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# East Boston

## TIMES-FREE PRESS

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### FRIENDS OF BELLE ISLE MARSH HOLD ITS HARVEST FESTIVAL



PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

Armando, Carolina, and Armando Valdovinos, and Maria Silva sitting on a tractor during the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh annual Harvest Festival on October 20, at Belle Isle Reservation. See Pages 4-6 for more photos.

## JPNA set to vote on two proposals

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

During its monthly meeting last week, the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association (JPNA) heard proposals for a roof deck on Haynes Street and outdoor seating at Santa Fe Burrito Grill on Sumner Street. Both proposals are scheduled to be voted on. The first proposal up for discussion was the roof deck at 30 Haynes Street. Specifically, the owner, Alykhan Mohamed, wants to build a deck exclusively for the third unit on the

building's flat rubber roof. "There is existing access to the rooftop; it's just for my unit. There's a small head house, and the only change would be to put the decking and the railing; nothing else would change structurally," said Mohamed. As the presentation progressed, Mohamed showed images of structures from around the immediate area, plans for the project, and other photos from below the building to

See JPNA Page 9

## Coletta Zapata holds hearing to discuss utility work notification

Special to the Times-Free Press

Last week, Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata held a hearing discussing utility street work coordination, notification, and compliance post-completion of any excavation project impacting public streets and sidewalks. During the hearing, Councilors heard from the administration and utility company representatives,

who shared their coordination process for street work. Co-sponsors of the hearing include Councilor Enrique Pepen (District 5) of Hyde Park. "This hearing came with a sense of urgency to work collaboratively to get solutions for the adverse impacts utility work has on our resident's quality of life. Residents have

See UTILITY Page 2

## Bridge renamed honoring Bill Russell

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu joined Mrs. Jeannine Russell, Governor Maura Healey, state and local officials, and Celtics leadership and players to rename the North Washington Street Bridge as the William Felton 'Bill' Russell Bridge. Russell, a civil rights activist and Celtics legend, passed away in 2022. The bridge renaming honors his dedication to civil rights, justice, and the fostering of Boston's youth and young athletes. This bridge, currently under construction, spans the Charles River and connects Charlestown to the West End and North End near TD Garden. A plaque on the northbound side of the bridge will be installed in summer of 2025. "Bill Russell was a



PHOTO COURTESY THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Gov. Maura Healey, Mayor Michelle Wu, Mrs. Jeannine Russell, and Directors of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment John Borders IV are pictured at the bridge renaming ceremony in honor of Boston Celtics all-time great Bill Russell.

champion not only on the basketball court, but in his daily life fighting for equality and serving as a

role model for future athletes and activists," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "It's fitting that a man known

for his vision and determination to create bridges to

See RUSSELL Page 10

## City soliciting feedback from residents on locations for new Bluebike stations

By Dan Murphy

In adding Bluebikes stations across every neighborhood, the city is now focusing on specific neighborhoods, including East Boston and Charlestown, and will be soliciting feedback from residents on their preferred locations for these new stations in their neighborhoods.

The city will hold a virtual open house to discuss this current phase of the project on Thursday, Nov. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m., with interpretation provided in Cantonese, Mandarin, and Spanish. (Besides Charlestown and East Boston, this phase of the Bluebikes project also includes South Boston and the South Boston Waterfront.) Register at bit.ly/

expansion-november. The city previously presented the same content on this phase of the project during two in-person open houses held on Thursday, Oct. 17, at BCYF Paris Street in East Boston, and on Tuesday, Oct. 22, at BCYF Charlestown, respectively. Another in-house open house is also scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 7, from 6 to 8 p.m.

at Tynan School, 650 East 4th St. in South Boston. Residents can also provide the city with their feedback via an online survey available at boston.gov/bike-share-survey, or via email at bikeshare@boston.gov. To learn more about the project and sign up for the email list, visit boston.gov/bike-share-expansion.



Marisa DiPietro (center) is honored by the guests at the party including the Executive Director of the Social Center, Justin Pasquariello and the East Boston Chamber of Commerce President, Shirley Fabbo.

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



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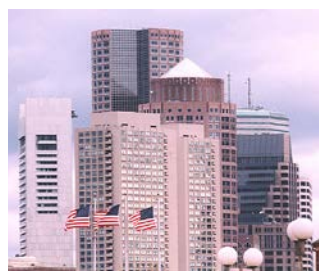
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# Forum

## IT'S HALLOWEEN SEASON -- ENJOY IT SAFELY!

With the Halloween season reaching its peak of festivities this weekend through Halloween Night next Thursday, we urge all of our readers to celebrate the season in a safe and responsible manner.

Halloween has become big business in recent decades (Americans will spend \$11.6 billion celebrating the holiday this year, up from \$3.3 billion in 2005) not only for children, but for adults as well. The holiday has come a long way since we carried those little cardboard UNICEF donation boxes for starving children while trick-or-treating in our neighborhood, which we then would turn in the next day to the sisters at our parochial school. Halloween today has become as much a party season for adults as for kids.

There are two things that are absolute musts for every adult who will be partaking in the festivities. First and foremost, no one should be driving under the influence. Arrests for drunk driving typically spike during the Halloween season. If you plan on drinking, either go with a designated driver or use an Uber or Lyft. Moreover, those who are hosting Halloween parties should make sure that their guests are okay to drive -- friends don't let friends drive drunk.

Second, as for Halloween Night itself, every person operating an automobile should take care to drive with extreme caution and care and to be on the look-out for little trick-or-treaters. Every motorist should be sure to drive slowly, well below the speed limit.

We also would add that parents of teenagers have a big responsibility to ensure that their children -- and yes, teens are children -- are home early and are not drinking. Parents should set an early curfew for their children (after all, Halloween is a school night this year) to make sure their teens stay out of trouble.

All of us need to do our part to make sure that neither ourselves nor our loved ones are added to the grim statistics of the Halloween season.

## A RECORD-HIGH TEMP THAT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE IT

We've been aware that the temperatures have been unseasonably warm for this time of year, but we were surprised to hear that Boston set a record-high temperature on Monday when the thermometer hit 83 degrees, breaking a mark that had stood for 104 years.

In addition to enjoying the great weather, which was incredibly perfect for this past weekend's Head of the Charles Rowing Regatta, the good news about the unseasonable warmth is that we have not had to turn on our furnaces, which not only helps keep down our heating bills, but also reduces our use of fossil fuels to heat our homes.

