



JEFFREY BOWEN

info@chelsearealestate.com chelsearealestate.com 781-201-9488



East Boston

TIMES-FREE PRESS

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Eastie Chamber commemorates Independence Day with display

Special to the Times-Free Press

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce will be placing a display of American flags to commemorate the upcoming Independence Day observed on Sunday, July 4, at the Daniel H Solari Square outside the Chamber of Commerce office at 464 Bremen Street.

In the United States, Independence Day is celebrated on July 4. It commemorates the day the Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent na-

Please note that the flags are for display purposes. If anyone wishes to obtain/ purchase a flag, please feel free to contact the Chamber at eastbostonchamberofcommerce@gmail. com. You can take a selfie of yourself or others with the flag display and post it on social media with the hashtag #eastbostonchamber to enter in a raffle for a free US flag like those found in the display.

We will nounce the winner on the East Boston Chamber of Commerce Facebook www.facebook.

com/eastbostonchamber

Nota de Prensa Lunes 21 de junio del

Camara de Comercio de East Boston

Veronica Robles, 617-308-2314

La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston conmemora el Día de la Independencia de Estados

Unidos. La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston colocará una exhibición de banderas estadounidenses para conmemorar el próximo Día de la Independencia de Estados Unidos que

See CHAMBER Page 2



held a ferry service open house to discuss and get feedback from residents about the upcoming pilot program that will start running ferries between Eastie and Southie in Sep-

East Boston ferry holds open house

By John Lynds

Last Tuesday afternoon, 400 East Boston residents took a seven minute trip on a ferry from Lewis Mall Dock to South Boston's Fan Pier as part of an open house and informational event hosted by the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA).

The event was to be-

gin dialogue between the MCCA and the community for a pilot ferry service program the MCCA hopes to start running in September between Eastie and

Southie. "I think the open house was pretty successful," said MCCA Director of Transportation Shannon McDermott. "We got over 700 people that RSVP that they were coming

and right around 400 people actually attended the event. But it downpoured in the last hour so that may have kept some people

from coming down.' McDermott said the MCAA, which currently runs ferry service from the North End to Southie, wants to expand upon ferry service studies and gaps

See FERRY Page 62

Boston's drinking water complies with standards

By John Lynds

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) has begun mailing its Annual Water Quality Report to every household in its service area.

In the report published online the MWRA includes statistics on the quality of Boston's drinking water, which the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) says meets state and federal standards.

"This report contains an annual update on the quality of drinking water supplied in partnership with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)," said the BWSC in a statement. "The water delivered is of high quality and complies with federal and state

quality standards. While the world is engaged in a battle with coronavirus, BWSC and MWRA want to assure that the water delivered is safe from the virus. BWSC has been continuing to maintain excellent drinking water through the investment of millions of dollars to upgrade its infrastructure."

The report says BWSC has once again received a citation from the Massachusetts Department of **Environmental Protection** (MassDEP) acknowledging BWSC's consistent performance in the public drinking water system.

With the Flint water crisis bringing more awareness of lead in tap water, the water provided by BWSC and the MWRA is

See WATER Page 2

EBNHC Bremen Street lots increase affordable housing component

By John Lynds

The development team trying to construct over 400 units of housing on a series of parking lots on Breman and Orleans Streets hopes bringing in the East Boston Community Development Corporation (EBCDC) as a community partner and increase affordable housing opportunities will ease some community concerns over the size and scope of the project.

The Davis Company seeks to redevelop four parcels along Breman and Orleans Streets used for East Boston Health Center employee parking into a mixed-use development. The four parcels of land are located at 75-115 Bremen Street, 135B Bremen Street, 147-163 Orleans Street, and 164 Orleans Street, respectively.

However, the parcels' close proximity to the

Mary Ellen Welch Greenway has community activists worried that the proposed buildings would cast a portion of the bright and sunny greenway into darkness. However, many of the community activists fighting to protect Eastie's greenspace are also longtime affordable housing advocates.

Last week, The Davis Companies and East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) invited the EBCDC to help create a substantial increase in the affordable housing opportunities at the proproject--hoping to win over some in the community that are dead set against anything being built along the greenway that would loom large over the network of green

"Welcoming our longtime partner, the EBCDC,

See EBNHC Page 2

Harborfest returns July 1-4

By Dan Murphy

One of the largest Independence Day celebrations in the nation, as well as a tradition that now dates back back 40 years, Boston Harborfest returns with a four-day celebration from Thursday, July 1, through Sunday, July 4.

The festivities get underway with a public kick-off July 1 from 11:30 a.m. from 1 p.m. on "The Steps" of the plaza at Washington and Franklin streets in Downtown Crossing, with Acting Mayor Kim Janey and Martha Sheridan, director of the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, among others, scheduled to appear. Roving re-enactors and staff from the USS Constitution will greet visitors, while the 215th Army Band is scheduled to begin an afternoon of performances in Downtown Crossing.

Local musicians will perform across all genres from a stage at The Steps,

July 1-3, noon to 8 p.m., while Through Me to You Puppetry will also perform a children's show there on July 3 at 1 p.m.

The DTX Arts Market will take place on July 1 and 2 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sumner Street between Macy's and Roche Brothers, with local artisans offering their work for sale.

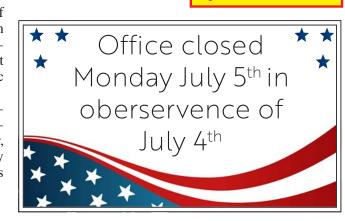
On each day of the event, Freedom Trail sites, such as Old North Church, Paul Revere's House, Old State House, USS Constitution, and Old South Meeting House, will be offering tours beginning

See HARBORFEST Page 2



Due to the July 4 holiday being on a Sunday, THERE WILL BE **NO DELAY IN** TRASH PICK UPS

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Baker files plan to invest \$2.9 billion for recovery

Staff Report

The Baker-Polito Administration will re-file its plan to immediately put to use part of Commonwealth's direct federal aid from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support key priorities including housing and homeownership, economic development and local downtowns, job training and workforce development, health care, and infrastructure. The Administration called on the Legislature to act quickly on the \$2.9 billion plan to jump-start the Commonwealth's economic recovery and support residents hardest-hit by COVID-19, such as lower-wage workers and communities of

Governor Charlie Baker is re-filing the proposal after signing "An Act Relative to Transferring Federal Funds to the Federal COVID-19 Response Fund," which was on the Governor's desk.

"We are eager to work with the Legislature to put these funds to work and our \$2.9 billion proposal will immediately aid those hardest hit by COVID-19 like communities of color and lower-wage workers," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "This plan addresses homeownership gaps in communities of color, connects workers with in demand job-training, boosts addiction treatment services and invests in local infrastructure. It's crucial that the Legislature act quickly and not hold up these important investments. Communities of color, the hardest hit areas of the Commonwealth, should not have to wait to have their tax dollars be put to work."

"Massachusetts" economic recovery is off to a good start but it's crucial that we address the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic by taking action to invest these federal relief dollars in priorities like housing, economic development, job training, and addiction treatment," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "We look forward to working with our colleagues in the Legislature to move quickly in putting these relief dollars to work on behalf of our communities."

The proposal filed today is the same proposal filed by Gov. Baker earlier this month with the Legislature, with an additional \$100 million for marine port development to support economic growth.

Administration's plan to invest \$2.9 billion in federal dollars in these disproportionately impacted communities complements a proposal filed last week for the Commonwealth's surplus state tax revenue. With May revenues approximately \$4 billion over benchmark, the Administration's proposal for a two-month Sales Tax Holiday would provide relief for small businesses and residents, especially lower-wage workers who are most impacted by the

The \$2.915 billion is part of a total of approximately \$5.3 billion in direct aid to the Commonwealth from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. These discretionary funds are intended to support urgent COVID-19 response efforts, replace lost revenue, support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses, and address unequal public

health and economic challenges in Massachusetts cities and towns throughout the pandemic. ARPA is also providing a total of \$3.4 billion in direct aid for municipalities throughout Massachusetts, as well as substantial funding for key priorities including a total of \$1.1 billion for transit. With a focus on increasing capacity for child care and supporting parents as they return to work, the Administration is also proposing to distribute approximately \$760 million in additional federal funding to child care providers in Massachusetts over the coming years, and looks forward to working with key stakeholders on the usages of these funds.

