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# East Boston

## TIMES-FREE PRESS

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**Wednesday, November 13, 2024**

### EAST BOSTON HOLDS VETERANS DAY SERVICES



The East Boston JROTC Color Guard (above) was on hand for the East Boston Veterans Day ceremony to post the colors on Monday morning at 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month. Shown are Lt. Colonel Lee Fife, Cadets Sophia Moran, Brian Rodriguez, Lily Moran and Samuel Taranto. US Marine Andy Giggio (below) at a WWII Jeep with his sons, Andrew V. and Charlie Giggio. See Page 6 for more photos.



### Wu signs order to adjust property tax exemption for veterans

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu joined Veterans' Services Commissioner Rob Santiago, City Councilors, and veterans to sign an order that adjusts the property tax exemption for Boston veterans to better match the increased cost of living. This exemption increase, originally filed in the City Council by Councilor Brian Worrell, aims to increase affordability and housing ownership opportunities for eligible veterans. The order signed yesterday increases the base exemption annually by an amount equal to the increase in the cost of living as determined by the Consumer Price Index. Mayor Wu also announced a second round of Veterans Services' Bridge the Gap Mini-Grant Program, with grants totaling \$200,000 to support local

organizations that work with veterans and their families.

"Our veterans and their families risk everything and sacrifice to ensure Boston and our country is free and safe. As the cost of living increases, we're proud to stand with our colleagues on the City Council and at the State House to help our veterans make a home here in Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This Veterans Day, we're also proud to launch another round of grant funding for organizations with existing connections to our veterans that help them access the services they've earned."

"The Mayor's Office of Veterans' Services is dedicated to supporting the well-being of veterans, service members, and their families, and ensuring that Boston remains a welcoming and afford-

able home for them," said Veterans' Services Commissioner Robert Santiago. "The Bridge the Gap Mini-Grant Program will offer crucial support to local organizations committed to serving our veteran and military communities. This initiative will help address unmet needs and fill any gaps that may remain even after other benefits are accessed."

"I was proud to introduce this tax order to ensure our veterans see an increase in their property tax exemption and that they can see this exemption tied to cost-of-living increases in future years," said City Councilor Brian Worrell. "I'm thrilled that Boston will continue to maintain its reputation for supporting its veterans by being one of the first cities in this state to opt into this program."

Boston opted to ad-

just the property tax exemption following the Legislature's passing of the HERO Act signed by Governor Maura Healey in August, which allows for individual municipalities to increase their exemption for eligible veterans. The property tax exemption is granted to Purple Heart recipients, Gold Star parents, veterans with a service-related disability, and surviving spouses. The cost of living adjustment will happen annually beginning in FY26.

"We're grateful to Mayor Wu and the City of Boston for supporting the HERO Act's expanded property tax exemptions for our veterans," said Secretary Jon Santiago of the State's Executive Office of Veterans Services. "Through efforts like this,

See VETERANS Page 2

### Milestone

East Boston Probation employee celebrates a half century of service to the courts and community

Special to the Times-Free Press

It was October 30th, 1974 when Gloria Maniscalco first joined the Massachusetts Probation Service as a clerk stenographer at East Boston District Court.

Today, Ms. Maniscalco's colleagues celebrated this half-century milestone at the court where she was presented with a plaque for service to the courts, Probation, East Boston

See MILESTONE Page 3



Gloria Maniscalco.

COURTESY PHOTO

### Edwards, Madaro re-elected to two-year terms

Staff Report

State Sen. Lydia Edwards and Rep. Adrian Madaro were re-elected to two-year terms in the Nov. 5 general election.

Edwards showed outstanding strength across the district that includes East Boston, winning

more than 70 percent of the vote in the 3rd Suffolk District race versus Republican candidate Jeanna Tamas.

"Thank you to the residents of East Boston," said Edwards. "I am grateful

See ELECTION Page 2

### Greater Boston Food Bank's 19th annual Chain of Giving

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), the largest hunger-relief organization in New England, held its 19th annual Chain of Giving event, an annual tradition uniting elected officials, local advocates,

business leaders and community members to raise awareness and mitigate holiday food insecurity. The event, sponsored by Biogen and National Grid, draws attention to the persistence of food insecurity

See GBFB Page 3



PHOTO COURTESY MELOPHOTO

Shown (left to right) are Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, GBFB President & CEO Catherine D'Amato, Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, and Massachusetts State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg.

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



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## Ruggiero Family Memorial Home

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## Paige D'Ambrosio joins the staff of the Boston Ballet

The family of Paige D'Ambrosio is pleased to announce that she has joined the staff of the Boston Ballet as Assistant Stage Manager.

Paige, a 2022 magna cum laude graduate of Suffolk University, earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts from the College of Arts and Sciences. During her time at Suffolk, Paige served as the general manager of WSFR, Suffolk's student-run radio station and was one of a distinct group of seniors selected to display their aspiring talent as part of Suffolk University's Senior Showcase. "Suffolk Night Live" written, directed, and produced by Paige displayed her wide range of theatre and live entertainment insight and earned her accolades from professors and fellow students.

While a student at Suffolk Paige's credits include: Production Stage

Manager for Cymbeline (2022), Sputnik (2020), The Modern Radio Ramble (2022-24) and, Suffolk SpotLight (2019 and 2021) and Assistant Stage Manager for Our Time (2021) and, The Seven Deadly Sins (2019).

Since graduation, Paige's profession credits include: Production Stage Manager for Where We Stand (Greater Boston Stage Company), Dear Jack, Dear Louise (Greater Boston Stage Company) and, Dos Nogales (SUTD) and Assistant Stage Manager for Mr. Popper's Penguins (Wheelock Family Theatre), The Addams Family (Wheelock Family Theatre), Make Way for Ducklings (Wheelock Family Theatre), Coriolanus (Actor's Shakespeare Project), The Bomb-itty of Errors (Actor's Shakespeare Project), Let the Right One In (Actor's Shakespeare Project/Boston Univer-

sity), Oklahoma (Reagle Music Theatre), The Little Mermaid (Reagle Music Theatre), Pippin (Reagle Music Theatre) and, Legally Blonde (Moonbox Productions).

Paige graduated from Austin Preparatory School in 2018 where she was the recipient of the Charles L. Luciano memorial unsung student loyalty award, the Senior Artist Award for Excellence in Dance, and the Senior Tech Award for Excellence in Tech, Design & Management.

The Boston Ballet was founded in 1963 by E. Virginia Williams and Sydney Leonard and was the first professional repertory ballet company in New England. The ballet currently performs at the Boston Opera House. For performance and ticket information visit <https://www.bostonballet.org/home/tickets-performances/>.

## NFPA urges extra caution when preparing your feast this Thanksgiving

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) urges added caution when cooking on Thanksgiving Day, by far the leading day of the year for home cooking fires. In 2022, an estimated 1,610 home cooking fires were reported to U.S. fire departments on Thanksgiving Day, reflecting a 399 percent increase over the daily average. Between 2018 and 2022, there was an annual average of three and half times more cooking fires on Thanksgiving Day than on a typical day of the year.

"Thanksgiving is a hectic holiday with multiple dishes cooking and baking at the same time, along with guests, entertaining, and other distractions that can make it easy to lose sight of what's on the stove or in the oven," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "With all these factors at play, it's no surprise that the number of cooking fires spikes so dramatically on Thanksgiving."

Overall, cooking is the leading cause of U.S. home fires and injuries, and the second-leading cause of home fire deaths. Unattended cooking is the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths.

"Keeping a close eye on what's cooking and minimizing the likelihood of getting distracted can greatly reduce the risk of cooking fires," said Carli.

"As simple as these preventative measures may sound, they truly can help ensure that everyone enjoys a festive, fire-free holiday."

Following are additional tips and recommendations from NFPA to help everyone cook safely on Thanksgiving:

- Never leave the kitchen while cooking on the stovetop. Some types of cooking, especially those that involve frying or sautéing with oil, need continuous attention.

- When cooking a turkey, remain at home and check it regularly.

- Make use of timers to keep track of cooking times, particularly for foods that require longer cook times.

- Keep things that can catch fire like oven mitts, wooden utensils, food wrappers, and towels at least three feet away from the cooking area.

