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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SPECIAL SECTION See PAGES 8 - 9

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

9 Geneva Street project up for sale

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

A project at 9 Geneva Street, which has received approvals from the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) Board and the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA), is on the market.

The approved project calls for demolishing an existing auto body shop at the site to build a five-story residential building containing 28 units, five of which are affordable. Regarding the unit mix, there are plans for four one-bedroom, 20 two-bedroom, and four three-bedroom units.

Additionally, the project is slated to include 16 garage parking spaces and plans for the project indicate space for bike storage and a dog run.

Nicoletta Longo, the listing agent and Team Leader of the Realty Boston Team, explained that the current owner does not have the bandwidth to build out the project.

Further, Longo indicated that the current owner initially contemplated selling the project before approvals but changed course.

“Now, it’s completely ZBA-approved, and it’s post-appeal period, so whoever takes it on at this point basically just picks up the permits and gets working,” she said.

As for how the potential sale impacts the final project, Longo mentioned that a buyer can make minor design changes. However, items like the unit

See 9 GENEVA ST. Page 2



First grade students, Maria A., Sebastian F., Vivian B., Violet T., Natalia S. and Ronald B. gathering in the reading area.

EBCCS celebrates Catholic Schools Week

Story & Photos by Marianne Salza

Catholic schools throughout the country will be observing Catholic Schools Week January 26-February 1 in celebration of Catholic education in the United States. East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) will be among the institutions participating with special events and activities that will bring together

students and their families with the national theme: “United in Faith and Community.”

“Each day of Catholic Schools Week has its own, individual theme. On Sunday, it’s ‘parish;’ on Monday, it’s ‘community and students,’” said Principal Robert Casaletto. “Throughout the week, every teacher invites families into the classroom to see an academic,

but fun lesson, so parents can enjoy themselves.”

Families will be welcome to join kindergartners for an art project, a Lunar New Year activity with second grade, and a seventh and eighth grade science fair in the auditorium. There will also be pizza party and ice-skating field trips, as

See EBCCS Page 4

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



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Forum

OUR REMARKABLY UNREMARKABLE WEATHER

When the National Weather Service made its long-range forecast for the winter last fall, it was a good news/bad news scenario. They were predicting warmer-than-normal temperatures for our region, which was the good news (after all, who likes cold weather), but the bad news meant that this was further evidence of climate change and global warming. The past two winters in Eastern Mass. had been the warmest on record and that trend seemed poised to continue.

However, Ol' Man Winter has had other ideas. Instead of spinning his polar vortex in a nice tight loop around the North Pole (which keeps the cold air tightly-wound around the pole), he's been doing a sort of yo-yo effect with the vortex, allowing it to dip south and bring that frigid air to us.

The chronic instability of the polar vortex has been a relatively recent phenomenon. Climatologists tell us that the colder air that we experience when the vortex dips south ironically is a sign of overall global warming. The Arctic region has been among the fastest-warming places on the planet (four times faster than the rest of the world, which is why the polar bears don't have enough sea ice for hunting seals in the summer months) -- and that warming trend is upsetting the delicate balance of the vortex. According to some scientists, the warming Arctic is causing a weakening of the jet stream and ultimately sending cold air further south than usual.

So for us, what this has meant is that instead of having a warmer winter, we've had an unrelenting pattern of cold, dry, and windy days. This weekend's light snowfall notwithstanding, almost every day from the end of December through January has been pretty much the same -- temperatures in the 20s, brisk winds, and no precipitation.

It's as if we're living a real-life version of the movie Groundhog Day. The only saving grace is that we've had lots of sunshine.

For those of us who have oil heat, prices thankfully are the lowest they've been in a few years, although natural gas prices are higher than in the recent past.

So yes, it would be nice if this winter were warmer -- but let's face it, as cold as the weather has been, it could be a lot worse (and yes, we're thinking of the Snowmageddon we experienced 10 years ago!).

THIS IS THE SADDEST TIME OF THE YEAR – SO GET OUTSIDE

With the holiday season long in the rear-view mirror and the oppressiveness of a New England winter fully upon us, for many this can be the saddest time of the year -- quite literally.

The medical community has long-recognized that the shortened days of winter affect all of us to a certain extent and have given it a name -- Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

Scientists do not understand exactly how the lack of daylight works on our brains, but demonstrable symptoms of the syndrome include heightened anxiety, a decrease in energy, oversleeping, an increase in appetite, social withdrawal, and negative thoughts in general.

Treatments for SAD include light therapy (phototherapy), antidepressants, and vitamin D supplements, spending more time outside during daylight hours, and exercising regularly.

In our personal experience, we've found the latter prescriptions -- exercising and going outside, even on the coldest days -- have proven the best antidote to winter's doldrums.

All of us can recall the exhilaration we felt as children when we went sledding, skating on a pond, and shoveling snow. Although we're a bit too old these days to do most of those things (plus, there's no snow anymore), we've found that taking on the wintry blasts that we've endured these past few weeks by jogging and walking (even when the wind chills are in the single digits) each and every day never fails to bring us that renewed sense of vitality that we experienced in our youth when we bravely embraced nature's harshest elements without a care.

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.

9 Geneva St. // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

count or the number of affordable units are set in stone unless the buyer goes through a whole new approval process.

"I would imagine that most people would want to just buy it and move forward," said Longo.

Longo, who has sold two projects for this owner at 10 Geneva Street and 255 Maverick Street, said she had already submitted two offers to the current owner for this project.

Longo also did not foresee the project staying on the market for long, citing the lack of large, permit-ready projects

available in the area.

She later guessed that the project would sell in the next 30-60 days and that construction would take around 12-18 months and another six months to sell out the building.

"I'd say within two years, you should have a fully built and sold project," said Longo.

A press release detailing the potential sale prices the project at \$4.895 million. For more information about the project, including floor plans and features, visit <https://9geneva.com/>.

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Howard University junior Jada Trench and Assumption University junior Genesis Funes, the latest recipients of City Realty's City Kids Scholarships, gathered recently with City Realty Managing Partner Stephen Whalen and City Kids board members. (Seen are, from left, Orlando Martinez, Markese Daise, Whalen, Trench, Funes, Sammy Cintra, and Maggie Flynn.)

Eastie native earns City Realty Group Scholarship

Special to the Times

City Kids, a nonprofit organization founded by City Realty Group of Boston, announced that pre-law and nursing student from East Boston are the latest recipients of its City Kids Scholarships. The scholarships seek to empower underserved students from Boston and surrounding urban areas by providing financial assistance to help them pursue higher education.

The newest City Kids honorees are Jada Trench of Mattapan, a junior at Howard University studying Pre-Law, and

Genesis Funes of East Boston, a junior at Assumption University pursuing a degree in Nursing.

The City Kids Scholarship, which awards \$1,000 to 10 deserving recipients each year, aims to alleviate financial burdens associated with tuition, books, and other educational expenses. By offering this support, City Kids hopes to empower students to overcome barriers to education and achieve their academic goals.

"We are excited to see the progress and ambition of our scholarship recipients, and we are committed to helping them

reach their full potential," said City Realty Group Managing Partner Stephen Whalen. "Jada and Genesis are exemplary students who represent the future of our community, and we're proud to play a part in their educational journeys."

The City Kids Scholarship is open to underserved students who are currently enrolled in an accredited college or university, or who are seniors in high school planning to attend college in the fall. Recipients are selected based on academic achievements and financial need.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BATRES RODRIGUEZ NAMED TO THE DEAN'S LIST

Lucy Batres Rodriguez of East Boston was named to the dean's list at Bates College for the fall semester ending in December 2024. This is a distinction earned by students whose grade point average is 3.92 or higher.

Batres Rodriguez is majoring in Sociology and Latin American and Latinx St. and minoring in History at Bates.

Located in Lewiston, Maine, Bates is internationally recognized as a leading liberal arts college, attracting 2,000 students from across the U.S. and around the world. Since 1855, Bates has been dedicated to educating the whole person through creative and rigorous scholarship in a collaborative residential community. Committed to opportunity and excellence, Bates has always admitted students without regard to gender, race, religion, or national origin. Cultivating intellectual discovery and informed civic action, Bates prepares leaders sustained by a love of

learning and zeal for responsible stewardship of the wider world.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH ON FREEDOM TRAIL AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS TOURS

Freedom Trail Foundation's acclaimed African American Patriots Tours celebrate the African American patriots that played a vital role in the start of the American Revolution in Boston and in the formation of our country. Led by 18th-century costumed guides, tour-goers can view history through the eyes of these courageous men and women throughout Black History Month in February.

