

East Boston

Times-Free Press

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Forum

GUEST OP-ED

FY Budget 2024 recommendations

May 9. This important piece of legislation promotes fairness and equity, and gives people a second chance to overcome an eviction case.

Transfer Fees: Imposing a local transfer tax on the sale of real estate to raise money for affordable housing offers a powerful solution to the housing crisis.

Transportation has been a hot topic lately, with the MBTA and the Department of Transportation at the center of many conversations at the State House.

MassDOT CIP: The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is currently developing its annual five-year Capital Investment Plan (CIP), which guides how they prioritize and fund local and statewide transportation projects.

Sumner Tunnel Closure and the Blue Line: In our district, it is important to ensure the blue line is fully repaired and restored quickly due to the incoming Sumner Tunnel Closure.

Low Income Fares: It

is also important that we deliver on the promise of public transportation by making it affordable and dependable.

Thank you for making this district so special, it is a true privilege to serve as your State Senator. Visit www.lydiaedwards.org for more information. And, FYI, scholarships are still available to parents through the Edwards Empowerment Fund - apply by May 31, 2023.

Lydia Edwards is the State Senator representing East Boston.

By Lydia Edwards

May is budget month for the Massachusetts Senate. On Tuesday, May 9, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means released its Fiscal Year 2024 budget recommendations.

Housing is on everyone's minds these days as one of the most pressing and important crises the Commonwealth has ever tackled.

HOMES Act: The HOMES Act had a hearing in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary on Tuesday,

Wu announces new program to support tree canopy growth

Mayor Michelle Wu joined Mass Audubon at the Boston Nature Center to announce a new City program to expand tree planting and maintenance on private land. The City has selected Mass Audubon to design and operate a program to support tree canopy growth on private property in Boston. Mass Audubon will serve as the convener of the Tree Alliance, which will include a larger group of non-profits who will collaborate on an annual plan for tree planting, maintenance, and public education activities for participating groups such as community centers, houses of worship, and non-profit organizations. The Tree Alliance will bolster Boston's tree canopy to enhance livability and public health throughout Boston's neighborhoods, with a particular focus on Environmental Justice communities. This program follows the recommendations of Boston's first Urban Forest Plan (UFP), an assessment of Boston's urban forest with suggestions to improve the way trees are cared for and ensure the urban forest is available to the entire community.

Mayor Wu made the announcement during a microforest planting event at the Boston Nature Center, a 67-acre wildlife refuge owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society in Mattapan. The microforest will transform an unused parking area with a high-density planting to mitigate the urban heat island effect, support biodiversity, and buffer against flooding and erosion. Mass Audubon staff and volunteers, as well as a team of PowerCorpsBOS members, the City's youth green jobs program, will plant 200 native trees and shrubs and an additional 180 perennial plants at the Boston Nature Center.

"Increasing the number of trees in Boston will enhance our neighborhoods'

livability, health and resilience benefiting both our climate and our residents," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to our partners at Mass Audubon and Speak for the Trees for their support in bringing and maintaining trees on private land to complement the city's efforts to have a robust density of trees on our streets, in our parks and across our city-owned properties."

Boston's urban forest includes all of the trees within City boundaries, a portion of which is located on public land, particularly on sidewalks and in public parks. Over 60% of the tree canopy in Boston is privately owned and controlled. The efforts through the City's new Urban Forestry Division are designed to support trees on public land. In order to make an impact on the whole urban forest, the City's efforts on public land must be matched by work on private land, requiring collaboration with landowners and other stakeholders. The Tree Alliance partnership will oversee the development and administration of a tree planting and maintenance program for trees on privately-owned land. Mass Audubon is charged with distributing resources to the program participants while developing a long-term tree planting and maintenance program. This collaboration will help to support growth of the urban forest in partnership with landowners and provide public education opportunities to build awareness around tree care and other topics.

"Having a healthy urban tree canopy is critically important to our environment and quality of life, as trees not only beautify our surroundings, but they also provide many environmental benefits," said City Council President Ed Flynn. "I applaud the work that the City of Boston and the Tree Alliance

will be doing to expand and protect our urban canopies, and I look forward to working with them."

"I applaud the Administration for their deep commitment to growing and maintaining our City's tree canopy," said Councilor Kendra Lara, Chair of the Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks. "The unified private, nonprofit, and government efforts show that all sectors are critical partners in our efforts toward a more resilient Boston."

"Trees play a vital role in our communities and are necessary in combating the impacts of climate change," said Councilor Ricardo Arroyo. "I applaud Mayor Michelle Wu for her leadership and all the stakeholders whose participation in the Tree Alliance will ensure Boston is a leader in access to, and protection of, trees."

In 2022, the City released the Urban Forest Plan (UFP), to equitably chart the growth of Boston's urban forest and the Heat Plan to address the impacts of extreme heat driven by climate change. Together, these plans provide an approach to build a safe, healthy, and resilient city for all residents. Maintaining and planting trees in alignment with the UFP is one strategy to support the long-term health and safety of residents, particularly in Boston's Environmental Justice neighborhoods. The data produced by the Heat Plan and the UFP provide a foundation for where tree

planting and maintenance efforts are needed to equitably expand tree canopy and address the long-term impacts of extreme heat. To grow a strong urban forest, partnership and coordination across the public agencies, community groups, and private organizations who steward urban trees is critical.

"Boston's history of disinvestment and redlining has led to inequitable access to trees," said Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space. "Trees are a crucial component of Boston's work to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. I am thrilled that the Tree Alliance will support our goals of creating healthy, resilient and beautiful communities."

Last September, Mayor Wu launched a new Urban Forestry Division within the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) to expand Boston's ability to maintain existing and plant new trees. The Forestry Division has since hired a Director of Urban Forestry, three new Arborists, an Administrative Assistant, and is still in the process of hiring new field labor crews. The City of Boston's tree related work force has expanded from five to 16 positions.

The concept for a tree planting and maintenance program was inspired by similar programs in other cities, namely L'Alliance

See CANOPY Page 7

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS WORKED

During the first days of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020 when bodies of the dead in our major cities were being stacked into freezer trucks and hospital ships were sailing into the harbors of New York and Los Angeles, forecasts by some experts that the virus could claim more than one million lives in the United States seemed to be in the nature of a doomsday prediction.

Yet here we are, more than three years later, and deaths attributed to COVID-19 now exceed 1.1 million Americans, and are still increasing by about 1,000 per week.

What brought the pandemic's toll to mind was a recent map that showed the death rate per population for every county throughout the United States.

We had expected that the map would have indicated that the highest death rates would be in the major cities along the coasts.

But after more than three years of the virus hitting our shores, we were surprised to see that the places with the highest death rates, by a substantial margin, were not along the coasts or in the major cities that suffered so terribly in those first few months, but rather throughout the South and the country's heartland.

The places where there were strong mask mandates, adherence to social distancing, extended business and school closures, and vaccine uptake -- New England, the mid-Atlantic, and the West Coast -- have significantly outperformed states where there was opposition, both at the grass roots level and by government officials, to all of the measures that appear to have proven effective at reducing the spread of the virus.

The top 11 states for deaths per million of population are Arizona, West Virginia, Mississippi, New Mexico, Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama, Michigan, Florida, Oklahoma, and Louisiana.

We realize that a lot of research still needs to be done in order to figure out whether other factors were involved in the significantly higher death toll in the south and midwest, such as age of the population, obesity, and lack of access to quality health care, all of which are determinative of the outcome from a COVID-19 infection.

But the reason we are pointing out these statistics is that there are "revisionists" who are trying to rewrite the history of the COVID-19 pandemic for what are obvious political reasons. Governors of some of these southern and midwestern states who are suggesting that they handled the crisis better than their counterparts on the coasts simply are ignoring the facts -- namely, that their states had far-higher death rates than the states that had stronger public health mandates.

