

# East Boston

## TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

### FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN AT SACRED HEART PARISH



Sacred Heart Parish located at 303 Paris Street, East Boston will be holding a monthly community event. Our committee will be kicking off a monthly community invitation in allowing us to serve a free hot meal to all East Bostonians beginning Wednesday, April 12, 5:00 - 7:00 PM. On the menu for all to enjoy is a sit-down family style spaghetti and meatball dinner. All invited in allowing us to serve the community with a delicious meal, friendship, fellowship and fun.

## Officials, residents brace for full-time tunnel closure for eight weeks this summer

By Stephen Quigley

“This will be impactful,” was the way that MassDOT official Mike Fielding described the impending closure of the Sumner Tunnel to all traffic for the entire period of July 5 through August 31 at a virtual public meeting that was held last week.

The good news is that for the past year, officials have been monitoring traffic flows and road detours and gathering knowledge during the time when the tunnel was closed during the past 30 weekends.

“We have built upon the lessons from the weekend closures,” officials echoed.

The bottom line is that the tunnel, which was built in the 1930s and is used by as many as 39,000 cars daily, needs a lot of repair work. The tunnel was moved to the high priority list in Metro Boston in 2018. Some of the repairs using the latest in technology that will be accomplished are: Replacing the ceiling; demolishing and replacing the tunnel deck; removing the panels from the walls; installing new LED lighting; installing a new fire alarm system; and restoring the roadway itself.

All of these repairs will take time to accomplish and, given that this is a ma-

major artery connecting several highways, it is expected that traffic nightmares, which already are evident during the weekend closures, will increase exponentially, especially during the weekday rush hours.

The original repair plan called for the tunnel to be closed for four months in 2023. In order to mitigate the impact, it was decided to divide the repair project into two years over the summer months when both local school traffic and general traffic volumes that traverse the tunnel would be the least.

This major closure comes at a time when the tunnel already has been

closed for more than 30 weekends to do other repairs, including work on the ventilation buildings and systems.

Traffic in and around the Ted Williams Tunnel during the weekend closures have shown shortcomings, admitted MassDOT officials.

On the MassDOT website there are alternatives modes of transportation, including the MBTA, ferry service from East Boston, and some common-sense suggestions such as avoiding travel at rush hour.

“Think ahead,” was the basic theme of the advice

See TUNNEL Page 11

### Expansion of SuccessLink Summer Youth jobs program announced

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity (YEO) last week announced the expansion of the SuccessLink Summer Youth Employment program for 2023. The program is now accept-

ing applications. Boston youth ages 14-18 can apply for in-person and hybrid summer job opportunities at nonprofits, community-based organizations, and City agencies. This year, the City made an unprecedented \$18.7M investment in youth jobs, the largest in Boston’s

history. This funding will support 5,000 youth jobs in partnership with local nonprofits and community organizations and 2,000 City based youth jobs, making the City the largest employer for youth summer jobs in Boston. The program’s expansion is part of a larger effort to incentivize both nonprofit and corporate employers’ commitment to reach pre-COVID summer job levels.

“Ensuring that every young person across our city has access to job opportunities is critical in our work to lay a foundation for Boston’s youth to grow and thrive,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “The

City’s youth summer jobs program is critical in empowering our youth and connecting them with opportunity. This year, we are expanding the number of youth jobs available and deepening our partnerships which will allow our young people explore careers and develop their skills. I’m grateful to all of our partners and employers for their commitment to our young people and encourage every teenager and young adult to apply for a summer job.”

“As a city, choosing to invest in young people will always be the right decision. Youth jobs are

See YOUTH JOBS Page 3

## Orient Heights’ residents to meet with BPDA officials

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Residents of Orient Heights are scheduled to meet with representatives of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) tonight, Wednesday, Mar. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the Madonna Shrine Function Room to discuss the changes to zoning proposed by the agency that many feel would drastically change the fabric of the neighborhood.

Earlier this month, the BPDA held a Neighborhood Residential Workshop presenting updates to their proposed zoning changes initially revealed last fall.

During that meeting, Kristina Ricco, a Senior Planner at the BPDA, revealed that in areas of Orient Heights, “All lots, regardless of their size, so no matter how wide or how deep, they would

yield no more than two unit buildings plus an ADU (additional dwelling unit).”

In addition to the unit-density restrictions mentioned by Ricco, there would also be building form restrictions put in place pertaining to things such as a building’s height – Ricco identified that the maximum building height would be two-and-a-half stories in this same area.

Other restrictions include a building’s depth, width, and floorplate, along with restrictions for lot coverage and guidelines for rear, side, and front yard setbacks. These updated plans would also eliminate the off-street parking requirement for buildings with three units or fewer.

These changes proposed by the BPDA have

See BPDA Page 3

## Edwards will run the Boston Marathon for Junior Achievement

Senator Lydia Edwards will be running the 127th Boston Marathon for the benefit of Junior Achievement. They provide programming on financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and career readiness for young people. Alumni of Junior Achievement are less likely to live paycheck to paycheck, more than half of program graduates report that they own or have started a business, and 69% percent of alumni say they are in their dream career. Ad-

ditionally, 73% of alumni report they are saving for retirement, including 65 percent of those ages 18-34 and 82% of alumni agree that they have strong financial foundation.

“Every year this organization ensures youth are ready for the road ahead of them. I’m honored that my 3rd marathon run will be for the benefit of the young people served by Junior Achievement,” said Senator Lydia Edwards (D-Boston).



Senator Lydia Edwards during a previous running in the Boston Marathon..

Our 02128 Senior Page

See Page 5



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BPDA// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

left several residents in Orient Heights shaking their heads as they feel it is not consistent with the neighborhood today.

One resident Joe Arangio is not happy with the proposed building dimension guidelines or the unit-density restrictions.

“Currently, the zoning requirements require 10 feet on each side, 15 feet from the sidewalk to the building itself, and then 35 feet in the back. They’re proposing buildings that greatly exceed those limits, and they’re all out of proportion – they’re much, much too big,” said Arangio.

In terms of the unit-restriction guidelines, there are concerns that they will disrupt a neighborhood that is predominately single and two-family homes.

“The problem that we have with this revision is – no matter how they cut it – if you say you’ll reduce

the units to two – in other words – create a two-family zone across the area and you add an ADU to it, you are still ending up with a three-family unit. Two plus one equals three units, and that’s out of whack with the neighborhood,” said Arangio.

Moreover, regarding one and two-family homes, there are concerns that these new zoning guidelines could make it easier for developers to come in and tear down single-family homes in favor of building developments with more units.

Regarding those concerns, another resident John Casamassima mentioned that although he has been told that developers will not be doing that, three single-family homes on Waldermar Avenue are going before the Zoning Board of Appeal on Apr. 11 that are proposed to be torn down in favor of mul-

tiples units.

“So for the BPDA to pretend like this is not about tearing down our single-family homes – it absolutely is,” said Casamassima.

Residents are also frustrated about the BPDA’s community outreach – specifically with Orient Heights.

“They’ve [BPDA] not come to Orient Heights to present the plan for the residential component of the neighborhood, which is the most drastic change. So they’ve not been to our organization at all, and they’ve already gone through two versions,” said Casamassima.

However, according to a statement from the BPDA that was received via email from the agency’s Assistant Director of Communications, Brittany Comak, there was a reason why they had not met with the Orient Heights

Neighborhood Council (OHNC).

The statement reads, “The BPDA was scheduled to join an Orient Heights Neighborhood Council meeting in November, but was forced to reschedule when a current member of the OHNC displayed threatening behavior toward a BPDA employee and their family. We paused public engagements to consult law enforcement and put in place a code of conduct.”

“Since restarting public engagements, BPDA staff has hosted a public meeting, a Spanish language workshop and an Advisory Group meeting, and had multiple conversations with individual OHNC members and leadership. We are in the process of incorporating feedback from these engagements and look forward to engaging with the Neighborhood Council on Wednes-

day as part of our robust community engagement efforts for PLAN: East Boston.”

With all that being said, residents of Orient Heights and the BPDA will convene tonight, and there is hope for a huge turnout. Casamassima indicated that volunteers had recently distributed 1,000 flyers advertising the meeting.

He also mentioned that he thought attendance from neighbors at this meeting would be “critical” because he felt “this is really the only opportunity that they’ve [residents] had to come out and have their voices heard.”

Arangio echoed the importance of coming out to the meeting as well, saying, “This affects everybody, and they need to come, and they need to stand before the Boston Planning and Development Agency, and they need to stand before our

elected officials, and they need to make their views known and clearly stated.”

Overall, Arangio made it clear whether tonight’s meeting yields change or the BPDA goes forward with its plan as currently constituted – the proposed changes should be taking place throughout the City, not just singling out East Boston.

