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# East Boston

## TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

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Since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 to present Maverick Landing Community Services (MLCS) has distributed 83,000 produce bags with a total weight of 750,000 lbs to food insecure families in Eastie. Last week MLCS received a COVID-19 recovery grant to continue its work in the neighborhood.

## Maverick Landing Community Service among eight local nonprofits to receive COVID-19 recovery funds

By John Lynds

Last week the Latino Equity Fund (LEF) today announced \$200,000 in grants to eight Latino-focused organizations as part of the LEF's COVID-19 Response Fund in partnership with the Boston Foundation.

Maverick Landing Community Services (MLCS) and the seven other nonprofits will receive \$25,000 each to provide enhanced services to help Latino communities

recover from the strains caused by COVID-19 and the longer-term economic challenges the pandemic unleashed.

"LEF's mobilization of funds is a true testament to our commitment to action in response to data and advancing recovery for many of our community leaders still balancing the effects of COVID on their operations," said Evelyn Barahona, Director of Latino Equity Fund. "We selected organizations whose leadership and po-

sition in the community is mission critical to promoting economic prosperity, health equity and wellbeing for Latinos in Massachusetts."

Since the onset of the pandemic, MLCS has responded to pandemic-related emergent needs at the intersection of food, housing, trauma, workforce and education.

MLCS Director Rita Lara said since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 to present MLCS has distributed 83,000

produce bags with a total weight of 750,000 lbs to food insecure families in Eastie.

"Then from July 2021 to the present in collaboration with our Housing Support Coalition partners, we helped over 138 East Boston families to stay in their homes by accessing nearly \$570,000 in RAFT and ERAP housing assistance for them," said Lara. "And since 2021 we have worked with the

See MLCS Page 3

## Former East Boston Main Streets Director appointed as the Mayor's liaison to the Latinx community

By John Lynds

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the former East Boston Main Streets Director Gladys Oliveros was appointed as her liaison to the Latinx community in the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS). Oliveros will serve as the primary contact for residents and businesses in the Latinx community who are interested in engaging with the City of Boston and collaborating with City departments to facilitate the delivery of services and resources.

"As we work to create broad, positive change Boston, our neighborhood liaisons are essential in



Gladys Oliveros was appointed as Mayor Wu's liaison to the Latinx community in the Office of Neighborhood Services

maximizing the impact of City services in our everyday lives," said Mayor

Michelle Wu. "Gladys has already proven their commitment to the residents of Boston and I'm certain she will bring the same passion and expertise to her new role."

Oliveros will work to connect the Mayor's Office with residents and maximize community input by responding to service requests, attending neighborhood meetings, and helping facilitate community events. She will build on the Mayor's commitment to get City Hall out of City Hall and into individual neighborhoods, while working under the leadership of the Chief of Community Engagement Brianna Millor and the

Director of Neighborhood Services Enrique Pepen.

"I am thrilled to have Gladys on the team," said Director of Neighborhood Services Enrique Pepen. "She brings so much energy and enthusiasm to help the residents of Boston and to bring City Hall resources into our communities. Boston's families are lucky to have her."

Oliveros, who took over for outgoing EBMS Director Max Gruner back in 2019, has been a fixture in East Boston since immigrating from Colombia 35 years ago.

Prior to joining Main Streets, Oliveros worked

See OLIVEROS Page 4

## EBNHC receives grant from state to boost workforce development

By John Lynds

Last month the Baker-Polito Administration announced an additional \$4.5 million in grants to organizations working in communities hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Part of the grant money included \$3.1 million for the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers to support the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) and 41 other community health centers for critical workforce and equipment needs and outreach, education, and navigation support towards COVID-19 vaccination.

"These trusted community-based organizations know their communities

best," said Public Health Commissioner Margret Cooke. "They use their knowledge and relationships to expand the efforts of our Vaccine Equity Initiative by helping address the unique health equity needs of the communities and populations they serve - needs that have been exacerbated by COVID-19."

EBNHC CEO Greg Wilmoth said the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers had been a key ally and partner to the EBNHC throughout the pandemic.

"They are our advocates and work around policy matters, in partnership with health centers and with policy makers, and they have been able

See EBNHC Page 3

## BPDA approves the Maverick Street project

By John Lynds

Last week, the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) approved an East Boston project located on Maverick Street at the BPDA's May board meeting.

Last year, MG2 proposed to convert the 12,400 sq. ft. lot at 279 Maverick St. and a portion of the parcel at 273 Maverick St. into a five-story, 32 unit residential development. In addition, there will be 1,797 sq. ft. of retail space as part of the project.

The residential units include a mix of three studio, 17 one bedroom, 9 two bedroom and 3 three bedroom units.

"Located in East Boston, this project will build a new five-story building containing 32 rental units,

five of which will be income-restricted (affordable)," wrote the BPDA board in its approval. "The project will also make streetscape improvements to blend the new development with the newly constructed building at 287 Maverick Street. Residents will be able to take advantage of a landscaped patio with a bicycle repair station."

According to the BPDA, MG2 will contribute \$9,465 to the City's bikeshare program, improve the pedestrian experience on Maverick Street by adding new street trees, widening the sidewalk, and creating a direct connection to the Tomahawk Drive shared-use path, which connects the neighborhood to transit and community parks.



An artist rendering of the proposed building on Maverick Street that received BPDA approval last week.



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# Pressley, Wu celebrate federal funding to expand Boston’s Tuition-Free Community College program

By John Lynds

At Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley joined Mayor Michelle Wu, BHCC President Pam Eddinger, and BHCC students to celebrate the \$1,000,000 in federal community project funding Pressley secured to expand the City of Boston’s Tuition-Free Community College program.

The program has helped numerous East Boston seniors and their families afford college. The new funding will continue to support students here and across the city as they embark on their journey to college.

Rep. Pressley and Mayor Wu were given a tour of BHCC’s campus that was followed by a press conference to highlight how the funding will help address the college affordability crisis locally.

“Thank you for joining us as we celebrate community project funds that we have delivered to help expand the City of Boston’s Free-Tuition Community College program,” said Pressley at the press conference. “It is long past time that we make robust investments in access to higher education. President Biden recently signed the annual government funding bill which included millions in federal funding for 10 community

projects across the Massachusetts 7th Congressional District totaling some \$8 million.”

Pressley said the federal funding is the result of nearly a year’s worth of advocacy by her office and local partners that resulted in \$1 million in direct targeted spending to support Boston’s Tuition-Free Community College program expansion.

“There’s absolutely no doubt expanding this program with these federal dollars will enable us to serve a critical need within our community and help more students achieve their goals of earning a college degree,” said Pressley. “At every level of government we have a responsibility to fight for education, equity, and justice and programs like this are a great example of how we can increase true access to higher education.”

The Tuition-Free Community College program began under former Mayor and current U.S. Labor Secretary Martin Walsh, whom Pressley thanked for his commitment to supporting tuition free college initiatives during his time in the corner office at City Hall.

“I would also like to thank our delegation colleagues and incredible partners like Bunker Hill Community College,” she said. “A lot of work and

sweat equity was spent on this and I look forward to our continued partnership as we work towards ensuring our higher education system is truly affordable and accessible to all because for too long, the dream of a higher education has remained out of reach and for millions, including the more than 850,000 federal student loan borrowers here in the Commonwealth. It has come with a very steep price tag and decades of debt, the college affordability and unprecedented 1.7 trillion student dollar debt crisis has disproportionately impacted black and brown borrowers and communities here in the Commonwealth and across our nation.”

Pressley added that programs like Boston’s Tuition-Free Community College program will improve education outcomes and lower costs for students and help address these crises upstream.

“I’m incredibly proud to be here today to deliver the \$1 million in federal investment to the city’s community college program and I’m thankful to everyone here today for being partners in this work to create a more just and equitable Boston,” said Pressley.

Pressley secured this federal funding for Boston in the government spending package that passed



Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley joins Mayor Michelle Wu, Bunker Hill Community College President Pam Eddinger, and BHCC students for a tour of BHCC’s campus.

Congress and was signed into law by President Biden in March. In total, Pressley secured over \$8 million for 10 community projects across the Massachusetts 7th Congressional District, capping off nearly a year of advocacy by Pressley and local leaders.

“This is a million dollars in funding that will go directly to making sure we are closing gaps for our young leaders as they are building our future,” said Mayor Wu. “This million dollars to fund and expand Boston’s Tuition-Free Community College program is a major step forward at just the right moment.”

Wu said research has

shown that many community college students are affected in their ability to stay in class and stay enrolled because of the juggle that real life imposes.

“Taking care of kids, managing the needs for housing and food so funding like this will not only go to our students but to the families and the neighborhoods and communities that they are part of,” said Wu. “Currently, Boston’s Tuition-Free Community College program currently supports 860 Boston public school students in their higher education,” said Wu. “This funding will ensure that 600 more students and residents are supported by this program. We’ve already received over 200 applications for this next school year. All of us deserve the option to pursue a higher education and today is one more step in making sure that all are reflected. I want to thank the Congresswoman for her

leadership and advocacy. You should be able to (attain higher education) without being buried in debt for years to come.”

BHCC President Pam Eddinger added, “We are grateful for this funding to expand the program allowing us to reach more students, especially with including certain certificates and short-term training.”

Pressley, in partnership with Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), has consistently called on President Joe Biden to cancel student debt. Last year, they led their colleagues in reintroducing their bicameral resolution outlining a bold plan for President Biden to tackle the student loan debt crisis by using existing authority under the Higher Education Act to cancel \$50,000 in student loan debt for Federal student loan borrowers.

MOH Income Restricted Rental Opportunity - **WAITING LIST REOPENING**

**Wayne at Bicknell- Dorchester**

92-94 Esmond St-6 units / 77-79 Homestead St-12 units  
50-52 Lorne St & 4 Wilson St- 9 units  
9799101 8103 Norfolk St- 12 units  
2 Greenbrier St- 6 units / 57 Bicknell St-15 units 129131133  
& 135 Intervale St- 12 units

# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimated Square Feet	Rent	Maximum Income Limit	# built out for mobility impairments	# built out for Deaf/hard of hearing
15	1-bedroom	460-900	30% HH Income	50% AMI	2	—
33	2-bedroom	462-876	30% HH Income	50% AMI	—	—
21	3-bedroom	798-1060	30% HH Income	50% AMI	—	—
4	4-bedroom	1051-1171	30% HH Income	50% AMI	—	—

**Maximum Incomes** (set by funders + based on the household size + Area Median Income (AMI))

MINIMUM INCOMES (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms/AMI)		MAXIMUM INCOMES (set by funders + based on HH Size/AMI)	
# of bedrooms	50% AMI	Household size	50% AMI
1	\$0	1	\$34,050
2	\$0	2	\$38,900
3	\$0	3	\$43,750
4	\$0	4	\$48,600
		5	\$52,500
		6	\$56,400
		7	\$60,300

Applications are available during the application period for 30 days, from 5/16/22 to 6/15/22. To request an online application or to have one sent by email, visit <https://bit.ly/WayneAtBicknellApp> or call 617-247-2389.

