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# East Boston

## TIMES - FREE PRESS

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### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH Celebrating with profiles on local women

## NSMHA's Director of Recovery Support Services Katie O'Leary

By John Lynds

Growing up in Charlestown Katie O'Leary never thought she'd one day struggle with addiction and later become an influential figure in the world of recovery services.

O'Leary graduated Matignon High School and after graduation went off to college at UMass Amherst.

However, from 1998 to 2001 something became apparent.

"In my very early years it was alcohol because it was so socially acceptable," said O'Leary. "At the time I minimized it. My parents obviously knew that I was struggling with alcohol, but they thought it was just a phase-like partying too much in college. I was a problematic drinker from the second I got to UMass until probably a couple of



NSMHA's Director of Recovery Support Services Katie O'Leary with her father, Bob, and mother, Donna, during the grand opening of Recovery on the Harbor in East Boston—a recovery support office O'Leary was instrumental in opening last year.

years after I got home and then obviously things just got worse."

As the opioid crisis gripped American and O'Leary's hometown of

Charlestown in the early 2000s she did not travel down the same road of many of her peers.

"The very early years were alcohol and that was

it," said O'Leary. "Some of my friends were junkies and as long as I wasn't a junkie and just drinking I was okay but I was like a full blown alcoholic. I mean, I drank every day and every night. But they were the ones that were sick, not me."

Eventually O'Leary would try pharmaceutical opiates and once she was hooked she moved to heroin.

"Between alcohol and opiates my struggle with addiction was about 8 to 10 years," she said.

But in January 2011 O'Leary entered treatment for the last time and had been sober ever since.

It was two years into her recovery while she was receiving recovery services from North Suffolk Mental Health Asso-

See O'LEARY Page 3

## District 1 City Council race heating up

By John Lynds

With the Special Election Preliminary for the District 1 City Council seat less than two months away the two candidates are pounding the pavement, knocking doors, raising money, releasing their plans for the district and squaring off at community forums.

East Boston's Gabriela Coletta and Tania Del Rio will face each other during the May 3 Preliminary Election and with no Republican challengers the winner of that race will become the District's next City Councillor.

The month of February was a busy month for the two candidates as they attended several community forums in the district as well as recent Democratic Ward Caucuses that elected delegates to the state convention in June.

Also, Coletta and Del Rio have been busy raising money for their cam-



Gabriela Coletta.



Tania Del Rio.

paigns but it seems Coletta has taken the lead.

According to the Office of Campaign and Political Finance Coletta raised \$27,010.67 during the month of February

See RACE Page 2

## Sen. Edwards will help lead the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business

By John Lynds

Owned by a diverse group, neighborhood small businesses have been the backbone of East Boston's local economy for decades and it's Sen. Lydia Edwards' goal to continue to give the small businesses that dot the neighborhood the strength and state support they need going forward.

ward.

Edwards was recently appointed the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business. The committee considers all matters concerning commercial establishments, the establishment of economic districts and local planning commissions, urban renewal plans, and other

such matters.

In the wake of the COVID pandemic, which hit small businesses particularly hard over the past two years, Edwards said she wants to ensure a bright future for our local economic engines.

"I got a lot of small businesses in my district who are rightfully trying to figure a pathway for-

ward," said Edwards. "Part of the chairmanship is passing the laws and having hearings but it is also making sure that the laws are working, the grants are getting to the people that they need to get to, and that we're thinking creatively on how to save our small businesses and ensure they develop and recover. We

See EDWARDS Page 6

## Celtics, TD Bank help create STEM room at Salesian Boys & Girls Club

By John Lynds

Boston Celtics power forwards Grant Williams and Leon Powe were on hand at the Salesian Boys & Girls Club on Byron Street Monday to help celebrate the completion of a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) preteen room at the club.

The new preteen room was recently completed after a few weeks of work last month and made possible by generous donations from the Celtics Community Crew and TD Bank.

The Celtics and TD



Boston Celtics power forward Grant Williams signs a basketball for a Salesian Boys & Girls Club member.

combined two rooms off the Boys & Girls Club cafeteria and created a comfortable space for preteens with an emphasis on

STEM.

"They painted the whole space and put up all the wall graphics with the Celtics logo," said Sale-

sian Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Michael Triant. "They paid for all the new furniture like couches, chairs, tables, computer tables, a teacher's desk in the room as well as six new computers, new video gaming systems with TVs and games and remote controls. They also donated a bunch of STEM equipment so we can continue that sort of programming at the club going forward."

Triant said the Boys & Girls Club was nominated for the overhaul by TD Bank and got word they

See STEM Page 5

## Madaro, House passes offshore wind legislation

By John Lynds

Two years ago Rep. Adrian Madaro and a group of elected officials toured Blue Atlantic Fabricators' 20,000-square-foot manufacturing facility at the Boston Shipyard and Marina on Marginal Street in East Boston.

As more and more waterfront parcels are zoned out of Designated Port Areas (DPA) to make way for luxury housing in Boston, Blue Atlantic General Manager Michael Julian has been trying to remain a viable employer in East

Boston.

During the tour Julian pointed out to Madaro and others that the Blue Atlantic facility located on the waterfront with deep water and heavy tonnage berthing access, makes it ideally positioned to provide structural steel components to the emerging U.S. offshore wind industry.

With 15 skilled employees Julian's company is doing work on around 1,500 tons of steel material each year but with the emerging offshore wind

See WIND Page 2

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# Positive COVID tests slight increase

By John Lynds

Three weeks after the city’s “B Together” policy, which required patrons and staff of certain indoor spaces to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19, was canceled and a week after the city’s indoors mask mandate was lifted, the weekly positive test rate in East Boston and the city has increased.

While new cases were on a steady decline for weeks now, the recent uptick in cases is something city health officials are sure to keep a watchful eye on and make adjustments if needed.

Last week, 675 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 3.3 percent were positive--this

was a 57 percent increase from the 2.1 percent that tested positive as reported by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on March 7. The weekly positive test rate has decreased 19.5 percent in Eastie since February 28.

Twenty-two additional Eastie residents contracted the virus between March 7 and March 14 and there are now 14,214 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

According to the BPHC 12,655 residents were tested citywide last week and 2.4 percent were COVID positive--this was a 4 percent increase from the 2.3 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on March 7.

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 0.38 percent last week and went from 166,087 cases to 166,722 confirmed since the start of the pandemic.

There were four additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total number of COVID deaths is now at 1,431. Deaths decreased 55.5 percent in Boston last week with five less deaths compared to the nine deaths reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

# Contractor involved in two deaths at Boston worksite last year cited in Eastie

By John Lynds

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has once again cited Laurence Moloney, who was involved in the February 2021 double fatality at a downtown Boston worksite, for failing to provide employees with essential and required safeguards--this time at a residential construction site in East Boston.

Responding to a complaint indicating that Moloney’s employees were exposed to excavation hazards while working in a foundation at the 18 Crestway Rd project in Orient Heights, OSHA inspectors found employees exposed to cave-in and other potentially life-threatening hazards.

“Less than six months after being cited for egregious willful violations in the deaths of two employees in an excavation, this serial violator again exposed employees to potentially fatal cave-in and struck-by hazards,” said OSHA Regional Administrator in Boston Galen Blanton. “While Laurence Moloney may reincorporate and operate under a variety of names, what is consistent is his pattern of willfully violating safety and health requirements, ignoring OSHA citations and penalties and persistently placing employ-

ees in harm’s way.”

OSHA has fined Moloney \$624,777 for his latest violation and put his company on OSHA’s repeat offender watch list.

Last year Maloney and his company were cited and fined over \$1.3 million by OSHA for the deaths of Jordy Romero and Juan Carlos Figueroa.

Romero was killed instantly alongside his co-worker, Figueroa, after a construction truck accidentally knocked the two into a trench that was 20 feet deep. Both Romero and Figueroa were part of the construction crew doing work on High Street in Downtown Boston. They worked for Moloney’s Atlantic Coast Utilities. The company was hired to make an emergency repair on a sewer line.

Moloney and his companies had to pay \$1,350,884 in penalties for 28 violations following the deaths of Romero and Figueroa. Those citations and penalties are currently being contested. Under various names, including Shannon Construction Corp. and Atlantic Coast Utilities LLC, Moloney and his companies have an extensive history of OSHA trenching and excavation violations dating back almost 20 years. Six previous inspections of his companies resulted in the issuance of 14 willful repeat and serious viola-

tions, with \$81,242 in penalties, \$73,542 of which are unpaid and have been referred to debt collection.

Moloney now meets the requirements for OSHA’s Severe Violator Enforcement Program.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to ensure these conditions for America’s workers by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance

At the Eastie site, OSHA determined that Moloney would have to ensure cave-in protection for each employee working in an excavation; Provide adequate protection to prevent loose rock or soil from falling into the excavation; Instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions; Conduct frequent and regular inspections of the job site to identify and correct hazards; Ensure stability of adjoining buildings, walls, or other structures endangered by excavation operations; Ensure that a competent person identified all confined spaces employees were to enter; Provide adequate helmets to protect employees against impact and penetration by falling and flying objects.

## Race // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and has \$71,784.07 cash on hand according to her fundraising disclosures.

Del Rio raised \$11,957.98 last month and has \$34,606.39 cash on hand according to her report.

Coletta could increase that total with two upcoming fundraisers this month. Coletta will host a fundraising event alongside supporters at the Cunard Tavern in East Boston on Wednesday, March 23 at 5:30 pm.

Despite trailing in fundraising Del Rio recently picked up the endorsement of former Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Murphy, who served during the Dukakis Administration.

“I am so excited to announce the support of former Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts Evelyn Murphy, a real trailblazer in our state,” said Del Rio. “As the first woman in our Commonwealth to hold a constitutional elected office, Evelyn is a pioneer of women. We first met when I was the Executive Director of the Office of Women’s Advancement, and she now chairs the Boston Women’s Workforce Council. I am proud to call Evelyn a close mentor of mine and to have her support.”

On Monday, the two candidates addressed members of the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association (JPNA).

Coletta, who worked at the New England Aquarium on climate resiliency and equitable access to the waterfront after leaving

Sen. Lydia Edward’s office where she was Chief of Staff, said she recently released her environmental justice and climate change policy.

“We’re dealing with a compounding displacement crisis, due to both development and gentrification and in the very near future, about 11,000 people, a majority of them low income people of color, will be displaced due to coastal flooding and sea level rise,” said Coletta. “The city has a significant role to play in planning for our future with waterfront investment to protect our neighborhoods from sea level rise. I’m pleased to see the recent announcement by Mayor Michelle Wu to launch the Municipal Harbor Plan for East Boston that prioritizes waterfront resiliency and equity. I’m proud of my work at the New England Aquarium for the last six months where my main responsibility was pushing the city to implement exactly what she announced. Whatever happens through this process it needs to be community led with an emphasis on the needs of centering or centering the needs of residents are what their vision is for their waterfront and I believe it should utilize contemporary resilience strategies seen around the world. I believe we need to meet the sea on a district wide scale by using both passive and active permeable spaces and I’d also like to see living shorelines that act as waterfront classrooms

for BPS and community based organizations and we must plan for the inclusion of all Bostonians to enjoy the waterfront regardless of race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status”

Del Rio said she also has an eye on the environment and ideas on how to address the issue.

“We need a process that really puts planning first and brings the neighborhood’s voices into account,” said Del Rio. “On my green agenda I’ll be fighting to accelerate carbon emission reductions. I want to really focus on creating smart traffic solutions that make public transit more accessible, affordable, reliable and more attractive for people to use so less cars are traveling our streets. I want to make our city resilient for the next generation by fighting for frequent and reliable water transportation to the district and protect the public’s access to the Harborwalk. The three neighborhoods that are part of our district are all facing the challenges that come with being harbored connected like climate change, flood risk and a lot of other challenges. So if today we feel separated by the harbor, we need to find ways in which it can unite us because our community really values diversity. We’re a tapestry with threads that run in different directions with different textures and different colors, but we come together and we form a beautiful work of art.”

