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MADARO FAMILY COMMUNITY FUND HOSTS EASTIE ELVES



The Madaro Family Community Fund hosted the Eastie Elves celebration. Held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, admission to the event was the donation of a toy that would be later distributed to children in need in East Boston and surrounding communities. Shown (Top) Students from the Beverly Richards Dance Center perform. Shown (above left) Dancers from the Veronica Robles Cultural Center perform the Arbolito da Navidad. Shown (above right) Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro and his son, Matteo, watch as dancers from the Veronica Robles Cultural Center perform. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.



The “price” of admission to Eastie Elves was to donate a toy that will be distributed to children throughout the district. The event clearly will help many children enjoy the Holidays.

Successful vaccination clinic for students was held at Samuel Adams School

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston Public Schools (BPS) and CIC Health last week hosted a Covid-19 and flu vaccination clinic at the Samuel Adams Elementary School in East Boston. The clinic was one of 100 vaccination events the BPS and CIC Health will host, in collaboration with the Boston Public Health Commission, to combat COVID-19 and the flu. BPS students and their siblings, one caregiver, and staff were eligible to receive both vaccines, and those who received a COVID-19 vaccination or booster where offered a

\$25 gift card, while supplies lasted.

“Our main priority is keeping our students and staff safe and healthy,” said Superintendent Mary Skipper. “We are encouraging all students, families, and staff members to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and the flu. As COVID-19 and the flu continue to spread, vaccines are crucial to the health and well-being of our community and are the best way to protect against the most-harmful effects of the viruses. I would like to thank CIC

See CLINIC Page 3

“DECK THE WINDOWS” 2022

Annual window decorating contest underway

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce invited East Boston businesses to participate on its Annual Window Decorating Contest.

To participate, local businesses had to decorate their windows or facades with Christmas season decorations, take photos, post them on instagram and tag East Boston Chamber of Commerce with the Hashtag #deckeastiewindows between December 1 and December 9.

Members of the Board of Directors of the Chamber will review the published pictures of the participating businesses and will vote the week of December 12.

Finalists will receive a Certificate of participation.

Additional Prizes

1st Place Winner prize \$1,000 (One Thousand Dollars) gift certificate to advertise business on any of El Planeta channels including print, web or social networks.

Two Weeks Promotion on Orale con Veronica on Radio Super 99.9 FM broadcast on Tuesdays Live at 10 a.m.

An interview for social networks with Chamber Members.

\$250 Crash 2nd Place Winner prize \$100 Crash 3rd Place Winner prize \$50 Cash

Winners of the three best decorated windows will be announced during the First Annual Eastie Holiday Bazaar on Sunday, December 18. from 2 to 6 p.m.

Boston City Council praised for unanimously passing resolution calling for immediate action on IDP

Special to the Times-Free Press

At the December 8, Boston City Council meeting, lead sponsors Councilors Kendra Lara, Ruthzee Louijeune, and Liz Breadon introduced a resolution calling for immediate action to improve the Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) to remedy Boston’s affordable housing crisis.

Several councilors signed on to support the

resolution: Councilors Arroyo, Bok, Coletta, Fernandes Anderson, Flaherty, Mejia, Murphy, and Flynn; and the resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution asks for two immediate changes to IDP:

1. Lower the 10-unit threshold so that new construction of 5-9 unit buildings are included; and
2. Decrease the income limit for rental units from 70% AMI to an average of

40% AMI, and decrease the limit for ownership units from 80-100% AMI to 50-100% AMI, so that the IDP units are truly affordable.

The Mayor’s Office of Housing and Boston Planning and Development Agency hired a consultant to complete a feasibility study, which will inform an overhaul of IDP, and codify the policy in Boston’s Zoning Code (currently IDP exists as an

executive order). CTAB and Boston City Council are asking for Mayor Wu to make immediate changes with an updated executive order while the study is completed and an updated policy is formed. It could take until next summer for a policy overhaul; meanwhile, development continues at breakneck speed. Without immediate changes to IDP, Boston’s

See IDP Page 2

RED SOX FOUNDATION VISITS THE P.J. KENNEDY SCHOOL



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA

The Red Sox Foundation visited the Patrick J. Kennedy School on December 1 during the final Play Ball event of its Reviving Baseball and Softball in Inner Cities seasonal youth program. Shown is Allison Gomez Ruiz, K-2, waving to Wally. See Page 8 for more photos.



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Wu signs ordinance requiring captions on public-facing televisions to increase access for people for disabilities

Mayor Michelle Wu last Friday signed an ordinance requiring that places of public accommodations in the City of Boston such as restaurants, bars, banks and gyms turn on the closed captioning function on any televisions in public areas. The ordinance, sponsored by Council President Ed Flynn, was unanimously approved by the Boston City Council this week with the goal of removing barriers in public spaces related to communications access for people with disabilities.

“Improving communications access in public spaces across Boston is critical to Boston truly being for everyone,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This ordinance removes barriers for people with disabilities, and I am grateful to the Disabilities Commission, Disability Advisory Board and the entire Boston City Council for their leadership and advocacy.”

“This ordinance ensures persons with disabilities have full access to information and resources shared to the public,” said Council President Flynn. “I want to thank my City Council colleagues, Mayor Wu, and Commissioner McCosh for their leadership, and to the advocates for their work on this issue. This is a step towards accessibility. We will continue to focus on equity for residents and visitors with disabilities. Disability rights are civil rights.”

When businesses enable the “captions” function on their TVs, a live transcript of the program’s audio content is shown scrolling across the bottom of the screen. Requiring visible captions to be turned on will remove a significant communication barrier for people with hearing loss and other disabilities. This will also be beneficial to the general public, as it in-

creases access to information in crowded and noisy commercial spaces where it may be difficult to hear.

“Lack of communication access on TVs in public places existed before COVID-19, but it is now recognized as a critical issue of equity,” said Disability Commissioner Kristen McCosh. “All televisions have the ability to enable closed captions for broadcasts, and cable and streaming services offer captions so this is something that is entirely free for businesses to do. This ordinance is a win-win that will ensure Boston’s businesses are more accessible and more welcoming to thousands of residents, workers and visitors. I want to thank our dedicated Disability Advisory Board members, past and present, for their advocacy on this issue, especially our Chair Wesley Ireland.”

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, TV stations broadcasted daily or weekly municipal press conferences, important public health updates, breaking news reports, emergency alerts, and other crucial information and timely instructions related to the pandemic response. However, that audible content was not accessible to the Deaf community, people with hearing disabilities, seniors experiencing hearing loss, people with developmental or sensory disabilities, and people who speak a language other than English.

In 2020, then Board Member Wesley Ireland raised the issue of requiring captions at a monthly Advisory Board meeting. After discussion, the Board requested that the Disability Commission look into how other municipalities have handled it. The Commission researched more than half dozen cities and one state

who have instituted a similar captions requirement and worked with other departments to develop a proposal. The proposal was further refined after a City Council hearing took place in November 2021.

“I am excited to see Boston joining the ranks of other big cities like Seattle and San Francisco to require captioning on public facing televisions,” said Disability Advisory Board Chair Wesley Ireland. “It is an equity issue I have faced in the past and it is finally addressed.”

The Disabilities Commission will work with other City Departments including the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, Office of Neighborhood Services to conduct outreach to businesses across the City with information about the new ordinance. The Commission will assist businesses with coming into compliance by providing resources on enabling captions.

“This is an important moment in the ongoing push of our small businesses to ensure that all of our spaces are inclusive of everyone,” said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. “Our team is committed to working with our small businesses to help them become more accessible for all. I am grateful to Commissioner McCosh and the Disabilities Commission and Disability Advisory Board for pushing this forward.”

The Commission will assist businesses by providing resources about how to enable captions in an effort to assist them with coming into compliance. For more information and future announcements regarding captioning in public spaces, please visit the City’s Disabilities Commission webpage.

IDP// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

residents will continue to miss out on opportunities for affordable housing.

The Coalition for a Truly Affordable Boston (CTAB) has advocated for updates to IDP since 2017. That advocacy has included: organizing to pass a state law that gives the City of Boston more flexibility to reform IDP and to add it to the Boston zoning code; delivering 1000+ postcards to the Mayor and other City officials; and testifying at City Council hearings and meetings about the need for increased IDP.

