

East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

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CLOSING IN: Above, Seamus Sullivan (24) puts a shot on net from in close but the Minuteman goalie made the save. See Page 5 for more photos.

EAST BOSTON JETS HOCKEY ACTION

Continuing a season-long trend of improvement, the East Boston Jets scored a season-high five goals but fell 9-5 to Minuteman Regional in hockey action at Porrazzo rink Saturday.



CELEBRATE: Caiden Brown (17), Cam Perry (11), and Ryan Thomas (3) surround Chase Whiteknact (2) after Whiteknact scored East Boston's first goal.

PLAN: East Boston adopted by BPDA

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

PLAN: East Boston, the neighborhood planning initiative spearheaded by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), which contains recommendations that revamp the neighborhood, was adopted by the BPDA's Board during a meeting last week.

The initiative, which began in 2018, has been through an abundance of community engagement, especially over the previous year through public meetings, office hours, and much more, to develop the final plan that went before the Board last week titled East Boston Tomorrow.

"The term community engagement does not accurately justify the efforts that took place, and it's hard to demonstrate the impact it had on the plan," said Jason Ruggiero, a Community Engagement Manager at the BPDA.

"We didn't just engage, and we didn't just perform our outreach. We actively involved stakeholders in every step of the process," he added during last week's Board meeting.

The final plan has many recommendations for different aspects of the neighborhood, broken down by

character areas — neighborhood residential areas, squares and corridors, and waterfront and evolving industrial areas.

The character areas are then broken down further into 17 different "geographical subareas," according to Kristina Ricco, a Senior Planner at the BPDA.

As for what the recommendations focus on, the aspects include the neighborhood's public realm, including transportation, as well as land use and built form (zoning).

The plan also contains policy and program considerations that "reach further than the limits of these tools and even the geographic limit of the neighborhood," according to Ricco.

Nick Schmidt, a Senior Transportation Planner at the BPDA, walked through some of the public realm and transportation recommendations for the neighborhood.

Schmidt described these recommendations in the plan as a translation of Go Boston 2030 — a city transportation plan introduced under former Mayor Martin Walsh in 2017 — at a neighborhood scale.

See BPDA Page 4

Coletta comments on Plan: East Boston

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta submitted final comments to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) board last week regarding PLAN: East Boston, a five-year planning initiative involving elected officials, BPDA staff, and community members.

In her final comment letter, Councilor Coletta said, "East Boston's archaic zoning code lacked relevance to modern conformity or regulatory restrictions for development to occur in a responsible manner. This provided developers and land use attorney's the opportunity to take advantage of an outdated code to the detriment of the community."

She went on to say, "Moreover, multiple iterations of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) membership allowed for precedent setting exceptions, or

variances of hardship, and made them the rule. For many years in East Boston, zoning occurred on an ad hoc basis which led to irresponsible proposals inconsistent with existing design or uses."

She said the framework provided through the Plan will ensure "planning would dictate development, not the other way around" and that it "would create predictability within zoning and consistency for projected periods of future growth".

Following the release

See COMMENTS Page 6

Hayden credits police, community for record-low 2023 homicides

Special to the Times-Free Press

Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden credited cooperation and participation by residents of Boston's neighborhoods and the "professional and tireless" work by Boston police for the historically low number of homicides in the city in 2023 and the high arrest and prosecution rate of suspects.

There were 37 recorded homicides in Boston in 2023, with two of the deaths having occurred in 2022 but not ruled homicides by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner until 2023. Arrests were made in 24 of the cases, resulting in a 67.5 percent case arrest rate.

"This is a heartening story of increased cooperation and participation by members of our community and top-notch work by Boston police officers

and homicide detectives, all combining to provide a slice of positive news in relation to this most terrible of crimes. No one is taking any victory laps here, especially when serious crime still disproportionately affects our communities of color, but it's important to point out promising trends," Hayden said. "When our communities reach an 'enough is enough' consensus, positive change is possible and I think that's an important part of what we're seeing here."

Hayden also praised the Massachusetts State Police contingent assigned to his office for making arrests in each of the three homicides that occurred in other Suffolk County communities in 2023.

Hayden credited Mayor Michelle Wu's Office of Neighborhood Services with increasing commu-

nication and cooperation with members of the public. He also said that technology, such as video surveillance and digital forensics including cell phones and social media traffic, has given investigators added tools to help solve homicides and other cases.

"One thing I've learned over my career is that reductions in any type of crime come as a result of numerous factors, some of them human and some of them scientific or technological, all contributing to a certain outcome. The continuing goal is to identify what is working, stay with it, and recognize further unmet needs," Hayden said.

Hayden's office secured convictions in 12 of the 13 homicide cases that went to trial in 2023 for a 92.3 percent conviction rate. The office also secured 19

pleas in homicide cases.

Hayden pointed out that Boston's homicide rate in 2023 compared favorably with numerous other cities with similar population size, including Washington D.C. (678,972 pop., 274 homicides), Baltimore (569,931 pop., 259 homicides), Detroit (620,376 pop., 252 homicides), San Francisco (808,437 pop., 53 homicides), and Memphis (621,056 pop., 397 homicides).

"There's always work to be done and improvements to be made. Gun-related violence remains a public health crisis in our communities of color and is a problem rooted in racial inequity locally and nationally. But perspective is also important, and looking at what's happening in other cities of similar size gives Bostonians

See HAYDEN Page 3



**Boston City Councilor
Gabriela Coletta.**



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Celebrate Catholic Schools Week - Page 6



East Boston

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HOW ARE THOSE NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS GOING?

All of us, consciously or subconsciously, make some sort of New Year’s resolution in the hope of improving our lives and those of our loved ones.

Without a doubt, the most common New Year’s resolution is weight loss, which is not surprising, considering that 72 percent of all Americans -- an astounding number -- are either overweight or obese. Excess weight has been linked to just about every disease imaginable --- cancer, diabetes, and heart disease being among the most prominent. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, excess weight greatly increased the risk of death or serious complications from COVID-19 across all age groups.

We strongly condemn discrimination of any form against those who are overweight. Maintaining a healthy body weight is difficult for just about everyone (almost three-quarters of us, apparently) in our hurry-hurry world where the convenience of fast-food makes it all-too-easy to indulge in an unhealthy diet on a regular basis.

In addition, we are deluged with advertisements from the fast-food industry, who give us those full-screen shots of triple-bacon-cheeseburgers-with-fries-and a soft drink -- a truly deadly combination that hits all of the “bad food” buttons for high calories, saturated fat, salt, and added sugar.

It is not a coincidence that the average American male today weighs 30 pounds more than the average American male did in 1960 and the average American female today weighs the same as that male in 1960 (and no, it’s not because we’re all taller than our grandparents) when you consider that in 1960, there were 248 locations of a certain fast-food franchise across America, but today there are 13,340 of them. (And that’s just one fast-food company!)

However, we do not subscribe to the belief that being overweight is the result of a “disease” that somehow uniquely affects Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, or gender, compared to the rest of the world. (We rank as the most-overweight people among every industrialized nation.) To be sure, there are some individuals who genetically are pre-disposed to having an unhealthy body weight. But wherever American-style food is imported into countries across the globe, health issues that previously did not exist in those countries become epidemic.

There is no question that bad food can be addictive, whether it’s those triple-cheeseburgers, infinite varieties of snack foods, etc., etc., etc. in a society where bad food is cheap, available everywhere, and pushed on us by Madison Avenue -- and where we associate overeating as a form of reward.

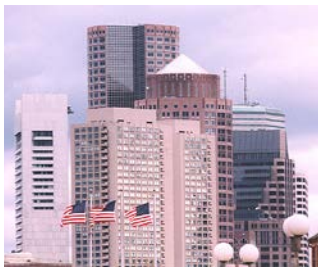
Our present overweight society increasingly makes the 2008 Disney sci-fi movie “Wall-E,” in which the humans of the future are grossly overweight, look prescient -- except that the distant future already is here. The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health recently estimated that, based upon current trends, by 2030 86 percent of Americans will range from overweight to obese.