## Wind // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

industry Blue Atlantic is poised to expand.

“Being in a DPA is very important to this endeavor,” said Julian at the time. “I can easily see us growing to around 60 to 70 employees if we are able to get some of this wind construction work. I can tell you our employees can handle a good amount of that work in this facility.”

This week, in an effort to meet the Commonwealth’s climate goals of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, the House passed legislation to further develop the offshore wind industry in Massachusetts.

“The future of energy in Massachusetts is renewable, and offshore wind provides one of the best paths forward to meet our energy needs,” said Madaro, who cosponsored the bill. “I was happy to vote in favor of this bill, strengthening our off-

shore wind industry while improving our electrical grid, developing our economy with new green jobs, and meeting our climate resiliency goals”.

Blue Atlantic has already been building A-Frames for its offshore division and the new bill could be a great opportunity to get some work from the emerging offshore wind industry.

The new bill makes the Massachusetts offshore wind bidding process more competitive by removing a current price cap that requires bids to be less expensive than previous procurements that has deterred companies from participating in the procurement process. Madaro said future procurements would now include economic development, employment, and environmental and fisheries mitigation benefits.

The bill would also in-

vest hundreds of millions of dollars over the next decade in infrastructure, innovation, job training, supply chain capacity, and transmission upgrades.

The only downside to Blue Atlantic’s growing business is the lack of skilled workers. Blue Atlantic has been increasing the company’s profile at job fairs and local trade schools with the goal of showing high school and trade school students that there is a career in working with their hands.

Julian noted most of his 15 employees are making \$50,000 or more a year with benefits like health insurance and retirement.

A highlight of the new house bill would create a DESE high school offshore wind credential training pilot program through which DESE would reimburse school districts for each student that obtains the credential.

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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, March 29, 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 **March 24, 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, November 16, 2021 and March 1, 2022 6:35 pm

New Business

a. 6:45 pm – Anthony Guerriero, Massport, Phase II update

b. 7:10 pm – Nick Black, Trustees of Reservations, Phase III update

c. 7:25 pm – Nomination for Members to fill vacancies

d. 7:35 Treasurer’s Annual report 2021 and 2022 Budget Review

Old Business

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

b. 7:45 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 available on request.

A copy of this notice and instructions for remote participation will also be posted on the organization’s website at:

[www.EBPierPAC.org](http://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 29 de marzo 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](http://ebpierpac.org)) a más tardar el 24 de marzo 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 16 de noviembre de 2021 y 1 de marzo de 2022 6:35 pm

NUEVO NEGOCIO

a. 6:45 pm – Anthony Guerriero, Massport, Phase II update

b. 7:10 pm – Nick Black, Trustees of Reservations, Phase III update

c. 7:25 pm - Nominación de Miembros para llenar vacantes

d. 7:35 pm - Informe del Tesorero 2021

VIEJO NEGOCIO

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

b. 7:45 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](http://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

LOCAL STUDENTS

EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO BC HIGH HONOR ROLL

Five East Boston Residents were Named to Honor Roll at BC High for the second quarter.

Jack Brodin, High Honors (Class of 2022)

Pablo Alvila, High Honors (Class of 2024)

Jesse Ramos, High Honors (Class of 2024)

Gabriel Aviles-Lemus, Honors (Class of 2024)

Thomas Zirpolo, Honors (Class of 2024)

For High Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.80 quality point average and all grades “C+”

or higher. Freshmen need a 3.6 quality point average and all grades “C+” or higher.

For Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.20 quality point average and all grades “C-” or higher.

Freshmen need a 3.165 quality point average and all grades “C-” or higher.

Boston College High School is a Jesuit, Catholic, college-preparatory school for young men in grades 7 to 12. Founded in 1863, the school enrolls approximately 1,500 students from more than 140 communities in eastern Massachusetts. For more information please visit [bchigh.edu](http://bchigh.edu).



# City of Boston’s COVID-19 state of emergency declaration to end April 1

Mayor Michelle Wu and Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission, today announced Boston’s COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration will end on April 1, 2022. The announcement follows a vote by the Boston Board of Health during their meeting last week following the recommendation of Dr. Ojikutu. The Emergency Declaration has been in place since March 15, 2020.

“The announcement is a testament to how Boston came together in a historically challenging time to lift up public health and community,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “As we transition to this next phase of living with COVID, we will focus on providing the testing, resources, and planning to keep our communities safe and prepared.”

“While the City of Boston is no longer in a state of emergency, we must continue to protect our most vulnerable residents

and prepare for the future,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu. “Now is the time for us to use all of the lessons learned from the pandemic, strengthen community partnerships, develop stronger public health infrastructure, and ensure an equitable recovery for all.”

Dr. Ojikutu’s recommendation to rescind the order is based on the City’s consistently improving core COVID-19 metrics, including community positivity, daily adult COVID-19 hospitalizations, and occupied ICU beds. As of March 7, the community positivity rate is 2.2%, down from a peak of 32% in early January. Daily adult hospitalizations have also steadily declined and are now down to 94 after peaking at 769 in mid-January. The percentage of occupied ICU beds has been consistently below the Commission’s 95% threshold of concern over the last few weeks.

During their meeting, Boston Public Health Commission officials

provided a recommended framework for Boston Public Schools to use in determining when to lift the school masking requirement. Dr. Sarimer Sánchez from BPHC’s Infectious Diseases Bureau advised reviewing the school masking policy when the number of positive COVID-19 tests per day in Boston falls below 10 cases per day per 100,000 residents while considering other COVID-19 metrics. BPHC is also encouraging development of “mask friendly” policies for students and staff and increasing access to vaccines in school communities. The current COVID-19 daily case incidence is approximately 13 cases per 100,000 residents in Boston. The final decision on revising the school mask policy will be made by Boston Public Schools.

The consistently improving metrics also mean the City of Boston and the Boston Public Health Commission can shift their focus to longer-term

planning and preparedness efforts, developing a roadmap to handle future surges and pandemics, while continuing to support ongoing efforts to increase access to vaccinations and testing.

The Boston Public Health Commission declared a state of emergency at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, a decision made in consultation with infectious disease and public health emergency preparedness experts at the Commission as well as the City and other emergency preparedness, public health, and healthcare experts. The Declaration was instrumental in Boston establishing an incident command structure and deploying staff and resources to perform crisis response and healthcare coordination functions

throughout the pandemic.

“Based on the data, it is clear to the Board that the emergency declaration is no longer necessary,” said Manny Lopes, Chair of the Boston Board of Health. “I am proud to have worked with Mayor Wu and Dr. Ojikutu, who led with science and made the hard but necessary decisions that kept our city safe and on the path to a much brighter future. The Board looks forward to our continued partnership with the City as we monitor the pandemic and help guide the city toward recovery.”

Despite lower case numbers, BPHC cautions residents that COVID-19 is still transmissible, and can result in severe illness and hospitalization, especially for the city’s most vulnerable residents. The Commission recom-

mends residents protect themselves and those around them by getting vaccinated, boosted, and wearing masks indoors if they are at high risk for severe illness or if they will be around individuals who are. There are many people in Boston who are vulnerable to COVID-19, including individuals who are immunocompromised, seniors, and those who are unvaccinated, including young children. Wearing a well-fitting mask or respirator while indoors minimizes your risk of getting infected with COVID-19 and spreading it to others. Face coverings are still required on public transportation and at transportation hubs, Boston Public Schools, health care settings, congregate care facilities, emergency shelter programs, and correctional facilities.

## Coletta endorsed by AFSCME Council 93

Gabriela Coletta, candidate for Boston City Councilor District One, has received the unanimous endorsement of AFSCME Council 93, representing more than 45,000 state, county and municipal employees in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. Election Day is May 3, 2022.

In their endorsement, AFSCME Council 93 Boston Presidents’ Committee co-chairs Christopher Stockbridge and Dan Moriarty said:

The Boston Presidents’ Committee is proud to endorse your campaign for Boston City Council. Your advocacy and support for working people will an asset for the men and women who work for the City of Boston. Based on your

dedication and commitment to uphold the values we as public employees hold dear; we are proud to support your campaign for Boston City Council and we look forward to working with you as the next District 1 City Councilor.

In just the first month of her candidacy, Coletta has secured the endorsement of over 70 community leaders including various former and current elected officials. For a list of endorsers, please visit [gabriela-coletta.com/endorsements](http://gabriela-coletta.com/endorsements).

Gabriela Coletta has dedicated her entire life working in service to others and empowering her neighbors to become involved in local democracy. She’s currently the External Relations Man-

ager at the New England Aquarium where she advocates for a more resilient, inclusive, and accessible waterfront for all Bostonians. As Campaign Manager for Councilor Edwards’s successful 2017 campaign, Gabriela activated and mobilized a grassroots campaign consisting of a broad coalition of residents, unions, volunteers, and advocacy groups numbering over 500 people - all of whom felt disenfranchised by the political establishment - to elect the first Black woman to represent us on the Boston City Council. To learn more, visit [gabriela-coletta.com](http://gabriela-coletta.com), Facebook at @GigiForDistrictOne, and Twitter @Gigi4District1.

## O’Leary // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ciation (NSMHA) when O’Leary met NSMHA Kim Hanton.

In 2013 Hanton suggested O’Leary should look at a career in helping others get and stay sober.

“At first I really wasn’t interested to be honest,” said O’Leary. “I was working at a rental car company at the airport. I was also bartending and working in the restaurant industry, and I knew that was something that I didn’t want to continue to do.”

Around this time one of O’Leary’s friends asked her if she wanted to take a Recovery Coach class.

“He had a really difficult time writing and he thought he was going to have to do homework and stuff so he begged me to take this class with him,” she said. “I thought I was just going to support a friend. I took this course and then a year later this same friend reached out to me and said Kim Hanton was looking for a female Recovery Coach for NSMHA’s East Boston clinic. O’Leary said she interviewed for the job and was hired by Hanton.

Still, she was skeptical of how far this career would go but almost a decade later O’Leary is thriving and now serves as NSMHA’s Director of Re-

covery Support Services.

“NSMHA definitely provided me with a great deal of support, a great deal of training and education,” she said. “They’ve really empowered me and pushed me to seek outside education and supported me in my process of managing up through the years.”

O’Leary said as a woman in the field of recovery services she brings a slightly different approach to the job.

“I think there’s a lot of empathy and compassion, and just kind of a maternal instinct that kind of comes into play where we (as women) want to nurture people and help them heal and make them whole again,” said O’Leary. “I wouldn’t say it’s a different perspective from what a man would bring to the job, I would just say it’s a more empathetic perspective.”

During her last decade of work in recovery services O’Leary said advocating and expanding the Drug Court system has been a legacy she feels most proud of.

“Expanding the Drug Court is the most important piece to me just because it really minimized the authoritative gap between the probation officer, the judge, and then

the participant who was receiving services,” she said. “We currently have six drug courts. We are in Chelsea, Lynn, Malden, Charlestown, Dorchester and I have Recovery Coaches in all of those courts. I also consult the Court Assisted Recovery Effort (CARE), which is the federal drug treatment court.”

When we talked, O’Leary was preparing for her first meeting with the New England Regional Recovery Court Advisory Board, of which she is a member.


