

East Boston

TIMES-FREE PRESS

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

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PLAN: East Boston frustration is mounting

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Coming off the heels of a similar meeting in March, the Orient Heights Neighborhood Council (OHNC) and Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA) hosted the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) at the Madonna Shrine Function Room last week, where around 250 residents gathered with many voicing their displeasure with PLAN: East Boston — loud and clear.

PLAN: East Boston, a planning initiative from the BPDA that could make changes to zoning, off-street parking requirements, roadway configurations, and more, has been the subject of staunch criticism, especially from those of Orient Heights who are concerned that the plan would change the fabric of their neighborhood.

With the BPDA releasing its full draft of the plan at the beginning of September and the public comment period slated to



A large crowd gathered at last week's meeting at the Madonna Shrine Function Room.



State Representative Adrian Madaro addresses those in attendance.



City Councilor Gabriela Coletta addresses those in attendance.

end October 27, residents attending last week's meeting used the opportunity to sound off on the plan.

One major point of contention from those in attendance concerned proposed changes to Bennington Street, which Nick Schmidt, a Transportation Planner with the BPDA, provided clarity on.

"One of the things that we, I think, keep hearing about pretty frequently is how can Bennington Street possibly go from four lanes to two, and I will admit that we need to update our visuals in the report to make it very clear that the real secret sauce to this is having left turn lanes at intersections," said Schmidt.

"It's in the plan; you can see in all these intersections, especially the main ones at Saratoga Street and on the other end at Day Square, Neptune Road. Bennington Street — even in our vision where we are showing it narrower, it does widen back out to three to four to five lanes depending on the intersection, and that's specific-

ly to allow vehicles to get through the intersection," he added.

Even with Schmidt's clarification on the recommendations for Bennington Street, many believed it would not work.

"Most of the people that show up for these meetings have no idea about

See PLAN Page 2

THE ITALIAN AMERICAN ALLIANCE CELEBRATES COLUMBUS DAY



Monday was a Columbus Day, and residents of East Boston and surrounding communities all gathered at the waterfront dock in East Boston to enjoy the holiday Italian style.

Above, the kids were on a moon walk with Barbie.

Left, Jamie Culliton and Noah Culliton with Christopher Columbus. Jamie Culliton is the 4-time world champion in pizza twirling. See Pages 5 and 6 for more photos.



Wu announces \$11 million federal grant to enhance Boston's tree canopy

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Wu joined Senator Ed Markey last week to celebrate that the City of Boston has received \$11.4 million in funding from the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Grant. This grant will bolster Boston's workforce development in urban and community forestry and reduce technical and financial barriers to growing Boston's tree canopy. This funding will support improving tree care and accessibility; supporting workforce

development opportunities, administered through PowerCorps Boston; and expanding Boston's newly created Tree Alliance. The City has received this funding through the Inflation Reduction Act.

"Having access to tree coverage throughout our neighborhoods provides cool, green, healthy spaces for residents to thrive," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful to the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Grant for their generous

See GRANT Page 9



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mayor Michelle Wu thanks the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Grant, while Senator Ed Markey (right) looks on.

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Wu announces 2023 - 2024 SPARK Boston Council

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the newly-selected 2023-2024 SPARK Boston Council. The 43-member group will spend the next year working to connect young adults to leaders in local government, City services, and one another. The SPARK Boston Council will advise Mayor Wu on City policies and programs affecting 20- to 35-year-olds in the City of Boston.

“We’re excited to welcome our newly expanded SPARK Boston Council to address the issues and interests of Boston’s young adults,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This rising generation of leaders reflects our city’s talent, diversity, and experience, and I look forward to collaborating with them.”

This year’s Council members come from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds including public service, higher education, and scientific research. Sixteen SPARK Boston council members are multilingual and the Council represents almost all of Boston’s neighborhoods.

SPARK Boston’s new Director, Anthony Nguyen, is a former council member. He plans to use his experience to create space and empower more council members to become advocates in their neighborhoods, especially those that have been historically underrepresented and overlooked.

“I look forward to working with such a passionate and skilled group of young professionals this

year in SPARK Boston. Young people in Boston are driven. They are our City’s future leaders, first responders, organizers, business owners, homeowners, teachers, parents and more,” said SPARK Boston Director Anthony Nguyen. “This year’s council will create programming that addresses the needs of millennials and gen-z young adults. This opportunity also greatly connects members to ways that influence the City of Boston, so that it is a place where Boston-born residents and those who are new to the city want to continue to live, socialize, and work.”

“I believe that by serving on the council, I can work alongside other decision-makers who share my passion for driving positive change in Boston,” said SPARK Boston Council member and Dorchester resident Keenan Ottley. “My motivation to join the council stems from a deep sense of civic responsibility and a desire to give back to the community. I see it as an opportunity to use my skills, knowledge, and expertise to help address the challenges facing the city and to help create a more vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable future for all Bostonians.”

Last year, SPARK Boston Council members spent time leading projects that included creating a holiday giving guide, filling community fridges in the winter, partnering with the Mayor’s Office of Civic Organizing during their Love Your Block neighborhood cleanup in Mattapan, connecting

with City leaders through SPARK’s Chief Chats, participating in voter registration events, learning about the Boston development process through their Pint with a Planner, and creating a Boston You’re My Home community mapping project and more.

“The future of SPARK Boston is bright! The individuals that are serving on this year’s council will continue the legacy of past members who lead with intention to put community first in all that they do inside and outside of the City,” said Chief of Community Engagement Brianna Millor. “I look forward to partnering with SPARK Boston in meaningful ways this year.”

