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THE MADARO FAMILY COMMUNITY FUND HOSTS THANKSGIVING DINNER



Shown in the photo above, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, and City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta with Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro, his family, and volunteers who together have made Thanksgiving a warm, magical day for many in East Boston.

Shown in the photo right, some of the kitchen staff: Adjie Burnett, Mark Ferulloa, Jennie Hall, Jessalyn Mays, Evelyn Vega-Johston, Nyahni Johston, and Jaylysse Urbaez. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.



Residents discuss 9 McKay Place development

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Residents still have concerns about parking and safety regarding the proposed 9 McKay Place development as project representatives provided updated plans at the Gove Street Citizens Association (GSCA) meeting on Monday, Nov. 28.

The proposed development, comprised of five stories and 41 units, was initially presented to the GSCA in February of 2021 and since then has seen some updates.

One of the most significant updates comes from a partnership with a popular East Boston non-profit organization. The project would commit 1,200 square feet of the ground floor for Eastie Farm.

"We don't really have indoor space. We kind

of walk around with our laptops looking for a café or somewhere to sit and have our meetings – but it would be nice to have some indoor space which is offered here, so we appreciate that," said Eastie Farm Director Kannan Thiruvengadam.

Not only would this partnership benefit the non-profit, but it could also benefit the community as a whole, as Eastie Farm would have more space to store food that it gives out and be an area to teach residents about cooking and more.

Other updates include increasing parking spaces from 27 spaces to 36 as well as kicking back the fifth story of the building to alleviate the building's sense of size. Maneuver-

See 9 MCKAY Page 2

Wu announces new steps to transition to renewable energy

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu announced next steps to purchase renewable energy for municipal properties in Boston in the form of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Through power purchase agreements (PPAs) the City seeks to purchase renewable energy from external suppliers, empowering the market as a guaranteed buyer. This announcement is a step towards achieving Boston's environmental goals that are at the intersection

of equity, green jobs, and renewable energy. This procurement is part of a larger initiative to expand additional investments in municipal energy efficiency, accelerate local energy grid transformation while creating new economic opportunities and green jobs. This structure builds off of Renew Boston Trust (RBT), a City of Boston program that finances energy efficiency projects through its projected energy cost savings. The

See ENERGY Page 2

Boston Public Schools and EdVestors announce \$1.65M anonymous grant to expand music education

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston Public Schools and EdVestors announced a three-year, \$1.65 million grant from an anonymous donor to expand sequential music education, focused on schools in East Boston. The announcement was made on Monday at the Curtis Guild School in East Boston.

"The arts is a critical part of education," said Superintendent Mary Skipper. "This work takes a village and it warms my

heart when members of our community are willing to give back in such a generous way to contribute to the success of Boston Public Schools. When partners invest resources and go beyond words, it provides us with much needed tangible support and complements what we're doing with our students and takes the impact of our efforts to the next level."

This financial investment will support expanded music residencies led

by arts partners and in collaboration with BPS music educators; providing no-cost private music lessons to BPS students; purchasing musical instruments and equipment; providing additional band performance opportunities at festivals; and supporting guest artist residencies and workshops for East Boston schools.

"We are so grateful to this anonymous donor, who believes - like all of us - in the power of the arts to develop creative, engaged

learners," said Marinell Rousmaniere, President and CEO of EdVestors. "Over the last dozen years, Boston has become a national leader in expanding quality arts education to BPS students through increased public and private investment and sustained partnerships. This gift and the resulting work will allow us to go deeper and for students to have a richer music education."

Through the BPS Arts Expansion initiative, EdVestors and BPS have been partners in expanding arts education since 2009, bringing together local foundations, the school district, arts organizations, higher education institutions and city government to create a coherent, sustainable approach to quality arts education for all BPS students. As a result, nearly 17,000 additional students annually now receive arts education compared with 2009, and the number of BPS arts



Second-graders performed at the Curtis Guild School after the announcement event.

See GRANT Page 3

Jury selection underway for motor vehicle homicide here

Special to the Times-Free Press

Jury selection has begun in the matter of Commonwealth v. Dylan Etheridge, 26, who is charged with manslaughter while OUI in the May 5, 2019 death of Amber Pelletier in East Boston. He is additionally charged with OUI and serious injury, leaving the scene of death and leaving the scene of personal injury. A second victim was seriously injured in the crash but survived.

While traveling down Bennington Street at a high

rate of speed, Etheridge hit several parked cars causing the vehicle to flip and skid across the roadway, ultimately hitting a concrete barrier and leaving the occupants trapped inside. Etheridge fled the scene prior to the arrival of first responders. Approximately 8 hours after the crash, detectives learned Etheridge checked himself into MGH to seek treatment. The surviving victim spoke with detectives while receiving care at

See JURY Page 2



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Boston Harbor Hotel announces lineup for 2023 Boston Wine and Food Festival

The Boston Harbor Hotel is continuing its celebrated tradition of presenting exceptional wine events and dinners with the return of its annual Boston Wine and Food Festival this January 2023. The nation’s longest-running wine and food festival will be directed by Boston Harbor Hotel Executive Chef David Daniels and longtime food and wine festival expert, Nancy Bean, along with Boston Harbor Hotel Wine Sommelier Nick Daddona.

Kicking off on Janu-



Shown is a couple enjoying last year's event.

ary 12, this year’s Boston Wine and Food Festival will feature an all-star lineup of intimate wine-maker-hosted dinners,

seminars, thematic receptions, and celebratory brunches at the iconic Boston Harbor Hotel. A portion of the proceeds

from this year’s festival will benefit the Greater Boston Food Bank and the James Beard Foundation.

“This year we will bring some new and exciting events and programming to the three-month long Boston Wine and Food Festival, courtesy of the hotel’s Executive Chef, David Daniels, the hotel’s advanced sommelier Nick Daddona, and respected wine festival veteran, Nancy Bean.”

Tickets are available online now for purchase and will make a perfect holiday gift for the oeno-

phile in your life. The upcoming Boston Wine and Food Festival features an array of events that will ignite the senses to lure both novice and expert wine aficionados out of the house this winter. The five-star Boston Harbor Hotel’s 34th annual celebration will continue the tradition of welcoming top vintners and personalities from the world of wine and food. Events will run on the waterfront destination from January through March, kicking off with the opening weekend on January 12, 2023.

The exciting lineup of wine dinners for 2023 will include Opus One (Napa), Staglin Family Vineyard, Far Niente (Napa Valley), Battle of the Cabs, Hitchhiking through Napa with Kevin Zraly, a Wine, Dine, Divine Women’s Leadership Dinner, and many more.

Tickets to this year’s events are available on the website for pre-purchase. There is a special Boston Wine & Food Festival package for guests that will make a perfect holiday gift.

Wu announces “Meet Me in the City,” new holiday initiative

Mayor Michelle Wu this month announced the launch of “Meet Me in the City,” a new initiative designed to encourage local tourism through special events, performances, and holiday shopping in Boston’s Downtown and neighborhoods. “Meet Me in the City” encourages residents and visitors to come into the city and support local businesses in Downtown and across every neighborhood.