“I have my first meeting tomorrow,” said O’Leary. “So it’s a whole lot of judges and chiefs of police and just very powerful, intimidating people but I’m there to be the voice of the person in recovery to kind of bring a boots on the ground perspective. I think a lot of the time people like myself don’t have a seat at the table and there’s everybody at the top making decisions that have no idea what’s going on on the ground level. So I think they were really methodical about next steps and they wanted somebody that could speak to what is actually happening with the participants in the court. It’s pretty cool.”

## Real Estate Transfers


BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Chavez, Flor E	Diez, Oscar	14 Falcon St	\$630,000
Papandrea, Benjamin	Thebeau, Nicholas R	35 Chelsea St #3	\$864,000
Cook, Carrie A	Stage 2 LLC	46 Eutaw St #2	\$610,000
Cardenas, Christina A	Forbes, Anthony P	56 Wordsworth St	\$805,000
Lincoln, Kelly	66 Falcon Street LLC	66 Falcon St #1	\$480,000
Baranofsky, Joanne C	Loasethakul, Watana	75 Waldemar Ave #203	\$359,400
Kaplan, Matthew H	Div Sumner Street LLC	99 Sumner St #302	\$1,350,000
Martinez, Marina G	Div Sumner Street LLC	99 Sumner St #408	\$498,900
Portenko, Igor Y	Div Sumner Street LLC	99 Sumner St #508	\$510,000
Parmar, Gaurav M	Butterfield, Michael	186-188 Paris St #1	\$585,000
Sellaro, Mary E	Eberle, Wesley B	366-368 Sumner St #9	\$409,000
McGaw, Christopher	368 Sumner St Number 6 T	368 Sumner St #6	\$379,000
Morales, Santos E	Palacios, Nicolas D	426-426A Chelsea St	\$625,000
Gencoglu, Can	Blue Sky Ranch LLC	756 Saratoga St	\$1,100,000
Occident Orient Boston	Oconnell, Sean	910 Saratoga St #9	\$675,000
Nantasket Dev Partners	Soto, Mark J	1001 Saratoga St #2	\$220,000
1201 Saratoga Street LLC	Thunder Bluff LLC	1201 Saratoga St	\$1,150,000

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## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 2022



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- DONNA RAUSEO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Awarded annually to a female high school senior who resides and is involved in community service in East Boston, with a minimum of 3.0 GPA.
- LOWELL L. RICHARDS III MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Awarded annually to a high school senior who resides and is involved in community service in the City of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, or Winthrop, with a minimum 3.0 GPA.
- DIVERSITY STEM SCHOLARSHIP**  
Awarded to high school seniors of color who reside or attend school in the City of Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop, Revere, Worcester, Bedford, Concord, Lexington, or Lincoln, and are involved in community service with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Scholarship applications must be received by Massport no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29, 2022.

For more information on these scholarships, including application checklist and criteria please visit [www.massport.com](http://www.massport.com)



# East Boston

## Times-Free Press

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**PUBLISHER:** Debra DiGregorio

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# Forum

## GUEST OP-ED

### Ukrainian and American pain – we must unplug from Russia and China

Dr. Glenn Mollette

America is no longer buying energy or vodka from Russia. Russians can no longer buy a McDonald’s hamburger. They can’t pay for their gasoline with a Visa, Mastercard or even an American Express card. One thousand Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants have ceased operations in Russia. How tough can life become?

For a better picture of a tough life watch some of the news clips played daily on most television stations. See what the Russians are doing each day to Ukraine. Hospitals are bombed. Babies are murdered. Cities no longer exist. Tens of thousands have been killed by the Russian army.

Speculations continue to be expressed among politicians and journalists that Russia may be guilty of war crimes. This seems like a bad joke. Russia has been guilty of war crimes

from day one. They don’t care who they kill or how they kill the innocent people of Ukraine. They will use any kind of bomb or chemical to accomplish President Vladimir Putin’s evil whim to bring Ukraine under Russian rule. They will even accept weapons from China.

Hopefully we will never buy another thing from Russia. In the meantime, the remnant still battling the Russian Army needs the full support of NATO in weapons, money and humanitarian aid. Sadly, for the thousands who have already been killed it’s too little too late.

While we are unplugging trade with Russia we must act accordingly toward China. China is not our friend. Just like Russia, we have made China rich with billions of dollars in trade each year. Plus, America is in debt, over a trillion dollars, to China. Stores across America must put Amer-

ican businesses back to work by buying as many American made products as possible. China has been eyeing Taiwan the same way Russia has been eyeing Ukraine. If Russia successfully takes Ukraine and can survive the aftermath look for China to invade Taiwan. China will then control most of the chips made that runs our cars, phones and computers.

The next scenario is what happens to us when Russia and China combine their efforts toward the United States? Are we able to withstand an attack from Russia and China? It’s more than we want to comprehend today. This is why we must become energy independent. Why not use our gas, oil and coal until we have the infrastructure in place to run electric cars?

In my local community of 250,000 people, I do not know of one electric car charging station. Lo-

cal car dealers say it will be two to three years before they will have electric cars to sell. Most American communities are the same and we need time for the infrastructure to catch up. In the meantime, we should use the resources we have to run our country independently.

Gasoline prices and inflation are hurting America but consider what Russia is doing to Ukraine. Americans will survive the pain at the pump if America will go back to our own sources to supply our needs.

*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.*

## ABCD calls for additional fuel aid funds

As home heating oil reaches an unprecedented high of \$6 per gallon, a whopping 120,000-plus Massachusetts households receiving fuel assistance have used up their benefits.

These tens of thousands of families with young children, seniors and others are scrambling to keep their homes warm as relentless March cold continues to hit Massachusetts.

One working single mother served by ABCD said she called home from the office to tell her son to turn off the heat. “He said ‘You mean turn it down, mom?’ and I replied ‘NO, TURN IT OFF. We are out of benefits and can’t afford an oil delivery.’”

At a cost of \$6 per gallon, it takes \$1,650 to fill an oil tank, a fill-up that lasts less than a month.

“America’s low-income families are in full-blown economic crisis,” said John J. Drew, President/CEO, Action for Boston Community Development. “They are striving to fill their gas tanks to get to work and buy food and other necessities at soaring prices. These are

our most vulnerable residents. They need and deserve help NOW. Here in the Northeast it stays cold through April.”

Drew said he and all providers and recipients are grateful for the increased fuel assistance provided this year through the federal Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), but given the current worldwide economic crisis, immediate additional federal help is needed.

The spike in heating costs followed President Biden’s March 7 banning of Russian oil imports.

Drew is also hopeful that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will provide heating assistance in the supplemental state budget now in process, thanking Representative Kevin Honan and House Ways & Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz for supporting an amendment requesting \$50 million in fuel assistance. That amendment was reduced to \$5 million in the House and is now in the Senate with hopes of passage at the \$50 million level.

Immediate fuel assistance funding will be

life-saving for oil and propane heat customers who are out of benefits as well as prevent shut off for electric and gas customers. The winter moratorium on shut offs for utility customers ends April 1.

Eligible households most in need currently receive \$1,650 in fuel assistance benefits through the Low-income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) program, an increase from last year intended to help combat the rise in energy costs. But no one anticipated the current skyrocketing costs that are putting our most vulnerable families at terrible risk.

Apply now! There is funding for new applicants. Boston-area residents can apply by calling ABCD Fuel Assistance at 617-357-6012. Those living in the Mystic Valley region can call 781-322-6284. Help with applications is also available at all ABCD neighborhood centers. A new online system for first-time fuel assistance applicants can be accessed at toapply.org/MassLIHEAP. Go to bostonabcd.org/heat for detailed information, including a listing of neigh-

borhood centers with contact information.

The 2022 federal poverty level for a family of four is \$26,500 in earnings annually or \$12,880 for a single person. To keep struggling families and elders from falling through the cracks, help with fuel costs is also available to those slightly above poverty level. For example, a family of four earning \$78,751 or a single person with an income of \$40,951 may currently qualify for \$989 in fuel assistance.

Donations gratefully accepted

ABCD is grateful for any private donations to the ABCD WINTER FUND which will be used to help those in fuel assistance emergencies after using up their allocation. Your generous gift can save a household from hypothermia, stop a family from turning to dangerous heating substitutes, prevent sickness, and dramatically improve the quality of life. If you’d like to donate to the ABCD Winter Fund, please call 617-348-6559, email give@bostonabcd.org or visit bostonabcd.org/give.

## FREEDOM ISN’T FREE

As the ongoing tragedy in Ukraine, fueled by the barbarism of the war criminal Vladimir Putin, continues to unfold, it is apparent that in addition to underestimating the fierce and brave resistance of the Ukrainian people, Putin also failed to anticipate the resolve of free people around the world to rally in support of the Ukrainians.

Putin clearly had little respect for the West prior to launching his invasion. He believed that we would care more about maintaining our creature comforts and cushy lifestyle than we would about the fate of Ukraine. He assumed that as we watched the carnage from the comfort of our living rooms, our materialistic instincts would trump any sense of sympathy that we might have with the Ukrainian people and that we would not be willing to make sacrifices of any kind in order to support the Ukrainians in their fight against tyranny.

In short, Putin believed us to be soft, weak, narcissistic, and lacking empathy.

However, the newfound solidarity of free people and our leaders (with a few exceptions) around the world in our support of the Ukrainians has proven Putin to be hugely wrong.

Western businesses willingly have sacrificed billions of dollars and Western consumers are paying more for their energy -- and just about everything else -- because of our decision to back the Ukrainians with both military aid and unprecedented economic sanctions that are taking a great toll on the Russia war machine.

With dictators on the rise in Russia, China, No. Korea, and Saudi Arabia (where 81 persons were executed this past weekend), we have re-learned the lesson that the freedoms we enjoy are something that we cannot take for granted.

Thanks to Putin, Americans have found a cause that we all can agree upon -- the right of every person to be free.

The months ahead will not be easy -- though nowhere near as difficult as they will be for the Ukrainian people -- but Putin’s barbarism has illuminated a valuable truth that we had ignored for the better part of the past century: Freedom isn’t free.

## ENJOY A HAPPY (AND SAFE) ST. PATRICK’S DAY

Amidst all of the sadness and tragedy in the world today, the arrival of St. Patrick’s Day this Thursday (March 17) will provide a brief and welcome respite from the terrible news that we see on our televisions every day.

Although St. Patrick’s Day ostensibly is a holiday with religious (Catholic) and ethnic (Irish) connotations, St. Patrick’s Day has become a holiday for people of all nationalities -- a day when “everybody is Irish” -- to share camaraderie and good cheer.

This will be the first St. Patrick’s Day in three years that we’ll be able to celebrate the holiday collectively now that COVID restrictions are easing.

We wish all of our readers a happy and safe St. Patrick’s Day.

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Our fax number is **781-485-1403**.

Letters may also be e-mailed to

**editor@eastietimes.com.**

Letters must be signed.

We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

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



STEM // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

were selected by the Celtics rather quickly.

“Our name was put in by TD bank and we got a phone call from the Celtics right away,” said Triant. “It all started last month so we kind of moved quickly with them. We worked closely with the Celtics on what we thought was most appropriate for our kids in the space that we were designing.”

Aside from a facelight of the room the kids will be able to engage in STEM activities like designing their own video games.

“The preteen years are a really tough age and some kids kind of age out of the programs we have,” said Triant. “We can get them back for open gyms and stuff like that but there is still a drop off when our kids hit 12 or 13. So hopefully this new space and the design and the STEM programming will keep some of these kids involved and keep them wanting to be a part of the Boys & Girls Club as they enter their teen years. Again, it’s a really difficult time for kids, where they can go many different ways and our job is to continue to keep them on the right path in their lives.”

As for Williams and Powe, the two NBA players played video games with kids, signed autographs and answered questions about their upbringing.

Williams, whose mother is a NASA engineer, said the STEM curriculum could have an impact on some of the kids attending the Boys & Girls Club. He said, “Through this new room some of you might take an interest in STEM and maybe one of you might be a NASA engineer like my mom.”