“Changes to residential zoning – the elimination of a single-family zone etc. – would only apply to owners and residents in East Boston. If the changes to the protection that zoning provides are changed here, those changes must be applied to every neighborhood and district in the City of Boston at exactly the same time as in East Boston.”

Youth Jobs// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

essential to giving young people a space to develop themselves into young professionals; exposure to various industries and occupations; explore where their interest can intersect with the impact they desire to have in the world; to build relationships with trusted advisors and develop skills to be prepared for future career and educational opportunities,” said Rashad Cope, Deputy Chief of the Worker Empowerment Cabinet and the Office of Youth Employment & Opportunity.

“We know how critical it is to ensure every young person has access to job opportunities, and collectively we are committed to this, alongside our incredible partners and employers who make these employment experiences possible for Boston youth.”

Led by the Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity, SuccessLink is designed to not only recruit and hire youth, but also to ensure that their employment experience is engaging, meaningful, and advances their professional and personal development. Last fall, Mayor Wu established the Worker Empowerment Cabinet to advance the wellbeing of Boston workers, led by Chief Trinh Nguyen. Expanding economic opportunities for youth through access to quality jobs, skills training, and career pipelines is a key priority of the cabinet. The Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity, formerly the Department of Youth Engagement and Employment (DYEE), was moved to the Worker Empowerment Cabinet to lead this work.

“Getting a summer job can be life-changing for young people in terms of gaining work readiness skills, identifying career interests, obtaining a mentor, and in many instances,

getting that first, memorable paycheck,” said Trinh Nguyen, Chief of Worker Empowerment. “The City of Boston is grateful to the many community partners coming together to provide these opportunities for our young people. We look forward to working with all of them to help build for the future.”

Each year, YEO partners with a wide range of nonprofit organizations, City agencies, and lead youth employment providers, including Action for Boston Community Development, the Boston Private Industry Council, Artists for Humanity, John Hancock MLK Scholars, and the Boys and Girls Club of Boston to create youth summer jobs. Youth have the opportunity to get connected to various industries that provide inspiration for long-term careers such as the arts, health care, STEM, sports and recreation, education, and public administration.

“SuccessLink is the foundation for the entire Mayor’s Summer Jobs Program. It is the one source for summer youth employment that is open to all Boston teenagers, regardless of neighborhood or high school,” said Neil Sullivan, Executive Director of the Boston Private Industry Council. “The young people who connect with private sector opportunities through the PIC often credit their prior SuccessLink job as preparing them for a summer internship in health-care, finance, life sciences, architecture, or other profession.”

“ABCD is pleased to partner with the City of Boston to ensure that young people of Boston have an abundance of summer employment options,” said Sharon Scott-Chandler, President & CEO of ABCD, Inc. “As a longstanding provider of access to youth

employment and career development services through our SummerWorks program (and other programs), ABCD understands very well that these initiatives build a foundation to support academic achievement and future employment successes.”

“Artists For Humanity is excited to grow our partnership with the City of Boston’s Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity this summer by providing hundreds of teen jobs with meaningful summer learning experiences for our City’s young people,” said Anna Yu, Executive Director of Artists For Humanity. “With the ambitious vision of YEO, and hundreds of amazing partner organizations, Summer 2023 is on track to be the best and biggest year ever for creative teen employment in Boston! We are honored to play a part in helping to make this possible.”

This year, YEO has expanded its youth jobs grantmaking efforts to provide more funding directly to nonprofit organizations to design job experiences, remove barriers to enrollment and transfer administrative responsibilities to allow for a more streamlined process. These expanded efforts will encourage greater collaboration, coalition building, and learn and earn models among higher education institutions and job providers in the youth employment space.

To ensure that all youth have equitable access to these opportunities, the City will continue to support organizations that focus on proven at-risk youth populations (e.g. justice-involved youth, foster care, youth experiencing homelessness, etc.) YEO will work to ensure that disadvantaged youth get access to employment opportunities through the Massachusetts Com-

monwealth Corporation YouthWorks partnership. Additionally, the department will again work with the Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) to provide immigrant youth with hands-on leadership and skills training, regardless of immigration status.

“People don’t realize how quickly your status can change and how much it can limit your opportunities. As a former Dreamer, I know what it’s like to feel frustrated by that because I had so much to offer to the world,” said Monique Tú Nguyen, Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement. “Through opportunities like this, we can ensure that this generation of

youth has opportunities that I didn’t have, and the world can benefit from their full potential.”

The SuccessLink webpage has been updated to make it easier for young people to navigate the application process. Youth can view job postings, see a list of required documents, and apply directly to the organizations. The Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity also offers application assistance. Youth can visit the office in person, Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 1483 Tremont Street in Roxbury, or call 617-635-4202 to get help.

The Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity will also be hosting a Youth Job and Resource Fair at the Reggie Lewis

Center on Saturday, April 22, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Youth will have the opportunity to connect with 100+ summer employers, access youth resources, receive job application assistance, and win prizes. Refreshments will be provided. Parents and/or guardians are welcome to attend with their youth.

Applying for a summer position with SuccessLink does not guarantee a job but the goal is to place as many youth as possible. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Youth are encouraged to get their applications in early. For more information on the 2023 SuccessLink Summer Youth Employment program, visit [boston.gov/summer-jobs](https://boston.gov/summer-jobs).

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Del Busto, Sofia K	69 Lubec Street LLC	69 Lubec St #301	\$785,000
Flowers, Caitlyn E	Ventresca, Joseph	77 Byron St #2	\$542,000
Retzos, Julia	112 White Street LLC	112 White St	\$1,200,000
Price Real Estate LLC	Two Seventy Seven Border	277 Border St #202	\$510,000
Evergreen Prop Soln LLC	Pineda, Jorge	298 Maverick St	\$1,135,820
Hannigna Pali Realty LLC	First Princeton LLC	342-342R Princeton St	\$895,000
Hannigna Pali Realty LLC	First Princeton LLC	342-R Princeton St	\$895,000



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# THE ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

For those of us of Irish descent, whose great-grandparents came to this country at the turn of the 20th century with not much more than the clothes on their backs, whose grandfathers served in WWI, and whose fathers and uncles fought in WWII, it has been with a mixture of pride and some degree of bemusement to see St. Patrick’s Day become widely-observed by Americans of all ethnicities all across the country over the past 20 years.

The contributions of Irish immigrants to America’s greatness, similar to those of other ethnic groups, have been ignored for decades, so to the extent that St. Patrick’s Day has served to highlight both the plight and pluck of our Irish forebears has been extremely gratifying.

It was not all that long ago when John F. Kennedy became the first Irish-Catholic President, though his candidacy was seriously debated in political circles because of the widely-held belief that he would be taking his orders from the Pope. Kennedy felt compelled during the primary campaign, when it was clear that he was the front-runner for the Democratic nomination, to give a long speech about “the Catholic question,” which he concluded by stating, “So I hope we can see the beginning of the end of references to me as ‘the Catholic candidate’ for President.”

Though St. Patrick’s Day has been a major celebratory holiday for generations of Irish-Americans in enclaves such as New York City, Boston, and Chicago, it only has become a major event across the country, from east to west and north to south, fairly recently.

But unfortunately, the recognition of the achievements of Irish-Americans also has been accompanied by the sort of revelry that has fed into the worst stereotype of Irish-Americans -- and of course, we’re referring to the heavy-consumption of alcohol that has become part and parcel of St. Patrick’s Day celebrations everywhere.

That brings us to the St. Patrick’s Day parade in South Boston this past Sunday. While it was nice to see the parade return in full force for the first time in a few years because of the pandemic, the degree of public intoxication by those along the parade route was both frightening and disgusting.

Here’s an excerpt from the Boston Globe story about the parade:

“In the days leading up to the parade, authorities warned people not to use it as an excuse for public drinking. Liquor stores, bars, and restaurants were required to close early Sunday in South Boston. Despite the warnings, many people were drinking along the route and on the subway Sunday....Some walked the South Boston streets carrying borgs — the nickname given to a ‘blackout rage gallon,’ a concoction of hard booze, water, and electrolytes, mixed together in a gallon jug. Left behind along the parade route were broken bottles, empty borgs...”

We had the misfortune to be traveling on the Red Line southbound at 4:00, soon after the parade had wrapped up. Every car was packed with young people, almost all under the age of 20, who were heavily-inebriated -- and we’re not talking about just a few bad apples. The entire train was filled with underage-drinkers from Quincy, Weymouth, Abington and other So. Shore communities, who were openly imbibing beer and hard-seltzer drinks, throwing their empties around the cars and striking other passengers, even as others among their group were falling into other passengers and vomiting along the route.

