

East Boston

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Wednesday, December 8, 2021

MAYOR'S TROLLEY TOUR



On Sunday Mayor Michelle Wu hosted the annual Mayor's Trolley Tour and Tree Lighting in Maverick Square. Hundreds of residents turned out for food, holiday music and a chance to see Santa and Mrs. Claus. Pictured are Eastie children lining up to tell Santa and Mrs. Claus what they would like for Christmas this year. Mayor Wu also led the countdown for the lighting of the Holiday Tree on the corner of Maverick Street and Maverick Square with the help of East Boston Main Streets and East Boston elected officials.

First Suffolk and Middlesex Primary set for Dec. 14

By Times Staff

On Tuesday, December 14 East Boston voters will head to the polls during the First Suffolk & Middlesex Special Election Primary and cast their ballots for state senator. The election to fill the seat vacated by Joseph Boncore will take place in the Boston neighborhoods of Eastie, North End, Beacon Hill, Chinatown, Bay Village, the South End as well as Revere, Winthrop and Cambridgeport.

Who is on the Ballot next Tuesday

On the ballot in next Tuesday's Special Election are District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards and Revere School Committee member Anthony D'Ambrosio.

Councilor Edwards, an Eastie resident, previously ran for the Senate seat after former State Senator Anthony Petrucelli left office in 2016. While unsuccessful in that race Edwards went on to run for the District One City Council seat, which includes Eastie, Charlestown, and the North End, the following year. She went on to win that race and has served on the council ever since.

D'Ambrosio, a Revere resident, got his start in politics in 2019 when he successfully ran for Revere School Committee, a citywide seat. He topped Revere's School Committee ticket in that race and

had an impressive showing with more than 5,000 votes during his first run for political office.

Where to Vote in Eastie

The following are the polling locations in Eastie broken down in order from Precincts 1 through 14. All Eastie polling locations will be open between 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 14. Ballots will be available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. Language assistance will be available on Election Day by translators at polling locations or by contacting the Election Department's translation phone bank.

Precinct 1, Samuel Adams Elementary School - 165 Webster St. Vote in the auditorium. Voters enter from the left of the main entrance.

Precinct 2, Donald McKay School - 122 Cottage St. Vote in the music room. Voter entrance on McKay Place.

Precinct 3, BHA Heritage Apartments - 209 Sumner St. Vote in the community room.

Precinct 4, Paris Street Community Center - 112 Paris St. Vote in the gymnasium.

Precinct 5, Paris Street Community Center - 112 Paris St. Vote in the gymnasium.

Precinct 6,7,8,9 and 10 East Boston High School Gymnasium - 86 White Street. Vote in the gymnasium.

See ELECTION Page 2

BPDA to host meeting regarding the large-scale project near Wood Island

By John Lynds

On Wednesday, December 8 (tonight) the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) will host a public meeting for the large-scale project on Bennington Street near Wood Island. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Draft Project Impact Report (DPIR) for the 355 Bennington Street project. The meeting will include a presentation followed by public questions and

answers and comments.

The Proposed Project consists of the demolition of the existing structure occupying the site and the construction of a mixed-use building, up to six stories, with up to 170 residential units and ground floor retail space.

Residents can register for the meeting using the following Zoom link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/join/zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdO-prj4qHIGgqT-VuwBj95eH6WpmEOw>.

The public comment period for the project's DPIR ends on Wednesday, December 15 and comments can be submitted to <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/355-bennington-street>.

Developer Redgate submitted a Project Notification Form with the Boston Planning and Development Agency last year and wants to transform a 50,000 square foot lot into a six-story building con-

taining the 170 dwelling units, ground floor retail, accessory parking, and amenities and services for building residents. The rental housing project includes 82 parking spaces and the 7,000 square foot retail space.

The site, which currently houses a single-story commercial business and paved lot, is bounded by

See WOOD ISLAND Page 2

Veronica Robles Cultural Center kicks off holiday season with vaccine clinic

By John Lynds

While we are all trying to live in this 'new normal' amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the holiday season can become a bit tricky for many yearning to be with loved ones but anxious about the risks involved.

East Boston experienced a 60 percent spike in its weekly COVID positive test rate in the wake of the Thanksgiving holiday and health officials have cautioned that vaccinated and unvaccinated people mingling indoors and maskless during holidays is going to be a recipe for disaster for the foreseeable future.

However, the Veronica Robles Cultural Center

(VRCC) teamed up on Saturday with the Whittier Street Health Center to kick off the holiday season right by getting as many people vaccinated as possible.

On Saturday the Cultural Center and Whittier Street Health Center hosted a COVID-19 vaccine clinic. The clinic was multicultural and multilingual with artistic and cultural activities for children. Veronica Robles said over 100 people attended the event and 97, including 15 children, were administered vaccines by Whittier Street Health Center staff.

"This is an outstanding example of how the Latino and immigrant community takes care of each other by getting the vaccine and



A young Eastie resident proudly shows off her bandage after receiving her COVID-19 vaccine at a special event Saturday hosted by the Veronica Robles Cultural Center.

creating community," said Robles, VROCC founding director. "We are grateful

See VACCINE Page 7

ORIENT HEIGHTS TREE LIGHTING



The East Boston Central Catholic School choir performs Christmas Carols at Saturday's Orient Heights Tree Lighting hosted by the Ruggiero Family. See Page 8 for more photos.



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News in Brief

JPNA MEETING AGENDA

The following is the agenda for our upcoming JPNA monthly meeting:

AGENDA (subject to change):

Greetings & Announcements

Boston Police Update
Cargo Ventures - Project Update

Boston Harbor Shipyard & Marina - Update by Sal LaMattina

325 Sumner St - VOTE - Change occupancy of street level space to a real estate office. Represented by: Richard C. Lynds, Esq.

270 Sumner St - VOTE - Erect addition and change occupancy to 4 residential units. Represented by: Richard C. Lynds, Esq.

There will be no planning & zoning meeting for the month of December.

As a reminder, all questions will be handled via the Zoom chat feature. We ask all attendees to remain muted unless called upon to speak. Looking forward to “seeing” you all there!

We are using eBallot to manage the voting process. Within 48 hours after the meeting, eligible voters will be emailed a link that will allow them to vote online. All votes must be cast by Friday, December 17th at 7pm. Late votes will not be accepted, no exceptions.

We hope you and your loved ones are well. We are all in this together as neighbors and friends. Please don’t be afraid to reach out.

2021 meeting dates are posted at jeffriespoint.org.

OMICRON VARIANT DETECTED IN MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced that genetic sequencing has identified the COVID-19 Omicron variant for the first time in a case in Massachusetts. The individual is a female in her 20s and a resident of Middlesex County who traveled out of state. She is fully vaccinated, has experienced mild disease, and did not require hospitalization. The variant was identified through sequencing performed at New England Biolabs.

While Omicron is classified by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization as a Variant of Concern, scientists are still working to determine how it may compare with the predominant Delta variant in terms of transmissibility and disease severity.

There is some limited evidence that Omicron could be more transmissible than other COVID-19 virus variants, including Delta. This variant is being monitored closely by public health authorities around the world, and more information about what we know about Omicron is available on the CDC website.

All three COVID-19 vaccines in use in the U.S. have been shown to be highly protective against severe disease resulting in hospitalization or death due to known COVID-19 variants and remain the single best way for people to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their community from COVID-19. There are over 1,000 locations across the Commonwealth to get vaccinated or receive a booster. The vaccine is free, and no ID or insurance is required for vaccination. Visit vaxfinder.mass.gov for a list of vaccination locations.

Other public health prevention measures that help stop the spread of COVID-19 variants include: getting tested and staying home if you are sick, frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer, following masking requirements, and telling your close contacts if you test positive for COVID-19 so they can take appropriate steps. To learn more about protecting yourself from COVID-19, visit www.mass.gov/covidvaccine.

Residents are also urged to enable MassNotify on their smartphone. The service can be accessed through both Android and iPhone settings; it is NOT an application that can be obtained through an app store. This private and anonymous service notifies users of a potential exposure to COVID-19 so they may take the appropriate precautions. For more information and instructions on enabling MassNotify on your smartphone, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/learn-more-about-massnotify>.

The State Public Health Laboratory, the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, and several hospital and academic laboratories have all contributed to sequencing efforts in Massachusetts during the pandemic. This sequencing data contributes to the tracking of clusters and patterns of disease spread. This in-state laboratory capacity to sequence variants allows Massachusetts to not have to rely on out-of-state laboratories.

Wu announces COVID-19 advisory committee

Mayor Michelle Wu announced her COVID-19 Advisory Committee, a group of doctors, public health professionals and multidisciplinary leaders who will assist in decision-making around tackling new variants and working to end the pandemic in Boston. The Committee will be chaired by Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission, who was elevated to a cabinet-level role under Mayor Wu. These leaders have backgrounds ranging from Medical Director at a large public hospital to restaurateur.