“This resolution is ultimately a call to action to the administration... we’re a year in, and we haven’t received an updated timeline to the reform for the Inclusionary Development Policy from the administration” said Councilor Kendra Lara at the Boston City Council meeting.

“We see evictions are increasing, income inequality is an issue, of course, and we have people day in and day out moving out of the city because it is too expensive. And so this is one of the tools that we have squarely within our toolbox as a City to try to help affordability” added Councilor Ruthzee Loujeune at the Boston City Council meeting.

In this housing crisis, we have an urgent need to use all tools available to increase the stock of affordable housing across the city. We are proud of the city using public land for public good in requiring deeply affordable rental housing on public land in Roxbury’s Nubian Square. We need changes to IDP policy to create more affordable housing city wide in new developments- as soon as possible.” says Armani White Reclaim Roxbury Executive Director. Reclaim Roxbury is a

founding member of the Coalition for Truly affordable housing.

“Luxury developments have been pricing low income, Black, Brown and BIPOC communities out of Boston neighborhoods for a long time. Thank you City Councilors for unanimously passing a resolution urging the Wu administration to strengthen the Inclusionary Development Policy. Truly affordable standards for IDP are long overdue and we hope the Wu administration will act quickly to lower the threshold of units to trigger inclusionary development and deepen the AMIs for rental and home ownership units. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Mayor and her housing team to build affordable housing to meet the need for Bostonians today.” said Markeisha Moore, organizer with Dorchester Not For Sale.

The Coalition for a Truly Affordable Boston (CTAB) has identified the following ways to strengthen the IDP, to benefit those most impacted by racism and the displacement crisis.

1. Increase the affordability requirement to one-third. The City must increase the percentage, so that 33% (or one-third) of units are affordable.
2. Deepen the affordability of the affordable units. Rental units should be affordable at an average of 40% AMI, within a range of 30% to 70% AMI. Ownership units (condos) should be affordable at a range of 50% to 100% AMI.
3. Lower the 10-unit threshold. Right now developers only have to build affordable units if their development is 10 units or larger. Many developers have built multiple 9-unit projects to get around the

affordability requirement.

4. Ensure that affordable units are permanently affordable. Right now affordable units stay affordable for 5 years.

5. Increase the number of family-sized units. 80% of IDP units should be 2, 3, and 4+ bedrooms.

The Coalition for a Truly Affordable Boston is made up of over 20 housing justice organizations to advocate for a stronger Inclusionary Development Policy to build a truly affordable Boston. Coalition members include:

- Action for Equity
- Allston/Brighton CDC
- Asian American Resource Workshop
- Boston Tenant Coalition
- Chinatown Community Land Trust
- Chinese Progressive Association
- Dot Not 4 Sale
- Fenway CDC
- Greater Bowdoin Geneva Neighborhood Association
- Greater Four Corners Action Coalition
- Homes for Families
- Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council
- Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Jamaica Plain Progressives
- Keep It 100 for Real Affordable Housing and Racial Justice
- Mass Affordable Housing Alliance
- Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants
- Mass Coalition for the Homeless
- Mass Senior Action Council
- New England United 4 Justice
- Project RIGHT
- Reclaim Roxbury
- Right To The City Boston
- South Boston en Acción
- Urban Edge

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, presents Otherworldly Realms of Wu Junyong

In Otherworldly Realms of Wu Junyong, heroes face off in mighty clashes with their enemies; charming animals growl at one another, vying for superiority; and troubled souls retreat into murky caves, searching for inner peace. The exhibition, on view at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), starting January 13, 2023, marks the artist’s U.S. museum debut.

Wu (born 1978) grew up in a family of artisans who created sculptures and murals for local temples in their southern Chinese village. Immersed in China’s folklore throughout his childhood, he became fascinated with European painting and the heroes of ancient Greek mythology after arriving in art school. His work reflects all these influences, seamlessly blending diverse historical traditions with his contemporary ex-



perience to express human emotions, conflicts and aspirations that transcend time and borders.

Otherworldly Realms of Wu Junyong features more than a dozen mixed-media works on paper, where, beneath playful imagery, exuberant brushstrokes and riotous color, dark truths hide and serenity awaits in secluded haunts.

Museum visitors will have a unique opportunity to see painting performances by the artist at the MFA’s Lunar New Year

celebration on February 2. The annual event will offer \$5 admission for the evening (5–10 pm), lion dances and Spotlight Talks in the galleries.

The press release is available in English and Chinese on mfa.org.

“Otherworldly Realms of Wu Junyong” is generously supported by Bonnie Huang. Additional support from Eva Hu, the Joel Alvord and Lisa Schmid Alvord Fund, the Diane Krane Family and Jonathan and Gina Krane Family Fund and the Dr. Robert A. and Dr. Veronica Petersen Fund for Exhibitions.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

East Boston Cannabis Company is hosting a free virtual workshop on licensing and permitting marijuana establishments in Massachusetts. Individuals from disproportionately impacted areas, or Massachusetts residents who have past drug convictions, that are interested in the cannabis industry are encouraged to join. The event will be held on Thursday, December 29, 2022 at 6:00pm, via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87219813400?pwd=NmlaMogiSGRSVE9mMmFPZTFsVXloUT09>

Meeting ID: 872 1981 3400; Passcode: 985378.

Email: info@eastbostoncannabis.com

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Superior Court delivers guilty verdict in OUI manslaughter case from 2019

A Suffolk Superior Court jury today found Dylan Etheridge, 26, Guilty of manslaughter while OUI in the May 5th, 2019 death of Amber Pelletier in East Boston. The jury also found Etheridge Guilty of 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. Etheridge will be sentenced December 16 at 2 pm in courtroom 808 in front of Judge Katie Rayburn.

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 MGH and identified Etheridge as the driver.

Blood collected from the steering wheel at the scene was later determined to belong to Etheridge.

“This man’s reckless and senseless actions left one person dead and another seriously injured and endangered every motorist and pedestrian in the vicinity that day. We’re grateful for the jury’s work and their verdict and we will continue to support the individuals and families impacted by this tragedy,” Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden said.

Clinic // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Health and all of our other partners for working with us to reach as many people as we possibly can.”

“Vaccines are crucial in our ongoing efforts to keep our school communities safe from COVID-19 and the flu,” said Boston School Committee Chairperson Jeri Robinson. “With the help of our partners across Boston and the Commonwealth, we are working to make sure that all of our students are in a healthy and safe learning environment. Community partners like CIC Health are incredibly important to BPS, and I cannot thank them enough for their continued support, as we work to give every person in the BPS community the opportunity to get vaccinated.”

As we enter the holiday season, and the region prepares for increases in both COVID-19 and the flu, demand for vaccines and boosters continues to rise. BPS and CIC Health have partnered to set up vaccination clinics throughout Boston’s public schools to keep students, families, and staff members safe leading into the winter.

“Our partnership with BPS to coordinate vaccination clinics across Boston public schools is an important initiative to control the spread of Covid-19 and the flu as

we head into the colder months,” said CIC Health President Rachel Wilson. “Our priority is to create plenty of opportunities for community members to receive their vaccinations in a safe and efficient way while ensuring accessibility is not a barrier. We don’t require an ID, appointment, or insurance – our goal is to get as many individuals vaccinated so we can keep our communities safe and healthy.”

All Covid-19 vaccines and manufacturers – including bivalent (omicron) boosters, as well as flu vaccinations – including a high dose vaccine for individuals 65 and older, were available at the Samuel Adams Elementary School clinic.

The clinic was held over the course of four hours. BPS contracted CIC Health and Cataldo Ambulance to support the preparation and administration of free Covid-19 and flu vaccines.

“We continue to prioritize vaccine accessibility and equity in our COVID-19 response, which is why clinics like today’s are so important,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. “The vaccination rate for school-age children is still

low, and with the holiday season upon us, we must do everything we can to keep our students safe from the risk of severe illness. The COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are safe and effective across all age groups, and I strongly encourage all BPS families to make sure their children are up to date on their COVID-19 and flu vaccinations.”

“My job, as the school leader, is to ensure that our students and staff are safe and healthy,” said Samuel Adams Elementary School Leader Joanna McKeigue Cruz. “Like all across the world, COVID-19 deeply affected our school community. CIC and BPS are invaluable in our work to keep COVID and the flu out of our community and keep everyone safe. It is essential that we all come together and work collectively to keep our families and staff safe from COVID-19 and the flu. So, thank you to everyone who got their vaccine and if you have not done so yet, please get yours today.”