SPARK Boston is housed in the Mayor’s Community Engagement Cabinet. This office is responsible for advising Mayor Wu on issues affecting millennial and gen-z populations and working with City departments and community stakeholders to create innovative solutions. The Council meets monthly with City Hall leaders and creates free programming for their peers including voter resources, events highlighting the City’s on-going initiatives, and professional and social networking opportunities across Boston’s many neighborhoods.

The 2023-2024 Council includes:

Allston

- Fred Lu
- Abigail Chan

Back Bay

- Begum Agca Okutgen
- Robert Harrington

Beacon Hill

- Sarah Sharpe

Brighton

- Devin MacGoy
- Coleman Nee
- Nadaje Hendrix
- Ashley Slay
- Jeffery Sierra

Chinatown/Downtown

- Emma Noble Smith
- Ben Swisher

Dorchester

- Fiex Thevenin
- Keenan Ottley
- Reginald Fils
- Farhana karmali
- Aisha Donna
- Alex Burdulis

East Boston

- Amanda Miner
- Kachary Sanclemente
- Katie McCoid

Fenway

- Anh Nguyen
- Liz Cormack
- John Kaywood

Hyde Park

- Johanne Antonie

Jamaica Plain

- Leila Dixon
- Thienan Dang

Mattapan

- Rosalya Felix
- Edosa Osemwegie
- Genelle Faulkner

Roxbury

- Olivia Grant
- Tanesha Beckford
- Anuradha Sahu

Roslindale

- James Glenister
- Long Tong
- Evan Zinner

Seaport

- Brianne Gump

South Boston

- Soo Ji Jung
- Adna Mohammad
- Collin Kelly

South End

- Nina Kalluri
- Denzel Samuel
- Greg Kinlan

For more information on SPARK Boston programming and initiatives, please visit boston.gov/sparkboston.

PLAN // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

what this community is all about,” said one resident, describing how traffic backs up in the morning Monday through Friday from Neptune Road to Orient Heights.

“You put those lanes down to one lane, you are jeopardizing the safety of the people who live there and getting fire equipment and ambulances down that street,” he added.

Another resident flat-out said, “The third thing I want to talk to is this Bennington Street nonsense, where one lane going in towards Day Square and one lane of traffic coming out that will never, never, never work.”

This same resident shared data from last April when he stood out in front of Rockland Trust and counted vehicles from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. in response to potential bike lanes on Bennington Street.

The resident said he counted 996 cars, eight being school buses and three being MBTA buses, with one bike and two motorcycles. “So you would take away one lane of traffic and squeeze 99.9% of the traffic in one lane and allow one lane for one bike,” he added.

Other residents commented about the BPDA’s zoning recommendations, which in part would consolidate residential zoning subdistricts down to three: East Boston Residential (EBR) one, two, and three.

those in attendance to put restrictions in their deeds to prevent potential unit increases.

As the meeting progressed, it seemed like the frustration from those in attendance grew, with resident after resident voicing their displeasure.

In addition to the comments from residents, several elected officials commented on the plan and indicated they were listening to their constituents.

At-Large City Councilor Erin Murphy mentioned that while the city is in a housing crisis, there needs to be a compromise between building housing and preserving the neighborhood’s fabric.

“Know that I care about that also, so there’s a balance, but we have to make sure that neighbor’s voices are being heard, and it’s not just railroaded through,” said Murphy.

City Councilor Gabriela Coletta went through an eight-page letter she penned in April about the plan and indicated she is listening and that this process is still ongoing.

“Please know, again, that the conversation is ongoing. I look forward to hearing from the BPDA, but I’m really here to listen and figure out where you all are at again so I can echo these concerns directly to the mayor in partnership with our delegation,” said Coletta.

State Representative Adrian Madaro echoed Coletta, saying, “We are elevating every single comment that you make to the city,” while acknowledging how much frustration there has been from residents.

“We’re going to continue to elevate your concerns to our colleagues at the city level, and this plan is not done. So all we can do is continue to fight for the community,” he added.

As the days go by, the sense of urgency to comment on the plan by the end of the comment period is higher than ever.

Specifically, the OHNC’s Facebook page asks residents to comment on the plan, sending them to the emails below before October 27.

PlanEastBoston@Boston.gov

Gabriela.Coletta@Boston.gov

Erin.Murphy@Boston.gov

Adrian.Madaro@masshouse.gov

Lydia.Edwards@masenate.gov

Mayor@boston.gov

Moreover, if you want to view the full draft plan, visit the BPDA’s PLAN: East Boston webpage at <https://www.boston-plans.org/planning/planning-initiatives/plan-east-boston>.

Wu announces effort to support Halloween block parties citywide

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston’s Community Engagement Cabinet announced a new streamlined application process to make it easier for residents to host Halloween block parties to ensure that children and their families can safely trick or treat. By closing neighborhood side streets to vehicle traffic during trick or treating, community members can create a celebratory and safe environment for kids to enjoy the holiday. The Boston Transportation Department (BTD) has streamlined the play street application process to make it easier to host a block party

and to ensure applications are considered and approved swiftly.

“Block parties provide our neighbors and families fun, safe spaces to celebrate together and build community,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Making the permitting process to host a block party easier will help more communities and streets have the opportunity to celebrate Halloween all together as neighbors.”

“Activating our streets through block parties is a great way to spread joy and unify our neighborhoods throughout our city,” said Community Engagement Cabinet Chief Brianna Millor. “I encourage residents to

take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate fall festivities outdoors in a safe and fun manner.”

In addition to a shorter timeline turnaround from submission to approval, the improved application now includes both clearer questions and fewer questions overall, focusing only on the necessary information for the Boston Transportation Department to evaluate each block party for community safety and traffic impacts.

“We are pleased to be rolling out this simplified application process so Boston families can worry less about navigating permitting and focus on enjoying the holiday,” said Deputy Chief of Streets for Transportation Nick Gove. “We look forward to supporting more block parties this year and continuing to make City Hall processes more accessible and efficient.”

