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EAST BOSTON'S ANNUAL ICY PLUNGE



Above, Sharknado in Boston Harbor. Members of the Belle Isle Rotary Club along with members of the East Boston Yacht Club dove into the icy waters of Boston Harbor, raising funds to fight Polio worldwide.

Right, Tee's and raffles at check-in by Rotary members, Maryann and Steven Russo and Steve and Amy Miliotos. See Pages 8 and 9 for more photos.



Maverick Street project presented to GSNA

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

On Monday, attendees at the latest Gove Street Neighborhood Association (GSNA) meeting heard plans for a project at 261 Maverick Street, which would reuse the current building and bring several units to the area.

According to Richard Lynds, the attorney who presented the project to the GSNA, the proposal, subject to Article 80 review, would include a vertical and horizontal addition to

the existing building, creating a four-story building with 24 units.

The proposal also includes plans to maintain retail space at ground level and to have five parking spaces.

Regarding zoning and how this project complies with local regulations, Lynds said that the project is intended not to require zoning relief.

It should also be noted that

See GSNA Page 14

Josh Kraft makes it official, announces run for mayor

Staff Report

After filing his candidacy papers last week, Josh Kraft officially launched his campaign for Mayor of Boston Tuesday morning at Prince Hall in the Grove Hall section of Dorchester. The site honors Prince Hall, the abolitionist and leader of the free black movement in Boston.

Kraft is the son of New England Patriots owner Bob

Kraft and the late Myra Kraft. His campaign released an announcement video which tells the story of Josh and his work in the communities of Boston over the last 35 years, identifies some challenges facing the city, and lays out some themes of the campaign - including a strong focus on housing.

Political observers believe that the exciting race pitting

See KRAFT Page 3



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East Boston

Times-Free Press

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Forum

10 YEARS AGO, WE WERE AMIDST SNOWMAGEDDON

Yes, time does fly, and for those of us who lived through the Snowmageddon, it's hard to believe that 10 years have passed since we were in the middle of that epic winter season of 2015.

Major snowstorms just kept rolling in, week after week, from January through the end of February, eventually burying the Metro Boston area under a record total of 110 inches of snow for the season.

Even for those of us who enjoy a brisk snow-shoveling workout, the non-stop barrage of major snowstorms that barreled through our area at the rate of twice per week was overwhelming. Our driveway resembled a tunnel, with the snow piled 8-9 feet on either side, which made shoveling the snow extra hard because we also had to throw it up high just to clear the wall of snow to get it out of the way.

We also recall clearing our roof of snow (because of warnings that the snow could become too heavy and cause a collapse). We actually fell off the portion of our roof that -- fortunately -- was not too high off the ground. We plunged into a cushion of eight feet of snow that was only a few feet below the roofline and climbed back onto the roof to finish the task. No harm, no foul.

For those who park their cars on the street, the Snowmageddon was sheer torture. No sooner had you shoveled out your space, then another big storm came in and reburied your vehicle. Some folks eventually just gave up and their cars remained entombed for weeks at a time.

Cities and towns were overwhelmed in their efforts to keep up with snow removal. Not only did they exhaust their entire snow removal budgets by mid-January (the state and federal governments eventually reimbursed communities for some of their snow removal costs), but they could not find any place to put the tons of snow that had to be trucked away.

In Revere, National Guard units brought in heavy equipment just to make the city's streets passable. Some communities ended up dumping the snow onto their playing fields. In Winthrop, the mountain of snow that was piled high onto the high school baseball field still obstructed the field into late-April.

There were so many snowstorms and so many declarations of states of emergency by then-Governor Charlie Baker, that it seemed as though we were in one long State of Emergency.

So while we acknowledge the truth of the proverb that all of us tend to look back at the past through rose-colored glasses, we have to admit that we hope the Snowmageddon of 2015 was a one-and-done sort of event that we never will have to deal with again.

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.

Annual homelessness census held

Special to the Times-Free Press

On Thursday night, Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon led more than 250 volunteers, including state and city officials, homelessness service providers, public health representatives, and first responders, in conducting the City of Boston's 45th annual homelessness census. This comprehensive effort is part of Boston's yearly initiative to assess and address homelessness by counting unsheltered individuals and families in emergency shelters, transitional housing, domestic violence programs, and those living outdoors.

"Boston's annual homelessness census is an opportunity to evaluate the needs of unsheltered Bostonians and connect individuals to services," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The data from the census is crucial for the City as we act with urgency and care to make Boston a city for everyone. We are grateful to our partners and the dedicated volunteers throughout the City for their collaboration in making this year's census possible."

At this year's census, volunteers canvassed 45 areas, including every neighborhood, Logan Airport, and Boston's transit and parks systems, starting just after midnight. They conducted surveys, identified those sleeping on the streets, and distributed safety information and items to help individuals stay warm. Survey results will be analyzed, cross-checked with shelter data, and used to inform policies and allocate resources. This effort is required annually by HUD.

"The annual homelessness census is more than a count—it's a crucial step in understanding the challenges faced by our most vulnerable residents and shaping our strategies to meet their needs," said Sheila

A. Dillon, Chief of Housing. "With the data we collect on this night, we can continue to guide our efforts to move individuals and families into stable housing with the supportive services they need to succeed. We remain committed to working with our partners to prevent and end homelessness in Boston."

"This annual count helps us assess the needs of people experiencing homelessness in Boston," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. "We will continue to work

closely with Mayor Wu and City partners to meet these needs through emergency shelter, housing, recovery supports, and other services to care for the health and well-being of our residents."

After years of progress in reducing homelessness, Boston is now facing a rise in households experiencing homelessness, mirroring national trends and highlighting local challenges. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness in

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MBTA shares planned service outage scheduled to June

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) announced its planned construction schedule for the first half of 2025. Thanks to the great success of the 2024 Track Improvement Program, the MBTA now has more track meeting the state of good repair standards than in previous years, ensuring compliance with all applicable safety and performance requirements. Building on this progress, the MBTA will continue proactive track maintenance to prevent slow zones recurring. In 2025, the focus will shift to upgrading other critical infrastructure, including signal systems, improving accessibility across the network, and more.

“As Governor Maura Healey put it during the State of the Commonwealth speech, ‘People need transportation and public transit they can rely on,’ and the infrastructure investments by the MBTA in 2024 and planned in 2025 set the foundation for consistently reliable service,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits Nutt. “Infrastructure work is being done strategically to minimize the disruption for MBTA customers and to optimize the time work zones are in place. I am proud of the MBTA workforce and leadership team for getting so much done during planned service outages.”

“I’m incredibly proud of and thankful to our entire workforce and our industry partners that delivered unprecedented work in 2024 to improve and deliver more reliable trips across our system, ultimately giving back our riders’ precious time in their days. We couldn’t have done that without the leadership of the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Legislature, which has continued to reinvest in public transportation. I also must thank the public for their patience and for continuing to ride the T as we

perform vital work that allows us to keep the system running safely and reliably as we build for the future,” said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. “In 2025, the T is committed to proactive maintenance and repairs, including completing critical signal upgrades, which will allow us to deliver the level of service our riders expect and need. With a never-ending focus on the public we serve, we will continue to improve how we efficiently and effectively perform work to minimize disruptions and deliver meaningful results, building out a best-in-class system for the Commonwealth.”