But the advantages of the record-setting warm weather belie the simple reality that our planet is undergoing climate change at an ever-increasing rate. Every month since June 2023 has been hotter than the one preceding it, resulting in a global average temperature from July 2023 to June 2024 that has been 1.64 C (about 3 F) above what it was before the start of the Industrial Revolution, when humankind started burning the fossil fuels that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Climate experts for years have told us that 1.50 C above the pre-Industrial Revolution temperature is the threshold for catastrophic and irreversible damage to our environment -- and now we are at 1.64.

We have written many times that there is no place on our planet that is safe from the effects of climate change. Hurricane Helene wrought devastation in western sections of No. Carolina, wiping entire communities off the map with epic flooding, even though those places are hundreds of miles from the coastline and were far away from where Helene made landfall in Florida.

So yes, the great weather in October has been wonderful. But none of us should be lulled into thinking that this is a good thing.

The East Boston Times-Free Press reserves the right to edit letters for space, accuracy and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The East Boston Times-Free Press publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The East Boston Times-Free Press. Text or attachments emailed to [editor@eastietimes.com](mailto:editor@eastietimes.com) are preferred.

## Wu, Boston Emergency Medical Services welcome new EMTs

Special to the Times-Free Press

Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) celebrated the graduation of 27 EMT-Recruits and three recent promotions in a ceremony at Boston Public Library's Rabb Hall. The EMT-Recruits were hired as state-certified EMTs and successfully completed the Boston EMS Recruit Academy, an additional intense training program to ensure residents receive the highest quality emergency care. The 27 new graduates now join Boston EMS to respond to medical emergencies in Boston, enhancing 9-1-1 staffing for ambulances and dispatch operations.

"Congratulations to the EMTs graduating today. You are joining a department that sets the standard for excellence in care and compassion," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "EMS is the critical link between our first responder agencies and our healthcare providers, answering the call all hours of the day and night in every neighborhood of our City. I am so grateful for your dedication and commitment to serving our communities."

"Becoming an EMT or paramedic is an honorable

calling. It takes courage, passion and heart to do this job. On every shift, you will have the opportunity to make a difference in the life of someone who needs your help," said Boston EMS Chief James Hooley. "The call volume for medical emergencies in our city is at an all-time high with our members responding to more than 400 calls every day. Your work is vital. After completing this Academy, you are now equipped with the skills and knowledge to handle whatever comes your way."

The Boston EMS Recruit Academy is a full-time paid training program and includes classroom and field training for a variety of life-threatening emergency situations, including active shooter incidents, hazardous materials exposure, transportation accidents, recovery services, human trafficking, and mass casualty incidents. During training, these graduates responded to more than 3,700 9-1-1 incidents caring for patients suffering from a range of emergencies including cardiac arrest, behavioral health, illnesses and injuries, and serious trauma including shootings and stabbings.

"Congratulations to the EMTs and the newly promoted members of EMS,"

said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "This is not an easy career. Thank you for your commitment to providing compassionate, high-quality care to people in some of the toughest situations imaginable. We are proud to have you join this department, and we thank you for your service."

This class includes eight members who are the first Cadet cohort to complete the EMT Recruit Academy in two decades. This graduating class is also the first to complete the academy at the department's new state-of-the-art training and education facility in West Roxbury. The new 20,000 square foot space includes simulation rooms for training, a gym, multiple large classrooms, as well as two new ambulance bays. Four of the new graduates also participated in the most recent City Academy training program, managed by the Office of Workforce Development, that prepares Boston residents for various jobs including as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) with Boston EMS.

During today's ceremony, Boston EMS also recognized the promotion of

Paramedic Jaclyn Greenwood to Deputy Superintendent and the promotions of EMT Cliff Biggins and EMT Lindsay Robinson to Lieutenants. Deputy Greenwood, Lieutenant Biggins, and Lieutenant Robinson have more than 58 years of combined experience at Boston EMS that will strengthen the department's leadership ranks.

"I am so proud of our newly promoted Lieutenants and Deputy Superintendent for everything they have already accomplished at Boston EMS. And I am grateful their expertise and knowledge will now provide continued leadership to members across our department," said Chief Hooley.

Boston EMS is one of the busiest municipal EMS providers in New England, responding to more than 138,000 emergency medical incidents per year. To meet the growing demand in Boston, Boston EMS is actively recruiting to expand the department, add frontline ambulances, and better meet the rising demand for service. As a bureau of BPHC, Boston EMS is committed to serving Boston's residents through clinical excellence, emergency planning and preparedness, and community outreach.

## Utility // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

reached out to share their difficulties navigating streets during school pickups and drop-offs and missing life-saving medical treatment appointments. The process for street work requires strong collaboration between the city and utility companies; these investments are vital to maintain our city as a world-class city and allow residents to move around their neighborhoods," said Councilor Coletta Zapata.

The conversation provided oversight into the existing mechanisms and how the Council can continue to invest in resources to modernize the permitting system and ensure that residents are informed about what is happening in their neighborhoods. The Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) shared that they have received budget investments in previous years that allowed them to hire GIS intel-skilled personnel and have collaborated with the Streets Cabinet to understand their geospatial needs. DoIT plans to release an RFI to help develop new technology tools and provide more transparent mechanisms for the community and city departments.

Additionally, DoIT is working to update the City of Boston Utility

Coordination Software (COBUCS) system for efficient and effective use for city departments and residents. Councilor Coletta Zapata stressed the importance of community engagement and timely notification of upcoming Public Works projects in the neighborhood to minimize disruptions and allow residents to plan.

The Utility Companies permit went through their permitting and planning process. Boston Water and Sewer shared that all their projects are listed on their website, along with Project Manager information to contact. Their community outreach work includes sending mailers to abutters of projects and occasional staff presentations at neighborhood association meetings. Eversource and National Grid shared that they coordinate with BTD to review all of the maintenance holes and assess the work conducted so they don't have to come back to fix something in two years. They conduct internal training on signage posting and traffic management. Next steps following the hearing include implementing new community outreach tools for utility companies and updating the GIS technology tools for DoIT and

utility companies.

"Our top priority is to ensure that the quality of life for our residents is minimally impacted during any infrastructure projects in the community. After Wednesday's hearing, I am optimistic about building strong partnerships with companies like Eversource and National Grid. Together, we will enhance communication and ensure our residents are well-informed about upcoming projects," said Councilor Enrique Pepen (District 5).

