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Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Mayor Wu swears in City Council

Delivers speech noting the
diversity of the governing body

By John Lynds

On Monday, in one of the shortest and perhaps the coldest Boston City Council inaugurations in recent history, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu swore in returning and new members of the Council outside City Hall.

Due to the rising number of COVID cases the event was moved outdoors for safety reasons and with a brisk chill in the air the entire inauguration was over in less than a half hour.

After swearing in the 12 members of the Council, Mayor Wu addressed the body and noted the historic significance of the day.

"This year marks 200 years since the Town of Boston officially became the City of Boston and created its very first city council 200 years ago," Mayor Wu began. "Those first 55 city councilors looked different from the body that we have just inaugurated today. One hundred years after the city council was created there still were no women and no people of color serving in the City of Boston. So as we mark this new year, it's truly not just about the passage of time,

but the progress that the city has seen, and that we will continue to rush into in this time of great consequence. I'm so excited to join my colleagues and celebrate our five new city councilors."

At-large Councilors include sitting Councilors Michael Flaherty and Julia Mejia, along with new Councilors Ruthzee Louijeune and Erin Murphy. Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, and 9 will be represented by sitting Councilors Lydia Edwards, Ed Flynn, Frank Baker, Ricardo Arroyo, Kenzie Bok, and Liz Breadon, respectively. Brian Worrell is a new Councilor who will represent District 4, Kendra Hicks is a new Councilor who will represent District 6, and Tania Fernandes Anderson is a new Councilor who will represent District 7.

Wu said the incoming Councilors sworn in during Monday's historic ceremony represent many key milestones.

"Tania Fernandes Anderson is the first African and first Muslim City Councilor who brings experience and service

See WU Page 4



The Sergeant at Arms leads Mayor Michelle Wu and the members of the Boston City Council to the Inauguration Ceremony Monday outside City Hall.



Left, Mayor Michelle Wu administers the oath of office to the Boston City Council. At-large Councilors include sitting Councilors Michael Flaherty and Julia Mejia, along with new Councilors Ruthzee Louijeune and Erin Murphy. Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, and 9 will be represented by sitting Councilors Lydia Edwards, Ed Flynn, Frank Baker, Ricardo Arroyo, Kenzie Bok, and Liz Breadon, respectively. Brian Worrell is a new Councilor who will represent District 4, Kendra Hicks is a new Councilor who will represent District 6, and Tania Fernandes Anderson is a new Councilor who will represent District 7.

Ruggiero Family Memorial Home expands to the North Shore

By John Lynds

The Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, which was established in East Boston at the former Mazzarella Funeral Home in Orient Heights Square in 1999, has opened its second location in Peabody and will start serving the North Shore in the spring.

"I'm so excited and happy to announce our second location," said Fu-

neral Director and Founder Joseph Ruggiero II. "We received our occupancy permit for our new location at 10 Chestnut St in Peabody and are here to service families all over the North Shore. We have pre-planning services available to fit every need as well as at-need funeral and cremation services."

Ruggiero Family Memorial Home North Shore Chapel has taken over a

building that once housed law and professional offices. The Ruggiero Family rehabbed the entire structure into a modern, state-of-the-art funeral home.

Ruggiero's flagship funeral home in Orient Heights Square will remain in service as one of two family-owned independent funeral homes in East Boston. Up in Peabody, the North Shore Chapel will become the

only other independent family-owned funeral home in the City of Peabody. The other being the Conway Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home & Cremation Care.

"I truly believe in options for families," said Ruggiero. "There

shouldn't be just one restaurant in a city or one cafe or one store. I believe in giving family options and we are here to provide an alternative for residents across the North Shore."

The new funeral home is already accepting pre-planning services,

online pre-planning services as well as converting already established pre-planned services that may have been made with another funeral home. Ruggiero said the funeral home will also work with

See RUGGIERO Page 7



The outside of the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home's second location in Peabody. The Ruggiero Family Memorial Home North Shore Chapel will begin servicing North Shore Families in the spring.

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Forum

GUEST OP-ED

Develop a plan for 2022

IF COVID-19 HAS A BRAIN, IT'S MUCH SMARTER THAN US

We don't pretend to be experts in biology -- and maybe we've been watching too many science fiction movies these days -- but the ability of the COVID-19 virus to mutate (or shape-shift, in the lingo of sci-fi fans) in order to make itself both more transmissible and more evasive of vaccines makes us wonder: Does COVID-19 possess intelligence?

If COVID-19 has a brain, it clearly has a much-higher IQ -- and more common-sense -- than the large number of human beings who refuse to get vaccinated and who do not take precautions to avoid the disease.

New statistics reveal that the death rate has risen particularly sharply for middle-aged white people. COVID-19 now accounts for a much larger share of all deaths for that group than it did before vaccines were widely available. To paraphrase the motto on New Hampshire license plates, some people choose to live free -- AND die,

There always will be a certain number of humans who do stupid things every day that result in their own deaths -- and those who are unvaccinated by choice fall into that category.

But in most places, the unvaccinated thankfully represent a small minority of people.

On the other hand, the new Omicron variant is sickening even those who are vaccinated at a rate much greater than at any time since the start of the pandemic. Up until the past few weeks, vaccinated persons were told they could feel fairly confident in the immunity supposedly conferred by the vaccines.

While it may be true that vaccinations still are hugely successful in limiting the number of deaths and serious illnesses requiring hospitalization, Omicron has upended the best-laid plans of even the most-cautious and health-conscious among us as we try to return to normal life.

The onslaught of the Omicron variant has affected almost every aspect of our daily lives, from travel to schools.

So does COVID-19 have a brain? Who knows?

But what we do know is that no matter what we throw at it, COVID-19 always is one step ahead of us.

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE.....

The lengthening of the daylight hours is imperceptible at first.

The least amount of daylight occurred on December 22, clocking in at nine hours, seven minutes. But by the end of this week, January 8, we'll have nine hours and 19 minutes of daylight, an increase of 12 minutes.

That may not seem like much, but it's noticeable when we go outside to take our sunset photos and realize that the sun is setting later each and every day.

The trend toward longer days will begin to accelerate, so that on January 30, we'll have exactly 10 hours of daylight.

Public health experts tell us that the next six weeks or so will be very difficult because of the impending widespread impact of COVID-19 thanks to the Omicron variant.

But as our days get longer and we get to enjoy more daylight, at least we will have something to brighten -- literally and figuratively -- the dark days that lie ahead.

By Glenn Mollette

Proverbs 29.18 "Where there is no vision the people perish. "Everyone needs a strategy. You may be 25 or 85 years in age. Who cares? Probably the only one who cares about your age is you. Your age either tells you that you are too young or too old. Remember, age is only a number. We have to put numbers aside and go with our hearts. If God is in it then don't worry about the number.

What do you want to do? One of the ways to know the will of God is

to determine what we believe we would enjoy doing. The will of God is what we would determine to do if we just had enough sense. We will never rise above what we do not want to do. If we want to do something our chances of success are greater.

What is stopping you? Consider your life and where you want to be and determine the blockades. Sometimes the greatest blockade is the decision to move forward. Until we make that decision we aren't going anywhere. Once we know then we

can assemble what is required to reach our destination.