“Our small businesses and cultural institutions are the foundation of our communities and drive our local economy,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “We all benefit from more tourism coming to Boston. As we enter this holiday weekend and approach the new year, I encourage

everyone to come experience the vibrancy of our neighborhoods and shop locally here in Boston.”

Boston’s dynamic small businesses and arts and cultural institutions are critical to the local economy, especially during this year’s holiday shopping and entertainment season. With holiday spending forecasted by the Massachusetts Retailers Association to increase 10 percent statewide compared to 2021 and an 8 percent inflation rate, the “Meet Me in the City” initiative encourages residents and visitors in the greater Boston area to experience the city and invest in our communities.

Following a recent report by the City and Boston Consulting Group

detailing some of the challenges facing Downtown Boston, Mayor Wu along with key City and business leaders have re-launched PLAN: Downtown. The plan, in conjunction with the Downtown Revitalization report, sets a roadmap for the City to reimagine Downtown Boston as a truly inclusive neighborhood filled with new homes, diverse businesses, world-class public spaces, vibrant nightlife, and a thriving arts and culture scene.

“This initiative is an important step to encourage residents and visitors alike to shop local and increase consumer spending during the holiday season,” said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. “More

than 50 percent of Americans shop small on Small Business Saturday, and this campaign will help drive activity to Boston’s Downtown and neighborhood districts this weekend and into the new year to showcase thriving, vibrant, and inclusive spaces for all of our residents and visitors to spend the holidays once again, while supporting our local economy.”

“Meet Me In the City” leverages the City’s award winning All Inclusive Boston campaign to focus on raising awareness and elevate the visibility of the Mayor’s call to shop local this holiday season through a significant commitment to advertising with neighborhood newspapers and sites, along

with local television partnerships and collaborative activations. Encouraging patrons, visitors and residents to use ‘the power of the purse with passion and purpose’, the initiative also aims to address the shift to remote work, which has significantly reshaped the central business core. For years, Downtown Boston was one of the busiest neighborhoods in the city, with heavy, daily foot traffic driven by thousands of office workers. However, foot traffic numbers have remained down by 40 percent since the pandemic. The “Meet Me in the City” initiative is aligned with the Mayor’s vision to address this shift and ensure that Downtown is a vibrant neighborhood where people from all backgrounds

come together.

Beginning this month, holiday tree lightings kick off the season before and after Thanksgiving, along with beloved new and familiar holiday traditions like Boston Ballet’s Nutcracker, Boston Pops, Urban Nutcracker, ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas, Black Nativity, ice skating on the Frog Pond and the annual New Year’s Eve celebration, First Night. The City of Boston’s holiday tree lighting in Boston Common takes place December 1, followed by local neighborhood tree lightings throughout the city.

Energy // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

guiding principles of RBT creates green jobs, fosters cost savings, and reduces emissions through energy audits and conservation upgrades for municipal buildings.

“When the City of Boston invests in green, renewable energy, we all benefit,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This procurement will help us run our municipal buildings off of clean energy, while also creating green jobs and improving community health for generations to come.”

Throughout Boston, buildings account for nearly 70% of greenhouse gas emissions, and City-owned buildings account for nearly three-quarters of emissions from local municipal operations. To transition to a renewable energy supplier, the City of Boston is seeking proposals from qualified applicants to provide approximately 15,000 MWh per year of electricity to the City’s energy portfolio, which accounts for about 10 percent of the City’s annual energy needs. The City of Boston currently purchases 20 percent renewable energy, which is in alignment with the state’s renewable portfolio standard. The City of Boston will work gradually to increase renewable energy sources within the current energy portfolio while helping to invest in

local projects that bring co-benefits to the Boston community, with a particular focus on environmental justice neighborhoods. By providing multiple smaller procurement opportunities annually and by setting clear planning horizons, the City of Boston can reduce barriers and support the creation of a diverse, regional energy market.

“By stepping out as the first purchaser for renewable energy projects, the City of Boston will stimulate the market to meet our energy needs in a way that is resilient and supports the creation of exciting new workforce opportunities,” said Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space. “This is an investment in our communities and our collective future and I am thrilled to support Boston in this work.”

In addition to reducing municipal carbon emissions, the City is encouraging “renewable resource additionality”, which is the development of new, local green energy sources to be incorporated into the energy grid. This step can help foster workforce opportunities and a cleaner, more resilient energy supply. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, workforce development within the solar and wind energy industries are

projected to have the fastest employment growth between 2020 to 2030. Wind turbine service technicians are expected to see a 68 percent increase in workforce growth and solar photovoltaic installer careers are projected to increase by 52 percent. The data also shows that each of these occupations had a median annual wage that was higher than the \$45,760 median for all workers in 2021.

“As a Green New Deal City, we look for climate investments that provide a return on climate mitigation, economic justice, and quality of life,” said Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Green New Deal Director. “We are harnessing Boston’s energy use to push the development of more renewable energy in our region. With an ambitious and step-wise timeline for decarbonization, we hope to draw new businesses into the market with each procurement.”

In addition to increasing renewable energy usage within municipal properties, the City of Boston is working across sectors to ensure all of our residents have access to affordable, clean energy. The City is encouraging residents to assess their current energy supplier and enroll in Boston’s Community Choice Electricity (BCCE) program. Energy prices are expected to increase

significantly this winter while BCCE’s rates are locked in until December 2023. Currently, all three tiers of BCCE’s pricing is lower than Eversource’s basic service rates, meaning residents can choose to power their homes and businesses on 100 percent local, renewable energy for less than Eversource’s basic service rate. Residents can opt in or out of the program at any time by visiting boston.gov/bcce or by calling 3-1-1.

In addition to sharing the RFQ, the City will pursue a variety of strategies to achieve its net-zero emissions goal including the implementation of energy conservation measures, the electrification of City operations, and the reduction and eventual elimination of the carbon emissions associated with its annual electricity requirements. This announcement is a key step towards realizing a city-wide Green New Deal for Boston while achieving our carbon neutrality goals and working toward creating workforce opportunities in the energy sector. These strategies expand upon Mayor Wu’s recent work to audit all public exterior lighting in Boston and the beginning of Renew Boston Trust Phase III.

ing the fifth story also allows room for a rooftop garden patio.

Although some who attended the GSCA meeting praised aspects of the project, some still maintained that parking is a huge issue.

Citing the addition of cars as more units come to areas like Cottage Street, Kaitlin Andryauskas explained that there are just not enough parking spots, especially if this project were to be approved.

She also mentioned it is a safety issue saying, “When I come home late at night, it starts getting unsafe when I have to park this far away from my house.”

“I love the design, I love the partnership with Eastie Farm, but it’s getting to the point – it’s really problematic – the parking,” said Andryauskas.

Alexandra Zuluaga also expressed her frustration explaining that her father needs to search for almost an hour nightly to find parking in the area.

“Honestly, I know that you increased the amount of parking spots by 30% – good job – for me, I mean, the minimum is a one-to-one ratio at this point. I mean, there’s just no place else,” said Zuluaga.