Members of the administration invited to participate included:

- Deputy Chief for Infrastructure and Design
- Deputy Chief Engineer, Boston Water and Sewer Commission

• Chief Data Officer  
Representatives from Utility Companies expected included:

- Boston Water and Sewer Commission
- Eversource
- National Grid

Additionally, Councilors heard public testimony from residents and business owners who asked for transparency around the percentage of street closures allowed and shared frustrations with the lack of information shared on project dates and timelines. This docket was referred to the Committee on City Services and Innovation Technology chaired by Councilor Enrique Pepen (District 5) of Hyde Park. A recording of the hearing can be found at [youtu.be/rYvSbchphtY](https://youtu.be/rYvSbchphtY)

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

# Coletta Zapata calls for creation of Municipal Climate Bank

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata introduced a hearing order regarding the establishment of a Municipal Climate Bank in Boston. It is estimated that it will cost the City of Boston up to three billion dollars to fortify its forty-seven mile coastline against sea-level rise and storm surge. Various pots of funding are necessary to design and implement nature-based and gray infrastructure engineering solutions across the entirety of the coastline. Coletta Zapata's hearing order will discuss the establishment of a financial institution with the City of Boston to assist in mobilizing resources and

funding projects addressing climate change.

"The Climate Crisis is our next big challenge. Boston needs the resources and capital to move swiftly to protect its coastal communities and fortify the coastline to protect our residents and businesses that stand to be displaced. We must close funding gaps to move forward on solution implementations before it's too late. A municipal Climate Bank will give us the capital and resources to stimulate our local economies, create green and blue jobs, and spur economic development while addressing the urgent need for climate action," said Coletta Zapata.

The hearing will focus on five key points: funding

sources, project selection criteria, governance structure, policy integration, and public engagement. This will allow Councilors to explore various funding mechanisms such as public funding, grants, and private partnerships; discuss criteria for selecting projects that the Climate Bank will finance, emphasizing equity and community involvement; consider the governance and operational framework for the Climate Bank; understand how it might work alongside city departments to align funding with broader climate action plans and sustainability goals, and; evaluate strategies for involving residents and stakeholders in the development and implementa-

tion of the climate bank.

In the US, other municipalities have successfully implemented municipal banks to help foster sustainable development and combat climate change effectively. Climate banks assist with capital, such as grants, loans, or investment opportunities, for projects that enhance climate resilience, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or promote renewable energy. Additionally, climate banks help create green jobs and stimulate economic development while financing green projects. Climate banks prioritize equitable access to funding while ensuring that marginalized communities benefit from climate initiatives and have a voice

in decision-making processes.

Creating a municipal climate bank can assist Boston with advancing climate goals and building resilient communities by engaging stakeholders, funding necessary infrastructure solutions, and improving urban resilience. The climate bank can support financing various initiatives, such as sustainable transportation projects, green infrastructure, and community resilience programs.

Recently, Coletta Zapata held a hearing regarding implementing coastal resilience strategies for Boston's Waterfront. During the hearing, Councilors learned about the scope of work for the newly estab-

lished Office of Climate Resilience and efforts to find funding sources to fortify all forty-seven miles of Boston's coastline. The hearing highlighted that the administration is actively reviewing how to finance infrastructure projects, given that right now, city officials rely heavily on federal agencies or private developers.

A hearing will be scheduled in the upcoming months and posted on the Councilor's social media channels. For additional information, please contact the Office of Councilor Gabriela Coletta by phone at (617) 635-3200 or by email at gabriela.ramirez@boston.gov.

# Atlantic Works Gallery announces two mixed media exhibitions for November

Atlantic Works Gallery announced that its November exhibition will consist of side-by-side solo shows by two member artists, one who uses mixed media to investigate the natural world and the other who uses it to comment on American society. Together, their complementary artwork delivers a visual collision that is intended to ask visitors to reflect on and question their beliefs.

Both shows will open on Saturday, November 2, with an opening reception on Sunday, November 3 from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. There will be a second reception on Thursday, November 14 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. when the artists will talk about their work. The exhibition closes at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 30.

John Greiner-Ferris is an artist who borrows from, and combines, multiple disciplines to create artwork. For November 2024, he uses mixed media to fluidly address the perils inflicted on individuals by modern society. The intentionally lo-tech nature of his artwork is in response to what he believes is too much of an emphasis in the art world



The title of Dom's image is: It's The Bees' Knees (detail) 2024; acrylic, oil, varnish, lichen, spray foam, imagery, hives, branchin, silicone caulking on canvas

on commercialism and salability at the expense of originality and truth, and challenges viewers to question their notion of art.

"My artwork has always been about, and will continue to be about, the individual's struggle to maintain individuality and dignity in the face societal pressures—both real and imagined," he said.

The materials and resulting artwork of Takis, a former construction worker, reflect his deep love of nature, the outdoors,

and art. He uses everything from found organic and inorganic materials to construction material to investigate the natural world to make what he calls "collage/paintings" whose textural, sculptural surfaces invite the viewer's eye to linger in their complexity. "I want people to really get into the surface of my paintings," he said.

For Pollination, Takis, who had been finding bee and wasp nests for years, contemplates and compares the role of bees and



The title of John's is: You vs. The Bear (detail); mixed media, 2024

artists in their respective societies. "The artist's job is to feed the soul, through art, music, and literature," he said. Takis will be exhibiting nine pieces, and cites influences as disparate as the writings of Hermann Hesse, the paintings of Cezanne and El Greco, and the music of Brian Eno and Nick Cave.

Greiner-Ferris will be showing a series of six 4' x 3' pieces he began in January 2024 and continued working on right up to October 2024. "They are my response to some of the events and issues

that currently are prevalent in the United States, such as economic disparity, divisiveness, school and mass shootings, and our species' ability to destroy itself," he said. "The goal of this exhibition is to use text and images to have a conversation with the viewer. Just as an actor breaks the fourth wall on a stage and talks directly to the audience, I use text and a visual language to break the picture plane to speak directly to the viewer." Because the outcome of the November presidential election will still

be unknown at the opening, Greiner-Ferris offers hope and encouragement with the final piece.

Atlantic Works Gallery, 80 Border Street, Boston, MA 02128, now in its twenty-first year, is an artist-run collaborative space for art and ideas located in East Boston. The gallery is open to the public every Friday and Saturday, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. For private viewing, contact contact@atlanticworks.org. For more information, visit https://atlanticworks.org/.

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### FRIENDS OF BELLE ISLE MARSH HOLD ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

Friends of Belle Isle Marsh held its Harvest Festival on October 20 at Belle Isle Reservation. Families enjoyed nature walks, learned about community initiatives and programs, and listened to live folk rock music performed by Billy Goodspeed. Children decorated pumpkins with wacky pipe cleaner hair and eyeballs, and had their faces painted. Families were also educated about animals at the Curious Creatures petting zoo, and posed for fall photographs on a tractor.



Joanne Caputo-Carfagna and Misha.



Carolina Valdovinos holding her sugar skull-decorated pumpkin.



Pru, Lisa, and Julia Schad.