By the time the train pulled into No. Quincy station, the Red Line essentially had shut down because of the unruly, drunken youths who were running amuck in the trains and on the platforms. MBTA police had been visible on the platforms during the ride, but they were pulling a Sgt. Schultz (from Hogan’s Heroes) -- they feigned obliviousness to the chaos around them.

With the brawls and melees leaving us sitting at No. Quincy for more than 15 minutes, and escalating, we decided to get off the train and meet our ride (who had been having her own bad experience with drunken youths at Braintree Station, who were pounding on cars as they rambled through the parking garage) on Hancock St.

The image that came to mind was from the “Last of Us,” the HBO hit series in which humans are infected by a rapidly spreading pandemic in which a mutated fungus morphs people into zombie-like creatures -- except in this case, the “infection” was caused by heavy-alcohol intake.

So to the politicians and civic leaders who extolled the “success” of this year’s St. Patrick’s Day parade, we suggest that next year they get on the Red Line as we did after the parade and see if they still feel the same way about turning a blind eye to the heavy drinking in public along the parade route.

Yes, it was a great day to be Irish, but it also was a sobering (no pun intended) reminder that permitting public intoxication, especially by young people, should never be tolerated even -- and especially -- on St. Patrick’s Day.



# Forum

GUEST OP-ED

Love cares enough to try

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Honesty is not always the easiest path but it’s usually the most loving path.

Let’s say you have a loved one or friend who is diabetic but they eat crazy stuff every day from pizza to cookies to soda pop without regard for personal health. Is it best for you to treat them to treats containing white flour and sugar every chance you can or to have a talk with them? Of course, you run the risk of hurting feelings or making the person angry but chances are they are going to die sooner than they should. It’s best to try to save the person’s life by being honest. You don’t have to cut the person’s head off with a verbal assault or face slapping rhetoric.

Love doesn’t attack people. You shouldn’t get preachy because this runs most people away. Simply preface your remarks by saying, “I’m your friend. I care about you and your life. I want you to live a long time. However, if you don’t stop eating what you eat all the time you are

probably going to shorten your life.” This could pertain to any negative activity or addiction.

Having serious conversations with people is not easy. We are all busy. We aren’t close enough to most people to be this direct. Plus, we really have to care a lot about someone to be lovingly honest. We run the risk of the friendship becoming strained or evenly totally severed. The bottom line is do you care enough to be honest? Plus, don’t ever start making life recommendations to someone unless you truly love the person and are willing to help the individual work through the issues.

It’s easier to let people continue on their negative path to self destruction. Fast food and unhealthy food items are unfortunately much more affordable. It’s not cheap to eat healthy. It’s not cheap to be sick either. Medical bills can pile up quickly. Trips to the doctor are expensive. Diabetic medications are expensive. Kidney issues result in death for many Americans every year. Funerals are expensive.

Giving up a good friend or family member is life changing.

Disease happens to us all in some way. These bodies are very vulnerable to cancer, diabetes and so on.

Chances are you may have tried. Most likely you have talked your head off to someone you love but they continue in their negative behavior. It seems many people under 50 can’t fathom sickness or death. The consequences of their behavior seem remote or even impossible. Thus they continue on their way.

Of course we all have to look in the mirror. We all wrestle with our private and public demons. Most of us know we aren’t perfect and if we take a serious inventory of our lives and habits we realize we all come away short of perfection, this is especially true of me. I have lots of personal work to do and it’s all I can do to try to do my own daily diagnosis and repair work. This is why we don’t take the time to try to help others; we have enough problems of our own.

Therefore, this is why you have to really care a lot about someone to take the time to try to help the person.

If you had the gift of premonition and could keep someone from being killed in an accident you wouldn’t hesitate to speak with them about it. So, why, if you can help someone address personal issues/addictions that might be deadly, wouldn’t you try? Unfortunately, addictions and mental illnesses are issues that people seem to be afraid to address. If someone you love was inside a burning building, most of us would risk our own lives to rush in and save them.

Why is it so hard to risk hurt feelings to save a life?

*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.*

## Advocate Healthcare of East Boston under new management

Story & Photo by Marianne Salza

Advocate Healthcare of East Boston, formerly the Don Orione Home, is under new management. Administrator Ryan Gaughan, of Winthrop, began working at the Orient Heights nursing home and rehabilitation facility on October 1, 2022; and he hopes to create quality care and a welcoming atmosphere for the community.

“I believe in good care,” expressed Gaughan, who served in the United States Coast Guard for four years. “Treating families with respect, welcoming them, and being transparent with them is key to running a successful building.”

The 100,000-square-foot structure was constructed in 1954; and Gaughan recognizes that improvements must be made to provide a more comfortable and functional space for residents and their families.

“It’s an old building, but it has charm and history,” admitted Gaughan. “My goal is to make the building the top nursing home in the area.”

Advocate Healthcare is in the planning stages of major renovations. Architects and contractors are being consulted to improve and upgrade the building.

A physical therapy gym is proposed to be built in what had been a recreation area, with an expansive deck overlooking the airport runway, and the Madonna Queen of the Universe National Shrine. The space will include an occupational therapy area to help develop residents’ abilities to live more independently.

“We’re looking at putting it on the fourth floor, which is stunning. It’s one of the best views around,” said Gaughan. “It’s going to be great. I’m excited.”

Advocate Healthcare is

View of the Madonna Queen of the Universe National Shrine, Logan International Airport, and the Orient Heights neighborhood from the fourth floor of Advocate Healthcare of East Boston.

also arranging to renovate the 134 units that house long-term and short-term residents.

“We have so much space that we have an opportunity to upgrade the building with little disruption to our residents,” said Gaughan.

In the nearly six months that Gaughan has been employed at Advocate Healthcare, the facility has increased from measuring a two star quality rating to achieving three out of five stars, as evaluated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, a government organization that regulates guidelines for the Department of Health and Human Services.

“My goal is to be a five star building,” Gaughan declared.

According to Gaughan, nurse staffing was low during the COVID-19 pandemic, and many nursing homes relied heavily on contracting agencies to fill positions. Although staffing has increased at Advocate Healthcare, the facility is hiring quality nurses and certified nurse assistants.

“We use very little agency staff here. There is an adjustment period. Cutting down on agencies is important to providing

consistent care,” explained Gaughan. “We want to make sure our staff is familiar and get to know the residents to provide the best care possible.”

Advocate Healthcare offers individualized care for patients, and is staffed by licensed professionals, including a specialized wound doctor, and 24-

hour nurse management.

“Staffing for a lot of buildings has been a challenge; and in the past, it has been here,” Gaughan acknowledged. “Now we are in a good place for staffing. We have in-house nurses who have been here a long time. They’re experienced.”

See HEALTHCARE Page 9

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FINANCE FOR SENIORS

# Our Senior Life 8

## Dealing With Medical Costs

**Juggling Medicare, insurance and out-of-pocket expenses can be daunting**

Unfortunately, health issues tend to become more common in our seniors years — and then the accompanying bills begin to pile up. Managing it all can start to feel like a return to full-time employment, in particular for those with chronic illnesses. Here’s how to deal with medical costs.

**HEALTH SAVINGS**

Consider putting away pre-tax money in order to cover the inevitable medical expenses that will come up later. Health savings account are an idea way to do it. This personal account allows you to save and then withdraw your money tax free, as long as it’s used for qualified medical expenses including co-payments and deductibles, among other things.

Eligibility for an HSA is based on being covered by health plans with deductibles that are deemed “high.” The monthly premium on these



plans is usually lower, but you end up paying more in out-of-pocket expenses before the insurance company takes over. HSAs are designed to fill that gap, potentially saving thousands. You aren’t eligible, however, if you have Medicare or a non-deductible insurance plan.

**MEDICARE**

As with Social Security, this benefit can be leveraged higher — if you know how to manage your account. Don’t simply auto-enroll, or you may end up higher out-of-pocket payments and less coverage for prescriptions. Part A and Part B cover hospital insurance and outpa-

tient services, respectively. Be aware, however, that you can expect annual changes to your prescription drug benefit so explore multiple Part D options. It pays to shop around.

Part C, meanwhile, is the so-called Medicare Advantage plan. This allows you to consolidate elements of Parts A, B and D through private insurance companies. Part C may include options not available through original Medicare plans, including dental, hearing and vision. Critically, Plan C also has an annual limit on your out-of-pocket expenses.

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

Take the time to look into long-term care plans as soon as possible. Set aside reserves specifically for this often-needed health option, or consider a hybrid insurance plan that combines life and long-term insurance products. In the meantime, become an active patient. Ask plenty of questions, in particular about tests that may be unneeded but tend to run up your bill. Consider generics when filling prescriptions, which can also turned into huge savings.

# Our Senior Life

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## Making the Most of Social Security

**There are ways to maximize your return on this investment**

Rather than providing all you’ll need to retire, think of Social Security as a foundation for our golden years. If you’d like the make the most off this benefit, however, you’ll have to follow certain guidelines while sorting through the sometimes complicated process of applying.