Boston residents have long come together to hold Halloween block parties

to strengthen community ties, and improve neighborhood street safety. Last year, residents hosted 28 halloween block parties across the City.

Residents must apply by Wednesday, October 18 to ensure approval before Halloween. Residents must also apply for a block party permit before submitting their grant application, as this can take 15 business days to approve.


This work also builds upon Mayor Wu’s commitment to bring safer, more vibrant streets to every neighborhood in Boston. In May, the Mayor announced Boston’s Safety Surge, working to make our city streets safer by installing speed humps on eligible neighborhood streets, redesigning intersections, and implementing new guidelines for the City’s traffic signals.


Earlier this year, the Community Engagement

See HALLOWEEN Page 3

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
2 White St Place LLC	Murphy, John T	2 White Street Pl	\$400,000
Msgm LLC	Dalessandro, Anna M	80 Trenton St	\$605,000
Rinaldi 4th, Joseph R	84-86 Princeton St LLC	86 Princeton St #1	\$549,000
Sliva, Kyle	84-86 Princeton LLC	86 Princeton St #2	\$579,900
Osserman, Jessica	Lawrence J Hickey RET	156 Porter St #133	\$399,000
Stewart, Candace	Kaczowka, Catherine	156 Porter St #122	\$377,777
Cappellucci, Paul D	Dunn, Ashley	228 Webster St #A	\$1,040,000
Um, Millennie	Amoropus Construction LL	362 Meridian St #1A	\$710,000





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A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.


POLIO.

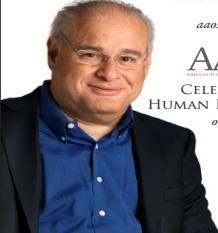
As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.


aaos.org/75years





EBHS FOOTBALL



PATRICK O'CONNOR PHOTOS

The East Boston High School football team arrived at Madison Park’s field in Roxbury for a game with O’Bryant last Friday and despite a valiant effort lost 18-16. The Jets are now 2-3 and will clash with Latin Academy this Friday evening at Sartori Stadium.



Wu announces opening of new Office for Returning Citizens and Powercorps

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu last week joined the Human Services Cabinet, PowerCorps, and partner organizations to celebrate the opening of new office space for the Office of Returning Citizens and PowerCorps. The departments moved to 30 Dimock Street in Roxbury, enabling greater resident access to the services offered by the two departments and supporting better connections to the resources at the Dimock campus, which includes health care, mental health and substance use disorder services, and a food pantry.

“The Office of Returning Citizens and PowerCorps Boston are both invaluable departments that provide opportunity for residents,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Establishing welcoming, public facing resources in community is so important to making critical constituent services more accessible to our residents.”

The Office of Returning Citizens provides case management support and referral services to individuals returning from county, state, and federal

correctional facilities to support them in successfully reentering the community. PowerCorps Boston is a paid workforce development program that prepares young adults ages 18-34 with skills to compete in the green jobs economy. Both agencies prioritize residents who have been disproportionately impacted by the criminal legal system.

“This grant opportunity will enable the City to partner with organizations that provide tailored support to returning citizens as they come back to our community,” said José F. Massó, Chief of Human Services. “This grant is indicative of the ORC’s holistic approach to the needs of returning citizens.”

Mayor Wu also announced today the opening of applications for the Health and Wellness Services for Returning Citizens (HW-RC) grant program. This funding seeks to address the mental health and wellbeing challenges faced by Boston’s returning citizens. A total of \$200,000 will be available to fund programming such as peer support, recovery, restorative justice circles, yoga, and mind-

fulness services.

“The work of the Office of Returning Citizens continues to teach us how best to show up for communities and how to help people stay home once they come home. Making mental health resources more accessible reduces stigma and provides funding to community leaders already doing the work to help bring people to wholeness,” said City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune. “It tells people that we care about all aspects of their health and wellbeing, and I’m proud that we’re collectively sending that message as a city.”

Research shows that over half of all those returning from prison or jail struggle with mental health or substance use disorder. Access to culturally competent community mental health services is routinely one of the top needs requested by returning citizens. This grant serves as a critical intervention to fill this service gap, especially at a time where clinical men-

tal health resources are strained and returning citizens rely on community health services.

“This grant is a great opportunity to partner with our community partners as well as Returning Citizen led organizations to meet the mental health and wellness needs of our City’s returning citizens,” said David Mayo, Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of Returning Citizens.

Applications for the Health and Wellness Services for Returning Citizens Grant proposals are due by November 6, 2023.

The Office of Returning Citizens is committed to dismantling barriers, advocating for the underserved, and establishing robust partnerships to enact meaningful social change. The Office envisions a Boston where returning citizens rejoin their families, excel in their communities, and regain their dignity. For more information about ORC resources, visit ORC’s official website.

BWSC conducts annual tap water tests for lead

Special to the Times-Free Press

In compliance with State and Federal regulations, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) must annually collect tap water samples from residential properties that have lead water services or copper services with lead solder and have the samples analyzed for lead. In the latest round of sampling, tap water samples taken from six properties exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency and MassDEP action level for lead of 21 parts per billion. Due to the exceedance, the Commission is required to provide notification to its customers and the public. Additionally, as required under federal and state regulations and working with MassDEP, the Commission will be conducting increased monitoring, providing public education materials to the public as well as removing additional lead service lines in the distribution system.

At the source of supply, Boston’s drinking water, which is provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), is lead-free when it leaves the reservoirs. Neither MWRA’s, nor the Boston Water and Sewer Commission’s water distribution mains contain lead. Lead can enter the drinking water when the property contains lead service pipes, lead solder used to connect pipes, and older brass faucets and fixtures. In addition, when water remains unused for long periods of time, lead contained in these fixtures can dissolve into the water. Excessive amounts of lead in the body can cause serious adverse health effects including damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to infants and young children, whose physical growth and mental development can be impaired by lead contamination. Also vulnerable are pregnant women, whose fetuses can be harmed by lead.