The full list is as follows:

Chair, Dr. Bisola Ojikutu

- Dr. Sabrina A. Assoumou, MD, Louis W. Sullivan Professor of Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine

- Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, Assistant Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard School of Public Health

- Louis Elisa, President of the Garrison-Trotter Neighborhood Association, member of the Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition

- Paola García, Community Relations Manager, Tufts Health Plan

- Yvonne Garcia, Chief of Staff, State Street

- Temple Gill, Director of Public Affairs and Strategic Partnerships, Huntington Theater Company
- Nia Grace, co-founder,

Boston Black Hospitality Coalition, owner of The Underground Cafe + Lounge and Darryl’s Corner Bar & Kitchen

- Dr. Julia Koehler, MD, Boston Children’s Hospital, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School

- Amy Latimer, President, TD Garden

- Brian Moy, restaurateur and owner of Shōjō and Ruckus

- Dinanyili Paulino, Chief Operations Officer, La Colaborativa

- Dr. Cassandra Pierre, MD, MPH, MSc, Medical Director, Public Health Programs, Boston Medical Center

- Jake Sullivan, Vice President for Government and Community Affairs, Boston University

- Tony Tjan, Chairman and CoFounder, Miniluxe

- Reverend Liz Walker, Senior Pastor, Roxbury Presbyterian Church

- Dr. Sandro Galea, MD, MPH, DrPH, Robert A. Knox Professor at Boston University School of Public Health.

- Dr. Joseph Betancourt, MD, MPH, Senior Vice President, Equity and Community Health at Massachusetts General Hospital.

“I’m grateful to these leaders for their willingness to serve the public in this pivotal moment. We have both a responsibility and an opportunity to take on our biggest public health challenges, and take every action possible to protect our residents and

end this pandemic. I look forward to working with and receiving the wisdom of this dedicated group,” said Mayor Michelle Wu.

“Boston is taking an aggressive, public health approach that will keep city residents safe, our children in school, and our local businesses open. The diverse makeup of this committee is yet another example of Mayor Wu’s commitment to ending the pandemic and addressing the significant health care inequities in our city. COVID-19 cases are surging here and across the country, making it a critically important time to get vaccines and boosters to as many people as possible, especially in communities where vaccine and booster rates are troublingly low. I am confident that Mayor Wu’s leadership and the insights of the Advisory Committee put us in a very strong position to end the COVID-19 pandemic in Boston,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission and Chair of the COVID-19 Advisory Committee.

The current data send a clear message to our city residents: get vaccinated, get boosted, get tested if you have symptoms, and continue to take precautions, such as wearing masks when indoors and while traveling, washing your hands, and limiting the size of holiday gatherings. There are currently 88,990 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Boston.

Emergency department visits have increased by 6 percent over the past week, positive tests are up 15 percent over the last two weeks, and hospitalizations have increased by 28 percent during the last two weeks. New positive tests are up to 191.6 per day in the last week, above BPHC’s goal of 67.9 positive tests per week. Community based testing is also down by 23 percent in the last week. Getting tested continues to be very important, especially during the holiday season. There is reason for optimism however, as the number of booster doses administered increased by at least 15 percent over a one week period (82,173 to 94,274) and the proportion of fully vaccinated individuals has increased to 67.1 percent.

Racial disparities in vaccination and particularly booster rates in Boston remain a serious area of concern. Black residents account for only 13.4 percent of the boosters administered and Latinx residents account for just 9.4 percent. Similarly, over white children account for over 57 percent of vaccinations for children ages 5-11, as compared to 10.2 percent for Latinx children and 7.8 percent for Black children. Both Mayor Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission have made reducing these disparities a major priority in the City’s efforts to end the pandemic.

Eastie’s weekly COVID infections increase dramatically

By John Lynds

Just as expected and like health officials warned, East Boston and the city’s weekly COVID positive test rate exploded last week with the majority of new cases most likely traced back to the Thanksgiving Holiday where many gathered indoors maskless with friends and family.

Last week, 1,676 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 6.7 percent were positive--this was a 59.5 percent increase from the 4.2 percent that tested positive as reported by the Boston Public Health Commis-

sion (BPHC) on November 29.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also increased dramatically last week. According to the BPHC 21,26 residents were tested and 5.2 percent were COVID positive--this was a 30 percent increase from the 4 percent reported by the BPHC on November 29.

In response to the latest uptick in cases as well as hospitalizations across the city, Mayor Michelle Wu announced Monday that Boston health officials will distribute 20,000 free rapid antigen home tests and free masks to neighborhoods with the highest

rates of COVID-19. Wu also appointed a 17-member advisory board to help city health officials combat the latest rise in COVID cases.

“We’re now entering year three of this public health emergency with new variants continuing to emerge and it is clear that we need leadership from every sector to help us take on this public health crisis with immediate steps,” said Wu at a press conference at City Hall.

One hundred twelve additional Eastie residents contracted the virus between November 29 and December 6 and there are now 8,883 confirmed cas-

es 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 2.4 percent last week and went from 87,674 cases to 89,745 confirmed cases in a week. There were five additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,472.

State supports monoclonal antibody treatment sites

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the deployment of three state supported mobile units for monoclonal antibody treatment for high-risk individuals who have been exposed to or have COVID-19. These new clinics have the capacity to treat a combined 500 patients per week with therapies that have shown to be effective in reducing severity of disease and keeping COVID-19-positive individuals from being hospitalized.

Referral from a health care provider is required for treatment at any of the three new mobile clinics. Treatment is provided at no cost to the patient and offered regardless of immigration status or health insurance. Patients should discuss with their health care providers whether monoclonal antibody treatment is right for them.

Two of the new mobile

units, currently in Fall River and Holyoke, began administering monoclonal antibody treatment (mAb) to patients on November 22nd, and a third unit will be deployed to Everett on December 3rd. These mobile clinics will increase access to monoclonal antibody treatment in Massachusetts for high-risk individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. The mobile clinic sites can be relocated easily based on demand.

“These mobile sites enable individuals with early COVID-19 or who have been exposed to COVID-19 to be treated quickly and safely with monoclonal antibody infusion,” said Acting Public Health Commissioner Margret Cooke.

“While the best protection against COVID-19 is vaccination, these therapies can

help prevent hospitalization and severe illness for infected or exposed high-risk individuals. People with questions about whether this treatment is right for them should discuss it with their health-care provider.”

In partnership with the Department of Public Health (DPH), the temporary clinics will be operated by Gothams, a Texas-based emergency management company with experience supporting commercial, federal, and state facilities in COVID-19 emergency response. Mobile clinic staff will also be deployed to provide mAb in community locations, such as nursing homes, assisted living residences, and congregate care settings.

Under the US Food and Drug Administration’s emergency use authorization, COVID-positive or exposed patients age 12 and older at high risk for

severe COVID-19 illness are eligible to receive monoclonal antibody treatment. The single intravenous infusion treatment takes 20-30 minutes, followed by an hour of patient monitoring. If administered within 10 days of onset of COVID-19 symptoms, the one-time therapy is highly effective in neutralizing the virus and preventing symptoms from worsening.

With the addition of these three mobile units, Massachusetts residents can now receive monoclonal antibody treatment at 32 publicly available locations. A map of sites can be found at Monoclonal Antibody Therapy Locator (arcgis.com).

For more information about accessing this treatment, visit Monoclonal antibody (mAb) therapy treatment for COVID-19.



Anthony D'Ambrosio attended the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home Peter “Santa” Felt Memorial Toy Drive and donated to the cause.

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DON'T FORGET TO VOTE -- THE SPECIAL STATE SENATE PRIMARY IS TUESDAY

We wish to remind our readers that the Special State Primary election for the First Suffolk and Middlesex District Senate is set for this Tuesday, December 14.

Revere School Committee member Anthony D'Ambrosio and Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards are running in the Democratic Primary for the Senate seat that was held by Joseph Boncore of Winthrop, who stepped down from office in order to take a job in the private sector.

Both Mr. D'Ambrosio and Ms. Edwards are young, energetic candidates who have been working hard in the run-up to the Democratic primary.

We urge all of our readers to take the time either to vote early (consult your local city or town clerk for times and dates) or on election day itself on Tuesday.

A democracy only works if we, the people, participate in the electoral process -- so please be sure to get out and vote.

CHARLIE BAKER WILL BE MISSED

There has been a lot of speculation by the pundits as to the reasons behind Governor Charlie Baker's decision not to run for re-election in 2022, but we think it comes down simply to this: Gov. Baker is burned-out, similar to so many of his fellow Baby Boomers (including the older members of Generation X) who are retiring from both the public and private sectors amidst what is being called the Great Resignation.

In our mind's eye, we still think of Gov. Baker as the youthful man from the campaign trail in 2013, but the reality is that Gov. Baker just turned 65 years old.

He ain't a kid anymore.

And as so many other Baby Boomers are coming to realize, there is a lot more to life than work, especially when work no longer is fun.

We think it is telling that Lieut. Governor Karyn Polito -- who at 55 is a Gen Xer -- also announced that she has no plans to run for governor, which was actually more surprising than Gov. Baker's announcement. The Lieut. Gov., who is part of the Baker team that consistently has been among the most-popular governorships in the country, would have been a strong candidate to make history as the first female governor in state history.

But after eight years as an highly-active Lieut. Gov., it is clear that Polito has no desire to occupy the corner office at the State House.

But regardless of Gov. Baker's reasons for not seeking re-election, there is no disputing that Charlie Baker has been a great governor who has accomplished great things for our state, even amidst an unprecedented pandemic.

His ability to work with Democrats in the Mass. legislature, amidst an era of unprecedented political rancor at the national level, will be regarded as a shining example for future governors, regardless of party, to follow.

THROW THE BOOK AT THEM

Another news cycle -- and yet another mass shooting incident in America.

The horrific murder last week of at least four students at Oxford High School in suburban Detroit and the wounding of several others by 15-year-old fellow student Ethan Crumbley once again has brought unspeakable tragedy to a community in our country.

