

East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

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EBCCS PRESENTS THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



The East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) 8th grade class presented a reenactment of the Stations of the Cross on March 31. Pictured are the people demanding that Jesus be crucified; and Pontius Pilate, played by Ian Reec, condemns Jesus to death. See Page 7 for more photos.

Eastie Farm unveils new state-of-the-art greenhouse

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Eastie Farm, a non-profit organization that focuses on climate justice, food access, and community resilience, hosted several elected officials, including Mayor Michelle Wu, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new greenhouse at 6 Chelsea Terrace on Wednesday, Mar. 22.

Now, this new greenhouse is not your regular old greenhouse – it is geothermal and produces

zero emissions – the first of its kind in all of New England. The greenhouse, brought in from the Netherlands and placed at the site via crane, contains three underground wells.

The wells range from 455 to 500 feet deep, where the geothermal heating or cooling comes from. “Down that deep in the ground, the temperature is kind of temperate – it doesn’t freeze and get

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PHOTO COURTESY MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mayor Michelle Wu (left) and Sen. Lydia Edwards (third from left) help cut the ribbon to officially unveil the new state-of-the-art greenhouse.

Alia Qatarneh to represent her community in the Boston Marathon

Story by Marianne Salza

East Boston native Alia Qatarneh fondly remembers watching the Boston Marathon from the sidelines with her father and sister growing up. Now, Qatarneh is thrilled to be participating in the 127th Boston Marathon. She is one of the nine athletes to have received a race bib through the Boston Running Collaborative, a committee developed by the Boston Athletic Association to diversify, expand access, and provide resources to runners.

As a ‘leader’ of female running group, TrailblazHers Run Collective, Qatarneh is dedicated to empowering women.



PHOTO BY FRANCES RAMIREZ, BOSTON ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Alia Qatarneh, running in Piers Park, will be participating in the 127th Boston Marathon on April 17

TarilblazHers is a sisterhood that encourages

members to run or walk at a comfortable pace.

“It’s important to me because I am representing TrailblazHers, and the neighborhood of East Boston,” said Qatarneh, Boston Marathon bib number 27448. “I’m bringing with me these important communities.”

Qatarneh strives to transform the notion of what a runner looks like. To her, every body is a runner.

“When society thinks of a runner, they may think of someone tall and skinny,” explained 5-foot-2-inch Qatarneh. “TrailblazHers disrupts that narrative. Being a part of something that is actively changing what it means to be a

runner is powerful. I feel privileged to be in a space where I can do that work. I believe that anyone and everyone is a runner.”

Self-Care Sundays are monthly events that TrailblazHers hosts to focus not only on fitness, but comradery and mental health. Some 100 women attended the most recent Self-Care Sunday on March 26, at Marathon Sports in Cambridge.

“Each Self-Care Sunday has a different theme. It could be Zumba, self-defense, or sound bath and meditation. This one we learned about different shoe types based on gait; and women were fitted

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New EBNHC PACE program location takes next step

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Following the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center’s (EBNHC) second presentation to the Gove Street Citizens Association (GSCA) on Monday, Mar. 27, residents voted in favor of a proposal that would renovate an EBNHC-owned building at 151 Orleans Street to create a new PACE program location.

The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) – as described by the EBNHC website – provides comprehensive care and support to the elderly and is the “ideal solution for those who want an alternative to nursing home care for the right combination of medical, social, recreation, rehabilitation, home care, and other services.”

Julia Makayova, EBNHC’s Legal Counsel, described the program more, saying, “We provide all services that are covered under Medicare and MassHealth ... under the program, we would provide comprehensive medical, all types of clinical services, social services including food and meal support as well as just dai-

ly recreational activities and wellness care.”

According to Makayova, the EBNHC currently serves around 800 people with its senior care programming – a majority from East Boston. The center’s senior programming also supports seniors in other communities, such as Revere, Chelsea, and Winthrop.

Initially, a few years ago, there were plans to sell this property along with its parking lots. However, due to some state and federal funding, the EBNHC now has the opportunity to forgo selling the parcels to expand its support of seniors in the community.

As part of the proposal, which was supported by the GSCA by a vote of 8-0, the 9,700 square foot single-story part of the site at 151 Orleans Street would be renovated to add things like exams rooms and other amenities to support those who are part of the PACE program.

There are no exterior renovations to the building planned, and all parking would be supported by the two lots that exist

See EBNHC Page 3

JPNA to host Easter Egg Hunt on April 8 at Piers Park

Special to the Times-Free Press

The Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association (JPNA) is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt/Gather on Saturday, April 8, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon). Sponsored by the East Boston Foundation and organized by John Tallutto, Allison DiBlasio and Margaret Farmer, the event will take place in Piers Park.

This year in Piers Park, at the request of MASSPORT, the event will be split, kids aged 5 years and

younger are given an open area with eggs to gather them at a more sedate pace. Kids aged 6 and up are asked to come together in the ellipse, where Charlestown activity group Knucklebones will have activities and games. Kids will be released at 11 am SHARP to search for eggs. Other activities include airbrush tattoos, as well as planting an exotic fruit or vegetable with Eastie Farm and “chalk

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Easter
Hunnies
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Senior Page
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News in Brief

FREE FAMILY FUN: DUDLEY FARM DAY AT SHIRLEY PLACE

Looking for a family-friendly way to kick-off Spring Recess? On Saturday, April 15 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, the Shirley-Eustis House, 33 Shirley Street in Roxbury, will host its first Dudley Farm Day. This festival celebrates the arrival of spring and the history of Roxbury’s rural past with an assortment of free activities including a farm animal petting zoo, butter-making, wool spinning, seed sales and giveaways. We’ll also have bee-keeping demonstrations, snacks, and resources from community organizations on how we can stay connected to nature and each other through gardening and exploring our history.

In the eighteenth century, Roxbury was a suburb of Boston – home to more farm animals than people! Rolling hills, groves of fruit trees, and fields full of many different varieties of crops composed the landscape. While Roxbury has undergone major changes over the past three hundred years, some important aspects of life remain the same. Dudley Street was still a main thoroughfare for the town, much like it is today. Gardens were common near the grand homes, like the community gardens tended by neighbors and friends now. And the arrival of spring meant more opportunities to gather as a community and enjoy nature, just as we do today. The Shirley-Eustis House is easily accessible on the 41 and 15 busses and has plenty of on-street

parking.

This event is free for all to attend. For questions, please call 617-442-2275 or email programs@shirleyeustishouse.org.

The Shirley-Eustis House is a National Historic Landmark located at 33 Shirley St. in Roxbury, Massachusetts. The 1747 house, preserved at Shirley Place, is one of only four colonial governors’ mansions remaining in the United States. It was also owned by a Massachusetts governor of the early Federal era, whose lasting aesthetic marks on the house reflect its nineteenth century story. The Shirley-Eustis House Association preserves the site to explore the early history of our nation and the community of Roxbury. More information about guided tours, events and programs can be found on our website: www.shirleyeustishouse.org.

FAIRY HOUSE BUILDING WORKSHOP RETURNS TO FRANKLIN PARK APRIL 20

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Mayor’s Mural Crew will welcome the local elf and fairy population back to their summer homes with the annual Fairy House Building Workshop at Franklin Park’s Schoolmaster Hill on Thursday, April 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The workshop welcomes families to a magical day of fairy house building. Children are encouraged to connect with

their natural surroundings by creating their own personalized, eco-friendly homes for the woodland fairies of Franklin Park. Spring is the best time to build fairy houses, providing the magical creatures with shelter for the coming summer months and the flitting season that begins in late May.

The event will feature facepainting and a story time. Children are encouraged to wear their favorite fairy and elf costumes.. Natural materials will be provided, and children are encouraged to explore their surroundings to find natural elements such as sticks, stones, and leaves to adorn their fairy houses. Visit boston.gov/fairy-houses to learn more.

Located in Franklin Park’s historic 220-acre forest among oak and pine trees overlooking the William Devine Golf Course, Schoolmaster Hill provides the perfect location for fairy and elf habitat that recognizes their connection to the earth by utilizing building materials from the woods around them.

Schoolmaster Hill is located on Circuit Drive between the William Devine Golf Course Clubhouse and Shattuck Hospital. This event is weather permitting. For more information and to stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, call (617) 635-4505, visit Boston.gov/Parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

238 Webster Street comes to market

RISE, a local Boston-based minority owned construction and development firm, is pleased to announce the completion and availability of their new boutique residential condominium community located at 238 Webster Street in East Boston.

The East Boston community offers six exquisite units, each custom designed with luxury appliances and high-end finishes. RISE’s own Lisa Christopher designed the layouts and interiors of each unit.

The homes each offer open concept living and kitchen areas, some with private balconies, a cov-

eted private parking space for each unit, and exceptional views of the Boston skyline for true urban living.

Webster Street is a highly desirable, premier location in East Boston’s Jeffries Point Neighborhood. The property is a short walk to Piers Park, Down East, the Tall Ship, The Quiet Few, and Brophy Park.

238 Webster is listed by Amanda George of George Group Boston.

As a minority-owned development + construction firm, RISE brings a fundamentally different type of development model: one that is committed

to fostering growth opportunities that lift and enrich entire neighborhoods. Being a multi-faceted, real estate company, our process proactively brings people together, giving everyone a seat at the table, and working as one toward a common cause: a thriving, diverse, and healthy neighborhood.

RISE continues to expand the reach past the traditional development and construction models ensuring that substantive growth opportunities are maximized creating a sustainable future for our city and region. Learn more at www.rise.boston

Edwards Empowerment Fund to expand Maverick St. Mothers Scholarship program

The Edwards Empowerment Fund has opened its Maverick Street Mothers Scholarship 2023-2024 application to residents of East Boston, Revere, North End, Winthrop, West End, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Downtown Boston, and East Fenway.

Scholarships will go to local parents who are active in the community and are currently going back to school. This scholarship has paid for secondary degrees at colleges, trade and beauty schools, and English language classes. Please apply if you are a resident of East Boston, Revere, North End, Winthrop, West End, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Downtown Boston, and East Fenway. Ideal applicants will have demonstrated a record of dedication to their com-



Sen. Lydia Edwards.

munity, such as attending PTA or civic association meetings and volunteering for example.