While parking is undoubtedly a significant issue, safety is another, considering the Donald McKay School is a direct abutter to the proposed development.

Jason Meland, the school’s principal, outlined his concerns explaining that 90% of students live within one mile of the school, meaning many kids and their families walk to school.

Meland voiced that he wanted to hear plans for minimizing traffic disruption during potential construction in a high-traffic area with kids making

their way to and from school.

He also mentioned apprehensions about dust production during construction as students spend a lot of time outside in a recess yard right behind the job site.

“As the school principal, my primary responsibility is the safety of our school, our students, and their families,” said Meland.

Susan Huang, the Director of Operations at the Donald McKay School, echoed Meland’s sentiment saying, “I do think the size and scope of the project raises safety concerns for our students and families, and I just hope that the developers will take these points into consideration.”

Overall, the project seems to have made some moves to quell concerns, but it is clear that residents are still worried about the issues it could cause.

However, Armindo Goncalves, who presented the updated plans, took all the feedback Monday and emphasized that this meeting is only the beginning of a community discussion.

“This is the beginning of a discussion and so let’s start that today, and hopefully, we’ll come up with something again we can all be proud of,” said Goncalves.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) will hold a virtual public meeting to field more comments on the project Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. Further, the public comment period is open until Friday, Dec. 16.

To leave public comments and register for the upcoming public meeting, residents can visit <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/9-mckay-place>.

Clarification

In a story that ran in last week’s East Boston Times on the new Senior Center, the wrong telephone was listed. The right number is 617-961-3131. We regret any inconvenience.

Jury // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MGH and identified Etheridge as the driver. Blood collected from the steering wheel at the scene was later determined to belong to

Etheridge.

The Commonwealth is represented by ADA Nathan McGregor. The defendant is represented by

attorney Peter Marano. The trial is before Judge Katie Rayburn in courtroom 808.

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News in Brief

CHAMBER HONORS FLY TAIL WIND

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce is proud to highlight our member Fly Tail Wind, a charter airline/air shuttle offering flights from Boston to Connecticut, New York, and Washington, D.C. The Chamber welcomes Fly Tail Wind to the East Boston Business community. Their website is www.flytailwind.com.

For those interested in joining the Chamber please email at contact@eastbostonchamber.com. For more information visit our website www.eastbostonchamber.com.

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Para aquellos interesados en unirse a la Cámara, envíe un correo electrónico a contact@eastbostonchamber.com. Para obtener más información, visite nuestro sitio web www.eastbostonchamber.com.

DECEMBER HARBOR VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighbor-

hood Association will be on December 5, at 6 pm. The meeting is In Pers.on only, but will be streamed via Facebook for archival purposes. Attendance on Facebook does not qualify for voting. The meeting will be held in the Salesian Boys and Girls Club cafeteria, across from the Brooke Charter School on Byron Street. You can access the meeting from the front door on Byron Street or from the rear door on Wordsworth Street, which is the handicap entry, to avoid the stairs. Since we are indoors, masks are optional for those in attendance.

La proxima reunion de Harbor View Neighborhood Association esta en el 5 de diciembre a las 6pm. La reunion esta en persona y via Facebook. La asistencia en Facebook no califica para vota. Llega a la cafeteria del Salesian Boys y Girls Club por la calle Byron al otro lado de Brooke Charter School. Pueda usar la entrada principal por la calle Byron o la entrada en calle de Wordsworth. La entrada de calle Wordsworth no tiene escaleras por personas con discapacidades.

El cubre bocas sera opcional puesto que estaremos adentro.

Agenda
Welcome/Introduction (5min)
Announcements (5min)
Eastie Elves Dec. 9th;
Ruggiero Family Memorial Home Holiday Tree Lighting, Dec.10th at 5pm;
HVNA Christmas Party at EBYC Dec.15th;

East Boston Senior Center opening.

Station 7 Police Report (15min) Sgt. Cintolo, Officer Domenico and Officer Mosley.

Grace Church Federated (10min) Introduce Pastor Liz Georgakopoulos to speak about her mission and the Food Pantry.

Brooke Charter School Addition and VOTE (25min) Mark Loring, Chief Operating Officer for Brooke Charter Schools will present the project to add onto the school building. The addition would add about 4500 square feet of space within the proposed 3 stories for additional classroom and student service space.

555 Bennington Street (30min) 1st presentation by Attorney Richard Lynds for owner Olsian Sasa. The project proposes to erect an addition and change the occupancy from a two family dwelling to a four family dwelling and erect a third floor deck.

74 Horace Street (30min) 1st presentation by Attorney Richard Lynds for owner Hannah Quann. The project proposes to raze the existing 2 family and erect a 6 unit residential building with 6 parking spaces.

Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year!

The next meeting of the HVNA will be on January 9, 2023.

Visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/harborviewna> or check our website at harborvieweastboston.com.

Grant// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

teachers has nearly doubled. This significant investment will enable BPS Arts Expansion to further deepen and expand arts opportunities for students, especially in music education.

“The continued generosity of EdVestors will enhance musical education in East Boston and strengthen Boston Public Schools’ efforts to help students realize their full potential,” said Boston School Committee Chairperson Jeri Robinson. “Community support like this is a crucial aspect of our ability to offer students the best learning experience possible.”

After an internal review identified a gap in music education, specifically instrumental music instruction, in East Boston schools, BPS made additional targeted investments with the goal of ensuring that every BPS student has access to music instruction that continues through high school. This new multi-year investment will allow this work to scale and go deeper in East Boston and serve as a model for what can be accomplished in other neighborhoods to expand access in specific arts disciplines and provide sequential arts learning opportunities to all

students.

This investment in East Boston will change the lives of my students,” said Curtis Guild Elementary School Principal Karen McCarthy. “Art helps students grow and flourish and express themselves in new and profound ways. I am incredibly grateful for this donation and I cannot wait to see the impact it will have on the children.”

The event was attended by school and community leaders, including Guild School Leader Karen McCarthy and BPS Executive Director for the Arts Anthony Beatrice.

Sounds of Christmas Concert program listed

The North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra (NSPO) will once again assemble around the altar at St. Anthony’s Church for the Robert A. Marra Memorial “Sounds of Christmas” Concert Sunday, December 4, continuing a tradition that began in 1976. Admission to the concert is free in exchange for a generous donation of non-perishable food to benefit the Revere Food Pantry. Patrons are asked to bring their food in a sturdy box or bag. The concert begins at 4 p.m. The concert is principally sponsored by Bocchino Insurance Agency, Massport, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Xfinity, Astound Broadband, and Action Emergency Services.



The NSPO plays from the altar at St. Anthony’s Church.



Members of the NSPO performing in a previous Sounds of Christmas concert.

The program includes a holiday essay written by Revere High School Senior Madison Lucchesi. A talented writer and poet, her poem “Salutary Neglect” was featured last year in EmersonWRITES, a creative writing program by the Office of Enrollment and Student Success and the First Year Writing program at Emerson College.

The concert is named in memory of Robert A. Marra Sr., a violinist who was one of the original members of the North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra in 1948. A lifelong resident of Revere, he was instrumental in beginning the Christmas concert tradition, and the concert was named in his honor after his death in

2002.

