

East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

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East Boston Times 2018 Persons of the Year

Kerri Abrams, 2018 Woman of the Year

It was perhaps the most unselfish act one person could do for another but once Kerri Abrams learned that longtime East Boston resident John Nucci was in desperate need of a lifesaving kidney transplant she did not hesitate.

Life came full circle for Nucci and Abrams, who owns Kinship Florist in Revere.

Thirty-five years ago Abrams' parents, Kim and Al, were political supporters and friends of Nucci. At the time Nucci nor the Abrams could have ever guessed that Kim and Al's daughter would donate her kidney to help save Nucci's life nearly four decades later.

Nucci, 66, suffers from Polycystic Kidney Disease, the same kidney disease that killed his dad at the age of 64. He and Abrams underwent the lifesaving kidney transplant surgery in June.

"My kidneys went from 12 percent down to two percent since February," said an emotional Nucci on the eve of his surgery Monday evening.



Woman of the Year Kerri Abrams (right) with John Nucci and his wife, Peggy. Abrams donated her kidney to save Nucci life in June.

"Kerri is just an amazing and brave woman. To read about my story, step up and undergo all the testing and agreeing to go through with donating her kidney to me after she found out she was a match is something that is so moving to me and my family."

In fact, when Nucci first met Abrams' parents decades ago he was well aware that someday he would need a kidney transplant to save his life.

"Everything was finalized in May," said Nucci. "Testing continued right up until last week. We are both in good shape, we are both healthy but I still ask for everyone's prayers."

Nucci, Suffolk University's Vice President of Governmental Affairs that also sits on the Massport board of directors, joked that if it wasn't for a de-

See ABRAMS Page 4

Jordan Weymer, 2018 Man of the Year

Since taking over the reigns at the Donald McKay School in East Boston Principal Jordan Weymer has elevated the school's profile and achievements not only in Eastie but the entire city.

This year the McKay, under Weymer's leadership, won the prestigious EdVestors Thomas W. Payzant School on the Move Prize.

In the award's 13 year history no Eastie school has ever received the \$100,000 prize.

For this Jordan Weymer is the East Boston Times 2018 Man of the Year.

"It feels incredible," said Weymer after his school won the award this year. "The best thing about it is the support we've received from the community and other schools. You don't do this work for the awards you do it to make a difference but this award just confirms the great work the teachers and kids are doing at our school."

For the past 13 years EdVestors, a school improvement



Donald McKay School Principal Jordan Weymer

organization in Boston, has awarded its \$100,000 Thomas W. Payzant School on the Move Prize to recognize rapidly-improving schools that have made exemplary progress in advancing the academic achievement of all students.

"Great schools like Donald McKay are the beating heart of our city and I applaud the teachers and staff at the school for being awarded this year's School on the Move

Prize," said Boston Mayor Martin Walsh.

The McKay is a K-8 school where 60 percent of students are English Language Learners (ELL). The 800-student Donald McKay K-8 has experienced significant growth under Weymer's leadership—climbing steadily from the bottom 6 percent of schools statewide six years ago, to surpassing the district average in literacy and math by em-

2018: A Year in Review

January

Walsh Sworn in to Second Term

Mayor Martin Walsh takes the Oath of Office from state Supreme Judicial Court Justice Kimberly Budd on Jan. 1, at Cutler Majestic Theatre. Looking on are former Vice President Joe Biden, Mary Walsh (the mayor's mother) and Lorrie Higgins.

In front of a packed audience at the Cutler Majestic Theater in Boston, Mayor Martin Walsh took the Oath of Office for the second time as Mayor of Boston and vowed to expand the city's school lunch pilot program that began in East Boston to all Boston Public Schools. Walsh was administered the oath for his second term by Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Associate Justice Kimberly Budd with former Vice President Joseph Biden presiding over the ceremony.

One program Walsh touched upon in his speech is

the widely successful school lunch pilot program that began in Eastie last year. The program aims to bring freshly prepared school lunches to students instead of the current program that is mostly frozen prepackaged processed lunches that are simply heated up by school cafeteria staff.

"We're also going to scale up our new food pilot program that's working at East Boston High School (EBNHS), the Kennedy School, the Bradley School, and East Boston Early Education Center, until every student gets at least two fresh, nutritious meals, every day, all across the district," said Walsh.

For thousands of low-income students, school lunch is the lion's share of nutrition students get during the day.

City Councilor Lydia Edwards sworn in for first term

Lydia Edwards stepped up on Jan. 1, to be inaugurated



2018 Veterans Day Parade: Patrick J. Kennedy School first grade student Sofia Castano presents veteran Richard Gay with a gift as veteran Rich Duvall looks on. The presentation of gifts to honored guests was part of the school's Veterans Day celebration last Friday at the Kennedy School. See pages 4 and 5 for more photos of 2018.

with the Council and Mayor Martin Walsh in a grand ceremony at the Cutler Majestic Theatre in downtown Boston New Year's Day morning.

"I am honored and excited to serve with humility and compassion," she said following the ceremony. "We

have the best opportunity to lead the city in how to get big things done while not forgetting our history or character of our neighborhoods."

"It's still very surreal," she said following the Council meeting at noon, which followed the inauguration on

Monday. "It was amazing how it all happened and it's so easy to get caught up in the pomp and circumstance. However, afterward, when we were here at City Hall before the meeting, I met a woman who was serving coffee in the Green Room. She said hello to me and told me that she had voted for me. It turns out she is a Latina woman from East Boston and she was at work on New Year's Day. It made me see that there was a hard-working woman who came out to work on a cold day, on New Year's Day, when most aren't working. It said something about hard-working people who show up on a day like this. I'm here to work for them."

Bomb Cyclone' Floods Parts of Eastie

East Bostonians can take the snow, wind, frigid cold and space savers, but a new element has been added into the wintery mix that may

be something residents here might have to get used to as the sea level rises.

January's 'Bomb Cyclone' that brought heavy snow and wind to the Northeast also brought flooding to Eastie's waterfront.

Portside at Pier I, the Shipyard and Marina, Clippership Wharf and Liberty Plaza all experienced a good amount of flooding as the Boston Harbor spilled over into the neighborhood, and made waterfront developments like Portside look like a floating cruise ship.

For the very first time in Boston since record-keeping began in 1921, the water level reached 15.16 feet on Jan 4, 2018. This is above flood stage, the level at which flooding occurred, and caused significant tidal flooding in many waterfront parts of Boston—including Eastie.

"I waded into more than 18 inches of cold Atlantic water

See REVIEW Page 8

St. Joseph - St. Lazarus Parish - Don Orione Fathers

59 Ashley Street, East Boston

FIFTH ANNUAL CHOIR FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, JAN. 6, 2019 | 3 PM

Join us for a wonderful musical afternoon with many local choirs!

REVERE

Two family, Sep utility, 4-brooms, 3brs for owner with Lg Brs for owner. Lots of updates. Great convenient location, close to Rte. 1, Boston & Beach! **Reduced to Sell! \$599K**

EAST BOSTON

Updated 3 family, features new kitchen, Quartz counters, 3 full baths, 2 car garage, great patio & back yard. Prime Line, Beach, & Greenway! **\$799K**

EAST BOSTON - EAGLE HILL

New to Market! Nicely renovated Condos, 2 Br 2 Baths, H/W Floors, C/A/C, SS Appl, Steps to T & Greenway! Must See!

LYNN

Great for Contractor, Oil Co., Glass Co., etc. Mint condition Building on 4650sf of land, Great Access & Perfect for end user! **#103H \$540K**

REVERE

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 11-12:30PM

145 WINTHROP AVENUE

Spacious 2 Family, 3 Brs each on oversized lot w/ large 2 car garage & enormous yard. Very convenient, Move in condition. **\$649,900**

EAST BOSTON - ORIENT HEIGHTS

Reduced to Sell! Penthouse 2Br 2 Bath Condo, Spacious open floor plan, H/W Floors, Quartz Counters, Bosch Appl., C/A/C. Must See! **\$589K**

CHELSEA

Incredible Condo, completely renovated, 2Br 2 Bath, 2 Levels, H/W, C/A/C, Quartz. Too much to list! Plus private deck, great waterfront location! **#73B \$474,900**

EAST BOSTON - ORIENT HEIGHTS

Nicely renovated, 3 Br 2 Bath Condo, Quartz counters, SS Appl, H/W Floors, Awesome Boston Skyline Views! Plus garage parking & LG Private deck **#195G \$559K**

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EAST BOSTON - ORIENT HEIGHTS

Rarely available 9rm 3 Br, 2 1/2 bath home in best location! New Kitchen, H/W Floors, incredible yard for entertaining w/ IG Pool, Must see to appreciate!

WEST REVERE

4 Br Home w/gorgeous h/w floors, New heat system, Fireplace, Wet bar in semi-finished basement, Garage & lots of parking! Private country setting yard, Immaculate move in condition Offers Encouraged **Reduced \$449K**

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EAST BOSTON 5 UNITS

2 Commercial & 3 Apts Sp Utilis, V. busy street, Ideal for End User of 1031 Exchange! Great Rental Income! **\$1,400,000**

CHELSEA

Nicely kept 4 Br, 2 1/2 Bath Colonial! Lg. yard, 3 car parking, V. convenient to Silver Line & Boston Great Value **\$469,900**

WINTHROP

Spacious 8 Rm, 3 Br, 2 1/2 Bath, 2 Full Baths, parking, need to see! **SOLD**

WINTHROP

Rare 3 Family, 2 Full Baths, 2 Car Garage, Easy Walk to Beach! **#34U \$599K**

WEST PEABODY

Beautiful 7Rm, 3 Br 1 1/2 Bath Ranch, H/W Floors, Granite w Custom Cabinets, New Roof, Lots of Updates, Plus IG Pool! **Reduced to be Sold! \$449,000**

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SCENES OF 2018 IN EAST BOSTON



SPINELLI'S

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BEREAVEMENT BUFFET \$15.50

Per Person

Please accept sincere condolences, from the Spinelli's family and staff. During this difficult time, we would like to offer our facility at a specially reduced price, for you, your family and friends.

