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# East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS

Christmas Kids pages 5 through 7

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

## Edwards wins State Senate Primary Election

By John Lynds

District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards came out

on top Tuesday night and made history once again as the first female woman of color to be nominated

to the First Suffolk & Middlesex Senate seat. If there is no Republican challenger for the January 11 Gen-

eral Election, Edwards is on her way from City Hall to Beacon Hill.

"This is a moment to celebrate," said Edwards at her victory party at Spinelli's in East Boston. "I'm just overwhelmed by this moment, but I can assure you no one will forget this race. When I first ran for Senate in 2016 people asked, "Who is this girl?" but now this girl is the Senator for the First Suffolk & Middlesex District. I'm just so grateful to all of you, my entire universe. I want to thank my entire team because without them I wouldn't be here. They always had my back."



Lydia Edwards addresses her supporters during her victory party at Spinelli's.

District wide Edwards received 60 percent of the vote with challenger Anthony D'Ambrosio's 40 percent of the vote. Edwards won Boston

wards and precincts in East Boston, the North End, Beacon Hill, Bay Village and Chinatown

See ELECTION Page 3

## Re-Centering Implementation grants at Eastie's PJ Kennedy Elementary School a much needed lifeline

By John Lynds

When the school year started, Patrick J Kennedy Elementary School Principal Kristen Goncalves saw both academic and social emotional gaps in her students resulting from 18 months of remote learning as a result of the COVID pandemic.

Goncalves said many students lacked the mental stamina to get through the school day, while others struggled with basics like book handling skills.

Three months into the new school year, educators like Goncalves and her staff are still feeling the pandemic's impact on

learning, instruction, and student wellbeing.

Recently the Boston Schools Fund's Re-Centering program visited the Kennedy and four other schools to learn how they are using Boston Schools Fund's \$40,000 Re-Centering Implementation grants. The visits helped the program gain insight into how other schools can use outside support to shift the focus back to what matters most to their students.

For example, over at the Kennedy the Boston Schools Fund's Re-Centering program connected Goncalves with a leadership coach from Attuned

Education Partners and peers from other schools in the cohort.

"It's been nice to have a bank of resources available and have people to re-center me in what my priorities are," said Goncalves. "It reminds me I'm not alone in feeling the effects of the pandemic and there is a way to recover."

Goncalves added the Re-Centering funds also allowed the Kennedy to acquire intervention resources to build math fluency, regain foundational phonics skills, and build on the school's pre-pandemic work with ESL and inclusion. Fifty-seven percent of Goncalves's

students at the PJK are English language learners.

"After almost an entire year of remote learning, schools must be strategic in how they approach classroom instruction this year, to ensure that curriculum, professional development, and staffing are all working to meet a wide range of student academic needs," said Chief Strategy Officer for Boston Schools Fund Kerry Donahue. "Leaders must also prioritize social emotional health to establish a supportive school culture for both students and adults that recognizes the amount

See LIFELINE Page 2

## Senior Center program funding now in Council committee for review

By John Lynds

Last week the Boston City Council sent a \$399,000 East Boston Foundation grant to fund programming at East Boston's first ever Senior Center to the Council's Committee on Strong Women, Families and Communities for further review.

Once the details of the grant are reviewed by the committee the Council will vote to authorize the city's Age Strong Commission to serve as administrators of the money. The grant will be used for programming at the senior center that is currently under construction at the former Orient Heights Branch of the Boston Public Library.

Construction on the future senior center began in Summer 2020 at the former library across from Orient Heights MBTA station.

Throughout August and September 2020, interior demolition took place, and construction started on. Construction work on the senior center will include accessibility upgrades,

new HVAC systems, new elevator, window replacements, landscaping, new utilities, new bathrooms, new kitchen, sprinkler system and roof replacement.

The renderings released by the city show the completed senior center will have an all glass, 850 square foot addition that will house the senior center's main entrance, lobby, elevator and stairwell. The renderings also show the outdoor terrace that is part of the design.

For decades East Boston's senior citizens and senior groups like the Golden Age Club have been clamoring for their own space in the community. Currently, Eastie seniors share space at other non-profits for senior programs, social hours, parties and other events.

A dedicated senior center would allow seniors to accomplish these things within the confines of their own permanent location.

Investments from the Massport-funded East Boston Foundation were

See FUNDING Page 3

## BASKET BOUND



BOB MARRA PHOTO

Isabella Munoz has her sights set on scoring two of her ten points as she led the Lady Jets to a 32-19 win over Excel-South Boston Monday at East Boston High School. See Page 8 for more photos.

Deadlines for the Christmas week publication on Dec. 22 are Monday at 5 P.M. Thank You! Happy Holidays



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The gun and drugs seized Saturday during a traffic stop in East Boston.

# Eastie officers make drug, gun bust

By John Lynds

Boston Police officers assigned to their Drug Control Unit in East Boston arrested two people Saturday on drug and gun related charges.

The incident occurred just after 3 pm Saturday when officers from District A-7's Drug Control Unit were conducting a drug investigation in the area of Maverick Square and spotted a vehicle occupied by two males stopped in front of 30 Bremen Street. The two males proceeded to pick up a male passenger. According to police, the vehicle turned right onto Margin-

al Street and immediately dropped off the male passenger they had picked up a few minutes prior.

Believing that a street level drug transaction had just transpired, the drug unit officers initiated a traffic stop of the vehicle after.

After a search of the vehicle officers recovered a Taurus .38 caliber revolver loaded with six rounds, eight plastic baggies of suspected Fentanyl, two digital scales and a white rock like substance believed to be crack cocaine.

Officers arrested Giovanni Nolan, 24, of Lynn and charged him

with Trafficking Class A (Fentanyl), Possession with Intent to Distribute Class B, Drugs (Crack Cocaine), Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition.

A 17-year-old male juvenile will be summoned into court on Trafficking Class A (Fentanyl), Possession with Intent to Distribute Class B, Drugs (Crack Cocaine), Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition.

During the booking process officers seized \$605.00 USC from Nolan's left pocket.

# Lifeline// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of disruption and change that has taken place."

The five schools chosen for the program represent some of the neighborhoods most impacted by the pandemic - like the Kennedy in Eastie, the William E. Channing Elementary School in Hyde Park, the Mendell Elementary School in Roxbury, the Richard J. Murphy K-8 School in Dorchester, and the Charles H. Taylor Elementary School in

Mattapan. Each school received a comprehensive needs assessment before the start of the school year to identify where leaders should focus their efforts. The schools will then be followed throughout the year to determine the impact of the pandemic on the school and the efficacy of school based recovery efforts.

In March 2021 Boston Schools Fund also launched EdRecentered.

org — a central hub for its Re-Centering Schools initiative work. In partnership with Attuned, they also released a comprehensive School Re-Centering Guide to inform leaders as they prioritize pandemic recovery efforts for their own schools. This guide, along with dedicated coaching from Attuned, has served as the foundation for the experience of the Re-Centering Schools cohort.

# Rep. Madaro's bill to improve air quality in Environmental Justice Communities

By John Lynds

Rep. Adrian Madaro's bill, H.968, An Act Improving Air Quality in Airport Environmental Justice Communities has become a key piece of legislation being considered on Beacon Hill that aims to improve the quality of life for thousands of Eastie residents.

"I was proud to work with the committee last session on landmark Environmental Justice legislation, and look forward now to building upon this work by addressing issues affecting Environmental Justice communities," said Madaro. "For my district of East Boston, the focus of environmental justice is Logan Airport. As an Environmental Justice neighborhood composed of working-class, immigrant, and communities of color, we deal with a disproportionate burden of both noise and air pollution from the airport."

First, the bill mandates a network of air pollution monitors throughout airport host communities because Massport does not actually do regular real-time measuring of air pollution.

"Monitors will give us

data of where and when we are experiencing the most pollution, how high those levels are, and even the specific sources responsible," said Madaro.