With the odds stacked against us to make our weight-loss New Year’s resolutions stick -- which is why so few of us are successful -- it would appear that our only hope is for those new weight loss drugs to become readily-available and covered by insurance for all Americans. Societal weight-loss would be the best thing we could do to improve our collective health, both physically and emotionally. The drugs may be expensive, but if that’s what it will take for Americans to shed our excess pounds, the upfront costs of those drugs will save us billions of dollars in health-care costs down the road.

Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@eastietimes.com.

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



THANK YOU FOR MAKING EAST BOSTON SHINE

To the Editor,
The East Boston Holiday Lighting committee would like to thank the following for the financial support and commitment to making East Boston shine during Christmas and New Year. Within three months our group rallied up and raised money to complete the project in such a short time.

The money raised helped pay to decorate Maverick, Central, Day and Orient Heights Squares. Our first year proved to be successful yet as always with anything new we discovered a few challenges which we quickly resolved with the help of the City of Boston and Evermore Electric.

We especially would like to thank State Representative Adrian Madaro who quickly jumped on board and made things happen to ensure our community was beautifully decorated, welcoming to all and full of holiday cheer.

Gratitude to the East Boston Foundation for their generous grant of \$10,000. We thank groups such as the East Boston Chamber of Commerce and East Boston Main Streets for their efforts and partnership and for the businesses in our community who decorated their storefronts.

We also reached out to Massport and MassDot and appreciate them, for doing their part to add to holiday festivities. Special Acknowledgement to Cappuccio Construction and Cora Operations Inc for taking on the wreath portion of the project by purchasing and installing 50 beautiful wreaths throughout our squares.

MCSW launches new scholarship for women students

The State Women’s Commission is proud to announce the launch of a new scholarship program which aims to support emerging leaders of the Commonwealth to continue their education journey to leadership and economic empowerment.

The mission of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) is to provide a permanent, effective voice for women and girls across Massachusetts, and to innovatively promote and empower the women of the Commonwealth. Designed to support woman-identifying students already enrolled in a Massachusetts Public Higher Education Institution, scholarships will be available to help an individual complete their degree.

“This new program seeks to provide funding



Neffo Cappuccio, owner of Cappuccio Construction and John Zirpolo of Cora Operations Inc. generously purchased and installed 50 Christmas wreaths in our business districts.

Big thank you to those who purchased raffles and to Jet Blue for donating round trip tickets and Joe Ruggiero who donated Boston Celtics tickets. We look forward to your support and partnership next year as we ramp up our efforts in 2024

Lisa Capogreco-Cappuccio
John Casamassima,
Co-Chairs

Committee members:
Jamie Baldanza, Mary Berninger, Lisa Cappuccio, John Casamassima, Shirley Fabbo (East Boston Chamber of Commerce), Kathleen Hardaway, Fatima Litim,

Miguel Vargas (East Boston Main Streets), Company Allision Debiasio Angelo’s Auto Body Anthony Voto Attorney Richard Lynds Barbara Bernabei Berninger Family Boston City Councilor Michael Flaherty Bulgroup Burger King (Maverick Square) Buttiglieri Family Cappuccio Construction Carney Family Celeste Ribiero Hewitt Century 21 Mario Real Estate Christine Mazzarella

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State Representative Adrian Madaro
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tuition, fees, books and related supplies or equipment for study. All funds awarded are provided by the MCSW Trust Fund.

The Commission exists to provide a permanent, effective voice for women across Massachusetts. The

MCSW represents and recognizes all women, regardless of their age, race, color, creed, abilities, language, socio-economic status, immigration status, sexual orientation, or gender assigned at birth.

TIMES-FREE PRESS

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Nerbonne joins the Greater Boston Food Bank’s 2024 Boston Marathon Team

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) announced that Lindsey Nerbonne, GBFB Food Acquisition Associate, has joined its 2024 Boston Marathon Team. On April 15, Nerbonne will compete in the 128th running of the Boston Marathon, a historical route of 26.2 miles from Hopkinton, MA to Copley Square in Boston.

GBFB is proud to be a part of the Boston Athletic Association’s Bank of America Boston Marathon® Official Charity Program, in which runners pledge to raise funds for a cause of their choosing.

By partnering with GBFB, runners will support its mission to end hunger in Eastern Massachusetts alongside its network of over 600 food distribution partners, as one in three Massachusetts



Lindsey Nerbonne.

adults – 1.8 million individuals – continue to face food insecurity. Funds raised will help provide nutritious and culturally responsive meals to those in need of food assistance.

Nerbonne is a native of Bow, New Hampshire and attended Bow High School. Following four years in Denver, CO, she lived in East Boston

for one year after joining GBFB as a Food Acquisition Associate. She received her bachelor’s degree from the University of New Hampshire and played three years on the UNH Field Hockey team and was named to the All-Conference Team her senior season. She has also earned a master’s in business administration at Southern New Hampshire University and a master’s in nutrition at Metropolitan State University of Denver.

“Since starting work at GBFB, I have become enamored with the mission and vision here. I am so grateful to be a part of this team,” said Nerbonne. “I find myself going out of my way to talk to friends and family about GBFB because of how proud and honored I am to work for an organization that does

so much for the people of Massachusetts.”

Nerbonne has competed in endurance events for the past five years. Her first endurance running event was the 2018 Boston Marathon, and she has wanted to return to run this historic marathon again because of how special it was to her.

“The people of Massachusetts are so unique in that our spirit for athletic endeavors is unwavering,” continued Nerbonne. “The city on that day has an incredible air to it that I cannot describe, and I want to be a part of that environment again. To run down the streets in my favorite race, sporting my favorite mission is a dream to me.”

“We extend our deepest thanks to the incredible individuals who have decided to lace up their running shoes, embrace the challenge, and dedicate their

time to running in the Boston Marathon in support of GBFB’s hunger relief efforts,” said Catherine D’Amato, President and CEO of GBFB. “The issue of food insecurity endures, but thanks to the dedication of our runners as well as the families, friends and other supporters who rally behind them, we’ll be one step closer to a hunger-free future. We can’t wait to cheer you on!”

Supporters can contribute to Nerbonne’s campaign here, and to the full GBFB campaign here.

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) is the largest hunger-relief organization in New England and among the largest food banks in the country. As the food bank for Eastern Massachusetts, GBFB is feeding people in 190 towns across the region, distributing the equivalent

of nearly 90 million meals through a network of 600 dedicated food distribution partners and programs. A member of the national Feeding America network, GBFB’s mission is to end hunger here. The organization remains committed to the belief that access to healthy food is a human right regardless of an individual’s circumstances. Through policy, partnerships, and providing free nutritious, and culturally responsive food, GBFB is committed to addressing the root causes of food insecurity while promoting racial, gender and economic equity in food access. For more information and to help us help others, visit us at GBFB.org, follow us on Facebook, Twitter (@gr8bosfoodbank) and Instagram, or call us at 617.427.5200.

Healey-Driscoll Administration announce new opportunities for veteran-owned businesses

The Healey-Driscoll Administration last week announced that the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO), which is responsible for bringing fairness to the state’s bidding and procurement process, has entered into a new partnership that will help veteran-owned businesses bid on contracts across the state.

The SDO is is partnering with the National Veteran Owned Business Association (NaVOBA), an independent nonprofit that certifies businesses owned by veterans and service-disabled veterans. Both organizations will work together to increase contracting opportunities with veteran-owned businesses.

“Our Supplier Diversity Office does incredible work every day to expand opportunities for diverse and small businesses to win contracts with the state, which makes our businesses, our economy and our communities stronger,” said Governor Maura Healey. “Our veterans have sacrificed so much in service to our country, and we take the responsibility of supporting them very seriously

here in Massachusetts. We are proud to launch this new partnership that will lower barriers for veteran-owned businesses to bid for contracts and do business with the state.”

