

GSEMA DONATES COOKIES TO NON-PROFITS

The Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA) celebrated Valentine's Day this year by donating cookies to seven local non-profit organizations in the Greater Boston Area for their annual 'Share the Love' event. The Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts spent the day delivering 1,100 cases (that's nearly 250,000 cookies) of their famous

cookies to those who might not be able to spend the day with their loved ones. In hopes to share some love on cupid's holiday, GSEMA stopped in East Boston. The East

Boston Community Soup Kitchen received 100 cases as well as the YMCA of Greater Boston's Food Distribution Center received 200 cases.



Shown above, the Chief **Executive Officer of GSEMA,** Barbara Fortier, with the Tuesday group of volunteers at the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen located on Paris Street.

Shown right, the Chief Executive Officer of GSEMA, Barbara Fortier, with colleague Stacy Wilbur, Senior Director of External Relations, and April Strack, Director of Nutrition Education, Partnerships, and Warehouse **Operations at the YMCA of** Greater Boston.



Over 1,000 local households receive rental lifeline in 2022

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program, a homelessness prevention program funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), provided a lifeline for 18,317 families in the region, providing more than \$162 million in assistance during FY22.

By comparison, FY21 saw 10,251 households receive a total of \$63 million in assistance.

In East Boston, 1,062 households received more than \$11.2 million in emergency housing assistance, accounting for 15.4 percent of all households that received assistance in Boston. In comparison, 650 East Boston households received \$4.7 million in emergency rental assistance in FY21.

Metro HousinglBoston has documented the effectiveness of RAFT since 2013. This year's report continues this examination

of the impact of the pandemic through the infusion of state and federal funds, the expansion of eligibility to access those funds, the streamlining of the application process, and quicker release of dollars. These changes resulted in a complete shift in Metro Housing's housing payment assistance programs, requiring greater flexibility and increased staff capacitv.

Partnerships with community-based organizations provided another valuable way to assist more families in Metro Housing's region in FY22. Partnerships with the Action for Boston Community Development, Asian Community Development Corporation,

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, The Neighborhood Develop-(TND)/CONNECT, ers WATCH, and Vietnamese American Initiative for Development (VietAID)

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Wu announces citywide outdoor dining program

Special to the Times-Free Press Mayor Michelle Wu an-

nounced the City of Bos-

ton's Permanent Outdoor

Dining Program, in coor-

dination with the Office of Economic Opportunity

and Inclusion (OEOI), the

Streets Cabinet, and the

Disabilities Commission.

The permanent program

creates a predictable,

streamlined process for

business owners that will

expedite application re-

view and allow for annual

renewals. It incorporates

the activation of public

space enjoyed during the

temporary program, but

addresses issues such as

barriers to accessibility

and concerns from public

safety officials. The ap-

plication to participate in

the permanent program

will be made available

later this month with the

goal of restaurant patios

opening as early as May

1. The new program will

include a monthly fee for

all participants to help

fund efforts to further ex-

panded as a way to keep businesses open our during the pandemic, and has turned into a popular opportunity to enjoy our streets and each other's company," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The Permanent Outdoor Dining Program is a multi-departmental collaboration to reimagine our public space for the benefit of residents, business owners, and visitors. We've taken what we learned over the last couple years to inform the permanent program, and we're committed to working with our neighborhoods to make this program a success." "The outdoor dining program served as a lifeline to many small businesses in the City to ensure that they could keep their doors open throughout the pandemic," said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "With the success of the program, I am excited for the program to continue to operate and to keep

Mass Humanities announces Staffing Recovery Grants

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mass Humanities, the Commonwealth's leading funder of humanities programs, announced a new Staffing Recovery Grants initiative during a celebration at the State House last Wednesday. The initiative is made possible through a special Cultural Sector Pandemic Recovery Grant from Mass Cultural Council, the state arts agency.

At the celebration inside the State House's Great Hall, Mass Cultural Council announced a \$2.5 million grant to Mass Humanities. Mass Humanities plans to launch its first round of grants by awarding \$1.25 million through the Staffing Recovery Grant initiative. Full applications and guidelines will be available March 6 at masshumanities.org.

Mass Humanities Exec-



From left, Mass Humanities Executive Director Brian Boyles, his son Ivan, ZUMIX Executive Director Madeleine Steczynski, Rep. Adrian Madaro, Mass Humanities Director of Grants and Programs Katherine Stevens and Mass Humanities Director of Administration Enix Zavala at last week's State House celebration announcing Mass Cultural Council's Cultural Sector Pandemic Recovery Grants. Mass Humanities received a \$2.5 million grant from Mass Cultural Council at the event.

utive Director Brian Boyles said the Staffing Recovery Grants would be a two-year funding opportunity for or-

ganizations with budgets of \$500,000 or less and five or fewer full-time employees. The initiative will deliver

funding to non-profit organizations to sustain and ex-

See GRANTS Page 2

pand outdoor dining more equitably across the City. "Outdoor dining ex-

See DINING Page 9

Life Planning Seminar!

Join us to learn more about pre-planning your funeral with us on March 10, 2023 at 2pm at the East Boston Senior Center, 7 Bayswater Street.



Ruggiero Family Memorial Home East Boston

Let's be honest- no one likes to have the tough conversations of what happens after they die but here at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, we are here to help navigate those difficult conversations. It's important to pre-plan not only so your wishes are met but so your loved ones have a sense of peace during an already difficult time. You can pre-plan and pre-pay any type of service you'd like, from full funeral to direct cremations and anything in between. This is why we have created a workshop for you to learn more about how, why and when to begin life planning. Joining us will be Attorney AJ Moscone, who will focus on estate planning. Pre-planning and estate planning should go hand and hand when starting life planning. Together we will ensure your wishes are met and your family is stress-free during an unbearable time.



For the latest news in East Boston that you need to know, check eastietimes.com

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Grants // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pand the hours of current staff, or to hire new staff in order to create, restore or grow humanities programs.

"The humanities help us learn from the past, make sense of the present, and think about how to create a free and equitable society for the future," said Boyles. "As we rebuild our communities, Mass Humanities continues to believe in local, grassroots organizations that serve residents with limited resources and big dreams. These grants focus operational support for this part of the sector. At this critical time, we are grateful to our partners at Mass Cultural Council and in the legislature for envisioning a recovery where the cultural sector has the resources to inspire a new beginning for the Commonwealth."

On December 13, 2021, then Governor Charlie Baker signed An Act Relative to Immediate COVID-19 Recovery Needs into law. This multi-billion-dollar pandemic recovery-spending plan invests both federal ARPA and state surplus revenue dollars into key economic sectors to spur activity and growth.

The Act provided \$60.1 million to Mass Cultural Council and directed the state arts agency to develop and implement new, one-time grant programs to assist Massachusetts creative and cultural organizations with their pandemic recovery.

"The creative and cultural sector is vast and diverse, and Mass Cultural Council is keen to ensure that our pandemic recovery monies are invested equitably across all communities," said Michael J. Bobbitt, Executive Director of Mass Cultural Council. "This is why we partnered with Mass Humanities and are relying upon them to distribute \$2.5 million to Massachusetts humanities-based organizations, initiatives, and programming. These funds will support the humanities and help the field continue to build back after the pandemic. It's a major investment and I am excited to see the good work these public monies will propel forward."

Since the outset of the pandemic, Mass Humanities has awarded more than \$4 million in grants to non-profits, including \$2 million in funding made possible by the CARES Act and ARPA.

"Massachusetts has come a long way since the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the recovery remains ongoing," said Chair of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development Sen. Edward J. Kennedy. "Today's historic investment by Mass Cultural Council will assist in that recovery and for cultural organizations to flourish. Congratulations to all grant recipients; your work is taking the cultural sector of the economy live. Thank you once again to our amazing partners at Mass Cultural Council, Mass Humanities and MASSCreative. "To learn more about Mass Humanities grant opportunities contact Katherine Stevens, Director of Grants and Programs, at grants@ masshumanities.org.

Mass Humanities, a non-profit foundation based in Northampton, creates opportunities for the people of Massachusetts to transform their lives and build a more equitable through commonwealth the humanities. Since its founding in 1974, the organization has provided millions of dollars to support 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 programming and grant-making organization that receives support from the NEH and the Massachusetts Cultural Council and private sources. For more information, www.masshumanvisit ities.org or connect on social media at:

Facebook.com/masshumanities

Twitter.com/masshumanities

Instagram.com/masshumanities

About Mass Cultural Council

Mass Cultural Council works to elevate the rich cultural life in Massachusetts. The Council partners with communities across the Commonwealth to expand access, improve education, promote diversity, and encourage excellence in the arts, humanities, and sciences. Through its efforts, the Council makes our state a better place to live, work, and visit for everyone. For more information, visit www.massculturalcouncil.org or connect on social media at:

Facebook.com/masscultural

Twitter.com/masscultural

Instagram.com/masscultural

GOVE STREET CITIZENS ASSOCIATION MEETING AGENDA

The Gove Street Citizens Association will hold their next meeting on February 27 at 6:30 p.m. The following is the agenda:

• Community updates East Boston updates

from Nathalia Benitez-Perez BPD updates from Sgt.

Cintolo • Neighborhood project

updates East Boston Neighborhood Health Center 151 Orleans PACE Center

175 Orleans Street

Register for this meeting: https://www.govestreet.org/meetings The next meeting after

this one will be on Monday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m.

WATER SAFETY AWARENESS

At the February 8 of the Boston City Council, Council President Ed Flynn and Councilor Kendra Lara refiled a hearing order to discuss water safety awareness and increasing access to swimming lessons in the City of Boston.