Key initiatives slated for 2025 include:

Signal Modernization

The MBTA will focus on the \$285 million project to modernize its signal system across the Red and Orange lines with the goal of reducing congestion and delays and providing operational flexibilities. The new upgraded signal system will allow for more frequent service, improved scheduling, and enhanced safety. By upgrading its signals, the MBTA expects to significantly increase operational efficiency, reducing wait times and improving scheduling reliability for all riders.

Annual Programmed Maintenance

As part of its long-term sustainability plan, the MBTA will carry out annual programmed maintenance across its system, addressing routine needs and ensuring that all infrastructure remains in peak operating condition. This maintenance will include inspections, adjustments, and repairs to keep the system safe and running smoothly throughout the year.

Green Line Train Protection System (GLTPS)

The MBTA we begin implementing an added layer of safety to the Green Line. The GLTPS system will use safety monitoring equipment to transmit data to the train as it moves along the tracks. Using

onboard alerts and communications, the system will notify the operator when another vehicle is detected, when the vehicle is speeding, and can automatically stop the train at stop signals. This safety system can also improve travel times by reducing unplanned stops.

Bridge Work Along Commuter Rail Lines

In collaboration with MassDOT, the MBTA will focus on completing essential bridge work along various Commuter Rail lines.

The MBTA will also continue regular bridge, tunnel, and station inspections and routine maintenance throughout the year.

Accessibility Enhancements

The MBTA is dedicated to ensuring that its services are accessible to all riders, including those with disabilities. Planned improvements in the second half of 2025 will include upgrades to station entrances, platforms, and elevators, as well as enhancements to communication systems to provide real-time updates to riders with hearing or visual impairments. There will be a large focus on improving accessibility on the Green Line. This will include the installation of elevators at Symphony Station to ensure that all passengers, including those with mobility challenges, can access the platform and board trains with ease. The MBTA is also looking forward to enhancing Ruggles Station along the Orange Line, which includes making a fully accessible Columbus Avenue entrance.

Anticipated 2025 Service Outage Plans:

Most of this work throughout the year will be targeted to weekends and evenings to minimize disruptions to weekday commuters, though there will be some longer outages planned to accommodate more complex projects. The MBTA is finalizing alternate service options, such as accessible shuttle buses, amplified service

on other modes, and Commuter Rail options. Details will be shared as they are confirmed and ahead of the outages. Riders should also note that the tentative construction plan and dates are subject to change pending weather and other factors.

Notable planned service outages between January – June 2025 include:

- On the Red Line:
 - Ashmont to JFK/UMass
 - April 1 - April 9
 - For proactive rail maintenance.
- On the Orange Line:
 - North Station to Oak Grove
 - May 10 – May 18
 - To support MassDOT’s Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge construction project.
- North Station to Forest Hills
 - June 21 – June 29, 2025
 - For signal upgrade work.
- On the Blue Line:
 - Bowdoin to Airport
 - June 7 - June 15
 - For infrastructure work.
- On the Commuter Rail:
 - On the Haverhill and Newburyport/Rockport Line
 - Oak Grove to North Station

/ Swampscott to North Station

- February 15 – February 16
- March 8 – March 9
- March 22 – March 23
- April 5 – April 6
- April 24 – April 27
- To support MassDOT’s Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge construction project and MBTA signal work.

Additional weekend construction work can be anticipated on the Lowell, Franklin, Worcester, Needham, and Fitchburg Line. Please note that these dates are subject to change.

The MBTA will host public open houses online and in-person to provide an overview of major projects. These will also serve as way for the community to ask questions or share comments and feedback. Meeting dates and locations will be posted at mbta.com/events.

The MBTA will provide regular updates on work progress and potential service disruptions through various channels, including in-station signage, social media, T-Alerts, and online at mbta.com. Any changes

See MBTA Page 14

Kraft // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Josh Kraft against Mayor Michele Wu will draw tremendous local attention from both the media and Boston voters and intense interest nationally,

as well.

There was a huge media presence at the announcement event Tuesday, and the next several months leading to the

election this fall should be a smorgasbord for political followers, pundits, and devotees.

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Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

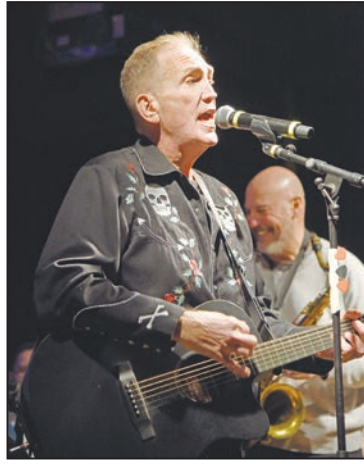
Zumix presented a benefit concert on February 1, featuring the rock band, Don't Be Denied, with lead vocalist and former Zumix board member, Steven Snyder. The annual fundraiser was broadcast live on Zumix Radio 94.9FM. The event included free pizza provided by Carmella's Market, and a cash bar served by guest bartender, Josh, from The Quiet Few.

"Zumix is an unbelievable

not-for-profit here in East Boston. They do youth development through music and art," said Snyder, a Zumix volunteer. "It is a celebration of community and friendship through music."

Don't Be Denied, comprised of many Zumix instructors and alumni, performed socially-conscious original pieces and cover songs, inviting friends from the audience to join them on stage.

See ZUMIX Page 5



Steven Snyder, lead vocalist of Don't Be Denied.



Saxophonists: Jon Briggs, Pedro Moreno, and Callum MacKenzie.



Omar Sosa, lead guitarist, Don't Be Denied.



Zumix Co-Founder/ Executive Director Madeleine Steczynski praising the staff of Zumix.



Joey Blake, Amanda Cee, and Mike and Allison Bogosh.



Dan Sudenfield, Lauren Marino, and Roy Retzer.

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Zumix // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

“The band has brought so much joy into our community, to me personally, our students, and staff,” expressed Madeleine Steczynski, Co-Founder/ Executive Director, Zumix. “It has given us something to work hard for that is life-giving. It also involves our neighbors and friends.”

Steczynski believes that Snyder, who returned to playing his guitar during a difficult time in his life, is a testament to the healing power of music, and praised him for building a community around his guitar. Following the performance,

Steczynski offered tours of the classrooms, radio station, and common areas of the three-story facility, which Zumix has owned since 2010.

“Starting in 1991, I, along with my then boyfriend and friends, had an idea of getting young people involved with music as a way of keeping them safe, occupied, and making some noise in a good way,” remembered Steczynski. “That was the beginning of a crazy journey that has gone on now for 34 years. We’ve got an incredible team of people.”



A guest enjoying conversation at the Zumix Benefit concert on February 1.



Don't Be Denied band: Steven Snyder, lead vocalist/rhythm guitar; Pedro Moreno, saxophone/ vocals; Callum MacKenzie, saxophone; Omar Sosa, lead guitar; Juan Gutierrez, bass; Linecker Da Silva, drums/vocals; Edward Meradith, piano; and Jon Briggs, saxophone.