“This new partnership is an important step in our administration’s efforts to bolster support and services for Massachusetts veterans under the leadership of Secretary Jon Santiago,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “We look forward to working with NaVOBA to cut red tape and streamline the process for veterans to do business with Massachusetts.”

“This is an important step toward removing administrative burdens on veteran-owned businesses to becoming certified, opening up tremendous opportunities for these individuals who have served our country to bid on state contracts and grow their businesses here in Massachusetts,” said Secretary for Administration and Finance Matthew J. Gorkowicz. “I am proud of the work SDO has been doing to expand opportunities and look forward to continuing our efforts to help small businesses thrive.”

“The SDO has been successful in helping bring fairness in the state’s bidding process through our cross-certification partnerships, such as with the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council, Center for Women’s Enterprise, City of Boston, Disability:IN, and the National LGBT-BE Chamber of Commerce,” said SDO Executive Director William McAvoy. “We expect our partnership with NaVOBA to help business owners who have served their country.”

“NaVOBA is thrilled to join forces with the Supplier Diversity Office in this impactful collaboration,” said Matthew Pavelek, President and CEO of NaVOBA. “Our partnership exemplifies a shared commitment to advancing opportunities for veteran-owned businesses. We aim to empower veterans to thrive in the business world by streamlining the certification process. We appreciate the Executive Office of Veterans Services for their support and commend the Supplier Diversity Office for their dedication to fostering an inclusive and thriving

business environment for our nation’s heroes.”

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the SDO and NaVOBA, the SDO will grant certifications to businesses already certified with NaVOBA. Typically, businesses need to apply and undergo an investigation from the SDO before they receive certification. This agreement streamlines the process, making these businesses able to receive the benefits of SDO certification, such as the ability to bid on state contracts and attend SDO trainings and networking events. Certified businesses are also included in the SDO’s listing of certified businesses used by prime vendors and state agencies looking for vendors.

The MOU also allows the SDO to access NaVOBA’s membership database to reach out to members about becoming SDO certified.

“Partnerships like the one between the Supplier Diversity Office and NaVOBA ensure veteran-owned businesses play a pivotal role in our economy. This collaboration marks a significant step in fostering their success,” said Secretary of Veterans Services Jon Santiago. “The Executive Office of Veterans Services strongly supports initiatives streamlining certification for veteran-owned businesses in state contracts, and we commend the Supplier Diversity Office and NaVOBA for their dedication to empowering our veterans.”

“NaVOBA is thrilled to join forces with the Supplier Diversity Office in this impactful collaboration. Our partnership exemplifies a shared commitment to advancing opportunities for veteran-owned businesses. We aim to empower veterans

to thrive in the business world by streamlining the certification process. We appreciate the Executive Office of Veterans Services for their support and commend the Supplier Diversity Office for their dedication to fostering an inclusive and thriving business environment for our nation’s heroes.”

The announcement marks the SDO’s latest effort to aid veteran-owned businesses. Recently, the Commonwealth’s Municipal Construction Affirmative Marketing Program (MCAMP), part of the SDO, released new guidelines mandating that certain construction projects must allocate at least three percent of its funding to Veteran-owned Business Enterprises (VBEs) and/or Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (SDVOBEs). This is a first for the Massachusetts construction industry.

Hayden // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the ability to take pride in our community while we strive for even better outcomes,” Hayden said.

Hayden also praised police and the community for the 20-percent reduction in 2023 shooting incidents in Boston, from 180 in 2022 to 144 last year. Hayden’s office assigns a prosecutor to every case of fatal or non-fatal shooting in Boston to work with detectives on identifying suspects and to help spot any patterns that could develop information on past shootings and help prevent future shootings.

“The intersection between guns, gangs and drugs is perfectly clear to us. Developing data and intelligence on cases involving any of these elements can give us valuable insight into prior incidents and how those incidents may lead to future violence. This is a crucial aspect of our approach,” Hayden said.

ments can give us valuable insight into prior incidents and how those incidents may lead to future violence. This is a crucial aspect of our approach,” Hayden said.

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Sports

EAST BOSTON JETS IN HOCKEY ACTION AGAINST MINUTEMAN REGIONAL

PHOTOS BY BOB MARRA

Continuing a season-long trend of improvement, the East Boston Jets scored a season-high five goals but fell 9-5 to Minuteman Regional in hockey action at Porrazzo Memorial Rink Saturday. The Jets continue their quest for a victory Saturday at the NESO Rink in Marlborough against Hudson High School and then face Lowell at the Tsongas Center in Lowell on Wednesday, January 31.



ON TARGET: Ryan Thomas (3) follows through on a slapshot from inside the blue line.



MOVING IN: Chase Whiteknact (2) avoids the long reach of a Minuteman defender and moves in on the Minuteman net before scoring East Boston's first goal.



GOAL BOUND: Ryan Thomas (3) skates through the faceoff circle as he moves toward the net.



COUNT IT: Frankie McLaughlin (23) gestures with a kneeling fist pump after his goal tied the game at 4-4 in the second period.



ANYONE SEE A PUCK GO BY HERE? Cam Perry (11) and a Minuteman forward look for the puck along the boards.



COVERING UP: Goalie Jacob Thomas (35) is about to cover a rolling puck after making a save.

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Weekend Specials

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Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2024

January 28 - February 3

#CSW24

The Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2023 – 2026 theme is “Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community.” Catholic schools have an irreplaceable role in the Church’s evangelizing mission. Building on the central goal of Catholic schools to form saints, Catholic schools teach and embrace the whole person, body, mind and spirit. The fact that all members of a Catholic school community share the Christian vision of faith that Christ is the foundation of Catholic education is what unites the school as a faith-filled community.

While faith is the binding element in Catholic schools, the Church reiterates that parents are the first teachers of their children. Holding this tenet, Catholic school communities expand beyond the walls of school buildings to envelop the family as an integral part of the school community. Together teachers, administrators, staff, students and parents fuel the light of faith by integrating culture with faith and faith with living.

East Boston Central Catholic School celebrates Catholic Schools Week

Enrollment soars in school’s 50th year

By Cary Shuman

East Boston Central Catholic School will celebrate 50 years of excellence in Catholic education at its annual gala April 12 at Spinelli’s, Lynnfield. In advance of that milestone event, EBCCS will Celebrate Schools Week beginning Jan. 28 with an exciting slate of activities for students and their families.

There is certainly a lot to celebrate.

EBCCS Principal Robert Casaletto reports that there is an enrollment of 189 students for the current school year, which is an increase of over 20 percent from the previous year.

Casaletto said one of the reasons for the surge in popularity was the school’s high retention rate, proudly stating, “Our students and their parents who were here last year all loved it, so they all came back this year. We had a 95 percent retention rate.”

Another key to the success in attracting students to the school was its considerable outreach to different parishes in the area beyond East Bos-

ton. Casaletto credits new School Chaplain, the Rev. Dan Zinger, for helping to bring in more Catholic families.”

The hiring of an assistant principal, Gabriela Twaalfhoven, has also been instrumental in building enrollment. Twaalfhoven worked directly with new families on enrollment last summer.

Casaletto also noted the Catholic Schools Foundation providing of financial support to families in need through its Building Minds Scholarship Fund.

Casaletto is in his seventh year as principal and 30th year as a member of the EBCCS faculty. His leadership of the school during the COVID-19 pandemic was extraordinary and in actuality, resulted in an increase in enrollment when the school was allowed to reopen.

“The people affected by COVID-19 was high in East Boston, so the Health Department wouldn’t let us open,” said Casaletto. “We opened our pre-K only for in-person learning. But we did a virtual learning program that our

- parents were just thrilled with, and because we did such a good job surviving the pandemic, we grew our enrollment coming out of it and it’s been going up since.”
- Catholic Schools Week Activities Schedule**
- Special student activities have been planned throughout Catholic Schools’ Week to give parents an opportunity to “join” your child’s classroom.
- EBCCS parents are invited to the following activities. Each activity will take place in your child’s classroom unless a different location is noted.