“I started this scholarship as a city councilor to honor the Maverick street mothers who were civically engaged parents who fought for their community. After a generous donation, last year we have decided to expand to the entire district” said State Senator Lydia Edwards (D-Boston) “Working parents need all the support we can offer, I’m

incredibly proud to be expanding the scholarship to help more parents better themselves” continued the Senator.

Eligible applicants must be a resident of East Boston, Revere, North End, Winthrop, West End, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Downtown Boston, and East Fenway, and have at least part-time custody of a minor child, children or guardianship of children or an adult child. All applications must be received by 5:00 pm on Wednesday May 31st, 2023. Applicants must mail or email their completed forms to the Edwards Empowerment Fund, edwardsempowermentfund@gmail.com. ATTN: Maverick Street Mothers Selection Committee 137 Lewis Wharf, Boston MA, 02113.

Business community invited to a presentation of CT App Corporation’s business model

Please join us in celebrating this important milestone of CT App Corporation, a member of East Boston Chamber of Commerce. This is a great opportunity to network and learn about this business model to help improve the quality of life for residents of East Boston.

CT App Corporation is a digital transportation organization providing services in and around East Boston with continuous growth in transportation operations. New strategies and partnerships are generating impact for the benefit of customers and drivers alike who join the CT App family providing inclusive and flexible employment opportunities for residents in the neighborhood. CT App Corporation’s impactful business model will be presented on Wednesday, April 5th at 6:00 PM at the East Boston Police Station Community Room on 300 East Eagle St. in East Boston.

About CT App Corporation: CT App Corporation is a community enterprise certified as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Small Local Business Enterprise (SLBE) by the City of Boston focused on the participation of drivers in the company’s earnings. The goal is to create new jobs for city residents, help local businesses gain more customers, increase their

sales, be more profitable, keep financial benefits local, contribute to health care of area residents, and pioneer green transportation business initiatives in our area.

About East Boston Chamber of Commerce: For over 50 years, the East Boston Chamber of Commerce has been working to fulfill its mission of partnering with local businesses to increase visibility and establishing synergy with residents and businesses in order to make the community thrive!

If you are interested in joining the Chamber please email at contact@eastbostonchamber.com, for more information about us visit our website www.eastbostonchamber.com.

La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston invita cordialmente a la comunidad empresarial a una presentación del modelo comercial de CT App Corporation

La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston invita cordialmente a la comunidad empresarial a una presentación del modelo comercial de CT App Corporation. Únase a nosotros para celebrar este importante hito de CT App Corporation, miembro de la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston. Esta es una gran oportunidad para establecer contactos y aprender sobre

este modelo de negocio para ayudar a mejorar la calidad de vida de los residentes de East Boston. CT App Corporation es una organización de transporte digital que brinda servicios en East Boston y sus alrededores con un crecimiento continuo en las operaciones de transporte. Las nuevas estrategias y asociaciones están generando impacto en beneficio de los clientes y conductores que se unen a la familia de CT App y brindan oportunidades de empleo inclusivas y flexibles para los residentes del vecindario. El impactante modelo de negocios de CT App Corporation se presentará el miércoles 5 de abril a las 6:00 p. m. en el Salón Comunitario de la Estación de Policía de East Boston en 300 East Eagle St. en East Boston.

Acerca de CT App Corporation: CT App Corporation es una empresa comunitaria certificada como Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) y Small Local Business Enterprise (SLBE) por la ciudad de Boston centrada en la participación de los conductores en las ganancias de la empresa. El objetivo es crear nuevos puestos de trabajo para los residentes de la ciudad, ayudar a las empresas locales a ganar más clientes, aumentar sus ventas, ser más rentables, mantener los beneficios financieros locales, contribuir al cuidado de la salud de los residentes del área y ser pioneros en iniciativas comerciales de transporte ecológico en nuestra área.

Acerca de la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston: Durante más de 50 años, la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston ha estado trabajando para cumplir su misión de asociarse con empresas locales para aumentar la visibilidad y establecer sinergias con los residentes y las empresas para que la comunidad prospere.

Si está interesado en unirse a la Cámara, envíe un correo electrónico a contact@eastbostonchamber.com, para obtener más información sobre nosotros, visite nuestro sitio web www.eastbostonchamber.com

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Monaco, Bailey	Fsmg LLC	61 Falcon St #3	\$679,000
Pachico, Meghan	Gordon, Lara	123 Trenton St #3	\$400,000
Vuong, Lien	Cotter, John P	206 Byron St	\$797,000
Hennessey, George	Centura Bay LLC	208-210 Everett St #1	\$529,000
Fox, Melissa	284 Sumner Realty LLC	284 Sumner St #3	\$880,000
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HAPPY RAMADAN, EASTER, AND PASSOVER

One of the things that we take for granted as Americans is our freedom to worship -- or not to worship -- as we see fit.

What brings this thought to mind is the plethora of religious-oriented observances that are occurring this month: the Muslim holy month of Ramadan has been on-going since March 22 and extends through April 20; the week-long Jewish celebration of Passover begins today (Wednesday); Easter Sunday, preceded by Good Friday, is this Sunday for Catholics and Protestant denominations; and the Orthodox Christian observance of Easter is set for next Sunday.

In addition, the Cambodian community will be celebrating the Cambodian New Year for three days from April 14-16.

This confluence of religious holidays serves as a reminder to all of us that the concept of freedom of religion began -- and still exists -- in America. Most of the Pilgrims, as well as many of the other early settlers of America, were religious separatists who had broken from the Church of England and who came to America in order to be free from persecution (though the Pilgrims, who were known as Puritans, were themselves intolerant of other religions).

We wish to take this opportunity to wish our readers of all religious preferences a happy and healthy holiday season.

GOOD LUCK, MR. ENG -- YOU'LL NEED IT

Governor Maura Healey last week announced the appointment of Phillip Eng as the next General Manager of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). Eng is an engineer with nearly 40 years of experience in transportation, including serving as the President of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) Long Island Rail Road and the Interim President of New York City Transit.

To say that Mr. Eng will be facing a number of significant and immediate challenges is not even an understatement.

His appointment comes on the heels of an announcement by the T a few weeks ago that speed restrictions between 10-25 miles per hour on the Red, Orange, Blue, and Green Lines -- in other words, the entire system -- were to go into effect immediately because of the decrepit condition of the rail beds on the T's tracks.

As we can attest after riding on the Red Line two weeks ago -- in which we crawled along at a snail's pace for almost the entire ride from South Station through Quincy -- the T's Rapid Transit system is anything but rapid and more aptly could be described as the Turtle Trolley.

In addition to unsafe tracks, the T also has to deal with the roving gangs of thugs on its trains who terrorize passengers with seeming impunity, as has been the case recently on the other end of the Red Line, where passengers were mugged during rush hour at Harvard Square station.

The T also has to address a serious shortfall of workers. According to news reports, the T is offering new employees a \$7500 cash signing bonus in order to make a dent in its present shortfall of 2800 workers. The manpower shortage already is having an effect on the frequency of bus routes. But given the low unemployment rate in the state, the T's prospects of getting the new workers it needs to function at anywhere near 100 percent optimization seem slim.

The T also is dealing with a huge decrease in ridership across all of its modes of transportation. We took the Hingham Ferry to Rowe's Wharf last week during rush hour. Before the pandemic, there would be a long line of commuters snaking along the waterfront from the Rowe's Wharf hotel to board the ferry back to Hingham.

Instead there were no more than 10 people waiting to get onto the boat -- and this was at 5:30 on a Friday evening, usually a prime-time rush hour boat that ordinarily would be packed with commuters. This decrease is not confined to the ferry. According to the T's own figures, there were 1.2 million daily riders of the T in February, 2019. However, in February 2023, the number was 702,000 -- a huge decline that is not expected to increase any time soon.

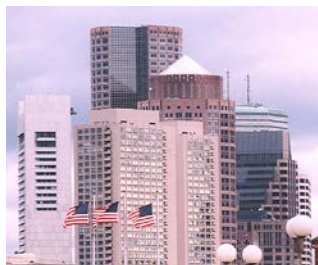
In addition, the T's ambitious plans to electrify its buses have encountered significant delays. In order to electrify its buses, the T needs to construct new garages that are capable of charging an electric bus fleet. However, the garages that already are under construction in Cambridge and Quincy are facing significant delays and the third garage on the Arborway in Jamaica Plain already is two years behind schedule. Plus, according to news reports, the T is facing delays in the delivery of the electric buses it has ordered.

It is clear that even with a significant infusion of cash from the legislature, the T will have difficulty bringing its system into the 21st century. Moreover, given the already-low ridership and the poor quality of service, the T will continue to lose riders who cannot afford to be late for work everyday because of decrepit infrastructure and a lack of workers.