African American Patriots Tours begin on Saturday, February 1 and are held regularly in February on Saturdays and Sundays departing at 10:45 a.m. from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center. Revolutionary figures such as Crispus Attucks, Phillis Wheatley, Prince Hall, Peter Salem,

See NEWS BRIEFS Page 7

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Nevins, Carolyn	Bcif Trs LLC	106 Webster St #301	\$945,000
Kovacs, Benjamin	148 Lexington Street LLC	148 Lexington St #3	\$715,000
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Catholic Schools
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Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2025

January 26 - February 1

#CSW25

The Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2023 – 2026 theme is “Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community.” Catholic schools have an irreplaceable role in the Church’s evangelizing mission. Building on the central goal of Catholic schools to form saints, Catholic schools teach and embrace the whole person, body, mind and spirit. The fact that all members of a Catholic school community share the Christian vision of faith that Christ is the foundation of Catholic education is what unites the school as a faith-filled community. While faith is the binding element in Catholic schools, the Church reiterates that parents are the first teachers of their children. Holding this tenet, Catholic school communities expand beyond the walls of school buildings to envelop the family as an integral part of the school community. Together teachers, administrators, staff, students and parents fuel the light of faith by integrating culture with faith and faith with living.

EBCCS // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

well as a bullying prevention seminar presented by the District Attorney’s Office.

Parents of incoming students will also be invited to tour the building throughout the week, as well.

“It’s a great opportunity for people to see our families, talk to other parents, and talk to me,” said Principal Casaletto. “They get to see our academic work and our community.”

East Boston Central Catholic School will begin Catholic Schools Week with a 10 AM family mass on Sunday, January 26, featuring the school choir. Traditionally affiliated with Sacred Heart and Most Holy Redeemer Parishes, EBCCS will be celebrating mass at Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, in Winthrop, to raise awareness about the school.

Principal Casaletto feels that the two-day-long Young Author’s Presentation in the auditorium will be particularly impactful because parents will be able to pick up finished, hard copies of books written by their children.

“Every student in our school -- from our three-year-olds through our eighth grade -- writes their own book,” described Principal Casaletto. “They’ve been working on them since the beginning of the school year. For those who have been here for years, hopefully they will get to see the progression. The seventh and eighth grade have well-written novels with beautiful artwork. It’s a ton of fun.”

Like every Monday, middle school students will continue to volunteer at the East Boston



First graders, Bodhi L., Valentina T., Maya O., David A., Victoria B., and Miya N, reading stories from Scott Foresman’s “Reading Favorite Things Old and New.”

Community Soup Kitchen in Maverick Square, where they

will be preparing bags of food for those struggling with homelessness and substance use.

“It’s a way to build community within the school, which is really nice,” explained Principal Casaletto. “We’re excited about that.”

At the end of the week, there will be a casual dress day for students, and an appreciation luncheon for teachers, staff,

and volunteers provided by the Parent Involvement Committee.

“It’s a cool week,” beamed Principal Casaletto, whose office is decorated with LEGO models. “It gives us the opportunity to celebrate the unique qualities of Catholic schools. Everybody walks in and feels like family here.”



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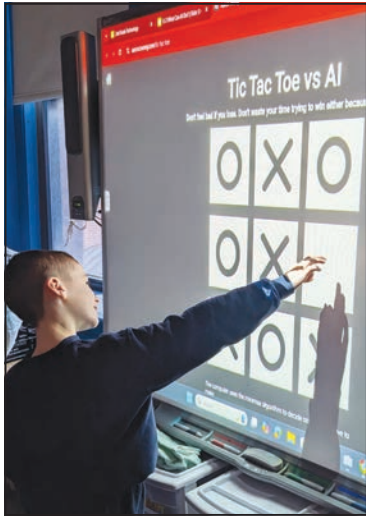




Lucas D. and Joseph B. pointing out the duck in Molly Coxé’s “Cat Traps.”

Local tech educator brings AI learning into the Catholic classroom

Special to the Times



A student competes against AI in a match of tic tac toe.

Technology and theology go hand in hand at this Catholic school. Students are both engaged and informed as they participate in MIT's Day of AI Curriculum at St. John School. Ms. Barbara Mikolajczak, Director of Technology and Innovation at St. John School in the historic North End, strives daily to combine her Catholic faith with her love of technology in the classroom. After attending the Day of AI Conference at the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology (MIT), Mikolajczak was inspired to share this unique learning opportunity with her students. The school's kindergarten through eighth grade students are now being introduced to the functions and follies of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the modern age, allowing students to learn how to think critically about the never ending stream

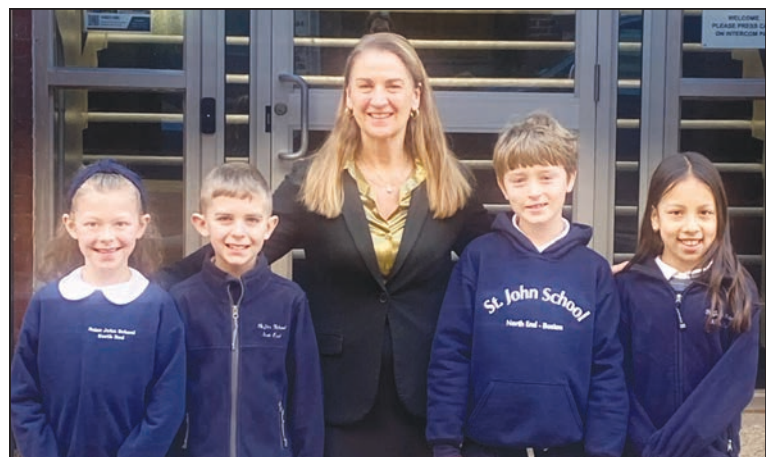
Saint John School in the North End will celebrate 130th anniversary at May 9 gala

By Cary Shuman

Saint John School is in the heart of the historic North End, but it's been making its own glorious history in Catholic education for the past 130 years. In fact, Saint John will recognize its decades of excellence at a "Back To Our Roots" spring gala May 9 at the Battery Wharf Hotel. The school will turn back the clock and celebrate the neighborhood's Italian immigrants and Catholic families at the gala. The event is generating a strong response from alumni, parents, and local businesses, with a huge crowd expected to attend the festivities.

New Head of School
For the first time in its history,

Saint John has a Head of School. Annmarie Quezada became the Head of School at Saint John in April, 2024, having previously served in that position at Mother Caroline in Dorchester. A highly respected administrator with 35 years of experience in education, Quezada is enjoying her first year at the helm of the school that has an enrollment of 176 students from Boston and the suburbs. Saint John holds a unique stature in the City of Boston. "We're the only Catholic school remaining in the Greater Boston area for pre-kindergarten-through-eighth grade," said Quezada proudly. "A lot of schools have closed but we've stayed open in the North End. So, we're like an icon in the North End. It's a communi-



St. John School Head of School Annmarie Quezada with students.



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of information they have access to online. As AI becomes more apparent, especially for young people, the students at St. John School will gain the skills to detect, analyze, and discuss this emerging technology with their peers. When asked about this new curriculum, Ms. Barbara – as she is known to her students – explained, "This program aligns with our existing technology program, which has its base in logical thinking and critical reasoning. Our students are learning what Artificial Intelligence is, how it works, its benefits, and limitations, along with how it

affects them in today's society." The Day of AI Curriculum focuses on raising students' awareness of AI programs and empowering them to use these tools properly and effectively. As this field continues to grow, there are clear social and ethical implications for students and adults alike. This curriculum learning allows for young learners to grow alongside the world of AI, gaining literacy on the subject in real time. Grade-relevant lessons include hands-on activities that deeply engage students in their progress. Some students who have now experienced the program

shared with us what they've learned. One fifth-grader said, "AI wouldn't exist without us. It uses OUR ideas!" And a third-grader shared her opinion as well, "I thought AI knew everything in the world, but you have to teach it - and it can be wrong!" Ms. Barbara Mikolajczak seeks out innovative partnerships for St. John School, always looking for programs that enrich and engage the students in new ways. As young people continue to rely on technology as a learning tool, St. John School in the North End of Boston strives to keep their students ahead of the curve.

ty over here. Everyone knows everyone, and the family business owners know the school. They went to Saint John. Their grandparents were once students there. It's a unique throwback as

to how school communities used to be." The momentum is not slowing down, and the immediate future looks exceedingly bright. Saint John has received 45 appli-

cations for seats in the 2025-26 academic year. "I think people want this now," said Quezada. "It's an alternative to a public school. You

See ST. JOHN SCHOOL Page 6

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9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

A Catholic school education empowers students to "Go Further With Faith" – in academics and life.