**WHEN TO BEGIN**

Benefits can kick in as early as 62 years old for those who’ve paid into the program, but with reduced payouts. Retirement age for most Americans is pegged at 66. Your particular monthly pay-out is based on your income. If you want until turning 70, however, your monthly benefit grows. Those who enjoy their work or who’ve started their own business may con-sider this option.

If you begin Social Security payments and then return to work, you will see your benefit shrink. Want to learn more? The U.S. Social Security Administration includes a retirement-estimating feature on its web-site where users can look up key details, including the age in which they’ll be eligible

for full benefits and estimated monthly stipends.

**HOW TO APPLY**

You will need your Social Security number, of course, but also your birth certificate and paperwork detailing your income from the previous year, like a W-2 form or self-employed tax return. You’ll also have to update your status with the Social Security Administration should you decide to move, change your name, get married or divorced, begin receiving additional retirement income including pensions, expand your family through adoption or if there are any changes in your citizenship. Calling the national toll-free number at 1-800-772-121, or visit your local Social Security office.

**FAMILY BENEFITS**

If you qualify through dis-ability, mem-bers of your family may also be eligible for their own benefits, without cutting into your individual payments. Children must be minors, full-time students who are 18-19, or have a childhood disability. Spouses may also be eligible if they are 62 and older, but the payment may be reduced if they are also earning their own benefit. Spouses are also eligible if they reached retirement age but have not paid into the Social Security system. Both spouses and children may receive up to half of your full retirement payout each month. If you are divorced, your ex-spouse may qualify — even if you’ve remarried.

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OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION – ST. PATRICK’S DAY GALA

Photos & Story by Marianne Salza

Our Lady of the Assumption celebrated the Feast of Saint Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, with a Saint Patrick’s Day Gala fundraiser on March 17. Some 200 guests gathered in the parish hall for this special event for the first time since 2019, before the pandemic. Parishioners enjoyed live saxophone music performed by Mauricio.

Shaw’s, Tertulias Café, and Spinelli’s donated food for dinner; and desserts, appetizers, side

dishes, and baked goods were provided by parishioners. Father Ignatius Mushauko, pastor, blessed the meal before supper.

“Saint Patrick is well known for his evangelization skills and miracles,” said Father Ignatius. “When he was taken as a slave, he started praying the Jesus prayer; and that made him happy. He didn’t keep any bitterness or grudges toward the people who enslaved him. He went back to evangelize them. That is the spirit we are here to receive.”



Gladys Maldonado, Javier, Amanda, and Allejandra Andino.



Father Ignatius welcoming parishioners with a prayer before dinner.



Two hundred Our Lady of the Assumption parishioners celebrated the Feast of Saint Patrick on March 17 with a dinner in the parish hall.



The Guerra Family.



Parishioners Santiago Enrique and Julia Roso.



Kevin Ventura, parishioner, and master of ceremonies.



Our Lady of the Assumption parishioners enjoying appetizers.



Deacon Jose Montero with Rosamaria Molina, Mauricio, Elena, and Laura Acosta.



Friends, Maria Isabelle Rosario and Sophia Moreno.



Peter Heidkamp, parish business manager, and Kevin Ventura, parishioner, and master of ceremonies.



Carina Vasquez with Wilson, Daisy, Giovanni, Jose, and Bicky Romero.



Marcel Guzman, Oscar, Patricia, Cecilia, Jairo, Vivianna Catano, and Omayra Echeverry.



Father Ignatius, Seminarian Luis Alberto, and Deacon Jose Montero with volunteers.



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SCAN TO APPLY



# Wu announces strategies to enhance energy efficiency

Mayor Michelle Wu visited the Brian Honan Apartments in Allston-Brighton to announce the City’s intention to adopt a new, green building code that will strengthen energy efficiency requirements for new construction in Boston.

To achieve this, Mayor Wu will file an ordinance with the Boston City Council to adopt the State Department of Energy Resources’ Municipal Opt-in Specialized Stretch Energy Code, a transformative green update that will further reduce climate-polluting emissions in buildings in municipalities that have adopted the code across the state. Additionally, Mayor Wu announced the new Large Building Green Energy Retrofits Program administered by the Mayor’s Office of Housing, a grant program supported by \$10 million of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to be used to foster energy performance improvements for affordable housing developments.

This program will significantly reduce the energy consumption and carbon footprint of Boston’s existing affordable housing. Together, these efforts will further the City’s work to increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, transition away from fossil fuels, and support the City’s carbon neutrality goals.

“Building a Green New Deal city means improving on our existing infrastructure as well as investing in future resilient development,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This new green building code will help ensure that we set the foundation for healthy, resilient growth throughout our neighborhoods.”

“Our focus is taking decisive action now to support our climate, advance justice and bolster livability throughout the City of Boston for all of our residents. To advance Boston’s Green New Deal, we are tackling building decarbonization from all different angles, using all of the tools at our disposal,” said Green New Deal Director Oliver Sellers-Garcia. “By both adapting existing buildings and setting new energy standards for new buildings, we are taking an all of government approach to reducing emissions in more buildings to ensure our climate’s health and our city’s quality of life.”

Municipal Opt-in Specialized Stretch Energy Code

The Specialized Stretch Code was created along with an updated Stretch Energy Code in December 2022. The stretch energy code applies to nearly 300 Green Communities in Massachusetts, including Boston, and sets energy efficiency requirements for new construction and major renovations. The new, updated Stretch Energy code requires energy conservation measures to reduce heating and cooling demand. It creates a strong standard to ensure buildings are more resilient to power outages while enabling efficiency, electrification, and affordability.

In Boston, 70 percent of greenhouse gas emissions come from the building sector. The impacts of these emissions contribute to global climate change and local air pollution that disproportionately impacts low-income residents and



Mayor Michelle Wu.

communities of color in Boston. The updated energy code will deliver the long-term benefits of improved air quality, lower energy costs, reduced carbon emissions, and enhanced thermal comfort to residents. Research shows there is little-to-no cost increase for building efficient and fossil fuel-free multifamily housing.

“The adoption of the state’s Specialized Stretch Energy Code is an important part of Boston’s work to decarbonize our buildings and reduce our carbon footprint,” said Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space. “I’m grateful to be a part of a Green New Deal City where we prioritize affordable housing in our decarbonization work.”

The specialized code expands upon the current policy by requiring mixed-fuel buildings, or those using fossil fuels, to add wiring for future conversion to electrification and to install solar. The specialized code will result in most new buildings adhering to a highly efficient, all-electric standard. The specialized code includes three pathways to comply, including:

- Zero Energy: All stretch code efficiency requirements are to be met, and on-site renewable energy generation is equal to or greater than the building’s annual energy use. Any fossil fuel use must be pre-wired for electrification.
- All-Electric: This pathway requires all stretch code efficiency requirements to be met and for the property to utilize no fossil fuels, except for backup generators, on-site vehicles, or outdoor equipment fueling.
- Mixed-fuel: Gas or fossil fuels are allowed if all stretch code efficiency requirements are met and the building is pre-wired for electrification. On-site solar must also be added to the property where feasible. New homes over 4,000 sq. ft. cannot use this option.

If approved by the City Council all multifamily housing over 12,000 sq. ft. must achieve Passive House certification in addition to meeting one of the above pathways beginning in January 2024.

“Requiring new construction and major renovations to maximize energy efficiency will get us closer to electrifying affordably and make our buildings more resilient,” said Councilor Kendra Lara, Chair of the Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks. “This is a critical step in meeting our decarbonization goals and protecting our most vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change.”

The specialized code is a critical foundation for other City building decarbonization policies by requiring new construction and buildings undergoing

major renovations to be as efficient as possible. The City is already leading by example in its construction initiatives, adopting a fossil fuel-free standard for new municipal buildings and holding City-funded affordable housing developments to a zero emissions standard. The City is also continuing community engagement around regulations development for the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO), which requires existing mid- to large-sized buildings to reduce their emissions gradually to net-zero by 2050.

Additionally, last summer Mayor Wu filed legislation to give Boston the local option to set building standards eliminating the use of fossil fuels for new developments and major renovations in Boston with the goal of participating in a 10-municipality pilot program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

Affordable housing green retrofits

While adopting the new greener specialized code creates a strong baseline for new buildings to be energy efficient, the City of Boston is also being intentional about supporting existing properties to bolster energy efficiency through retrofits. To support this work, Mayor Wu announced the Mayor’s Office of Housing’s new Large Building Green Energy Retrofits Program that will provide up to \$50,000 per unit for deep energy retrofits for income-restricted buildings with 15 or more units in Boston. In coordination with the launch of this program, the Mayor’s Office of Housing is also offering up to \$10,000 in technical assistance grants to support building owners in learning about their building’s energy use, and laying out a roadmap to achieving a deep energy retrofit of their building and BERDO compliance.