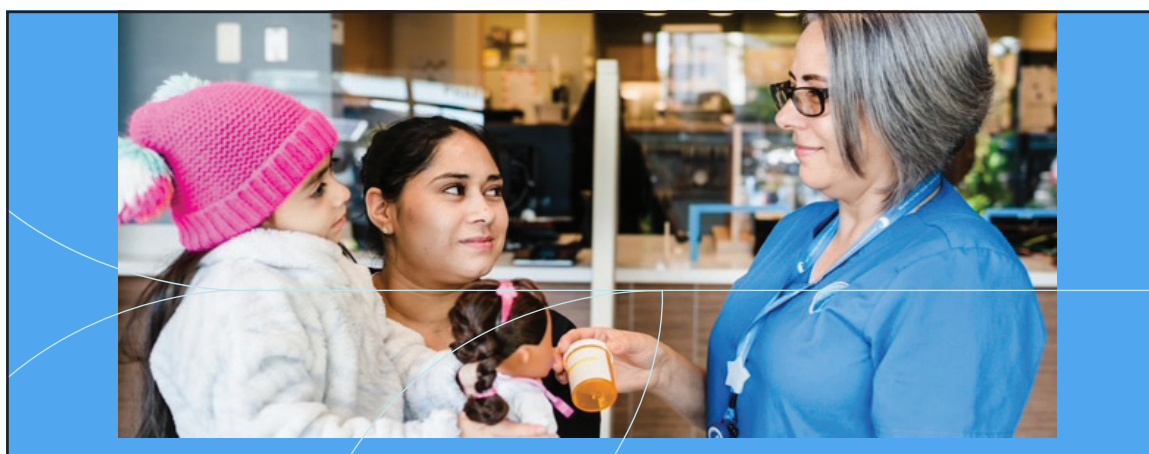
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Local artists to show work at Annual New England Collective Juried Exhibition

Special to the Times-Free Press

Galatea Fine Art is proud to present the 15th Annual New England Collective Juried Exhibition of local artists, through March 2, at its gallery in Boston's vibrant SoWa Arts and Design District. This highly anticipated juried exhibition celebrates the dynamic talent of contemporary artists from across New England, featuring a diverse range of mediums including painting, sculpture, photography, and mixed media. A public opening reception will be held on Friday, February 7, from 5 to 8 PM, offering visitors the opportunity to meet the artists and experience the selected works firsthand. East Boston artists to participate include Julie Baer, Wyatt Freed, June Krinsky-Rudder and Paul Weiner.

Blueprint of Imagination: The Exhibition Theme

Art is a language of possibil-

ities, a space where ideas take form and concepts evolve into tangible expressions. Blueprint of Imagination delves into the creative process, illuminating the unseen frameworks, inspirations, and narratives that shape an artist's work. This exhibition highlights how artists construct their visual worlds, translating thought into form through abstract compositions, structured designs, or spontaneous gestures. This year's New England Collective encourages audiences to reflect on the intersection between structure and spontaneity, logic and emotion, mapping an artistic journey that resonates on both personal and collective levels.

A Prestigious Juror

This year's exhibition is juried by Kaveh Mojtabai, Founder and Publisher of Artscope Magazine, a leading platform for arts and culture journalism. With a background in astro-

physics and business administration, Mojtabai brings a unique and insightful perspective to the selection process. His extensive experience in supporting artists and institutions and his leadership in the creative community make him an outstanding curator for this year's show.

A Platform for Regional Artists

The New England Collective exhibition has been a cor-

nerstone of Galatea Fine Art's programming for 15 years, providing both emerging and established artists a platform to showcase their work in a professional gallery setting. As a contemporary artist-run gallery, Galatea Fine Art fosters artistic dialogue and connects artists with collectors, curators, and the greater arts community.

"This exhibition brings together an incredible range of artistic voices, highlighting

the creativity and innovation that defines the New England art scene," says Claudia Fiks, Director of Galatea Fine Art. "Each year, we are amazed by the breadth of talent in our region, and we're excited to share this collection with the public."

Galatea Fine Art is located at 460-B Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118, in the heart of SoWa's thriving art scene.

Federal funds to help mitigate Blue Line flooding

Special to the Times-Free Press

Massachusetts has secured more than \$9.9 million in federal funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. The funding, administered by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), will support the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) in preventing flooding impacts, strengthening the administration's efforts to mitigate climate change effects, and build a more climate resilient transit system.

"Protecting our infrastructure and implementing new and innovative ways to mitigate and respond to the ever-changing effects of climate change is crucial to providing safe, and reliable public transportation," said Governor Maura Healey. "We know that Blue Line riders have had to endure frequent flooding for years, and these funds will help put a stop to those service disruptions. We're grateful to FEMA for recognizing the significance of this work and congratulate MEMA and the MBTA for their efforts to secure this funding."

Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll said these infrastructure upgrades will improve flood resilience and help prevent water leaks and corrosion to protect this route for years to come.

The project will fund a series of improvements to the Blue Line Tunnel portal, which connects the tunnel to the airport, to protect the transit line from flooding impacts.

Much of the MBTA's Blue Line is below sea level and at

increasing risk of coastal and stormwater flooding. Portals like the Airport Tunnel Portal are large entry points for flood waters, which can then damage the Blue Line and connecting subway tunnel systems and disrupt service while repairs are made. The Blue Line Tunnel runs underneath the Boston Harbor from East Boston to downtown, carrying thousands of passengers each day and serving communities in the East Boston area.

Specifically, the project will include the installation of flood doors that will close off the two tunnel portal openings during a flood event. Work will include updates on the track, traction power, signal and pump rooms to accommodate the new flood doors. The project proposal accounts for increased flooding events related to climate change and is designed to provide protection against impacts as far out as 2070.

"The Healey-Driscoll administration has been proactive in taking steps to address the challenges of climate change, and this federal funding will position the Blue Line to withstand some of the worst weather that leads to flooding in the corridor area," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "Our vision for the MBTA is to build infrastructure that supports reliable and resilient service, and this grant will help us protect assets, safeguard the fleet, and keep service running for customers."

The funding will not only help us protect the Blue Line Tunnel, a vital corridor connecting East Boston to downtown and Logan Airport, but it will also strengthen long-term

efforts to create a safer, more sustainable transit network, said General Manager Phillip Eng.

"As the state agency charged with administering BRIC grants, MEMA recognizes the importance of utilizing these funds to help cities, towns and the state mitigate risks to community lifelines such as transportation," said MEMA Director Dawn Brantley. "The technical assistance and guidance that MEMA's Mitigation Unit provides for these grant applications has been instrumental in successfully moving these grant projects forward in a nationally-competitive selection process. The team managed more than \$300 million in hazard mitigation grant projects during 2024, which represents a single-year record for the agency."

As detailed in the state's hazard mitigation and climate adaptation plan, ResilientMass, the MBTA has completed climate change vulnerability assessments and flood screening reports of its entire operations to better understand the risks and vulnerabilities to natural disasters and take measures to increase resilience. This project advances implementation of one of MBTA's priority actions in the ResilientMass Plan, the Tunnel Flood Mitigation program.