- Avoid long sleeves and hanging fabrics that can come in contact with a heat source.

- Always cook with a lid beside your pan. If a small grease fire starts, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan, then turn off the burner. Do not remove the cover because the fire could start again. Let the pan cool for a long time.

- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed. Only open the door once you're confident the fire is completely out, standing to the side as you

do. If you have any doubts or concerns, contact the fire department for assistance.

- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried. Hot foods and liquids should be placed away from table and counter edges.

In addition, NFPA strongly discourages the use of turkey fryers that use cooking oil, which can cause devastating burns. For a safe alternative, NFPA recommends purchasing a fried turkey from a grocery store or restaurant or buying a fryer that does not use oil.

For this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research and resources, please visit the NFPA press room.

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess).

## Election // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and honored to continue to serve as your state senator. While we may disagree, please know that my heart and mind are always open, and I will continue to grow and listen."

Edwards also spoke about the passage of Question 2 which will end the MCAS graduation requirement for high school

students.

"I was happy we are removing this test as a graduation standard," said Edwards. "I trust teachers and firmly believe that we can't summarize a child's growth, intelligence, or potential with any test."

Madaro humbly thanked East Boston residents for the tremendous

vote he received on Election Day.

"Working on behalf of my neighbors in East Boston is one of my life's greatest honors," said Madaro. "I'm grateful to have been re-elected to serve another term and for being entrusted to be your voice on Beacon Hill."

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Langin, Andrew	Davis Jr, Jimmy	156 Porter St #354	\$499,000
Grosser, Benjamin	274 Chelsea Street LLC	274 Chelsea St	\$715,000
Sharpe Swift LLC	Lank, David A	5 Swift Ter	\$332,500



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## Veterans // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Boston is setting an example in honoring the service of our veterans with real, impactful support."

Before today's signing by the Mayor, the property tax exemption adjustment was introduced by Councilor Worrell and passed unanimously by the City Council on October 23. Residents can learn more about the exemption and how to apply here.

Mayor Wu also announced the city will soon open applications for a second round of Bridge the Gap Mini-Grants, designed to support veterans, service members, and their families. The mini-grants will be awarded to organizations that support the veteran community of Boston and "bridge the gap" that may exist for veterans after accessing other benefits. The grant program, the first of its kind for the City, initially launched in May, with 12 local veterans groups benefiting from the first round of funding. Due to demand for the financial support,

the City is launching a second round of applications for the mini-grants.

Funds for this round will be used to support Boston nonprofits that help veterans with key issue areas, including: housing, transportation, health and wellness, upward economic mobility, legal services, and educational programming. A total of \$200,000 is available across the second round, with individual applicants able to apply for up to \$9,999 in funding. Applicants can apply here starting Tuesday, November 12 through March 6, 2025.

"Thanks to the generous grant from the Mayor's Office of Veterans' Services, we've been able to make an immediate difference for our veterans," said Christine Kelly, Residential Coordinator of Patriot Homes, South Boston NDC's affordable housing development for veterans. "With this funding, we've provided essential furniture for two tenants, distributed items from lo-

cal food stores and pharmacies, and even arranged for a private van service to take residents shopping each week. This grant has truly enhanced their quality of life, supporting comfort, access, and independence."

"We are deeply grateful for the grant from the City of Boston's Office of Veterans' Services, which aids our programs at Brighton Marine. The veterans who come to us for services attend our coffee hour, group and individual therapy, and more. Vitality, they find a community space that is safe, structured, and affirming where they can share their unique stories as they relate to the trauma of war, the challenges of adjusting to subsequent civilian life, and the stressors they encounter every day. They find camaraderie, meaning, and validation, which is enormously helpful," said Italian Home for Children CEO Susan Keays.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### THE FESTIVAL OF ITALIAN CREATIVITY SET FOR NOV. 14-22

From November 14 to 22, the Consulate General of Italy in Boston is launching "The Festival of Italian Creativity", an amazing range of cultural events (music, cinema, art, literature and theater), science, technology and business seminars, Italian language labs, food tastings, inspirational guests and much more! All of the events and programs in the Festival, organized in cooperation with the October Italian American Heritage Month Committee of Massachusetts, are open to the public and free of charge with registration. The complete program of events is online at [www.italyinboston.org](http://www.italyinboston.org) and all events are available with a single registration.

The Festival is part of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs designation of Boston as "2024 Capital of Italian Creativity in the World". "The Festival of Italian Creativity is an extraordinary opportunity to promote Italy and highlight the many connections between Italy and Boston as well as celebrate the contributions of the Italian American community to the historic and contemporary fabric of the city", said Arnaldo Minutti, Consul General of Italy in Boston.

All Events Free and Open to the Public

### ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN FOR MASSACHUSETTS HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities announced that the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) enrollment period for the 2024-2025 winter heating season opened on October 1. This critical program provides financial relief to eligible households to help them pay their winter heating bills, ensuring they can keep their homes safe and warm during the colder months.

HEAP is a free, statewide resource that assists eligible renters and homeowners by paying a portion of their winter heating bills directly to their heating companies. Homeowners and renters can apply online or through local administering agencies across the state. The assistance period runs, to April 30, 2025. HEAP offers grants that do not need to be repaid; however, households must meet specific eligibility requirements to qualify.

"No resident should have to worry about heating their home during the winter," said Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities Ed Augustus. "With high costs continuing to strain household finances, the Home Energy Assistance Program is more critical than ever. We urge anyone in need

of heating assistance to explore their eligibility by applying online or visiting the nearest administering agency. Please share this valuable information with loved ones or neighbors who could benefit from this support during the colder months."

Eligibility is determined by several factors, including household size and the combined gross annual income of residents 18 and older. Qualifying households, including those with the cost of heat included in the rent, can receive assistance for all heating sources, including oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood and coal. Households do not need to be on public assistance or have unpaid heating bills to qualify.

### NSCS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY BOARD

North Suffolk Community Services (NSCS), a nonprofit organization that supports adults, children and families across the lifespan who are coping with behavioral health, substance use disorders and/or developmental disabilities, is seeking volunteers to serve on its Human Rights Committee Advisory Board. The board, which meets virtually 6 times per year and conducts one site visit per month, helps ensure that

See BRIEFS Page 9

## LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court  
24 New Chardon Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617)788-8300  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P2277EA  
Estate of: Sofia Isabel Mejia Zambrano  
Also known as: Isabel Zambrano  
Date of Death

03/10/2024

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative had been filed by Jipson X. Gomez Sormaza of East Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Jipson X. Gomez Sormaza of East Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from

the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/04/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: October 23, 2024  
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate

11/13/24  
EB

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# WVCB's Ted Reinstein discusses new book

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

Reporter, Ted Reinstein -- 28-year correspondent for the WVCB Channel 5 television program, "Chronicle" -- presented his latest book, "Travels Through the Heart and Soul of New England: Stories of Struggle, Resilience, and Triumph," during a Winthrop Public Library author discussion at the EB Newton School and Cultural Center on October 30.

"This book is a labor of love," said Reinstein about his fifth book, published in July, 2024. "I often describe it as a love song to New England. This is entirely about the memorable people who I have met. It's the stories of the people who have impacted me the most."

The individuals featured in "Travels Through the Heart and Soul of New England" are people who Reinstein now considers friends. They have overcome extreme challenges and exemplify joy, determination, and love. The importance of community is essential to their stories.

"Sometimes a struggle can be about preserving an entire way of life -- in this case: fishing," suggested Reinstein. "Gloucester typifies the struggle of New England fisheries. It's like no other place in America. I've made wonderful friends there."

Like ports across the nation, Gloucester has



Reporter, Ted Reinstein, describing individuals who have impacted him the most.

been severely affected by strict fishing rules and regulations that make it financially impossible for most family-owned fishing boats to prosper.

"It's estimated that in 1900, there were almost 2,500 family fishing boats in Gloucester. Last year, that number went down to 75. Today, the vast majority of boats fishing out of Gloucester are corporate boats owned by a consortium of either investors or industries," revealed Reinstein. "The problem is, as family fishing goes away, that pipeline of knowledge begins to dry up."