The remaining \$2 billion in direct federal aid would stay in the Federal COVID-19 Response Fund, and the Administration looks forward to working closely with the Legislature to allocate these resources in a fiscally responsible and compliant manner.

In addition to this discretionary funding, an additional \$35.2 billion in other ARPA funding has been directed to the Commonwealth to support additional areas of recovery including direct aid to municipalities, transportation, and child care. This approximately includes \$3.4 billion in direct aid to cities, towns, and counties throughout Massachusetts. The plan therefore includes language allowing a local match for numerous programs to better leverage municipal support, optimize the usage of all available revenue, and maximize the impact of this one-time federal funding.

EBNHC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as a developer, will enable this project to significantly increase true affordable housing in East Boston," said EBNHC President and CEO Manny Lopes. "EBNHC has thoughtfully and deliberately chosen the developers of these parcels to ensure the community has the resources it needs. Moreover, EB-NHC will commit nearly \$3 million of the net deal proceeds to subsidize the units for lower income residents. A true win for our community."

Stephen Davis, Co-President of The Davis Companies, said the new approach comes about as a result of feedback from the community and the EBNHC Board. Over the past year, The Davis Companies sought community input relative to the planned development. The Davis Companies conducted outreach in a number of ways including phone surveys, online surveys, meetings and mailings to gauge public sentiment and catalogue community priorities. All outreach was conducted in English and Spanish.

'We heard loud and

clear from the community about the need to go above and beyond on affordable housing," said Davis. "We believe that we have collectively identified a way for this project to have an outsized impact on the creation of affordable housing, well beyond the City's baseline requirements, and ultimately result in a much better project for the East Boston Community."

According to Davis, the EBCDC will build the affordable housing component of the project creating roughly 70 units of deeply affordable family housing. The new arrangement will allow the overall development to provide housing that serves households who earn between 30% and 60% of the Area's Median Income, or AMI. The affordable component will include much needed 2 and 3-bedroom units meant to serve Eastie households most at risk of displacement due to rising

rents in the neighborhood. "We are looking forward to working to build upon all that makes East Boston a special place to call home," said President/CEO of EBCDC Al Caldarelli. "By developing a project that minimizes congestion, adds substantial new affordable housing, enhances open space and contributes to a walkable and connected East Boston, we believe we can do just that."

With three of the parcels adjacent to the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway, the Davis Companies said they want to offer an opportunity to create a thoughtful gateway space within the cherished public asset and enhance its access.

However, not everyone is buying it.

"The Davis Company along with their partners, the EBNHC and the EB-CDC want to put up 400 plus units, up to 8 stories high, along the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway creating shadows and a tunnel effect," said longtime activist Gail Miller. "What greenway promotes tall buildings? The Rose Kennedy Greenway in Boston does not have tall buildings butting right up against their greenway and nor should ours in

Eastie."

f Water $m{/\!/}$ continued from page 1

lead-free when it leaves the reservoirs.

"However, lead present in water may come from the service line feeding your building, private plumbing, lead solder or old plumbing fixtures," the statement continues. "We care about lead because infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure."

According to the re-

risk homes, lead results were 25.2 parts per billion (ppb), with 5 samples over the lead Action Level of 15 ppb while copper results of 137 ppb were well below the Action Level of 1300 ppb. "In our Spring 2021

sampling, our lead results of 6.8 ppb were back below the 15 ppb Action Level," said BWSC in the report. BWSC offers a Lead Replacement Incentive

Program to qualified homeowners to remove private lead pipes. You can find more information in this report and on www. bwsc.org. "This report brings you

the results of our annual water quality testing. port the BWSC's 2020 While 2020 was a year resulted in better tasting lead sampling of higher filled with uncertainty, one safer water," said Laskey.

thing remained constant: the quality of your drinking water was excellent," said MWRA's Executive Director Fred Laskey. "MWRA takes hundreds of thousands of tests each year and, for 2020, we again meet every federal and state drinking water standard."

Laskey said the MWRA also wants its customers to know that their water was again named 'Best of the Best' at a national taste test conducted by the American Water Works Association. "In just a few years, our water treatment has been upgraded from chlorine with its taste and odor issues, to ozone and ultraviolet light, which

Harborfest // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

at 10 a.m., while Faneuil Hall is also offering free tours each day at 11 a.m.

On Saturday, July 3, highlights include a Classic Car Showcase on Summer Street from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., as well as a wide array of performers, re-enactors, entertainers, and musical performances at The Steps from noon to 8

Fireworks, sponsored



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co-sponsors the Great- ues through Downtown er Boston Convention & Crossing to the Old State Visitors Bureau and the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District, are scheduled from 9:15 to 9:30 p.m. over Long Wharf in the Inner Harbor. Spectators can watch the display for free along the waterfront, or get a close up look at it instead during a two-hour cruise on the Adirondack III at a cost of \$130 per adult, or \$100 per child.

On Sunday, July 4, a flag-raising ceremony takes place at 9 a.m. on City Hall Plaza, followed by a parade to the Granary Burying Ground, where wreathes will be laid on the graves of the Patriots buried there. After

by supported by People's the wreath-laying cere-United Bank, as well as mony, the parade contin-House, where the current Captain Commanding of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company do the traditional reading of the Declaration of Independence from the balcony - the same location where it was first read to Boston citizens on July 18, 1776. Parade viewing for the City of Boston's 254th Independence Day Celebration will be available along the route and in Downtown Crossing.

> Beginning at 11:30 a.m., USS Constitution's annual turn-around sail through Boston Harbor returns, and spectators are invited to watch it from the Boston Harbor shoreline, including Castle Island.

> 204 foot-long The wood-hulled ship, first launched in 1797 and the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world, will sail out to Fort Independence on Castle Island, exchange a 21-gun salute, and then turn around and head back into the Inner Harbor to exchange cannon fire with Boston's Coast Guard Base in the North End. Departure from Charlestown Navy Yard's Pier One is tentatively set to place at 10:45 a.m., and she returns to her Navy Yard berth across from the USS Constitution Museum at 2 p.m.

Osorno, Maria A The USS Constitution will also be open for free

tony com for more information.

Chamber // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

se observará el domingo 4 de julio de 2021 en la plaza Daniel H. Solari, frente a la oficina de la Cámara de Comercio en 464 Bremen Street.

En los Estados Unidos, el Día de la Independencia se celebra el 4 de julio para conmemorar el día en que el Congreso Continental aprobó la redacción final de la Declaración de

BUYER 1

Independencia y el nacimiento de los Estados Unidos de América como nación independiente.

Tenga en cuenta que las banderas son para fines de exhibición. Si alguien desea obtener (comprar una bandera), por favor comunicarse con la Cámara en eastbostonchamberofcommerce@gmail.com. Puede tomarse una selfie de usted mismo o de otras personas con la bandera y publicarla en las redes sociales con el hashtag #eastbostonchamber para participar en un sorteo de una bandera de EE. UU.

Anunciaremos al ganador en la página de Facebook de la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston.

PRICE

UHOMES AT 90 ANTWERP STREET 12 affordable homeownership units in Brighton Six condos for households at or below 80% AMI Two 3-bedroom, 2 bathroom units at \$265,000

Two 2-bedroom, 2 bathroom units at \$230,000 Two 1-bedroom, 1 bathroom units at \$215,000 Six condos for households at or below 100% AMI

Three 3-bedroom, 2 bathroom units at \$340,000 Two 2-bedroom, 2 bathroom units at \$300,000 One 1-bedroom, 1 bathroom unit at \$270,000 *The 1-bedroom 80 percent AMI units are built-out for persons with mobility impairments.

All condominiums have hardwood floors, central air, and washer and dryer hookups To qualify for the 80% AMI units, your annual income must be equal to or less than

1 persons	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons
\$70,750	\$80,850	\$90,950	\$101,050	\$109,150	\$117,250
To qualify for the 100% AMI units, your annual income must be equal to or less than:					

1 persons	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons
\$84,600	\$96,650	\$108,750	\$120,800	\$130,500	\$140,150

Homes are sold by lottery. Only qualified applicants may enter. The property is deed-restricted; owner-occupancy requirements apply. Income and asset limitations apply. Requirements: First time homebuyer. Homebuyer will need to complete an approved homebuyer education course prior to closing. Minimum household size requirement is the number of bedrooms minus one. Preferences: Boston Residency preference. Preference for households with a mobility impairment for accessible unit. Income limits for qualified buyers are based on 80% and 100% Area Median Income Limits as defined by HUD. Information is subject to change. We are not responsible for errors or omissions. Please note: Persons with disabilities and those with limited English language proficiency are entitled to request a reasonable accommodation. APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

IS JULY 16, 2021.



tours during Harborfest, as well as throughout the Visit bostonharborfest.