To be sure, everyone has a right to live their lives as they see fit, but in a public health emergency, sometimes our personal choices have to give way to what is necessary to fight a threat -- and public officials need to be honest with their constituents, rather than pandering to a vocal minority.

For our part, it was heartening to see that we live in a part of the country where COVID-19 was taken seriously and where the sacrifices made by ourselves and others at the height of the pandemic appear to have made a real difference.

Or to put it another way, and to paraphrase the slogan on New Hampshire's license plate, we're glad we do not live in a place where people want to Live Free AND Die.

WILDFIRE SMOKE IS A SIGN OF THE TIMES

The eerie glow, especially at sunrise and sunset, being caused by the haze from the smoke of the wildfires in Western Canada over the past week or so is yet another sign that there is no escaping the effects of climate change.

The record heat wave for this time of year that has hit the Pacific Northwest is helping to spread these wildfires, which have been burning out of control for more than a week. Fortunately, the resulting smoke that has drifted thousands of miles on the jet stream to our part of the continent reportedly is high enough in the atmosphere that it does not pose a threat to our health at this time.

On the other hand, the smoke-induced haze, if prolonged, could have a profound effect on agricultural production and ultimately could pose a health hazard, especially for those of us who have lung issues such as asthma.

Climate change is happening everywhere all at once, from the impacts of tornado season in our South (which has become the new Tornado Alley) to the huge cyclone that intensified rapidly within just days in the Bay of Bengal to become the strongest-ever cyclone and that devastated Myanmar.

Climate change is not a future event. It's happening now -- and it is only getting worse.

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.

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Public Health Commission advisory related to aluminum Kazan pressure cookers

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) has issued a public health advisory related to the danger of lead exposure from the use of certain traditional aluminum cookpots, known as Afghan pressure cookers or Kazan pressure cookers. The lead contamination was first discovered by health officials in King County, Washington, in 2019 after observing high lead levels in immigrant children. The lead levels can lead to poisoning for anyone using the cookware or eating any food prepared in them.

These pressure cookers may be brought into the country by immigrating families or purchased locally at markets or online. Online retailers such as Amazon and Etsy have been notified of the lead contamination of these products, but they are still available for sale online.

The Boston Public Health Commission advises anyone who owns this type of pressure cooker to stop using it and replace it with stainless steel cookware. When shopping for a pressure cooker, be sure to purchase one made from stainless steel that has been made and regulated in the United States.

The Massachusetts Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is currently investigating a



lead poisoning case where an imported pressure cooker is likely the source of that child’s exposure.

If you or a family member have used an aluminum Afghan Kazan pressure cooker, contact a health care provider to be screened for lead poisoning.

There is no safe level of lead in the human body. Children are particularly at risk for lead poisoning because of their small size and growing bodies, but adults can also be injured by lead exposure. Lead poisoning can have serious and life-long impacts on a child as it harms the brain and nervous system as well as other organs in

the body. This can slow growth and development, make it difficult to learn, damage hearing and speech, and cause behavioral problems.

In Massachusetts, children must be tested for lead at 9 to 12-months old, and ages two, three, and four if they live in a high-risk community, such as Boston. Ask your child’s doctor about having a blood lead test done. You can learn more about lead hazards and Boston Public Health Commission programs to address them at <https://www.boston.gov/bphc-environment>, by calling BPHC at 617-534-5965, or by emailing lead-poisoning@bphc.org.

Zoning// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by Coletta, she is exploring bringing about a demolition fee for developers to help preserve existing housing.

It should be noted that Coletta prefaced the information about the changes by saying, “I have not received a formal written correspondence from the BPDA about these changes, so what I am relaying to you has only been told to me over the phone.”

That being said, she described the changes as “a win on behalf of the community.”

These potential changes come off the heels of an eight-page letter penned by Coletta about three weeks ago addressed to Mayor Michelle Wu outlining priorities and demands from residents and a subsequent meeting with Mayor Wu last week.

Since the zoning recommendations were introduced by the BPDA last fall as part of PLAN: East Boston, those in Orient Heights have been adamantly against the recommendations holding at least two neighborhood meetings, one in November and another in March, communicating their displeasure.

Essentially, the displeasure boils down to the fact that residents felt that the recommendations would change the fabric of the neighborhood – for the worst.

Madaro outlined how the community’s voice has helped change the plans over time.

“When we started the conversation here, the city was ready to jam three by-right down our throats, and then they moved to two and an ADU; now



City Councilor Gabriela Coletta and State Representative Adrian Madaro address those in attendance at Monday's OHNC meeting.

we’re at two families, so that is a significant win,” said Madaro.

“What the city proposed was a max square footage cap at 7,400 which would have meant massive buildings on all lots across Orient Heights but particularly on the top of the hill ... we’re now down to 5,000 square feet as the cap.”

While these changes can be seen as a win for the neighborhood, there were calls for smaller square footage per floor to limit the size of buildings and the need for more parking.

However, one of the most prominent conversations that stemmed from this news concerned the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA).

Several residents indicated that these changes might all be for nothing if the ZBA does not do its job and enforce the zoning laws.

“Arthur Jemison can come here with his team, and they can work this proposal and that proposal – if the ZBA – you don’t do something to get those people out of there and change this whole damn

thing, this is all for not,” said one resident.

“What in this plan is going to change the ZBA’s opinion or stop them? Because we can codify whatever we want, we can say don’t build any houses, but the ZBA wants to grant a variance; it’s too expensive for the neighbors to litigate it – I’m an attorney – I know,” said another resident.

Coletta explained that there is no guarantee that the ZBA would hold up potential zoning changes since it is an independent body. However, she spoke about the importance of getting the ZBA members on record to hold them accountable.

Overall, while these potential changes are good news for the residents of Orient Heights, Madaro probably put it best, “Clearly there is still – as the Councilor mentioned – some details to iron out some questions to answer. We do want to get things in writing, we want to see the final details,” he said.

“But this is a huge step in the right direction and major progress from where we were before, so thanks to you all.”



Suffolk Downs Union Job Opportunities Info Session

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The info session will include representatives from unions and current subcontractors on site at Suffolk Downs.

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Metropolitan Beaches Commission releases report on improving access to public beaches

On Friday morning Commissioner of DCR Brian Arrigo joined legislative and community members of the Metropolitan Beaches Commission at Carson Beach in South Boston for the release of “Breaking Barriers,” a report on improving public access to the metropolitan region’s public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket.

The report is based on a series of public hearings and listening sessions focused on overcoming obstacles to beach access for people of color, people with disabilities, and people who do not speak English as their first language.

According to the report, which is available online at <https://www.savetheharbor.org/breaking-barriers-report>, the Commission “found that our beaches have increasingly drawn residents who represent the rich diversity of our region. However, more progress is needed before we can say they are truly inclusive.”

According to Rep. Adrian Madaro, who Co-Chairs the Commission, “Equity, inclusion and diversity are critically important to me and my constituents in East Boston. Save the Harbor’s free programs have improved beach access for everyone, bringing our beaches to life, connecting kids and families from across our diverse community to each other and Boston Harbor.”

At the event DCR Commissioner Arrigo reaffirmed the Healey/

Driscoll Administration’s to climate equity, environmental justice, public health and economic opportunity, saying “The Department of Conservation and Recreation sits in the middle of all that. I look forward to the work ahead, and hope to be the longest-serving DCR commissioner”.

Metropolitan Beaches Vice Chair Senator Lydia Edwards is also looking forward to the work ahead, saying “I believe that investing in improved public access for people of color, people with limited English proficiency, and people with disabilities will make our region’s public beaches better for everyone. I am confident that Governor Maura Healey and DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo care about these issues and I look forward to working with them to make our public beaches more welcoming for all.”