The Commission continues to work with all property owners and has worked to remove barriers which may discourage the removal of lead service lines. This year, the Commission is offering eligible customers the opportunity to replace the lead service line in their property free of charge. In the past year,

the Commission has removed over 240 lead service lines. Through the No Cost Lead Incentive Replacement Program, we expect that number to increase substantially for the health and safety of our customers. In keeping with regulatory requirements, the Commission is expanding its Public Education Outreach campaign to advise all consumers of the dangers of lead in drinking water and the general environment and to inform them of the steps to take to avoid lead exposure.

The goal of the outreach program is to continue these efforts towards the removal of lead service lines in the city of Boston.

“The longer water remains in contact with plumbing materials containing lead, the greater the possibility that lead will dissolve into the drinking water,” said John P. Sullivan, P.E., Chief Engineer. This means that the first water drawn from a tap that has not been used for several hours may contain elevated levels of lead.

It is strongly recommended that all water consumers who have lead service pipes or other plumbing that contains lead, flush water that has not been used for several hours for a period of 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until the water feels cold prior to using the water for drinking or cooking.

For more information about lead in drinking water and to find out how to test tap water for lead, Boston residents may contact the Commission at the Lead Hotline at (617) 989-7888. Customers may also visit the Commission’s website at bwsc.org with any questions and obtain free brochures about lead in drinking water.

Boston is home to New England’s oldest and largest water, sewer, and storm water systems, which are owned, maintained, and operated by BWSC. Established in 1977, BWSC provides portable water and sewer services to more than one million people per day. BWSC is also the leading organizer of We Are All Connected, a campaign to raise public awareness about the importance of protecting and preserving Boston’s waterways. For more information please visit: www.bwsc.org.

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AVISO DE REUNIÓN PÚBLICA
Pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, §18-20
The East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Incorporated

Por la presente se notifica que el martes **24 de octubre de 2023**, a las **6:30 p.m.**, se llevará a cabo una reunión pública del Comité Asesor del Proyecto East Boston, Inc., (también conocido como PIERPAC) de forma remota a través de Zoom de acuerdo con la extensión del Capítulo 22 de las Leyes de 2022 para permitir audiencias virtuales.

Se publicará un enlace a la reunión con instrucciones para la participación remota en el sitio web de la organización (ebpierpac.org) a más tardar el **20 de octubre de 2023**.

El Comité tiene la intención de examinar en sesión pública la(s) cuestión(es) siguiente(s):

REGULAR MEETING

a. Asistencia 6:30 pm
b. Aprobación del Acta 6:35 pm

Nuevos negocios

a. 6:45 pm - Actualización y revisión de la construcción de la Fase II con Massport (con comentario público)
b. 7:30 pm – Actualizar los cambios legislativos en PierPAC

Negocio antiguo

Aplazamiento anticipado – 8:00 pm

Al concluir su reunión ordinaria de trabajo y antes de levantar la sesión, la Junta, previa moción debidamente hecha y secundada, puede celebrar una Sesión Ejecutiva de conformidad con G. L. 30A.s.21 al concluir la cual, la Junta no reanudará su reunión pública.

SE INVITA AL PÚBLICO Y BIENVENIDO A ASISTIR
Traducción del inglés al español disponible a pedido a través de Zoom: envíe un correo electrónico al Presidente a lmn5@verizon.net a más tardar el 17 de octubre de 2023 para solicitar la traducción

Una copia de este aviso e instrucciones para la participación remota también se publicarán en el sitio web de la organización en: www.EBPierPAC.org y también se ha archivado en la División de Regulaciones del Secretario del Commonwealth por correo postal de primera clase al menos 3 días antes de la fecha programada de la reunión.

East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc.
By: Louise Montanino, President

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, §18-20
The East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Incorporated

Notice is hereby given that on **Tuesday, October 24, 2023**, at 6:30 p.m. a public meeting of the East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc., (aka PIERPAC) will be held remotely via Zoom in accordance with the extension of Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022 as amended to permit virtual hearings.

A Link to the meeting with instructions for remote participation shall be posted on the organization’s website (ebpierpac.org) on or before **October 20, 2023**.

It is the intention of the Committee to discuss in open meeting the following matter(s):

REGULAR MEETING

a. Attendance 6:30 pm
b. Approval of Previous Minutes 6:35 pm

New Business

a. 6:45 pm - Phase II construction update and review with Massport (*w/public comment*)
b. 7:30 pm – Update legislative changes to PierPAC

Old Business

Anticipated Adjournment – 8:00 pm

At the conclusion of its regular business meeting and prior to adjournment, the Board, upon a motion duly made and seconded, may hold an Executive Session pursuant to G. L. 30A.s.21 upon the conclusion of which, the Board will not resume its public meeting.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED
AND WELCOMED TO ATTEND –
English to Spanish Translation available on request via Zoom – please email the President at lmn5@verizon.net no later than October 17, 2023 to request translation.

A copy of this notice and instructions for remote participation will also be posted on the organization’s website at: www.EBPierPAC.org and has also been placed on file with the Regulations Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth by mailing same via first class mail at least 3 days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting.

East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc.
By: Louise Montanino, President

Halloween // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Cabinet awarded 51 block party mini grants for resident-led street parties throughout the summer.

“This summer’s Block Party Mini Grants proved to be a successful model to support residents in their efforts to curate events and purchase sports equipment, chalk, games, food, and beverages for community members to enjoy,”

said Mayor’s Office of Civic Organizing Director Nathalia Benitez-Perez. “I think it is amazing that the City of Boston is working towards making the permitting process more accessible and seamless to support the festive community building that occurs in our streets through block parties.”