The North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra plays three classical music concerts each year at Swampscott High School. For more information and concert schedules visit www.nspo.org.

The program is as follows:

The North Shore Philharmonic Orchestra
Robert Lehmann, Music Director
Malinda Haslett, soprano

Overture to The Gypsy Baron — JohannStrauss Jr., Gesu Bambino, Pietro Yon, arr. William Ryden, Malinda Haslett, soprano

Selections from “The Nutcracker” — Pyotr

Tchaikovsky, March and Waltz of the Flowers

Alleluja from Exsultate Jubilate — Wolfgang Mozart, Ms. Haslett, soprano

An Original Christmas Essay — Madison Lucchesi, RHS Class of 2023

Polar Express Suite 6 — Alan Silvestri

Hanukkah Medley — Lucas Richman, Ms. Haslett, soprano

Carol of the Bells — Mykola Leontovich, White Christmas — Irving Berlin, arr. Robert Russell Bennett, Ms. Haslett, soprano

Christmas Singalong — arr. John Finnegan, Ms. Haslett, soprano and the entire audience

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ROBERT LEHMANN, Music Director

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Your generous donation to the Revere Food Pantry is requested
Please pack your non-perishable food items in a sturdy bag or box



East Boston

Times-Free Press

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REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

“It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.”
-- Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*.

With Christmas fast approaching, most of us will be rushing about -- either to the stores and malls or on-line --- to do our holiday shopping in hopes of finding that “perfect” gift for our family members and loved ones.

Although economic uncertainty, spurred by record-high inflation, affects almost every American, most of us are doing okay, if not extremely well, thanks to record-low unemployment rates.

However, the good economy (from an employment standpoint) being enjoyed by the majority of Americans has not been shared by all. For a sizable number of our fellow citizens, the lingering effects of the pandemic, as well as the fraying of the fabric of our social safety net in recent years, have come together to represent an existential disaster.

Millions of Americans of all ages, in a percentage greater than at any time since the Great Depression, are struggling financially, even if they have a job.

To put it in stark terms, more Americans, including families in our own communities, are going hungry than at any time in our history.

According to the US Dept. of Agriculture, more than 34 million Americans, including nine million children, are food insecure. We should recall that during the height of the pandemic when schools and senior citizen centers were closed, the biggest effect was upon our children and seniors, who relied on programs administered by the schools, government agencies, and non-profits for their only meal of the day.

Far too many of our fellow citizens, including children, live either in shelters or in similar temporary housing arrangements -- or on the streets -- because the reality of our economy has left them out in the cold -- literally.

Statistics tell us that millions of Americans of all ages, including those in our own communities, are struggling financially, often through no fault of their own, thanks to a combination of low-wage jobs and a strong real estate market that ironically has made apartments (let alone buying a home) unaffordable. This dichotomy is most evident and acute in cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and right here in Boston at Mass. and Cass. Despite the vast wealth in those metropolitan areas, thousands of homeless persons, including many who have full-time jobs, are living in tent and cardboard “neighborhoods” on city sidewalks.

The homeless always have been among us, but the scope and depth of the problem is far beyond anything that has been experienced in our lifetime. The vast discrepancy between the enormous wealth enjoyed by some Americans and the abject poverty being endured by others is similar to what exists in major urban centers in South America and India -- but it now is happening right here in the U.S.A.

For these millions of Americans, the holiday season brings no joy.

Psychologists tell us that the Biblical directive, that we should give to those who are less fortunate, is the best gift that we can give to ourselves. Helping others activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust, creating the so-called “warm glow” effect.

Never in the lifetime of anybody reading this editorial has the need for contributions to local food banks been more urgent. There will be ample opportunity to do so in the coming days to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate. Whether it be donations to local food banks and toy programs, or even as simple as dropping a few dollars in the buckets of the Salvation Army Santas, there will be multiple opportunities in the next four weeks for each and every one of us to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate.

There is no excuse for failing to do so.

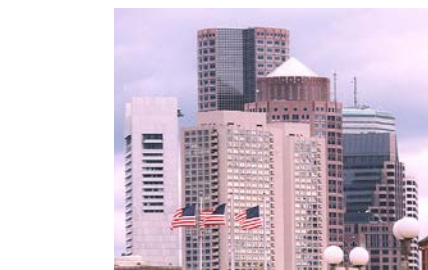
THANK YOU, MASSPORT

While on the subject of helping those who need, we wish to take this opportunity to thank the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) and its dynamic Chief Executive Officer, Lisa Wieland, for once again lending a hand to Massport’s neighbors in East Boston, South Boston, Winthrop, and Worcester through their annual food drive to help feed families this holiday season.

Massport employees donated profusely to the drive that benefits several community organizations, including Crossroads Family Center in East Boston, East Boston Community Soup Kitchen, South Boston Community Health Center Food Pantry, Winthrop Community Food Pantry, and Veterans Inc. Food Pantry in Worcester. These organizations serve hundreds of local residents each month and provide critical assistance and support year-round.

In addition, Massport played a large role in providing the funding for the new East Boston Senior Center that opened this past week. The East Boston Senior Center will be a model for senior centers throughout the area, offering programs and services for older adults (Boston residents age 60+), including lunch on weekdays, as well as classes for wellness, entertainment, and more.

Massport has long served as an economic engine for the entire Massachusetts economy. We are pleased to see that Massport is sharing that wealth with the communities most impacted by its operations.



Forum

GUEST OP-ED

Christmas is in your heart

Back in that day ordering was tedious and arrival took weeks. Shipping back a dress that didn’t fit was a long ordeal.

As a child there was always much more that I saw, dreamed of and wished for than I ever received. Some Christmases were lean and others were more abundant. Life is like that most of the time. We have hopes and wishes that never come true and some that do. It’s nice when one or two come true.

We hope for good health and enough money to pay the bills. We hope for our children to have meaningful lives and to be independent. We hope for peace and to see positive results from our efforts in life. We would all like to be compensated well for the jobs we do. Being stuck in a job that is restraining with little hope of better wages is discouraging. Everyone deserves

a life where internal inspiration can lead to reward and a better life.

The hardest part of life is when we feel hopeless. A terminal illness. Hard work with little to no reward. An empty house that isn’t changing because you just buried a spouse. Failing when you may have tried hard or just decisions that didn’t work out too well. All of these and more can be heartbreaking. Heartbreak doesn’t do much for the Christmas spirit.

Those of us who have lived a few years know that Christmas doesn’t come in a catalog, nor never did. It doesn’t come on Black Fridays or cyber-Mondays. The multitude of Christmas programs don’t bring Christmas. Decorated houses and trees are delightful but they don’t create Christmas.

Christmas is an inside job. Christmas is in your heart and mind. The first

Christmas was a peasant couple giving birth to a baby in a barn with a cow’s trough for a crib. They were poor and just paying their taxes was about all they could afford. Yet, the child brought a joy they had never experienced.