According to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay’s Executive Director Chris Mancini, the Metropolitan Beaches Commission (MBC) was created in 2006 to “take an in-depth look at the Boston metropolitan region’s 15 public beaches in Nahant, Lynn, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull.”

These beaches are owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Today the Commission is a permanent legislative



Pictured (left to right) are Bruce Berman, Lead Consultant, Metropolitan Beaches Commission; MBC Commissioner Susan Hamilton, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, DCR; MBC Commissioner Mercy Robinson, Executive Director, South Boston En Accion; MBC Commissioner Rep. Joan Meschino, 3rd Plymouth; Commissioner of DCR Brian Arrigo; MBC Co-Chair Sen. Brendan Crighton, Third Essex; Chris Mancini, Executive Director, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay; and MBC Commissioner Jason McCann, Town of Hull.

Commission managed by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, and is charged with making specific findings and recommendations to the Legislature, DCR and the public on ways to improve the region’s public beaches.

The Commission will hold a pubic hearing in August to hear from DCR on their progress on the recommendations included in the report. If you would like to attend, send an email to info@savetheharbor.org.

You can find our more about the Metropolitan Beaches Commission

and download transcripts, meeting materials and prior reports at <https://www.savetheharbor.org/mbc>.

In the spring of 2021, the Metropolitan Beaches Commission focused its attention on ways to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion on the Metropolitan Region’s public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket.

The Commission conducted this inquiry in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and a national conversation on race, as protests against police brutality and systemic racism were breaking out

across the country in the wake of George Floyd’s murder. These two factors shaped the conversation and our perspective on the importance of our beaches to all the residents of the region, of every race, age, nationality, and ability.

The Commission’s initial goal was to find ways to improve access to our public beaches for people of color. However, at the suggestion of several Commissioners, the inquiry broadened to include people with disabilities and people who do not speak English as their first language, many of whom

also do not enjoy equal access to the benefits of our more than \$5 billion investment in clean water and better beaches.

Over a period of 18 months, the Commission held four public hearings focused on overcoming obstacles to beach access for people of color, people with disabilities, and people who do not speak English as their first language. The report contains our findings and recommendations, which we hope will serve as a blueprint for improving beach access going forward.

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Wu announces debut of digital pop-up library at 20 bus stations

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that riders at 20 bus stops across Boston are now able to access free digital content this spring and summer provided by a Boston Public Library (BPL) pilot program called “Browse, Borrow, Board.” While waiting for the bus, riders can use a QR code to browse and borrow audiobooks, eBooks, e-newspapers, and e-magazines for all ages before enjoying their reading materials on the go. Library cards are not required to use this service and readers don’t need to download an app, as the City’s primary goal with this pilot is to introduce

riders to the Library’s offerings, making resources through the BPL more accessible and convenient for families. “Our investment in our city’s public transit riders has taken a variety of forms, from eliminating fares for three crucial bus routes to expanding the bus lane network,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This pilot program builds on our efforts to make public transportation more enjoyable, while also connecting our residents to the resources the Boston Public Library already offers. Thank you to the BPL and the MBTA for their continued partnership.”

“We share in the value that knowledge and transportation could both be ‘Free to All.’ This opportunity connects public library and public transit offerings around learning and movement in our city, allowing us to better serve our residents,” said President of the Boston Public Library David Leonard. “The MBTA continues to seek out innovative ways to improve our riders’ experience on the T, and we’re proud to partner with the BPL and the City on this exciting initiative that expands the digital reach of the Library’s offerings to our riders,” said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng.

From now through the end of August, blue slip-proof decals are on sidewalks at 20 bus stops and MBTA-owned busways throughout the city, including at eight stops serving the fare-free bus routes. The decals, installed this week, have a QR code for riders to scan, bringing them to the digital pop-up library website. For a full list of digital pop-up library locations, visit this map. “The ‘Browse, Borrow, Board’ initiative is a wonderful customer amenity which will bring books to where people are, giving many MBTA riders a free and convenient way to take books out,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Gina Fiandaca. “We are grateful to offi-

cials with the City of Boston and the Boston Public Library for working with the MBTA to identify locations where people will benefit by the pilot, especially those residents who travel in environmental justice communities.” “Browse, Borrow, Board came about as a result of a survey one of our summer fellows conducted with public transit riders last year,” said Maddie Webster, Program Manager in the Mayor’s Office of New Urban Mechanics. “Bus riders in particular indicated that access to

the BPL’s digital offerings would be ‘very likely’ to bring delight to their commutes, and we are so pleased to see the pilot come together to serve them this summer.” This announcement, made in partnership with the MBTA, builds on Mayor Wu’s commitment to making Boston the best city in the country to raise a family. During this pilot initiative, patrons will find offerings in English and Spanish primarily. In the pilot program, the Library has focused on items that are easy to browse for riders on the go, including poetry, short stories, and short audiobooks, as well as a selection of best sellers, and titles for children and teens. The newspaper and magazine content includes 7,000 titles from over 125 countries. Patrons may check out up to five titles at a time for two-week durations. After two weeks, patrons can scan the QR code again to re-register and checkout new materials. The BPL will be adding new offerings to the site throughout the summer.



The signs like the one on the ground at Ashmont Station, will be at 20 bus stops around Boston to access free digital content.



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Invitation for Bids
Painting of Roche Community Center Gym Walls & Ceilings
EV00012385
Contact Information
Thanh Le
617-635-4920 x 2152

The City of Boston, Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF), (The Official) is seeking written quotations from qualified contractors for the procurement of the following services: Painting of Roche Community Center Gym Wall and Ceilings at the City of Boston, Boston Centers for Youth & Families, (BCYF) The bid documents, including the Scope of Services will be accessible online from Tuesday, May 23, 2023 through Tuesday, June 6, 2023 by visiting the City of Boston Public Procurement website <http://www.cityofboston.gov/procurement/> and accessing the Event ID # EV00012385, or by calling Thanh Le.

Total Walls and Ceilings including door and window frame surfaces to be covered with paint: 11,480 sq. ft. Recommended walk-Through has been scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 11:30 AM. The contact person for this walk-through is David Curran at david.curran@boston.gov or 617-594-4468. The City of Boston, BCYF is located at 1716 Centre St, Boston (West Roxbury), MA 02132.

All written quotes shall be filed electronically no later than 4:00pm on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. The Written Quote Contract awarded pursuant to this invitation for bid will commence on or about Monday, June 5, 2023 and will end on June 30, 2023.

Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner

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Duncan Hines Frosting	2/¢4.00
Duncan Hines Cake Mixes	2/¢3.00
Sara Lee Pound Cake.....	¢4.99
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Not responsible for typographical errors. We have the right to limit quantities.

COOKIES FOR A CAUSE



Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA) joined local Girl Scout troops at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Massachusetts, for the annual Cookies for a Cause event. GSEMA donated over 14,000 packages of Girl Scout cookies to community heroes through the Cookies for a Cause donation program, with a large portion distributed to military members at the event on Saturday, May 6.



As a part of the ongoing celebrations to honor 150 years of Sacred Heart Parish, you're invited to our

Wine and Craft Beer Tasting

FRIDAY MAY 19, 7-10PM

SCAN TO BUY YOUR TICKETS!



Sacred Heart Parish Hall
303 Paris Street, East Boston
Cost: \$10



A fun night to connect with fellow young Catholics in the East Boston area and enjoy samplings of fine wines and craft beers, cheese and crackers, raffles and door prizes!

Wines will be provided by Highland Wine Company and craft beers will be provided by Night Shift Brewery in Everett, MA.