For more information on the BPS COVID-19 policies, best practices, and how to get vaccinated, please visit vaccine.bostonpublicschools.org for more information.

City of Boston traffic advisory to December 18

Events happening in the City of Boston this week will bring some parking restrictions and street closures. People attending these events are encouraged to walk, bike, or take public transit. Information on Bluebikes, the regional bike share service, may be found on the Bluebikes website and information on the MBTA may be found online. The MBTA advises riders to purchase a round-trip rather than a one-way ticket for a faster return trip. Walking is also a great way to move around.

BEACON HILL

National Guard’s Birthday Celebration – Tuesday, December 13, 2022

An event celebrating the birthday of the National Guard will take at the Massachusetts State House. Parking restrictions will in be in place from 6 am to 3 pm on the following street:

- Beacon Street, Both sides, from Walnut Street to Park Street

CHINATOWN

Josiah Quincy School Event – Tuesday, December 13, 2022

The Josiah Quincy School will be hosting a wheelchair basketball game and parking restrictions will be in place to allow for buses to have curb-side access close to the school from 8 am to 12 pm on the following street:

- Shawmut Avenue, East side (school side) from Oak Street West to Marginal Road

DORCHESTER

Shop with a Cop Event – Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Boston Police Department will host the annual “Shop with a Cop” event. Temporary parking restrictions will be in place from 3 pm to 6 pm on the following streets:

- Worrell Street, Both sides, from Pope’s Hill Street to the parking lot to the Murphy School (where Worrell Street bends and heads towards Tilesboro Street

- Popes Hill Street, Both sides, from Worrell Street to Selina Road

FENWAY

Football at Fenway Park, Wasabi Bowl – Saturday, December 17, 2022

Fenway Park will be hosting the Wasabi Bowl which is a football game between the University of Louisville Cardinals and the University of Cincinnati Bearcats. For various public safety reasons and logistical needs of the event several temporary parking restrictions will be in place at the following locations:

- Lansdowne Street, Both sides, from Brookline Avenue to Ipswich Street
- Ipswich Street, Northside (Fenway Park, Mass Pike side), from Charlesgate East to Van Ness Street
- Van Ness Street, Both sides, from Ipswich Street to Kilmarnock Street
- Jersey Street, Both sides, from Van Ness Street to Brookline Avenue

News in Brief

EASTIE HOLIDAY BAZAAR AT ICA WATERSHED

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce, Veronica Robles Cultural Center are hosting the first annual Eastie Holiday Bazaar at the ICA Watershed on Sunday, December 18th from 2 to 6pm. to conclude “Dancing Elotes Entrepreneurship program”. This program was funded in part with the 2022 Community Empowerment and Reinvestment Grant Program.

The Holiday Bazaar will be brimming with local makers, artisans, and local fooderies for all of your holiday needs. This special day will include music and dance performances throughout the event featuring Jorge Arce “Raiz de Plena” Puerto-Rican ensemble,

Juan Carlos Ruiz, Beverly Richards Dance Center, VROCC performers include the little dancing stars; Children Music Ensemble, and adult Folklorico dancer, Caporales Universitarios de San Simón, Bolivia, Corazon Chileno, Peru dance ensemble, also featuring dancer Carol Flow, Skip the Dominican rapper, and DJ. Damien. Grace Martinez from Rumba 97.7 and Benny D. will be participating as the MCs.

Events highlights:

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with elected officials will be held at 2 P.M.

Santa Clause is coming to town with CocaVision 360 PhotoBooth and The LedMan Show.

Vendors will include: La Casa del PandeBono, Taqueria Los Compadres, Antojitos, Aneska



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Organizations: Maverick Makers Pro, Excel Academy, East Boston Soup Kitchen, Piers Park Sailing Center, Eastie Farm and The Trustees.

Special thanks to our community partner ICA Boston and East Boston Neighborhood Health Center and official Media Sponsors Rumba 97.7, El planeta and El Mundo Newspapers.

Real Estate Transfers

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52-58 Withington St LLC	97 Condor Street Eas LLC	97 Condor St	\$2,780,000
Henry, Nicole	Maverick Shipyard LLC	202 Maverick St #103	\$719,000
Lopez, Javier S	Maverick Shipyard LLC	202 Maverick St #PH402	\$1,200,000
Micheletti, Santino	Maverick Shipyard LLC	202 Maverick St #301	\$865,000
Bristol, Steffanie J	Maverick Shipyard LLC	202 Maverick St #201	\$840,000
King, Caroline	Maverick Shipyard LLC	202 Maverick St #202	\$809,000
Pilar-Garcia, Jacqueline	Maverick Shipyard LLC	202 Maverick St #104	\$202,900
Fanuele, Luke V	Kane, John	867 Saratoga St #1	\$550,000



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CONSULTATION SESSION

Massport will host a hybrid (in-person and virtual) consultation session on the *Boston Logan International Airport 2020/2021 Environmental Data Report (2020/2021 EDR)*. A representative from the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office will participate. This meeting will be streamed in English and Spanish.

The hybrid Consultation Session for the 2020/2021 Boston Logan EDR is scheduled for:

Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 6:00 PM
Cathy Leonard-McLean Community Room
Logan Airport’s Rental Car Center*
15 Transportation Way
East Boston, MA 02128

If you wish to attend the meeting virtually, please visit
<https://www.massport.com/massport/about-massport/project-environmental-filings/logan-airport>

Requests for additional languages must be made a minimum of 72 hours before the December 15, 2022 meeting date and should be sent to community@massport.com.

Please note that an electronic copy of the 2020/2021 EDR is available on Massport’s website at <http://www.massport.com/massport/about-massport/project-environmental-filings/logan-airport>. Additional copies of the 2020/2021 EDR may be obtained by calling Brad Washburn at (617) 568-3546 or emailing bwashburn@massport.com during the public comment period.


Massport has requested an extension of the public comment period, which began on **November 23, 2022**, the publication date of the MEPA *Environmental Monitor*, and will end on **January 23, 2023**.

Written comments may be submitted by **January 23, 2023** to the following address:

The Honorable Bethany A. Card,
Secretary Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Attn: MEPA Office EEA #3247
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Comments may also be submitted electronically on the MEPA Public Comment Portal at: <https://eeasonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicComment/Landing>

*The Cathy Leonard-McLean Community Room is located on the lower level of the Rental Car Center (RCC) Facility at Boston Logan International Airport. The RCC is accessible by the MBTA via Airport Station or the Silver Line and then by a Massport Shuttle Bus. Please allow additional travel time if using the MBTA. Parking for the RCC is available at the loading dock area on Porter Street and in the visitor spaces in front of the RCC.



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HAPPY HANUKKAH

The eight-day observance of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, starts this Sunday evening, December 18, and will culminate on Monday, December 26.

Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days by lighting the candles of the Menorah, one on each day of the eight-day celebration. (The Menorah itself consists of nine candles, one of which typically stands above the rest and is used to light the other eight.)

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees -- a group of fierce warriors who used guerilla tactics against an occupying army -- in 166 BCE when the Maccabees liberated the Jewish people from the Greek-based rulers who essentially had outlawed the Jewish religion.

When the triumphant Maccabees captured the city of Jerusalem, they quickly entered the Holy Temple, tossing out the images of the Greek gods that had been installed there by the occupying rulers. When the Maccabees went to light the Menorah candles in the Temple, they thought they only had one day's worth of oil. However, the candles remained lit for eight days -- hence the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah is a joyous occasion for Jews world-wide, marked by gatherings of friends and families and the playing of traditional games such as the dreidel and eating traditional -- and delicious! -- foods such as latkes.

We want to take the opportunity to wish our friends and readers of the Jewish community a happy, healthy, and joyful Hanukkah season.

LET'S GO MOROCCO!

Even those who have been casually following the World Cup for the past few weeks are aware of the amazing run by Morocco, a team that has ignited the imagination of sports fans around the world after knocking off two European powerhouses, Spain and Portugal, this past week en route to becoming the first team from Africa ever to reach the cup's semi-final round.