The City of Boston has temporarily canceled the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at 617-247-2389 to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application.



We will be holding 2 virtual informational meetings on 5/24 and 5/31 at 5:30 pm through the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/99242640471?pwd=aW85dnhCTEhWaEozYVdqXpFdlBhUT09>.

Meeting ID: 992 4264 0471  
Passcode: q7LbF4

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than 6/15/22. Mailed to 434 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 300. Boston, MA 02118, Attention: Waitlist Coordinator.

- Selection by Lottery.
- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preferences Apply.

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, please call 617-247-2389 or email: [mjean@cruccompanies.com](mailto:mjean@cruccompanies.com)



MOH Income Restricted Rental Opportunity - **WAITING LIST REOPENING**

**Wayne at Columbia- Dorchester**

6,8,10,10a Bellevue St- 22 units  
1461,1463 Blue Hill Ave- 9 units  
217,467,471,509 Columbia Rd-46 units  
4 Almont St- 6 units

# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimated Square Feet	Rent	Maximum Income Limit	# built out for mobility impairments	# built out for Deaf/hard of hearing
6	studios	500	30% HH Income	50% AMI	1	—
50	1-bedroom	460-900	30% HH Income	50% AMI	—	—
19	2-bedroom	774-876	30% HH Income	50% AMI	—	—
2	3-bedroom	798-1060	30% HH Income	50% AMI	—	—
2	4-bedroom	1051-1171	30% HH Income	50% AMI	—	—
4	5-bedroom	1171-1200	30% HH Income	50% AMI	—	—

**MINIMUM INCOMES** (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms/AMI)

# of bedrooms	Minimum Income 50% AMI
1	\$0
2	\$0
3	\$0
4	\$0
5	\$0

**MAXIMUM INCOMES** (set by funders + based on HH Size/AMI)

HH size	50% AMI
1	\$34,050
2	\$38,900
3	\$43,750
4	\$48,600
5	\$52,500
6	\$56,400
7	\$60,300

Applications are available during the application period for 30 days, from 5/16/22 to 6/15/22. To request an online application or to have one sent by email visit <https://bit.ly/WayneAtColumbiaApp> or call 617-247-2389

The City of Boston has temporarily canceled the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at 617-247-2389, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application.



We will be holding 2 virtual informational meetings on 5/24 and 5/31 at 5:30 pm through the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/99242640471?pwd=aW85dnhCTEhWaEozYVdqXpFdlBhUT09>.

Meeting ID: 99242640471  
Passcode: q7LbF4

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than 6/03/22. Mailed to 434 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 300. Boston, MA 02118, Attention: Waitlist Coordinator.

- Selection by Lottery.
- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preferences Apply.

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call 617-247-2389 or lemail: [mjean@cruccompanies.com](mailto:mjean@cruccompanies.com)



For Advising Rates, Call 617-884-2416

MOH Income Restricted Rental Opportunity - **WAITING LIST REOPENING**

**Wayne at Blue Hill - Mattapan**

1439, 1443, 1447, 1451 Blue Hill Ave - 48 units

# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimated Square Feet	Rent	Maximum Income Limit
26	1-bedroom	575-724	30% HH Income	50% AMI
22	2-bedroom	697-877	30% HH Income	50% AMI

**MINIMUM INCOMES** (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms/AMI)

# of bedrooms	Minimum Income 50% AMI
1	\$0
2	\$0
3	\$0
4	\$0
5	\$0

**MAXIMUM INCOMES** (set by funders + based on HH Size/AMI)

HH size	50% AMI
1	\$34,050
2	\$38,900
3	\$43,750
4	\$48,600
5	\$52,500
6	\$56,400
7	\$60,300

Applications are available during the application period for 30 days, from 5/16/22 to 6/15/22. To request an online application or to have one sent by email, visit <https://bit.ly/WayneAtBlueHillApp> or call 617-247-2389

The City of Boston has temporarily canceled the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at 617-247-2389 to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application.



We will be holding 2 virtual informational meetings on 5/24 and 5/31 at 5:30 pm through the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/99242640471?pwd=aW85dnhCTEhWaEozYVdqXpFdlBhUT09>.

Meeting ID: 992 4264 0471  
Passcode: q7LbF4

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than 6/15/22. Mailed to 434 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 300. Boston, MA 02118, Attention: Waitlist Coordinator.

- Selection by Lottery.
- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preferences Apply.

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, please call 617-247-2389 or email [mjean@cruccompanies.com](mailto:mjean@cruccompanies.com)



MOH Income Restricted Rental Opportunity - **WAITING LIST REOPENING**

**Wayne at Schuyler- Dorchester & Roxbury**

39 Schuyler St -14 Units / 358-360 Walnut Ave -15 Units  
81 Walnut Park- 9 Units / 249 Humboldt Ave- 6 Units  
25 Wayne St -9 Units / 35 Wales St -12 Units  
548-550 Warren St- 6 Units / 2 Elm Hill Park- 3 Units

# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimated Square Feet	Rent	Maximum Income Limit	# built out for mobility impairments
1	studios	500	30% HH Income	50% AMI	—
16	1-bedroom	460-900	30% HH Income	50% AMI	2
46	2-bedroom	774-876	30% HH Income	50% AMI	—
7	3-bedroom	798-1060	30% HH Income	50% AMI	—
4	4-bedroom	1051-1171	30% HH Income	50% AMI	—

**Minimum Incomes** (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI))

**Maximum Incomes** (set by funders + based on the household size + Area Median Income (AMI))

MINIMUM INCOMES (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms/AMI)		MAXIMUM INCOMES (set by funders + based on HH Size/AMI)	
# of bedrooms	Minimum Income 50% AMI	HH size	50% AMI
1	\$0	1	\$34,050
2	\$0	2	\$38,900
3	\$0	3	\$43,750
4	\$0	4	\$48,600
		5	\$52,500
		6	\$56,400
		7	\$60,300

Applications are available during the application period for 30 days, from 5/16/22 to 6/15/22. To request an online application or to have one sent by email, visit <https://bit.ly/WayneAtSchuylerApp> or call 617-247-2389

The City of Boston has temporarily canceled the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at 617-247-2389 to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application.



We will be holding 2 virtual informational meetings on 5/24 and 5/31 at 5:30 pm through the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/99242640471?pwd=aW85dnhCTEhWaEozYVdqXpFdlBhUT09>.

Meeting ID: 992 4264 0471  
Passcode: q7LbF4

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than 6/07/22. Mailed to 434 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 300. Boston, MA 02118, Attention: Waitlist Coordinator.

- Selection by Lottery.
- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preferences Apply.

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MOH Income Restricted Rental Opportunity - **WAITING LIST REOPENING**

**Wayne at Franklin Hill- Dorchester**

30-58 Franklin Hill AVE- 65 units  
140-142 American Legion Hwy- 7 units

# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimated Square Feet	Rent	Maximum Income Limit	# built out for mobility impairments
19	2-bedroom	742	30% HH Income	50% AMI	14

**MINIMUM INCOMES** (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms/AMI)

# of bedrooms	Minimum Income 50% AMI
1	\$0
2	\$0
3	\$0
4	\$0
5	\$0

**MAXIMUM INCOMES** (set by funders + based on HH Size/AMI)

HH size	50% AMI
1	\$34,050
2	\$38,900
3	\$43,750
4	\$48,600
5	\$52,500
6	\$56,400
7	\$60,300

Applications are available during the application period for 30 days, from 5/16/22 to 6/15/22 To request an online application or to have one sent by email, visit <https://bit.ly/WayneAtFranklinApp> or call 617-247-2389

The City of Boston has temporarily canceled the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at 617-247-2389 to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application.



We will be holding 2 virtual informational meetings on 5/24 and 5/31 at 5:30 pm through the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/99242640471?pwd=aW85dnhCTEhWaEozYVdqXpFdlBhUT09>.

Meeting ID: 992 42640471  
Passcode: q7LbF4

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than 6/15/22. Mailed to 434 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 300. Boston, MA 02118, Attention: Waitlist Coordinator.

- Selection by Lottery.
- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preferences Apply.

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MOH Income Restricted Rental Opportunity - **WAITING LIST REOPENING**

**Wayne at Blue Hill - Mattapan**

1439, 1443, 1447, 1451 Blue Hill Ave - 48 units

# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimated Square Feet	Rent	Maximum Income Limit
26	1-bedroom	575-724	30% HH Income	50% AMI
22	2-bedroom	697-877	30% HH Income	50% AMI

**MINIMUM INCOMES** (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms/AMI)

# of bedrooms	Minimum Income 50% AMI
1	\$0
2	\$0
3	\$0
4	\$0
5	\$0

**MAXIMUM INCOMES** (set by funders + based on HH Size/AMI)

HH size	50% AMI
1	\$34,050
2	\$38,900
3	\$43,750
4	\$48,600
5	\$52,500
6	\$56,400
7	\$60,300

Applications are available during the application period for 30 days, from 5/16/22 to 6/15/22. To request an online application or to have one sent by email, visit <https://bit.ly/WayneAtBlueHillApp> or call 617-247-2389

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Meeting ID: 992 4264 0471  
Passcode: q7LbF4

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than 6/15/22. Mailed to 434 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 300. Boston, MA 02118, Attention: Waitlist Coordinator.

- Selection by Lottery.
- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preferences Apply.

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News in Brief

Gove Street Citizens Association Meeting Agenda

Gove Street Citizens Associations next meeting is on Monday, May 23, at 6:30 p.m.

Register for Zoom for this meeting: <https://govestreet.org/2022/may-2022-meeting/>

All speakers will be available to answer questions from the community.

Community updates (30 min)

BPD update from Sgt. Cintolo

Water and sewer pipe replacement; Kyle LeBrun, RJV Construction

East Boston liaison - Nathalia Benitez

Natasha Perez on Bremen/Orleans project

Projects

99A Cottage Street, Ariana Weihl and John Smart; Rebuild roof deck following repair of roof

(10-15 min)  
24 Geneva Street, Richard Lynds on behalf of Nicolo DiLibero; Erect a 6-unit residential dwelling with 4 parking spaces (20 min)

169 Maverick Street, Richard Lynds on behalf of Trichilo Development; Change occupancy to a 4-unit residential dwelling by erecting an addition (20 min)

Massachusetts Gaming Commission Releases April Gross Gaming Revenue

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission reported today that the month of April 2022 at Plainridge Park Casino (PPC), MGM Springfield and Encore Boston Harbor generated approximately \$99 million in

Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR).

PPC, a category 2 slots facility, is taxed on 49% of GGR. Of that total taxed amount, 82% is paid to Local Aid and 18% is allotted to the Race Horse Development Fund. MGM Springfield and Encore Boston Harbor, category 1 resort-casinos, are taxed on 25% of GGR; those monies are allocated to several specific state funds as determined by the gaming statute.