Wu announces 75 families are new homeowners with support from city

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the City has assisted 75 Boston families to become homeowners through new funding which supported a combination of a discounted interest rate and enhanced down-payment and closing cost assistance programs. These are the first home sales made possible through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which provided funds to help Boston residents purchase homes in the city. A total of \$1,384,432 was given in down payment assistance. A total of \$669,843 has been provided in interest rate subsidies.

Of the 75 home buyers purchasing homes, 71 percent were Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color. Helping Boston residents of color purchase homes is an important step in the administration’s goal of increasing generational wealth and building stable, diverse communities. Homes were purchased in 11 different neighborhoods in Boston, demonstrating the widespread impact of the program and contributing to the growth and development of Boston’s neighborhoods. The

homes were purchased in West Roxbury, the South End, Roxbury, Roslindale, Mattapan, Jamaica Plain, Hyde Park, East Boston, Dorchester, Allston-Brighton, and Downtown.

“Homeownership is crucial to building generational wealth and long term stability for residents and families across Boston’s neighborhoods,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “As we work to make sure that Boston is the best place to live and raise a family, we are proud to support these 75 families in purchasing their homes. Boston’s down payment assistance program is one important way we are working urgently to build generational wealth and stabilize communities in every neighborhood.”

“Housing stability is crucial for residents to live and thrive in our city, and homeownership is one of the surest ways for our families to achieve this stability and create generational wealth,” said City Council President Ed Flynn. “This ARPA funding not only helped 75 residents in purchasing their homes, but it also helped our city in ensuring that our communities remain vibrant and diverse. I look forward to working with everyone to ensure that the City of Boston continues to provide resources for homeownership and affordable housing.”

“Down payment costs are one of the most significant hurdles that first-time homebuyers are faced with, especially for marginalized communities that have been historically and systematically disenfranchised from such opportunities. Utilizing ARPA funds to secure 75 new homes largely for marginalized communities is indicative of the City of Boston’s commitment to creating equitable housing opportunities for all,” said Councilor Kendra Lara.

“As Chair of the Housing and Community Development Committee, I am committed to stabilizing our neighborhoods from displacement and further gentrification.”

“This funding is a crucial opportunity to build generational wealth and tackle the racial wealth gap,” said Councilor Brian Worrell. “I was proud to partner with Mayor Wu to make this assistance a reality for these families, and I look forward to continuing to further policies that ensure Boston is an affordable place to live for all of our residents.”

Of the housing purchased, 31 were condos, 9 were single-family homes, and the remaining were multifamily housing. This range of housing helped to provide affordable options for families of all sizes.

“The City has made a significant amount of its ARPA funding available to assist Boston families buy their first home,” said Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing. “This funding has allowed us to provide larger down payments and better mortgage products to our residents, helping offset the high cost of housing. We remain committed to increasing the rates of homeownership in Boston, as a strategy to build intergenerational wealth and stabilize neighborhoods. We are excited to see the positive impact that these new homeowners will have on our City.”

The interest rate subsidy and down payment assistance programs are an important part of the Mayor’s Office of Housing’s efforts to encourage homeownership in Boston. Owning a home is one of the most important ways to build and preserve wealth and open access to other financial benefits. These programs help to reduce the financial burden of purchasing a home, making it more accessible to residents. The interest

rate subsidy helps to reduce the overall cost of homeownership, making it more sustainable in the long term.

“We have been trying to buy a place off and on for almost 35 years,” said new homeowners Julieta Lopez and Julien Williams. “We had to stop because of many trials and tribulations. This was going to be our last shot. We thank the Office of Housing so much for their assistance and most of all their patience.”

“We are thrilled to be a part of this amazing program and to see the impact it has had on the lives of Boston residents,” said Bob Driscoll, Senior Vice President and Director of Residential Lending at Rockland Trust Bank. “The combination of discounted interest rates and enhanced down-payment and closing cost assistance has made it possible for 75 Boston families to achieve their dream of homeownership. We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such a meaningful program and to support our community in this way. We look forward to continuing our work with the City of Boston and our partners to help even more residents achieve their dream of homeownership in the years to come.”

The Mayor’s Office of Housing encourages all Boston residents who are interested in purchasing a home to explore the options available through the programs hosted by the Boston Home Center. The homeowner programs are designed to help residents of all backgrounds and are a valuable resource for anyone looking to achieve the dream of homeownership.

For more information about the down payment assistance program and other affordable housing options in Boston, please visit the Mayor’s Office of Housing website.




Virtual Public Meeting

PLAN: EB Spanish-Language Meeting

May 25, 2023
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/PLANEastBostonEspanol0523
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 308 6222



Project Description:

Please join us for a community meeting in Spanish to preview draft recommendations for Neighborhood Residential areas. This event is part of PLAN: East Boston, a long-range neighborhood-wide planning initiative that, when complete, will update neighborhood zoning, establish neighborhood design guidelines, and propose new capital improvements to public space, including near- and long-term improvements to the neighborhood’s transportation network. This meeting is being held in Spanish, and English interpretation services will be provided.

At this time, the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) is continuing to host public meetings in a virtual setting for the health, safety, and accessibility of Boston residents. For more information and updates, visit bostonplans.org.

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

mail to: **Angel Guzman**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4338
email: angel.guzman@boston.gov
website: www.bit.ly/PLAN-EastBoston-0525

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN ROXBURY

THE SINGLE FAMILY HOMES ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$333,000, THE TWO-FAMILY HOME IS \$375,000.

Both **8 WOODFORD STREET** and **21 MAGNOLIA STREET** are single-family homes with three bedrooms and one and a half bathrooms. **23 MAGNOLIA STREET** is a two-family home. The first floor unit features two bedrooms and one bathroom. The owner unit features three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

All three properties have hardwood floors, carpeted bedrooms, unfinished storage space, a laundry hook-up. Both 8 Woodford Street and 21 Magnolia Street feature off-street parking, while 23 Magnolia Street has a paved driveway.

These properties are part of a neighborhood land trust and include a ground lease with the land trust. In order to ensure that applicants fully understand this type of ownership, it is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** that applicants attend a virtual ground lease information session on May 23 (bit.ly/groundleasemay23) or May 31 (bit.ly/groundleasemay31).



8 WOODFORD STREET AND 21 MAGNOLIA STREET
\$333,000

TO QUALIFY FOR THESE PROPERTIES, YOUR ANNUAL INCOME MUST BE EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN:

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



23 MAGNOLIA STREET
\$375,000

TO QUALIFY FOR 23 MAGNOLIA STREET, YOUR ANNUAL INCOME MUST BE EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN:

- 2 persons, \$89,750
- 3 persons, \$100,950
- 4 persons, \$112,150
- 5 persons, \$121,150
- 6 persons, \$130,100

BUYER WILL BE SELECTED BY LOTTERY. DEADLINE FOR LOTTERY APPLICATIONS IS JUNE 13, 2023.

Applications are available at bit.ly/neighborhoodhomes. Call the Boston Home Center at (617) 635-4663 or visit homecenter.boston.gov for more information.

Homes are sold by lottery. Only qualified applicants may enter. The property is deed-restricted; owner-occupancy requirements apply. Income and asset limitations apply. **Requirements:** First time homebuyer. Homebuyer will need to complete an approved homebuyer education course prior to closing. **Preferences:** Boston Residency preference. Preference for one (1) person per bedroom. Income limits for qualified buyers are based on 80% and 100% Area Median Income Limits as defined by HUD. **Please note:** Persons with disabilities and those with limited English language proficiency are entitled to request a reasonable accommodation.

CITY of BOSTON



Housing

STEM// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in STEM occupations has grown nearly 80 percent in the past three decades. The average salary for all STEM workers nationwide is \$100,900, well over double that of non-STEM occupations of \$40,020. And recent data shows that jobs in STEM are expected to grow 15% between 2021 and 2031.