The cost for construction of the Blue Line Tunnel project is estimated at \$13.4 million. The BRIC grant will cover approximately 75% and the state will contribute \$3.3 million. The total project cost is \$20.7 million. The project has also received a \$1 million grant for design through EEA's ResilientMass Implementation Funding.

Census // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Boston has grown by 10.6%, from 5,202 in 2023 to 5,756 in 2024. Despite this increase, the 2024 figure remained 11.3% lower than the 2015 peak of 6,492 individuals. In December, HUD announced that U.S. homelessness increased by 18% from 2023 to 2024, with over 770,000 people experiencing homelessness nationwide in January 2024.

"The annual census is a critical tool for measuring progress and identifying areas where we can improve," said St. Francis House President and CEO Karen LaFrazia. "Boston's homelessness numbers provide valuable insights that help us deliver services to the city's most vulnerable residents. However, we must remain focused on the ultimate goal: moving individuals off the street and into stable, supportive, permanent housing."

"The annual homeless census is a vital tool for understanding the realities faced by our most vulnerable residents and informing our efforts to address those challenges," said Lyndia Downie, President and Executive Director of Pine Street Inn. "The data gathered

through this effort will allow us to better shape our policies, allocate resources, and deliver services that help individuals move into stable, permanent housing. We remain steadfast in our commitment to collaborate with our partners to prevent and ultimately end homelessness in our city."

"The annual census in Boston is an essential resource for understanding the challenges faced by our community's most vulnerable members," said Jennifer Hanlon Wigon, Chief Executive Officer for the Women's Lunch Place. "By examining Boston's homelessness data, we can better tailor our services to meet the needs of women experiencing homelessness. But our ultimate mission remains clear: ensuring every individual has access to safe, stable, and permanent housing, along with the support they need to thrive."

The results of the 2025 homelessness census will be available in the coming months. The report will inform the public about the City's ongoing efforts to ensure every Boston resident has access to safe and stable housing.

East Boston man charged with attempted back-to-back robberies in Revere

Special to the Times-Free Press

An East Boston man was arraigned this month in Chelsea District Court after police link him to back-to-back robbery attempts in Revere, Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

Isreal Bullard, 63, of East Boston was charged on January 17 with two counts of attempting to commit a crime (armed robbery) and one count of assault with a dangerous weapon. Judge Stuart Hurowitz released Bullard on personal recognizance. Bullard is due back in court on March 21 for a pre-trial hearing.

At about 1:46 p.m. on January 9, Revere police responded to Target located at 36 Furlong Drive for an attempted robbery.

Officers met with a Target employee who reported observing a male, later identified as Bullard, standing in the checkout lane. Bullard said several times that he was “going to wait” while he let other customers pass by and check out first. Bullard then placed an item on the conveyor belt and repeatedly told the employee to open the register. After the employee told Bullard they could not do that, Bullard placed his hand in his jacket pocket and said “I have a gun, no one is going to get hurt.” After several failed attempts, Bullard walked out of the store and was seen entering a taxi and heading toward Lee Burbank Highway.

As officers were leaving Target, they were dispatched to the Citizens Bank located inside Stop and Shop, in the same plaza. A bank employee reported that a male stated to him “this is a robbery,” then made references to a shooting. The male then left the bank. The bank manager provided still images of the male, who matched the same description of the male from Target, later identified as Bullard.

Officers soon determined that this incident had occurred about twenty-five minutes before the Target incident. Investigators were able to

identify Bullard by contacting Tunnel Taxi, whose cab Bullard was seen using to get to and from the shopping plaza. Police obtained a warrant for Bullard’s arrest.

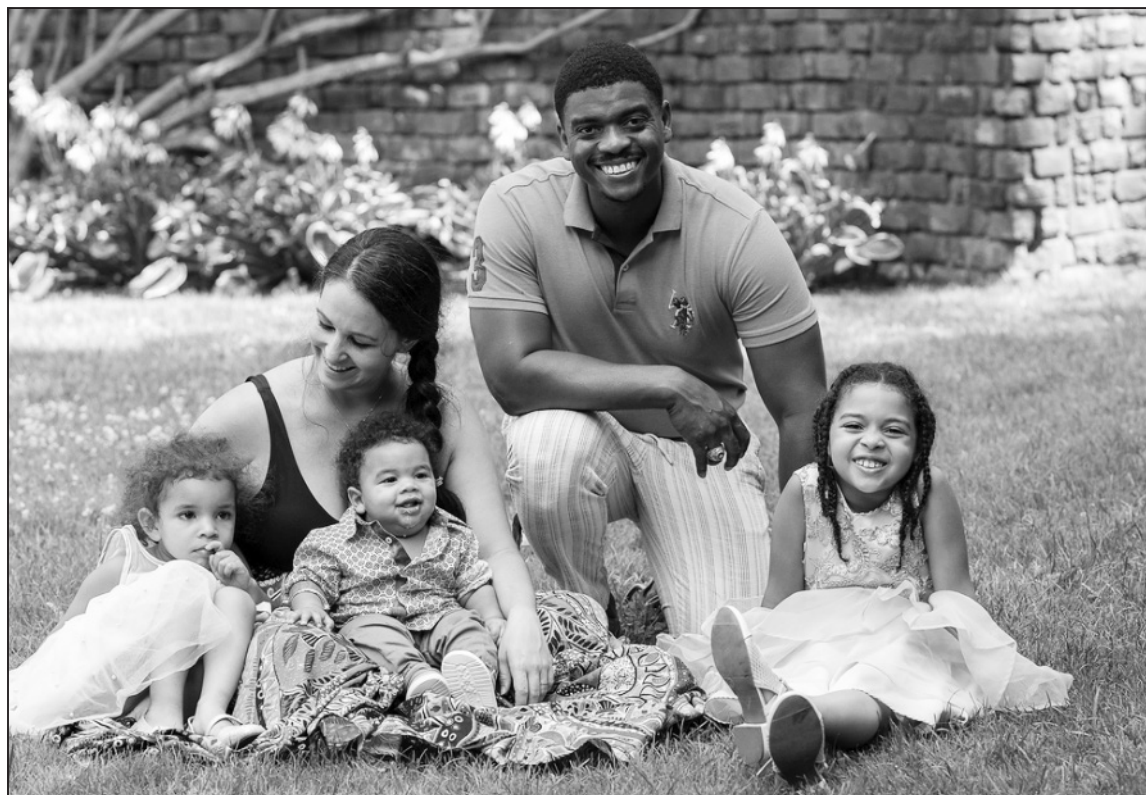
Bullard was convicted of larceny in 2012 and then convicted of unarmed robbery just months later and sentenced to state prison.

Hayden’s office, the Boston Police department, and regional retailer groups and small business owners in 2024 launched the Safe Shopping Initiative, an effort to increase consumer safety and help store managers strategize responses to shoplifting and retail larcenies. The initiative formed amid increasing national and local frustrations around retail crime, along with concerns over the closure of several pharmacies serving minority communities in Boston.

“We want consumers to feel safe going in to stores and we want employees to feel safe going in to work. Quality of life while shopping and working is the target goal for us, and working with police and retail partners is the best way to achieve that goal,” Hayden said.

