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The East Boston High School ROTC contingent marched in the annual Veterans Day Parade that was held on Saturday, November 8. The parade started at the intersection of Boylston and Dartmouth streets in the Back Bay. The EBHS ROTC is shown along Boylston Street. See page 6 for more photos.

Coletta Zapata has secured votes to serve as next Council President

Special to the Times-Free Press

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata has secured enough support from her colleagues to claim the City Council presidency when the new term begins in January.

"I'm proud to have had the privilege of serving the residents of Boston for eight years with the City Council. I deeply believe in this institution and in the vital role we play in improving the lives of Bostonians every day," said Councilor Coletta Zapata. "The strength of this Council lies in our ability to respect one another, even when we disagree, and to work



City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata

together with purpose and integrity. When we lead with respect and unity, we model

See COUNCIL Page 3

North Service Area Optimization update given at HVNA meeting

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

During the Harbor View Neighborhood Association's (HVNA) monthly meeting last week, representatives from Massport provided an update on its project to optimize the North Service Area.

During the HVNA's April meeting, Massport's Deputy Director of Community Relations and Federal Affairs, Anthony Guerriero, explained that the North Service Area is the northern section of Logan

See HVNA Page 7



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Forum

THE STARK MESSAGE OF A HOUSE OF DYNAMITE

More than 40 years ago, a made-for-TV movie, The Day After, shocked Americans of all ages. We were among the 100 million of our fellow Americans in nearly 39 million households (about 62% of the viewing public that night) who watched the film when it first aired on Sunday evening, November 20, 1983, on ABC.

The movie graphically portrayed the hypothetical aftermath of a full-scale nuclear war between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. Unlike so many post-nuclear war movies since then (which invariably depict sci-fi mutant zombies), The Day After was a straightforward, no-nonsense dramatization, as seen through the eyes of a family in Lawrence, Kansas (led by the great actor Jason Robards) of the devastating effects of an all-out nuclear exchange between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

The movie so traumatized Americans (and later the Soviet people, who were able watch it a couple of years later) that it is credited with jump-starting the nuclear disarmament talks between then-President Ronald Reagan and his Soviet counterpart, Mikhail Gorbachev, a few years later that resulted in the agreement between the two countries to reduce their nuclear arsenals.

However, the world's political landscape has done a proverbial 180-turn over the past 40 years: Russian dictator Vladimir Putin has invaded Ukraine and has threatened to use nuclear weapons if the U.S. and Europe try to thwart his goals, and both Russia and China are developing hypersonic missiles that could reach the U.S. within a few minutes.

In addition, rogue states such as No. Korea and Iran have embarked on nuclear weapons programs that threaten their immediate neighbors.

The new Netflix movie, A House of Dynamite, dramatizes how the U.S. government would react to the detection of a potentially nuclear-armed missile that is predicted to strike Chicago. The launch of the missile went undetected by American radar systems -- so no one knows which country, Russia, China, or No. Korea, fired it.

We won't give too much of the plot away, except to say that Idris Elba plays an American president who is much like Barack Obama. In other words, he appears to be smart, rational, and on top of things.

But when confronted with the imminent threat of a nuclear weapon striking Chicago within 19 minutes, even Elba's president (he is not given a name in the movie) is caught like a deer-in-the-headlights. He has not studied the nuclear "playbook" in advance, and he has advisors who are giving him contradictory opinions, much like JFK received during the Cuban missile crisis.

In our view, that's the whole point of a House of Dynamite: In a nuclear age where leaders have only minutes to make a decision -- "Do we bomb another country in retaliation? And if so, whom? Or do we wait to see if it was a mistake?" -- even a theoretically-intelligent president has no good choices and at best will be making decisions about possibly annihilating the world based on a hunch.

We are now more than 40 years removed from The Day After, but we are living in a world in which there are more nukes in the hands of authoritarian rulers who have no guardrails in their own countries. The only advisors they trust are themselves because they deliberately have installed lackeys in key positions who only tell them what they want to hear.

The message of a House of Dynamite is simply this: If our nation's leaders ever have to confront a nuclear crisis, we're doomed -- which means that we must take all means necessary to ensure that we never find ourselves in that situation.

