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# East Boston

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Wednesday, March 2, 2022



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

A 6-alarm fire tore through three buildings on Maverick Street early Monday morning displacing 25 residents. (Clockwise from top) It took nearly three hours for firefighters to extinguish the blaze as they battled frigid temperatures and wind; The fire, which started before 4am, quickly spread to the roof and forced firefighters to evacuate the inside; The frigid temperatures caused water to freeze on contact with the building and made the streets slippery as firefighters battled the fire.



## Six-alarm fire rips through Maverick Street apartment

Community rallies around victims

By John Lynds

An early morning blaze ripped through three apartment buildings on Maverick Street early Monday morning.

Just before 4 am Monday morning the Boston Fire Department responded

to a fire at 183 Maverick Street. When firefighters arrived there was already heavy fire on all three floors of 183 Maverick and flames were quickly spreading to the adjacent building.

With the fire spreading, BFD Commissioner John Dempsey ordered a fourth alarm.

After the fourth alarm was ordered all companies

battling the blaze were ordered out of the building due to flames breaking through the roof and spreading to two additional buildings.

Frigid temperatures Monday caused the water to freeze on contact making the streets slippery and challenging for firefighters as they continued to battle the fire.

Less than an hour into

the fire Commissioner Dempsey ordered a fifth and sixth alarm and BFD received logistical support from fire departments in Chelsea, Cambridge, Newton, Brookline, Quincy, Somerville and Needham. All responding departments helped cover Eastie's fire stations while BFD worked to extinguish

See FIRE Page 3

## Eastie Farm looks to expand Community-Supported Agriculture

By John Lynds

At a recent community meeting Eastie Farm's Max Chezem said the neighborhood's popular community building urban farm is looking to expand its Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) pro-

gram.

Eastie Farm, which has been dedicated to pursuing climate justice, improving food access, and fostering community resilience through the development of interactive urban agricultural spaces since 2014,

See FARM Page 7

## Edwards' legislation takes direct aim at Eversource substation

By John Lynds

This week, Sen. Lydia Edwards, who will continue to serve as Eastie City Councilor until April 30, announced legislation in the Boston City Council that takes direct aim at Eversource's controversial substation plan in East Eagle Square.

Edwards said the legislation aims to secure the environmental rights of Boston residents and ensure the city has adequate safeguards against impactful energy and industrial projects.

In January the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) filed an appeal on behalf of more than ten residents in Eastie to stop

construction of the Eversource substation that the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently granted a license.

In its appeal CLF argues state officials shut the community out of the planning process for the project, wrongfully characterized the substation as a water-dependent use, and failed to consider the negative impact on environmental justice populations.

Edwards' said her council district and home neighborhood of Eastie are burdened by air pollution, a lack of tree canopy and open space, and climate

See SUBSTATION Page 2

## Eastie native's art wins international contest

By John Lynds

East Boston native and artist Jim Zaccaria will be honored in Hollywood next month as the winner of the international Illustrators of the Future Contest. Zaccaria will accept his award at the Taglyan Complex in Los Angeles on Friday, April 8th.

In addition to being named the winner of the contest, Zaccaria's art has earned him a cash prize and will be published in the international bestselling anthology, L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers of the Future Volume 38. Prior to the black-tie



East Boston native Jim Zaccaria will be honored in Hollywood next month as the winner of the international Illustrators of the Future Contest.

awards gala, Zaccaria will attend a week-long workshop with some of the top professionals in the industry.

See ZACCARIA Page 2



One of Jim Zaccaria's art that catapulted him to be named winner of the international contest.

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Mayor Michelle Wu speaks as Rep. Adrian Madaro and Sen. Lydia Edwards looks on.

# Mayor Wu announces creation of the Office of Early Childhood

By John Lynds

At a press conference last Wednesday outside the East Boston YMCA on Bremen Street, Mayor Michelle Wu said, for anyone who has had to try to find an early childhood education seat in Boston navigating the many complicated systems, registrations and applications can be a daunting task.

“This is time for city leadership to step up and help provide a one stop shop,” said Mayor Wu. “We know that the pandemic has deepened every challenge that the city is facing, and our childcare gaps in access and the stresses on our early educators have certainly deepened as well. In Boston, and in Massachusetts, we have the second highest cost of childcare anywhere around the country and we continue to see the impacts of that ripple throughout our communities, throughout our economy and throughout our city.”

To combat this Wu announced the creation of the Office of Early Childhood to advance the administration’s commitment to universal, affordable, high-quality early education and care for all children under five. The new office will expand access to early education and childcare programs, invest in Boston’s early education and care workforce, and serve as a central point-of-entry for residents looking for information on early education and childcare programming and wrap-around services for young children and their families.

The Office will address needs highlighted in Boston’s 2021 Childcare Census Survey report, which the Mayor also released Wednesday.

“We conducted this census just to understand the needs and realities of our Early Education and Care ecosystem from families and educators,” said Wu. “We are here to report back that unsurprisingly, the vast majority of families who participated in the Census reported that they are looking for formalized care, but having trouble finding it. Many of our families are relying on some informal arrangement, often with a family member, often not covering enough hours that are needed (for parents to work).”

Wu said 81 percent undergoing this kind of informal arrangement are women and this is impacting their own careers and their own professional development.

“The costs are high,” said Wu. “The need is great, but the opportunity is tremendous right now as well. So it is time to tr-



Greater Boston YMCA COO Jarrett Royster addresses the crowd.

ly tackle root causes and understand just how much our child care infrastructure is the foundation for families to thrive all across our city and beyond.”

The Office will advance the Mayor’s work to prioritize the City’s youngest residents and their families by: Accelerating the creation of a universal pre-K system that stretches across Boston Public Schools (BPS), community-based organizations, and family-based childcare programs, and expanding high-quality, affordable options for infants and toddlers; Creating a one-stop shop for enrollment and access to early education and childcare programs by building an accessible, multilingual platform so that options are clear, streamlined, and accessible to all families; Investing in the early education and childcare workforce by building sustainable career pathways that recognize early educators as professionals who are essential to young children’s wellbeing; Coordinating outreach and information for City and community programming that impacts the lives of young children and their families.

Wu said the city will be hiring a leader of the new Office of Early Childhood to advance this work in partnership with the Boston Public Schools, the Mayor’s Office of Women’s Advancement, the Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Centers for Youth and Families, other City departments, and community organizations that serve Boston’s children and families.

“We are excited to deepen the City’s investment in high-quality, accessible childcare solutions for early childhood professionals, families, and their little ones,” said Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of Women’s Advancement Alexandra Valdez. “The Office of Early Childhood will continue the work of looking at closing child care gaps with community voices at the center. This will not only create opportunities to further support a child’s care needs and early development, but also empower a profession that is largely represented by women, specifically women of color, and our

immigrant community.”

Wu added that Boston Public Schools has led the way in building out a mixed-delivery system for universal pre-K (UPK) that integrates both BPS classrooms and community-based organizations. In its third year, the UPK program currently serves 664 pre-K students through 21 community-based organizations across 32 program sites; 2,556 non-special education K1 seats for 4-year-olds, and 880 special education seats for 3- and 4-year-olds in K0/K1.

“It’s quite fitting that we’re here at the East Boston YMCA because this is a cornerstone institution that provides early education and care for families and children in East Boston,” said Rep. Adrian Madaro. “I want to thank Mayor Wu for her commitment to these issues. I think it’s extremely exciting that we’re here learn-

See MAYOR WU Page 5

## Baker-Polito announce small business relief program

Staff Report

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the launch of a new \$75 million grant program to support Massachusetts small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The new program is part of the plan to spend \$4 billion in American Rescue Plan funding that was signed into law by Governor Charlie Baker in December 2021. The new program is modeled after Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation’s (MGCC) successful COVID-19 small business relief program. Under that effort, which became the biggest state-sponsored business relief program in the nation, MGCC oversaw the distribution of approximately \$705 million to over 15,000 small businesses across Massachusetts. Today’s announcement was made at Luanda Restaurant and Lounge in Brockton, a family-owned business that received financial support through MGCC’s prior COVID relief grant program.

“We have been proud to support small businesses in every corner of the Commonwealth through the MGCC small business program during the pandemic, but we know that some challenges remain for many businesses,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “With the launch of this new effort, we can build on MGCC’s successful work and direct important federal funding to those businesses with the greatest need quickly and effectively.”

