

East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS

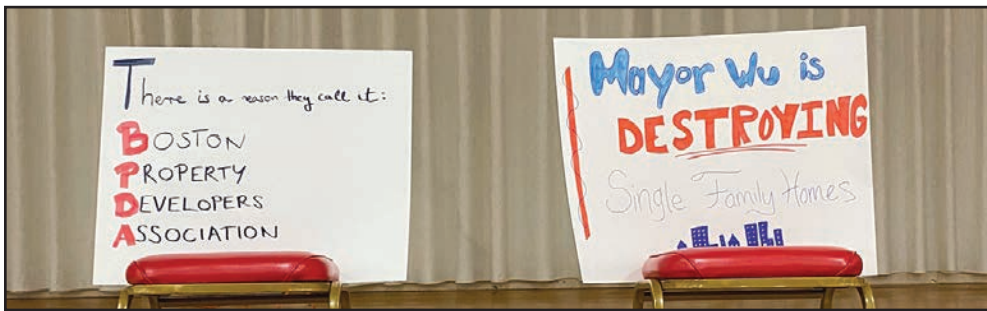
Wednesday, March 29, 2023

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Joanne Pomodoro (above) makes her views about the zoning plan known.

Signs (right) created and put on display during the meeting.



United Orient Heights stands against zoning changes

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

At least a couple hundred Orient Heights residents gathered together on Wednesday, March 22, in the Madonna Shrine Function Room to voice their displeasure with zoning changes proposed by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA).

As described by Kathleen Onufer, the BPDA's Assistant Deputy Director for Downtown & Neighborhood Planning, the zoning proposal "tries to focus on the form of a building to make sure we're thinking about what is the appropriate scale building to go into neighborhoods."

The proposed zoning would have parameters for certain aspects of a building, such as setbacks, height, width, and more.

As part of this proposal, Orient Heights would be split into two zoning areas. In the first area, which makes up most of Orient Heights and Bays-

view, buildings would be limited to two-and-a-half stories and allow only two units plus an additional dwelling unit (ADU).

As for the other area closer to MBTA stations, buildings of up to three stories would be allowed with three units and an ADU. However, lots over 50 feet wide would allow for a maximum of six units and an ADU.

It should be noted that Jason Ruggiero, a Community Engagement Manager with the BPDA, indicated that developments could only include an ADU if owner-occupied.

Additionally, as part of the zoning proposal, the off-street parking requirement would be waived for buildings with three units or fewer.

Along with several elected officials and a significant amount of Orient Heights residents, the BPDA's Chief of Planning, Arthur Jemison, was also in attendance.

See ZONING Page 3

APPRECIATION

Christopher DiPrima, 15-year-old sophomore at Excel Academy East Boston, dies in skiing accident

By Cary Shuman

As the oldest among six cousins in the family, Steven Gringas had developed a special bond with Christopher DiPrima.

The 27-year-old Gringas had watched Christopher develop through childhood into a confident teenager who was academically gifted, had a magnetic personality, and an enthusiasm for a diverse blend of activities.



Christopher DiPrima.

"Out of all the cousins, Christopher and I were

the two who were probably the most alike," said Gringas. "He was at an age when he was starting his own personality and developing interests as an adult, getting really into computers, the internet, skiing - television, movies, and chess. We had a lot of common interests and hobbies like that."

Christopher DiPrima, a talented 15-year-old sophomore at Excel Academy East Boston, died Satur-

day, March 25, 2023, as the result of injuries sustained in an early-evening skiing accident at the Pats Peak Ski Area in Henniker, New Hampshire.

Christopher was on a family skiing trip with his parents, Charles DiPrima and Nubia Prima, his younger sister, Gisela DiPrima, and his cousin, Steven Gringas.

"Christopher was a

See DIPRIMA Page 4

Officials and residents gather to show ongoing opposition of the Eversource electric substation

Special to the Times-Free Press

On Wednesday, March 22, Boston City Councilors: Julia Mejia, Gabriela Coletta, Kendra Lara, Ruthzee Louijeune, Ricardo Arroyo and #NoEas-tieSubstation activists held a press conference to announce the passage of a Boston City Council Resolution in support of the ongoing opposition of the Eversource electric substation in East Boston. GreenRoots, East Boston residents and environmental justice activists call on Governor Maura Healey to issue an equity audit of the Eversource construc-

tion project.

This announcement follows multiple rallies, protests and a municipal ballot question, since construction began of the Eversource electric substation in East Boston and nine years of an overwhelming amount of opposition by local, state and federal elected officials, East Boston residents, and experts. Furthermore, the Eversource substation would result in real implications for the health and safety of one of the most racially and ethnically diverse communities of Massachusetts who disproportionately bear the

brunt of climate change and environmental injustices for the state.

"Black and brown communities like East Boston and Chelsea have borne the brunt of environmental injustice for far too long, and the construction

of the Eversource substation in Eastie is just another example of that," said Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. "This project has been forced upon residents without a meaning-

See EVERSOURCE Page 3



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WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



Parents Ariel and Adrian Madaro and big brother Matteo are excited to announce the birth of Nico Glantz Madaro, born early in the morning on March 5, 2023. Grandparents Debra Cave, Jacopo Madaro, Robbie Levy, Michael Glantz and Heidi Skolnik, along with aunts and uncles, have enjoyed welcoming Nico into the family. Ariel and Adrian feel grateful to be surrounded by so much love during this time, and look forward to raising their children in this vibrant East Boston community.

Our 02128
Senior Page
See Page 12



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

News in Brief

APRIL HARBOR VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association will be on April 3, 2023, at 6pm. The meeting is In Person only but will be streamed via Facebook for archival purposes. Attendance on Facebook does not qualify for voting. The meeting will be held in the Salesian Boys and Girls Club cafeteria, across from the Brooke Charter School on Byron Street. You can access the meeting from the front door on Byron Street or from the rear door on Wordsworth Street, which is the handicap entry, to avoid the stairs. Since we are indoors, masks are optional for those in attendance.

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

Agenda
Welcome/Introduction (5min)
Announcements (5min)
East Boston Senior Center is open. Greenway Coun-

cil membership. Tree Eastie, McLean Park Update. Project Place Climb for a Cause 4/22/23 at Fenway Park. Love Your Block 4/29/23. One Boston Day 4/15/23, Acts of Kindness.

Station 7 Police Report (15min) Sgt. Cintolo, Officers Mosley, Figueroa and Alvarez.

Councilor Gabriela Coletta (10min) Our City Councilor will briefly update us on what she has been working on for East Boston.

Tree Eastie (10min) Bill Masterson, founder of Tree Eastie will present plans for Arbor Day/Earth Week plantings. Relaunched website, free yard tree offerings, recent grants and more.

64 Homer Street (45min) Theresa Strachila, Mayor's Office of Housing, invites us to share our thoughts on the future of the parcel at 64 Homer Street which has been vacant for many years. She will explain the process to us for deciding and voting on the future of this parcel of land. There is a proposal for this parcel to be used for urban agriculture. What do you think?

5 Swift Terrace (30min) 1st Presentation, David Lank, Sharpe Venture Group, and his development team propose demolishing the existing structures on a separate permit. Then construct a new 7 unit building with 5 parking spaces, 3 roof decks and basement storage.

The next meeting of the HVNA will be on May 1, 2023.

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

REMINDER: EAST BOSTON FERRY SERVICE RESUMES

The MBTA reminded riders that the East Boston ferry service project resumed for the spring season effective today, March 27. East Boston ferry service schedules are available online with all ferry service schedules available at mbta.com/ferry.

The East Boston ferry service project operates between East Boston at Lewis Mall and the downtown Boston area at Long Wharf. A one-way fare on the East Boston ferry is \$2.40 (or \$1.10 for Reduced Fare riders), which is the same as taking the subway. Tickets can be purchased on the mTicket app. Printed LinkPasses, Commuter Rail Zone passes, and M7s are also accepted.

CharlieCards will also temporarily be accepted effective today on the East Boston ferry for Blue Line riders seeking an alternate transit mode while speed restrictions remain in place on the line. Riders can simply show their CharlieCard to ferry personnel to board this service.

East Boston ferry service is funded through the Commonwealth.

For more information, visit mbta.com, or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, or TikTok @thembta.

\$7,500 bail, GPS home confinement for East Boston man charged with fentanyl trafficking

An East Boston man is being held on \$7,500 bail after being arraigned Tuesday on drug trafficking and ammunition charges stemming from a Monday search warrant executed at his Faywood Ave dwelling, Suffolk County Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

RALPH GRADOZZI, 53, was charged with fentanyl trafficking, cocaine trafficking, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, possession of a Class E substance with intent to distribute, and possession of ammunition without an FID card. Judge Joseph McDonald set bail at \$7,500 and ordered home confinement with a GPS tracker. Gradozzi will return to court April 13 for a probable cause hearing.