Veronica, Liana, Ayannah, and Aheli.



Elvin Argueta with Noodle, Juan Argueta, Yesica Argueta, Despoina Lioliou, and Max and Gabby Argueta.

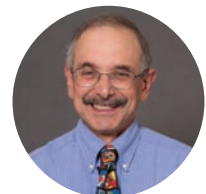
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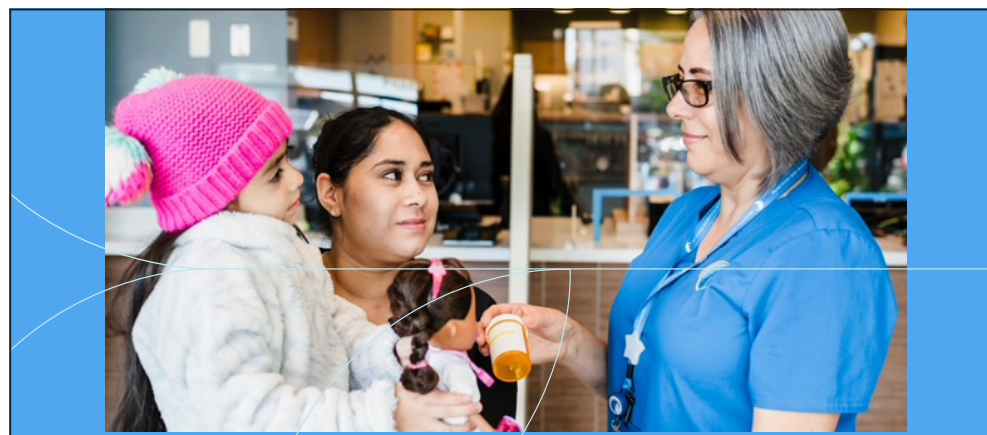
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Families learning about ball python, Douglas.



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FRIENDS OF BELLE ISLE MARSH HOLD ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Nancy St. George, Friends of Belle Isle Marsh board member, holding Chicken Nugget, the ferret.



Families interacting with a rabbit at the Curious Creatures petting zoo.



Carlos and Dylan Rodriguez and Daisey Quintana.



Andrew, 3, Katherine, and Liam Londono, 6.



Ball python, Douglas, wrapped around the shoulders of Abdullah Jones.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Sacred Heart Parish  
presents a

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FRIENDS OF BELLE ISLE MARSH HOLD ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA



Brendle, Erica and Franklin Witmer, 1 1/2, sitting on his father's shoulders.



Fredy Vargas, Cindy and Christopher Garcia, Courtney Dusvitch, Ryder Brennan, and Zion Green decorating pumpkins.



Donovan Cabell and Sheila Carideo.



Payameh Seyhandr, Steve, Stevie, and Dave Gunning, with Pasta.



Billy Goodspeed performing folk rock music.

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Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Family Zumba®	Hunt-Almont Park, Mattapan
	6:00 p.m.	Yoga	Virtual
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Yoga	Virtual
Thursday	5:30 p.m.	Latin Fusion Dance	Virtual
Friday	12:00 p.m.	Chair Yoga	Virtual
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Walking Group	Franklin Park
	10:00 a.m.	Zumba®	Virtual

Note: There will be no classes held on Monday, October 14 (Indigenous Peoples' Day) and Monday, November 11 (Veterans' Day).

For class registration, visit [boston.gov/fitness](https://boston.gov/fitness)

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Layla Gunning, Leilani and Maryam Hosseini Ghomi, and Payameh Seyhandr.

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# Free flu and COVID-19 vaccines available throughout Boston

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is encouraging all Boston residents ages 6 months and older to get vaccinated for Influenza (flu) and COVID-19 ahead of the peak of respiratory virus season. Vaccines are especially recommended for residents who are ages 65 and older, at high risk for severe COVID-19, or have never received a COVID-19 vaccine.

To increase access to vaccinations, the Boston Public Health Commission in partnership with the City of Boston and Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) are hosting several free flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics across the city. Appointments are not necessary, and residents are encouraged to bring their health insurance cards if they have one. However, insurance and identification are not required.

The dates and locations are:

- Thursday, October 24, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at City Hall Room 115
- Tuesday, October 29, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the BCYF Hyde Park Community Center
- Saturday, November 2, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the BCYF Mattahunt Community Center
- Monday, November 4, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the BCYF Paris Street Community Center
- Thursday, November 7, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the BCYF Curley Community Center

More dates and locations will be added, and residents can visit [boston.gov/respiratory-protection](http://boston.gov/respiratory-protection)

for the latest information and additional resources.

“Vaccination remains the most effective way to prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 and the flu,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. “During the fall and winter months, we strongly recommend all Boston residents receive updated vaccines and stay home if they have symptoms of respiratory viral illness.”

“We are happy to continue our partnership with BPHC on these clinics to ensure that Boston residents have access to these vaccines in their own neighborhoods,” said Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner of Boston Centers for Youth and Families.

The Boston Public Health Commission is also launching a new multilingual campaign that features community members providing tips about how to stay healthy. The Stay Healthy Boston campaign will be in MBTA subways and buses this fall and winter and include information about the small, daily choices that residents can make to keep their bodies healthy and prevent illness.

The Commission continues to monitor COVID-19 and flu levels in wastewater. Wastewater monitoring helps with early detection and provides an early warning of severe infections that can lead to hospitalization and death in high-risk populations. Current data show COVID-19 levels are low or moderate in

all Boston neighborhoods except Allston-Brighton, where COVID-19 wastewater levels are currently considered high. In the past week, BPHC found the flu virus in wastewater from Mattapan and Roxbury, indicating that the flu virus is already in Boston and people should get vaccinated before it spreads more widely.

Because there are now effective vaccines and better treatment options for viral respiratory illnesses such as the flu, COVID-19, and RSV, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated its recommendations.

Everyone ages six months and older is encouraged to get the updated flu and COVID-19 vaccines. This includes those who received previous vaccinations or had COVID-19 because protection and natural immunity wanes over time. Pregnant parents, babies, and older adults should consult their health care professional about RSV vaccinations.

Symptoms like fever, chills, cough, sore throat, stuffy or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue are commonly associated with viral respiratory illnesses such as the flu and COVID-19. Adults aged 65 and older, children younger than 5 years old, pregnant people, and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk for severe infections. Anyone who is recovering from a respiratory illness or is high-risk should take additional precautions.