“Restaurants like Luanda are fundamental to the character of our neighborhoods, main streets and downtowns in every city and town in Massachusetts,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “This new initiative will ensure that businesses that need help the most will be able to take advantage of additional opportunities.”

The \$75 million will be focused on small businesses that employ between

two and 50 people, with \$25 million directed toward businesses that did not qualify for previous MGCC grants because of a lack of revenue loss in 2020; and \$50 million directed to businesses that reach underserved markets and historically underrepresented groups, or are minority-, women-, or veteran-owned businesses, or are owned by individuals with disabilities or who identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

Under both categories, grants will range from \$10,000 to \$75,000, and will be capped at the lesser of \$75,000 or three months of operating expenses. Grant funding can be used for employee and benefit costs, mortgage interest, rent, utilities, and interest on debt.

“The challenges faced by Massachusetts’ small businesses during COVID have been enormous, but in my district and across the state I have seen so many entrepreneurs and innovators respond with incredible perseverance and grace. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and they deserve our support,” said Senate President Karen E. Spilka. “Today’s grants represent a choice by the Legislature to center small businesses in our effort for an equitable recovery. I am grateful to the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation for their work to distribute these funds to so many deserving businesses and I am thankful to all of the small businesses who have done so much for Massachusetts.”

“I am pleased to hear that the small business grant program, created through the Legislature’s ARPA bill, is now accepting applications, and will soon be distributing these funds to our small businesses,” said Speaker of the House Ronald J. Mariano. “Delivering on the Legislature’s intent to pass a bill truly focused on equity, a significant portion of the funds from the small business program will specifically target minority-owned,

women-owned, and veteran-owned small businesses, as well as small businesses that didn’t receive previous grants during the pandemic. Small businesses are oftentimes the backbone of our communities and local economies, and I look forward to seeing these investments remain a priority for the House of Representatives moving forward.”

“When help was needed the most during the pandemic, the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation scaled up a nation-leading program to support our small businesses and the families and entrepreneurs behind them,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. “I’m grateful to the MGCC team for once again stepping up to direct vital funding to the neighborhoods and communities that continue to face challenges created by this unprecedented public health crisis.”

“MGCC is pleased to be an instrument of recovery for the smallest of businesses throughout Massachusetts most affected by COVID-19 with these two new grants programs,” said Lawrence Andrews, CEO and President of MGCC. “The Baker-Polito Administration and the Legislature recognize that certain communities have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, and the goal of this funding will bring relief and stability to additional businesses throughout the Commonwealth.”

In addition to prioritizing applications from businesses that did not qualify for prior aid and businesses owned by individuals from historically underserved populations or operate in underserved markets, eligible businesses must currently be in operation and based in Massachusetts. Applicants must also demonstrate that business revenues for 2020 were between \$40,000 and \$2.5 million.

Learn more at EmpoweringSmallBusiness.org.

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# East Boston

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## A TRAGIC AND DANGEROUS TIME

As we are writing this, the incredibly brave people and government leaders of Ukraine still are holding out against the despicable invaders from Russia.

It is clear that Vladimir Putin, the criminal Russian dictator, underestimated the resolve of the Ukrainian people and their armed forces. He also underestimated the united backlash from the rest of the world and the effects of the economic sanctions that are crippling Russia's economy.

On the other hand, he overestimated the power of his army, which clearly is not up to the task of overrunning a nation as large and as unified as Ukraine as quickly as he had expected.

However, we fear that as the Russians continue to pour military resources into Ukraine and undertake a military campaign that is targeting the civilian population with war-crime levels of bombardment, it is only a matter of time before the Russians take control of whatever will be left of Ukraine after Putin levels it, as he seems intent on doing.

Putin's barbaric invasion of Ukraine brought to mind a quote that often is applicable to dictatorial regimes such as Putin's: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority, still more when you superadd the tendency or the certainty of corruption by authority."

Although what is happening in Ukraine, though it is being broadcast into our living rooms and on our computer screens 24/7, may seem a world away, we should not be lulled into thinking that we are safe from Putin's maniacal machinations.

The reports that the 69 year-old Putin, who apparently was not content with being the richest man in the world, has become mentally-unhinged is a cause for concern because the lessons of history teach us that the evil deeds of dictators know no bounds.

Here is a quote from a book that came out this week about another would-be dictator:

"He stopped listening to his advisers, became manic and unreasonable, and was off the rails. He surrounded himself with sycophants, including many whack jobs from outside the government, who fed him a steady diet of comforting but unsupported conspiracy theories."

This is a quote from a passage in the new book by former Attorney General William Barr describing the final days of Donald Trump's presidency.

But it seems equally-applicable to Putin, who has raised the spectre of using nuclear weapons to bolster his failing military campaign and who has the ability to wage cyber warfare upon us to an extent that we have not yet experienced. In the 1950s, Americans conducted Civil Defense drills, which included telling children to duck-and-cover under their desks at school. But in an era of cyber warfare, there will be no place for any of us to hide.

We pray for the poor people of Ukraine, whose lives are being shattered literally hour-by-hour.

But we also must be aware that the after-shocks of what is happening in Ukraine will have far-reaching consequences for the entire world, including us.

## "CLIMATE CHANGE IS HARMING THE PLANET FASTER THAN WE CAN ADAPT, U.N. WARNS"

That was the headline in the New York Times this past Monday in its story on the report released by the United Nations regarding the ever-increasing damage that man-made pollution is causing to the environment.

The bottom line of the report is this: Unless we reverse direction immediately to limit the amount of greenhouse gases we are spewing into the atmosphere, the impact of climate change on our planet will be irreversible and will come so rapidly that we will have no ability to withstand the wildfires, floods, storms, and sea-level rise that are the inevitable consequences of climate change.

In short, life on our planet as we know it basically is doomed.

And it is going to happen much sooner rather than later.

## Your opinions, please

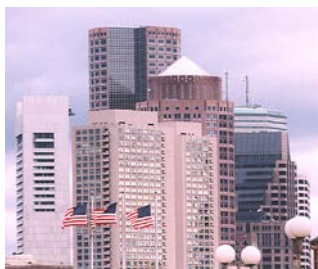
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# Forum

## GUEST OP-ED

### How much is freedom worth?

rut. Chances are we made choices that put us there. We have to make tough choices to climb out of the rut. We can easily become disabled physically, financially and domestically which will significantly limit our choices. Because of health, money, and maybe even age, our choices are often very limited. Most of the time, even when we have limitations, we can find freedom of choice.

The bottom line is we live in America and we cherish our freedom. We should remember our history and the great sacrifices made by so many. We should never take for granted the unimaginable hardships endured by the early settlers and every generation that has fought wars and lost tens of thousands of men and women in wars to keep our sacred and blessed freedom.

In his 1961 State of the Union address, President John F. Kennedy reminded us that every generation of Americans has had to win its freedom. We will never stay free unless we are willing to fight and sacrifice to keep our freedom.

How much is freedom worth? The brave people of Ukraine and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are showing the world what freedom is worth. Their lives. While many of the young and aged are exiting Ukraine, President Zelenskyy and thousands are risking their lives to keep Ukraine free from the aggression of Russia and the evil of Vladimir Putin. Putin is not our friend or a friend to the free world. His path to conquer Ukraine is an Adolph Hitler move. Destroying a city and attempting to conquer a nation while killing thousands in order to increase his domain is barbaric.

In the midst of all this, we are surely reminded that we must once again become energy independent. Russia is a supplier of 40% of the natural gas used by Germany and most of Europe. They and America must stop buying energy and anything else from Russia. We have made them a rich nation while sacrificing our own independence.

Watching as Ukraine's government hands out AK-47s and other guns

surely reminds us of the importance of being able to protect ourselves. Keep your guns, stock up on your ammunition, and never vote for anyone who wants to edit our Second Amendment.

We must pray for Zelenskyy and the Ukraine people but we must also help them with whatever aid necessary to push Russia out. Keep in mind that Russia is only 55 miles from Alaska's closest port. Putin just might decide that Russia should have Alaska back. We bought Alaska fair and square in 1867 for \$7.2 million and we won't be handing it back.

How much is freedom worth? Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the people of Ukraine are demonstrating how much freedom is worth.

*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.*

## LETTER to the Editor

afford, if we can help it, to work on narrow margins, offering temptations to a trial of strength. If the Western Democracies stand together in strict adherence to the principles of the United Nations charter, their influence for furthering these principles will be immense and no one is likely to molest them. If however they become divided or falter in their duty and if these all-important years are allowed to slip away then indeed catastrophe may overwhelm us all."