SERVED UPON ARRIVAL - Coffee, Mini Danish Pastries and Tea Breads

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280 BENNINGTON STREET, EAST BOSTON, MA
Telephone: 617-567-4499 www.spinellis.com

Public Meeting

101 Condor Street

Monday, January 14

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

68 Central Square

East Boston Social Center, 2nd Floor

East Boston, MA 02128

Project Proponent:

101 Condor Street, LLC

Project Description:

The Proposed Project consists of the re-development of a 8,650 square-foot commercial site situated at 101 Condor Street in East Boston, by construction of a new four (4) story building containing eighteen (18) residential units, and eighteen (18) accessory off-street parking spaces located in the building's at/below grade garage. The garage will be entered and exited via Condor Street, which has access to Meridian Street.

mail to:

Michael Sinatra

Boston Planning & Development Agency

One City Hall Square, 9th Floor

Boston, MA 02201

617.918.4280

michael.a.sinatra@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:

1/25/2019

BostonPlans.org

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

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SCENES OF 2018 IN EAST BOSTON



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East Boston

Times-Free Press

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LETTER to the Editor

ITALIAN AMERICAN ALLIANCE IS AN ACTIVE AND DEDICATED GROUP

Dear Editor,

To members and friends of the Pirandello Lyceum

As you know, the Pirandello Lyceum has become an active member of the Italian American Alliance. As the President of the Pirandello Lyceum I am a member of the Board of Directors. The Italian American Alliance was formed over a year ago to address the growing effort of many in American society to revise the history of many cultures in such a way that serves their social agenda. The Italian culture is decidedly one of their targets.

Lest you believe that the threat is not real, you should be aware that in the last few months: the City of Cambridge secretly pushed through an ordinance that eliminated Columbus Day celebrations - at the very time they invited the Italian Consul General to officiate at an Italian American celebration. In the last few months the City of Brookline, announced that it too would eliminate Columbus Day celebrations. A contingent from the Italian-American Alliance - myself included - was at the City Council meeting to speak. We were not only not allowed to speak, the audience of over 100 Brookline residents literally laughed at our attempt to present our case. To add insult to injury, Somerville, at the direction of Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone - an Italian-American no less, - shamelessly erased Columbus Day celebrations in that City in favor of Indigenous People's Day.

We now have our ears to the ground, and have discov-

ered that there are movements in Worcester and Framingham to do the same.

Now, let me tell you a bit about the Italian American Alliance. It is an active and dedicated group of people with good leadership. They've organized themselves into a fist of Italian-Americans who realize that there is strength in knowledge, unity and the willingness to act. To date the Italian-American Alliance has over 600 members, and the number is growing rapidly as the word gets out. It has a message and a mission, and if Italian-Americans heed that message and support the mission, Italian Americans will no longer be laughed at, as we were in Brookline, or snubbed as we were in Somerville, or set aside as we were in Cambridge.

Which brings me to the next point.

A sub-committee of the Framingham School Committee is currently considering the elimination of Columbus Day and replacing it with Indigenous People's Day!. The Italian American Alliance Board of Directors, at its December meeting, decided to respond by creating a Chapter of the Italian American Alliance in that town. The formation of the Framingham Chapter of the Italian American Alliance will be on February 6, 2019. Pirandello members who wish to attend in support of the effort are encouraged to do so.

Pirandello Lyceum Vice President Dr. Dean Saluti, Pirandello Lyeum Member Dr. Frank Mazzaglia and I will be attending the event. Dr. Saluti and Dr. Mazzaglia are also members of the Italian American Alliance Board of Directors.

I just wanted you to be informed.

Dr. Domenic Amara,
President of the
Pirandello Lyceum

Your opinions, please

The Everett Independent welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is 781-485-1403.

Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@everettindependent.com.

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

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Debra DiGregorio

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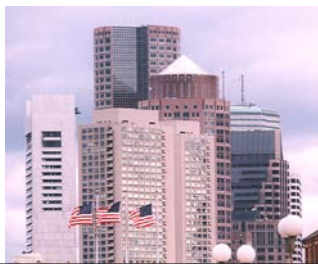
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Forum



Abrams // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

played flight at Logan Airport Abrams may have never come forward.

"The funny thing is, as a Massport board member, I'm suppose to help solve delays at Logan," Nucci laughed. "But Kerri was stuck at Logan because of a delay and read

my story in the newspaper. It was then she decided to sign up and begin testing."

"The emotion I feel is gratitude," said Nucci. "Gratitude for Kerri. I feel like I'm the luckiest guy on earth to have this second chance at life. The one thing that this entire

ordeal has taught me is that I have the greatest friends and family in the world."

Nucci's wife, Peggy, and his sons, John, Michael and Daniel, and dozens of friends and supporters also said they would be forever grateful for Abrams' bravery.

"There are no words for us to thank all of you for what you've done for John," said Peggy Nucci. "What more can be said about her? She saved John's life and truly is an angel."

Weymer // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

powering teachers as the experts and decision-makers in their classrooms and as leaders of the school.

Weymer said the McKay has focused on building trust among teachers, students and families, and meeting the academic and social emotional needs of its English learners, who make up a majority of the school's population.

"We call it our 'choice and voice' culture, where we encourage schoolwide engage-

ment among students, teachers and families to determine the best path forward in our individual classrooms," said Weymer. "Our school is a reflection of our community, in population and approach. We remain committed to not only improving grades and outcomes for all students, but also to the social and emotional needs of our families and EL students by maintaining a safe and welcoming school community for all."

The McKay's student population is 89 percent Latino, 60 percent of whom are EL students and more than 50 percent of its students are economically disadvantaged. In order to achieve this empowering and inclusive atmosphere for all students, the McKay refers to their EL students as "Emerging Bilinguals" - emphasizing that their first language is an asset rather than a roadblock.

Weymer has also partners

with multiple community organizations in the area to provide bilingual counseling to students and families, and keep immigrant families informed on their rights. Students at the McKay take much of the community building efforts into their own hands as well, putting on an annual "Immigrant Pride Week" to inform, advocate for and empower the school's students and families.

DISTRICT SEVEN POLICE REPORT

Monday, December 10, 2018
No Arrests
Tuesday, December 11, 2018
No Arrests
Wednesday, December 12, 2018

No Arrests
Thursday, December 13, 2018
No Arrests
Friday, December 14, 2018
Around 6:45 PM in the area of Maverick Sq., an 18 year old Black Male with a Rox-

bury, MA address was arrested for Assault by Means of a Dangerous Weapon and Operating M/V Without a License
Saturday, December 15, 2018
No Arrests
Sunday, December 16,

2018
Around 3:00 AM in the area of 63 Lubeck St. a 22 year old Hispanic Male with an East Boston address was arrested for Assault & Battery on a Police Officer (No Injury), Resisting Arrest and Trespassing

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403.

We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

HARBOR VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING AGENDA

January 2019 Harbor View Neighborhood Association Meeting set for Jan. 7, 2018

Agenda
Welcome/Introduction (5min)

Station 7 Update Sgt. Martin and Officer Dan Simons (10min)

Announcements (5min)
112 Moore Street 1st Presentation Atty. Lorene Schettino (20min)

Convert a single family to a two family.

631 Saratoga Street 3rd Presentation and VOTE Atty. Jeff Drago (20min)

Demolish an existing 2 family and build a 3 story 4 Unit structure.

704 Saratoga Street 1st Presentation Atty. Richard Lynds (30min)

Convert a single family to a two family.

70 Wordsworth Street 2nd Presentation and VOTE Atty. Richard Lynds (20min)

Build a 5 Unit building on a vacant lot with 4 parking spaces. Abutters meeting is pending scheduling with East Boston Liaison.

New Business (5min)

Next month at February meeting Short St. project will be updated and presented.

Atty. Jeff Drago.

TWO JPNA BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

Two JPNA Board Members have recently stepped down leaving two open positions on the Board. Interested in joining the board? Here are the details:

Eligibility: Anyone who lives in Jeffries Point, both renters and homeowners, is eligible to join the JPNA board.

Nominations: We will collect nominations for the two open board positions at the January 14th meeting. Self-nominations are encouraged.

Voting: After briefly hearing from each of the nominated individuals, we will vote on new board members at the February 11th meeting. (Reminder: in order to be eligible to vote at this meeting, you will need to have attended at least one of the previous three monthly JPNA meetings).

Questions? Curious about what's involved in serving on the JPNA Board? Contact current board members at:

Board@JeffriesPoint.org
Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association Board of Directors:

Renee Scalfani | Dan Bailey | Cindy Baxter | Mary Cole | Andrew Gelling

EAST BOSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce announces the following candidates for the Board of Directors

Candidates for Officers 2019:

President: Jim Kearney
1st Vice President: Marita Palavicini, Vilma's Boutique

2nd Vice President: Veronica Robles, VROCC

3rd Vice President: Shirley Fabbo, Massport

Treasurer: Kim Altschul, East Boston Savings Bank

Secretary: Joanna Cataldo, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center

Candidates for Directors 2019-2021:

Margaret Farmer
Amanda Donis, Logan Beauty

Paul Scott, Going Clear Interactive

Kathy Olando, Sulprizio Real Estate

Aldo Callejas, La Hacienda Restuarant

Vinny Qualtieri, NOAH

The elections will take place at the East Boston Chamber office at 175 McClellan Highway, East Boston, MA, 02128, on Thursday, January 31, 2019 from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. All East Boston of Chamber Commerce members in good standing are eligible to vote. Proxy voting and absentee voting are not allowed. All voting results will be counted and reported after 6:00PM on Thursday, January 31, 2019 at the Chamber office; results will then be made available on the Chamber website.

Please come to the Chamber office and Vote Thursday, January 31, 2019.

UFOS UNFINISHED OBJECTS, AN ATLANTIC WORKS GROUP SHOW

Join us at Atlantic Works Gallery for an Artists Reception on Thursday, Jan. 17, 6-9 p.m.

Gallery Hours will be Fridays and Saturdays, 2-6 p.m. or by appointment

Put on your winter art-smart-fun hat and come on over to Atlantic Works Gallery to witness a superb collection of UFOs. With a bit of nudging, our artists have agreed to show the public works-in-progress. Not an ordinarygallery-going experience! You will have a unique behind-the-scene look at the process of making art, be invited to give us your two cents, and collaborate in constructive completion.

You'll see a few extraordinary sculptures searching for the perfect base; a drawing that may be begging for one more line; an almost-done painting waiting for a few more dabs of yellow. We'll have clipboards, pencils and paper for visitors to leave comments.

