the stations with a smartphone app. When riders scan brightly colored QR-style codes posted in the stations the NaviLens app will then help them find the correct platform, provide real-time train information,

and guide them to exits or other landmarks with audio navigation and haptic feedback.

“The MBTA welcomes and supports every opportunity to make our system easier to access, especially for riders who depend on it most,” said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. “I’m proud of the work by Keolis and our System-wide Accessibility team to provide the new NaviLens technology pilot for riders who are blind or with low vision. The ability to access our Commuter Rail stations

with confidence further supports riders’ independence, and we look forward to the deployment of this innovative technology pilot in additional stations soon.”

“Ensuring that all passengers can safely access the Commuter Rail is a top priority for Keolis,” said Abdellah Chajai, GM and CEO of Keolis Commuter Services. “NaviLens has the potential to give riders who are blind or have low vision the confidence to independently navigate our stations. We’re looking forward to partnering

with the MBTA to pilot NaviLens at several other stations in the system.”

The NaviLens pilot will soon add four more stops on the Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail Line at Lynn, Chelsea, Swampscott, and Beverly. Keolis will gather feedback from riders and work with the MBTA’s System-wide Accessibility team to better understand all of the ways that the technology could be used and implemented in support of accessible wayfinding.

Riders will have the opportunity to learn about

the new tool during several pop-up demonstrations at North Station in the coming weeks. They will be held on August 30th from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.; September 17th from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m.; and on September 26th from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Passengers who cannot attend one of the pop-ups should feel free to reach out to Keolis Customer Service to learn more about NaviLens.

Keolis Commuter Services has marked its tenth year operating and main-

taining the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority’s commuter rail system, the fifth largest commuter rail operation in North America. KCS is a subsidiary of Keolis North America (KNA), both headquartered in Boston, and employs approximately 2,400 people throughout the region. KCS and KNA are part of Keolis Group, an innovative global leader in transit services with more than a century of passenger transportation experience and operations in 13 countries.

West Nile // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent West Nile virus (WNV) and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to

the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

More information, including all WNV and EEE positive results, can

be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page at Mosquito-borne Diseases | Mass.gov, which is updated daily, or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.

City Paws // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

to introduce and slowly catch up. Walk a little together with the humans between the dogs to judge how the dogs are reacting before deciding to move closer.

If necessary, try again on another day. Just like people, some dogs make quick friendships, while others take time to relax together. Some dogs favor one breed over another or are afraid of certain dogs.

Check Before Introducing

We’ll let the American Kennel Club add a final word on introductions. “Just because you’re saying hello to your neighbors doesn’t mean your dog has to. If you have a very social pet who loves people and greets them appropriately, you may want them to say hello. But first, check to see if your neighbors like dogs and want to greet your

pup. Some people are nervous or afraid of canines, while others are allergic or would just prefer to keep their distance. It’s important to respect your neighbors’ boundaries and comfort levels. Similarly, not all dogs are going to be comfortable meeting strangers.”

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

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

LA COLABORATIVA DEPLOYS FIRST CONTAINERIZED URBAN FARM IN CHELSEA

CHELSEA - La Colaborativa, a preeminent Latinx-led nonprofit organization focused on empowering Latinx residents and enhancing quality of life, is excited to announce the launch of the youth-centered Freight Farm Urban Agriculture Program.

Beginning this community-centered project, La Colaborativa has deployed the first containerized urban farming unit in Chelsea and the greater region, which will be operated by youth enrolled in La Colaborativa's workforce training programs.

"For decades, we have worked diligently to address health disparities and environmental injustice in Chelsea and the greater region," said La Colaborativa Executive Director Gladys Vega. "With our new Freight Farm, we're thrilled to embark on a transformative project that will empower youth, advance urban agriculture, and enhance the health of our community."

This marks the beginning of a major food security and health equity project aimed at boosting access to healthy, culturally familiar produce, including hydroponically grown herbs, lettuces, greens, and other vegetables.

"As climate change and gentrification intensify, residents across the community are grappling with rising prices and grave food insecurity," said Alex Train, COO of La Colaborativa. "We're excited to deploy this unique model to address social determinants of health, while setting out pathways for our youth to pursue careers that can transform their community."

The ultimate aim of the project is to prevent chronic diseases through locally-grown, culturally familiar produce and healthy cooking techniques, and the environment while launching a new youth development program focused on training young adults for careers in the food security, culinary, and nutrition fields.

In conjunction with Freight Farms, a pioneer in container farming technology, La Colaborativa is operating the first containerized urban farming unit in Chelsea.

Harnessing the power of technology, the unit will cultivate up to 12,000 pounds of fresh produce for the community each year. Grounded in the principles of health equity, La Colaborativa's efforts aim to comprehensively address social determinants of health by increasing the volume, variety, and quality of fresh produce. Distributed through its large-scale food pantry and mobile market, El Verdulero, fresh vegetables from the freight farm will reduce the detrimental effects of food deserts, improve physical and mental health, and lessen household costs - a vital lifeline as rent, utility, and living costs sharply grow.