The most-inspiring aspect of Morocco's ascent to the Final Four of the World Cup is that unlike many of the other teams, who are led by superstars such as Messi, Mbappe, Ronaldo, or Harry Kane, the Moroccans do not rely on one man to win. Their unselfish play and team defense (the Atlas Lions have conceded only one goal in the tournament, and that was an own goal) epitomize the notion of what the "beautiful game" is all about -- 11 players working in sync and harmony to vanquish more highly-regarded opponents.

Morocco's success is a life-lesson not just for aspiring athletes, but for all of us in whatever endeavor we undertake.

Morocco's next contest is this Wednesday at 2:00 EST when they take on defending world champion France in what promises to be the Moroccans' most challenging contest of the tourney.

We know we join with sports fans everywhere who love to root for the underdog in wishing the Moroccan team and their fans good luck -- h'ad saïid!



Forum



GUEST OP-ED

Celine Dion, Kirstie Alley, Christmas, good news and bad

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Award winning actress Kirstie Alley was diagnosed with cancer shortly before her untimely death at the young age of 71. Grammy award winning Celine Dion has recently been diagnosed with a neurological disease called Stiff Person Syndrome. The disease attacks about one in a million and is a very debilitating disease. She is 54 years old.

Disease, death and bad news can attack anyone at any age and none of us are immune.

Good news came to Britney Griner who spent 10 months in a Russian prison for allegedly having hashish oil in her suitcase at a Moscow airport. She was recently released and is now back in the United States. The Bad news is that arms dealer Victor Bout who smuggled millions of weapons to the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa was released from

prison in exchange for Griner's release.

Paul Whelan a former United States marine received bad news in that he is still being held in a Russian prison accused of spying. Russia is apparently holding onto him for another deal with the United States. It's tragic that he wasn't released with Griner.

Please stay out of Russia, North Korea, Iran and China. There are other places to avoid as well but there are plenty of nice places to visit.

My deceased wife was 37 when she received the bad news that she had multiple sclerosis. The diagnosis was very bad news and Karen died one day at a time for 12 years. The last four years of her life she could do nothing. She required 24-hour care. She became a person trapped inside a body. She died at the age of 49. The toll that such a disease took on our family and my young sons

was severe. Such an illness changes the lives of the entire family. Everyone to some extent is involved in the caregiving and are changed by the emotional drain of sickness and death. However, no one suffers as much as the person struggling with the disease.

Such life struggles play havoc with holidays such as Christmas. Our family never had a normal Christmas for at least 12 years. However, it became our new normal.

Jesus is good news at Christmas. He was bad news to King Herod of Judea. Herod was a mental illness case who ordered the death of all male babies two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem. He hoped to eliminate Jesus because wise men from the East had come to worship him.

We must pray for the families of Kirstie Alley, Celine Dion and Paul Whelan and many oth-

ers. These families are suffering. Fame and fortune never provide a way of escaping bad news and the results of bad news. We should also pray for one another and rejoice with any good news that comes each other's way.

We are all sojourners in this life. The message of Christmas is a Savior is born, Christ the Lord, peace on earth and good will toward all.

May good news find its way to you this season of the year and may we all with God's grace be there for each other when the news is not so good.

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

VOICE OUR STRONG OPPOSITION

To the Editor,

My name is Emanuel Serra and I served as the State Representative from East Boston for 30 years. As a Legislator from East Boston I was born in Boston and lived in East Boston since 1945. My grandfather sought out this location for his family members. All three of his daughters living side by side with their families in a spacious Urban area escaping the concrete jungle of the old West End. I recall the Hill section of East Boston as the one-time Jewel of our Community. It still is. Today my granddaughter lives in that same house while she is attending Tufts Medical School. I am certain her great, great grandfather is smiling down on her. It is my intention to keep my home in our family for generations to come.

As the Representative for East Boston for more

than 30 years I have had the opportunity to serve with many different Mayors. Most were fine people but none were from East Boston. None of them had the experience of living with an airport, 100's of thousands of cars a day an abundance of daily jet noise. Homes and parks taken by eminent domain and turned into runways. Often the Cities ideas as to what was good for East Boston was almost never what the people of East Boston wanted. To have some so called expert in traffic or zoning tell us what is best for us was usually filled with a great deal of intellectual expertise and a substantial amount of disappointment and failure.

I have historically fought for open space in East Boston ever since the disgraceful destruction of our 78 acre wood island park. I struggled for years to recapture that open space. I passed legislation that created the Belle Island Bird Sanctu-

ary. I drafted and passed into law legislation to take from Logan its Piers along the East Boston waterfront in order to create Piers Park attempting to restore open space that was taken. I fought long and hard for the creation of the Bremen Street Park. You may not recall that the City Traffic Department along with the Secretary of Transportation opposed me at the time. Their proposal by the Traffic Department was to create a simple berm in order to separate homes on Bremen St. from the Airport while still leaving Park and Fly and other traffic producing businesses on that site. These ideas proposed by City and State, were theirs not mine or the people of the District I represented at the time. Our concept was to move them all either on the Airport or further north on 1A and to create the beautiful park with exists today. It takes years to create open space and days to destroy. The 78 Acre Park known

as Wood Islands was destroyed in one night. I still recall the sadness I felt when I looked out my window on Orient Avenue and saw hundreds of full grown trees fallen to the ground in one night of being bulldozed and chain sawed.

I tell you this in order to prepare for your next fight. This absurd proposal spawned by someone in City Hall who pretends to know what should happen in Orient Heights. They want to eliminate one and two family zoning in Orient Heights in order to increase the density of the individual lots. Density already exists in the area, just look at the back side of the hill. It blows my mind to think that this proposal is drafted specifically for East Boston. Nowhere else in the City, not Hyde Park, not Roslindale, Southie, or Dorchester. Just Orient Heights wow very interesting proposal.

See LETTER Page 10

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Healey, Driscoll announce administration and finance secretary, top staff

Governor-elect Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor-elect Driscoll announced their first round of hires for their incoming administration. Matthew Gorzkowicz will be appointed as Secretary of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance. Kate Cook will be Chief of Staff and Gabrielle Viator will serve as Senior Advisor.

Matthew Gorzkowicz has more than 25 years' experience in state finance and budgeting in the Commonwealth. He has served as the Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance at the University of Massachusetts President's Office for more than a decade, where he has had a direct role in setting the University's long-range administrative and financial goals and managed the development of an annual operating budget of \$3.8 billion. Prior to UMass, Matt worked in the Massachusetts Senate, the Department of Mental Health, the School Building Authority, and the Executive Office for Administration and Finance under Governor Deval Patrick, where he served as Assistant Secretary for Budget and then Undersecretary. He is a graduate of Northeastern University and lives in Winthrop, MA with his wife and two children.

"In this time of record state revenues and economic stress for so many of our residents, it's essential to have an Administration and Finance Secretary with a proven record of maintaining economic stability and implementing processes that ensure efficiency and effectiveness," said Healey. "Matt Gorzkowicz has done just that in his decades of service to Massachusetts, and I'm proud to have his leadership in our administration."

"I'm honored to be appointed as Secretary of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance by Governor-elect Healey and Lieutenant Governor-elect Driscoll," said Gorzkowicz. "This is going to be a dynamic and effective administration, and I'm proud to contribute my experience in state finance and budgeting to serve the Commonwealth. I'm looking forward to getting to work on a number of important priorities that center on equity and affordability and drive progress across the administration."

Kate Cook currently serves as the First Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, where she assists AG Healey with oversight, operations and decision-making in all legal and policy matters across the office. For over two decades, Cook has served as a trusted legal advisor and litigator for public officials and state and local government agencies. Prior to her appointment as First Assistant, Kate was a partner at Sugarman Rogers, where she chaired the govern-

ment law and election law practice groups and had an active pro bono practice focused on civil rights and civil liberties matters. Kate formerly served as Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Deval L. Patrick, General Counsel to the Massachusetts Senate Ways & Means Committee and Assistant Corporation Counsel to the City of Boston. She holds degrees from Harvard University and Brown University and lives in Marblehead with her husband and daughter.

"Kate has been integral to the operations of the Attorney General's Office and a wonderful addition to our team over the past year," said Healey. "With her strong background serving both in state and city government as well as the private sector, I'm confident that she is the best person to lead our office and build a team that's going to deliver real results for people."