If you'd like to hear how artist's critique fellow artists' work, our Artist Reception on Jan. 17, will be both an opportunity to listen to thoughtful people and a warm winter party on the East Boston waterfront.

GRACE CHURCH NEWS POSTED

Grace Church Federated is a United Church of Christ and Episcopal church located at 760 Saratoga Street, East Boston. All are welcome. Please join us for our Sunday morning service at 9:30 a.m., followed by a coffee hour. We also have a Food Pantry open to all East Boston residents, every Saturday from 10 a.m. – noon. For additional information regarding our church services or food pantry, please visit our website: gracechurch-eastie.org

LEARN ITALIAN FREE

The class will be held at Robert DeLeo Senior Center, 35 Harvard Street Winthrop for residents age 55 and above.

Whether you have Italian ancestry, or just want to learn one of the world's most beautiful languages, join us at informal and friendly Italian language and culture classes. Wednesday afternoons from 1:15 to 2:45 p.m.

For info call 617-846-8538.

EAST BOSTON SOCIAL CENTER'S SENIOR PROGRAM NOW OFFERING SPANISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

The Senior Program at the East Boston Social Centers is now offering Spanish Language Classes for adults over 60 years old. Classes are held every Wednesday at 10 a.m. in Room 209. All are welcome to attend. Class is taught by Mr. Montaro. No need to register, just come by on Wednesday at 10 a.m. for this fun class. The East Boston Social Centers is located at 68 Central Square.

EAST BOSTON SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

If you are 60+ years of age, the East Boston Social Centers at 68 Central Square in East Boston has a table and a meal waiting for you!

The Senior Lunch Program sponsored by ETHOS Congregate Meal Program provides a hot, nutritious lunch, along with wonderful socialization, Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A suggested donation of \$2 is asked.

We welcome seniors from our East Boston Community and surrounding areas.

SOCIAL CENTERS SENIOR LUNCH

If you are age 65+, The East Boston Social Centers at 68 Central Square in East Boston has a table and a meal waiting for you. The Senior Lunch Program Sponsored

Community Meetings	
Harbor View Neighborhood Association First Monday of every month 6:30 p.m. at the Edward Brooke Charter School, 145 Byron St.	Friend of the East Boston Greenway Fourth Thursday of every month. 6:30 p.m. at the Anna DeFronzo Center, 395 Maverick St.
Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association Second Monday of every month. 6:30 p.m. at the Jeffries Point Yacht Club, 565 Sumner St.	Central Square Flats Civic Association Third Wednesday of every month 7 p.m. at Paris Street Community Center, 112 Paris St.
Orient Heights Neighborhood Association Third Monday of every month. 6:30 p.m. at Ashley Street YMCA, 54 Ashley St.	Gove Street Citizens Association Fourth Monday of every month 6:30 p.m. at the Noddle Island Community Room, Logan Rental Car Center
	Eagle Hill Civic Association Last Wednesday of every month 7 p.m. at East Boston High School Cafeteria, 86 White St.

by Kit Clark Senior Services provides a hot, nutritious lunch along with wonderful socialization Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. A suggested donation of \$2 is asked.

EAST BOSTON TECH MEETUP

The purpose of the East Boston Tech Meetup is to build a community of people currently working in tech or those aspiring to move into a

tech career who live or work in East Boston. These meetings will be held in the heart of Maverick Landing conveniently located steps from the Maverick T station, in the Maverick Landing Meeting House at 31 Liverpool Street.

OBITUARIES

William ‘Billy’ Deveau

Of East Boston

William J. “Billy” Deveau of East Boston passed away on Dec. 28.

The loving son of Edward Deveau and Elizabeth Young, he was the dear brother of Edward Deveau and his wife, Connie of East Boston and the dear uncle of Edward, Kenneth and Michelle Deveau.

Family and friends will

honor Billy’s life by gathering in the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., (Orient Heights) East Boston on Saturday Jan. 5 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to Holy Cross Cemetery where services will conclude. For more information, please visit www.ruggieromh.com

Anthony Polsonetti Jr

Of Gloucester

Anthony Polsonetti Jr of Gloucester formerly of Winthrop unexpectedly on Dec 29 loving son of Joan (Quilty) Polsonetti and the late Anthony Sr. Devoted father of Antonio,Christina Camella Polsonetti and Kimberly Campbell. Dear brother of Evelyn Young, Joseph and James Polsonetti and Joanie Kirby,cherished brother in law of Michael Bunick and Stephen Kirby,longtime friend of George Andrioti and Anthony Aresco also survived by his many fond

nieces and nephews. Family and friends will honor Anthony’s life by gathering in the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home 971 Saratoga St (Orient Heights)East Boston on Sunday Jan 6 from 2-6 and again on Monday morning at 8:30 before leaving in procession to St John the Evangelist Church Winthrop for a funeral mass in honor of Anthony’s life at 10 a.m. services will conclude with Anthony being laid to rest in Woodlawn cemetery for more info please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

George Gordon

Of Revere, formerly of East Boston



George Gordon of Revere, formerly of East Boston, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Dec. 27 at the age of 87.

George was a Korean War Veteran. He served in Korea for three years as a driver of ten driving officers from base to base.

The beloved husband of the late Grace (Eloqua) Gordon, he was the devoted father of Dennis Gordon, Richard Gordon and his wife, Michelle, Mark Gordon and his wife, Jo-Ann of Revere, Kenneth Gordon and his wife, Annette, George Gordon and his wife, Rosemarie of East Boston and the late Kim Marie Gordon; adored grandfather of Jamie Rossi, Jeanette Laft, Melissa Sartori, Mark Gordon, Richard Gordon, Kelly Moya, Leann Gordon, Jessica Schettino, Richard Gordon and Katelyn Gordon; cherished great-grandfather of 13 great-grandchildren and the dear brother-in-law of Con-



cetta Cunningham.

He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor George’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston on today, Wednesday Jan. 2 from 4 to 8 p.m. A Funeral Mass in celebration of George’s life will be held on Thursday, Jan. 3 at 10 a.m. at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Maverick St., East Boston. Services will conclude with George being laid to rest with full Military Honors beside his beloved Grace. For more information, please visit ruggieromh.com

Raffaela (Cornetta) Basile

Of East Boston

Raffaela (Cornetta) Basile of East Boston passed away peacefully on Dec 29 beloved wife of the late Anthony S Basile,devoted mother of Lorraine Coughlin and husband Laurence of East Boston Stephen Basile and wife Dorie of Saugus. Dear sister of Fred Cornetta of East Boston and the late Rose Cornetta and Hilda Faulkner, cherished grandmother of Rena, Christopher, Tiffany and Stephen adored great grandmother of Carmen, Nickolas and Jimmy, also survived by her many loving nieces and nephews. Family and friends will honor Mrs Basile by gathering at the

Ruggiero Family Memorial Home 971 Saratoga St (Orient Heights)East Boston on Thursday Jan 3 from 4-8 and again on Friday morning at 8:30 before leaving in procession to St Joseph St Lazarus Church for a funeral mass celebrating Mrs Basile’s life at 10 a.m. services will conclude with Mrs Basile being laid to rest with her loving husband in Woodlawn Cemetery. Mrs Basile was a member of the DeFronzo Post, Golden Age Club, and was a former employee of the school Dept. for the city of Boston for many years. For more info please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

John ‘Jackie’ Stewart

Licensed carpenter

John E. “Jackie” Stewart of South Carolina, formerly of East Boston, died unexpectedly on Christmas Day.

Jackie graduated from Dom Bosco Tech in 1986 and worked in the East Boston area as a licensed carpenter.

He was the loving son of Barbara Ann (Sergeant) and the late John E Stewart; dear brother of Dawn Lepore of East Boston, Barbara Muro and her husband, Anthony of Rhode Island, Chad Stewart and the late Sharon Rosati. Jackie is also survived by many loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. Family and friends will honor Jackie’s life by gathering to-

day, Wednesday, Jan. 2 in the Most Holy Redemeeer Church, Maverick Street (Maverick Square) East Boston. Services will conclude with Jackie being laid to rest in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Because of Jackie’s love and devotion to the Salesians Boys & Girls Club and in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made directly to the club at 150 Byron St. East Boston.

Arrangements are with the personal care of Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston. For more information, visit www.ruggieromh.com 617 569 0990

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**CORTEO, ONE OF THE BEST-LOVED CIRQUE DU SOLEIL PRODUCTIONS
IS COMING TO BOSTON JUNE 19 TO 30,**

Corteo, the latest and most enchanting Cirque du Soleil's arena production is now touring in North America. The show will visit Boston at the Agganis Arena from June 19 to 30, 2019 for a limited run of fifteen performances. This unique production, directed by Daniele Finzi Pasca, first premiered in Montreal under the Big Top in April 2005.

Since then, the show has been a great success and has amazed 8 million people in 19 countries on four continents.

Advance tickets for Corteo are available now online to Cirque Club members. Cirque Club membership is free and benefits includes access to advance tickets, special of-

fers and exclusive behind the scenes information. To join, go to www.cirqueclub.com.

Tickets are available at cirquedusoleil.com/corteo.

Corteo, which means cortege in Italian, is a joyous procession, a festive parade imagined by a clown. The show brings together the passion of the actor with the grace and power of the acrobat to plunge the audience into a theatrical world of fun, comedy and spontaneity situated in a mysterious space between heaven and earth.

The clown pictures his own funeral taking place in a carnival atmosphere, watched over by quietly caring angels. Juxtaposing the large with



the small, the ridiculous with the tragic and the magic of perfection with the charm of imperfection, the show highlights the strength and fragility of the clown, as well as his wisdom and kindness, to illustrate the portion of humanity that is within each of us. The music turns lyrical and playful carrying Corteo through a timeless celebration in which illusion teases reality.

The concept and disposition

of the stage bring the audience in a theatrical atmosphere like never seen before in Cirque du Soleil arena shows. The set curtains, inspired by the Eiffel Tower, and the central curtains, which were hand painted, give a grandiose feel to the stage. This sets the tone for the poetry of Corteo.

The cast of *Corteo* includes 51 acrobats, musicians, singers and actors from all around the world.