In Luke chapter 2:19 we read “but Mary treasured up all these things and pondered in her heart...” Consider what and mainly who brings you joy and what really matters in your life and let there be Christmas in your heart during this season.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week In over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

LETTER to the Editor

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

To the Editor,
Marty Coughlin stood up for the creation of a bypass road to reduce truck traffic from Chelsea impacting our community because it was destroying Day Square and intensifying the negative impacts from Logan Airport on our neighborhood. Massport and MassDOT heard him and others and funded the creation of what became known as the Coughlin Bypass on an old abandoned rail right of way. That was 15 years ago.

But the traffic woes in East Boston have continued and the impacts have strangled residents’ attempts to navigate their own community. Route

1A remains a vital corridor for the neighborhood and the region. While trucks from Chelsea have a route that takes them substantially out of the neighborhood, the far greater intensity of trucks from points north are provided no such alternative. Creative solutions to Route 1A’s problems of congestion need to be considered seriously and without delay.

The Marty Coughlin Bypass should stand as an example of an obvious one. The answer is found by building the suggested Coughlin Bypass extension on the very same abandoned rail right of way that extends all the way up to Revere parallel to Route 1A along Chelsea Creek. The long-abandoned railway bed lends

itself perfectly to becoming an important conduit for removing truck traffic and buses from 1A and sending it directly to the airport, thereby alleviating some of the stress that neighbors experience on the highway and along local streets. This abandoned state property also provides the opportunity to create waterfront access and climate resiliency as part of the Coughlin Bypass extension, thereby addressing three major issues: traffic, climate change and open space.

Concerned residents have formed a committee to advocate that MassDOT embrace this concept and that the elected delegation for East Boston work together to ensure that the city and state

bring the Haul Road to fruition. MassDOT has been conducting a study of the problems of Route 1A and how to use this remaining abandoned rail property. The findings have not been made public. We are hopeful those findings will support the obvious. We are hopeful our elected officials will see the obvious. It’s not that creative or even new. Marty Coughlin and his friends saw it long before. Let’s help bring their vision to fruition.

We are certain this won’t solve all the traffic problems. However, it is a step in the right direction. We applaud the grassroots efforts and we wholeheartedly support their much needed vision.

Mary Berninger

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

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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THE EAST BOSTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER DELIVERS THANKSGIVING DINNER BAGS

Many East Boston community members face great barriers in accessing healthy and affordable food. With essential ingredients becoming more difficult to purchase and the continuous spike in price tags, food insecurity continues to grow. As part of an effort to reach food insecure families and increase access to healthy foods, the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center was proud to partner with the Red Cross to distribute Thanksgiving meals for 250 families in need.

To address the social determinants of health for its patients and other community members, the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center operates a Community Resource and Wellness Center that connects patients with food, legal help, housing, clothing and other income sup-



Turkeys awaited to arrive at homes to be the guests of honor on Thanksgiving Day.



Samara, Matias, and Jose Alejandro are ready for an excellent Thanksgiving Day together.



Jen Cervera (right) picks up a Thanksgiving bag from East Boston Community Health Center staff Holis Graham and volunteer Margaret Keithlin.

ports. On November 22, 300 Thanksgiving meals were distributed at the Community Resource and Wellness Center site.

Along with the food, Covid tests were included in anticipation of the potential of the disease spreading with people gathering together.



Covid tests were dispersed with the Thanksgiving Bags in anticipation of people gathering in enclosed spaces. The motto at the East Boston Community Health Center is "Tests Before The Turkey".



Contents of one of the Thanksgiving Bags include a turkey, fresh and vegetables, pasta, and Covid tests.



Stephanie Vasquez comes by for her Thanksgiving bag.



The East Boston Community Health Center Community Resource And Wellness Center at 282 Meridian Street.



Thanksgiving Bags awaited to be collected.



East Boston Community Health Center staff and volunteers are ready to send turkeys and other food to the many visitors they're anticipating.

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Community-Wide Toy Collection

November 26th - December 8th

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Providing toys to children in need throughout East Boston, Winthrop, and Revere.

For more information please visit www.madarocharity.com

East Boston Toy Collection Locations

Eagle Hill Cafe
65 Meridian Street

Pazza on Porter
107 Porter Street

The Quiet Few
331 Sumner Street

Dirty Water Dough Co.
20 Maverick Street

The Point Barre & Yoga
20 Orleans Street

Beverly Richards Dance Studio
969 Bennington Street

Paris Street Community Center
112 Paris Street

Cafe Iterum
11 Father Jacobbe Road

East Boston YMCA
215 Bremen Street

Meridian Market
121 Meridian Street

Carmella's Market
86 Cottage Street

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856 Bennington Street

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WEDS. DEC. 21st
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THE MADARO FAMILY COMMUNITY FUND HOSTS THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Madaro Family Community Fund hosted a free Thanksgiving Dinner at the Salesian Boys And Girls Club that was open to all. Now in its 16th year, 750 meals were prepared for dine-in, take-out, or delivery. Dozens of volunteers worked preparing for this in the days leading up to the big day in making Thanksgiving what it should be, a day of thanks, fulfillment, and community. Along with the Dinner, over 150 turkeys were delivered to families throughout East Boston who wanted to have dinner at home with their families.



Ana Alonzo prepares bags to go out for pick-up and delivery.



Working on the cheese and pepperoni plates are "Fritzie" and Silvana Humor.



Pamela Blyakhman and Jan Dumas came from Revere to help out.



Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro with his office staff: Steven Gingras, Gloribel Rivas, and Jessica Martinez.



Massachusetts State Rep. welcomes Boston Mayor Michelle Wu to the hustle and bustle of the kitchen.



Olga Gallego and Patty D'Amore share Thanksgiving dinner and gossip.



Eddie Mitrano, a faithful reader of the East Boston Times who rode his bike with a copy to read later.



Ann James with Boston Police Captain Kelley McCormick.



Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro (second from left) with his son Matteo, wife Ariel, father Jacopo, and mother Debra Cave. He has been running this event for the community for 16 years with his wife Ariel and mother Debra Cave in charge of the fundraising through the Madaro Family Community Fund.



Volunteers Mark Ortiz, Leesa Barone, and Steve Roussel.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu (center) with volunteers Jaylysse Urbaez and Nyahni Johnston.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta volunteered with serving diners in the hall.



Giana Dean grabs some bags to deliver.



Chief Of Staff for Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Carlotta Ellie Sanchez with Eduardo Moreno, Chief Of Staff for Massachusetts State Senator Lydia Edwards.



Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro, Senator Lydia Edwards, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, and City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta.



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The Salesian Boys And Girls Club was filled with Thanksgiving cheer.

THE MADARO FAMILY COMMUNITY FUND HOSTS THANKSGIVING DINNER

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro (center) with Luigi and Christine Pizzicannpla, who coordinate delivery to those unable to make their way to the Salesian Boys And Girls Club.



David Betancur makes a new friend with Heather O'Brien.



Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro converses with Peter Colwell, a local author who recently published a book of poems.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu (right) is shown into the dining room by Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro (second from right) and volunteers.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu shares a laugh with Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro, his wife Ariel, and volunteers.



Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro (center) with some of the diners.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu converses with Patty D'Amore.

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Outside the Salesian Boys and Girls Club, Tommy and Sam Walsh with Zaida Adames, Issac Soled and Julio Pérez are stationed to take care of drive-by pickups of food.

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EAST BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER
Neighborhood PACE

EAST BOSTON WINS THE THANKSGIVING DAY GAME

The South Boston Knights were late arriving to White Stadium on a cool and sunny Thanksgiving morning, delaying the start of the game to shortly after 10 a.m. The Jets were all fired up and went home to celebrate a 48-0 win in the 104th matchup in the longtime rivalry that dates to 1903.

Leading the offense in the first quarter was sophomore Giovanni Angelico, running for 81 yards and one touchdown on seven carries. He also added a defensive touchdown on a 42 yard interception return. The Jets led 24-0 in the first quarter. Scoring a touchdown in the third quarter was Chris Testa on a four-play, 53 yard drive with a 17 yard score and in the fourth, Alex Valencia added to the blowout win with a 53 yard scoring run.

East Boston ends the season at 2-8. South Boston ends at 0-10. For the record, East Boston leads the series at 55-42. The win was the 14th in-a-row for East Boston too.



Coach John Parziale watching from the sidelines.



East Boston won 48-0 against South Boston.



East Boston offense had the Jets up 24-0 in the first quarter.



Cheerleaders get together for a team photo.



This is the 104th matchup in the longtime rivalry.



Scenes from the East Boston Thanksgiving Day (top and bottom) game against The South Boston Knights.



A quick team huddle before taking the field.



Both teams on the scrimmage line ready for the

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11/30/22
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Please Recycle

Cirque du Soleil presents ‘Twas the Night Before performance

Story by Marianne Salza

Cirque du Soleil is presenting “‘Twas the Night Before” at the Wang Theatre through December 11. This cheerful and thrilling production is a playful twist on the iconic Christmas poem, “A Visit from Saint Nicholas,” by Clement Clarke Moore.

“It’s cold outside, but we are bringing the warmth,” beamed acrobat and hoop diver, Evan Tomlinson Weintraub, of San Francisco, California. “It is a moment for families to come together.”

This holiday season, join Cirque du Soleil for its first Christmas show about the spirit of Christmas, and the wonders of sharing and friendship. On Christmas Eve, a father reads the classic story to his teenage daughter, Isabelle. Disenchanted by the craze of Christmas, Isabelle is uninterested in the family tradition.

Magic emerges as a spark of light; and the jaded Isabelle is separated from her father by a storm. She is whisked on a fan-

tastical journey through a winter wonderland, where the young girl meets reimagined characters from the poem.

Unlike in the original version of the tale, the children in “‘Twas the Night Before” are not snuggled in their beds, patiently awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus. Dressed in candy cane-striped onesie pajamas, they are wide awake and eager to see Santa in this high-energy, comical, acrobatic table routine.

“My character is so happy waiting for Santa Claus,” laughed acrobat and hoop diver, Jinge Wang, of China, who plays a boy that instigates the frenzied chaos.

Similar to his character, Wang remembers being too excited to sleep on Christmas Eve. Although he spent last Christmas performing with Cirque du Soleil in Mexico, Wang associates Christmas with chilliness, snow – and, no matter the temperature -- eating ice cream.

“It’s a big celebration with family,” described

Wang about what Christmas means to him. “Everybody enjoys the Christmas atmosphere.”

Wang and Weintraub’s favorite trick is performed in the scene, when the little ones hear Santa on the roof.

“In three high, people stand on top of each other’s shoulders, looking for Santa Claus. I’m the one on top. Then I fall and roll. I can’t see the audience, but I can hear their screaming and clapping” explained Wang, who has studied acrobatics for 22 years, and also practiced wushu, Chinese martial arts.

Weintraub, as Prancer, and Wang, as Comet, also perform in the hoop diving act that introduces Santa’s playful reindeer as a collaborative team.

“I think what’s nice about this show is that it’s built for families,” said Weintraub, who celebrates Christmas on a warm beach with his family. “We tap into the memories of when we were kids, and translate that energy to them to make the show special.”

Weintraub and Wang especially love the enthusiasm and awe of young viewers.

“The more feedback from the audience, the more it helps us to go further,” smiled 30-year-old, Weintraub, who has been a circus acrobat for 18 years; and before that, was a gymnast. “We are giving so much energy, that when we receive it back, it’s like a cycle. It gets better and better.”

Friends, Weintraub and



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Santa’s reindeer conclude the production with a hoop diving routine.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Children, unable to fall asleep, anticipate Santa’s arrival in an acrobatic table routine in “‘Twas the Night Before.”

Wang, worked together in “‘Twas the Night Before,” in 2019 when the production first debuted. To prepare this year, the acrobats rehearsed the choreography for seven weeks: six days a week for five hours.

“This show has become a hit and classic for Cirque du Soleil,” said Weintraub, who appreciates the sup-

portive teamwork of the circus. “We’re not seeing outrageous changes to it. We’re coming back into a roll that’s familiar, which is nice. It’s a significant amount of time to put in and be learning something. It’s muscle memory now.”

Weintraub and Wang’s golden-antlered reindeer

conclude the production as Isabelle is reunited with her father; and they read the poem together.

“They start to explore what Christmas means, where the spark of Christmas comes from, and what it means to share the warmth and light with each other,” Weintraub revealed.



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA

Evan Tomlinson Weintraub (left) and Jinge Wang, acrobats and hoop diver performers in Cirque du Soleil’s “‘Twas the Night Before”

BELLE ISLE ROTARY PAUL HARRIS FELLOW AWARD

Recently the district Rotary Hero Awards Dinner was held at the Danversport Yacht Club. Hero Awards were presented from around the district to 23 deserving members of local Rotary Clubs. From the Bell Isle Rotary Club, which covers Revere, Winthrop and East Boston, Geoff Wilson from Win Waste, for his part in the Bear Creek Sanctuary Project was selected by his club members. Geoff was presented this prestigious award and is now officially a Paul Harris Fellow because of his outstanding community service.



Geoff Wilson is the latest Paul Harris Fellow from the Belle Isle Rotary Club, Wilson received his award from President Vera Carducci at the Danversport Yacht Club.



President of the Belle Isle Rotary Club Vera Carducci had the honor and privilege to present Geoff Wilson his Paul Harris Fellow Award.

MassWildlife and the Nature Conservancy announce launch of BioMap online tool

BioMap, a newly-updated online tool that identifies critical land and waterways throughout the Commonwealth in need of conservation, was released today by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game’s (DFG) Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Massachusetts. The web portal delivers the latest scientific data and resources to help state and local governments, land trusts, non-government organizations, and other conservation partners strategically plan projects to conserve wildlife and their habitats. The latest version of BioMap combines more than 40 years of rigorously documented rare species and natural community records from MassWildlife with cutting-edge climate resilience data from The Nature Conservancy and spatial data identifying intact fish and wildlife communities, habitats, and ecosystems that are the focus of the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan.