MassDOT, consultants begin study process for potential Tobin Bridge replacement

By Adam Swift

The Tobin Bridge is not going to disappear any time soon, but MassDOT has begun the process of studying potential future replacement options for the bridge.

Last week, MassDOT and its team of consultants held its second working group meeting at the Charlestown Library on its plans for the Maurice J. Tobin Bridge Long-Term Strategic Planning Study.

The study aims to develop and analyze options for the eventual replacement of the Tobin Bridge, while also exploring alternatives for the bridge, according to MassDOT officials. The study will focus on ways to reconnect surrounding communities in Chelsea and Charlestown.

Public and working group meetings on the long-term study are expected to take place over the next 18 months, with the

draft and final reports anticipated to be released in the summer of 2026.

During the working group meeting, MassDOT officials and consultants reviewed the current conditions of the Tobin Bridge, as well as discussed the goals of the study.

“We are taking a holistic point of view with this study, and I want to emphasize that equity is an overarching focus of the study as well ... as we consider long-term potential changes to the Tobin Bridge to reconnect communities and consider how these elements of the transportation network itself tie into the surrounding community,” said MassDOT project manager Patrick Snyder.

Mike Regan, the project manager for the study from engineering firm VHB said nine evaluation criteria have been selected to measure the effectiveness of any recommendations that come as a result of the study. Those

criteria include social equity, mobility and accessibility for transportation modes, safety for roadway users, economic and land use impacts, climate change resilience and mitigation, health and environmental effects, cost and cost effectiveness, and feasibility of construction.

A detailed assessment of the existing conditions has been completed to help set the stage for a future conditions analysis, said Regan.

“We’ve completed a really detailed and exhaustive existing details assessment, especially for transportation and mobility that includes traffic patterns, traffic operation, safety, ... and transit conditions, locally and regionally,” said Regan.

A study of the current land use in the areas near the bridge shows that there is a critical need for housing, along with a pandemic-weakened office market, an oversupply of lab space, and urban development around

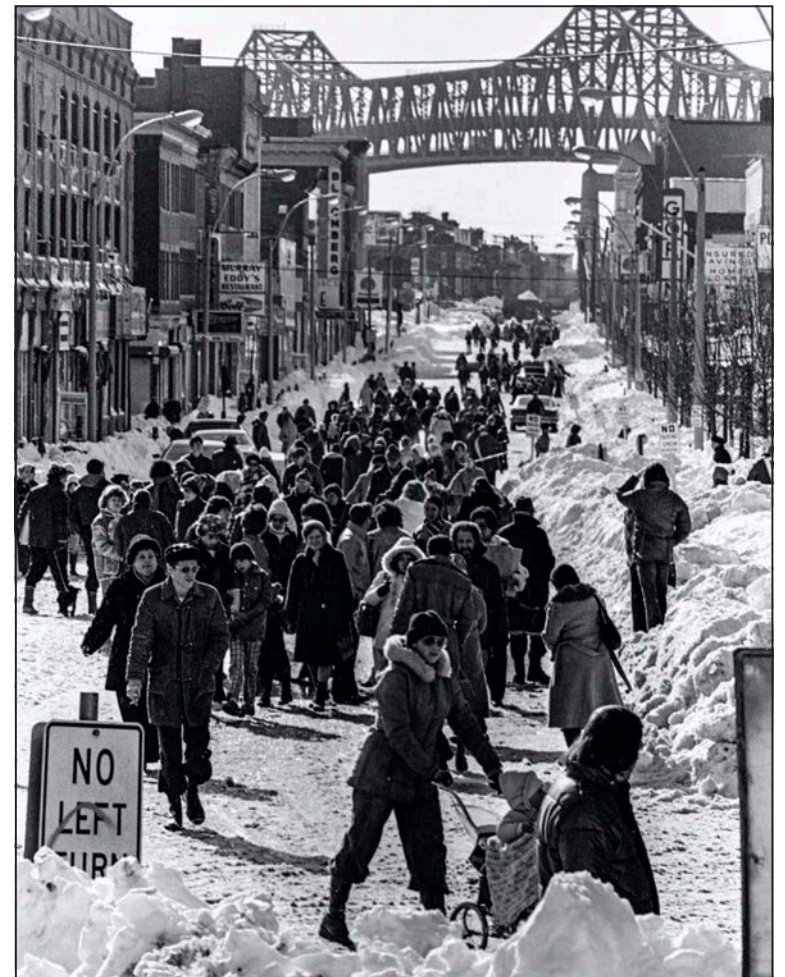


PHOTO BY ARNIE JARMAK

The Tobin Bridge as seen from the streets of Chelsea during Blizzard of 1978.

transit hubs, said Jon Tremenz, and land use and economic development consultant.

Niki Hastings of VHB said the study of the existing transportation conditions of the Tobin Bridge and Chelsea and Charlestown show that active transportation facilities do not extend into neighboring communities. She also noted that the existing Tobin Bridge lacks sidewalk and bicycle facilities, creating a significant gap in the regional pedestrian and bicycle networks.

Hastings said the Tobin Bridge is a vital regional corridor and part of a larger system that serves commuter populations between the North Shore and Boston. The majority of the vehicle trips are from or to Route 1 North of Route 16, Hastings added.

There are congestion and travel time reliability issues, especially southbound, where 43 percent of trips from the Tobin Bridge are destined for I-93, according to the analysis. In addition, much of the local study area in Chelsea experiences higher crash rates in comparison to the region.

Charlestown State Representative Dan Ryan noted that the lack of a direct connection to Rte. 93 North on the Tobin has been a major issue in his district for decades.

“It doesn’t matter what signs you put on the other side of the North Washington Bridge, human nature is that people will not drive south to go north,” said Ryan. “You can put all the signs in the world you want, people are just not going to do that.”

Ryan said any alternative needs to have an option to get people who are on the other side of the North Washington Bridge to have access to 93 North and South.

As a long-term strategic planning study, the consultants said the key next step is to project the existing conditions to a 2050 future condition, with alternatives for the bridge replacement being evaluated using those conditions. Part of those conditions include determining major planned infrastructure projects and transit service improvements in place by 2050 based on available documentation.

Those potential projects will then set the baseline for the alternatives that are considered, according to the consultants.

Revere City Councilor Ira Novoselsky questioned why the study area for the existing conditions did not extend north to Copeland Circle in Revere. He stated that the noise level and environmental factors from the traffic affect residents in the city.

Regan stated that there are



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St. John School // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

get pride in Catholic education, high standards with academics, and we send our students to all the great high schools: BC High, Fontbonne, Saint John’s Prep (Danvers). And our students are well-prepared.

Student-to-teacher ratio of 7:1

One factor that elevates the Saint John educational experience is its phenomenal student-to-teacher ratio of 7:1.

“It’s amazing,” said Quezada.

The school has non-clergy teachers, but it is associated with Saint Leonard’s Parish in the North End. The church’s pastor, the Rev. Michael Della Penna, is a member of the Saint John

board of directors. Each student in the school takes a Catholic education class.

Italian language, science programs

Two other programs also separate Saint John from other schools, according to Quezada.

“We have an immersion Italian program,” she noted. “The kids learn Italian all the way from pre-K up to eighth grade,” said Quezada. “We also have a hydroponic indoor garden, and all the students take classes in their as well.”

The garden produces herbs and plants that in a display of community service and philan-

thropy are ultimately delivered to Saint Anthony Shrine and homeless shelters.

A taste of North End history Saint John faculty regularly schedules field trips to such nearby North End landmarks as the Paul Revere House and the Old North Church and walks along the famous Freedom Trail.

“We partner with the Italian societies that host the festivals during the summer, so our students are very immersed in the North End,” said Quezada.

Reflecting on her first year as Head of School, Quezada concluded, “I’m so honored to be a part of this wonderful school community.”

Plans for Koro Ramen + Sushi shared at JPNA meeting

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Local restaurateur Raffaele Scalzi outlined his plans to open Koro Ramen + Sushi at 329 Sumner Street during the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association's (JPNA) monthly meeting last week.

"Our main focus: ramen and sushi with a primary emphasis on takeout," said Scalzi. "We have a great culinary team working to put out a great menu."

Scalzi predicts the establishment will open around or before April 15th. It will have 16 indoor dining seats and be open from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday.

"We're going for a really comfortable, minimal Japanese bamboo design. I think the community is really going to like it," said Scalzi.

It should also be noted that this establishment does not have a liquor license and that the presentation before the JPNA was for informational purposes rather than a vote. Moreover, Scalzi, who owns Pazza on Porter and Next Door Speakeasy and Raw Bar, emphasized he was open to any opportunities to engage with the community.