This hearing order is a refile from last year, where Massachusetts saw a spike in the number of drownings, particularly in the month of May. Drowning is the leading cause of preventable, injury-related deaths in Massachusetts in children below the age of 15, and unfortunately, Black and lower income communities are more likely to be affected by drownings. A study from the University of Memphis found that 66% of Black children could not swim well enough to be safe in the deep end, and a report by USA Swimming found that 79% of children in families that earn less than \$50,000 in annual income have little or no

NEWS IN BRIEF ganizations to provide swimming classes for our

low-income residents and young people of color so that they can have the basic skills to be safe around water." Council President Flynn said.

"Access, knowledge, and safety are all driving factors in pool usage. If we want to ensure all communities benefit from our city facilities, we must tackle the root causes behind the decline in usage. Increasing access to swim lessons and water safety awareness is one way to move the needle towards equity and truly democratize access to recreation." District Six City Councilor Kendra Lara said.

Council President Flynn and Councilor Lara will hold this hearing in the coming weeks.

For more information, please contact Council President Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 and Ed. Flynn@Boston.gov.

MWRA TO TEMPORARILY SHUT DOWN FLUORIDE SYSTEM

Starting in late February, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority will be replacing portions of the equipment that feeds fluoride into its drinking water. During this period, MWRA will not be adding fluoride to the water. This work is expected to take about three months to complete.

MWRA has worked closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on this issue. While fluoride is important for dental health, health officials believe that this short-term shutdown will not pose any risk to dental health and will not require any special action by consumers.

Fluoride has been added to the region's water since the 1970s. The US Centers for Disease Control recommends its usage for reducing tooth decay and promoting community public health. MWRA also consulted with the Department of Public Health Oral Health Office and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, both of which approved this temporary fluoride shutdown.

MWRA treats drinking water from the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs at the John J. Carroll Treatment Plant in Marlborough. In addition to fluoride, water is treated with both ozone and ultraviolet light for disinfection, and the pH is adjusted to make the water less corrosive and less likely to leach lead from home plumbing.

If you have any concerns, check with your dental care provider. For more information on your drinking water, please visit www.mwra.com or call MWRA at 617-242-7283.

WALK FOR HUNGER RETURNS

One of Massachusetts' most iconic events is back! Project Bread's The Walk for Hunger, the Commonwealth's largest and oldest day of community action against hunger, is seeking walkers for a new 3-mile route. Back in-person for the first time since 2019, the one-day fundraising event is set for Sunday, May 7 at the Boston Common, featuring plenty of family-friendly activations along the 3-mile loop. The Walk for Hunger is a fundraiser that supports Project Bread's work to raise awareness for food insecurity and increase food access for people of all ages in Massachusetts. In its 55th year, Project Bread invites you to help us raise more than \$1 million to support food assistance resources and sustainable policy solutions to end hunger. Likeminded anti-hunger organizations can enroll in our co-fundraising program, The Commonwealth, forming teams to raise money to support their own work, while also furthering the statewide effort. To register for the event and create a personal or team fundraising page for the Walk for Hunger or to make a donation, visit projectbread. org/walk or call (617) 723-5000.

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Assistance // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

provided not only venues for getting the word out about available assistance, but also provided places for people to complete applications and get assis-

ing staff trained our team, and jointly we developed systems for working together."

Key Findings from RAFT/EHPA in Review

\$8,870 in FY22.

Mortgage assistance in FY22 totaled \$1.8 million, a decrease from the \$2.5 million in FY21.

The total number of

tance with language barrier issues.

"The pandemic hit TND's communities of Chelsea and Revere hard," says Rafael Mares, Executive Director of TND (The Neighborhood Developers). "Our close, pre-existing partnership with Metro Housing became the bedrock of our response.

With their support, our team took on the responsibility to assist tenants in filling out rental assistance applications, Metro Hous-

FY2022: Rental arrears remained the largest category for assistance. In FY22, \$80 million was awarded for

arrears, the largest amount

ever. Total rental stipend assistance increased to 42 percent of all EHPA assistance, totaling more than \$67 million. In FY21, it represented only 22 percent of assistance.

The average housing assistance benefit increased from \$6,167 in FY21 to

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282 Bennington Street, East Boston, MA 02128 617.567.1992 www.spinellis.com Black/African American households helped in FY22 jumped to almost 8,000, a seven-fold increase over FY20.

In FY22, 1,121 Asian households, or 6% of the total – received assistance. In FY20, 21 Asian households, or 1% of the total – were assisted.

The number of Hispanic/Latino households receiving assistance continues to see a sharp increase. In FY22, 6,548 households received assistance, compared to 3,289 in FY21 and 554 in FY20.

"COVID-19 has impacted all of us in so many ways, but none as severe as families with low incomes not being able to pay your rent or mortgage while facing eviction or foreclosure," said Chris Norris, Executive Director of Metro Housingl-Boston. "RAFT has been a lifeline for thousands of households over the years, and its importance during the pandemic cannot be overstated. However, until more permanent, viable solutions are identified and implemented, a safety net for those most at risk of homelessness needs to be dependably and heavily funded.

The data in this report shows the need for a more sustainable solution, from additional rental assistance vouchers and the production of below-market-rate housing to the critical shortage of affordable housing in the metro Boston area. swimming ability.

"As a City surrounded by water, it is vital for our young people to have basic water safety awareness and to know how to swim.We must explore ways to partner with local and community or-

USPS warns the public about surge in use of counterfeit postage

In recent years, a surge in the use of counterfeit postage has been found in the mail stream. The intentional use, or sale, of counterfeit postage is a crime because it seeks to obtain services without payment. This activity reflects an intentional effort to defraud the Postal Service of the funds it needs to provide services to the public.

In response to this problem, the Postal Service is filing a federal register notice about changes to the Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM[®]), that will allow the Postal Service to treat items found in the mail stream bearing counterfeit postage as abandoned. "As the most trusted government agency in the nation, we will continue to work together with other law enforcement and government agencies to protect the sanctity of the mail," said Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale.

The Postal Service's

proposed changes will provide the public notice of the handling of items bearing counterfeit postage. Under the revision to DMM 604.8.4, articles found in the mails with counterfeit postage will be considered abandoned and may be opened and disposed of at the Postal Service's discretion. The mission of the Postal Service and the Postal Inspection Service is to ensure the safety, security, and integrity of the U.S. Mail. The implementation of these new regulations will continue to support and enhance this mission.

Counterfeit postage is any marking or indicia that has been made, printed, or otherwise created without authorization from the Postal Service that is printed or applied, or otherwise affixed, on an article placed in the mails that indicates or represents that valid postage has been paid to mail the article. Consumers purchasing online items may be surprised to find out that the vendor mailed

their goods using counterfeit postage. Under the new regulations, such items will be considered abandoned and disposed of at the Postal Service's discretion. When this occurs, consumers will have to seek recourse from the vendor.

Public comments can be mailed or delivered on or before March 15, 2023, Manager, Product to: Classification, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 4446, Washington, DC 20260-5015. If sending comments by email, include the name and address of the commenter and send PCFederalRegister@ to usps.gov, with a subject line of "Counterfeit Postage." Faxed comments are not accepted. All submitted comments and attachments are part of the public record and subject to disclosure. Do not enclose any material in your comments that you consider to be confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

Wu, former Mayor Janey to be recognized at BAAF Champion Reception

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and former Mayor Kim Janey will be honored by Boston Arts (BAA) and Academy Boston Arts Academy Foundation (BAAF) with the prestigious Champion Award at the 2023 Boston Arts Academy Foundation Champion Reception on March 16. The event will take place at the iconic House of Blues in Fenway on Lansdowne Street and will be followed by the opening night all-star performance of Shrek The Musical, put on entirely by Boston Arts Academy students. This will be the first live production in the school's newly opened theater, and the first major production in-person in two years.

"We are so thrilled to honor Mayor Michelle Wu and former Mayor Kim Janey as our 2023 Champions," said Boston Arts Academy Foundation President and CEO Denella J. Clark. "March is Women's History Month, and I can't think of a better way to celebrate than by honoring the first two women mayors in Boston who both champion our students and the arts community."

Boston Arts Academy Foundation is an independent charitable non-profit organization that helps bridge the growing gap between the Boston Arts Academy's allocation from the Boston Public Schools, and the true cost of a high-quality education that is both arts-intensive and college preparatory. In 2018, Boston Arts Academy Foundation led a six-year, \$32 million comprehensive campaign called Building Our Future designed to elevate the visibility of and support for Boston Arts Academy, and to ensure the sustainability of this unique education model. In just five years, Boston Arts Academy Founda-



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.

the Boston Arts Academy Foundation and all the partners who have helped to make modernized, energy-efficient school buildings like BAA a possibility."

Mayor Wu has been a voice for accessibility, transparency, and community engagement in city leadership since being elected to the Boston City Council in November 2013. As a classical trained pianist, Mayor Wu continues to be a strong advocate for the arts in Boston. We witnessed her dedication to the arts shortly after her inauguration as Mayor, when she had the city-owned piano moved into her office so that she could play. In 2023 she pledged to make the largest investment ever in artists and the arts. She has backed that up by investing up to \$1.7 million to preserve affordable artist workspaces in Dorchester.