Under the the data will be made available to the public in real-time, so residents are able to use it to inform their own health and activity decisions. The bill would also require a revised Logan Health study," he said. "The last health study occurred in 2010. It went over-length and under-budget, and didn't make any explicit connections between health issues and pollution. This revised health study will fill in some of those gaps."

Due to the higher numbers of pulmonary diseases in the area due to Logan operations, members of AIRInc. recently sent a letter urging lawmakers to adopt Madaro's bill.

"Aside from childhood asthma and COPD, the noise and air pollution generated by airports, among other transportation sources, have been found to cause cancer, heart disease, hypertension, autism, stroke, and learning disabilities in school children, among many other morbidities,"

said AIRInc.'s Vice President Chris Marchi. "Moreover, a preponderance of recent research suggests that ultrafine pollution particles which bypass the body's defenses and are currently unregulated by the EPA cause systemic inflammation and accelerate all morbidities toward death."

Marchi said the legislature takes the only reasonable and responsible actions available to require Massport to assume accountability for the pollution impacts created by their tenant airlines and passengers.

"The legislation also establishes a transparent system by which measurements of these impacts can be taken with sufficient spatial and temporal granularity to characterize the severity of exposures across the impact area," said Marchi. "Massport will assume responsibility for these impacts by establishing reasonable thresholds and objectives necessary to protect public health in exposed communities as well as implement effective and immediate safeguards to reduce and mitigate these impacts to the greatest extent possible."

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## CELEBRATING THE WINTER SOLSTICE WITH MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD

First Church in Boston, Unitarian Universalist, continues its tradition of offering a Celebration of the Winter Solstice on Tuesday, December 21, at 7 PM at the church, 66 Marlborough St. in Back

Bay. In time-honored tradition, we will welcome the darkness but also anticipate the return of the light with music, song and spoken word. Participants include Irish Harpist Aine Minogue, pianist Jacqueline Schwab, First Church Interim Minister Edmund Robinson and Music Di-

rector Gigi Mitchell-Velasco, tenor Noel Velasco and bass William Thorpe. (The audience will be required to wear masks during the performance, and all performers will be masked except when performing.) The event is free and open to the public, but donations are accepted.

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## CITY PAWS



Our lovely Maggie Mae had doggie dementia late in life but she still enjoyed her time on park benches.

### Preventing doggie dementia

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

One of the great gifts you can give your dog in the next year is taking steps, no matter what their age, to prevent dementia and improve their quality of life. In dogs, dementia is called canine cognitive dysfunction (CCD). Many of the same lifestyle habits known to help brain health in humans also apply to our dogs.

#### Research Shows

Researcher Sarah Yarborough at the University of Washington recently published her findings on common factors reported in dogs with CCD. Her study found, "... odds of CCD was 6.47 times higher in dogs who were not active compared to those who were very active." In addition, she noted, "When controlling for age, breed type, activity level, and other comorbidities, dogs with a history of neurological, eye, or ear disorders had higher odds of CCD..."

These findings translate to the same steps that we can take ourselves to promote healthier aging. You protect your dog from CCD by increasing exercise, and by doing it together, you protect yourself. It's a win-win situation. Always consult both your doctors before starting any big change in exercise routines.

We know that loss of sensory input increases the danger of dementia in humans. That's why seniors need to have their hearing tested and use hearing aids as recommended. Scientists are working on hearing aids for dogs, and corrective eye surgery for dogs is now standard. However, we as guardians can make sure we are aware of and provide the necessary care to prevent ear and eye infections from causing deafness and blindness.

Good nutrition and proper weight control are other steps we can take to protect our dogs from CCD. Cailin R. Heinze, VMD, MS, DACVIM from Tufts University's Cummings Veterinary Medical Center wrote, "... diets with increased concentrations of fish oil, B vitamins, arginine, antioxidants from fruit and vegetables as well as vitamin E and C, and medium chain triglycerides have been demonstrated to improve cognitive

function in aged dogs and cats."

On your next visit, ask your veterinarian to recommend safe ways to use these findings in your dog's diet. You might also ask for a consultation with a veterinary nutritionist if your dog shows symptoms of CCD.

Some humans do crossword puzzles to engage their brains. You can provide your dog with brain stimulation by engaging her in play and training or retraining sessions. Old dogs can and should learn new tricks and training is a lifelong responsibility for dog families.

#### Symptoms of Canine Cognitive Dysfunction

Prevention is a lifelong program to prevent brain degeneration. However, there are still things you can do if your older dog is showing symptoms of CCD. Don't just blame old age if your dog is losing housetraining and soiling your home. Report this to your veterinary team because it may be a dementia symptom or something else that can be corrected.

Changes in a dog's sleep/wake cycles are another reportable symptom, as is disorientation. You might also see increased separation anxiety, phobias, excessive vocalization, and changes in a dog's interaction with people and other animals.

As your dog ages, note changes in these areas and ask your veterinarian to help you choose the best interventions for your particular animal. Keeping a log of what you notice is a great way to monitor how long changes have been happening and whether they are worsening or getting better. Ed did this with our Maggie Mae when she had doggie dementia and it helped both us and her veterinary care team.

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

## EBECC raises funds during holiday fundraising effort

By John Lynds

Throughout the course of the pandemic East Boston has come together in these difficult times to support and uplift their neighbors, immigrants, refugees and underserved youths.

One agency, the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council (EBECC), has been able to continue providing regular services despite the impact of the pandemic. The EBECC continues distributing masks and sanitizing kits, offering its facilities, referring clients to testing sites, and to food distributing programs, and contacting housing and heating help services for individuals and families affected by unemployment.

In the spirit of holiday giving, the Board of Directors of the EBECC is hoping residents can step up this season to help support the agency's mission in the neighborhood.

"First, we want to thank the community for everything they have done to support our organization," said EBECC CEO Frank Ramirez. "We are asking for your help again. We hope the holidays bring to your thoughts of giving to those in need the profound satisfaction from knowing that you are helping transform lives in this community. In East Boston EBECC has been helping neighbors come together to achieve a better quality of life for the last 42 years."

Ramirez said the past year has been difficult and challenging but inspiring.

"Only with your help EBECC has been able to provide the level of support our community needs," he said. "We continue promoting the advancement of immigrants of all ages through education, services, advocacy, community organizing, and leadership development."

Remix said just last year, EBECC assisted close to 5,000 Latino immigrant families and youths in Eastie to learn English and to integrate into a new society, acquire skills to become leaders and to reunite with their families.

Ramirez said donation to the EBECC, whatever the amount, will make a real difference to the lives of the people the agency helps on a daily basis.

A donation of \$1,500 will help youth to participate in life skills training, leadership development workshops and computer classes. A donation of \$1,000 will help a father to have legal support that allows him to be reunited with his family. A donation of \$300 will help fund distant learning, educational materials and supplies that help women and mothers learn basic English. A donation of \$150 will help promote the participation of Lati-

no immigrant parents in Eastie to improve the Boston Public Schools. A donation of \$50 will help prepare a confident group of women and youth to speak to elected officials and administrators about community issues and concerns.

"As EBECC's Chief Executive Officer, I am proud to lead an organization that provides the community in East Boston with quality and valuable services to help them realize their hopes for a better life," said Ramirez. "Please join me in supporting EBECC's mission by making a donation at the level of your choice. On behalf of EBECC, I thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity."

Donations can be made [https://ebccc.networkforgood.com/projects/55255-fulfillment-of-families-together&utm\\_campaign=dms\\_email\\_blast\\_1570424](https://ebccc.networkforgood.com/projects/55255-fulfillment-of-families-together&utm_campaign=dms_email_blast_1570424).

## Funding// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

realized through a mitigation package between the Port Authority and the Logan Impact Advisory Committee (LIAG). The two parties agreed the mitigation grants should help support the programming and operational needs of the newly-renovated center once construction is complete.