"I'm honored that Governor-elect Healey and Lieutenant Governor-elect Driscoll have placed their faith in me to lead the Governor's Office and for the opportunity to continue my service to the Commonwealth," said Cook. "We're committed to building a strong, experienced and diverse team that is ready to get to work delivering for people and moving Massachusetts forward."

Gabe Viator is the Chief Deputy Attorney General in the Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey. She oversees litigation efforts across the office and coordinates policy, government affairs and strategic initiatives. Gabrielle previously served as Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor to AG Healey, and as an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division. Before joining the Attorney General's Office, Gabrielle practiced commercial litigation as an associate at Ropes & Gray. She also served as a Legislative Director in the State Senate and as a legislative aide in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. She is a graduate of Boston College and Suffolk University Law School, and lives in Beverly with her husband and two daughters.

"Gabe has been a close and trusted advisor to me for many years, and I'm thrilled to have her guidance with us in the Governor's Office," said Healey. "She has outstanding legal and policy experience, a strong commitment to public service and a passion for teamwork, all of which will be invaluable for our team."

"From working with Governor-elect Healey for more than a decade, I've seen firsthand her commitment to the people of Massachusetts and her ability to bring together the very best team to make real progress," said Viator. "I'm honored to continue this partnership in the Governor's Office and excited to get to work creating a stronger Massachusetts."

Carmen Parziale

Owner and operator of Amps Electric for over 30 years

Family and friends are invited to attend a funeral to be conducted in the Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals, 773 Broadway (Rte.107) Revere today, Wednesday, December 14 beginning at 10 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Anthony of Padua Church, 250 Revere St., Revere at 11 a.m. for Carmen J. Parziale who died on December 8 in the loving presence of his family and God at the Massachusetts General Hospital, following a long illness. He was 76 years old. Interment will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Carmen was born on September 6, 1946, to his late parents, Carmen and Virginia (Moore) Parziale. He was raised and educated in East Boston and was a graduate of East Boston High School, Class of 1964. Following High School, Carmen became an electrician. He owned and operated his own business, Amps Electric for over 30 years.

Carmen married his beloved wife, Josephine (JoJo) on June 7, 1970 and shortly after moved to Revere where they raised their four children together.

Carmen adored his wife, JoJo and she and his children were his whole world. His family was the most important thing to him. He did everything he could to raise his children with good morals, an education, and provided for all their needs.

He worked a second job for many years at Air France Cargo in a managerial role that was followed by Worldwide Flight Service before retiring. Carmen never missed a game or a dance recital of his children or grandchildren. Watching them all play or dance gave him such joy and happiness. Carmen loved baseball and was



a huge Red Sox fan. He also loved coaching and was the longtime Dodgers coach for Saint Mary's Little League.

The beloved husband of 52 years of Josephine M. "JoJo" (Pirrello) Parziale of Revere, he was the loving and proud father of David J. Parziale of Reading, Phillip P. Parziale and his wife, Jenney of Newton, Karen E. Wells and her husband, Kevin of Danvers, Carmen "C.J." Parziale, III and his wife, Jaclyn of Boxford; cherished grandfather of Olivia, Samantha, Sydney, Matthew, Nathan and Peter; dear brother of Michael Parziale and his wife, Linda, Sharon Dyer and her husband, John, Dennis Parziale and his wife, Lisa, Theodore Parziale and his wife, Susan, Cindy Loring, the late Richard and Steven Parziale and stepson to the late Concetta (Vitale) Parziale; treasured brother-in-law of Angela Buchan and her late husband Thomas. He is also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. To send online condolences, please visit www.vertuccioandsmith.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals.

Eleanor "Ellie" Albanese

Lifelong East Boston resident



Eleanor "Ellie" Albanese, a life-long resident of East Boston and Springhill, FL passed away surrounded by her loving family on December 7 at the age of 98.

The loving daughter of the late Natale and Josephine Sulfaro, she was the beloved wife of the late Sammy Albanese; devoted mother of Carol Sullivan and her husband, Frank of Middleboro, Raymond Albanese and his wife, Charlene of East Boston, Diane Cardinale and her husband, Richard of Middleton and Robert Albanese and his wife, Connie of Peabody; cherished grandmother of Tiffany Albanese, Raymond Albanese Jr., Katie Sullivan, Erin Houston, Jennifer Albanese, Cara Apostolides, Richard Cardinale and Michael Cardinale. She is also survived by six loving great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Frances Sirignano

She lived her life as a woman of strength, dignity and grace



Frances R. (Vitale) Sirignano at 101 years. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on December 12 in Sacred Heart Church, East Boston for Frances R. (Vitale) Sirignano, 101, who died on Thursday, December 8, following a brief illness at the Brentwood Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Danvers. Interment was in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

Frances was born in Boston on August 2, 1921 to her late parents, Giuseppe and Rose (Ingala) Vitale. She was an only child and was raised and educated in East Boston, where she was a graduate of East Boston High School, Class of 1939. She was married to her husband, Arthur and they remained in East Boston where she proudly raised her four children. Her family most always most important and she prided herself with providing them with a home filled with love, values, and great food. She loved to cook for her family or anyone who entered her home.

When her children were grown, she went to work for the Department of Revenue as a mail clerk for over 26 years. In her free time, she enjoyed meeting friends for coffee and was an avid bowler. Frances also enjoyed singing and had a very lovely

voice. She lived her life as a woman of strength, dignity and grace.

She was the beloved wife of the late Arthur Sirignano for 35 years; the loving mother of Marie Palumbo and her husband, Nicholas of Stoneham, Joseph Sirignano and Richard Sirignano, both of East Boston and the late Roseann Anzuoni; the cherished grandmother of Elena Martinez and her husband, Wilfredo of Revere and Anne Grant and her husband, Keith of Georgetown; the adored great grandmother of Wilfredo, Nicholas, Liliana, Maria, Vincent, Franco, Joseph Martinez and Madelyn and Tyler Grant. She is also lovingly survived by her brother-in-law, Carmine Sirignano and his wife, Theresa of Boston and many nieces and nephews.

For online guest book and condolences, please visit www.vazzafunerals.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of Vazza's "Beechwood" Funeral Home.

Richard William Nastari

Of Winthrop, formerly of Revere and East Boston



Richard William Nastari of Winthrop, formerly of Revere and East Boston, passed away on December 6.

Richard was a former LT. of Winthrop Auxiliary Police. He was a retired ADS of the Suffolk House of Corrections and also a retired chief engineer of the Hilton Garden Inn. He will be missed by many.

The beloved husband for 25 years of Gloria (Mower) Nastari, he was the devoted father of Douglas Boudrow, dear brother of Lisa Ruscio and the late Jim of New Hampshire and Doreen Nastari of Belmont and cherished uncle of Steven Ruscio.

Family and friends honored Richard's life by

gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, Orient Heights, East Boston on Friday, December 9. Following a prayer service, Richard was laid to rest in Winthrop Cemetery, Belle Isle Section. To leave an online condolence, visit www.ruggieromh.com.

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MADARO FAMILY COMMUNITY FUND HOSTS EASTIE ELVES CELEBRATION

After a hiatus due to the Covid Pandemic, the Madaro Family Community Fund hosted the Eastie Elves celebration has returned. Held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, admission to the event was the donation of a toy that would be later distributed to children in need in East Boston and surrounding communities. The night was filled with entertainment, music, and fun to help spread Holiday Cheer to all.



Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro (right) and State Senator Lydia Edwards with Winthrop Board Of Heath Chair Bill Schmidt, Town Council VP Stephen Ruggiero, and Councilors John Munson and Hannah Belcher.



Students from the Beverly Richards Dance Center perform.



Massachusetts State Rep Adrian Madaro listens as his wife Ariel addresses the audience at Eastie Elves.



Massachusetts State Rep Adrian Madaro (center) with his family: father Jacopo, mother Debra Cave, wife Ariel, and son Matteo.



Revere City Councilor Joanne McKenna with Massachusetts State Reps Jessica Ann Giannino, Adrian Madaro, and Meg Kilcoyne.



For service to the East Boston community, Ana Alonzo (center) was given the Albert "Junior" Lombardi Award by Massachusetts State Rep Adrian Madaro with her daughter Gabriela Ramirez, Ariel Madaro, and Rita Lombardi, wife of her late husband Albert "Junior" Lombardi for whom the award is named.