## JOSIAH QUINCY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 177TH DRAGONS F.I.R.E. FUNDRAISER

Join the Josiah Quincy Elementary School on Thursday, November 21 as they celebrate 177 years in the Boston community with their annual Dragons F.I.R.E. Fundraiser and their quest to raise \$177,000 to support more than 725 students grades K0 to grade 5! Enjoy a 10-course Chinese banquet dinner and open bar (beer and wine included), and a live JQES student-led lion dragon dance performance! In addition to buying individual tickets to the event, we also have lots of other ways to show your support, including program book advertisements and several sponsorship opportunities.

Thursday, November 21 | 5:30PM-9:00PM | Empire Garden Restaurant, Chinatown.

[SupportJQES.org](http://SupportJQES.org).

## EAST BOSTON MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HOST TOMBSTONE TOUR

The East Boston Museum and Historical Society invites the public to mark Halloween by attending the Third Annual Tombstone Tour of the Bennington Street Cemetery on Saturday, October 26, between 1 and 5 p.m. Guided tours will be offered by the Historical Society at 2 and 4 p.m., and self-guided exploration of the cemetery is open between 1 and 5 p.m.

The event will feature

## NEWS IN BRIEF

the history of East Boston’s oldest cemetery, the people buried there, and maybe even a ghost story. The Tombstone Tour is free to the public, and refreshments will be provided.

The Bennington Street Cemetery was established in 1838 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The entrance to the cemetery is located on Bennington Street between Swift Street and Harmony Street.

The East Boston Museum and Historical Society is a local volunteer organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich and diverse history of East Boston and its people. More information on the organization and its work is available on the EBMHS website.

## BOSTON-AREA LANDLORD ARRAIGNED ON PANDEMIC RELIEF FRAUD CHARGES

A landlord with properties in East Boston, Chelsea and Revere was arraigned on charges related to fraudulent applications for pandemic-era housing relief in Suffolk Superior Court on October 17, 2024.

Steven Stoico is charged with 3 counts of Larceny Over \$1,200, 4 counts of Attempt to Commit Larceny Over \$1,200, and 1 count of Solicitation to Commit Larceny Over \$1,200 for allegedly filing seven false applications for rental assistance during the pandemic. Three of the seven fraudulent applications were granted allegedly resulting in payments of \$95,400 to Stoico. The remaining four applications that sought \$136,200 in rental assistance were denied.

“I want to thank Attorney General Campbell’s team and the OIG investigative team for pursuing this case,” Inspector General Jeffrey S. Shapiro said. “Given the high cost of housing, misuse of rental assistance, as alleged in this case, is egregious. Therefore, it is imperative that people who abuse these government resources are held accountable.”

The Office of the Inspector General investigated the case and the Attorney General’s Office is prosecuting the case.

The charges are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

## GSNA AGENDA FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

The next Gove Street Neighborhood Association (GSNA) meeting is October 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Please register for this virtual meeting on our website: <https://www.govestreet.org/meetings>

We are looking for new volunteers to join our board for 2025! We will

make space at this meeting to discuss.

Agenda (approx. 70-90 min)

Community Updates (30 min)

BPD (Sgt. Cintolo) - Updates

City Hall (Roberto Gomez) - Updates

Asking for volunteers for GSNA Board for 2025

Boston Office of Emergency Management Presentation (Boston.gov/Emergency)

NEW PROJECTS (40-60 min)

108-110 Orleans/1-4 Percival Place: Subdivide Parcel #010390900 into two lots. Lot 1 to contain 2,872 s.f. and Lot 2 to contain 2,127 s.f. Change occupancy to a six unit residential dwelling as per plans.

265-269 Maverick Street: Erect addition and change of occupancy to a multi-family residential building consisting of thirty-six (36) units with thirteen (13) parking spaces. Subject to small project review under Article 80

Google Meet joining info Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/wyz-kimu-nbn>

Our next meeting after this one will be Monday, November 25, at 6:30 PM.

Hola comunidad de GSNA:

A continuación, encontrará la agenda de nuestra reunión comunitaria de octubre. Puede registrarse para la reunión en <https://www.govestreet.org/meetings>

Asociación de vecinos de Gove Street (GSNA)

Agenda para el lunes 28 de octubre de 2024 a las 6:30 PM

Regístrese para esta reunión virtual en nuestro sitio web: <https://www.govestreet.org/meetings>

¡Estamos buscando nuevos voluntarios para unirse a nuestra junta en 2025! Haremos espacio en esta reunión para debatir.

Agenda (aprox. 70-90 min)

Actualizaciones de la comunidad (30 min)

BPD (Sgt. Cintolo) - Actualizaciones

Ayuntamiento (Roberto Gomez) - Actualizaciones

Solicitamos voluntarios para la Junta de GSNA para 2025

Presentación de la Oficina de Gestión de Emergencias de Boston (Boston.gov/Emergency)

PROYECTOS NUEVOS (40-60 min)

108-110 Orleans/1-4 Percival Place: Subdividir la parcela n.º 010390900 en dos lotes. El lote 1 contendrá 2872 pies cuadrados y el lote 2 contendrá 2127 pies cuadrados. Cambiar la ocupación a una vivienda residencial de seis unidades según los planos.

265-269 Maverick Street: Ampliación y cambio de ocupación de un edificio residencial multifamiliar que consta de treinta y seis (36) unidades con trece (13) espacios de estacionamiento. Sujeto a revisión de proyecto pequeño según el Artículo 80

## LEGAL NOTICE

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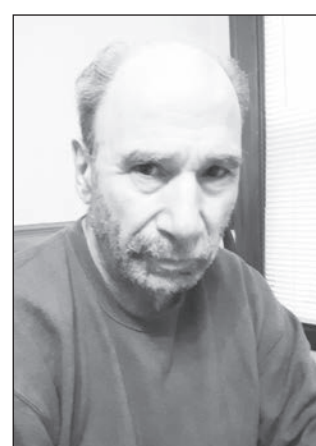
Docket No. SU20P2221GD  
In the matter of: William Kenney  
Of: East Boston, MA  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the 1st, 2nd & 3rd account(s) of Public Guardian Services, LLC of Braintree, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance. You have the right to

object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 10/30/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s). Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family

Court. You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you. **IMPORANT NOTICE** The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. **WITNESS**, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: October 02, 2024  
Stephanie L. Everett  
Register of Probate  
10/23/24  
EB

## OBITUARIES

### Robert Barbarisi Of East Boston



Robert Barbarisi passed away surrounded by his loving family on October 3rd.

The beloved husband of Joan (Famolare) of East Boston, he was the loving son of Norma (Limola) Barbarisi and the late Carmine of East Boston, dear brother of Richard Barbarisi and his wife, Maryann of Florida, Stephen Barbarisi, Janice Barbarisi and Jean Barbarisi and the late James and Joseph Barbarisi. He is also survived by his brother-in-law, James Famolare and wife, Maureen, sister-in-law, Rita Sozio and her late husband, Thomas and many

nieces and nephews.