"Massport strives to be a good neighbor to our surrounding communities," said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland when construction began. "Over the years, with the help of East Boston residents and elected officials, we have fulfilled many community commitments in



This photo shows the center's entrance on Bayswater Street with the new 850 square foot addition. The new senior center on the corner of Bayswater Street and Barnes Avenue is currently under construction and will be completed in 2020.

East Boston. Our support of this new Senior Center is a great example of these

collaborative efforts."

The City's current budget for the design and construction is \$5.43 million and the estimated completion date is spring 2022.

## Election // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as well as wards and precincts in Cambridgeport.

In East Boston, Edwards totalled 1,958 votes with D'Ambrosio receiving 774.

As expected, D'Ambrosio, who was elected to the Revere School Committee in 2019, won his home city handily with 3,121 votes to Edwards's 933 votes, but the turnout there was lower than expected.

In Winthrop, where some felt D'Ambrosio might pull off a win, Edwards won Winthrop with 1,189 votes to D'Ambrosio's 873, and carried all but one precinct in the Town.

Councilor Edwards, an Eastie resident, previously ran for the Senate seat after former State Senator An-

thony 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.

Anthony D'Ambrosio was gracious in defeat at a gathering of his supporters at Casa Lucia.

"Going forward, we're going to be represented by a really good person, a really smart person in Lydia Edwards," said D'Ambrosio. "It's in all of our best interests, it's in our community's best interest to have a vested stake in her success here. I really want to emphasize this: she's

one of the smartest people I've ever met. And that's pretty clear. And she's going to do really, really great things."

D'Ambrosio thanked his supporters, telling them, "I feel joy and grat-

itude. You all provided a platform for me, and I was able to advocate for a message and I hope that I made you proud."

*Cary Shuman contributed to this story.*

## Real Estate Transfers

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Cancelliere, Nicholas  
Sullivan, Michelle  
Balbin, Margarita L  
Tellet, Alejandro J  
87 Putman LLC  
Rodriguez, John  
Sawjng LLC  
Naven, Russell  
Cheung, David N

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Vitale, Wayne M  
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Fagioli, Dolores  
Miller, Mark  
Despe, Mary K  
360 Meridian St LLC  
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# East Boston

Times-Free Press

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# Forum

GUEST OP-ED

## Somehow, some way, may this be a Christmas worth remembering

Dr. Glenn Mollette

We had difficulties when we were growing up in Martin county, Kentucky but overall, we thought we were doing okay. President Lyndon Johnson came to Inez, Kentucky in 1964 to let us know we weren't doing very well. He began his campaign in our community and we became the poster child for American poverty. We hadn't really thought of ourselves as poor until we started hearing about ourselves in the news.

I had numerous friends who didn't get much for Christmas. Often it was one or two small gifts or nothing at all.

Several classmates at my elementary school in Tomahawk, Kentucky were fortunate if they had a coat to wear in the winter. Ragged looking shoes on a kid's feet during the winter was a common sight.

Several classmates came to school to wash their faces and hands in the boys' bathroom. The school lunch was the only decent meal some of the kids ate during the week.

It was a while before

President Johnson's 1964 promises started helping our area. Even with the roll out of government assistance many families subsisted until the coal boom of the seventies which has almost died. Today our county is reinventing itself with agriculture, a service center to aid bitcoin mining, tourism and small businesses.

I don't remember every Christmas, but I remember one. My dad broke his back falling off a barn when I was a child. He was out of work for several months and in those days, we didn't have government safety nets to see us through tough financial times. Christmas came as usual and we did put up a tree. Our family gathered on Christmas Eve and we had food, fellowship and laughter. We always raised a garden and my parents stored food so it came in handy during tough times.

I expected nothing for Christmas that year because the heaviness of family financial pressure was obvious even as a child. Surprisingly, my mother handed me a small wrapped box that Christ-

mas Eve and said Merry Christmas. I was shocked because I expected nothing that year. Opening the box, I found a watch that had numbers that glowed in the dark. It may have cost \$5 but it was priceless to me. I was thrilled and wore it every night to just look at the glowing numbers.

Dad was recuperating that Christmas. His temporary disability and our financial stress made life gloomy for us that year. Yet, here I am remembering that Christmas as one of the best of all. It was during that Christmas that I remember the presence of family. Mom and dad were alive. We had food to eat. We had a roof over our heads and our family had each other.

This may not be your best Christmas, but maybe, just maybe you can still have Christmas.

The empty chair is painful. Depression is real. Financial or other personal difficulties may have disabled you. Millions have died from Covid-19. Thousands are suffering from horrific tornadoes and loss of life. Hurricanes have pounded us in the East and fires

have incinerated our West. In the midst of all this inflation eats away at America's paychecks like an unchecked malignancy.

The message of Christmas is the story of peasant parents, enduring difficult travel, taxes to be paid and no place to sleep but a barn and a cow's trough for their newborn baby. Somehow, they found strength in each other and in God who brought them and their baby through a very difficult time. We never forget their story and their plight, it's truly a Christmas worth remembering.

We are going to remember this Christmas, no doubt. Somehow, somehow, with God's help and each other, may this be a Christmas worth remembering.

*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.*

## East Boston Social Centers receive major grant

East Boston Social Centers, Inc. is excited to announce it has received \$200,000 per year over three years from Boston Children's Collaboration for Community Health.

These funds will significantly advance Every Child Shines' work to ensure every East Boston child enters kindergarten joyful, thriving and ready to learn. We plan to recruit, train and support Parent Partners to increase parent's child development skills. We will expand our Parent Partners in the coming year to replace those that have moved into full time early childhood positions elsewhere.

We will enhance community-based parent support to help families access programs to advance these goals. A central focus will include cross sector community partnerships to identify service gaps and overlaps and service needs—and to bolster our collective work to support young learners and families.

The grant to East Boston Social Centers, Inc. is part of Boston Children's Hospital's total commit-

ment of \$53.4 million to support community organizations and agencies in their efforts to improve the health and well-being of children and families in Boston and across Massachusetts. Boston Children's is distributing these funds as part of an agreement with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Determination of Need Program. This is in addition to the hospital's ongoing support for programs and partnerships.

"This grant will help us to continue to build on our work in reaching those families who are not connected to formal services and are the hardest to reach, including new moms, single parent homes and the isolated," says Gloria DeVine, Director of East Boston Family Engagement Network, East Boston Social Centers.

"Our collective family support work can finally be scaled to make stronger impact with the generous funds from BCH. Our work is social justice oriented and will have transformative and radial positive effects on future generations of East Bos-

ton," says Rosie M. Batista, Director Every Child Shines, East Boston Social Centers.

"We have long recognized that one of the best ways for Boston Children's to make a difference is to partner with others in the community," says Shari Nethersole, MD, Executive Director for Community Health. "The Collaboration provides organizations with funding so they can establish the infrastructure needed to grow and lead or strengthen their connections with partners to create more efficient systems of care and support."

East Boston Social Centers is a multi-service agency and community center that cultivates community, belonging, and joy. Founded in 1918 to welcome and support

immigrant families, East Boston Social Centers continues to proudly embrace "welcome" in all we do. Our core services range across educational, social, and recreational programs to support the diverse community of East Boston and our neighbors of all ages. For over a century, our programs and services have welcomed neighbors of all ages, interests, and backgrounds through our doors. Each year, we provide direct programming for 3,000+ children, teens, and adults, with an additional 30,000+ people benefiting from our meeting spaces and community events.

If you would like for information on Every Child Shines, please contact Rosie M. Batista at rbatis-ta@ebsoc.org.

## GOP'S OPPOSITION TO RACHAEL ROLLINS

The unprecedented opposition, accompanied by unprecedented vitriol, by the Republican members of the U.S. Senate to the nomination of Suffolk County District Atty. Rachael Rollins for the position of U.S. Attorney for the Massachusetts district has laid bare their driven agenda.