	7:30 pm
Ticket information	Wednesday, June 26, 2019
Show Schedule:	
Wednesday, June 19, 2019	– 7:30 pm
7:30 pm	Thursday, June 27, 2019 –
Thursday, June 20, 2019 –	7:30 pm
7:30 pm	Friday, June 28, 2019 –
Friday, June 21, 2019 –	7:30 pm
7:30 pm	Saturday, June 29, 2019 –
Saturday, June 22, 2019 –	3:30 pm & 7:30 pm
7:30 pm & 7:30 pm	Sunday, June 20, 2019 –
Sunday, June 23, 2019 –	1:00 pm & 5:00 pm
1:00 pm & 5:00 pm	
Tuesday, June 25, 2019 –	

EBNHC gets a little help with holiday decorating

The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center has a very talented Neighborhood PACE participant, Joseph Cinnelli who lives in East Boston and grew up in this area, who worked with EBNHC staff decorating the PACE center for the holidays.

Cinelli has been involved in theater and education for



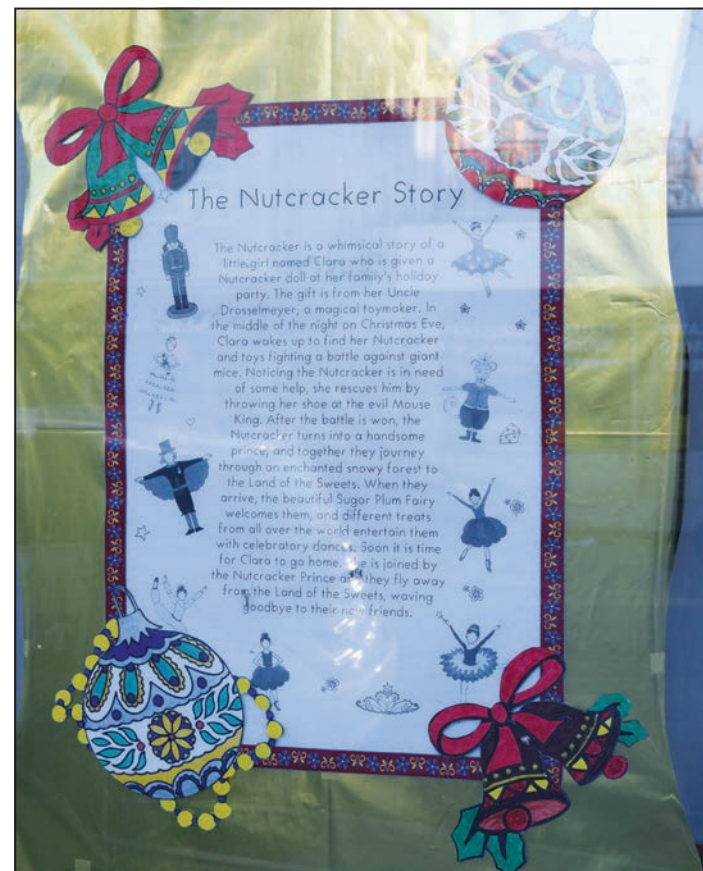
Joseph Cinelli.



One of the windows adorned with Cinelli's handmade decorations

his whole career. He helps out quite frequently at the center with any decorating/arts/crafts projects. He also helps decorate the staff doors and

sometimes even makes costumes for EBNHC events, like its yearly themed barbecue). This year's theme was *The Nutcracker*.



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Nos complace informarle que las vacunas contra la influenza estacional están disponibles para todo el mundo. Usted no necesita ser paciente del EBNHC para vacunarse. Si desea vacunarse, favor de llamar de lunes-viernes para hacer una cita:

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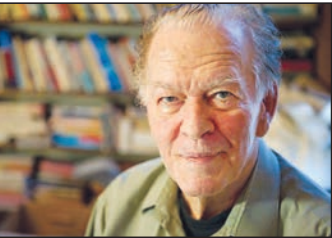
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Draymeyer, a magical toymaker. In the middle of the night on Christmas Eve, Clara wakes up to find her Nutcracker and toys fighting a battle against giant mice. Noticing the Nutcracker is in need of some help, she rescues him by throwing her shoe at the evil Mouse King. After the battle is won, the Nutcracker turns into a handsome prince, and together they journey through an enchanted snowy forest to the Land of the Sweets. When they arrive, the beautiful Sugar Plum Fairy welcomes them, and different treats from all over the world entertain them with celebratory dances. Soon it is time for Clara to go home. As she is joined by the Nutcracker Prince as they fly away from the Land of the Sweets, waving goodbye to their new friends.

APPRECIATION

Those we lost in 2018 that made an huge impact on the East Boston community

East Boston Resident,Nobel Prize Nominee and Master of Nonviolent Resistance Dr Gene Sharp Dies at 90



Dr. Gene Sharp, who ran the Albert Einstein Institute for Non-Violent Struggles out of an unassuming apartment in East Boston, and for decades had written the handbooks on how to overthrow oppressive regimes through non-violent means, died on Sunday, Jan. 28, at his East Boston home. He was 90 years old.

Dr. Sharp, who was nominated four times for the Nobel Peace Prize .

His books have been translated into dozens of different languages and distributed across the globe and have inspired non-violent revolutions in China, Iran and Egypt in 2011 during the Arab Spring.

In 2015, Dr. Sharp was honored for his work, which is widely recognized as a luminary in the development of the study and use of nonviolent action, by District Hall that is located in the Seaport District of Boston, and is an organization dedicated to providing the innovation community with civic space to exchange ideas.

That same year Dr. Sharp was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, an honor he previously received in 2013, 2012 and 2009 for his numerous books on the topic of non-violent struggle. His books have been translated into more than 45 languages and have been studied by activists, students, policy-makers, and others around the globe. Dr. Sharp had received global recognition and numerous international awards, including the Spirit of Gandhi Award, the El-Hibri Peace Education Prize, and the Right Livelihood Award.

Gerald ‘Sully’ Sullivan, Longtime Savio Prep Teacher, Dies at 69



Gerald Sullivan, a beloved educator who taught English and Latin at Savio until the school closed in 2007, died on Monday, Jan. 29 at the Life Care Center in Stoneham after battling cancer.

During his teaching career Mr. Sullivan’s love for words, poems, and literary giants like F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway inspired generations of students to turn to books and poetry as a way to escape the stresses of daily life. He taught his students the therapeutic nature of reading and encouraged each student to read at least one hour every night.

However, Mr. Sullivan was by no means mainstream and while students were introduced to the classics like The Catcher in the Rye and The Great Gatsby, his love for more under appreciated works set him apart from other teachers. In his class students could be found reading Nathanael West’s “The Day of the Lo-

cust” or an anthology of poetry by W.D. Snodgrass, who would occasionally visit Mr. Sullivan’s English Class and read poetry to students when in Boston. Randall Jarrell’s five line poem ‘The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner” was one of Mr. Sullivan’s favorites and he would analyze the poem’s imagery for days with students.

“(He was a) great man who left a lasting legacy in the hearts and minds of his students,” said Matt Ohlson. “His passion and commitment will not be forgotten.”

Aside from his love of poetry and literature Mr. Sullivan was a huge fan of classic films like Casablanca, Little Caesar and numerous others. He would entertain his students at times with his spot on impersonations of Edward G. Robinson or Charlie Chaplin.

He also had a very large and eccentric collection of old Blues records in his office and at some point during the day students could hear Screamin’ Jay Hawkins or Howlin’ Wolf blasting from his record player.

“If you love what you do, you never work a day in your life,” said Joseph Ricupero. “I don’t think Sully ever worked a day in his life because every single day, you could tell how much he loved teaching.”

James ‘Jim’ McGrane, longtime East Boston educator, dies at 73



James “Jim” McGrane, a man who spent his career as a friend and mentor to hundreds of East Boston children over the years, has died.

McGrane died suddenly on Saturday, Feb. 24 in Naples, FL . He was 73 years old.

McGrane dedicated his life to educating children and youth in Eastie for nearly five decades through the Boston Public Schools and was instrumental in not only the success of the former East Boston Camps but also the neighborhood’s substance abuse programs like North Suffolk Mental Health and the Meridian House.

He spent most of his teaching career at the former Barnes School before it merged with the Mario Umana Academy. During his time as a teacher McGrane became a mentor and guiding light in the lives of many students that passed through his classroom.

Aside from teaching McGrane, like Marty Pino and Jack Forbes, was a monumental influence on the success of the former East Boston Camps.

“Jim helped my wife Cindy and I tremendously through our lives,” said longtime friend John Forbes. “Jim and his late wife, Pam, had a great relationship and were tremendous parents. We looked up to them and their example really helped us as we were starting our own family. We both had the good fortune of working for Jim at East Boston Camps for many years. He taught us many things such as, to respect others opinions, to treat all with dignity and respect, and of course to have fun. He cared very deeply for his students and East Boston Camp Family. If you knew him you

loved him. We will miss him terribly but his legacy will live on through all that he touched.”

Luigina ‘Gina’ Scalcione, Longtime Community Activist, Dies at 77



Luigina “Gina” Scalcione, who dedicated her life to the betterment of her beloved community through community activism, has died.

Mrs. Scalcione, a legendary fighter for citizens’ rights that gave voice to numerous causes and countless disenfranchised residents, passed away on Wednesday, February 28, at Mass General Hospital in Boston following a brief illness. She was 77 years old.

An immigrant from Mirabella-Eclano, Italy, Mrs. Scalcione, or “Gina” as she was affectionately known in East Boston, moved with her family to the United States when she was a young woman. She lived for more than six decades in the family home on Frankfort Street her parents had purchased after immigrating to East Boston. The home would later be ground zero for late night strategy meetings, political discussions and community organizing during the height of the community’s fight against airport expansion and a third harbor tunnel.

A natural leader, Mrs. Scalcione had a knack for gathering people to rally around any development, encroachment or threat that would negatively impact the quality of life for her family, friends and neighbors.

“She was a true activist,” remembers former State Representative Emmanuel “Gus” Serra. “She was always outspoken, always said what she thought was the right path forward. She had the uncanny ability to gather people around a cause and to support her position. But equally as important she got us, the elected officials, to pay attention to her point of view and the point of view of residents. We always knew that when Gina called it was an issue that deserved our immediate attention. Over the years there are certain people that stood out during my tenure at the State House and she is defiantly at the top of the list.”

Former East Boston State Representative Michael D’Avolio Dies



For longtime East Boston politicians like John Nucci former State Rep. Michael D’Avolio was a man many aspired to be.