Powe talked about his upbringing and how STEM and places like the Boys & Girls Club can continue to have a positive impact on kids’ lives by preparing them for the future. Powe said he used to be undisciplined and unfocused in his youth but began to turn things around once he realized in order to attain his dream of becoming an NBA player he’d not only have to practice hard but also be a good student.

“I made that decision a long time ago to ask questions when I didn’t understand something, to get extra help when I was confused and to speak up

for myself,” said Powe. “I went from being a student that wasn’t doing that well to going to college and then playing in the NBA.”

Powe added that programs like the Boys &

Girls Club and the new STEM room will give kids the opportunity to become better students and more prepared for high school, college or the workforce.



Salesian Boys & Girls Club members take part in some STEM activities.



Boston Celtics power forward Leon Powe takes on some club kids in a match of NBA 2K.



Boston Celtics power forward Grant Williams plays a video game with some club kids.



Salesian Boys & Girls Club participants listen to Boston Celtics power forwards Grant Williams and Leon Powe.



Boston Celtic and TD Bank officials dedicate the Salesian Boys & Girls Club's new STEM preteen room.



Boston Celtics power forward Grant Williams, whose mother is a NASA engineer, said he knows the importance of a STEM education.



Salesian Boys & Girls Club members learn to design a video game.

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# MGC ponders whether lower Broadway project should be regulated

By Stephen Quigley

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) met last Thursday to discuss, but did not formally decide, whether a parking garage, an entertainment center that seats up to 999 people, and a pedestrian bridge that would cross over the present six-lane highway and connect to the Encore casino hotel should be considered part of the gaming establishment and therefore be subject to the purview of the MGC.

These three structures would be the first phase of the overall project, with a second phase that could include up to three hotels with retail space and restaurants. The development is being planned across the lower Broadway roadway from the Encore Boston Harbor in Everett.

The commissioners during the course of the meeting also explored a third option, rather than a simple yes or no vote as to whether the development should be deemed part of the gaming establishment. MGC staff Joseph Delaney suggested that

the MGC can place restrictions on the gaming license that would address the concerns that were raised at the public hearing on Feb. 28. Under this third scenario, the new development would have to still deal with several federal, state and municipal agencies on a regular basis that would be able to regulate this new development without the MGC getting too involved in the details of a regulatory process, since the restrictions on the license would address the concerns.

Todd Grossman from the MGC then gave a detailed examination of both the four-way test that the MGC has used in previous cases to see whether the new Everett development should be considered part of the gaming establishment. In the deliberation, other precedents that the MGC has used on Massachusetts gaming entities were revisited.

Grossman noted that, “The law gives the MGC great discretionary latitude.” He pointed out that in the election held in the City of Everett in June, 2013, voters approved a gaming facility only on

the present Encore site, not any gaming-related facility across the street. He pointed out that in the past, the MGC did not seek to oversee the race track at Plain Ridge Park, another gambling establishment, since the racetrack is already under the purview of other governmental agencies.

He then outlined the four-way test that the MGC should use in approaching an answer as to whether the new development should be regulated by the MGC. Before the commissioners debated the four-way test, chairperson Cathy Judd-Stein noted, “This is a complex structure before us.”

The four parts of the test are as follows:

- 1) Is what is proposed a non-gaming structure, specifically the bridge?
- 2) Is the project related to the gaming area? In other words, does it make the gaming area more inviting as a destination?
- 3) Is there common ownership?
- 4) Does the MGC want to have a regulatory interest on part or parts of the gaming structure?

For the first part of the

test, all commissioners agreed that the bridge was not a gaming structure. Commissioner Gayle Cameron pointed out that she was “quite happy with the bridge for safety issues.”

Judd-Stein said, “I welcome the bridge for safety and mitigation of traffic.” She also noted that the new design of the bridge removed the gaming floor from bridge access that could allow minors to walk accidentally onto the gaming floor.

Regarding the second part of the test, commissioner Eileen Hill noted the new development “makes Encore more attractive” as a destination. She said that she struggled with this question, since she did not want to hinder the urban renewal area of Everett where the new development is proposed.

Commissioner Bradford Hill noted, “This is absolutely related to the gaming area.” All commissioners did agree that the development would enhance the gaming area.

For the third question on common ownership, the commissioners concurred that even though

the new hotel and restaurants will be operated by a third party, East Broadway LLC (the entity that is seeking to develop the area in question), it still is under the Wynn ownership umbrella.

This brought the commissioners to Part 4 of the test, namely, whether they have a regulatory interest. Encore Attorney Samuel Tony Starr of the Boston firm Mintz Levin offered the view that there are already other agencies involved in regulating the proposed properties and that overview by the MGC could add a burden to those businesses, as well as to the MGC itself.

Judd-Stein seemed to agree with this path, noting that regulatory oversight “could place a burden on the commission,” and “put a substantial burden on (third party) operators with hundreds of employees.”

Cameron pointed out, “Wynn has always been willing to work collaboratively and to listen to the concerns of all parties.”

O’Brien noted that she needed more information on the details, such as the final design of the pedes-

trian bridge and exactly where people could exit as they approached the casino itself.

Commissioners also noted that the Wynn’s gaming license currently has restrictions and could include additional restrictions.

At the end of the meeting, the commissioners seemed to be inclined toward not regulating the new development, but requiring that very specific steps and protocols be put into place with legally-binding documents going into the details of the buildings and their operation that would address the concerns of the commissioners and the members of the public who participated in the Feb. 28 meeting.

O’Brien pointed out, “We need to look at all the details.”

The legal staff of the MGC will formulate documents that address the concerns that were brought up at the meetings and will get back to the MGC when it has completed its task.

## Edwards // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

need to thrive.”

Edwards has met with the senate’s Vice Chair of the Committee, Edward Kennedy of West Roxbury and the two have decided to conduct a listening tour roadshow to meet with small business owners across the state.

“There’s gonna be an influx of American Recovery Act funds and some of it is

going to go directly to small businesses,” said Edwards. “Some of its going to go to support and infrastructure we need to help small business businesses thrive. We need to think about how we’re moving. Expansion of the MBTA is a big deal with two new stops on the Green Line so we need to really start looking at the Red/Blue Line Connector

and how that’s going to get funded. We are looking at a ferry system and how that’s going to get funded. All of these things support small businesses, all of them support community development and if we can get our transportation set up in a good way and use those funds for lasting infrastructure it can help local economies thrive.”

Edwards also plans on taking a look at some things that were expanded or allowed during the pandemic that may be worth continuing.

“You look at things like outdoor seating or cocktail delivery and how they helped get small businesses through the pandemic but the question for a lot of us is, “Is it here to stay?” said

Edwards. “And if it is here to stay, how do we improve it and make it something that every small business has access to. So when we’re talking about small business and community development, we’re talking about recovery from the pandemic and that’s going to take more than just passing money out. It’s going to take those good conver-

sations that I’ve submitted to the and people are brutally honest about how their government is or isn’t working for them. I want to have those conversations in as many languages as possible. So I’m really honored to be named Chair and proud to start this work on behalf of all the small businesses out there.”



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Pagado en parte por MDAR y la Ofincina del Alcalde para Acceso a los Alimentos







**BOOK READING**

Harris Gardner of East Boston will hold a reading, at the East Boston Branch of the Boston Public Library of Harris' hot off the press poetry collection, **No Time for Death** on Thursday, March 24. The reading starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by an Open Mic. Masks are still required (unless there is a new announcement).

# Apply now for ABCD summerworks 2022

If you are 14 to 21, income-eligible, and live in Boston, you can earn and learn in the ABCD SummerWorks program this year! Plan now to spend your summer with ABCD, working 20 hours a week in a non-profit organization. You can earn up to \$1,710!

So put money in your pocket while receiving outstanding preparation for future school and work. Along with work experience that gives back to the community, you participate in career skills and job-readiness workshops and receive mentoring and social supports.

ABCD thanks Mayor Michelle Wu for her support of ABCD SummerWorks. "The City of Boston has been a longtime partner in this program and we are pleased to continue that important partnership this year, when our youth need help more than ever," said ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew. Drew said that ABCD plans to provide more than 1,000 summer jobs for teens this year.

"Our young people have faced tremendous challenges during this pandemic," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The ABCD SummerWorks program is an essential experience for young people preparing for their careers and building community. As we approach the summer, I encourage all of our young people to apply and get involved with this valuable program."

ABCD is reaching out to teens early this year, encouraging them to apply to this longstanding program with its documented success. ABCD SummerWorks provides the chance to work in interesting jobs with fellow teens and caring adults while preparing for the career of their dreams in the work world. Many successful business, public service and community leaders held their first jobs in ABCD SummerWorks!

Past ABCD SummerWorks job sites include libraries, day camps, childcare centers, government offices, non-profit organizations, local historic sites and more.

The application period began February 1, so get on board NOW! Apply online to ABCD SummerWorks at [summerworks.net](http://summerworks.net). If you have questions, email [summerworksinfo@bostonabcd.org](mailto:summerworksinfo@bostonabcd.org) or call 617-348-6548.

ABCD is grateful for private donations to support our youth programs as well as emergency services including food security, rental assistance, and others. To make a donation, call 617-348-6559, email [give@bostonabcd.org](mailto:give@bostonabcd.org) or visit [bostonabcd.org/donate](http://bostonabcd.org/donate).

**EAST BOSTON**

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Practices begin August 1 6-8pm  
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REGISTRATION IS OPEN TO EAST BOSTON RESIDENTS  
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# Foundation provides EBECC with \$15,000 grants

By John Lynds

Over the past few years, the trustees of the Anna B. Stearns Charitable Foundation has focused on implementing internal processes and grantmaking practices that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

As a part of this work, the trustees announced an initiative aimed at recognizing and rewarding a limited number of grantee organizations whose board, staff management, and program staff are reflective of the communities they serve and that have made significant progress in implementing DEI practices.

One of those organizations is the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council (EBECC), which recently received a \$15,000 grant in connection with the foundation's DEI initiative.

"We understand that DEI work is often overlooked and under-re-

sourced and organizations led by people of color often face additional systematic challenges," said the Trustees in a statement. "This initiative is intended to send a clear message to the EBCC, its staff, and its board, as well as to the general public, that we support its efforts to serve the community and that there is real value in organizational leadership which reflects the communities served. EBECC's CEO Frank Ramirez's leadership is recognized and appreciated"

This week Ramirez said the EBECC will use the grant money as flexible funding for general operation and specific capacity-building efforts to deepen its internal DEI initiatives while providing additional educational and leadership training opportunities.

"We are very grateful to the Trustees and leadership of the Anna Stearns Char-

itable Foundation because Diversity and Inclusion are integral to our ability to deliver services to a culturally diverse community while being creative and effective," said Ramirez. "Our diverse constituency brings us a wider view of life, opening the door to new approaches and new and innovative solutions to social and health problems. As a team, we have achieved a tremendous amount of work this year, continuing to serve more than 5,000 immigrants and staying fiscally viable sets out our achievements as well as our goals. As we further include diversity and inclusion into the fabric of our programs, I am greatly encouraged by the participation of everyone on our team in achieving our goals—for the coming year and well into the future."

Ramirez said the pandemic has affected the education system in dramatic

ways as well with schools, colleges, and universities closed to control the spread of the virus. This brought difficulties for students, teachers, and parents.

"At EBCC embracing distance learning and digital technology was a solution to continue our educational program going under the pandemic," he said. "EBCC designed strategies to recover lost learning by launching distance learning practices and reaching students who were most at risk and, now providing support to students as schools reopened."