Here is what Tom Cotton, the odious Arkansas Senator, said during a hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee in opposing Ms. Rollins's nomination:

"Miss Rollins appears to measure success as a prosecutor not by how many victims and innocent people she protects, but rather by how many criminals she keeps from facing consequences. If she's confirmed as the US attorney, the cartels and the gangs that are fueling violence and death in our communities will be gleeful. Rachael Rollins wants to destroy the criminal justice system from within. That's not hyperbole."

Cotton's last line -- "That's not hyperbole" -- ordinarily would be laughable, but unfortunately it is illustrative of the way that leading GOP politicians are gaslighting the country these days to appeal to the basest of their base.

Senator Cotton's sham statement also has put on full display the propensity among leading GOP politicians to bully women, and that is doubly so for women of color. We recall the vote by Mitch McConnell and the GOP-controlled Senate in 2017 that silenced Senator Elizabeth Warren during the confirmation hearing for Jeff Sessions as U.S. Attorney General when she read a letter (which already was part of the Congressional Record) by Coretta Scott King in 1986 about Sessions. Later, a male senator read the same letter -- but without a peep from McConnell.

These GOP politicians are like the "tough" guys who have no hesitancy to engage in road-rage behavior when the other driver is a woman, but they shrink from honking, gesticulating, etc. if the other driver is a male.

Rachael Rollins had the full support of both of our U.S. Senators, Ed Markey and Ms. Warren, as well as the endorsement of many others, including former governor William Weld (who served as the U.S. Attorney in Mass. in the 1980s), Wayne Budd (another former U.S. Attorney here), Winthrop Police Chief Terence Delehanty, and Revere Police Chief David Callahan (both of whom work directly with the Suffolk D.A.'s office on a daily basis).

Despite the roadblocks thrown up by the GOP senators, the nomination of Rachael Rollins finally was approved, though only because of a tie-breaking vote by vice-president Kamala Harris.

We wish to congratulate Ms. Rollins upon her confirmation and we look forward to her tenure as our U.S. Attorney for the Massachusetts district.

## 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](mailto:editor@eastietimes.com).

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

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# independent's 2021 Christmas Kids



Isabella Walsh



Charlotte Hanton



Ella & Eva Cammarata



Ava & Sophia Mauro



Isla Sasso



Lily Sasso



Lexi & Levi



Tessa, Morgan & Joey with Santa



Ronnie



Lucy



Merry 4th Christmas Wendy!



Mia & Maddie Flynn



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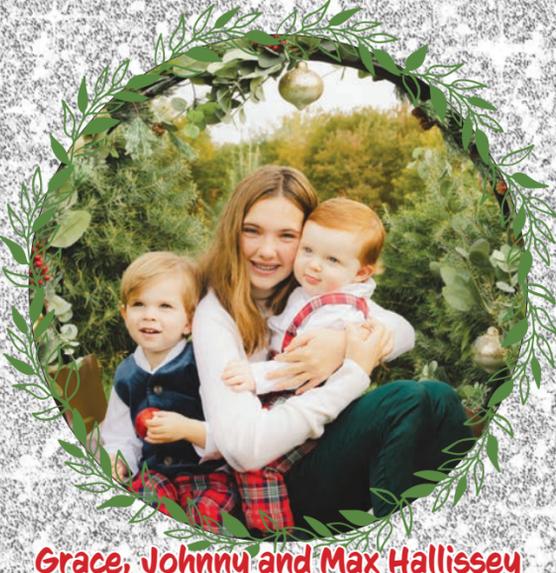
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Rosie



Grace, Johnny and Max Hallissey



Gianni Cimino



Shay & Steele



Vivian & Maggie



Gavin, Violet, Sienna, James with Sloane, Adeline, Andrew



Matthew, Elle & Mason Decotis



Jeremy Spadafora



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# Independent's 2021 Christmas Kids



Adiella, Jayliella, Michel,  
Jádiel & Coco



Miranda



Amani & Roman



Madison



Alianora, Emmalia & Noah



Isabella & Alexia



Emi & Samuel



David & Johnny



Merry Christmas!  
Love Dante & Destiny Elliott



Happy Holidays from  
Cristian and Wiggles



Fiona



Anthony & Julianna

EAST BOSTON GIRLS BASKETBALL 32-19 OVER EXCEL ACADEMY

BOB MARRA PHOTOS

East Boston topped South Boston Excel Academy 32-19 in the season-opener for both teams Monday. Eastie's Isabella Munoz led Eastie with 10 points, all in the first quarter, as the Lady Jets roared out to a 17-2 lead and never looked back. East Boston has a busy schedule coming up with games against Latin Academy December 14, O'Bryant Dec. 17, at Burke on December 20, home against McCormack on December 21, and home against Snowden on Dec. 22 before a Christmas break.



BASELINE SAVE: East Boston's Sterling Marte keeps a ball in play.



PLAYING KEEP AWAY: East Boston's Ebeline Oliva keeps the ball away from an Excel-Southie defender.



IN YOUR WAY: Lady Jet Cheryl Pleitez gets in the way of an Excel-Southie forward.



ARMED DEFENSE: East Boston's Isabella Munoz has close coverage on an Excell-Southie forward.



BREAK AWAY: East Boston's Gianna Troville (5) escapes from a trio of Excel-Southie defenders during the Lady Jets 32-19 win over Excel-South Boston Monday at East Boston High School.



ROUGH ROAD: Gianna Troville has her way to the basket blocked by an Excel-Southie defender.



WATCH OUT BEHIND: East Boston's Cindy Alfaro keeps the ball away from an Excel-Southie defender.

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- Delizza Eclairs ..... 2/¢8.00
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# Wu shares Boston's winter weather preparations underway

Mayor Michelle Wu joined City officials at the Public Works yard on Frontage Road to discuss winter preparations currently underway in the City of Boston, and resources available to residents, including older adults and individuals experiencing homelessness.

"I am so grateful to the team from many departments and several different cabinets that come together to ensure that our streets will be safe and that our residents will be warm, supported and connected to everything that they need," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As we continue to manage amidst a global pandemic, winter will be the next phase of how we're supporting all of our residents."

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) monitors forecasts and maintains open lines of communication with the National Weather Service. OEM also works across City departments and with external partners to ensure coordinated response plans are in place. Residents can sign up to receive AlertBoston notifications by phone, text, or email in the event a snow emergency/parking ban is declared.

The Public Works Department (PWD) currently has 40,000 tons of salt on-hand to treat City streets. Along with 164 pieces of in-house snow clearing equipment, the PWD has the capability to place over 800 additional pieces on the roads during larger storms. As part of their neighborhood plowing operations during winter storms and to ensure the safety of riders following events, PWD allocates pieces of equipment to clear snow from Boston's dedicated bike lanes.

## Rules on clearing snow:

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

- Removal of snow, ice from private property to the street or sidewalk is prohibited.

- Failure to comply with the rules can result in fines issued by PWD's Code Enforcement Division. Fines associated with improper removal of snow can be found here.

## Parking during a declared snow emergency:

- If a snow emergency is declared, cars will be ticketed and towed if parked on a posted snow emergency artery. Space savers must be removed within 48 hours after a snow emergency has been lifted. Please note: space savers are NOT allowed in the South End.

- During declared snow emergencies, discounted parking is available at some parking lots and garages for Boston residents. A list of discounted parking garages can be found here.

## Trash and recycling:

- During severe snowstorms, recycling and

trash collection may be canceled, but this is extremely rare. Most often, severe snowstorms can cause delays in service, so we ask for your cooperation and patience. To view your neighborhood recycling and trash schedule, locate a textile dropbox in your neighborhood, and to find out what items you CAN and CAN'T recycle, download our free Trash Day App.

- Crews have a difficult time reaching trash barrels and recycling carts placed behind snowbanks. Please clear an area at the curb for collection or place containers next to or in front of snowbanks.