To date, the Commonwealth has collected approximately \$1.146 billion in total taxes and assessments from PPC, MGM and Encore since the respective openings of each gaming facility.

View comprehensive revenue reports for each gaming licensee here. MGC issues monthly revenue reports on the 15th of each month or next business day.

Man in critical condition after Bennington Street hit and run

By John Lynds

Boston police are still searching for the driver of a SUV that hit a man crossing Bennington Street last Thursday and then fled the scene.

The incident occurred just before midnight when Boston Police and Boston EMS responded to reports of a pedestrian struck in the area of 19 Bennington St.

When police and EMS arrived they found the victim, whose name has not been released, laying in the street with severe head injuries.

He was transported to a local hospital where he

was placed in intensive care with life-threatening injuries.

According to reports the victim works as a delivery driver for a cab service near where he was struck. Friends of the victim said he was crossing Bennington Street and heading to his work's office at the time of the accident.

Police say that one witness was able to follow the suspect all the way to Charlestown and was able to provide a license plate number to police. The witness reported that the driver behind the wheel was female and he made several attempts to get her

to pull over with no avail. The witness backed off once the driver went into Charlestown.

While the incident was terrible many were not shocked. In the past few weeks there have been several vehicle collisions with injuries and a boy was struck while crossing Bennington Street up in Orient Heights last week.

"So very sad that these types of accidents seem to occur on a daily basis," said Veronica Filippone Shaponick. "I hope they catch the driver and more importantly, I hope the victim will make a full recovery."

Eastie's weekly COVID positive test-rate still hovers near 10 percent

By John Lynds

While East Boston's weekly COVID positive test rate dropped slightly last week it is still hovering near 10 percent. Boston health officials have been battling against the recent surge in cases due to a new, more contagious variant. Citywide 1 out of every 10 people tested for the virus was found to be positive.

Last week, 1,143 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 9.6 percent were positive--this was a 10 percent decrease from the 10.7 percent that tested positive as reported by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on May 9 but

well above the 5 percent threshold the CDC and BPHC have been using to decide if indoor restrictions need to be reimplemented.

One hundred ten additional Eastie residents contracted the virus between May 9 and May 16 and there are now 15,289 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic.

Boston's citywide weekly positive test rate increased last week and is now over 10 percent.

According to the BPHC 18,119 residents were tested citywide last week and 10.8 percent were COVID positive--this was a 23 percent increase from the 8.8 percent that reported-

ly tested positive for the week ending on May 9.

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 1.7 percent last week and went from 181,346 to 184,415 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic.

There were three additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total number of COVID deaths is now at 1,462.

REVENUE REPORT

APRIL 2022	GROSS GAMING REVENUE	TAXES
<b>MGM SPRINGFIELD</b> SUBJECT TO 25% TAXES	<div>TABLE \$4,135,430.05</div> <div>SLOTS \$18,404,598.73</div> <div>TOTAL \$22,540,028.78</div>	\$5,635,007.20
<b>ENCORE BOSTON HARBOR</b> SUBJECT TO 25% TAXES	<div>TABLE \$29,620,598.98</div> <div>SLOTS \$34,118,122.32</div> <div>TOTAL \$63,738,721.30</div>	\$15,934,680.33
<b>PLAINRIDGE PARK CASINO</b> SUBJECT TO 49% TAXES	<div>SLOTS \$12,908,918.51</div> <div>TOTAL \$12,908,918.51</div>	\$6,325,370.07
TOTAL TAXES		\$27,895,057.60

MLCS // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Mutual Aid Eastie, the Transformational Prison Project, the Neighborhood Trauma Team, and the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen to support bimonthly restorative justice circles promoting wellness, healing, and community connection for East Boston residents."

Lara said the grant from LEF will continue to support these services as well as other vital responsive programming.

"The grant will help support other programs such as our trauma-informed digital literacy in Spanish and English--ensuring digital access for all and learning support for children in our maker-space and STEM education programs," said Lara.

The grant announcement comes as the new report, ¡Avancemos Ya!: Persistent Economic Challenges and Opportunities Facing Latinos in Massachusetts was published by LEF in partnership with Boston Indicators and the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public

Policy at UMass Boston.

The report highlighted opportunities to improve economic conditions among Massachusetts' Latino communities. The report traces the historical and demographic roots of the state's unique Latino communities, and outlines six trends that have shaped the current situation for the state's Latinos and that can serve as pathways for future opportunities.

The pandemic exacerbated long-standing challenges facing Latinos. Today, for example, a quarter or more of the 800,000 Latinos in Massachusetts struggle with food insecurity, and data show Massachusetts Latinos have low rates of intergenerational economic mobility. Yet the report also sheds light on how the economic rebound from the 2020 recession provides opportunities to improve socioeconomic conditions.

"These grants address a number of the issue areas highlighted in ¡Avancemos Ya!, as part of the LEF's larger strategy to work with our nonprofit

partners to provide greater equity for Latinos," said Juan Fernando Lopera, Co-Chair of LEF. "At a time when Massachusetts faces an outstanding need for workers, empowering our talented, entrepreneurial and fast-growing Latino communities to fill that need is a crucial step that provides benefits for everyone in the state."

Co-Founder and Co-Chair of LEF Aixa Beauchamp said the fund is committed to deepening its community investments that provides culturally sensitive and timely grantmaking.

"Through responsive and innovative initiatives, we can create a community and philanthropic network for diverse donors to connect and learn," said Beauchamp. "We will continue to aid Latino and BIPOC communities through this public health and economic crisis to see a brighter future."

EBNHC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to advocate for more resources for community health centers in general," said Wilmot. "In their role as a convener and collaborator they're a recipient of funds and are making those funds available to community health centers to support workforce development."

Wilmot said the grant will support workforce development at EBNHC and support the restoration of and development of the healthcare workforce, particularly EBNHC community-based health care workers.

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THE EAST BOSTON FOUNDATION



The East Boston Foundation  
Phone: 617-561-6336

DEADLINE ANNOUNCEMENT

Grant Application Deadline will be May 20, 2022

For more information contact Lorene Schettino for an application 617-561-6336 by email: [lorene.schettino@gmail.com](mailto:lorene.schettino@gmail.com) or apply online at: [www.ebfoundation.org](http://www.ebfoundation.org)

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# East Boston

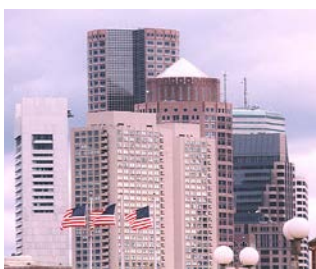
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# Forum

## GUEST OP-ED

### Buffalo, Laguna Woods, Houston – the world gets crazier every day

Dr. Glenn Mollette

A good person did not enter a grocery store in Buffalo, New York killing ten people and wounding multiple others. A good person did not enter a church in Laguna Woods, California wounding many and killing one person. A good person did not enter a Houston, Texas flee market killing two and wounding at least three more. These are evil people. The police officer who heroically fought back in the Buffalo grocery store with a gun was a good person. He was trying to protect the other good people who were in the grocery store.

If America rounded up all the guns and used them for only police officers and the military, there would still be evil people. Evil plots, make irrational decisions and go to depraved levels to carry out their heinous acts. What an evil person does is beyond the comprehension of everyday moral people. A mentally depraved person thinks in a sphere of unreality. They have thoughts no one else would ever think. Pathetically they

put their thoughts into action. The Buffalo shooter drove hundreds of miles. He bought tactical gear and wore protective armor that enabled him to withstand the security guard's bullets and kill the security guard.

Generally, people used to live their lives concerned about what God or a higher power thought about them. They were interested in pleasing God, their parents, the school teacher, coach or clergy leader. Today, insanity is bowing down to the god of social media. The deranged Buffalo shooter wore a camera so that his social media followers could see what he was doing. People often video themselves sky diving, jumping off cliffs, singing or whatever to show their followers what they are doing. The Buffalo shooter took it to another level and will most likely be mimicked by others. It's interesting that social media has the power to ban a former President but it can't control or prevent an insane live video feed of someone wanting to show others that he is killing

people.

Evil people will find a way to carry out their evil schemes. They will find a way to get guns or use cars, planes, trucks, fire or whatever to hurt others. The people killing people in churches and grocery stores are not deer hunters. They aren't wild turkey or rabbit hunters. They aren't the average citizens who just want a gun for their bedside table for protection. The people perpetrating these crimes are deranged.

Our society must find a way to unarm those who are displaying outward signs of craziness or have any records of unlawful activity. Once again, it's difficult to keep guns out of the hands of bad people because evil works very hard. However, we must continue to try.

Grocery stores, churches and most businesses will eventually have locked doors. You will need a card to unlock the door much like hotels use today. You will need your name and information registered with the business or house of worship before you'll be able to enter.

Armed guards like airport security guards will check your identification when you come to the door. This still doesn't protect the families playing in a city park or those gathering in an open-air sidewalk café. To some extent we will always be vulnerable, everywhere.

The world has felt crazier every day for the last two years. This past week-end proved again that it's not getting better.

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.

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## IF WOMEN WERE WORLD LEADERS, THERE WOULD BE NO MORE WARS

It's well-known that men constitute most of the sociopaths among us. A sociopath by definition lacks empathy, a person who has no conscience.

Although childhood trauma and abuse can alter a person's brain, sociopaths for the most part are born, not made. High-tech imaging has shown that the part of the human brain that triggers an empathetic response in most people is non-functioning (or functions minimally) in sociopaths.

It is estimated that only one percent of humanity are sociopaths, but of those, 75-90% are men. And while there are women who are sociopaths, they tend not to be violent. Sociopathic women share the same traits -- pathological lying, for example -- as male sociopaths, but their goal generally manifests itself in financial gain.

The young Russian/German woman who conned New York society (depicted in the Netflix series, *Inventing Anna*) and Elizabeth Holmes, who fleeced investors in her blood analysis company of hundreds of millions of dollars, are examples of female sociopaths.

Sociopathic men also are con artists. Some psychologists have estimated that 10 percent of the men who work on Wall St. are sociopaths such as Bernie Madoff.

But sociopathic men almost exclusively are the serial killers in our society -- Ted Bundy and others like him -- whose crimes horrify us.

Sociopathic men also are the dictators who have wrought carnage on our planet. Hitler, Stalin, Kim Jong-un, and Vladimir Putin readily come to mind.

And when you combine a sociopathic personality with male testosterone, the end result is what we see happening every day in Ukraine.

World events of the past two years have brought to the forefront the strong women who are the heads of their countries -- Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand, Kaja Kallas of Estonia, Sanna Marin of Finland -- and Angela Merkel was the top leader in Europe for 16 years until she recently stepped down.

We are not suggesting that women are better than men, or vice versa.

But in our opinion, it seems reasonable to believe that if all of our world leaders were women, there would be no more wars.

## Oliveros // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as a program supervisor at Boston Center for Youth and Families' Paris Street site.