Learn from the past and put it behind you. Past failures often eliminate us from life participation. We remember when we failed. A life that is fearful usually accomplishes far less than the life that has faith and confidence. Fear freezes us in our tracks.

Who are you today? Who you are and the direction you are going is far more important than where you have been. You can't change the past but you can steer your life in a

new direction.

Develop a life action plan. Why not plan a strategy for the next six months and even the next year? You and God can determine where you will be. Start today!

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.

City Council welcomes five new members

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston City Council held its first meeting of the year on Monday, with five new council members who had been sworn in just two hours earlier.

The Council welcomed new District 4 Councilor Brian Worrell, At-Large Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, District 6 Councilor Kendra Hicks, District 7 Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson, and At-Large Councilor Erin Murphy, who filled Michelle Wu's vacancy on the council after she was elected mayor. Departing City Councilors include: Andrea Campbell, Matt O'Malley, Anissa Essaibi-George, Kim Janey, and Michelle Wu, who now serves as Boston's mayor.

Per City Council General Rules, the eldest member of the City Council presides over the meeting if neither the president nor the president pro tempore are present. Therefore, Councilor Liz Breadon presided over the beginning of the meeting until Ed Flynn was elected the new council president. Also in attendance in the Christopher A. Iannella Chamber were Mayor Michelle Wu and Rep. Aaron Michlewitz.

"This is what democracy looks like," Breadon said. "It took a huge effort to get us here today."

This Council welcomed its first Haitian-American member, Ruthzee Louijeune, as well as the first woman of color to serve as the District 6 councilor, Kendra Hicks. The City Council also welcomed Brian Worrell, the first Black man on the council since 2017, and the first Cape Verdean immigrant and first Muslim councilor, Tania Fernandes Anderson.

The Council then unanimously voted to elect Ed Flynn as the new council president, and he took over the rest of the meeting.

"Thank you to my colleagues for placing their trust in me as your incoming City Council president," Flynn said. "I am honored to be elected by my colleagues as president of the Council. I'm humbled by the trust you have placed in me."

He also said he was "honored" to have five new council members this term. "We're so fortunate to have such well-experienced and educated incoming colleagues," Flynn said.

Councilor Louijeune who lives in Hyde Park, is a "lawyer and advocate working for working people," Flynn said. Councilor Murphy, he said, is "an educator with decades of experience in the classroom."

Councilor Worrell is a "small business owner with deep roots in his community," Councilor Hicks is "an artist, a community organizer, an activist; and we know that she'll continue her advocacy for her district here at City Hall," and Councilor Fernandes Anderson is a "strong advocate for our children and families," Flynn said.

"Each of you have demonstrated your dedication to public service to earn this job, and I am confident—and I know our colleagues are confident—that you will make a difference for the people of Boston, and we look forward to working with you on many issues impacting now just your district, but also the City."

Flynn then talked about the Council's focus heading into this term, saying that civic groups and constituents have asked him about it.

"During my time at the Council, this body has kept public health, housing affordability and stability, equity, social, and economic justice at the forefront of every discussion we have when it comes to our role in government, and I know that will continue," Flynn said. "It is critical that we continue to always be mindful of issues impacting our seniors, persons with disabilities, working families, veterans, communities of color, and our immigrant neighbors as well. As councilors, our job is not always in the news, but the important work we do in city government and our neighborhoods is critical."

Flynn also talked about the spike in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks as the Omicron variant continues to spread. He urged the importance of heeding "the guidance of our scientists and public health professionals, and to stress to our neighbors the importance of vaccines, boosters, face coverings to limit the spread of the virus or its impact when we have breakthrough cases."

He continued, "Boston is a city with great spirit, history, and pride. Our communities deserve to have a city government that listens and works with them."

The Council addressed two late file matters filed under the provisions of Section 17F of the City Charter, which is essentially an information request. Both matters were filed by Councilor Frank Baker, and the first requests information relating to the recently announced mandate around COVID vaccinations in the City for City employees, and the second requests information relating to the Best Western Roundhouse Hotel,

which is currently vacant and has been proposed to be used for services and housing for unhoused people. The mayor is required to respond to the requests within one week.

"Sorry this is unorthodox filing this, but we're in a period here now where we won't have any hearings; we don't have any committees," Baker said at Wednesday's Council meeting. "Both of these things are looking to be implemented in the month of January, so that's why we have the 17Fs."

With regards to the first matter, Baker said he is "not taking a position" on the COVID vaccination mandates announced by Mayor Wu, but he said he is seeking "clarification" on certain points, including "what jurisdiction" the city has on mandating private businesses to comply with the mandate, as well as "hundreds of people can potentially lose their jobs...every department's going to be affected by this," he said. He also said he wants to know if people will be allowed to return to work if they do comply with the mandate.

For the Roundhouse Hotel matter, "I couldn't be any more different from what the pathway that this administration is taking right here," Baker said. He said he wants to know who will hold the lease, and what monetary "commitment" will be required from the city, as well as other things like the level of security and whether or not drugs will be "used" on site.

The Council voted to suspend the rules and passed both matters.

The next City Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 26 at noon.

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Eastie’s Ricardo Patron to become Mayors Wu’s Press Secretary

By John Lynds

East Boston resident and City Councilor Lydia Edward’s Chief of Staff Ricardo Patron has been appointed by Mayor Michelle Wu to serve as press secretary. Patron will take over duties as Wu’s press secretary on Monday.

Patron first joined Councilor Edwards’ staff shortly after her inauguration in 2018 as her Eastie community liaison and took over as Director of Communications in 2020.

Patron then replaced Gabriela Coletta as chief of staff after Coletta left Edward’s office to work for the New England Aquarium last summer.

“Working for Lydia Edwards the last four years has been a life changing experience,” said Patron Tuesday. “I can’t thank her and the rest of the team enough for everything they’ve taught me. I’ve loved being a part of this team that worked so hard to represent the residents of East Boston, Charlestown, and the North End and helped bring so much change to Boston. I’m incredibly excited and humbled by this opportunity to join Mayor Michelle Wu’s administration and can’t wait to get started.”

Edwards had nothing but praise for her chief of staff and wished him well in his new endeavor.

“Congratulations to my dear friend Ricardo Patron,” said Edwards. “I am filled with joy and amazement at his growth,



East Boston’s Ricardo Patron has been tapped by Mayor Michelle Wu to serve as Press Secretary after serving three years in City Councilor Lydia Edward’s office. Shown is Patron with Councilor Edwards.

intelligence and immense potential. He started as a part time liaison then became Chief of Staff and now he is the voice for the Mayor of Boston. Along with being bilingual, he is loyal, an advocate, professional and kind. Naturally he is suited to be the voice of our Mayor. He knows so much about being new to our country and city and exemplifies the dreams and experience of so many immigrants. Ricardo really makes us all proud. Speak now, for the Mayor, to all of us. We are listening and so excited that you made history.

It’s rare that you bond so much with staff that they become friends. It’s even more rare that they are like family. Ricardo, on behalf of District 1, job well done.”

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

PRESSLEY TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) issued the following statement after receiving a positive COVID-19 test result.