All charged individuals are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden’s office serves the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Mass. The office handles over 20,000 cases a year. More than 160 attorneys in the office practice in nine district and municipal courts, Suffolk Superior Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Boston Juvenile Courts. The office employs some 300 people and offers a wide range of services and programs to serve anyone who comes in contact with the criminal justice system. This office is committed to educating the public about the services we provide, our commitment to crime prevention, and our dedication to keeping the residents of Suffolk County safe.



Marvin Mathelier with his wife, Beth, and their three children.

Marvin Mathelier announces campaign for Boston City Council At-Large

Special to the Sun

Marvin Mathelier, a Marine Corps veteran, small business owner, and community advocate, has officially announced his candidacy for Boston City Council At-Large. With a campaign focused on affordable housing, improving public schools, and public safety, Mathelier will bring bold, long-term solutions to the challenges facing Boston’s neighborhoods.

“I’m not a politician—I’m a Marine, a small business owner,

and a father who understands the struggles Boston families face every day,” said Mathelier. “From skyrocketing rents to unsafe streets and underfunded schools, our city needs leadership that puts people first, not special interests. I’m running to ensure that every Bostonian has the opportunity to thrive.”

Marvin’s career in the Marine Corps took him to Afghanistan in 2010, and more recently across Latin America and the Caribbean. He co-owns Ula Café in Jamaica Plain, where he creates jobs and

fosters community connections. Most recently, Marvin served as Deputy Chief Engagement Officer at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans Services, where he worked to help veterans access benefits and resources, ranging from housing to health care.

Born in New York and raised in a family of immigrants, Mathelier’s life has been defined by service. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Norwich University, an MBA from Loyola

See CAMPAIGN Page 14

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Pottle, Carolyn	100 White St LLC	100 White St #4	\$989,000
Ackernecht, David	Evans, Evan	21-23 Lexington St #201	\$643,000
Epwh LLC	Webleans Development LLC	32 Orleans St #4	\$512,500
Long, John	Lente Realty Co LLC	326 Meridian St #2	\$625,000
Tsana W Nobles RET	Brundage, David E	336 Saratoga St #4	\$635,000
Bonilla Jr, Juan E	Bonilla, Juan	37 Eutaw St	\$700,000
Huang, Guangtong	J&s Meridian Rt	387 Meridian St	\$1,000,000
Murphy, Patrick M	387 Sumner Partners LLC	389 Sumner St #401	\$1,306,500
Frassine, Andrea F	Brian A Tino T	62 Webster St #301	\$651,000

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THE ANNUAL ICY PLUNGE SPONSORED BY THE BELLE ISLE ROTARY CLUB AND THE EAST BOSTON YACHT CLUB

Last Saturday was a typical winter's day in New England, cloudy, rainy, snowy and cold. This was the day members of the Belle Isle Rotary Club (which covers East Boston, Revere, and Winthrop) along with members of the East Boston Yacht Club dove into the icy waters of Boston Harbor, raising funds to fight Polio worldwide.

A huge turnout made the event a big success, all enjoyed a great day together, a tasty buffet luncheon and many wonderful memories.

Many thanks to the East Boston Yacht Club for its continuing hospitality, hosting many community events, and making a difference for everyone.



Fr. Nieme Lambert arrived for the blessing and to jump into the icy waters of Boston harbor, joined by Vera Carducci, Jack Walsh and Rotary President Joe Steffano.



"The Captain", complete with cape and bike hits the freezing Boston Harbor waters.




The ever, diving eggplant.



Rotary District Deputy Tom Hankard (center) was at the plunge last Saturday afternoon, supporting the cause. Shown with President Joe Steffano, Maryann Russo, President of Parkway Rotary Club Ray Fitzgerald, and President of the Salem Rotary Carolyn Shapiro.

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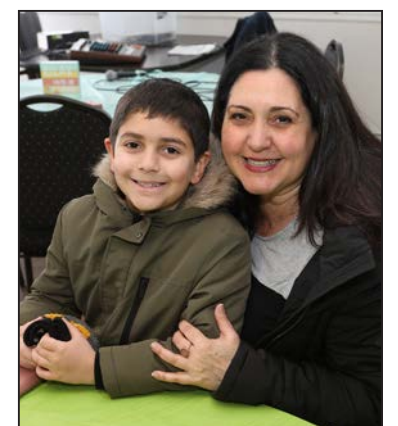
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Christopher and his mom, Lisa Cappuccio, enjoying the day at the East Boston Yacht Club.

THE ANNUAL ICY PLUNGE SPONSORED BY THE BELLE ISLE ROTARY CLUB AND THE EAST BOSTON YACHT CLUB



From Salem Rotary Club, Carolyn Shapiro and Natalie Blue.



A swimming banana at the EBYC.



EBYC members, Jason DeAmaral, Rotary President Joe Steffano, Tim White, Tim Reardon, John Dean, and John Lloyd.



Vera Carducci with Randy Cipoletta and Sterling Sobey.



Steve Ciccarelli and Raffah Siddiqui from Watertown Whiskey were on hand with a lot of give-aways, including samples of their product. Shown with Kara White, Sonia Rollins and Tim White.

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Wu announces more than \$64 million in affordable housing funding awards

Special to the Time-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu announced \$64.2 million in new, recommended funding from the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Community Preservation Fund, and the Neighborhood Housing Trust (NHT) to create and preserve income-restricted units of housing in eight Boston neighborhoods. This ambitious portfolio of projects consists of 12 projects with a total of 637 units of mixed-income housing that includes both rental and homeownership units for families, housing for older adults and housing for those experiencing homelessness. These proposed projects meet the Mayor's Office of Housing standards for zero-emissions buildings and represent transit-oriented, green development. This announcement was made today at the Harvard Ed Portal in Allston, with city leadership, local elected officials, affordable housing developers, and community organizations.

"Collaborating closely with communities across neighborhoods, we're urgently working to create and preserve more than 600 income-restricted housing units across the city," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These housing awards will strengthen our communities, enhance affordability, and continue making progress for Boston as a home for everyone. I'm grateful to the Neighborhood Housing Trust and the Community Preservation Committee for their continued partnership as we continue our efforts to address affordability across Boston's neighborhoods."

These awards have been funded by federal programs such as HOME Investment Partnership and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), as well as local programs like Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) funds, Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, and Linkage contributions from large commercial developments. These projects will advance City goals to affirmatively further fair housing, and will efficiently utilize City resources and land to increase the supply of housing available to residents across Boston neighborhoods.

"This funding represents another important step in making Boston a city where everyone



Shown are some of the local officials who participated in the Affordable Housing funding awards.

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJA

can find a place to call home," said Chief of Housing Sheila A. Dillon. "By supporting these 12 developments, we are not just creating housing—we are strengthening neighborhoods, preventing displacement, and ensuring that residents have the stability they need to thrive. These funds build on the historic investments in housing made by the Wu administration over the last three years, reflecting our continued commitment to addressing Boston's housing challenges head-on."

Proposals for these funding awards were evaluated by the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH), the Neighborhood Housing Trust (NHT), and the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The funding award recommendations stem from a review process following a Request for Proposals issued by MOH in the fall of 2024. Each proposal was evaluated by teams of senior leadership, underwriters, and architects using criteria such as financial feasibility, team capacity, community support, design quality, and alignment with market needs. Of the 21 projects submitted, 12 were selected to receive funding. MOH will work with the remaining project teams to strengthen their proposals for future funding opportunities.