"We'll ensure that Koro, when we do open, aligns with the community's needs with whatever that may be," he said.

Following the brief presentation, Scalzi took questions from those in attendance. One resident said they had heard that the establishment would have a BYOB license and asked if that would be the case.

Scalzi acknowledged the potential for that but added, "What we want to do first is just focus on just opening and getting the takeout right."

He expanded on this, explaining that while there is an opportunity to have a BYOB license since the restaurant would have less than 30 seats, there is a chance they do not open with the license since it is not something they would be selling themselves.

The resident also suggested that if the establishment were to get a BYOB license, it would be a good idea to work with the liquor store across the street.

JPNA's Co-Chair, Margaret Farmer, asked if Scalzi had discussions with the Quiet Few located at 331 Sumner Street regarding the potential expansion of outdoor seating.

Scalzi indicated a discussion about outdoor seating had not occurred and initially said he was not interested, mentioning he wanted to get through spring and summer first.

He later indicated that there were no plans for outdoor seating at this time. Still, he said, "If the opportunity arises in the

future where we'd like to have some outdoor seating, I think that's something we'll absolutely entertain."

Scalzi also addressed congestion in the area, indicating that it should be quick for people who come in to pick up food.

"Ramen and sushi are traditionally fast dishes to make, so hopefully that mitigates some of the congestion that's already down there," he said.

The discussion eventually ended after more conversation about parking and congestion in the area and plans to hire locally. For more information about the JPNA, visit its website at <https://jeffriespoint.org/>.

New England Aquarium participates in this year's Winteractive in Boston

Special to the Times

The New England Aquarium is part of the popular public art experience Winteractive this year by hosting "Nature's Solace," a light installation that symbolizes the balance between the spirit and nature. Winteractive, which drew 650,000 visitors to Boston last year, runs through March 30, welcoming visitors 24/7 to view public art works at 17 locations across the city's Downtown business district.

"We are thrilled to be part

of Winteractive this year," said the Aquarium's Director of Community Engagement Luz Arregoces. "Year-round, we are working to raise the accessibility of Boston's waterfront from our Central Wharf location as part of our ocean conservation work. If the public feels welcome, engaged, and connected to the ocean here, we believe they will be better educated about climate change, sea level rise, and other issues affecting our coastal environment."

Fittingly, the Aquarium is hosting "Nature's Solace" by

artist Mike Geiger on its front plaza. Lit up at night, the artwork's design aims to capture the essence of multiple forest guardians with three layers of lushly growing greenery inside the structure, serving as a reminder of the human connection to earth and its caretakers all times of year.

Winteractive was inspired by the festive winter events in Quebec, Canada and was named "Best Public Art Exhibition" in Boston by both Boston Magazine and Time Out Boston last year. Boston

Design Week also honored the Downtown Boston Alliance, which brought the event to the city last year.

"In bringing Winteractive back in 2025, expanding into

See WINTERACTIVE Page 8



"Nature's Solace" by Mike Geiger is located on the New England Aquarium's Central Wharf Plaza through March 30 as part of the Downtown Boston Alliance's WINTERACTIVE experience. The public is invited to visit it 24/7.

Tobin Bridge // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

both local and regional study areas for the project, with the local study area focusing on Chelsea and Charlestown, and the regional area extending out into Revere and other communities.

"The reason we didn't do the in-depth existing conditions analysis ... for the entire regional study area is because our likely Tobin Bridge alternative will likely not extend that far north," said Regan. "We are talking about what to do about future replacement of the bridge and extending that type of infrastructure that far north is not anticipated, so we did not do that analysis up to that area."

The future analysis also includes looking at demographic growth and environmental factors, Snyder said.

One of the goals of the working group, Snyder said, is to

discuss options for four key future considerations, including future roadway and transit conditions, the future travel demand forecast, future land use and demographic projects, and future climate change and sea level rise forecast.

Chelsea Deputy Director of Housing and Community Development Emily Granoff said she would like to have further conversations about the initial future housing demand demographic analysis. She added that the city is working on a comprehensive planning process that will also touch upon some of the analysis within the Tobin Bridge study.

When it comes to future sea level rise and climate change, the consultants stated that the future preliminary design will determine exact bridge height

based on a combination of sea level rise, storm surge, and required marine vessel height clearances.

"We're establishing baselines, future baselines for analysis and comparison," said Regan. "The next step is really brainstorming and coming up with alternatives and building those with the working group and really refining that."

The next working group and public meeting on the study is anticipated for the late spring/early summer, Snyder said.

"We are anticipating that this study is going to run into the summer of 2026, when we hope to present our results and findings and recommendations as well as the summary," he said.

News Briefs // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and others come to life during these 90-minute walking tours while zigzagging through the Freedom Trail – Boston's iconic 2.5-mile brick trail leading to 16 nationally significant historic sites. African American Patriots Tours invite visitors and residents alike to discover the immense contributions of Black Bostonians during the American Revolution and beyond, as the stories unfold along Boston's historic red-lined path. Hear about the sacrifices these patriots made, the battles they fought, and the legacies they left behind, as well as the stories of significant abolitionists and civil rights activists in Boston's history.

African American Patriots Tours are ideal for groups,

schools, residents and those visiting the city. Public tour tickets may be purchased at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center at \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, and \$8 for children under 12 years old. Tickets may also be purchased online at TheFreedomTrail.org. The African American Patriots® Tours are also available year-round for groups as private tours.

Other events and programs celebrating Black History Month are held at official Freedom Trail sites. For information regarding Freedom Trail events and programs, tickets, reservations, group rates or questions, please call (617) 357-8300 or visit TheFreedomTrail.org.

Wu announces return of Boston Saves' January incentive

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu has announced that Boston Saves, the City's children's savings account program, is offering a January incentive to encourage eligible Boston Public Schools (BPS) families to participate in the program. Families of BPS students in grades K2 - 5 who log in to the Boston Saves online savings platform for the first time by January 31, 2025, will earn an extra \$25 for their child's account. This money, in addition to the \$50 provided in every Boston Saves account and any additional incentives families earn, can be used to pay for their child's future college or career training.

"Boston Saves gives our community the tools to connect students and families with new economic opportunities that can be transformative," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As we enter 2025, I encourage all BPS families to explore this program and learn more about how it can impact their children's future."

A joint program of the Worker Empowerment Cabinet and Boston Public Schools, Boston Saves automatically provides every BPS K2 student with a college savings account (CSA) seeded with \$50 to give families a boost for their child's future. The program also allows families to earn additional Boston Saves Dollars for their child's account through ongoing incentives and access to financial education resources that make saving easier. Since its launch in 2019, Boston Saves has allocated nearly \$1.7 million, including over \$320,000 in family-earned incentives, to over 27,000 student accounts.

"It is never too young to start thinking about one's career," said Chief of Worker Empowerment Trinh Nguyen. "Bos-

ton Saves supports Boston's working families and parents to plan ahead on incremental steps to develop promising careers to ensure the best path for that child to grow into Boston's workforce."

"Boston Saves gives our youngest learners a head start on saving money to further their education, whether that's for a college and career preparation program, or for future educational opportunities," said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. "I am grateful to everyone involved for continuing to invest in our students and ensure that our families are aware of this opportunity to start saving for post-secondary success."

Findings from the first year of a three-year evaluation of Boston Saves attribute participation in the program to significant positive effects on students' academic success, including social-emotional development, reading frequency, parental life satisfaction and educational expectations. Research shows that the presence of savings can motivate post-secondary success. Additionally, low-income children with less than \$500 in an account dedicated to higher education were three times more likely to enroll in college and four times more likely to graduate from college than families with no savings. With last year's January incentive, over 600 BPS families earned \$15,475 for their children's futures. The January incentive is especially critical as it encourages families to take the necessary first step of logging into their accounts, thereby unlocking the program's benefits.

When a family logs in to the Savings Center, they can:

- See the money in their child's Boston Saves account
- Link their own financial ac-

count to the Savings Center to track all their savings for their child in one place and earn an additional incentive

- Earn more money for their child's Boston Saves account by taking simple steps like reading with their child, or saving regularly

"Boston Saves is a great free resource for saving for your child's education after high school," said BPS Parent Raquel Duarte Hunt. "I especially loved having the opportunity to earn extra incentives for reading we were already doing at home. The program may seem too good to be true, but it is truly money with no strings attached that will help to aid my child's post-secondary plans. I encourage all BPS parents to take advantage of the program."