“After experiencing COVID-like symptoms, this morning I received a positive, breakthrough COVID-19 test result. Thankfully, my symptoms are relatively mild, and I am grateful to be fully vaccinated and boosted. I am currently isolating and following all health protocols in order to mitigate further spread and keep my loved ones and community safe.

“Vaccines save lives. With this unprecedented pandemic continuing to rage, I am deeply grateful for the scientists, researchers, and frontline healthcare workers who have worked tirelessly to develop vaccines that are safe and effective, and ensure that our communities are protected. I encourage everyone to do their part by getting vaccinated, boosted and masking up. I wish everyone a safe and happy new year and look forward to continuing to fight for the robust relief our communities in the Massachusetts 7th need and deserve.”

TRIAL COURT ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO COURT OPERATIONS

In response to the current situation in the Commonwealth with respect to COVID-19, the Trial

NEWS IN BRIEF

Court today issued an order that outlines changes to court operations. Massachusetts trial courts will remain physically open to the public to conduct business and will operate in accordance with protocols that enhance the health and safety of court users and personnel.

The order and related operational guidance issued to the Trial Court today include the following:

- Remote court operations shall be used wherever possible. Courts may continue to hold in-person proceedings in matters where a virtual proceeding is not practicable or would be inconsistent with the protection of constitutional rights.

- Trial Court departments shall reduce the number of staff working in person to no more than 50% of the total number of staff at a time and should separate their staff into not less than two teams that will alternate their time working in-person and remotely as deemed necessary by the department head. Security, Facilities and ELMO shall be exempt from the 50% reduction based upon job function.

The Trial Court also issued additional health screening protocols and updated information on masking in courthouses. Beginning on Monday, January 3, 2022, the Trial Court will re-introduce the use of screening questions to determine if anyone entering a courthouse, including court staff and the public, has a temperature, is feeling unwell, or has received a positive

COVID-19 test, has been exposed to COVID-19, or has symptoms.

The Trial Court mask requirement will remain in effect. Employees, court users and other individuals who work in or visit a courthouse must wear masks that completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps. The use of gaiters, bandanas, or face shields will not be allowed as a substitution for a mask. Court Officers will enforce the requirement to properly wear a mask for court visitors. The Trial Court will provide a mask to those who do not have an acceptable mask when entering a courthouse once the Trial Court Security Department has a sufficient quantity for distribution.

SJC PAUSING ALL JURY TRIALS

Supreme Judicial Court issues new order pausing in response to the current situation in the Commonwealth with respect to COVID-19, the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) issued an order pausing all jury trials in Massachusetts state courthouses until January 31, 2022. All courts otherwise will remain open for in-person business, with a continued emphasis on conducting matters remotely whenever possible.

Today’s order partially amends the existing order regarding court operations during the pandemic, which was issued by the SJC on July 1, 2021 and became effective July 12, 2021.

First Suffolk & Middlesex General Election set for Tuesday, January 11

By John Lynds

On Tuesday, January 11 East Boston voters are reminded to head to the polls during the First Suffolk & Middlesex Special Election General Election and cast their ballots for state senator.

District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards, who won the state primary against Revere’s Anthony D’Ambrosio on December 14, will be alone on the ballot as there is no Republican challenger.

The election to fill the seat vacated by Joseph Boncore will take place in the Boston neighborhoods of East Boston, the North

End, Beacon Hill, Charlestown, Bay Village, the South End as well as Revere, Winthrop and Cambridgeport.

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, January 11. 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. Voting will be traditional, in-person on Election Day, and by excused Absentee Ballot only. Voters have until Wednesday, January 5, at 5 p.m. to apply for an Absentee Ballot at www.boston.gov/departments/elections/how-vote-absentee-ballot.

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. Voter entrance is on the left side of the building on Brooks Street.

Precinct 11, Cheverus School Apartments - 10 Moore St. Vote in the lobby. Voter entrance is through the parking lot from Chaucer Street to the left of the main entrance.

Precinct 12, Orient Heights Yacht Club - 61 Bayswater St. Vote in the function room.

Precinct 13, Curtis Guild Elementary School - 195 Leyden St. Vote in the gymnasium. Voter entrance is at 195 Leyden street to the far right of the building.

Precinct 14, Overlook Terrace - 40 Vallar Rd. Vote in the community room.




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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, January 18, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.** a public meeting of the East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc., (aka PIERPAC) will be held remote and via ZOOM. There will be no in person meeting at this time due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.
A Link to the meeting with instructions for remote participation shall be posted on the organization’s website (ebpierpac.org) on or before **January 13, 2022.**
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, December 14, 2021 6:35 pm
New Business
a. 6:45 pm - Anthony Guerriero, Massport, PhaseII update
b. 7:15 pm - Review of Proposed Amended By-Laws
c. 7:30 pm - Treasurer’s Annual report
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.
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 will also be 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 3 days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting.
East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc.
By: Louise Montanino, President

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 18 de enero de 2022 a las 6:30 pm**, una reunión pública del Comité Asesor del Proyecto de East Boston, Inc., (también conocido como PIERPAC) via ZOOM.
No habrá una reunión en persona en este momento debido a la pandemia de COVID-19 en curso. Se publicará un enlace a la reunión con instrucciones para la participación remota en el sitio web de la organización (ebpierpac.org) a más tardar el 13 de enero de 2022.
La intención del Comité es debatir en sesión abierta los siguientes asuntos:
REUNIÓN REGULAR
a. Asistencia 6:30 pm
b. Aprobación del Acta 14 de diciembre de 2021 6:35 pm
NUEVO NEGOCIO
a. 6:45 pm - Anthony Guerriero, Massport, PhaseII update
b. 7:15 pm - Revisión de los Estatutos Enmendados Propuestos
c. 7:30 pm - Informe del Tesorero 2021
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
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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Maureen DiBella | Sioux Gerow | Deb DiGregorio | Kathy Bright-Procopio

Wu // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and creativity that shines through with every action and statement she makes,” said Wu. “Kendra Hicks is the first woman of color to represent District 6 and she is an activist, organizer, artist and inspiration and I’m so excited to work alongside her. Ruthzee Louijeune is the first Haitian-American City Councilor and someone whose love of Boston has been clear from the very earliest days growing up in the city, who gave tours celebrating the beauty of Boston and has now brought her experience in law to serve her community. Erin Murphy, a BPS teacher, single mother, and advocate for those struggling with addiction and substance abuse is already starting to fight for you and Brian Worrell, a small business owner and the first Black man to serve on the Council since 2017 who is already a great partner.”

Wu added that she knows the deep responsibility that constituents placed upon her and the Council and knows first hand the power of the Boston City Council to make sure the city is moving forward on the issues.

“So as our new colleagues join alongside our returning colleagues, those who have been proud and honored to serve alongside for many, many years, I know the progress that we will continue to see in the city,” she said. “At this moment our constituents and our community expect us to move with urgency to open doors for everyone and to deliver results. We’re ready to partner in every way.”

Wu then addressed the surging Omnicron variant of the COVID-19 virus that is spreading like wildfire across the city with nearly 2 out of every 10 people tested last week in the city were found to be positive.