Real Estate Transfers

ADDRESS

SELLER 1

Prisco, Katherine J	1225 Bennington St LLC	1225 Bennington St #101	\$610,000
Santos, Melanie O	1225 Bennington St LLC	1225 Bennington St #3	\$630,000
East Boston AOP LLC	Bustamante, German	Eutaw St #221	\$900,000
Simpson, James A	Pavlis, Ruthanne	122 Everett St	\$1,275,000
Radin, Gregory M	Stephenson, Joseph	338 Meridian St #1	\$565,000
Bresnahan, Mark W	Ge, Li	31 Orleans St #202	\$789,000
Hoxhallari, Altin	Tierno FT	272 Prince St	\$975,000
Roycroft, Preston H	Lajaunie, Megan R	285 Sumner St #2	\$592,000
Osorno, Maria A	Osorno, Walter	25 Wordsworth St	\$823,000





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News in Brief

HARBOR VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NOTICE

There will be no July 5th 2021 Meeting. HVNA wishes all our members a safe and happy July 4th Holiday. As we begin to resume activities hopefully you might have an enjoyable BBQ with family and friends.

Our next HVNA Meeting is scheduled for August 2, 2021. At this time we are looking at an in person meeting in the Salesian Parking Lot as well as online viewing, but we will keep you posted as planning progresses and the virus is still allowing us to meet safely.

Please visit us http://www.facebook.com/groups/harborview-na or harborvieweastboston.com.

OHNC MEETING AGENDA

Orient Heights Neighborhood Council (OHNC) Design Review Committee Meeting Agenda -Thursday, July 1, 2021

Location: Zoom

Meeting starts at 6:00pm and will be recorded.

Zoom meeting information: https://zoom. us/j/97448699782

Agenda

5 Breed Street - Erect a new building with 4 resi-

dential units.

Presentation: https://bit. ly/5breedst

Owner: 5A Breed St LLC, (617)391-9451

Developer: Melissa Novaco Attorney: Jeffrey Dra-

go
Architect: Eric Zach-

rison

Abutter's radius

BREAKDOWN OF FEDERAL AID AWARDED TO MUNICIPALITIES PUBLISHED

The Baker-Polito Ad-

ministration last week announced that it has published a new, interactive online tool that displays a breakdown by municipality of the \$3.4 billion in direct federal aid awarded to local governments across Massachusetts by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This direct aid to local governments is part of a total of \$8.7 billion awarded to Massachusetts through the new Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, which was created by ARPA. This total also includes the \$5.3 billion awarded directly to the Commonwealth, and last week Governor Baker outlined a plan to spend \$2.8 billion of these funds on urgent priorities that support the communities hardest-hit by the pandemic.

These discretionary federal dollars are available to every local city, town, and county throughout the Commonwealth to support urgent municipal COVID-19 response efforts, replace lost revenue, stabilize households and businesses, and address the existing disparities that the pandemic exacerbated.

The new online resource consists of an interactive map that shows the breakdown of the \$3.4 billion that is available to local cities, towns, and counties through the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. The website also contains detailed information on funding allocations and the distribution process, as well as general information on the usage of these funds.

Last week, Gov. Charlie Baker outlined a plan to work with the Legislature to spend \$2.8 billion of the Commonwealth's discretionary funds on urgent priorities that support the communities hardest-hit by the pandemic. These significant federal resources complement other funding received by municipalities throughout the course of the public health emergency, such as the \$502 million in Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars made available to municipal government entities

earlier in the pandemic.

VaxMillions giveaway drawing dates announced

Special to the Independent

The Baker-Polito Administration and the Massachusetts State Lottery reminded the public that registration for the Massachusetts VaxMillions Giveaway begins July 1 and also announced the schedule of drawing dates.

Residents ages 18 and older who are fully vaccinated prior to each drawing will have the opportunity to enter to win one of five \$1-million cash prizes. Residents between 12-17 years of age who are fully vaccinated prior to each drawing may enter for the chance to win one of five \$300,000 scholarship grants.

An entry before one of the weekly entry deadlines makes you eligible for all of the weekly drawings that take place after you register. Residents are reminded that they have time to get vaccinated and

then enter the drawings. VaxMillions Giveaway Drawings will be held once a week for five weeks beginning Monday, July 26 and continuing every Monday through Aug. 23. The first drawing for the giveaway will occur on Monday, July 26, with registration for that week's drawing closing on Thursday, July 22. Winners will be announced later in the week following each drawing. The full schedule of drawing and announcement dates is below. Residents are reminded that some COVID-19 vaccines require two doses, and they

must receive all doses before entering the drawing.

Residents must be fully vaccinated before registering, but if they are not vaccinated by the registration date for a certain drawing, they will still have the opportunity to complete vaccination and register for subsequent drawings. Residents will only have to enter once to qualify for all drawings occurring after the date of their registration.

Massachusetts residents 18 years of age and older who have received two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, will have a chance to win one of five \$1-million cash prizes.

Massachusetts residents between 12 and 17 years of age who have received two doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will have a chance to win one of five \$300,000 scholarship grants via a 529 College Savings Plan managed by the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA). Funds in a 529 plan can be applied to cover tuition, room and board, and related expenses at any college, university, or technical or trade school or other post-secondary educational institution eligible to participate in a student aid program administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Winners with a qualifying disability may elect instead to receive an equivalent financial con-

tribution to a special needs trust or federally qualified ABLE account to cover qualified expenses.

Commonwealth The launched the Massachusetts VaxMillions giveaway as one of many strategies to increase awareness of the availability and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines and encourage residents to get vaccinated to keep themselves, their families and their communities safe. Beginning July 1, Massachusetts residents will be able to enter the VaxMillions Giveaway online. A call center will be available to support registration for residents who do not have access to the internet or require assistance. Sign up information and call center contact info and hours will be made avail-

able prior to July 1.
Only lawful, permanent residents of Massachusetts who are fully vaccinated can enter the drawings. Residents must have received their vaccine doses within Massachusetts. Residents must be fully vaccinated prior to submitting their entry.

There are over 900 vaccination locations across the Commonwealth, with appointments and walk ins widely available. Residents seeking a vaccine can visit mass.gov/COVIDVaccine to find a vaccine location that is convenient for them.

For more information on the Mass VaxMillions Giveaway, visit mass.gov/VaxMillions.

City Councilor Lydia Edwards names Ricardo Patrón as new chief of staff

Following last week's announcement that Gabriela Coletta will be joining the New England Aquarium as their external relations manager, City Councilor Lydia Edwards has announced that Ricardo Patrón will become her new chief of staff. He first joined Councilor Edwards' staff shortly after her inauguration in 2018 as her East Boston community liaison and took over the Director of Communications role in 2020. He has led the office's marijuana policy initiatives and dispensary review process. As chief of staff, Patrón will oversee the office's day-to-day operations and community engagement.

"Ricardo has grown immensely while working for our community," said Councilor Edwards. "He started part-time and will soon be the Chief of the



Ricardo Patrón.

office. He has the respect of his colleagues and so many people throughout the district have talked about his professionalism and responsiveness. I think he has learned a lot from Gabriela Coletta and will continue to reshape the role and bring a new perspective."

"I'm incredibly excited and humbled by this opportunity," said Patrón. "I've developed so many meaningful relationships as Councilor Edwards' East Boston liaison over the last three and a half years. I'm really looking forward to developing similar relationships in Charlestown and the North End as I take on this new role and help advance the councilor's goals for the district."

In addition to his job on Edwards' staff, Patrón serves on the board of directors of the East Boston YMCA, Maverick Landing Community Services, the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH), and the North Suffolk Mental Health Association. He lives in East Boston with his wife Kathleen and their dog Mau.