"The Community Preservation Committee acknowledges the crucial role that affordable housing plays in the lives of our residents and is steadfast in its dedication to building more inclusive and resilient communities," said Thadine Brown, Director of the Community Preservation Act Office. "Through the Communi-

ty Preservation Fund, we are proud to support the creation of new affordable housing units in Boston. These proposed projects not only offer homeownership and rental opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents but also help prevent the displacement of long-term residents, providing them with a sense of security, stability, and improved health outcomes."

"As Boston grows, ensuring access to affordable housing is vital to maintaining Boston's diverse neighborhoods," said Catherine Hardaway, chair of the Neighborhood Hous-

ing Trust. "Affordable housing isn't just about providing homes, it's about fostering stable neighborhoods and driving economic development. The Neighborhood Housing Trust remains committed to partnering with developers, community organizations, and residents to champion innovative, sustainable housing solutions. I want to thank my colleagues who serve on the Neighborhood Housing Trust for their commitment to affordable housing in Boston. Together, we can create resilient neighborhoods where every Bostonian has the

opportunity to thrive." "The Neighborhood Housing Trust and Community Preservation Fund are valuable tools we have to continue to support affordable housing development in the City," said Chief of Planning Kairos Shen. "I am happy that the various large scale development projects which went through our development review process and paid into Linkage were able to support the NHT in making this round of funding

See HOUSING Page 14

OBITUARIES

Robert "Bob" Buonopane

Of East Boston

Robert "Bob" Buonopane, 54, of East Boston, passed away peacefully after a long illness on January 26, 2025.

Robert was born on October 16, 1970 to Robert and Frances (Gallo) Buonopane. He spent 30 years as part of the union, mastering his trade, in commercial construction installing acoustical ceilings. He loved swimming, dancing and being outdoors, which helped make him an avid golfer. He enjoyed reciting lines from movies, and most of all being around family and friends.

Bob will be remembered as a loving father to Kayla Buonopane of Atkinson, NH and Bobby Buonopane of Re-



vere, a dear brother to, Aileen (Michael) Lazarz of Brooklyn,

MI, Michele Buonopane of Lynn, a dear brother-in-law to Maria Buonopane of Saugus and a former husband to Jennifer (Harder) Buonopane. Bob is also survived by many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, who cherished him, Robert and Frances (Gallo) Buonopane and his dear twin brother, Anthony "Tony" Buonopane.

There will be a Celebration of Life at a later date. Memorial contributions may be given to family for future designation. Please leave a message of comfort for Bob's family or sign his guestbook at www.EinederFuneralHomes.com.

OBITUARIES

Carmela G. LaRosa

She was everyone's Nonna, well known for her incredible cooking

Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend Visiting Hours today, Wednesday, February 5 from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, 262 Beach St., Revere for Carmela G. (Pastore) LaRosa who died on Friday, January 31st following a brief illness. She was 76 years old. Her funeral will be conducted from the Funeral Home on Thursday, February 6th beginning at 10 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Anthony of Padua Church, 250 Revere St., Revere at 11 a.m. Entombment will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery - Chapel Hill Mausoleum,



Malden. Carmela was born in Nusco,

Italy to her late parents, Antonio and Teresa (DeStefano) Pastore. On August 3, 1959, she arrived in the United States. Carmela was raised in East Boston and educated in Boston Public Schools. She was a graduate of Girls

High School, Class of 1966. She married Angelo LaRosa on September 24, 1967 and was a proud housewife and devoted mother to her four children.

The family later relocated to Revere where she has been for the past 34 years. She was well known for her incredible cooking, especially her legendary chicken cutlets and rice balls. Carmela enjoyed nothing more

than feeding people. All she wanted to do was take care of her family, which she did with love.

She cherished watching her grandchildren and seeing them grow up. She was very close to her sisters and brother, and all of her in laws. She enjoyed shopping for anything. Carmela was everyone's Nonna, and she loved it.

She was the beloved wife of 53 years to the late Angelo LaRosa; the loving mother of Paolo LaRosa of Revere, Antonietta Mario and her husband, Martin of Winchester, Antonio LaRosa of Revere and Teresa Rossetti and her husband, Rob-

ert of Tewksbury; the cherished nonna of Mollie, Christy, Angelo, Martin, Sofia, Nicholas, Robert, Jonathan and Jenna; the treasured sister of Michelena Visentini, Marisa Finocchiro, Giovanna Pastore, Salvatorina Ferretti and the late Julia Riera, and Gerardo Pastore. She is also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

To send online condolences, please visit www.vertuciosmithvazza.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza,

Beechwood Home for Funerals, Revere.

To place a memoriam please call 781-485-0588




11th Angel Anniversary
Rich Ford
2-9-2014 2-9-2025

My Son
My Brother
No matter how many years go by,
No matter how far,
Nothing can change the bond between us.
You're Forever In Our Hearts

We Love You So Much and Miss You!
Dad, Mom and Jennifer


Fourth Anniversary
In Loving Memory
Dolores LaMattina
Oct. 20, 1935 — Feb. 10, 2021



You can only have one mother Patient, kind and true; No other friend in all the world, Will be the same to you. When other friends forsake you, To mother you will turn, For all her loving kindness, She asks nothing in return. As we look

upon her picture, Sweet memories we recall, Of a face so full of sunshine, And a smile for one and all. Sweet Jesus, take this message, To our dear mother up above; Tell her how we miss her, and give her all our love.

Third Anniversary
In Loving Memory
Mary (DeRuosi) Roach
Feb. 18, 1930 — Feb. 4, 2022



Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine foster-Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; so that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my

thanks giving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen.

Please join us for a Mass being held in their memory on Sunday Feb. 9th at 10am at Sacred Heart Church in East Boston

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TITANIC

THE ARTIFACT EXHIBITION

Exhibition now on display

TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition has brought nearly 250 authentic artifacts from the wreck site of Titanic by RMS Titanic, Inc. to The Saunders Castle at Park Plaza in Boston, where they will remain on display until May 29, 2025. Presented by The Gold Group in Boston and viewed by more than 35 million people worldwide, TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition is one of the highest attended in history and is coming to Boston for the first time. E/M Group and RMS Titanic, Inc., have curated an incredible collection of authentic Titanic artifacts that will allow guests to experience the real stories of Titanic passengers and crew. These items have been honorably conserved and presented to the public to help educate and tell the story of Titanic. Visitors can also explore meticulously re-created rooms, including the opulent Grand Staircase.

"Boston eagerly awaits our Exhibition, which continues to set record-breaking attendance figures," said Gautam Chandna, Director of Business Development at E/M Group. "The Exhibition's continued success, as demonstrated in city after city, speaks to its broad appeal and exceptional quality."

For decades, Titanic has had a hold on people immersing themselves in the real stories of heroism, love, fear, and impossible decisions in the face of the "unsinkable" ocean liner meeting its fate. It was a watershed moment in world history and has made an indelible mark on history.