Founded in 1978, EBECC is a multi-service agency that works with more than 5,000 immigrants each year. The agency provides English as Second Language (ESL), immigration, social work, housing, youth services and also undertakes community organizing efforts related to immigration and immigrant rights issues.

# 2022 private rental registration is now open

The 2022 annual registration and renewal of all private rental units opened on March 14. In accordance with the City of Boston's Rental Registration and Inspection Ordinance (CBC 9-1.3) all property owners are required to annually register or renew their rental registration with the Inspectional Services Department (ISD.)

Property owners must register or renew their rental units with the Inspectional Services Department during the 2022 renewal period, which runs from March 8, 2022 through June 30, 2022. The registration program is a proactive tool utilized to help ensure Boston's housing stock is safe, sanitary and code compliant. Boston's Rental Registration and

Inspection program helps safeguard the life, health, safety, welfare and property of occupants by enforcement of minimum property standards in accordance with the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code.

In addition, this program:

- Ensures landlords are well informed of rental housing regulations and requirements;
- Encourages preventative maintenance;
- Provides contact information for use by city officials for emergency situations;
- Aides in housing stock preservation, maintenance and upgrades;
- Facilitates neighborhood stabilization; and
- Fosters clean and safe rental properties.

An additional component of the registration process requires the property owner to disclose if the building has a fire escape and affidavit. In accordance with the Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR 1001.3.3, all fire escapes and egress balconies must be examined and/or tested, and certified for structural adequacy and safety every five years, by a Massachusetts registered professional engineer, or other qualified and acceptable to the Commissioner of ISD. The professional must submit an affidavit and pay the filing fee of \$50 to ISD.

Rental property owners can register through our online registration portal, by mail or in-person by visiting the Housing Division

at 1010 Massachusetts Ave. Boston Monday – Friday 8:00am - 4:00 pm, where staff will be available to assist with the registration process. The initial registration fee is \$25 per unit, and the annual renewal fee is \$15 per unit, up to a maximum of \$2500 per building or \$5000 per complex.) Owner-occupied properties with less than six rental units are not required to pay the registration fee but are required to register each year.

For questions regarding the registration process please contact the Housing Division, at 617-635-1010 or email [rentalprogram@boston.gov](mailto:rentalprogram@boston.gov). Property owners that do not have access to a computer can contact the Housing Division for assistance.

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Arm & Hammer Laundry Detergent.....	¢4.99
B&M Baked Beans 16 oz.....	4/¢5.00
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LEGAL NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD  
NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION and ADJUDICATORY HEARING  
East Boston Substation Certificate Request by Eversource Energy, EFSB 22-01  
Notice is hereby given that NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Eversource" or the "Company") has filed with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (the "Siting Board" or "EFSB"), pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 69K-69O, an Initial Petition and an Application for a Certificate of Environmental Impact and Public Interest ("Certificate") for EFSB-issuance of 15 state and local permits required for construction and operation of a new electric substation in East Boston (the "Substation"). The Substation was approved in 2017 as part of the Mystic-East Eagle-Chelsea Reliability Project (the "Project") in Eversource Energy, EFSB-14-04/D.P.U. 14-153/14-154 (2017) ("Eversource 2017"). The Siting Board approved the relocation of the Substation in 2021 190 feet to the west of the originally approved location at 400 Condor Street in East Boston in Eversource Energy, EFSB-14-04A/D.P.U. 14-153A/14-154A (2021) ("Eversource 2021"). The Siting Board's informational webpage for this proceeding and will update it during the proceeding: <https://mass.gov/info-details/east-eagle-certificate>.  
IMPORTANT DATES:  
Wednesday, March 30, 2022: The Siting Board will conduct a remote public comment hearing regarding the Project on Zoom at 6:00 pm, and if necessary, resuming on Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 6:00 pm. Attendees can join by clicking (or entering) the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82397324201> from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only participation, attendees can dial in at (646) 558-8656 (not toll free) and then enter the Webinar ID:

82397324201. Simultaneous English-to-Spanish and Spanish-to-English interpretation will be provided. All attendees should select a preferred language (English or Spanish) to hear the Interpreter translate into that language. Press the globe icon and then choose the desired language. A recording of the public comment hearing will be posted to the Department's YouTube channel after the hearing.  
Tuesday, March 29, 2022: If you intend to comment on Zoom during the public comment hearing, please sign up by email with [geneen.bartley@mass.gov](mailto:geneen.bartley@mass.gov) with your name, email address, and mailing address by March 29. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message at (617) 305-3625 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address by this date. Additional comments may be allowed during the public comment hearing at the discretion of the Presiding Officer.  
Tuesday, April 19, 2022: (1) Individuals or organizations seeking to participate in the proceeding as an intervenor or limited participant must file a petition with the EFSB, following the instructions described below; and (2) Persons wishing to submit written comments should submit comments with the EFSB by April 19. Your written comments help inform the Siting Board about public concerns regarding the Certificate request and important issues for review in the proceeding. Intervenor or limited participants in the initial proceeding or the project change proceeding, are automatically granted the same status in this proceeding without need of a new petition. Petitions to intervene or participate must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 980 CMR 1.05, the Siting Board's procedural rules, which can be found on the Siting Board's website at: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-a-petition-to-intervene-in-an-efsb-or-dpu-siting-case>. Petitions to Intervene or Participate

and written comments must be filed with: (1) the Siting Board in electronic format, by e-mail [efiling@mass.gov](mailto:efiling@mass.gov); and [donna.sharkey@mass.gov](mailto:donna.sharkey@mass.gov); and (2) Eversource's counsel at [drosen@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:drosen@keeganwerlin.com) and [ckewthen@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:ckewthen@keeganwerlin.com). The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 22-01); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the filing; and (3) a brief description of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, telephone number, and e-mail address of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing.  
Tuesday, May 17, 2022: The Siting Board will conduct an initial remote adjudicatory hearing to review Eversource's Initial Petition and Application, beginning at 10:00 am, using Zoom videoconferencing. Details on viewing or participating in that hearing will be posted on the EFSB's informational webpage prior to the hearing.  
Severe Weather Notification  
If there is severe weather, any postponement will be announced on the Zoom link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82397324201> and on the EFSB's informational webpage for the proceeding stated above. In the case of severe weather on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, the Siting Board will conduct the public comment hearing on Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Siting Board Jurisdiction  
In this adjudication, the Siting Board will review Eversource's Initial Petition and Application, which were filed together on February 16, 2022. On February 23, 2022, the Chair of the Siting Board issued a Determination providing that the Siting Board would: (1) accept Eversource's Initial Petition for a Certificate; (2) consolidate Eversource's Initial Petition with its Application; (3) defer a decision on the merits of the Initial Petition; and (4) adjudicate Eversource's Initial Petition and Application concurrently. Permits Sought by Ever-

source  
According to Eversource, the exercise of the Siting Board's Certificate authority is needed to construct and operate the Project as previously approved by the Siting Board. Eversource asserts that the processing and granting of several City of Boston permits and approvals have been unduly delayed and/or unreasonably conditioned. The Company's Application seeks the following approvals and permits required for the Project in the form of a Siting Board-issued Certificate.  
1. An approval for buildings and structures that are constructed or altered within 100 feet of a park or parkway pursuant to Boston Municipal Code Section 7-4.11, ordinarily issued by the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Commission (the "Boston Parks and Recreation Approval");  
2. An approval of a Condor Street pedestrian easement, ordinarily issued by the City of Boston Public Improvement Commission (collectively, with the approvals listed as 3 and 4 below, the "Boston PIC Approvals");  
3. An approval of grants of location for new duct banks, conduit and manholes in a public way (Condor Street, East Eagle Street, Glendon Street, Lexington Street, Shelby Street, and Chelsea Street), ordinarily issued by the City of Boston Public Improvement Commission;  
4. An approval of a specific repair plan for Condor Street, ordinarily issued by the City of Boston Public Improvement Commission;  
5. An approval of a G.L. c. 91 Waterways License, ordinarily issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, pursuant to G.L. c. 91 and its implementing regulations at 310 C.M.R. § 9.00;  
6. An approval of a Final Order of Conditions under the Wetlands Protection Act, G.L. c. 131, § 40 and 310 C.M.R. § 10.00, ordinarily issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection;  
7. An approval of a Final Order of Conditions under the Boston Wetlands Ordinance, ordinarily

issued by the City of Boston Conservation Commission;  
8. An approval of a Foundation and Building Permits, ordinarily issued by the City of Boston Inspectional Services Department;  
9. An approval of a Street Excavation Permits (Condor Street, East Eagle Street, Glendon Street, Lexington Street, Shelby Street, Saratoga Street and Chelsea Street), ordinarily issued by the City of Boston Department of Public Works;  
10. An approval of a Street/Manhole Occupancy Permits (Condor Street, East Eagle Street, Glendon Street, Lexington Street, Shelby Street, and Chelsea Street), ordinarily issued by the City of Boston Department of Public Works;  
11. An approval of a Sidewalk Occupancy Permit (Condor Street), ordinarily issued by the City of Boston Department of Public Works;  
12. An approval of a Construction Stormwater Permit, ordinarily issued by the City of Boston Water & Sewer Commission;  
13. An approval of a Construction Dewatering Discharge Permit, ordinarily issued by the City of Boston Water & Sewer Commission;  
14. An approval of a General Services Application, ordinarily issued by the City of Boston Water & Sewer Commission and;  
15. An approval of a Street Occupancy Permit (Willow Street), ordinarily issued by the City of Chelsea Department of Public Works.  
Eversource Initial Petition and Application  
According to Eversource, the exercise of the Siting Board's Certificate authority is needed to construct and operate the Project as approved by the Siting Board. Eversource asserts that, the processing and granting of the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Approval and the City of Boston PIC Approvals have been unduly delayed and unreasonably conditioned. As of the date of this Notice, Eversource has not yet obtained in final and non-appealable form the requisite 15 permits and approvals listed above. Consequently, Eversource

has requested that, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 69K-69O, the Siting Board issue the Certificate in the form of a composite of all permits, approvals and authorizations that would otherwise be necessary for the construction of the Substation and the operation of the Project in Boston and Chelsea. Eversource does not request that the Certificate include final, non-appealable permits, approvals, or authorizations that have been previously issued. During the course of this proceeding, the Siting Board will determine whether the Company is prevented from constructing the Project because: (1) the processing or granting of the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Approval or the City of Boston PIC Approvals has been unduly delayed by the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Commission or the City of Boston PIC, respectively; or (2) the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Commission or the City of Boston PIC has imposed a burdensome condition or limitation that has a substantial impact on the Siting Board's responsibilities as set forth in G.L. c. 164, § 69H. See G.L. c. 164, § 69K. The Siting Board will also make findings, as required by G.L. c. 164, § 69O, with respect to: (1) the need for the facility to meet the energy requirements of the applicant's market area taking into account wholesale bulk power or gas sales or purchases or other co-operative arrangements with other utilities and energy policies as adopted by the Commonwealth; (2) the compatibility of the facility with considerations of environmental protection, public health, and public safety; (3) the extent to which construction and operation of the facility will fail to conform with existing state and local laws, ordinances, by-laws, rules, and regulations and reasonableness of exemption thereunder, if any, consistent with the implementation of the energy policies contained in G.L. c. 164 to provide a necessary energy supply for the Commonwealth with a minimum impact

on the environment at the lowest possible cost; and (4) the public interest, convenience and necessity requiring construction and operation of the facility. See G.L. c. 164, § 69O. Access to Eversource's Initial Petition and Application  
The documents for this proceeding may be accessed for public inspection in electronic format at the following locations:  
\* The Siting Board's website at: <https://eea-online.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber/EF5B22-01> (filings under "Document Type: Initial Filing").  
\* Eversource's website at: [www.eversource.com/east-eagle-reliability](http://www.eversource.com/east-eagle-reliability)  
Physical copies of the Initial Petition and Application may also be inspected at the following locations:  
\* Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, MA, 02110  
\* Boston City Clerk's Office, Boston City Hall, One City Hall Square, Boston, MA, 02201  
\* East Boston Public Library, 365 Bremen Street, East Boston, MA, 02128  
\* Chelsea City Clerk's Office, Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA, 02150  
\* Chelsea Public Library, 569 Broadway, Chelsea, MA, 02150  
To request materials in accessible formats (Braille, large print or audio format) contact the ADA coordinator at [melixa.esenyie2@mass.gov](mailto:melixa.esenyie2@mass.gov). Accommodation Requests  
Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a complete description of the accommodation you will need and a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Please note that it may not be possible to accommodate last minute requests. You may contact the ADA coordinator at [melixa.esenyie2@mass.gov](mailto:melixa.esenyie2@mass.gov). Interpretation services for those with limited English language proficiency are available upon request. Include in your request the language required, and a way to contact you if the