However, there is an additional twist to this story, which we will compartmentalize as follows, based on the facts as we know them:

-- The semi-automatic handgun used by Ethan Crumbley was brought for him as a Christmas present by his parents a few days before the shooting;

-- When a teacher became aware that Ethan Crumbley was drawing photos depicting violence by gunfire during class, Crumbley was taken to the office of a guidance counselor;

-- The guidance counselor called Crumbley's parents, who came to the school, because of his disturbing images;

-- The parents never informed any school authority that they had bought their son a handgun as a "Christmas gift";

-- The parents insisted that Ethan remain at school that day.

The parents have been charged with four counts each of involuntary manslaughter for their alleged role in the murders. The local district attorney has conceded that the prosecution of the parents presents novel questions of law.

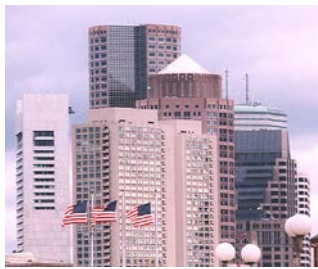
If it is true that the parents did not divulge to the school authorities that they had bought their son a handgun, the question will be whether that omission makes them criminally liable for what transpired shortly after they left the school without their son.

No right-thinking person would deny that the parents are morally-culpable for not disclosing to school personnel that they had bought their son a gun, even if they believed that the gun was in a locked box at home.

We also believe that if they had made that fact known, the student's backpack and locker would have been searched immediately by school personnel and the tragedy could have been avoided. But does this make the parents criminally-liable?

Whether Michigan law encompasses a charge for involuntary manslaughter given the facts of this case ultimately will be decided by that state's highest court, but we support the decision by the district attorney to bring the charges.

If nothing else, hopefully it will deter like-minded parents from buying guns for their children. And if the courts determine that the parents are not criminally-liable, perhaps legislatures will pass laws that do so in circumstances such as these.



Forum

GUEST OP-ED

What about the other Ethan Crumbleys?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

We are unfortunately informed once again of another horrific, senseless school shooting. They don't stop. When will the next one be? Who will be the next shooter and who will be the next unsuspecting victims?

Once again, American kids go to school to pursue education and American life but are murdered by a classmate while walking the hallway or sitting in a class. This has to stop. Will it ever?

According to news reports, on November 30, 2021, Ethan Crumbley, a fifteen-year-old, took the lives of four schoolmates and injured seven others at Oxford High School, a Detroit, Michigan suburb.

Crumbley has once again reminded us of the horrific outcomes of mental illness and the importance of parents, teachers, churches and communities working together to protect each other.

According to news reports, the Oxford school was alerted to Crumbley's disturbing social media posts, drawings depicting violence, and other ac-

tions that had called for his parents to come to the school for a serious talk about their child. Reports of the parents buying a semi-automatic weapon for their son's Christmas present and taking him to a shooting range for practice is revealing their denial of, as well their failure to address, their son's problems.

My dad gave me some shotgun lessons when I was growing up. I was turned loose in the hills of Appalachia to hunt for squirrels at the age of 12 with a hunting license. Parents teaching their children to shoot a weapon and hunt are as old as our nation. However, parents should never provide their children access to guns when there are obvious warnings of mental illness.

Past school shooters have talked about being bullied by classmates or not fitting into any of the school social groups. Rejection, being bullied, failure to make the school team or feeling outright mistreated makes anyone feel bad, dejected and disappointed. Such feelings should be a push to any

of us to look at ourselves to see how we either must adjust, change, work harder, problem solve as to what is happening or even find a different school or community in which to live. Hurting others never resolves anything and only increases our pain, darkness and sentences the rest of our lives to prison or regret of how we handled our feelings.

School can be a difficult life learning ground. What we face in the local school often is only preparing us for what we may face at the office, the factory, the workplace and the neighborhood. Throughout life we know everyone is not going to like us, accept us, applaud us or even try to get along with us. There are always people who don't like us. However, there are people who will affirm, support, and befriend us. Sometimes it just takes a while to find those communities, houses of faith, social groups, and others with whom we can emotionally connect.

The Ethan Crumbleys of the world are sad, scary and wreak destruction. They need help now. His life and many other lives

are forever destroyed. Apparently, his parents were living in some sort of disconnected denial of what their son was really about to do to himself, them and many others.

Schools and work places must have all authority to protect themselves quickly. Oxford school officials were alarmed by some of his actions. They were trying to work with the parents. Looking back, he should have been escorted out of the school and barred from its grounds until a professional counselor had given written permission for his return. I know, hindsight is always 20/20.

Sadly, for those who are now dead, it's too late. Maybe the other Ethan Crumbleys can be stopped today, right now, before it's too late.

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

Future Eastie BBQ restaurant's full liquor license approved

By John Lynds

Last week the Boston Licensing Board approved The Smoke Shop BBQ's application for a common victualler seven-day all-alcoholic beverages license in East Boston. The Licensing Board's approval is pending the availability of the license.

In the fall Lendlease, who developed Clippership Wharf into a seven-acre site overlooking Boston Harbor with 284 apartments and 194 condominiums, announced it had entered into a lease

with Andy Husbands, The Smoke Shop BBQ's owner, chef and pitmaster. Husbands plans to expand The Smoke Shop BBQ's existing Boston-area footprint with its new location at 45 Lewis St. within the Clippership Wharf development. Offering award-winning BBQ paired with New England's largest American whiskey collection, the location is scheduled to welcome guests by summer 2022. .

At the Licensing Board hearing, Husbands' at-

torney Kristen Scanlon said the 4,000 square foot restaurant will be on the ground floor, in two rooms with seating for 102 patrons. The layout of the BBQ restaurant includes one main dining room and one bar room with bar seating, bar dining seating and a bar rail. There will also be a yearround outdoor patio, weather permitting, that can seat 116 customers. Scanlon said the restaurant will close at 1 am with the patio closing at 11 pm.

"The Smoke Shop has

always attracted a wide spectrum of people -- it's not uncommon to see one customer in shorts and flip-flops eating next to someone else in a suit," said Husbands when the lease was announced. "That's why Eastie made sense for our next location, as it aligns with the high-energy vibes and diverse crowds inside our restaurants."

The space is being designed by Sousa Design Architects, the firm behind the restaurant's existing locations.

U.S. Postal Service introduces Pen Pal Project

The U.S. Postal Service is working with WeAreTeachers to introduce The USPS Pen Pal Project, a free educational program for students in grades three to five, this 2021-2022 school year.

The USPS Pen Pal Project will provide 25,000 classrooms across the country the opportunity to partner with matched classes to write 1 million letters with the goal of building friendships and understanding diverse

perspectives.

Each participating classroom will receive a USPS Pen Pal Project kit with a teaching poster, cards, and envelopes. By participating in the program, students will improve their writing, communication, and collaboration skills.

WeAreTeachers offers daily articles, videos and giveaways for educators.

U.S. public, charter, and private school teachers are invited to join The

USPS Pen Pal Project. More information, including official rules and instructions for teachers to sign their classes up for the project, is available at WeAreTeachers.com.

The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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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

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.

Excel Academy Charter Schools selected for program to expand educator diversity work

In the Excel Academy Charter Schools of East Boston and Chelsea, 88% of the 1,389 students identify as people of color, while 46% of staff do. With new funding and dedicated support to increase educator diversity within their ranks, school administrators representing both Excel Academy Charter Schools hope to shift those numbers significantly.

“Over the last five years, and particularly over the last three, Excel Academy Charter Schools has been committed to ensuring the composition of our staff better reflects the diversity of our students,” says Alejandra Gil, Excel Academy Charter Schools Director of Talent. “We believe representation matters. We want our students to see themselves reflected in the community of adults supporting them to grow and discover their best selves so that when they leave our halls, they can successfully navigate all of the post-secondary options available to them.” Excel Academy Charter schools is a network of

four schools serving students in grades 5 to 12 in East Boston and Chelsea Massachusetts. Plans are in place for them to expand to Rhode Island. “Excel Academy Charter Schools is among eight academic communities that were selected to take part in the new “Driving Toward Diversity in the Educator Workforce” program to examine how they can better attract and retain more diverse teachers to match growing diverse student bodies. Other grantees selected for the eight-month program are school systems in Winoski, VT; Portland, ME; Stamford, CT, and several in Massachusetts including Salem, Fitchburg, Lowell, and the Teach Western Mass network of schools in Springfield and Holyoke as well as Boston Prep Charter School.

To build that pipeline of teachers of color while retaining those who are already in the workforce, the Barr Foundation offered support through TNTP (The New Teacher Project) and offered grants of up to \$25,000 to

help the selected districts analyze current talent systems, practices, and system needs while also taking input from students, teachers, school leaders, families, and the broader community through June 2022.

“Diversifying the workforce has been a goal and priority for educators and families for decades,” said Leah Hamilton, Director of Education for the Barr Foundation. “Why aren’t we making more progress? We are eager to learn from TNTP and local school systems to understand the unique local challenges and what can make a difference. We will work with school districts across New England to analyze the problem and find more solutions that they can put into place. We hope this will help move the needle toward more action, more change, and better results for both students and teachers.”

Education research finds that students of color who learn from teachers of color are more likely to complete high school, go onto college, face fewer

suspensions and disciplinary action, and be referred to gifted and talented programs, according to education research that points to the importance of having a diverse workforce that identifies with its students.