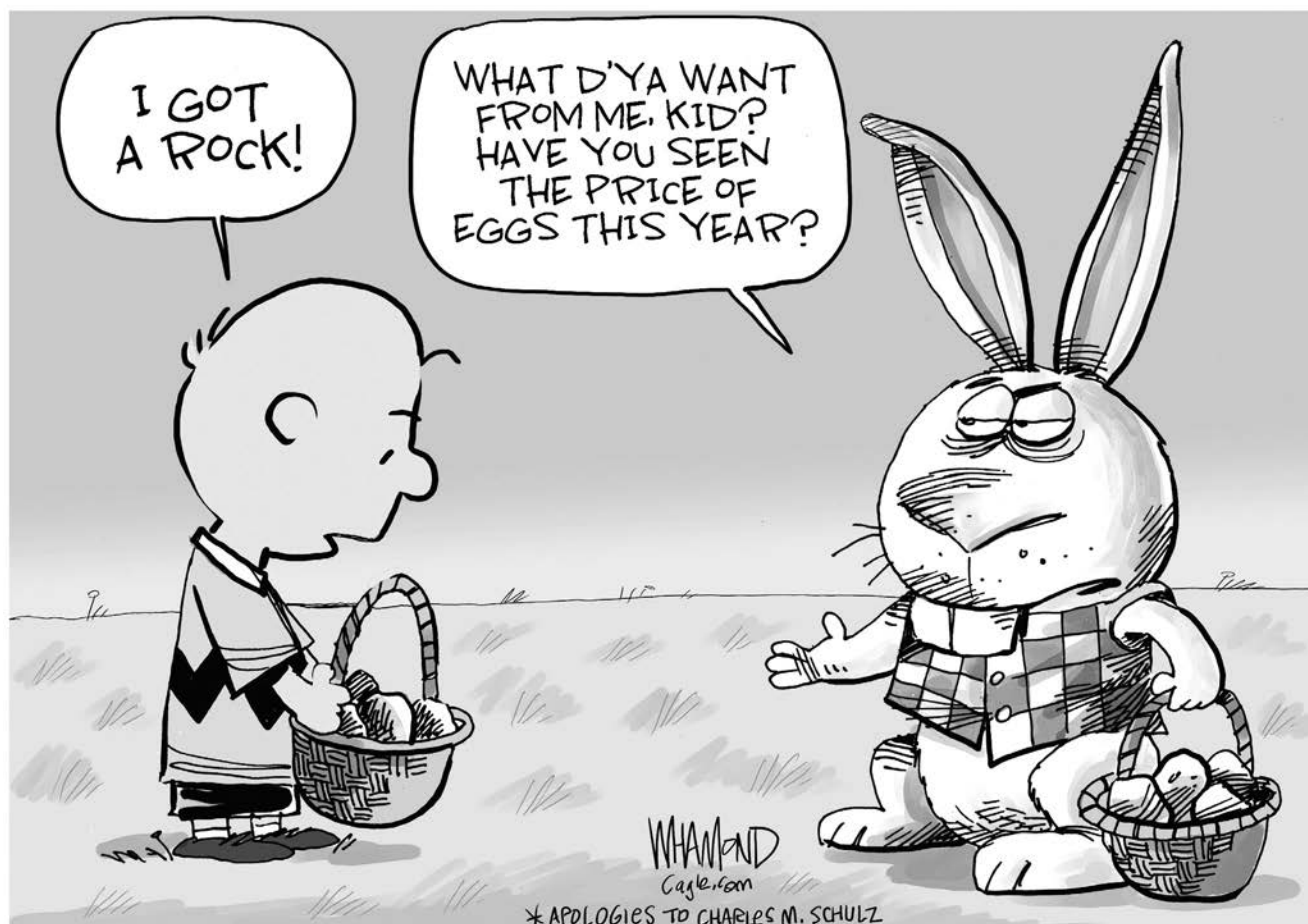
The MBTA always has been a favorite target for criticism from the press and politicians. However, the many years of neglected maintenance, which are due entirely to underfunded budgets from the legislature, combined with the after-effects of the pandemic, have brought the T to the crisis situation it is facing today.

Mr. Eng may very well be a superb choice for the top job at the T, but no one should expect him to work miracles.

All of us should wish him the best of luck because a modern and efficient public transportation system is essential for the Boston Metropolitan area to thrive.



Forum



Boston Public Health Commission urges residents to update MassHealth information

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is advising residents that the MassHealth redetermination period is now in effect, and that recipients must update their information in order to continue receiving MassHealth benefits.

Redetermination, the period for MassHealth benefits renewal, was done yearly prior to the COVID-19 pandemic to verify eligibility, but federal law waived this requirement starting March 2020, to ensure continuous coverage. The continuous coverage requirements ended on April 1 of this year, requiring state Medicaid programs like MassHealth to reinstate eligibility redeterminations.

Now that redetermination has been reopened, BPHC reminds residents that this is an important time ensure their coverage is maintained. Residents covered by MassHealth must make sure that MassHealth has their most up to date contact information and report any changes

in their household such as a new job, changes to income, disability status, or pregnancy.

Boston is currently home to more than 300,000 MassHealth members, some of whom may no longer be eligible for MassHealth coverage. Many residents may have already received blue envelopes from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) that provide more information about redetermination and their benefits and contain an application to be completed and returned to EOHHS. If you have received one of these envelopes, review the content carefully and reach out to the Mayor's Health Line if you have questions or need assistance.

The Mayor's Health Line (MHL) specializes in MassHealth and Medicaid and is here to assist residents with their application during the redetermination period and assist any residents who no longer qualify for MassHealth find the

best coverage available to them. The MHL regularly provides multilingual support in more than five languages to 10,000 residents annually find the health insurance benefits that are best for them. All services are free and confidential regardless of immigration status. The MHL is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm. For support, call 617-534-5050 or visit boston.gov/mayors-health-line.

As part of BPHC's efforts to help residents keep their coverage, the MHL has already begun to contact its existing clients to begin working on their applications.

"Access to healthcare is key in enabling our communities to thrive," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "If any resident is having difficulties, the Mayor's Health Line is dedicated to supporting residents in applying for MassHealth benefits and determining what other coverage might be available so that they receive the care they deserve."

"Ensuring our resi-

dents maintain their MassHealth coverage will be a marathon effort throughout the rest of the year," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "This coverage is vital for keeping so many of our residents healthy, so we are going to be steadfast in our efforts to make sure that as many of our residents as possible maintain insurance coverage without interruption."

MassHealth members will receive a due date with their renewal packet, and it is important that they submit all requested information by the specified date. Over the next year, BPHC will work closely with partners in state and local government, as well as community-based organizations, to reach as many individuals as possible to ensure they are connected to coverage and can access health care.

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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Madaro files legislative agenda as the new session begins

As the new legislative cycle begins on Beacon Hill, Rep. Adrian Madaro has filed a slate of legislation in the House of Representatives that will address important issues in East Boston and across the Commonwealth. Among the proposed bills is legislation that will establish a framework for universal childcare, ensure language access at state agencies, offer incentives for lower rents through tax credits, and address air and noise pollution from Logan Airport. The bills filed by Representative Madaro build on efforts from previous sessions and introduce new solutions that will be considered for the first time this year.

“With a new legislative session before us, I am excited to continue working on the issues that impact residents in East Boston and across Massachusetts,” said Representative Madaro. “From universal child care to environmental justice, I have introduced a slate of bills that will help create a more just and equitable Commonwealth. I am honored to have the privilege of representing East Boston, and I look forward to working with my colleagues and our community to move these bills forward,” said Representative Adrian C. Madaro (D-East Boston).

Child Care
HD.2794 - Common Start Legislation

As a new parent, Rep. Madaro has personally experienced how expensive and challenging it is to get care for a young child. Without child care, parents cannot get to work, and children experience fewer opportunities to



Rep. Adrian Madaro.

thrive. Building on efforts that began in 2020, this bill, filed by Rep. Madaro and Rep. Ken Gordon, will establish a framework for universal child care across Massachusetts, ensuring that care is high quality and affordable for families, and that child care providers are being paid fair wages for their hard work.

Housing Affordability
HD.3349 - Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program

The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program is a state-run service that provides rental vouchers to low-income families. Rep. Madaro’s bill will enshrine this program into law, and make changes that will make the program more efficient and reliable for current and future participants.

HD.3988 - Housing Affordability Tax Credits

Renters and small property owners alike have struggled during the housing affordability crisis. This bill will provide tax relief to small property owners who rent below-market to seniors, families with children, and low-income households. Small property owners

are some of the largest providers of affordable housing in the unsubsidized market. It is time to give them the relief they deserve. Additionally, this bill gives municipalities more flexibility in dealing with back-property taxes, allowing more vulnerable groups such as seniors the ability to remain at home.

HD.3786 - Preventing Housing Discrimination

Research by local Boston-area housing experts show that discrimination by real estate brokers on the basis of race or rental voucher status remains a significant barrier to renters. This bill strengthens existing protections against renter discrimination by introducing increased requirements, safeguards, and penalties aimed at real estate brokers who engage in discriminatory behavior.

The Environment
HD.4024 - Energy Facilities Siting Board Reform

East Boston residents have experienced firsthand how the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) is unresponsive to local residents during the community process for the Eversource Substation on Condor Street. This bill takes the lessons learned from that process to reform the EFSB by requiring a stronger community process, making environmental justice a factor in the Board’s decisions, and adding environmental justice and indigenous community representation through new seats on the Board.

HD.3997 - Airport Environmental Justice

Logan Airport continues to be one of the largest

contributors to pollution and adverse public health outcomes in the area. This bill will require Massport to adopt a comprehensive plan to address air and noise pollution at Logan, to conduct regular health studies of the East Boston population that evaluate the impacts of pollution on certain health risks, and measure and report regularly on levels of air pollution in East Boston, including ultrafine particulates.

HD.3342 - Measuring Ultrafine Particulates

Ultrafine particulates are a type of extremely small particle pollution produced by sources such as highway traffic and airports. While they potentially pose significant health hazards, levels of UFP pollution are not currently monitored by any government agency. This bill requires the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to monitor ultrafine particulates at all of their air quality monitoring stations, including those in East Boston.

HD.3994 - Environmental Justice and Designated Port Areas

Designated port areas, such as those in East Boston, require certain waterfront property to be reserved for marine industrial uses, limiting other ways in which communities and property owners can utilize those parcels. This bill establishes a board to study and report on how these restrictions impact environmental justice communities like East Boston, and ways that these uses might be changed to mitigate such impacts.

HD.3316 - Addressing Combined Sewage Overflows

Combined sewage overflows are when drains release sewage directly into major waterways during major storm or flooding events. Drains for these events exist in East Boston and nearby communities, and impact the waterways surrounding our neighborhood, such as the Chelsea Creek and Boston Harbor. This bill will require the MWRA to update their systems to eliminate these overflows or restrict them to the most extreme, rare weather emergencies.

Soon to be Filed - Airport Climate Resiliency Trust Fund

Our office is putting the final touches on a bill that creates an Airport Climate Resiliency Trust Fund for Logan Airport. The Trust Fund will be financed by a new jet fuel tax that bridges the gap between the current jet fuel tax (currently a little over \$0.17 per gallon) and the Massachusetts gas tax (\$0.24 per gallon). This new revenue ensures that airlines are paying their fair share just like Massachusetts drivers, and makes more funds available for Massport to reach their net-zero emissions goals, reducing pollution and improving climate resiliency at the airport and in our community.

Economic Justice
HD.3417 - Low Income Fares

Mobility is essential for accessing opportunity and meeting our basic needs. People need to be able to get to work, run errands, make appointments, and meet friends and family. Yet many low-income

individuals struggle with access to transportation due to cost. This bill will require the MBTA and regional RTAs to set up low income fare programs to ensure that every resident is able to get where they need to go at an affordable rate.