A native of Barranquilla, Colombia Oliveros moved to Eastie over three decades ago.

Before working for BCYF Oliveros founded Casa de la Cultura. Casa de la Cultura is a Community Center focused

on the Latino population of Eastie--offering education, information, recreational and cultural events to promote diversity growth among our community. The organization offered language classes, computer classes, chess classes for kids, citizenship's classes as well as immigration services, and fitness.

The nonprofit community improvement organization committed to fostering an inclusive community that supports the growth and well-being of the small business community and residents has now begun its search for Oliveros's replacement.

"I am so happy to be the bridge between the Latinx community and the City

of Boston," said Oliveros.

"I look forward to serving my community and providing them with the services and resources they need."

In her spare time, Oliveros enjoys art, music, and spending time in the community.

## Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.

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

Letters may also be e-mailed to **editor@eastietimes.com**.

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

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ADDISON STREET BLOCK PARTY

On Saturday the developer of the new multi-family development in the heart of the East Boston Orient Heights neighborhood sponsored a block party inside its development.

The afternoon-long party was an opportunity to bring together residents, community leaders, and

their families for a free outdoor event to celebrate its opening.

The block party features talent performances by East Boston-based musician Veronica Robles and her signature all female mariachi band as well as Zumix's Diversity Band. There were also games, raffles and food trucks.



Veronica Robles and her signature all female mariachi band performs.



City Councilor Gabriela Coletta (center) with her partner Sebastian Zapata and event organizers.



Representatives from Fair Share helped people register to vote.



Zumix's Corey DePina and Rene Dongo.



Sen. Lydia Edwards, Gladys Oliveros and EBNHC's Nery Castro.



Eastie Liaison Nathalia Benitez with Officer Tommy Domini-co.



Eastie Farm Director Kanan Thiruvengadam shows off some of the plants grown right here in East Boston.



Rep. Adrian Madaro talks with residents.



Rep. Adrian Madaro and Addison Street developer Damian Szary pose with representatives from Eastie Farm, including Eastie Farm Director Kanan Thiruvengadam (second from right).



YMCA staff offered raffles and prizes.



City Councilor Gabriela Coletta poses with owners of the Jamaica Mi Hungry food truck and restaurant.

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CITY of BOSTON



Public Works



EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS A STEAM EVENT

On Saturday, East Boston High School hosted a STEAM event inside the high school's parking lot. The daylong event included science demonstra-

tions, information booths, robotics, and other fun games and presentations to get kids interested in science, technology, engineering and math.



EBHS Principal Phil Brangiforte, Sen. Lydia Edwards, Carrie Brangiforte and Assistant Superintendent Tommy Welch.



Students try their hand at making slime during Saturday's STEAM event at the high school.



Anthony Forbes (right) with the high school science team.



Zumix's Corey DePina talks about Zumix radio.



Nina Coletta and Rep. Adrian Madaro.



Harborkeepers Magdalena Ayed and Trustees of Reservation Gabriela Ramirez.



Neighborhood kids learn about robotics.



The daylong STEAM event included numerous experiments.



Rep. Adrian Madaro, EBHS Principal Phil Brangiforte, Carrie Brangiforte and Assistant Superintendent Tommy Welch.



NOAH's Resiliency Planning Coordinator Latifa Ziyad (right) talks about climate change.



East Boston High School hosted a STEAM event inside the high school's parking lot.



Some booths promoted and encouraged better environmental practices.



The STEAM event also encouraged attendees to get creative.



The Harborkeepers booth made people aware of the importance of coastal stewardship.



The New England Aquarium performs some experiments.

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Applications are available during the application period. To request an application or have one sent to you please call 617-247-2389 or email [mjean@cruzcompanies.com](mailto:mjean@cruzcompanies.com). Applications will be accepted from **Friday, May 6, 2022 and ending on Saturday, May 21th, 2022.**

Deadline: Applications must be received or postmarked by **Saturday, May 21st, 2022. Mailed to: 434 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 300. Boston, MA 02118, Attention:**

Waitlist Coordinator. Applications after this date will not be accepted.

All applicants must meet the family size requirements for a designated bedroom size as well as maximum income of all family members. However, maximum incomes do not apply to households with mobile vouchers (Section 8, MRVP, VASH), or for the units in this development that include a project-based housing assistance voucher.

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# Sports

## EB JETS WIN 10-9 OVER SNOWDEN IN EXTRA INNINGS

PHOTOS BY BOB MARRA

The Jets staged a comeback from a 5th inning 6-1 deficit and rallied in extra innings to top Snowden 10-9 Saturday at Jim Rice Field. Down 6-1, the Jets pushed across a pair of runs in the 5th and 6th innings before tying the

game in the seventh. After a scoreless eighth inning, the East Boston scored four times in the top of the ninth, then held on for the win. Mike O'Neil was a key factor for the Jets, going 2-for-4 with 2 RBI and a stolen base.



ACROBATIC SLIDE: East Boston's Janneson Martinez was out at second on a steal attempt despite an acrobatic slide.



BEATS THE THROW: Mike O'Neil beats the throw to second base for a stolen base in the first inning.



OUT OF REACH: Centerfielder Jared Pacitta chases a deep fly ball to centerfield that landed for a Snowden double.



GOOD GLOVE: Shortstop Joel Valera scoops up a ground ball.



REASSURANCE: East Boston coach Jeff Arinella gives a word of reassurance to his starting pitcher Andry Marte after Marte surrendered a three-run homer that put Snowden ahead 6-1 in the fourth inning.



MAKING THE PLAY: Second baseman Josh Santiago field a ground ball.



RELIEF EFFORT: Luis Ortiz came on to pitch in the fifth inning when the Jets trailed 6-1. The team rallied to a 10-9 victory.



SAFE AT SECOND: Andry Marte slides into second with a stolen base.

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# Rep. Madaro secures nearly \$1.3 million in state funding for Eastie

By John Lynds

After three days of debate and over a thousand proposed amendments, the \$49.73 billion FY23 state budget passed the House of Representatives 155-0 and now goes to the Senate for their consideration.

In the budget Rep. Adrian Madaro, Chair of the Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, secured \$1.265 million in state funding for Eastie programs as well as millions of dollars in funding for significant investments to state programs addressing mental health and substance abuse.

“I’m incredibly proud of the investments the House made in the FY2023 Budget,” said Rep. Madaro. “A budget is a statement of our priorities, and this year the House prioritized essential issues in East Boston and across the Commonwealth. As Chair of the Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, the historic investments we made in these areas underscore the House’s commitment to prioritizing these issues. I’m also proud to have secured vital funding for

community organizations in East Boston to address important issues in our community like food and housing security, youth services, workforce training, and ferry transportation.”

The biggest earmark Madaro was able to secure was \$1 million to expand the Eastie ferry pilot program. The earmark will ensure ferry service continues to run between Eastie and the North End until November 2022 with the hopes of continuing regular ferry service between the two neighborhoods indefinitely.

Madaro was able to secure \$75,000 for the Housing Support Station run by Maverick Landing Community Services as well as \$75,000 for YouthConnect to provide mental health services to high-risk youth.

Another \$50,000 in state funding will go to Eastie Farm for food access, climate adaptation, and education.

Madaro’s earmarks include \$40,000 for mental health, substance use, and recovery services at Crossroads Family Shelter, the neighborhood’s transitional family homeless shelter.

Finally, Madaro was

able to secure \$25,000 to the Center for Cooperative Development and Solidarity for worker training and emotional and mental health support.

Madaro said the FY23 House Budget includes over \$112 million for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, a \$14 million increase from FY22.

“Over the past few years, we have been experiencing a mental health crisis, with self-reported symptoms on the rise and more children and adolescents facing complex needs that our systems are ill-equipped to provide for,” he said.

This includes \$3,825,000 for the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Program (MCPAP), which makes child psychiatry consultations accessible to primary care providers and their patients, and also includes mental health and substance use disorder support for pregnant and postpartum people. The line item also directs \$75,000 for the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Inc. and the BIRCh Center to continue collaborating on a school-based behavioral health technical assistance center. These addi-

tional resources will help providers and caregivers address the challenges they face in serving these populations and will enable the Commonwealth to deliver better care to families and youth.

The budget also includes over \$514 million for Adult Mental Health & Support Services, which demonstrates a \$4 million increase from FY22.

Madaro said this includes \$2 million for jail diversion and police efforts, of which \$250,000 is directed towards expansion of safe haven housing for chronically homeless adults with mental health conditions living in a shelter or on the streets in Boston. It also includes \$50,000 for the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers to help connect consumers to licensed clinical social workers through the Therapy Matcher program.

“A critical \$275 million is invested in Inpatient Facilities & Community Based Mental Health, a \$20 million increase from FY22 - for the operation of hospital facilities and community-based mental health services,” said Madaro. “This includes inpatient facilities, which provide continuing care

to individuals who require long-term services typically not offered outside of DMH.”

Over \$188 million was allocated for the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS), a \$13 million increase from FY22.

Madaro said this line item carries over FY22 funding for the opening of five new recovery centers, three of which will serve gateway cities. It also directs \$4,533,180 for substance use disorder step-down recovery services, as well as other critical recovery services with severely reduced capacity.

“Importantly, the line item includes \$3 million for BSAS to provide technical assistance and training to increase the number of providers delivering culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse services in communities of color,” said Madaro. “It also includes funding for the Massachusetts Access to Recovery (MA-ATR) program, which offers recovery support for individuals with opioid use disorders (OUD) or those who are at risk of developing one, as well as funds to family intervention and care management services programs, a young adult treatment program and early intervention services for individuals who are dependent on or addicted to alcohol, controlled substances, or both.”

Madaro said this line item further invests in jail diversion to ensure individuals with OUD charged with non-violent offenses receive treatment rather than be incarcerated.

Madaro said Finally,

harm reduction remains a key theme of funding in the FY23 budget. “Substance use, recovery and harm reduction initiatives benefit from humane and evidence-based practices that meet people where they are while increasing access to treatment when a person is ready,” he said.

This includes over \$1 million for a naloxone distribution program and \$6.4 million for harm reduction initiatives more broadly.

“In response to overdose fatalities skyrocketing during the pandemic, we’re also directing the Commonwealth’s agencies to resume annual reporting on the prescribing and treatment history of persons who suffer fatal overdoses to ensure that the Commonwealth can be responsive to changes in substance use and overdose trends and address corresponding risk factors with the best data available,” said Madaro. “We’re also directing the Health Policy Commission to analyze and report on the ongoing effects of COVID-19 on behavioral health-related boarding in emergency departments to help better understand the current boarding crisis.”

In the end Madaro said there is \$10 million to expand emergency diversion boarding programs within the Department of Mental Health; \$188.6 million for the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services; \$12.5 million for behavioral health supports; and \$48.3 million for early intervention services, with dedicated funding to help its workforce recover from the pandemic.



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# Seaplane company to highlights community investments

By John Lynds

Representatives of the seaplane company operating off East Boston’s shore since last August that shuttling customers from Boston to New York City stopped by a community meeting recently to highlight some of their community investments.