The Boston Saves New Year's promotion will be applied to the accounts of all students whose families have logged in to the Savings Center for the first time since November 2024, when the platform first became available to current K2 kindergarten families. Currently, all K2-5 grade students in BPS have Boston Saves accounts. Families of students in select older grades may also have accounts (and be eligible for the promotion) if they were part of the Boston Saves pilot program or joined a pilot cohort. Families that have eligible children should have received an email from bostonsaves@boston.gov with a direct link to log into their child's account. Parents/guardians who believe their child is eligible but did not receive an email can contact the Boston Saves team at bostonsaves@boston.gov with their child's name, grade, and school. For more information, visit boston.gov/boston-saves.

THE EAST BOSTON JETS BASKETBALL TRIUMPH OVER CHARLESTOWN

Photos by Bob Marra

The Jets evened their record at 5-5 with a thrilling 64-60 win over visiting Charlestown Thursday, January 16. Caleb Florence led the way with 20

points, 9 of them in the fourth quarter when Eastie saw a 15-point lead shrink to just 4 in the final minute. Robin Cartegena scored 13 and Islam Mohammed 11 to pace the East Boston offense.



Xander Boutros shows fingertip control as he goes to the basket for a pair of his ten points on the night.



Islam Mohammed grimaces as he holds off Charlestown's Kamari Day for possession of the ball.



Gio Angelico gets above the crowd to nab an offensive rebound.

Winteractive // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

broader local partnerships with organizations like the New England Aquarium was important because, like the Downtown Boston Alliance, they believe in the power of art to draw people together," said Downtown Business Alliance President Michael Nichols. "We're thrilled to see how Winteractive continues to captivate residents and visitors alike while driving meaningful activity in the heart of Boston."

Winteractive is just one way that organizations and businesses are looking to give an economic and cultural boost to Boston in the heart of winter. Arregoces toured Toronto last fall as part of a delegation interested in learning, in part, how Canadians have successfully spurred winter tourism, visitorship, and community engagement with winter activities.

"It was so inspiring to see how civic, hospitality, and gov-

ernment officials worked together to generate enthusiasm for recreational and cultural activities, such as public art and outdoor performances, in spite of the winter weather," Arregoces said. "We look forward to doing the same in Boston, and Winteractive is a fun way to encourage it."

For more information about Winteractive, visit winteractive.org.

THE EAST BOSTON JETS BASKETBALL TRIUMPH OVER CHARLESTOWN



Robin Cartegena faces tight defense from Charlestown's Jerry Brown.



Caleb Florence maintains control of the ball even as he is tripped up by Townie Joey Soto.



Caleb Florence hits heavy traffic in the form of Charlestown's Kamari Day, Joey Soto, and Francis Nelson.



Islam Mohammed fights his way past Charlestown's Khassiah Peters.

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Boston awarded \$3.16 million in federal funding for critical climate resilience projects

Special to the Times

City of Boston officials joined Federal and State leaders to announce new funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for key coastal resilience projects including one in East Boston.

These projects, totaling more than \$3 million in federal, state, and local investments, will help safeguard waterfront neighborhoods, critical infrastructure, and affordable housing developments from the impacts of climate change. This funding will advance the design and permitting for the Lewis Street and Carlton Wharf area in East Boston and the Moakley Park area of South Boston.

"Boston's neighborhoods need strong, sustainable protections from the increasing risks of intense storms and flooding," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These projects are clear examples of how Boston is leading the way for safe, prepared com-

munities, and we're grateful to FEMA for partnering to show what's possible for a resilient future. Together, we protect residents, safeguard critical infrastructure, and ensure a more sustainable city for generations to come."

"These funds will make critical improvements to housing, transportation, and infrastructure to better protect our communities from the impacts of climate change," said Governor Maura Healey. "We're grateful for the strong partnership of Mayor Wu, our Congressional delegation, and FEMA to secure these transformative awards."

"As we continue to see extreme weather events take place across the country, our administration has been working hard to support our communities in their efforts to shore up infrastructure against the threats of climate change," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "These awards will help us do just that, and I'm grateful for the

work of MEMA, the MBTA, and our partners at FEMA for supporting our work to make Boston a more resilient, future-ready city."

In East Boston, the Lewis Street and Carlton Wharf project will elevate sections of the Harborwalk to protect the Blue Line, residential areas, and Maverick Square. FEMA has awarded \$1,987,500 through its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to advance the design and permitting of this project, which will be matched by \$662,500 in City funding. This is the first phase of funding towards this project with a second potential phase of funding for construction.

The MBTA was also awarded a separate Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) grant of \$9.9 million from FEMA to fund the construction of Blue Line Airport tunnel portal protection and resilience improvements. This grant will support the construction and installation of flood

doors that will close off the two tunnel portal openings during a flood event. The total project cost is \$20.8 million, with \$1 million in funding for design from the state's ResilientMass Implementation Funding and the remainder funded through the MBTA's Capital Investment Plan. Together, these projects will help protect critical neighborhood and regional infrastructure from coastal flooding.

The Moakley Park project, part of a larger park improvement initiative, focuses on building flood resilience infrastructure to protect affordable housing developments, neighborhood areas, and key transportation systems in South Boston. This effort has been awarded \$1,170,000 from FEMA to advance the design and permitting. Similar to the Lewis Street project, this is the first phase of funding towards this project with a second potential phase of funding for construction. Through this initial funding, the City will be refining the design of the project in collaboration with residents and other stakeholders.

"Today, we celebrate more than \$50 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and millions from the City and the Commonwealth to build a Boston where the places we love most—our homes, our local businesses, our public parks, and our public transit—are protected from flooding that is becoming more extensive and more frequent due to the climate crisis, as sea levels rise and storms intensify," said US Senator Edward J. Markey. "I was proud to advocate for the federal funding to invest in coastal resiliency projects across the City of Boston—from Moakley Park to East Boston and Dorchester—to shore up our neighborhoods, community spaces, and critical transportation infrastructure."

"This event underscores the unwavering commitment of the City of Boston and our entire region to prepare our communities for the pressing challenges of climate change," said FEMA Region 1 Deputy Regional Administrator Jarrett W. Devine. "It highlights the power of collaboration among federal, state, and local partners, working alongside communities to create innovative solutions that enhance our resilience."

"Today's awards are the

result of close collaboration across municipal, state, and federal government to safeguard our infrastructure and residents proactively," said Director of Federal Funds Quentin Palfrey. "Thank you to Region FEMA 1 Administrator Lori Erlich, Deputy Administrator Jarrett Devine, and all of our federal partners for helping us make the necessary investments to ensure our infrastructure is resilient to future challenges."

"MEMA partners with communities to reduce our state's vulnerability to weather events through hazard mitigation, which creates safer, more resilient communities, reduces loss of life and property, and reduces the cost of recovery to individuals, cities and towns, and the state," said Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Assistant Director for Recovery and Mitigation Simon van Leeuwen. "The approval of these grant applications is a testament to the sustained, collaborative efforts between the city, FEMA Region 1, and the state and we believe this success sets a strong example and paves the way for other Massachusetts communities to achieve similar success in the application process."

"As we continue to improve and deliver safe, reliable service, climate resilience is vital to that goal. The Healey-Driscoll Administration is laser-focused on ensuring safety and quality of life for all residents and visitors in Massachusetts. Under their leadership, we in public transportation are doing all we can to safeguard everyone from climate-related impacts. The MBTA is thankful to FEMA, MEMA, and the Healey-Driscoll Administration for all the support and critical role public transportation plays in Boston," said General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "We're excited to use this grant funding to continue supporting and collaborating with the City of Boston to protect infrastructure in local neighborhoods and within the MBTA system."

These projects exemplify the City of Boston's proactive approach to climate resilience under Mayor Wu's leadership. The establishment of the Office of Climate Resilience last year marked a significant step forward, centralizing efforts to

See FEDERAL FUNDING Page 12

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Healey proposes significant changes to Right to Shelter law

Special to the Times

Governor Maura Healey proposed significant new changes to the state's Right to Shelter law, including imposing a statutory residency requirement for families and strengthening criminal background checks. The Governor submitted the recommendations in a letter to the Senate President, Speaker, and House and Senate Ways and Means Chairs, urging the changes to be in the Emergency Assistance (EA) Supplemental Budget.

The latest problem for the Right to Shelter Law occurred at the Quality Inn in Revere on December 27 where an illegal immigrant was arrested for having more than \$2M in fentanyl and carrying an unregistered rifle.