Upon entering TITANIC:



A young historian examines a Boarding Pass used on the Titanic.

The Artifact Exhibition guests are drawn back in time to April 1912, when the Ship embarked on its first and final journey. Guests receive a replica boarding pass, assume the role of a passenger, and follow a journey through life on Titanic—from the Ship's construction to life on board, to the infamous sinking. Also covered is the contemporary effort to recover artifacts and conserve the wreck site for scientific analysis, historical preservation, and to ensure future generations can admire, contemplate, and learn from Titanic.

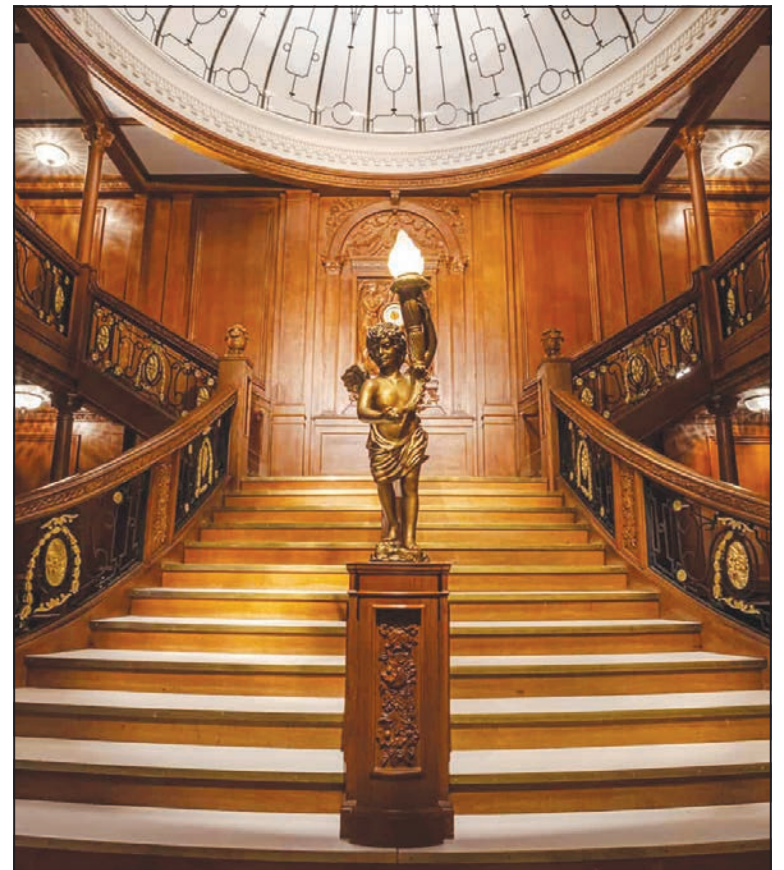
Located in the Back Bay, The Saunders Castle at Park Plaza is a former armory and is a designated National Historic Landmark. For tickets and more information, please visit <http://www.castleboston.com/>.

Tickets to the exhibition are now on sale www.titanicboston.com.

us, tickets start at \$39.50

Experiential Media Group, LLC (E/M Group), located in Atlanta, GA, is a world leader in the development and display of exhibitions that educate, entertain, and inspire audiences of all ages.

RMS Titanic, Inc.'s (RMST) mission is to preserve the legacy of Titanic's maiden voyage, subsequent sinking, and the memory of her passengers and crew through comprehensive educational programs, innovative exhibitions, research and recovery initiatives, wreck site imaging and analysis, and ongoing Titanic collaborations. RMST was granted salvor-in-possession rights to the wreck of Titanic and is the only company permitted by law to recover artifacts from the wreck site. RMST has recovered and conserved more than 5,500 artifacts since 1987 and is an affiliate of E/M Group.



The foyer.

TITANIC FACTS & TRIVIA

On Board Titanic

- The cost of an average first-class ticket on Titanic from Southampton to New York was \$450, although prices varied based on cabin size and amenities.

- A first-class suite cost \$2,500, or approximately \$73,000 in 2022.

- However, the most luxurious suites with a private promenade deck cost \$4,500 in 1912, or approximately \$131,400 in 2022.

- A third-class ticket on Titanic cost \$40, or approximately \$1,170 in 2022. Up to 10 people resided in each third-class room."

- First-class passengers had the luxury of paying for their leisure while on board: a ticket to the swimming pools cost 25¢, while a ticket for the squash court (as well as the services of a professional player) cost 50¢.

- Sixty cooks and assistants worked in Titanic's five kitchens. They ranged from soup and roast cooks to pastry and vegetable cooks. There was also a cook who prepared ko-

sher meals for the Jewish passengers.

- There were only two bathtubs for the more than 700 third-class passengers aboard the Ship.

- The forward part of the Boat Deck was a promenade space for first-class passengers and the rear part was for second-class passengers. Passengers from these classes thus had the best chance of getting into a lifeboat simply because they could get to them quickly and easily.

Disaster Strikes

- Even if all 20 lifeboats had been filled, there would only have been enough room to save 1,178 people.

- At first, most of the passengers did not believe that Titanic was really sinking, hence the low number of 28 aboard the first lifeboat even though it could have carried 65.

- Titanic was one of the first ships in distress to send out an "SOS" signal. The radio officer used "SOS" after using the

Trivia// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12



Some surviving items and memorabilia from the Titanic on display at the exhibition.

traditional code of “CQD” followed by the Ship’s call letters.

- Dorothy Gibson, a 28-year-old silent screen actress, was an established movie star who, along with her mother, survived the sinking. Gibson would later star in *Saved from the Titanic*, a film released one month after the disaster. The costume that she wore in the film was the same dress, sweater, and coat that she wore on the night of the sinking.

Copyright © 2023 by E/M Group for TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition Website: www.emgroup.com Email: marketing@emgroup.com

- Tennis player R. Norris Williams and his father, Charles, felt it was too cold to remain out on deck as the Ship went down so they went into the Gymnasium to ride the exercise bicycles.

- At the time of Titanic’s destruction, the water temperature was 28°F (-2°C). Most of those struggling in the water in their life jackets would have succumbed to hypothermia, while others may have had heart attacks.

The Aftermath

- Initial headlines of the Titanic disaster claimed all passengers survived and the Ship was being towed to land.

- No skeletons remain at the wreck site. Any bodies that were carried to the seabed with the wreck were consumed by fish and crustaceans. With the currents, and the difference in weight of the ship, it is unlikely that the remains of those who perished at the surface sank to the wreck site.

- In the 1898 novel *Futility*, written 14 years before the sailing and sinking of Titanic, author Morgan Robertson penned a fictitious tale about a ship named Titan that collides with an iceberg. Some of the uncanny similarities between the book and the Titanic disaster include:

- the month (April)
- the length of the ships (Titanic was 882.9 feet; Titan was 800 feet), and
- the number of passengers on board (Titanic had approximately 2,200; Titan had 2,000).



Visitors can sit and examine a manifest of all the passengers onboard the ship when it sank in 1912.

NOW OPEN

FIRST TIME EVER IN BOSTON

TITANIC

THE ARTIFACT EXHIBITION

TitanicBoston.us

The Saunders Castle at Park Plaza

130 Columbus Ave, Boston, MA

GSNA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

while this project is being billed as a four-story building, it is projected to be five levels.