On Monday at about 12:04 p.m. members of the Boston Police Drug Control Unit from areas

A-7 and B-2 executed a search warrant and an arrest warrant for Gradozzi at 125 Faywood Avenue in East Boston. Officers arrested Gradozzi and entered residence without incident. They seized 21.34 grams of fentanyl, 11.95 grams of crack cocaine and 20.21 grams of cocaine. They also seized digital scales, numerous rounds of ammunition and 20 live shotgun shells.

"Every time that police can seize fatal drugs like fentanyl and arrest the person responsible for spreading the drugs into our neighborhoods is a good outcome for our community at large. This drug has taken too many lives and its sellers and buyers have degraded too many neighborhoods," Hayden said.

All charged individuals are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reason-

able 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.

Hearing regarding contraception and menstrual product vending machines scheduled for April 4

Special to the Times-Free Press

City Councilor Gabriela Coletta, Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, and Councilor Ricardo Arroyo offered an order for a hearing regarding contraception and menstrual product vending machines in the City of Boston on Tuesday, April 4 at 10am in the Iannella Chamber.

"As a city, we need to help break down barriers to provide birth control and empower individuals to make decisions without stress and worry. In addition to offering free menstrual products in the city's public buildings, Boston's pilot program will help us address healthcare deserts across our neighborhoods," said Councilor Coletta. "I look forward to having conversations to see citywide and innovative efforts to ensure access to birth control."

Councilors Coletta, Louijeune, and Arroyo

understand the urgency to address and provide access to affordable contraception given the public discourse since the Supreme Court's overruling of Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey.

"Access to reproductive healthcare services is now threatened for millions of Americans, and especially those who live in the states that are banning or severely restricting abortion care. We must move in the opposite direction" said Ruthzee Louijeune. "The City of Boston must become a beacon of hope across the Country, and throughout every neighborhood in Boston, that our government is working to affirm the right of all people, especially our Black and Brown communities, to have equal access to contraception and menstrual health care products."

The Councilors seek to bring together community

advocates and city stakeholders to discuss vending machines that provide contraception and menstrual products.

"Boston should be a leader nationally in the fight for access to menstrual health and reproductive health and contraception," Councilor Arroyo said. "This proposal will advance those goals and I look forward to its implementation."

Highlights of the Order Include:

"Whereas: The accessibility of affordable contraception has emerged at the forefront of public discourse since the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization U.S Supreme Court decision overruling both Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey; and

Whereas: Having the power to decide if, when, and under what circumstances to get pregnant, carry a child to term, and raise that child increases an individual's opportunities to be healthy, complete their education, and pursue the future they want. But too many people lack access to safe, affordable birth control and emergency contraception; and

Whereas: According to Power to Decide, there are 361,810 women in Massachusetts living in contraceptive deserts with 70,750 women in Suffolk County categorized as "in need" of publicly-funded contraceptives and supplies; and

Whereas: As some states seek to restrict reproductive freedoms, Boston University recently launched "Plan-B" vending machines. These machines offer students the "morning after" pill at a price that is significantly less than some over-the-counter options and with privacy not afforded by a trip to the pharmacy; and


Whereas: Menstrual products are necessary for half of our population and essential to all menstruating individuals' personal and mental health. Period poverty, or not being able to afford menstrual products, is a common concern for low-income menstruating individuals in high-income countries; and

Whereas: According to a 2021 study published in

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Kokomoor, Jacklyn	Betabcur, Jorge	2 Putnam St #3	\$605,000
Simons, Gareth	Crestway Road Dev LLC	18-20 Crestway Rd #5	\$655,000
Simons, Gareth	Crestway Road Dev LLC	18-20 Crestway Rd #7	\$655,000
Sachdeo, Amit	Ullman, Evelyn	21 Swan Ave	\$851,000
Ashley, Jacob C	35 Leyden Street LLC	35 Leyden St #7	\$760,000
Dunn, Alicia	Cahill, James M	61 Putnam St #1	\$450,000
Naatz, Tasha L	Carballo, Milton A	264 Webster St #1	\$505,000

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12:00 - 4:00pm
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HOP TO IT....

Eversource// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ful community process and should not move forward without centering their voices and concerns. I stand with GreenRoots and my colleagues at the state and local levels in calling to halt this dangerous project and conduct a state equity audit to measure the impact it would have on our communities. This is a racial, environmental, and economic justice issue, and this fight isn’t over.”

“This substation has never been about our community, we never asked for this and we don’t need it. From day one Eversource has pushed this substation on the community,” said Senator Lydia Edwards. “I am tired of Eversource being able to appeal to the State to tell us what we need, I’m proud to be leading on legislation in the State House that would protect our communities from Eversource’s greed.”

“Environmental justice means ensuring that no community bears a disproportionate burden of environmental hazards,” said Representative Adrian Madaro. I stand with GreenRoots and my neighbors in East Boston in calling for a halt to the dangerous Eversource substation, and for an equity audit to address the disproportionate impacts on this diverse and vibrant community. It’s time for our Commonwealth to prioritize the health and safety of all residents, regardless of their zip code.”

“I have seen time and time again that my district and the coastal community of East Boston is overburdened by polluting energy infrastructures with a lack of intentional community outreach to monolingual Spanish-speaking residents,” said Boston City Councilor for District 1 Gabriela Coletta and cosponsor of the #NoEastieSubstation solidarity resolution. “My team and I stand in solidarity with GreenRoots and environmental justice activists as we work diligently to identify every legal avenue to halt construction of the dangerous Eversource substation.”

“I am delighted my colleagues have fully supported the #NoEastieSubstation resolution,” said Boston At-Large City Councilor Julia Mejia and sponsor of the #NoEastieSubstation solidarity resolution. “It is our responsibility to ensure all Boston residents, no matter their zip code, are safe from dangerous infrastructure like the Eversource substation being constructed in East Boston. Our voices cannot continue to be ignored, while big industry is prioritized.”

“We thank our elected officials for their bold leadership and for being champions on issues that matter most to immigrant and working-class residents of Boston,” said GreenRoots Director of Waterfront and Climate Justice Initiatives John

Walkey. “We must set the precedent for all environmental justice communities across the Commonwealth that continue to be overburdened by hazardous infrastructure, toxic pollution and systemic racism & classism. To put critical electrical infrastructure in a flood zone and next to 8 million gallons of jet fuel is bad planning and an injustice for East Boston residents. We need to plan for a climate resilient future, and that is why we continue to call for construction of the Eversource substation to be halted and for an equity audit to be issued for the project.”

Los concejales de Boston y GreenRoots anuncian en rueda de prensa la aprobación de la resolución #NoEastieSubstation

El miércoles 22 de marzo a las 11:30 AM, Boston City Councilors: Julia Mejia, Gabriela Coletta, Kendra Lara, Ruthzee Louijeune and Ricardo Arroyo y activistas de #NoEastieSubstation tuvieron una conferencia de prensa para anunciar la aprobación de una Resolución del Consejo de la Ciudad de Boston en apoyo a la oposición en curso de la subestación eléctrica de Eversource en East Boston. GreenRoots, los residentes de East Boston y los activistas por la justicia ambiental piden a la Gobernadora Maura Healey emitir una auditoría de equidad del proyecto de construcción

de Eversource.

Este anuncio se produce tras múltiples concentraciones, protestas y una pregunta en las urnas municipales, desde que comenzó la construcción de la subestación eléctrica de Eversource en East Boston más de nueve años de una abrumadora oposición por parte de funcionarios electos locales, estatales y federales, residentes de East Boston y expertos. Además, la subestación de Eversource tendría consecuencias reales para la salud y la seguridad de una de las comunidades con mayor diversidad racial y étnica de Massachusetts, que soporta de forma desproporcionada el peso del cambio climático y las injusticias medioambientales del estado.

“El concepto de esta subestación nunca fue creado pensado en nuestra comunidad, nunca la pedimos y no la necesitamos. Desde el primer día Eversource ha impuesto esta subestación a nuestra comunidad”, dijo la senadora Lydia Edwards. “Estoy cansada de que Eversource pueda apelar al Estado para que nos diga lo que necesitamos, estoy orgullosa de liderar una legislación en la Cámara de Representantes del Estado que protegería a nuestras comunidades de la codicia de Eversource”.

“La justicia medioambiental significa garantizar que ninguna comunidad soporte una carga desproporcionada de riesgos

medioambientales”, ha declarado el representante Adrián Madaro. Me uno a GreenRoots y a mis vecinos de East Boston para pedir que se detenga la peligrosa subestación de Eversource, y que se realice una auditoría de equidad para abordar los impactos desproporcionados en esta comunidad diversa y vibrante. Es hora de que nuestra Commonwealth priorice la salud y la seguridad de todos los residentes, independientemente de su código postal.”

“He visto una y otra vez que mi distrito y la comunidad costera de East Boston están sobrecargados por infraestructuras energéticas contaminantes con una falta de acercamiento comunitario intencional a los residentes monolingües de habla hispana”, dijo el concejal de Boston por el Distrito 1 Gabriela Coletta y co-patrocinadora de la resolución de solidaridad #NoEastieSubstation. “Mi equipo y yo nos solidarizamos con GreenRoots y los activistas de justicia ambiental mientras trabajamos diligentemente para identificar todas las vías legales para detener la construcción de la peligrosa subestación de Eversource.”