Marvel music icons return to Arlington's Regent Theatre to kickoff off "Very Merry Christmas Show"

Special to the Times-Free Press

Rock 'n' Roll, Vocal, and Grammy Hall of Fame icons, The Platters (theplatters.com), members of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) music family, kick off their self-titled Very Merry Christmas Show at The Regent Theatre in Arlington, Massachusetts, on Friday, November 28, at 7:30 p.m.

Founded and named by Herb Reed in the mid-50s and living around the corner from the Regent in Arlington, Massachusetts, for decades before his death, The Platters continue today with Lance Bernard Bryant, Omar Ross, Jovian K. Ford, Brittney Michelle Wallace, and Music Director Matt Savage. Collectively, they lend their harmonically smooth voices to take audiences on a festive, holiday-themed celebration through a magical, interactive, sonically driven sleigh ride fueled by music spanning the decades. The harmonic quartet weaves their major evergreen hits-The Great Pretender, My Prayer, and Smoke Gets in Your Eyes—into family-friendly holiday classics, creating a night of joyful memories.

The timeless group will also debut songs from their long-awaited LP, With Love, The Platters, a sonic love letter to the world. It will be the vocal group's first recording in decades

The Platters became part of the MCU in 2021 when one of their timeless hits, Twilight Time, was used in the breakthrough Marvel - Disney+ streaming television series WandaVision. Only You (and You Alone), the song that first launched the vocal group onto the national music charts, recently topped the critically acclaimed soundtrack of Marvel's international blockbuster Deadpool & Wolverine. They also have an upcoming movie planned featuring Vin Diesel reprising his role as Groot, based



The Platters

on the character from the acclaimed Guardians of the Galaxy.

According to music creator Frederick J. Balboni, Jr. (bcg-hre.com), Reed's hand-picked, direct successor and international keeper of The Platters' legacy, "We look forward to helping people take pause, feel the joy, and be touched by the spirit of the season through our signa-

ture harmonies." He continued, "Our friends and family holiday show with its surprises, and popular music through the decades makes for a wonderful opportunity for a family and friends to celebrate old and newly created traditions."

Tickets are available at the Regent Theatre Box Office, by phone at 781-646-4949, or online at the regent theatre.com.

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Concord Monitor

NEW Health announces new cosmetic services

Special to the Times-Free Press

Licensed and certified dentists provide Botox and dermal filler treatments designed to refresh appearance and enhance natural beauty. With advanced training and an expert understanding of facial aesthetics, they bring both artistry and precision to every treatment for natural-looking results in a trusted health care environment.

NEW Health dentists, Dr. Elodia Kore and Dr. Erika Omansky, are highly trained to deliver these cosmetic services with expertise and compassion.

Patients can soften fine lines and wrinkles in common areas such as the forehead, frown lines and crow's feet, revitalize tired features, or restore youthful volume and contour with



Dr. Elodia Kore

these quick, non-surgical treatments, with little to no down-time.

"We tell patients that you can experience the perfect blend of medical expertise and personalized care in a welcoming, professional setting you already know and trust at NEW Health," said Dr. Omansky. "We are excited to expand our



Dr. Erika Omansky

offerings with these services that are highly in demand."

The services are open to all – those who are interested do not need to be primary care or dental care patients at NEW Health. Services are available at out-of-pocket costs, but at competitive prices. Free consultations at the North End location (332 Hanover Street in

Boston) can be scheduled by calling (617) 643-8070.

As a federally qualified health center and an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Medical Center, North End Waterfront Health (NEW Health) extends its world-renowned healthcare services to people who live and work in and around Boston's North End, Waterfront and Charlestown neighborhoods. NEW Health is committed to improving the quality of health and life for those it serves by providing high quality health care that is consumer oriented, culturally appropriate, neighborhood-based. affordable. and produces positive outcomes. NEW Health is a 2023 Health Center Quality Leader (HCQL), the only Massachusetts health center to receive a Gold badge from the Health Resources and Services Administration, among the top 10% of health centers nationwide.

NEW Health has been serving the North End of Boston and the surrounding community since 1971. In addition to primary care services for all patients, many specialty services are also offered including dental, vision, behavioral health, obstetrics, gynecology, laboratory services and x-ray services. NEW Health is a private, non-profit corporation that is governed by a community-based Board of Directors and licensed by the Department of Public Health. More information at www.newhealthcenter.org, on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Council // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the kind of civic leadership our city deserves – and we get more done for the residents who count on us. I'm honored to have earned the respect and support of my colleagues on the Council and I look forward to the work ahead."