More information about technical assistance grants can be found here.

Residential buildings are responsible for approximately 50 percent of greenhouse gas emissions from buildings in Boston, and improving their energy efficiency can help to reduce these emissions and mitigate climate change. Energy-efficient buildings help to lower energy costs for tenants and affordable housing operators, improve indoor air quality, and create more comfortable and healthy living environments for Boston residents.

“The new Large Building Green Energy Retrofits Program is a comprehensive effort to improve the energy efficiency and environmental sustainability of existing affordable housing in the City of Boston,” said Chief of Housing, Sheila Dillon. “By investing in green energy retrofits in income-restricted housing, we are creating a more sustainable and resilient city. The changes this program will fund will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contribute to a cleaner, healthier city and will advance Boston’s goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.”

There are a variety of green energy retrofits possible for income-restricted housing developments in Boston, accounting for the building’s age, condition, and usage. Standard retrofitting measures include:

- Installing energy-efficient lighting and appliances
- Upgrading insulation and weatherization to prevent heat loss
- Replacing outdated heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems with more efficient models
- Installing solar panels or other renewable energy sources
- Upgrading windows and doors to be more energy-efficient

“We cannot have a green Boston without

greening our existing large buildings, and we especially need healthy, energy-efficient housing for our affordable housing residents,” said Councilor Kenzie Bok, Chair of the Committee on Boston’s Covid-19 Recovery. “I am proud that the Council and the Mayor were able to dedicate this \$10 million in federal recovery funds to improving energy performance in affordable housing specifically. With these funds, we will put our low-income residents at the front of the green revolution and create a blueprint for affordable green retrofits that we then hope to use as a model citywide.”

“I am delighted that a much needed infusion of cash will protect the infrastructure and reduce energy consumption in the Brian Honan Apartments,” said Councilor Liz Breadon. “Residents in my district and throughout Boston are calling for improved air quality and innovative solutions to climate change. My thanks to the Wu administration and my Council colleagues who persistently advocate for healthy affordable housing in our city.”

“Allston Brighton CDC is pleased to be an early recipient of the Large Building Green Energy Retrofits Program to help us preserve and enhance the Brian J. Honan Apartments in Allston. Our team has committed to pursuing green technologies at our properties to not only reduce the environmental impact of development but to create healthy and safe housing for our residents,” said John Woods, Executive Director of the Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation. “We would like to thank Mayor Wu and The City Of Boston for making these new and important resources available, which will ensure that deeply affordable housing can provide high-quality homes to residents for generations

to come.”

“This announcement marks an important step in demonstrating Boston’s climate leadership. We need to get Boston’s buildings off of fossil fuels to meet our climate goals and mitigate the extreme impacts of climate pollution that disproportionately impact environmental justice communities. Electric buildings are cost effective to construct, reduce energy costs when paired with efficiency measures, and provide cleaner indoor and outdoor air, improving public health and community resilience,” said Michele Brooks, Boston Lead Organizer with the Massachusetts Sierra Club. “As we move to electrify our buildings, it’s necessary that we provide resources to support affordable housing developments in making these efficiency upgrades. We are pleased to celebrate the city in the announcement of \$10 million dedicated towards green energy retrofits.”

The Large Building Green Energy Retrofits Program is part of a larger \$20 million initiative to embed deep energy retrofits in Boston’s existing building stock. Over the coming months, the City will be building upon this work with a retrofit program for smaller residential buildings as well as a program specific to retrofitting the Boston Housing Authority. The adoption of the specialized code, in conjunction with retrofitting affordable housing to ensure maximized efficiency, supports a Green New Deal approach to achieve Boston’s environmental and economic justice goals. By ensuring new and existing buildings are built as efficiently as possible, the City of Boston will be able to mitigate emissions from the building sector, bolstering housing affordability, and supporting the City’s goals to be carbon neutral by 2050.

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Best Yet Pie Crust.....	2/¢7.00
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Margherita Genoa Salami.....	¢7.99 lb
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# EPA analysis shows 2021 increase of toxic chemical releases in Massachusetts

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its 2021 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) National Analysis, which shows that environmental releases of TRI chemicals from facilities covered by the program remained below pre-pandemic levels and releases in 2021 are 10% lower than 2012 releases, even with an 8% increase from 2020 to 2021. Additionally, in 2021, facilities managed 89% of their TRI chemical waste through preferred practices such as recycling, energy recovery and treatment, while reporting that they released 11% of their TRI chemical waste into the environment.

In Massachusetts, the reporting data show that overall releases of pollutants to the environment increased since the previous reporting year (2020). However, over the last 10 years, Massachusetts has reduced air emissions by 55% due to the closures of a coal fired power plant and aluminum can manufacturer

TRI tracks the management of certain toxic chemicals that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. U.S. facilities in different industry sectors must report annually how much of each chemical is released to the environment and/or managed through recycling, energy recovery and treatment. A "release" of a chemical means that it is emitted to the air, water or placed in some type of land disposal.

“TRI reporting is a key part of EPA’s efforts to provide greater access to vital environmental information to Americans about their neighborhoods,” said EPA New England Regional Administrator David W. Cash. “Making this information publicly available also incentivizes companies to reduce pollution and gives communities tools to act locally – which is particularly important for underserved communities that have historically been disproportionately impacted by pollution.”

## Massachusetts: Released on and offsite

During 2021, the latest year for which data is available, 357 facilities reported approximately 3.9 million pounds were released onsite to the air, water and land (such as landfills), compared to 3.0 million pounds released in 2020 (an increase of 0.9 million pounds). Approximately 667,300 pounds were released to the air, and 2,800 pounds were released to surface water. The major pollutants released to the air were toluene at 27% and ammonia with 11% of all air releases in the state. The major pollutant released to the water although small was formaldehyde (at 30% of all releases to water). In the last ten years, total releases increased 8% from 3.6 million pounds in 2011 to 3.9 million pounds in 2021.

### Massachusetts: Total Production Related Waste

During 2021, 357 facilities reported approximately 50.4 million pounds of total production related waste was managed compared to 362 facilities and 43.9 million pounds managed in 2020 (an increase of 8.3 million pounds). Total production related waste includes chemicals released directly to the environment and wastes that are treated (such as in an incinerator or wastewater treatment system), recycled and waste that is landfilled.

## Massachusetts: Top Five Companies

The companies in Massachusetts with the greatest releases included various industries including plastics, fabricated metals, manufacturing, and chemicals. These 5 facilities produced 44% of the releases in the state of Massachusetts in 2021.

Each year, EPA makes publicly available TRI data reported by industries throughout the United States regarding chemical releases to air, water and land by power plants, manufacturers and other

facilities which employ ten or more workers, and which exceed thresholds for chemicals. Reporting includes information on chemicals released at a company's facility, as well as those transported to disposal facilities off site. TRI data do not reflect the relative toxicity of the chemicals emitted or potential exposure to people living in a community with reported releases.

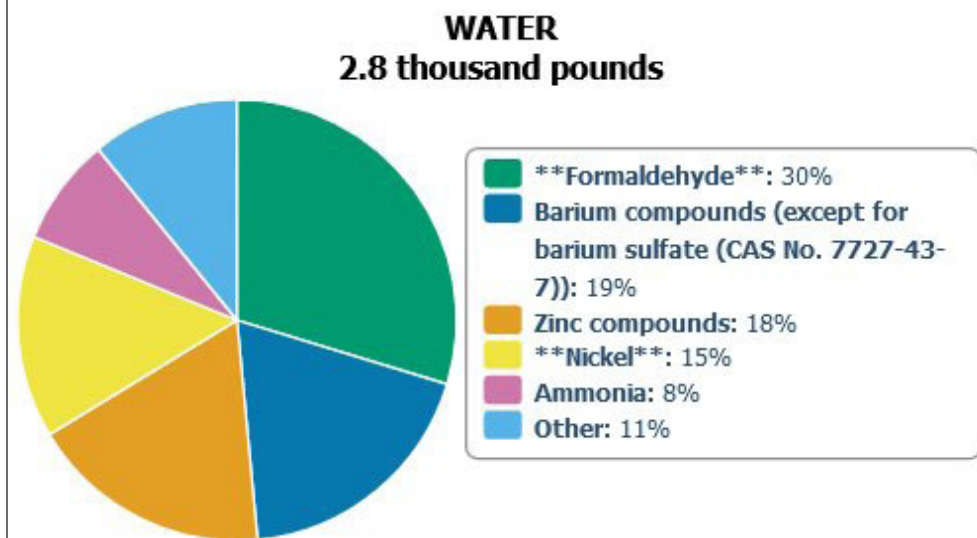
Reporting under TRI does not indicate illegal discharges of pollutants to the environment. EPA works closely with states to provide regulatory oversight of facilities that generate pollution to the nation's air, land, and water. Effective review and permitting programs work to ensure that the public and the environment are not subjected to unhealthy levels of pollution, even as agencies work to further reduce emissions of chemicals to the environment. Enforcement efforts by EPA and states ensure that facilities that violate their environmental permits are subject to penalties and corrective action. Yearly releases by individual facilities can vary due to factors such as power outages, production variability, lulls in the business cycle, etc., that do not reflect a facility's pollution prevention program(s).