HD.3826 - Digital Right to Repair

When issues arise with our electronic devices, such as phones and laptops, there are often no solutions besides expensive manufacturer repair or replacing the device entirely. Digital Right to Repair will require electronics manufacturers to increase access to repairs for their devices, such as through local independent repair shops. This is similar to what we accomplished recently in Massachusetts with automotive right to repair. These are our devices, and Massachusetts consumers deserve to be able to repair them at an affordable cost whenever and wherever we choose.

HD.3366 - Food Justice with Jobs

This bill creates access to local, sustainably-grown food through supporting the creation of local community farming organizations, like Eastie Farm here in East Boston, as well as providing resources to help people grow food in their own backyards. Incentivizing more locally-grown food makes our neighborhoods healthier and creates more well-paying jobs in our communities.

Helping Seniors
HD.3338 - Increasing awareness to PACE programs

See AGENDA Page 6

Map out your career with the MBTA.

Mattapan

Saturday, April 15
10:00am–1:00pm
Jubilee Christian Church
1500 Blue Hill Avenue

Quincy

Saturday, April 22
10:00am–1:00pm
Wollaston Station
300 Newport Avenue

Lynn

Saturday, April 29
10:00am–1:00pm
North Shore
Community College
750 Washington Street

Revere

Saturday, May 6
10:00am–1:00pm
Wonderland Station
1234 North Shore Road



For career event info, scan here

Visit MBTA recruitment events across the Boston area.

Looking for your next career move? We’re hosting recruitment events where you can learn more about open positions, begin your application process, and more. See above for information on dates, times, and locations.



Wu announces applications open for the 2023-2024 Spark Boston Council

Mayor Michelle Wu announced applications for the 2023-2024 SPARK Boston Council are now open and available online. The SPARK Boston Council is a volunteer leadership and civic engagement council made up of 20 to 35 year olds charged with spearheading the City's efforts to engage Boston's young adult population. Applications are due Friday, May 26, 2023.

"The SPARK Boston Council helps serve as a direct line from what young people want to see change in our City, to the services of City government," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "SPARK Boston is a great opportunity for young adults to connect with their neighborhoods, peers, and the possibilities of government. I've enjoyed getting to know this year's group

of future Boston leaders and encourage all that are interested to apply."

Under the direction of the SPARK Boston Director, the 2023-2024 Council will create programming and advise Boston's leaders to help the city grow as an inviting, connected, culturally rich, and sustainable home for young adults. Throughout the SPARK Boston Council term, participants hear from key members of the Mayor's staff, leaders within City Hall, and community organizations about topics like climate resilience, education, housing, and civic innovation.

"Recruitment is my favorite time of the year for our program," said SPARK Boston Director Audrey Seraphin. "I love being able to share our work with so many amaz-

ing young residents all across the City. I hope to see applications from every single neighborhood in Boston this year!"

Those looking to join the SPARK Boston Council can learn more about the program and application process by attending one of two Virtual Open Houses on either Tuesday, April 18 or Wednesday, May 10 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Those interested in attending can register at bit.ly/SPARKinfoSession2023. Applicants can also reach out with questions to sparkboston@boston.gov.

The 2022-2023 SPARK Council will be continuing their work through the end of their term this August, but have already taken part in several opportunities, including attending Mayor Wu's first State of the City; meeting with

Boston's Sister City delegation from Strausbourg, France during Mayor Jeanne Barseghian's visit; and marching in the Allston-Brighton Parade with Mayor Wu. On-going programming includes participatory mapping project Boston You're My Home; public education series Back to School; a civic text Book Club; and greener living newsletter & lifestyle brand Sustainable Boston.

The 2022-2023 council has also continued legacy & signature programming such as: Neighborhood Socials, events designed to bring City Hall staff and local leaders into spaces young people already patronize; Chief Chats, fireside discussions with cabinet leadership; and Pint with a Planner, an event series in partnership with the Boston Planning

& Development Agency (BPDA).

The SPARK Council meets on the first Monday of each month. Council members must also attend one community meeting and one SPARK event or subcommittee meeting a month. Applicants must reside in Boston, and be willing to commit 15 hours monthly to the SPARK Boston program. SPARK Boston and its previous iteration ONEin3 have now been serving young adults and the City of Boston for over 18 years.

"SPARK Boston can ignite your confidence in civic engagement. It is a space where you can build your voice, involvement, and engagement in your neighborhood while understanding how the Mayor's Office serves the City of Boston," said 2022-2023 SPARK Boston

Captain Ricky Meinke. "By applying to SPARK Boston, you are confirming that you want to be a future leader in your neighborhood, that you want to serve the City of Boston, and that you can make a difference in your community."

Boston is home to a large and diverse 20-35 year old population. SPARK Boston (formerly ONEin3) is a City of Boston initiative that aims to empower Generation Z and millennial generation to play a greater role in planning for the future of our city. For more information and the full SPARK Boston recruitment schedule, please visit the Spark Boston website.

Agenda // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

PACE is a program that runs across many communities in Massachusetts, including in East Boston through EBNHC, helping seniors remain at home by providing them with access to care and services. This bill will ensure that more seniors are informed about this helpful program that allows them to age in place.

Language Access
HD.3616 - Language Access

In East Boston and across Massachusetts, many families speak a primary language other than English. These individuals frequently struggle to communicate with and receive services from state government agencies whose materials and forms are often only available in English. This bill will increase language access across Massachusetts state government, starting with agencies the public interacts with most, by making information and forms available in the most common languages other than English in Massachusetts.

Furthering Educational Opportunities
HD.3806 - AP Exam College Credit

For many students, taking AP classes in high school is an important way to earn college credit, allowing them to get ahead and even save money when they arrive at their universities. This bill will resolve discrepancies between acceptable AP exam scores for public colleges and universities in Massachusetts by requiring them to adopt a uniform policy.

HD.3624 - Tuition Equity

In-state tuition levels should be accessible to every Massachusetts youth

who lives in our communities and goes to high school here. However, immigration status often means that youth who attended school in our community are hit with out-of-state rates. This bill will guarantee that Massachusetts youth receive in-state tuition rates regardless of immigration status.

Language Access
HD.3616 - Language Access

In East Boston and across Massachusetts, many families speak a primary language other than English. These individuals frequently struggle to communicate with and receive services from state government agencies whose materials and forms are often only available in English. This bill will increase language access across Massachusetts state government, starting with agencies the public interacts with most, by making information and forms available in the most common languages other than English in Massachusetts.

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

We've often covered how to reduce your dog's weight and why. However, some guardians face the problem of safely increasing their dog's weight. Adding weight is a common issue for foster families, shelters, and rescue groups. We learned a lot about it when we were fostering dogs.

Finding the Cause

Any underweight issue should be confirmed by your veterinarian, who will help you set an ideal weight goal. Medical conditions can be responsible for weight loss. For example, parasites, digestive issues, age, dental problems, thyroid disease, diabetes, or a restrictive medical diet can keep a dog from maintaining a healthy weight.

Aside from medical problems, other reasons for underweight dogs are stress, anxiety, and simply being a picky eater. We faced the issue with our second Westie, Maggie Mae. She was not interested in food. We used every strategy and recipe offered to us by experts to get her to eat.

Step-by-Step

Obviously, you need to add more calories for weight gain. Your vet might refer you to a veterinary nutritionist to help you add food correctly. It's not a simple matter of giving your dog larger meals. You might be asked to add to the number of meals you offer daily and include some between-meal healthy snacks.

CITY PAWS

Safely increasing your dog's weight



Some breeds, like this Saluki, are naturally thin. Your veterinarian can confirm if your dog is underweight. (Photo by: Artem Sapegin)

You may need to switch to higher-quality dog food. Read the label on what you currently use and any new food. Whole Dog Journal is one publication that conducts reviews of commercial dog food. Today we're fortunate to have a wide assortment of traditional, raw, and freeze-dried food for our dogs.

You might switch from dry food to canned to see what your dog prefers. It can also help to add some liquid to the food you are feeding to see if that allows your dog to enjoy the meal.

Introduce new foods slowly, and choose healthy proteins and fats. Some dogs will eat more if offered a variety of proteins. With Maggie, we learned she loved scrambled eggs, so we added those to her snack routine. She also responded to cheese as a top-

ping on her regular meals. Sometimes she would just lick off the cheese, but other times she would go on to eat the food under it. We also offered toppings like chicken and rice baby food to tempt her.

Yogurt, cottage cheese, and peanut butter can be fed in appropriate quantities. Be sure to check the many online lists of safe human foods for dogs and follow the guidance given for each. For example, check peanut butter labels to be sure it does not contain the artificial sweetener Xylitol which is toxic to dogs. If you use salmon, make sure it is fully cooked. Raw salmon contains a parasite harmful to dogs.

Lifestyle Changes

If your dog is stressed or has anxiety, your vet may be able to provide medication to help. You

should provide a safe, quiet, relaxed dining space for your nervous critter. Some quiet music that would block other noises or a safer space under a table or in a crate might help the dog feel secure when eating.

You might be surprised to have your veterinarian suggest more exercise as a step in weight gain. If a dog is listless and inactive, he can lose muscle mass and appetite. Again, start slowly with longer walks. Pick up the pace when your dog seems willing. You could also add more play sessions, introduce food toys or even play "catch the popcorn" if that is fun for you and your skinny pup.

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

In memoriam
11th anniversary
**Michael
Leonardo**
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I give you this,
one thought to keep.
I am with you still,
I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds
that blow.
I am the diamond glints
on the snow.
I am the sunlight
on the ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the
morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush...
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that
shine at night.
Do not think of me as gone -
I am with you still,
in each new dawn.
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MBTA publishes 3-year safety improvement plan

The MBTA announced the release of its 3-Year Safety Improvement Plan, a forward-looking document that on the MBTA's commitment to strengthen its safety culture through continuous improvement.

The three-Year Safety Improvement Plan was produced in response to an act of the Legislature and incorporates a number of safety-related initiatives related to all modes of transportation operated by the MBTA. The plan is centered on four categories: workforce; data, system, and communications; rules, policies, and procedures; and quality management. In each category and across all modes, the plan lays out a series of objectives that will result in improved service while prioritizing the safety of MBTA customers, employees, and contractors at all times.