In accordance with the deceased's wishes, there will be no services. To leave an online condolence visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

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# Healey appoints Tom McGee as next chair of the MBTA Board of Directors

Special to the Times-Free Press

Governor Maura Healey today announced that she is appointing Thomas M. McGee as the next Chair of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Association (MBTA) Board of Directors. McGee has served as a board member since April 2023. He is the former Mayor of Lynn and previously served in the Senate, where he chaired the Transportation Committee. Current Chair Thomas P. Glynn has announced his intention to step down from the Board effective November 1.

"I'm deeply grateful to Tom Glynn for his lifetime of service to the people of Massachusetts, and particularly for his leadership as Chair of the MBTA Board of Directors. Working together with Secretary Tibbits-Nutt, General Manager Eng and the entire Board, Tom has overseen a transformative period at the T and worked to improve safety and reliability across the system. I thank him for his constant guidance and wisdom and wish him the best of luck in this next chapter," said Governor Healey. "I'm proud to be appointing Tom McGee as the next Chair of the MBTA Board of Directors. As the former Mayor of a Gateway City and Senate Chair-

man of the Transportation Committee, he knows how critical our transportation infrastructure is for the communities in and around Boston, and across our entire state. He has been a trusted and reliable voice on the MBTA Board, and I'm excited for the future of the T with his leadership."

"Massachusetts couldn't ask for stronger leaders in transportation than Tom Glynn and Tom McGee. Working together these past two years with the entire team, they have delivered improvements at the T that haven't been seen in decades," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "I'm thankful for Tom Glynn's years of service to Massachusetts and congratulate Tom McGee as he steps into this new role."

As Chair of the MBTA Board of Directors, Tom Glynn has helped to steer the agency through a transformative period. He has worked closely with Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt, MBTA General Manager Phil Eng, and the entire Board to improve safety and reliability across the system. In the past year and a half, the T has made historic progress on removing slow zones on every subway line, launched a low-income fares pro-

gram and contactless pay, overseen significant improvements with hiring and retention, achieved labor agreements with the entire workforce, and renegotiated the contract for new Orange and Red Line subway cars to get the project back on track.

Prior to his service on the MBTA Board, Glynn served as the General Manager of the MBTA under Governor Michael Dukakis, CEO of Massport under Governor Deval Patrick, Deputy Secretary of Labor in the Clinton Administration, and Chief Operating Officer of Partners Healthcare (now called Mass General Brigham | Integrated Health Care System). He also served as Co-Chair of the Public Transportation Committee for the Healey-Driscoll Transition Committee.

"I'm proud of the work that the MBTA Board has done these past couple of years with the strong partnership of Governor Healey, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll, Secretary Tibbits-Nutt and General Manager Eng," said Tom Glynn. "This Board showed up every day with the urgency necessary to meet the challenges facing the T, and we refused to settle for the status quo. As a result, we've been able to deliver major im-

provements across the system and dramatically improve safety and reliability. I'm confident that the T will continue making important progress under the leadership of Tom McGee."

Tom McGee has served on the MBTA Board of Directors since April 2023 and on the MassDOT Board of Directors since June 2023. He was Mayor of the City of Lynn from 2018 to 2022. Previously, he served as Massachusetts State Senator from the Third Essex district. He was a member of the Joint Committee on Transportation starting in 2003 and served as Senate Chair of the committee from 2011 to 2018. Before his election to the Senate in 2002, McGee served four terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives where he represented West Lynn and Nahant. Prior to holding office, McGee practiced law at Quinn and Morris (1990-1994) and served as an Assistant District Attorney for Essex County (1988-1990). McGee is a life-long resident of Lynn where he lives with his wife Maria and has two children. He is committed to improving the state's transportation system and strongly supports regional equity.

He currently serves as

a member of the Board of Trustees at the St Mary's School in Lynn. He is also a member of the Pickering Middle School Building Committee in Lynn.

"I'm honored that Governor Healey has placed her faith in me to lead the incredible team at the MBTA Board of Directors," said Tom McGee. "We have done important work together since coming together as a Board, and I'm looking forward to partnership further with Secretary Tibbits-Nutt and General Manager Eng to deliver on our promise of a world-class public transportation system that we can all be proud of. I'm grateful for the strong leadership of Tom Glynn and look forward to continuing to build on the progress he has started."

The other members of the MBTA Board of Directors are Secretary Tibbits-Nutt, Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch, Framingham Mayor Charlie Sisitsky, Robert Butler, Eric L. Goodwine, Mary Skelton Roberts and Chanda Smart. Governor Healey will be appointing another member in the near future.

"It has been such an honor to work together alongside Chair Tom Glynn to ensure that the MBTA had the investment, support, and infrastructure it needed to meet the Common-

wealth's transit demands now and in the future. He has led with intentionality and grit, and the MBTA is better for it," said Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "Having Director Tom McGee step in as the incoming Board Chair is a gift. I can't think of a better ally, advocate, and champion than him. His considerable experience and lifelong commitment to service will help us create a more robust, equitable, and reliable transit system."

"Tom Glynn has had such a storied career, and with every role he has taken on, he has led with an unmatched devotion to Massachusetts and the people he interacted with. His time as Chair of the MBTA Board was no different, and under his leadership, the T has made great strides. I've been blessed to have had this opportunity to work with Tom, and I am forever better," said General Manager Phillip Eng. "Governor Healey made a slam dunk game-winner with Tom Glynn's appointment, and Director McGee is a true professional who has also served the Commonwealth throughout his career. I'm confident the future of the MBTA is bright with him as the Chair."

## With autumn in the air, State Fire Marshal offers home heating reminder

With crisp autumn temperatures settling in across Massachusetts, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine is reminding residents that home heating equipment is the leading source of carbon monoxide and the second-leading cause of residential fires.

"Having your heating system serviced each year will help reduce the risk of a fire or carbon monoxide incident that puts you and your loved ones in danger," State Fire Marshal Davine said. "It will also save you money by helping you heat your home more efficiently."

Massachusetts fire departments reported nearly 6,000 fires related to home heating equipment in the past five years. These fires claimed eight lives, caused 139 injuries to residents and firefighters, and contributed to more than \$42 million in property losses. Fires that began with sol-

id fuel heating equipment such as fireplaces, wood stoves, and their chimneys represent about half the total, while gas, oil, and electric appliances made up the other half.

Carbon monoxide is a hazard all year long, but especially in the winter as heating equipment returns to regular use. Firefighters encountered carbon monoxide hazards at more than 24,000 calls over the past five years, most of which took place in the colder months.