Joe Sanfilippo -- a member of a family of five generations of fishermen in Gloucester -- is one fisherman who has been especially impacted by those governances. Sanfilippo learned the technical and economic aspects of fishing from his brother when

he was 13-years-old, and believes that it is important to maintain the culture of family fishing.

"The note of optimism in this is he has done something that is unique," Reinstein noted about Sanfilippo, who captains the Beauport Cruiseline out of Gloucester Harbor. "He started what I call night school for fishing. He works on the boat all day, and at night he teaches people -- men, women, younger, older -- (none of whom have a boat) the fundamentals he learned at 13-years-old."

Reinstein believes that resilience is ingrained in the New England experience -- even if only for the weather -- and especially in mill towns.

"I always thought of New England mill towns as the embodiment of resilient because they're still here, and they've been through hell and back," said Reinstein. "They knew what it was like to have 100% employment. They know what it was like to be kicked to the curb."

In the late 1800s-early 1900s, companies realized labor could be found cheaper in the south; and eventually, overseas. By the late 1960s-early 1980s, abandoned mill buildings were boarded up, becoming havens for crime, arson, and drugs. Although most of those former mill buildings are not producing what they had, they have become home to commer-



Author, Ted Reinstein, presenting his book, "Travels Through the Heart and Soul of New England: Stories of Struggle, Resilience, and Triumph," at the EB Newton School and Cultural Center on October 30.

cial enterprises and condominiums.

"They found a way to reinvent, re-emerge, and re-purpose themselves," observed Reinstein.

Alan Casavant had a major part in reviving his hometown of Biddeford, Maine. Growing up in the mill town in the 1960/1970s, Casavant remembered the restaurants and stores being open late because residents had money to spend.

By the 1980s, the once prosperous community had become dark. When a six-story waste incinerator was built in downtown Biddeford, the city had no other option but to accept it.

"Just like people who are down and out, and vulnerable, so are mill towns," said Reinstein. "When a town has no economic viability, there are commercial enterprises who prey on entire communities who they know need any kind of cash infusion, no matter where it

comes from."

Now, Casavant, a former math teacher, has become the longest-serving mayor of Biddeford, ordering the removal of the incinerator that he found humiliating. Casavant has attracted businesses and residents to occupy the former mill buildings.

"The Biddeford mill buildings today are a wonderment," exclaimed Reinstein. "People describe it as a 'Biddaisance.'"

"Travels Through the Heart and Soul of New England" also includes Reinstein's favorite diners from all six states, such as the Windsor Diner, in Windsor, Vermont.

"There are two things make it a unique and rare diner. Not only is Theresa Rhodes one of the few women who owns a diner; she runs it entirely solo," exclaimed Reinstein, who remembers intently watching Rhodes work behind her back, tossing forks to regulars.

During that visit, Rein-

stein met long-time customer, Billy Nye, who celebrated his 83rd birthday with a blueberry muffin that Rhodes had brought to him with a candle. Nye had grown up at the diner, where his mother had been a waitress. He shared that every day after school, he would sit on the first stool at the counter. Now that he has moved back to his hometown to be closer to family, Nye felt that he should graduate to the second stool: his new spot.

In addition to people and diners, Reinstein -- a Winthrop native -- expressed his deep appreciation for general stores and public libraries, noting that he is still in possession of his original, stained -- but now laminated -- first library card, from Winthrop Public Library. Reinstein grew up in the Highlands, and enjoys driving around town when he can, checking on his favorite spots, and inspecting to make sure his etched initials have remained intact.

## GBFB // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the state and GBFB's Hunger Free Holidays campaign.

As GBFB strives to offer nutritious and culturally sensitive food to families in need this holiday season, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and GBFB President and CEO Catherine D'Amato shared remarks highlighting the critical need to address food insecurity in the Bay State. Over 150 participants then formed a human chain to pass nearly 1,200 turkeys from a delivery truck through GBFB's warehouse that would later be donated to families in need. This represents only a portion of the 46,000 turkeys and other holiday and daily food items the nonprofit expects to distribute to pantries across Eastern Massachusetts throughout the holidays.

"The holidays are a time for celebration with family and friends, but many families in Massachusetts are struggling to provide for their basic needs. Our neighbors in financial distress are often having to make tough decisions between buying food or paying for housing, healthcare, or transportation," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "That's why our administration takes

a community-wide approach to hunger and we work hand in hand with community partners like GBFB every day. In Massachusetts, we work hard, we work smart, and we work together to be there for our neighbors in need. And we will double down our work on the root causes of food insecurity, to end hunger once and for all."

State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Commissioner Jeffrey McCue of MA Department of Transitional Assistance, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden, as well as several other state and local officials joined the tradition, alongside the beloved mascots for the Red Sox and Patriots.

"The Greater Boston Food Bank provides vital support for our residents who are facing food insecurity, and I am so grateful for their continued dedication to creating a healthy and nourished community," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The Chain of Giving is a wonderful and inspiring tradition that provides essential relief to our residents who lack resources during the holiday season, and I look forward to continuing our partnership in order to end food scarcity in the city."

Following the Chain of

Giving, GBFB celebrated the opening of its new refrigeration unit with a ribbon-cutting ceremony as part of the organization's efforts to rightsize its warehouse to support the state's historic need for food assistance. The new unit stores 400 pallets of perishable food; including highly sought-after and nutritious items such as produce, eggs, and dairy, allowing GBFB to distribute up to an estimated eight million additional meals each year.

Food insecurity has solidified as a post-pandemic, everyday lived experience for 1 in 3 Massachusetts residents -- nearly 2 million individuals -- according to GBFB's annual study on food access and equity. The event and accompanying fundraiser come at a time of sustained hunger brought on by an unsustainable cost of living and intersecting affordability crises in housing, groceries, healthcare and childcare. The study also revealed disparities in food access among households of col-

or, LGBTQ+ households, and those with children.

"With soaring costs of housing, food, and daycare, these financial burdens often force families to make tough choices, like sacrificing meals to meet other essential needs," said Catherine D'Amato, GBFB President and CEO. "While these stresses may peak during the holidays, families need food year-round, not just at Thanksgiving. Massachusetts can achieve hunger-free status, but it requires collective action. Let's work together to advocate for policies that ensure food security for all."

Wellesley Girl Scout Troop Wins Nally Award

Each year, GBFB honors outstanding young people who have championed hunger-relief in their communities with the Nally Award. Established in 2006, the award is named after Danny and Betsy Nally, who at ages 8 and 6, started their very first turkey drive for GBFB. This year's Nally Award was presented to Wellesley's Girl Scout Troop 64049,

who graciously donated their cookie sales profits to GBFB after learning about the impact of childhood hunger.

The troop of 15 fifth graders, who have typically donated cookie sale funds toward wildlife-related causes, was shocked to learn that other children in their community -- their age and younger -- face hunger. After doing their own research, they agreed to donate to GBFB to help end hunger here.

To learn more about The Greater Boston Food Bank or to join its annual Hunger Free Holidays campaign, visit GBFB.org/holidays,

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) is the largest hunger-relief organization in New England and one of the largest food banks in the country. For nearly half a century, GBFB has fueled Eastern Massachusetts' hunger-relief system, putting nearly

90 million healthy meals on tables across the region each year. Over 600 community-based pantries and other local partners in 190 cities and towns depend on GBFB to provide access to healthy food for 600,000 people every month. GBFB is committed to the belief that access to healthy food is a human right regardless of an individual's circumstances. Through policy, partnerships, and providing free, nutritious, and culturally responsive food, GBFB is committed to addressing the root causes of food insecurity while promoting racial, gender and economic equity in food access. Together, we have the power to end hunger here. For more information and to help us help others, visit us at GBFB.org, follow us on Facebook, Twitter (@gr8bosfoodbank) and Instagram, or call us at 617.427.5200.

## Milestone // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

community, and the Commonwealth.

"Gloria Maniscalco has made an indelible mark as the East Boston Probation Office Manager. With unwavering commitment, Ms. Maniscalco has navigated challenges, implemented innovative strategies, and fostered a supportive environment for both staff and clients.

Gloria's leadership has transformed the office, ensuring effective service for the Court and the public. Colleagues and clients alike admire Gloria's integrity, compassion, and sense of humor. Here's to a remarkable career and a lasting legacy!" said East Boston Chief Probation Officer Matthew McDonough.