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Times-Free Press

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THE TRAGEDY IN ISRAEL

The incursion into Israel by terrorists from Gaza this past weekend, resulting in the indiscriminate and wilful slaughter of 900 innocent civilians, including young children, rates as one of the most heinous events in the world in this century.

The terrorists’ actions had one and only one objective: To kill as many Israelis as possible and to capture dozens more to serve as hostages.

The terrorists’ deeds could not have been accomplished without the support of the Iranian government, whose only objective on the world stage is the destruction of the State of Israel.

Both the terrorist thugs and Iran’s leaders know fully well that the repercussions of their nefarious deeds will fall most heavily on the two million people of Gaza, of whom half are children, who are being used as pawns by the terrorists and the Iranians and whose land now will become the stage for a full-scale Israeli military assault that will be necessary to root out the terrorists and their leaders.

The sheer hatred exhibited by the Iranian-backed terrorists this weekend has shown to all the world that Iran and its proxies have no desire for peace with Israel. We trust that the perpetrators of this past weekend’s horrors will be brought to justice -- and we can only hope that Iran’s leaders somehow can be held to account for their role in this terrible event.

DEMOCRATS SHARE IN THE BLAME FOR THE CHAOS IN THE HOUSE

There are many who are to blame for the complete breakdown in the operations of the U.S. House of Representatives, but a large share of that blame belongs to the Democrats, all of whom voted to oust former Speaker Kevin McCarthy from his post.

Yes, McCarthy is a Republican, but sometimes, SOMETIMES — politicians have to put the interests of the country above their party. And yes, Kevin McCarthy is a sniveling snake on so many levels, but he did do the right thing in June when he achieved a compromise with President Joe Biden to raise the debt ceiling and again recently to pass a budget to avert a shutdown.

Democrats complain that McCarthy could not be “trusted” and that he’s a liar (all of which are true) — but really? All politicians are liars, from Joe Biden on down. Do they think the people don’t know that?

So for a few weeks — or however long it takes for the GOP to choose a new speaker — the Democrats will have their chance to gloat over the dysfunction of the Republicans. But absent some grand strategy on their part, the country will fail to function, while also leaving aid to Ukraine and Israel twisting in the wind — and the only ones who truly will benefit from our chaos will be Putin, Donald Trump, and the terrorist organizations.

In addition, as odious as McCarthy may be (in the eyes of Democrats), his possible successors will be far worse. By siding with the loathsome Florida Congressman Matt Gaetz -- whose only goal is to bring anarchy to our government -- the Democrats not only have plunged Congress, the country, and the world into darkness, but they also have forgotten the cardinal rule of politics: The enemy of my enemy is my friend. Or, to put it another way, sometimes you have two choose the lesser of two evils — and the devil you know is better than the devil you don’t.

TV NETWORKS: PLEASE, NO MORE PATS’ GAMES

For those of us who have been Patriots’ fans since we were kids in the 1960s, the dreadful and pathetic performances of the Pats these past two weeks have resurrected painful memories of the era when the then-Boston Patriots were the worst team in football.

Thanks to the Pats’ success during the first two decades of this century, we had blocked out the traumatizing thoughts of those pathetic teams from more than 50 years ago.

So the last thing we want to do is to watch the Patriots get hammered in the coming weeks. Unfortunately however, the TV networks will be televising the Patriots’ games exclusively in this market each week -- which means that if a really good game between two real teams is being played somewhere else, we’ll be blacked out in favor of the pathetic Pats.

So the best thing that a Pats’ fan can do is to not tune into their games each week -- and perhaps the networks will realize that they can get better ratings by bringing us a game between two teams who will be entertaining.

In addition, any true Pats’ fan should be rooting for them to lose. A worst-in-league record will give the Pats the chance to draft Caleb Williams, the Heisman Trophy quarterback from USC, who represents the only hope that our New England team will be able to compete in this decade with the likes of the Chiefs with Mahomes, the Bills with Allen, the Dolphins with Tua, and the Eagles with Hurts.



Wu announces appointment of Mendes as Deputy Director of OYEA

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement (OYEA) announced the launch of the Youth Worker Professional Development Program, a series of free opportunities for people who work in youth-serving organizations to learn new skills about the growing demands associated with serving youth and young adults in Boston. All training opportunities are free and now open for registration on the OYEA website. The first session will be held on October 12.

“Our workforce that directly serves our young people are critical for delivering engaging, fun and enriching opportunities through mentorship and programming. Continuing to build skills for these workers is critical to best deliver for our youth,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “With the appointment of Dana Mendes as the Deputy Director of the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement, I’m confident that we will continue to broaden our support systems for all of Boston’s youth.”

The goal of the professional development series is to provide youth workers with bolstered practical skills and knowledge to enhance their effectiveness and success as well as foster more community among Boston’s youth-serving organizations. Youth workers range from youth program managers and coaches to educators, youth librarians and any other similar individuals whose daily work is to provide services, resources, and opportunities to young people.

“As a former youth



Dana Mendes.

worker, I am proud that the City is able to offer this valuable resource to the employees who are working with our young people every day,” said José F. Massó, Chief of Human Services. “These trainings will bring our youth workers together in shared learning environments where they can build a sense of community and common purpose.”

Sessions will begin in October and extend through the end of June, covering multiple topics each month. Youth workers are invited to participate in sessions that will be held in person and online. There is no fee to participate, but registration is required so instructors can plan for the class size. Residents can register for sessions here.

“Youth work is all about partnership and collaboration - none of us can do this alone,” said Pedro J. Cruz, Executive Director of the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement. “The Professional Development series is part of the City’s commitment to our partners in this work - to making sure they have opportunities for growth, that they are equipped to provide the best care for our young people, and that

they feel supported and valued for the work they do.”