“We are all here at an inauguration that looks very different from the one we expected even a couple of weeks ago,” said Wu. “Sitting here outside in the cold we must let this be a reminder of what so many in our city have to live with every single day. Our residents who have been standing outside in the cold for hours waiting for a test to make sure they can keep their family safe. We must do better. Our residents who are living unhoused in tents at Mass and Cass and across the city, we’re taking action and we must do better. And for so many residents who have been outside in the cold because of sys-

tems that have not seen and valued every single one of our community members we are going to do better and I look forward to the collaboration with the City Council to make that happen. With this new year, let us find warmth in each other even as we face stiff headwinds. We will make progress and make sure that we are always holding the light of our Boston residents in front of us and build that community that we need and we deserve in 2022.”



The National Anthem is performed by Danielle Conchita.



Mayor Michelle Wu listens to the invocation.



At Large City Councilors Ruthzee Louijeune and Julia Mejia.



Bishop Nicolas Homcil delivers the invocation.



Mayor Michelle Wu is interviewed by the media following the Inauguration Ceremony.



Mayor Michelle Wu administers the oath of office to the Boston City Council.



District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards and former Boston Mayor Martin Walsh.



Mayor Michelle Wu prior to heading outside for the ceremony.



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Mayor Michelle Wu addresses the City Council during Monday's Inauguration Ceremony.

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Local charter public school “Levels Up” its academic program

Jorleny, a second year student at the Phoenix Charter Academy Chelsea, approaches the stage for the third time this evening as a crowd of her peers and teachers cheer her on. She’s already received two certificates for completing Humanities I and Math I, her last two classes as a Category I student, Phoenix’s equivalent of the freshman year of high school. Now, she approaches the stage to receive a “Level Up” Award, officially recognizing and celebrating her advancement to Category II, or what is known as sophomore year in most high schools. She’s 25% closer to graduation, and it’s only December.

Level Up Ceremonies, a new initiative at Phoenix Chelsea, occur six times a year, roughly every six weeks. During these ceremonies, students receive



A'Niarya's daughter shows off her mother's diploma during Phoenix Chelsea's first ever Level Up Ceremony in September of 2021.



Three students show off their course completion certificates and attendance awards after the October ceremony. These same students would all level-up in December, and their names, from left to right, are Perla (East Boston), Jemima (Everett), and Marquise (Revere).

certificates and recognition for completing courses, Leveling Up (advancing to the next grade level), or even graduating. At the most recent ceremony on December 9th, eleven students were celebrated for perfect attendance, 33 course completion certificates were awarded, and ten students leveled up a category. “We’re seeing impressive student growth this year,” says Stella Dubish, Head of School. “These ceremonies are an important way to validate that growth, and encourage our students to keep pushing.”

In 2018, the Phoenix Charter Academy Network implemented Competency Based Learning, a model that uncouples student progress from the calendar year. In this model, students don’t wait until the end of the year to finish courses or advance grades; they move when-

ever they demonstrate mastery of the competencies, or skills, that they need. “If a student moves up a Level in December, we can’t wait until June to celebrate that,” says Ms. Dubish. “We needed something to mark that achievement sooner, to affirm them and keep that progress going.”

Like many schools, Phoenix Chelsea struggled to engage students after closing down their physical school during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Many of Phoenix’s students, half of whom are over 18, work part-time or even full-time jobs. School leaders say that students took on extra hours to support their families and save some extra money, one reason why attendance and progress in online classes was lower than they would have liked. Level Up Ceremonies are one



Six students show off their “Level Up Certificates” at the December ceremony, along with two school leaders. accompanied by Stella Dubish (far right), Head of School. From left to right: Audrey Jones (Director of School Culture), Danny (Chelsea), Perla (East Boston), Jemima (Everett), Marquise (Revere), Milleny (Everett), Jorleny (Chelsea), and Stella Dubish (Head of School).

way the school is working to rebuild the culture of engagement and achievement.

“I feel happy, I feel excited for myself, and I feel proud of myself. [Last year was] a hard year for me, but I tried the best I could to do a lot of work,” says Jorleny. When asked about the value of the Level Up Ceremonies, Jorleny shares, “We get excited because Phoenix recognizes us for our hard work, and it pushes us to move more and work more.”

As the Level Up Cere-

mony commences, Tanya Silverstein and Vianca Rodriguez, the school’s Managers of Scholar Success, emphasize the value of the moment for all students, not only those being recognized. As they share with the students in attendance, in both English and Spanish, “Look around you - this will be you if you keep working, stay focused, and follow in the footsteps of those students who are being celebrated today.”

The Phoenix Charter Academy Network

was founded in 2006 and serves over 500 students across Massachusetts, with schools in Chelsea, Lawrence, and Springfield. A network of alternative schools, its mission reads: “The Phoenix Charter Academy Network operates schools that challenge resilient, disconnected students with rigorous academics and relentless supports, so they take ownership of their futures and succeed in high school, college, and as self-sufficient adults.”

Temple Ohabei Shalom to celebrate 180 years

By John Lynds

Members of the oldest Jewish congregation in Massachusetts are gearing up to celebrate their 180th anniversary this year and have some special plans in store for East Boston.

The Temple Ohabei Shalom congregation, which was founded in 1842, built its first synagogue in Brookline in 1844 and also established the Temple Ohabei Shalom Cemetery on Woodsworth Street in Eastie the same year with the support of the Boston City Council.

To mark 180 years since the congregation’s founding, members are planning to plant 18 trees in Eastie with the help of Tree Eastie. Each tree will represent a decade of the congregation’s existence.

At a Harbor View Neighborhood Association meeting Monday night, board member Matt Barison said because the cemetery is on the National Register of Historic Places the trees can not be planted inside the gates of the cemetery but members are working with Tree Eastie to look for alterna-

tive sites around the cemetery.

“The trees cannot be planted in the cemetery itself,” said Barison. “So some folks from the congregation and Tree Eastie did a walk around in the immediate vicinity and identified some sites where those trees could be planted. One of the sites is on the Wordsworth Street side of the cemetery where the Salesians Boys and Girls Club rear entrance is. There’s a big empty landscaped area and discussions are ongoing with the leadership of the Boys and Girls Club. So stay tuned for more information on that event, but we certainly welcome the congregation’s desire to plant 18 new trees in our neighborhood.”

Tree Eastie has been working for a few years now to increase the neighborhood’s tree canopy by working with the city and other stakeholders. The goal is to get hundreds of new trees planted throughout the neighborhood.

For over a decade the Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts

See CELEBRATE Page 6



The historic Ohabei Shalom Cemetery Chapel on Wordsworth Street. Members of the Temple Ohabei Shalom congregation are planning tree planting in Eastie to commemorate the congregation’s 180th anniversary.

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Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund reconciliation report released

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts today released a report from KPMG, LLP summarizing the findings of a reconciliation project that examined the finances of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund. The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development commissioned KPMG to conduct this independent assessment to determine the impact of federal pandemic relief programs and other effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the financial status of the Commonwealth's unemployment system and the UI Trust Fund balance for the period from the beginning of the pandemic in March, 2020 through November 30, 2021.