Presiding Officer needs more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible, no later than March 23. Last minute requests may not be able to be accommodated. Contact the Presiding Officer (contact information below).  
Contact  
Any person desiring additional information regarding the Notice, including information regarding intervention or participation in the proceeding, should contact the Siting Board through the Presiding Officer at the following email address: [Donna.Sharkey@mass.gov](mailto:Donna.Sharkey@mass.gov)  
Description of the Project  
The Substation will include two bays of 115 kilovolt ("kV") gas-insulated switchgear with six 115 kV circuit breakers; a control enclosure; two 62.5 megavolt-ampere ("MVA"), 115/14 kV transformers; distribution switchgear; and capacitor banks. Construction activities will include the installation of footings, foundations, an underground electric raceway, grounding, lighting, combinations of concrete wall and fiberglass fencing, miscellaneous associated protective relaying, metering, control wiring, and related equipment, and isolation/fire barriers and oil spill containment systems for each of the transformers. See Eversource 2017 and Eversource 2021 for further details.  
In addition to the Substation, the Project includes the connection to the two 115-kV transmission lines that were approved by the Siting Board in Eversource 2017: (1) an approximately 3.2-mile line from the Company's Mystic Substation in Everett to the Substation; and (2) an approximately 1.5-mile line from the Substation to the Company's Chelsea Substation in Chelsea. Currently, the two lines have been constructed on the Chelsea side of the Chelsea Creek and were placed in operation on September 17, 2020, connecting the Company's Mystic and

Chelsea Substations. Once the Substation is operational, the Company would install the two lines beneath the Chelsea Creek in an existing conduit and interconnect with the Substation, as anticipated in both Eversource 2017 and Eversource 2021, thereby bringing transmission capability to East Boston. The Company would also install 7,000 feet (1.3 miles) of new distribution line duct banks and 17 manholes under Condor Street, East Eagle Street, Glendon Street, Lexington Street, Shelby Street and Chelsea Street, for a new 3.6-mile distribution network connected to the Substation.

3/16/22  
EB

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT  
Suffolk Probate And Family Court  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617)788-8300  
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME  
Docket No. SU21C0566CA  
In the matter of: MariaJose Ordenez Aguirre  
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by MariaJose Ordenez Aguirre of East Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: MariaJose Christina Aguirre  
IMPORTANT NOTICE  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/14/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 11, 2022  
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate  
3/16/22  
EB

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# OBITUARIES

## John Bartolo III

Well-known host of his podcast  
“The John Bartolo Show”

John J. Bartolo III of Las Vegas, NV, formerly of East Boston, died suddenly on March 5.

John was born and raised in East Boston. He attended East Boston Central Catholic School, Dom Savio High School and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has been living in Las Vegas in recent years. He is the well-known host of his podcast, The John Bartolo Show. He was also the author of two digital books and was an entrepreneur, influencer and brand ambassador.

The beloved son of Michelle (Coco) and her husband, Dominic Settemio of East Boston and the late John J. Interbartolo Jr., he is survived by his partner, Lacey Alderson and their son, Theodore Joseph Bartolo of Las Vegas, NV; brother of Jacquelyn Interbartolo of Winthrop and Koren Brodin of East Boston and her fiancé, Kenny Streeter; uncle of Jack, Juliana, Reese and Kate; nephew of Karen DeFilippo and Michael DeSimone and grandson of the late Michelina (La-Corte) and Carmello Coco and Barbara (Roach) and



John J. Interbartolo Sr. He is also survived by several cousins.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Funeral Mass in St. Michael the Archangel Parish, St. John the Evangelist Church, 320 Winthrop St., Winthrop on Thursday morning, March 17 at 10 o'clock. Please go directly to church. Visiting hours in the Magrath Funeral Home, 336 Chelsea St. [at Day Sq] East Boston will be today, Wednesday, March 16 from 4 to 7 p.m. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Please leave messages of condolence for his family on his Tribute Page at MagrathFuneral-Home.com

## Claire Genzale

Member of the East Boston Social Center  
Seniors and the Sempre Avanti Sons of Italy

Claire J. “Chickie” (DiFazio) Genzale of East Boston passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving family, on Saturday, March 12 at 85 years of age.

Claire was a member of the East Boston Social Center Seniors and the Sempre Avanti Sons of Italy.

The beloved wife of the late Augustine Genzale, BPD, she was the devoted mother of Ronald and Tracy Genzale of East Boston; dear sister of Nancy Gleason of Lynnfield and the late Mary DeChristoforo and Louis and An-



thony DiFazio. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

In accordance with Claire’s wishes, all services will be private. To leave an online condolence, please visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

## Margarita Goros

She spent many years in education, teaching  
general studies and history

Margarita (Marcopoulous) Goros, of Revere, formerly of East Boston and Greece, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 8 at 89 years of age.

Margarita was born in Marathos, Greece in January of 1933. She married her beloved Arthur in October of 1963. They then moved to the United States and settled in Boston. Margarita obtained a college degree in Greece and spent many years in education, teaching general studies and history. She had a passion for teaching, gardening and cooking.

The beloved wife of the late Arthur Goros, she was the loving daughter of the late Michael and Olga (Terizaki) Marcopolous, devoted mother of Sophia Desmond and George Goros, both of East Boston, Michael Goros and his wife, Gina of Seattle and Olga Martin and her husband, Ricardo of East Boston; dear sister of Eleni Kaloplastou, Demitra Kioumuosi and the late Georgia, Elias and Dionisios; cherished grand-



mother of Ariana, Loretta, Michael, Starr and Margarita and treasured great-grandmother of Talia, Alonzo, Alexander, Aracelis, and Mia. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends honored Margarita’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 10 Chestnut Street, Peabody, MA 01960 on Monday, March 14 before leaving in procession to Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, 5 Paleologos St, Peabody, for a Funeral Mass celebrating her life. Services concluded with Margarita being laid to rest with her beloved husband, Arthur, at Puritan Lawn Cemetery, Peabody. May they rest in peace. To leave an online condolence please visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

## Marie Matarese

Former Editor of the East Boston Times

Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend a Memorial Visitation in the Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals, 773 Broadway (Rte. 107) Revere on Friday, March 18 from 3 to 5 p.m. for Marie (Marcella) Matarese of Revere, formerly of East Boston, who died peacefully surrounded by the love and care of her family on February 24 in Orlando, Florida, following a long illness. Following the visitation, a Celebration of Life will be held at Spinelli’s Function Facility, Route 1 South, Lynnfield from 6 to 9 p.m.

Marie, a longtime resident of Revere, was a native of East Boston. She was educated and raised in East Boston and was a proud graduate of East Boston High School. Marie furthered her education at Hitchcock School of Business in Copley Square and was a proud graduate of that school. She was a longtime employee at the East Boston Times, where she began with in-house publishing, and continued on to working in the News Department, as a reporter, a columnist, an ad illustrator and finally, the editor.

Marie’s personality was unstoppable, there wasn’t a thing that she couldn’t accomplish. Following her long career at the East Boston Times, she later worked at the Post-Gazette. Marie’s talents were endless. She was also the owner of her own decorating business in Winthrop, “Decorator’s Delight,” which she owned and operated for several years and then she worked as a private decorator on the North and South Shore. Marie also worked at Macy’s in the Men’s Fragrance department for 10 years. She also sold conversational pieces. She owned all sorts of fine things, especially jewelry. She owned and managed several multifamily buildings in East Boston and Revere as well as condominiums along Revere Beach.

Marie was always dressed for any occasion. She was a beautiful and intelligent woman who had a flair for fashion, de-



sign and business. She enjoyed traveling throughout her life. She traveled to Italy several times, South America, The Islands, Disney and Ft. Lauderdale. She especially enjoyed spending her winters in Florida.

With all of her talents and skills, being a mother and grandmother was always most precious and sacred to Marie. She was most proud of her son and daughter, as well as their spouses, who she loved as if they were her own. Her grandchildren were on another level. She kept friendships that lasted a lifetime and had lots of them as they shared parties and life together.

She was the beloved wife of the late Joseph H. Matarese, devoted mother of Loren M. Russell and her husband, James of Salem, NH and Joseph Matarese and his wife, Tracy of Windham, NH; cherished grandmother of Derek Russell and his fiancé, Ashley Gaughran of N. Andover, Adriana Bolduc and her husband, Larry of Salem, NH, Isabella Matarese and Jake Matarese, both of Windham, NH; dear sister of John Marcella of Malden, Gerry Weinert of Revere and the late James Marcella; dear friend of the late Louis J. Torrone. She is also lovingly survived by several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

To send online condolences, please visit [www.vertuccioandsmith.com](http://www.vertuccioandsmith.com).

Funeral Arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals.

Vazza

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For most people March 20th is the first day of Spring. For us it's more than that, it is your Birthday. Not a day goes by without a mention of your name, followed with a bit of laughter or even a tear. We keep our memories alive. Heaven was so lucky to have gained such a beautiful soul. No matter how many birthdays pass you will always be in our hearts.

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## News in Brief

### OHNC MEETING AGENDA

Orient Heights Neighborhood Council (OHNC) meeting agenda for Monday, March 21.

Location: Zoom

Meeting starts at 6:30 pm, but the Zoom link will open at 6:00pm to get acclimated. The meeting will be recorded.

Zoom meeting link: <https://bit.ly/3tcJlhH>

Passcode: OHNC

Meeting Information and Protocol

- All participants will be muted upon entry and during presentations. Questions and comments to those presenting can be asked using the chat or "raise hand" feature of the Zoom platform. If there is a lull in conversation you may feel free to unmute but please be considerate of others attempting to participate at the same time. All submissions submitted via the chat will be read aloud by the OHNC host. Anyone unable to use the chat feature is welcome to email questions and comments to [OrientHeightsNC@gmail.com](mailto:OrientHeightsNC@gmail.com) and they will be passed on to the presenters.

- Attendance will be taken via a Google Form and responses will only be accepted from the start of the meeting until the end. Marking your attendance ensures your voter eligibility. Voters must have attended two out of the

three regularly scheduled OHNC meetings or be an abutter to the property being voted on. The sign-in form will be posted in the Zoom chat at the beginning of the meeting and throughout.

- A recording of the meeting, meeting minutes, responses to any questions not answered during the meeting, and copies of the presentation slides, if available, will be provided following the meeting via Facebook and email. Meeting recordings are always available on our YouTube channel.
- Voting: During the pandemic voting will take place online via a Google Form. Board members vet all votes to ensure that the individual is eligible as either an abutter to the property or an attendee of two out of the last three meetings. All responses are confidential and not accessible to anyone but board members for the purpose of confirming voter qualification. Once votes have been tallied all Google Form submissions for that vote are deleted.