The full list of sessions are available on the OYEA website. Sessions include trainings on racial equity, engaging with youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, and approaches to manage youth mental health challenges. In total, over 30 subjects will be covered. All sessions are conducted by trained facilitators from the City or local non-profit organizations. In-person sessions can accommodate up to 35 students and online sessions are capped at 100 participants.

“This new professional development series provides invaluable opportunities for youth workers to learn together and form deeper connections that will create a ripple that strengthens spaces of belonging citywide. Supporting youth workers supports youth and supporting youth allows our whole community to thrive,” said Sandra Soto, Director of Youth Development Programs at IBA Boston.

Mayor Michelle Wu also announced the appointment of Dana Mendes as the Deputy Director of the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement (OYEA). In this role, Mendes will serve as a key member of OYEA’s leadership team and will be the point person for the department’s efforts to develop a resource network for youth and offer professional development opportunities to the City’s youth-serving workforce. Mendes will also help lead strategic planning efforts and support the programming within OYEA.

Mendes most recently served as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Initiatives in the Mayor’s Office of Human Services. In this role, Mr. Mendes managed the Human Services’ cabinet priorities under the City’s Rise to the Challenge strategy to end youth homelessness. That initiative contributed to a 44 percent reduction in homelessness among youth and lasting improvements to the system.

Mendes holds a Masters degree in Social Work from Simmons College and is a proud graduate of the Boston Public Schools. With a career spanning multiple disciplines, including grassroots organizing, program management, event planning and coordination, youth empowerment work, housing, and clinical social work and counseling, Mendes brings a varied array of experiences as well as a deep commitment to social justice to the role.

“I am thrilled to take on this new opportunity with the dynamic team at the Mayor’s Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement,” said Dana Mendes, Deputy Director of OYEA. “I look forward to building a stronger network of youth organizations, developing resources for youth workers in the City and supporting our team to fulfill their mission of meaningful youth engagement.”

Outside of his position, Mendes is an adjunct professor at Kentucky State University where he teaches about cultural inclusion and social justice to undergraduates. He currently resides in South Boston, but has lived in nearly every neighborhood in the City.

NEWS IN BRIEF

S.P.I.R.I.T.S. OF NEW ENGLAND GHOST LECTURE

S.P.I.R.I.T.S. of New England, in co-operation with the Winthrop Improvement & Historical Association (WIHA), will host a fundraiser for the historic Deane Winthrop House. The event will be held on Saturday, October 21st with tours of the House from 6-7pm and a Ghost Lecture in the Barn, 38 Shirley Street, Winthrop, MA at 7pm.

Hear from S.P.I.R.I.T.S. Paranormal Investigators who were featured on television shows such as “Paranormal Survivor”, and “Haunted Case Files”, as well as the investigations they have conducted on well-known landmarks such as the USS Constitu-

tion, the Mount Washington Hotel, and our own Deane Winthrop House.

The presenters for the evening will be S.P.I.R.I.T.S. Founder and WIHA Board Member, Ellen MacNeil, and S.P.I.R.I.T.S. team member, Jack Kenna. Both investigators have many stories to tell. A seasoned Paranormal Investigator, Ellen has appeared on television on episodes of the “Haunted Case Files” and “A Haunting Season” series.

Jack is a recognized Paranormal Investigator, Speaker, and Author. He has appeared on episodes of “Haunted Hospitals”, “A Haunting”, and “My Worst Nightmare.” Jack has written several books which he can offer for pur-

chase at the Lecture.

Light refreshments will be served. Tickets cost \$15 when purchased on Eventbrite or \$20 when purchased at the Door. Space in the Barn is limited to only 99 souls so

don’t get turned away at the Door!

Please direct any questions about the event to bostonsghostlady@gmail.com.

It’ll be a spooktacular evening!

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e-mailed to editor@eastietimes.com.

Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit

for length and content.

THE ITALIAN AMERICAN ALLIANCE CELEBRATES COLUMBUS DAY

Monday was Columbus Day, and residents of East Boston and surrounding communities all gathered at the waterfront dock in East Boston to enjoy the holiday Italian style.

There was all types of foods for everyone's liking, entertainment for young and old, and the weather was fantastic to enjoy the day.



Dom Amara, Chairman of the IAA, Carol Rossi, Event Chairperson, and Board Member Angelo Rossi.



Judy and Bob Dion with Felicia and Tick Tewksbury.



Rose Pellegrino with the host Christopher Columbus.



Vittoria Dantona gets her face painted. See Page 6 for more photos.



Paul Andre Martocchia and Florence Guidaro with Christopher Columbus.



Linda and Nicholas Corliss at the waterfront celebration.



Marisa DiPietro with Christopher Columbus.



Michael and Pasquale LaVecchia.



Lenny Warner and Beckie Swope at the festival on Monday afternoon.



Members of the Italian American Alliance, Lena and Philip Dalleva and Dottie Donofrio.

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Information
About
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Boston's drinking water is provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority from the Quabbin Reservoir and is distributed lead-free to homes and businesses. However, some older homes in Boston may have a lead service line, lead solder used in plumbing and older brass fixtures. If you have a lead service line in your home or business, have it replaced.



Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all groups. Running your cold water in the morning for a minute will flush your service line, this may reduce exposure to lead in drinking water if your service line is lead.



Boston property owners should take advantage of this important program at no cost to you. We offer free inspection of your water service line to determine if it is made of copper or lead. If your service line is lead BWSC will replace it at no cost to the property owner.

To have your service line tested and replaced take advantage of BWSC's No Cost Lead Replacement Incentive Program at 617-989-7888.