The annual education expo gives students the opportunity to meet with experts in the aviation and maritime industries, along with representatives of government and academic institutions, to encourage them to pursue careers and educational opportunities in STEM as well as the sustainability field. The STEM Expo started as a collaborative effort sponsored by the FAA and Massport in 1994.

“The Massport STEM Expo is a great opportunity for the FAA and its partners in both the public and private sectors to engage with students about

the many STEM-related career opportunities, especially in aviation,” said Laurence Wildgoose, the FAA’s Assistant Administrator for Policy, International Affairs and the Environment. “Through practical and hands on training at this event, we can encourage and inspire students to pursue careers in this ever evolving industry.”

Massport employs hundreds of people in STEM and sustainability fields, including electricians, engineers, architects, analysts, and technicians who work in concert to accomplish the Authority’s mission of connecting Massachusetts and New England to the world.

“We are thrilled to welcome back students to this event at Logan. The work we do at all of Massport’s facilities involves STEM and sustainability and there are numerous career paths and opportunities in the tech, science and environmental industries for students to explore

here in Massachusetts,” said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. “We hope the STEM Expo encourages more students to take a serious look at the different career opportunities featured. We appreciate those from various industries who took time to speak with students today and we thank the FAA for being a great partner of this event for more than 25 years.

Over 50 exhibits and information booths representing various aspects of the industries served as the backdrop for the event at the Delta Hangar. Over 35 aircraft and other equipment were also on display, including a Super SeaWind 3000 from the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagles Chapter 106, FedEx Airbus A300, critical care Medflight Jet, a State Police Bomb Squad vehicle and bomb detection robot, and electrical vehicles from Hertz and Massport facilities.

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. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com

House passes FY24 budget, makes investments to support families in East Boston

Special to the Times-Free Press

On April 26, the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed its Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) budget. Funded at \$56.2 billion, the House’s FY24 budget provides strong support for many crucial programs, services, and agencies in our communities.

“From critical investments in health care and workforce development, to funding for new initiatives that are designed to increase educational opportunities, better support working families, and provide for a safer and more reliable public transportation system, the House’s FY24 budget will help to make Massachusetts more affordable for residents, while allocating support for the Commonwealth’s most consequential institutions,” said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy).

“This budget builds off the successes of the last few years by prioritizing our residents. Whether it is greater investments into programs like housing stability, food security, or early education, these initiatives are a reflection of our shared values,” said Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means (D-Boston). “By reinvesting in the people of the Commonwealth, we will continue to assist those recovering from this pandemic while making our economy more competitive and equitable for years to come.”

The House budget includes funding for several initiatives that Representative Adrian Madaro of East Boston has proposed in the Legislature. As the lead sponsor of legislation to make childcare universally accessible and affordable to all residents, Rep. Madaro is proud to see that the House budget includes \$100 million in rate increases for subsidized childcare providers across the Commonwealth.

For several legislative sessions, Representative Madaro has also been the lead proponent of a reduced fare program for low-income MBTA riders to increase access to affordable transit. In response to effective advocacy from Rep. Madaro, as well as leaders within community-based organizations and organized labor, the House has set aside \$5 million to adopt a pilot program to explore this initiative.

To begin to address the housing crisis, the House budget makes permanent a pandemic-era measure that protects renters with pending applications for

emergency rental assistance from being evicted. Additionally, the House is requiring public schools to provide universal school meals to all students free of charge, making Massachusetts the sixth state in the country to make the program permanent.

Additionally, as the Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, Rep. Madaro appreciates the important funding being provided for mental health and substance use treatment services in Massachusetts. This includes \$208.2 million for the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS), \$584.9 million for adult support services, \$42.9 million for the Early Intervention program, and \$117.9 million for children’s mental health.

East Boston
Representative Madaro is especially pleased to secure meaningful funding through the House budget for organizations working in East Boston.

“The FY24 Budget passed by the House prioritizes many of the greatest needs in our communities and across the Commonwealth,” said Representative Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston). “I am proud to bring critical investments home to East Boston to support the vital work of local nonprofits that serve people across our community.”

This funding includes: \$50,000 for Mutual Aid Eastie, a support network that advocates for residents by creating community spaces that build unity, trust, solidarity, and community care. This funding will help sustain Mutual Aid Eastie’s work to advance food justice, fight housing instability, create spaces of emotional support and healing, and more. “Mutual Aid Eastie is grateful to see these funds reinvested in our community and we are committed to use them reciprocally, building unity among our neighbors,” said Mutual Aid Eastie in a statement.

\$75,000 for Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE), to support programming that includes canvassing, phone banking, and public forums to inform residents about local election and issues, especially in historically disenfranchised groups, such as limited English proficient people, low-income people, and people of color. These resources would also be used for capital improvement projects as NUBE works to establish a more permanent location. “We are immensely grateful for the funding that has

been allocated to us, which means a lot to our organization and to the community we serve. This funding supports a decade-old dream of building social movements, community, culture, and abundance,” said Enilda Lovo, Executive Director of Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE). “It also supports civic work, which allows us to reach more voters in Black and Indigenous communities and other communities of color and build community power through voting. Thanks to Rep. Madaro for helping to build a more abundant and just community in East Boston.”

\$50,000 for Tree Eastie, a local grassroots organization dedicated to enhancing the tree canopy in East Boston. This allotment will support Tree Eastie’s efforts to foster public health through a bigger tree canopy, which provides cleaner air, shade, and noise abatement. “As an Environmental Justice community with the city’s lowest canopy, East Boston desperately needs more trees. This exceptional funding will support Tree Eastie’s mission to plant and maintain trees as well as educate residents on the important benefits that trees provide,” said Bill Masterson of Tree Eastie. “Our deepest thanks to Representative Madaro and the House for this inspiring investment in our future, health and environment.”

\$75,000 for Maverick Landing Community Services, to fund their Housing Support Lab. The funding from this line item will help maintain MLCS’s efforts to address housing insecurity in conjunction with other local nonprofits by providing direct assistance to residents, including renters and owner-occupants, trying to remain in their homes. “Since 2020 the housing stabilization lab at MLCS has provided critical housing assistance and eviction defense in collaboration with the Northeastern Law School Advocacy Clinic and with deep support from State Representative Adrian Madaro’s office. As housing costs continue to destabilize families, we need this support more than ever. To date over 300 families have been able to stay housed. Housing determines a family’s physical and mental health and overall stability; if it were a human right, homelessness would not exist,” said Rita Lara, Executive Director of Maverick Landing Community Services.

\$40,000 for Crossroads Family Shelter, serving

women and children from East Boston and surrounding communities who are experiencing homelessness and poverty. “Crossroads Family Center in East Boston provides shelter and critical wrap-around support services to 27 mothers, fathers, and children experiencing homelessness, poverty, and trauma, as well as a weekly food pantry serving over 1,000 East Boston community members annually. We are deeply grateful for the partnership of Rep. Madaro and our local legislators in securing earmark funding to support comprehensive behavioral health supportive services for our residents and furthering our mission to break down barriers for families experiencing homelessness and poverty,” said Charles Smith, Program Director at Crossroads Family Shelter.

\$50,000 for YouthConnect, a program that provides community-based mental health services to young people and families who have come into contact with the criminal legal system. Through a social worker placed at the East Boston police station, YouthConnect redirects intervention from police officers to a mental health professional who is specifically trained in this area. “We are grateful for the State’s support and State Rep. Adrian Madaro and Senator Lydia Edwards’ advocacy to ensure that we at YouthConnect continue to do our work in the East Boston community,” said

Kevan Barton, Executive Director of YouthConnect. “These funds allow us to provide much needed community-based mental health supports to youth and their families.”