SACRED HEART PARISH

## Feria Navideña





**Comida | Juegos y actividades | Rifas**  
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**Desayuno de pancake GRATIS con Santa**  
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**Noviembre 23, 2024**  
**10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Sacred Heart Parish**  
**303 Paris Street, East Boston**

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**ORDER A ..... Fully Cooked Whole Turkey**

Available in 2 sizes

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**20-22 lb. Whole Turkey \$389.95 Plus Tax**

**Complete with**

Homemade Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes,  
Butternut Squash or Corn, Gravy & Cornbread

**OR**

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**Dinner Includes:**

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**Choice of Dessert:**

Slice of Apple or Pumpkin Pie

**\$23.95 Per Person**

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**Open Thanksgiving Day 8:00am - 1:00pm**

*Spinelli's is looking forward to having Thanksgiving with you!*

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# East Boston

Times-Free Press

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## WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON HERE, REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE

*"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."*  
-- Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities.

With the holiday season now upon us, most of us will be rushing about -- either to the stores and malls or on-line --- to do our holiday shopping in hopes of finding that "perfect" gift for our family members and loved ones.

Although economic uncertainty, spurred by the after-effects of record-high inflation, continues to afflict almost every American household, most of us are doing okay, if not extremely well, thanks to unemployment rates that are near historic record-lows.

However, the strong economy (from an employment standpoint) that is being enjoyed by the vast majority of Americans has not been shared by all. For a sizable number of our fellow citizens, the lingering effects of the pandemic, as well as the fraying of the fabric of our social safety net in recent years, have come together to represent an existential disaster.

Millions of Americans of all ages, in a percentage greater than at any time since the Great Depression, are struggling financially, even if they have a job.

To put it in stark terms, more Americans, including families in our own communities, are going hungry than at any time in our recent history. It is estimated that 13.5 percent (18 million) of U.S. households were food insecure at some time during 2023, exceeding the 12.8 percent number in 2022. An estimated 44.2 million Americans live in food-insecure households, of whom 20 percent are children.

In addition, thanks to the lack of affordable new housing and sky-high rents, far too many of our fellow citizens, including children, live either in shelters or in similar temporary housing arrangements -- or on the streets -- because our economy literally has left them out in the cold.

Millions of Americans of all ages, including those in our own communities, are struggling financially, often through no fault of their own, thanks to a combination of low-wage jobs and a strong real estate market that ironically has made apartments (let alone buying a home) unaffordable. The problem has been most acute in cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and the Boston Metro area, for many years, but now has spread to almost every part of the country. Thousands of homeless Americans, including many who have full-time jobs, are living in their cars or on the streets.

The homeless always have been among us, but the scope and depth of the problem is far beyond anything that has been experienced in our lifetime. The vast discrepancy between the enormous wealth enjoyed by some Americans and the abject poverty being endured by others is similar to what is seen in the major urban centers in South America and India -- but it now is happening right here in the U.S.A.

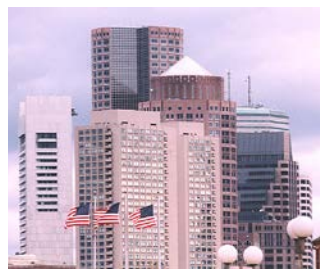
For these millions of Americans, the holiday season brings no joy.

Psychologists tell us that the Biblical directive, that we should give to those who are less fortunate, is the best gift that we can give to ourselves. Helping others activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust, creating the so-called "warm glow" effect.

Never in the lifetime of anybody reading this editorial has the need for contributions to local food banks been more urgent. There will be ample opportunities in the coming days to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate, whether it be donations to local food banks and toy programs, or even just dropping a few dollars in the buckets of the Salvation Army Santas.

There simply is no excuse for those of us who are among the more fortunate for failing to make some effort over the next four weeks to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate.

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](mailto:editor@eastietimes.com) are preferred.



# Forum

GUEST OP-ED

## Logan Airport and Hanscom Field: A Tale of Two Environmental Reports

By Corinne Doud & Valinda Chan

During October, the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the state of Massachusetts, Rebecca Tepper, approved two very important Massport assessment reports for New England's top two busiest airports: Boston Logan International Airport and Hanscom Field general aviation airport (not Hanscom Air Force Base). Environmental Status and Planning Reports (ESPRs) are prepared by Massport every five years and provide annual updates and long-range analysis of projected operations, passengers, and cumulative impacts of overall airport activity. Logan International Airport and Hanscom Field were both due for ESPR reports in 2022, but the multi-year process means that reports don't receive approval or denial until years after their submission, rendering them more retroactive than planning reports. Both Logan and Hanscom are currently facing community pushback for expansion efforts.

In autumn of 2023, Logan Airport quietly opened the expansion of its international terminal, a move criticized by Logan-Area residents as a misuse of resources during a major air pollution crisis in the area. At a rally on the airport's 100th anniversary, Chris Marchi, the long-time Vice President of the nonprofit Airport Impact Relief, Inc (AIR Inc) addressed the crowd saying, "We should not congratulate this airport while it poisons environmental justice communities. We should be avowing to change. Massachusetts needs to stop excusing environmental destruction for pet projects. When will this state's leaders finally disown claims that we need to accept environmental sacrifices for the survival of our economy?"

Air pollution, including pollution caused by aircraft emissions, is scientifically linked to major health problems in communities where exposure is high. A Logan Airport Health study found that children in East Boston are four times more likely to exhibit signs of asthma compared with children in other areas. In addition, the study found that adults who have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are more likely to have lived in areas of high exposure to pollutants for long periods of time, such as near Logan Airport. The East Boston neighborhood next to Logan is a "hotspot" for many different types of cancer, suggesting environmental causes for these illnesses.

On top of exposure to harmful pollutants, East Boston has the lowest tree canopy coverage in

the city, largely because of the infrastructure built for Logan Airport. This contributes to the urban heat island effect, or hotter temperatures. East Boston near Logan experiences the urban heat island effect worse than most other neighborhoods in the region on average. Because of the increase in temperature and worsening of heatwaves caused by urban heat islands, they often lead to an increase in heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and even heart attacks in affected communities according to MIT. As a result of all of this, community members in East Boston are far more likely to fall ill as a result of living near Logan Airport.

Meanwhile, Hanscom Field is facing a proposed expansion of private jet infrastructure to benefit the ultra-wealthy. The proposed Hanscom Field expansion would allegedly clear-cut about 20 acres of mature woods. According to an independent analysis by Industrial Economics Inc, it would add approximately 6,000 additional private jet flights annually, and about 150,000 tons of carbon emissions each year -- essentially to benefit a privileged few. If the expansion proceeds, private jet emissions from Hanscom alone would cancel nearly 70% of all solar PV ever installed in Massachusetts. Advocates from Boston to the Berkshires and beyond decry this expansion for fueling the climate crisis.

Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere, a coalition of over 95 organizations, is widely known for their work to halt the proposed expansion of Hanscom Field. Last fall they submitted a petition to Governor Healey urging her to halt the massive fossil fuel development, delivering over 10,000 signatures (now 14,000).

Recently, the coalition helped generate over 1,500 public comments to MEPA (Office of MA Environmental Policy Act) on the Hanscom developers' Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) from individuals and organizations, as well as government officials. These comments were overwhelmingly in opposition to the proposed expansion, many of them arguing that the proposed development was antithetical to state and federal climate goals for 2050. In June, EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper rejected the Hanscom developers' DEIR and instructed them to file a supplementary report that more fully and accurately reported the expected environmental and climate costs of their project.

Secretary Tepper approved the Hanscom and

Logan ESPRs, respectively on October 11 and October 18, stating that each report adequately complied with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act. However, she included strong caveats with each approval.

Pointing to rising passenger levels and pollution at Logan Airport, the Secretary issued a strong directive to Massport to improve its environmental performance there. The Secretary also ordered Massport to plan additional pollution reduction strategies to address the growth of environmental impacts if passenger or flights outpace forecasts. This idea answers community requests for Massport to stop using inaccurate planning forecasts. She also asked Massport to address the health, air quality, and community impacts of Logan's operations, and required that the Port Authority create a working group with the community to identify ways to reduce Logan's public health impacts, develop air quality monitoring and pollution reduction programs, form partnerships to distribute air filters, create an idling reduction plan, and simplify and improve the pollution reporting process.