### Companies with the largest releases:

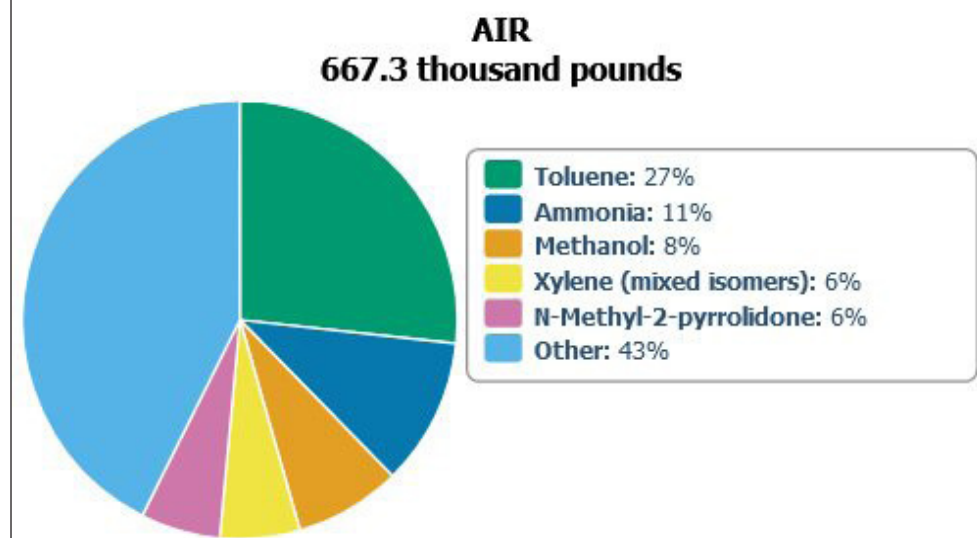
TRI data are submitted annually to EPA, states, and tribes by facilities in industry sectors such as manufacturing, metal mining, electric utilities, and commercial hazardous waste. Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), facilities must report their toxic chemical releases for the prior year to EPA by July 1 of each year. The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 also requires facilities to submit information on pollution prevention and other waste management activities related to TRI chemicals.

The 2021 Analysis features updated visualizations and analytical tools to make data more

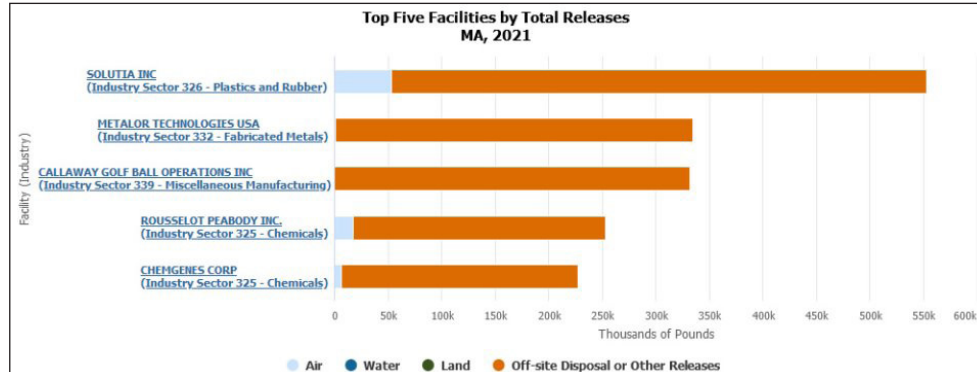
## The top five chemicals released to surface water in Massachusetts during 2021



## The top five chemicals released to the air in Massachusetts during 2021



### Companies with the largest releases





## Suffolk DA Hayden urges national purchasing regulations

Citing six new firearm arraignments in just the last week, Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden reiterated his call for more stringent national gun purchasing standards in order to address the flow of illegal guns from states with lax purchase rules into states with tighter buying regulations, such as Massachusetts.

“The standard arguments against stricter national purchasing regulations reflect the extreme ideology of unrestrained buying ability and disregard the reality of that argument in one state having dramatic consequences in another state. Our patchwork approach to gun purchasing regulations—which differs so broadly from the unified approach of other industrialized nations—needs serious revision, because it is damaging neighborhoods and destroying lives,” Hayden said.

Six individuals, including a murder suspect and a teenager, were arraigned this week in Suffolk County alone on separate gun possession charges, some involving firearms with magazines capable of holding 15 or more bullets.

Stephen Freeman, 33, was charged on Friday with murder and multiple firearm offenses in the February 18 shooting death of Terrell Banks, 27, in front of a bar in Roxbury. Judge David Poole ordered Freeman held without bail. Freeman will return to court April 20 for a probable cause hearing.

Jared Roach, 18, was arraigned in the Roxbury Division of BMC on March 13 for carrying a firearm without a license, carrying a loaded firearm without a license, and possession of ammunition without an FID card. Judge Samir Zaganjori set \$2,500 bail and ordered Roach to return to court on May 18 for a pre-trial hearing.

Tordan Defoe, 33, was arraigned in East Boston BMC on March 15 for possession of a large capacity firearm, carrying a loaded firearm without a license, possession of ammunition without an FID card, assault, and assault with a dangerous weapon. Judge John McDonald ordered \$15,000 bail with home confinement.

Rasheed Avinger, 29, was arraigned in Dorchester BMC on March 13 for carrying a firearm without a license, carrying a loaded firearm without a license, and possession of ammunition without an FID card. Judge Jonathan Tynes revoked Avinger’s bail on a separate open matter from New Bedford and ordered \$10,000 bail. Avinger is due back in court April 6 for a pre-trial hearing.

Devonje Williams, 23, was arraigned in Dorchester BMC on March 15 on charges of carrying a firearm without a license, possession of a large capacity firearm, possession of ammunition without an FID card, carrying a firearm without a license (second offense), carrying a loaded firearm without a license (second offense), firearm violation with one prior violent crime or drug of-

fense (armed career criminal). Judge Margaret Albertson ordered Williams held without bail pending dangerousness hearing on April 12.

Kenneth Madden, 26, of Reading was arraigned on March 16 in Chelsea District Court on charges of carrying a firearm without a license, possession of a large capacity feeding device, and possession of ammunition with an FID card. Judge Kareem Morgan ordered Madden held without bail pending a March 22 dangerousness hearing and revoked Madden’s bail on a separate open firearm case out of Cambridge.

Hayden’s office last year released data showing that most illegal guns seized in Suffolk County in 2021 came from Maine, New Hampshire, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. Guns were also traced to Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Ohio. Of the 441 traceable guns seized in Boston that year, 271, or 61 percent, originated in those nine states; 67, or 15 percent, originated in other states, and 103, or 23 percent, originated in Massachusetts.

Hayden praised President Joseph Biden’s executive order this week that could increase the number of people “engaged in the business” of selling firearms to register as gun sellers, which would require them to conduct background checks before completing gun sales. But significant change requires Congressional action, Hayden said.

Hayden also cited the 100-plus mass shootings so far in 2023 in his call for national action on uniform gun purchasing regulations.

“I pray that members of both parties recognize the urgency and the benefits of a coherent, rational approach that preserves purchasing rights but addresses the patchwork policies that affect firearm inflow states like Massachusetts. I realize the 2nd Amendment has divergent interpretations, but there’s no arguing about the fact that it includes the words ‘well-regulated,’” Hayden said.

All charged individuals are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden’s office serves the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Mass. The office handles over 20,000 cases a year. More than 160 attorneys in the office practice in nine district and municipal courts, Suffolk Superior Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Boston Juvenile Courts. The office employs some 300 people and offers a wide range of services and programs to serve anyone who comes in contact with the criminal justice system. This office is committed to educating the public about the services we provide, our commitment to crime prevention, and our dedication to keeping the residents of Suffolk County safe.

## Florence D’Avella

### Dedicated community advocate and activist

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Florence Rita (DeAngelis) D’Avella. Florence passed on March 6 in her 102nd year in her home in Brooksby Village surrounded by her family.