But even before World War 2 Russia had committed an egregious act of terror against Ukraine in the form of Stalin's policy of deliberately starving the country's peasant population with his agricultural collectivization program, between 1931 and 1933. Of the five million people who perished from this sadistic deliberate policy, three million were Ukrainians. A never-to-be forgotten Ukrainian Holocaust.

Since Mr. Churchill's remarkable speech Russia has demonstrated a voracious appetite for European domination by military conquest, as indicated in 1956 with its suppression of the Hungarian Uprising with tanks and other means. The Hungarian Uprising started as a student protest, evolved into a broad-based revolution led by Imre Nagy pledging to establish free elections. The USSR intervened with its full military apparatus and overwhelmed the Uprising, killing 2,500 Hungarians in the process. Then, in 2014 Russia

invaded and annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine by massive military force, without provocation.

The current provoked attack on Ukraine has killed vast numbers of innocent civilians, not surprisingly due to the intense indiscriminate missile attacks on densely populated population centers.

I was stationed in Germany for 3 years (1961-1964) during the Cold War, serving in the Air Force. I was on duty during the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962) when, for the only time in history, we armed our aircraft with nuclear warheads and stood on alert for the or-

der to respond to a Soviet attack, a 15-minute flight from our base. Of course, we were the same distance from them, a sobering realization.

Millennials, European and American, have no memory of past conflicts which have lessons for today. The Ukraine crisis is the WW2 Sudetenland tragedy writ large, with a similar potential outcome if appeasement is the primary Western response to Russian aggression.

George Santayana's dictum is as applicable as ever. "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it".

Thank you,

**John Vitagliano**

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# Harborkeepers, Piers Park Sailing Center gearing up for Sunday’s Shamrock Splash fundraiser

By John Lynds

East Boston’s Constitution Beach will host Save the Harbor/Save the Bay’s annual polar plunge to raise money for summer beach programs.

The annual Shamrock Splash that raises tens of thousands of dollars each year for the Better Beaches grant program will be at Constitution Beach this Sunday.

Already, members of local organizations that benefit from the annual grant program are eagerly waiting to take the frigid dip in the waters at Eastie’s only public beach.

With the forecast expected to be steady rain with a wintery mix Sunday and the water tempera-

ture at around 37 degrees, some plungers are making deals with donors in order to reach their fundraising goals.

Celeste Ribeiro Hewitt, Secretary for East Boston’s Harborkeepers, said that her personal goal is to surpass \$500.

“These waters can be really frigid and I have been known to do more of a ‘mini dip’,” said Hewitt. “This year, if I reach my \$500 fundraising goal - I’ll go all in, hair and all. This year I’m excited to be back at an in person event with splashers from all over. I’m especially excited because I will be splashing for the second time with fellow Harborkeepers board members at our home beach in East

Boston, and all the other splashers are coming with us.”

While the Splash is usually in Southie, Hewitt said she is excited that the first Shamrock Splash after the pandemic is at Constitution Beach because it is an opportunity to showcase the neighborhood’s natural resources.

“I think we have one of the most versatile beaches of all time,” said Hewitt. “Not only is it one of the most versatile beaches, it is one of the most accessible beaches in the Boston Harbor. We use it for so many things like recreation and education so it’s really exciting to be able to host this year and show people that the money we raise is keeping a great

neighborhood resource going.”

Over at Piers Park Sailing Center, the sailing center’s fundraising team ‘Piers Park Aqua Warriors’ has raised nearly \$1,000 for the Splash.

PPSC Executive Director Alex DeFronzo has personally raised \$200 towards the team’s \$2,500 goal.

“Save the Harbor’s Better Beaches Program is a highlight of every summer,” said DeFronzo. “Please help me support this important programing to make the beaches more fun, welcoming, and accessible. I can’t wait to jump in the harbor, especially at the new Eastie location for 2022. I am grateful for your dona-

tions and for your help in spreading the word.”

Combined, the two Eastie teams and individual Splashers from the neighborhood hope to raise \$5,000 once again for the Better Beaches grant program.

“Save the Harbor/Save the Bay is one of Piers Park Sailing Center’s most valued partners. When it comes to making Boston’s beaches welcoming and accessible to everyone they are a true champion,” added DeFronzo.

Registration for the annual event opened last month and registered teams will fundraise up until the day of the Splash.

You can donate to the the Eastie Splashes at [\[curesweet.com/donate.asp\]\(https://savetheharbor.se-curesweet.com/donate.asp\),

Last year, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Department of Conservation & Recreation \(DCR\) awarded \\$32,500 in Better Beaches program grants to five Eastie organizations and individuals to support free beach events and programs throughout the summer.

In Eastie, the East Boston YMCA, Harborkeepers, NOAH \(Neighborhood of Affordable Housing\), Piers Park Sailing Center and Triangle, Inc. All nonprofits hosted events including wellness classes, a maritime festival, kayaking and the “Beach:Ability” program for people with disabilities.](https://savetheharbor.se-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

## Air Filters // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Grant to place 40 HEPA filters in Eastie homes and businesses.

“The first round of grant money went to Mothers Out Front but we teaked our application based on comments from the city for the second round of grant money,” said NOAH’s Latifa Ziyad. “We were actually the only recipient in the second round and basically what it allowed us to do is to go to 40 residents, businesses or spaces where there’s a lot of foot traffic indoors and then place a HEPA filter in those spaces.”

Ziyad said NOAH will use special equipment to test the air quality in the homes or businesses prior

to the HEPA filters being installed and then go back and retest the air quality after the HEPA filters are up and running.

“After the HEPA filters are installed we will go back about a week later and kind of examine what (the air quality) looks like and see how it has changed,” said Ziyad. “We honed in on folks that said that they had asthma in their home and prioritized those homes and businesses.”

Ziyad said the goal of the program is after NOAH collects the before and after air quality data NOAH will go to Massport to demand more stringent policies on ultrafine

particles coming from airplanes landing and taking off at Logan Airport.

“So that’s the whole point of all of this is to kind of build that localized argument,” she said. “There’s a big residential area that is impacted by ultrafine particulates and what we’re hoping is this program is going to be a learning experience for people. We’re already talking with some other potential funders to be able to bring more filters in the area.

Studies show that 70 percent of Eastie pollution makes it indoors and twenty one percent of residents in Eastie are children who are especially vulnerable

to the many health effects of air pollution.

Specific models of HEPA purifiers can reduce their exposure to ultrafine particulate pollution by up to 94 percent. NOAH will be using the Austin Air Purifiers and the Blue air purifier manufactured by Blueair Pure 411.

Like cars, jets burn fuel and release harmful ultrafine particles that are so small they absorb right into the bloodstream and can lead to heart attacks and strokes.

In 2013 the East Boston Times reported that the neighborhood’s “Godmother of Environmental Justice”, the late Mary Ellen Welch, had for decades

tried to force Massport to measure ultrafine particles or PMs.

Welch long argued that the airport’s runway and roadside operations pose too much of an environmental impact on the neighborhood not to be considered when Massport files environmental impact statements or operations reports.

PMs from car exhaust and jet aircraft have been shown to cause a wide array of adverse health impacts.

The large number of deaths and other health problems associated with particulate pollution was first demonstrated in the early 1970s and has been

reproduced many times since. PM pollution is estimated to cause 22,000-52,000 deaths per year in the United States and 200,000 deaths per year in Europe.

The effects of inhaling particulate matter that have been widely studied in humans and animals now include asthma, lung cancer, cardiovascular issues, birth defects, and premature death.

A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that inhaling PM leads to high plaque deposits in the arteries causing cardiovascular problems.

## Fire // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the inferno raging.

It took three hours and 100 firefighters to finally put out the blaze. One resident was rescued by Eastie’s Ladder 2 from the second floor of one of the apartments.

After the fire Eastie’s elected officials, businesses and residents sprung into action to help the 25 families displaced.

“An early morning, six-alarm fire in East Boston displaced 25 of our neighbors,” said Rep. Adrian Madaro. “We are still getting details, but current reports indicate that there were no injuries. Thank you to the Boston Fire Department and other City agencies for helping impacted families. Approximately 11 women, 12 men, and 3 Boston Public School students --

were displaced. For those wanting to help you can donate financially at [www.gofund.me/071e15df](http://www.gofund.me/071e15df) and this money will be used to purchase gift cards at various stores.”