Agenda

- Announcements & General Presentations
- Public Safety
- Sergeant Joe Cintolo or Officer Tom Domenico and Officer Mosley provide an update on activity for Boston Police District A-7.
- Doug Johnson with

the MassDOT Route 1A Project Team seeks feedback from residents about both the Route 1A Corridor study itself as well as the corridor in general. This input will help develop strategies for addressing issues on Route 1A and devise potential uses of the rail corridor along the Chelsea Creek.

- Design Review Committee 3/3/2022 Meeting Recap

- 92, 96 and 104 Walde-mar Avenue- a proposal to raze existing structures and erect 3 new residential structures each with 5 units and 5 parking spaces (previously scheduled for the Feb DRC meeting)

- Meeting Recording Link: <https://youtu.be/a0PyIsB8V1o>.

- Development Presentations & Vote

- No proposals are up for a vote this month.

- Adjournment
- Old Business / New Business / General Community Updates

- Have news you'd like to share? Excited about a new effort in the neighborhood? Feel free to share any comments, feedback, updates, etc. during this time.

- The OHNC is currently looking for a new board to take over all roles (President, Vice President, and Secretary) as the current board terms are coming to a close this July.

- If you are thinking of

running for the board feel free to contact any current board members with questions.

- Nomination of officers will be accepted at the June 20th 2022 meeting with nominations allowed in written or verbal form at that time.

- Elections for the new board will be held at the July 18th 2022 meeting

- New officer duties will commence at the September 2022 meeting

- The next OHNC Design Review Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7th, 2022 at 6:00pm.

- The next OHNC meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

### MASSPORT CELEBRATES WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) is celebrating Women in Construction Week and honoring the contributions of the women who have been involved in Massport's construction projects. This week, pictures of some of the women who work in the Capital Programs and Environmental Affairs (CPEA) Department, which man-

See BRIEFS Page 13

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Rutabagas

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

In March, our thoughts turn to Irish food – soda bread, corned beef and cabbage, and rutabagas. The last may surprise you, but rutabagas were always on the dinner tables of Penny’s Irish family members, only they called this root vegetable a Swede. In Scotland, they are called rums and also go by the name Swedish turnip.

It is generally agreed that this vegetable is probably a cross between a turnip and a cabbage and originated in Northern Europe. Recipes for it pop up in most countries with cold winters and harsh conditions. One friend with a German/Jewish background still prepares a side dish of simply boiled rutabagas with a bit of butter in memory of his mother, who always included it in holiday meals.

It was something people could grow and store to feed themselves and their animals when little else was available. Like

many other foods of the poor, it carried a stigma for many years. Now that seems to be changing. As more of us return to the simple, healthy foods of past generations, rutabagas are stepping into the spotlight.

More Available and More Popular

Lately, we have been able to buy unwaxed rutabagas more months of the year, and as a result, we’ve been expanding our use of this delicious vegetable. We are also hearing more food writers, chefs, and food lovers singing their praises.

We enjoy them mashed with butter and a bit of their cooking liquid as a side dish. By the way, that cooking liquid is gold. Don’t pour it away! You can use it as a vegetable broth and add it to soups and stews.

Penny also adds cubes of rutabaga to our soups and stews. We love them in our fillings for chicken, turkey, or lamb meat pies.

We read that this is traditional in Canada. We’ve also discovered that they defrost and reheat better than mashed potatoes as a mash for the topping of meat pies we freeze for another day.

Rutabagas are also great in a mixed mash with other roots like potatoes, carrots, or parsnips. This happens to be a favorite dish of a friend of ours from Donegal.

After hearing two food writers rave about roasted rutabagas, Penny began adding them to sheet pans of potatoes, carrots, onions, garlic, and squash ready for roasting. Those women were right; they are a great addition to our stash of roasted root vegetables and all the things we make when they become leftovers.

Peeled, washed, and cut into sticks this root vegetable is perfect to enjoy raw with other crudité’s or shredded to add to a slaw or salad. Our first dog Sassy would begin to whine for them as



Here the rutabaga was added to a lamb stew and also combined with potatoes for a mixed mash that was served on the side.

a special treat anytime Penny cut them. Yes, they are both safe and good to share with your dog in a reasonable quantity.

Nutrition

One reason that rutabagas may be gaining popularity is their nutritional value. The website Healthline says, “Rutabagas are a hearty vegetable packed with fiber, vitamins, and antioxidants.

They promote feelings of fullness, which can prevent weight gain. Furthermore, they contain powerful compounds that help fight inflammation, prevent premature aging, and are associated with a reduced risk of various cancers.”

By the way, according to many Irish food folks, corned beef and cabbage is not Irish but rather Irish American. Penny’s fam-

ily called it a boiled dinner and served it any time of year rather than as a March special. It is simply what Irish immigrants substituted for the more traditional dish of boiled Irish bacon with cabbage and champ.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.



PAAE CLOTHING DRIVE

Public Action for Arts and Education's (PAAE) first phase of a clothing drive was delivered to The St. France House for the Homeless in Boston. PAAE is asking its members and friends to help support the second phase of this worthwhile cause. We are in need of winter coats, warm jackets, and sweaters. Please contact St. Francis House or Public Action for Arts and Education at publicactionarts@gmail.com. Attending the first phase of PAAE's kickoff drive is, (from left to right,) Shannon Steele (Development Dept.), Patrick Murray (Drive, Chairman), Leeroy Buissereth, Joseph Hill (Pres. of Public Action for Arts and Education), Maria Fallavollita (Clothing Supervisor).

Gov. Baker issues citation for Gambling Disorder Screening Day

Governor Charlie Baker issued a citation recognizing Tuesday, March 8, 2022, as Gambling Disorder Screening Day in Massachusetts, praising the Division on Addiction at Cambridge Health Alliance for its “tireless efforts to spread awareness about Gambling Disorder throughout the Commonwealth.” Gambling Disorder leads to financial, emotional, social, occupational, and physical harms. It is a treatable mental health condition, yet many cases go undetected and untreated. Failure to detect gambling harm is due, in part, to limited screening for this problem. The Division on Addiction encourages all organizations and providers to participate in this annual event.

“We join Governor Baker in commending the Division on Addiction for establishing Gambling Disorder Screening Day,” said Assaad Sayah, MD, CEO of Cambridge Health Alliance. “Like many other behavioral health conditions, Gambling Disorder disproportionately impacts minoritized communities. Bringing much-needed

attention to the need for routine screening for Gambling Disorder, and improving access to treatment through statewide professional development activities, will help alleviate these disparities in line with CHA’s mission to provide care to the people.”

Gambling Disorder Screening Day is in its ninth year. This international event has grown to include screeners and supporters from Cambridge Health Alliance, Massachusetts and New England, the United States, and around the world. This year, Gambling Disorder Screening Day has over 50 confirmed supporters and event hosts. They range from college health centers, employee assistance and wellness programs, prevention-focused organizations, community-based mental health organizations, gambling operators, and academics and researchers. The Division on Addiction distributed 1,350 free pocket screening guides to 27 Screening Day hosts in 17 U.S. States.

Debi LaPlante, PhD, director of the Division on Addiction and associ-

ate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, said, “We’re so proud that people have embraced Gambling Disorder Screening Day. What started as a small grassroots effort in 2014 has grown to an international event with more participants than we ever anticipated. We will continue to support this event for years to come and look forward to bringing more awareness to this issue. Our hope is that by helping people understand their own gambling, we’ll connect people to needed help and the path to recovery.”

Because of lack of awareness about the need for routine screening and persistent stigma against people experiencing Gambling Disorder and other expressions of addiction, rates of help seeking for Gambling Disorder are low. Routine gambling screening is especially helpful for individuals seeking treatment for substance use disorders and other mental health conditions, which commonly co-occur with Gambling Disorder.

Encore Boston Harbor designated as the “Official Resort and Casino” of the Boston Celtics

Encore Boston Harbor announced a multi-year partnership and designation as the “Official Resort and Casino” of the 17-time NBA champions, the Boston Celtics.

Recognized for creating and celebrating winners within their respective fields, the partnership amplifies the synergies and neighborly comradery between Encore Boston Harbor and the Celtics and will offer additional entertainment opportunities for Encore guests and sports fans alike.

“We are extremely proud to partner with Boston’s beloved Celtics,” said Jenny Holaday, president of Encore Boston Harbor. “With the TD Garden less than three miles from our resort, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to offer a variety of exciting co-branded experiences for our guests and Celtics fans throughout the season and beyond.”

Under the new partnership, the organizations will jointly participate in marketing and co-branded program elements including:

- Encore Boston Harbor’s designation as the “Official Resort and Casino” of the Boston Celtics
- Encore Boston Harbor-sponsored giveaways during Celtics home games
- Team-related events held at Encore Boston Harbor including a Celtics 75th Anniversary Celebration, annual Boston Celt-

ics Shamrock Foundation Gala, and Celtics watch parties

- Complimentary shuttle service to and from Encore Boston Harbor and TD Garden before and after every Celtics home game

- Dedicated Boston Celtics landing page on the Encore Boston Harbor website including special discounts, perks and information for Celtics fans, encorebostonharbor.com/Celtics.

“Encore Boston Harbor is a world class resort and casino, and a leader in providing high-end hospitality experiences for their guests,” said Ted Dalton, Boston Celtics Senior Vice President of Partnerships and Business Development. “We look forward to collaborating with them and providing special opportunities that Celtics fans and resort guests will enjoy.”

Additionally, Encore Boston Harbor will be hosting a special Celtics 75th Anniversary Week-end from March 11 to March 13 to kick-off the new partnership. The anniversary weekend will feature Celtics memorabilia, including the original Boston Garden Celtics retired number banners alongside a commemorative, thematic floral display in the resort’s Garden Lobby. Encore Boston Harbor’s shuttle service to and from TD Garden will also be available for extended hours after the

Celtics game on Sunday, March 13 so guests can enjoy the post-game banner raising ceremony honoring former Celtics player Kevin Garnett.

About Encore Boston Harbor

Encore Boston Harbor features more than 210,000 square-feet of gaming space, over 2,700 slot machines and nearly 200 table games. Situated on the Mystic River in Everett, Massachusetts, and connected to Boston Harbor, Encore Boston Harbor boasts 671 spacious hotel rooms, a spa, salon and fitness center, specialty retail shops, a variety of dining and lounge venues and more than 50,000 square feet of ballroom and meeting spaces. The grounds feature a six-acre Harborwalk with pedestrian and bicycle paths that provide access to the waterfront, an event lawn, public art and ornate floral displays. It is the largest private, single-phase development in the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The casino offers free self-parking for all guests seven days a week.

Encore Boston Harbor is a proud partner of the New England Patriots, Boston Bruins, Boston Celtics and New England Revolution. For more information, visit encore-bostonharbor.com or follow Encore Boston Harbor on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

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As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

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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# Wu announces members of Rent Stabilization Advisory Committee

Building upon her commitment to protect Boston renters, last week Mayor Michelle Wu announced a Rent Stabilization Advisory Committee made up of housing advocates, developers, tenants, and other stakeholders. The advisory committee members will study local housing conditions as well as the structure and outcomes of rent stabilization programs in other cities. They will be tasked with making recommendations to the Mayor and the Mayor’s Office of Housing on strategies to stabilize Boston rents and protect tenants from displacement. The committee will meet throughout 2022 with the goal of shaping a proposal for the next state legislative session.

“Cities across the country use rent stabilization as one tool among many to protect tenants and keep families in their homes,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “The majority of Boston residents and families are renters. If we aren’t willing to take on the rent increases that are driving families out of Boston, then we aren’t meeting the needs of our neighborhoods. I thank the broad group of stakeholders, including advocates, tenants, and developers, who are willing to roll up their sleeves to reimagine

what’s possible.”