But, in too many states and school districts educators don’t reflect the racial makeup of the students they serve. About 53 percent of students in the U.S. identify as people of color while 80 percent of teachers are white and 40 percent of public school districts do not have a single teacher of color, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. New England wrestles with the same imbalances in its schools.

“We have over 20 years of experience working with school districts and educators to close achievement gaps, improve classroom instruction, and develop talented, diverse teaching staffs,” said Arlene Sukran, Vice President of Northeast TNTP. “We hope this new effort will go a long way in making much-needed

improvements for both students and teachers. It’s exciting to be part of the solution.”

According to TNTP’s The Opportunity Myth: What Students Can Show Us About How School is Letting Them Down – and How to Fix It report, high expectations of teachers of color can be a game changer for students of color. “In classrooms where students were mostly Black or Latinx, 66 percent of teachers who were the same race or ethnicity as the majority of their students had high expectations compared to just 35 percent for teachers who were a different race or ethnicity,” the report says. Those higher expectations correlated to more learning for their students as well.

The problem is complex. Teacher certification processes pose barriers. Implicit bias in recruiting, hiring, and managing can interfere. College and university programs preparing teachers lack diversity in their student bodies and have a range of outcomes in supporting their stu-

dents of color to succeed in the licensure process. School cultures fail to support teachers of color to build long-term careers in the profession.

A bill pending in the Massachusetts legislature, the Educator Diversity Act, aims to address the issue by attracting more diverse professionals by offering new alternative teaching certifications, better data collection by the state for diverse educators, requiring districts to appoint diversity officers or teams, and establishing educator diversity councils.

For the “Driving Toward Diversity in the Educator Workforce” work, grantees will take part in planning sessions with TNTP to do a talent landscape analysis, collecting data to understand how the school system is attracting diverse teachers and its recruiting and retention process. Grantees will gain an understanding of their current strengths and opportunities for focus, and TNTP will offer recommendations.

EASTIE STANDS with ANTHONY



Butch Celona (bottom right), Dede Celona (bottom left), Robert Celona (upper left), and Anthony Clemente (upper right)



Cynthia Rozzi (left) and David Arinella (right)



Denise LoConte



Jimmy Mosca (left) and Joe Guarino (right)



Tom and Debbie Tassenari



Mike Othmer (left) and Alice Christopher (middle)



Steven Scapicchio



Tom Briand (left) and Patricia Briand (right)



Kacem Amghar



Sgt. Norberto Perez



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STATE SENATE

MAYOR WU IN HER FIRST ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR

On Sunday Michelle Wu took part in her first Enchanted Trolley Tour as Mayor of Boston. The Enchanted Trolley Tour is a Boston holiday tradition of lighting holiday trees throughout the City.

In Eastie Mayor Wu stopped by Maverick Square with Santa and Mrs. Claus to help Eastie's elected officials and East Boston Main Streets light the holiday tree in

Maverick Square.

"It's a joy to participate in our annual holiday trolley tour and tree lighting across the City," said Mayor Wu. "The holiday season is a time for friends, family, and neighbors to come together and celebrate, and I am delighted to welcome all to attend this weekend of fun for families and residents."



State Senate Candidate and City Councilor Lydia Edwards poses with a young Eastie resident during the annual Trolley Tour.



Jason Ruggiero and Rep. Adrian Madaro.



Santa and Mayor Michelle Wu start the countdown to lighting the holiday tree in Maverick Square.



The annual event included music and food.



Eastie Main Streets Director Gladys Oliveros leads Mayor Michelle Wu into Maverick Square.



Mayor Michelle Wu stops to talk with some vendors during the annual event.



Longtime Main Streets volunteer Antonio Avanti (center) poses with residents during the event.



City Councilor-elect Ruthzee Louijeune poses with supporters in front of the Maverick Square holiday tree.



Officer Derek Russo poses with community members like Gail Miller (right).



Volunteers worked hard serving food to all the residents that turned out for the Trolley Tour.



Rep. Adrian Madaro with his wife, Ariel, son, Matteo, EBNHC Interim CEO Greg Wilmot and EBNHC Vice President Steve Snyder.



The holiday tree in Maverick Square after being lit Sunday night.



EBNHC Interim CEO Greg Wilmot, Mayor Michelle Wu and Rep. Adrian Madaro.



City of Boston's Lina Tramelli and Jose Garcia Mota with Main Streets Director Gladys Oliveros.



The event included live music with several singers performing Christmas Carols and other holiday songs in both English and Spanish.

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Wu proposes new pilot program to advance equity in procurement

Mayor Michelle Wu last week filed an order with the City Council to create an equity in procurement pilot program through June 30, 2022. This order will allow the City of Boston to designate up to 6 city contracts for procurement from minority- and women-owned businesses, known as a sheltered market program. The order is part of a larger initiative to direct city resources to local, diverse businesses that are vital to expanding wealth-building opportunities and supporting their capacity to compete for city contracts. In 2020, the City of Boston released a disparity study that showed that only 1.2% of the \$2.1 billion City's contracts for construction and professional goods and services went to Black and Latinx-owned businesses. The pilot, implemented in close collaboration with the City Council, the Administration & Finance

Cabinet, the Equity & Inclusion Cabinet as well as the new Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Cabinet, will allow the City of Boston and contracting partners to measure effectiveness as they address the historic inequities in Boston's procurement process. "Building on the work in the City Hall to ensure that our public dollars are going to build wealth in our communities and close the racial wealth gap, I am excited to file for a pilot program to create specific opportunities for Black and Brown businesses to contract with the city," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As we recover from the pandemic, the City of Boston will use every dollar to make our city a place for everyone." "This pilot program marks an important opportunity for the City to align its spending with addressing historical disparities," said former

Mayor Kim Janey. "This will increase the number of city contracts going to women-owned and minority-owned businesses, while also building a more equitable economy for all of our residents." "The sheltered market pilot program is an important milestone in the City's effort to connect diverse suppliers to wealth-building opportunities and redress historic inequities in the procurement process," said Segun Idowu, incoming Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "I want to thank Mayor Wu for prioritizing this issue in her first 100 days, as well as the team in the Mayor's Offices of Administration and Finance, Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, Equity, Law, and Policy for their tireless work in shaping the order for this program, which will help to immediately advance equity in city contracting." "We know from our

2020 disparity study that businesses owned by women and people of color have historically been excluded from City contracts. This program will provide those businesses the opportunity to compete and be prime contractors for the City of Boston and help ensure that the City's resources are being spent equitably across our communities," said Celina Barrios-Millner, Chief of Equity and Inclusion. "This is a step in the right direction," said Glynn Lloyd, Executive Director of Foundation for Business Equity. "Based on the disparity of how spending has taken place to our minority companies, we look forward to the new administration's full commitment to leveling the playing field." "Equity in public procurement requires policies and practices that level the playing field for MBEs and WBEs that have been historically excluded from

contracting opportunities," said Betty Francisco, CEO of Boston Impact Initiative and Co-Founder of Amplify Latinx. "This sheltered market program is one of many tools that the City can use to promote equitable access to contracts that create jobs and growth for minority and women-owned businesses." "The request for authorization of this sheltered market program gives us another powerful tool to improve equity in City contracting," said Justin Sterritt, CFO and Chief Procurement Officer. "The challenges surrounding procurement are complex, and require using every tool available to help close persistent gaps and inequities in City contracting. This sheltered market program builds on a series of reforms and Council orders to improve the procurement process and increase opportunity for new and diverse vendors.

Under Mayor Wu's leadership, we will use every tool at our disposal, and the addition of this sheltered market program is a major step." This order builds on Mayor Wu's years of commitment to require equitable City contracting and close the racial wealth gap. In 2016, then-Councilor Wu and then-Councilor Ayanna Pressley presided over the City Council hearing that examined the City's procurement process and efforts to support local businesses. In 2017 Mayor Wu and Congresswoman Pressley co-sponsored an ordinance that required the City to collect more data on contracting. Mayor Wu passed a groundbreaking ordinance that required the City of Boston to shift its food procurement practices to meet certain standards around racial equity, fair pay for workers, environmental sustainability, and nutrition.

Vaccine // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to our community partners--Lawyers for Civil Right, Greater Boston Latino Network, Whittier Street Health Center, Boston Public Health Commission - Vaccine Equity, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Neighborways Design, Boston Housing Authority, Boston Planning & Development Agency, New England Foundation for the Arts for all their support." The day included an art activation entitled, "The Light We Carry", facilitated by artist in residency Ruth Kathryn. There was a storytelling workshop by a young storyteller Daniel Aaron Arias. Also, Juan Carlos Ruiz from Venezuela, Omar Clavijo from Bolivia and the VRCC Mariachi Youth sang villancicos, or spanish carols. Participants also enjoyed delicious Elotes or Mexican Street Corn during the event. "Nearly all of the people who were vaccinated reported serious barriers to vaccination at other sites, particularly at pharmacies, where appointment slots have been completely exhausted and unavailable," said Iván Espinoza-Madriral, lawyers for Clivil Rights Executive Director. "They also reported language barriers at other sites. So it was clear that the bilingual community-based site using a "walk-in" model was highly successful. The demand for vaccination was extraordinarily high. The event was scheduled from noon to 3 pm, but the staff



Veronica Robles (right) poses with a resident waiting to receive a vaccination shot.

worked significant overtime with vaccinations taking place until 6 pm." The event concluded with Robles writing the name of Eastie artist Sury Chavez on the monarch butterfly mural she created with some youth from the community that is outside the VRCC's building on Meridian Street. "The subject of the mural is the monarch butterfly honoring our neighbors who have migrated from other countries," explained Robles. "Monarch butterflies are a symbol of constant transformation, and perseverance reflected in the thousands of kilometers they travel from Canada passing through the United States to their

final destination, the Mexican states of Michoacan and Estado de Mexico." The poet Nelson Marquez then shared his poem "Monarch Butterfly" created for the occasion.