**Boston Water and
Sewer Commission**

www.bwsc.org

THE ITALIAN AMERICAN ALLIANCE CELEBRATES COLUMBUS DAY



Wayne Brundige from Montilio's making lots of fresh and delicious pizza.



Lucianna LaVecchia enjoying the many games available for the children.



Ralph DeSimone with Louisa Cardillo and Rose Giammarco.



Jim and Darleen Giardina enjoying the Columbus Day Festival.



Emma and Maddy Napolitano, Diane Modica, Lorna Frongillo, Josephine Napolitano by the Tall Ship at the dock.



Judy and Bob Dion with Felicia and Tick Tewksbury.



Musician Michael Firicano with his mom, AnnaMaria Firicano.



Maria Crawford and Joni Giarla.



Karen and Hailey DeMarco enjoy some of the delicious foods at the festival.



The Italian Flag was seen all around the event.



A big Italian smile from Hailey DeMarco.



Live on stage from the North End, Street Magic. They performed lots of favorite Doo-wop hits.

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1 in 8 women in the United States will develop breast cancer. If detected early, survival rates are as high as 98%.

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South End Community Health Center

www.ebnhc.org • www.sechc.org



Claudio and Catrina Meneses with Elisangela de Freitas and Ketlen Oliveira enjoying the Italian Festival.

EAST BOSTON JETS VARSITY BOYS SOCCER LOOSES AT HOME TO BOSTON LATIN ACADEMY 1-0

The EB High School boys' soccer team dropped to a 4-4-1 record last Saturday when they were defeated by Boston Latin Academy at home 1-0. This loss puts the Jets at a 2-2 league record.



Julio Perez fought all game long to make plays for the Jets.



Letting in one score, Goalkeeper Santiago Montoya stopped every other scoring attempt. See page 8 for more photos.



Oscar Martinez makes a play at midfield.

I am more than who I am on paper.

It's time to let your skills shine. Find resources for breaking through barriers like degree screens and stereotypes. It's time to tear the paper ceiling limiting STARs workers *Skilled Through Alternative Routes* rather than a bachelor's degree.

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Motts Applesauce 6 pk.....	2/ \$5.00
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Daisy Squeeze Sour Cream 14 oz.....	2/ \$5.00

Meat

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Grade A Whole Fryer Chickens.....	\$1.89/lb
Best Yet Cooked Shrimp 21-25 ct 1 lb.....	\$9.99
Resers Main St. Bistro Sides	2/ \$7.00
Al Fresco Original Chicken Bacon 8 oz.....	2/ \$8.00

Bakery

Blonde Brownies	\$4.99
4" Carrot Cake.....	\$7.99
8" Baked Apple Crumb Pie	\$5.99

Deli

Kretschmar Rotisserie Chicken Breast.....	\$8.99/lb
Butterball Oven Roasted Turkey Breast.....	\$7.99/lb
Russer Virginia Style Baked Ham	\$6.99/lb
Freirich Cooked Corned Beef.....	\$9.99/lb
Margherita Hot Cappicola	\$7.99/lb

Produce

California Navel Oranges	\$1.39/lb
Fresh & Sweet Delicious	
Tropical Mangoes	2/ \$3.00
Hot House Slicing Tomatoes	\$1.49 /lb
Fresh & Crisp Green Cabbage	59¢/lb
Fresh Super Select Cucumbers.....	59¢/each

Weekend Specials

Friday, October 13th through Sunday, Oct. 15th

"while supplies last"

BAKERY

Our Own Chocolate Chip Cookies 10pk	\$2.99
Ciabatta Bread	\$2.99

DELI

Kayem Natural Casing Franks	\$6.99/lb
Hans Kisse Cranberry Walnut Chicken Salad ...	\$12.99/lb

PRODUCE

Fresh & Nutritious Potassium Rich Bananas	59¢/lb
---	--------

MEAT

Family Pack Grade A Chicken Tenders	\$2.69/lb
Family Pack Grade A Chicken Wings.....	\$1.99/lb

GROCERY

Starkist Solid White Canned Tuna.....	2/ \$3.00
Pepsi 2 Liter.....	2/ \$4.00 + deposit

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EAST BOSTON JETS VARSITY BOYS SOCCER LOOSES AT HOME TO BOSTON LATIN ACADEMY 1-0



Andy Reyes races to the ball.



Goalkeeper Santiago Montoya sends the ball into play.



Helio Spinola is double teamed.



Jeziel Cordova intercepts a pass.



EAST BOSTON

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to Meridian St. and London St.*

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Activities start at 10am*

SUNDAY
OCTOBER
15
10 am - 3:30 pm



BOSTON.GOV/OPEN-STREETS

COMMUNITY DAY OPEN HOUSE AT BOSTON ATHENAEUM

CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

The Boston Athenaeum hosted a Community Day Open House Saturday, Sept. 30.

More than 1,500 people toured the library, art museum, and cultural center and enjoyed its art collections, exhibitions, demonstrations, and musical entertainment.

The Athenaeum staff and volunteers did a great

job welcoming families from all the neighborhoods of Boston and tourists from around the world to the fun event.

The Boston Athenaeum is truly an historic gem in the Beacon Hill neighborhood, located around the corner from the State House and Boston Common.



Leah Rosovsky (left) and Merline Louine, Director of Security.