Both Madaro and Sen. Lydia Edwards, who is still serving as Eastie City Councilor, reported that clothing can be dropped off at BCYF Paris Street.

“Please donate new or gently used clothes,” said Edwards. “Winter coats and gloves are needed and the BPS kids are boys 11 years old and 19 years old.”

Madaro and Edwards are also collecting gift cards for groceries.

“Please reach out to me directly or call my office at (857) 293-1465,” said Madaro.

Over at DaCoopas Piz-



Crews worked through the night into the hours of the morning to control the fire at 183 Maverick St.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

za on Shelby Street, owners have invited families displaced by the fire to

come in and eat for free. “To the residents affected by the 183 Maver-

ick St. fire, our doors at DaCoopas are open for you if you need a meal for

## Mayor Wu // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ing about the announcements of the Office of Early Childhood that will streamline all of these services all under one roof. This will only benefit families in our neighborhood and our city. This is an issue that is impacting so many families in our city and certainly across the Commonwealth. I’m grateful to see municipal leaders like Mayor Wu step up and do what they can at the city level.”

In 2021, UPK expanded to include a pilot program to serve 3-year-olds in addition to 4-year-olds in 2021-22. For the upcoming school year in 2022-23, Boston UPK plans to expand to serve up to 930 children at community provider settings, including 600 4-year-olds and 330 3-year-olds. The City of Boston and Boston Public Schools recently released an Invitation for

Bids (IFB) to identify additional community-based organizations seeking to join the UPK program. The IFB deadline is April 4, and more details can be found on the BPS Universal Pre-K website.

“Many early education centers represent not just a place for children to be but a place for children and families to thrive,” said Sen. Lydia Edwards. “What you’ll find is their partnership with many of our food banks that allows for good quality food and free meals for a lot of our children in East Boston and throughout the state. This office will help us create the institution and the foundation for more children and families to thrive.”

By investing in and growing the early educator workforce, supporting early education and childcare businesses, and

streamlining information and access for families, the Office of Early Childhood will support UPK’s continued expansion by increasing the number of seats available to infants and toddlers.

“I am grateful to Mayor Wu and her team and all who have worked so hard to advance this work on behalf of our children and their families,” said Chair of the Boston School Committee Jeri Robison. “As someone who has dedicated my entire career to ensuring enhanced access to all-inclusive early education and care, I am heartened today to see this important next step in our City’s progress. We are sending a message to our families today that Boston is united in our work to help our youngest learners get off to the right start through new support to them and their families.”

## APPRENTICE APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

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Applications being accepted from March 1 to March 31<sup>st</sup>. They will be available on our website, [www.insulators6.org](http://www.insulators6.org) beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. Print and complete an application. Certain requirements must be met and documents submitted with application. This information will be on the website. Mail competed application to address listed in instructions. Must be postmarked by March 31, 2022.

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# Arroyo and Hayden say they are both in the race for Suffolk County DA

By John Lynds

So far the race for Suffolk County District Attorney will be between one candidate who supports many of former DA Rachael Rollin’s reforms and another who is more moderate and was appointed as interim DA by Republican Governor Charlie Baker.

Last week, Boston City Councilor of Hyde Park announced his bid for the DA’s seat, which was followed a few days later by acting DA Kevin Hayden.

At a press conference in Hyde Park last week Arroyo pledged to continue the reforms started by Rollins.

Arroyo, the son of former City Councilor Felix Arroyo, served a public defender before being elected to the City Council in 2019, said he will, “Build a justice system that protects the safety and dignity of all people... One that will maintain the successful reforms that have proven to improve the safety of communities across Suffolk County.”

It was his work as a public defender that Arroyo said gave him perspective of the inequities of the justice system. As a public defender Arroyo has said he saw firsthand how the lack of opportunity, inequity, and the mar-



Kevin Hayden.

ginalization of individuals ravaged lives.

“Former District Attorney Rachael Rollins led the way by bringing much-needed reforms to the office,” said Arroyo at the press conference. “We



Ricardo Arroyo.

cannot afford to go backward or stagnate. We must continue these reforms that have been proven to work and continue to move Suffolk County forward.”

Before leaving the DA’s

Office to serve as the U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, Rollin focused on pregressive criminal justice reform in Suffolk County and developed a controversial policy of not prosecuting certain nonviolent low-level crimes.

Arroyo attended Boston Public Schools, holds a B.A. in History from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and a J.D. from Loyola University Chicago.

Hayden, a Roslindale resident who was appointed by Gov. Baker to complete Rollins’ term, announced his candidacy a few days after Arroyo’s press conference.

At his announcement in front of the Boys & Girls Club in Dorchester Hayden pledged a commitment to public safety, criminal legal system reform, and accountability to the communities of Boston, Revere, Chelsea and Winthrop.

Hayden, who was appointed to the office in January, outlined numerous areas of focus moving forward, including gun crimes, community collaboration and engagement, diversion and intervention programs, human trafficking and domestic violence.

See DA RACE Page 7

## Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston names Kevan Barton Executive Director of YouthConnect

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB) announced it has named Kevan Barton as the Executive Director of YouthConnect. Prior to this appointment Barton had served with YouthConnect for 12 years, for six years as a frontline social worker in South Boston, Roxbury, the Youth Violence Strike Force, and the School Police Unit, and later as the Director of Operations.

YouthConnect is a unique program that provides violence prevention, intervention, advocacy,



Kevan Barton.

and mental health services to young people who are involved in the criminal justice system and their families. By placing li-

censed, clinical social workers in Boston police stations, YouthConnect works to address the underlying problems and social emotional issues that contribute to juvenile crime and delinquency by working with the entire family, not just the youth.

Since the program’s inception in 1996, YouthConnect has provided more than 17,000 individuals with a variety of free, voluntary, and confidential intervention services designed to their specific needs and goals, as they face issues of safety, trauma, mental health challenges, substance abuse and high-risk behavior. YouthConnect’s capacity to provide home and community-based visits, in addition to flexible scheduling, has enabled those hard-to-reach youth and their families to access social services despite barriers to traditional services such as: insurance issues,

distrust of providers and systems, transportation, safety, stigma around seeking help, and readiness to engage around making changes.

“For 25 years, YouthConnect has been a prized program of BGCB,” said incoming BGCB Nicholas President and CEO Robert Lewis, Jr., who was appointed on February 3. “YouthConnect’s unique model of social workers on the front lines alongside Boston’s police force taking on the underlying problems and social emotional issues that contribute to juvenile crime and delinquency, has impacted thousands of young people and their families. I look forward to working with Kevan and his team on this critical work.”

“Kevan’s prior experience at YouthConnect and commitment to helping young people in need make him an exceptional leader for this unique pro-

gram,” said Josh Klevens, Chair of the Youth Connect Advisory Board. “As a licensed clinical social worker, Kevan understands firsthand that YouthConnect’s innovative clinical model enables social workers to not only assist a wide range of youth, but also help their families, which impacts our entire community.”

“I am excited to lead YouthConnect as we continue our efforts to expand the program and broaden our reach to impact more youth and families,” said Barton. “Our team of social workers is focused on the most pressing issues of our time - mental health, community violence, and substance use. Our clients, and our staff, are among the most resilient people I know, and I am excited to support both as we move forward with this crucial work.”

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston

Since its founding in 1893, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB) has been helping young people, especially those who need us most, build strong character and realize their full potential as responsible citizens and leaders. BGCB does this by providing a safe haven filled with hope and opportunity, ongoing relationships with caring adults, and life-enhancing programs in six core program areas. The organization serves more than 8,000 individuals in 9 Clubs and through its YouthConnect program in partnership with the Boston Police Department. BGCB is an affiliate of Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. For more information, visit BGCB on the web at bgcb.org.

### PROGRAM MANAGER (BILINGUAL)

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## Farm // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

started up a CSA program last year.

“We started doing a CSA last year and it’s been very successful,” said Chezem. “Our hope is to expand it in the current year and one of our biggest goals for the present year is to make that CSA program more generally accessible through language and financial support.”

CSA’s are an alternative, locally based economic model of agriculture and food distribution. A CSA also refers to a particular network or association of individuals who have pledged to support one or more local farms, with growers and consumers sharing the risks and benefits of food production.

CSA members or subscribers pay at the onset of the growing season for a share of the anticipated harvest. Once harvesting begins, they receive weekly shares of vegetables and fruit, in a vegetable box scheme.