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ORIENT HEIGHTS TREE LIGHTING HOSTED BY THE RUGGIERO FAMILY

On Saturday the Ruggiero Family hosted the annual Orient Heights Square Tree Lighting. The event included food, music, caroling from the East Boston Central Catholic Choir as well as the opportunity to kick off the holiday season with friends and family.



Rep. Adrian Madaro and State Senate candidate and City Councilor Lydia Edwards begin the countdown to lighting the tree in Orient Heights Square.



Jim Kearney and the Hilton Garden Inn's Steve Haley.



Jason Ruggiero and Melissa Allen.



Maryanne Gillespie (right) shares a hot chocolate with a friend during the annual tree lighting.



Sergeant Joseph Cintolo, Rep. Adrian Madaro and State Senate candidate and City Councilor Lydia Edwards.



Tommy Briand with State Senate Candidate Anthony D'Ambrosio and his sister.



Joseph Ruggiero III with AJ Mascone.



The Ruggiero Family and friends welcome community members to the annual tree lighting in Orient Heights Square. The annual event is hosted by the Ruggiero Family.



The Schettino Family poses in front of the tree during Saturday's annual tree lighting hosted by the Ruggiero Family.

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Buddy Mangini (seated) with his son and longtime friends at the tree lighting. Mangini, who has been out of the spotlight for a year now, made a surprise appearance to the delight of many at the annual event.

Community Service Officer Sergeant Joseph Cintolo with his son and fellow officer Tommy Dominic.

Dancers from the the Beverly Richards Dance Center perform during the annual tree lighting.

OBITUARIES

Victoria Albano

Of East Boston

Victoria A. (DiMarino) Albano of East Boston passed away on Tuesday, November 9.

The beloved wife of Salvatore J. Albano for 66 years, she was the loving mother of Nancy Frattaroli of Lynnfield, Victoria Albano of East Boston, Anita Mattarese of Saugus, Vincent Albano and his wife, Nancy, of Revere and the late Salvatore “Sal” Albano; dear sister of Josephine DeMarco, Mary Pucillo, Rose DiMarino, sister-in-law of Nancy DiMarino, and sister of the late Rose Clifford, Nicholas DiMarino and Peter DiMarino. She is also survived by six loving grandchildren: Victoria and her husband, Thomas, Donato, Alexa and her husband, Thomas, Gianni, Alexandra and



Paul and one great grandson, Vincent.

A visitation was held on November 15th. Victoria was entombed in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. Donations may be made in Victoria’s memory to the Saint Jude Children’s Hospital, 501 Saint Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

To leave an online condolence, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Roberta Corbett

Lifelong East Boston resident

Roberta M. Corbett, a lifelong resident of East Boston, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, November 29.

The beloved daughter of the late Robert and Mary (Romano) Corbett, she was the devoted mother of Richard Zielinski Corbett, dear sister of

Robert, James, and Dennis Corbett and is also survived by many cherished friends.

In honoring the Corbett family’s wishes, all services will be private. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Rosemarie Smith

Former East Boston resident

Rosemarie (Scalfani) Smith, in Marshfield, formerly of Saugus and East Boston, passed away on Friday, December 3.

The beloved wife of John L. Smith, she was the loving mother of Johnna Webster of Marshfield, dear sister of Robert Scalfani of Tyngsboro and the late James “Buster” Scalfani and grandmother of Sarah Doxsey and her husband, Sam, Laura and Josh Webster. She is also survived by her uncle, Peter Morgante and many other loving relatives.

Funeral Services will be held in the Magrath Funeral Home, 336 Chelsea St [at Day Sq] East Boston on Thursday, December 9 at 1 p.m. Relatives and friends are invited. Visiting prior to services from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Entombment to follow in Chapel Hill Mausoleum



at Holy Cross Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Rosemarie’s memory to: the American Heart Assn, Alzheimer’s Assn. or St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital would be appreciated.

Please Note: Masks are required for all indoor gatherings in the City of Boston.

Please leave messages of condolence to the family on Rosemarie’s Tribute Page on MagrathFuneral-Home.com.

Gail Fantasia

Of Revere



Gail G. Fantasia of Revere passed away peacefully on November 27.

The loving daughter of the late Benjamin and Aurelia (Gilda) Fantasia, she was the devoted twin sister of Janice A. Fantasia of East Boston and the late Ronald B. Fantasia; beloved aunt of Athena Fantasia, Ronald B. Fantasia Jr., Christina Fantasia and Deborah Fantasia and dear great aunt of Justin, Christian and Amy Fantasia.

Family and friends will honor Gail’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street East Boston (Orient Heights), on Thursday, December 9 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to St. Joseph - St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashley Street, East Boston for a Funeral

Mass at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with Gail being laid to rest in Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden.

In accordance with the City of Boston Five-Point Plan for the Delta Variant of COVID-19, face masks are required at all times when indoors.

To leave an online condolence please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Clifford Burri, Jr.

Member of Saint Mary’s Star of the Sea Men’s Club, the 714 Club and Local 589 Boston Carmen’s Union



Clifford “Cliffy” Burri, Jr., of East Boston passed away on Sunday, December 5 at 70 years of age.

Cliffy was a member of Saint Mary’s Star of the Sea Men’s Club, the 714 Club and Local #589 Boston Carmen’s Union and a United States of America Navy Veteran.

The beloved husband of the late Evelyn (Grieco) Burri and the loving son of the late Clifford Sr. and Jessie (Guarino) Burri, he was the devoted father of Evelyn Burri Chianca and her husband, Lou of Revere and Michael Burri and his wife, Jenna of East Boston; dear brother of Gina Beatrice and her husband, Michael of California and Steven Burri and his wife, Lorraine of East Boston; cherished grandfather of Gianna, Antonia, Michael and Melia; loving brother-in-law of Jean Faiella and her late husband, Phil. He is also survived by many treasured nieces and nephews. Family and friends

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH 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. SU21C0370CA In the matter of: Alberto Centerio A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Alberto Centerio of East Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Alberto Centio Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at:Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/23/2021. 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. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: November 30, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 12/08/21 EB

al Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

12/08/21 EB

LEGAL NOTICE

SUFFOLK, SS. PROBATE COURT Case No. SU21E0009PP

To Jolene Tranfaglia 489 Sumner Street, East Boston, MA 02128 and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Cheryllann Flores of 28 Belgrade St. Revere, MA in the County of Suffolk representing that she hold as Tenant in common and an undivided 50% part or share of certain land lying in East Boston, MA in said County, and briefly described as follows:

A certain tract or parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situated in that part of Boston, in the County of Suffolk, called East Boston, and being shown as Lot No. 1 on a plan owned by John McCormick, C.E. dated August 13, 1889, recorded with Suffolk Deeds, Lib. 1896, Page 426, and said premises are subject to all reservations and restrictions and with all rights and privileges

named or referred to in deed to McCormick to Anderson, recorded with Suffolk Deeds, Book 1928, Page 314, insofar as now in force and applicable, and bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a corner former by the junction of Sumner and Webster Streets NORTHEASTERLY by Sumner Street, sixty-eight (68) feet; NORTHWESTERLY by land now or late Hulda J. Joy, twenty-seven (27) feet; SOUTHWESTERLY by Lot No. 2 on the plan hereinafter mentioned, sixty-eight (68) feet; and SOUTHEASTERLY by said junction of Webster and Sumner Streets, twenty-seven (27) feet; Containing 1836 square feet.

The street address is 489 Sumner Street, East Boston, Massachusetts. The common title to the land is derived under: A deed dated July 8, 2019, recorded with the Suffolk Registry of Deeds in book 61718, page 143. The land is all of the real estate held under that common title setting forth that she desire that – all the following described part – of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than \$950,000.00 dollars and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof. If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Boston before ten o’clock in the forenoon on the 6th day of January 2022, the return day of this citation. Witness, Brian J. Dunn Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this 30th day of November, 2021.

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North Shore Philharmonic makes a musical return to Revere

Hundreds of concert-goers poured into St. Anthony's Church Sunday for the annual Robert A. Marra Memorial "Sounds of Christmas" Concert, bringing with them two truckloads of food for the associated Food Drive and resuming a 45-year tradition that was wiped out last year because of the pandemic.

The North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra and featured soprano Jean Danton kindled everyone's holiday spirits with a wonderful performance of classical holiday-themed music, topped off by the popular "Sing-along" of well-known Christmas carols.

Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo delivered a stirring "Holiday Message" in which he commented about the gratitude and optimism reflected in the community as it emerges from the pandemic. His remarks expressed sentiments of those in need, and those who have helped out, and those who have perished during the excruciating months since the pandemic took hold in March of 2020.

Speaking "...in the voice of those who are gone..." the Mayor said: "Our optimism is that those we have left behind will fathom deep in their souls that life is too fragile, too tender, too valuable to squander with anger, envy, or hostility. Our optimism is that those we have left behind will look around them, grateful for their blessings, their health, and their chance to revel in the spirit and delights of the holiday season, now, every day hereafter."