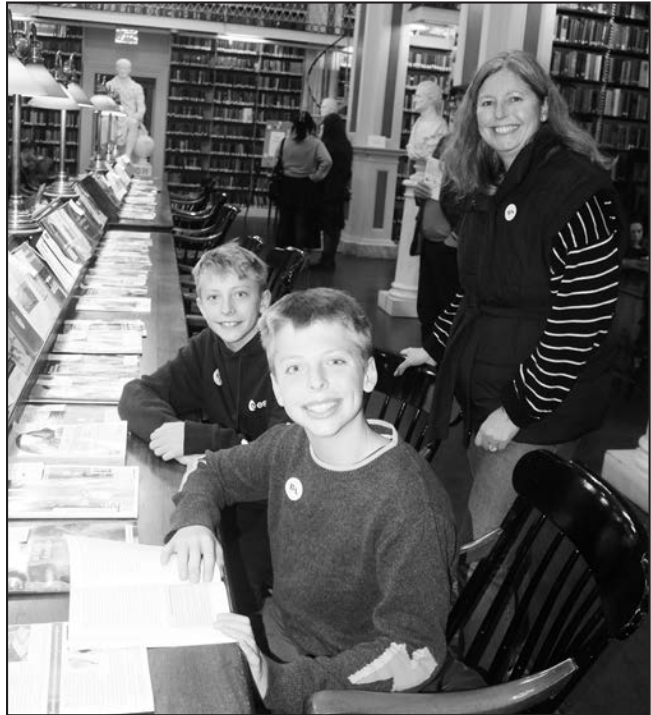
Boston Athenaeum Docent and Member Clive Martin, with Sean Eagan, Peggy Eagan, and Isabella Eagan, during their visit to the Gordon Reading Room.



Enjoying a visit to the Conservation Lab led by Senior Conservator Graham Patten (right) are Carmine Petrone and son, Vincent Petrone.



Cory Bailey, Bridget Keane, Volunteer Docent Jim Falzaroni, and Jacqueline Chambers welcome visitors to the Bow Room at the Boston Athenaeum.



Enjoying a visit to the Reference and Periodicals Room on Community Day at the Boston Athenaeum are Megan Jacobs (back) and her sons, Henry Jacobs (front), and Calvin Jacobs (middle).



Curatorial Advisory Committee Member Martine Jean and Christina Kraus of Boston.



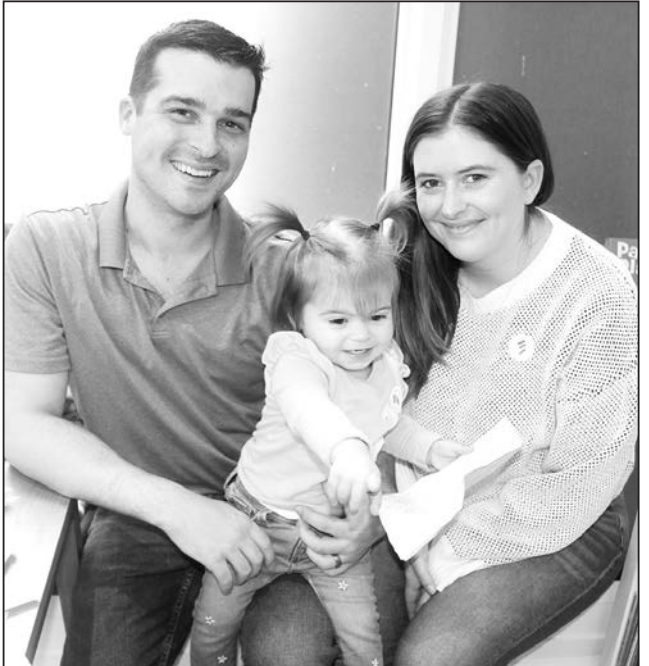
Marie Claire of Boston and NEH Chief Technical Services Librarian Will Evans.



David Aurelio of Cambridge, Boston Athenaeum Director of Marketing and Communications Julie Corwin, and Associate Curator Christina Michelson.



Katie Stevenson, Jens Poulsen-Stevenson, and Alex Poulsen.



Alex and Elizabeth Boonstra and their daughter enjoy a visit to the Children's Library at the Boston Athenaeum.



PJ Maglione beams with joy as his one-year-old son, Arlo Maglione, holds one of the stuffed animals inside the Children's Library.



Cecilia Phoon, Ryan Phoon, and their son, Jay Phoon.



Amy Parzych of Jamaica Plain, pictured in front of collection of artwork at the Boston Athenaeum.



Boston Athenaeum Docent Beth Sanders (back row) welcomes (from left) Grace Copper, Mia Copper, Celia Shigley, and Airley Fish to one of the exhibits on Community Day.



Pictured with the frame on Community Day at the Boston Athenaeum where more than 1,500 people visited last Sunday, are Annabelle Polak and Hannah Witts.

ITALIAN FLAG RAISING CEREMONY AT CITY HALL PLAZA

DEREK KOUVYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Boston celebrates its rich Italian-American heritage and the many contributions to the City with raising the national flag of Italy at City Hall Plaza.



Boston City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune.



International Partnerships Manager James Reginald Colimon.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu with attorney Richard Vita.



Jack Imbergamo from Mike's Pastry gave canolis to audience members curious to experience Italian pastry.



Massachusetts State Rep Adrian Madaro (center) Michael Firicano and his mama AnnaMaria.



Italian Consul-General Arnaldo Minuti.



Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta.



Massachusetts State Rep Aaron Michaelwitz and Boston City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune.



Boston City Councilors Michael Flaherty and Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta with Joanne Massaro.



Representatives of the Orsogna Women's Club in Everett.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and City Councilor Michael Flaherty with Filippo and Philip Frattaroli.



Luz Johanna Perez waves an Italian flag.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and City Council President Ed Flynn listen to Italian Consul-General Arnaldo Minuti speak.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu speaks with members of the audience.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu speaks with members of the audience.



Students from the Elliot Innovation School in the North End sing the national anthems of both the United States and Italy.



Dr. Paolo Gaudenzi, Italian Consul-General Arnaldo Minuti, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Massachusetts State Rep Adrian Madaro, and other dignitaries stand by the raised flag of Italy.

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