CSAs generally focus on the production of high quality foods for a local community, often using organic or biodynamic farming methods, and a shared risk membership–marketing structure. This kind of farming operates with a much greater degree of involvement of consumers and other stakeholders than usual — resulting in a stronger consumer-producer relationship.

“The program will begin in April and run through November for a total of 32 weeks,” said Chezem. “The regular price is \$20 a week for a half share which is appropriate for a family of two or three or \$30 a week for a full share which is appropriate for a family of four or more. We have sliding scale subsidies available through funds provided by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture and the Mayor’s Office of Food Access in the city of Boston. Those subsidies can extend all the way down to making the boxes completely paid for for families that have the most need.”

Chezem said all the produce within the boxes is from farms within 100 miles of Boston.

“We pay close attention to the farming practices of the farms that we sourced from,” said Chezem. “Of course some is sourced from our own farms in East Boston, but due to the amount of need in the neighborhood for fresh produce relative to the current availability we thought it prudent to source from some of the farms that we’ve worked with in the past.”

Chezem said Eastie Farm will be packing the CSA boxes right here in Eastie, which he hopes will create employment in the neighborhood and also make the process easier.

“We have several pick-up sites,” he said. “One is the Sumner Street garden down the block from Maverick and also from our Border Street garden across the street from the Umana School as well as from our newest site at 6 Chelsea Terrace. We also are offering delivery for those who need it or want it.”

Chezem said residents can find out more information on Eastie Farm’s website in English or in Spanish at [www.eastiefarm.com/csa](http://www.eastiefarm.com/csa).

One resident at the meeting commented, “We were CSA members in 2021 and had an amazing experience. Max and his team are awesome.”

Chezem said it is really Eastie Farm’s goal with the CSA this season to make the produce available to those in need.

“So please refer anyone you know that needs assistance to us,” he said. “We do have funds to cover boxes for those that need it and we want to make sure that everyone in the neighborhood has access



A subscriber to Eastie Farm’s Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program picks up her box of produce. Eastie Farm’s is working to expand the program after a successful 2021 season.

## DA Race // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

“I pledge today to reform how the district attorney approaches its full mission of serving the community and ensuring public safety,” said Hayden. “Our attention on reform is vital, but the results that produce real transformation are what really matters. We’ve seen over the last few years a national demand for criminal legal system reform. As a black man, I welcome this focus because it is long overdue. I know full well that it’s long overdue because I’ve been practicing these concepts and approaches to reform throughout my entire career.”

Hayden added his experience as a prosecutor, an attorney in private practice, and head of the state Sex Offender Registry Board has given him the perspective necessary to ensure public safety while seeking alternatives to prosecution in appropriate cases.

“I was never a traditional prosecutor,” he said. “As head of the Safe Neighborhood Initiative, I embraced intensive community engagement and expanded crime intervention and prevention to new limits. I dedicated myself to support services and ministry to returning citizens from incarceration more than any ADA before me. As a juvenile prosecutor I led efforts focused on innovative diversion and prevention methods. In short, I will approach the task of reform with a proven track record of dedication to it. I have labored long and hard in that vineyard. I’m confident that we can change our approach to criminal justice. But public safety and full equity in our system are not mutually exclusive. We must be ever mindful of public safety as we endeavor for a better and more equitable system. All our communities demand our dedication to both.”

Before his appointment Hayden headed the state Sex Offender Registry Board. Prior to that, he spent five years in private practice, specializing in criminal defense. He began his career in the Suffolk DA’s office, serving in the anti-gang and juvenile units and on the homicide response team. He headed the office’s Safe Neighborhood Initiative, a community-focused public safety program.

Hayden graduated from Dartmouth College and Boston University Law School and serves as a deacon at Jubilee Christian Church in Mattapan.

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**Notice of Public Hearing**

The City of Boston's **Mayor's Office of Housing** announces a public hearing seeking citizen input on the 1) housing and community development priorities for the Program Year 2022 (7/1/22 - 6/30/23) Action Plan, in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR 91.105(b). The Action Plan is submitted annually to the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and serves as the City's application and plan for using an estimated \$28 million in HUD resources from: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs.

2) Input is requested to shape the program design for \$21.6 million in American Rescue Plan HOME funds to help individuals and families who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. This Plan will also be submitted to HUD.

**Due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic, this will be a Virtual Hearing held on 3/16/22 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.**

**Interpretative services** in Spanish and Chinese will be provided. To request another language, including American Sign Language, call 617-635-3880 at least 7 days prior to the hearing date. Every effort will be made to accommodate your request.

To access the hearing link, go to:  
<https://www.boston.gov/departments/housing/hearings-and-public-comment>

**Tim Davis**  
Deputy Director (MOH)

**CITY of BOSTON**



# Wu announces expansion of food and urban agriculture initiatives

Staff Report

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the creation of GrowBoston: Office of Urban Agriculture. The new office will be within the Housing Cabinet and will work to increase food production throughout Boston; develop and implement innovative food production strategies; provide technical assistance to prospective and existing gardens and farms; develop food production resources for gardeners, farmers, and other residents; and coordinate with other City departments to expand citywide urban agriculture. GrowBoston will also contribute to Boston's efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change while addressing injustices inherent in the current food system.

Additionally, Mayor Wu announced that the Office of Food Access will now be renamed the Mayor's Office of Food Justice (OFJ) and will be a part of the Environment, Energy and Open Space Cabinet. This step expands upon the Mayor's commitment to making nutritious, affordable, and culturally relevant food accessible to all Boston residents. The Office of Food Justice will take an intersectional approach to food security that embeds social, racial, economic, and environmental justice in all of its work. The Mayor's Office of Food Justice will focus on five pillars to making nutritious, affordable food accessible in Boston. These include investing in Boston's food businesses, building coalitions, expanding Boston residents' access to affordable food that is also culturally appropriate and nutritious, using public procurement of food, and investing

in food chain workers in Boston. The mission of the Mayor's Office of Food Justice will be to build a food system that is equitable, resilient, sustainable, and just. GrowBoston is focused on food production, while OFJ is focused on food access.

"Urban agriculture, including community gardens, urban farms, food forests, and other ways of growing food in the city, can directly strengthen our local food system, mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis and ensure equitable access to healthy food in Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "GrowBoston and the Office of Food Justice will combat inequities in the food system, reduce the carbon footprint of food access, and increase food security while reducing climate change impacts. Boston has a long history of urban agriculture as well as food justice activism, and we are continuing this tradition with increased investment of public resources."

"The Mayor's Office of Food Justice and GrowBoston take a food systems approach to ensure we are getting nutritious food on our plates while enhancing the health of our planet and our local economy," said Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space. "I am grateful to Mayor Wu for her vision and leadership in the food justice space and I look forward to supporting this work."

The Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) has operated the Grassroots Open Space Program for over 25 years, supporting the creation of new community gardens, urban farms, and community-owned open spaces. Since its creation,

the Grassroots Program has created more than 60 acres of open space, primarily as community gardens. In the past three years, more than 16 food production sites have been completed or begun construction. GrowBoston will expand on the work of the existing Grassroots Program by expanding beyond site development and capital improvements to a robust approach of promoting urban agriculture. This will include investing in innovative production strategies, providing increased technical assistance, developing and distributing educational resources, and establishing partnerships that increase food production across the City - all through an equity lens. Shani Fletcher will serve as Director of GrowBoston, bringing many years of urban farming and gardening, open space development, community engagement, and fundraising experience to the role. Shani has served as MOH's Grassroots Program Manager for the past three years.

"I'm so excited to hear about the expansion of the City of Boston's efforts to address the health and well-being of local residents through the creation of GrowBoston," said Vivien Morris, Chairperson of the Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition. "The Grassroots program has been a wonderful asset to help increase the use of green spaces in Boston for local parks, community gardens, and other green spaces. Now with the increased resources put into the new GrowBoston office, we look forward to the expansion of past work to allow increased support for efforts to create even more access to healthy lo-

See AGRICULTURE Page 11

## News in Brief

### EASTIE DEM WARD COMMITTEE TO ELECT DELEGATES MARCH 5

On Saturday, March 5 at 10am East Boston Democrats will gather at the BCYF Paris Street Community Center at 112 Paris Street to elect delegates to the convention during the Ward 1 Democratic Committee's caucus.

Delegates elected Saturday will gather virtually, as well as at the DCU Center in Worcester, to endorse candidates for statewide office, including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary, Attorney General and Auditor on Friday, June 3rd and Saturday, June 4th during the state's Democratic Convention.