Last year, Tailwind Air recently received Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and U.S. Coast Guard approval to take off and land just off the Hyatt Boston Harbor Hotel near Jeffries Point.

Costing \$395 per ticket for a one way trip to Manhattan, Tailwind shuttles passengers from the South Boston waterfront to the seaplane for the 75-minute flight to a dock off East 23rd in Manhattan.

With Tailwind becoming more and more successful, the company’s Sales Director Gabriela Sales highlighted some of the investments Tailwind has made in the community during the community meeting.

“Well, we’re very involved in the community,” said Sales. “I personally have a very deep love for East Boston. Right now,

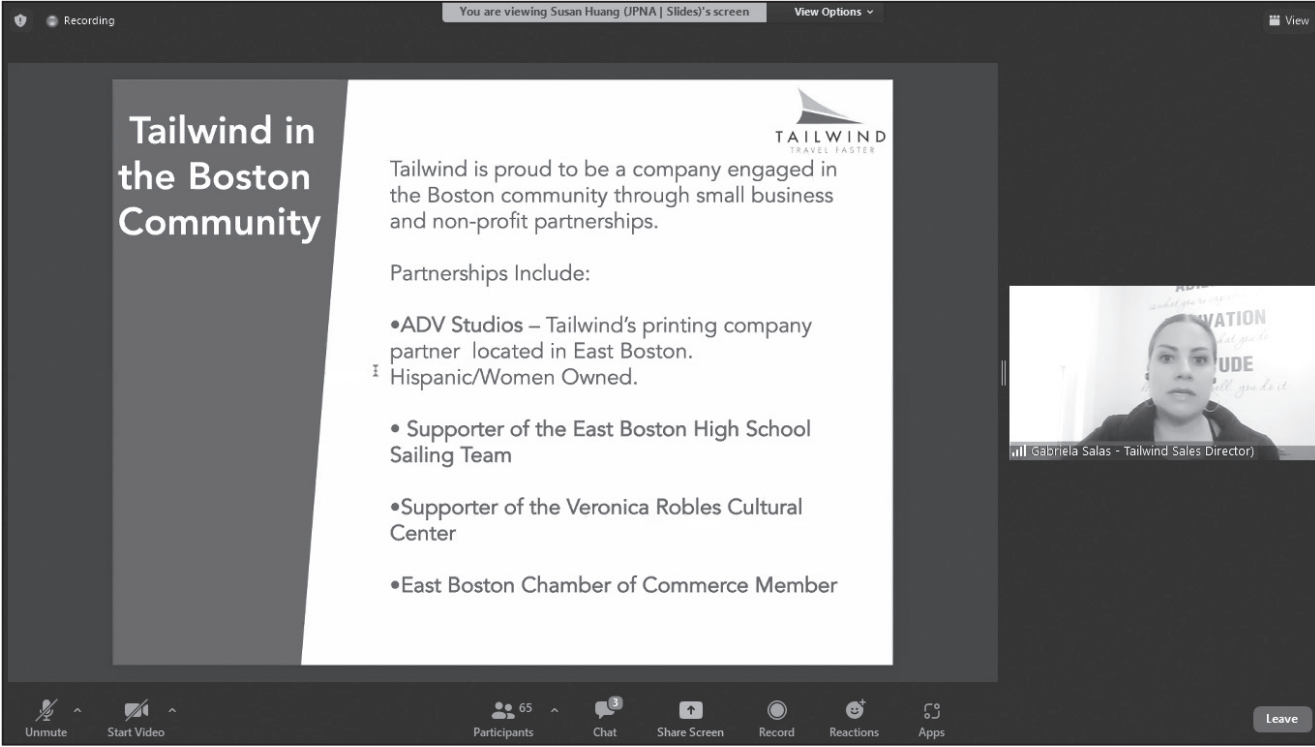
we are doing business and we’re trying to partner with local businesses within the East Boston area.”

One business Tailwind has recently partnered with is ADV Studios that has been doing the seaplane company’s promotional printing for ads and other media.

“Our company’s printer is based in East Boston,” said Sales. “ADV Studios is a woman owned business, LGBTQ certified, and minority as well because the owners are Hispanic. Our business is also striving to create more jobs. Through our partnership with the Veronica Robles Cultural Center we sent out invitations to some of their older students to apply for an internship job with us. This is a paid internship where we can also teach them about STEM, about becoming a pilot or being on the marketing side of the business. We want people to fall in love with what we’re doing because it is our passion.”

Tailwind has also become a member of the East Boston Chamber of Commerce.

“What we’re trying to



Tailwind Air’s Sales Director Gabriela Sales highlighted some of the investments Tailwind has made in the community during a recent community meeting.

do there is create some awareness on how we can develop businesses locally and how they can commute from Boston to New York and vice versa in order to grow,” said Sales. “With all the development that is happening in the marketplace, especially on the East Boston side of Boston, there’s potential for businesses to expand and grow.

The company has also partnered with local restaurants like the Reel House and others to bring some of the outside clients from New York to East Boston rather than staying in the downtown area.

“So we’re trying to communicate how important East Boston is for us,” said Sales.

Tailwind also recently began supporting the East

Boston High School’s sailing team.

“We donated about \$2,500 for the team to start gearing up the students with safety equipment and uniforms,” said Sales. “On top of that, we’re trying to create more awareness on how we can help other neighborhood initiatives. My team is looking forward to volunteering with the community on things

like beach cleanups and other events.”

Tailwinds has two bases, one in Westchester, New York and another in Bridgeport, Connecticut and have been operating seaplanes in and out of New York City for about seven years.

Tailwind uses the Cessna Caravan for seaplane operation to and from New York.

# Child Marriage bill passes the Massachusetts House of Representatives

As part of the Fiscal Year 2023 House Budget debate, An Act to End Child Marriage was adopted. This bill was filed by Representatives Kay Khan (D-Newton) and Paul Donato (D-Medford) during the 192nd Session as H.1709 then filed as a budget amendment by House Minority Leader, Representative Brad Jones (R-North Reading). This week, the Massachusetts House of Representatives unanimously passed the legislation to end the practice of child marriage under the age of 18 which is considered a human rights abuse by the U.S. State Department.

Thanks to the leadership of Speaker Ron Mariano, House Ways and Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz, and House Judiciary Chair Michael Day, Massachusetts joins the list of states taking a stance to ban the marriage of children. Most recently on June 2nd 2021, Rhode

Island and New York passed legislation to remove statutory language that allowed for minors to enter marriages with parental consent. This led State Representative Kay Khan (D-Newton) to call on her colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature to end the practice of child marriage in the Commonwealth. Rhode Island and New York most recently joined New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota as the only states in the country that have completely banned child marriage.

As minors, married children face many obstacles when they try to leave or resist such a marriage. “If you are a married child and you are still a minor, you do not have adult rights,” said Representative Kay Khan. “You cannot file for divorce, annulment, protective order, rent an apartment, open a checking account, or seek services from the De-

partment of Children and Families. A minor cannot purchase cigarettes, join the military, vote, or serve on a jury, but in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and 44 other states, they can marry.” Likewise, married minors are subject to a unique power dynamic stemming from a legal predicament in which their parental guardians and spouses have more legal freedom as adults.

“I am proud to have voted in favor of this common-sense provision to reform Massachusetts’s marriage laws and protect our youth,” said Representative Adrian Madaro. “There is no good reason for Massachusetts to allow minors to enter into life-altering contracts. I’m thankful to my House colleagues for unanimously adopting this important legislation”.

1,246 children as young

as 14 were married in Massachusetts between 2000 and 2018 and 89.9 percent (1,107) of them were girls wed to adult men. In 2020 alone, 14 petitions were filed for the marriage of minors to adults in the Commonwealth.

The final passage

will be debated in the House-Senate Conference Committee on the Fiscal Year 2023 budget. Senator Harriette L. Chandler (D-Worcester) filed companion bill, S.937 this session and last session Senator Chandler filed a similar bill which passed


unanimously in the Senate in July 2019. If passed, the bill will close the loophole in Massachusetts allowing for child marriage with parental and judicial consent and will empower children in the Commonwealth.

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Abrams, Jennifer	101-105 Condor Street LL	101 Condor St #402	\$685,000
Wilder, Joshua	Second Saratoga LLC	226 Saratoga St #3	\$610,000
31 Faywood Avenue RT	Labadini IRT	31 Faywood Ave	\$1,060,000
Siegel, Hayley B	Crespo Group LLC	31 Monmouth St #4	\$530,000
Angley, Cole	Stetson Realty LLC	41 W Eagle St #1	\$604,500
Warren, Charles B	Wordsworth Ventures LLC	43 Wordsworth St #3	\$669,000
Anderson, Chelsea	Lynx Realty LLC	57 Brooks St #1	\$649,000
Burmeister, Paul	Jacobson, Daniel	63 Havre St	\$1,000,000
Walton, Zandra E	Lyons Jr, William N	91 Chelsea St #4	\$584,000
Trichilo Development LLC	Allegory LLC	169 Maverick St	\$1,100,000
Kirkland, Jessica C	Spoldi, Francesco C	176 Webster St #2	\$625,000
Kulak, Joshua	CMSS Development LLC	187 London St #3	\$588,200
Winter, Kevin	CMSS Development LLC	187 London St #4	\$550,000
Reading, Michael	Cabral, Joseph	217 Paris St #3	\$535,000
Mundele, Julien M	Lagro, Nancy M	231 Gladstone St	\$899,900
Marrodan, Borja G	231 Maverick Street LLC	231 Maverick St #5	\$855,000
Adjorlolo, William	231 Maverick Street LLC	231 Maverick St #2	\$785,000
Gentner, Andrew	231 Maverick Street LLC	231 Maverick St #3	\$835,000
Morison, Lucas	231 Maverick Street LLC	231 Maverick St #6	\$850,000
Lasalle, Victoria	255 Saratoga St E Boston	255 Saratoga St #1	\$415,000
437 Frankfort Street LLC	441 Frankfort Street LLC	437 Frankfort St	\$630,000
Powers, Lauren	Merchant, Noelle	467 Sumner St	\$835,000