The report outlines the steps KPMG took to evaluate the balance of the UI Trust Fund and provides an overview of the current status of the fund, including the effects of several outstanding financial obligations on the Trust Fund. These obligations include the necessary repayment of federal advances that ensured the Fund's solvency in 2020 and currently outstanding employer credits resulting from a mid-2021 downward adjustment in UI rates. The report also identifies the need for a one-time transfer of approximately \$300 million from funds currently held in the UI system to the federal government to reconcile state and federal accounts now that emergency programs implemented under federal authority in 2020 and 2021 have come to a close.

As of November 30, 2021 the unadjusted UI Trust Fund balance was reported at \$2.94 billion. The KPMG analysis concludes that this reported balance needs to be assessed in light of outstanding federal loan obligations, outstanding employer credits, and a future additional reimbursement due to the federal government. When these adjustments are factored in, the KPMG analysis concludes that UI Trust Fund had a \$115 million structural deficit at the time of the reporting period. The details of these adjustments are as follows:

- Outstanding Federal Loans: Massachusetts owes \$2.3 billion in outstanding loan obligations, due in November 2022, to the federal government to repay necessary borrowing during the pandemic.
- Outstanding Employer Credits: The reported UI Trust Fund balance includes \$415 million in employer credits that were

the result of the mid-year reduction in 2021 employer UI rates. Net 2022 Employer contributions will be reduced by application of these 2021 Employer credits.

- Future Federal Adjustment: The Commonwealth anticipates it will need to make a future one-time transfer of approximately \$300 million to the federal government to reconcile automated bank returns of benefits issued from various state and federally funded UI programs. EOLWD is currently awaiting guidance from USDOL regarding administrative procedures to process this reconciliation.

This report does not include the effects of legislation recently signed by Governor Baker that will invest \$500 million to stabilize the UI Trust Fund. The report's assessment of the UI system's current financial position underscores the importance of this investment, given the unprecedented impact of

the pandemic on the unemployment system and the need to ensure continued solvency to be able to pay claims in the future.

The comprehensive accounting of the UI Trust Fund balance and financial position will also inform the Commonwealth's efforts to issue bonds that will support the repayment of the federal advances that were authorized in 2020 and begin to restore the UI Trust Fund to a more solvent level.

Eastie's weekly COVID positive test rate explodes, increases 109 percent

By John Lynds

The COVID 19 virus is spreading like wildfire across East Boston with 2 out of every 10 residents tested for the virus last week turning out to be positive and a certain degree of panic has set in as children returned to school Tuesday.

Over at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, staff tested over 2,700 residents over a four day period and lines at testing sites across the city have reached epic proportions.

With both patrons and employees of indoor venues—including indoor dining, fitness, and entertainment establishments—required to show proof of vaccination beginning on January 15 the latest surge shows no sign of slowing.

Last week, 2,737 Eastie residents were tested

for the virus last week and 21.5 percent were positive--this was a 109 percent increase from the 10.3 percent that tested positive as reported by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on December 27. The weekly positive test rate has now jumped 165 percent in Eastie since December 20.

The new cases in Eastie made up 9.5 percent of all new cases in Boston last week.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also neared 20 percent last week. According to the BPHC 36,788 residents were tested and 18.2 percent were COVID positive--this was a 94 percent increase from the 9.4 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on December 27. The weekly positive test rate has increased 172 percent in Boston since December

20. Five hundred eighty-eight additional Eastie residents contracted the virus between December 27 and January 3 and there are now 10,127 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 6 percent last week and went from 102,162 cases to 108,336 confirmed cases in a week. There were 7 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,510.

Celebrate// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

(JCAM) Charitable Foundation has been raising money and restoring the historic Ohabei Shalom Chapel on Wordsworth Street with several projects in the works.

Built in 1903 the Ohabei Shalom Chapel served as a mortuary chapel for the adjacent Jewish Cemetery. The cemetery was established in 1844, and was the first Jewish Cemetery in the state that served Boston and Mystic Valley's Jewish population.

According to plans the JCAM will complete a historic restoration of not only the chapel to create

the neighborhood's first immigration center but also the cemetery's perimeter.

JCAM's Director of Development Lisa Berenson recently reported that the JCAM completely restored the exits to the cemetery and completely renovated the exterior of the chapel through funds from the Mass Historical Commission, private foundations and donations.

JCAM's latest project is the fence at the back of the cemetery that borders Byron Street. For decades the chain link fence has rusted and has been an eyesore.

The retaining wall on Byron Street also needs work to fix years of decay. JCAM has been writing grants and has been able to get some funding. These funds will be used for wall restoration and a replacement fence at the back of the cemetery.

The JCAM also received funds from Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding last year. Under Historic Preservation \$40,000 went towards helping restore the wall on Byron Street that Berenson said was crumbling.

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United Way of Mass Bay welcomes Eastie’s Xavier Andrews as Director of Communications

United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley recently welcomed East Boston resident and former Communications Director for the Boston Public Schools (BPS) Xavier Andrews as its new Director of Communications.

In this role, Andrews joins the region’s largest United Way as it launches a series of activities to build on the organization’s core strengths of impact, partnerships, and mobilization of resources to empower individuals, families and communities as they recover and rebuild amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

In his previous role as Communications Director

for BPS Andrews worked to advance the district’s mission to close opportunity gaps and provide an excellent and equitable education to every student. Andrews developed and executed media strategy, provided direct support to the leadership team, coordinated stakeholder engagement, and oversaw both internal and external communications.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Andrews worked closely with his City of Boston colleagues to ensure students, families, and the larger community were informed of the resources and assistance available to them, approaching communications strategy with

diverse and multilingual audiences in mind.

“I am so excited to join United Way and continue my service to the Greater Boston community that raised me,” said Andrews. “I look forward to leveraging my public and governmental relations experience to promote and advance United Way’s critical and life-changing community impact work, as we expand our support of individuals and families.”

Xavier holds a bachelor’s degree in communications from Salve Regina University. A Dorchester native and Boston Public Schools graduate, Xavier currently lives in East Boston with his partner.

“Xavier’s background and experience will be incredibly relevant as we continue to raise awareness of the issues facing our communities and ways we are partnering to address them,” said United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley President and CEO Bob Giannino. “His established relationships with community organizations and knowledge of the local political landscape will be an immense asset as we continue to support economic recovery across the region for the vulnerable individuals and households most in need.”



Eastie’s Xavier Andrews announced as Director of Communications for United Way of Mass Bay.

RMV extending use of state-owned vehicles for road testing into 2022

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is announcing the agency will continue with the use of Commonwealth-owned vehicles for Class D road testing services through April 30, 2022 and has delayed the return to the use of private passenger vehicles for road tests.

Due to the pandemic and health and safety protocols, since June of 2020, the RMV has deployed a fleet of Commonwealth-owned vehicles for road tests which are cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis. Plans to return to private vehicles have been delayed and existing protocols will remain in place:

- All occupants of a vehicle used in a road test,

including the applicant, sponsor and examiner will continue to be required to wear a face covering.

- Windows will be open for ventilation.
- All vehicles will be cleaned prior to each test beginning.