The MBTA's three-Year Safety Improvement Plan embodies a multitude of mandated requirements from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), United States Coast Guard (USCG), and the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). It contains an overview of the relevant state and federal regulatory authorities, required safety plans, a description of each transit mode, safety objectives for the next three years, and the safety performance targets for each transportation mode. This document also includes an overview of the FTA's Safety Management Inspection (SMI), related Special Directives, and MBTA's targets for achieving compliance with the directives.

This Safety Improvement Plan is in addition to the FTA's Safety Management Inspection report produced in 2022. That process involved a review of operations, training, vehicle maintenance, signals, train control, and track access among other items. As a result, the FTA issued eight special directives; in response, the T developed 38 corrective action plans and 545 action items that detail how the T intends to address each special directive. As of February 2023, the T completed 36 percent of the total action items with the expectation for 100 percent completion by the end of 2025.

The Safety Improvement Plan will be updated annually following an assessment of progress made based on measurable objectives within the plan. That assessment will include a variety of factors including a summary of injuries and associated trends, an analysis of financial and human resources needed to continue progress, and recommendations to maintain focus on the plan's objectives.

EBCCS PRESENTS THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) 8th grade class presented a reenactment of the Stations of the Cross on March 31. Students and their families solemnly contemplated the Passion of Christ, and prayed for hope, perseverance, and love.

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



6th Station: Veronica, played by Jaslene Brooke-Tome, wipes the face of Jesus, leaving an imprint of his face on her veil.



Narrators: Mackenzie Holden and Cole O'Brien.



EBCCS chaplain, Father Dan Zinger, Most Holy Redeemer Church, wishing families a blessed Holy Week.



Two soldiers, played by Juan Pimentel and Bryan Ramirez, give Jesus, played by Peter Rosa, a heavy, wooden cross to carry.



14th Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb.



11th Station: Jesus, played by Peter Rosa, is nailed to the cross.



Jesus, played by Peter Rosa, rises victoriously over death.



EBCCS 8th grade class: Jaslene Brooks-Tome, Nyla Taylor, Alani Ortez Bonilla, Arianna Salmoran, Ian Reec, Sophia Varon, Madden O'Brien, Peter Rosa, Juan Pimentel, Bryan Ramirez, Mackenzie Holden, Anthony Chianca, and Cole O'Brien.

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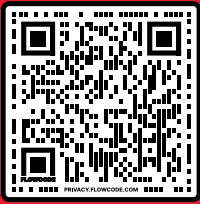
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EBHS JETS SCORE A 10-5 WIN OVER WINTHROP

The Jets began the defense of their 2022 Boston City League championship with a 10-5 victory over Winthrop in a scrimmage game at wind-chilled Veterans Field Winthrop on Wednesday, March 29. The games get real Thursday when East Boston faces rival Charlestown in 4 p.m. home game at East Boston Memorial Stadium.



ALL SMILES: The East Boston bench empties to greet Joel Valera after he blasted a home run during the Jets 10-5 win over Winthrop in a season-opening scrimmage on March 29.



INTO THE HOME STRETCH: Joel Valera is in full speed as Coach Jeff Arinella (left) waves him toward home as Valera blasted a home run into the gap in left-center field.



STAY WITH IT: First baseman Jason DeSilva reaches to snag a pop-up that was carried by the wind, as shortstop Joel Valera provides backup.



SO CLOSE: Centerfield Jared Pacitta is a step short of catching a line drive that fell for a Winthrop base hit.



GET BACK: Jared Pacitta rustles up some dirt as he gets back to first base to avoid a pickoff attempt.



SPIN TAG: Shortstop Joel Valera spins to put a tag on Winthrop runner Matt Noonan in a pickoff attempt, but Noonan got back to second base just ahead of the tag.

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Holding Court

East Boston schoolteacher Vasili Mallios is a Division 1 college basketball referee

By Tony Ferullo

Heckling fans. Screaming coaches. Unruly players.

Welcome to the world of Suffolk University alumnus Vasili Mallios, a Division I men’s basketball official who is never happier than when he’s standing on a crowded basketball court dressed in his striped jersey with a whistle around his neck.

“I love what I do,” he says, “and I have the best seat in the house.”

Basketball runs deep in Mallios’ family: His brother, Dino, led the nation in assists while playing for St. Anselm’s College and his sister, Katerina, played hoops at Babson College. In addition, his uncles, Chris Tsiotos, BS ’77, JD ’83, Nick Tsiotos, BS ’77, and Max Tsiotos, BSBA ’87, played basketball for the Suffolk Rams. Chris Tsiotos, a star center for

the men’s basketball team, is a member of the Suffolk Athletics Hall of Fame.

As for Mallios, he played basketball all the way through Winthrop High School, but gave it up when he got to Suffolk. He rediscovered his passion for the sport halfway around the world when he joined a club team while studying abroad during his sophomore year in his family’s native country of Greece.

“I missed the game and wanted to get back into it somehow,” says Mallios, who received his BSBA degree from Suffolk in 2011. “I knew I didn’t want to coach. That’s when I decided to try and become a referee.”

After passing the necessary certification tests, Mallios began officiating elementary school games and eventually worked his way up to the high school

level. He then made the jump to the college ranks, refereeing Division 3 and Division 2 games for about five years, before becoming a Division 1 official four years ago. Between November and March, Mallios officiates games in the evenings and on weekends.

“You have to stay composed, know the rules, and be approachable,” says Mallios, who has officiated in the America East, Metro Atlantic Athletic, and Colonial League conferences, among others. “It’s not easy because we are counted on to make so many split-second decisions in the course of a game.”

“No referee is perfect; we all mistakes. When a call you make is challenged, the important thing is to listen, have confidence in the decision you make, and move on. I have

fun with it and smile.”

By day, Mallios is a sixth-grade math teacher at the James Otis Elementary School in East Boston. His Suffolk education—with its emphasis on communication skills, working in groups, multitasking, and time management—has, he says, benefited him both on the court and in the classroom.

Jim Nelson, Suffolk’s emeritus director of athletics, remembers how impressed he was watching Mallios referee for the first time.

“Vasili had this presence on the court that made you respect his feel for the game,” says Nelson, who, in addition to his three-plus decades as AD also spent 20 years as men’s head basketball coach. “From a coaching standpoint, he was unbiased at all times and in complete control of his



Vasili Mallios.

COURTESY PHOTO

emotions.

“I knew then that he was going to make a difference in the game and go places in the officiating world.”

“The goal is to get to the top of DI,” says Mallios, mentioning conferences such as the Big East and ACC. “I just want to keep learning and working hard. What I have learned is that you need to be focused and level-headed 100% of the time to be successful in this business.”

Tony Ferullo is a senior writer in the Office of Public Affairs at Suffolk University in Boston.

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Real Estate For Seniors

Some want to downsize, others are looking for new adventures

About one-sixth of home-buyers are older than 50, according to the National Association of Realtors. This has opened up new areas in the real estate market, while encouraging some agents to narrow their focus to this growing segment.

NO MAXIMUM AGE

There is no maximum age to apply for a mortgage, and there are laws in place making age-based discrimination illegal. Still, you and your prospective lender need to keep certain realities in mind. You will have to be sure that savings and retirement income will be enough to cover expenses when you eventually leave the workforce — and you can't wait too long. Lenders won't qualify those whose only income is derived from IRAs, 401(k)s or other account distributions. (Remember that withdrawal from these retirement distributions are subject to penalties.)



SPECIALIZED HELP

The National Association of Realtors has developed a new designation called senior real-estate specialist to provide any needed special assistance. These pros have additional training in helping older buyers and sellers with the often-complicated decision making and financial planning involved with pur-

chasing a home late in life. Their skill-sets also include in-depth knowledge of estate-planning, tax implications and benefit programs aimed at helping seniors with these transactions. They'll also be able to recommend properties and developments that are closer to desirable amenities like senior centers, recreation options and community services.

BEFORE YOU BUY

Price notwithstanding, not every property is suited for purchase by a senior. Educate yourself on the lending options available for seniors in your area with help from a trusted real estate professional. Once you've secured a pre-approval, every step of the home search should be geared toward your individual situation: The property should have the potential for fast and very high appreciation, since you might not complete the entire 30-year payment cycle on your mortgage.

If you're considering a condo, remember that owner-ship includes certain maintenance and amenities — but they're paired with additional owner-association fees. That might make this a poor option if you're trying to keep monthly expenses low. Whatever you choose, make sure all of your potential showings are move-in ready, with few or no need-ed repairs. With an expert agent guiding the way, you should be able to find a dream home at any age.

Our Senior Life

DURING THE MONTHS OF MARCH + APRIL THE EAST BOSTON TIMES WILL BE RUNNING A SERIES OF INFORMATIVE ARTICLES AND SERVICE SPOTLIGHTS OF IMPORTANCE TO OUR SENIORS, AS WELL MEMORIES OF DAYS GONE BY.

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AGING IS AN EXTRAORDINARY PROCESS WHERE YOU BECOME THE PERSON YOU ALWAYS SHOULD HAVE BEEN - DAVID BOWIE

Don't Wait On a Will

Avoiding these necessary decisions can make your passing much more difficult

The AARP reports that nearly two-thirds of Americans have never gotten around to writing their will. Of course, it's an unpleasant topic, but those who die without completing one leave an unsettled estate. Final disbursement will ultimately be decided in probate court with a third-party administrator — the last thing you'd want grieving family members to endure.

Here's how to begin the process, and what to include while completing this important document.

GETTING STARTED

You'll have to choose an executor for the estate, some-one who will follow your finish wishes. You'll also need to choose beneficiaries. Next comes the hard choices of who will get what. Try to be as specific as you can be, with complete explanations of your decision-making process, in order to potentially avoid family strife after you're gone. Remember that there can be disputes and regulatory issues if these beneficiaries are not also attached to your various accounts. Attach a letter to the will with additional information, if

you'd like to go into more detail. Finally, contact a respected attorney you trust to make the document official. This isn't always required, but doing so will ensure that your will is proper and legal.

GETTING HELP

Many seniors avoid completing a will simply because they don't have the resources to hire a lawyer. Thankfully, there are free programs like Serving Our Seniors, which helps with wills and power-of-attorney decisions in many states. Certain cities have local programs, too. The Denver-based Wills on Wheels drafts free legal documents with assistance from lawyers and paralegals. AARP sponsors Legal Counsel for the Elderly, a Washington, D.C., program connecting volunteer attorneys with seniors who need wills, social services or other legal advice. Popular online options, according to U.S. News and World Report, include LegalZoom, Do Your Own Will, U.S. Legal Wills, Total Legal and Gentreo, among others.