“For us growing up in East

Boston who got involved in politics at an early age, men like Michael D’Avolio were rock stars who could rally 500 people at the drop of dime around any cause,” said Nucci. “Rep. D’Avolio, George DiLorenzo, Mario Umana, these guys were larger than life at a time in the neighborhood’s history when you needed voices to be strong, passionate and committed to the betterment of East Boston.”

Mr. D’Avolio, who served three terms in the House of Representatives in the 1960s during the height of Logan Airport expansion, died on Friday, March 9 surrounded by his family. He was 92 years old.

“Mike was an eloquent and learned gentleman,” said Nucci. “Yet when it came to airport expansion he fought as hard as anyone and he never forgot where he came from. He made East Boston proud to call him our state representative. He was so well-spoken and articulate.”

During Logan Airport’s expansion into the Neptune Road neighborhood, Mr. D’Avolio emerged as the opposite of the more bombastic state representatives at the time.

Benny Tauro, Businessman, Community Leader, Passes at 85



Benito “Benny” Tauro, the soft-spoken East Boston businessman, community leader and philanthropist who spent a lifetime fighting to protect the quality of life for residents and preserve the neighborhood’s Italian-American culture, has died.

Mr. Tauro, or ‘Benny’ as he was affectionately known throughout the community, died on Saturday, March 24 surrounded by his loving family. He was 85 years old.

When Mr. Tauro immigrated from Avellino, Italy to East Boston in 1952 he brought with him a strong sense of family and the belief in the Catholic Church. It was here that he found a second home among East Boston’s Italian community that was part of the Our Lady of Mount Car-

mel Parish.

“If it wasn’t for this Church, I probably would have gone back to Italy,” Mr. Tauro told the East Boston Times in 2011. “Here I found a second family, and we all became very active members of the church and community.”

Mr. Tauro spent his career building several successful businesses. After arriving in East Boston from Italy Mr. Tauro founded Empire Sportswear in Lynn before starting Logan Sportswear on Saratoga Street. His next investment was Day Square Door & Window and in the 1980s he purchased Logan Glass, a business his family still runs today.

Mr. Tauro was perhaps best known as the owner of the former Rapino Funeral Homes in East Boston both in Maverick Square and in Orient Heights.

Through his business ventures Mr. Tauro became one of the most celebrated businessmen in the community, and was named East Boston’s Businessman of the Year.

Former City Councilor Sal LaMattina, a longtime friend of Mr. Tauro, said Mr. Tauro was a true East Bostonian.

“Benny was someone who I loved and admired,” said LaMattina. “Benny was an immigrant from Italy who came to America to make a better life for he and his family. He worked hard as a businessman in East Boston and he gave back to his community. He was involved in many East Boston groups and was so proud of his Italian heritage and tried to keep it alive with his work with Italia Unita. I am so fortunate to have him and his family as friends and I will miss him terribly.”

Dr. James Taylor, founding member of the EBNHC, dies



Dr. James Taylor, M.D., who was a revered and respected figure in the healthcare field both here in East Boston and nationally, has died.

Dr. Taylor, who dedicated over 40 years to the East Boston Neighborhood Health

Center (EBNHC) in the role of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) before his retirement in 2011, died in Brookline on Sunday, August 12 after a brief battle with Parkinson’s Disease with dementia.

“Dr. Taylor served our community as CMO for more than four decades, retiring in 2011,” said EBNHC CEO Manny Lopes. “He devoted his career to meeting the health needs of a complex community by caring for individual patients, planning public health interventions to reduce disease, and nurturing clinicians and staff. He was a prominent role model for responding creatively to the challenges of health care delivery and helping others maximize their potential by treating them with dignity. With his irrepressible perseverance, Dr. Taylor had tremendous impact on the health of East Boston and surrounding communities. Each one of us who had the good fortune of working alongside Dr. Taylor became better providers, better leaders, and even better people as a result. It is not possible to articulate his impact in our community. The space he leaves will never be filled.”

As a young doctor in the 1970s Dr. Taylor’s work with the elderly on aging issues like hypertension, heart disease and diabetes brought him to East Boston. Dr. Taylor found that many of his patients had little or no access to quality healthcare due to the neighborhood’s geographic isolation to the rest of Boston. With only a medical relief station to care for the population Dr. Taylor knew it was time for a full fledged community health center in the neighborhood.

Dr. Taylor has devoted his career to meeting the healthcare needs of the community by caring for individual patients, planning public health interventions to reduce disease, and nurturing clinicians and staff.

He soon became a role model for responding creatively to the challenges of healthcare delivery and helping others maximize their potential by treating them with dignity. With his trademark perseverance, Dr. Taylor had tremendous impact on the health of East Boston and surrounding communities.

As a physician and leader, Dr. Taylor set and inspired high expectations for professionalism among colleagues and created a supportive work environment. As a result, he attracted clinicians and staff who devoted their careers to EBNHC.

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Weekend Specials

Friday, January 4 through Sunday, January 6

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Review // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(on the street) near Portside at East Pier and about a foot of water at the marina,” said Kennan Thiruvengadam, who has been working with East Boston Neighborhood of Affordable Housing on climate change issues and strategies. “There was also more than a foot of water at the intersection of Marginal and South Bremen streets.”

Michael Triant Named Salesian Boys & Girls Club Executive Director

East Boston native and Savio Prep graduate Michael Triant was named the new Executive Director of the Salesian Boys & Girls Club at the board’s December meeting. Triant, who worked for the past 17 years for the Boston Center for Youth and Families as an administrator, started Monday at the Club, taking over the reigns from Father John Nazzaro.

“Once I heard of this opportunity, as a kid who grew up in East Boston, as a kid who graduated Savio, as a kid that went to the Boys & Girls Club, I wondered if it could become a reality,” said Triant, a husband and father of three who now lives in Winthrop with his family. “Once the ball started rolling and it became more and more of a possibility it wasn’t even a choice at that point I had to do it.”

Triant, 38, who grew up on Faywood Avenue was raised like many other kids of his generation in Eastie.

“I was played basketball at the Marty Pino Center every afternoon, I got involved in the house leagues through Johnny Forbes at the Boys & Girls Club where I made friends that are still my friends today,” said Triant.

What always impressed Triant about the Salesians was the level of commitment the staff had to the kids.

“You had guys like (the late) Wally Bowe that were so influential on the lives of kids I grew up with and kids that were older than me,” said Triant. “I was fortunate that I grew up in a stable home with two parents, but there were so many kids at the Salesians that didn’t have that.”

February

Nu Chapter: Katz is Closing His Tire and Auto Repair Business

Bob Katz, owner of Nu-Tread Tire and Auto Service in East Boston, is closing up his store today, concluding his distinguished 46-year career in the industry.

Bob Katz, owner of Nu-Tread Tire and Auto Service, is pictured at his store that is closing today after 85 years of continuous service in East Boston.

Katz, a 2017 inductee in New England Tire and Service Association (NETSA) Hall of Fame, said he is in the process of selling his property located at 1 Boardman St.

“I would like to thank all my customers, vendors, and everybody with whom I’ve done business for the 36 years that I’ve been running this place,” said the 70-year-old Katz, a Winthrop resident.

The store, which was originally owned by Bob’s father, the late Irving Katz, opened in 1933 in Day Square, East Boston, before moving to Bennington Street. Nu-Tread has been in its present location since 1954. Interestingly, Irving Katz will be inducted posthumously in to the NETSA Hall of Fame in April.

Bob Katz started at Nu-Tread Tire in 1960 as a youth working after school at his father’s store. At the suggestion of his father to learn more about the automotive end of the business, he took a position at Goodyear Tire. He became the owner of Nu-Tread Tire in 1982.

Craft Table and Bar Opens at the Former Ecco

After a week of promoting the restaurant that has replaced Ecco, which closed last year, owner of Craft Table & Bar on Porter Street couldn’t have been more happy with the turnout during the new restaurant’s grand opening.

Frank Peace, CEO of New England Craft Restaurant Concepts, who owns several restaurants and coffee houses between Boston and Worcester was busy Friday night greeting the hundreds of customers that turned out for the restaurant’s launch.

Craft Table & Bar is a nod to the Porter Street location’s past successful restaurants. The inside remains sleek like Ecco, but has been made brighter and roomier and the legendary wall signed by Boston sports legends like Bobby Orr and Larry Bird that was a piece of local history that dates back to the location’s Sablone’s days has been preserved.

Massport Sends Out RFP for Piers Park Phase III

The dilapidated pier adjacent to Piers Park, and also the future Piers Park II is being eyed by Massport as the future site of a third waterfront park.

In February Massport announced it has sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) hoping that developers will come forward to turn the aging pier into a 3.6 acre green-space dubbed ‘Piers Park III’. According to Massport’s RFP the Port Authority is asking that proposals include resiliency features to help protect the neighborhood from flooding and sea level rise.

“Today’s announcement is the first step in creating another vibrant public space for our neighbors in East Boston; one that we hope will be as popular as Piers Park has been and that will also include protections against flooding and sea level rise,” said Massport CEO Thomas Glynn. “The activation of East Boston’s waterfront for its residents has been a long time coming and Massport is proud to play a part in this exciting new era for the neighborhood.”

Anthony “Tony the Kid” Barrasso Honored on his 100th Birthday

Those who know 100-year-old Anthony “Tony the Kid” Barrasso will tell you the tough World War II veteran still has a lot of fire in his belly as he reached a special birthday milestone at the Don Orione Nursing Home in East Boston.

Barrasso, a WWII veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and in General George Patton’s Army, was all smiles last week as elected officials and veterans representatives turned out wish him a happy birthday during a special celebration at the nursing home.

Citations, an American flag that once flew over the White House, veterans pins and other gifts were presented to Barrasso from the likes of Rep. Adrian Madaro, City Councilor Lydia Edwards, VA Boston Healthcare System Director Vincent Ng, Chief of Geriatrics and Extended Care Service Line of VA Boston Healthcare System Dr. Steven Simon, Mass Secretary of Veterans Services Francisco A. Urena, and the Don Orione Executive Director Tom Lynch.

The adult daycare room was filled to capacity with Barrasso’s friends and family as well as Don Orione staff and residents to watch Barrasso, dressed in patriotic red, white and blue receive the 100th birthday celebration he deserved.

Buddy’ Mangini Sworn in for Second Term as EBCC President

In front of a packed crowd at the Hilton Garden Inn, Al-

bert ‘Buddy’ Mangini took the oath of office for the second time as the East Boston Chamber of Commerce president.