“BioMap is a robust online resource that helps people better understand and appreciate the natural resources in their communities and provides information on where to strategically deploy limited resources to make real and lasting conservation impacts in Massachusetts,” said Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Ron Amidon. “By making an investment in the strategic protection and stewardship of lands, we will

better conserve natural areas throughout the state that provide all people with access to nature and outdoor recreation.”

Through BioMap, users can gain a detailed understanding of habitats, species, and resilient landscapes, both locally and across the state. BioMap users can customize data and use the site’s new online Habitat Restoration Resource Center to plan habitat management and land stewardship projects. Additionally, BioMap provides strategies to help communities prepare for, recover from, and adapt to climate change, while bolstering habitat resilience. Taken together, these efforts help to protect the state’s extraordinary biodiversity now and into the future.

“BioMap is more than a map, it is a critical tool that offers a vision for the people of the Commonwealth to come together to strategically protect, manage, and restore lands and waters that are most important for conserving biological diversity in Massachusetts now and well into the future,” said MassWildlife Director Mark Tisa.

The newest BioMap incorporates enhanced knowledge of biodiversity and habitats and new understandings of how to ensure that natural systems are more resilient in the face of climate change. A major innovation is the addition of local data to BioMap, which complements statewide habitat information. Habitats assessed from the perspec-

tive of each city and town in the Commonwealth will inform local decision making. Furthermore, it includes the latest information on land use in Massachusetts, including a new focus on aquatic environments and habitat restoration tools.

“Massachusetts is home to a wide variety of plants and animals,” said Deb Markowitz, TNC in Massachusetts State Director. “Our rich biodiversity is increasingly threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change, and invasive species. Since its inception, BioMap has become a trusted source of information to guide conservation that is used by a wide spectrum of conservation practitioners. The addition of local data will make BioMap applicable and relevant to many more people and communities, providing opportunities for equitable conservation.”

BioMap is the result of an ongoing collaboration between MassWildlife and TNC in Massachusetts. With similar missions, goals, and science-based approaches to conservation, MassWildlife and TNC are natural partners to produce and maintain BioMap. BioMap received support from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), DFG, and numerous generous donors. For more information on how to use BioMap or to sign up for technical assistance trainings, please contact natural.heritage@mass.gov.

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A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

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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Mass Humanities launches End of Year Giving Appeal

Mass Humanities, the statewide council that champions opportunities for communities in Massachusetts to share their stories through grants, launched its annual End of Year Giving appeal.

Since 1974, the council has believed that the humanities needs to include diverse authors, stories, and ideas. With a proven track record of championing the humanities, Mass Humanities amplifies the diverse ideas and stories that its grantees generate, through public events and media partnerships. Through these grants Mass Humanities aims to reinvigorate our democracy by telling, sharing, and reimagining the diverse stories and ideas of our citizens across the state.

“At Mass Humanities, we support the people and places committed to a better future. Our grantees and partners are the architects who can rebuild our democracy,” said Brian Boyles, Executive Director of Mass Humanities. “Your contribution to our fundraising campaign directly supports this resilient, vibrant network.”

The past two years have been trying times for nonprofits across Massachusetts. Many small organizations have been doing more with less, are understaffed and are in need of financial support to continue their work of providing meaningful access to the humanities.

In every region of Massachusetts, there are organizations and people who count on Mass Humanities to continue to tell their stories. A contribution to Mass Humanities—no matter how big or small—is an investment in our people, our mission to reshape our democracy and our ability to uplift vulnerable nonprofits this holiday season and beyond.

“The future of our nation depends on people like you, who understand that change begins at the local level when we come together to learn, share, and imagine a better way,” continued Boyles. “This has been a time of separation and anger, but it has also been a time of renewal, of personal strength, and of earthshaking calls for a better way. In the face of rising intolerance, the humanities connect us to our place and to each other.”

Donations can be made at www.masshumanities.org/support/

“I hope you can make a contribution and I hope you can visit a local humanities organization to be a part of this rebuilding,” added Boyles. “Together, we can reimagine the stories of Massachusetts and fulfill the promise of a democracy led by and for the people.”

Why your support matters

This year, Mass Humanities committed to bringing more organizations and people into this statewide network.

In 2022, the council saw significant results of this commitment by:

- Supporting more organizations: Mass Humanities delivered \$1 million in direct funding to Massachusetts non-profits in 2022, part of \$5 million in grants awarded since 2019.
- Reaching new communities: 42% of Mass Humanities 100 grantees were first-time grantees in 2022.
- Going to bat for grassroots organizations: 68% of Mass Humanities major grants went to organizations with annual budgets of less than \$500,000; 69% had five or fewer employees.
- Creating opportunities for diverse audiences: 73% of Mass Humanities 2022 Clemente Course in the Humanities students self-identified as people of color.

“Your contribution this month to our fundraising campaign directly supports this resilient, vibrant network,” said Boyles.

What your donation supports

From the local museum director who rallies a small town to read the words of Frederick Douglass on Juneteenth to the human services center that welcomes new immigrants to record and share their stories. From the

See GIVING Page 11

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Mass Lottery celebrates 50th anniversary at State House event

The Massachusetts State Lottery commemorated its 50th Anniversary with a celebration of its customers, retailers, employees, and the communities that the Lottery supports, all of whom have played an important role in the Lottery’s success over the past five decades.

The celebration, which took place at the Massachusetts State House, included a live drawing of the Midday Numbers Game at the Grand Staircase hosted by State Treasurer and Chair of the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission Deborah B. Goldberg. “When Prop 2 ½ was adopted in the early 1970’s, Treasurer Bob Crane understood the negative impacts it would have on local communities,” said Treasurer Goldberg. “It was his vision that created a lottery whose profits became the one reliable source of unrestricted local aid that people throughout the state have come to rely on. We have built upon that legacy and hope through collaboration, innovation, and good business practices to continue for another 50 years.” Prior to the drawing, Governor Charlie Baker presented Treasurer Gold-



Standing with State Treasurer and Chair of the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission Deborah B. Goldberg are Mascots Blades (Bruins), Lucky (Celtics) and Wally (Red Sox).

berg with a Citation commemorating the Lottery’s milestone achievement. “The Lottery has been all that anybody back in the beginning could have hoped for and then some, and I’m thrilled to be here to be a part of this celebration today,” said Governor Baker. “Thank you for everything you’ve done.” Since selling its first ticket on March 22, 1972, the Mass Lottery has generated over \$143 billion in revenues, awarded over \$100 billion in prizes, returned over \$31 billion in net profit to the Commonwealth for unrestricted local aid provided to cities and towns, and paid over \$8 billion in commissions and bonuses to its state-

wide network of retailers. “As we look towards our next 50 years, we make this commitment today to continue to innovate, to continue to come out with new and exciting lottery products, and to continue on with the State of Winning, which since 1972 has generated over \$100 billion in prizes paid to our players,” said Mark William Bracken, Interim Executive Director of the Mass Lottery and host of the event. Additional speakers included Senate President Karen Spilka, Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante of Gloucester, Mayor of Newton and President of the Massachusetts Municipal Association Ruthanne