FINAL STEPS

You're not done when you sign. Wills must be officially witnessed before they're considered complete, and the witness can't be under 18 or listed as a beneficiary in the document. They'll need to be available to attend court and testify

on your behalf during a hearing after your death. Once you've met all of these standards, place the will in a secure, fire-safe place with other vital paperwork and then notify a trusted family member as to its whereabouts.

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How to test your soil, a guide for the home gardener

Your soil’s health is what determines the overall health of your grass and other plants. When you work from the ground up, you are ensuring superior grass quality. Fertilizing your lawn regularly is good practice to make sure your grass is getting nutrients, but what if you aren’t sure which exact nutrients your lawn needs at the time?

For example, you may be applying an abundance of nitrogen, but you aren’t really seeing a difference in your grass’s appearance or quality. You might also notice that grass isn’t growing as well in some areas of your lawn as others, but you aren’t sure why.

The best way to diagnose a problem before spending time and money on other solutions is to collect and submit a soil analysis in your yard. A soil analysis will inform you of all the nutrients you need in your lawn.

What is a soil test?

A soil test is a tool that can be used to determine which macro and micronutrients are currently in your soil and which nutrients your lawn and garden needs to reach its optimum pH level. Most of the time, companies will make suggestions on how to improve your soil’s quality with fertilizers or other amendments based on the results from the soil test.

Soil tests can come in different shapes and sizes, but they all require you to collect a sample of soil from your lawn and place it in some sort of small container or baggie to submit to an expert. Whether you mail a package in or drop it off at your local cooperative extension office depends on the company or turfgrass expert you go with.

Why should I use a soil test?

A soil test is an inexpensive way to see what your soil needs to perform its best. A soil analysis essentially measures the pH of your soil and provides nutrient recommendations to achieve optimum performance.

Regularly applying fertilizer products and other chemicals can impact the pH levels of your soil, so collecting and submitting a soil sample provides information about which nutrients your lawn needs or doesn’t need.

For example, if you’re looking at purchasing a nitrogen fertilizer, a soil sample might come back and say there’s already more than enough nitrogen in the ground already. Your lawn may need other nutrients to excel instead.

A pro to this is that you won’t waste money on fertilizers your lawn and garden don’t need. After soil test results recommend solutions, the fertilizer chemicals will be absorbed into the plant and won’t sit in the soil. Overapplied fertilizers that don’t get absorbed typically get washed away with the rain into streams and other natural bodies of water, which is harmful to the environment.

A soil test will tell you exactly what the soil needs so that you can make an educated decision on which fertilizer or nutrients to purchase.

By improving the environment your lawn and garden grows in, you’re essentially working from the ground up to improve your lawn and garden’s health. With that being said, there are different soil types depending on where you live. Each soil type tends to have

different pH levels.

How do I collect and submit a soil analysis?

This often depends on the company you’re submitting the soil test to. Sometimes they’ll want you to place the soil in a container they mail to your address. Other times, they’ll provide you with instructions for collecting the sample and placing it in a container or baggie of your own.

If you’re collecting a soil sample and placing it in your own container (not one provided to you by a professional) it’s important that you collect the sample in a container that won’t affect the pH levels of your soil. Plastic containers like a bucket or baggies are usually the best options—not metal.

You should always follow the instructions each company or cooperative extension office provides you with when collecting and submitting a soil sample. However, it’s often recommended you collect soil samples from various locations throughout your yard and then combine them into one collective soil sample.

Soil samples have the ability to widely vary in different locations in your yard—even if it’s just a few feet away from the site another soil sample came from. Collecting from different areas of the lawn reduces any inconsistencies from the different locations in your lawn and allows the soil sample to test a larger area.

Instructions for collecting a soil sample

1. You’ll start by collecting several soil samples in plastic probes or baggies. Make sure they’re thoroughly cleaned before use so they don’t contaminate your sample.

2. Walk in a zigzag pattern as you collect the samples. Most universities and landscape professionals recommend collecting soil from about 10–15 locations. Use a shovel or soil probe like the ones listed below to collect the samples. Each sample should remove soil from the top 6 inches from the soil’s surface.

3. Afterwards, remove any plant material, mulch or natural soil organisms like worms and drop the soil samples into a plastic bucket. Mix the samples well to make sure it’s blended.

4. Dump the soil out on a newspaper or grocery bag and then allow it to dry. Wet soil may alter the soil analysis, so make sure it’s dry before collecting.

5. Once dry, you’ll want to collect about 1 pint of the soil to send to your turfgrass expert.

Areas in the lawn, vegetable garden, ornamental beds or problem areas should all be tested separately. Be sure to remove any plants or mulch from the sample.

When is the best time to collect and submit a soil analysis?

The best time to collect and submit a lawn soil analysis ultimately depends on where you live and what type of grass you have. The best time to soil test a warm season grasses such as zoysia, St. Augustine, bermuda grass and centipede grass should ideally be collected in the spring. This generally takes place between March 15th and April 30th.

Soil tests for cool season grasses like Kentucky bluegrass and fescues should be collected between August and September.

Generally speaking, the best time to collect soil samples from gardens or

ornamental beds is during the fall. You can then make amendments before winter so that they can take effect in the spring.

One of the best times to conduct a sod analysis is when you are about to install new sod because it allows you to see what nutrients you need after the installation process is finished. This will help you get your lawn off to a healthier start. Be sure to collect a soil sample before applying chemicals like glyphosate to kill off old grass as this can alter your lawn soil test.

However, it is never a bad idea to conduct a soil analysis if you need to see what nutrients your lawn or garden needs.

How often should I test my soil?

Most lawn and garden professionals recommend testing your soil once every 1–3 years. Some experts suggest once every 3–5 years. We believe submitting soil samples are invaluable ways to keep your lawn and garden healthy—it also rarely costs a lot of money. Unless there are problems occurring in your lawn and garden, we suggest submitting a soil sample once every 1–3 years. If problems arise like poorly performing turfgrass or ornamentals, you should send a soil sample in right away.

Who do I send a soil test to?

There are many different professionals you can send a soil sample to. Most of them can be divided into two groups: 1) a local cooperative extension office, or 2) a company you bought a soil test kit from and mail it back to.

1. A Local Cooperative Extension Office

Each state has its own soil testing cooperative extension office you can either drop your sample off at or mail it in to. Find your local cooperative extension office here.

Be sure to visit the local cooperative extension office’s website and follow soil testing instructions thoroughly. Many of these websites have a soil testing form you can print off and fill out to send with the sample.

2. A Company You Bought a Soil Test Kit From

Another option is to buy a soil test kit from a company and submit it back to them in the mail. If this is what you’re looking to do, some of these companies will still have someone who can professionally test your soil sample and provide you with accurate results and recommendations. Just be sure to do your research on what they can offer you.

Depending on the company you go with, their results forms might also be easier to read and comprehend.

One of our favorite companies for soil samples is Soil Kit. Soil Kit performs this service for the homeowner with an inexpensive, user-friendly and quick soil test system providing easy-to-understand recommendations for correcting soil and nutrient deficiencies.

The analysis is done by a leading national laboratory and the recommendations are ready in 7–10 days. The lab tests for pH and includes the amount of phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, calcium, boron, zinc, manganese and iron in the soil. These are presented in a low, medium, adequate and high graphic range analysis to support the recommendations for corrective nutrient action by the

See SOIL Page 15

MOROCCO WINS EBYBL MARTY PINO DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

On Saturday March 25, Team Morocco coached by Rayner Disla defeated Team Argentina coached by Bill Gore 57 to 41. The winners were paced by 30 points from Demetri Mendes. It was a very successful and competitive season. The league had five teams including the East Boston High School Freshman Team coached by Pat Aiken and Christian Orlando.

Prior to the game the Marty Pino Sportsmanship Award was presented to Manny Santiago by Coleen and Anthony Pino. Manny, currently a member of the Everett High Football Team, has been a program participant for 10 seasons. He is a good player but more impor-



Coleen and Anthony Pino presenting “Marty Pino Sportsmanship Award” to Manny Santiago.

tantly a fine young man.

Special thanks to League Director Christian Lopez and his assistant Xavier Ortiz who ran an excellent program. Thanks also to Corey Anderson and Patrick Santos

for their contributions as referees.

Finally, Thanks to longtime League Sponsor John Fyler and Loreen Schettino and the East Boston Foundation.



Coaches Raynor Disla, Roni Andujar Jr., and Orlando Jusino with members of team Morocco

HOLY WEEK @ SACRED HEART CHURCH

45 Brooks Street, East Boston, MA

Holy Thursday - April 6

7:00 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper
(church will be open until midnight for private prayer.)

Good Friday - April 7

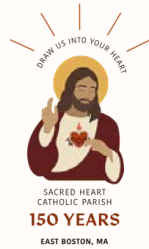
3:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross
7:00 p.m. - Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday - April 8

8:00 p.m. - Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday - April 9

8:30 a.m. - Mass
10:00 a.m. - Mass





RECOVERY ON THE HARBOR

invites you to our 1st Annual
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Wishing you a Happy

Easter & Passover

Wishing you & your Families a wonderful Easter & Passover



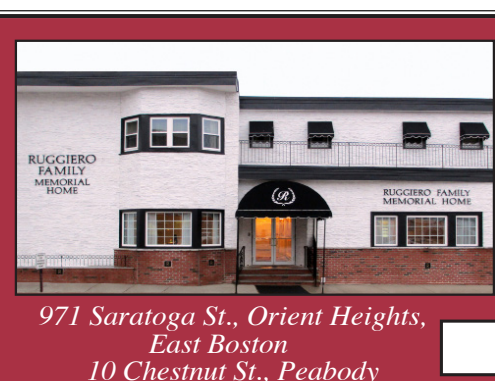
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this Easter and
Passover

ADRIAN MADARO

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2023 Easter Hunnies



Milo



Maranda



Clark Joseph



Ollie



Anthony & Julianna



Happy Easter from the Scalzi & Cornelia families



Happy Easter from Charlotte!



Happy Easter from Jet



Happy Easter from Carrot



Happy Easter from Wendy



Happy Easter from Baxter



Happy Easter from Kobe

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

FORMER COUNCILLOR APPOINTED CLERK
CHELSEA - Former City Councillor Clifford Cunningham will be back in the council chambers next month, but in a new role.