Through La Colaborativa's Youth Development Program, a cohort of young adults interested in pursuing careers in climate resilience, food security, and environmental disciplines will gain hands-on experience operating the Freight Farm. Looking towards our shared future, this partnership introduces a multifaceted program aimed at empowering youth to cultivate skills and pursue career ambitions that reveal economic opportunity. In parallel, youth will be connected to educational and career pathways that can positively impact the com-



Wednesday was the Town of Winthrop's first day of school, students and parents arrive early at the William P. Gorman Fort Banks Elementary School.

munity. Youth contributing to the freight farm will also be supported through robust mentorship and leadership development activities.

The project is informed by a lineage of environmental justice. Over 30 years ago, La Colaborativa established the Chelsea Green Space Committee. Since then, La Colaborativa has spearheaded air quality mitigation, health equity, open space, and food security initiatives that have dramatically improved the environment of Chelsea.

Building off of this foundation, this new initiative seeks to catalyze lasting economic opportunities for youth, with the ultimate goal of fostering generational community development through environmental justice.

EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL DRAWS LARGE TURNOUT

EVERETT - Everett High School football continues to set the standard in the Greater Boston League.

Blending an immensely popular Crimson Tide

Pop Warner organization with the enthusiasm and the spirit of second-year head coach Justin Flores, the EHS program has more than 70 players in pre-season workouts, one of the largest turnouts in the region.

"Practices have been going well," said Flores. "We're excited to play Arlington in our first scrimmage (Tuesday night). One of their offensive linemen (Brady Bekkenhuis, a 6-foot-4-inch, 295-pound junior) is a BC-commit so it will be a good test for our line."

Ortiz said the team will select its captains for the 2024 season next week.

Leading the Offense Carlos Rodriguez is beginning his second year as the starting quarterback. Manny Santiago has moved into a starting role as a running back. Kevin Diaz, who will start at linebacker, will also get some calls out of the offensive backfield. Everett's receiving corps consists of receivers are Yariel Ortiz, Lucas Brito, Elijah Lassiter, and John Barreiros.

A new look for Everett? Justin Flores hinted that Everett football may have a new look in Week 3 of the season which is a home game versus Xaverian.

"We're going to have something new this season for sure," said Flores. "We're going to wear the classic uniforms (San Francisco 49ers-style) in the opening game, but we're going to spice it up a little bit this year, too. It's going to be nice."

Justin Flores' memorable recruiting trip to Mansfield

The Crimson Tide will open their season at home against Mansfield on Friday, Sept. 6.

Flores recalled a recruiting trip he made to Mansfield when he was an assistant coach at the University of Maine. Flores had traveled to Mansfield to evaluate a player's college prospects, but one particular Everett High player hindered his plans during the game.

"It was my first year recruiting Massachusetts, and I went to the Everett-Mansfield game. I was there to see a running back and the [Maine] head coach called me at half-time and asked, 'How's it going?'"

"I said, there's a kid from Everett that every time he touches the ball, he scores, so it's hard to watch the running back get the ball," recalled Flores.

That Everett High player was Mikey Sainristil, who put on one of the greatest individual performances in school history. Sainristil had two touchdown receptions [in the first half] and intercepted three passes to lead Everett to a 41-14 victory over Mansfield on

a night Mansfield dedicated its football stadium and had a capacity crowd on hand.

"It was nice to see that [performance by Sainristil]," said Flores.

Sainristil, of course, went on to play college football at Michigan, helping the Wolverines win the 2023 national championship before being selected in the NFL Draft by the Washington Commanders.

COUNCIL TO CONTINUE DEBATE ON PROPOSED TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION ORDINANCE

REVERE - The city council will continue debate on a proposed ordinance for providing interpretation and translation services for public meetings and documents.

During a public hearing on Monday night, Council President Anthony Cogliandro moved the ordinance to a future meeting of the legislative affairs subcommittee.

While the proposed ordinance was in subcommittee in the spring, Cogliandro noted that it has changed significantly since it was first presented in April.

At Monday night's public hearing, Claire Inzerillo from the city solicitor's office outlined the city administration's opposition to the proposed ordinance.

While Inzerillo praised the intent of the ordinance, she said it would conflict with the city's recently adopted Language Access Plan (LAP) and cause budgetary issues.

"A dedicated group of city employees have been implementing the LAP since its adoption earlier this year, and we are making great progress in the collection and categorization of material from our various department heads," said Inzerillo.

When the LAP is fully implemented, Inzerillo said it will provide notices for availability for interpretation of public meetings and for small group interactions.

"An example of this is when we have a business owner come in to talk about a small business loan, which happens quite often," Inzerillo said. "The city's offerings for interpretation will exist on a by-request basis once this initial collection phase has been completed."

Vital city documents will be translated following federal Housing and Urban Development guidelines where a language is spoken by either 5 percent of residents or 1,000 people, whichever is less.

"For all services, however, written or spoken, residents will be able to

request their language with the city making a good faith effort to provide said language service," said Inzerillo. "There are detailed policies and procedures and a timeline, which are outlined in the LAP that city staff use to ensure meaningful access to services by all the folks who are living in our community."