Florence was born in East Boston on November 8, 1921, the daughter of the late Amelia (Colantono) and Henry DeAngelis. She graduated from East Boston High School. “Flossie” was employed at Western Union, Johns Manville and after raising her children, for the Boston Public Schools for over twenty years. She volunteered for many years as a Girl Scout leader with her close friend, the late Rose Christopher. She was also a dedicated community advocate and activist with her sister, Dr. Edith DeAngelis, at Trinity House and Camp. They worked to save Wood Island Park from Massport takeover. They tirelessly participated in committees establishing Piers Park, the East Boston Greenway and the Belle Isle Marsh.

In the company of family and friends, Florence celebrated her 100th Birthday, where she was honored by both the Boston City Council and the Governor’s Office.

Florence relocated to Brooksby Village in 2005 where she was an active member of the communi-



ty and was well loved for her generosity, kindness and shining joyful smile. While at Brooksby Village she participated in many organizations, enjoyed swimming and discovered a new talent through her pottery.

She was devoted to her family. She was known for her cooking, always welcoming everyone into her home. She was a loving wife to her late husband, Mario. She is survived by her children: Richard and his wife, Lisa of Winthrop, Patricia of Londonderry, NH; her grandchildren, Gabriella, Robert and Richard, great-granddaughter Aurora, as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her siblings, Robert, Joseph, Catherine Zarba and Edith DeAngelis Ph.D.

At Florence’s request a private wake and prayer service was held at Magrath Funeral Home. She will be interred with her husband, Mario at St. Michael Cemetery.

## Jamie Lee Boucher

### She centered her life around her kids

Jamie Lee Boucher of Methuen passed away suddenly on March 13.

Jamie’s kids were her everything and she centered her life around them. She loved crafts, tattoos and music. She enjoyed decorating for Christmas every year. Jamie enjoyed cooking for her family and her delicious meals will be treasured forever. May she rest in peace.

The beloved wife of Jay Boucher, she was the loving daughter of James “Jimmy” LaGrassa and the late Leonora “Lee” (Walbourne), devoted mother of Dylan and Devin Boucher; dear sister of Steven LaGrassa, Marlena Donovan and her husband, Ryan, cherished aunt of Nicholas, Ryan Jr. and Patrick, adored granddaughter of Mary LaGrassa and the late Philip, Leonard and Lena Walbourne and treasured daughter in law of Bruce and Lori Boucher. She is also survived by many



loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A funeral mass will be celebrated in Jamie’s honor today, Wednesday, March 22 at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph- St. Lazarus Church, East Boston. Please meet directly at church. Please omit flowers.

Due to Jamie’s devotion to helping children, memorial donations may be made in Jamie’s name to the White Sutton Syndrome Foundation.

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

## Stephen Freni

### Longtime Generational Member of the Orient Heights Yacht Club

Stephen Freni of East Boston passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 18 at 83 years of age.

A longtime generational member of the Orient Heights Yacht Club in East Boston, Stephen loved boating and singing.

The beloved husband of 53 years to Josephine (Celona) Freni, he was the devoted father of Margaret Vahey and her husband, Jimmy, Mary Jo McCarthy and her husband, Jimmy, Stephen Freni Jr. and his partner, Jessica, and Frank Freni and his wife, Monica; dear brother of Louis and Rocco Freni; cherished grandfather of Cristen, Alexa, Skye, Jimmy, Luca, and Stephen and great-grandfather of Nova. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Stephen’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston, on Friday, March 24 from 4 to 8 p.m. and again on



Saturday morning at 8 a.m. before leaving in procession to the Sacred Heart Parish, 45 Brooks Street, East Boston for a Funeral Mass celebrating Stephen’s life at 9:30 a.m. Committal services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Kidney Fund, 11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 300, Rockville MD 20852. Stephen was a longtime generational member of Orient Height Yacht Club in East Boston. Stephen loved boating and singing. May he rest in peace. To leave an online condolence please visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

## Annette Marie McDermott

### Of East Boston

Annette Marie (Serino) McDermott of East Boston passed away on March 18.

The loving daughter of the late Ralph and Leonora (DiFilippo) Serino, she was the devoted mother of Bobbi McDermott and her fiancé, Joshua Schrag and the late Kerri DiZoglio and Ralph DiZoglio and cherished grandmother of Domenic Noe.

Family and friends will honor Annette’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston on Thursday, March 23 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. before leaving



in procession to Sacred Heart Church in East Boston for an 11 a.m. Funeral Mass. Services will conclude with Annette being laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. To leave an online condolence, visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

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## Healthcare // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

rienced and know the residents and systems. That’s comforting.”

Advocate Healthcare provides short-term and long-term services. The first floor cares for patients in rehabilitation, the second floor houses long-term residents, and the third floor is a more secure dementia unit. Rooms are shared, but there are also private units available. There are currently vacancies; but Gaughan shared

that units are filling quickly.

“Our nurse managers care about the patients and know families well,” Gaughan asserted. “We offer that personal touch.”

Learn more about Advocate Healthcare of East Boston, located at 111 Orient Avenue, East Boston, by calling (617) 569-2100, or visiting [www.AdvocateHealthcareEast-Boston.com](http://www.AdvocateHealthcareEast-Boston.com).

For Advertising Rates, Call 617-884-2416



NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

COUNCIL LOOKS TO MAKE TWEAKS IN LINKAGE FEES

CHELSEA - The City Council needs to make a few minor tweaks in order to enact its new linkage fee ordinance.

The ordinance will require developers to pay a fee to the city for developments that meet certain size requirements. Those fees would then be used by the city for programs such as youth sports or other programs to improve the city.

The home rule petition for linkage fees was introduced by then- City Council President Roy Avellaneda in early 2022. The ordinance creates linkage fees for any commercial, industrial, or mixed-used development, and any residential developments of 24 or more units.

Those fees would then go into a separate fund, and the City Council would then be able to decide how the funds could best be used for the neighborhoods impacted and the city.

In a letter to the City Council, City Solicitor Cheryl Watson Fisher said the home rule petition recently passed by the state misclassified which fund the monies should be appropriated to, and also failed to clarify the waiver section.

At its next meeting, the council will be asked to amend several sections of the ordinance to clarify those issues.

The fees will go into a community impact linkage fee fund and subject to appropriation by the council.

The fee for commercial and industrial developments will be determined by multiplying the rate of \$12.50 per square

foot times the total number of square feet in the project over 25,000 gross square feet.

For residential and mixed-use developments, the fee would be \$10 per square foot times the total number of square feet in the project over 25,000 gross square feet.

The City Manager may also recommend a waiver or reduction of the linkage fees if the City Manager determines that other project development cost and concessions warrant such a waiver or reduction. Such a recommendation would have to be approved by a majority of the council.

HOLT APPOINTED TO COMMISSION

EVERETT — The Everett City Council unanimously approved the appointment of Jay Holt to a three-year term on the DPW Commission at its meeting Monday night.

Holt worked as a senior mechanic in the Everett Housing Authority for 23 years. He is a well-known youth sports coach in Everett.

Councillors Rich Dell Isola and Al Lattanzi and Council President Michael Marchese all praised the appointment of Holt, who was seated in the audience at the meeting.

“I’ve known Jay Holt for many, many years,” said Dell Isola. “Jay worked for the Housing Authority for many, many years. He’s been involved with every sport that goes on in Everett, so being on the DPW Commission is a great fit, so I’ll be in favor of [his appointment].”

“I’ve known Jay Holt for a quarter of a century,” said Lattanzi. “In

Everett Housing, he’s done quite a nice job. He knows the city. He knows the streets and sidewalks. I think the Administration did a good job by asking him [to serve on the DPW Commission]. As far as sports go, he’s given his life to coaching children. He’s a great guy and I support him 100 percent.”

Said Marchese in concluding the discussion, “We all know Jay. He’s a good Everett guy.”

RIZZO ENTERS RACE FOR MAYOR

REVERE - The race for Mayor of Revere just got a lot more interesting with the announcement by popular councilor-at-large, and former mayor, Dan Rizzo that he will be a candidate for the city’s chief executive position in the 2023 election.

Rizzo will be seeking a return to the corner office, having previously served one term as mayor from 2012 to 2016. During his mayoral campaign, Rizzo will no doubt highlight his numerous accomplishments in office, compiling an impressive slate during challenging times that included an unprecedented tornado that struck the city in 2014, and the eight feet of snow during 45 days in the winter of 2015.

“Despite our challenges, we were able to do an awful lot,” said Rizzo. “We invested \$8-9 million on Broadway. We built the new Hill School and the new Harry DeLaRusso Stadium, the three ballfields behind St. Mary’s, and brought in Market Basket to reenergize Northgate. So I think my proven record of accomplishments and

WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING



First Church of Winthrop, United Methodist held its annual St. Patrick's Day party on March 11 at the Church's Hall at 217 Winthrop Street. Shown in the top photo are Audrey DiPasquale and Marie Grenlaw with their green on and supporting big smiles. In the photo to the left is Rich and Mae Stroshane, the church musicians for the event.

getting things done will hopefully resonate with the voters.”