Applicants with scheduled Class D road tests appointments in the new year will receive an email from the RMV notifying them of the use of state vehicles. Applicants are given time to become familiar with the state vehicle they will be using in Class D testing. Applicants for a Class M, or Motorcycle license, will continue to supply their own motorcycle for testing. Road test applicants scheduled for testing through a driving school should confirm

they have access to their school’s vehicle.

The RMV reminds all customers this winter season to visit Mass.Gov/RMV in inclement weather to ensure locations are open and honoring appointments and walk-ins. Cancellations and closures are posted on Mass.Gov/RMV.

The RMV has launched a new webpage to help applicants locate all information related to their road test, Mass.Gov/RoadTest. The page includes information on what to expect, videos to help prepare for the road test, links to checklists and applications to increase an applicant’s chance of passing their exam.

Ruggiero// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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“In most cases he will handle all of the arrangements for you personally,” said Ruggiero. “The caring and experienced professionals at Ruggiero Family Memorial Home are here to support you through this difficult time. We offer a range of personalized services to suit your family’s wishes and requirements. You can count on us to help you plan a personal, lasting

tribute to your loved one. And we’ll carefully guide you through the many decisions that must be made during this challenging time.”

To learn more about the services that the funeral home offers and the online funeral planning visit www.ruggieromh.com or call 617-569-0990 for East Boston or 978-595-3949 for the new Peabody location.

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But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.

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An Urgent Joint Message from Your Emergency Room Doctors and Nurses

The Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians (MACEP) and
Massachusetts Emergency Nurses Association (MENA)

We are overwhelmed.

Your Emergency Departments are at a breaking point.

Our Emergency Departments are at critical capacity and things will get worse. Waiting rooms are overflowing and hospital admission beds are limited throughout Massachusetts.

In the coming days and weeks, we will see more nurses, doctors, and support staff become infected and stay home to isolate and get well. This situation will challenge our Emergency Departments and hospitals even more.

Let us be clear, we do not want you to ignore your symptoms or avoid emergency care when needed. **You will be safely cared for despite the growing volume of patients with COVID-19.**

However, we ask you **NOT** to use Emergency Departments for routine testing for COVID-19 exposures or mild symptoms. Doing so is overwhelming our departments and staff and diverting our focus away from those who need us most.

So many of our sickest patients come to us unexpectedly: car crashes, injuries, strokes, heart attacks, appendicitis, behavioral health crises. Injury or illness might happen to a family member; it might happen to any one of us, at any time.

We ask you to help protect your Emergency Department safety net by working together and doing your part to reduce the spread of COVID-19, specifically Omicron.

Today we ask you to:

- Get vaccinated and get your booster. Omicron protection requires a booster.
- If you feel sick, isolate per CDC guidelines; get tested for COVID-19 at a test site or with an at-home test.
- Don't use Emergency Departments for routine testing for COVID-19 if you've only been exposed or have mild symptoms.
- During this Omicron surge, wear a mask around others (even if you're vaccinated) and socially distance.

We can only get through this crisis if we all do our part. We're in this together.

###

OBITUARIES

Gerald Mazzearella

Retired Boston Educator devoted to his Catholic Faith

Gerald Mazzearella, 77, passed away January 1, after a long illness.

A lifelong resident of East Boston, Gerald was born May 29, 1944. He was an educator both in his personal and professional life. During his 41-year career as a high school teacher, he impacted the lives of thousands of young people in the Boston Public Schools.

While he was often working two or more jobs and organizing a band, his true life's work was inspiring family and friends, instilling in them a love for wisdom and the Catholic Faith. He acted in union with his membership in the Knights of Columbus and the Third Order of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He was a diligent student until the end and a passionate defender of the eternal truths. When he was homebound, he treated his home as a monastery and designed a website to share Catholicism with others. His wish was that many people would visit homemonastery.org.

He was predeceased by his parents, Rafael (Ralph) and Maria Rosa Caristo Mazzearella, his brother Vincent (Sonny), and his son-in-law, Steven Frye. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Colbe Corcoran Mazzearella, and his eight children and their spouses: David and April



Anselmo Mazzearella, Lisa Frye, John and Maggie Mathews Mazzearella, Joseph and Kelly Dwyer Mazzearella, Mary Rose, Catherine and Oliver Domina, Theresa and Peter Lajoie, and Elizabeth, as well as 17 grandchildren: Rachel, Seth, Sarah, James, Maria, Thomas, Grace, Josephine, Nicholas, Zyah, Lily, Daniel, Elise, Lucia, Anna, Phoebe and Regina.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects from 5 to 8 p.m. today, Wednesday, January 5 at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston and again at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, January 6 to be followed by Funeral Services at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph-St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashley St., East Boston. Gerald will be laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. The family requests prayers for the repose of his soul. To leave an online condolence visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Douglas Wood-Boyle

A true Renaissance Man

The friends and family of Douglas "Doug" Wood-Boyle bade a final farewell to one of the most enlightened humans to grace their lives. Remembered as a true Renaissance Man, Doug's funeral service and life celebration was held recently at the United Parish of Auburndale, MA.

He passed away October 18, 2021 after a short illness. He was the husband of Linda Wood-Boyle for 34 years, making their home in Dorchester for the past 20 years. They were partners from the start and he readily added Linda's last name to his as an outward sign of that connection.

He was the son of the late Neal Boyle of Malden and the late Catherine (Rogers) Boyle of Everett and is survived by his brother, Neal and his wife, Sandy, as well as nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews and the many friends who loved him dearly. He was preceded in death by his brother, Lt. Colonel David Boyle.

Born in Everett, Doug grew up in Malden and Lynn. He graduated from Lynn English High School and earned an Associate's Degree from Leland Powers School of Communication. After graduation, he spent the next decade in radio, as well as touring throughout the country with a professional Children's Theater Group.

When not touring, he worked security (with his canine companion) for several large companies in the Boston area.

While working security, he began to freelance for several local newspapers, and that's where he found his true passion. He wrote for the Prime Times of Saugus, the Daily Times-Chronicle of Wakefield and Reading, the Chelsea Record and the Saugus Advertiser. Doug eventually became the editor of the Saugus Advertiser and the Wakefield Daily Times-Chronicle. He later served as the senior writer for the Middlesex East weekly publication, telling local human



interest stories. He was known for his ability to get people to trust him and open up to him and share their stories. He was genuinely interested in the person he interviewed and really listened to them. After retiring from newspapers, Doug worked as a public relations consultant for local cable access stations, including at the Wakefield Community Access Cable Channel. He also worked as freelance editor, photographer and food enthusiast for local newspapers and magazines in the Boston area.

In addition to his professional work, Doug served as a volunteer for many non-profits, including Recording for the Blind, SPAN, Inc., The United Parish of Auburndale, and several LGBTQ organizations.

Doug loved to perform in community theater groups, and if his arm was slightly twisted, would sing when requested. He and Linda shared that love of music and singing, another bond that sealed them in this life. He enjoyed traveling, any activity on the ocean, reading, and old and new friendships. He also deeply valued his relationships with family. Doug embraced everyone he met with humor and love, and the space he left behind is filled with memories of good times and good conversations.