Albert ‘Buddy’ Mangini is sworn in to his second term as Chamber President by Councilor Lydia Edwards.

Mangini, a longtime neighborhood business and civic leader, was administered the oath by Councilor Lydia Edwards to kick off his second term as Chamber president.

After taking the oath Mangini addressed Chamber members and business leaders present at the dinner.

“Our neighborhood will always be connected with the rest of the city in a meaningful way,” Mangini began. “Perseverance, pride and strength are firmly planted in our genes. The mission of the East Boston Chamber of Commerce has been to inspire economic growth in East Boston by strengthening our neighborhood’s competitive position and facilitating investments that build capacity, generate prosperity and catalyze the economic vibrancy of the city as a whole.”

BPDA Approves Suffolk Downs Phase I Plans

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) approved HYM Investment Group, LLC’s Suffolk Downs Phase I proposal at its February meeting.

Phase I of the Suffolk Downs project involves building on a one million square foot portion of the 161-acre site that would house Amazon offices close to the Suffolk Downs MBTA Blue Line station.

According to the BPDA, Suffolk Downs Phase I includes 520,000 sq. ft. of office space within two 260,000 sq. ft. buildings with supporting corporate space on the ground floor. Both buildings will be approximately 124 feet tall and will include terraced outdoor spaces with a landscaped, open-air walkway between the two buildings. The two buildings will share approximately 500 parking spaces.

HYM Managing Partner Thomas O’Brien said at last week’s BPDA meeting that about 12-acres of existing open space that is part of the Phase I portion of the project would be untouched while about an acre and a half of new open space would be created as part of the proposal. This would include pedestrian access to the MBTA Blue Line station.

East Boston Social Centers Celebrates 100 Years in the Community

In 1918 the East Boston Social Centers was founded during the Settlement House movement. The Settlement House movement was a reformist social movement that tried to bridge the gap between the upper and middle class and poor immigrants living in urban areas.

“The Social Centers was born during that era,” said EBSC’s Executive Director Justin Pasquariello. “The most famous Settlement House was founded in Chicago by Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr in the late 1880s. The idea was to bring upper and middle-class social workers into urban areas to live while providing social service needs and public health to the poor living in the city.”

In 2018 EBSC celebrated 100 years in the community.

“Settlement houses were founded to do many things for many people,” said historian Kyle Ingrid Johnson. “Most nonprofits are started with a single goal in mind—think American Cancer Society or the MSPCA—but settlement houses, although defining their population within a small geographic area, always performed – and continue to perform – many different kinds of programs and ser-

vices. These changed with the coming and going of local residents and their specific needs and interests.”

For six months Johnson has been immersed in the archives of EBSC playing first “Nancy Drew” and then “Sherlock Holmes” as she tries to track down what happened where – and when – between 1918 and now.

“I love history,” said Johnson, “And I love East Boston more and more with each document I read, every person I talk with, and each new revelation I uncover.”

The goal of her project is to complete a short written history of EBSC, as well as to compile a timeline with dates corresponding to major agency changes and events.

“EBSC was incorporated 100 years ago in 1918, its beginnings growing from the Goodwill House located then at 177-179 Webster Street,” said Johnson. “The Goodwill House (alternately known as the House of Good Will) was originally funded by the Massachusetts Home Missionary Society, an organization founded in 1807 showing us a longtime historical trend of people helping others in Massachusetts.”

ISD’s New Housing Program Launches in East Boston

Last year, Boston Inspectional Service Department (ISD) Commissioner William Christopher made the rounds at East Boston community meetings to drum up support for a new pilot program his department was proposing. Christopher told residents that Eastie was picked as one of three neighborhoods to take part in the city’s Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU) pilot program.

Christopher said the proposed program was ISD’s way to respond to all the high-end condos going up across the neighborhood. The city found that a lot of larger older building in Eastie could accommodate an additional unit without coming outside the building’s footprint. This means no additions, no raised roofs, no structural changes of any kind but the opportunity for owner occupied homeowners, like empty nesters, to make a little extra cash and remain in the neighborhood.

At a community meeting, ISD’s Omar Khoshafa said the department is ready to launch the pilot program in Eastie. Khoshafa said the department is currently engaged in a reach-out campaign in the neighborhood to get homeowners interested in the program and see whether they qualify.

“We believe East Boston residents will be prime beneficiaries of this program,” said Khoshafa. “This program will allow certain homeowners here add another unit to their homes without going through the lengthy variance process thereby allowing them to increase their rental income while aging in place.”

March

Conley Not to Seek Re-Election as DA

On what was his 16th anniversary in the office of District Attorney, Dan Conley surprised many by announcing he would not run for the office again.

Simply put, the former prosecutor turned City Councilor turned DA, said he believed it was time to let others have a chance to run the county-wide office – an office that covers East Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop.

“I love the job, the office, its staff, and the people and communities we serve,” said Conley in a statement. “But I have long believed that those of us fortunate enough to lead as elected officials must also be willing to give others the same opportunity. For this

reason, I will not be seeking re-election this fall.”

NOAH Picked to Develop Condor Street DND Site

The Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) announced that it has picked the East Boston Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) as the designated developer of a city-owned parcel on Condor Street across from the Hess Site.

Following a series of community meetings with the Eagle Hill Civic Association (EHCA) where DND officials got feedback from residents on what type of project the community would like to see at the site DND sent out an RFP. In it, the city asked interested parties to come up with plans that included affordable housing that includes a substantial amount of units for artists living and workspace.

“NOAH is very excited to learn that our team has been selected as the designated developer by the City for the three Condor Street parcels,” said NOAH’s Executive Director Phil Giffiee. “We worked hard to listen to the community about their needs and desires for this artist preferred housing. Our architects, East Boston’s own Joy Street Design, created a very attractive, accessible yet practical layout, which will accommodate the needs of artists and non-artists alike. There will be both privacy and hospitable community spaces for the residents and visitors.”

Giffiee said NOAH will partner with the East Boston Community Development Corporation (CDC) to create a 41-unit project that includes a mixed-use, mixed-income, ownership/rental housing and gallery spaces for Eastie artist community and community at large.

Mayor Walsh Adds Second Ambulance to East Boston

A bone of contention for decades in East Boston is the fact that the neighborhood has had only one dedicated ambulance stationed. With Eastie geographic isolation from the rest of Boston, coupled with the fact that the only dedicated Boston EMS ambulance is routinely called to serve Logan International Airport, residents have clamored for quite some time for a second ambulance.

The chorus of demands for a second ambulance here has gotten louder in the community over the past year after Eastie residents Steve Holt waited nearly 20 minutes for a Boston EMS ambulance while his daughter suffered a seizure at their Jeffries Point home.

Mayor Martin Walsh said he has heard enough of long wait times some Eastie residents, especially the sick and elderly, are reporting when it comes to Boston EMS and ordered a second dedicated ambulance to be stationed in the neighborhood.

Walsh said he will use overtime funds to pay for the second ambulance in Eastie for the remainder of this Fiscal Year. The ambulance began service in Eastie on March 12.

Then, as part of the City’s Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) budget that will be formally submitted in April, Walsh has earmarked funds to have the second ambulance permanently stationed in the neighborhood through a deal with Massport.

As operators of Logan Airport, which utilizes ambulance services in East Boston, Massport has committed to providing a second bay for ambulance in Eastie to further the shared goal of reducing ambulance response times.

April

Project Bread Kicks Off 50th Celebration with a Walk for Hunger May 6

East Boston-based Proj-

ect Bread, a leading statewide organization committed to preventing and ending hunger for Massachusetts residents of all ages, kicked off its 50th celebration at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. Mayor Marty Walsh and Congressman Jim McGovern spoke out against hunger in partnership with Project Bread, and announced the 50th Walk for Hunger and 5K Run, which will take place on Sunday, May 6, on Boston Common.

The Walk for Hunger is the oldest pledge walk in the nation. It began in 1969 as a grassroots movement organized by a small group from The Paulist Center who saw the negative effects of hunger on their community and took action to raise money for local anti-hunger organizations. The Walk will raise funds for community programs that help the one in 10 Massachusetts residents who are food-insecure, including food pantries, meal programs, community health center programs, farm and garden initiatives, food rescue programs, and child nutrition programs. The walk has since become a staple of the area, with thousands participating each year.

“Food is the most basic of human rights and we work in partnership with community organizations to provide access to food, through funds raised by the walk support our community partners that provide access,” said Project Bread President Erin McAleer.

Mayor to Expand East Boston School Lunch Pilot Program

Mayor Martin Walsh called the school lunch pilot program that began last year in East Boston, where fresh food is cooked onsite on a daily basis using healthy ingredients, a ‘game changer’.

Through a partnership with the Shah Family Foundation, four Boston Public Schools (BPS) in Eastie have been enjoying freshly prepared lunches like Baja fish tacos, BBQ chicken, freshly cooked veggies and salads throughout the school year with the help of renowned Chef Ken Oringer.

In 2018 Walsh toured the Bradley School’s ‘My Way Cafe’ and announced that he will be expanding the pilot program to 30 additional BPS schools in the city.

The pilot program used what Walsh called the ‘Hub and Spoke’ model. This model utilized East Boston High School’s already-constructed in-service kitchens to prep food for nearby schools in Eastie that did not have such kitchens.

Through a grant from the Shah Family Foundation, EBHS replaced its older warming ovens used to heat plastic-wrapped food with Welbilt ‘combi-ovens’ that can not only reheat, but cook and steam foods. The school also received freezers, a refrigerator, and three basin sinks.

This new kitchen allowed EBHS to cook freshly prepared foods not only for students there, also but for the East Boston Early Education Center, Bradley Elementary, and Patrick J. Kennedy Elementary. The three other Eastie schools were retrofitted with hybrid-model kitchens to cook and serve food on-site for students.

Chef Oringer, whose restaurants include Toro, Coppa, and Little Donkey, worked with EBHS Food and Nutrition staff and students to come up with recipes that students would enjoy.

MBTA to Fund Red Line Blue Line Connector Study

Linking the only two MBTA train lines that have no connection has been something residents in East Boston

Review //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

and surrounding communities have been asking and waiting for since the 1970s. The Red Line/Blue Line Connector has long been a bone of contention between the neighborhood and the state ever since the Commonwealth reneged on its commitment to build the connector as part of Big Dig mitigation.