Twenty-six members of the Revere High football team, who completed a successful 8-2 season on Thanksgiving Day, pitched in to help collect, box, load, and deliver some two tons of food to



Revere Mayor Brian M. Arrigo delivered a Holiday Message.

the Revere Food Pantry. Concert sponsor and co-chair Dom Bocchino, president of Bocchino Insurance Agency, remarked that the player's spirit and energy was a welcome sight both for concert goers and volunteers who were relieved of the task of carrying boxes upon boxes of food from the church into a truck. "The players were fantastic," said Bocchino. "They were walking out into the parking lot as people arrived and carrying the bags of food for them. They were filling boxes, loading the truck... they were just fantastic. They did in an hour what would have taken us two days!"

The concert audience, screened upon entrance for vaccination proof or negative covid test and required to wear masks throughout, was nonetheless enthusiastic and rose in standing ovation as Ms. Danton and the Orchestra, under conductor Robert Lehmann, played a rousing "Let There Be Peace On Earth" in the concert's traditional conclusion.

"The Orchestra and I enjoy this concert immensely," said Lehmann. "We are so thrilled to be back in Revere, where we always enjoy such a welcoming and excited reception."

Concert co-chair Robert Marra Jr. expressed gratitude to the concert sponsors Bocchino Insurance,

Arbella Insurance Foundation, Comcast, RCN, Global Partners, and Action Emergency Services, emphasizing the role of Action's Mike Zaccaria. "Not only did Michael contribute as a sponsor, but he provided the trucks to transport the food from the Church to the Food Pantry. That kind of community engagement is what makes this so special in so many ways."

"So many are involved in making this concert happen," he said, citing members of the St. Anthony's Church Confirmation Class who helped convert the Church's altar area to a concert stage; members of the St. Anthony's Holy Name Society who helped collect food, and volunteers who had the unenviable task of checking



Brass players in the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra are in the spirit during an encore performance of "Sleigh Ride."

vaccination cards and covid test results. "I think the overall circumstances could have been an obstacle, but I think everyone cooperated and were determined to have a great time. After missing out last year, this was special."

The Sounds of Christmas concert began in 1976 when the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra played a holiday concert at Revere High to mark the end of the nation's Bicentennial year. In 1977 the concert was relocated to St. Anthony's, where it

has been performed annually except for a three-year gap in the late 1980s and in 2020. The associated Food Drive began in 1991. In 2002, the concert was renamed in memory of violinist Robert A. Marra, lifelong Revere resident, Revere High teacher, and a founding member of the Orchestra who died in 2002. "It occurred to me that this year's concert marked 20 years since Dad played his last 'Sounds of Christmas' concert, and that made it all the more meaningful," said Marra.



Soprano Jean Danton entertains the audience.



Twenty-six members of the Revere High football team showed up to assist in packing the food donated to the concert and then delivering it to the Revere Food Pantry this winter.



North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra harpist Yvonne Cox during a selection from The Nutcracker.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, §18-20

The East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Incorporated

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., a public meeting of the East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc., (aka PIERPAC) will be held VIA ZOOM

It is the intention of the Committee to discuss in open meeting the following matter(s):

REGULAR MEETING

a. Attendance 6:30 pm

b. Approval of Minutes, November 16, 2021 6:35 pm

New Business

a. 6:40 pm - East Boston Sailing Center Update

b. 6:45 pm - Review of Membership Subcommittee Recommendation and Proposed By-Law Change

c. 7:30 pm - Treasurer's Report (Month Ending November 30, 2021)

Old Business

a. 7:40 pm - Update - Amendment to Operations, Security and Maintenance (OSM) Agreement (continued discussion)

b. 7:50 pm - Update - Massport annual financial commitment (continued discussion)

c. 8:00 pm - Anticipated adjournment

At the conclusion of its regular business meeting and prior to adjournment, the Board, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board may hold an Executive Session pursuant to G. L. 30A.s.21 upon the conclusion of which, the Board will not resume its public meeting.

For remote participation please use the link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8718480377?pwd=ZTU2ZGxKMisvRy8yYEVqb2NVbXg4d209>

You may also dial into the meeting by dialing 877-853-5247 and using Meeting ID 871 8480 3777 and Passcode 927408

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED

AND WELCOMED TO ATTEND -

English to Spanish Translation will be available

A copy of this notice and instructions for remote participation has also been posted on the organization's website at:

www.EBPierPAC.org

and has also been placed on file with the Regulations Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth by mailing same via first class mail at least 5 days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting.

Louise Montanino, President,

East Boston Project Advisory Committee (PierPAC)

AVISO DE REUNIÓN (REPROGRAMADO) PÚBLICA

De conformidad con G. L. c. 30A, §18-20

El Comité Asesor del Proyecto East Boston, Incorporado

Se da aviso de que el lunes 14 de diciembre de 2021 a las 6:30 pm, una reunión pública del Comité Asesor del Proyecto de East Boston, Inc., (también conocido como PIERPAC) via ZOOM

La intención del Comité es debatir en sesión abierta los siguientes asuntos:

REUNIÓN REGULAR

a. Asistencia 6:30 pm

b. Aprobación del Acta 16 de noviembre de 2021 6:35 pm

NUEVO NEGOCIO

a. 6:40 pm - East Boston Sailing Center

b. 6:45 pm - Examen del informe del Subcomité de Composición y propuesta de cambio de estatuto

c. 7:30 pm - Informe del Tesorero (Mes que termina el 30 de noviembre)

VIEJO NEGOCIO

a. 7:40 pm - Actualización - Acuerdo de Modificación de Operaciones, Seguridad y Mantenimiento (OSM) (discusión continua)

b. 7:50 pm - Actualización - Compromiso financiero anual de Massport (discusión continua)

c. 8:00 pm - Aplazamiento anticipado

Al término de su reunión ordinaria de negocios y antes de la suspensión de la sesión, la Junta, previa moción debidamente presentada y secundada, la Junta podrá celebrar una sesión ejecutiva de conformidad con G. L. 30A.s.21 una vez concluida, la Junta no reanudará su reunión pública.

INVITAN A MIEMBROS DEL PÚBLICO Y BIENVENIDO A ASISTIR

La traducción del inglés al español estará disponible

Los miembros del público también pueden unirse a la reunión a través de ZOOM siguiendo el siguiente enlace
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8718480377?pwd=ZTU2ZGxKMisvRy8yYEVqb2NVbXg4d209>

o marcando 877 853 5247 e ingresando id de reunión: 871 8480 3777 y código de acceso: 927408 La traducción del español al inglés estará disponible a través del enlace zoom.

Una copia de este aviso y por encima de ZOOM Link se publicará en el sitio web de la organización en:
www.EBPierPAC.org y también ha sido puesto en expediente ante la División de Reglamentos del Secretario de la Commonwealth por correo electrónico a través de correo de primera clase al menos 3 días antes de la fecha programada de la reunión.

Comité Asesor de Proyectos del Este de Boston, Inc.

Por: Louise Montanino, Presidenta

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Officials hold hearing on improving beach access for those with disabilities

By John Lynds

On a warm August afternoon this past summer, more than 125 individuals with disabilities came together to enjoy a fun-filled day at Constitution Beach in East Boston.

The Beach: Ability Day at Constitution Beach program was created several years ago through a grant from Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches program with support by DCR's Universal Access program. The yearly event hosted by Triangle, Inc. highlights programs that make Massachusetts public beaches, like the one in Eastie, accessible to the disability community.



A photo from this past summer's Beach: Ability day at Constitution Beach—a program that was created several years ago through a grant from Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches program with support by DCR's Universal Access program. The yearly event hosted by Triangle, Inc. highlights programs that make Massachusetts public beaches, like the one in Eastie, accessible to the disability community.

Building on the success of this program the Metropolitan Beaches Commission (MBC) and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay held a hearing last Tuesday on improving beach access for those with disabilities.

"I want to thank the Save the Harbor/Save the Bay staff and board members who really do an amazing job of making our beaches the best public resources they could be and uplifting issues that are really important to all of us," said MBC Co-chair Rep. Adrian Madaro at last week's hearing. "We'll be discussing improving access to our beaches for people with disabilities and 30 years after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we still have a long way to go to make certain that our systems, infrastructure and public accommodations are welcoming and accessible for people with disabilities or different abilities."

Madaro said there is still a lot of work to do to ensure that public spaces, including public beaches within the greater Boston region, reflect that everyone deserves access.

"Just last week, the disability community achieved a major victory," said Madaro. "The Federal Court decided that the City of Boston must upgrade curb ramps across this city for wheelchair users. So we have some significant momentum to build upon this victory by continuing to uplift the leadership of people with disabilities."

As part of the annual Save the Harbor/Save the Bay Beach:Ability day at Eastie's only beach, Save the Harbor donated beach wheelchairs and showcased the non-profit's investments in ramps, mobility mats and beach and floating wheelchairs—all

of which are critical to improving beach access for people with disabilities.

Boston's Disabilities Commissioner Kristen McCosh, who leads the city's overall effort to ensure accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities, told of her experience enjoying local beaches in Boston.