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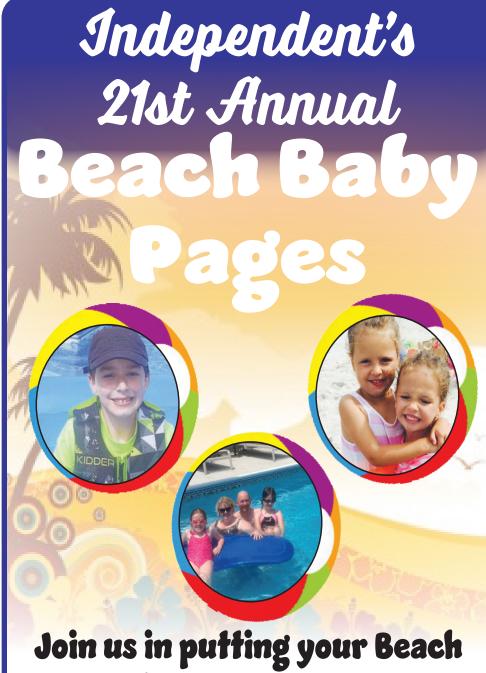
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Thursday, August 12th -

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Not responsible for lost or unpublished Photos.

East Boston

Times-Free Press

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley PUBLISHER: Debra DiGregorio EDITOR:: Cary Shuman

PUBLISHER EMERITUS: John A. Torrone

ENJOY AN AWESOME -- AND SAFE -- 4TH OF JULY

Although the Fourth of July falls on a Sunday this year, many of us will be enjoying an extra-long holiday weekend for which the weather hopefully will cooper-

In addition, with most (though not all) of the COVID-19 restrictions having been lifted, Americans will be primed to enjoy the holiday festivities in many of our traditional ways.

The Fourth of July rekindles fond memories from our childhood of the times when we spent the holiday with our families and friends for gatherings at barbecues, at the beach, and at municipal fireworks displays in the

Amidst all of our celebrating however, we often overlook the reason why we have a Fourth of July: That's the date in 1776 when a group of America's leaders and best thinkers gathered in Philadelphia to declare their independence from England by means of a proclamation to the world in which they stated "... that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Another overlooked aspect of the Fourth, especially during a long holiday weekend, is that too many among us will engage in behavior that is risky not only to ourselves, but to our loved ones and others around us.

Possession of fireworks is illegal for everybody, and in no event should be allowed in the hands of children. It is a sad -- but inevitable -- fact that countless Americans will be maimed for life because of accidents involving fireworks over the holiday weekend.

Alcohol abuse is rampant in our country today, especially in the wake of the pandemic, and the Fourth unfortunately provides an opportunity -- which is to say, another excuse -- for those who have alcohol abuse issues to indulge way more than they should, especially when operating a boat or automobile.

It is the responsibility of each of us to ensure that the Fourth is enjoyed safely not only by ourselves, but by those we care about. If someone has had too much to drink, take their keys -- none of us wants to say to ourselves the next day, "If only I had not let them drive...."

As we emerge from the pandemic, we wish all of our readers an awesome -- and safe -- Fourth of July.

THE TRAGIC SHOOTING IN WINTHROP SHOWS ALL THAT IS WRONG IN AMERICA

The tragedy that struck the town of Winthrop on a quiet Saturday afternoon represents a confluence of everything that is wrong in America today.

The deranged, 28 year-old white gunman who shot two Black persons multiple times in cold blood on a residential sidewalk on an early-summer afternoon was motivated solely by one thing and one thing alone -

He came across others on that same sidewalk who were white, but he did not threaten them. He saved his wrath -- and his bullets -- for two Black persons, 68 year-old Dave Green and 60 year-old Ramona Cooper, who were not connected to each other, but who only shared the same fate of being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Racial animosity is nothing new in America, but incidents of race-based hate crimes have been on the upswing in recent years, not only as to persons of color, but also against the Asian, Latino, Muslim, and Jewish communities.

Fueling the increase in race-based violence is the easy accessibility to military-grade weaponry that is becoming omnipresent in our country, where there are almost as many guns as people. The Winthrop shooter had obtained a license to carry a firearm from another police department and was armed with multiple weapons, providing him with the firepower to carry out his murderous spree.

Social media is playing a huge role in the radicalization of white men such as the Winthrop shooter. Social media has opened the doorway to the ideology of white supremacist groups for disgruntled and mentally-unstable individuals. Although the shooter reportedly had a Ph.D and was married, neighbors described behavior

that was not normal for a 28 year-old man. Finally, the economic dislocation being caused by the huge degree of income inequality in our country has left many people in a state of despair, which manifests itself either in self-destructive drug abuse or socially-destruc-

tive acts of violence. None of this is meant to excuse hateful behavior -but it does provide an explanation for what is going wrong in America today.

The greatest threat to the safety of every American exists within our own country from white supremacist groups and individuals. Whether our nation is capable of facing up to the threat of these domestic terrorists will determine the fate of our democracy and our way



Forum



GUEST OP-ED

Medical care, American Dream or Nightmare

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Until recently my wife and I paid over \$2,000 a month for medical insurance. We each had a \$6,000 deductible. One year we both had procedure's which meant we had \$12,000 in out of pocket expenses. There were also some other "uncovered" medical costs throughout the year which resulted in over \$40,000 in medical insurance and out of pocket costs. The procedures themselves of course cost far and above what our out of pocket expenses were. Most likely if we had not had health insurance the doctors and medical facilities would not have performed them. In America, you have to have medical insurance or the means to cover the costs of your healthcare.

For the average American \$40,000 in medical costs in one year means an

eternity of debt. The prospects of such makes average Americans shy away from medical care they need. Unaffordable medical care is not an American dream. Honestly, for too many Americans it's a nightmare.

A business owner recently told me, "I pay for insurance for my employees but it's barely enough insurance to meet the legal requirements for our business. It's terrible insurance. It pays for almost nothing and no one with our insurance would ever want to go to the hospital." This is tragic as all Americans need good medical care. However, the insurance companies in America are making billions in profit. The way they make profit is by denying to pay for something you need. The health insurance industry had a "net" profit of 22 billion dollars in 2019. Businesses need to make

profit, but Americans need medical care, not denial and medical debt that leads only to serious anxiety for Americans.

"If you are buying an ACA (Obamacare) plan as non-subsidized health insurance for a family of four, you can expect to pay about \$25,000 for the year in premiums and deductibles. That breaks down to an average of \$17,244 in annual premium cost for health insurance for families of 4 and \$7,767 in deductible expenses. If you qualify for a subsidy this will certainly help but just the out of pocket deductible can make healthcare daunting for most." (ehealthinsurance.com)

Healthcare is a major component of financial security. Financial devastation is lurking around the corner for any American who does not have a good medical care safety net. Any hospital stay today amounts to tens of thou-

sands of dollars. You must make medical insurance a priority for you and your family. Also, our government is still a long way from solving our medical insurance dilemma. Obamacare has not fixed our problem. It's a step but we have a long journey ahead of us. We must have access to good and affordable medical care in this country and we must not give up on making it good for all Americans.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist - American Issues and Common Sense opin ions, analysis, stories and features appear each week In over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

Temple Tifereth Israel of Winthrop has new rabbinical intern

Temple Tifereth Israel of Winthrop is privileged to announce that it has engaged the services of a new rabbinical intern for the coming year. The rabbinical intern - Josh Schreiber - is currently a fourth-year student at the Rabbinical School of the Hebrew College in Newton. While a "native" - born in the Boston area

- Josh spent his childhood on a secular kibbutz in Israel. He discovered American progressive Judaism after college in the U.S. and has been involved in Jewish education and prayer-leading in one capacity or another since the



Josh Schreiber.

mid-1990s.

Josh has a Masters in performance from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA. and is also a certified teacher of the Feldenkrais Method of Somatic Education®. He uses the Feldenkrais Method to help musicians avoid injury and develop their musical voices.

Beginning at the end of June, rabbinical intern Schreiber will be leading various functions at the Temple where all can

meet and welcome him. In addition to the town of Winthrop, Josh and Temple Tifereth Israel service the Jewish communities of Chelsea, East Boston Everett and Revere.

Your opinions, please

The Times 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@eastietimes.com.

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

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Eastie's Dr. Neenah Estrella-Luna named a Commonwealth Heroine

By John Lynds

Last week, Rep. Adrian Madaro announced that he has nominated longtime East Boston activist and professor, Dr. Neenah Estrella-Luna for the 2021 Commonwealth Heroine Award for her commitment to furthering social, environmental, and racial justice in the neighborhood and beyond.