While advocacy from residents and local elected officials to get the connector built has fallen on deaf ears ever since the project was promised as part of the Big Dig, it seems now the interest of a multibillion company in Boston has lit a fire under the MBTA to get the job done.

MBTA Spokesman Joe Pesaturo announced that the T has paid \$50,000 to hire engineering from VHB to begin a three-month study on the feasibility of the Red Line/Blue Line Connector.

The T has cited significant development in Eastie and Revere as reasons to reexamine the stalled connector project. While there is no commitment from Gov. Charlie Baker on funding the long awaited connector the possibility of Amazon landing at Suffolk Downs, as well as hundreds of new housing units being built and proposed in Eastie and Revere has led to renewed interest in the project by the MBTA.

The project would extend the Blue Line approximately 1,500 feet to make a connection with the Charles/MGH Station on the Red Line.

Boston East Opens

The highly anticipated East Boston waterfront development project has officially opened in 2018

The lobby at Boston East designed by Cortney and Robert Novogratz– a Los Angeles-based husband and wife design team who have conceived some of the most unique living spaces across the country.

Following several delays and the economic downturn in 2008 there was a level of uncertainty in the community for several years for the East Boston Community Development Corporation (CDC) owned the development that was permitted back in the mid-2000s.

However, financing finally came through for the \$71 million boutique luxury residential project at the Boston East Site, a former 19th century ship building yard on Border Street.

Managed by Trinity Financial Boston East is now following in the footsteps of other successful waterfront development projects in the neighborhood. With projects like Clippership Wharf selling out prior to the actual opening of the development, it was no surprise Boston East was 25 percent leased before opening this month.

Located directly on Boston Harbor and in close proximity to Downtown Boston and the MBTA, Boston East is a boutique, mid-rise residential community that features 200 units, including six artist live-work-sell units and a community art gallery.

The interiors of Boston East’s common spaces and residential units were created by Cortney and Robert Novogratz – a Los Angeles-based husband-and-wife design team who have conceived some of the most unique living spaces across the country. The Novogratzes, who are known for their unique taste and style, have been showcased several times on HGTV.

Liana LaMattina Leaves Post as Rep Madaro’s Legislative Aid

After three years serving as State Rep. Adrian Madaro’s Legislative Aide and running his successful campaign for state rep in 2015 Liana LaMattina announced she would be leaving Madaro’s office to focus on her last year of law school.

LaMattina and Madaro

have been close friends since childhood and both attended Boston Latin School together.

In 2015 former Rep. Carlo Basile announced he was leaving office to work in Gov. Charlie Baker’s administration and a special election was scheduled for March of that year.

Only 23 years old at the time, LaMattina was tapped by Madaro to run his campaign for the state rep seat. Just one year removed from her graduation from Boston University where she received a degree in Business Management with a concentration in Organizational Behavior, LaMattina became an organizational dynamo for the campaign.

“Both Adrian and I went all in,” she told the East Boston Times in 2015 after Madaro’s win. “And especially with Adrian being a close, personal friend of mine, I really wanted to give it my all.”

LaMattina assumed command of many responsibilities including organizing Madaro’s daily schedule and volunteers, and coordinating efforts with Sage Systems on such important aspects as the graphics for campaign signs, newspaper advertisement, campaign literature, political canvassing, and events.

May

Piers Park Sailing Center Kicks off 20th Sailing Season

In May a crowd had gathered at Piers Park to celebrate the opening of Piers Park Sailing Center’s 20th sailing season.

For two decades the non-profit community sailing facility on Eastie’s waterfront that offers free programs to neighborhood youth has been taking kids off the streets and into productive programming. The center has built a population of confident youth with social and leadership skills that connect them to their natural environment, their community and to each other. Throughout the sailing season kids work closely with instructors, and learn everything from sailing basics to advanced racing, boat maintenance, and navigation. Besides learning to sail, kids learn how to work as a team, build self-confidence, gain leadership and character skills, and develop a deeper appreciation for the sea and its natural surroundings.

“Sailing is fun,” said PPSC Executive Director Alex DeFronzo Saturday. “It makes us brave, it makes us fearful, it makes us respect mother nature. It makes us take control, sometimes it takes away our control, and it makes us respect each other. To the instructors that taught me, and to the students that I taught, and to the students that they now are teaching, never forget what a great thing we have here. To all of the brave souls who’ve taken the helm over the years and sailed the waters of our beautiful harbor, thank you for helping keep us afloat.”

Chief of Probation Thomas Tassinari Honored at East Boston Law Day

East Boston District Court Chief of Probation Thomas Tassinari, who retired this year after a stellar career, was honored at Eastie’s Law Day celebration at the courthouse.

Tassinari, who came over to Eastie’s courthouse from Chelsea’s probation department following the retirement of former Chief of Probation Dave Arinella in 2012, was presented with the Judge Joseph Ferrino Community Service Award.

Judge John McDonald surprised Tassinari as he called in the longtime chief of probation’s friends and family and announced the award.

After the announcement the

courtroom erupted in thunderous applause.

McDonald said that Tassinari had become one of his closest confidants in the courthouse.

“He has become my best friend, someone that I go to not only for personal but professional advice, someone that I look up to with regard to his commitment and his passion for this community,” said McDonald. “I just want to thank him personally for everything he has done for me, the court and this community.”

For his part Tassinari said he was honored and overwhelmed by the honor.

“I want to thank everyone here, but I want to give a special thanks to Judge Joseph Ferrino who told me when I was 14 years old that I had to help the community and that is when I started to do things to help the community,” he said. “I can’t really explain what an honor this is for me tonight. I knew something was up because I ordered the plaque for Katie (O’Leary) and the Judge kept telling me it hadn’t arrived yet.”

Eastie’s Tania Del Rio Tapped to Head Mayor’s Office of Women’s Advancement

East Boston resident Tania Del Rio, known for her work locally with the Veronica Robles Cultural Center and Excel Academy Charter School, was appointed by Mayor Martin Walsh to head the Mayor’s Office of Women’s Advancement.

As the office’s new executive director, Del Rio will oversee and coordinate initiatives to promote equal rights and equal economic, social, political and educational opportunities for all women and girls throughout Boston.

The Office of Women’s Advancement was established by Mayor Walsh in 2014 to take a leadership position on issues impacting women, both on a local and national scale. The office is best known for its first-in-the-nation, multi-pronged approach to measuring and closing the gender wage gaps in Boston.

Del Rio, who currently serves as the Diversity Outreach Officer in the City’s Office of Diversity, is the first Latina to lead the office and began her new job in June.

June

City launches planning initiative in East Boston

In June Mayor Martin Walsh announced East Boston was chosen as one of five neighborhoods that will be part of Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) planning initiative. Eastie will join Mattapan, Newmarket, Allston-Brighton and Downtown in an Imagine Boston 2030-guided effort to ‘preserve, enhance and grow’ the neighborhood.

According to Walsh, city officials will work closely with Eastie community groups, community leaders and other stakeholders to ensure decisions made by the city are following the guiding principles of “preserves wisely, enhances equitably, and grows inclusively”.

“Over the last four years, we have set strong foundations in our planning efforts that will guide our growth as a city in a way that is responsible and inclusive, for many years into the future,” said Walsh. “These four new planning processes represent a continuation of our commitment to fulfill the individual needs of each neighborhood that both preserve the distinct historic character, and allow for us as a community to plan together for our bright future ahead.”

As part of the initiative in Eastie a comprehensive planning will include a focus on balancing contextually-sen-

sitive development alongside preservation. There will also be a focus on supporting existing residents and businesses through increased access to opportunity, affordability strategies, and anti-displacement policies.

Walsh said one of the highlights in Eastie will be improving the public realm and access to open space and neighborhood-serving amenities, addressing mobility challenges, and supporting neighborhood resiliency and preparing for climate change.

John Nucci receives life saving kidney transplant

Life has come full circle for East Boston’s John Nucci and Kerri Abrams, who owns Kinship Florist in Revere.

Thirty-five years ago Abrams’ parents, Kim and Al, were political supporters and friends of Nucci. At the time neither Nucci nor the Abrams could have ever guessed nearly four decades later that Kim and Al’s daughter would donate her kidney to help save Nucci’s life.

Nucci announced Sunday to the East Boston Times that Abrams was a kidney donor match. Nucci, 66, suffers from Polycystic Kidney Disease, the same kidney disease that killed his dad at the age of 64. He and Abrams underwent the lifesaving kidney transplant surgery Tuesday.

“My kidneys went from 12 percent down to two percent since February,” said an emotional Nucci on the eve of his surgery Monday evening. “Kerri is just an amazing and brave woman. To read about my story, step up and undergo all the testing and agreeing to go through with donating her kidney to me after she found out she was a match is something that is so moving to me and my family.”

In fact, when Nucci first met Abrams’ parents decades ago he was well aware that someday he would need a kidney transplant to save his life.

“Everything was finalized about a month ago,” said Nucci. “Testing continued right up until last week. We are both in good shape, we are both healthy but I still ask for everyone’s prayers.”

Nucci, Suffolk University’s Vice President of Governmental Affairs that also sits on the Massport board of directors, joked that if it wasn’t for a delayed flight at Logan Airport Abrams may have never come forward.

Mayor Walsh, Trinity, East Boston CDC and BHA cut ribbon on Phase I of the Orient Heights Public Housing Development

The first phase of the massive overhaul to replace the aging Orient Heights Public Housing Development with 331 modern units was completed in the spring.

Mayor Martin Walsh joined Boston Housing Authority (BHA) Administrator Bill McGonagle, representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), MassHousing and the development team of Trinity Financial and East Boston Community Development Corporation to officially cut the ribbon and open the first 120 public housing units at Orient Heights.

“It’s great to be able to celebrate this important milestone reached at the redevelopment of Orient Heights, which when completed, will make 331 units of housing available to residents and families in East Boston,” said Walsh. “This project will significantly improve the facility for current and future tenants, and contributes to the City of Boston’s committed to creating more affordable housing for all. I thank everyone involved for their partnership as we work together to see this redevelopment through completion.”

Phase I included tearing

down the old brick housing development and replacing the 90 units with 120 units of rental housing. The units are spread across four townhouse-style buildings and one mid-rise building.

July

Boys & Girls Club’s Fr. John Nazzaro to leave Eastie, receives new assignment from Salesian Provincial

Fr. John Nazzaro, who has been the face of the Salesian Boys & Girls Club in East Boston throughout his tenure, announced he would be leaving East Boston for a new assignment in New Jersey.