The Jessica Gordon's Academy Of Preforming Arts Senior Competition Team performs.



Students from the Beverly Richards Dance Center relax by the stage before the evening's events begin.

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WEDS. DEC. 21st

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MADARO FAMILY COMMUNITY FUND HOSTS EASTIE ELVES CELEBRATION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Alicia and Kathy DeVento with Kate Dellerario.



Alex and Sara DeFronzo.



Zaiza Avames and Lisa Melara.



Dr. Marion McNabb and Shawn Sarro.



Executive Director East Boston Social Studies Justin Pasquariello with Boston Public Schools Region 1 Superintendent Dr Tommy Welch.



Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro with Revere City Councilor Ira Novoselsky.



Nick Korn and Bessie King.



Kristen and Chloe Cevallis enjoy some holiday cheer together.



Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro (center) with State Senator Lydia Edwards (right) and Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta.



The Jessica Gordon's Academy Of Preforming Arts Junior Competition Team performs.



Jessica Gordon's Academy Of Preforming Arts dancer Jessica Gordon.



Veronica, James, and Star Richards are members of "Team Santa."

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RED SOX FOUNDATION VISITS THE P.J. KENNEDY SCHOOL

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

The Red Sox Foundation visited the Patrick J. Kennedy School on December 1 during the final Play Ball event of its Reviving Baseball and Softball in Inner Cities seasonal youth program. Students eagerly greeted team mascots, Wally and Tessie; and participate in introductory exercises with Red Sox Foundation directors, managers, and coordinators.

“The game isn’t growing at the rate that it used to; especially in communities of color,” explained Leeyan Redwood, Red Sox Foundation, who presented students with auto-graphed pictures of Red Sox players. “We want to make sure kids have that exposure at a young age. They learn to love and have positive associations

with the game.” Each year, the Red Sox Foundation travels to states throughout New England to engage students through session-based drills, and increase interest and access to the sport. The Red Sox Foundation collaborated with Playworks, New England, which partners with Boston Public Schools (BPS) to promote healthy, safe play for children. “Come this spring, we will be working with the Red Sox Foundation to create a curriculum based around physical and social/emotional skills that can be learned through wiffle ball play,” said Alex McAuliffe, Program Manager, Playworks. “We will be implementing that curriculum in 30 Boston Public Schools around Massachusetts.”



Camila Aguilar Reyes, first grade.



Raineldo Ardon Martinez, first grade, practicing drills.



K-0 and K-1 students, Sofia Restrepo, and Mikaela Zambrano Vanderly, with Tessie.



Amy Martinez, first grade, receiving a hug from Tessie.



First graders greeting Tessie, the Red Sox mascot, with Principal Kristen Concalves Redden.



Leeyann Redwood, Red Sox Foundation, helping Sofia Restrepo, K-1, with batting.



Dayana Martinez Riveira, K-2, at bat.



Dylan Avila, K-2, at bat.



Danna Hernandez Ocampo, Hajar Farhi, Veronica Nunez Guevara, Andrea Fonseca, and Angelina Rivera Jaimes, third grade, with Tessie.



K-2 students greeting Wally with hugs.



Josue Lopez Avacedo, K-2, patting Wally.

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First grade students with Red Sox mascots, Wally and Tessie.

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Sofia Lopez, K-2, saying "hello" to Wally.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

COUNCILORS RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT 311 SYSTEM

CHELSEA- The 311 system is intended to give Chelsea residents a number to call if they have municipal issues they would like to see taken care of, from trash pick up to potholes and sidewalk repair requests.

But at Monday night’s City Council meeting, several councilors had questions about the 311 service itself.

District 6 Councilor Giovanni introduced an order requesting City Manager Thomas Ambrosino verify that 311 employees are working either out of an officer or their home. Recupero said he’s received a number of complaints lately from residents unable to get through to one of the city’s three 311 operators.

“I don’t understand why it goes to a recorded message,” said Recupero. “People have complained to me, and I’ve called myself, and it went right to a recorded message.”

Recupero said he understands that one of the 311 employees is pregnant and working from, which he said he didn’t see as an issue. Still, the councilor said he was flummoxed as to why so many calls go unanswered.

“Who supervises these people?” Recupero said. “It’s supposed to be the DPW, but I don’t understand how you have three people and it goes to an answering machine.”

District 4 Councilor Enio Lopez said he’s also heard complaints about 311 going unanswered. He said he was also concerned because when Spanish speaking residents call the line, there is not someone there who speaks Spanish.

“I thank Councilor Recupero for bringing this up,” said Lopez. “There are some answers that need to be given to our community.”

With changes in recycling for items such as textiles and mattresses, Lopez also noted that the calls to 311 from the community are also likely to increase.

District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor added to the chorus of those who have received complaints about 311.

“As a councilor, I’ve been getting feedback from the community that this isn’t working,” said Taylor.

He said he understood from the city side that the 311 system might be more convenient than the older ticket-based computer system, but that it wasn’t working well for a number of residents.

“Some improvements need to be made if we are going to stick with this 311 system, otherwise we need to figure out something else, because this is not just coming from up here, this is real feedback coming from the community,” said Taylor.

Councilor-at-Large Damali Vidot said she has not heard the complaints about 311, but recommended discussing the issue further at a sub-committee on conference

meeting to hash out what the issues are and how they can be fixed.

“I think it does bring value, but we should have a discussion on how we can work out the kinks,” Vidot said.

FINALISTS CHOSEN FOR LYNN SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS POSITION

LYNN- The Superintendent Search Screening Committee has chosen three finalists for the superintendent of schools position and will recommend them to the School Committee at its meeting Thursday night.

The finalists are: Dr. Evonne Alvarez, chief academic officer of Providence (R.I.) Public Schools; Molly Cohen, interim deputy superintendent of Lynn Public Schools (LPS); and Kevin McCaskill, assistant superintendent of Boston Public Schools (BPS).

The next steps are for the School Committee to vote to accept the finalists and schedule site visits and public interviews. The original timeline called for a superintendent to be named in December and that is on schedule.

“I’m thrilled with the finalists and the way the search process has been conducted,” said Mayor Jared C. Nicholson, chair of the School Committee who served in the same capacity on the search committee, which has worked in conjunction with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. “I’m grateful for the hard work and thoroughness of the committee members.”

Alvarez worked in the Miami-Dade school district in Florida for 27 years as a teacher, principal, district director and administrative director. She came to Providence earlier this year as redesign and innovation officer before being named chief academic officer.

Alvarez earned a bachelor’s degree at the University of Maryland, a master’s from Nova Southeastern University in Florida and a doctorate from the College of William and Mary in Virginia. She lives in Revere.

Cohen started her teaching career in Chile 25 years ago. When she returned to the U.S., she worked a sheltered English immersion teacher at Salem High and Lynn Vocational Technical Institute (LVTI). She then served as a bilingual guidance counselor at Lynn English High School, assistant principal at Breed Middle School, and principal of Thurgood Marshall Middle School from 2015-22. She was named interim deputy superintendent in August.

Cohen earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Vermont and master’s degrees from Simmons University and Salem State University. She lives in Marblehead.

McCaskill worked in Springfield Public Schools for 22 years as a teacher and administrator, including six years as principal of Roger



Princess Kate holds a bouquet of flowers that were given to her as she greeted the large crowd during her Dec. 1 visit to Roca headquarters in Chelsea.

A ROYAL VISIT TO CHELSEA



Prince William is pictured in Chelsea during his visit to ROCA where he met with Executive Director Molly Baldwin and ROCA officials to highlight the success of the internationally recognized organization.

L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy. After serving as director of secondary schools and operations for Hartford Public Schools from 2010-15, McCaskill moved to BPS as executive director of Madison Park Vocational High School. In 2021, he was named chief academic officer for high schools, a position recognized as assistant superintendent.

McCaskill earned a bachelor’s degree from Western New England University in Springfield, a master’s from Westfield State University and an education specialist certificate from UMass Amherst. He lives in Boston.

There were 16 applicants for the superintendent position, nine of whom were selected for a 75-minute interview, with three advancing as finalists.

Debra Ruggiero has been serving as interim superintendent since August, after the resignation of Dr. Patrick Tutwiler. She was not an applicant for the permanent position.