Dr. Estrella-Luna is a Salem State University Department of Sociology professor and author who focuses on topics including environmental justice, racial equity, immigrant rights, and bias. Dr. Estrella-Luna has been extensively involved in grassroots activism, policy advocacy, and community-based organizing in Eastie, as well as communities around the Commonwealth.

"It's an honor to nominate Dr. Neenah Estrella-Luna with the Commonwealth Heroine Award from the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women for her remarkable achievements and commitment to furthering social, environmental, and racial justice in East Boston and the Commonwealth," said Rep. Madaro. "On these issues Dr. Estrella-Luna has been a valuable advisor to me and my staff over the years. Thank you, Dr. Estrella-Luna, for making East Boston and the Commonwealth a better place for us all."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Estrella-Luna has worked with mutual aid groups throughout the neighborhood, providing critical insights on the inequities that have led to communities like Eastie bearing a

candidate for Boston City

Council At-Large, an-

nounced that she had re-

ceived the endorsement

of U.S. Senator Elizabeth

Warren. On Warren's 2020

Louijeune served as her

"Ruthzee is the advo-

cate working families

need on the Boston City

Council. As a lawyer and

Boston native, she fought

to uplift the diverse com-

munities of Boston and

addressed racial and eco-

nomic justice head-on,"

Senator Warren said in a

statement. "From housing

and homeownership to

access to equitable edu-

cation, Boston's working

families will have no bet-

ter champion than Ruth-

zee. I am proud to endorse

her for Boston City Coun-

In her role as se-

nior counsel, Louijuene

worked to combat voter

cil At-Large."

Louijeune,

campaign,

Ruthzee

presidential

Senior Counsel.



nated longtime East Boston activist and professor, Dr. Neenah Estrella-Luna with the 2021 Commonwealth Heroine Award.

disproportionate impact of infections. In the wake of last summer's Black Lives Matter protests, she led a community teach-in about how to facilitate conversations on racism.

Aside from her work as a professor, Dr. Estrella-Luna is a Social Equity and Anti-Racism Consul-

"It is an honor for us to identify extraordinary women from across the Commonwealth," said the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women in a statement. "We would like to thank our many legislative partners who have recommended and recognized women within their district who perform unheralded acts daily that make our homes, neighborhoods, cities and towns better places to live. These acts of public leadership and volunteerism help advance the status of women and girls in Massachusetts in ways big and small, and the collective effort is meaningful."

Each year the Commission partners with state legislators to identify women who make outstanding contributions to their organizations and communities. Each legislator is encouraged to submit one woman from their constituency as a means of recognizing their invaluable community contribu-

"The Commonwealth Heroines are women who don't always make the news, but truly make the difference," said Rep. Madaro. "They are the women who use their time, talent, and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others and make a difference in their neighborhoods, cities, and towns. They are mentors, volunteers, and innovators who do what needs to be done, without expectations of recognition or gratitude. These women are the glue that keeps a community together and every community has them."

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women is an independent state agency that was legislatively created in 1998 to advance women of the Commonwealth to full equality in all areas of life and to promote their rights and opportunities. The Commission provides a voice for Massachusetts women and has 19 members who are appointed by the Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Caucus of Women Legislators.

Elizabeth Warren endorses Ruthzee Louijeune

cal system." Louijeune brings seven years' experience working on political and advocacy campaigns, fighting for working people and Black and Latinx communities on issues of housing, education access, and voting rights. Most recently, Louijeune started her own legal and advocacy business, The Opening PLLC. Louijeune Previously, served as Senior Counsel for U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren's presidential campaign. Prior to that, she was a lawyer at Per-

The daughter of Haitian immigrants, fluent in Haitian Creole, French, and conversant in Spanish, Louijeune would be the first Haitian-American to hold elected office in Boston city government. You can find more information about her campaign at: www.ruthzeeforboston.



Ruthzee Louijeune and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren.

suppression across the country and helped protect access to the ballot box. Ruthzee also worked to support the collective bargaining efforts of the campaign staff, advising on one of the first presidential campaign staff unions.

the support of Senator Warren," Ruthzee Louijeune said. "She set an incredible example for how to be a champion for working families and fearlessly advocate for structural change in our politi-







State and local officials and fishing advocates cut the ribbon on the new Deer Island

Deer Island Recreational Fishing Pier officially opens

Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Kathleen Theoharides joined state and local officials, fishing advocates, and youth anglers in Winthrop for a ribbon cutting of the Commonwealth's new Deer Island Recreational Fishing Pier last week. The pier will provide anglers from Winthrop, East Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Everett, and many other surrounding communities an easily accessible opportunity to fish from Massachusetts' shoreline.

"The Baker-Polito Administration is committed to making outdoor recreational opportunities like fishing easily accessible to all Massachusetts residents, especially those in urban and environmental justice communities," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. "This new recreational fishing pier will provide anglers of all means and abilities in the Greater Boston area access to high-quality coastal fishing for generations to come."

The facility was conment of Fish and Game's Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), in cooperation with DFG's Office of Fishing and Boating Access, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, and the City of Boston. The \$2.4 million project was paid for mostly with funds from the sale of Massachusetts recreational saltwater fishing permit, with assistance from the

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"This is a signature project for the Department of Fish and Game and our Division of Marine Fisheries," said Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Commissioner Ron Amidon. "I wish to thank DMF and the Marine Recreational Fisheries Development Panel, the citizens advisory group that long ago had the foresight to propose building recreational fishing piers in urban communities, to serve people who may not otherwise have opportunities to go fishing."

"The fishing pier is a great addition to the recreational opportunities available at Deer Island and MWRA is proud of the partnership that made this possible," said Massachusetts Water Resources (MWRA) Executive Director Fred Laskey. "With five miles of public trails for walking, jogging, sightseeing, picnicking, bicycling and fishing, the Deer Island Public Access Area offers something for everyone."

"The Deer Island pier project gives back to structed by the Depart- the fishing public in the 'user pays, user benefits' model,"said Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Director Dan McKiernan. "This pier project and other similar structures around the state have strong angler support because it's tangible, permanent, and meets critical need for angler access."

> Construction of the Deer Island Recreational Fishing Pier was support

ed by the Marine Recreational Fisheries Development Fund, which is financed through the sale of recreational saltwater fishing permits, donations, and grants. One third of the fund is dedicated to providing anglers with public access to saltwater fishing opportunities. The Marine Recreational Fisheries Development Panel is a five member citizens advisory group that helps DMF in crafting annual spending plans from the

Some of the activities supported by the Fund are:

- Providing anglers with public access to saltwater fishing opportuni-
- Monitoring, stocking, and improving the passage of diadromous fish
- Developing the Saltwater Angler Education Program, offering fishing clinics, seminars, and distribution of informational materials
- Recreational catch and effort data through the Marine Recreational **Information Program**
- Planning, and monitoring of artificial reefs

The Deer Island Recreational Fishing Pier was designed by Foth Engineering and constructed by ACK Marine & General Contracting, overseen by the Division of Marine Fisheries, the Office of Fishing and Boating Access, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.

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Ferry // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that have been published by organizations like Boston Harbor Now and be able to provide a different mode of transportation for Eastie and North Shore commuters.

"I think those studies were sort of the building blocks," said McDermott. "Boston Harbor Now came out with a study and proposed a circulator route in the harbor with stops in East Boston. They never intended to actually run the service; they were just finding locations that they thought would be the most useful. Lewis Mall was one of those locations and so we looked at it and said, "You know there's a need in East Boston". We already have a service up and running from the North End to the Seaport so wanted to see if we could extend it. This will be a separate route but as we continue to activate the waterway and if we're lucky and this new route goes as well and we hope it does, then we'll be able to continue adding dock locations around the har-

The MCAA's Director of Communications and External Relations Nate Little said last Tuesday's open house was really an

bor."

event to survey the community and gauge the interest of this sort of ferry activity in the neighborhood and what type of schedule would work best.

"So we are still finalizing the survey that we had put out and we were trying to gather some more survey results just to make sure that we're on target with the timing," said Little. "The difference between our North End to South Boston route and this route is there was a group of businesses that approached us and said we have a need to move our staff from point A to point B. They gave us the schedule they wanted us to run and we went and got boats and had at it. In the case of East Boston we got the boats and then we approached the community and asked what kind of ferry service can we provide?"