While the ordinance before the city council is well intended, Inzerillo said, it sets unreasonable standards that conflict with the LAP the city is working on. She noted that in the month of August alone, there were 21 municipal meetings that would have had to be translated under the ordinance, several of which had either minimal or no attendance from residents.

"This demonstrates why our LAP operates on a by-request basis for interpretation services, to ensure that we are not wasting precious time, energy, or money in a needless manner," Inzerillo said. "We stand on the opposing side tonight because of the fundamental budgetary differences that exist between the two. A city the size of Lynn or Worcester may have the bandwidth to provide this ... for all meetings and all documents, but with a new high school on the horizon and a small group of employees we have at city hall, the proposal before you right now is unobtainable."

TOWN CONTINUES WORK ON FIRE STATION SITE SELECTION

WINTHROP - The town basketball courts on Walden Street and the old middle school are the two sites the town is focusing on as a potential site for a new fire station.

Last November, voters rejected an approximately \$40 million debt exclusion vote that would have funded the building of a new fire station at the Wadsworth Building site on Winthrop Street, replacing the two current stations on Pauline Street and Shirley Avenue, both of which are over a century old.

At last week's regular town council meeting, Town Manager Tony Marino said the town is finalizing survey questions for residents on their thoughts about the fire station location.

Council President Jim Lettierie also provided an update on how and when a possible debt exclusion vote for one of the two sites could appear on an election ballot.

"At our last meeting, the council approved a request

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DEADLINE FRI, SEPT. 20TH

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Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

from the school committee to put an override on the ballot,” said Letterie. “Now we are looking at potentially there is a firehouse, potentially there is a citizens’ petition to put 3A on. So I asked the town clerk to call to see what other options we have, and my understanding is ... we could have a separate ballot, a town ballot for either a citizens’ petition or a debt exclusion for this November or whenever we choose.”

Letterie said there would be an additional cost to the town if there is a separate ballot for either or both questions.

Town Clerk Denise Quist said if there was a ballot question during the presidential election in November it would cost the town close to \$16,000 because the town has to abide by all state laws related to early voting and notifications to voters.

“If we do that, and then we have another ballot question anyway in a month or so, that will be another additional \$16,000,” said Quist.

In addition to the efforts to select a site for a new fire station, Marino said

there are also plans underway for potential repairs to reinforce the floors in the engine bays of the Pauline Street station.

“There’s a plan in place to put a small retaining wall down there so we can isolate just where the bays are so we can remove the floor, put the fill in, and then pour a new concrete floor over that,” said Marino. “Then we are also getting pricing and plans, we would lose the steam boiler at that point, for what mini-splits and electric heat would cost upstairs.”

Marino said there is no imminent threat for the floor to fall in at the Pauline Street station, but that it is something that the town needs to address.

“We are looking at potentially taking one of the engines out that we don’t use on a regular basis and maybe putting it over at the old DPW garage ... so there would be closeby access for it, but we would also lose half the weight on the floor,” said Marino. “We are looking at a few different things, but we want to get a fine-tuned cost before we bring it to the council.”

Students urged to register for the BCYF Spelling Bee

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) is proud to announce the opportunity for Boston students and schools to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee program through the 17th Annual BCYF Spelling Bee.

Boston students of public, charter, pilot, and parochial schools as well as home-schooled students are eligible to participate in BCYF’s Bee this spring only after they have won a Bee held at a Boston school. In addition to improving students’ spelling skills and broadening their vocabulary, Spelling Bee participation provides valuable experience in developing self-confidence—a necessary skill for success in public speaking and performing arts.

How to get involved:

- Register your Boston school with Scripps National Spelling Bee online by December 31, 2024 at www.spellingbee.com/enrollment. This will also serve as your registration for BCYF’s Bee. (Save money by opting into Early Enrollment by October 31, 2024).

- Pay the enrollment fee of \$185 to Scripps National Spelling Bee.

- Hold a school spelling bee on or before Friday, February 28, 2025.

- Submit winner’s name and bio form to BCYF by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2025.

- Cheer on your school’s representative speller at the 17th Annual BCYF Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 15, 2025!

Benefits of participation:

- Exclusive online access to the teachers-only section of spellingbee.com.

- Official pronouncer guides for use in conducting classroom and school bees.

- Access to The Great Words, Great Works reading list with all source books, organized by reading level.

- Supplemental vocabulary materials for classroom and school levels.

- Customizable certificates for your participants and school champion.

- A one year subscription to Britannica Online for kids to award to a participant in your school bee program (2 subscriptions if you enroll before Sep-

tember 30).

- Words of the Champions, a 4,000 word student study guide for school champions, and a 450 word school spelling bee study list.

The champion of the 17th Annual BCYF Spelling Bee will win a trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the 2025 Scripps National Spelling Bee. All finalists will receive a trophy and the second and third place finishers will win an Amazon

Fire table, and Amazon gift card.

In 2008, BCYF started a new tradition for Boston by hosting the first citywide Spelling Bee in over 70 years. Since then, BCYF, with the support of the Boston Bruins Foundation, has continued the tradition of the BCYF Spelling Bee. Each year, family members, friends, and teachers proudly cheer on the spellers at the Citywide Spelling Bee in March.

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