\$50,000 for the East Boston Social Centers to help reestablish their English-language classes for members of our community. Existing ESOL programs have long waitlists fueled by high demand, and this program will address the gap in current offerings. “We at East Boston Social Centers want to express our deep gratitude to Representative Adrian Madaro for his steadfast support for our community, and for our children and families,” said Justin Pasquiarello, Executive Director at the East Boston Social Centers. “This important funding will advance our Every Child Shines work to help all East Boston children enter Kindergarten ready to learn, joyful and thriving by supporting ESL instruction for parents and other community members. We know supporting parents is critical if we are to help children thrive. Thank you to Representative Madaro and the Massachusetts House for recognizing that in your budget!”

\$300,000 for the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center to make important door and sidewalk upgrades at their Emergency Department, improving patient access in compliance with federal regulations and ensuring safe and

easy access for members of the community seeking care. “On behalf of our patients and staff, we thank Rep. Madaro and Chair of Ways and Means Aaron Michlewitz for this important investment to further enhance the safety and accessibility of our Emergency Department,” said Greg Wilmot, President & CEO of East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. “Our emergency department is the 4th busiest in Boston and investments from the Legislature have helped improve our quality of care and capacity to treat anyone who comes to us for service.”

\$30,000 for the East Boston Play Shed on the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway. Run by the City of Boston, the play shed will create a community recreation lending library where kids and members of our community can access toys and other resources, encouraging active play at Bremen Street Park and all along the Greenway.

\$700,000 for the East Boston Ferry to continue operations. This funding will keep the Ferry going for another season, extending this popular and enjoyable method of public transit across Boston Harbor. With the Blue Line facing extended repairs and the Sumner Tunnel closure this summer, the Ferry provides an important additional mode of transportation to connect East Boston with Downtown.

LOCAL STUDENT EARNS ACADEMIC HONORS

MALDEN CATHOLIC STUDENTS FROM EAST BOSTON, MA ACHIEVE HONOR ROLL

Malden Catholic students have completed the coursework required for the third quarter of the 2022-2023 school year. The school has three categories for outstanding academic performance honors: President’s List (90 - 100 in all classes), First Honors (85 to 89 in all classes), and Second Honors (80 to 84 in all classes.)

Malden Catholic Honors – Quarter Three 2023 President’s List (90 to 100 in all classes) Esteban Perez

Chau Minh Tran
Second Honors (80 to 84 in all classes)
Gianluca Pasquale
Since 1932, Malden Catholic High School has shaped emerging leaders in our community, claiming a Nobel Laureate, a Senator, two ambassadors and countless community and business heads among its alumni. Annually, graduates attend some of the nation’s most renown universities including Harvard, Dartmouth, Georgetown, Brown, Cornell, Tufts, Duke, Georgia Tech, Boston College, Northeastern, Boston University and Amherst College. Foundational to student success is Malden Catholic’s codivisional model which

offers the best of both worlds, single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular opportunities after school. Malden Catholic is known in the community for its rigorous academics, SFX Scholars Program and award-winning STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with electives such as Robotics and Engineering Design. Malden Catholic curricula is designed to improve individual growth mindset, leadership principles and success outcomes along with integrating the Xavarian values of trust, humility, compassion, simplicity and zeal. <https://www.maldencatholic.org/>

Canopy // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Forêt Urbaine in Montreal. In this model, the municipality developed an official contractual relationship with one organization, which serves as the central convener for the L’Alliance and Fiscal Agent to distribute public funding for planting and maintenance projects. Together, the Alliance created a governance structure to allow organizations of all capacities to participate in decision-making and access public funding resources for projects. The L’Alliance works together to create and coordinate tree planting and maintenance efforts. Public funds, issued as grants, are provided to collaborating partners within the L’Alliance for projects, working in coordination with private property owners. The Tree Alliance in Boston will have a strong focus on the needs of Boston’s communities that are most

vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

“We applaud Mayor Wu’s Tree Alliance initiative to enhance Boston’s tree canopy so that City residents—particularly those living in environmental justice communities—can experience more of the health and climate benefits trees provide,” said David O’Neill, President of Mass Audubon. “Mass Audubon is honored to support the alliance of nonprofits that will work collaboratively with private landowners willing to plant trees on their properties to provide more equitable access to nature, improve human health and wildlife diversity, and battle climate change.”



Organizations that are interested in participating in Boston’s Tree Alliance should contact Boston-TreeAlliance@massaudubon.org for more informa-

tion. Additionally, Mass Audubon will be hosting an informational kick-off meeting in late summer/early fall. Mass Audubon will be hiring an Alliance Coordinator to support programming and implementation. To learn more about this position, visit massaudubon.org/jobs/community-engagement-coordinator-boston.

The Tree Alliance is a key strategy to expand and preserve Boston’s tree canopy. Boston’s Healthy Places Initiative focused on increasing open space, cooling our neighborhoods, and protecting Bostonians from the impacts of climate change. Healthy Places is a collaboration of three City plans including the Urban Forest Plan, Heat Resilience Solutions for Boston, and the seven year update to the City’s Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Melich, James	69 Lubec Street LLC	69 Lubec St #101	\$470,000
Lopera Chavarria, Luisa F	Khaynovsky, Vladimir	76 Havre St	\$910,000
Kisucky, Janka	Mlch, Vladislav	77 Morris St	\$900,000
Preti, Francesco	Appleton Grove LLC	217 Lexington St #3	\$575,000
Scherer, Peter	William A Zarella Lt	222-224 Webster St	\$1,400,000
Macdonald, Collin	Centura Bay LLC	226 Lexington St #2	\$479,500
Hillman, Daniel C	238 Webster Street LLC	238 Webster St #1	\$789,000
Calvesbert, David A	Hunt Andrew David Est	261 Webster St #1	\$560,000
Mahoney, Brianna	Falcucci Properties LLC	270 Paris St #3	\$550,000
Suarez, Leana	Two Seventy Seven Border	277 Border St #303	\$464,900
Bakshi, Gil	Cleary, Aileen	321-325 Meridian St #7	\$375,000
Muralles, Ingrid J	Cappuccio, Michela C	682 Bennington St	\$649,900



37 MAVERICK SQUARE ■ EAST BOSTON ■ 617/561-4495

Suffolk Downs to host second union job information session

Area residents interested in learning about life-changing career opportunities in the union building trades are encouraged to attend a free union job information session being held Tuesday, May 23 from 5-7pm at Suffolk Downs. The Greater Boston Building Trades Unions, John Moriarty and Associates, The HYM Investment Group LLC (“HYM”) and the City of Revere will host their second construction industry-focused job information session to recruit and train the next generation of building trades workers. The event is free to all jobseekers and attendees will learn about the thousands of new construction jobs coming to the area throughout the 15-to-20-year build-out of Suffolk Downs from both union representatives as well as current subcontractors working on site. No prior construction experience is required to attend.

“I’ve witnessed firsthand how union employment changes lives, and



Local residents at a recent job fair.

having a project like Suffolk Downs in Revere is transformative for hundreds of residents and their families,” said Acting Revere Mayor Keefe. “We’re grateful for HYM’s support of pushing these opportunities with our residents and I encourage all Revere union trade members to attend if they’re interested in being part of this historic project.”

“We’re grateful for our partnership with the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions, North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, John Moriarty & Associates, and The City of Revere, in ensuring that Suffolk Downs will

be union-built and that the construction of Suffolk Downs will provide meaningful career opportunities and real economic benefits to the Greater Boston and Revere communities,” said HYM Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Thomas N. O’Brien.

“Ensuring that Suffolk Downs will be union-built and that an entire generation of workers in the area will experience family-sustaining career opportunities is extremely important to us. We are grateful for our partnership with the Building Trades Union and HYM to help facilitate that goal on such a significant and rewarding project such

as this,” said John Moriarty of John Moriarty & Associates.