## Caring for vulnerable populations:

- If you see homeless and vulnerable individuals out in the cold who appear immobile, disoriented, or underdressed for the cold, please call 911.

- The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) utilizes a city-wide network of emergency shelters, outreach providers, city agencies, and first responders to assist those in need of shelter.

- Boston's emergency shelters are open 24 hours and will accept any person in need. Men can access shelter at the 112 Southampton Street Shelter, and women should go to the Woods-Mullen Shelter at 794 Massachusetts Ave. BPHC and the City work closely with shelter providers in the city to ensure that no client is without shelter, food, resources, and a warm respite from the cold.

- Monday through Friday, 8am-9pm, please call 617-534-4440 to facilitate access to shelters. Outside of these hours, guests should access shelter directly.

- During extreme cold weather, street outreach teams operate with extended hours and provide mobile outreach vans on the streets in the evening and throughout the day.

## Safety tips:

- If you are able, keep catch basins and fire hydrants clear of snow and debris. This will help prevent flooding and allow for access in the event of an emergency. For a map of catch basins and fire hydrants, visit here.

- Shoveling snow requires significant exertion; please be cautious and pay attention to symptoms. Stop if you feel chest pain, shortness of breath, lightheadedness, nauseous/vomiting. Call 911 if those symptoms do not resolve quickly.

- Snow piles can make navigating intersections dangerous for walkers and drivers. Please take extra care when turning corners with snow piles that might limit visibility.

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

- Sitting in a car while idling can be deadly if the tailpipe is blocked. Do not let children sit in an idling car while shoveling. Clear any household exhaust pipes of snow like gas exhaust from the heating system or dryer.

- Have a contractor check the roof to see if snow needs to be re-

moved. If roof snow can be removed from the ground with the use of a snow-rake, do so with caution. Avoid working from ladders and be mindful of slippery surfaces.

## Dress for the weather:

- Wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing.

- Outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.

- Wear mittens over gloves; layering works for your hands as well.

- Always wear a hat and cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.

- Dress children warmly and set reasonable time limits on outdoor play.

- Restrict infants' outdoor exposure when it is colder than 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

## Watch for signs of frostbite:

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

## Watch for signs of hypothermia:

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

## Heating guidelines for property owners and tenants:

- In accordance with the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code, the heating season officially begins on September 15 and runs through June 15. Property owners must heat habitable spaces at a minimum temperature of 68° between 7 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. and 64° between 11:01 p.m. and 6:59 a.m.

- In cases of emergency, property owners are encouraged to keep a list of licensed contractors (electrician, plumber and general contractor) on file. Tenants experiencing problems with their heating system should check the thermostat, ensure the dial is turned on, and report insufficient or no heat problems to the property owner or manager immediately.

- If your landlord or property manager is unresponsive, contact the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) at (617) 635-5300 to file a complaint, or call 311.

## Heating safety:

- Never try to heat your home using a charcoal or gas grill, the kitchen stove, or other product not specifically designed as a heater. These can cause a fire or produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide very quickly.

- Have your heating system cleaned and checked annually.

- Make sure all vents are clear of snow or any other debris.

- Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide is an invisible gas produced whenever any fuel is burned. Common sources include oil or gas furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces, stoves, and some space heaters. It has no smell, taste, or color. It is a poison and is deadly.

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

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

- Homeowners should insulate pipes in unheated areas like basements, garages, and crawl spaces. Use inexpensive hardware store materials to prevent pipes from freezing and to keep warm water flowing.

- Circulate warm air around pipes by keeping cabinet doors open. Circulate a trickle of tap water through pipes during extreme cold to help prevent them from freezing up.

- Locate your water meter, protect it from drafts, and make sure basement doors and windows are shut tight.

- If pipes do freeze, slow thaw with a hairdryer. Never use an open flame to thaw pipes. If water is lost in all taps, call BWSC 24-hour Emergency Assistance Line at 617-989-7000.

## Emergency home repair resources:

- Income-eligible homeowners and Boston's residents over age 60 can receive assistance with winter emergencies and repairs, such as fixing storm damage, leaking roofs, furnaces, and leaking/frozen pipes. For assistance, residents should call the Mayor's hotline at 311 or the Boston Home Center at 617-635-HOME (4663).

- Never use a torch to thaw a frozen pipe. Always call a professional plumber to troubleshoot your problem.

- A grant is available for income-eligible homeowners over age 60 to ease unexpected financial burdens caused by an emergency situation with their home.

- In addition, the Mayor's Seniors Save program helps income-eligible Bostonians over the age of 60 replace old, inefficient heating systems with a brand new heating system even before a catastrophic failure occurs during the cold winter months. Older adults can also call 311 or the Boston Home Center at 617-635-HOME (4663) to be connected with a City staffer to provide additional details.

## Tips to increase home energy efficiency:

- Disconnect the water hose from the home.

- Wrap or cover exposed spigots.

- Caulk or putty windows.

- Ensure kitchen and bathroom dampers close properly.

- Close all storm windows and doors.

- Apply weather stripping.

- Properly insulate all pipes that are exposed.

- Install insulated or heavy drapes to keep cold drafts from coming in.

- Don't forget to close the damper to the wood-burning fireplace after each use. Consider a chimney balloon if you don't have a damper.

- For more energy efficiency tips for your home, call Renew Boston at 617-635-SAVE (7283).

## Tips for what to do before a power outage:

- Before a weather event, prepare your home by:

- Ensuring that your

smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working and have fresh batteries.

- Consider purchasing a generator to provide power during an outage. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and learn how to use it safely before an outage.

- Ensuring that you have sufficient heating fuel. Consider safe backup heating options such as fireplaces or woodstoves.

- Have a landline phone with a corded receiver.

- Fully charge your cell phone, laptop, and other electronic devices.

- If you have a water supply (such as a well-water pump system) that could be affected by a power outage, fill your bathtub and spare containers with water. The water in the bathtub should be used for sanitation purposes only. You can pour a bucket of this water directly into the toilet bowl to flush it.

- Keep your car's gas tank full. Pumps at gas stations may not work during a power outage.

- Set your refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings to keep food cold (but remember to reset them back to normal once power is restored).

- If you have life-support devices, such as home dialysis or breathing machines, or other medical equipment or supplies, that depend on electricity:

- Talk to your health care provider about how to use them during a power outage;

- Contact your local electric company and equipment suppliers about your power needs. Some utility companies will put you on a "priority reconnection service" list;

- Let the fire department know that you are dependent on life-support devices; and

- If you have medication that requires refrigeration, check with your pharmacist for guidance on proper storage during an extended outage.

## Tips for what to do during a Power Outage:

- Continue to monitor the media for emergency information.

- Follow instructions from public safety officials.

- Call 9-1-1 to report emergencies including:

- Downed power lines; or

- If you are dependent on equipment that requires electricity and needs medical assistance.

- Call your utility company to report power outages and get restoration information.

- National Grid 800-322-3223

- Eversource (formerly NSTAR) 1-800-592-2000

- Stay away from downed utility wires. Always assume a downed power line is live.

- If a traffic light is out, treat the intersection as a four-way stop.

- Keep a fire extinguisher handy.

- Use generators and grills outside because their fumes contain carbon monoxide. Make sure your carbon monoxide detectors are working as it is a silent, odorless, killer. See more Generator Safety Tips.

- If possible, use flashlights instead of candles. If you must use candles, place them in safe holders away from anything that could catch fire. Never leave a burning candle unattended. Never go to sleep with candles

burning.

- During hot weather, use ice to help keep food cold. During cold weather, keep food cold outside in a secure location safe from animals.

- If phone lines are down, use social media or texting to let others know you are okay.

- Unplug sensitive electronics to avoid power surges when power is restored.

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours.

- Be a good neighbor. Check on family, friends, and neighbors, especially the elderly, those who live alone, those with medical conditions, and those who may need additional assistance.