Provincial of the Salesians of St. John Bosco Fr. Tim Zak informed Fr. Nazzaro last that he will be transferred officially to Don Bosco Prep High in Ramsey, N.J. in August.

Before assuming his new responsibilities, he will be attending classes at the Chicago Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois.

Fr. Nazzaro has been associated in a variety of responsibilities at the Salesian Boys & Girls Club in the past 35 years--as Executive Director for the past 11 years, and more recently as Director of Mission for the club.

Fr. Nazzaro expressed his deep gratitude for the young people and the business community who have supported the club.

“I have received much more than I have given to the community of East Boston and its surrounding areas,” said Fr. Nazzaro, who grew up in Eastie and graduated from St. Dominic Savio. “I love this community and I truly love being a priest. If I was not a Salesian I would never have had the opportunity to work with young people over these past 35 years. East Boston is my home and I will miss a lot of the wonderful people I have worked with as well as a lot of my old friends.”

August

The hot streak at Lanzilli’s continues

The hot streak of customers playing the lottery at Lanzilli’s Groceria and Gas Station in East Boston continues. Last Tuesday a Winthrop resident went into Lanzilli’s to play Mega Millions and later that night became a millionaire.

James Griffin, who chose his lucky numbers based on birthdays of family members, purchased his winning ticket at Lanzilli’s Grocery.

Griffin’s win is the sixth prize of \$1 million or more won on a ticket sold at Lanzilli’s since 2013.

“Before 2013 we sold three maybe four \$1 million tickets in the 13 years we owned the store,” said owner Sonny Patel.

Patel said then in 2015 luck began to strike the location time and again.

“In 2014 we sold two \$1 million tickets in one week,” said Patel. “Then we sold a \$10 million ticket that the following year.”

Commissioner Gross makes first public appearance in Eastie

At the annual National Night Out celebration at LoPresti Park Boston Police Commissioner William Gross made his first public appearance in East Boston since being sworn in by Mayor Martin Walsh.

Walsh, who introduced Gross last Tuesday in Eastie, said the new Commissioner is no stranger to the neighborhood and has ‘hit the ground running’.

Gross, who began his career at Eastie’s District A-7 station after graduating from the police academy in 1985, became a regular fixture as he rose through the ranks.

“It’s great to be here during National Night Out but this

is something this community does everyday,” said Gross of his fondness of the tight knit Eastie community. “I love the East Boston Peace Walks and all the fine citizens that make that happen each week. Everyone is dedicated and always talking about how to make East Boston better and better. I took a trip to El Salvador a couple of months ago with Chief Brian Kyes of Chelsea and we are committed to making sure that anyone who comes here are not going to be forced into gangs. We are going to try and deter the youth in our community from that life.”

Gross said that the trip to El Salvador was aimed at starting a new period of cooperation between the two countries to try and change the way of life so no child has to be pressured to join a gang.

“When they come here this is going to be a safe haven for their families,” said Gross. “There are no walls for the City of Boston and East Boston, everyone is welcome.”

Eastie Pride Day organizers celebrate 30th Anniversary on August 18 at Piers Park

In 1988 Sal LaMattina was a staffer for former Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn. Flynn had an idea--summer block parties and community celebrations in every Boston neighborhood to bring residents close together.

LaMattina was tasked with coming up with community-wide celebration in East Boston.

“My wife Lisa and I just got married the year before,” said LaMattina. “At the time a lot of the friends that we grew up with were moving to Saugus, Peabody, and Revere. One night Lisa and I were talking about the future and whether or not we should move but Lisa said we should stay and take care of East Boston. I’ll never forget that conversation because it was at that moment we made a commitment to the neighborhood and would work to improve the neighborhood.”

So LaMattina had an idea after that conversation.

“It really started with Mayor Flynn wanting to do events throughout the summer to bring communities closer together and kids off the streets,” said LaMattina. “There were pockets of East Boston that were run down, absentee landlordism was at an all time high, some of our parks were a mess, there were empty storefronts. But it was like this all over Boston. A lot of the residents that moved complained that the neighborhood wasn’t the same and I found that really insulting because I loved Eastie.”

LaMattina said between his wife’s encouragement to stay in Eastie and the fact the neighborhood still had a lot to offer he banned together a like minded group of friends, community activists and longtime residents that had no intention of leaving their beloved neighborhood.

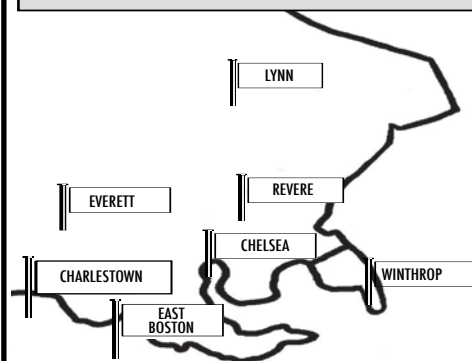
“It was sort of a ‘we’ll show them’ attitude towards the people that left the neighborhood,” said LaMattina. “I believed then and still believe today that we live in the best neighborhood in Boston and I wanted to showcase all the talent and love people had for Eastie.”

So, on a hot summers night in 1988 at East Boston Memorial Stadium the first Eastie Pride Day was held.

“We had donkey rides, food, local musicians like The Stompers, dunk tanks, rides,” said LaMattina. “That first a lot of people that moved came back to the neighborhood and were surprised by the spirit.”

So for the past 30 years LaMattina and company have been keeping something going that he holds very dear to his heart.

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NAPOLEON DYNAMITE

The Napoleon Dynamite movie and conversation with its stars portraying Napoleon, Pedro and Uncle Rico. appears Sunday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. at Lynn Auditorium, City Hall Square, Lynn. Tickets start at \$37. VIP tickets for meet and greet also available. lynnauditorium.com, 781-599-SHOW.

ACE TICKETS

Bruins battle the Flames, Jan. 3, 2019, at TD Garden, and the Wild on Jan. 8; Celtics vs. the Nets, Jan. 7, and the Pacers Jan.9, also at TD Garden; and new musical, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," sweetens the Boston Opera House, Jan.8-20.aceticket.com.

A DOLL'S HOUSE PART 2

Huntington Theatre Company and Berkeley Repertory Theatre present Lucas Hnath's hit Broadway comedy, making its Boston debut, Jan. 4-Feb. 3, 2019: select Tuesdays-Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.;Sundays, 2 p.m. at Avenue of the Arts, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston.Days, times vary. Special events also. Tickets start at \$25, senior, subscriber, patrons 35 years old-younger, military, student discounts. 617-266-0800.

ONE-MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL

The annual festival is held Jan. 5-7, 2019, 8 p.m., at Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Comm. Ave., Boston: Saturday, 8 p.m., with 60 established and emerging Boston-area playwrights and directors. \$20.BostonPlaywrights.org.

CORTEO

Renowned Cirque du Soleil production "Corteo," performs at DCU Center, Worcester, Jan.3-6, 2019;Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Saturday, 3:30,7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 1,5 p.m.as part of its North American arena tour. The performance includes 51 globally acclaimed acrobats,

AROUND THE CITY

musicians, singers and actors.Advance tickets online for Cirque Club members, which is free.To join, visit cirqueclub.com.

SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS

SpeakEasy Stage Company of Boston presents the Boston premiere of Bess Wohl's acclaimed off-Broadway comedy, featuring a cast of Boston's finest actors. Jan. 4-Feb. 2, 2019: Wednesday, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 4,8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m., also Jan. 31, 2 p.m., at Boston Center for the Arts, Calderwood Pavilion,Roberts Studio Theatre, 527 Tremont St., South End, Boston. Tickets start at \$25; seniors,students, persons age 25-younger discounts.SpeakEasy.com, 617-933-8600.

TWO MILE HOLLOW

Apollinaire Theatre Company presents Leah Nanako Winkler's hilarious play, through Jan. 20, 2019:Friday, Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 13,20, at 3 p.m., at Chelsea Theatre Works, 189 Winnisimmet St., Chelsea.Reception with the cast follows. \$30;seniors, \$25; students, \$15. 617-887-2336,apolli-nairetheatre.com.

SALUTE TO VIENNA

Boston Symphony Hall, 136 Mass. Ave.,Boston, ushers in the new year for all ages, with dancing and singing, reminiscent of Vienna's Golden Age, Jan.4, 2019, at 8 p.m. Featured performers are the Strauss Symphony of America, soprano Michaela Oeste, tenor Brian Cheney, the Kiev-Aniko Ballet of Ukraine, and International Champion Ballroom Dancers. Tickets start at \$39. VIP tickets also. 8880266-1200.

BARBERSHOP CHRONICLES

American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) presents this stirring new play, through Jan. 5, 2019, as part of its US premiere

tour, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge. Tickets start at \$25, subscriber, member, groups, student, senior, Blue star families EBT cardholders and other discounts.. americanrepertorytheater.org, 617-547-8300.

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE

Arlekin Players present the premiere of an original adaptation of award-winning author Kate DiCamillo's book, performed simultaneously in English and Russian, through March 3, 368 Hillside Ave., Needham, Fridays, 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays,Sundays, 26 p.m. \$35/\$50. 617-942-0022.

FRANK COSTANTINO

Winthrop's own acclaimed artist, Frank Costantino, will exhibit some of his works in a group show, now through Jan. 2, 2019, at the McCormick Gallery of Boston Architectural College, 320 Newbury St., Boston.

CORNCOBS TO COSMONAUTS

The Museum of Russian Icons, 230 Union St., Clinton, presents this new exhibit, "Redefining the Holidays during the Soviet Era," turning the museum into a winter wonderland, now through Jan. 27, 2019. Also on view is Matryoshka in Winter, through Feb. 17, 2019. Museum hours, Tuesday-Friday, 11a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. First Sunday of the month, free.\$10; seniors, \$7; students, children ages 3-7, \$5; under 3, free. museumof-russianicons.org, 978-598-5000.

CONSTANZA AGUIRRE

Urbano will display recent works by Paris-based artist Aguirre, entitled, "Wandering the Land of Oblivion," through Jan. 11, 2019, 29 Germania St., Jamaica Plain. Urbano is open Tuesday-Friday, 1-6 p.m. and by appointment. 617-983-1007, urbanoproject.org.

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