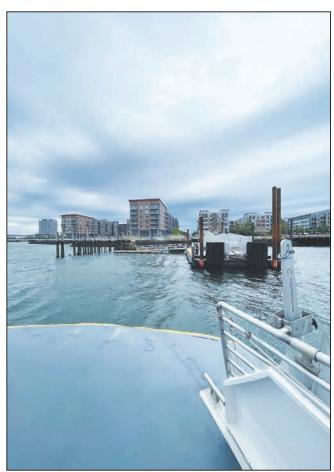
McDermott and Little said the MCCA is looking at a startup in September with ferry service running between Eastie and Southie Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 10 am and then from 3 pm to 7 pm every half hour. The trip takes roughly seven minutes and would cost \$5 one way.



Eastie residents board the MCCA ferry for the open house and trips between the Eastie and Southie locations.



Over 400 people turned out for the event and helped the MCCA collect feedback on the proposed service and pilot program.



The ferry enters Fan Pier in Southie after the roughly 7 minute trip from Lewis Mall.



Eastie resident dock at Fan Pier before returning back to Eastie during the MCCA's ferry open house last Tuesday.

Community approach



Last week's open house explored the future of the ferry route from Lewis Mall Dock (pictured) to Fan Pier in South-



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CENTRAL PARK LANES HOSTS CANDLEPIN DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

Central Park Lanes hosted a doubles "knockout tournament" Sunday at the famed candlepin bowling establishment on Saratoga Street.

CPL owner and past Channel 5 champion Chucky Vozzella welcomed 22 two-person teams from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine to the event.

Corrado Pani of Revere was the director of the tournament. Pani said he was very pleased with

the sizable turnout and thanked Chucky Vozzella for his outstanding hospitality.

The teams competed in a five-string opening round, with the top 16 finishers advancing to the single-string "knockout" elimination rounds.

The duo of Eric Seager and Jeremy Seaholm defeated Nick Zuffelato and Chris Boisvert in the final round to claim the championship.



Candlepin doubles tournament champions Eric Seager and Jeremy Seaholm are pictured with Nick Zuffelato and Chris Boisvert on Sunday at Central Park Lanes in East Boston.



teammate, Steve Botte of Lynn, at Central Park Lanes Sunday.



Candlepin Bowling Hall of Fame inductee Craig Holbrook (right) and his doubles teammate, Peter Penney, at Central Park Lanes Sunday.



East Boston's baseball and bowling star, Steve Walsh (right), with doubles partner Dave Hodge of Saugus.



Central Park Lanes owner Chucky Vozzella, with competitors Melanie Penney of East Boston and Nick Norcross of Arlington.



Central Park Lanes owner Chucky Vozzella (center) welcomes Joey Lister (left) and Josh Daley to the candlepin doubles tournament.



One of East Boston's former Channel 5 champions, Joe Stella, with his doubles partner, Jonathan Boudreau, who fired a 162 string in the opening round of the tournament.

Zero positive COVID tests last week in Eastie

By John Lynds

For the first time since the pandemic began no East Boston residents tested positive for COVID last week according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

Eastie's weekly COVID positive test has been one percent or below for more than a month.

However, last week 926

Eastie residents were tested for the virus, and zero percent were positive--a 100 percent decrease from the 0.6 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago. Of the 43,116 Eastie residents tested for

COVID since the pandemic began, 18 percent overall were found to be positive for the virus. This was a decrease of one percent from the 18.2 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago. Citywide, the weekly

positive test rate decreased once again. According to the BPHC 11,557 residents were tested and 0.4 percent were COVID positive--this was a 33 per-

cent decrease from the 0.6 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Eastie's COVID infection rate increased only 0.07 percent in two weeks and went from 1,651.7 cases per 10,000 residents to 1,652.9 cases per 10,000 residents.

Six additional residents contracted the virus since June 18 and there are now 7,757 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic. The statistics released

by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 0.06 percent last week and went from 70,951 cases to 70,998 confirmed cases in a week. One additional Boston resident died from the virus last week and there are now 1,392 total deaths in the city from COVID.



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Zumix Walk for Music scheduled for Sunday, July 11

By John Lynds

After a year of remote celebrations, online classes and virtual showcases Zumix is planning to be back in-person for its annual Zumix Walk for Music fundraiser scheduled for Sunday, July 11 at 4

The annual fundraiser was remote last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic but this year, just as Zumix celebrates 30 years in the community, the funfilled event will return to the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway for the walk and end in Piers Park with live music.

"We're super excited," said Zumix Co-Founder and Executive Director Steczynski. Madeleine "This is our 30th anniversary so we are excited to be celebrating that but we're equally excited to be welcoming people back into our physical space as more restrictions are lifted and host the first in-person Walk for Music since the pandemic."

The Walk for Music will kickoff at the Zumix Firehouse on Sumner Street on July 11 at 4 p.m. and make its way through the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway and end with a concert in Piers Park featuring Zumix youth bands as well as Zumix board member Steve Snyder's Don't Be Denied Band.

"The event will also be a way for us to kick off our Summer Music Concert Series at Piers Park," said Steczynski. "We want to welcome music back and the Walk for Music is going to really be our first day of building community on a grander scale as we come out of the pandemic. Last year we really didn't know how the virtual event would go but it was a tremendous success. This year's Walk for Music is going to be the first sort of big event of trying to get people back together in physical space together. We really are hoping that people feel comfortable enough to come out because the whole event will



A scene from the last in-person Walk for Music. Zumix will host the annual fundraiser on Sunday, July 11 at 4 p.m. starting at the Zumix Firehouse on Sumner Street.

be outdoors."

Steczynski said Zumix

has set a goal for the annual fundraiser of \$60,000 and has raised north of \$17,500 so far and donations can be made https://secure.frontstream.com/walk-for-music-2021.

With the Walk for Music coming on the heels of Zumix receiving a generous \$1 million gift from McKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett's foundation, Steczynski said donors need to know the endowment is to ensure long term success and stability for Zumix and the Walk for Music raises money for the popular music program's day to day operations and pro-

"It's kind of ironic because we just got that big beautiful gift but that beautiful big gift is really about long term stability of the organization, not day to day operations of the organization," said Steczynski. "So that's really important for us to message and let people know that we still need to fundraise and we really would have never gotten that gift if we didn't have the support of our community. Even if it's \$10 it means a lot to us and it does provide the ongoing regular support that we need to be able to operate."

In the end, Steczynski just hopes the Zumix

can do their part in the community to begin the process of healing after a tough 15 months of uncertainty.

"It's a little exciting for us to get people back together," she said. "We want to be able to say hello to people we haven't seen throughout this past year, play some music together and dance together...just those things are huge for us. It's been a long year and we hope to have some fun and start the process of bringing music back in-person to the community like we have for 30



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Staff Report

The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate has announced its civic education programming lineup for camps, libraries, summer school, and other education programs throughout the summer. The virtual offerings, hosted by highly trained, nonpartisan instructors from the Kennedy Institute, cover a range of political and social issues and are presented through both Democratic and Republican viewpoints.

Educational experiences at the Kennedy Institute use immersive role play and simulation to teach civics and inspire the next generation of leaders. Their variety of virtual programs are intended for individuals of all ages to debate modern day issues, learn from one another, and leave empowered to make their own contributions to improving their communities and the

Kennedy Institute announces

Among the Kennedy Institute's educational offerings throughout the summer:

•"Welcoming Words" program introduces K-3 students to the Statue of Liberty as a symbol of welcome for new immigrants. Students listen to a story about Lady Liberty, think about what it means to welcome others, and work on a creative activity together with a Kennedy Institute staff member.

For grades 4-8, the Kennedy Institute's "Pathways" programs teach students about modern-day issues such as citizenship and environmental justice. Students work together as if they were Senators to build a bill that effectively balances the needs of various groups impacted by the issue.

•"Real Life Civics" is part of the Kennedy Institute's response to a nationwide call from across

summer civic education programs the political spectrum for improved and expanded civics resources for adults. In a lively, interactive onehour format presented online, Kennedy Institute staff explain how the U.S. government is structured under the Constitution, the division of powers among the branches, and the origins of and crucial role played by

> traditions and norms. •"These virtual education programs are some of the best ways to learn about the United States Senate and the importance of our democracy through an immersive and hands-on approach to civic education," said Sarah Yezzi, Director of Education, Family, and Youth Programming at the Kennedy Institute. "We are excited to continue this important work throughout the summer to provide an additional resource for educators, students, or adults who are interested in learning more about civic education."