Fuller, and Gary Park, owner of Gary’s Liquors in Chestnut Hill, a Lottery retail partner since 1972. “The Lottery is so important to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in so many ways,” said Senate President Spilka. “As a former chair of Ways and Means, especially when financial times were not so rosy, I have to tell you how valued and how critical the partnership with the Lottery was then and continues to be now to ensure that we continue to give the resources to our cities and towns that they all need so dearly.” “We can fully appreciate and comprehend what it means to have a billion dollars to put into the budget to help cities and towns with the things that matter,” said Representative Ferrante. “Sometimes, it’s not the big things, it’s the smaller things, like the ability to improve a school playground, to do the things that matter to the people that have been so supportive of the Lottery over time.” “Last year, it was \$1.1 billion that was distributed to the 351 cities and towns here in the Commonwealth, and they allowed us, with that unrestricted

aid, to help our residents and our businesses at a really difficult period,” said Mayor Fuller. “For us, it translated into teachers in schools, police on the streets, and firefighters available during emergencies. DPW workers paving our streets and clearing the snow. Social workers and counselors meeting the mental health needs of our residents and our children, and so much more.” “The Lottery has been fantastic for us and fantastic for a lot of Lottery agents throughout the state,” said Park, a third-generation store owner who was joined at the event by his father Barry. “The commissions have helped us improve our business, the claims bonuses over the years I know went towards my and my brother’s and my sister’s college educations. The amazing thing about the Lottery is the amount of people that it brings into a lot of small family-run local businesses.” The event featured a live performance by local musician Andy Brink, winner of the Lottery’s “Sound of Winning” jingle contest. Brink’s jingle, “Everyone’s a Winner in the Commonwealth,” was incorporated

into the Lottery’s 50th Anniversary advertising campaign earlier this year. At the conclusion of the speaking program, a video featuring historical footage and testimonials from municipal leaders, Lottery employees, retail partners and prize winners was shown. The video was narrated by national television personality Tom Bergeron, a native of Haverhill, who hosted Lottery Live and Megabucks drawings in the 1980s while working in the Boston television market. On display at the event were jerseys from local professional and college sports teams with “Mass Lottery” on the name plate above the number 50. Mascots Blades (Bruins), Lucky (Celtics) and Wally (Red Sox) all participated in the afternoon’s festivities. A red carpet was set up near a display of movie and television posters in which Lottery branded equipment had appeared. Additional displays featured historical items, including vintage lottery terminals, advertising posters and oversized instant tickets.

Giving // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

documentary filmmaker chronicling the lives and heroic persistence of her neighbors to the librarian willing to host a difficult conversation in the face of hostile threats. From the single mother juggling two jobs to study history and improve her writing skills through the Clemente Course in the Humanities to the faculty members tutoring, mentoring, and encouraging Clemente students in six cities. The future of the Commonwealth depends on these people, these voices and these stories.

Your support can help ensure important Mass Humanities’ programs and initiatives thrive across the state such as:

- Expand Massachusetts Stories: Through the Expand Massachusetts Stories grants program Mass Humanities supports projects that collect, interpret and/or share narratives about the Commonwealth, with an emphasis on the voices and experiences that have gone unrecognized, or have been excluded from public conversation.
- Reading Frederick Douglas Together: Each year, Mass Humanities organizes and funds an event series where communities gather together to read and talk about Frederick Douglass’s influential address, What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?
- Smithsonian Museum

on Main Streets: Mass Humanities partners with small towns to bring the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street to Massachusetts, with the goal of engaging small town audiences and revitalizing attention to rural communities.

- Clemente Course in the Humanities: The Clemente Course champions opportunities for Massachusetts residents from historically and systemically excluded communities to engage with, discuss, and author stories and ideas about our democracy.

Mass Humanities, a non-profit based in Northampton, conducts and supports programs that use history, literature, philosophy, and the other humanities disciplines to enhance and improve civic life throughout Massachusetts. Since its founding in 1974, the organization has provided millions of dollars in support of thousands of humanities projects across the Commonwealth. Established as the state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Mass Humanities is an independent programing and grant-making organization that receives support from the NEH and the Massachusetts Cultural Council as well as private sources. For more information, visit www.masshumanities.org.

OBITUARIES

Nicholas Zenga

US Postal Service retiree

Nicholas M. Zenga of Saugus, formerly of East Boston, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Monday, November 21 at 69 years of age. Nicholas was a long-time employee of the United States Postal Service. He was the beloved the beloved husband of the late Cheryl (Plagenza) Zenga; devoted father of Steven Merrill and his wife, Laurie, Christina Galleuillos and her husband, Neil, Joyce Bouche and her husband, Mark, and Kim Zenga; dear brother of Barbara, Charlotte, Patty, Anthony, Judith, Rhonda, and the late Annette, Frank, Robert, Charlie and John and cherished grandfather of Marc “Bud” and Jordan “Squish” Bouche; Matthew, Tommy, Jessica and the late Cheryl Cheshbrough; Cailyn, Caleigh, Cameron and Chris Merrill and Patrick and Mi-



chael Bixby and treasured great-grandfather of Madison, Elisa and Aria. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Family and friends honored Nicholas’s life by gathering for a memorial service at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston, on Tuesday, November 29. May he rest in peace. To leave an online condolence please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Eric Fisher

Of Saugus, formerly of East Boston

Eric Fisher of Saugus, formerly of East Boston, passed away unexpectedly on November 25. The son of Phyllis Fisher and the late Robert Fisher, he is survived by his son, Tristan Fisher whom he adored and was his whole life. He was the dear brother of Joyce Stasio and her husband, Joseph of Haverhill, Joan Addesa and her husband, Michael of Revere, Wayne Fisher and his wife, Maria and Glenn Fisher and his wife, Lisa, all of Mashpee and loving uncle of many nieces and nephews



Services at the request of the family will be private.

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SACRED HEART PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Sacred Heart Parish held a Christmas Bazaar on November 19 with silent auction items, gift basket raffles, and home-made Italian food. Local vendor tables featured items such as jewelry,

candles, and diamond dot keychains. The pancake station also transformed into a baked goods table following the free pancake breakfast and photographs with Santa.



The Rodriguez Family.



Dante Elliott, 5-years-old, with Santa.



Phoebe Free eating a pancake with her mother, Tiffany.



Jacob, 3-years-old, and Jamila, 23-months-old, sitting with Santa.

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Gina Taje, Patty McDonald, and Debbie Baker at Gina's Gems table, selling diamond-dotted pictures and ornaments.



Little ones preparing to play a game at the toy table.



Sebastian Parra, East Boston liaison, Councilor Gigi Coletta, and Father Paolo Cumin.



Holden, Catcher, Nick, Anderson, Tiffany, and Phoebe Free and Marcos Tejada.



Daniela and Emma DeCristoforo and Aria Gaeta.



Kathy Hughes, Giana Ribeiro, Esteban Perez, Nicole and Luke Lovasco, and John Ribeiro cooked 100 pancakes during breakfast with Santa.



Dominic and Marcia Petrosino selling jewelry.

EAST BOSTON TIMES

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