In addition to Mayor Wu, former Mayor Kim Janey will also be honored by Boston Arts Academy Foundation. As Boston's first woman and first black mayor, Mayor Janey successfully led the city through a multitude of unprecedented challenges, including the COVID-19 global pandemic. Mayor Janey introduced a citywide agenda of recovery and reopening, focusing on health and wellness while elevating arts and culture. Janey started the "Joy Agenda", a city-wide program that featured investment in recovery and renewal through supporting arts and culture workers, local small businesses, and youth. Currently, Mayor Janey is President and CEO of the Boston-based nonprofit, Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath). "The work being done by Boston Arts Academy Foundation is critical towards the advancement of arts and academic education in our city," said Janey. "Champion Recep-



Former Boston Mayor Kim Janey.

tion is a great example of how our community leaders can come together to support the highly talented and creative students at Boston Arts Academy. I am honored to be recognized as a champion for our community and will continue to be a champion for the arts and our youth."

At the completion of the reception, guests will walk across the street and be treated to the first-ever musical performed in Boston Arts Academy's new theater. The inaugural show, Shrek The Musical, is an entirely student run production. Boston Arts Academy chose the show because of the themes of inclusiveness and the welcoming of the diverse and underrepresented is in line with the culture of BAA.

Tickets to Champion Reception and opening night of Shrek The Musical are available for a donation of \$125, while a ticket for all other performances are \$25. Proceeds from the event will directly support BAA's arts programming and more. For more information and to purchase tickets for all four performances of Shrek The Musical, visit https://bostonartsacademy.org/foundation/event/ champion-reception-2023

About the Boston Arts Academy:

Founded in 1998 as the city's only public high school for the visual and performing arts, Boston Arts Academy (BAA) has distinguished itself among urban public high schools as a leader in innovative and effective student-centered education. Consistently recognized locally and nationally for its achievements, BAA exemplifies the power of an arts-rich education and many BAA graduates have found success in college through the arts. In fact, for the past six straight years, at least 97 percent of BAA graduates have been accepted to college, with most being first generation college attendees.

BAA's dynamic program prepares graduates to be critical thinkers, effective communicators, collaborators, and creators. Students come from all 23 Boston neighborhoods to receive the formal arts training and academic instruction that will make them Boston's next generation of artists and cultural leaders.

In October 2018, the BAA community broke ground on a new \$125 million facility at its Fenway location, which will expand from 121,000 to 153,500 square feet and open for students in 2022. Among many highlights, it will include new and much-needed enhanced theaters, career center, academic classrooms, dance studios, music practice rooms and fashion technology studios and workspace. When BAA opens its new school building, the number of students enrolled will increase to 500, and eventually grow over the years. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook and

tony 's

Twitter, and visit our website to learn more: https:// bostonartsacademy.org/. About the Boston Arts

Academy Foundation:

Established in 1999, the Boston Arts Academy Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization that raises essential funds from private philanthropic sources to augment the Boston Arts Academy Foundation school budget. The Boston Arts Academy Foundation helps bridge the gap between the school's allocation from the Boston Public Schools, and the true cost of a high-quality education that is both art intensive and college preparatory. Construction of the new BAA school building will not change BPS's funding formula, which does not fully cover the cost of a college preparatory academic program and a competitive arts program. Through the six-year, comprehensive Building Our Future campaign, the Boston

Arts Academy Foundation is raising \$32 million to augment BAA's school budget and ensure longterm sustainability. The campaign includes raising \$10 million to bring the Boston Arts Academy Foundation endowment to \$13.5 million and securing \$15.5 million in operating reserves. The endowment and reserves support what makes BAA unique, including expanded programming, the Health and Wellness Program, STEAM (STEM+Art), and funding for the arts. The endowment will support college scholarships for graduating seniors. The campaign supports Boston Arts Academy Foundation's Annual Fund, which raises \$5,000 per student each year. Building Our Future will ensure that as BAA's student body grows, students can become successful artists, scholars, and citizens. Visit our website to learn more: https://bostonartsacademy.org/foundation.

PRICE

\$470,000

\$700,000

\$335,000

\$529,000

\$1,075,000

\$469,000

\$830,000

\$565,000

\$830,000

\$675,000

Real Es	tate Tra	nsfers
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BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS
Galeotalanza, Heather	4 Coppersmith Way LLC	4 Coppersmith Way #1
Arredondo, Carlos A	Wyatt, John B	17 Waldemar Ave
Yang, Joy	Glynn, James M	113 Sumner St #13
Glynn, James M	Such, Kyle	156 Porter St #238
Groma Nav Reit Operating	Rrp East Boston One LLC	171 Trenton St
Riley, Kerry	Rg Marion Properties LLC	219 Marion St #3
232 Saratoga St LLC	Saratoga Realty T232	232 Saratoga St
Wray, Clark	Turner, Jamin M	267-269 Princeton St #3
Halpin, Emily M	Two Seventy Seven Border	277 Border St #404
Oleary, Timothy R	340 Meridian Street LLC	340 Meridian St #1



37 MAVERICK SQUARE EAST BOSTON 617/561-4495

tion is halfway through the campaign and have exceeded the campaign's \$20M milestone goal.

Each year, Boston Arts Academy Foundation presents the Champion Award to a member of the community who embodies the school's commitment to the arts, scholarship, and citizenship. Previous BAAF Champion Award honorees include former First Lady of Massachusetts Diane Patrick, former Boston Mayor, current United States Secretary of Labor Martin J. Walsh, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey and former Governor Charlie Baker.

Mayor Michelle Wu is particularly excited to be honored by such a diverse and inclusive organization. "Boston Arts Academy is an example of how we all benefit when we invest in our young people and give them the resources they need to succeed," said Mayor Wu. "I'm honored to work alongside

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SESSION

INFORMATION

Massport will host a hybrid (in-person and virtual) information session on the Bayswater Street Embankment Restoration Project. This proposed project will address shoreline protection repairs along Bayswater Street.

The hybrid Information Session for the Bayswater Street Embankment Restoration Project is scheduled for:

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 6:00 PM East Boston Senior Center 7 Bayswater Street East Boston, MA 02128

If you wish to attend the meeting virtually, please visit **www.massport.com/ massport/community/ongoing-projects/**

This meeting will be streamed in English. Requests for additional language(s) must be made by February 23, 2023 and should be sent to **community@massport.com**





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JIMMY CARTER: A WONDERFUL, AMAZING MAN

The reports that former President Jimmy Carter has returned home for hospice care came as sad news for all Americans this week.

Ever since the self-described peanut farmer burst onto the national scene shortly after he was elected governor of Georgia, it is not an overstatement to say that Jimmy Carter served as the conscience of America for the past half century.

Jimmy Carter served four years as president from 1977-81. But that term of office was just a small mark left by this wonderful man during his decades of service to our country and the world.

He became the face of Habitat for Humanity, the organization that builds housing for low-income persons. He served as an official who oversaw numerous elections in foreign countries to ensure that they were run honestly and above-board. He also undertook a campaign to eradicate the Guinea worm, a human parasitic infection that plagued 3.5 million people across the globe annually 40 years ago, but thanks to the efforts of the Jimmy Carter Center, there were just 13 reported cases world-wide in 2022.

For his many years of service to the world, Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 "for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development."

It is fair to say that no former American president had as great an impact on the world after he left office than Jimmy Carter -- it's not even close.

But the most remarkable aspect of Jimmy Carter's life has been his incredible humility, which no doubt was informed by his faith as a Christian minister in his small hometown church in Plains, Georgia, where he gave a sermon every Sunday.

It often is a cliche to say that someone will be missed. But in the case of our former President, Jimmy Carter, a man who spoke the truth -- even if America did not want to hear it (such as when he said in 1979 that America must end its dependence on fossil fuels) -- his absence truly will be a great loss for all of us.

OUR SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE MUST NOT WAVER: WE MUST REMAIN THE ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY

This week marks the first anniversary of the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by the government of Russia and its sociopathic leader, Vladimir Putin. The Ukrainian people have demonstrated to the world that freedom isn't free. The enormous sacrifices they are making in order to fight off the Russian war machine have served as an inspiration to freedom-loving peoples around the world. Russian atrocities against Ukrainian civilians -- the rapes, executions, forced deportation of children, and the atttacks on civilian infrastructure -- have risen to the level of genocide and crimes against humanity.



GUEST OP-ED

Police officers and citizens must have mutual respect

Dr. Glenn Mollette

American citizens need police officers. Our state police, county sheriff's department and city police all deserve our help, respect and decent pay. None of us like being recipients of speeding or other motor vehicle violations. However, often a warning or a ticket may be what it takes to get our attention and might even save our lives.

When someone is threatening us we want the police. We expect them to come and help us. These are the men and women who often risk their lives to protect us. So, praise the good ones because they are deserving of honor.

The defund the police movement has been fueled by horrific incidents such as when Minneapolis police murdered George Floyd on May 25, 2020. This cruel and disturbing murder has been replayed over and over on national television. Most recently the horrific killing of Tyre Nichols in Memphis, Tennessee has fanned the flames of police hatred. These and other police brutality events continue to severely damage the image of America's police forces.

The behavior of five Memphis police officers toward Mr. Nichols was beyond criminal. This does not justify defunding the police Such behavior reinforces the need that all those in law enforcement must have routine mental health tests. Only qualified people who have been thoroughly examined and trained should ever be allowed to wear a badge. Training and mental health evaluations must be ongoing.

The Five former Memphis police officers were charged with murder over the death of Tyre Nichols but pled not guilty in their first court appearance.

The arrest of Mr. Nichols on January 7 has been reported throughout the national media.

They were fired after an internal investigation by the Memphis Police De-



partment.