The council voted 9-0 to appoint Cunningham as the new clerk to the city council. He will replace long-time council clerk Paul Casino.

Last year, Casino announced his intention to retire at the end of 2022, but has stayed in his position on a temporary basis while the council has sought his replacement.

“As folks know, our beloved city council clerk is leaving, and we were really in crunch time to fill his position, and we were fortunate enough to be able to find someone in a former city councillor, Clifford Cunningham,” said Councilor-at-Large Damali Vidot, who chaired the subcommittee in charge of the search process. “We really had a beautiful interview and a really robust dialogue. We’re looking forward to him serving with us; he has big shoes to fill, but I have no doubt that he’ll be able to fulfill all the duties of that role.”

The starting salary for the position is \$54,819.06, and Cunningham is slated to begin his new position on April 3. There will be a 12-month probationary period as part of the job, and Cunningham will have six months to apply for and complete an online parliamentary course with an average of at least 70.

Vidot said the online course was added to the requirements of the position because there were not many people who applied for the job who were registered parliamentarians.

In other business, the council officially voted on the recommendation of members to serve on a screening committee to help select a new city manager. That committee

will go through applications, conduct interviews, and select a handful of candidates for the council to interview to find a replacement for former City Manager Thomas Ambrosino.

The full members are Fidel Maltez, Joan Cromwell, Michelle Nadow, and Juan Vega. The alternate members selected by the committee are Jen Hassell and Jonathan Gomez-Pereira.

Eugene O’Flaherty was previously appointed by Council President Leo Robinson to chair the screening committee.

“A lot of residents put their names in, and we had some heated debates, but we think we have a great combination of folks from the community involved to help us get through this very difficult and very serious business,” said District 8 Councilor Calvin Brown.

Vidot noted that councilors have been meeting with the Collins Center, which is facilitating the search process, to find out the priorities each councilor has for a new city manager.

“They will then take that information and create a profile to help the steering committee and guide them in the search for a new city manager,” said Vidot.

NEW DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES NAMED
EVERETT - The City Council unanimously confirmed the appointment of Terri Ronco to a three-year term as the City of Everett’s new director of human resources.

Ronco has begun work in her key position, succeeding Justin Shrader.

Ronco was seated in the Council Chambers next to Mayor DeMaria’s Chief of Staff, Erin Deveney, during the Council meeting.

Ronco previously worked at the Greater Boston Food Bank as

senior human resources manager.

Ronco grew up in Maine and has lived in Everett for five years. She is a graduate of Allegheny College (Pennsylvania), where she majored in English Literature.

Ronco worked in retail management for several years. “That’s how I decided that I wanted to work in HR because I managed people. So, I’m not a traditional HR person, I didn’t go to school for HR, but then I got my Master’s in human resources management and most recently I got a Master’s in employment law (from Northeastern University),” related Ronco.

Ronco said she is looking forward to working with Mayor Carlo DeMaria’s Administration in her new job.

“I really hope that I can help make a difference and really cultivate a great culture here for employees,” said Ronco. “I’m a resource and I love helping people, so I’m really looking forward to it.”

COUNCIL SEEKS MITIGATION WHEN TUNNEL CLOSES
REVERE - With the Sumner Tunnel slated to close for a big portion of the summer for reconstruction, some City Councillors would like to see the state’s transportation department provide some relief for local commuters on the Tobin Bridge.

At recent meeting, the council approved a motion from Councilor-at-Large Gerry Visconti requesting a representative from MassDOT and the state legislative delegation appear before the council to discuss plans for the tunnel closure. In addition, Visconti requested state officials not enforce the bus lane on the Tobin Bridge to help alleviate congestion for commuters.

“Any relief we can give travelers on that bridge

COUNCIL TO REQUEST RECONSIDERATION OF EXISTING REVERE HIGH SCHOOL SITE FOR NEW BUILDING



RHS Junior Maya Merino (above) leads a chant of “Scholars Over Dollars.”

Right, RHS students protested the Revere City Council’s decision not to build a new high school, and the Wonderland site is to be returned to its owners. Giada Caruso and Bella Stamatopoulos hold signs.

would help the city, as well,” said Visconti. “I would like to know what their intentions are, and what they can do to help the congestion on the bridge.”

Councillor-at-Large Dan Rizzo said he often drives over the Tobin Bridge and doesn’t believe there is enough bus traffic to warrant all other vehicles being forced to use the left lanes. He added the city could discuss with the DOT making them HOV lanes to help with traffic while the tunnel is being reconstructed.

“That bus lane on the Tobin Bridge has really been a disaster for our community,” said Ward 6 Councilor Richard Serino. “What happens now is you take an entire lane of the Tobin Bridge, and now the traffic backs up to around Park Avenue and Mountain Avenue at times.”

Serino said it would be nice to see the state give Revere a little consideration when it comes to traffic and other issues on Rte. 1.

“As always with the state, we get screwed when it comes to Rte. 1 in terms of the transponders, the tolls, and no sound barriers,” said Serino. “The least they can do is suspend the bus lane, and, I would argue, get rid of it because it was a stupid idea in the first place.”

COUNCIL GOES OVER BUDGET
WINTHROP - Town officials held their annual spring forum last week, with Town Manager Tony Marino and new Finance Director Dylan Cook running through the capital plan and budgeting process for Fiscal Year 2024.

“One of the things we worked on and that the council really pushed me to do was to put together a five-year capital plan,” said Marino. “We’ve had one in the past, but we wanted to do an all-encompassing capital plan.”

Marino said the five-

year plan breaks down the capital needs for the coming years, as well as the potential funding sources for the projects.

In addition, Marino said the town is working with a new vendor that is doing a facilities needs assessment of the school and town buildings that should be completed by the summer.

“Once we get that, we will be incorporating the list of work they are suggesting,” said Marino. While the facilities needs assessment will look at potential projects 25 years out, Marino said they will also be making recommendations for projects that should be undertaken in the next five years.

“Along with that, we are looking at the infrastructure for the utilities department with the water,” said Marino. “We are looking at all the water mains, grading them, making sure we know which water mains need to be done, and then we will formulate a capital plan for that.”

Marino discussed how the town administration is looking to increase the amount of free cash it certifies each year in order to pay for more capital projects.

“We certify \$1.2 million to \$1.6 million in free cash a year,” he said. “My goal long term is to get that number up to around \$3 million a year to fund the capital plan.”

Some of the capital items planned for funding in FY24 include some new crosswalks on Pleasant Street and on Revere Street.

“Many residents have asked for additional striping for crosswalks on Revere Street,” said Marino. “Then we have some ADA compliant crosswalks that are going to go in at Winthrop, Pleasant, and Washington streets.”

The capital plan also looks ahead to larger capital projects that may be coming down the line, Marino said.

“One, as we all know,

that we are working on ... is the new fire station,” said Marino. “That could cost upwards of approximately \$30 million to \$40 million.”

In addition, Marino noted that Winthrop is a Green Community, which allows the town access to grants through the program.

“We haven’t applied for one since 2017, but we put all the required data that we have to do for our energy usage and we are on track to put an application in this spring,” said Marino. “We are going to put in for a \$500,000 grant to do some improvements at the schools for rooftop units, as well as at the DPW and the police station.”

Marino said the overall goal of the capital plan is to show the public the capital needs of the town.

“The goal of this is to show that even though we are not going to do all the work, this is what the capital needs of the town are, so we would be transparent and let everybody know,” said Marino. “We may not have the money to do it, but we are identifying things that have to get done, and prioritizing and making a plan to get there.”

Marino also discussed the operating budget process for FY24, noting that there will be a draft version of the budget to the finance committee by April 13, with the final version of the budget submitted to the Town Council on May 2.

This year, the budget will have all school expenses reflected in the school side of the budget. In past years, costs such as retirement and health insurance costs for school employees have been included in the town side of the budget.

“What this budget does is it puts those expenses back on the school side so you get an accurate picture of exactly what the school system is costing,” said Marino.

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CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION
Docket No.
SU23P0240EA
Estate of:
Carmen Charles
Ciampa, Jr.
Also known as:
Carmen C. Ciampa,
Carmen Charles
Ciampa, Carmen
Ciampa, Jr.
Date of Death:
07/05/2017
To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Late and
Limited Formal Testacy and/
or Appointment has been
filed by Elaine C. Ciampa of
Boston, MA requesting that
the Court enter a formal De-
cree and Order and for such
other relief as requested in
the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Elaine C. Ciampa of Boston,
MA be appointed as Personal
Representative(s) of said es-
tate to serve Without Surety
on the bond in unsupervised
administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain
a copy of the Petition from
the Petitioner or at the Court.
You have a right to object
to this proceeding. To do so,
you or your attorney must
file a written appearance
and objection at this Court
before: 10:00 a.m. on the
return day of 04/12/2023.
This is NOT a hearing date,
but a deadline by which you
must file a written appear-
ance and objection if you
object to this proceeding. If
you fail to file a timely written
appearance and objection
followed by an affidavit of
objections within thirty days
(30) days of the return day,

action may be taken without
further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRA-
TION UNDER THE MASSACHU-
SETTS UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative
appointed under the MUPC in
an unsupervised ad ministra-
tion is not required to file an
inventory or annual accounts
with the Court. Persons
interested in the estate are
entitled to notice regarding
the administration directly
from the Personal Represen-
tative and may petition the
Court in any matter relating
to the estate, including the
distribution of assets and
expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J.
Dunn, First Justice of this
Court.
Date: March 01, 2023
Vincent Procopio,
Register of Probate