"So for those of you who don't know me, I'd like to let you know that I use a power wheelchair due to a disability I acquired as a teenager so accessibility has a direct impact on my life," said McCosh at the hearing. I'd like to give you some of my thoughts and accessibility to see how we can improve it and also give a shout out to all the work that Save the Harbor has already done to improve accessibility. One of the issues that's important to me, and that is that most beaches have ramps



Metropolitan Beaches Commission, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay held a hearing last Tuesday on improving beach access for those with disabilities.

or sloped walkways but when you get to the sand, there's really no place to go. So that is basically inaccessible to someone like me who uses a power wheelchair. So I'd love to see more thought given to raised walkways of composite material. They used to have those at some of the beaches I visited and that was super accessible. Plus the hard surfaces are a lot better for a power wheelchair. When I go to the beach with friends we always end up sitting at the back of the beach close to the ramp because I can't really go down to the sand. So if we had a walkway that not only extended onto the sand but also extended down to the water, that would be super

helpful."

Coleman Nee, CEO of Triangle Inc. who hosted the "Beach:Ability" series at Constitution Beach thanked the MBC and Save the Harbor for their leadership on this issue.

"I cannot stress enough the positive impact on mental health and spirits of those who attended Beach: Ability...our program participants love the beach and they love the ocean," said Nee. "In truth, these beaches are public assets and they shouldn't only be available to the disability community during an event once a year, they should be available all the time. We need additional investments, we need more walkways and ramps, we

need proper equipment, we need mobi-mats, we need floating wheelchairs at every beach, and we need all bathrooms and snack stands to be ADA compliant."

Chris Mancini, Executive Director of Save the Harbor, added that the legislative community and the community members of the MPC will use information from last week's hearing to help better understand the challenges facing people with disabilities on the metropolitan beaches.

"We are looking forward to working together with DCR to develop strategies to improve access to these spectacular urban natural resources for everyone," he said.

EAST BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER HOLDS CATCH PROGRAM HOLIDAY EVENT

More than 160 local children and teens who are living with multiple disabilities were invited to a holiday celebration with gifts and free family photos with EBNHC mascot

Sanito as part of East Boston Neighborhood Health Center's annual CATCH program holiday event on Saturday.

The guests are all part of EBNHC's CATCH Program which serves children with multiple disabilities living in underserved communities including

East Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Everett, Winthrop, and other Boston areas. The CATCH Program uses a team approach to early intervention and

overall health to develop an individualized health plan for each participant. A community resource coordinator organizes special events for families,

acts as a parent liaison, and performs home visits as needed for Spanish-speaking families.



EBNHC mascot Sanito greets children as part of East Boston Neighborhood Health Center's annual CATCH program holiday event on Saturday.



More than 160 local children and teens who are living with multiple disabilities were invited to a holiday celebration with gifts and free family photos with EBNHC mascot Sanito.



EBNHC mascot Sanito greeting children from EBNHC's CATCH program during Sunday's holiday event.



The CATCH program director Lourdes Snyder (center) with the CATCH staff during the annual event.



EBNHC's Catch staff pose with families during the annual holiday event.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

MASK MANDATE ISSUED IN CHELSEA

CHELSEA - The Chelsea Board of Health has implemented an Indoor Mask Mandate for all Indoor Public Spaces. This emergency order is part of a continued effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the Chelsea community.

Masks and face coverings are one of the most effective ways to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This order applies to all public spaces within private businesses as well as to public spaces located within public buildings. A mask mandate had already been in place at Chelsea City Hall, the Chelsea Public Library, the Chelsea Senior Center and Chelsea Public Schools.

The indoor mask mandate is another layer of protection for Chelsea residents as public health officials continue to monitor the impacts of COVID-19. Vaccinations

continue to be available to Chelsea residents for free at the Chelsea Senior Center. The Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine (ages 5-11) and COVID-19 booster shots (ages 18+) are all available. Any resident can receive the vaccine for free, regardless of immigration status.

In the community, La Colaborativa hosts a mobile vaccination clinic every Tuesday at its 318 Broadway location from 4:00-7:00pm. The mobile clinic will be open until Tuesday, Dec. 14. Chelsea Public Schools will have a Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 1:00-5:00pm at the Mary C. Burke Elementary Complex.

COVID-19 testing also remains available for free for Chelsea residents at Saint Rose School on 580 Broadway. The indoors testing center is open Monday-Sunday from 1:00-5:00pm. The indoors

testing center is open Monday-Sunday from 1:00-5:00pm.

Read more at <https://www.chelseama.gov/home/news/board-health-implements-mask-mandate-all-indoor-public-spaces>

E CLUB CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

EVERETT - The E Club celebrated its 50th Anniversary Dinner at Spinelli's. The E Club honors Everett's history in sports by awarding scholarships to student athletes as a foundation for success in whichever paths they choose to pursue after high school.

This year, The E Club welcomed special guests, Paul Perillo and Brandon Conde.

Perillo is a 1986 Everett High School graduate who played football and baseball. His passion for sports inspired an interest in sports journalism and led to a career with the

Boston Herald in addition to a variety of opportunities in radio and television.

Conde is a lifelong Everett resident who graduated in 2012 who was passionate about football from a young age. In High School he had a successful football career, winning multiple Super Bowls under Coach DiBiao. He continued to play football for Bridgewater State where he studied biology. In 2019, Brandon experienced a life-altering accident that injured his spinal cord, making him a paraplegic.

The E Club will hold their annual meeting on January 11, at the Zion Baptist Church and their next dinner in May 2022. All are invited to join.

LIQUOR LICENSING INFORMATIONAL FORUM AT NSLBA

LYNN - Lynn Police Chief Chris Reddy, Lt. Tom Reddy, and Officers Jose Almonte and Hector Orellana appeared at a North Shore Latino Business Association-sponsored liquor license informational forum Monday at North Shore Latino Business Association headquarters on Sutton Street.

NSLBA Executive Director Frances Martinez had reached out to the Lynn Police Department on behalf of members who were seeking up-to-date information about the liquor licensing process.

Lt. Reddy, who serves as the LPD's liaison to the Licensing Commission, led 25 Latino and minority business owners and managers through a comprehensive, one-hour presentation about all phases of the liquor licensing application process and

the LPD's enforcement of the Commission's rules and regulations. Chief Reddy and Officers Almonte and Orellana sat at the head table in the large room, taking part in the presentation and making themselves available to the assemblage during the question-and-answer period and the informal meet-and-greet session that followed Lt. Reddy's remarks.

"There are all different levels of the liquor licensing process, the package store, beer and wine, and malt levels, for example, but there is a lot of rules and regulations and paperwork in the process, and I know that Frances [Martinez] works with groups to get that done," said Reddy.

"But we can also help you do that. Mainly it is a function of City Hall, but we can steer you in the right direction to the resources that can help you," continued Reddy.

The executive officer of the LPD Criminal Investigation Division, Reddy noted that it is the Lynn Police Department that is called upon to look at violations or problems that arise with the liquor licenses. "That's when the Police Department becomes involved. Basically, we would be the ones looking to see if there was a complaint or a violation. The people that make the decision about what happens with your license, if there is a violation or a problem, is the Lynn Licensing Commission that has three members and meets twice monthly," said Reddy. "I sit in on those meetings as an advisor, to speak on the Police Department's point of view.

"I can tell you the Licensing Commission, as well as the Mayor and the City Council, the Chief of

Police, and the Police Department want to see Lynn thrive and Lynn businesses thrive. They work very hard to make that happen. You can see during the last two years with the pandemic the leeway that the Licensing Commission is trying to give as long as you do it the right way - to put in outdoor seating, allow extra room, to allow businesses to stay open and not have to close," said Reddy. "We want to see Lynn prosper and that starts with having great people running these bars and restaurants. Our concern is that the businesses have to be run in a safe and diligent manner."

Martinez pleased by turnout

Martinez was pleased with the high turnout, notably so on a Monday night following the long Thanksgiving weekend. The spirit of cooperation between the business community and the Lynn Police was evident in the room. All participants wore face coverings throughout the program.

Martinez, whose organization has become the "go-to" resource for Latino and minority-owned businesses in the city, said her inspiration for the meeting was "to make sure everyone is on the same page."

"As Lieutenant Reddy and Chief Reddy mentioned, we want to have businesses stay in business," added Martinez. "We want to make sure the business owners understand the regulations and be able to have a good practice to run the business. It's important for them to hear directly from our police department to understand that the goal for everyone is to have a

See REGION Page 13

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Annual East Boston Chamber of Commerce 2021 “Deck the Windows” contest

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce is holding their 2021 “Deck the Windows” holiday window decorating contest the weekend of December 17, 18, and 19. Businesses can participate by decorating their storefront windows with decorations of the season, by calling the Chamber and having a Chamber Board member take the photos, by having their decorations photographed by a Chamber

Board member, or directly submitting pictures of their decorations. Awards will include first, second, and third place certificates to the three best decorated windows by an East Boston business along with a congratulatory letter from the East Boston Chamber of Commerce and bragging rights for the year as a winner of the East Boston Chamber of Commerce holiday window decorat-

ing contest. Please contact the Chamber office to register: Contact@eastbostonchamber.com or 617-569-5000 or contact Shirley Fabbo atebfabbo@msn.com The Chamber Board will announce the winners on December 22, 2021. La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston anuncia el concurso “Deck the Windows” 2021. El concurso anual de

decoración de ventanas navideñas “Deck the Windows” 2021 se llevará a cabo el fin de semana del 17, 18 y 19 de diciembre. Para participar los negocios locales deben decorar sus ventanas o fachadas con adornos de la temporada navideña tomarle fotos, publicarlas en su página de Facebook y etiquetar las siguientes páginas, @East Boston Chamber of Commerce y @Camara de Comercio de East Boston.