"Memphis and the whole world need to see that what's right is done in this case, and it needs to happen sooner rather than later," lead prosecutor Paul Hagerman told reporters.

The officers were arrested and taken into custody on January 26, after the Memphis police reviewed bodycam footage of the violent arrest.

In the footage, 29-yearold Mr. Nichols can be heard calling for his mother as he is beaten by police after being pulled over for alleged reckless driving. He was pepper-sprayed, kicked and punched by the officers and died in hospital three days later.

Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn Davis said the incident was "not just a professional failing", but "a failing of basic humanity toward another individual". (Source BBC news)

I believe that 99 percent of the men and women wearing badges are good people who are looking out for our welfare and safety. The actions of a few should not discredit all law enforcement. Whether it's politics, medical doctors, attorneys, business persons and more there are always a few bad apples that make others look bad.

Police officers have the upper hand. They have a badge and a gun. We should give them respect and they should respect all citizens. Having a badge never gives any law enforcement officer the right to pour out their frustrations, racial hatreds or their own personal demons on another citizen. No one is ever in a position to put up a defense as sadly shown by Tyre Nichols, George Floyd and too many others.

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.

Start solving the vocational admissions problem: Improve access, create more seats

By Steven C. Sharek

It's no longer a secret that Massachusetts vocational-technical and agricultural high schools are a great option for students of all backgrounds who want to learn a trade and pursue a career. Unfortunately, there simply isn't enough space in these schools to accommodate the huge demand. Right now, there are roughly 55,000 students in Chapter 74 state-approved vocational-technical and agricultural programs, with another 6,000 students on wait lists. At the same time, business and industry are crying out for skilled workers. We can be proud of these schools. They excel in academic performance, graduation rates, and expanded programming that includes fields like environmental science; information technology; and medical, health, and dental assisting. Students excel because they enjoy the engaging, hands-on learning. We are at a tipping point. With this lack of available seats and strong demand for vocational education, advocates, elected officials, and editorial writers are understandably concerned about whether students are being admitted equitably into our schools. Vocational school leaders are, too. The current debate is centered on admissions policies and whether the adoption of a lottery system is the silver bullet for fixing any inequities, real or perceived. The reality is that a lottery does nothing to address the lack of capacity and it does not guarantee desired enrollment outcomes.

that. A lottery will just rearrange who sits in the seats, with 6,000 kids still on the outside looking in. With that in mind, we are working hard to conduct our admissions processes as fairly and equitably as possible:

-Since admissions regulations were revised by the state in 2021, 97% of vocational-technical and agricultural high schools have made changes in their admissions policies, personnel, or training. Clearly, our schools are serious about this effort. -Grades are now less of a factor. Many schools now give equal consideration for grades of C or above, unlike before when student grades were more heavily emphasized.

our schools have demonstrated that a lottery would yield exactly the opposite result. That is, a lottery would result in lower numbers of enrolled students in some protected groups (just as one school experimenting with a lottery recently discovered).

Vocational-technical schools are continuously striving to serve under-represented populations. Consider special education. Five of the 10 school districts in Massachusetts with the largest percentages of students with disabilities are vocational-technical and agricultural high schools. ity vocational-technical education can agree on is this: The state can do more to help vocational schools and our potential students:

First, the state needs to make a massive capital investment in vocational school construction to create more seats. Second, our schools need unfettered access to our middle schools so we can inform students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, about the value of vocational education. Put another way, we need better access to reach the very students our detractors say are being excluded.

Those in our country who question our commitment to help the Ukrainians resist the Russian invaders suffer from a combination of being incredibly naive, selfish, and shortsighted.

The Ukrainians, not Americans or anyone else, are the ones on the front lines. They are making the ultimate sacrifices in defense of both their country and the free world. Our allies in Europe, especially in Poland and the Baltic countries of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, know all too well that Russia, if left unchecked in Ukraine, will focus on them and that they will be next in line to feel the weight of the Russian oppressors, who will seek to undermine their democratic governments.

Vladimir Putin has gone on record as lamenting the dissolution of the former Soviet Union empire, for which he served as a KGB agent, and his invasion of Ukraine, in his eyes, is the first step in restoring the U.S.S.R. to what he perceives as its former glory.

We would note that the war in Ukraine is fundamentally different from that of every other conflict since WWII. This is the first time that an independent, democratic nation has been invaded by a foreign power since Hitler invaded European countries in the late 1930s starting with Czechslovkia, then Poland, and then the rest of Europe.

With England remaining as the lone bulwark against the Nazis, President Franklin D. Roosevelt gave a fireside chat in late 1940 in which he spoke to the American people these words.

"The people of Europe who are defending themselves do not ask us to do their fighting. They ask us for the implements of war, the planes, the tanks, the guns, the freighters which will enable them to fight for their liberty and for our security. Emphatically, we must get these weapons to them, get them to them in sufficient volume and quickly enough so that we and our children will be saved the agony and suffering of war which others have had to endure."

Later in his talk he coined a phrase that has remained true ever since:

"America must be the great arsenal of democracy."

President Roosevelt's words are as true today as they were then. We urge all of our elected leaders to ensure that American support for Ukraine continues to be strong and unquestioned. As educators, we'd like to offer enrollment to everyone. We simply can't. We don't have the space. No lottery will ever change -Disciplinary issues are now less of a factor. Minor disciplinary issues are no longer factored into the admissions process.

-Most schools require a recommendation, typically from a guidance counselor, and a brief interview to gauge a student's interest in vocational education. We are training interviewers on eliminating bias and are providing supports and accommodations for those applying, including easier access to interviews and translation services.

-The admissions changes only took effect recently so we have limited data to gauge whether the changes we've made are making a real difference. One year of data doesn't make a trend. Moreover, our schools have no access to demographic information about the students who do not enroll. We need help from the state on this so we can make best-informed decisions.

-Finally, there's no guarantee that a lottery would actually help the protected groups of students that all of us want to help. In fact, simulations run by some of While there is strong sentiment on the both sides of the lottery debate, what all advocates of high qualAs demand for limited seats continues, we must work together to create opportunity and bright fu-

See OP-ED Page 5

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Make a splash at the 2023 JetBlue Shamrock Splash

Get Cold for a Cause on Sunday, March 12, with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay at the 12th annual Jet-Blue Shamrock Splash! Join 250 splashers to raise money for free, fun summer events in YOUR community by plunging into the cold, clean waters of Boston Harbor at Constitution Beach in East Boston.

After a plunge in the cold harbor, participants will warm up with plenty of hot clam chowder and Harpoon beverages. Splashers are encouraged to wear a zany outfit or kooky costume of their choosing. The top six

fundraisers and participants with the best costumes will win free round trip JetBlue tickets to anywhere JetBlue flies.

Money raised at the Shamrock Splash will support Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches Program in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Better Beaches grant allows local organizations to host fun beach events free to the public in Nahant, Lynn, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy, and Hull.

Last year, money raised at the splashed sponsored events in Winthrop including movie nights, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, and more.

This year, with your help, Save the Harbor will be able to award \$300,000 in Better Beaches grants to local organizations.

Make a team, raise money, and brave the cold harbor! To register for the 2023 JetBlue Shamrock Splash, visit www.shamrocksplash.com

Got a great idea for a free beach event or program? Let us know and apply for a Better Beaches grant at https://www. savetheharbor.org/better-beaches! You can also vote for your favorite event idea at https://www. savetheharbor.org/participatory.

Save the Harbor's success would not be possible without our program partners and event sponsors, including Arctic Chill, FMC Ice Sports, Bay State Cruise Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA, The Blue Sky Collaborative, Boston & Maine Webcams, The Boston Foundation, BostonHarbor.com, Boston Properties, Coast Cannabis, The Foundation, Coca-Cola Comcast, Cronin Group, Constellation Generation, Comcast Foundation,

the Daily Catch, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Eastern Salt Company, Inc, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Harpoon, IR+M Charitable Fund, JetBlue, John Hancock Financial Services, Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, Massport, P&G Gillette, Mix 104.1, National Grid, and The Richard Saltonstall Charitable Foundation.

In addition, Save the Harbor recognizes the Metropolitan Beaches Co-Chairs Commission Senator Brendan Crighton of Lynn, and Representa-

tive Adrian Madaro of East Boston and the legislative and community members of the Commission as well as Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Ron Mariano for their support for our beaches and our communities. We also thank the Baker-Polito Administration, the Massachusetts Legislature, Save the Harbor's partners at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Boston Centers for Youth & Families the YMCA of Greater Boston, and the hundreds of people who take part in the Shamrock Splash for their support.



Participants of the 2022 Shamrock Splash run into the cold water of East Boston's Constitution Beach.



Splashers dress up in all kinds of costumes for the event, and the best costume wins roundtrip JetBlue tickets.

Hayden announces recent appointments to leadership team

Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden today announced several appointments to his leadership team as he shapes the direction of the office for his four-year term. The appointments include:

• Byron Knight, Second Assistant District Attorney-Byron has been in private practice specializing in criminal defense since 2015. Prior to that he served deputy legal counsel in the office of the governor's legal counsel and held numerous prosecutor and investigator positions in the Suffolk district attorney's office and Massachusetts attorney general's office. • Maria Romero, Chief Counsel-Maria Legal has served as assistant general counsel in the Suffolk sheriff's office since 2001. Maria began her career in the Suffolk district attorney's office, first in

Dorchester district court and then on the general felony team and the narcotics and asset forfeiture unit.