In addition to Nicholson, search committee members include: LPS parent Amy Butterworth; School Committee member Donna Coppola; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer Faustina Cuevas; Lynn English High School teacher Lisa Escalera; Washington Elementary School Principal Anthony Frye; LVTI Principal Fred Gallo; North Shore Community College President Dr. William Heineman; LPS parent Quendia Martinez; LPS parent Tanisha Soo Miller; Lynn Teachers Union President Sheila O’Neil; School Committee member Lenin Pena; and Shoemaker Elementary School teacher Julie Potter.

TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES DOWNTOWN PARKING PLAN

WINTHROP- After months of discussion and debate, the Town Council approved new parking regulations for the Center Business District at its meeting Tuesday night.

There will now be two hour street parking allowed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in downtown dis-

trict street spaces, with a handful of 15 minute spaces in front of several local businesses.

There are no meters going in, but there will be time limits on parking in the spots during the daytime hours. Winthrop residents with residential parking stickers will still be able to use those spaces to park overnight.

In addition, the council also approved new regulations for the town’s municipal lots, allowing people who need to park longer to conduct business downtown to park for up to four hours or longer in some municipal lots.

“The rationale behind this is because parking down in the center is a resource and we need to manage that public resource like we do most other public resources,” said Precinct 6 Councilor Stephen Ruggiero. “It’s not the most exciting thing to talk about, I don’t think we all feel great about it, but at the end of the day there are plenty of downtowns in the Commonwealth that have parking restrictions. What we are not talking about is meters, we are just talking about what our ordinance is going to say.”

While the parking restrictions are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Councilor-At-Large Rob DeMarco noted that it does create some leeway for residents who use the downtown spots for overnight parking. Since there is a two-hour parking limit, DeMarco said residents would be able to park in the spots until 9 a.m., and could take a spot again at 5 p.m., and still be within the bounds of the time limit and the allowable resident overnight parking.

Ruggiero stated that there are also parking spots on Putnam Street that were not included in the new ordinance, allowing residents to park for an unlimited amount of time, provided they move their vehicles within 72 hours.

“I just want to commend the rules and ordinance committee,” said Precinct 3 Councilor Hannah Belcher. “I went to most, if not all of the meetings on this, and think these ordinances do

a really great job of striking a balance between protecting resident parking for people who live in the CBD and businesses. I think this is a really good way to meet in the middle.”

Public Works Director Steven Calla stated that the town is already sitting on \$6,000 worth of parking signs that have the parking hours listed as 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Calla agreed that the town could possibly still use the same signs, but cover up the five with a seven.

The municipal parking lot ordinance sets a four hour time limit in the town’s downtown municipal lots, giving residents who need a longer time to park downtown and other areas of Winthrop more time. Ruggiero noted that there would be some spots with unlimited parking, and that the parking lot near the town tennis courts would not have a time limit because it is near a school.

In other business Tuesday night, Town Manager Tony Marino gave an update on several projects and initiatives around Winthrop.

“The capital plan is en route, we are sending out forms this week to all the department heads,” said Marino. “We’ve got a smaller capital plan that was formed by our facilities department, but we are going to do a more in-depth one this year.”

Marino said the town is also working on finalizing a draft for a trash policy.

“I’ll get that out to the council hopefully by the end of the week to take a look at and review, and we can bring that up at a future meeting,” said Marino.

Marino added that the \$160 annual trash bills will also be going out in January.

The town received five bids on a request for proposals for town legal services, including one from the town’s current legal counsel, according to Marino. He said those bids will be reviewed in the coming days.

Marino also said the town ferry is currently in Newburyport undergoing repairs.

“When all is said and done, we will have two

new engines and two new transmissions and we will be ready to kick off,” said Marino. He said the town had the \$100,000 needed for repairs, and that the ferry should be ready for service again in March.

COUNCIL APPROVES INITIAL DEPOSIT TO OPIOID RECOVERY TRUST FUND

By Adam Swift
REVERE-More than \$250,000, the initial payment in a statewide opioid settlement, has been transferred to a special trust fund in Revere.

Monday night, the City Council approved transferring the \$254,470 for calendar year 2022, the first year of the settlement, to the new Opioid Recovery and Remediation Trust Fund. Revere is slated to receive over \$1.2 million as a result of the settlement through 2038.

The council had the option of reviewing the transfer in subcommittee, but unanimously voted to move ahead and approve the transfer to the trust fund.

“I have no problem whatsoever, we talked about creating the trust fund at our last meeting, and it just makes perfect sense to fund it,” said Councillor-at-Large Dan Rizzo. “It just makes perfect sense to fund it, the funding is there, (city finance director Richard Viscay) shows where the money was allocated in the general fund and it’s just a matter of sliding it over.”

Last month, the council approved setting up the trust fund.

“The purpose of this trust fund, once established, will be to supplement prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery programs throughout the city,” stated Viscay.

In July of 2021, state Attorney General Maura Healey announced a \$26 billion resolution with opioid distributors and Johnson & Johnson which will provide more than \$500 million to Massachusetts and its cities and towns for pre-

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Hartford, CT 06106-1561
860-541-3400

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
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Augusta, ME 04333
207-624-6050

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State Fire Marshal reminds
residents to handle candles
with care this holiday season

Special to the Times-Free Press

Candle Safety Day is
observed on the second
Monday of December,
and State Fire Marshal
Peter J. Ostroskey is re-
minding residents to fol-
low safety guidelines as
we enter the period when
most candle fires start.

“There have been more
than 1,000 candle fires in
Massachusetts over the
past 10 years,” State Fire
Marshal Ostroskey said.
“Together, they caused
nine deaths, 192 injuries,
and over \$32 million in
damages. More of these
fires started in Decem-
ber than in any other
month, and especially
on the days leading up to
Christmas. If candles are
part of your celebration
or decoration, be sure to
use them carefully.”

Candles are part of
many holiday traditions
this time of year, includ-
ing Christmas, Hanuk-
kah, and Kwanzaa. State
Fire Marshal Ostroskey
offered the following
safety tips to reduce the
risk of fire:

• No matter the season,
have working smoke
alarms on every level of
your home, outside bed-
rooms, at the top of open
stairs, and at the base of
cellar stairs.

• Keep a one-foot “cir-
cle of safety” around
candles, free of anything
that can burn.

• Always extinguish
candles when you leave
the room or go to sleep,

and don’t leave them un-
attended.

• Use a non-combusti-
ble saucer or candlehold-
er.

• Keep candles out of
reach of children and
pets, and store match-
es and lighters up high
where kids can’t access
them.

• Consider switching to
battery-operated flame-
less candles.

There were 93 candle
fires in Massachusetts last
year and 75 took place in
residential settings. The
most common location
was the bedroom, followed
by the kitchen, bathroom,
and living room. One such
fire in Boston began when
a candle ignited bedroom
curtains and spread, caus-
ing half a million dollars in
damages and displac-
ing five people from their
home.

“Candle fires peak-
ed in Massachusetts in
1999, when we recorded
342 of them,” State Fire
Marshal Ostroskey said.
“The following year, we
began observing Candle
Safety Day on the second
Monday of December to
promote awareness of
the problem. Since that
time, we’ve observed a
73% decrease in candle
fires. Let’s continue to
practice safe candle use,
especially around the
holidays.”

For more candle safe-
ty resources, including
Spanish-language infor-
mation, visit the DFS
website.

Region//

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

vention, harm reduction,
treatment, and recovery
services.

Per the state’s reve-
nue department, all the
money collected from
the settlement goes into
a municipality’s general
fund unless a general law
exists to spend it for a
particular purpose.

The vote to create the
special trust fund allows
the city to use the funds
in the manner set out in
the opioid settlement.

Healey, the gover-
nor-elect, also has sever-
al other potential opioid
settlements in the works,
which could mean more
money for cities and
towns.

On Nov. 15, Healey
announced a proposed
\$3 billion nationwide
resolution with Walmart,

which could provide
more than \$61 million to
cities and towns in Mas-
sachusetts.

On Nov. 23, Healey
announced a proposed
\$6.6 billion nationwide
resolution with drug-
makers Teva and Aller-
gan, which will provide
more than \$130 million
to the Commonwealth
and its cities and towns
for prevention, harm re-
duction, treatment, and
recovery across Massa-
chusetts, once finalized.