Logan Community Clean Air Coalition members are cautiously optimistic about this certificate. Chris Marchi said, "We are eager to work with the Secretary's staff to help Massport implement the full slate of the Secretary's requirements."

Approved just a week before the Logan report, the Hanscom Field report came with a requirement: a supplemental ESPR, to be filed before the 2027 ESPR report is due. According to the Secretary's certificate, this supplemental ESPR must include, "updated forecasts of aviation activity and associated air quality and noise impacts which take into account the proposed design of North Airfield Development project (EEA# 16654), which is currently under MEPA review. The Supplemental ESPR should also provide additional data on the energy use of terminals, hangars, and other buildings at Hanscom Field. As

noted below, future ESPRs should also expand on environmental justice and public health outreach and analysis, and consider Massport's obligation under MEPA to avoid or minimize, and, where appropriate, to mitigate, environmental impacts, and, under recently promulgated rules and regulations, to consider environmental justice principles through MEPA reviews."

What does this mean? It means that both the prospective Hanscom developers and Massport itself are now required by the EEA Secretary to provide substantial additional information, in the instance of the Hanscom developers, they will need to produce a Supplemental DEIR report for their proposed expansion. Separately Massport must submit both a Supplemental ESPR report for Hanscom and do extensive supplemental work for the Logan ESPR. These directives are considered interim wins by climate and public health activists who are working to rein in and mitigate the harms of Massport's Logan and Hanscom expansions.

Public efforts to hold Massport accountable to the myriad environmental and health costs, and climate impacts, of its operations is a classic David and Goliath tale, where the public stands against forces that threaten their future. As climate and clean-air activists across the state await the passage of a comprehensive Climate Bill at the State House, MEPA's response to Massport's ESPR reports provides another slingshot to carry into the ring.

*Valinda Chan is Team Co-Coordinator and Corinne Doud is Leader of the Bedford Chapter Campaign to Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere.*

*Corinne Doud of Mothers Out Front Bedford and Valinda Chan of Mothers Out Front East Boston. Mothers Out Front is a national organization of mothers and others working toward a livable climate and an equitable future for all children.*

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

### EDWARDS HOSTS ANNUAL CANDIDATES LUNCHEON ON ELECTION DAY

Last Tuesday was election day across the nation, and it also marks the annual luncheon at Santarpio's Restaurant in East Boston. Senator Lydia Edwards, who was re-elected at the end of the day, was host to the event of local elected, and former elected officials, as well as special guests.



Working for a better East Boston and the benefit of all they serve, Boston Councillor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Senator Lydia Edwards, and State Representative Adrian Madaro.



Massachusetts Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll with Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe.



State Senator and event coordinator Lydia Edwards with former State Senator Anthony Petrucci.



Former Boston City Councillor Paul Scapicchio with Senator Lydia Edwards.



Suffolk County Registrar of Probate Stephannie Everett, Senator Lydia Edwards, Suffolk County Clerk of Court Allison Cartwright, Maura Doyle, former Clerk of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, and Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden.



US Representative Ayanna Pressley with former Boston City Councillor Salvatore LaMattina.



Former Senator Joseph Boncore, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, and Revere Mayor Patrick Keefe.



Massachusetts US Representative Ayanna Pressley, Senate President Karen Spilka, and State Senator Lydia Edwards.



Senator Lydia Edwards welcomes her guest, President and CEO of the Boston Red Sox Sam Kennedy.



Janet Knott, former Boston City Councillor Diane Modica, Fran Ippolito-Riley, Judy Evers, and Judi Evers enjoying lots of great company and food at Santarpio's last Tuesday afternoon.

# EAST BOSTON HOLDS VETERANS DAY SERVICES AT HISTORIC MAVERICK SQUARE

Monday was Veterans Day across the nation, and in Maverick Square in East Boston local veterans, elected officials and families gathered to say thank you to its veterans.

erans, elected officials and families gathered to say thank you to its veterans.



US Marine, author, Boston Police Officer, father, Master of Ceremonies Andy Biggio addresses the crowd gathered at Maverick Square last Monday morning.



US Marine and Captain for the Boston Police Department, Dean Bickerton with his remarks, and offering a brief look at his earlier years, finding his way through military service and into the Boston Police Department.



Councillor Gabriela Coletta Zapata with her remarks last Monday morning, pledging to continue to support veterans and advocate for more benefits for those in need.



State Representative Adrian Madaro a champion for veteran's rights and instrumental on a state level to bring more veteran support and funding for programs offered to veterans. Madaro also pledged to fight for more programs addressing the health and housing issues for East Boston's veterans.



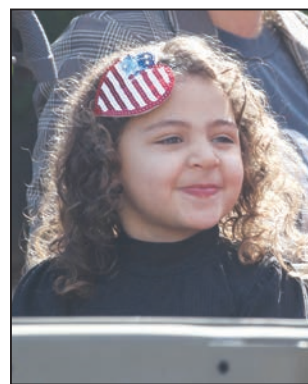
Chaplin of VFW Post 6712 of Beachmont, Daniel Hernandez with the opening prayer.



Pastor of Central Community Church David Searles, with veterans Faith and Daniel Hernandez.



Capt. Steve Ashman salutes during the National Anthem. Capt. Ashman was also a guest speaker.



A Patriotic smile from 4-year-old Francesca Hastings.



The plaque beneath the 3 flag poles in Maverick Square, dedicated all East Boston men and women that served their country with honor and dignity.



Maverick Square in East Boston was the site of the Veterans Day ceremony, easily recognized by the 3 massive flag poles proudly waving our nations flag, Massachusetts State Flag, City of Boston Flag, and the POW MIA Flag.

## GRAND MARSHAL



Senator Edwards (third from left) was named the Grand Marshal of the 2024 Boston Veterans Day Parade. Edwards, with help from Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, (third from right) and other officials, cut the ribbon to officially start the Saturday Veterans Day parade.

**SALESIAN BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF EAST BOSTON**

**17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PASTA DINNER FUNDRAISER**

**Friday, November 22, 2024**

**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

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- \*Featuring the Club's Traditional Unique Gift Baskets & Raffle Prizes!

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East Boston Community

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11:00AM - 1:00PM | 12:00PM - 1:00PM

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Pick up take-out meals through the Byron Street entrance

Join us to celebrate Thanksgiving Day with bread & butter, salad, cheese & crackers, turkey & gravy, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and pie.  
This event is free and all are welcome.

**EBCCS SOCCER CLUB**

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Soccer is one of the most popular sports amongst East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) families. Many have their origins in Central and South America; and so Principal (and referee) Robert Casaletto and Father Dan Zinger, coach, felt it was of cultural importance to provide an organized Soccer Club for students.

"It's been a hit," said Father Dan. "They've had a great time developing their skills."

This is the second fall that the Soccer Club has

been offered. Fifty-two 4th-8th grade students are participating on the two girls' and two boys' teams that play a scrimmage every week.

Eighth grader, Sebastian Salmoran, 13-years-old, has been practicing soccer for the past three years, and loves the energy of the game.

"Never give up on your dreams if you like it," advised Sebastian to athletes learning a new sport.

Eleven-year-old, Sarahi Avelar, 5th grade, reminded players to be vigilant on the field.

"Be careful, because it's easy to get hurt," rec-

ommended Sarahi, whose favorite position is goalie.

During the October 30 game, parents, alumni, and passersby gathered around the LoPresti Park field to support students, who enjoyed a pizza party following the scrimmage.

"A hallmark of East Boston Central Catholic School is we're like family. The expectation is that we support each other no matter what," noted Father Dan, sitting on a cement wall after delivering a large, variety box of corn chips to families. "We do our best to be a beacon of hope for the community."



Allison Penate and Francesca Mazzone.



Emanuel Munoz, airborne.



Morgan Puritz, Gabriella Maldonado Castano, and Mia Santillana.



Allen Maria.



Matias Mejia.



Aura Hernandez Zuniga and Francesca Mazzone, who scored the winning goal for the girls' game.



Jefferson Landaverde, Emanuel Munoz, and LuisFelipe Perez.



Rosamaria Rivera kicking the ball.