• Joseph Janezic, III, Chief, Crime Strategies Bureau—Joseph has led the gang and community prosecutions unit in the Plymouth district attorney's office since 2016. Prior to that he served as deputy chief and then chief of the Suffolk DA gang and Safe Neighborhood Initiative units and as an assistant attorney general. • Jennifer Zalnasky, Chief, Integrity Review Bureau—Jennifer has been chief of the appeals unit in the Berkshire district attorney's office since early 2021. She served as an assistant attorney general from 2014 to 2021 in the criminal bureau-appeals division and from 2008 to 2014 as assistant

general counsel for the Sex Offender Registry Board. Prior to her state service Jennifer spent seven years in private practice.

• David McGowan, Chief, Appeals Unit–David began his career in the Suffolk district attorney's appeal unit in 2007 and subsequently served in the major felony bureau, narcotics and asset forfeiture unit, domestic violence and sexual assault unit and senior trial unit, and homicide unit. He has also served as chief of arson and fire investigations since 2013. • Marc Tohme, Chief of Municipal and District Courts-Marc has served as deputy chief of district courts since January 2020 and has been acting chief since December 2022. Marc started his career in 2013 as an assistant district attorney in Dorchester BMC and also served on the gang unit.

• Linda Champion, Municipal and District Court Legal Counsel—Linda has served as assistant general counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents since 2013. She worked as a superior court and district court assistant district attorney in the Suffolk district attorney's office from 2011 to 2013 and has extensive private

complished group of professionals helping me to achieve the many objectives I have for the office, including greater community engagement, continued emphasis on firearm crimes and juvenile and young adult alternative resolution initiatives, data-based prevention and intervention strategies, and conviction and sentencing integrity," Hayden said.

What a fantastic pair you are!

ractice experience.

• Tracy Litthcut, Special Advisor, Youth Initiatives and DEI-Tracy has over 20 years of public sector experience with the Boston mayor's office and other organizations in policy development, coalition building, proposal writing, violence prevention programming and family/ youth engagement.

"I'm extremely fortunate to have such an ac-

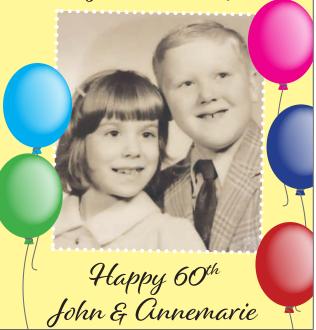
Op-Ed // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

tures for all our high school students. Vocational-technical and agricultural high schools in Massachusetts

will continue to do their part.

ecutive Director of the

Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, a professional association of educational leadBorn together. Friends forever.



Steven C. Sharek is Ex-

ers who administer and advocate for high-quality vocational-technical and agricultural education.



Be 18 years of age or older by June 1, 2023. Be a high school graduate.

Possess a current, valid driver's license. Reside within the jurisdiction of Local 6. Own a reliable vehicle.

Copies of the following documents must be submitted with your application:

Valid, current driver's license (No photo ID's)

- High school diploma, GED certificate or a certified, sealed transcript showing your graduation date.
- You must also submit a non-refundable aptitude testing fee of \$25.00. Only checks or money orders accepted, made payable to "Local 6. J.A.C."

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TERM OF APPRENTICESHIP: Four (4) years. 160 classroom hours and 1600 job site hours per year.

TESTS: General Aptitude Test and Interview; Mandatory Pre-employment Physical Exam and Drug Test.

The Heat and Frost Insulators Apprenticeship Program will not discriminate against apprenticeship applicants or apprentices based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation, genetic information, or because they are an individual with a disability or a person 40 years old or older. The Heat and Frost Insulators Apprenticeship Program will take affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in apprenticeship and will operate the apprenticeship program as required under Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 30," 29 CFR § 30.3(c)







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EEA declares the end of drought in the Commonwealth

Special to the Times-Free Press

Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper declared the end of the drought in the Commonwealth. following five months of normal to above-normal precipitation and record-breaking warmth in January. All seven regions are at Level 0-Normal Conditions, including the Islands Region, which was previously declared at a Level 2- Significant Drought, and the Northeast and Cape Cod Regions, which were at a Level-1 Mild Drought last month. The declarations are the result of a recommendation issued from a recent meeting of the Drought Management Task Force, comprised of state and federal officials and other entities.

"After nine months of Massachusetts regions experiencing drought conditions, I am pleased to declare that every region has

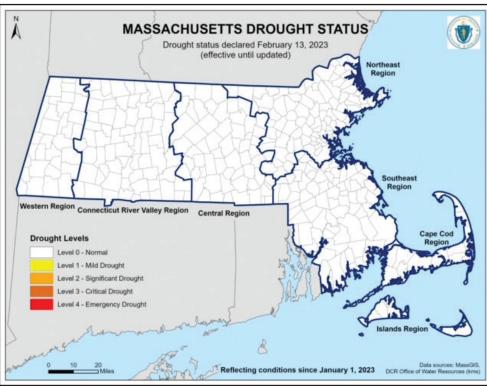
returned to normal," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "We thank those who implemented conservation practices at such a critical time and urge residents to remain conscientious of their water use as we continue to experience more extreme and frequent weather events due to the climate crisis."

The month of January brought above-normal rainfall across all regions of the Commonwealth, helping with the recovery of groundwater, streamflow, lakes, and impoundments. Normal Conditions, as outlined in the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, recommends that overall water efficiency practices and emergency planning efforts continue at the local level and that state and local agencies work to review, assess, and improve responses and actions implemented

during the drought. With the declaration of Normal Conditions, the Drought Management Task Force will not meet again until a region in the state is experiencing drought conditions. However, state agencies will continue to closely monitor and assess conditions across the Commonwealth.

To help protect Massachusetts' water resources, larger buildings and businesses are asked to conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation, and residents are asked to reduce indoor water use and address leaks as soon as possible. These steps will significantly help reduce water use to ensure the Commonwealth has healthy streams and rivers and there is enough water to sustain our water supplies.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will continue to provide



technical assistance to municipalities in managing systems, including on the use of emergency connections and water supplies.

"We appreciate the efforts of both the consumers of water who reduced their demands and our public water systems that are on the frontlines of delivering clean water in sufficient quantities to meet our needs," said MassDEP Commissioner Acting Gary Moran. "We urge consumers to continue their efforts to reduce water demand and help protect our environment

whether there is a declared drought or not."

For further information on water conservation and what residents and communities can do, please visit EEA's Drought page and water conservation page.

MALDEN CATHOLIC NEWS

Jess Piracini hired as Girls Varsity Lacrosse coach

Malden Catholic Director of Athletics, William Raycraft, has announced that the school as hired Jess Piracini to head its Girls Varsity Lacrosse program.

According to Piracini, 'I am fortunate to be taking over a very good lacrosse program. This is an incredible opportunity to lead the Malden Catholic program forward with the desire and competitiveness to become the best in high school lacrosse." Piracini added, "Malden Catholic is a school that not only embraces athletics, but also truly cares about the growth of their students and school community. This genuine commitment to growth goes well beyond the fields and classroom."





Jess Piracini.

program to new levels. 'Coach Piracini has done a fantastic job working with our girls in the hockey program and she was a standout athlete herself. I am confident she will lead our lacrosse program with outstanding skill and eventually to MIAA distinction," stated Raycraft. "Our program currently has nearly sixty members in its fifth year of existence, and we believe that Coach Piracini will fuel it

with a wealth of knowledge, passion and enthusiasm." Raycraft went on to say, "She understands our mission, embodies the core values of the athletic department, and I am confident she will make a very positive connection with our student-athletes."

Coach Piracini is a graduate of Catholic education having attended Arlington Catholic High School where she was a threesport athlete, excelling in both hockey and lacrosse. While at AC she was a four-year member of the varsity lacrosse team, captain, and CCL All-Star her senior year. Jess then continued her education and hockey career at women's hockey powerhouse, Norwich University where she was a four-year member of the varsity team. She is currently an assistant coach for the MC Lancers Girls Hockey Team.

Michael Colombo hired as Girls Varsity Soccer coach

Malden Catholic Director of Athletics William Raycraft has announced that MC has hired Michael Colombo to head its Girls Varsity Soccer program.

Michael Colombo has served the Malden Catholic Girls Soccer program over the past three years as both the Junior Varsity Head Coach and Varsity Assistant Head Coach. He has extensive education, coaching experience and has demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm over the years at MC.

According to New England Futbol Club Technical Director Peter Motzenbecker, "Michael is one of the finest coaches with whom I have had the pleasure of working." Motzenbecker added, "His technical knowledge



Michael Colombo.

and probably more importantly, he understands how to work with players and get the very best out of athletes."

"Michael has a terrific ability to connect with people. He has also demonstrated a strong drive to succeed while developing talent the right way, which makes him a terrific fit for Malden

As we went through the search process, Colombo checked off all the boxes," stated MC Athletics Director William Raycraft.

Coach Colombo has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame and holds a USSF D License, in addition to numerous certifications from a diverse suite of providers including United Soccer Coaches and Massachusetts Soccer. His coaching career includes time with Mass Youth Soccer's Town Select program and over the past four years he served as a Staff Coach with the New England Futbol Club (NEFC). Over his coaching career, student-athletes have experienced great success and have flourished both as teams

Piracini emerged out of a strong pool of applicants, and she is a coach looking to bring this young of the game is top notch,

Catholic and our mission.

and as individuals.



Congratulations to the staff of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center

for helping us win The Boston Globe's Top Places to Work for an eighth time. We are proud to be a team that delivers compassionate, high-quality care to our community.