Donations in Doug's memory can be made to the Outreach Fund, c/o the United Parish of Auburndale, 64 Hancock Street, Newton, MA 02466.

Funeral services were coordinated by the Burke and Blackington Funeral Home in Newton, MA.

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 ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING Docket No. SU21D1028DR D-Yanna Hagan vs. Gary Hagan Upon motion of plain-

tiff(s) for an order directing the defendant(s), to appear, plead, or answer, in accordance with Mass.R.Civ.P./Mass.R.Dom.Rel.P. Rule 4, it appearing to the court that this is an action for Divorce 1B. Pursuant to Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411, an Automatic Restraining Order has been entered against the above named parties. Defendant cannot be found within the Commonwealth and his/her present whereabouts are unknown. Personal service on defendant is

therefore not practicable, and defendant has not voluntarily appeared in this action. It is Ordered that defendant is directed to appear, plead, answer, or otherwise move with respect to the complaint herein on or before February 17, 2022. If you fail to do so this Court will proceed to a hearing and adjudication of this matter. Date: 12/17/2021 Brian J. Dunn Justice of Probate and Family Court

1/5/22
EB

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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

Wellness, not weight loss: Advice for starting the new year off right

For many of us, New Year's resolutions like quitting smoking, getting organized or losing weight are sweeping lifestyle changes, which often fail after a few days or weeks. At the Center for Weight Management and Wellness at Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital, experts in nutrition and wellness coach patients to focus on making changes that can be sustained for improved health in the long-term.

Registered dietitians Jenna Koroly, MS, RD, LDN, and Ema Barbosa Brown, MPH, MPH, RD, LDN, offer this advice: When considering your goals for the new year, start with small changes.

"If you are not currently in an exercise routine, setting a goal of working out five times per week for 30 minutes can be intimidating and challenging to maintain," says Koroly. "Instead, start with small bursts of physical activity that you enjoy, such as 10 minutes of walking each day or a 15-minute Zumba video three times per week."

When it comes to nutrition, the advice is the same:

Increase the amount of vegetables and fruit you eat per day. Vegetables and fruit contain beneficial vitamins, minerals and naturally occurring compounds called phytochemicals that help to reduce chronic disease risk. One serving of vegetables is 1 cup of raw vegetables or ½ cup of cooked vegetables. One serving of fruit is about ½ to 1 cup. See if you can gradually increase to 3 to 5 servings per day of vegetables, and 2 to 3 servings per day of fruit. Try meals such as zucchini noodles with turkey meatballs, a cauliflower rice stir fry or oatmeal with berries to increase you intake of vegetables and fruits.

Try something new. If you don't like vegetables or generally don't add them to your grocery list, try adding one new vegetable to your grocery list each week for four to eight weeks alternating between red/orange, purple and other colors, leafy greens and root vegetables. Vary the ways you prepare your vegetables for interest and palatability. You may choose to eat them raw (green salads, celery/cucumber/carrots with low fat dip), steamed (broccoli and zucchini), stir-fried (yellow bell peppers, sugar snap peas, carrots, mushrooms, baby corn, water chestnuts), roasted (sweet potato, red onions, bell peppers, scarlet turnips, beets, snap peas), baked (acorn squash, sweet potatoes) or added to stews and soups (yuca, collard greens, yellow squash, yautia/malanga, Brussels sprouts).

Vary your micronu-

trients and fiber. Do the same with fruits regarding color, taste and texture to vary the micronutrients and fiber they provide to enrich your eating pattern. Try a new fruit each week for several weeks until fruit becomes part of your weekly grocery list. Eat fruit as a snack, dessert or as part of a meal such as a fruit/yogurt smoothie for breakfast, cut up fresh fruit or canned fruit added to your salad or mashed bananas in your pancakes.

Make nutritious snack options more accessible. Keep a bowl of fruit on the kitchen counter, pre-portioned packages of nuts towards the front of the cupboard or in a drawer at work and Greek yogurts in the fridge to encourage yourself to reach for the healthy options. Consider a cupboard cleanout so there are nutritious options for everyone in the family.

Aim for mini sweet treats. The first few bites tend to be the most satisfying as our taste buds fatigue with additional bites. This can help you stay on track with your goals without depriving yourself of your favorite foods.

Koroly and Brown say the small changes approach can also be applied to other areas of your life.

"Stress management is key to a healthy lifestyle," says Brown. "I encourage my patients to aim for 10 to 30 minutes of self-care per day depending on their schedule. Deep breathing, meditation, physical activity, laughing with loved ones and listening to soothing music can all help to manage stress. Self-care may also include taking a nap when needed, going to sleep earlier or taking a warm bath."

It's also important to stay connected with friends and family by eating one daily meal together. If you live alone, try connecting with loved ones at a mutually agreed upon place (restaurant, place of worship, library, mall, park) or via video chat.

With these small changes, you'll be sure to enjoy 2022 from January through December!

Need help getting started? Speak to your primary care provider or call the Center for Weight Management and Wellness at 617-525-3597.

About Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital

Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital is a 171-bed non-profit, community teaching hospital located in southwest Boston. Founded in 1900, it offers comprehensive medical, surgical and psychiatric care as well as complete emergency, ambulatory and diagnostic services. For more information, visit www.brighamandwomensfaulkner.org.

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Baker-Polito administration announces release of the 2021 Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the release of the final 2021 Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan. Authorized by the Oceans Act of 2008, the ocean plan protects critical marine habitat and important water-dependent uses, and sets standards for ocean-based development. Under the Oceans Act, the ocean plan is required to be reviewed at least every five years, and the 2021 ocean plan now supersedes all previous plans.

“The newly released 2021 Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan provides important updates to the Commonwealth’s framework for balancing ocean uses and

resource protection,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “This update and amendment effort ensures the ocean plan continues to incorporate the best science and evolving policy perspectives for sound ocean resource management.”

“Ocean resources are of critical importance to our economy and way of life in Massachusetts,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. “The 2021 ocean plan showcases our Administration’s commitment to proactively and constructively manage evolving ocean uses to meet the needs of our citizens and communities.”

The original Massachusetts Ocean Management

Plan, released in 2009 in response to the Oceans Act of 2008, established protections for critical marine habitat and important water-dependent uses in the Massachusetts Ocean Management Planning Area and set siting and performance standards for specific ocean-based development. The Oceans Act requires the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) to review the ocean plan at least once every five years — a process led by the Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and supported by input from the Ocean Advisory Commission, Ocean Science Advisory Council, technical work groups

and a significant public engagement process. The final 2021 ocean plan contains revised maps of special, sensitive, or unique resources and water-dependent uses, a current assessment of the status and trends in ocean conditions and a Science Framework to ensure progress on key ocean management priorities over the next five years.

“Through the release of the 2021 ocean plan, the Baker-Polito Administration affirms its dedication to the responsible stewardship of ocean resources, which are critical to the state’s prosperity and to the protection of state ocean waters,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. “The 2021 ocean plan would not have been possible without the dedication of many individuals and organi-

zations, and I would like to personally thank all of these contributors for their commitment to ensuring the ocean plan meets the needs of the Commonwealth’s citizens, today and into the future.”