The AG stated that the
parties are optimistic that
the proposed settlements
will gain critical support
from attorneys general
nationwide, so that local
governments have an op-
portunity to join the res-
olutions during the first
quarter of 2023.

Letter//

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

My counter proposal
to the City and my neigh-
bors is simple. Demand
that all our local elected
officials, our City Coun-
cilor, State Representa-
tive and Senator, set up a
meeting with Mayor Wu
along with a few of our
well spoken neighbors in
order to voice our strong
opposition to this absurd
proposal which will only
serve to deepen the den-
sity within our City lim-
its. Without that meeting

and a commitment from
the Mayor Wu and our
officials we have noth-
ing. Hundreds of people
attended the community
meeting in order to voice
their strong opposition to
this proposal. The May-
or must understand that
there is political conse-
quence when the people
are not heard.

Emanuel Gus Serra
Former Representa-
tive East Boston

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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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CITY PAWS

Dog training season

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Winter is a great time to concentrate on dog training. When icy cold days have you seeking alternatives for long walks to burn off your dog’s energy, turn to training to engage the dog’s mind. Learning something new can be exhausting. Following a training session with a game of fetch is good exercise.

Neither your dog’s age nor how long you’ve had the pup matters. Solid basic training and constant reinforcement are critical to a great canine/human relationship. Think about how you’d like to adjust how you and your dog interact and use the quieter months ahead to work on specific goals.

Positive Training, Not Pain

The Humane Society of the United States warns, “Some trainers use aversive collars to train ‘difficult’ dogs with correction or punishment. These

collars rely on physical discomfort or even pain to teach the dog what not to do. They suppress the unwanted behavior but don’t teach him what the proper one is. At best, they are unpleasant for your dog, and at worst, they may cause your dog to act aggressively and even bite you. Positive training methods should always be your first choice.”

First, Train Yourself

After years of having dogs, training dogs, and writing about dogs, Penny recently took an on-line course in positive dog training. She learned new ways to approach specific issues we still have with our Westie Poppy, like barking inside our home. This approach proved worth the time it took to train the human.

There are excellent resources online, available through library cards, and in-person classes that train you and your dog together. You might need a veterinary behaviorist or

qualified positive trainer if you have serious issues.

Motivation

Whatever positive method you choose, you must determine what motivates your dog. Since many treats are needed to keep up the training, they should be small. Tiny bits of cheese, sausage, or jerky might work. It should be something reserved for training and that your dog loves. Naturally, you can double up the reward with lots of praise and a pat here and there.

Have Fun!

You can invent your helpful interactions. Penny taught Poppy to back up using the cue, “Beep Beep.” It’s useful when our little dog climbs like a goat on the arm of a sofa or tries to invade the kitchen.

You might teach your dog to dance with you, do funny tricks, or play fun games like finding a hidden treat. As long as your



Training your dog to sit quietly under a table without begging is something you can do over the winter.

dog enjoys the activities and it makes both of you happy, it’s good training.

Favorite Tips

Whatever you decide to teach your dog, add a sound to indicate you want your dog to pay attention to you. A hand signal, in addition, to each verbal cue, is helpful when you’re on Zoom or engaged in conversation. Hand signals are valuable

in later years if a dog’s hearing fails.

For some training, you might need another dog or person to act as a distraction. When your dog is dependable inside, it’s time to add the challenge of doing the same outside around other dogs and people. Consider partnering with another dog family to refine some behaviors.

Dogs need to learn and remember how to behave in public, and it’s more critical with city dogs because they spend so much time out and about. Training should begin at the start of your relationship and continue for a lifetime.

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

CPI for all items rises 0.1% in November as shelter and food increase

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 0.1 percent in November on a seasonally adjusted basis, after increasing 0.4 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the last 12 months, the all items index increased 7.1 percent before seasonal adjustment.

The index for shelter was by far the largest contributor to the monthly all items increase, more than offsetting decreases in energy

indexes. The food index increased 0.5 percent over the month with the food at home index also rising 0.5 percent. The energy index decreased 1.6 percent over the month as the gasoline index, the natural gas index, and the electricity index all declined.

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.2 percent in November, after rising 0.3 percent in October. The indexes for shelter, communication, recreation, motor vehi-

cle insurance, education, and apparel were among those that increased over the month. Indexes which declined in November include the used cars and trucks, medical care, and airline fares indexes.

The all items index increased 7.1 percent for the 12 months ending November; this was the smallest 12-month increase since the period ending December 2021. The all items less food and energy index rose 6.0 percent over the last 12

months. The energy index increased 13.1 percent for the 12 months ending November, and the food index increased 10.6 percent over the last year; all of these increases were smaller than for the period ending October.

The food index increased 0.5 percent in November following a 0.6-percent increase in October. The food at home index also rose 0.5 percent in November. Four of the six major grocery store food group indexes increased over the month. The index for fruits and vegetables increased 1.4 percent in November, after falling 0.9 percent in October. The index for cereals and bakery products rose 1.1 percent over the

month while the index for dairy and related products increased 1.0 percent in November. The index for nonalcoholic beverages rose 0.7 percent in November, after rising 0.5 percent last month.

In contrast, the index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs fell 0.2 percent over the month after increasing 0.6 percent in October. The beef index fell 0.8 percent over the month, while the pork index fell 0.3 percent. The index for other food at home also declined in November, falling 0.1 percent.

The food away from home index rose 0.5 percent in November, after increasing 0.9 percent in each of the previous 3 months. The index for limited ser-

vice meals increased 0.6 percent over the month and the index for full service meals increased 0.4 percent.

The food at home index rose 12.0 percent over the last 12 months. The index for cereals and bakery products and the index for dairy and related products both rose 16.4 percent over the year. The remaining major grocery store food groups posted increases ranging from 6.8 percent (meats, poultry, fish, and eggs) to 13.9 percent (other food at home).

The index for food away from home rose 8.5 percent over the last year. The index for full service meals rose 9.0 percent over the last 12 months, and the index for limited service meals rose 6.7 percent over the same period.

The energy index fell 1.6 percent in November after rising 1.8 percent in October. The gasoline index declined 2.0 percent over the month, following a 4.0-percent increase in October. (Before seasonal adjustment, gasoline prices fell 3.6 percent in November.) The index for natural gas continued to decline over the month, falling 3.5 percent after decreasing 4.6 percent in October. The electricity index decreased 0.2 percent in November.

The Chained Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U) increased 6.9 percent over the last 12 months. For the month, the index decreased 0.1 percent on a not seasonally adjusted basis. Please note that the indexes for the past 10 to 12 months are subject to revision.

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EAST BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER
Neighborhood PACE

AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY IN MATTAPAN

Unit has three bedrooms, one and a half bathrooms, central AC, an unfinished basement and attic, and off-street parking.

36 GOODALE ROAD Single-Family Home \$385,000

To qualify, your annual income must be equal to or less than:

- 2 persons, \$112,200
- 3 persons, \$126,200
- 4 persons, \$140,200
- 5 persons, \$151,450
- 6 persons, \$162,650

BUYER WILL BE SELECTED BY LOTTERY.
DEADLINE FOR LOTTERY APPLICATIONS IS JANUARY 5, 2023.

Applications are available at bit.ly/neighborhoodhomes.

Call the Boston Home Center at (617) 635-4663 or visit homecenter.boston.gov for more information.

Homes are sold by lottery. Only qualified applicants may enter. The property is deed-restricted; owner-occupancy requirements apply. Income and asset limitations apply. **Requirements:** First time homebuyer. Homebuyer will need to complete an approved homebuyer education course prior to closing. Minimum household size requirement is number of bedrooms minus one. **Preferences:** Boston Residency preference. Preference for one (1) person per bedroom. Income limits for qualified buyers are based on 100% Area Median Income Limits as defined by HUD. **Please note:** Persons with disabilities and those with limited English language proficiency are entitled to request a reasonable accommodation.

CITY of BOSTON

OPEN HOUSES: THURS. 12/15 3-4:30PM, SAT. 12/17 11-1PM

FOR SALE! SPACIOUS, 2 BED, 2 BATH, DOUBLE SIDED FIREPLACE, HISTORIC BROWNSTONE CONDO IN CHELSEA WATERFRONT DISTRICT WITH AMAZING CITY AND WATER VIEWS!
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