Rizzo said he recently consulted with some of his longtime supporters about a run for mayor, “and everyone’s energized and everybody’s excited, because they believe in my form of leadership and government. So, I’ll definitely be back in the race for mayor. I’m feeling confident. My campaign is going to be about positivity. It’s going to be about the future.”

Rizzo said he will formally announce his candidacy at his April 13 luau that has annually attracted capacity crowds to Casa Lucia.

TOWN LOOKING TO BUY FLAGPOLES

WINTHROP - Wave that flag high, Winthrop.

The town is looking to purchase three new commercial flagpoles for official use at the E.B. Newton building.

“I did receive the quotes ... for approximately \$8,500 for three

new commercial flagpoles at E.B. Newton,” said Town Manager Tony Marino at last week’s Town Council meeting.

There would be one 30-foot pole in the center for the American flag, with a 25-foot pole on either side, one for the state flag and one for a community flag. Marino stated he is still working on a flag policy to present to the Town Council that would help govern the display of the community flags.

Marino added that there has been some discussion among groups in town about fundraising efforts to help pay for the new flagpoles.

“We’re still finalizing that, but we will have that well in place before June,” said Marino.

The town manager added that the flagpole currently outside Town Hall will remain in place.

In other business, Marino told the council that negotiations are continuing with Comcast concerning a new cable and internet contract with the town.

“This always generates a lot of questions around town,” said Council President James Letterie. “We appreciate Comcast as the only provider we have in terms of internet, but we would always like services to be better.”

Marino said he has spoken with the Comcast representative Winthrop deals with about coming into talk to the council internet service and other issues related to the contract. One of the aspects of the contract the town is looking at is increased capital funding for the WCAT community cable station.

“One of the items that’s been in past contracts, and I don’t know if it disappeared or what, is that years ago (Comcast) had an office in town as part of the contract where you could pay bills and ask questions,” said Letterie. “That went away when they said Boston was close enough. Well, Boston is not necessarily close enough and I would like that to be brought up to say ‘whatever happened to that?’”

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# All Girls Sports and Wellness Festival returns April 19 and 20

Mayor Michelle Wu, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) invite Boston girls ages 9 to 14 to join us during the April school vacation week for the annual All Girls Sports and Wellness Festival. Due to its popularity last year, the City is hosting the festival for two days.

The free event will take place on Wednesday, April 19, and Thursday, April 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the BCYF Leahy-Holloran Community Center, 1 Worrell Street, Dorchester. The All Girls Sports and Wellness Festival will feature a variety of programming including sports, games, health and wellness speakers, self-defense tactic lessons, and aquatic activities.

Participants will find a variety of fun ways to exercise mind, body, and spirit, and try out a variety of sports with expert instructors including basketball, self-defense demonstrations, fitness, rock climbing, swimming, ultimate frisbee, and more, with additional support from local non-profits and City of Boston agencies.

Pre-registration is required at [boston.gov/sports](http://boston.gov/sports). Event check-in begins at 9:30 a.m. Participants must be Boston residents and should bring activity-appropriate clothing (including swimsuits and towels for those wanting to participate in aquatic activities). Free lunch will be provided. For more information please call (617) 961-3047 or email [jennifer.misiaszek@boston.gov](mailto:jennifer.misiaszek@boston.gov).

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, call (617) 635-4505, visit [boston.gov/parks](http://boston.gov/parks), join our email list at [bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails](http://bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails), and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

## Tunnel// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to those listening to the presentation.

Throughout the process, there will be working groups consisting of participants from Chelsea, East Boston, Winthrop, Revere, and Everett.

MassDOT officials emphasized that keeping the project on time and the cost on-target are the primary goals.

Knowing that East Boston will bear the most impact, the presentation was then open to questions.

One viewer queried whether it would be possible to keep the bridges over Chelsea River open to vehicular traffic during peak hours in order to prevent gridlock. However, it was noted that those bridges are controlled by the Coast Guard.

Many participants urged smoother T service that would help people seek an alternative means of getting to work. Others requested extended hours for the Blue Line. One person wanted bicycle transportation allowed on the T, which is not allowed presently.

MassDOT officials said one measure they are undertaking to ease traffic flow is working with Chelsea officials to improve the traffic lights in getting motorists quickly to Route 1.

Increased police at key intersections to keep the traffic moving was also suggested. In addition, some wondered whether the toll discounts to resident drivers would still be honored on the Ted Williams Tunnel and the Tobin Bridge.

One piece of good news is that there should be no lane closures around the airport, as has been happening in the recent months.

After this summer's two-month closure ends, motorists will still not be out of the woods, as there will still be a few remaining weekend tunnel closures -- and then we will get to do this all over again in July and August, 2024.

Info for motorists from MassDOT:

MassDOT has set up three ways to report a problem or to get the latest information regarding the Summer Tunnel project, which are as follows:

The Hotline number is 508-510-2920;

[Sumner100@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:Sumner100@dot.state.ma.us); and

[Mass.gov/sumner-tunnel-restorative-project](http://Mass.gov/sumner-tunnel-restorative-project).

## LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE OF SALE OF VESSEL

In accordance with Massachusetts Law, (Mass Gen. ch. 255 § 17, Mass. Gen ch. § 14 or 91 § 14B), Notice is hereby given by Boston Harbor Shipyard, located at 256 Marginal Street, East Boston,

MA 02128, the following Vessel will be listed at a Private Sale to satisfy the Maritime Lien thereon for storage, towing charges and expenses of said Vessel: "M/V Alego Vela" - 1995, 37' Bavaria, with a Hull No. BAVDESC9K495. In accordance with State Statute cited above, the Owner, Stephane

Audet, has a right to reclaim this property within THIRTY (30) days subject to rights of any other lien holders. FAILURE TO CLAIM PROPERTY WILL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF ALL RIGHTS, TITLE AND INTEREST IN THE VESSEL. If ownership or Lienholder interest is not claimed and the vessel is

not removed within NINETY (90) DAYS of the last day of Notice by Publication, whichever is later, we will apply to the Division of Title to this property and Sell The Vessel.

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CITY PAWS

Special needs animals

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

There are animals with life-long special needs and some who, with their families, have to adapt due to injury, illness, or aging. Thankfully, there are ways to support these animals and many devices to help them live safer and more rewarding lives.

Vision

One of the sweetest stories we’ve heard over the years was about a senior dog who gradually lost his vision. One day the guardians noticed their younger pup blocking the older one from a stairway.

As time went by, they would see the two coming up and down the stairs, moving in unison, with the senior member of the pair safely positioned between himself and a wall by the young-

ster. The family never taught the dogs any of this behavior. However, they did reward both dogs as it progressed.

Stairway gates are one adaptive device recommended for blind animals. A halo harness for blind dogs protects their heads by bumping into things before the dog does. Scented toys allow a blind animal to find and play with a toy.

Hearing

As our Maggie Mae lost her hearing in old age, we were happy we had taught her to respond to hand signals. Now research is testing the ability of dogs to learn both American Sign Language and “K9Sign” language. This communication can be used when a dog or a family member is deaf. Best Friends Animal Sanctuary is one place using this training.

You can test the dog’s range of deafness to see if you can use their remaining hearing. Dogs start with far better hearing than we do. A dog may not hear your voice but may pick up the sound of a dog whistle beyond the range of human hearing. You can also shake a can of pennies or squeak a toy.

If that fails, turn to other strong canine senses. Vibration is a great tool. As you approach, you can make your footsteps heavier, setting off vibrations the dog can feel. If the dog is on a dog bed or sofa, gently tap the cushion. There are “vibration only” communication and training collars. Be sure the device you choose does not have an electric shock option.

Arouse that finely tuned nose with an odoriferous treat like dried



Canine wheelchairs are available for dogs and cats of all sizes, from tiny to giant.

mussels, salmon jerky, or smelly cheese.

Mobility

In the Boston area, we’re fortunate to have an excellent source for custom dog mobility carts—Eddie’s Wheels in Shelburne, MA. We’ve been following the amazing work of Ed Grinnell since we met our first of his canine customers more than 15 years ago. Penny admits to visiting

the website [www.eddies-wheels.com](http://www.eddies-wheels.com) for the joy of reading his success stories.

Pet strollers are another option. They are perfect for keeping an older dog in the social game. This is the solution if your pooch loves to be out and about with you but can’t walk to a favorite spot. A stroller lets you provide just enough exercise and a ride for

the rest of the way.

Your veterinarian, groomer, or local pet supply store can be a resource for the latest assistive harnesses and support devices you can use as needed. More and more of these products come to the market each year.

You and your special needs animal may enjoy better quality time together if you explore and use the many options available to a specific situation.

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