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PHOTOS BY BOB MARRA

Sports

EAST BOSTON BOYS BASKETBALL IN HOOP ACTION AGAINST CHELSEA

A Standing-Room-Only crowd rocked the old gym at East Boston High as the Jets took off to a 20-point lead in the first quarter then cruised to an 85-61 win over Chelsea in the regular season finale for both teams on Friday, February 17. East Boston will advance to Division 3 post-season play.





A TRUE JET: East Boston's Isaiah Fisher takes off on his way to two points. See Page 8 for more photos.

UPPER HAND: Leroy Martin (2) stretches for a rebound over Chelsea Herman Esquivel Mendez.



ONE-ON-ONE: East Boston's Angel Franco (1) keeps the ball away from his opposite num-



I LIKE WHAT I SEE: Xander Boutros has wide eyes at the basket as he moves past Chelsea's



ABOVE ALL ELSE: East Boston's Robin Cartegena (22) holds a rebound away from Chelsea's Islam Allouane (4) and Abdullahi Mohamed (2).



JUST OUT OF REACH: Alejandro Garcia watches a rebound bounce inches away from his grasp.

WINTHROP MARKETPLACE

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Deli

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Swiss Lorraine Cheese	

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3 lb bag	
California Large Celery Bunch	1.99
Fresh & Tasty on the Vine Cluster Tomatoes \$1.	99/lb
Hot House Hydro Cucumbers	4.00
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Bakery

8" Apple Pie	÷5.99
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Boneless Pork Sirloin Roast	<b>≑2.99/ </b> b
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Mrs. Budds All White Meat	
Chicken Pot Pie 12 oz	<b>÷3.99</b>

Weekend Specials

Friday, February 24th through Sunday February 26th "while supplies last"

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	Our Own Blueberry Muffins 4pk
Ċ	5" Carrot Cake

#### DELI

BAKERY

Our Own In Store Antipasto Salad	<b>≑7.99/l</b> b
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(	Nature's Finest Red Bliss Potatoes
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## EAST BOSTON BOYS BASKETBALL IN HOOP ACTION AGAINST CHELSEA



LEAVE THE MAN, TAKE THE BALL: East Boston's Christian Sanders has both the ball and Chelsea's Islam Allouane in his grasp as teammate Leroy Martin looks on.



TOP GUN: The East Boston mascot sees a play that he thinks is a real head-slapper!



ONE HAND IS NOT ENOUGH: The hand of a Chelsea defender is not enough to keep Christian Sanders (30) from going to the basket for two points.

#### EAST BOSTON BOYS BASKETBALL HONOR SENIORS



Leroy Martin and his Mother.



Seniors Angel Franco and Leroy Martin.



Angel Franco takes the court.





Seniors Angel Franco (second from left) and Leroy Martin (right) are among the starting five at the last home game of the season last Friday evening.

## What's air got to do with it? LOCAL AIR QUALITY **& HEALTH SUMMIT**

The air we breathe affects our daily lives whether we know it or not. Research has shown that exposure to extreme air pollution - like we experience in East Boston, Winthrop, Chelsea, and surrounding communities - is linked to an extensive list of health implications for kids and adults*. East Boston has a 360% higher rate of childhood asthma and a 200% higher rate of adult COPD than the rest of Boston.

At this summit, we will explore the latest local air quality research from climate activists and environmental scientists, and what local organizations are doing to fight for our health. Learn how you can protect yourself and your loved ones from the impacts of air pollution, and what still needs to be done for systemic change.







Thursday, March 9th 5-8pm East Boston High School 86 White St, East Boston

Food, childcare, and Spanish/English interpretation provided.

Austin Air Purifier raffle



Seniors Leroy Martin (second from left) and Angel Franco (second from right) with their parents were honored prior to the game on 'Senior Night' at East Boston High School last Friday evening, February 17. The Jets had a great win beating Chelsea 85-51 and end the regular season at 12-7.

## ¿Por qué es tan importante el aire? **CUMBRE LOCAL SOBRE CALIDAD DEL AIRE Y SALUD**

Aunque no nos demos cuenta, el aire que respiramos afecta nuestra vida diaria. Las investigaciones han demostrado que la exposición a la contaminación atmosférica extrema -como la que experimentamos en East Boston, Winthrop, Chelsea y las comunidades circundantes- está vinculada a una extensa lista de consecuencias para la salud de niños y adultos*. East Boston tiene una tasa de asma infantil 360% más alta y una tasa de EPOC en adultos 200% más alta que el resto de Boston.

En esta cumbre, exploraremos las últimas investigaciones sobre la calidad del aire local realizadas por activistas climáticos y científicos medioambientales, y lo que están haciendo las organizaciones locales para luchar por nuestra salud. Aprenda cómo puede protegerse a sí mismo y a sus seres queridos de los efectos de la contaminación atmosférica, y lo que aún queda por hacer para lograr un cambio sistémico.

#### Confirme asistencia en bit.ly/AireSalud

* Las investigaciones han demostrado que la exposición a la contaminación atmosférica extrema está relacionada con afecciones como

- asma nacimiento prematur • problemas de • bajo peso al nacer
- aprendizaje retrasos en el desarrollo
- obesidad

NOAL

- coeficiente enfermedades
- intelectual bajo respiratorias
- cardiopatías autismo cáncer • demencia precoz

#### Jueves, 9 de marzo 5-8pm East Boston High School 86 White St, East Boston

Comida, cuidado de niños e interpretación español/inglés.

Sorteo de un purificador de aire de Austin



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

#### TRAFFIC CONCERNS AIRED AT COUNCIL

CHELSEA - Several City Councilors are concerned about the traffic impacts of the Innes Development project.

At last week's meeting, District 6 Councilor Giovanni Recupero introduced an order requesting Interim City Manager Ned Keefe update the council on the demolition of the American Biltrite building and the Innes Complex in the area of Willow Street, Central Street, and Marginal due to the ongoing traffic issues in the area.

"They knocked down all the housing projects, now they are knocking down all Biltrite, the old American Biltrite company, it's coming down all over the place," said Recupero. "So now, there's lots more traffic, and Highland is a small street."

Although there is a sign in the area, Recupero said there should be more measures to help with traffic.

"I would like the people in the area to know the situation, what's going on, because every day I see it, I see school buses go through there, I see everything go through there and it's too small," said Recupero. "Maybe there should be some sort of supervision so people are watching when these buildings come down there is plenty of room for all the cars to move around. They are going all over the place because they can't go the old-fashioned way because everything is coming down."

Councilor-at-Large Damali Vidot said the construction and demolition has had a huge impact on residents of that community.

"From residents not being able to get nurses or deliveries coming to their street because the street is blocked on two sides, to the noise, to they feel that their houses are shaking," said Vidot. "I know that we needed to invest in this project and this project had to happen in order to preserve the 96 affordable units that were there, that is no question. But I think that there is something that we can learn here about the next time we have a major project happening in a residential area to better inform the abutters of what is to be expected."

Vidot said she thinks a lot of people were excited about the investment in the Innes Development, but didn't realize the longterm impact it was going to have on them.

"I think this is a learning experience for us for the next time we have these projects," said Vidot. "It's great to have abutters meetings to get them on board, but also to have realistic expectations for what is down the road and how this is going to affect their quality of life. I think it was a blind spot going into that project."

#### RENEGOTIATION SOUGHT ON ENCORE AGREEMENT

EVERETT - The City Council unanimously approved a motion by Ward 3 Councilor Darren Costa that would require Mayor Carlo DeMaria's Office to form a Community Action Board and to develop a Community Benefits Agreement as part of a revised or new Host Agreement with Encore Boston Harbor and any other large-scale development in Everett's new zoning districts.

With Encore Boston Harbor seeking to build an entertainment venue across the street from the five-star resort/casino, coupled with the highly successful launch of the Sportsbook WynnBET (which drew large crowds to Encore on Super Bowl Sunday), Costa wants to talk with Encore officials about the Host Agreement. Costa is also requesting the presence of Mayor DeMaria at an upcoming Council meeting to discuss the impacts of new development near the resort.

"My hope is that En-

core officials open up the original Host Agreement in good faith and renegotiate in totality," said Costa.

According to Costa, the City receives approximately \$25 million annually from Encore, with an automatic 2.5 percent increase in the payment to the city each year.

Costa noted some of the benefits of having Encore in the city, including Encore being a huge employer of Everett residents at the casino.

"But are we covered in terms of affordable housing for people to stay in Everett?" questioned Costa. "So, I feel, with the resort's proposed expansion, the Host Agreement should be more robust and there should be a community benefit aspect to it. I'm for the expansion, and I think it's important, but I think it's also important that we are entrusted with getting everything that Everett deserves. An economic benefit to our residents is important."

Costa said he would like to see a public park built on the land near the proposed entertainment venue.

"I'd like to see art space or theater space - public outdoor space that doesn't cost me anything to occupy," said Costa. "The waterfront behind Encore is nice, but it's not easily accessible. But as we open up the other side of Broad-

way, it's a better opportunity to create something that's a more open to people – an area where you can walk or bicycle from different neighborhoods."

Costa said he is "basically asking Encore to renegotiate the original Host Agreement in good faith to better align with the larger-scale operation of the resort."

"I believe that the [WynnBET] Sportsbook impacts the community in a different way than gaming tables and slot machines do," said Costa. "I want to make sure we put our community first in terms of how the resort's expansion and the new Sportsbook impact the people of Everett."

#### MCKENNA CALLS FOR RESTORATION OF REVERE BEACH STRUCTURES

REVERE - Revere Beach is the city's major tourist destination, but many of the features along the beach have been left to deteriorate and decay, according to Ward 1 City Councillor Joanne McKenna.