Any Eastie Democrat can show up to the caucus and can either run for being a delegate, or they can vote for delegates to go to the convention.

Delegates, alternates, and guests will be able to attend the State Convention virtually and all voting will take place remotely.

### OHNC DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING SET FOR MARCH 3

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

Zoom meeting information: <https://bit.ly/DRC-Mar3> (Passcode: OHNC)

Agenda  
92, 96 and 104 Walde-mar Avenue - Raze existing structures and erect 3 new residential structures each with 5 units and 5 parking spaces.

Presentation: <https://bit.ly/104Waldemar>

Variances Requested: Use, IP0D, Parking, FAR, Height, Front, Side and Rear Yard

Owner: Crespo Group, [ricky@crespogroup.com](mailto:ricky@crespogroup.com)

Attorney: Drago + Toscano, LLP, [kferrara@dt-lawllp.com](mailto:kferrara@dt-lawllp.com)

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### HARBOR VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association will be on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6pm. Please note that the meeting will be a Hybrid: In Person and on Zoom. The In Person meeting will be held in the Salesian Boys and Girls Club cafeteria, across from the Brooke Charter School on Byron Street. You can access the meeting from the front door on Byron Street or from the rear door on Wordsworth Street, which is the handicap entry to avoid the stairs. Since we will be indoors masks will be worn and the cafeteria is large enough for social distancing. All presenters on the agenda are expected to present In Person.

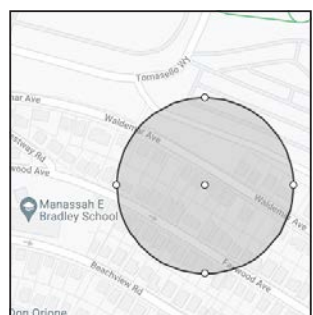
We ask for your patience and understanding once again as we try to conduct this meeting safely, for those who enjoy the In Person format, as well as On Line via Zoom for those who prefer that format. So please go to our Facebook or website to access the link for the meeting.

Our interpreter, Ricardo, will be present for our

Spanish members.

Agenda is as follows:

- Welcome/Introduction (5min)
- Announcements (5min) 180 Anniversary of Temple Ohabei Shalom,



Tree Eastie, HVNA Elections, City Councilor Debate: Gabriela Coletta and Tania Del Rio 4/28/22.

- Station 7 Update (10min) Sgt. Cintolo, Officers Domenico and Mosley.

- Senator Lydia Edwards (10min) To speak about her new job as our Senator and continuing as our City Councilor for a transition to a special election on 5/3/22.

- 200 Byron Street (30min) 2nd Presentation and VOTE. Paul Passacantilli representing the owner, Jack Mahoney. Proposal is to change occupancy to a two family dwelling. Construct a third floor vertical addition and a rear addition. Extend living space in the basement. Full interior renovations. Two parking spaces in the rear yard.

- Brooke Charter School Expansion (15min) Initial Presentation by Mark Loring, Chief Operating Officer, Brooke Charter Schools. Proposal is to expand the current school on Byron/Horace Streets using existing space in the rear yard.

- Mass DOT Route 1A Planning. (45min) Doug Johnson, Transportation Planner Mass. DOT will present thoughts, ideas, plans, discussion for the Route 1A McClellan Highway.

Please stay safe and we look forward to you attending our next HVNA meeting In Person or On Line.

The next meeting of the HVNA will be on April 4, 2022.

Visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/harborviewna> or check out our website at [harborvieweastboston.com](http://harborvieweastboston.com)

### MVES HOLDS FREE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES

Mystic Valley Elder Services will present a FREE Virtual chronic disease self-management workshop series My Life; My Health, beginning Wednesday, March 16 to April 20, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Learn how to connect virtually thru a Zoom platform and take the class from the comfort of your home. You don't want chronic disease, pain

or discomfort to limit the activities and life you enjoy.

The series is for anyone living with an ongoing medical condition, such as arthritis, asthma, chronic back pain, chronic fatigue syndrome, cancer, COPD, diabetes, fibromyalgia, heart disease, high blood pressure, Parkinson's disease, or stroke. Topics will include managing and controlling pain, beginning (or improving) an exercise program, handling stress and learning to relax, increasing energy, and eating for your health and wellbeing.

Class size is limited, so reserve your spot today. To register or if you have any questions about the program, contact Donna Covelle at [dcovelle@mves.org](mailto:dcovelle@mves.org) or call 781-388-4867.

### GOLDBERG ANNOUNCES INTERIM LOTTERY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg announced that Michael Sweeney, Executive Director of the Massachusetts State Lottery, is departing from the agency for a new role outside of state government.

"I want to thank Michael for his countless contributions to the Massachusetts State Lottery over the last seven years, and am grateful for his prior service at the State Treasurer's Office," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "I wish him well in all his future endeavors."

The Treasurer has appointed Mark William Bracken as interim Executive Director. Bracken is tasked with leading the strategic business operations of the Lottery and its five regional offices as the Treasurer begins the search for a permanent Executive Director.

Bracken has worked for the Massachusetts State Treasurer's Office since 2011. He is currently an Assistant Treasurer and Director of the state's Unclaimed Property Division. He attended St. Anselm College and Suffolk University Law School where he received his JD. Bracken has also served as the President of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators.

The Massachusetts State Lottery was created in 1972 to generate local aid revenues for the Commonwealth's cities and towns. Since its inception, the Lottery has returned more than \$29 billion in net profit to the Commonwealth. For more information about the state Lottery, please visit [www.masslottery.com](http://www.masslottery.com).

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ELECTION VICTORY CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF SENATOR LYDIA EDWARDS

Photos by Cary Shuman

State Senator Lydia Edwards came to the Winthrop Arms last Tuesday night to join her many supporters and friends in celebrating her victory in the special senate election and thanking them for their support in the campaign for the First Suffolk and Middlesex District seat previously held by Joseph Boncore of Winthrop. Edwards, an attorney who has served as a Boston city councilor since 2018, was inaugurated as senator for the district on Jan. 20, 2022. Well-known Winthrop resident Ed Cash helped

coordinate the event to honor Edwards on her impressive victory and delivered the introductory remarks to the crowd that packed the function room at the Arms. Cash told the assemblage that “everyone said that Winthrop was the huge battleground, and everyone knocked on doors, made phone calls, standouts, you name it – and [Lydia Edwards] ended up winning Winthrop.” Edwards began her remarks by thanking her supporters. “I want to thank you all for coming out tonight – this is a great showing of support, solidarity,” said



Senator Lydia Edwards and Mass. Biotechnology Council CEO Joseph Boncore, who previously served as state senator. See more photos on Page 13. Edwards. “I really don’t care where you were on Dec. 14 (the date of the

Democratic Primary) – you’re here tonight. It matters where we’re going to go together going forward, and that’s what you see in me and my leadership style. It’s about how we bring people together, what we can agree on, what we can disagree on and how we can still be a community, a neighborhood that is growing, that is welcoming, that is beautiful, that respects its history and its past, but also welcomes a vibrant, diverse, beautiful future – that’s what I want to do.” Edwards announced



Rebecca Ferland, Mary Ann Cash, Kathleen Cappuccio, and Ed Cash.

that she has been appointed chair of the State Community Development and Small Business Committee and vice chair of the State Assets and Bonding Committee. She said the name of the senatorial district will now be the Third Suffolk District. Edwards said that she will be hosting a “listening session” March 2 on Zoom focusing on transportation, environmental justice, and Massport. Edwards also announced that she will be a candidate for re-election. In concluding her remarks, Edwards recognized Winthrop resident and former town councilor Richard Gill with a toast. Mr. Gill was unable to attend the event. “If you could raise a glass for Dick Gill. I can’t think of a credible heart and soul who sees the person before the politics, who really cares about this community more than him,” said Edwards.



Councilor-at-Large Robert DeMarco, State Rep. Jeffrey Turco, Senator Lydia Edwards, and Precinct 1 Councilor Richard Fucillo.



Senator Lydia Edwards, with the Foley sisters, Leonora Foley, Daniela Foley, and Erica Foley.



Precinct 3 Councilor Hannah Belcher, Senator Lydia Edwards, and Stephen Hines.



Phil Boncore and Winthrop Town Council President James Letterie, pictured at the event Tuesday at the Winthrop Arms.



Rocco Addesa and Senator Lydia Edwards.



Vera Carducci, Senator Lydia Edwards, and Joseph Steffano.