“Estoy encantada de que mis colegas hayan apoyado plenamente la resolución #NoEastieSubstation”, dijo la concejal de Boston At-Large Julia Mejía y patrocinadora de

la resolución de solidaridad #NoEastieSubstation. “Es nuestra responsabilidad garantizar que todos los residentes de Boston, sin importar su código postal, estén a salvo de infraestructuras peligrosas como la subestación de Eversource que se está construyendo en East Boston. Nuestras voces no pueden seguir siendo ignoradas, mientras se prioriza a la gran industria.”

“Agradecemos a nuestros funcionarios electos su audaz liderazgo y su defensa en las cuestiones que más importan a los inmigrantes y a los residentes de clase trabajadora de Boston”, declaró John Walkey, Director de Iniciativas de Justicia Climática y Frente Marítimo de GreenRoots. “Debemos sentar un precedente para todas las comunidades de justicia medioambiental del Commonwealth que siguen sufriendo la sobrecarga de infraestructuras peligrosas, contaminación tóxica, racismo y clasismo sistémicos. Poner una infraestructura eléctrica crítica en una zona inundable y al lado de 8 millones de galones de combustible de aviación es una mala planificación y una injusticia para los residentes de East Boston. Lo hacemos mediante un profundo compromiso y empoderamiento de la comunidad, el liderazgo de los jóvenes y la puesta en marcha de proyectos y campañas innovadoras.”

Zoning// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“This is not an effort to dramatically up-zone your neighborhood,” said Jemison – which got a loud collective groan from the couple hundred Orient Heights residents.

It was clear from the beginning of the meeting that residents did not want anything to do with this plan. Several signs around the room criticized the BPDA and Mayor Michelle Wu for a plan that residents felt would destroy single-family housing in the area.

While Mayor Wu was not in attendance – which elicited more groans from the crowd – several other elected officials were and showed their support for Orient Heights.

Senator Lydia Edwards was one of those elected officials in attendance and stood behind residents.

“When we hear about the up-zone or changing of zoning as a form of predictability, a lot of people just don’t believe it is going to be real,” said Edwards, referencing the abundance of variances given to developments even with today’s zoning guidelines.

“What needs to be part of any plan for us to trust this process is to see you stop giving out variances and enforcing the zoning that we have right now,” she added, which garnered a round of applause.

At-large, City Councilor Erin Murphy also threw her support to residents saying, “It’s my job as your at-large City Councilor to be your voice. I will say, and I don’t mean this in an adversarial way at all, but – I don’t work for the Mayor – I work for those who voted me in,” which got another round of applause.

After several elected officials spoke, it was finally time for residents to take one of the microphones around the function room and state their positions. Several did so – loud and clear.

One resident was concerned with the ADU aspect, explaining that even if ADUs were limited to owner-occupants, what is to stop owners from knocking down a one-family home, building a two-family building, living at a property, then building out the ADU be-

fore leaving.

In response, Jemison said that his “reasonable person” answer was, “Developers don’t typically do that – developers don’t typically move into a neighborhood and then live there for years and then add an ADU.”

Jemison’s answer elicited a loud, sarcastic laugh from residents. However, Jemison went on to say that rules could be written into the zoning to prevent that from happening.

Another concern brought forth by another resident, John Casamassima, was regarding the actual allowable size of buildings under this proposal.

“The part that is not clear about what’s been presented is how large these buildings are going to be. We’re talking about saving backyards, but for example, every house on this side of the street can have a foundation of 3,000 square feet – it’s 40% of the lot size,” said Casamassima.

“You can have a first floor of 3,000 square feet, you can have a second floor of 3,000 square feet, and I don’t know if there’s a cap ... I don’t want to live next to a 10,000 square foot Wellesley mansion whether it’s one unit or three.”

Essentially the answer Onufer gave was that a

cap would depend on different given lots across the neighborhood, dependent on things like a maximum floorplate, setbacks, and lot coverage guidelines.

As the meeting went on, resident after resident voiced their displeasure with the plan. One resident called the plan a “war on family,” while others shouted for the BPDA to “go away.”

Through all the comments and views stated, Joe Arangio, another resident, probably summed up the feelings of those in the crowd best by describing what they wanted from the plan.

“We want to maintain the fabric of this commu-

nity. We want two or less units, and we want them in buildings that have front and side and rear setbacks that are consistent with the rest of the community – that’s the bottom line – with parking,” said Arangio.

Overall, it is clear that residents of Orient Heights are not going to lie down and accept what has been proposed for their neighborhood and are willing to fight for the fabric of their neighborhood.

Moreover, it is even more apparent after the turnout last Wednesday, and as Ruggiero alluded to at the beginning of the meeting – the conversation is not over just yet.


Hearing// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the BMC Women’s Health Journal, many young menstruating individuals cannot afford products to meet their monthly needs, especially Black and Brown individuals. This may impact their mental well-being due to the shame and stigma associated with a lack of income or accessibility to affordable products; and

Whereas: As Boston launches a pilot program of vending machines already equipped with menstrual products, and given the urgency to provide birth control and emergency contraception to

prevent unwanted pregnancies, the City should consider including all items in locations with the highest need;”

The Boston City Council will hold a hearing on Tuesday, April, 4th at 10am in the Iannella Chamber, Fifth Floor of Boston City Hall. This hearing will be held under the Committee on Public Health, Homelessness, and Recovery, chaired by City Councilor Erin Murphy. Members of the public are encouraged to provide written or oral comments.



Virtual Public Meeting

PLAN: East Boston Neighborhood Workshop


April 11, 2023

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/PLANEastBostonEspanol0423

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 830 3067



Project Description:

Please join us for a community meeting in Spanish to preview 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. This meeting is being held in Spanish, and English interpretation services will be provided.

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. For more information and updates, visit bostonplans.org.

La reunión se llevará a cabo en español, se proporcionarán servicios de interpretación en inglés.

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

East Boston

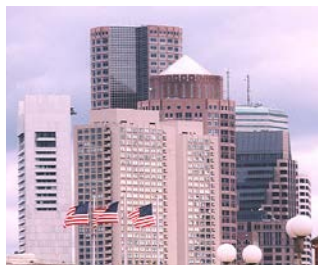
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Forum

GUEST OP-ED

East Boston residents urge elected officials to extend “Road to Peace”

By Joe Steffano

East Boston residents continue to urge their elected officials to support an extension of the “Road to Peace,” a reference to the Coughlin Bypass Road, by submitting thousands of signatures in support of the project. When the Martin A. Coughlin Bypass Road opened in November of 2012, Joan Vennoch of The Boston Globe wrote in A road to peace for East Boston, Massport, “It’s named after a longtime East Boston activist who first pitched the bypass concept back in 1972, as a way to keep cabs, buses, and 18-wheelers off Eastie streets. Forty years later — and 12 years after his death — Coughlin’s idea finally turned into a stretch of real highway.” At the ribbon cutting, Martin’s sister Mary joked, “If Martin were here today, he’d say, ‘Why the heck did this take so long?’”

Ten years later, there is a group of East Boston residents, and a petition of thousands more, hoping an extension of this bypass road won’t take nearly as long.

The Committee in Support of an East Boston Haul Road was formed by long time East Boston residents Joe Steffano and Mariellen Dalton when MassDOT commissioned a study for the repurposing of the Route 1A Corridor - an abandoned stretch of inactive rail parcels owned by MassDOT and the MBTA between Chelsea Creek and McClellan Highway. After listening to years of public input, MassDOT has come up with two possi-

ble solutions for the land. The first envisions only walking and bike trails along Chelsea Creek. The second alternative includes the walking and bike paths from the first, but also involves extending the Coughlin Bypass down the Route 1A corridor along Chelsea Creek into Revere. The latter is the only real solution according to Steffano and the Committee in Support of an East Boston Haul Road.

“The Coughlin Bypass was built to alleviate Logan Airport-based traffic, removing those vehicles from side streets, Day Square, and the rest of the neighborhood. However, as some residents noted during the 2010 MEPA process for the Coughlin Bypass, the road does not go far enough,” says Steffano. “No steps have been taken to extend this bypass to alleviate the many more trucks going to and from the airport and all parts North of the city. Until now! The proposed bypass road extension presented by MassDOT will not only reduce the number of commercial vehicles on Eastie streets, but it will also provide walking and biking paths along the waterfront which is currently inaccessible and slowly collecting trash.”

“The Curtis Street intersection, which consistently gets backed up, is the only access to the Coughlin Bypass for trucks coming from Route 1A South,” added Mariellen Dalton. “These backups have caused multiple accidents, some fatal. It is a deadly intersection - unsafe for pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles. The Haul

Road will take this scenario out of the equation, allowing trucks and other vehicles heading to the airport access to the bypass road further up Route 1A. This way, trucks will not be given the option to use side streets when Curtis Street is backed up, in turn making our streets safer for everyone.”