At last week's council meeting, McKenna introduced a motion looking for help from the city's legislators and the Department of Conservation and Recreation to make repairs to the gazebos, pavilions, lighting, and other historic features along the beach.

McKenna said Revere resident Arthur MacDonald provided her with photos highlighting the deterioration along Revere Beach.

"We have spent millions of dollars on this beach developing apartments, restaurants, and hotels, bringing people from all over the country and the world to Revere Beach," said McKenna. "If you look at the license plates, you can see this holds true. The city has even created a tourist department to bring people here."

But when those tourists come to the city and look out at the beach, McKenna said they see the deplorable condition of the pavilions, the gazebo, and the artifacts along the beach.

"This is the history of our beach, our city, and we are going to lose this if we don't take action or care of it now," she said. "I am asking the city, along with our legislators and DCR to work together to come up with some grants and money to restore and preserve these historical pavilions, light poles, and gazebo ... so they can be admired by folks that visit our city and for the generations that follow us."

See REGION Page 11

## **Dining**// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

our neighborhoods vibrant moving forward."

Business owners will be able to apply via an online portal which will be open starting on February 23, 2023. Through this portal, businesses will be able to submit their applications, track application progress, and renew the Outdoor Dining Permit annually. The application to apply will be available here.

"We were so excited to

the corner, we're very excited for the return of the city's outdoor dining program here in Allston," said Alex Cornacchini, the Executive Director of Allston Village Main Streets. "The last few years have shown that our restaurants have benefited from the added seating capacity, residents have benefited from the safer seating options during COVID, and the whole neighborhood

strain on North End traffic this summer and make it harder for residents and first responders to navigate the area. With about 95 restaurants in just over a third of a square mile, the North End has the densest per capita number of restaurants in the state. This has brought unique challenges and quality of life issues expressed by residents over the course of the temporary programs, including increased traffic, sanitation issues, and accessibility problems for older residents and those with limited mobility. The City will be creating a task force to determine how these issues could be remedied in future iterations of the permanent program. This year, the City will buy back jersey barriers from North End restaurant owners and provide relief for costs related to storing these items.

The City previously held two Citywide meetings to brief business owners and residents on the permanent program and collect feedback. City officials have heard from residents throughout the temporary program and used neighborhood concerns to inform the permanent program. Restaurants applying for the program are encouraged to actively involve residents, community members, and civic groups to discuss future plans for outdoor dining patios on any public space. Residents and community members can share their comments regarding restaurants applying to the program to the dedicated outdoor dining email address (outdoordining@ boston.gov) before the business's Boston Licensing Board hearing date. Residents and community members with feedback are also encouraged to attend the scheduled Boston Licensing Board hearing.

The Permanent Out-

ings from the Copley Connect pilot in summer of 2022. Following the success of the pilot, transportation planners with the BPDA and BTD intend to study permanent improvements to Dartmouth Street between the Boston Public Library and Copley Square Park that would improve the public realm between three of Boston's most iconic civic spaces and formally unify Copley Square. Additionally, the Boston Transportation Department will be announcing more Open Streets events in the coming months following the success of last year's events creating more than a mile of car-free space in Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and Dorchester.

hear about the return of outdoor dining. For us, as a small restaurant the pandemic forced us to get creative, and the outdoor dining program has been a critical component to our sustainability and recovery. We saw changes in consumer behavior when we were forced to rethink the way we use public spaces," said Andy Fadous, co-owner of American Provisions & Gray's Hall. "With our two businesses on East Broadway & I Street in South Boston, we were able to provide an outdoor space for the community in both the morning and evenings, open longer hours and employ more staff."

The permanent program requires businesses to submit professionally engineered site plans for outdoor dining setups on the street and sidewalk to ensure all patios meet the requirements of the state building code. The COVID-19 temporary program allowed for hand-drawn site plans and portable ramps under a temporary variance from the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB). The City has prepared multiple sample templates, which have been informed by the Disabilities Commission and approved by the MAAB for permanent use. The City has designated a staff member to help restaurant owners with technical assistance on engineering plans.

"With spring around

has benefited from the added vibrancy these pop up patios produce."

In 2020, the Outdoor Dining Pilot Program was created under temporary state legislation as a business relief response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to any of the temporary outdoor dining programs, fees were collected for the City's Sidewalk Cafe Program, which predated the pandemic.

Going forward, all approved businesses participating in outdoor dining will be required to pay \$399 per month if they have a liquor license and \$199 per month if they do not. Fees will go toward technical assistance for hiring architects to draft site plans, with the goal of expanding the program to businesses that would not otherwise be able to participate.

The City will not be permitting on-street outdoor dining in the North End this year. Restaurants in the neighborhood with adequate sidewalk width will be eligible to apply for outdoor dining if their proposal complies with accessibility and lirequirements. censing Restaurants with privately owned spaces seeking to have outdoor dining patios are encouraged to apply through the Inspectional Services Department.

The scheduled closures of the Sumner Tunnel and continued congestion around the North Washington Street Bridge construction project are expected to put a greater door Dining Program builds off of Mayor Wu's commitment to reimagine how Boston streets work for residents and visitors and how reconfiguring public spaces can foster community. In January, the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) announced find-



## **PLAN: East Boston Neighborhood Workshop**

March 2, 2023 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Zoom Link: <u>bit.ly/PLANEastBostonNR2023</u> Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864 Meeting ID: 160 363 3189



#### **Project Description:**

Please join us for a community meeting to review changes to draft recommendations for Neighborhood Residential areas. This event is part of PLAN: East Boston, a long-range neighborhood-wide planning initiative that, when complete, will update neighborhood zoning, establish neighborhood design guidelines, and propose new capital improvements to public space, including near- and long-term improvements to the neighborhood's transportation network.

At this time, the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) is continuing to host public meetings in a virtual setting for the health, safety, and accessibility of Boston residents. Spanish translation services will be available.

For more information, visit the project website bostonplans.org/planeastboston or email Jason. <u>Ruggiero@Boston.gov.</u>

# mail to: Jason Ruggiero Boston Planning & Development Agency One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201 phone: 617.918.4383 email: Jason.Ruggiero@Boston.gov

BostonPlans.org 5 @BostonPlans Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

# Rep. Santiago named as First Cabinet-Level Veterans' Secretary

Special to the Times-Free Press

Maura T. Governor Healey and Lieutenant Kimberley Governor Driscoll announced that they are appointing State Representative Jon Santiago to serve as Massachusetts' first ever Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans' Services. Representative Santiago is a major in the U.S. Army Reserve, an emergency medicine physician at Boston Medical Center, a former volunteer in the Peace Corps, and has served as State Representative for the 9th Suffolk district since 2019.

In 2022, the Massachusetts Legislature passed An Act relative to the governance, structure and care of veterans at the Commonwealth's veterans' homes in response to the devastating tragedy at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home in 2020. The legislation made a number of key reforms, including creating the Executive Office of Veterans' Services to be led by the Secretary of Veterans' Services. Among the Secretary's responsibilities include serving as the ultimate appointing authority of the superintendents of the state's two veterans' homes. The secretariat will be established on March 1, 2023, which is when Rep. Santiago will be sworn in as Veterans' Services Secretary.

"Representative Santiago has dedicated his life to serving his country whether that's volunteering for the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic,



Jon Santiago appointed the Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans' Services.

working in the emergency room throughout COVID, being deployed overseas with the U.S. Army Reserve, or advocating for increased access to housing, public transportation and substance use disorder treatment in the State House," said Governor Healey. "His public health expertise and military service make him uniquely qualified to serve as Massachusetts' first ever Secretary of Veterans' Services. I'm confident that he will be the leader our veterans need and deserve and will always stand up for their health, safety and wellbeing."

"As the daughter of a Navy veteran, I'm so proud that Massachusetts is taking this critical step to ensure that our veterans are well cared for and prioritized by creating the Executive Office of Veterans' Services," said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. "I'm grateful to the veterans, legislators and advocates who worked so hard to see this through - and I'm grateful to Rep-

resentative Santiago for stepping up to take on this enormous responsibility. I know our veterans will be in good hands under his leadership."

"I'm honored that Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll have placed their trust in me to assume this historic position," said Representative Santiago. "Our veterans deserve the absolute highest quality of care, but they are far too often underserved. The Healey-Driscoll Administration is committed to meeting the complex needs of those who have bravely served our country, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue my own service as Secretary of Veterans' Services."

Jon Santiago was born in Puerto Rico and received his undergraduate degrees in biology and religious studies from the University of Texas at Austin. After college, he volunteered for the Peace Corps where he organized sugarcane workers and communities in the Dominican Republic, and later was a Fulbright Scholar in Paris. He completed a Master of Public Health from the University of Washington at Seattle after returning from abroad. A graduate of Yale School of Medicine, he now works as an emergency medicine physician at Boston Medical Center, the city's safety net hospital. He also serves as a major in the U.S. Army Reserve and has been deployed overseas twice.

In 2018, he was elected

State Representative for the 9th Suffolk District located in Boston. During his time in the Legislature, he advocated to increase funding and services to address the substance use epidemic, affordable housing, and tackle health disparities. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Representative Santiago doubled his hours in the emergency room and served as a member of the House of Representatives COVID-19 Working Group and Vice-Chair of the COVID-19 and **Emergency** Preparedness & Management to advise policymaking and ensure state government accountability.

He lives in the South End with his wife Alexandra and son Rafael.