“The Greater Boston Building Trades Unions have a dual mission of making sure every career in the construction industry is a good one and of creating pathways to ensure that everyone has access to these good, union careers. Partnerships like the one we have developed with Suffolk Downs help us to further that dual mission. We are proud to be part of this great project -- it’s a project that will make many positive impacts for workers, for housing needs, and which incorporates a range of innovative and environmentally conscious construction efforts. We hope to see a great turnout at this event so that folks can learn even more about the wide range of great union career opportunities that will be available through this project,” said Brian Doherty, General Agent, Greater Boston Building Trades Unions.

“A career as a union carpenter compares very favorably to other options available. Our members

can earn six figure salaries on top of family health care coverage and excellent retirement savings. Even our apprentices are qualifying for benefits and earning great wages without incurring any debt for their education,” said Joe Byrne, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters. “This project is an excellent gateway to a tremendous career. HYM, John Moriarty & Associates and the carpentry subcontractors employing our members on this project are among the cream of the crop in our industry.”

The HYM Investment Group, Building Trades Union, John Moriarty & Associates, and North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters announced in January of 2020 the signing of an unprecedented Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for the construction of the Suffolk Downs Redevelopment. The agreement will ensure Suffolk Downs is union-built and creates 18,000 construction jobs, while designing and constructing more efficiently

to allow housing to be built more affordably. As part of the agreement, HYM announced \$2 million in investments that will go towards building an employment pipeline to quality, union jobs, and to prepare local residents to join the future workforce at Suffolk Downs. The PLA also creates a new cost structure and a model that sets forth several equity and inclusion provisions that will bring more workers into the trades. This innovative approach will further increase the number of women and people of color who benefit from the career opportunities generated by the project while lowering the overall cost of residential construction.

Registration for the Suffolk Downs Job Information Session is encouraged, and walk-ins are welcome. The event will take place outside at the Paddock (accessible via The Track at Suffolk Downs). Parking is free and available onsite. Suffolk Downs is accessible from the MBTA Beachmont and Suffolk Downs stations.

Band// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Me Down performs from country music to The Stones, Eric Clapton, and Tom Petty.

Lead guitarist, Richard Chen, was described as being “one with his guitar,” and sounding “like heaven,” according to band manager, Red. Chen grew up in Alabama, and started playing guitar at age 7.

“I mostly grew up listening to southern rock – The Allman Brothers, B.B. King, Jimi Hendrix. Those are my big influences,” explained Chen, an engineer. “I’ve always played music. It’s a good coping mechanism.”

Vocalist and drummer, Andy DiCarlo, who is a U.S. Post Office employee, was a professional lip-synch artist for 20 years during the 1980s.

“We got a note from John Belushi’s lawyer after a gig with a cease and desist order because of copyright infringement,” DiCarlo noted with a laugh. “We traveled all over and were on T.V.”

Lead Vocalist, Donna Palermo, is a Cambridge resident, originally from Portland, Maine. She loves rock, contemporary, and 90s grunge music. Palermo proudly exclaimed that she was paid to perform before her son, Anthony, a Berklee College of Music student.

“We have an amazing group,” said Palermo, who believes that Take Me Down is a support group of professionals.

Palermo is an attorney that teaches Constitutional law and government structures at Boston University;

and enjoys when her students attend shows.

“Not only did she get up and dance, but she sang with us,” beamed Palermo about a Harvard law student of hers. “That’s how much fun we have. We have different ages and lots of different music. My students think it’s cool, so they come.”

Listen to Take Me Down on Saturday, May 20, 9pm-12am, at Grecian Diner, 136 Newbury Street, Peabody, on Friday, June 2, 8:30pm-12am, at Route 1 Grill House, 817 Broadway, Saugus, and Saturday, June 10, 8pm-12am, at the Beachmont VFW, 150 Bennington Street, Revere.

Contact Dom at (617) 569-6529, or Marcia at (617) 646-9446 for more information.

Coletta announces community trash initiative in District 1

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta is announcing a community trash initiative in District 1 to reduce trash and litter across the neighborhood and foster community pride.

“I’ve heard from many residents about the accumulation of trash. Charlestown, East Boston, and the North End are extremely dense neighborhoods that make them susceptible to more debris and trash build-up. Last Summer, when my office implemented a Summer of Service initiative, my team collected over 80 pounds of trash throughout these neighborhoods. I’m excited to launch this initiative in partnership with the City of Boston, Boston Public Schools, and the community to promote keeping our neighborhoods clean,” said

Councilor Gabriela Coletta. “We’re tackling this perennial issue through a multi-layered strategy focusing on litter prevention (barrels), civic education, and trash mitigation (hokies, clean-ups). Let’s stand together against littering and illegal dumping that contribute to air, land, and ocean pollution. We’ll foster community pride while leveraging city resources to ensure that our communities remain bright and beautiful for future generations.”

Councilor Coletta is fighting for additional city resources, such as reviewing and reforming trash contracts, additional funding for the Office of Civic Organizing’s “Love Your Block,” identifying high pedestrian corridors for additional trash barrels, and more staff capacity and resources for rat mit-

igation. She seeks to promote civic engagement by installing signs across the district promoting beautifying the streets. BPS Students across the district will create signs that residents and businesses can adopt saying “Keep our community beautiful, don’t litter!” in multiple languages.

The initiative seeks to amplify the efforts of various organizations that conduct regular community clean-ups across the district. Over the Spring and Summer, Councilor Gabriela Coletta and her team will work on joining community clean-ups across the district and collaborate with neighborhood groups to assign neighborhood captains to help with ongoing clean-ups.

JPNA// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

plete upgrade to life safety would be made and that the development is intended for home ownership when completed.

In terms of parking, the spot will be accessed from Emmet Place at the back of the building. “So we actually would be improving the condition and providing parking even though – not required,” said Lynds.

As for the roof deck, Lynds said, “That roof

deck would be exclusive only to unit three, so it’s not a common roof deck; it would be accessed from within the unit for unit three.”

Other renovations at the building include new decks and windows in the rear as well as a new entry door and vestibule and new windows in the front.

Over the last month or so, the project has gone through the communi-

ty process with both a JPNA Planning and Zoning meeting and abutters meeting on Wednesday, Apr. 19.

Seemingly stemming from those meetings, Lynds addressed a concern from residents regarding the delivery of materials due to the site abutting Emmet Place.

“I did have a chance to speak to my client after the last meeting, and he has made the commitment that he will work to have most – if not all – the materials delivered from Sumner Street rather than Emmet Place,” said Lynds.

“I do want to point out that there may be an occasion to incorporate or use Emmet Place for some deliveries, but the bulk – probably 80 to 90 percent of materials can be delivered through Sumner Street.”

Other than the delivery of materials, there did not seem to be any other concerns about the project, as there were no questions or comments broached during last Monday’s meeting, and as aforementioned, voters supported the project in a tally of 13-3.

Regarding next steps, the plan is to go before the ZBA sometime later this spring. Lynds indicated that they would anticipate a permit issuance “over the fall,” and potential construction would take around eight to 10 months.

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News in Brief

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON LITHIUM-ION BATTERY RESPONSE

In support of this year's Safety Stand Down campaign, June 18-24, the Safety Stand Down Sweepstakes Quiz is now live, featuring questions that reinforce key messages and practices behind this year's theme, "Lithium-Ion Batteries: Are You Ready?"

Each year, the Safety Stand Down campaign and sweepstakes quiz are

organized by the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Safety, Health & Survival Section, the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), and the Fire Department Safety Officers Association (FDSOA), with the collective goal of focusing attention on a particular responder safety concern during the third week in June. This year's Safety Stand Down works to help ensure that firefighters know how to safely handle lithium-ion batteries in

a variety of situations and scenarios.