State Fire Marshal Davine offered these tips to protect yourself and your loved ones:

### Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Every household should have working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms installed on every level of the home. Test them every month to

be sure they're working properly and replace alkaline batteries twice a year when you change your clocks. Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years and CO alarms should be replaced after 5, 7, or 10 years depending on the make and model.

### Fireplaces, Wood Stoves, and Pellet Stoves

Solid fuel heating appliances such as fireplaces and wood stoves have accounted for a rising share of home heating fires in recent years. Most chimney fires occur because of a build-up of creosote, a tarry byproduct of burning wood: using only dry, seasoned wood and having your chimney and flue professionally inspected and cleaned each year can reduce this risk. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away on all sides, and use a fireplace screen or keep the wood

stove door closed to prevent sparks and embers from escaping. When the fire is out, shovel ashes into a metal bucket with a lid and place it outside on the ground away from the building – not in the trash.

### Natural Gas and Oil Heat

If you have a furnace, water heater, or oil burner with a pilot light, keep a three-foot "circle of safety" around it, clear of anything that could catch fire. Don't store gasoline, painting supplies, or other flammable solvents in the home: their vapors can be ignited by a pilot light. These heating systems should also be checked and serviced annually by a licensed professional. If you smell gas, don't use any electrical switches or devices: get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1 right away.

### Space Heaters

Keep space heaters at least three feet from curtains, bedding, and anything else that can burn. Plug them directly into a wall socket, not an extension cord or a power strip, and always turn the heater off when you leave the room or go to sleep. When purchasing a space heater, select one that's been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Intertek (ETL). Newer space heaters should have an automatic shut-off switch that turns the device off if it tips over. Never use portable propane or kerosene heaters indoors – the fire and CO hazards are simply too high.

### Heating Assistance

Residents struggling to pay for heating bills or maintenance may be eligible for assistance through

the Massachusetts home energy assistance program (LIHEAP). No matter what type of heating equipment you use, LIHEAP may be able to help you pay your winter heating bills or maintain your heating system so it runs more safely and efficiently. All Massachusetts residents are encouraged to explore eligibility for this free program and apply for assistance.

### More Home Heating Safety Tips

The Department of Fire Services offers a wealth of home heating safety information, including the "Keep Warm, Keep Safe" tool kit for local fire departments, caregivers, and service providers, at [www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeep-safe](http://www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeep-safe).

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Hall, Stephen	Trichilo Development LLC	70 Shawshen Rd #2	\$625,000
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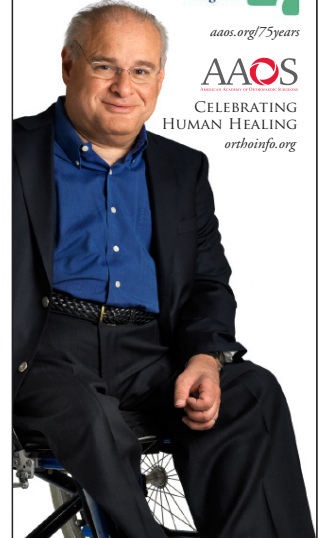
As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

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.



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FRESH AND LOCAL

# Two pots of Bolognese!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

This is the time of year when we think about the perfect dishes to have on hand for the holiday season. Demands on the cook's time, entertaining large groups, potluck meals, and the need to accommodate different dietary limitations call for flexible menus. This year, we recommend that you make two pots of bolognese! One will be more traditional; the other will be vegetarian or vegan.

bolognese in a traditional Italian restaurant as a treat, but we would not make it at home.

However, we recommend Kenji Lopez-Alt's book *The Food Lab* if you want to make the ultimate bolognese sauce. It contains not only step-by-step instructions but also a discussion of why each step is essential and what it will do for your finished dish.

### Healthier Bolognese

Today's culinary and nutritionally aware food writers have developed lighter, healthier versions of this classic. We first tried Jamie Oliver's bolognese with mushrooms and lentils and never looked back. As we eat less and less meat, we find it harder and harder to digest.

Oliver introduced this recipe as a budget-friendly option. We've shared it with friends who are mushroom lovers, on a budget, or on a cholesterol

control diet. They all loved it!

### Vegetarian or Vegan?

Recently, a reader of his column in *The Guardian* asked Yotam Ottolenghi, "What's the best thing to use in a meat-free bolognese?" He replied, "If you're after something that tastes as close to bolognese as you can get without using meat, mushrooms are your friend here, especially when they're supported by other big-hitting ingredients such as miso or Marmite, soy sauce and red wine."

He emphasized the importance of cooking down the soffritto and simmering the sauce long and slow, tasting and adjusting as you go. Furthermore, in typical Ottolenghi style, he had great ideas for additions and substitutions.

### Cook Two Pots at Once

If you plan to make both versions of bolognese, you can do it in one



Our healthier bolognese has the amount of meat cut by adding mushrooms and lentils.

cooking session. Chop the vegetables for both simultaneously and put some in each pot to sauté. We like to finely chop our mushrooms to look like bits of ground meat and cook them the way Julia Child taught us to make mushroom duxelles.

Add your meat to the omnivore pan and the mushrooms and lentils to the vegetarian version. From there, make the ad-

ditions your recipe calls for and any options you want to make it your own. Finally, as Kenji says, "Reduce, reduce, reduce!"

The great news is that you can freeze portions of either bolognese and use it over the next few months. You can serve the sauce on any pasta, but the usual choice is a flat version like tagliatelli or pappardelle. Ed loves to eat it with slices of good artisan

bread. Mix it with rice to stuff peppers or eggplant, or serve it on rolls as an upscale sloppy joe! You could turn it into an exciting version of a shepherd's pie. (We stole this idea from one of our favorite Irish pubs, The Bebo.)

*Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.*

## JPNA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

show the potential visibility of the deck.

Mohamed also took questions. One attendee had asked about the deck dimensions. It was explained that the roof deck was about 19.5 feet and would have about a four-foot setback from the front of the building.

He was also asked about a timeline for construction. In response, Mohamed noted he would have to go through the city process but said, "I would like to have it done by May at the latest, and I'm hoping that it could be done in two weekends' worth of work."

The next proposal discussed was for outdoor seating at Santa Fe Burrito Grill at 303 Sumner Street. Specifically, the proponents want to have seating for 20 people on an already-built patio at the rear of the building.

Derric Small, the attorney who presented the proposal to the JPNA, said that the patio would be open from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and he expected that there would be piped-in music but that it would not be loud.

"It's not meant to be a party atmosphere; it's just during dining, and when the restaurant closes, the dining will end," said Small.