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MADD urges to keep July 4th celebrations safe

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) urges everyone to celebrate safely by planning ahead, and designating a non-drinking, unimpaired driver during the long Fourth of July holiday weekend.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 38% of all motor vehicle deaths during the 2019 July 4th holiday were alcohol related. From 2015 to 2019, 512 drivers who were killed during the July 4th holiday had a blood alcohol content of .08 above.

The holiday falls on a Sunday this year, making it a long weekend for government employees and many businesses that close on Monday in observance of the federal holiday.

"MADD is especially concerned anytime one of the holidays that are known for gatherings and celebrating with alcohol fall on a weekend. We want those gatherings to be fun, but we also want to make sure everyone gets home in one piece," said MADD New England Executive Director, Bob Garguilo.

Over the July 4th holiday period in 2019 (6 p.m. July 3 - 5:59 a.m. July 8), nighttime was especially dangerous on America's roads. According to NHTSA, almost 4 out of 5 (79%) fatal traffic crashes occurred between 6 p.m.-5:59 a.m. during the five-day period.

Alcohol use continues to be the leading known contributing factor in recreational boating deaths in the United States. In 2019, when the primary cause is known, alcohol use was listed as the leading factor in 23% of recreational boating deaths. In addition, the 2020 Operation Dry Water campaign from July 3 to July 5 involved 620 agencies that made 625 impaired boating arrests, issued 8,666 citations and 28,659 safety warnings, according to the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

"Whether celebrations are on land or on the water this July 4th weekend, it's so important that if you drink, don't drive," Garguilo said. "As the nation celebrates our independence and our return to normal activities, we want everyone to stay safe and make great memories with their family and friends."

According to NHTSA:

• In 2019, 515 people died in motor vehicle crashes over the July 4th holiday period (6 p.m. July 3 - 5:59 a.m. July 8, 2019). 38% (198) of those fatalities occurred in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes. • From 2015 to 2019,

- there were 1,339 drivers killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes over the 4th of July holiday period. 38% (512) of the drivers killed were alcohol-impaired (BAC of .08+).
- During the 2019 July 4th holiday period, 69% of those who died in alcohol-impaired crashes were in a crash involving at least one driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) at or above .15.
- Approximately onethird of all traffic crash fa-

CLEANING SERVICES

talities in the United States involve drunk drivers (with blood alcohol concentrations [BACs] at or above .08). In 2019, there were 10,142 people killed in drunk-driving crashes.

- Nationally, it is illegal to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher, except in Utah, where the limit is .05 BAC.
- Although it's illegal to drive when impaired by alcohol, in 2019, one person was killed every 52 minutes in a drunk driving crash on our nation's roads. • Men are more likely
- than women to be driving drunk when involved in fatal crashes. In 2019, 21% of males were drunk, compared to 14% of females. • Of the traffic fatalities
- and younger, 19% (204) occurred in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes. • Among the 10,142 alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities in 2019, 68%

(6,872) were in crashes in

in 2019 among children 14

which at least one driver had a BAC of .15 or higher. • In 2019, motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes had higher percentages of alcohol impairment than any other type of motor vehicle driver (29% for motorcycle riders, compared to drivers of passenger cars

(20%), light trucks (19%),

and large trucks (2%).

• Nighttime is a particularly dangerous time to be on the roads: The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2019 was 3.3 times higher at night than during the day.



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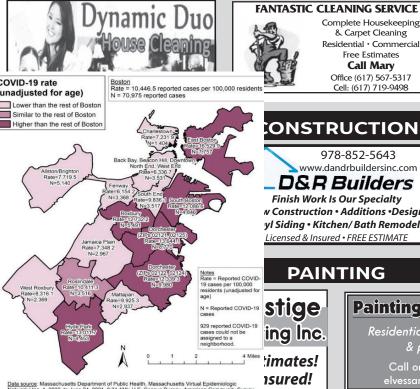
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OBITUARIES

Catherine McKinnon

Successful businesswoman known for her signature wit

Catherine "Kay" L. (Bridgeman) McKinnon, a long-time resident of East Boston, passed

away peacefully on June 21 at the age of 100. Catherine was a suc-

businesswoman for many years in the greater Boston area

known for her signature wit. She will be greatly missed by all that knew

Born in Boston, Catherine was the cherished daughter of the late John T. and Margaret (Fortune) Bridgeman, the beloved wife of the late John McKinnon, the devoted mother of the late George S. Laundry, the grandmother of Kirsten Laundry, Emily Marrama, Katy and Billyjack Calkins and the

great-grandmother George, Dale and Bella. Catherine was the dear sister of the late

John T. Bridgeman, Margaret Yanovich and Mary A. Coleman, the loving aunt of Mary A. Coleman of Winthrop, the late Kathleen A. Corcoran and her husband, William of Winthrop, Diane F. Fitzpatrick and her husband, William of Boston, Michael F.

Coleman and his wife, Jacqueline of North Fort Meyers, Florida, and Paul Yanovich of

Weymouth. She is also survived by several great nieces and great nephews.

Services will be private. Funeral arrangements are by the Maurice W. Kirby Funeral Home 210 Winthrop St. Winthrop, MA. To sign Kay's guestbook, please visit: www.mauricekirbyfh.com.

To place a memoriam in the Times Free Press, please call 781-485-0588



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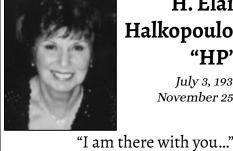
Richard was the loving husband of Ronaele R. Polito and devoted father to Dorothy G. Polito. May they rest in Peace

Love you Papa,

Love and Miss You so much Mommy

Illyana

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Halkopoulos, Ed.D. "HP" July 3, 1935 -November 25, 2016

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happiness and tears... of birthday celebrations shared throughout the years.

Death can only take you away from us... but, it can never take away the

precious bonds and memories we made. Remembering Elaine with love on her birthday & always...forever in

Tony

our hearts, thoughts & prayers.

Baker announces state legislation to make August, September sales tax holiday months

Staff Report

The Baker-Polito Administration on June 23, filed legislation to establish a Sales Tax Holiday for the months of August and September. This plan aims to support Main Street businesses and local economies and promote economic growth and opportunity as the Commonwealth continues to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

State tax revenues for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) continue to significantly exceed projections, with revenues to date 14.9 percent above benchmark. Strong revenues across the board have allowed the Commonwealth to grow the size of the Stabilization Fund and be poised to end the fiscal year with a significant surplus for the FY21 budget. As a result, the Administration is proposing to support the Commonwealth's taxpayers and downtown economies

by designating the entire months of August and September as sales tax-free.

"A two-month sales tax holiday will provide boost to Massachusetts' taxpayers and Main Street economies as we continue to recover from COVID-19," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "Massachusetts' economic recovery is off to a good start, but it's crucial that the Commonwealth takes action now to spur more economic activity in communities and support taxpayers. Thanks to stronger than expected tax revenues, the Commonwealth has managed to grow the Rainy Day Fund to a balance higher than it was at the beginning of the pandemic, and we can also afford to return these tax dollars to our residents and small businesses."

year-to-date Additionally,

economy."

Through May 2021, FY21 tax revenues collections are \$3.938 billion or 14.9-percent more than the benchmark. Massachusetts has been awarded significant federal resources since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, including Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars through the CARES Act which have helped reduce pressure on the operating budget.

"We are proud to offer this proposal to keep money in the hands of taxpayers and promote economic development amidst Massachusetts' recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency," said Secretary of Administration and Finance Michael J. Heffernan. "These two sales tax-free months would be a great opportunity for consumers throughout local neighborhoods to help support small and Main Street businesses and grow our

Tax revenues have continued to come in at higher-than-expected levels. Yesterday, the Department of Revenue certified to the Comptroller that a total of \$2.3 billion in capital

gains tax revenue has so far been collected in FY21. This figure is \$947 million higher than the FY21 capital gains tax collections threshold, meaning that under state law, \$852 million is transferred to the Commonwealth's Stabilization Fund. Therefore, the Stabilization Fund balance will now stand at approximately \$4.4 billion, which is higher than it was at the beginning of the pandemic and nearly quadruple the balance when the Administration took office in 2015.

If enacted, this proposal would be an expansion of the annual sales taxfree weekend, which the Administration is today also officially designating as August 14-15. In 2018, Gov. Baker signed legislation that makes the annual sales tax holiday permanent. The Department of Revenue today is designating August 14-15 as the sales tax holiday under M.G.L. Chapter 64H, Section 6A.