In support of this year's Safety Stand Down, emergency services personnel are encouraged to take and promote the quiz. Those who complete it by Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. ET will be automatically entered in a sweepstakes where 200 randomly selected participants will win a limited-edition challenge coin commemorating the 2023 theme. The quiz is available on the Safety Stand Down website at www.SafetyStandDown.org.

Down.org.

During the week of Safety Stand Down, fire departments across the country are asked to suspend all non-emergency activities and train on lithium-ion battery response; an entire week is provided to ensure that all shifts and personnel can participate. Leading up to Safety Stand Down, fire service leaders and training officers can visit the campaign website to access a wealth of information, training, and resources that can help prepare for these efforts. New content and event updates will be added to the website in the weeks to come.

VIRTUAL VETERANS JOB FAIR MAY 23

DAV (Disabled American Veterans) and Recruit-Military® will co-host the Virtual Veterans Job Fair, May 23 from 11:00am – 3:00pm CST. The event is free to veterans, their spouses, active-duty military personnel and members of the National Guard and Reserve.

More than 65 employers actively seeking the unique talents of America's veterans will be on-site representing a range of industries, from construction to medical to administrative and logistics, with career opportunities from entry level to senior management. In addition to employment assistance, the veterans expected to attend can utilize career counseling and resume assistance, network with fellow veterans and military personnel, and get support with their Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and claims assistance—all at no cost.

This year, DAV will sponsor more than 90 in-person and virtual job fairs. Since the inception of its employment initiative in 2014, there have been nearly 274,000 attendees and more than 167,000 job offers. Last year, to support employers, dispel myths and demonstrate the business case for employing America's nearly 4 million veterans with a service-connected disability, DAV developed The Veteran Advantage: DAV Guide to Hiring and Retaining Veterans with Disabilities. This guide offers best practices and helpful tools for employers and strives to inspire more organizations to consider the veteran talent pool.

DAV's National Employment Director Ryan Burgos, an Army veteran of the Iraq War, is available to discuss trends in veteran and military spouse hiring, valuable employment-related resources, and job opportunities nationwide. To arrange an interview, contact Ryan Burgos at 859-442-2063.

To register for the Virtual Veterans Job Fair and access additional no-cost resources for veterans and their families, go to jobs.dav.org.

OBITUARIES

Ann Marie Schepici

Longtime proprietor of Ann Marie's Salon
192 in East Boston

Ann Marie T. Schepici of Lynnfield, formerly of East Boston, passed away at home on May 13 surrounded by her loving family.

Ann Marie was a longtime proprietor of Ann Marie's Salon 192 in East Boston for over 42 years. She was a past member of the Lynnfield Senior Center where she enjoyed bingo, playing cards (poker, in particular), and taking restaurant trips with the Lunch Bunch. And boy, she never met a dessert she didn't like. She traveled to Italy, California, Santo Domingo, and Las Vegas to name a few. At home, she watched Let's Make a Deal, The Price is Right, Wheel of Fortune, Property Brothers and her favorite was Chicago P.D.

Ann Marie, a single mom, raised four children alone and cherished her family over everything. She loved spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well. Ann Marie will be remembered for her beautiful smile and her great sense of humor. She will be missed by many family members and friends.

The loving daughter of the late Frank and Frances (Falco) Venuti, she was the devoted mother of Steve Schepici of Florida, Lorna Overton and her husband, Ronald and Denise Scapicchio and her husband, Louis, all of East Boston and the late Joseph Schepici; dear sister of John Venuti and the late Camille Healey and her late husband, David and Virginia DiSalvo and her surviving husband, Joseph DiSalvo; cherished grandmother of Steven Schepici, Aman-



da Portillo Schepici and her husband, Gabriel, Danielle Russo and her husband, Derek, Richard Overton and husband Kim Elphinstone, Leah Forbes and her husband John, Louis Scapicchio and his wife, Stacey, Michael Scapicchio and his wife, Cinara and Jennifer Schepici; adored great-grandmother of Layla, Angelo, Dario, Domenic, Deandra, Dante, Gina, Mikayla, Maria, Victoria, Catarina and Isabella. She is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

Family and friends will honor Ann Marie's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston, today, Wednesday at 9 a.m. before leaving in procession to Our Lady of Assumption Parish in Lynnfield for an 11 a.m. Funeral Mass. Services will conclude with Ann Marie being laid to rest at Puritan Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Peabody.

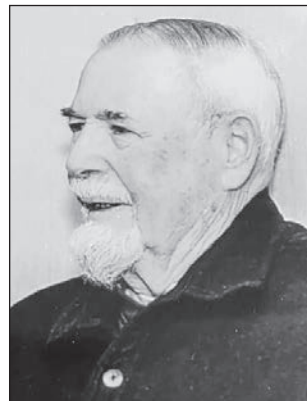
In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Beth Israel Lahey Health at Home, 800 West Cummings Park, Suite 5000, Woburn, MA 01801. To leave an online condolence, visit www.ruggieromh.com

William McDonald

Of Winthrop and Revere

William J. McDonald, 84, of Winthrop and Revere, passed away peacefully on May 14.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Ann Marie (Andriotti) McDonald and his late parents, William and Eileen McDonald; sisters, Joan Rea, Gail Fernandes and Maureen Leary. Bill is survived by his sister, Kathleen Gutowski of Revere, nieces, Maureen Gutowski of Boston and Lisa Fernandes of Cape Elizabeth, ME; brother in law, Jack Fernandes of South Portland, ME; step daughters, Laura Matarazzo of East Boston, Joyce Burns and her husband, Joseph Burns of Easton; grandchildren: Kyle Burns and Lyndsey Burns and a host of other nieces, nephews and cousins including: Alex McCallum and his wife, Wendy and Mathew McCallum, Jack McDonald and his wife, Karen and Gary Fer-



nandes.

Special thanks and appreciation go to his nurse, Nanci at the Parc at Harborview Winthrop and the Staff at MGH Boston Ellison 12th floor for their exemplary care, kindness and compassion.

A memorial service will be held at Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston on Thursday, May 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Services will conclude with a prayer service in our serenity chapel. To leave an online condolence, visit www.ruggieromh.com.

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25TH OPENING DAY CELEBRATION FOR PIERS PARK SAILING

This year marked Piers Park Sailing Center’s 25th Opening Day Celebration, with afternoon festivities held on May 6. More than 700 residents turned out for the event with more than 400 people participated in free sailing.

The program speakers included Board Chair Steve Kirk, City Councilor Julia Mejia, City Councilor Gabriela Coletta,

Rep. Adrian Madaro, Sen. Lydia Edwards, Massport CEO Lisa Wieland, and Piers Park Sailing Exec Director Alex DeFronzo.

La Casa Del Pandebo-no catered the event, and Veronica Robles Mariachi Femenil played live music.

12 local nonprofit partner organizations tabled the event and Eastern Salt sponsored the event.



Rep. Adrian Madaro spoke on Piers Park celebration.



Senator Lydia Edwards welcomes those attending the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Piers Park Sailing.



With his hand on the tiller, this youngsters shows who is captain of the boat.



Before going out on the boat, a Piers Park volunteer explains some of the precautions.



Councilor Gabriela Coletta talks about her summer experiences at Piers Park.



Some of those attending the celebration decided a kayak could be faster.



Children colored clam shells.



Coming aboard for this youngster.



A volunteer helps a youngster get off the boat.



Piers Park has a reputation for making sure that those with physical challenges can still enjoy sailing.



These youths are cruising to the Boston Skyline across the channel.

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TO QUALIFY FOR 15R HOLBORN STREET, YOUR ANNUAL INCOME MUST BE EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN:

- 1 person, \$98,150
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- 3 persons, \$126,200
- 4 persons, \$140,200
- 5 persons, \$151,450
- 6 persons, \$162,650

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Veronica Robles Mariachi Femenil played live music during the celebration.



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