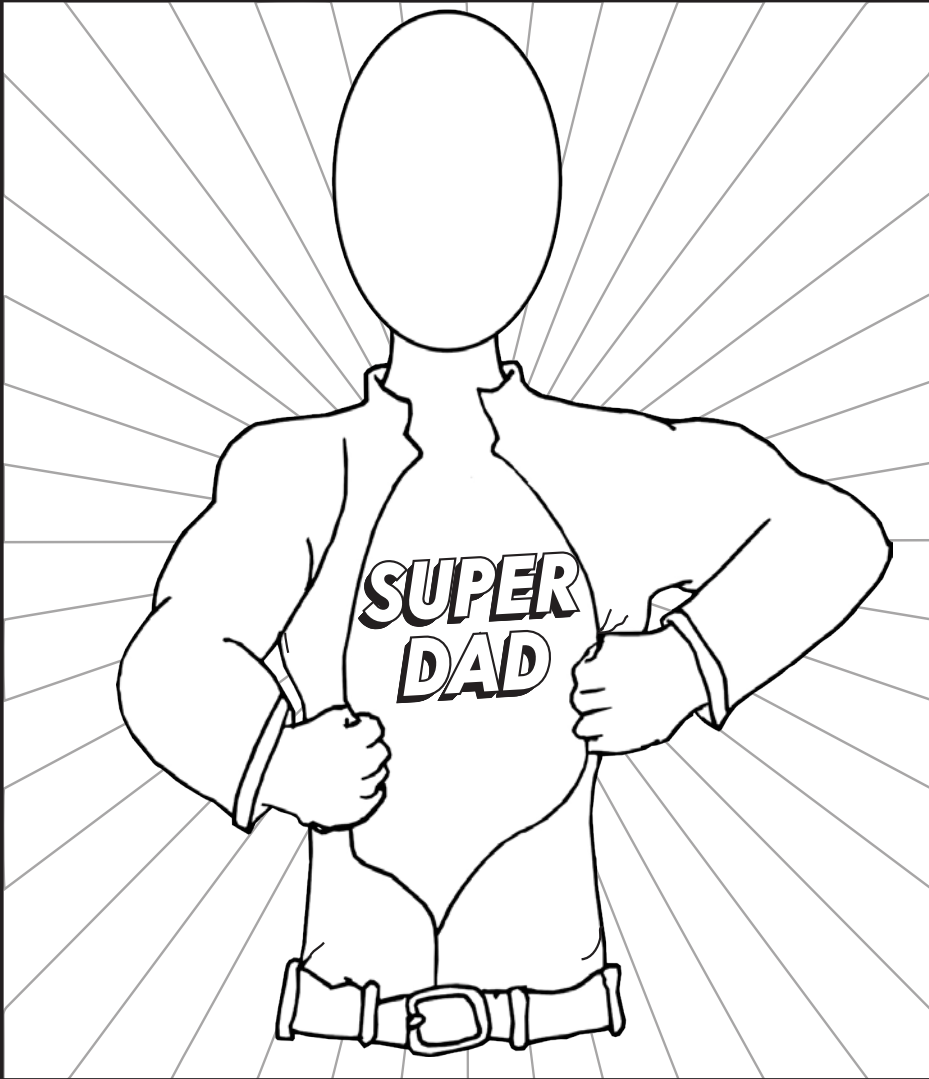
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Deadline for entries will be Friday, June 10th.

Entries will be published in the June 15th, & 16th issues of the Revere Journal, Chelsea Record, Everett Independent, East Boston Times, Winthrop Sun Transcript, and The Lynn Journal



## OBITUARIES

### Anthony Joseph “A-Jay” DiGirolamo

He was loved for his larger  
than life personality

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Anthony Joseph “A-Jay” DiGirolamo, 47 years old, of Hampton, NH.

He is the son of Anthony “Deeg” DiGirolamo and his wife, Debbie of Lynn, formerly of East Boston, and the late Eileen (Carlton) DiGirolamo. He also leaves his brothers, Jeff and Scott Mack and the love of his life, Diana Castiello of Ware, MA and many beloved aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends.

He was born and raised in East Boston, attended Latin Academy where he ended up getting his GED at a later date. He went on to study computer programming at a technical school in Boston. A-Jay loved spending time with family and friends and whoever knew him loved him for his larger than life personality. He loved playing his many bass guitars and music. He loved feeding his intellec-



tual curiosity with reading and watching documentaries and he was also a fan of Fine Arts. He was also a great fan of the New England Patriots, Boston Bruins, Boston Red Sox and the Boston Celtics.

Family and friends honored A-Jay’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home North Shore, 10 Chestnut Street, Peabody on Saturday, May 14 from 1 to 3 p.m.. A prayer service was held at 2 p.m. and family and friends shared memories and stories about Anthony at 3 p.m. May he rest in peace.

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

### Phyllis Belmonte

Late proprietor of P & J Sportswear

Phyllis (Bocchino) Belmonte, 85, of East Boston passed away on May 4 in Paoli, PA.

The late proprietor of P & J Sportswear, she was the cherished daughter of the late Serafino and Maria (Natale) Bocchino, the beloved wife of the late Herbert C. Belmonte, dear sister of Felcia Dif-eo of East Boston and her late husband, Alessandro, Julia Delli Gatti of Pennsylvania and her late husband, Armando, Amato Bocchino of East Boston and his late wife, Anna, David Bocchino and his fiancé, Donna Sorbera of New York and the late Michael and Geraldine Bocchino. She is also survived by several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Family and friends hon-



ored Phyllis’s life by gathering at Vazza’s “Beechwood” Funeral Home, 262 Beach St. Revere on Friday, May 13 and again on Saturday morning, May 14 before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church, 45 Brooks St., East Boston for a Funeral Mass that was celebrated in her honor. Interment was in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. For online guest book please visit [www.vazzafunerals.com](http://www.vazzafunerals.com).

### Ronald Murray

Of Malden, formerly of Saugus and Revere

Ronald J. Murray of Malden, formerly of Saugus and Revere, passed away on May 12.

The loving son of the late Arthur and Lillian (Granese) Murray, he was the devoted father of Ronald Murray III and his wife, Arline of Saugus, Denene Fenton and her husband, Greg of Hernando Beach FL and the late Ronald Jr.; dear brother of Mary Ann Burcham and her husband, Raymond of Florida and the late William “Red” Murray and his surviving wife, Bernice “Bunny” of Winthrop and the cherished grandfather of Devin Murray, Nina Murray and Kailee Fenton. He is also



survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

In celebration of Ron’s life, a memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home North Shore Chapel, 10 Chestnut Street, Peabody. To leave an online condolence visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

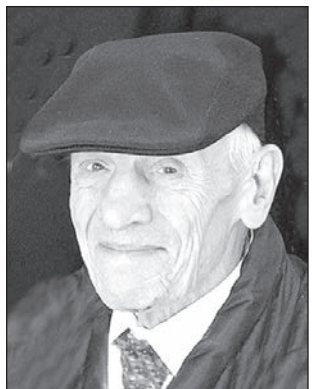
### Thomas Cali

Of Revere, formerly of East Boston

Thomas Cali, of Revere, formerly East Boston, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 15 at 88 years of age.

Thomas was a member of the Revere Elks, the Merritt Club, the Civic Club and many local community groups.

The devoted husband of the late Marilyn (Healey) Cali, he was the beloved father of Edward DiLorenzo of Revere, Cindy Larkin and her husband, Rober, of Reading, Jodi DiLorenzo of Revere, Cheryle Carson and her husband, Kenneth of Tennessee; dear brother of Frank Cali and his wife, Sheila of East Boston, Jeannette Redford and her husband, Bill of East Boston, Robert Cali and his wife, Elaine and the late Rocco Cali and his surviving, wife Gina, Benjamin Cali and his wife, Lorraine, Philip Cali and his wife, Phyllis, Katherine Stella and her husband, Jerry, Gloria Manning, Rose Rice and James Cali and his surviving wife, Alberta. He was the longtime companion of Deborah Morano, cherished grand-



father of Mallorie, Robert, Marlisa, Bobby, Edward, Nicole and Jade; treasured great-grandfather of Tyler, Brantley and Jordan and is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Thomas’s life by gathering at Sacred Heart Parish, East Boston on Wednesday, May 25 from 10 to 11 a.m. for a memorial visitation. Services will conclude with a Memorial Mass to be held in the Parish at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Thomas’s name to the Alzheimer’s Association, 309 Waverly Oaks Rd, Waltham MA 02452. To leave an online condolence visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

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Robert (Bubba) Casaletto Sr.


5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary    May 24 2017 – May 24 2022



*Bob your life is a beautiful memory,  
Your death is our silent grief;  
Now you sleep in God's beautiful garden,  
In the sunshine of perfect peace,  
We miss you so much,  
But realize God knew best,  
He let us have you for many years  
Then gently bid you rest.*

*Missed and loved by  
your wife, sons, daughter-in  
laws & grandchildren.*

4 Year Anniversary



Roger Graham Jr.

August 5, 1983  
- May 23, 2018

A million times I've needed you.  
A million times I've cried.  
If love alone could have saved you  
You never would have died.  
In life I love you dearly,  
In death I love you still.  
In my heart you hold a place,  
No one else can EVER fill.  
It broke my heart to lose you,  
But you didn't go alone  
Part of me went with you,  
The day god took you home.


Love & Miss You Dearly,  
Your sister Krystal, Mom, Dad  
Your nieces Amiyah & Aja

4yr Anniversary Mass    May 22    10 a.m.  
Sacred Heart Parish    East Boston

Birthday Remembrance

ANN M. ALBANO

May 20, 1940 - January 2, 2021



*If I could have a lifetime wish  
A dream that would come true  
I'd pray to God with all my heart  
for yesterday and you  
A thousand words can't bring you back  
I know because I've tried  
And neither will a million tears  
I know because I've cried  
You left behind my broken heart  
and happy memories too  
I never wanted memories  
I only wanted you.*

Lovingly Remembered & Sadly Missed,  
Kelly, Kenny, Vonette, Richie,  
Leonora & Victoria


Memorial Mass - Saturday, May 21, 4 p.m.  
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617-349-4396

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Hartford, CT 06106-1561  
860-541-3400

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Augusta, ME 04333  
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Boston, MA 02108-1599  
617-994-6000

RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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Providence, RI 02903-3768  
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VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Montpelier, VT 05633-6301  
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LEGAL NOTICES

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
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OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate  
And Family Court  
24 New Chardon  
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(617)788-8300  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION  
Docket No.  
SU21P2519EA  
Estate of:  
Gladys Armstrong  
Grato  
Also known as:  
Gladys M. Grato  
Date of Death:  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal  
Adjudication of Intestacy  
and Appointment of Personal  
Representative has  
been filed by Patricia A.  
Grato of East Boston, MA  
and Anthony W. Grato  
of East Falmouth, MA  
requesting that the Court  
enter a formal Decree  
and Order and for such  
other relief as requested  
in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests  
that: Patricia A. Grato of  
East Boston and Anthony  
W. Grato of East Fal-  
mouth, MA be appointed  
as Personal Representa-  
tive(s) of said estate to  
serve Without Surety on  
the bond in unsupervised  
administration.  
IMPORTANT NOTICE  
You have the right to  
obtain a copy of the Pe-  
tition from the Petitioner

or at the Court. You have  
a right to object to this  
proceeding. To do so, you  
or your attorney must  
file a written appearance  
and objection at this  
Court before: 10:00 a.m.  
on the return day of  
06/16/2022.  
This is NOT a hearing  
date, but a deadline by  
which you must file a  
written appearance and  
objection if you object  
to this proceeding. If  
you fail to file a timely  
written appearance and  
objection followed by an  
affidavit of objections  
within thirty days (30)  
days of the return day,  
action may be taken  
without further notice  
to you.  
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MINISTRATION UNDER  
THE MASSACHUSETTS  
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE  
(MUPC)  
A Personal Representa-  
tive appointed under the  
MUPC in an unsupervised  
ad ministration is not  
required to file an inven-  
tory or annual accounts  
with the Court. Persons  
interested in the estate  
are entitled to notice  
regarding the adminis-  
tration directly from the  
Personal Representative  
and may petition the  
Court in any matter  
relating to the estate,  
including the distribution  
of assets and expenses of  
administration.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J.  
Dunn, First Justice of this  
Court.  
Date: May 13, 2022  
Felix D. Arroyo,  
Register of Probate

5/18/22  
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.  
SU22C0155CA  
In the matter of:  
Kofi Ennu Gyan  
A Petition to Change  
Name of Adult has been  
filed by Kofi Ennu Ryan  
of Boston, MA requesting  
that the court enter a  
Decree changing their  
name to:  
Kofi Ennu Johnson  
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 05/26/2022. 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: May 06, 2022  
Felix D. Arroyo,  
Register of Probate

5/18/22  
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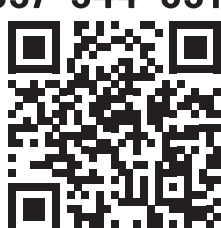
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# TSA prepares for summer travel demand and higher passenger volumes

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is prepared for a busy summer travel season with anticipated passenger volumes that will match and may occasionally exceed those of 2019 for the first time since the pandemic began.