He also mentioned that the patio would probably not be used when it began to get cold. However, he acknowledged there had been discussions about using things like heat lamps to extend the life of the patio.

Margaret Farmer, a JPNA Board Member, had asked about the potential for using heat lamps or even enclosing the patio

to extend its life in colder months, to which Small said if it were to happen, they would return to the JPNA to propose that.

As the discussion continued, an abutter raised concerns about noise regarding the volume of potential music and patrons.

In response, Small noted that they have discussed noise mitigation and soundproofing with the folks who live above the restaurant.

"Those talks will continue, and we are committed to making it as less noisy as possible if and when the music is piped in," he said.

"We have a very good reputation in the community with regard to the site, and I think the continued dialogue between the restaurant owners and management staff and with the community will continue to happen. We'll continue to come to this meeting; they'll continue to do things to mitigate sound if that's an issue."

It should also be noted that Santa Fe Burrito Grill requests to change its occupancy to include a take-out use. Small emphasized that the take-out use already exists and the request is simply due to a technical issue when the restaurant's permits were first applied for.

These votes were initially supposed to take place last week. However, a member of the JPNA Board told the East Boston Times on Monday that a technology error has necessitated a re-do vote.

Visit <https://jeffriespoint.org/> for more information about the JPNA and to view the voting results when posted.

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**Russell //** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

our future will now always be commemorated on the gateway into Downtown Boston. I'm grateful to Mrs. Jeannine Russell who worked with us to find the right way to memorialize his legacy, and all who helped create this tribute to a beloved Boston figure."

"This bridge, like Bill, stands strong and enduring. It connects people with purpose, just as he connected the struggles of the past with the hopes of the future. It symbolizes progress—moving us forward while reminding us of the foundations that hold us up. I am so pleased & grateful for all involved who made this day happen," said Jeannine Russell.

"Bill Russell was a giant. On the court, he was an unmatched defender, facilitator and leader. The intensity and passion he brought to the game made him a natural leader off the court as well, making powerful contributions to the Civil Rights movement and inspiring millions, even today," said Governor Maura Healey. "It is so meaningful to stand with the Russell Family to rename this bridge in his honor, and I'm grateful to Mayor Wu for making this happen. I hope that everyone who travels across this bridge will take a moment to think about the man that made such a positive im-

pact in Massachusetts and beyond."

"Bill Russell built his legacy in Boston on his civil rights leadership and with his prowess on the basketball court. His leadership paved the way for athletes today to not only thrive on the basketball court but also as advocates off the court. This dedication will cement that legacy in Boston forever," said Rep. Aaron Michlewitz.

Russell was an instrumental part of the Celtics' dynasty in the late 1950's and 60's, and was a part of 11 NBA Championship teams as both a player and a coach. He was twice inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. Russell was a trailblazer for Black athletes and a fierce supporter for civil rights, later earning the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama. Off the court, he was devoted to MENTOR, an organization that works to foster quality mentors for youth, for which he was a founding board member.

"Bill Russell was a legend both on and off the court," said Celtics co-owner and president of the Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation Steve Pagliuca. "Through his groundbreaking activism for racial justice, he paved the way for future athletes to use their platform to demand equal rights and take



Boston Celtics public address announcer and East Boston native Eddie Palladino and House Ways and Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz are pictured at the bridge renaming ceremony in honor of Bill Russell, the Boston Celtics 11-time world champion and civil rights activist. Palladino is beginning his 22nd season as Celtics' PA announcer.

a stand on issues outside of the arena. Russell's legacy transcends basketball and we are honored today to celebrate the renaming of the North Washington St. Bridge to the 'William Felton Bill Russell Bridge'."

"This groundbreaking bridge naming for Bill is fitting in that he was the ultimate champion, leader, and teammate linking diverse groups together," said David Shapiro, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Boston and former CEO of MENTOR. "He was a champion and advocate for the power of mentoring relationships for young



House Ways and Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz and District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, pictured at the renaming ceremony for the William Felton "Bill" Russell Bridge.



District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata joins Sen. Sal DiDomenico (left) and Rep. Dan Ryan (right) for a photo adjacent to the plaque commemorating the William Felton "Bill" Russell Bridge.

people having helped found MENTOR, the nation's leader for the youth mentoring movement. He was brilliant, funny, and never stopped fighting for human rights for all and demanded we confront the past to better the present and future. Grounded in his own experience, he saw the universality of the quest for equity for any group or individual and used his voice to elevate voices, action, and accountability."

Bridge construction, led by MassDOT in partnership with the City's Streets Cabinet, is expected to be completed in early 2025. The bridge is partially open to drivers and pedestrians as the construction finishes. A plaque with Bill Russell's name will be installed in summer of 2025.

"As this bridge plays a vital role in connecting communities and literally bringing people together, it is fitting that it is named after Bill Russell, a man who did those very things throughout his life," said MassDOT Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "Our hope is that the thousands of people who cross this bridge on a daily basis are reminded of the indelible legacy that he left behind, not only in the city

of Boston but across the country."

"Bill Russell made a significant impact on and off the court. I am thrilled that the City of Boston and MassDOT found a unique way to forever honor his legacy. I am confident that the public will be pleased with the new bridge," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver.

"I am proud to witness the renaming of the North Washington Street Bridge to the William Felton Bill Russell Bridge," said Senator Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. "Bill Russell's legacy extends far beyond basketball—he was a champion for equality, justice, and uplifting the most vulnerable members of society. Renaming this bridge in his honor is not only a tribute to one of Boston's greatest sports icons, but also a lasting symbol of his commitment to making our nation more just and inclusive. Charlestown will now forever be connected to his incredible legacy, serving as a reminder of the greatness we can all aspire to achieve on and off the court. I want to thank Mayor Wu for bestowing this honor on one of Boston's greatest champions."

"Bill Russell is a great man and icon. He represents overcoming and coming together," said Senator Lydia Edwards. "His legacy is cemented as a symbol of sportsmanship and hope."

"Bill Russell epitomized what it meant to be a leader and a champion both on and off the court. What Russell meant to his teammates and the City of Boston while he was here, and the contributions he continued to make throughout his life were immense," said Rep. Danny Ryan. "I want to thank Mayor Wu for such a thoughtful tribute and Governor Healey for prioritizing this project's completion. When finished this bridge will inspire awe the way its namesake did for generations."

"Bill Russell's legend went beyond the basketball court. His legacy as a social justice activist and bridge builder transcends sports. There is no better individual to represent connectivity between two of my neighborhoods in Boston," said Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. "Thank you to his family for sharing him and his likeness with us for so many years, and to everyone who work tirelessly to build bridges everyday."

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