Mary Berninger, Senator Lydia Edwards, and Boston City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, candidate for Suffolk County district attorney.



Senator Lydia Edwards and School Committee member Layne Petrie.



Senator Lydia Edwards and Bill Schmidt.



Front row, Alice Reilly and Eric Redister. Back row, Donna Segreti Reilly, Senator Lydia Edwards, and former Town Council President Tom Reilly.



Precinct 3 Councilor Hannah Belcher, Precinct 6 Councilor Stephen Ruggiero, Councilor-at-Large Robert DeMarco, Senator Lydia Edwards, Precinct 1 Councilor Richard Fucillo, Town Council President James Letterie, and former Town Council President Phil Boncore.



## OBITUARIES

### Providenza "Prudy" Masciulli

Fondly known as a feisty, hard worker who will be missed by all

Providenza "Prudy" Masciulli of Revere, formerly of the North End and East Boston, passed away surrounded by her loving family after a brief illness on February 23 at the age of 78.

Prudy was born in Boston on August 22, 1943 to Paul and Anne (Vitale) Firicano. She loved her roots in Boston's North End. She was a waitress and bartender for many years, loved all the feasts particularly the Fisherman's Feast. She was fondly known as a feisty, hard worker and will be missed by all.

Prudy is survived by her loving children, James Masciulli and Lorraine Burri and her husband, Steven; cherished grandchildren: Jimmy, Janea, Paul and Philip Masciulli, Steven Burri and Kristina Codispoli and adored



great grandson, Gennaro Masciulli. She was predeceased by her son, Paul Masciulli and sisters, Bridget DeBella and Paula Polci.

Family and friends will honor Prudy's life by gathering at St. Joseph-St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashley St., East Boston on Monday, March 7 at 10 a.m. for a memorial mass at 11 a.m. in celebration of Prudy's life.

### Charlotte Sweeney

Loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother

A Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Anthony of Padua Church for Charlotte R. (St. Croix) Sweeney who died on Sunday, February 20 at the Leonard Florence Center for the Living in Chelsea following a long illness. She was 95 years old. Interment followed in Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne.

Charlotte was a native of East Boston, one of 14 children born to the late William J. St. Croix and Charlotte (Dobbins) St. Croix. She was raised and educated in East Boston and was a proud alumna of East Boston High School, Class of 1944.

Charlotte was happily married to her husband, Charles J. Sweeney, Sr. and together they raised their eight children in East Boston, later moving to Revere in 1977.

Charlotte was all about family, coming from a large family and then having her own large family, she was committed to being the best mother she could be. She enjoyed being surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren for any occasion. She loved having a good time and making wonderful memories.

The devoted wife of 50 years to the late Charles J. Sweeney, Sr., she was the loving and proud mother of Susan Leary and her husband, Dennis,



Sr. of Malden, Charles J. Sweeney, Jr. and his wife, Terri of Billerica, William Sweeney of Revere, Gerald Sweeney and his wife, Susan of Sharon, Francis X. Sweeney of Revere, Mary (Sweeney) Pappas and her husband, James "Jimmy" of Essex and the late Charlene Sweeney and Jane M. Cox and her late husband, John "Jack" Cox. She was the cherished Nana of 12 grandchildren and six great grandchildren who she treasured dearly and the dear sister of 13 late brothers and sisters. She is also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Remembrances may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

The staff at Vertuccio & Smith is most honored to have assisted the family in completing funeral arrangements. For online condolences please visit [www.vertuccioandsmith.com](http://www.vertuccioandsmith.com).

### Christine P. Cutrufo

A beautiful person, inside and out

Christine Cutrufo, 62, born on December 28, 1959, grew up in Cambridge.

The beloved wife, mother, sister and grandmother, passed away quietly following a long illness on Tuesday, February 22. She is survived by her beloved husband, Joseph Cutrufo, her two children, Timothy Cross of Windham, NH and Mikaela Harvey of West Peabody along with her two grandchildren, Benjamin Cross and Madison Harvey. She also leaves three sisters and two brothers: Cheryl Arnold, Robin Yeomelakis, Lisa Skotz, Keith Webb and Kenneth Webb along with many nieces and nephews.

Those who had the privilege to know Chris will remember her as a kind, generous and caring woman. Family was everything to Chris and she loved spending time with her children and grandchildren. On Sunday they



all gathered for their Family Dinners which was the highlight of her week. She would always be there to lend a helping hand, always putting her loved ones needs before her own. She was a beautiful person, inside and out and she will be deeply missed by all whose lives she touched.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 10 Chestnut Street, Peabody.

To leave an online condolence visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

## District 1 candidate Del Rio releases vision for future of BPS

Staff Report

Candidate for Boston City Council District 1 and BPS mother Tania Del Rio released her vision for the future of BPS, crafted collaboratively with a coalition of community members, parents, and education experts, including former Chief of Education for the City of Boston Rahn Dorsey and community activist Elsa Flores.

Her plan outlines a pathway to ensure all students have equitable access to quality schools and safe learning environments by providing safe, quality, and sustainable learning environments; expanding mental health resources; guaranteeing safe, accessible environments for our immigrant students; streamlining our school transportation system; enriching our arts education curriculum; and charting a path forward for Charlestown High School.

She also includes her commitment to expanding Universal Pre-K for all 3-year-olds, her support for an elected school committee, and her intention to integrate community input into the process of appointing a new superintendent. To spread awareness, the Del Rio campaign will be hosting a series of collaborative round tables, open to all members of the public and the press, in support of envisioning BPS' future. (Stay tuned for more details & RSVP information!)

"As a BPS parent, transforming the Boston Public Schools into an equitable, thriving system is personal to me. I have experienced the joys and challenges of BPS and advocated for our early educators and children throughout my career. Throughout

the pandemic, chronic absentee rates have been very high and unenrollment from BPS threatens the success of the system. As a City Councilor, my focus would be to do everything we can to attract students and families back into our school system by providing equitable access to an excellent education for all," said Del Rio.

"Justice and prosperity in Boston depend on having leaders, like Tania, who can act powerfully and produce results in the places [like our education system], where society's contemporary challenges come together. Tania has [already] demonstrated the unique ability to work at [these] important policy intersections and turn aspirations into tangible progress, in her case increasing early education quality in Boston, increasing the economic sustainability of early childhood businesses and expanding opportunity for women in and beyond the workplace. I am ecstatic that she has chosen to run for Boston City Council," said former chief education executive Dorsey.

"As a mother, activist, and education professional, I fully support and value Tania Del Rio's plan to improve our education system, as part of her candidacy for District 1 City Council. It is important that our immigrant community feels represented and valued. All students need to feel recognized, like their culture is respected, like their teachers want them to succeed, and like their family is involved. I am excited to see this plan of instrumental and inclusive improvements that Tania has proposed for our education sphere," said Flores.

## Eastie's weekly COVID positive test decreases once again

By John Lynds

Two weeks after Mayor Michelle Wu and Dr. Bisola Ojikutu announced that the City's "B Together" policy, which requires patrons and staff of certain indoor spaces to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 would be lifted, new infections remain low in Eastie and the rest of Boston.

According to the BPHC 13,219 residents were tested citywide last week and 3.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 22 percent decrease from the 4.6 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on February 21. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 48 percent in Boston since February 14.

Last week, 837 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 4.1

percent were positive--this was a 35 percent decrease from the 6.3 percent that tested positive as reported by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on February 21. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 59 percent in Eastie since February 14.

Thirty four additional Eastie residents contracted the virus between February 21 and February 28 and there are now 14,178 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.

See COVID Page 11

#### IN LOVING MEMORY

### Francis M. Vatalaro

Feb. 27, 2018 — Feb. 27, 2022

*His smiling way and pleasant face  
Are a pleasure to recall,  
He had a kindly word for each  
And died beloved by all.*

*Some day we hope to meet him,  
Someday, we know not when,  
To clasp his hand in the better land,  
Never to part again.*

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## OBITUARIES

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## COVID // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 0.92 percent last week and went from 163,720 cases to confirmed 165,226 cases in a week.

There were 21 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,718. Deaths increased 10.5 per-

cent in Boston last week with three more deaths compared to the 19 deaths reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

## Agriculture // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

cally grown food including urban farms, food forests, and much more. This is needed now more than ever.”