- Sunday, January 28**
- Mass will be celebrated at St. Michael’s Parish - St. John’s Church in Winthrop at 10:00 a.m. to kick-off CSW. Our choir will sing and all families are encouraged to join.
- Monday, January 29**
- Kindergarten: Winter Art Project 8:45-9:30
 - Cherubs, Kindergarten, 3, 4, & 5: Young Authors’ Presentation Auditorium (see Library Schedule)
- Tuesday, January 30**

- Grade 7: “Kahoots” Game 8:30-9:10
- Angels, 1, 2, 6, 7, & 8: Young Authors’ Auditorium (see Library Schedule)

- Wednesday, Jan. 31**
- Angels: Circle Time 8:30-9:00
 - Cherubs: Morning Routine & Heggerty Phonemic Awareness 8:30-9:15
 - Grade 3: Reader’s Theater Presentation 1:00-1:30
 - Grade 1: Chicken Soup w/Rice Activity 1:40-2:10.

- Thursday, February 1**
- Grade 6: Sarcophagus Design 8:30-9:10
 - Grade 5: Math & Social Studies Super Bowl 9:30-10:30
 - Middle School: Ice Skating Field Trip 1:00-4:00
 - Grade 4: City of Snowdom Presentations 1:30-2:10

- Friday, February 2**
- Student Appreciation Casual Dress Day
 - Grade 2: Groundhog Day Activities 9:00-9:30



Students enjoying storytime in class at EBCCS.

- Grade 7 & 8: Science Fair 1:00-2:15 Auditorium
- We ask all students and faculty to dress in something RED to honor all our troops who have deployed or will deploy for their active duty assignments.

Comments // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the first draft in 2022, there were several concerns from the community related to height, density, transit, and historic preservation. Coletta and the state delegation heeded those concerns and advocated for meaningful changes directly to the Mayor and the BPDA. They ultimately moved many aspects of the Plan to an iteration that is truly reflective of what residents wanted. The final iteration of the Plan includes changes to housing and transportation, such as:

- Pushed for zoning in residential areas consistent with neighborhood context while setting a ceiling for height, density, set backs, and parking requirements for future development; appropriate transition zones between sub districts
- Protected the entirety of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway from irresponsible height and density levels that would wall off the rest of the neighborhood from this vital open space.
- Promoted the vibrancy of major squares and corridors by allowing for commercial and small business spaces with uses that are critical to the neighborhood; transit-oriented growth.
- Established maximum heights where the BPDA holds unique powers in special zones like Eco-

nomie Development Areas and Planned Development Areas.

- Prioritization in creating and preserving affordable housing by instituting a twenty percent minimum for Inclusionary Development Units (IDP) for Article 80 projects; a commitment to utilizing and growing the East Boston Neighborhood Housing Trust for smaller projects
- Secured historic preservation considerations across East Boston and strengthened recommendations to preserve existing structures.
- Pushed back on a one-size-fits all “road diet” strategy for Bennington, Meridian, and Border Streets and received a commitment for a thoughtful planning and design process in the future.
- Encouraged creative solutions to multi-modal safety issues across East Boston including better signaling and signage, on-street infrastructure improvements like bump outs and speed humps.
- Amplified ferry service recommendations and improved regional connections.

Coletta pushed the BPDA to honor their commitment to start a Neighborhood Needs Analysis that reviews project population growth, existing demographics, and provides various solutions as

it relates to housing, retail and food security, open space, climate resilience, preservation, arts and culture, mobility, neighborhood services, fire, police, projected needs for public schools, and water and sewer capacity. She believes this will foster the long term success of PLAN: East Boston by providing clear timelines with deliverables based on population growth with estimates for public and private investments.

Coletta forcefully advocated to have written assurance that upon adoption, the Zoning Board of Appeals will uphold and enforce the recent zoning changes. “It would be devastating for the ZBA to unravel five years of deep partnership, and ultimately wasting valuable city resources, by granting variances to the new rules we created together,” Coletta said. She highlighted a direct ask to Director of the BPDA and Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison, and Director of Planning Aimee Chambers to provide a written letter to the ZBA that it is the expectation that they will not continue to engage in the behaviors that got us here in the first place and grant egregious variances.

To read the full text of Councilor Coletta’s letter, please visit: <https://bit.ly/PLANEBColetta>.



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City Councilor Gabriela Coletta’s comments on Mayor Michelle Wu’s State of the City Address

“There were stellar announcements ensuring that our kids in BPS have all the tools necessary to achieve their fullest potential in modern learning environments. There is much work to be done in this regard but I am hopeful for the upcoming facilities fixes, academic reforms, and new partner-

ships with higher education institutions. I look forward to working collaboratively with the administration, while holding them accountable, to expand housing opportunities, protect the city from the effects of climate change and run city services at its highest efficiency for constituent services.”

News in Brief

ARTISAN & CRAFT FAIR TO BE HELD AT CLIPPERSHIP WHARF ON FEBRUARY 10

An artisan and crat fair is being planned for Saturday, February 10, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Clippership Wharf Commons at 65 Lewis Street. There is no charge for admission and the event is open to the public.

The Eastie Artisan Fair continues the work of Meg Grady who organized the East Boston Open Market in past years. The Eastie Artisan Fair has a mission of supporting local hand-crafted and handmade and small businesses and is where artisans come together to showcase their craftsmanship. The Fair offers you a unique shopping experience that will leave you with a lasting impression!

Held at the elegant Clippership Wharf Commons, 65 Lewis Street, East Boston, enjoy breathtaking water views and a picturesque Boston skyline as you explore a diverse array of talented artists, innovative makers, and thriving local small businesses to discover that unique and one-of-a-kind products.

Vendors will be selling: ceramics, crochet stuffed animals and winter outerwear, pet sweaters, abstract paintings, custom eco-friendly, stainless steel tumblers, hand-sown coffee cozies, wine bags, tote bags, 3D digital artist, body lotions and soaps, healing crystal plushes, jewelry, candles. We also will have vendors selling food items, a pet photographer, raffles and so much more!

The fair is beginning organized by local East Boston residents: Michelle Miller, of Sew What

Amazing Krafts, Theresa Malionek, of Crochet by Teshy and Revere resident and event planner, Maria Rago.

For more information follow us on Facebook at Eastie Artisan Fair, Instagram: easie_artisan_fair or email us at: eastieartisanfair@gmail.com.

BWSC OFFERS TIPS TO PREVENT FROZEN PIPES AS SUSTAINED COLD SPELL SETS IN

With the recent cold spell and more nighttime temperatures well below freezing to come this winter season, Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) is reminding people that there are proactive steps they can take to prevent interior pipes from freezing.

- Check for open windows, air vents, and wind drafts near water pipes
- Seal leaks in the basement foundation where cold air may enter; fill holes with insulation as a tiny opening can cause an exposed pipe to freeze
- Allow a slow trickle of water to flow through faucets connected to water pipes that run through unheated spaces (the constant drip minimizes any ice buildup in the pipe, which helps to prevent pipes from bursting)
- Keep sink cabinet doors open during cold spells to allow warm air to circulate around the pipes
- Insulate pipes in unheated spaces like garages, basements, and crawl spaces; inexpensive insulation can be bought at hardware and home supply stores
- Locate the water shut off valve and know how to shut off water; if a pipe bursts, shutting off the water promptly can help minimize the damage (shut off valve is usually located by the meter)

If your pipes freeze, use a hair dryer to thaw the lines safely; thawing will not be fast, but it will be safe: Never use an open flame to thaw pipes

If there is no water coming through any of your taps, there may be a problem in your street or yard. If so, call BWSC’s 24-hour Emergency Assistance line at 617-989-7900.

ATTENTION: VENDED MEALS COMPANIES

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston is soliciting invitations for bid for vended meals to their Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) program site(s). The Vendor would provide meal services according to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines as well as Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office for Food and Nutrition Programs policies and guidelines.

Vendors and/or their representatives may submit bids to:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston
Attn: Gabrielle Witham
200 High St. Fl. 3
Boston, MA 02141

A bid packet will be available by email at gwitham@bgcb.org to all potential bidders.