It is unclear where East Boston elected officials stand on the issue, but the City of Revere fully supports the Haul Road. Revere Mayor, Brian Arrigo and the Revere City Council passed a resolution in October of 2022, calling on “the Governor and the Secretary of Transportation of the Commonwealth to request: that the vacant land be repurposed, a haul road extension from the current end of the Coughlin Bypass be constructed eventually to the vicinity of Bell Circle, a pedestrian walkway and bike path along the waterfront to be created to allow the public to have increased access to the Chelsea Creek waterfront, and that barriers and sea walls be constructed to protect the City of Revere against rising sea levels.” Mayor Arrigo added, “I am confident that this project will improve the quality of life for the residents of Revere and for those passing through. The airport being so close to Revere means that our residents are disproportionately impacted by traffic, noise, and congestion. Having a haul road will reduce the volume of commercial vehicles on our local roadways. This project will also give our residents even more options to get outside and enjoy our nearby natural

resources.”

Environmental groups in East Boston have advocated for the first option - making the corridor strictly open space, believing a bypass road extension would somehow facilitate further airport expansion. However, the Haul Road Committee explains that this option falls short of providing a solution for the increase in vehicle traffic to the airport. “The airport and the vehicles who service it every day are not going anywhere. Open space will not take these trucks off McClellan Highway or the 18-wheelers idling on Saratoga, Bennington and Chelsea streets. The Coughlin bypass extension or the haul road is the best of both worlds and will lessen impacts from the airport on our community,” said Michael McCormack, another member of the Haul Road Committee.

MassDOT is scheduled to release their findings in the coming weeks. So far, the Committee in Support of An East Boston Haul Road has submitted nearly 2,000 signatures in support of the bypass extension to MassDOT project manager, Ethan Britland. The committee is hoping this is enough to get the ball rolling in the right direction and avoid another 40-year discussion.

For more information on the East Boston Haul Road, you can visit the Committee’s website: www.ebhaulroad.org.

Joe Steffano is an East Boston resident and member of the committee in support of an East Boston Haul Road.

ANOTHER WEEK -- ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING IN AMERICA

The news this week of yet another mass shooting, this time in a private school in a wealthy neighborhood of Nashville, Tennessee, in which six persons (including three, nine year-old children) were killed, once again has highlighted the need for our federal government to ban assault-style weapons.

America stands alone in the world for this sort of self-inflicted carnage. In no other country can heavily-armed individuals wreak tragedy upon families and communities because of easy access to military-grade weaponry.

Australia, a country with a Wild West mentality similar to ours, banned assault-style weapons in 1996 after a mass shooting in a cafe in the city of Port Arthur in which 35 people were killed and another 13 were wounded. The tough new laws banned the sale and importation of all automatic and semi-automatic rifles and shotguns; required individuals to present a legitimate reason (and wait 28 days) to buy a firearm; and called for a massive, mandatory gun-buyback. Australia’s government confiscated and destroyed nearly 700,000 firearms, reducing the number of gun-owning households by half.

The result? Since 1996, there has been one mass shooting in Australia.

New Zealand enacted similar laws in 2019 after a mass shooting in a mosque in Christchurch and since that time, there have been no mass shootings.

The U.S. banned the sale of assault-style weapons in 1994 as part of a wide-ranging anti-crime bill, but that provision of the legislation expired in 2004.

And that’s where we stand today -- with mass shootings now a regular part of American life.

With politicians in both parties subservient to the small minority of vocal, one-issue voters, the chances of enactment of common-sense laws regulating the types of guns that can be sold in this country are just about zero, even though a majority of Americans support such laws.

Even more depressing is that laws in states such as Massachusetts that regulate gun ownership and possession soon may be struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

To paraphrase the last line of the Star Spangled Banner: America is the land of the free -- and the home of the dead.

THE IRAQ WAR -- NEVER AGAIN

Last week marked the 20th anniversary of the American invasion of Iraq, a conflict that was broadcast into our living rooms on our TV sets in great detail thanks to the many reporters who were allowed to become “embedded” with U.S. troops as they made their way across the battlefields of Iraq.

Some commentators today refer to the War in Iraq as a mistake, but that implies a mere error in judgment. However, that assessment completely ignores the simple fact that the war was predicated on a deliberately-false narrative.

It now has become common knowledge that the war was based on nothing less than complete and total fabrications by the administration of President George W. Bush. When Secretary of State Colin Powell went before the United Nations to claim that Iraq was harboring terrorists from 9/11 and had weapons of mass destruction, those assertions — as Powell himself later admitted — were based on deliberately false intelligence.

Unfortunately, with few exceptions, the U.S. Congress fell hook, line, and sinker for this fabricated intelligence narrative — and we plunged into a war that had no purpose and accomplished nothing to improve the security of either the United States or the world in general.

In fact, the war had just the opposite effect: The ensuing destabilization of the Middle East allowed terrorist organizations such as ISIS to thrive and spread around the world.

This is by means to deny the incredible bravery of the American men and women who served in that war. As soldiers always do, they did their duty, bringing great honor to themselves and their country. Even as our lying politicians were doing their worst, our men and women in uniform were doing their best on the battlefield.

But the bottom line is that millions of innocent Iraqis were caught up in the chaos of war, with nearly a million dead and many more millions displaced. American casualties in the war totaled 4,203 dead and tens of thousands maimed and wounded. In addition, the well-documented psychological scars of that war will endure both for the soldiers themselves and their families for the rest of their lives.

The war in Iraq was an enormous tragedy for all who were touched by it, with its after-effects still reverberating today.

Hopefully, we’ll never again be led into a war by duplicitous politicians whose true motives to this day are known only to themselves.

DiPrima // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

great role model to his sister, Gisel, who attends Excel,” related Gringas.

Steve Gringas said his mother, Rita (DiPrima) Gringas, is the younger sister of Christopher DiPrima’s father, Charles DiPrima.

“Growing up, Christopher displayed a lot of talent for computers and technology and was very

gifted at that,” said Gringas. “A lot of the family went to him for tech problems and computer issues. He loved video games.”

Christopher attended the PJ Kennedy School in East Boston through fourth grade. He then matriculated at Excel Academy Charter School before attending Excel Academy High School.

Gringas said the Excel Academy administration, staff, faculty, and the school community of students and parents have been very supportive of the DiPrima family, and the DiPrima family is very appreciative of that.

Visiting hours for

Christopher DiPrima will be Thursday, March 30, 2-8 p.m., at the Magrath Funeral Home, 336 Chelsea St., East Boston. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated Friday, March 31, at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph-St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashley St., East Boston.

Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is **781-485-1403**.

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

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

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com

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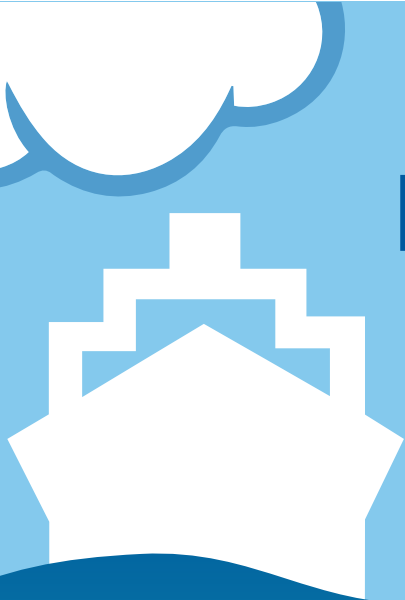
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Lewis Mall Wharf, East Boston — Long Wharf, Boston

Schedule effective
March 27, 2023 through fall 2023



Weekday Schedule

To Long Wharf, Boston		To Lewis Mall Wharf, East Boston	
Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive
Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston
7:00 AM	7:10 AM	7:15 AM	7:25 AM
7:30 AM	7:40 AM	7:45 AM	7:55 AM
8:00 AM	8:10 AM	8:15 AM	8:25 AM
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7:00 PM	7:10 PM	7:15 PM	7:25 PM
7:30 PM	7:40 PM	7:45 PM	7:55 PM

Weekend Schedule

To Long Wharf, Boston		To Lewis Mall Wharf, East Boston	
Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive
Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston
9:00 AM	9:10 AM	9:15 AM	9:25 AM
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Tome el transbordador de la MBTA East Boston ⇄ Long Wharf

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Lewis Mall Wharf, East Boston — Long Wharf, Boston

Horarios vigentes a partir del 27 de marzo
de 2023 hasta el otoño de 2023



Horarios entre semana

A Long Wharf, Boston		A Lewis Mall Wharf, East Boston	
Salidas	Llegadas	Salidas	Llegadas
Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston
7:00 AM	7:10 AM	7:15 AM	7:25 AM
7:30 AM	7:40 AM	7:45 AM	7:55 AM
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Horarios fines de semana

A Long Wharf, Boston		A Lewis Mall Wharf, East Boston	
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Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Long Wharf Boston	Lewis Mall Wharf East Boston
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Sports

Spartans win East Boston Youth Basketball Championship

On Saturday March 18, the Spartans, Coached by Vin Guarino defeated the Panthers coached by Dennis Leary 33 to 20. The Spartans played outstanding basketball the entire game. Corey Bicknell led the way scoring a game high 25 points while dominating the boards. Nicholas Guarino added 8 points and some tough defense to the cause. Nathan Guarino rounded out the scoring. The Spartans offense was directed expertly all game by point guard Thomas Granara. They did a great job moving the ball all day! Ava Cincotti,

Marco Bicknell, and Arianna Hernandez hustled and played great defense. Nicholas Lagrassa and Sebastian Gutierrez lead the way for the Panthers with 8 points apiece. This season was a great one due to the tremendous group of coaches. Special thanks to head referee Bill Gore and head scorekeeper Jen Rock. Several awards were presented that day as well. Corey Bicknell won the "Marty Pino Sportsmanship Award". Corey has participated in the program for many years and has improved as a play-

er but more importantly is a great teammate. In addition, Michael Gaeta, League President, received an award for 37 years of dedication to the program. Michael gives of his time selflessly. The program couldn't operate without him. Thanks also to Lauren Logan and Johnny Ortiz from the Pino Center. Finally, thanks to our tremendous group of sponsors, Cunard Tavern, Mario Century 21, Cora Electric, Joe Ruggiero, Nick Moulaison, and last but not least



Coach Vin Guarino and Champion Spartans.