Boston has been a leader in urban food production for decades, with a long history of community gardening through the establishment of Article 89, one of the first zoning regulations in the country to address and explicitly allow urban farming. In recent years, there has been increasing demand for community gardens as well as other food production spaces in neighborhoods across the city, especially in low-income communities of color. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on food security has highlighted even further the need for additional space and resources in order to expand gardening and farming capacity.

“Boston has a long his-

tory of urban agriculture in many forms, and our field has seen ever-increasing momentum over the past decade,” said Shani Fletcher, Director of GrowBoston. “I am thrilled to take on this leadership role as Boston moves into an era of increased investment in food system transformation with an eye towards equity.”

GrowBoston will secure new funding sources to provide resources and technical assistance to neighborhood groups and nonprofits to help them organize, buy, create, manage, and maintain urban farms, food forests, community gardens, and open spaces in Boston’s neighborhoods. As a result of this investment, Boston neighborhoods will receive improvements to and permanent preservation of community food production sites and other

open spaces.

“The City of Boston has been an incredible partner of ours in building Boston’s urban agriculture sector, and we’re looking forward to increased energy, ideas, and resources to expand economic opportunity and access to fresh food across our communities,” said Dave Madan, Board President of Boston Farms Community Land Trust and Founding Trustee of Urban Farming Institute.

GrowBoston and the Office of Food Justice will coordinate with other city agencies who work to connect residents with healthy, locally grown foods. This includes the Office of Neighborhood Services, and the Environment and Parks and Recreation Departments to ensure that equity and climate resiliency are central to the office’s work.



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## LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE

Chelsea Housing Authority  
Request for Proposal  
Rental Lease Agreement  
Issued: Wednesday, February 23, 2022

The Chelsea Housing Authority seeks multiple owners of developments or single rental units, within a 5-mile radius of Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150, with preference given to those apartments in Chelsea, MA (attachment A) with available 1, 2, 3, & 4- bedroom units that will be available between May 1st-August 1, 2022, to enter into a master lease agreement, with the CHA, for a minimum of 18 months, with month-to-month extensions, up to 30 months of initial lease date. The CHA will enter into an agreement with multiple owners, to sublease approximately 26 units, with an agreement signed for each unit occupied. Maximum gross contract rents will be as follows:

- 1-Bedroom units - \$ 1,924
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  - 3-Bedroom units - \$ 2,906
  - 4-Bedroom units - \$ 3,168
- To receive the complete documents of the RFP, please email [avelazquez@chelseaha.com](mailto:avelazquez@chelseaha.com) or pick up at our main administrative office at 54 Locke Street, Chelsea, MA 02150
- Proposal with all criteria met should be sent and received as follows, no later than 11:00 am on March 25, 2022. Proposals should be received in a sealed envelope

3/3/22, 3/4/22  
EV, EB, R, C, W

### LEGAL NOTICE

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

De acuerdo con las sección

31A y el artículo 80C del Código de Zonificación de Boston (el “Código”), por la presente, la Autoridad de Reurbanización de Boston, que opera bajo el nombre de Agencia de Planificación y Desarrollo de Boston (“BPDA”), notifica que se celebrará una Audiencia pública virtual el jueves 10 de marzo de 2022 a las 5:30 p. m. que se televisará en Boston City TV (Xfinity Channel 24, RCN Channel 13 y Verizon Fios Channel 962) y se transmitirá en directo en [boston.gov](http://boston.gov), para considerar el Plan de desarrollo propuesto para el Área de desarrollo planificado nro. 133, 355 Bennington Street, East Boston. Se prevé que el proyecto de 355 Bennington Street incluya la demolición del edificio comercial actual de una sola planta y la construcción de un edificio nuevo de hasta seis plantas que contendrá, aproxima-

damente, 170 unidades de vivienda multifamiliar, unos 6,985 pies cuadrados para usos comerciales, servicios para los residentes y estacionamiento complementario, con mejoras en el sitio y el espacio público. Para participar de esta Audiencia pública, los miembros del público pueden registrarse en <https://bit.ly/March8-PDAMeeting> o enviar su testimonio a [BRABoard@boston.gov](mailto:BRABoard@boston.gov). Los testimonios enviados por correo electrónico se leerán en voz alta durante la audiencia. El Proyecto propuesto se puede consultar en el siguiente enlace <http://www.boston-plans.org/projects/development-projects/355-bennington-street>. Teresa Polhemus, directora ejecutiva/secretaria de la Autoridad de Reurbanización de Boston

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EAST BOSTON SOCIAL CENTERS RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT

East Boston Social Centers, Inc. is excited to announce it has received \$750,000 over five years to support the development of comprehensive child and family well-being systems designed as a broader approach to prevent child abuse and neglect. East Boston Social Centers is thrilled it was one of six organizations nationwide chosen to receive the federal Family Support Through Primary Prevention grant from the U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families at the Children’s Bureau. Every Child Shines will ensure every East Boston child enters kindergarten joyful, thriving and ready to learn. We plan to support caretakers to increase parent’s child development skills. We will use a data driven approach to our intervention to drive best practices in family support building on the EB Family Engagement Network parent partner

model. A central focus of our work includes cross sector community partnerships to enhance concrete supports for families in times of need. “Our East Boston community have many strengths and beauty. The grant to East Boston Social Centers, Inc. is part of a vision to build a comprehensive, early childhood, interconnected ecosystem that uses the Protective Factors framework to build Parental Resilience, Social Connections, in-

crease Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, provide Concrete Support in Times of Need and build Social and Emotional Competence in Children,” said Rosie M Batista, Every Child Shines Director. “We continue to be focused on human centered design with the voices of the community at the center of our work. We are thrilled to bring more resources to our community and to work very closely with our partner agencies to

disrupt the cycle of poverty and stress that affect our families.” East Boston Social Centers, Inc. is a 501 (C) (9) multi-service agency, founded in 1918, serving culturally diverse families and individuals of all ages in East Boston and throughout Greater Boston. The programs offered by the Social Centers are designed to meet people’s educational, social, and recreational needs and to build community and strengthen families. The

Social Centers seek to create a welcoming and supportive environment, characterized by a spirit of goodwill and caring, in which members of our community are empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives. “When All Give, All Gain” Learn more at <https://everychildshines.org/> If you would like for information on Every Child Shines, please contact Rosie M. Batista at [rbatista@ebsoc.org](mailto:rbatista@ebsoc.org).



Rosie Batista.



Zaccaria // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The contest, one of the most prestigious writing and illustrating competitions in the world, is currently in its 34th year and is judged by some of the premier names in speculative fiction. Zaccaria was born and raised in Eastie and worked varied jobs in graphic design—first as a printer, then a print buyer, and then as a graphic designer specializing in book cover design. His work has won acclaim from Bookbuilders of Boston, The New York Book Show, and the Boskone Art Show. His work has appeared in the annuals from Bookbuilders of Boston and Infected by Art. Zaccaria said much of his daily work is book cover design for publishers and independent authors, though he feels the pull toward image creation. “Over the last several years, I started to build his portfolio and exhibit at various conventions,

squeezing in new art every chance I get,” he said. “I was drawn to the arts from an early age. Music is an immense inspiration for ideas, and much of my work is influenced by a song title, lyric, or mood.” Zaccaria said other subjects that motivate and spark his imagination are mythology, poster design, and artists working in imaginative realism. Most of his art is produced digitally, and he sees that as a perfect medium for commercial works, but he also enjoys working in traditional methods as well as a blending of the two. Following the 1982 release of his internationally acclaimed bestselling science fiction novel, Battlefield Earth, written in celebration of 50 years as a professional writer, L. Ron Hubbard created the Writers of the Future in 1983 to provide a means for aspiring writers of speculative fiction to get that much-needed break. Due to the success of the Writers of the Future Con-



A sample of some of Jim Zaccaria’s art that catapulted him to be named winner of the international contest.



test, the companion Illustrators of the Future Contest was inaugurated five years later.

The intensive mentoring process has proven very successful. The 382 past winners of the Illus-

trating Contest have produced over 6,000 illustrations, 360 comic books, graced 624 books and

albums with their art and visually contributed to 68 TV shows, and 40 major movies.

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dents have completed the coursework required for the first and second quarter of the 2021 - 2022 school year. The school has three categories for outstanding academic per-

formance honors: Headmaster’s List (90 - 100 in all classes,) First Honors (85 to 89 in all classes) and Second Honors (80 to 84 in all classes.)

Malden Catholic Honors – QUARTER ONE  
Second Honors (80 to 84 in all classes)  
Rocio Rodriguez Cabarcas

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