## Tips for Driving in a winter storm:

- Avoid driving during the worst part of the storm. If possible, only travel during daylight hours, don't travel alone, and stay on main roads instead of taking shortcuts.

- Consider taking public transportation.

- Clear snow and ice from windows, lights, hood, and the roof before driving.

- Leave plenty of room for stopping.

- Don't try to out drive the conditions. Remember the posted speed limits are for dry pavement.

- Know the current road conditions. Call 511 from your cell phone or the following from either your cell phone or landline phone.

- Metro Boston: (617) 986-5511

- Brake early and correctly. It takes more time and distance to stop in adverse conditions.

- Be wary of bridge decks. They freeze first, making them more dangerous than the approach road.

- Exit ramps sometimes have less anti-icing material than the mainline. Be aware of this when exiting the highway.

- Don't use "cruise control" driving in wintry conditions. Even roads that look clear can have sudden slippery spots. Using your brake on these spots will deactivate cruise control, possibly causing you to lose control of your vehicle.

- Many 4x4 vehicles are heavier than passenger vehicles. This means it takes longer to stop than passenger vehicles. Be wary of your 4x4 vehicle's traction.

- Look further ahead in traffic than normal.

- Trucks are heavier than cars, making their brake time slower. Avoid cutting quickly in front of them.

- Don't crowd the plow. Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows. Stay back at least 200 feet and don't pass on the right.

- Always wear your seat belt.

- Let others know your destination, route, and expected travel times.

- Allow for extra travel time.

- Drive with your headlights on at all times to see and be seen.

For more information, please visit the Winter in Boston guide and follow @CityofBoston on Twitter.

## OBITUARIES

### Norma Meola

Of East Boston

Norma (DiStacio) Meola of East Boston, 91, passed away on Thursday, December 9.

The cherished daughter of the late Louis and Pauline (Lomanno) DiStacio, she was the adored aunt to Donald Di Nicola and his wife, Pamela, Louis Di Nicola and his partner, Rudy Gallucio, Lisa DeFelice and Kim Richards and also survived by many of her grandnephews and grandnieces. She was the dear sister of the late Anthony Louis DiStacio and his surviving wife,

Betty and Marie Wonoski.

Family and friends will honor Norma's life by gathering in Vazza's "Beechwood" Funeral Home, 262 Beach Street, Revere today, Wednesday, December 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. and again on Thursday at 9 a.m. for a Funeral Service in our Chapel of the Resurrection at 10 a.m. Interment will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden.

For additional information, visit: [www.vazzafunerals.com](http://www.vazzafunerals.com).

### Irene Rizzo

Graduate of East Boston High School,  
Class of 1963

A Funeral Service was held on December 11, in the First Congregational Church of Revere for Irene A. (LaRocca) Rizzo, who died on Tuesday, December 7 at the North Shore Medical Center in Salem following a long illness. Interment was in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

Irene was born in Boston and was a lifelong resident of East Boston. She was educated in Boston Public Schools and was a graduate of East Boston High School, Class of 1963.

She married her husband, Ronald Rizzo, and together they raised their two daughters, while they remained in East Boston.

Irene began a career as a "Meter Maid" for the City of Boston's Parking Enforcement Division, later becoming a Senior Supervisor. Her career spanned 29 years. During her time working for the city, Irene made many friendships along the way. She loved her family unconditionally. Her family was her greatest joy in her life, and she was a very proud East Bostonian. She was also a long time and faithful member of the First Congregational Church of Revere.

She was the beloved wife of 47 years to the late Ronald J. Rizzo; loving mother of Melissa A.

Jones and Kenneth of Peabody and Christine J. Palladino and her



husband, Rocky of Draught; cherished and proud grandmother of Micaiah H. Jones, Alanna I. Palladino, Nathan A. Palladino, Keenan R. Jones, Alexa T. Palladino and Caleb R. Jones, all living at home; dear sister of Nancy Melchionda and her husband, Alfred of Amesbury, Deborah L. Kalligheri and her late husband, Armand of West Peabody and the late John G. LaRocca and his surviving wife, Marilyn of Chelmsford. She is also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Remembrances may be made to the Food Pantry at the First Congregational Church of Revere, 230 Beach St., Revere, MA 02151.

The Staff at Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals, is most honored to have assisted the family in completing funeral arrangements. To send online condolences, please visit [www.vertuccioand-smith.com](http://www.vertuccioand-smith.com)

### Paolo Scimemi

Late member of the Danvers Fish  
and Game Club

Paolo Scimemi of Chelsea, formerly of Salemi Sicily, Italy died on December 10.

Paolo served in the Italian Military before coming to the United States in April of 1966. He enjoyed hunting, gardening, cooking and spending time with his family and friends. He was a late member of the Danvers Fish and Game Club.

The devoted son of the late Giuseppe and Crocifissa (Guciarde), he was the beloved husband of the late Tina (Tranquillo), dear brother of the late Francesca Marino and her late husband, Antonio, Maria Ferrante and her late husband, Gregorio, Salvatore and his late wife, Filippa and Mario and his surviving wife, Liberata. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and great nieces and great nephews.



Funeral from the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St, Revere on Saturday, December 18 at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Anthony's Church, Revere at 11 a.m. Relatives and friends are kindly invited. Masks will be required when entering the Funeral Home and St. Anthony's Church. Entombment will be in Woodlawn Mausoleum. For guest book please visit [www.Buonfiglio.com](http://www.Buonfiglio.com).

### Nancy Barbero

Lifelong East Boston Resident

Nancy L. (Socci) Barbero died unexpectedly on December 9 at the age of 91.

The beloved wife of 66 years to John A. Barbero of East Boston, she was the most loving and caring mother of Catherine L. (Barbero) Liberatore and her husband, Robert R. of Wilmington and cherished and adoring grandmother of Anthony J. Liberatore of Boston's North End.

Mom was born on January 8, 1930 in East Boston where she grew up in a loving and close family. Her parents were the late Stephen Socci and Lucia (LaFratta) Socci. She was the youngest of seven children and the dear sister of the late Paul N. Socci, Mary Guarnera/DiVincenzo, Carmen Socci, Austin Socci, Ann C. McNulty and Antonio Socci. She is also lovingly survived by her dear sister-in-law, Gilda Albanese and many beautiful nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Mom and Dad met at the Central Theatre in East Boston when they were teenagers. She was taken with his black curly hair and usher's uniform and he, her beauty. They fell in love and married in 1955, both at the age of 25.

As a young woman, Mom worked in millinery on Kingston Street in Boston where she made hats for various department stores. She also enjoyed her time working in the giftwrapping department at R.H. White's Department Store in Boston.

In later years, Mom was active with the senior program at the East Boston Social Center where she enjoyed gathering with friends, playing bingo, going on an occasional field trip and participating in the various holiday luncheons at Spinelli's.

Mom and Dad were both so elated the day their grandson, Anthony was born. Mom absolutely



adored and loved him with all her heart, not to mention how proud she was of him. Her face would light up at the sight of him or the sound of his voice on the phone.

Throughout her life, Mom cherished and enjoyed her time spent with family and friends, sharing in so many beautiful memories with them. It was her love of family and friends, her caring and generous nature and wonderful sense of humor that were contagious. As a daughter writing this I can only say, my precious angel here on earth has left us, leaving a great emptiness. May she be at peace and at the heights of heaven with God, joyously reunited with her dear family and friends who have gone before her. God bless you and rest your soul, Mom. Until we meet again, I will carry you forever in my heart. With all my love always, Cathy. Funeral Services were conducted in the Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals, Revere on December 14. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. Remembrances may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105-9959 or MSPCA Office of Development, 350 So. Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130-9923. To send online condolences, please visit [www.vertuccioand-smith.com](http://www.vertuccioand-smith.com). Funeral Arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals.

## Eastie's weekly COVID infections increase dramatically

By John Lynds

East Boston and the city's weekly COVID positive test rate continues to rise dramatically post Thanksgiving and ahead of the Christmas Holiday.