Potential bidders should email questions to Gabrielle Witham at gwitham@bgcb.org by February 2, 2024. The institution will email its response to these questions by February 9, 2024. All questions will be answered in writing only and sent to everyone by February 9, 2024.

All bids must be submitted no later than 5:00pm

on February 16, 2024.

All bids are subject to review by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office for Food and Nutrition Programs, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148.

The public bid opening will be at 11:00am on February 20, 2024 at 200 High St. Fl. 3, 02110. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. About Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston Boys & Girls Club of Boston holds a prominent position as the leading and most impactful youth organization in Greater Boston. It serves to catalyze far-reaching opportunities and create more equitable futures for 6 to 18-year-olds across eight clubs and YouthConnect in Boston and Chelsea. Since 1893, BGCB has focused on making the city thrive and has played an essential role for young people eager to explore their passions, find their purpose, and prepare for a life of success and impact. In partnership with the public sector, private enterprise, related non-profits, donors and volunteers, BGCB is aligned behind investing in the region’s urban talent pipeline and making a generational impact that expands beyond the walls of its buildings and deep into the communities it serves. Helping urban youth to navigate a fast-paced global climate steeped in change, the organization is recognized for fueling the future of the city and the Commonwealth through its innovative “readiness” programs centered on three outcome areas: Academic Success, Wellness and Workforce Readiness. It is an affiliate of the Atlanta-based Boys & Girls Clubs of America, with over 5,000 Clubs nationwide serving over 3.6 million young people.

OBITUARIES

Joan Bennett

Well known at her Lighthouse Nursing Care residence for her love of Bingo



Joan N. Bennett of East Boston, formerly of East Cambridge, with loved ones by her side, passed away peacefully in her sleep following a long illness on January 6 at age 81.

She was well known for her love of Bingo, playing three times a week at Lighthouse Nursing Care in Revere where she resided for the last few years as well as a love of Raymond Burr of Perry Mason and music.

She is survived by her son, David, Sr., his wife Renee, her two grandchildren, David, Jr. and Quinn, her sister, Carolyn Burke and her husband, Joe, her niece, Cheryl Williams, nephews: Frank Paiva and his wife, Norma, Joe Burke and his wife, Katherine, Paul Burke and his wife, Paula, as well as many great nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased

by her father and mother, Aloysius and Regina Bennett, sister, Margaret “Peggy” Paiva, lifelong love, Robert DeWart, nephew, Ronald Paiva and niece, Sheri Melito.

Her Funeral was held from the Rogers Funeral Home, East Cambridge on Saturday, January 13, with a Funeral Mass at Sacred Heart Church, East Cambridge.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Heart Association.

Susan Beth Gooley Crocker

Owned Reds Hair Salon who always found the good in everyone



Susan Beth Gooley (Gigi) Crocker passed away January 21st peacefully at her home surrounded by her family.

Her greatest accomplishment was being a mother to her three children, Charro, Julian and Matt, a Gigi to her six grandchildren: Jake, Sophie, Eloise, Max, Eli and Emmett, a loving wife to her husband, John for 44 years, best friends with her son-in-law, Jay, a sister to nine siblings, a loving aunt to many nieces and nephews and the owner of her pride and joy, Reds Hair Salon that she proudly opened 26 years ago and has passed on to her daughter after her retirement four years ago.

A celebration of life will be held at the Buonfiglio Funeral Home, 128 Revere Street, Revere on Saturday January 27th from 12 Noon to 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in memory of Ritchie Strangie to support cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284 or via jimmyfund.org/gift (https://danafarber.jimmyfund.org/site/Donation2?df_id=2101&mfc_pref=T&2101.donation=form1)

Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Buonfiglio Funeral Home, Revere.

Suffolk DA Hayden identifies inmates affected by Court’s Mattis and Robinson decisions

District Attorney Kevin Hayden said his office has identified approximately 70 inmates who will eventually become eligible for parole as a result of state Supreme Judicial Court’s ruling regarding persons convicted for first-degree murder committed when they were 20 years old or younger.

The SJC’s Mattis and Robinson decisions deemed unconstitutional the mandatory sentences of life in prison without possibility of parole for individuals convicted of first-degree murder committed when aged 20 years or younger, retro-

active to all cases. With the ruling, any imprisoned person who meets that criteria will become eligible for parole in accordance with state law. The ruling does not change the status for inmates convicted of first-degree murder committed when 21 or older.

Hayden emphasized that the ruling does not automatically grant parole to applicable inmates. Rather, it makes them eligible for parole in accordance with the state Parole Board’s hearing and review standards.

Hayden encouraged survivors of applicable homicide cases to visit the

SCDAO website where a form is available referencing services provided by the office. The office’s victim witness advocates are knowledgeable about the decision and stand ready to assist survivors, Hayden said.

“We know this decision will generate questions among the survivors of homicide victims of both the immediate and distant past, and we want to make sure that those survivors get accurate information about the ruling. Our victim witness advocates will help these families and loved ones understand how the SJC decision af-

fects them,” Hayden said.

His office is reaching out to survivors with current contact information, Hayden said. But contact information for many older cases is no longer accurate, he said.

“I’m urging anyone impacted by this decision to contact us so we can provide the information necessary to understand what this ruling does and does not do,” Hayden said.

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

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Real Estate Boston LLC	Arrowhead Properties LLC	5 Sumner Pl	\$1,200,000
Rodriguez, Ricardo A	First Saratoga LLC	47 Saratoga St	\$929,000
Lewenhaupt, Carl M	Reonova LLC	114 Moore St	\$720,000
Bhl LLC	Elklex LLC	224 Lexington St	\$1,460,000

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

NEW CITY MANAGER FILLS OUT STAFF

CHELSEA - In his first weeks in office, new City Manager Fidel Maltez has been working to fill out his staff.

Late last year, the city council approved a request from Maltez to fund a reorganization of the city manager’s office that sees staff increase from three to five employees.

Rather than one deputy city manager, the office will now operate with two deputy managers reporting to Maltez, one for operations and one for finance. In addition, the council also approved funding the new position of Director of Constituent Services.

The duties of that position include listening to resident concerns, providing information and assistance, coordinating with the city council, and advocating for residents, according to Maltez.

Maltez said the search to fill those positions is going well.

“Chelsea is an exciting community, and I am very excited about the number of applicants that we received and the caliber of the applicants,” he said. “Chelsea is a gateway community, we are always in conversations with Boston, with Somerville, with Cambridge. For anyone who wants to do good work, Chelsea is a good place to be.”

The interview process is ongoing now, and Maltez said he’d like to make a decision on final hires by the end of January.

“They are critical to the long-term operation of the city,” said Maltez, especially as the municipal budgeting process for the next fiscal year kicks off in City Hall.

In addition to the positions in the city manager’s office, the city is also looking for a new Director of Housing and Community Development to replace Alex Train, who left that position at the end of last year.

“I wish (Train) nothing but the best,” said Maltez. “He was a huge asset for the city of Chelsea and really accomplished a lot. He brought in a lot of grants to the city, he created a lot of innovative and progressive projects and programs that really benefited our residents.”

While the city will miss Train, Maltez said the community development department grew under his

tenure and that its staff is ready to face and meet new challenges as the hiring process for a new director continues.

HOLDING MLK BREAKFAST

EVERETT - Zion Church Ministries held its 18th Annual the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Breakfast Monday, Jan. 15 at the Edward G. Connolly Center.

Bishop Robert G. Brown, Senior Pastor at Zion Church Ministries, welcomed the large gathering to the breakfast that honored the great civil rights leader and orator, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was born on Jan. 15, 1929.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, and City Council President Robert Van Campen offered words of congratulations to the Zion Church Ministries on behalf of the City of Everett, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the Everett City Council respectively.