Si no tiene redes sociales envíen sus fotos aeastbostonchamberofcommerce@gmail.com antes del 22 de diciembre. Miembros de la mesa directiva votaran para elegir a los ganadores. Los premios incluirán certificados de 1ro., 2do y 3er. lugar para las tres ventanas mejor decoradas; una nota pública de felicitaciones publicada en el periódico en inglés “East Boston Times” y en español en El

Planeta. Para registrarse comuníquese por email a Contact@eastbostonchamber.com o por teléfono con Shirley Fabbo al 617-569-5000 o ebfabbo@msn.com . Miembros de la Mesa Directiva de la Cámara visitarán los locales participantes el fin de semana del 17, 18 y 19 de diciembre. ¡Felices fiestas y que disfrute el proceso de decoración!

Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

successful business. Of course, there are regulations that everyone has to follow and that’s the meaning of this meeting.” The meeting was not unprecedented, but it was historic in the sense that it was NSBLA’s first forum of this nature following the COVID-19 pandemic that severely impacted Lynn businesses. “We had a similar meeting with the Lynn Police two years ago, but after the pandemic, this is the first one,” related Martinez. “We are excited by the great turnout. It is part of the work that the Association is doing, making sure that people get the information that is important to them. We look forward to future meetings with the Lynn Police, who are our friends.”

Encarnacion lauds Lynn Police Department The Lynn Police Department received praise from business owners for their participation in the forum. “This was very informative for the business owners, especially those who have a liquor license in the city,” said Basilio Encarnacion, owner of Rincon Macorisano Restaurant, which is in the process of moving to Lewis Street. “Most of us don’t know 100 percent how to do this, so it’s great to have a good relationship with the Police in the community. That’s one way we can have a better community.”

COMMITTEE HEARS ABOUT DEMOGRAPHICS REVERE - During a presentation by Revere Public Schools (RPS) Executive Director of Data and Accountability Jamie Flint to the Revere School Committee it was not surprising to see that

59 percent of Revere High School’s population is Latino while only 30 percent is White. However, what may be surprising to some is the Latino enrollment in high school Advanced Placement (AP) courses does not reflect the demographics of the student population and RPS is hoping to change that. According to Flint’s presentation at the November 16 meeting, Latino enrollment in Science and Technology AP courses is relatively equal with enrollment of White students with 39 percent being Latino and 38.1 percent being White. However, the numbers seem to become more lopsided with only 37.9 percent being enrolled in English Language Arts AP courses, 36 percent enrolled in Math AP courses, and only 35.5 percent being enrolled in AP Social Science courses at the High School. The one area where Latino students far outnumber White students in AP course enrollment is Foreign Language where 63.3 percent enrolled are Latino. “The demographic breakdown really hasn’t changed dramatically over the last few years,” said Flint. “This is the current makeup of students enrolled in Revere High (AP courses). We continue to work on addressing the need for placement participation and (RHS) is very excited to partner with MathInsight-the same partner that we have in our equity audit.” Flint said with this partnership RHS and MassInsight are looking at student participation and success in AP courses since last March. “With MassInsight as a partner we will have an opportunity to work with other school districts to strategize on improving

preparation and exam success, focusing on low income students in AP courses,” said Flint. With input from other school districts, MassInsight and RHS are meeting bi-weekly and recently created a leadership group that works to help analyze student data around AP enrollment successes. “They are very excited and report that by next year we’re going to start to see a more dramatic change in these AP course demographics because they’ve been working very hard at increasing their communication with families over AP coursework, as well as engaging teachers,” said Flint. At the meeting Revere Superintendent Dr. Dianne Kelly said RPS has been taking measures to get more Latino students enrolled in AP courses with the goal of having more Latino students taking advantage of honors-type courses. “You’ll see that our student population is 30% White and 59%, Hispanic or Latino,” said Kelly. “What we want to do is get to a space where our AP enrollment is reflective of our overall student enrollment and what Jaime has shown us is that that is not the case. Our goal is to have AP classes that are reflective of our overall student body. We also hope to tear down the kinds of barriers that prevent equitable access to rigorous curriculum so that all students can access this kind of work. One of the ways that we do that is by taking away the kind of rules that say things like, “You have to have been in honors classes in order to take AP courses”, and by taking away other kinds of rules and structures that we have historically created in our educational systems.”

ANNUAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER HOSTED BY MASS BADGE



Parks Director Mike Hinojosa with Patrick Keefe with his kitchen crew, that worked very hard to bring the Mass Badge Thanksgiving Community Feast to a new level.

TOWN’S WASTE WATER PREDICTS SPIKE IN COVID

WINTHROP - The Winthrop Town Council met on Nov. 23, where it learned about a recent spike in coronavirus cases. COVID-19 Winthrop’s positive test cases had been declining in October, but more than doubled in the week leading up to the meeting. DPH Director Meredith Hurley said that analyses of the town’s wastewater foretold the increase. The percent positive rate sits at 2.3, but Hurley expects it to climb above 3 percent. In Winthrop, 92 percent of adults aged 30 to 49 have received their first vaccine dose, and 84 percent fully are vaccinated. Seventy-six percent of adults aged 50 to 64 have received a first dose, and 70 percent are fully vaccinated. Eighty-seven percent of those in the 75 and older age bracket are partially vaccinated and 77 percent are fully vaccinated.

nated. Seventy-three percent of children aged 12 to 15 and 79 percent of individuals aged 16 to 19 have received their first dose of the vaccination. There is currently no data on the vaccination rates of children ages 5 to 11. Booster shots are now available for any fully vaccinated adult. The Town may be able to host local booster clinics depending on staff availability. “There’s a plethora of supply out there for folks to get vaccinated,” said Dir. Hurley. The Town will host a second pediatric vaccination clinic on Dec. 4 for children ages five to 11 at the Senior Center. Councilor Rob DeMarco expressed hesitation to vaccinate his children, ages 8 and 11, because the long-term effects are as yet unknown. He suggested that other parents may have the same concerns. Dir. Hurley encouraged Councilor DeMarco and any concerned parents to “speak to a trusted health-

care professional.” “Pediatricians should be making the time to have that conversation,” she said. As of the date of the meeting, there had been no in-school spread of COVID. Fire Department The Council promoted firefighter Eric Cusack to lieutenant, and Lt. David Higginbotham to fire captain. It swore in Cpt. Stephen Calandra as a fire prevention officer, and Devon Racow as a probationary firefighter. The men posed for photographs with their families and council members. “I want to thank you all for your service,” Council Pres. Phil Boncore told the men. “It’s an outstanding job that you do.” General Updates Early voting in the Dec. 14 senate special election is currently underway. The council voted to allow National Grid to move existing poles and wires to enable construction to be completed in the marina.



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EBNHC brings back Winter/Spring Farmers Market

By John Lynds

Building off the success of the first ever East Boston Winter/Spring Farmers Market last year, the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center's (EBNHC) Let's Get Movin program decided to bring the program back for a second winter and spring season.

Kicking off last month, residents can simply log onto <https://app.sourcewhatsgood.com/markets/east-boston-farmers-market/products> to shop for fresh produce from local farmers Fridays through Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. After an order is placed customers can simply head over to EBNHC's Farmers Market site at 250 Sumner St. on Thursdays from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

"One of the main reasons we introduced the online Winter/Spring Farmers Market is because we want residents to be able to take advantage of their SNAP benefits and be able to buy healthy produce all year round," said Market



A customer picks up her order at the EBNHC's Winter/Spring Farmers Market on Sumner Street.

Manager Nancy Slamet. "That is something that we're really trying to push again this year after a successful season last year."

Slamet said SNAP customers get extra money

through the Healthy Incentives Program, or HIP, to buy fruits and veggies at the market. Those who receive SNAP benefits are automatically enrolled in HIP, which allows Farmers Market customers to

earn a dollar-for-dollar match on their EBT card when they buy fresh produce from a HIP-authorized vendor like the East Boston Farmers Market.

"For families of 1-2 people, you can earn up to \$40 per month; for 3-5 people, up to \$60 per month; for 6 and more people, up to \$80 per month so we don't want people to lose out on these benefits," said Slamet.

Slamet said there will also be a limited number of Farmers Market coupons available throughout the season.

Aside from online shopping, Slamet said this year's Winter/Spring Farmers Market will feature a "Thursday Mini-Market" series where customers can come to the 250 Sumner St. site and shop in-person.

The second Thursday

Mini-Market will be this Thursday, December 9 and feature fresh fruits and veggies from longtime East Boston Farmers Market collaborator, Farmer Dave's.

"Year after year, Farmer Dave's is our biggest produce farmer and one of our longtime partners," said Slamet. "So he'll be down here on Sumner Street on Thursday for our live Mini-Market."

Slamet said the other Thursday Mini-Market dates that have been scheduled are March 10, 2022; April 14, 2022; May 12, 2022; and June 9, 2022.

"We have the online ordering and pick-up option as well as the live Mini-Markets and hopefully by mid-February we will hopefully start offering deliveries," said Slamet. "We are planning to partner with Eastie

Farm on Sumner Street in order to provide this delivery service for customers."

While the program hopes to boost participation among those receiving SNAP benefits, Slamet said she hopes more people living in Jeffries Point and the condos along the waterfront will take advantage of the Winter/Spring Farmers Market.

"It is open to all," she said. "We're really trying to bring on more customers that live in the area to help support these local farmers and keep the markets solvent."

Slamet said customers should note that the market will be closed from December 17, 2021 to January 6, 2022 for a holiday break.

For more information contact Nancy Slamet at 617-568-4783 or farmers-market@ebnhc.org.

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