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SHADY BROOK FRESH TURKEY BREAST (4-7lbs) \$ 1.79/lb

BUTTERBALL FRESH.....\$ 1.99/lb  
10-16LB | 16-22 LB | 20-24LB | 24LB & UP

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10-14LB | 16-20LB | 20-24LB

Best Yet Frozen \$ 1.49/lb 24 - 26LB

(turkey weights are approximate)

DEADLINE FOR ALL TURKEY PRE-ORDERS IS SATURDAY NOV. 23

### SENIOR NIGHT FOR THE BOYS SOCCER TEAM

The East Boston High School boys soccer team honored the ten seniors at the conclusion of the home game on Wednesday, October 30. Headcoach Jayson Smith (shown with the seniors) presented a plaque

to each boy amid a round of applause from family members and teachers looking on. As we go to press this week, the Jets are 12-3-4. The state tournament round began last week and the boys were

victorious with a Division 4 3-1 win over Tri-County and a 2-1 win over Wrentham-Hamilton at the home field. The Jets will clash with Monument Mountain at Sartori Field on Wednesday, November 13 at 4 p.m.

PATRICK O'CONNOR PHOTOS



Douglas Bonilla



Christian Amaya



Yerson Flores



Julian Calle



Jonathan Mendoza



Gary Hernandez



Oscar Martinez



Mathues Gomes



Julio Perez



Chis Acosta



The East Boston High School boys soccer team seniors got together for a team photo on Wednesday, October 30 with Coach Jayson Smith. The boys were honored on Senior Night.

### TROPHY WINNERS



PATRICK O'CONNOR PHOTO

The East Boston High School cheer leading squad got together for a team picture after being presented a trophy at BPS cheer leading competition event held at the Reggie Lewis Track Center in Roxbury on November 10.

### VETERANS DAY PARADE




Shown (above and below) are The East Boston High School ROTC contingent marching in the Veterans Day parade in the Back Bay on Saturday, November 9



PATRICK O'CONNOR PHOTOS



**EAST BOSTON LUNCH HOUR**



**WITH SENATOR LYDIA EDWARDS**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16TH, 12:30 PM - 2:00PM**

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**Lydia Edwards**  
State Senator

A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

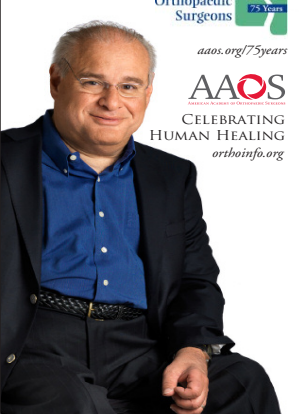
As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

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

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# Eversource bringing smart meters to Massachusetts

As part of Eversource's continued investment in modernizing the power grid to enhance electric reliability and improve service for customers, the energy company will begin transitioning homes and business across the Commonwealth to smart meters in 2025. Smart meters offer several new capabilities that will provide customers with detailed information about their energy use and enable Eversource to proactively address issues on the electric system before power outages occur. The new technology will also deliver automatic, real-time information to Eversource that will eliminate the need for customers to report an outage and help speed power restoration outside major storms.

"Upgrading to smart meters is like replacing an old flip phone with a smart phone," said Eversource Senior Vice President of Customer Operations, Digital Strategy and Chief Customer Officer Jared

Lawrence. "In addition to providing our team with information that we can use to reduce the length of power outages for our customers, smart meters will enable our customers to monitor their energy use in near real time—including how they use power, how much they use and peak times of use during the day—empowering them to take steps to reduce their energy consumption and bill."

Eversource will begin replacing all electric meters with smart meters in the second half of 2025 starting in western Massachusetts. A smart meter is a digital electric meter with wireless communication capabilities. Network devices receive data from the smart meters and transmit it to Eversource's systems, allowing the energy company to communicate with the equipment. This modern, smart tech will provide customers with enhanced, real-time power outage alerts and enable Eversource to start

or end a customers' service remotely, eliminating the time they wait for a crew to come out.

The transition to smart meters for all Eversource's Massachusetts electric customers is expected to take approximately three years to complete. Customers will be notified several times in advance of work to install their new smart meter. Learn more about Eversource's transition to the modern power grid of the future.

Eversource (NYSE: ES), celebrated as a national leader for its corporate citizenship, is the #1 energy company in Newsweek's list of America's Most Responsible Companies for 2023 and recognized as one of America's Most JUST Companies. Celebrated as a national leader for its corporate citizenship, Eversource transmits and delivers electricity to 1.28 million customers in 149 cities and towns, provides natural gas to 251,000 customers in 74 commu-

nities, and supplies water to approximately 217,000 customers in 59 communities across Connecticut. Eversource harnesses the commitment of approximately 9,900 employees across three states to build a single, united company around the mission of safely delivering reliable energy and water with superior customer service. The #1 energy efficiency provider in the nation, the company is empowering a clean energy future in the Northeast, with nationally-recognized energy efficiency solutions and successful programs to integrate new clean energy resources like solar, offshore wind, electric vehicles and battery storage, into the electric system. For more information, please visit Eversource.com, and follow us on X, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. For more information on our water services, visit aquarionwater.com.

# OBITUARIES

## Michael Ralph Paglucca Co-Owner of Page Exterminating

Michael Ralph Paglucca, 71, of North Reading, formerly of East Boston, passed away suddenly on November 8, 2024.

Born in East Boston on January 17, 1953 to the late Michael and Elvira (Maino) Paglucca, Michael was a devoted husband, father, brother and businessman who touched the lives of many with his warmth and generosity. Michael was the beloved husband of Debbie (Vetrano) Paglucca for over 40 years. He was a loving father to Michael and Danielle Paglucca, and a cherished brother to Robert and Ralph Paglucca. Michael's memory will live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and all who knew him. He was predeceased by his parents, Michael and Elvira Paglucca.

A dedicated entrepreneur, Michael was a co-owner of Page Exterminating, a business he worked tirelessly to grow alongside his family. His work ethic, integrity and commitment to his clients was unparalleled, earning him the respect of both colleagues and customers alike.

Beyond his professional life, Michael had a deep passion for collecting baseball hats, cars, and anything related to TV shows. He also cher-



ished spending time with friends, whether going out for a meal, attending a game, or simply enjoying good company. Michael's enthusiasm for life and his sense of humor will be missed by all who knew him.

Visiting hours will be held at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston, on Thursday, November 14, from 3 to 7 p.m. and again on Friday morning at 9:30 a.m. before leaving in funeral procession to Sacred Heart Church, Brooks Street, East Boston, for an 11 a.m. Funeral Mass. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project, a cause close to Michael's heart.

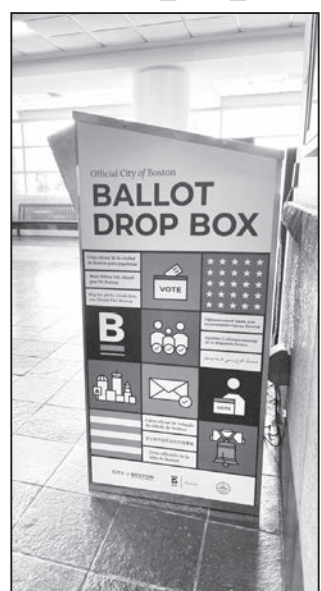
Michael's love for his family, his work, and his friends will never be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

# Sheriff's Department continues registration, voting access for population during election

In its ongoing efforts to champion the democratic process for and civic engagement of all citizens of Suffolk County, including the voting-eligible men and women in its care and custody, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department once again administered its voter participation program for the 2024 Presidential Election.

In partnership with a number of external organizations, including Healing Our Land, Inc. and the Democracy Behind Bars Coalition, among others, teams of Department staff and organization volunteers canvassed the housing units of men and women remanded to the Suffolk County House of Correction and Suffolk County Jail each week leading up to the election, offering voter registration, providing non-partisan candidate and ballot initiative materials and absentee ballots for the voting-eligible.

In Massachusetts, members of incarcerated populations who are eligible to vote include those who



A House of Correction ballot box.

have been convicted of misdemeanor offenses and pretrial detainees awaiting sentencing.

This election cycle, the Jail fielded 162 absentee ballot requests and the House of Correction fielded 119 absentee ballot requests from registered voters at both facilities.