A week after Mayor Michelle Wu announced several measures to help combat the explosive rise in cases in Boston, Eastie's weekly positive test rate approached 8 percent last week and the city-wide weekly positive test rate neared 7 percent. Last Monday, Wu said Boston health officials will distribute 20,000 free rapid antigen home tests, offer free masks to neighborhoods with the highest rates of COVID-19 and appointed a 17-member COVID advisory board to help with the latest outbreak.

Last week, 2,398 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 7.8 percent were positive--this was a 16.4 percent increase from the 6.7 percent that tested positive as reported by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on December 6. The weekly positive test rate has now jumped 86 percent in Eastie over

the course of two weeks.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also increased dramatically last week. According to the BPHC 28,854 residents were tested and 6.7 percent were COVID positive--this was a 29 percent increase from the 5.2 percent reported by the BPHC on December 6 and a 67 percent increase over the course of two weeks.

One hundred eighty seven additional Eastie residents contracted the virus between November 29 and December 6, and there are now 9,070 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 2.7 percent last week and went from 89,745 cases to 92,170 confirmed cases in a week. There were six additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,478.

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# Boston Logan Airport officials celebrate opening of new Terminal C Canopy and Upper Deck

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), airline partners, and other stakeholders celebrated the completion of the new Terminal C Canopy and Upper Deck at Boston Logan International Airport. The two-year project increased the efficiency of the space by adding travel lanes and curb space at the terminal's entrance for easier passenger pickups and drop-offs and created a modern canopy that provides more weather protection and natural light. This project plays a significant role in the overall roadway project that will reduce congestion between Logan's two busiest terminals, B and C.

"We're delighted to unveil the new Terminal C Canopy. This is just one of our key initiatives in a long-term plan to improve the customer experience, reduce congestion and air emissions, and build a more sustainable airport to support the region's economy," said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. "Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we strategically advanced several key initiatives, like this one, to prepare the airport for the rebound in air travel and economic activity."

Built in 1967, Terminal C is Logan Airport's busiest terminal, and home

to JetBlue Airways, Cape Air, Aer Lingus and TAP Air Portugal departures. The terminal served over 13.4 million passengers in 2019.

- Added four travel lanes and two curbs to the Departure level, and added two travel lanes and one curb to the Arrival level to reduce bottlenecks at the passenger drop-off and pickup areas;

- Replaced the old canopy with a bigger, sustainable structure that provides more natural lighting by using a skylight material, called Ethylene Tetrafluoroethylene, or ETFE, that is more aesthetic, offers more weather protection and natural light, and uses a much lighter material than a traditional glass canopy;

- Installed 10,000 square feet of new rooftop solar panels, estimated to generate enough electricity to power 12 homes per year; and

- Added three high-efficiency elevators at the terminal to improve pedestrian flow to and from Central Parking.

"This project is more than just putting a new roof over the terminal entrance. This is about ensuring Logan Airport provides a safe, modern and world-class facility while maintaining our commit-

ment to sustainability," said Massport Director of Capital Programs & Environmental Affairs Luciana Burdi. "Thanks to the collaboration of our airline partners and other stakeholders, our construction projects enhance the airport experience for all travelers, from the roadway to the terminal gate. We appreciate the patience of our passengers throughout the process."

A new plaque marking the completion of the Terminal C and Upper Deck project, in partnership with Gensler as the Lead Designer and Skanska as the Construction Manager, was also unveiled following the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The plaque will be permanently placed in the terminal's entrance.

At Logan Airport, Massport is investing to support economic growth, facilitate connections, increase efficiency, and improve the customer experience. A number of other construction projects to improve the passenger experience at Logan are ongoing, including the Terminal B-C Connector project. This new concourse will connect Terminals B and C post-security with renovated hold room space public art and exhibits and renovated aircraft gates. The Connector



Before



After

is expected to be completed next summer.

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) owns and operates Bos-

ton Logan International Airport, public terminals in the Port of Boston, Hanscom Field and Worcester Regional Air-

port. For more information, please visit massport.com.

# MassPACE honors Rep. Madaro for his work on legislation for seniors

By John Lynds

For years the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center's (EBNHC) Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, or PACE Program, has allowed seniors to live safely in their homes instead of in nursing homes. The Health Center has successfully implemented this national program to help seniors live with dignity and security at home by providing them the necessary support and services.

Rep. Adrian Madaro has been pushing legislation through the halls of Beacon Hill in an attempt to make the program more accessible to seniors not only in Eastie but across the state.

Madaro's bill, H.747 - An Act Increasing Awareness of Community Based PACE Programs for Older Adults, that is currently in committee would require the Department of Elder Affairs to provide information about this program to residents.

"I am very familiar with

the tremendous work of the Health Center's PACE Program in Eastie," said Madaro. "The challenge we have seen at the state level is that many seniors do not know this important program exists. My legislation would resolve that by making the program more accessible and allow more seniors in our community to age at home with the resources they need to thrive."

For his work on this legislation Madaro was honored by MassPACE with a 2021 Legislative Champion Award.

"I was humbled and honored to receive a 2021 Legislative Champion Award from the Mass PACE," said Madaro. "I'm deeply grateful for my partnership with MassPACE and the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center in our work to expand access to care that allows seniors to age in place with dignity, self-determination, and community."

PACE is a national program that serves individ-

uals 55 and over who are eligible for nursing home care. PACE is provided at the EBNHC as well as 27 other health centers across Massachusetts, including clinics and senior centers, covering 264 cities and towns across the Commonwealth.

Participants receive coordinated care from a dedicated team of healthcare workers and social service professionals, encompassing everything from primary care, behavioral health, therapy, prescriptions, as well as services such as meals and social support.

"The goal of PACE is to allow these seniors to age in place, and continue to receive care in their homes instead of being placed in nursing homes," said Madaro. "I've been able to see the great work PACE does first hand right in my district. The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center operates a PACE center that serves seniors throughout our neighborhood and the surrounding communities, as far out

as Stoneham. The team at EBNHC works diligently to provide seniors in our neighborhood with comprehensive care and services that keeps them happy, healthy, active, and, importantly, staying in place and involved in their local communities."

Madaro said his legislation is important because almost all seniors, if given the choice, would prefer to stay in their own homes and their own communities as they age instead of being forced to relocate to a nursing home because of health issues.

"For these seniors, PACE is invaluable," said Madaro. "In East Boston I've heard from many of my constituents about how this program has empowered them as they aged, providing them with medical care, therapy, and other services that help them live their daily lives in place, as well as keeping them active and involved outside of the house."

But the biggest barrier to accessing PACE is not knowing about it in the

first place. Many seniors who might be eligible, and risk being placed in a nursing home, are unaware that these services are available to them, or that they qualify.

"In order to make sure that more seniors are accessing this comprehensive, highly effective form of care, it's critical that we raise awareness, so that eligible seniors know that it exists, that it's an option, and have the information to decide if it is the right program for them," said Madaro.

"This legislation helps raise awareness of PACE by ensuring that information about local programs is made available to seniors seeking care through elder service agencies. It would require that the Department of Elder Affairs, including Aging Services Access Points, or ASAPs, be contracted by the department to disseminate information about PACE to eligible seniors as part of their existing information and referral responsibilities."

The bill would also require those seeking admission to a long-term care facility, such as a nursing home, under MassHealth, to be informed about PACE services as part of existing counseling or community-based options. "These very simple, easy additions to the existing law will go a long way toward ensuring that our seniors are informed about these important services that will allow them to age in place, stay healthy and engaged in their communities," said Madaro. "Our most senior neighbors are a cherished part of our cities, towns, and neighborhoods. They have often lived in our communities for most of their lives, and built them to be what they are today. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that they, utilizing these valuable, existing, comprehensive PACE services, are able to age in place wherever they call home."