"I have evaluated the Right to Shelter Law and regulations as well as the operational burdens on the system. Based on that review, and in the face of continued inaction by Congress and no assistance from the federal government, I believe these changes are appropriate and needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the state shelter system in a way that aligns with the original intent of the law," said Governor Maura Healey. "In addition, these proposed changes will allow us to continue to ensure the safety of our system, support cities and

towns in addressing the needs of unhoused families in their communities and put us on the path toward a more fiscally sustainable shelter system."

"Our administration has made progress in making the shelter system more fiscally and operationally sustainable," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We're now seeing unprecedented numbers of families exiting shelter for permanent housing because of the work we've done, including a more effective use of housing stabilization programs, workforce training, and job placements."

Among the proposed changes to the Right to Shelter law include:

- Strengthening criminal background checks. Governor Healey's proposal would require all applicants to disclose criminal convictions in Massachusetts or elsewhere. It will also codify the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities' policy of conducting a CORI check prior to placement.

- Implementing a statutory requirement of residency and intent to remain. Currently, any intent to remain in Massachusetts may be proven solely through self attestation. This change would require that anyone receiving EA show an intent to remain in Massachusetts, either through indepen-

dent documentary verification or through three months of physical presence in the state.

- Eliminating presumptive eligibility. Under existing law, shelter applicants are presumed to be eligible for shelter and receive shelter benefits prior to producing the necessary documentation. Under Governor Healey's proposals, shelter applicants would be required to verify their identity, residency, and status prior to placement.

- Changes to eviction eligibility criteria. Currently, families may be eligible for shelter based on several types of no-fault eviction, but without geographic limitation. As a result, people who have been evicted in other states may come to Massachusetts for shelter. The administration proposes requiring evictions to occur in Massachusetts to support eligibility, eliminating the scenario where a neighboring state eviction leads to an individual coming to Massachusetts to seek EA shelter benefits.

- Requiring lawful status for all members of families with rare exceptions. Governor Healey's proposal would require all family members to show they are U.S. citizens or lawfully present in the U.S., with the rare exception for those households that include a child who is a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident.

Massachusetts became the

only state in the country to adopt a Right to Shelter law 40 years ago, which was designed to provide housing for families in need, specifically pregnant women and children experiencing homelessness. For the past three years, thousands of families have been arriving in Massachusetts from other states and other countries seeking shelter. Since taking office in 2023, Governor Healey has implemented a series of reforms to manage the size and cost of the system, including setting a cap of 7,500 families and implementing length of stay requirements. She recently announced that the administration will phase out the use of hotels and motels as shelters by the end of 2025.

These proposed changes follow Governor Healey's recent announcement requiring CORI checks on all EA applicants in addition to background checks already occurring, conducting

inspections at all shelter sites, and hiring former Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis to lead an independent, outside review of security at EA shelters. The supplemental budget she filed earlier this month also proposed reducing the length of stay at EA shelters from nine months to six months.

Since November 2023, the Healey-Driscoll Administration has helped more than 6,000 shelter residents get work authorizations and secured thousands of job placements. These efforts have helped more than 4,500 families exit shelter in the past year, and 430 families have successfully exited temporary respite centers (TRCs) since August 1. In addition to exits, more than 700 families have been diverted from EA shelter in the past year due to investment in services that help families avoid shelter and quickly get back on their feet.



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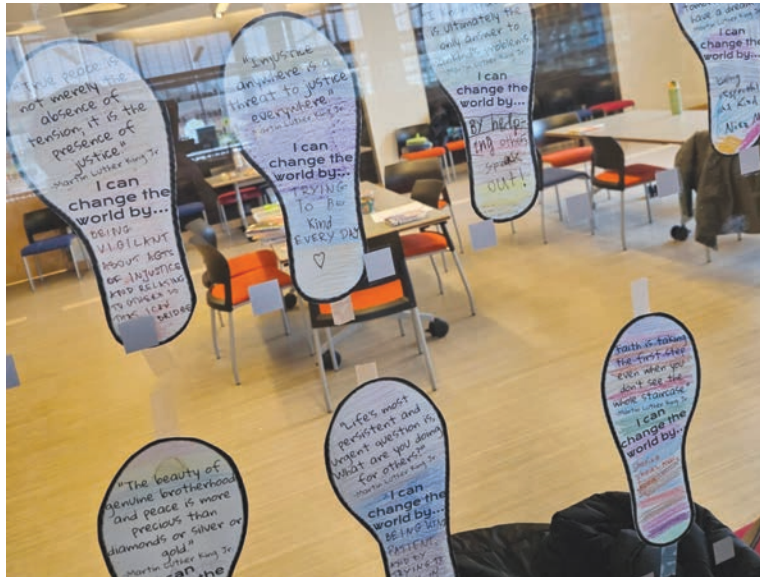
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CELEBRATING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S LEGACY AT THE EAST BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Courtesy Photos

The Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the East Boston Public library.

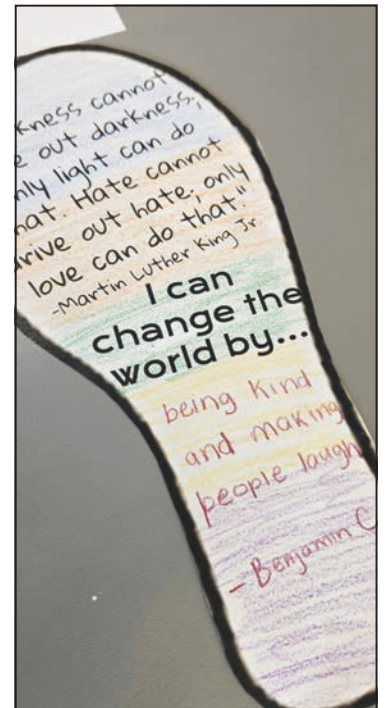
Children shared their thoughts on footprints on how they can make a difference in this world, in the words of Dr. King. Art-work will be on display in the library.



State Representative Adrian Madaro and wife Ariel and children, Nico and Matteo.



Gael and Suleima Chan and family.



It's Loveline Season at the Eastie Times

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Federal funding // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

address the City's adaptation efforts. This new office has already spearheaded initiatives such as the green roof retrofits for bus shelters and the city-wide Deployables Day, which demonstrated the deployment of temporary flood protection measures. Additionally, Boston's first Climate Council was convened to guide the next phase of the Climate Action Plan, ensuring an inclusive and community-driven approach to tackling climate risks.

Chief Climate Officer Brian Swett emphasized the importance of these efforts, noting, "These investments represent the future of urban resilience—projects that not only protect people and infrastructure from increasing climate hazards but also enhance our public spaces

and ensure equitable access to our waterfront. We are thrilled to take these next steps with FEMA's support."

Chris Osgood, Director of the Office of Climate Resilience, highlighted the collaborative nature of the work: "Climate resilience is a team effort, and these projects show the power of partnerships across local, state, and federal levels. Together, we're delivering real solutions to address today's challenges and tomorrow's risks."

In addition to these grant awards, the Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation and the City of Boston are pursuing a FEMA BRIC grant for Tenean Beach in Dorchester. The project will focus on raising portions of the

park and roadway to reduce chronic flooding risks in an area that regularly floods today. The application is for \$11.2 million in FEMA BRIC funding, with \$3.7 million in combined contributions from the City and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). If awarded, Tenean Beach will receive \$1.8 million for design and permitting funding, with a potential award for construction to follow.

The City of Boston is committed to advancing climate-ready projects that protect residents, create opportunities for economic growth, and strengthen community resilience. These projects are vital components of Boston's broader climate strategies and Green New Deal.

City awarded a grant from the EPA for \$35 million for 125 new electric school buses

Special to the Times

The City of Boston today announced that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded Boston Public Schools (BPS) a \$35 million grant to purchase 125, 30-passenger electric school buses. This expansion will allow BPS to accelerate the upgrade of its school bus fleet, which is on track to be fully electric by 2030. The district currently has 40 electric school buses.

“This historic \$35 million grant from the EPA brings us closer to achieving our goal of a fully electric school bus fleet by 2030 while delivering immediate health and environmental benefits to our students, families, and neighborhoods,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This marks a significant milestone for our city as we continue our work to create a greener and healthier future for all our residents.”

“We are grateful to the EPA for awarding this \$35 million grant, which will help us achieve our commitment to sustainability, reducing emissions, and providing cleaner, healthier transportation for our students,” said BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper. “We also extend our deepest thanks to all of our partners and stakeholders who have supported our efforts to embrace innovative, sustainable solutions for our city.”

The Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle grant has been awarded to 70 applicants across 27 states, three Tribal Nations, and one territory, totaling over \$735 million. In Boston, the grant will fund the purchase of zero-emission electric school buses, replace existing internal combustion buses, and support the continued build out of clean vehicle infrastructure.