Coach Dennis Leary and finalist Panthers



Corey Bicknell, Marty Pino Award winner and family.



Coach Michael Forbes and Red Team.



Michael Gaeta with family receives award for 37 years of service to EBYBL.



Coach Mikayla Forbes and Black Team.



Coach Anthony Forbes and Blue Team.

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Hellmann's Mayonnaise.....	\$4.99
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Stove Top Stuffing	2/\$5.00
Howards Ham Glaze	2/\$7.00
Progresso Bread Crumbs	2/\$3.00
Eggo Waffles (ex: thick & fluffy)	2/\$5.00
Cool Whip 8 oz.....	2/\$3.00
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Deli

Margherita Boneless Prosciutto	\$11.99 lb
Margherita Hot Cappicola	\$6.99 lb
Charter Reserve Golden Roasted Turkey Breast	\$7.99 lb
Corner Shop Genoa Salami.....	\$5.99 lb
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Produce

Hot House Slicing Tomatoes	\$1.69 lb
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California Navel Oranges	\$1.39 lb
Hydro Cucumbers	2/\$4.00
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Assorted Bone-In Pork Chops	\$1.99 lb
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DR. GERALD HASS HONORED BY SOUTH END COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

On Saturday March 18, the South End Community Health Center (SECHC), part of East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC), hosted a Legacy Reception Program alongside SECHC Co-Founder and Pediatrician Dr. Gerald Hass with many notable community leaders in attendance. The reception celebrated the Center’s more than half a century of high-quality health care provided to the South End and surrounding communities, as well as the publication of Dr. Hass’s recent book on the subject.

Since 1969, SECHC has provided primary care and specialty services like vision, dental and behavioral health care to thousands of city families. Prior to its opening, South End residents were directed to the large Boston City Hospital for all their health needs. Confront-



Top route: Jose C. Masso III, Paulette DeSpagna LMHC, Dr. Gerald Hass MD, Greg Wilmot, Dr. Thomas Silva, and Rev Gloria White-Hammond. Bottom row: Dr. Jackie Fantes, Devina Nieves-Masso, and Dr. Amanda Freeman.

ed with long waits and language barriers at the hospital, and, what young

Latina mothers deemed insufficient services, they demanded more accessi-

ble health care. As a result, SECHC was founded – first as a pediatric clinic,

immediately addressing the impacts of inequity and health disparities among this vulnerable population, such as high rates of infant mortality and premature birth.

In 2020, the center merged with EBNHC, the largest community-focused health system in Massachusetts and among the largest in the country.

“Attention to community health is crucial in the battle for health equity across the Commonwealth,” said East Boston Neighborhood Health Center President and CEO Greg Wilmot. “Leaders like Dr. Gerald Hass and EBNHC co-founder Dr. James Taylor paved a path that allows us to do the essential work we do today. These trailblazers in the community health movement understood the importance of taking care of the whole person -- the need to wrap our services

around a patient to improve the health of a community.”

The program included a welcome address and testimonials from notable community healthcare leaders including Rev. Gloria White-Hammond, MD, co-pastor Bethel AME Church and former SECHC pediatrician, and Paulette DiSpagna, Boston Public Schools social worker and former patient of Dr. Hass. EBNHC CEO Greg Wilmot, EBNHC Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jackie Fantes, FAAFP, EVP; SECHC Senior Director Donetta Barros; and EBNHC Medical Director Dr. Thomas Silva, a mentee of Dr. Hass, also spoke. Following the testimonials, Wilmot, Dr. Hass, and longtime WBUR radio host José C. Massó III participated in a guided discussion on the history and importance of SECHC to the community.

Wu, Office of Civic Organizing announce 2023 Love Your Block spring cleanups

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Civic Organizing (OCO) announced the Love Your Block spring 2023 cleanups will take place on April 22nd and 29th. Love Your Block is a Citywide community service event that invites community organizations, local businesses, and neighborhood groups to host a spring cleanup in their neighborhood. Groups interested in hosting a cleanup can now sign up here. Additionally the City is seeking volunteers to participate in scheduled cleanups.

“Love Your Block has become a beloved tradition in our neighborhoods to come together and

beautify corners across Boston,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Our Office of Civic Organizing is ready to help connect volunteers and provide cleanup tools, so I encourage any interested community groups to identify a spot that could benefit from some care and sign up!”

Cleanups will take place in every neighborhood of Boston over the course of two weekends. The dates are as follows:

Saturday, April 22: Allston-Brighton, Charlestown, Chinatown, Dorchester, Downtown, Fenway-Kenmore, Fields Corner, Leather District, Mattapan, Mid-Dorchester, Mission Hill, Roslin-

dale, Roxbury, West Roxbury.

Saturday, April 29: Back Bay, Bay Village, Beacon Hill, East Boston, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, North End, South End, South Boston, St. Boto-lph (Back Bay), West End, Wharf District.

Some neighborhoods have already had local organizations volunteer to host a cleanup. These partners are listed on boston.gov/love-your-block. Multiple cleanups in each neighborhood are encouraged, so local organizations can still sign up to host in any neighborhood. This year the Love Your Block cleanups fall on Earth Day (4/22) and Ar-

bor Day (4/29).

The Love Your Block program was first created in 2015 with a three-year grant awarded to the City of Boston by Cities of Service. After the grant’s expiration in 2018, Love Your Block became a permanent City program under the Mayor’s Community Engagement Cabinet.

“Love Your Block is an exciting opportunity for residents to come together, take ownership of our neighborhoods, and exercise our civic power,” said Director of Civic Organizing Henry Santana. “We look forward to working with neighbors and community partners to keep Boston clean and green.”

“Love Your Block is an event that the Cabinet of Community Engagement’s Office of Civic Organizing leads each year. It’s our civil responsibility to keep our communities

beautiful, so residents and their families can continue to take pride in their neighborhoods,” said Chief of Community Engagement Brianna Millor.

In past Love Your Block cleanups, neighborhood groups have picked up litter from streets and sidewalks, beautified local parks, cleaned up vacant lots, urban wilds, and more. For tips on how to plan and host a cleanup in your neighborhood, OCO has created a helpful guide.

“Chinatown Main Street has participated with ‘Love Your Block’ for many years,” said Debbie Ho, the Executive Director of Chinatown Main Street, one of the organizations that has already committed to hosting a Love Your Block cleanup. “We all want to be sure we have a clean Chinatown and it’s important that we

involve volunteers within and outside of the Chinatown community to create a unified Boston!”

Those interested in hosting a neighborhood cleanup can sign up here to request support, volunteer t-shirts, and tools such as trash bags, gloves, brooms, rakes, and trash pickers. Requests will be accepted until Wednesday, April 5 at 5:00 p.m.

Those interested in signing up as a volunteer can also do so here. OCO will connect you with a cleanup site in your neighborhood once all sites are finalized.

The Office of Civic Organizing is committed to collaborative partnerships and programs that promote engagement, awareness, and service in communities throughout the City of Boston.

Join Our Team!

Do you have an interest in waterfront issues, community outreach or youth work? Take a look at the open positions with The Trustees Boston Waterfront Initiative and consider applying today!

*COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

*WATERFRONT AMBASSADORS PROGRAM MANAGER (SEASONAL)

*WATERFRONT AMBASSADORS ASST. PROGRAM MANAGER (SEASONAL)

*WATERFRONT AMBASSADOR (SEASONAL)

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WATERFRONT

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS E-MAIL CHARISSA :CZAPATA@THETRUSTEES.ORG

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When: April 3rd - 6:00 pm

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- reduced closing cost
- Legal representation at no cost to attendees

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Boston Opera & Zarzuela will hold ‘An Early Music Concert - Stabat Mater, G. B. Pergolesi

On April 1, 2023, at 7 pm, Boston Opera & Zarzuela will hold “An Early Music Concert - Stabat Mater, G. B. Pergolesi” at Sacred Heart Parish, located at 45 Brooks Street, Boston, MA, 02128. This family friendly concert consists of Pergolesi’s Stabat Mater, an Early Music masterpiece divided

into twelve movements, including solos and duets sung by a soprano and an alto, accompanied by piano. Featuring international artists: Libor Dudas, Vanessa Moya, and Lucia Panizza. The ticket cost for this event is \$10 for Seniors and Students, and \$20 for

General Admission. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council, administered by the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture. Boston Opera & Zarzuela, a non-profit organization for the Performing Arts, strives to enrich the cultural landscape with-

in its community through performance, research, and education of the vast lyric repertoire, including Opera, Zarzuela, and Oratorio. The organization inspires audiences of all ages through performances while educating the audience in the history and background of Performing Arts, thus contributing to

the preservation and development of its founders’ musical heritage. It is also an important part of Boston Opera & Zarzuela’s mission to provide singers of all ages and diverse backgrounds with the opportunity of developing and growing their artistic skills. From the young to the seasoned artist, ev-

eryone has an opportunity to audition and volunteer at Boston Opera & Zarzuela. To learn more about Boston Opera & Zarzuela, anyone can visit <https://bostonoperazarzuela.org/>. Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/zarzuela-en-east-boston-tickets-521513590187>.

Jean Velardo

Of East Boston

Jean M. (Olivolo) Velardo of East Boston died on March 21 in her 100th year. The beloved daughter of the late Carmela (DiChiara) and Alfonso Olivolo, she was the sister of the late Patricia Brandon, Lena Gozdon, Rose Abisso, Ann Lombardo, Virginia, Thomas, Charles and Christopher Olivolo and is survived by many nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will

be held at Magrath Funeral Home, 336 Chelsea St. [at Day Sq] East Boston on Saturday, April 1 at 11:30 a.m. Relatives and friends are invited. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jean’s memory to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital would be appreciated. Please leave messages of condolence for her family on her Tribute Page at [MagrathFuneralHome.com](https://www.MagrathFuneralHome.com).

Maria Pecora

Of Methuen

Maria A. (Wilson) Pecora of Methuen passed away on March 24 at 64 years of age. The daughter of the late Edwin and Mary Wilson (DiGulio), she was the beloved wife of the late Joseph Puleio; devoted mother of Albert IV Pecora and his wife, Jessica, Michael Pecora, Joseph Pecora and their father, Albert Pecora III; dear sister of Edwin Jr., Walter and his wife, Francine, David and his wife, Ellie, William and his wife, Juana, Charles and his wife, Elena, John and his wife, Geri and Chester Wilson, Helen Collins and her husband, Kevin, and the late Loretta Napier, Thomas Wilson and Francis Wilson and the cherished grandmother of Ava, Michael Jr., Hayden, Alyssa, Madyson and Emily. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Family and friends will honor Maria’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971



Saratoga Street (Orient Heights) East Boston today, Wednesday, March 29 from 4 to 8 p.m. and again on Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church, East Boston for a 10 a.m. Funeral Mass. Services will conclude with Maria being laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Maria’s name may be made to RT Autism Awareness Foundation Inc., 1130 1/2 7th St NW, Suite 208, Rochester MN 55901 or by going to their website. To leave an online condolence, please go to www.ruggieromh.com.

Hearing on safety of light poles, bridges and public infrastructure set for April 4

In January this year, City Council President Ed Flynn and Councilor At-Large Michael Flaherty refiled a hearing order to discuss the safety of light poles, bridges, and other public infrastructure in the City of Boston. This hearing is now scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, at 2 pm at the Boston City Council Iannella Chamber. Residents are encouraged to participate and testify in person or via videoconference by reaching out to shane.pac@boston.gov. The hearing will be broadcasted live on Xfinity 8/RCN 82/ Fios 964 and streamed at [boston.gov/city-council-tv](https://www.boston.gov/city-council-tv). This hearing was originally filed in September last year, when a pedestrian crossing the Evelyn Moakley Bridge in the South Boston Waterfront was struck and injured by a falling light pole. At the time, the Public Works Department swiftly inspected all city bridges in the area and removed 23 of the light poles that were deemed not completely satisfactory, with two additional poles having already been previously removed. It is critical that the city continues to ensure our city’s pub-

lic infrastructure is safe and structurally sound, and there are routine inspections and systems in place for maintenance and repair. “Unfortunately, this incident shed light on our aging infrastructure, light poles, and bridges - especially against the harsh New England weather, sea air and salt water.” Council President Flynn said. “Councilor Flaherty and I look forward to receiving an update from our city and state partners on the inspection and audit of all light poles, bridges, and public infrastructure, and any relevant plans to make all necessary repairs in a timely manner. We must work with our bridge engineers and design consultants to prevent an incident like this from happening again.” Councilor At-Large Flaherty said, “We, as a city, have a responsibility to make sure that we regularly inspect roads, bridges, light poles and street signs as a matter of public safety. We live in New England and our area is subject to harsh weather conditions that tend to deteriorate building materials and fixtures quicker than other places.”

OBITUARIES

Christopher Charles DiPrima

Gifted student entered eternal life following a sudden accident with his family by his side

Christopher Charles DiPrima of East Boston, beloved son, brother, grandson, nephew and cousin and lifelong resident of East Boston, entered into eternal life on Saturday, March 25 following a sudden accident with his family by his side. He was 15 years old.

Born on July 17, 2007, the son of Charles “Chuck” and Nubia (Jimenez) DiPrima, Christopher grew up in East Boston and was educated at the P. J. Kennedy School and Excel Academy Charter School, and was currently attending Excel Academy High School.

Christopher was a gifted student who thrived in his classes and got along well with his classmates. Particularly interested in computers and technology, Christopher displayed a natural aptitude for computer projects, and loved the internet and video games. He recently began practicing chess and enjoyed reading and writing stories. Christopher spent many evenings bonding with his dad and friends over films and TV shows.

He was a talented grill master, enjoyed spicy foods, and always had a variety of snacks to go with his movies. Christopher enjoyed going out with his friends, playing with his dog, Snoopy, family trips to New Hampshire and Cape Cod and school breaks visiting his mother’s family in Colombia. He was always kind and had a smile on his face and was known for his great sense of humor, curiosity, and eagerness to learn and try new things. Christopher was a loving and helpful son to his



parents and a loyal big brother, dedicated mentor, and inseparable best friend to his sister Gisel. He was the dear grandson of Priscilla (Flaherty) DiPrima of East Boston and the late Santo DiPrima and Santiago and Maria-Teresa Jimenez of Bogota, Colombia. Christopher is also survived by many aunts, uncles and cousins in both the United States and Colombia. Visiting hours for Christopher will be held on Thursday, March 30 from 2 to 8 p.m. at the Magrath Funeral Home, 336 Chelsea St. [at Day Sq] East Boston. Relatives and friends are invited. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday morning, March 31 at 10 o’clock in St. Joseph-St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashley St., East Boston. Please go directly to church. Interment will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Christopher’s family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations in his memory be made to either the P.J. Kennedy School, 343 Saratoga St., East Boston 02128 or the Excel Academy Greenway, 375 Bremen St, East Boston 02128. Please leave messages of condolence for Christopher’s family on his Tribute Page at [MagrathFuneralHome.com](https://www.MagrathFuneralHome.com)

Frances Spinazzola

Of New Hampshire, formerly of Winthrop

Frances A. (Ruggiero) Spinazzola of Pelham, New Hampshire, formerly of Winthrop, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 21 at 75 years of age. The devoted mother of Lori Hartley and her husband, Anthony of Pelham, she was the loving daughter of the late John Ruggiero and his wife, Vincenzina “Vinni” (Cannata), dear sister of Janet Macrina and the late Joseph Ruggiero and cherished grandmother of Brett Ashley Hartman. She is also survived by her loving aunt, nieces and nephews. Family and friends will honor Frances’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston, on Friday, March 31 from



3 to 7 p.m. and again on Saturday morning at 8:30 before leaving in procession to St. John the Evangelist - St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Winthrop, for a Funeral Mass celebrating Frances’s life at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with Frances being laid to rest at Winthrop Cemetery, Belle Isle Section. May she rest in peace. To leave an online condolence please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Carol Lee (O’Hara) Pepi

Of Winthrop

Carol Lee (O’Hara) Pepi, 76, of Winthrop, Massachusetts, passed away on March 24, 2023, in her home, surrounded by family, following a brief illness. Family & friends are respectfully invited to attend a Funeral Mass on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at 11:30am in St. Michael the Archangel Parish 320 Winthrop Street, Winthrop. Interment in Winthrop Belle Isle Cemetery and lunch reception at The Lodge of Elks to immediately follow.