Everett High School guidance counselor Kelley Buonpane accepted the Zion Ministries Church Scholarship on behalf of senior Lillian Odiari. Past scholarship recipients Shreeya Muyaju, a first-year student at Yalee, and Loyd Joseph, a third-year student at Northeastern, thanked Zion Church Ministries and spoke of their college academic careers and future goals.

The Honorable Justice Talesha Saint-Marc was the guest speaker. “This morning has been just a beautiful program, really inspirational and moving,” said Justice Saint-Marc. “I never imagined that I would stand before you today as the first Black federal judge in New Hampshire or the first Black female judge in New Hampshire.”

“Today is a special day, not just because we’re honoring the life of Dr. King, who is a man of God and a pillar of the civil rights movement, but also because it’s a moment of unity. It’s a moment of collective purpose and resolve. All across America people of diverse backgrounds are putting aside their differences to honor the past and commit to a better future.”

Saint-Marc encouraged guests facing a pivotal moment in their careers and lives to “believe in yourself.”

“My hope is that aspiring lawyers will look at me and that they will see my story, and it will inspire them to pursue being a lawyer and

to pursue being a judge. I hope that they will realize they have this uninhibited sense of possibility – a possibility that they can, too, can aspire to break barriers, achieve their dreams, and their goals. I want to encourage you all to continue chasing your dreams no matter how wild they may seem and encourage your kids to chase their dreams as well. There are a lot of people who want to discourage our kids. This world is very discouraging for kids sometimes, but really, as a parent, focus on pushing your kids’ dreams forward. And I encourage you all to just to continue breaking glass ceilings. It may be hard but persevere and push. Continue making history. There’s so much more history for all of us to make. It shouldn’t be in 2023 that I’m the first, but that tells you that there’s so much more history for us to make. So, continue making history. Continue positively impacting your communities. Continue pushing for equality and for justice. And continue being a force for social change. My God bless you all and may He bless your efforts to move social justice forward,” concluded Justice Saint-Marc, who received a warm ovation for her inspiring remarks.

The Everett High School Choir performed musical selections during the program.

COUNCILLOR REQUESTS INCREASED BUILDING INSPECTION HOURS

REVERE - Ward 1 City Councillor Joanne McKenna said she is fed up with the amount of illegal construction in the city that goes on when City Hall is closed and building inspectors are off duty.

At last week’s council meeting, McKenna introduced a motion to try to better control that issue.

“I get calls all the time that people at 5 o’clock Thursday, at 6 o’clock, people are building all sorts of illegal things,” said McKenna. “Two years ago, I put it in as a motion, and they hired someone or they gave someone some extra salary, and it was done for about two months and it died.”

McKenna’s original motion requested that the mayor hire a part-time building inspector to work from after City Hall closing on Thursday afternoon through Sunday to handle the com-

CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR AT ROSSETTI-COWAN SENIOR CENTER



MARIANNE SALZA PHOTOS

Shown above, Senior Center members dancing to music by Howie Conley and the Memory Laners during the New Year’s celebration at the Rossetti-Cowan Senior Center.

Shown left, Christine and Joe Lavigueur, married for 52 years, dancing to “Kiss Me.”



plaints about illegal construction.

“They are not pulling permits, they are coming out of the woodwork and they are building decks, they are building gazebos, they are building everything,” said McKenna. “We need someone ... to call out these people.”

Ward 4 Councillor Paul Argenzio suggested the city might want to have a current employee on call on the weekends rather than hiring a new building inspector. He noted that the public works department uses a similar approach for after-hours issues.

McKenna said she would agree to the amendment for the city to provide a stipend for an on-call building inspector for after-hours issues.

In other business, Councillor-at-Large Robert Haas, III introduced a motion asking that the Mayor be requested to reinstate the “Weekend Workout” program at the Revere High School gym on Saturdays.

Haas, III said this was an effective program used to combat isolation, inactivity, and to provide a safe space during the colder months.

“With the pandemic, we learned the toll that isolation and inactivity can have on residents of all ages,” he said. “An open gym, at a small cost to the resident, would be highly beneficial for our own residents’ physical health as well as their emotional wellbeing.”

TOWN OFFICIALS ADDRESS FLOODING ISSUES

WINTHROP - Two massive recent rain storms created multiple flooding issues across the town..

At last week’s night’s Town Council meeting, Town Manager Tony Marino addressed those concerns and laid out the steps the town is taking to mitigate those flooding issues.

A number of residents turned out for the council meeting to speak to both the recent and historical flood issues in Winthrop, several questioning how town officials could more quickly address and fix some of the more egregious flooded areas.

“There was a lot of flooding last week before the weekend, and then on Saturday,” said Marino. “I was in town with (public works) Director (Steve) Calla and the fire chief and we utilized the high-water vehicle and drove around and saw all of the flooding.”

Marino said there are several different layers of

what the town is doing to address the issues.

He noted that the town was awarded a state grant along with Revere and Chelsea to do “living levees” near Morton and Banks streets.

“They have done some survey work down there and they have some design work for that already granted,” said Marino.

Last week, Marino said he was contacted by Congresswoman Katherine Clark regarding a federal grant program and invited town officials to put a project forward.

“I worked with Director Calla and we were able to put together money not only for the Tilestone and Girdlestone area, but also the Pico Avenue area neighborhood,” said Marino. “We requested \$675,000 and gave them all the data. It’s going up to committee now, so hopefully we will get some traction on that.”

Marino said he and Calla have also discussed the possibility of purchasing a temporary pump for the Tilestone and Girdlestone area that would go down into the manhole cover and pump the water directly out to the ocean.

“The issue there is that it is a low-lying area,” said Marino. “The valve that we did replace there, the flapper valve, that now closes and won’t let the water out when there is a high tide. So in order to get the water out, we are working on that as well, Director Calla is working on getting some pricing for that.”

Marino, Calla, and Council President all noted that Winthrop has a capacity issue when it comes to the town’s infrastructure.

“We have a ton of eight-inch pipes out there, and it is not enough to handle the volume right now,” said Marino. “The ground is saturated, and certainly, the back-to-back storms didn’t help.”

On Saturday, a three- to four-foot storm surge on top of an 11-foot high tide also contributed to the problems, Marino said.

“It was bad,” said Marino. “We are working to make changes; it’s not going to be a snap to get it done overnight, but we are getting money to do it and move forward. We did replace the flapper valve, we are going to look to make some other changes to alleviate some of the stress.”

“I know there has been backyard flooding in some of the neighborhoods, and I certainly saw it firsthand.”

Calla said there are a number of issues causing

the flooding issues, from the outdated, undersized clay pipes to outfalls at Pico Beach that are below the marsh line.

“It is a bunch of components causing what we are seeing,” said Calla.

Several councillors advocated for moving forward to address the larger issues in town whether or not Winthrop receives grant funding.

“Whether we get the grant funding or not, we are going to have to do something,” said Councilor-at-Large Rob Demarco. “Why don’t we get to work on it? Because we have to do it no matter what. What kind of emergency funds can we use to get started, and then we can chase the grant money after the fact.”

Precinct 2 Councillor John Munson said he agreed that the town should take a more aggressive approach to addressing the infrastructure issues.

“I appreciate that we are doing some short term fixes, we’re looking into the pumps, but it seems to me that action is needed immediately,” he said. “If it was your home or our home or anyone’s home, you wouldn’t say, let me hold out until my mother-in-law gives me a check for this or some kind of gift of money. We would just go ahead and take the loan out, get the project resolved and move forward.”

Munson asked why the town couldn’t get a quote for every flood zone and then bond the money out for the projects, paying the bond back as the town gets grant money.

“We’re going to bring in the capital plan and the strategic plan to make sure we are hitting all the things that are coming up and everything we’ve got to do,” said Marino. “If you focus all the eggs in one basket, you miss the grant opportunities. You can’t just pay for it and the grant will pay you back; you need to have to do the grants with shovel-ready projects, otherwise you will miss that grant money.”

Letterie noted that nearly 70 percent of the town’s pipes are nearly 100 years old, and that the total cost to replace them all would be approximately \$60 to \$70 million.