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# Wu announces relaunch of Boston Opportunity Fund

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture announced applications have reopened for the City of Boston's Opportunity Fund, a grant program that supports meaningful one-time opportunities for artists living in the city of Boston to further develop their careers and help provide access and community engagement opportunities throughout the city.

"We have the opportunity to use every bit of Boston's diversity and creativity to grow our economy, support small businesses and help our communities recover. Arts and culture connect, heal, and inspire—and these investments in

the arts and our creative community will be a cornerstone of our recovery," said Mayor Michelle Wu.

The Opportunity Fund has two grant categories:

- Artist Career Development Grants provide support for professional development opportunities and expenses related to projects that help the applicant further their artistic career in a meaningful way.

- Community Arts Experiences Grants provide support for individual artists and teaching artists across various artistic disciplines who want to bring arts experiences into Boston neighborhoods that have been identified as having a lower concentration of

arts activities that are free, accessible, and open to the public.

Several changes have been made to the Opportunity Fund program this year, the biggest being that funding amounts have increased from \$1,000 grants to \$5,000 grants for the Artist Career Development category, and \$10,000 grants for the Community Arts Experiences category.

The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture will also be prioritizing artists who:

- live and/or work in communities that have had the highest rates of COVID-19 (e.g. Dorchester, East Boston, Hyde Park, and Mattapan),
- are from demographics

that saw the most economic impact due to COVID-19 (e.g. women, people of color, immigrants, artists who have lower levels of education, artists who identify as LGBTQIAP+),

- and have artistic professions that were most economically impacted by COVID-19 (e.g. performing and teaching artists).

"Shifting our focus to artists who have experienced the highest negative impacts of COVID-19 is crucial to Boston's city-wide recovery efforts," said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture for the City of Boston. "We're excited to support artists and communities in a more meaningful way."

This is the fifth year of the program, and over \$170,000 in grants were awarded to artists through the Opportunity Fund last fiscal year.

"I used this grant for my Vietnamese Buddhist youth girls to perform traditional Vietnamese dances," said 2021 Opportunity Fund grantee Nhi Phan. "We perform at temples and the community, and we used this grant mainly for costumes, equipment, props, and transportation. This grant really lightened our financial load and helped spread culture through the art of dancing."

"The Opportunity Fund grant helped me buy music equipment during the

pandemic that would otherwise be inaccessible to me," said 2021 Opportunity Fund grantee Hannah Enoy. "It's important that our city makes it a priority to financially support independent artists and women of color so that our creative communities can flourish and have access to the resources they deserve."

In FY22 nearly \$245,000 will be available for grant distribution. The deadline to apply for the current round of funding is January 28, 2022 at 5 p.m. The grant will reopen for applications on March 7, 2022. The application and grant guidelines can be found at [boston.gov/opportunity-fund](http://boston.gov/opportunity-fund).

## Justice department awards more than \$17.5 million to support project safe neighborhoods

The Department of Justice has awarded \$314,273 to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EO-PSS) to administer Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) grant funds in the District of Massachusetts. Since

the program began in 2001, nearly \$7 million in federal grant funds have been allocated to the District of Massachusetts's violent crime reduction efforts.

PSN is a Department of Justice nationwide violent-crime reduction ini-

tiative coordinated by the U.S. Attorney's Offices. PSN brings together federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement officials, prosecutors and community leaders to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in a com-

munity and develop comprehensive solutions to address those issues. While the initiative was first launched in 2001, the Department strengthened the program in May 2021 by implementing a new strategy focused on reducing violent crime in the places we call home, not solely increasing the number of arrests or prosecutions.

Each U.S. Attorney's Office across the United States is responsible for creating a comprehensive strategy for reducing violent crime. The District of Massachusetts established an extensive network of law enforcement and community partners who have been fundamental to this strategy's success in six target cities: Boston, Brockton, Lawrence, New Bedford, Springfield and Worcester.

The distribution of grant funds to target cities across the state has enabled communities and organizations to implement programming focused on after-school activities, education, employment, re-entry for returning

citizens, law enforcement/community collaboration, and public service outreach projects, among others.

In Massachusetts, PSN projects include:

- Developing and sustaining community/law enforcement partnerships and strengthening their capabilities in targeted communities across the state by maximizing federal resources;

- Collaborating with state and local law enforcement on violent crime and illegal firearm prosecutions;

- Providing training for nearly 4,500 law enforcement personnel and community members on topics such as advancements in technology, empowering neighborhoods on addressing gang prevention; updates on new innovative community programs and partnerships; and officer safety training;

- Supporting community partners and outreach programs to address reentry barriers for returning citizens and empower youth to resist gang recruitment;

- Formulating tools to measure the performance of projects funded with PSN and other federal grants.

"Shootings and other violent crimes cause devastating injuries and death for victims, of course, but they also destabilize the communities in which they occur. That is why this Office continues to prioritize violent crime reduction efforts through the PSN initiative," said Acting United States Attorney Nathaniel R. Mendell. "This funding, in addition to the continued collaboration with our federal, state and local law enforcement partners, will enable us to develop tailored strategies that target the most violent criminals and make our communities safer."

PSN programs are led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices in collaboration with local public safety agencies, community stakeholders and other agencies and organizations that work to reduce violent crime.

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# THE 30TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL AT NORTH SHORE MUSIC THEATRE

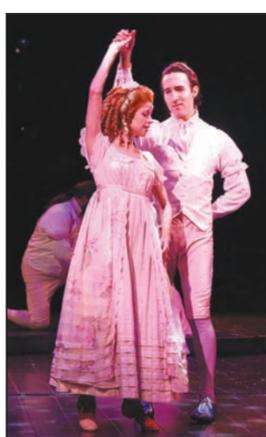
New England's brightest holiday tradition celebrates its 30th annual production! An original adaptation based on Charles Dickens' classic novella, *A Christmas Carol* is a musical ghost story following the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge through a series of strange and magical journeys, where he ultimately discovers the true spirit of the holiday season. Featuring dazzling special effects and traditional songs like *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, *Here We Come A-Wassailing*, *The Boar's Head Carol*, and *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*, this award-winning production was created specifically for North Shore Music Theatre and has been seen by more than one million people since its debut in 1989.



David Coffee celebrates his 27th year as Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at North Shore Music Theatre.



Marcus M. Martin as the Ghost of Christmas Present.



Allsun O'Malley, as Belle, and Derek Luscutoff, as young Scrooge.



J.T. Turner as Mr. Fezziwig.



Sommer Carbuccia as the Narrator.



Cheryl McMahon celebrates her 27th year as Mrs. Dilber.



Leigh Barrett as the Ghost of Christmas Past.



Russell Garrett, as Bob Cratchit, with Leigh Barrett, as Mrs. Cratchit, and the Cratchit family.



Sommer Carbuccia, as the Narrator, and Quinn Murphy, as Tiny Tim.



David Coffee, as Ebenezer Scrooge, and Alex Puette, as Jacob Marley.



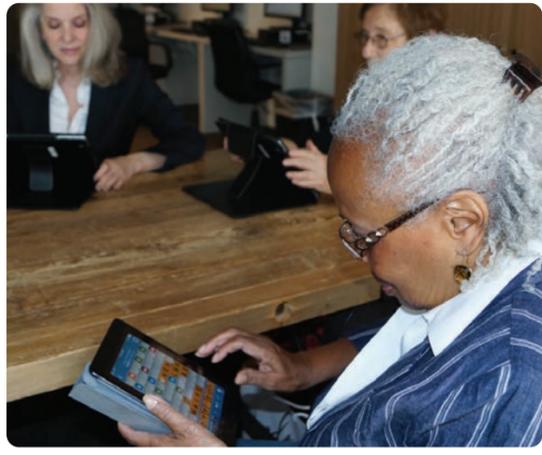
Turner Riley, as Meg, and Bronson Norris Murphy as Fred, with Marcus M. Martin, as the Ghost of Christmas Present.

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