The continued recovery from the low travel volumes during the pandemic may require more patience and planning than was necessary before the pandemic. Checkpoint environments and procedures have changed to enhance screening operations, ensure the safety and well-being of the traveling public, and to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

“Daily passenger volumes at TSA checkpoints show that people are traveling again, and TSA is ready for their return. Our airport security checkpoints include 47,500 highly-trained security professionals and new technologies that enhance

security and reduce physical contact,” said TSA Administrator David Pekoske. “We continue to recruit, retain, train and equip a highly-skilled workforce, and we work continuously with our airport and airline partners to anticipate and prepare for higher traffic patterns.”

Earlier today, six airport and airline partners joined Pekoske during a media roundtable at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport to discuss their operational preparedness for anticipated summer season travel volumes and key changes implemented to ensure safe, secure and healthy travel. They include Sean Donohue, Dallas Fort-Worth International Airport CEO; Nicholas E. Calio, President and CEO, Airlines for America; Kevin Burke, President and CEO, Airports Council International – North America; Todd Hauptli, President and CEO, American Association of Airport

Executives; Paul Doell, Vice President of Government Affairs, National Air Carrier Association; and Faye Malarkey Black, President and CEO, Regional Airline Association.

The summer travel season, which begins in late May and extends beyond Labor Day weekend, covers three full months and four major holidays, which includes Juneteenth as the newest federal holiday. Juneteenth will be recognized on Monday, June 20, 2022.

Recent security enhancements at airport screening checkpoints include two new technologies. TSA deployed Credential Authentication Technology (CAT) and Computed Tomography (CT) scanners to improve identification verification, and in some airports, enable digital identification verification at the Travel Document Checker podium and the scanning capabilities for carry-on bags.

Both of these technologies enhance security and reduce physical contact within the checkpoints.

To date, TSA deployed 1,621 CAT units to 176 airports. Among those, 90 CAT units are modified and equipped to read and verify digital identification. TSA also deployed 402 CT units to 163 airports nationwide. In March, the agency announced the award of two orders for the procurement and maintenance of additional base and full-size CT scanners to be installed at checkpoints during the summer months.

The CT units provide TSA officers the ability to review a 3D image of passengers’ bags and reduce the need to search the bag’s contents. Passengers screened in security lanes with CT units do not need to remove their travel-size liquids bag or electronics.

The new CT units are currently being installed at Billings Logan International Airport in Montana,

Albany International Airport in New York, Buffalo Niagara International Airport in New York, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport and Raleigh-Durham International Airport in North Carolina.

For those who choose to travel this summer, follow these five simple tips to get through the TSA checkpoint quickly and efficiently.

Tip 1: Face masks are optional, but recommended. The CDC recommends face masks for passengers aged two and older in indoor areas of public transportation and transportation hubs as an effective precaution for those who seek to avoid exposure to COVID in higher risk public spaces. CDC provides health recommendations for domestic travel during COVID-19 and for international travel on its website at CDC.gov.

Tip 2: Pack smart; start with empty bags. Airline passengers who pack for travel with empty bags are less likely to bring prohibited items through a TSA checkpoint. Technology and modifications help reduce the need for physical contact with TSA officers, but those who take time to come prepared for the TSA checkpoint are far more likely to avoid delay and physical contact. Check for prohibited items by using the “What Can I Bring?” page on TSA.gov.

Tip 3: Know before you go. Airports, like highways, have high traffic surges and construction delays. Plan to arrive at the airport in plenty of time to complete security screening in time to avoid stressful sprints to the departure gate. At the TSA checkpoint, have a valid ID card readily available and follow the liquids rule of

3.4 ounces or less, with the exception of hand sanitizer, which has a temporary 12-ounce limit in carry-on baggage.

Tip 4: Contact TSA for help if there are questions or concerns. Those who are preparing to travel and may have special circumstances, considerations or general questions about airport screening can get live assistance by tweeting questions and comments to @AskTSA or via Facebook Messenger, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. EDT and weekends/holidays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. EDT. You can also call the TSA Contact Center at 866-289-9673.

TSA also offers TSA Cares, a helpline for travelers with disabilities, medical conditions and other special circumstances. You may submit a request for assistance by calling TSA Cares at 855-787-2227, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. and weekends/holidays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. TSA Cares are open 365 days a year. Passengers may also use the TSA Cares form available on the TSA website which can be found at <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/passenger-support>.

Tip 5: Enroll now in TSA PreCheck® to “Travel with Ease.” By enrolling in TSA PreCheck, airline passengers can avoid removing shoes, belts, liquids, food, laptops and light jackets at the TSA checkpoint. Most new enrollees receive their known traveler number within five days, and membership lasts for five years. In April, 94% of TSA PreCheck passengers waited less than 5 minutes at the checkpoint.

For additional information about security screening or more travel tips before a summer trip, visit TSA.gov.

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CITY PAWS

Nosing around

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Our first lesson in just how important scent is to dogs was from the breeder of our first Westie Sassy. She asked us to bring three hand towels to one of our weekly visits with our puppy. She tied those in a knot and kept them with the litter and mother for two weeks. The scent-laden towels came home with Sassy. We tucked them in with her at night and let the familiar scent and the lumpy feel of a puppy pile comfort her.

Hello, How are you?

Lynn Buzhardt, DVM, writing for VAC Animal Hospitals, explained how dogs use their nose when they meet one another. “While noses don’t actually speak, they do communicate. With a single sniff, noses interpret an entire story without words by using amines and acids emitted by dogs as the basis for chemical communi-

cation. The chemical aromas communicate what a dog likes to eat, and identify gender and mood. By simply smelling, a dog can determine if a new friend is male or female, happy or aggressive, healthy or ill. Dogs get a general idea about each other with a quick sniff, but get more detailed information by getting up close and personal. That’s why some dogs sniff private parts of the anatomy!”

Nosing Around as Enrichment

Enrichment is a word you’ll be hearing more and more often concerning dogs and cats. Zoos have led the way in finding ways to enrich the lives of captive animals. While you may not consider your dog or cat a captive, they are.

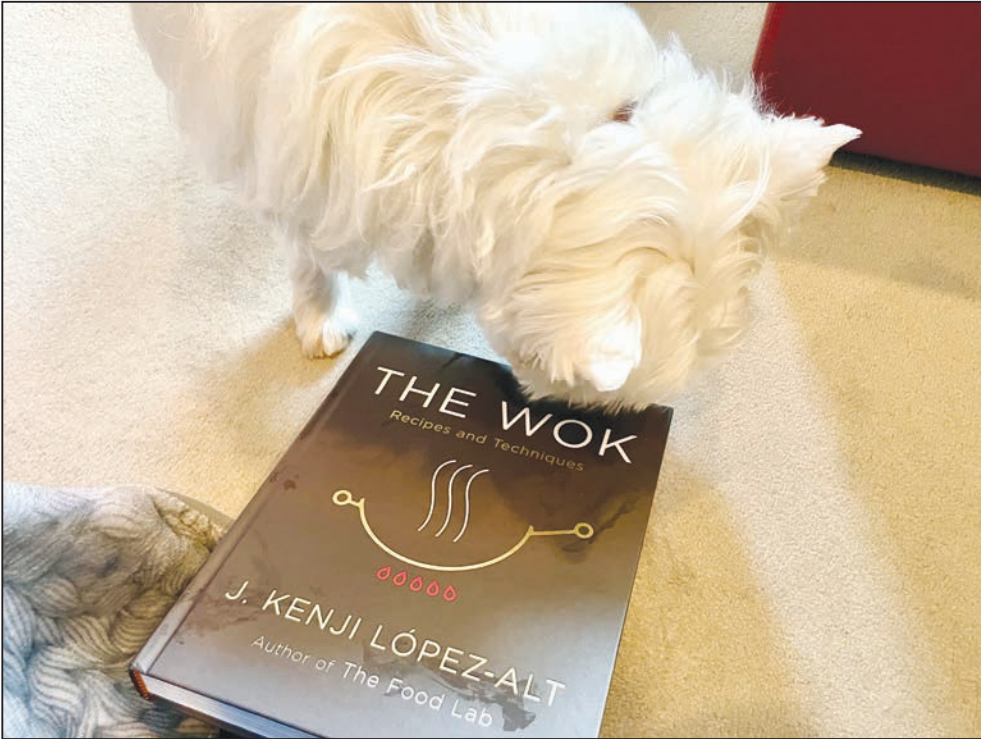
While we love our companion animals and try to give them the best possible care, there is more

we can do to enrich their lives. Allowing dogs to sniff on walks is a way to provide them with some choice in how they spend their time. Sniffing is an inherent, natural behavior that was once necessary for their physical welfare. Now we know it also impacts their mental and emotional well-being.

Sniffing as Stress Relief

A recent field study of dogs in France compared the pulse rates of 61 dogs when they were sniffing. The more the dogs sniffed, the more their pulse rates went down. Dogs on long leashes and off-leash sniffed more and had the most pulse rate decline. While we can’t let our dogs off-leash in the city, we can allow them to take the lead in directing our steps and speed for part of the walk.

We’ve felt that our anxious little Westie Poppy seems far more relaxed when sniffing along a city



Poppy discovered that a book (delivered by a friend) was full of the fun scent of her dog pal Marley. Adding a few nose prints was worth it to let her enjoy a good sniff.

sidewalk. Our observational study noticed the signs of stress she showed when outside lessened when she slowed down to sniff. She would stop pulling to take us home. Her tail would relax and rise to almost wag. We know that this only happens when the area around us is free of loud noise, construction, trucks, and other scary dangers in her mind.