In other business, Marino said that at the next council meeting, he would be requesting the council to establish a Community Preservation Act committee in preparation for the possibility of a question on the November ballot to establish the CPA in town.

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a virtual public hearing will be held on February 14, 2024, at 9:15 A.M., in connection with Text Amendment Application No. 520 and Map Amendment Application No. 772, filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

Said text amendment would add one (1) new Open Space subdistrict to Article 33. The Stadium Open Space (OS-S) subdistrict would create a new stadium and public amphitheater zoning district, in order to enable greater investment and enable more amenities in appropriate areas of the city’s current and future open spaces. It would also make minor

changes that add reference to the Stadium Open Space subdistrict in Article 3, Establishment of Zoning Districts; Article 33-1: Preamble; Article 33-2, Statement of Purpose; Article 33-5, Establishment of Open Space Subdistrict Categories; Article 33-6 Land Eligible for Open Space Designation. Out-of-date language referring to organizations that have reformed or been renamed, such as the Boston Natural Area Fund and Metropolitan District Commission, have also been updated. Said map amendment would map the newly created OS-S subdistrict in East Boston (East Boston Memorial Stadium) and Mattapan (White Stadium) neighborhoods.

This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. You can participate in this meeting by going to https://bit.ly/BZC_Feb142024. Copies of the petitions and a map of the area involved may be obtained from the Zoning Commission electronically, and you may also submit written comments or questions to zoningcommission@boston.gov.

ly/BZC_Feb142024. Copies of the petitions and a map of the area involved may be obtained from the Zoning Commission electronically, and you may also submit written comments or questions to zoningcommission@boston.gov.

Interpreting services are available to communicate information at this hearing. If you require interpreting services, please contact the following: zoningcommission@boston.gov or 617-918-4308. The meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2024. Please request interpreting services no later than February 9, 2024.

For the Commission
Jeffrey M. Hampton
Executive Secretary



Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA)
One City Hall Square | Boston, MA 02201
bostonplans.org

Biden-Harris Administration announces \$2.5 million grant for more electric-vehicle charging network

The Biden-Harris Administration last week announced a \$2.5 million grant to the Town of Deerfield, Massachusetts to fund two publicly accessible EV charging sites. The award is one of 47 projects in 22 states and Puerto Rico selected to receive a total of \$623 million in funding to help build out an electric vehicle (EV) charging network under the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program. This means EV drivers in Massachusetts and across the country can charge their electric vehicles where they live, work, and shop.

The grants are a critical part of the Biden Administration’s goal of building out a convenient, affordable, reliable and made-in-America network of EV chargers, including at least 500,000 publicly available chargers by 2030 ensuring that EV’s are made in America with American workers.

Under President Biden’s leadership, EV sales have more than quadrupled, the number of publicly available charging ports has grown by nearly 70 percent, and more than 4 million EV’s are now on the road. Spurred by the President’s historic investments, private companies have announced more than \$155 billion in the EV and battery supply chain under

the Biden-Harris Administration. EV’s are critical to our rapid and equitable transition to clean transportation systems, producing zero tailpipe emissions, reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions – major contributors to climate change and key contributors to respiratory ailments.

“America led the arrival of the automotive era, and now we have a chance to lead the world in the EV revolution—securing jobs, savings, and benefits for Americans in the process,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. “This funding will help ensure that EV chargers are accessible, reliable, and convenient for American drivers, while creating jobs in charger manufacturing, installation, and maintenance for American workers.”

The grants being announced today are made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s \$2.5 billion Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program, a competitive funding program, that includes construction of approximately 7,500 EV charging ports. The CFI program complements the \$5 billion National Electric Vehicle (NEVI) Formula Program to build the “backbone” of high-speed EV chargers along our nation’s highways. Thanks to the NEVI program,

new charging stations in Ohio and New York have opened, and states like Pennsylvania and Maine have broken ground.

“Every community across the nation deserves access to convenient and reliable clean transportation,” said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm. “The Biden-Harris Administration is bringing an accessible, made-in-America charging network into thousands of communities while cutting the carbon pollution that is driving the climate crisis.”

In Massachusetts, the \$2.5 million grant will be used to fund two public access EV charging sites at the Leary Public Parking Lot and Town Hall Public Parking Lot. The sites are centrally located to the surrounding rural towns and will serve several disadvantaged communities.

“From my time working at the local level, I know that finding electric vehicle charging in a community is different from finding charging along highways,” said U.S. Transportation Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg. “USDOT is proud to make an investment that will provide Americans with convenient, straightforward charging options in their communities.”

“The Federal Highway Administration is pleased to announce this grant

in Massachusetts that will bring EV charging to people and communities all across the nation,” said Federal Highway Administrator Shailen Bhatt. “These investments through the CFI Program will grow our national EV charging network, support President Biden’s goals of achieving net-zero emissions for the nation by 2050 and promote opportunity for all Americans to enjoy the benefits of EV charging.”

As part of today’s announcements, the Federal Highway Administration is awarding \$311 million in funding to 36 “community” projects, including two Indian Tribes in Alaska and Arizona. These projects invest in EV charging and hydro-

gen fueling infrastructure in urban and rural communities, including at convenient and high-use locations like schools, parks, libraries, multi-family housing, and more.

Another \$312 million in funding will go to 11 “corridor” recipients whose projects are located along roadways designated as Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs). These projects will fill gaps in the core national charging and alternative-fueling network.

The CFI Program advances President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative, which set a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened

by pollution. More than 70% of the CFI funding announced today will support project sites in disadvantaged communities.

To provide a consistent charging experience for users that ensures a convenient, affordable, and reliable national charging network, EV chargers constructed with CFI funds must adhere to the same minimum standards established for NEVI-funded chargers. FHWA is working closely with the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation, which provides technical assistance on planning and implementation of a national network of electric vehicle chargers and zero-emission fueling infrastructure.

Bill passed to prevent abuse and exploitation

The Massachusetts House of Representatives last week passed legislation that combines several separate legislative initiatives into one bill that will help to prevent abuse and exploitation, while also enhancing protections for survivors. The legislation addresses teen sexting and image-based sexual assault, commonly referred to as “revenge porn;” expands the definition of abuse to include coercive control for the purposes of obtaining a restraining order; and extends the statute of limitations for certain

domestic violence offenses from six years to 15 years.

“This legislation modernizes our criminal laws by ensuring that those who share explicit images of others without their consent face punishment, while also educating minors on the dangers of sharing explicit images of themselves rather than imposing some of the criminal justice system’s most severe consequences,” said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). “I’m also incredibly proud of this legislation’s bolstered protections for survivors,

including the added consideration of nonphysical forms of abuse for those seeking restraining orders from their abusers. I want to thank Chairman Day and the Judiciary Committee, along with each bill sponsor and all my colleagues in the House for prioritizing this vital legislation.”

“The House has heard the urgent call of survivors to enhance protections and ensure that our laws keep up with technology. But the House doesn’t just listen, we act,” said Representative Michael S.

See BILL PASSED Page 10

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Division
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION
NOTICE
Docket No. SU20P0707EA
Estate of: John J. Denaro
Also Known as: John J. Denaro
Date of Death: April 8, 2020
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Joann Charette of East Boston, MA
A Will has been admitted to informal probate. Joanna Charette of East Boston, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the

Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate Court
1/24/24
EB

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Division
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. SU24P0122EA
Estate of: John Santilli
Also Known as: John A. Santilli
Date of Death: 09/14/2023
To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Daniel M. Imperato of Marlborough, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Daniel M. Imperato of Marlborough, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/27/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written

appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 16, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
1/24/24
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CITY PAWS

Companion animal timelines

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Human lives have many timelines. We often refer to a particular one: the timeline of the dogs who have been part of our family and friendships. A memory of a time or place often includes the dog or dogs who were part of that moment.

Recently, we remembered a special time with a particular friend and realized he was one of the people who knew all our dogs. This thought resulted in us listing the people who shared this distinction and naming the companion animals each had in their lives.

May I Pet Your Dog?