“Boston’s commitment to electrifying its school bus fleet exemplifies the kind of local leadership that provides cleaner air, reduces greenhouse gases, and builds healthier and more sustainable communities”, said EPA New England’s Regional Administrator David Cash. “We look forward to our continued partnership with Boston Public Schools as they implement this transformative project.”

“While these electric buses will benefit the environment, more importantly, they will improve the health of our students and staff, as well as that of our community-at-large,” said BPS Executive Director of Transportation Daniel Rosengard. “This investment demonstrates our dedication to creating a greener future while prioritizing the well-being of our drivers, monitors, students, and school communities.”

BPS is making significant progress toward its goal of fully electrifying its school bus fleet. Following infrastructure upgrades at two bus yards to support electric charging, along with training for drivers and mechanics, the district’s Department of Transportation has completed two successful deployments of electric school buses. The 40 electric school buses, which serve schools in every Boston neighborhood, reduce emissions and improve air quality for students. In 2024, BPS secured \$20 million in competitive federal grant funding. In 2023-2024, BPS secured \$6 million from state and local partners, including Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) and Eversource electric utility. These investments, alongside workforce training initiatives, are paving the way for a cleaner, healthier future for Boston’s students and communities.



An EV School bus.

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Ricciardelli Date of Death 01/30/2010 To all interested persons: A Petition for Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Anthony Ricciardelli of 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: Anthony Ricciardelli of 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 02/14/2025. 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 (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: January 17, 2025 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate

01/22/25 EB

East Boston

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Wu urges caution as bitterly cold weather arrives

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu today announced a cold weather advisory and winter safety tips for the bitterly cold temperatures forecast through Thursday, January 23. According to the National Weather Service (NWS), the forecast for Boston includes wind chills that will reach below zero through Thursday. Sub-zero temperatures are expected, with the lowest occurring between midnight and 6 a.m. during the cold weather advisory. Additionally, Boston is preparing for an anticipated six to eight inches of snowfall Sunday evening, continuing through the overnight hours, according to the NWS. Due to the anticipated frigid cold weather that will follow the snowfall, it's important to clear snow before it freezes to avoid dangerous conditions for vehicles and pedestrians. Mayor Wu is issuing these recommendations following a city-wide meeting she held with the Office of Emergency Management Sunday morning to coordinate departments across the city to ensure proper preparedness ahead of the storm.

"As temperatures drop and winter weather arrives, I urge all residents to take necessary precautions to stay vigilant, prioritize their safety, and look out for your neighbors," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Our teams are working around the clock to prepare the city, and we advise our residents to help protect each other during these harsh conditions. With snow expected tonight, we are reminding property owners to please remember to shovel sidewalks, especially before the bitterly cold weather arrives and snow freezes over."

Due to the anticipated weather, please see below the rules for clearing snow:

- Property owners must fully clear snow, sleet, and ice from sidewalks and curb ramps abutting the property within three hours after the snowfall ends, or three hours after sunrise if the snow ends overnight. Curb and pedestrian ramps to the street should be cleared fully and continually over the duration of the storm to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities. If the storm lasts for an extended period of time, property owners are asked to



Residents of Boston woke up Monday morning to a winter wonderland, as overnight snowfalls blanketed the city and the region with about 4-inches of snow. Shown above, Chestnut Street in Boston is covered with snow.

continually check and clear ramps abutting their property.

- Removal of snow and ice from private property to the street or sidewalk is prohibited.
- Failure to comply with these rules can result in fines issued by PWD's Code Enforcement Division. Fines associated with improper removal of snow can be found online.
- Residents are encouraged to sign up for emergency notifications through AlertBoston. Please follow @CityofBoston and visit boston.gov/snow for the latest updates.

Safety tips for shoveling:

- Keep catch basins and fire hydrants clear. You can assist in keeping hydrants clear of snow so the Boston Fire Department can access them quickly in case of emergency.
- Shoveling snow requires significant exertion; please be cautious and pay attention to signs of overexertion. Stop if you feel chest pain, shortness of breath, lightheadedness, nausea, or vomiting. Call 911 if those symptoms do not resolve quickly.
- Snow piles can make navigating intersections dangerous for pedestrians and drivers. Please take extra care when turning corners with snow piles that might limit visibility.
- Carbon monoxide poison-

ing is a concern during winter weather, especially with the use of generators. Residents should use their home heating systems wisely and safely, and have a working carbon monoxide detector on each floor of the home. Call 911 immediately if you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Sitting in a car while idling can be deadly if the tailpipe is blocked. Do not let children sit in an idling car while shoveling. Clear any household exhaust pipes (e.g. gas exhaust for heating systems or dryers) and vehicle exhaust pipes of snow.

- Have a contractor check the roof to see if snow needs to be removed. If roof snow can be removed from the ground with the use of a snow rake, do so with caution. Avoid working from ladders, and be mindful of slippery surfaces.

Due to the anticipated forecast next week, the City is issuing a cold advisory. The City of Boston issues a cold advisory when there is one day or more of 0°F or below observed wind chill. Due to the low temperatures and strong wind gusts, there is an increased risk of hypothermia and frostbite, especially for those experiencing homelessness, older adults, and young children. Cold weather may also exacerbate health is-

sues in high-risk individuals.

Mayor Wu is advising residents to take precautions, reminding them to check in on older adults, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness. If you see an individual experiencing homelessness and individuals out in the cold who appear immobile, disoriented or underdressed for the cold, please call 911. If residents are aware of anyone staying in a vehicle or a place not intended for living during these extreme cold temperatures, they are encouraged to call 911 as well.

While the temperature forecast does not reach the threshold for declaring a cold emergency, Boston Centers for Youth & Families' (BCYF) community centers will be open during their normal operating hours Tuesday - Thursday. The Boston Public Library will be open during normal operating hours Tuesday - Thursday and will be available for people in need of a place to warm up.

The Boston Public Health Commission's Southampton Street Shelter and Woods Mullen Shelter will remain open 24/7 for those experiencing homelessness. Amnesty is in effect and anyone with a non-violent restriction may come in. Other overnight shelters and day spaces can be found by calling 311.

The Boston Police Department (BPD) will make announcements on every shift for officers and all personnel to be on the lookout for people on the streets. BPD will conduct wellness checks or assist with transportation to available shelters and coordinate with emergency medical personnel for unsheltered homeless persons in distress. The BPD Street Outreach Unit will be available as a resource to assist the districts, outreach providers, and 911 dispatch as needed.

Boston Public Schools (BPS) is reminding families to dress their students appropriately so they are safe and comfortable traveling to and from school. Anyone in need of winter clothing items can reach out directly to their school's Family Liaison and School Leader. The BPS Facilities team will also monitor school building temperatures to ensure that classrooms are warm throughout the week.

Cold weather safety tips:

Dress for the weather:

- Wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing.
- Outer garments should be tightly woven and water-repellent.
- Wear mittens over gloves; layering works for your hands as well.
- Always wear a hat and cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.
- Dress children warmly and set reasonable time limits on outdoor play.
- Restrict infants' outdoor exposure when it is colder than 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Watch for signs of frostbite:

- Signs of frostbite include loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.

Watch for signs of hypothermia:

- These include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. Contact a healthcare provider immediately if you or someone you know shows any of these symptoms. If symptoms are severe, call 911.

Heating guidelines for property owners and tenants:

- Following the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code, the heating season officially begins on September 15 and runs through June 15. Property owners must heat habitable spaces at a minimum temperature of 68 degrees between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. and 64 degrees between 11:01 p.m. and 6:59 a.m.
- In case of emergency, property owners are encouraged to keep a list of licensed contractors (electrician, plumber, and general contractor) on file. Tenants experiencing problems with their heating system should check the thermostat, ensure the dial is turned on, and report insufficient or no heat problems to the property owner or manager immediately.
- If your landlord or property

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Cold Weather //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

manager is unresponsive, call 311 to file a complaint.

Heating safety:

- Never try to heat your home using a charcoal or gas grill, a kitchen stove, or any other product not specifically designed as a heater. These can quickly cause a fire or produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.
- Have your heating system cleaned and checked annually.
- Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide is an invisible gas produced whenever any fuel is burned. Common sources include oil or gas furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces, stoves, and some space heaters. It has no smell, taste, or color, but it is poisonous and can be deadly.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn, including people.
- Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room, or go to bed.

Tips to keep water flowing and pipes unfrozen during extreme cold:

- The Boston Water and Sewer Commission recommends homeowners locate their home's main water shut-off valve and learn how to use it. Should a frozen pipe burst, shutting the main valve quickly will minimize flooding and

property damage.