Carol was born on November 20, 1946 in Boston to her late parents James E. O’Hara, Sr. & Dorothy M. (Breault) O’Hara. She was one of seven children raised & educated in East Boston and was an alumna of Fitton High School, Class of 1964. Carol studied Pastoral Ministry at Emanuel College, then later earned a Master of Education degree in Counseling Psychology at Cambridge College. She also attended Union Institute & University for Doctoral Studies in Social Psychology. Carol was a Professor and Department Chair of Human Services and Justice Studies at Cambridge College, for over 25 years and founded the first Juvenile Justice program in the country. She would often say she had the privilege of teaching the most wonderful adult students anywhere. Carol was a life-long human rights activist and peacemaker, traveling to colleges, schools and professional conferences throughout the United States, Australia, and Washington D.C. to speak on topics of juvenile justice, prison reform, restor-



ative justice and the abolition of the death penalty. She is the beloved wife of Gerald A. Pepi of Winthrop, Loving mother of Jennifer R. D. Pepi and her husband the late Gregory Lewis of Winthrop, Rachel J. Williams & husband Walter A. of Brockton, Alicyn J. Thompson & husband Christopher L. of Winthrop & the late Joshua W.J. Pepi. The cherished & proud grandmother of Zoe, Joey, Michaela, Toni-Rae, Chelsea, Tory, Tess, & Layne & great grandmother of Masen. The dear sister of Leona M. Orlando & husband John of Revere, Patricia A. D’Addario & fiancé Joseph DiGenio of Newmarket, NH and the late Kevin P. O’Hara, Sr., Dorothy M. McGrath, Richard F. O’Hara & James E. O’Hara, Jr. Also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Appalachian Prison Book Project P.O. Box 601, Morgantown, WV 26507 or by visiting www.appalachianprisonbook-project.org. For online guest book, please visit www.vertucciosmithvazza.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio Smith & Vazza, Beechwood Home for Funerals, Revere.

To place a memoriam in the Times Free Press, please call 781-485-0588

336 Chelsea St., East Boston
617-567-0910 | www.magrathfuneralhome.com

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

NOWICKI TO HEAD HOUSING AUTHORITY

CHELSEA - The new Executive Director of the Chelsea Housing Authority is a familiar face in the city.

Last week, the Housing Authority Board selected Paul Nowicki to serve as Executive Director, replacing Al Ewing, who retired after serving as the director of the housing authority since 2011.

Nowicki has been with the housing authority since 2011, and was serving as its operations director. He was also acity councilor for 16 years, serving four terms as council president.

The Chelsea Housing Authority oversees 914 public housing units in Chelsea, along with Section 8 vouchers in Chelsea and several surrounding communities. Nowicki said there are about 1,500 residents in the city who live in housing authority units.

Nowicki said his desire to move up to the director's role comes from his passion for public service and the community.

"It's always been my passion being in this community, working in this community, from my days as a youth volunteer to the city council, and then when the opportunity came to join the housing authority, it was a completely different perspective on helping out and being a part of the community," he said.

"The longer I worked there, the more I saw the potential for the positive impact not only for our residents, but for our neighborhoods, which means the city in general, and I just thought it would be a natural progression for me to go for it."

Coming from the council to the housing authority, Nowicki said there was a different approach about how to get things done. He pointed to the zoning changes in the late 90s that led to urban renewal as compared to the more nuts and bolts approach of running an agency such as the Chelsea Housing Authority.

"I'm the one who always wanted to get things done as fast as possible, and Al's approach was very methodical and was not about getting it done fast, but about getting it done correctly," Nowicki said. "Al was the perfect person at the perfect time to take over the housing

authority in 2011 and it allowed us to stabilize and grow, so there were a lot of good, valuable lessons."

As he takes over the director's role, Nowicki said there are some immediate issues that need to be addressed, including finding a new finance director, since former finance director Arnaldo Velazquez recently moved into the deputy director position, and finding a new operations director to fill Nowicki's old spot.

Longer term, the housing authority also has to look at the logistics of moving residents back into the revamped Innes Development when that project is ready for occupancy in the next 18 to 24 months, and then backfilling the open public housing units the Innes residents were occupying during construction.

Nowicki said the housing authority also needs to look at ways to secure nontraditional housing funding sources.

"We as a housing authority, whether it be our supportive services, or whether it be trying to purchase other property to refurbish and create more voucher availability, those are things that we are going to look at as a board and senior staff because we will have to work together as we move this housing authority forward," said Nowicki.

DeMARIA NOTES SUPPORT FOR NEW HIGH SCHOOL

EVERETT - Mayor Carlo DeMaria said he appreciates the unanimous votes cast by the School Committee and the City Council in support of a plan to build a new Everett High School.

DeMaria's remarks came after the City Council voted unanimously at its March 13 meeting to submit another Statement of Interest to the MSBA for state funding for a new high school facility in Everett.

"I have been advocating for the state to support my plan to alleviate overcrowding across our entire school district and to increase our capacity to offer a more robust career and technical education program to our students by building a new high school facility in Everett. I appreciate the support from my

colleagues on the School Committee and the City Council shown by their votes to approve filing another Statement of Interest (SOI) with the Massachusetts School Building Assistance Authority (MSBA) to help fund this important initiative," said Mayor DeMaria. "I also took the opportunity last week in a meeting with Lieutenant Governor Driscoll to advocate for additional funding for the MSBA to approve more applications because of how important this project is to Everett students."

The School Committee had voted by a 10-0 margin to advance the proposal for a new high school before the Council discussed the issue.

Supt. of Schools Priya Tahiliani appeared at the Council meeting to talk about the Statement of Interest being submitted to the Mass. School Building Authority (MSBA)

Councilor-at-Large Stephanie Smith asked Tahiliani if the submission of the Statement of Interest was required in the process after last year's proposal was not approved.

"That's correct," replied Tahiliani. "What you see in front of you is almost exactly the same as the one submitted last year with some updates in regard to enrollment at the schools and the renovations we made in order to increase school space."

Councilor Stephanie Martins asked about the timeline for the entire process.

"Last year, we submitted at around this time, and we found out that we were not accepted in December or January," said Tahiliani. "Altogether, the estimate is that [the process] takes about 8-10 years," said Tahiliani. "It is a pretty extensive process and actually I believe the City has gone through it in the past with other Statements of Interest - even in the last decade - so there are focus groups that are put together to determine what exactly the plan is going to be so you have a lot of community input."

In terms of Everett's bid for a new school being approved by the MSBA, Tahiliani told the Council that many gateway cities are overcrowded [in their schools], "and there's only so large of a pot of money, and unfortunately the feedback that we did receive is the money is

'MUSIC FOR BABIES' CLASSES



National touring children's musician Evan from Music at the Blissful came to Winthrop recently to kick off a four-week series of "Music for Babies" classes held at the Winthrop Parent Network. The classes are free and open to the community thanks to a grant from the Winthrop Cultural Council, and are designed to help babies work on their physical, social and language development and social awareness. Local parent Julia Waller, who applied for the grant in partnership with the Winthrop Parent Network, says she hopes this is the first of many music, movement and enrichment programs made available to young children/babies and their caregivers in Winthrop in the coming months. More information can be found at tinyurl.com/musicforbabies.

not going as far because of inflation rates."

LOOKING AT CLIMATE RESILIENCY PROJECT

REVERE - Congresswoman Katherine Clark received a warm welcome from Mayor Brian Arrigo, state and city officials, and Point of Pines residents for a visit that highlighted the Riverside Climate Resiliency Project.

Clark, the current Democratic Whip after serving as Assistant Speaker in the previous session of Congress, led the way in securing nearly \$2 million in funding that will directly tackle flooding in the Riverside neighborhood by constructing the vegetated berm along Mills Avenue and designing a brand-new neighborhood drainage system that will alleviate the flooding that is occurring on a regular basis.

The new resiliency project will complement Mayor Arrigo's bold and innovative vision for the area that will include Redgate's residential development on the G and J Towing Property and the construction of a community boating center on the Boatworks property among other public recreational and walking spaces that all residents will be able to enjoy.

Elle Baker, open space and environmental planner for the City of Revere, provided Congressman Clark and the group with a tour of the area prior to the press conference.

Mayor Arrigo, State Reps. Jessica Giannino and Jeff Turco,

"We are incredibly lucky to be joined today by the most influential Revere resident in history, the Democratic Whip of the United States House of Representatives, Katherine Clark," said Arrigo. "This is a special opportunity for you to come and see the great work that is happening in Revere - and it allows us on the local level to thank you for your leadership in Washington, D.C., and what it allows us on the local

level to do."

At the outset of her remarks, Rep. Clark thanked "my mayor, Brian Arrigo, and your staff for your partnership and your expertise for making a real difference in Revere, this neighborhood, and in the Commonwealth overall."

Clark described climate change as "the existential threat of our time."

"You only need to turn on the news to see that this is a global crisis with local impact like right here in this neighborhood. And it's one that requires an all-out response at every level of government," said Clark.

State Reps. Jessica Giannino and Jeff Turco Ward 5 Councillor John Power, Julie Wormser of the Mystic River Watershed Association, and neighborhood leaders Loretta LaCentra and Lorraine Hurley also spoke at the event.