4/5/23
EB

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and
Family Court
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT
TO G.L. C. 190B,
§5-304
Docket No.
SU23P0676GD
Suffolk Probate and
Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
In the matter of:
Luis Martinez
Of: East Boston, MA
RESPONDENT Alleged
Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent
and all other interested
persons, a petition has been
filed by Boston Medical
Center of Boston, MA in the
above captioned matter
alleging that Luis Martinez

is in need of a Guardian
and requesting that Hector
Ordonez of Boston, MA (or
some other suitable person)
be appointed as Guardian
to serve Without Surety on
the bond.
The petition asks the court
to determine that the Re-
spondent is incapacitated,
that the appointment of a
Guardian is necessary, and
that the proposed Guardian
is appropriate. The petition
is on file with this court and
may contain a request for
certain specific authority.
You have the right to object
to this proceeding. If you
wish to do so, you or your
attorney must file a written
appearance at this court on
or before 10:00 A.M. on the
return date of 05/05/2023.
This day is NOT a hearing
date, but a deadline date by
which you have to file the
written appearance if you
object to the petition. If you
fail the written appearance
by the return date, action
may be taken in this matter
without further notice to
you. In addition to filing the
written appearance, you or
your attorney must file a
written affidavit stating the
specific facts and grounds
of your objection within 30
days after the return date.
IMPORTANT
NOTICE
The outcome of this proceed-
ing may limit or completely
take away the above-named
person's right to make deci-
sions about personal affairs
or financial affairs or both.
The above-named person
has the right to ask for a
lawyer. Anyone may make
this request on behalf of the
above-named person. If the
above-named person cannot
afford a lawyer, one may be
appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J.
Dunn, First Justice of this
Court.
Date: April 04, 2023
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Register of Probate

4/5/23
EB

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

Suffolk Division
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION
NOTICE
Docket No.
SU23P0402EA
Estate of:
Peter Paul
Buonasara, Jr.
Also Known As:
Peter Buonasara
Date of Death:
11/06/2022
To all persons interested in
the above captioned estate
by Petition of Petitioner Vicky
S. Buonasara of Pompano
Beach, FL
A Will has been admitted to
informal probate.
Vicky S. Buonasara of
Pompano Beach, FL has been
informally appointed as the
Personal Representative of
the estate to serve without
surety on the bond.
The estate is being admin-
istered under informal
procedure by the Personal
Representative under the
Massachusetts Uniform
Probate Code without su-
pervision by the Court. Inven-
tory and accounts are not
required to be filed with the
Court, but interested parties
are entitled to notice regard-
ing the administration from
the Personal Representative
and can petition the Court
in any matter relating to the
estate, including distribution
of assets and expenses of
administration. Interested
parties are entitled to pe-
tition the Court to institute
formal proceedings and to
obtain orders terminating
or restricting the powers of
Personal Representatives
appointed under informal
procedure. A copy of the
Petition and Will, if any,
can be obtained from the
Petitioner.

4/5/23
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Soil // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

homeowner.

Most importantly, the
recommendations are tai-
lored to your location, time
of year, size of lawn or gar-
den, type of crop or grass
and presented in precise
product and quantity rec-
ommendations.

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tions on the bag and on our
Soil Kit website:

- Register your kit on
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areas of your lawn or gar-
den and place it in the test
bag.
- Mail in the sample bag
in the postage-paid mailer.
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agricultural lab will test
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analysis.

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• Take your report back
to the store and know that
you will return home with
exactly what your lawn
needs without more chem-
icals that might damage
your lawn or the environ-
ment.

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needs, reach out to us at
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decades including Palmetto
and CitraBlue St. Augus-
tine, EMPIRE, CitraZoy
and Innovation Zoysia and
Celebration, Latitude 36
and NorthBridge Bermu-
dagrass. The company is
based in the Charleston, SC
area.

*This article was written
by Sod Solutions Content
Strategist, Valerie Smith.
For all media inquiries or
for high-resolution photos,
contact Cecilia Brown at
cecilia@sodsolutions.com.*

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ENCORE BOSTON HARBOR PARTNERS WITH ALL THE CITY’S MAJOR SPORTS TEAMS

Encore Boston Harbor Announces Partnership with the Boston Encore Boston Harbor announced a multi-year partnership with the nine-time World Series champions, the Boston Red Sox. With the newly formed collaboration, Encore Boston Harbor now has partnerships with all the region’s professional sports teams, the Boston Red Sox, Boston Bruins, Boston Celtics, New England Patriots and New England Revolution.

“Boston is the city of champions and Encore Boston Harbor is proud to be a partner of all the city’s major sports teams,” said Jenny Holaday, president of Encore Boston Harbor. “We truly believe this makes us the premiere destination for all sports enthusiasts and entertainment seekers.”

To celebrate the partnership, Encore Boston Harbor has made \$25,000 donations to the Red Sox Foundation, Shamrock Foundation, Boston Bruins Foundation, and Patriots Foundation. The donations were commem-

orated by check presentations with Encore Boston Harbor President Jenny Holaday; Bekah Salwasser, Executive Vice President, Social Impact and Executive Director of the Red Sox Foundation, Dave Hoffman, Senior Vice President of the Boston Celtics; Kerry Collins, Senior Director of Community Relations of the Boston Bruins, and Andre Tippett, Pro Football Hall of Fame and Executive Director of Community Affairs for the New England Patriots.

“The Red Sox are proud to partner with Encore Boston Harbor, an organization that is highly regarded as a staple to Boston locals and tourists alike and revered for playing an active role in the Greater Boston community,” said Troup Parkinson, EVP, Partnerships, Boston Red Sox. “Through this partnership, Red Sox fans will have access to exclusive offers to enhance their gameday experience with Encore Boston Harbor as a post-game destination.”

This newest collabora-



Pictured (left to right) are Bekah Salwasser, Executive Vice President, Social Impact and Executive Director of the Red Sox Foundation; Andre Tippett, Pro Football Hall of Fame and Executive Director of Community Affairs for the New England Patriots; Jenny Holaday, President of Encore Boston Harbor; Dave Hoffman, Senior Vice President of the Boston Celtics; Kerry Collins, Senior Director of Community Relations of the Boston Bruins.

tion between two of Boston’s most recognizable organizations demonstrates commitment to the fundamentals of what makes Boston special. Together, both the Boston Red Sox and Encore Boston Harbor will continue to invest in community organizations, build on Boston’s passion for sports and offer top-level entertainment to Encore Boston Harbor guests and baseball fans alike.

Under the partnership, the organizations will jointly participate in marketing and co-branded program elements including:

- Complimentary shuttle service to Encore Boston Harbor from Fenway Park after each Red Sox home game.
- Red Sox Ticket and overnight stay packages

Team-related events held at Encore Boston Harbor including watch parties, a Boston Red Sox take-over day, and Red Sox Foundation events.

MBTA continues aggressive hiring campaign, offering \$7,500 sign-on bonus for multiple positions

The MBTA announced that, effective April 15, the MBTA will increase its sign-on bonus to \$7,500 for applicants applying to a number of eligible positions throughout the MBTA as part of its aggressive hiring campaign.

The list of positions eligible to receive the \$7,500 sign-on bonus has also been expanded and includes Bus Operators, Rail Repairers, Track Laborers, Streetcar Operators, Subway Train Operators, Service Technicians, and Fuelers. Previously,

the MBTA’s recruitment efforts included a \$4,500 sign-on bonus for new Bus Operators only.

Prospective candidates looking for a rewarding career where they can have a positive impact on the entire region should visit mbta.com/careers for more information on open positions and to learn about the MBTA’s many benefits and incentives. The MBTA continues to be part of area career fairs throughout the spring and summer months and beyond, and will also host

several mobile recruitment events within various Boston-area neighborhoods. The MBTA continues to seek out opportunities to connect with the public on open positions at the T, and the mobile recruitment events will include a customized MBTA bus outfitted with workstations and computers where applicants can meet with MBTA recruiters, discuss career opportunities, and apply for a job on the spot:

MBTA Recruitment Event

In person on April 15 from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Jubilee Christian Church, 1500 Blue Hill Avenue, in Mattapan.

UMass Dartmouth Career Fair

In person on April 18 from noon to 3 PM at UMass Dartmouth, 285 Old Westport Road, in Dartmouth.

MBTA Recruitment Event

In person on April 22 from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Wollaston Station Parking Lot, 90 Woodbine Street, in Quincy.

MBTA Recruitment Event

In person on April 29 from 10 AM to 1 PM at North Shore Community College - Lynn Campus, 750 Washington Street, in

Lynn.

Latino Career Expo

In person on May 4 from 1 PM to 8:30 PM at the Marriott Courtyard Boston Downtown, 275 Tremont Street, in Boston.

MBTA Recruitment Event

In person on May 6 from 10 AM to 1 PM at Wonderland Station Parking Lot, 1234 North Shore Road, in East Revere.

National Aviation Academy Career Fair Career Fair

In person on July 13 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the National Aviation Academy, 130 Baker Avenue Extension, in Concord.

National Aviation Academy Career Fair Career Fair

In person on October 26 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the National Aviation Academy, 130 Baker Avenue Extension, in Concord.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has requested \$20 million in the Commonwealth’s March supplemental budget for new resources that can enable the MBTA to better recruit and retain employees to meet its needs. This includes money that could be used for incentives such as hiring and retention bonuses, increased pay for Bus Operators, and a ro-

bust marketing campaign.

As a tight labor market impacts staffing at transit agencies across the country, the MBTA has streamlined and fast-tracked its hiring process through digitization, improving hiring cycle times, and doubling the size of its HR Recruiting team. The MBTA has also gone to many online and in-person career fairs across the region; collaborated with local partners like education centers, MassHire, and more regarding identifying eligible candidates; and continues to brainstorm innovative ideas to promote the MBTA’s many benefits and incentives. Making steady progress on its recruitment efforts, the MBTA nearly doubled the number of new hires in the first half of Fiscal Year 2023 (676 hires) when compared to the same period in Fiscal Year 2022 (344 hires). Employee retirement is cyclical and is incorporated into the MBTA’s ongoing workforce planning and retention efforts.

The MBTA offers competitive salaries, extensive healthcare benefits, free public transit, training programs, tuition assistance, employee assistance programs, and an emphasis on diversity, equity, and

inclusion. MBTA employees also receive attractive retirement plans, paid vacation, holidays, and sick time, and flexible spending accounts. The MBTA also covers the cost of obtaining a Commercial Driver’s License as part of the Bus Operator hiring and training process, which is an over \$10,000 value.

Members of the public can view open positions online and visit the MBTA website for more information on insurance and other benefits.

The MBTA envisions a thriving region enabled by a best-in-class transit system. The MBTA’s mission is to serve the public by providing safe, reliable, and accessible transportation, and holds core values built around safety, service, equity, and sustainability. Each employee that works for the MBTA performs their roles based on our vision, mission, and values. The MBTA is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

For full information on starting a career at the T, visit mbta.com/careers, or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, or TikTok @thembta.

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