As it has since 2021, the lobbies of both Department facilities were outfitted with official election ballot drop box-

es, courtesy of the City of Boston. While these drop boxes were used primarily to expedite the process of securing the ballots cast by the people remanded to Department custody, their location in the public lobbies of the Jail and House of Correction – which are open and staffed twenty-four hours a day/seven days a week, with full surveillance – made them accessible for use by any registered Boston voter.

"Ensuring that the men and women in our care and custody receive extensive opportunities to participate in the electoral process is crucially important, because it helps to keep them connected to society and civically active while otherwise disenfranchised by incarceration," said Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins.

"We are both proud to continue providing these critical instruments of civic engagement to the men and women in our care and custody, and we are grateful to the volunteers and staff who help to ad-

minister the process. We are also thankful for the City of Boston's continued commitment to increasing access for our population with the siting of the election ballot boxes in our facilities."

The Department's mission to ensure that all eligible men and women within its facilities have unfettered access to the voting process dates back well before the advent of the VOTES Act of 2022, with voter registration drives, ballot distribution initiatives and a number of candidate forums held inside the House of Correction. Included among past events held before audiences of in-custody men and women were forums for candidates vying for Mayor of the City of Boston, the Massachusetts Senate, and Suffolk County District Attorney, along with two Boston City Council hearings, all of which were first-of-their-kind events for the State of Massachusetts.

## Briefs // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

NSCS programs promote and protect the rights of all people receiving services from the organization. NSCS serves Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Charlestown, Winthrop and more. NSCS seeks volunteers with the following experience: psychiatric physician or nurse; lawyer or paralegal; clinician; self-advocate/lived experience; family member of person served. For more information, please call 617-912-7716 or email mmclaughlin1@northsuffolk.org. Learn about NSCS at northsuffolk.org.

## MASSACHUSETTS DECLARES "CRITICAL" DROUGHT AS WILDFIRES FLARE

Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper declared a Level 3-Critical Drought in Massachusetts's Central

and Northeast regions, including the Charles River watershed. This marks a significant escalation from the Level 1-Mild Drought status issued on October 11. The state has experienced over three months of below-normal rainfall, exacerbating drought conditions and causing riverbeds in some areas to run dry.

Streamflow in the Charles River is at critically low levels, with some sections showing zero flow. Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) continues to monitor conditions closely in partnership with state agencies.

"Climate change is driving more frequent and severe droughts, yet even in the face of these extreme conditions, the state lacks the authority to mandate outdoor watering restrictions—it can only recommend them," said Cabell Eames, Advocacy Director for Charles River Watershed Association. "Water doesn't respect municipal boundaries,

so why should it be up to individual towns to decide how to manage water use during droughts? The Drought Management bill would allow the state to enforce outdoor watering restrictions at the regional level during declared droughts, ensuring consistency, fairness, and better protection for our rivers and water supplies."

"People usually think of droughts as a summer occurrence; to have this scale of drought, which intensified rapidly, happen in November, is the latest example of our changing climate," said Mass Rivers Alliance Policy Director Katharine Lange. "Across the state right now, sections of rivers and streams are dried up, unable to support aquatic life. In order to protect these resources, some of the most valued parts of our community, our laws, regulations, and culture have to catch up to the pace of climate change. During a drought, we do have some agency in supporting our

waterways through water conservation, particularly through reducing outdoor watering. Our top legislative priority, the Drought Management bill, would scale up our approach to water conservation, replacing a town-by-town patchwork response with regional coordination."

As wildfires continue to burn across the state, a ban on nonessential outdoor water use is now in effect for the Charles River watershed. Massachusetts residents are urged to visit the Mass.gov Drought Monitoring webpage for updates on drought conditions and guidelines on water conservation.

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13th Year Anniversary  
11/20/2011 - 11/20/2024

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That always makes us sad,  
Because it's just too late to say.  
The things we wish we had.  
You see, we wish we told you,  
Far more often that we cared,  
And that we were grateful,  
For the happy times we shared.  
And time's passed since the day you left,  
But still we're asking why,  
You couldn't have stayed longer,  
and we had to say goodbye.  
So on the day you went away,  
All that's left for us to do,  
Is hope that heaven lets you know,  
how much we're missing you  
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Mia, Stephen & Lori  
xoxoxo

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## Project Bread receives \$10,000 grant from BJ's Charitable Foundation to support families facing food insecurity

Special to the Times-Free Press

Project Bread, the leading statewide food security organization in Massachusetts, was selected to receive a \$10,000 grant by BJ's Wholesale Club Inc. (NYSE: BJ) as part of the company's Give 40 for 40 campaign. The campaign celebrates BJ's 40 years of operations by awarding a total of \$1 million in grants to local charities.

Funding through BJ's Charitable Foundation will support Project Bread's work in schools, providing training and support for school nutrition staff. Participants in Project Bread's School Food Fellowship engage in monthly professional development trainings and onsite meetings with Project Bread's Chef Educators, including the development of new staff-led and student-tested recipes that cater to local food sources and USDA nutrition standards. This is just one key example of how Project Bread is working to ensure nutritious, delicious school meals are available at no cost and free of stigma for every student in a state where 1 in 5 households with children are facing food insecurity.

"Healthy, delicious, free school meals are essential for all children, and Project Bread's Chef Educators are committed to partnering with schools statewide to improve the school meal experience and ensure everybody eats well," says Shannon Healey, Director of Institutional Giving at Project Bread. "We are proud to partner with BJ's Charitable Foundation to support the tremendous growth in school meal participation through strong kitchen management, inclusive menu preparation, and robust staff engagement. Our strategy ensures that children can thrive in the classroom today and for the future."

As part of its Give 40 for 40 charitable campaign, BJ's Wholesale Club announced grants to 70 community organizations that were nominated by its team members. Recipients were chosen for their local impact in areas

of hunger relief, education and health and wellness. Since its inception, the BJ's Charitable Foundation has awarded over \$37 million to non-profit organizations and schools, providing vital support in BJ's communities.

"BJ's has a deep commitment to support families in the communities where we live and work," said Kirk Saville, Head of Corporate Communications, BJ's Wholesale Club. "We are honored to celebrate our 40th anniversary by supporting the organizations our team members care about most and to live our purpose of taking care of the families who depend on us."

For over 20 years, Project Bread has partnered with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to support critical meals for students such as implementing and expanding school breakfast after the bell programs, improving school lunch meal quality, supporting school nutrition staff with resources and training year-round, and bolstering Summer Eats program promotion and access across the Commonwealth. This past year, the Project Bread team provided 1,073 school nutrition staff professional development hours, distributed over \$73,000 in school breakfast grants and outreach materials, visited 69 Summer Eats community meal sites, and distributed over \$636,000 in Summer Eats meal sponsor grants, outreach materials, and promotional advertising to keep kids fed when schools are closed.

About Project Bread  
Project Bread is the leading statewide food security organization in Massachusetts with a radical approach to solving hunger. Beginning in 1969 with the first Walk for Hunger, the nonprofit focuses on driving systemic change to ensure people of all ages have reliable access to healthy food. Project Bread works collaboratively across sectors to create innovative solutions to end hunger and improve lives across the Commonwealth. For more information, visit: [www.projectbread.org](http://www.projectbread.org).

[projectbread.org](http://projectbread.org).

BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: BJ) is a leading operator of membership warehouse clubs focused on delivering significant value to its members and serving a shared purpose: "We take care of the families who depend on us." The company provides a wide assortment of fresh foods, produce, a full-service deli, fresh bakery, household essentials and gas. In addition, BJ's offers the latest technology, home decor, small appliances, apparel, seasonal items and more to deliver unbeatable value to smart-saving families. Headquartered in Marlborough, Massachusetts, the company pioneered the warehouse club model in New England in 1984 and operates clubs and BJ's Gas® locations in 20 states. For more information, please visit us at [www.BJs.com](http://www.BJs.com) or on Facebook or Instagram.

### About BJ's Charitable Foundation

Established in 2004 by BJ's Wholesale Club, the BJ's Charitable Foundation provides essential needs to families in the local communities BJ's members and team members live and work. Through local and national non-profit partnerships, the Foundation focuses its giving efforts on three main pillars: hunger relief, education and health and wellness.