The Veterans' Services Secretary will work closely with the newly constituted Veterans' Homes Council, which was also established by legislation. The Council's responsibilities include recommending improvements and policies for veterans' homes to the Secretary of Veterans' Services, submitting recommendations for appointments and removal of Veterans' Homes Superintendents, and developing an annual report reviewing the Veterans' Homes' demographics, finances, staffing levels, efficacy, equity, and resident well-being. Governor Healey and Acting Health and Human Services Secretary Mary Beckman announced their appointments to this council last week.

Statements of Support: "Representative Santiago's service to his country, as a healthcare professional, and in the House of Representative makes him uniquely qualified to serve in this new position. I want to thank Representative Santiago for his hard work during his time in the House, and I wish him all the best going forward." -House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy)

"The Healey-Driscoll administration should be commended for moving quickly to elevate Veterans' Services as a stand alone agency with direct report to the Governor. We congratulate them for selecting Jon Santiago as its new leader. Rep. Santiago is an Army veteran, dedicated legislator and an accomplished medical physician. He has demonstrated a strong commitment to our Country and Commonwealth and his leadership and compassion for helping those in need is unquestioned. The Disabled American Veterans look forward to working with him to serve and support our veterans and their families. DAV also wishes to thank current Secretary Cheryl Poppe for her many years of service and dedication during very challenging times and we know our veterans will continue to be well served by Secretary Santiago." -Coleman Nee, former Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans' Services (2011-2015) and National Line Officer for Disabled American Veterans. "Representative Santia-

go's medical background will be a significant asset to the role of Veterans' Services Secretary, as he has firsthand knowledge of what it takes to meet veterans' complex health needs. I'm confident that he will always put the health and wellbeing of our veterans first." -Dr. Thea James, Vice President of Mission, Associate Chief Medical Officer, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, and Director of the Violence Intervention Advocacy Program at Boston Medical Center

"Representative Santiago has been a strong, effective representative for our South End district, as well as for the Latino community throughout his career, and I'm excited to see him take on this important role in the Healey-Driscoll Administration. He will bring empathy, integrity and expertise to the job, and our veterans and Commonwealth will benefit enormously from his leadership." - Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, CEO of Inquilinos Boricuas in Acción

"Representative Santiago has been a champion of equity throughout his career, and he will bring compassion and expertise to this new role. We can count on him to make sure veterans are receiving the care they need and deserve, especially veterans of color." -Tony Molina, President of the Puerto Rican Veterans Association of Massachusetts.

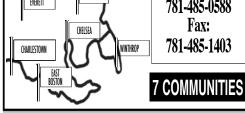


### LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

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ucation, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program.

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## **OBITUARIES**

## **Carmen Pittella**

Long time East Boston High School staff assistant and volleyball coach

Carmen (Pasquariello Pittella of Methuen, formerly East Boston, passed away after a brief illness surrounded by her loving family on Feburary 20 at the age of 64.

Carmen was a Salem State College graduate receiving Bachelors and Masters Degrees. She was a long time staff assistant at East Boston High School where she also coached volleyball.

The beloved wife of Joseph F. Pittella, she was the devoted mother of Kristina Dahbour and her husband, Charbel and Andrea Pittella and her fiancé, Brandon Caron; dear sister of Antonieta Pasquariello and Rocco Pasquariello; cherished grandmother of Chase and Gemma Dahbour and adored aunt of Karla Mahoney and her husband, Robert and their son, Robbie.

Family and friends will honor Carmen's life by gathering at the Ruggie-



ro Family Memorial, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston on Thursday, February 23 from 3 to 7 p.m. and again on Friday morning at 9 a.m. before leaving in funeral procession to Sacred Heart Church, Brooks St., East Boston for an 11 a.m. funeral mass in celebration of Carmen's life.

Due to Carmen's dedication to East Boston High School and her students and in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to East Boston High School, 86 White St., East Boston where a scholarship fund has been set up in Carmen's memory.



#### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT **PROBATE AND** FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR **OTHER PROTECTIVE**

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF

ORDER PURSUANT

#### § 5-304 & § 5-405 Docket No. SU23P0320PM In the matter of: Murray Denofsky Of: East Boston, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Advocate Healthcare Of East Boston of East Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Murray Denofsky is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed

#### as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 03/30/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date **IMPORTANT NOTICE** The outcome of this proceeding

may limit or completely take

away the above-named per-

son's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The abovenamed person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 14, 2023 Felix D. Arroyo, **Register of Probate** 2/22/23

## **Region** // **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9** Ward 6 Councillor Richard Serino noted that

there may be money available for that restoration and preservation from a bond bill that was passed almost five years ago. He said an environmental bond bill included \$10 million for repairs and improvements to the Revere Beach Reservation, including but not limited to the renourishment of Revere Beach, repairs to any failing sea walls, transportation improvements, and restorations to pavilions and period lighting struc-

## Eastie's Professional Service Directory **CLEANING SERVICES ELECTRICIAN** CONTRACTOR L. P. Spartan CONTRACTING CLEANING **Building & Remodeling** Kitchen ♦ Bathroom SERVICE Additions & Porches Replacement windows COMMERCIAL **Residential & 1 col. x** RESIDENTIAL Garages ♦ Decks Commercial CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY Siding - All Types 2 inches

## FRESH AND LOCAL Dogs at transition points

#### By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Throughout our lives, we encounter transition points, both positive and negative. We've noticed that these are often moments when people think about adding a dog to their lives. In each case, there are pros and cons you should consider.

Some common transition points are reaching a significant age; setting up your first home; moving in with someone else; getting married; becoming a parent; changing jobs; retiring; or losing an important person or animal.

#### Job Change

The transition to remote work during the pandemic made it possible for many people to add a dog to their lives. As some of these folks return to the office, they and their dogs must learn to live with that change.

A job change can also mean moving, longer hours, and more or less

travel. These can impact your relationship with current animal companions, and in some cases, may raise the possibility of adding an animal to your family.

#### Retirement

Leaving the world of work or moving to a semi-working status is a transition point that can have a massive impact on your lifestyle and your ability to make choices that can be good or bad for your mental and physical well-being.

Research has found that dogs positively impact the lives of people of retirement age. Patti Murphy, writing for www.travelawaits.com, said, "After I retired I noticed that I had a lot more free time and occasional boredom creeping in. Having a dog has helped fill some of that time and given me company on days when not much else is going on. We play, we walk, we do training, and I take him to visit family members who no longer have their pets and miss having a lively creature around."

Research has shown that dogs provide a reason to exercise and become part of a community. These are important factors for heart health and cognitive function. Increased social interaction, companionship, daily routine, and the unconditional love of a dog can do wonders for our quality of life and mental health.

However, there are factors that must enter into your decision-making. Murphy suggests that retirees consider the size and strength of a dog who might pull on a walk and sometimes need a lift from you. She also recommends a more mature animal who might need less training and have less energy to burn off daily.

Moving to a New Home Over the years, we've conducted home visits for various rescue groups.



Research has found that dogs positively impact the lives of people of retirement age. (Photo by Ave Calvar)

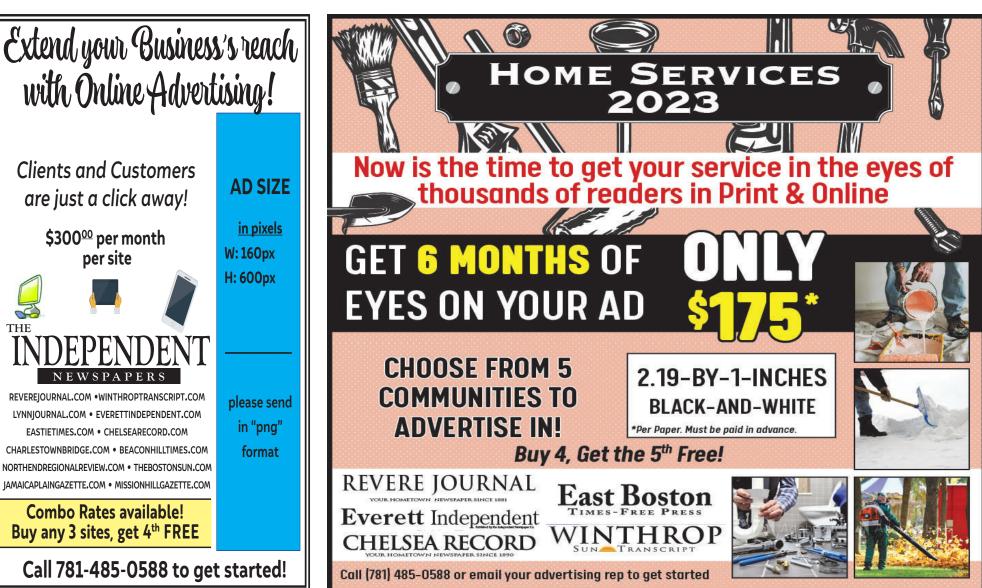
Quite a number of these were for young individuals or couples setting up their first home or home together.

One of the first questions in the adoption process is whether or not dogs are allowed in the building and under the lease. We gave a top approval rating to a couple from the Midwest who moved to Boston. They had leased

a dog-friendly apartment, planned where they would walk a dog, and found a nearby veterinary hospital. Both were engaged in the adoption process and were enthusiastic about having a dog.

If you already have animals in your home when you relocate, let those critters get used to their new place before introducing an additional family member. Moving is stressful for our furry companions, just as it is for the humans in the family. It will be harder to give a new dog the time and peaceful atmosphere needed to transition to a new home and family.

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







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