“The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management is committed to balancing the impacts of human activity with the protection of coastal and marine resources,” said CZM Director Lisa Berry Engler. “We at CZM are proud to play a leading role in ensuring the ocean plan remains an evolving document, revised periodically to adapt as better information and science is developed, policy goals evolve and experience in applying the management and administrative framework is gained.”

The review and update for the ocean plan was initiated in 2019. The process

was led by CZM on behalf of EEA and supported by the Ocean Advisory Commission, Ocean Science Advisory Council, technical work groups, stakeholder groups and public participation. In December 2020, the Review of the 2015 Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan was completed and published, launching the development of the 2021 ocean plan through continued expert and public input. Then on September 22, 2021, CZM issued the Draft 2021 Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan for public review, including four hearings and a 60-day public comment period, leading to today’s release of the final 2021 ocean plan. To download Volumes 1 and 2, see the 2021 Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan web page.

Minimum wage increase started Jan. 1

Attorney General Maura Healey is reminding employees and employers that the state’s minimum wage increased to \$14.25 per hour beginning Jan. 1, 2022.

The AG’s Office has also made available its wage and hour poster that employers are required to display in both English and any other language that is spoken by five percent or more of the employer’s workforce and for which a translated notice in that language is available from the AG’s Office. The poster is available in seven languages and in formats that employers, workers, members of the public, and organizations can easily access, free of charge.

“Our Fair Labor Division remains committed to protecting the rights of workers and ensuring they are being paid the wages they are legally entitled to, especially as we continue to work our way through

the COVID-19 pandemic,” said AG Healey. “We are issuing this notice and providing multilingual resources so that employees and employers are aware of the upcoming minimum wage increase in Massachusetts and worker rights under our wage and hour laws.”

In June 2018, Massachusetts enacted a law that set the minimum wage to increase each year until it reaches \$15.00 in 2023. Tipped employees will also get a raise on Jan. 1, 2022, and must be paid a minimum of \$6.15 per hour provided that their tips bring them up to at least \$14.25 per hour. If the total hourly rate for the employee including tips does not equal \$14.25 at the end of the shift, the employer must make up the difference.

Free copies of the AG’s Wage and Hour poster are available in English, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Span-

ish, and Vietnamese on the AG’s Fair Labor Division website to download and print. To request a paper copy, please visit www.mass.gov/ago/fldposter or call (617) 727-3465.

The Attorney General’s Fair Labor Division enforces laws that protect workers, including minimum wage, timely payment of wages, overtime, earned sick time, child labor, Sunday and holiday premium pay, and the public construction bid and prevailing wage laws. During the Fiscal Year 2021, the Division assessed more than \$8.1 million in restitution and penalties against employers on behalf of working people in Massachusetts.

Workers who believe that their rights have been violated in the workplace can file a complaint at www.mass.gov/ago/fld, or call the office’s Fair Labor Hotline at (617) 727-3465.

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EBCC DECK THE WINDOWS 2021 HOLIDAY WINDOW DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce (EBCC) held the 2021 Holiday Open House on Wednesday, Dec. 22, at their office at 464 Bremen Street in East Boston. The winners were selected from the 2021 Deck the Window’s decorating contest:

- First place - Ana’s Beauty Salon
- Second place – La Casa del Pandebono Bakery & Café
- Third place – La Chiva Restaurante
- Also, Taylor Papasodora was announced as the 50-50 raffle ticket winner.

Happy New Year to all from the East Boston Chamber of Commerce and thank you to all our contest and raffle participants!

La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston tiene el orgullo de anunciar a los ganadores del concurso de decoración de ventanas navideñas de East Boston Chamber of Commerce “Deck the Windows 2021” y del ganador de la rifa 50/50.

El Miércoles 22 de diciembre durante la “Casa Abierta” de las Fiestas Navideñas de 2021 en su

oficina en 464 Bremen Street en East Boston momentos de la mesa directiva anunciaron a los ganadores del concurso.

1er lugar - Ana’s Beauty Salón

2do lugar - La Casa del Pandebono Bakery & Café

3er lugar - Restaurante La Chiva

La ganadora de la rifa 50-50 fue Taylor Papasodora

¡Feliz año nuevo a todos desde la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston y gracias a todos los participantes de nuestro concurso y rifa!



First place - Ana’s Beauty Salon.



Second place – La Casa del Pandebono Bakery & Café.



Third place – La Chiva Restaurante.

Eastie’s Kannan Thiruvengadam sworn in as a Boston Conservation Commission commissioner

By John Lynds

Eastie Farm founder and director Kannan Thiruvengadam was recently sworn in as a Boston Conservation Commission (BCC) commissioner.

Thiruvengadam has worked for years advocating for resiliency and sustainability across Eastie and the city.

“Thanks to Mayor Michelle Wu for appointing me to Boston’s Conservation Commission,” said Thiruvengadam after his swearing in. “Thanks to the dear friends for dropping what they were working on to join me for the swearing in ceremony. Thanks to the welcoming accommodation

of diversity in our city—I got to write my name in my mother-tongue Tamil in Boston’s centuries-old big book of commissioners. And thanks to the kids who inspire me to work to protect the nature that protects and nourishes us all.”

Thiruvengadam was nominated for the post by Mass Sierra Club, Charles River Watershed Association, Neponset River Watershed Association, Mass Audubon, and The Trustees - Boston Community Gardens and appointed by Mayor Wu.

Thiruvengadam is the director of Eastie Farm, an urban farm in East Boston focused on community resiliency. When a city-owned parcel came

up for sale on Sumner Street, Thiruvengadam got a group of like-minded advocates together and lobbied for a community farm instead of another residential development.

The city handed over the land and Thiruvengadam and volunteers created Eastie Farm—a community garden that prides itself on sustainability. With Thiruvengadam as a mentor, volunteers learn about rainwater conservation, waste management, and other eco-friendly urban farming methods, all while getting to know their neighbors and having fun.

Aside from his work at Eastie Farm, Thiruvengadam hosts “What’s up

Eastie?”, a radio show about local issues in a larger context, at Zumix. Thiruvengadam is also a Climate Ready Boston Leader. He has a technology background, has studied climate science, permaculture, and community engagement, and is passionate about regenerative and sustainable practices in agriculture and urban design.

As a BCC commissioner, Thiruvengadam will work to protect wetlands

because they maintain groundwater and water quality. The BCC also mitigates the impacts of flooding, storm damage, and pollution and seeks public access to wetland resource areas where it’s appropriate.

The commission also works on floodplain planning because anything that falls within a floodplain can affect wetland health. The BCC reviews development projects that fall within the city’s flood-

plains.

The commission also works to foster a connection between the people of Boston and the City’s natural areas. The BCC does this through environmental education as well as maintaining natural, public open-space properties, like the Condor Street Urban Wilds.

You can learn more about the BCC and get involved at <https://www.boston.gov/.../boston-conservation-commission>.



Eastie Farms founder and director Kannan Thiruvengadam being sworn in to the Boston Conservation Commission.

Revere City Council, School Committee members are inaugurated



City Clerk Ashley Melnik administers the oath of office to new City Council President Gerry Visconti Monday night at City Hall.



City Council Vice President Richard Serino and President Gerry Visconti at the inauguration ceremony.

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