Rent stabilization measures in cities across the United States empower municipalities to set certain limits on annual rent increases for existing tenants, and may also include other tenant protections. These approaches promote the preservation of mixed-income neighborhoods and prevent renters from being pushed out of their communities.

“As an organizer fighting for a housing market that lets people move when they want, where they want, not when they have to, I am pleased to be a part of this committee,” said Beyazmin Jimenez, Abundant Housing Massachusetts Board President. “I look forward to working with the other members of this committee to explore ways that the City can create more accessible housing in our communities.”

“Having worked with previous Boston mayors on planning and affordable housing policy, I’m looking forward to being able to serve the new administration and offer my expertise to shape the conversation around rent stabilization,” said Curtis Kemeny, CEO and President of Boston Residential Group. “This is a step in the right direction, and I am confident that the

City will work to ensure a thoughtful, inclusive, and balanced policy that works for all residents.”

Almost 65% of Bostonians are renters, and more than half of them spend more than 30% of their monthly income on rent, leaving them struggling to save and vulnerable to housing instability. The 2020 Census also made clear that Black families are leaving the city, with the non-Hispanic Black population citywide falling by over 6% between 2010-2020. Rent stabilization is one of many tools to support renters in the short term, alongside longer-term measures that can be used to tackle housing supply and affordability.

The work of this committee would complement the work of the Office of Housing Stability. The Office of Housing Stability helps tenants in housing crises due to fire, natural disaster, eviction, or condemnation with the goal of putting residents on the path to housing stability. Its efforts include launching tenants’ rights clinics for those who are not able to come to City Hall during business hours; offering low- and no-cost mediation and dispute resolution for landlords and tenants; launching the Housing Court Navigator,

which provides legal advice for tenants; launching the Landlord Incentive program, which offers financial backing for landlords renting to formerly unhoused people; and creating Boston’s first-ever online guide to evictions, designed to assist tenants in every phase of a potential eviction proceeding.

Rent stabilization would complement Mayor Wu’s other initiatives to address Boston’s housing affordability, including the Transfer Fee and Senior Property Tax Exemption Home Rule Petition, and her commitment to update the City’s commercial linkage fee and Inclusionary Development Policies. She is also highlighting the importance of Housing by renaming the Department of Neighborhood Development as the Mayor’s Office of Housing, and bringing a new focus on equity by signing an Executive Order relative to affirmatively furthering fair housing.

This Advisory Committee will convene monthly to hear from experts on different rent stabilization models and City officials from the Mayor’s Office of Housing and the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) on local rental market conditions. The committee will also hold community listening

sessions throughout the process to hear community perspectives on housing affordability challenges and potential solutions. The first community listening session will be held virtually on April 19th, and the public can RSVP here to attend.

Rent Stabilization Advisory Committee Members:

- Emma Anderson, Boston Teachers Union member
- Kathy Brown, Coordinator at Boston Tenant Coalition
- Joe Byrne, Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters
- Karen Chen, Executive Director at Chinese Progressive Association
- Filaine Deronnette, Vice President of Health Systems for 1199 SEIU
- Emilio Dorcely, CEO of Urban Edge
- Dermot Doyne, Local landlord and business owner
- Chris Herbert, Managing Director of the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies
- Beyazmin Jimenez, Abundant Housing Massachusetts Board President
- Michael Kane, Executive Director at HUD Tenant Alliance
- Brian Kavooagian,

Managing Director of National Development

- Curtis Kemeny, CEO and President of Boston Residential Group
- Joe Kriesberg, President of Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations
- Denise Matthews-Turner, Co-Executive Director at City Life Vida Urbana
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- Justin Steil, Associate Professor of Law and Urban Planning, MIT
- Carolyn Villers, Executive Director at Mass Senior Action
- Josh Zakim, Founder and Executive Director at Housing Forward MA.

## Briefs // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

ages all construction projects at Massport, are on display throughout the terminals at Boston Logan International Airport.

“We thank the women of Massport for their hard work and dedication in all of our initiatives,” said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. “Our goal at Massport is to embed diversity, equity, and inclusion into our organizational DNA. Celebrating Women in Construction Week is just one way we celebrate diversity and encourage more women to work in construction, architecture, engineering, and other related fields.”

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, women comprise only 11% of all the people working in construction and 27% of all people who provide architectural, engineering, and related services in 2021. By comparison, Massport’s CPEA Department, which manages all Massport construction projects--from the planning phase and design, to construction and maintenance, is comprised of nearly 40% women.

“I’m proud to say that a diverse group of women are part of the decision-making process in every construction project at Massport,” said Dr. Luciana Burdi, the first female Director of the CPEA Department. “A diversity of thought is important as we build world-class facilities that serve diverse people.”

Women in Construction Week was started by the National Association of Women in Construction in 1998 to raise awareness and celebrate the work of women in the construction industry across the country.

### SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

This March, Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) joins the Administration for Community

Living and senior nutrition service providers across the country to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the national Senior Nutrition Program.

Since 1972, the Senior Nutrition Program has supported nutrition services for older adults. Funded by the Older Americans Act, local senior nutrition programs serve as hubs for older adults (60 and older) to access nutritious meals and other vital services that strengthen social connections and promote health and well-being.

“Senior nutrition is now more important than ever,” says Angie Fitzgerald, Director of Nutrition Services at MVES. “Each year in the U.S., up to half of adults age 65 and older are at risk of malnutrition, and more than 10 million face hunger. In communities throughout the U.S. – including our communities – older adults sometimes lack access to the high-quality, nutritious food they need to remain healthy and independent.”

As part of the Senior Nutrition Program network, MVES’ Nutrition Services Program, including Meals on Wheels, helps older adults in our community by promoting healthy eating, decreasing social isolation, and improving health. “Our program also provides connections to home and community-based services that can support independence and overall well-being. We deliver 3,000 meals a day to our 11 communities and have 15 meal sites,” says Fitzgerald.

“My favorite dish is the Boulet (Haitian Meatballs). It reminds me of my childhood and how my mom used to make them. I am excited whenever they are on the menu!” says Meals on Wheels consumer Marie Gabrielle Gattereau.

For 50 years, senior nutrition services have helped create healthy, strong communities where

all members can flourish regardless of their age. That is why MVES proudly recognizes this milestone anniversary of the national Senior Nutrition Program and its tremendous impact on the health and well-being of older adults in our community. Together, we look forward to another 50 years and beyond!

Learn more about our nutrition program and services by contacting us at 781-324-7705 or visiting mv.es.org.

### WARMER WEATHER WARNING: BE MINDFUL OF OUTDOOR SMOKING HAZARDS

With a week of warmer weather in the forecast, State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey is asking residents to be mindful of the fire hazards when smoking outdoors.

“We’ve got some nice weather in the forecast this week, and after a long winter everyone wants to spend a little more time outdoors,” said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. “If you still smoke, please be mindful of the fire hazards when you step out to smoke on a stairway, porch, or balcony.”

Fires often start when smokers drop butts in planters or near the side of buildings, where dried vegetation, mulch, or debris can catch fire. They can also start when cigarettes are ground out on railings, steps, or floors, allowing embers to drift and ignite flammable materials. In a densely built neighborhood, that fire can quickly spread to other buildings and put many people at risk.

“There are no smoke alarms on the outside of the house, so an exterior fire can grow to a dangerous size before anyone is aware of it,” State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. “There’s no safe way to smoke, but if you must

smoke then do it responsibly. Use a sturdy ashtray with water or sand and put it out, all the way, every time.”

The Department of Fire Services created a series of video and audio clips to promote the proper disposal of smoking ma-

terials on porches and balconies. They are available in English and Spanish for fire departments, fire educators, social service providers, and state or municipal agencies to use free of charge. Visit the DFS YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/DFSOSFM](http://www.youtube.com/DFSOSFM)

and view the Smoking Fire Safety playlist. “Of all the smoking safety steps you can take, the most effective one is to quit,” said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. “You’ll enjoy many more years of fresh air.”

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# Pressley, Edwards hold rally to safeguard Critical Worker Protections

By John Lynds

On Saturday at the Zumix Firehouse on Sumner Street, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Sen. Lydia Edwards, announced their support of “Massachusetts Is Not For Sale,” an alliance of workers, consumers, civil rights, immigrant, faith, labor, community organizing, racial and environmental justice groups organized to oppose legislative efforts by major corporations like Uber and Lyft aimed at narrowing workers’ rights in the state.

At the rally Pressley and Edwards argued that these big tech companies undermine the rights of gig economy workers in Massachusetts.

“Every worker in Massachusetts - and across the country - deserves a job that provides good wages, strong benefits, and safe working conditions,” said Pressley. “The fight for workers’ rights is deeply tied to the fight for racial and economic justice. We cannot accept the false choice between flexibility and critical workplace protections, and we cannot allow major corporations to strip away the rights of thousands of workers – disproportionately Black, brown, and immigrant workers – in order to improve their bottom line. This is an issue I’ve led on during my time in Congress, and I’ll continue to work alongside workers, advocates, and the members of Massachusetts Is Not For Sale to safeguard the rights of every worker in our communities.”

Under Massachusetts law “employees” working



Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley announces her support of “Massachusetts Is Not For Sale”, an alliance of workers, consumers, civil rights, immigrant, faith, labor, community organizing, racial and environmental justice groups organized to oppose legislative efforts by major corporations like Uber and Lyft aimed at narrowing workers’ rights in the state.

in the private sector are entitled to rights and protections including minimum wage, paid sick time, and paid family leave, unemployment insurance and worker’s compensation, and protections against sexual harassment and racial discrimination at work.

At Saturday’s rally both Pressley and Edwards argued that rather than complying, Big Tech has proposed rewriting long-standing state laws to exclude their workers entirely, filing legislation that “an app-based driver is an independent contractor and not an employee.”

According to Massachusetts Is Not For Sale, the Uber/Lyft-backed legislation would exclude hundreds of thousands of workers in the Commonwealth from the employment rights and

protections set forth in Massachusetts law.

Principally, it would significantly narrow who is an “employee” under Massachusetts law. Current Massachusetts law includes the critical presumption that any individual “performing any service” on behalf of an employer and is working under that employer’s control, doing work that is performed in the usual course of the employer’s business, or is not holding oneself out as a business that is independent from an employer is in fact an “employee.”

“It’s always a good day to fight for workers rights,” said Edwards at the rally. “I would not be here but for workers rights. I would not be the Senator for East Boston, I would not have been the City Councilor but for workers



The “Massachusetts Is Not For Sale” rally was held on Saturday at the Zumix Firehouse on Sumner Street with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Sen. Lydia Edwards.

rights. I’m going to stand tall and in solidarity until we win. In this stage in our recovery we are headed in one direction and Big Tech wants to take us backwards. The fact is being an employee is a matter of access to filing a discrimination case, getting unemployment, getting workers comp, getting minimum wage—that is the title of an employee and you get those things naturally. The fact of the matter is we have the hardest fight in front of us. They targeted Massachusetts because we sued them because we said “you’re violating our laws”. So they turned around and said we will change the laws on you and if we can change them in Massachusetts, we can change them anywhere. That’s why we’re a target. Want to be clear that we have a target because we have some of the best workers rights in the



Also announcing her support for the “Massachusetts Is Not For Sale” movement was Sen. Lydia Edwards.

country.” During both their time on the Boston City Council Pressley and Edwards fought for the rights of workers and led efforts to expand paid leave policies for every worker, introduced legislation to protect part-time workers, and advocated for the right

of every worker to join a union.

Pressley recently introduced the historic Federal Job Guarantee Resolution, which could ensure access to a good job with dignified wages, safe working conditions, health care and other benefits for every person who wants one.



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