The building's height is about 54 feet, which exceeds the 50-foot maximum in the East Boston Residential (EBR)-4 zoning subdistrict.

However, Lynds said, "Because this property is located in what we call a Coastal Flood Resilience Overlay District (CFROD), the calculations for building height are actually different and distinct than the typical measurements that you

may see elsewhere in the city."

"So, in this case, even though if this building were not located in what we call a CFROD district, we would be measuring the height of the building from the sidewalk. Instead, we have to measure the building from what we call design flood elevation, and that's an area basically above the area that we can actually use for habitable space or for functional space in the building."

Essentially, measuring from the design flood elevation drops the height of the building — for zoning purposes — to 50 feet, which is compliant.

The CFROD also impacts the number of stories from a zoning standpoint. Lynds indicated that since the first level is not 65% above the design

flood elevation, it is not technically considered the first story. Therefore, the building is referred to as a CFROD-compliant four-story building, which complies with the maximum number of stories in the EBR-4 subdistrict.

As the presentation continued, Lynds provided an overview of floor plans. Later, the project architect, Eric Zachrisson, spoke about how this project's design aligns with another project in the area at 265 Maverick Street, which Lynds presented to the GSNA a few months ago.

"This is a pretty rare opportunity where we get to represent two clients next to each other, and so we have talked to both of them about how the buildings need to — want to

— in some way relate to each other," said Zachrisson. For example, he mentioned trying to use similar materials for each of the projects.

Other aspects of this project include the units being rentals, and Lynds foresaw being required to include four inclusionary development policy (IDP) units. Plans also include adding street trees in the area and a roof deck.

As noted, this project is subject to Article 80 review, and there will be a public meeting regarding the project after the team files a project notification form.

The next GSNA meeting is scheduled for February 24th. For more information about the association, visit its website at <https://www.govestreet.org/>.

Campaign // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

University Chicago Quinlan School of Business, and a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.

Mathelier lives in Roxbury with his wife, Beth, and their three children.

Mathelier's campaign will emphasize the need for collaboration and integrity in addressing Boston's most pressing issues. His priorities include:

- Making Boston Affordable: Tackling rising rents and creating more affordable housing.
- Fixing Our Schools: Ensuring every child has access to quality education.

- Safer Streets: Addressing violence and prioritizing public safety for all.

Mathelier's deep commitment to Boston stems from his belief that every resident deserves a fair shot at success. "Boston is a city of promise and potential," he said. "But too many families feel left behind. Together, we can build a stronger, better Boston where everyone has a voice."

For more information about Marvin Mathelier's campaign, visit <https://marvinforboston.com>. Follow the campaign on most social media platforms at @MarvinForBoston.

MBTA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

to project or open house schedules will be communicated.

Riders can find updates on service changes via signage, announcements, and by sub-

scribing to text and email alerts at mbta.com/alerts. Transit Ambassadors, Fare Engagement Representatives, and staff will be on-site for assistance.

Housing // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

possible."

"We are honored to be a recipient of this year's City of Boston's affordable housing funding awards, which strengthens our mission to deliver inclusive and accessible housing solutions in Allston Brighton. The Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation is proud to support Mayor Michelle Wu's vision of creating more equitable sustainable housing for all," said John Woods, Executive Director of the Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation. "We deeply appreciate the support and dedication of our Mayor Michelle Wu, the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Neighborhood Housing Trust, the Community Preservation Committee, the North Allston residents, Councilor Liz Breadon, and Harvard University for helping us create new sustainable inclusive housing in our city."

All the new construction projects funded in this round will be required to follow the Zero Emissions Building (ZEB) requirements outlined in the MOH Design Standards. New developments will use electricity and on-site solar panels as their sole fuel source.

Chinatown/South End

- 50 Herald Street, a project led by Beacon Communities Services LLC and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, will create 117 af-

fordable rental units, including 22 Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) off-site units. All units will be affordable between 30-60% of AMI. The project will also include a sizable ground-floor retail space capable of locating an Asian market.

Fenway

- 112 Queensberry, developed by the Fenway Community Development Corporation, will transform this under-utilized urban infill site into a six-story building with 24 units of affordable transit-oriented rental housing. These units will serve individuals earning 30-60% of AMI.

Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill

- Envision Hotel, located at 81 South Huntington Avenue, will be acquired and rehabilitated by Victory Programs. The hotel, currently operating as an emergency shelter, will transition into 41 deeply affordable permanent supportive housing units for individuals experiencing homelessness

Mission Hill

- ODJ Development LLC will build 48 affordable homeownership units serving households earning 80-100% of AMI on City-owned land. The development will include open space and urban farming opportunities.

This announcement of a \$64 million City investment to create and preserve 637 units of affordable housing continues

the Wu Administration's historic investment in affordable housing production. The Wu administration, in its first three years, has created more affordable housing than at any other three-year period dating back to 1998. In addition to increasing the supply of affordable housing, the Mayor has worked urgently to unlock market-rate development through a new \$110 million Housing Accelerator Fund aimed at closing financing gaps for approved projects. Under her leadership, the City has launched zoning and programs aimed at fostering a wider variety of housing for all Bostonians, including accessory dwelling units, housing with public assets like libraries, office-to-residential conversions Downtown, and more mid-size multifamily housing in walkable and transit-oriented areas. Mayor Wu and her administration have also helped more families become homeowners than in any other three-year period since 1998 and adopted new policies and programs to reduce the cost of utility bills for homeowners. Mayor Wu continues to fight for residential tax relief legislation for Boston residents impacted by sharp increases in their Fiscal Year 2025 third-quarter property tax bills. This refiled tax proposal expands on Mayor Wu's relief package that passed the City Council and House of Representatives last year.

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EBCCS HOLDS YOUNG AUTHORS' PRESENTATION DURING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) began their two-day-long Young Authors' Presentation on January 27 in celebration of Catholic Schools Week. The display featured hardcover books written and illustrated by students, from early education through 8th grade.

Teachers worked closely with little ones during library class and after school programming to help inspire stories and develop students' literary and writing skills; while older students independently produced original works, including mysteries and comedies.

"With the older children, it's a writing process," said Roberta Casaletto, Library Teacher. "When I look at these stories and I read them, it brings tears. I want to give every one of them an award. They're unbelievable."

Casaletto is amazed at the outstanding creativity and illustrations of her students,



Alexia, 10-years-old, holding her book, "The Scientist of the World," with her mother, Karla

and encouraged children to share positive reviews of their classmates' pieces on a poster board. She appreciates that visiting families not only took the time to admire their children's books, but that they also read other students' projects.

"I've seen parents crying looking at their children's books," shared Casaletto. "They come up to me and say that they can't believe that their child is an artist and has this imagination. That's rewarding."



Sharon Rozzi, fifth grade teacher, with two of her students.



Beth and her daughter, Evelyn, recipient of a "Young Authors" book.



Mrs. Casaletto, Library Teacher, with two fifth grade students holding their books.



Two fifth graders reading a 6th grade student's book.

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Three fifth grade students looking at books created by first graders.