Living in an area with so many college students and young adults means we often sense the longing for a canine connection that comes with the question, “May I pet your

dog?”

Sometimes, that exchange is followed by a history of their lives with pets. They might tell us, “My family had a Westie when I was young?” Or, “I really miss my dog. He lives with my parents.” We’ve even had offers to walk our dogs from dog-lonely people.

We always suggest volunteer and paid jobs that will bring them in contact with animals. These opportunities range from volunteering at an animal shelter to working for a grooming or pet supply shop or a dog walking service. We understand the need for fur to stroke and an animal to curl next to you on a sofa or a bench. We share that need and are happy to let our pup play surrogate for a few minutes.

We also appreciate and are aware of what it takes to accept the responsibility

of a companion animal at a point in your life when you may not be able to meet the financial, time, or housing requirements that would make it possible.

Sharing Companions

We’ve always been advocates of dog-sharing, not only for a quick pat on a walk but also in a much more meaningful way. We chose a West Highland White Terrier for our first dog because we shared a home with a lovely older friend. Our research told us that Westies were seldom one-person dogs. We wanted a dog who would happily spend time with all three of us. Our Sassy fit the bill, and as a former school teacher, our tenant was a great help with her training.

Recently, we spotted neighbors with a new dog. We knew they had been reluctant to return to full-time dog care after losing



Living near so many young adults means we often sense the longing for a canine connection that comes with the question, “May I pet your dog?” (Photo by Alison Pang)

their long-time companion. This dog, they told us, was their Grandpup! They had a win-win situation: they could enjoy walking with a dog again and seeing their dog community while helping their daughter have more free time in her busy life.

While dogs are the most accessible animals to share with others, we have known a lovely Ragdoll cat that belonged to a

good friend, a guinea pig who lived with a family member, and a stunning parrot who lived on our floor.

Companion animals are more than part of your timeline. They can be a lifeline connecting you with people and requiring you to exercise. The National Institutes of Health writes, “Interacting with animals has been shown to decrease levels of cortisol (a stress-related hormone)

and lower blood pressure. Other studies have found that animals can reduce loneliness, increase feelings of social support, and boost your mood.” That makes sharing a pet a kindness to someone else. Having one is a kindness to yourself.

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

Bill Passed // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Day (D-Stoneham), House Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. “It’s critical that these reforms pass into law quickly so that victims of coercive control, adolescent sexting and revenge porn aren’t left without relief.”

Currently, minors who possess, purchase, or share explicit photos of themselves or other minors are charged with violating Massachusetts child pornography laws and are required to register as sex offenders. The legislation passed today instead authorizes commitment to the Department of Youth Services (DYS), but also allows minors to be diverted to an educational program in lieu of criminal punishment. A district attorney, however, is allowed to petition the court to bring criminal charges in extreme cases.

The educational diversion program, to be created by the Attorney General in consultation with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), DHS, and the District Attorneys Association, would provide teenagers with information about the

legal and nonlegal consequences of sexting, which would be made available to school districts. DESE should also encourage districts to implement media literacy programs in their schools as a prevention measure.

“This legislation represents a coordinated effort and a holistic approach to address an increasingly prevalent behavior and provides mechanisms to protect individuals victimized by those who threaten, intimidate, and harass the subjects of these images,” said State Representative Jeffrey N. Roy (D-Franklin), a lead sponsor of the bill. “The sexting provisions provide law enforcement officers with a middle ground that will allow them to educate kids about the consequences of their actions without ruining their lives. It will have a tremendous impact on people who have become entangled in the web and transmittal of images that can cause traumatic and lifetime harm through a diversion program that will educate them about the legal and personal consequences of this behavior.”

In addition to teen sexting, the bill addresses the nonconsensual distribution of explicit images by adults by establishing a penalty in the existing criminal harassment statute, including up to two and a half years of prison time and/or a monetary fine of up to \$10,000. The bill increases the upper limit of the fine for criminal harassment from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Under this bill, a victim may also petition the court for a harassment prevention order against a person who has violated this statute.

The bill passed today also adds coercive control to the definition of abuse. Coercive control is a non-physical form of abuse which includes a pattern of behavior, or a single act intended to threaten, intimidate, harass, isolate, control, coerce or compel compliance of a family or household member that causes the family or household member to fear physical harm or to have a reduced sense of physical safety or autonomy. Examples of coercive control include threatening to share explicit images, regulating or monitoring a family or

household member’s communications and access to services, and isolating a family or household member from friends or relatives.

“Protecting victims is the driving force behind these efforts and I am pleased we are giving prosecutors more tools to deal with these disturbing and dangerous situations. Thank you to Speaker Mariano, Chair Michlewitz, Chair Day, and the advocacy groups who recognize how important it is that we further protect victims by updating our criminal laws,” said Representative Richard M. Haggerty (D-Woburn), a lead sponsor of the bill. “By defining coercive control as abuse and closing revenge porn consent loopholes, this law protects against the severe emotional harm too often inflicted through non-physical tactics, sending a clear message that revenge porn, coercive control, and criminal harassment have no place in Massachusetts.”

“Far too often, our legal system has failed victims of domestic violence who are subjected to the unseen tortures of psychological and

emotional abuse,” Representative Meghan Kilcoyne (D-Clinton), a lead sponsor of the bill. “I am so grateful that with this piece of legislation, we will be giving our law enforcement and judiciary the necessary tools to ensure those subjected to both physical and emotional abuse are protected. I am thankful to the Speaker and Chairman Day for their leadership. “With this bill, we can make sure victims of coercive abuse will no longer suffer in silence.”

The legislation passed today also extends the statute of limitations for assault and battery on a family or household member or against someone with an active protective order from six years to 15 years. This change brings the Massachusetts statute of limitations for these domestic violence offenses in line with the statute of limitations for rape, assault with intent to commit rape and sex trafficking.

“Massachusetts can and should be granting restraining orders for coercive control, but we know that for so many survivors, their emotional and psychological trauma is not given the same seriousness as physical violence. And the reality of that barrier can be deadly,” said Representative Natalie M. Higgins (D-Leominster), a lead sponsor of the bill. “I am incredibly grateful to the Speaker and my House

colleagues for taking a critical step forward in protecting our neighbors by codifying coercive control in the Mass General Laws and extending the statute of limitations so that survivors of domestic violence can build more safety and supports to come forward and report domestic abuse to law enforcement.”

“Domestic violence is not always physical violence, sometimes it’s much more insidious. During my time as a legal services attorney, I represented many survivors who suffered emotional trauma and financial devastation through fear and manipulation. Survivors and the courts need our help to update our laws to make it clear that coercive control is a type of domestic abuse that will not be tolerated,” said Representative Tram Nguyen (D-Andover), a lead sponsor of the bill. “I want to thank Speaker Mariano, Chair Michlewitz, and Chair Day for advancing this transformative and bipartisan legislation. I am also grateful for the partnership of Rep. Higgins, who co-filed this legislation with me, and the survivors and coalition advocates who spoke up for the thousands of women, men, and children in our Commonwealth who would be better able to take back control of their future if this bill is signed into law.”

Registration opens Feb. 1 for Summer Sports Centers

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce registration will open on February 1 for the 2024 Summer Sports Centers at White Stadium in Franklin Park, Almont Park in Mattapan, East Boston Memorial Stadium in East Boston, Garvey Playground in Dorchester, and Ronan Park in Dorchester. For more information or to register online please visit boston.gov/sports.

Each location offers instruction in several popular sports from July 8 through August 16. All Summer Sports Centers are offered free of charge to Boston residents and open to children ages 7 to 14. Parents may register their children for just one week or the entire summer.

East Boston Sports Center
East Boston Memorial Park
143 Porter Street
East Boston

Please note that lunch will be provided but participants must provide their own transportation. Pre-registration is required for both groups and individuals.

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



My first valentines day is coming and I can't wait to celebrate with the best mommy and daddy ..
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Happy Valentine's Day from Jax & Bella

Published February 14 & 15

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