Project Bread Chef Educator Sherry Hughes serving up sandwich samples at a Professional Development Day in Milton. Courtesy of Project Bread.

Project Bread Receives \$10,000 Grant from BJ's Charitable Foundation to Support Families Facing Food Insecurity

Funds will provide support for the nonprofit's work with school nutrition staff statewide.

[Boston, MA] (Nov. 6) – Project Bread, the leading statewide food security organization in Massachusetts, was selected to receive a \$10,000 grant by BJ's Wholesale Club Inc. (NYSE: BJ) as part of the company's Give 40 for 40 campaign. The campaign celebrates BJ's 40 years of operations by award-

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## DCR's Universal Access Program announces winter 2024-2025 program schedule

DCR's Universal Access Program is dedicated to providing outdoor recreation opportunities in Massachusetts state parks for visitors of all abilities. Accessibility is achieved through site improvements, specialized adaptive recreation equipment, and accessible recreation programs.

The Universal Access Program (UAP) offers adaptive, accessible programming seasonally at state parks, pools, and

rinks. We partner throughout the year with All Out Adventures, Easterseals Massachusetts, Holyoke Rows, and Waypoint Adventure to provide programs statewide.

Our structured programs feature adaptive equipment, professional staff, and instruction and support. Friends, family members, and companions are encouraged to take part in our programs alongside participants with disabilities.

Our Spring Program season runs from April through May, our Summer Program season runs from June through August, our Fall Program season runs from September through October, and our Winter Program season runs from November through March.

Check out [mass.gov/dcr/access](http://mass.gov/dcr/access) to keep up to date with our activities! If you would like to get on our mailing list to be notified of upcoming events and activities, please con-

tact us.

Release Forms & Pre-Registration

A current release form is required for all our programs, and you must pre-register with the organization running the program. To pre-register, cancel, or check-in about inclement weather, please contact the providing organization listed for each program.

Essential Eligibility Criteria & Program Attendance Guidelines

You must also meet the essential eligibility criteria and follow our program attendance guidelines (PAG) for the activity. Essential eligibility criteria (EEC) help you understand the skills you need to participate in our programs. For risk management considerations, everyone who attends our programs must complete a release form and meet these EEC, including caregivers and group staff. You can meet the EEC independently, or with the help of a caregiver (family member, friend, or PCA). Visit us at [mass.gov/uap/eec](http://mass.gov/uap/eec) to learn more.

If you have concerns

about your ability to meet the EEC or PAG, please speak with the organization leading the activity. If you have general questions or concerns, please contact us by email [DCR.UniversalAccess@mass.gov](mailto:DCR.UniversalAccess@mass.gov) or phone at (413) 461-7126.

**Porrazzo Memorial Rink— Adaptive Ice Skating**  
199 Coleridge St, East Boston

Join the Universal Access Program and Spaulding Adaptive Sports Centers for accessible skating, socializing, and fun in East Boston.

Use your wheelchair, an ice sled, a skate walker, ice grippers, or conventional skates on the ice. Spin, slide and play gently competitive games! There will be pucks and colorful balls to shoot around, obstacle courses, races, and a tower of blocks to crash down!

The rink is cold, so please dress warmly and bring your winter coat, gloves or mittens, and a hat!

This event is for people with disabilities, their

families, support staff, and friends. All are encouraged to join on the ice to help support! Yaktrax (ice grippers) are available in the lobby for those that can't skate.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Sign up for a timeslot to enter the ice and skate for one hour. You must request to register by 12 p.m. two days before the program.

Groups: Maximum group size is 15, including staff. Large school groups should register by individual classroom to minimize group size. All groups must submit a complete sign-in sheet and release forms one week in advance.

Wednesdays, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

- December 11
- January 8
- February 5
- March 5

Cost: FREE (entry & equipment are free-of-charge)

Questions & To Register: Email [DCR.UniversalAccess@mass.gov](mailto:DCR.UniversalAccess@mass.gov) or call (413) 461-7126.

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CITY PAWS

Sick as a dog

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

“The term ‘sick as a dog’ originates from the 1700s, when dogs typically lived outside in poor conditions, causing them to be far mangier, dirtier, and sicker than today’s well-groomed show-pieces,” according to www.grammar-monster.com.

When your dog is sick, you must determine just how ill they are and whether a trip to the vet is needed. Gastrointestinal (GI) upsets are common in dogs and can be stressful for guardians. We recently faced this issue with our Westie Poppy. Fortunately, she is trained to use puppy pads, which makes handling the situation more manageable.

every family with dogs keep a supply of puppy pads on hand. While your dog may never use them regularly, they are perfect for caring for sick or injured animals. Both human and animal hospitals use these for surgical procedures, to catch blood, and to protect surfaces. We once shared a few pads with a neighbor who had severe nosebleeds.

In the case of vomiting or motion sickness, the pads can catch what the animal is releasing. Most of our dogs have alerted us to possible vomit with a session of gagging. We usually have time to slip a pad under their mouth if we’re keeping watch. We also use washable pads in her crate and on our bed whenever Poppy has an upset tummy.

Our recent episode in-

volved diarrhea. We discovered that Poppy would run to her pads when she felt the urge to go, even at night. We added extra pads to our floors and didn’t have the stress of constant clean-up duties.

Causes of GI Illnesses

Vomiting and diarrhea are common in companion animals; many of us have experience treating them at home. We all know that some dogs will root out and gobble down anything interesting they find along the way. Some of their choices can cause a GI upset.

You might identify stress, anxiety, medications, antibiotics, or a new food as a possible cause. Grazing on grass is a common dog habit that can result in vomiting.

Off to the Vet?

Pads also help you spot warning signs requiring a veterinarian trip. If you see blood in vomit, stools, or urine, blackish stools or vomit, or the symptoms last more than a couple of days or are reoccurring,



We lined Poppy’s favorite window seat with puppy pads while she was sick.

consult your veterinarian. You are off to the vet if there are multiple symptoms like fever, unusual drooling, signs of dehydration, lack of appetite, or weakness.

Fortunately, Poppy ate, drank, played, and acted normally except for the diarrhea. Her puppy pads also clearly showed us the state of her stools, so we could see quickly that she was recovering.

Stop the Spread

Evidence on sidewalks

showed that loose stools were going around our neighborhood. If you have a dog who will only poop outside, you can bring along a puppy pad and slip it in place under the dog for easy cleanup and to keep from spreading anything contagious.

We didn’t add to the neighborhood’s problem by keeping Poppy inside while she was sick and keeping her away from other dogs for a few days, even after her system was back to normal.

Don’t forget that you can call your veterinarian and ask for guidance in your decision-making. They can suggest what, how, and when to feed an animal with a problem. You could make a cancellable appointment a few days out in case the illness continues. That could save an emergency room visit.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

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# EAST BOSTON JETS ADVANCE WITH 2-1 WIN OVER HAMILTON WENHAM

The Jets advanced to the quarterfinals of the MIAA Division 4 soccer championships with a 2-1 victory over Hamilton Wenham on Friday, November 8.



David Alas holds off a Hamilton Wenham defender and puts his leg into his shot that produced the game-winning goal in the Jets 2-1 win over Hamilton Wenham in the Round of 16 of the MIAA Division 4 soccer championships. The win advanced the Jets to the quarterfinals against Monument Mountain High on Wednesday, November 13.



Jeziel Cordova Cornege (9) closes in on the goal but slowed by a Hamilton Wenham defender as the goalkeeper gets to the ball first.



Oscar Martinez stretches to get the ball away from a Hamilton Wenham forward.



Junior David Alas (8) follows through on a centering pass around a Hamilton Wenham defender.



Goalkeeper Santiago Montoya (1) raises his arms as his teammates celebrate the Jets 2-1 win over Hamilton Wenham in the Round of 16 of the MIAA Division 4 soccer championships on Friday, November 8 at East Boston Memorial Stadium.



Helio Spinola (11) fights off a Hamilton Wenham defender as they chase a ball along the sideline.



Jeziel Cordova Cornege has a front row seat as his shot flies toward the Hamilton Wenham net, but to no avail as the goalkeeper made the save.



Christian Amaya (18) leans into a scramble in front of the Hamilton Wenham net.