- Homeowners should insulate pipes in unheated areas like basements, garages, and crawl spaces. Use inexpensive hardware store materials to prevent pipes from freezing and to keep warm water flowing.
- Keep cabinet doors open to circulate warm air around pipes. A trickle of tap water through pipes during extreme cold can also help prevent them from freezing up.
- Locate your water meter, protect it from drafts, and make sure basement doors and windows are shut tight.
- If pipes freeze, thaw them slowly with a hair dryer, if possible. Never use an open flame to thaw pipes. If water is lost in all taps, call the BWSC 24-hour Emergency Assistance Line at 617-989-7000.

Emergency home repair resources:

- Income-eligible homeowners and Boston residents over age 60 can receive assistance with winter emergencies and repairs, such as fixing storm damage, leaking roofs, furnaces, and leaking/frozen pipes. For assistance, residents should call the Mayor's hotline at 311 or the Boston Home Center at 617-635-HOME (4663). For alerts, including cold-weather alerts, residents are encouraged to sign up for Alert Boston. More information can be found on boston.gov/snow and boston.gov/cold.

Eastie's Professional Service Directory

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delcomail238@gmail.com
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CITY PAWS

Winter Boredom

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Have you heard the old saying that a tired dog is a good dog? But what if winter has your dog not only full of energy but also bored and unhappy? Then, you might be looking at behavior issues. A bored dog can be a naughty dog.

We recently encountered this issue with our dog, Poppy. She suddenly began barking, cuddling, and asking for more attention, even though her veterinarian had just given her a clean bill of health.

What's Going On With Poppy?

We did the usual at-home checks, with one of us gently touching around her torso and checking her ears, paws, and mouth for any signs of pain or abnormalities. Since she had a grooming appointment, we told her long-time groomer what was happening and asked her to see if she noticed anything. She reported normal behavior

throughout the appointment and no changes in Poppy's body.

Finally, we tried to think of anything else that had changed in Poppy's world. We came up with two clues: First, the weather had reduced her usual exercise, and second, we had been very busy and spent less time with her over the past few months. She had spent more time at home alone and for more extended periods.

Boredom in Dogs

We share this problem with many readers who had to change from working from home to returning to the office. Dogs used to having their human around all the time now faced more alone time and, in many cases, less exercise and play.

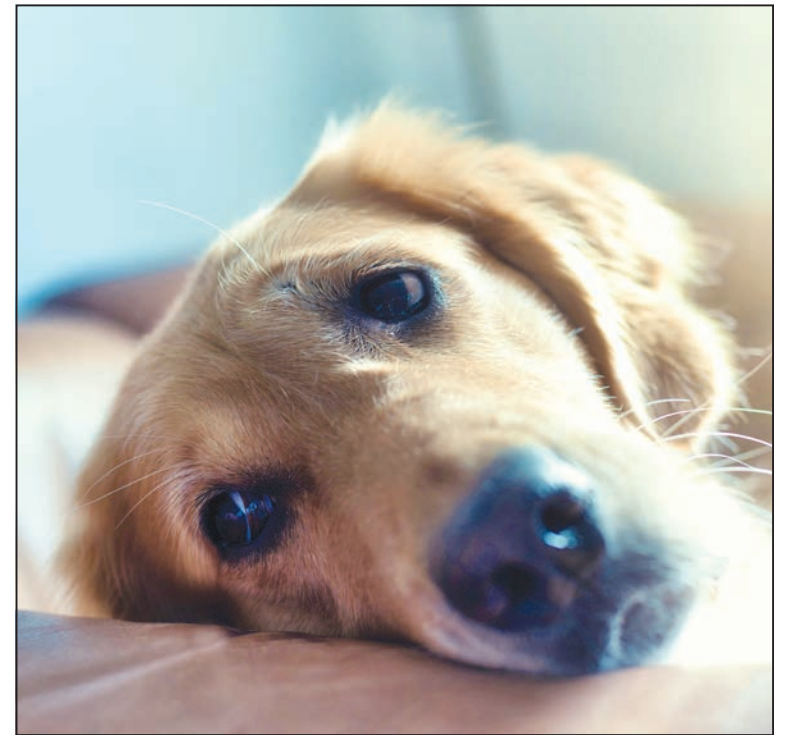
A recent article in the Whole Dog Journal on the importance of mental stimulation outlined the problem. "Consistent periods of prolonged boredom

can be frustrating for dogs, often leading to the dog trying to come up with her own entertainment to feel better. This often results in undesirable behaviors such as constant barking, nipping at human and dog family members for attention, or chewing on the furniture. A lack of mental stimulation can also contribute to a dog becoming disengaged and depressed, which can be harder to identify."

Winter Exercise

A winter workout plan is necessary to keep your dog physically fit, socialized, and well-behaved. While routine dog walks in winter require more energy and can leave you and an older or frail dog exhausted, they may not be enough for a young or more active dog. Moreover, the excess energy they need to burn could result in weight gain.

We must take Poppy on longer walks, even in the cold or wet. She also enjoys it when



If your dog is giving you sad eyes like these, it may be from winter boredom that you can do something to end!

we all walk together, so we'll do it more often. Another way to make a winter walk more interesting is to choose a different route. For example, we can take the MBTA to a different neighborhood.

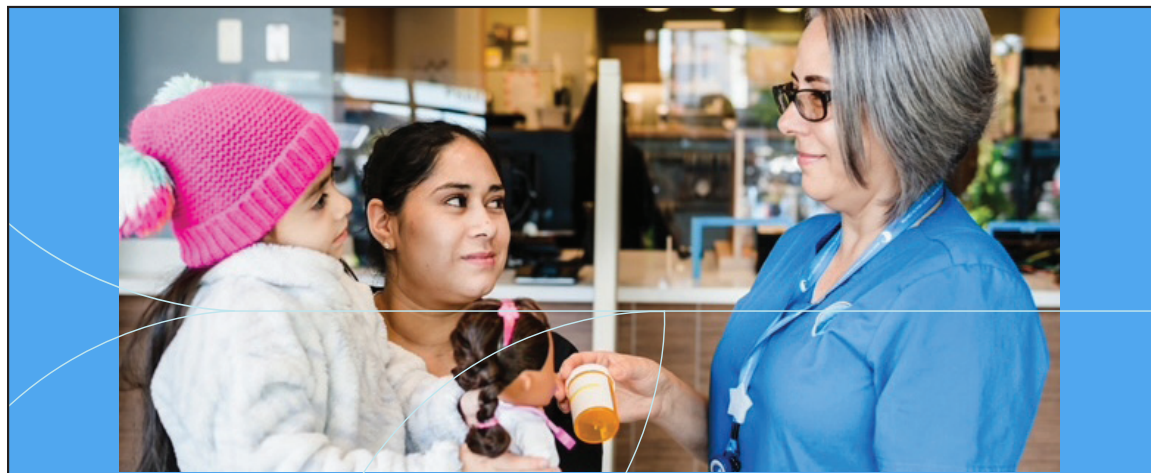
Stimulation

We can also spend more time teaching our old dog new tricks in the cold weather. Training, new puzzle toys, food dispensing balls, hiding treats for your dog to find, and spending time with dogs and people they enjoy are ways to help them stay

socialized and less bored.

If you have a bored dog, list what you can do to help. Don't be surprised if your efforts to give your dog more exercise and stimulation are incredibly beneficial to you. We know that time spent cuddling and stroking our animals lowers our stress and blood pressure. Exercise, even at a walking pace, will keep both of you healthier.

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



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NEWS IN BRIEF

GSNA MEETING SET FOR JANUARY 27, 2025, AT 6:30 PM

Please register for this virtual meeting on the Gove Street Neighborhood Association (GSCA) website: <https://www.govestreet.org/meetings>

Agenda (1h 30m)

Community Updates (50 min)

BPD (Sgt. Cintolo) - Updates

City Hall (Roberto Gomez) - Updates

Eastie Farm - Discounts on weekly share of fresh local food available. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program runs May 28, 2025, to Nov. 14, 2025.

City Councilor Gabriela Co-

letta Zapata - Updates on her work and the year ahead

New project (40 min)

261 Maverick Street - Erect addition and change occupancy to include small office space on lower level and twenty-four (24) residential units above with parking for five (5) vehicles. Subject to small project review under Article 80.

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/gny-yycd-nsa>

Or dial: (US) +1 515-808-2125 PIN: 717 650 700#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/gny-yycd-nsa?pin=5262075552817>

Our next meeting after this one will be Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6:30 PM.