Giannino, who represented the neighborhood as a councillor-at-large and state representative, told residents, "You'll be able to walk down a boardwalk, and be able take your family here to enjoy the park as we make this neighborhood walking accessible. This was a collaborative effort and without everyone's involvement and everyone saying this is a priority and our neighborhood deserves better, we wouldn't be standing here today."

Turco, who now represents all of Ward 5, thanked Clark for her efforts in securing the close to \$2 million in funding for the resiliency project.

"We are so blessed to have Congresswoman Clark as our congresswoman," said Turco. "I want to thank you for your leadership and for taking care [of projects] like this that are important for the people of this neighborhood."

NEW PRINCIPAL NAMED AT GORMAN FORT BANKS

WINTHROP - An Arlington elementary school principal will take over as the new princi-

pal of the Gorman Fort Banks school.

Mark McAneny has most recently served as the principal of the Bishop Elementary School in Arlington.

"The superintendent (Lisa Howard), after a long process, and with an incredible amount of well-qualified candidates, selected Mark McAneny," said Town Council President James Letterie at Tuesday night's Town Council meeting. "He will be taking over for our current principal, Ilene Pearson, who is retiring. Ilene has been here over a decade, and has made incredible strides at the Gorman Fort Banks and will be missed very much by the community and by the Winthrop public schools students."

In other business, the council approved sending out letters of acquisition for the approximately 60 properties that will be impacted by permanent or temporary easements for the Revere Street reconstruction project.

Most of the easements will be for small portions of property near the roadway.

"This just allows the letters to go out and to negotiate with people in regard to the amounts of money the appraiser gave us for what those easements are worth for both the temporary and permanent," said Town Manager Tony Marino.

Once the negotiations are completed, there will be an order of taking that will come before the council for those easements.

Marino said the letters needed to go out by Friday, March 24 in order for the project to stay on track for a potential June bid date.

Letterie also introduced a motion seeking to increase the size of the Zoning Board of Appeals from six to seven members to make it easier to vote on appeals and conduct business.

"Right now, we have a six member board of appeals with two alternates and four (full) members," said Letterie.

When three members handle an appeal, it needs

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See REGION Page 11

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Suffolk Probate
And Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION AND
MAILING
DOCKET NUMBER:
SU23D0297DR
Fatima Fadi
Plaintiff
VS.
Abdelaziz
Kehouache
Defendant
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a
Complaint for Divorce re-
questing that the Court grant
a divorce for Irretrievable
Breakdown.
The Complaint is on file at
the Court.
An Automatic Restraining

Order has been entered
in this matter preventing
you from taking any action
which would negatively
impact the current financial
status of either party. SEE
Supplemental Probate Court
Rule 411.
You are hereby summoned
and required to serve upon:
Fatima Fadi 330 Rutherford
Ave. Apt. 304, Charles-
town, MA 02129, your
answer, if any, on or before
05/04/2023. If you fail to
do so, the Court will proceed
to the hearing and adjudica-
tion of this action. You are
also required to file a copy
of your answer, if any, in
the office of the Register of
this Court.
Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 09, 2023
Vincent Procopio
Register of Probate

3/29/23
EB

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

Suffolk Probate
And Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION AND
MAILING
DOCKET NUMBER:
SU23D0069DR
Didier Villada
Plaintiff
VS.
Elizabeth
Suavita-Villada
Defendant
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a
Complaint for Divorce re-
questing that the Court grant
a divorce for Irretrievable
Breakdown.
The Complaint is on file at
the Court.

3/29/23
EB

An Automatic Restraining
Order has been entered
in this matter preventing
you from taking any action
which would negatively
impact the current financial
status of either party. SEE
Supplemental Probate Court
Rule 411.
You are hereby summoned
and required to serve upon:
Didier Villada 394 Benning-
ton St. Apt. 2, Boston, MA
02128, your answer, if any,
on or before 05/18/2023.
If you fail to do so, the court
will proceed to the hearing
and adjudication of this
action. You are also required
to file a copy of your answer,
if any, in the office of the
Register of this Court.
Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,
First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 15, 2023
Vincent Procopio
Register of Probate

Region// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

a unanimous vote to pass.
“What we are trying
to do here, and it leads to
an inordinate amount of
time sometimes, because
they are just inundated
by requests, and if you
have three certain peo-
ple on one hearing and
the hearing is continued,
and those three people

aren’t available (at the
next hearing), it has to be
continued again and it is
making the process hard-
er,” said Letterie. “What
we would like to do is
add another member to
make it seven and have
five full and associate
members.”
This would allow the

board to have five mem-
bers on a hearing with
four votes needed to ap-
prove an appeal, giving it
more flexibility.

The request will be
discussed further at a fu-
ture meeting of the coun-
cil’s rules subcommittee.

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9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD
at 617-565-5308. The toll free
number for the hearing impaired
is 1-800-927-9275.

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Boston, MA 02201-1054
617-635-4408

CAMBRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
51 Innis Street
Cambridge, MA 02139-1732
617-349-4396

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON HUMAN
RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES
21 Grand Street, 4th Floor
Hartford, CT 06106-1561
860-541-3400

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
51 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
207-624-6050

MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
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Boston, MA 02108-1599
617-994-6000

RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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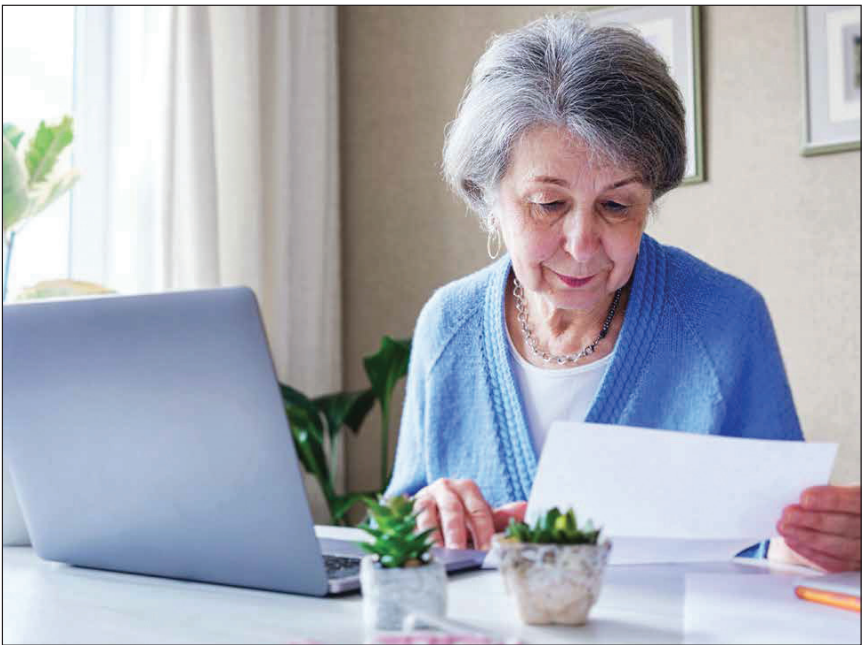


It's more important than ever as you transition toward a fixed income

Begin by setting up a budget calendar, then try to limit the amount of money you spend based on your actualized monthly income and savings. Look for the best deals, and trying to leverage as much as you can from available bene-fits. In the end, you'll find the financial security that so often evades so many seniors.

BUDGET CALENDAR

This straight-forward mon-ey-man-agement tool provides a visual aid when dealing with finances. Begin with an honest accounting of all savings and income, then write in when regular expenses come due on a month-by-month basis. Fixed expenses will include rent or mortgages, insurance premi-ums and any debt payments. Flexible bills include food, utili-ties and transportation expens-es. Those with progressive or chronic illnesses should



also build in an expense cushion for regular medical care. Leave some room for personal care, repairs and maintenance and entertainment costs, too. Now you're ready to more closely track expenses and income.

SETTING GOALS

Now that you have a better idea of how much you're spending per month, compare that with how much income and savings you have on hand. The idea is to stretch these funds through the entirety of your retirement — so you may need cut back. The ideal expenditure levels for every-one follow

the 70/30 rule, a budgeting formula that guides spending decisions by limiting them to 70% of total income. During your working life, that leaves 30% for savings. As a retiree, these savings simply remain in reserve for later use. When you find your expenses moving past 70% of what you've bud-geted, consider whether you actually need this item or activity — or if it's sim-ply wanted. Is it time to down-size? If you can't immediately reach the 70/30 goal, make it a near-term goal.

INCOME BOOSTS

The average monthly Social Security benefit isn't enough to live on. Instead, it's more of a starting point. Seniors typically combine these funds with pro-ceeds from retirement accounts, pensions and savings to make ends meet. Others may continue working part time. But that's not the only way to boost your retirement income. There are also pro-grams, numbering in the thou-sands, that can help pay for food, utilities, medicine and other everyday

expenses, if you qualify. Visit the National Council on Aging's Bene-fitsCheckUp site to learn more about these programs and your eligibility.

02128

Our Senior Life

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Tap into AARP's resources. AARP.org/caregiving has a wide array of information, including legal and financial guidance.

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