However, we did not suspect that that act of sniffing itself was calming her stress and lowering her pulse rate.

Now that you know that letting your dog nose around and enjoy some time with a vital sense experience, we hope you’ll schedule an occasional sniff walk for your dog. It can be in a familiar place where they find the scent

of their pals. Or perhaps you would both love some time in new territory with unknown aromas for your dog and new sights and sounds for you.

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

AARP Mass. submits signed petitions from residents to Sen. Warren to lower prescription drug rrices

AARP Massachusetts State Director Mike Festa, Volunteer State President Sandra Harris and AARP members are joining Senator Elizabeth Warren in urging Congress to lower prescription drug prices. 92,835 Massachusetts residents have signed onto an AARP petition calling on Congress to act now. AARP has advocated for fair drug prices for years and supports legislation that passed the House in November, which would allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices, put a cap

on out-of-pocket costs that older adults pay for their prescription drugs and impose penalties on drug companies that raise prices faster than the rate of inflation.

“Working families shouldn’t have to decide between paying for life-saving medications or putting food on the table, while Big Pharma rakes in giant profits. That’s just wrong, and it’s long past time for Congress to take action,” said Senator Elizabeth Warren. “We need to pass legislation that

lets Medicare negotiate for lower drug prices and cuts costs for beneficiaries now. I’m grateful for the continued advocacy of AARP Massachusetts, and I’ll keep fighting to get this done.”

“Americans are fed up with paying much more than people in other countries pay for the same drugs. More than 4 million people across the country, including almost 100,000 here in the Commonwealth, are joining AARP to demand lower prices for prescription drugs,” says

Festa. “There will never be a better time to lower drug prices than the historic opportunity in front of Congress. Now it’s time to get it done!” Every January, I pay over two thousand dollars to fill one prescription. I have a chronic illness, Multiple Sclerosis. There is no cure, but there are a number of very expensive drugs available that can mitigate the symptoms. It is a disgrace that drug prices here in the United States are the highest in the world. I would like to see our elected of-

ficials stop their infighting and focus their energies on finding out why this is, and what can be done about it. “SUSAN, MASSACHUSETTS Lowering prescription drug prices has widespread support among voters, regardless of their party affiliation. An AARP survey of voters found that strong majorities of voters want Congress to act on the issue, with 70% saying it is very important. The survey also found that 87% of voters support allowing Medicare to negotiate

prescription drug prices. AARP urges Senator Warren to continue the fight to protect seniors: Sandra Harris, AARP Massachusetts State President says “Massachusetts residents are sick and tired of paying three times what people in other countries pay for the same drugs. Our members have a message to our Senators: Don’t Let Pharma Win. Lower Drug Prices Now!” More information about AARP’s Fair Drug Prices campaign can be found at [aarp.org/rx](http://aarp.org/rx).



Photo by Ally Schmalung.

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## Women share their recovery journeys and embrace Sisterhood at a Women’s Recovery Court celebration

A group of women shared their journeys of recovery and celebrated their sisterhood in the struggle against substance abuse at a recent Women’s Recovery Court Session. The Recovery Court event was held at Recovery on the Harbor in East Boston where a conference room was dedicated in the memory of Valerie Brennan, a Community Coordinator at Recovery on the Harbor, a resource center for individuals in recovery operated by North Suffolk Mental Health Association (NSMHA). Ms. Brennan, a Malden resident, passed

away November 6, 2021, following an illness. The Women’s Recovery Court event, held May 2, was hosted by NSMHA and the Malden District Court Probation Department. More than 50 women attended the celebration and dedication. Jenny Celata, NSMHA Recovery coach, kicked off the event with an introduction of a plaque featuring Ms. Brennan’s picture and her favorite saying, “If you don’t leave your past in the past, it will destroy your future. Live for what today has to offer, not for what yesterday has

taken away.” “This is about Valerie Brennan. Many of you knew her. Valerie suffered. She was a woman in long-term recovery, struggled for a long time, and had a lot of losses,” said Ms. Celata. “There are three words that every time when I think of Val, I think of these words: Perseverance, acceptance, and hope....She persevered and had acceptance for so many things that others would have dropped. She kept going and then she had this hope, this hope she instilled upon everyone else.” Ms. Celata add-



In the group photo, left to right are Jenny Celata, North Suffolk Mental Health Association (NSMHA) Recovery Coach (RC); Jennifer Casali Donahue, Malden District Assistant Chief Probation Officer (ACPO); Lisa Grant, Presiding Justice of the BMC-Dorchester Recovery Court; Kathy Curley, NSMHA Recovery Coach Manager; Katie O’Leary, NSMHA Director of Recovery Support Services; Teresa (Teri) Hall, BCOR coordinator; Melissa Maragiogilo, NSMHA RC; Caitlin Gillespie, NSMHA SOS Coordinator. Top row, left to right: Marisa Cogliando-Vaughan, Malden District Chief Probation Officer; Rebekah Cole, NSMHA RC; Judy Lawler, Malden District Assistant Chief Probation Officer; and Dianne Fasano, First Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Probation Service.

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ed, “Hopefully, when people come here, they can see the perseverance, the hope, and acceptance because it is key in recovery today.”

Lynn District Court Judge Ina Rae Howard-Hogan served as the keynote speaker and told the audience, “I’m going to speak from the heart. Look at this room. Sisterhood...I am loving it. And, what we’ve all been through these past couple of years and still you rise. You see people like Valerie and you say ‘oh, the battle was lost.’ No, the battle wasn’t lost because you know why. That example that she set for the rest of us is to give you that step to go further. Because you are going to think about her. We are all going to think about her and that is motivational.”

Malden Assistant Chief Probation Officer (ACPO) Judith Lawler

acknowledged Recovery Court participants as well as Katie O’Leary, North Suffolk Mental Health Director of Recovery Support Services. Ms. Lawler also recognized Malden Chief Probation Officer (CPO) Marisa Cogliando-Vaughn, ACPO Jennifer Donahue, and Probation Officers Cynthia Russell, Nicole Guidoboni, and Alyssa Yearwood “whose dedication and caring to those who are struggling with substance abuse disorder and mental illness is inspirational.” She also gave special acknowledgement to PO Gianna Franco, “our leader in Recovery Court who works day in and day out to help probationers overcome obstacles and begin a journey of hope and healing.”

“Why are we here? What is this? This to me as Oprah says is an ‘aha moment.’ A thought, an

idea that started in Chelsea District Court about eight years ago under the leadership of Judge Benjamin Barnes has happened and is happening again today because here we all are, women coming together to offer knowledge, support, and encouragement and hope to share the peaks and valleys, the ups and downs, the pain and the joy, the darkness and the light, and the struggles and successes of your journeys,” said Ms. Lawler.

Other guest speakers included former Recovery Court participants who are all now Recovery Coaches, including Rebekah Cole, NSMHA Recovery Coach and Charlestown Recovery Court graduate, and Danielle O’Brien, Recovery Support Centers Coordinator, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services and South Boston Recovery Court graduate.

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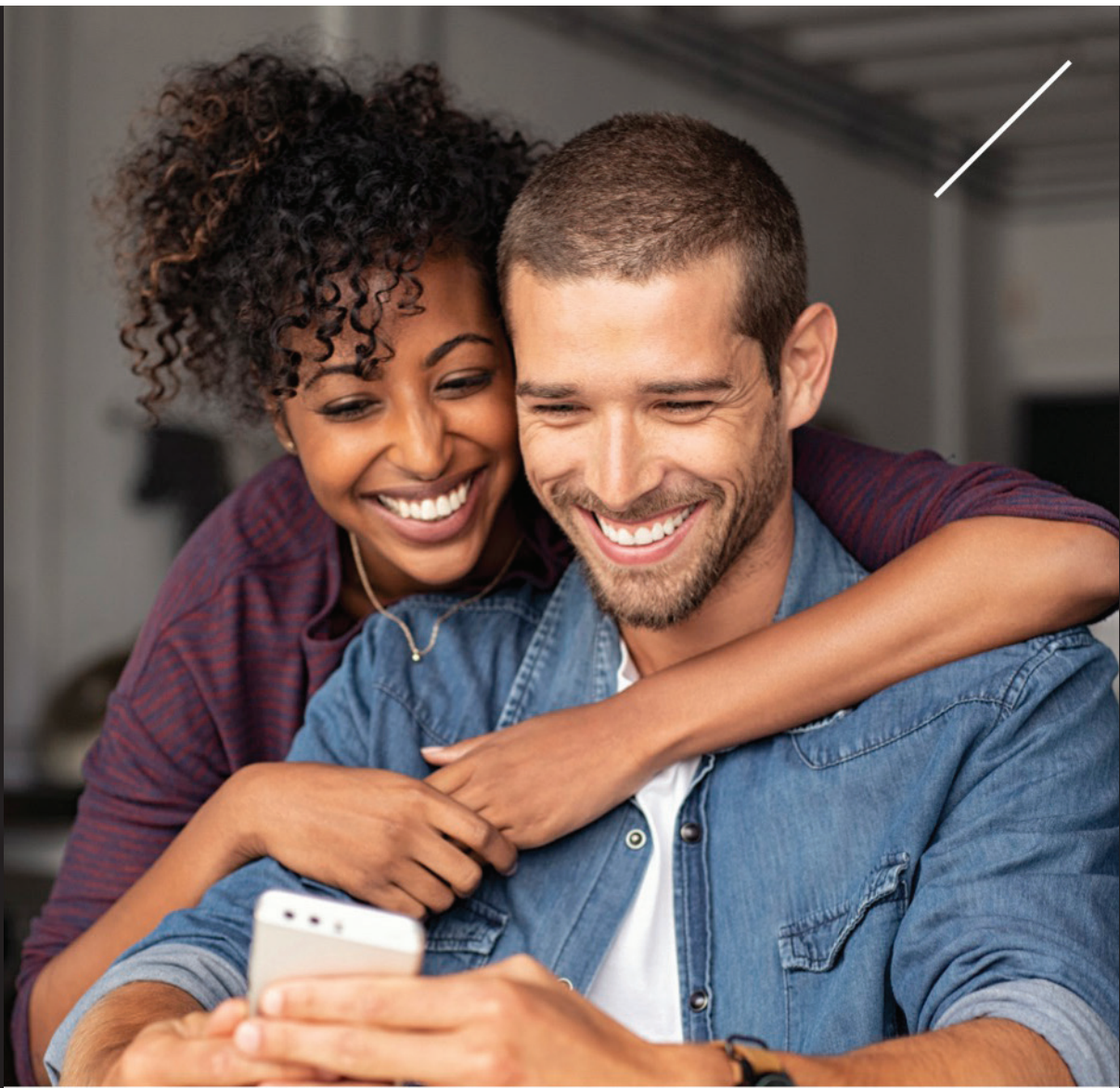
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