Donors urgently needed as Red Cross still facing severe blood shortage

The American Red Cross continues to experience a severe blood shortage that is negatively affecting blood product availability across the country. Donors of all blood types - especially type O and those giving platelets – are urged to make an appointment to give now and help ensure hospital shelves are stocked with blood products over the Fourth of July holiday and beyond. Right now, the Red

Cross is working around the clock to provide blood products to hospitals responding to an unusually high number of traumas and emergency room visits, as well as overdoses and resulting transplants. As a result of the blood shortage, some hospitals are being forced to slow the pace of elective surgeries until the blood supply stabilizes, delaying crucial patient care. In addition, while sum-

mer is traditionally a time when blood donations decline, this year is particularly challenging as many Americans receive their vaccinations and resume summer activities after more than a year of limited interactions and travel, leading to lower donor turnout. The need for blood doesn't take a holiday break – patients still depend on lifesaving trans-

Donors are needed now to prevent further delays to patient care. Schedule an appointment to give blood now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood. org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

As a thank-you, all those who come to give July 1-6 will receive a Red Cross embroidered hat by mail,* while supplies last. And, donors who come to give July 7-31 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email, plus a chance to win gas for a year (a \$5,000 value). (Terms and conditions apply; visit reblood. org/fuel). In most cases, those who

have received a COVID-19 vaccine can donate. However, knowing the name of the manufacturer of the vaccine they received is important in determining donation eligibility.

About blood donation To donate blood, in-

dividuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other of identification

that are required at checkin. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a RapidPass®. With Rapid-Pass®, donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass®, follow the instructions RedCrossBlood.org/ RapidPass or use the kea Cross Blood Donor App. Health insights for do-

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is also screenall blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health

insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

Blood drive safety The Red Cross has up-

dated its pandemic safety protocols in alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Fully vaccinated individuals, including staff and donors, no longer need to wear masks or socially distance. Unvaccinated individuals continue to be required to wear masks and socially distance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

Assessor's parcel number 1386 Monks, First Justice of this

LEGAL NOTICE COMMONEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND **FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court**

24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU19C0634CA In the matter of: Camilo Andres Cepeda

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Camilo Andres Cepeda of East Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their Camilo Andres Sandoval-Cepe-

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at:Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/23/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Maureen H. Monks, First Justice of this

Date: June 21, 2021

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

LEGAL NOTICE COMMONEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND **FAMILY COURT** Suffolk Probate And Family Court

24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU121C0211CA In the matter of: Michaela Lee A Petition to Change Name of

Adult has been filed by Michaela Lee Hallion of East Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their

Laura Morgan

Any person may appear for tition by filing an appearance

file a written appearance if you

object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Maureen H.

purposes of objecting to the peat:Middlesex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/08/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but

Date: June 16, 2021 Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF SATISFAC-TION AND VERIFICATION OF

MORTGAGE This is a NOTICE to hereby verify Satisfaction of Mortgage and title free of encumbrances

of the LIVING TRUST OF DES-MOND ROY DEMONTEGNAC OPERATING AS HELION PRIME FINANCIAL TRUST, Desmond Roy Demontegnac, Trustee, residing at 36 Wentworth St, Boston, MA County, Massachusetts 02124 of the following described real estate, situated in Boston, in the County of MA, State of Massachusetts It Is by freewill and deed, that the LIVING TRUST OF DESMOND ROY DEMONTEGNAC OPERAT-ING AS HELION PRIME FINAN-CIAL TRUST, Desmond Roy Demontegnac, Trustee, hereby acknowledge acceptance of the deed and lawful ownership of

thereon, if any, numbered

thirty-six(36) in the numbering of Wentworth Street, being

of the deed. Legal Description:, a deadline by which you must The land, with the buildings

or Transfer of Mortgage Loan, foreclosure, litigations any and all transactions must be voided and discontinued nunc pro tunc and ab initio for the reasons The property under the terms

set forth herein. A Discharge/ Satisfaction Of Mortgage was recorded on the public record at Suffolk County Registry of Deeds, there is proof of its execution by credible evidence in the form of corroborating documents or affidavits establishing the authenticity of the discharge which has been acknowledged and proven. Under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act "FDCPA" 15 USC 1692g this Discharge/Satisfac-

tion as provided herein shall

be conclusive evidence that the

mortgage has been discharged.

and supposr to contain about

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17 in the Dorchester-Codman

Square District shown on the

City filed in the office of the

All Parties of any interest of

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County, Massachusetts 02124

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Massachusetts that has initiat-

ed or is initiating any actions

including Assignments, Sale

the County of MA, State of

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thirty-five hundred

board of

Assessors.

In the public filling Masslandrecords/Suffolk County which includes The discharge/Satisfaction this contains the street address of the mortgaged property which is 36 wentworth street, Boston, MA, 02124, the book number 62381 and page number 172 these land court document number and recording date of the mortgage, and the name of the original mortgagor including the documents and communication displaying that this debt has been efficiently disputed free from all encumbrances. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of this notice, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned at P.O. Box 240474 within (30)Thirty Days from the date of publication hereof, failing to do so within the given time without any reference to such claims and the claims if any of any form judicial and non-judicial, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived forever Ad Infinitum. By Desmond Demontegnac cial Trust (Proponent)

Trustee of Helion Prime finan-6/30/21, 7/7/21, 7/14/21, 7/21/21

CITY PAWS

Pet proofing at home and away

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

For longtime pet guardians, protecting pets from dangers in their homes is routine. When we travel with our pets, we carefully check new places for hidden hazards. For those who have a first dog or cat or are out of practice, there's a lot to learn to avoid stress, heartache, and save the cost of emergency veterinary care.

When a new dog or cat enters your world, you may not know the dangers to that animal without a watchful eye on their behavior, interests, and agility. Try to look at your place from the reach of that animal.

A food-obsessed dog might take to counter surfing and wolf down a whole loaf of bread. A devoted digger might escape from a well-fenced enclosure. A cat could swallow a string or ribbon and need emergency surgery to remove it. A friend with a rabbit had to protect all the electrical wires in his home to prevent his bunny from chewing them.

Common Dangers

The Whole Dog Journal has a great article on avoiding trips to the emergency veterinarian. They highlight the need to keep all medications secure. Remember, this includes over-the-counter medicines, supplements, recreational drugs (and their remains) including alcohol and nicotine. They also point out that pest control, garden, and automotive products can be hazardous.

They suggest keeping tasty treats out of reach and then amend that to, "No- make that, keep anything edible out of reach! It's tempting to believe that your dog can't get on the counter, but if you spend five minutes on YouTube, you will rapidly realize how nimble our canine friends can be! Of particular concern are rising bread dough, chocolate, grapes, raisins, and candy or gum that contains xylitol, a sugar substitute. These are all potentially lethal to your dog."

Almost all puppies and some adult dogs love to chew on random objects.

This means you need to keep stray socks out of reach or keep a puppy in a crate or playpen when you're not with her or distracted.

On the Road

We've always made a habit of keeping the number of a local veterinarian on our phones when traveling. We try to locate the office just in case we have to go there in an emergency. That preparation served us well years ago on Martha's Vineyard when we discovered our Westie Sassy investigating a poisoned trap in a home we rented. We called the local vet's number, jumped in the car, and took her to him.

After that experience, we carefully search any rental property or hotel room before we give our dogs any freedom to roam. Even then, we watch to be sure the pup doesn't find something we missed.

Other People and Animals

In addition to the permanent things in your home or a rental proper-



Be sure your cat's toys are in good condition and won't turn into an emergency trip to the veterinarian because a string was swallowed. (Photo by Dorothe Wouters)

want anyone to play with

them and treated them as

ty, you should be alert for anything a guest or worker might bring with them. Something in that purse your Aunt just put on the floor could endanger your dog. Don't be afraid to ask her to relocate it to a safer place.

Finally, what is not a problem for your dog or

cat might be dangerous her puppies. Just like hufor a new canine or femans, each dog or cat is an line family member or a individual and needs spevisiting companion ancific protection steps from imal. We had one foster pup who attacked water bottles and another who was highly protective of any stuffed toy. She didn't

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



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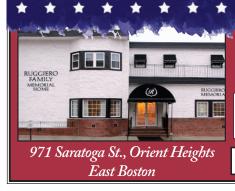
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