Raised by community advocates in East Boston, Gabriela grew up attending civic association meetings, neighborhood events, and even multiple protests against airport runway expansion with her mom, Nina. Gabriela has dedicated her entire life working in public service to others and giving back to the beautiful, diverse neighborhood that has given her so much.

Gabriela was elected in a special election on May 3, 2022, to replace then-Councilor Edwards. She was re-elected in 2023 and again in 2025.

Since her election to represent District 1—East Boston, Charlestown, the North End, and the Wharf District—Councilor Coletta Zapata has built on that foundation with a record of tangible results. As Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, she plays a central role in the City Council's legislative process—overseeing the review, analysis, and negotiation of all ordinances, home rule petitions, and special laws before they advance to the full Council or the Mayor's desk. This position serves as the final checkpoint for accountability, legal precision, and policy alignment across all city departments, ensuring that every law enacted reflects both community needs and sound gover-

In her additional role as Chair of the Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency & Parks, she has led the Council's efforts to advance local climate resilience, promote sustainability, and expand Boston's parks network and urban tree canopy—strengthening the city's commitment to equity and environmental stewardship.

Before her election to the Boston City Council in 2022, Gabriela built a deep record of community service and progressive leadership. She served as Chief of Staff to then-Councilor Lydia Edwards, where she amplified the lived experiences of her neighbors, and worked across the neighborhoods of Charlestown, East Boston, and the North End to address housing affordability, inequities in public education, and the climate threats facing Boston's coastline. She later led the New England Aquarium's external relations work, advancing a more resilient, inclusive, and accessible downtown waterfront.

Her dedication to empowering women in politics has been a consistent throughline. As Associate Director of the Mas-

sachusetts Women's Political Caucus, she helped recruit and train women to run for office and manage campaigns, while building statewide strategies to elect endorsed candidates. She served as a frequent Emerge Massachusetts trainer, mentoring women entering public service. Her early political organizing includes managing Lydia Edwards's groundbreaking 2017 campaign and serving as community liaison to State Representative Adrian Madaro, roles that cemented her reputation as a collaborative, grassroots leader.

Councilor Coletta Zapata is a proud product of Boston Public Schools and graduated from Boston Latin Academy. She received a degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts at Boston as well as a minor in Human Rights. She currently lives in East Boston with her husband, Sebastian Zapata.

Councilor At-large Henry Santana will serve as Vice President. "I'm deeply honored to serve as Vice President alongside Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. Gabriela and I first met when we were both staffers on the City Council, and from day one I've watched her grow, lead, and deliver for our City," said Councilor Santana. "It's been a privilege to partner with her in District 1—working shoulder-to-shoulder, listening

to residents, and achieving real results in East Boston, Charlestown, the North End, and the Wharf District. I know she will be an exceptional President—thoughtful, committed, and

determined to unite our Council and move Boston forward for every neighborhood. I look forward to the work ahead together."



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THE MASSACHUSETTS VETERANS HOME AT CHELSEA HONORS THOSE WHO SERVED IN VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Last Thursday morning veterans from surrounding communities were honors at a Veterans Day ceremony in the Great Room in the skilled Nursing Facility of the Mass. Veterans Home of Chelsea.

Local and state officials, residents of the facility, and family members gathered to pay their respect for these brave men and women that served our nation.



Donna Blattenberger and Carmen



Mass. Veterans Home of Chelsea Honor Guard, Charles Lewis, Tom Miller and Edwin Feliciano.



US Marine Mike Erikson stands at attention and salutes our Country's Flag during the opening



Army Veteran Marc Silvestri

Invocation by Father Joe White.



Chelsea City Manager Fidel Maltez with his words to the veterans and their families.



State Representative Judith Garcia with her words on the day's activities.



Keynote Speaker, Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans Services, Major Jon Santiago US Army Reserve.



Trustee and Past National Commander of the JWV Ira Novoselsky with the Benedic-



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Christine Baldini, Executive **Director of the Massachusetts** Veterans Home of Chelsea



US Marine Phil Tommaro with Chelsea Councilor Leo Robinson.



Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans Services, Major Jon Santiago (second from left), with Trustee Ira Novoselsky, Executive Director Christine Baldini, and Trustee Chair Tom Lyons.

THE MASSACHUSETTS VETERANS HOME AT CHELSEA HONORS THOSE WHO SERVED IN VETERANS DAY CEREMONY



Past Commander of the DAV **Auxiliary Becky Swope and US Army Veterans Steve Doucette.**



Ryan Melchionno with his dad and US Marine Bill.



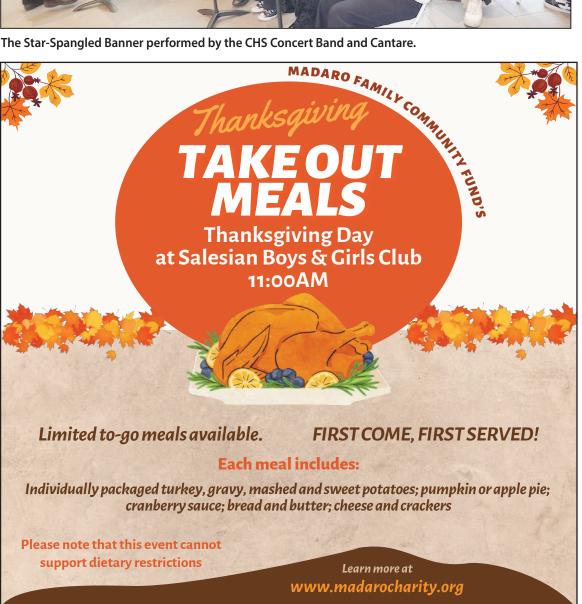
The Star-Spangled Banner performed by the CHS Concert Band and Cantare.



Major Deb Bowker US Army and Commander of the RHS JROTC prepares the honor guard for the opening ceremony.

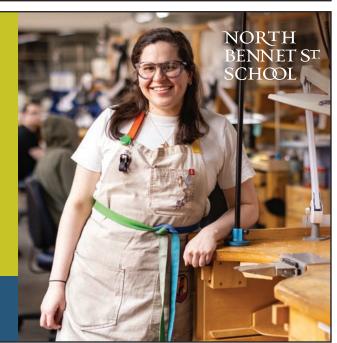


Michael Russo, Father Joe White and John Dodd.



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SCENES FROM THE ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PARADE

MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Mayor Michelle Wu attended the City's annual Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 8, to honor the service and sacrifices of all who have served and those who continue to serve. This year's parade featured 40 veteran-supporting organizations from across the state and over 1,100 participants. The parade began at noon at the intersection of Boylston and Dartmouth streets in Copley Square and end at City Hall Plaza. Following the parade, there was be a brief speaking program, flag raising ceremony and free concert headlined by national recording artist Laura Byrna.

























HVNA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Airport, parallel to the greenway and MBTA tracks beyond Wood Island Station.

"We're going to optimize and modernize that area. Right now, you have the green bus depot and a hodgepodge of buildings like the flight kitchen and so forth and so on," Guerriero said at last week's meeting.

As for why this project is being undertaken, Guerriero listed several reasons, including that the current buildings are old and poorly located, "critical operational functions" are being conducted in those buildings that are not up to current maintenance and storage standards, and there are inefficiencies with land use and the ramp for general aviation aircraft parking.

"What we want to do is, in terms of investing in optimizing this area: reduce environmental impacts, provide modern, efficient, and sustainable infrastructure while reducing total building square footage, remove trucks from public roads, reducing truck trips and congestion at the north gate... then consolidate the general aircraft parking on the ramp," Guerriero said.

The project, which Guerriero said was "multi-year" and "multi-phased," includes a new large vehicle storage and maintenance facility (LVSMF), improvements to the green bus depot, and a new vehicle service road, among other items.

After detailing images of current and future site conditions and renderings, Simone Brogini, the project manager, reviewed plans for a fence along the greenway by the Blue Line tracks.

Brogini explained that the barrier would have a two-foot concrete wall, with an eightfoot clear-view fence on top, with two rows of barbed wire just over a foot and a half above that.

As a result of the new fence, 32 trees will be removed from the greenway. "For the requirements of the TSA and the safety of the airport, we need to keep anything that is close to the fence 10 feet away; otherwise, people could climb on the trees and jump on the other side," Brogini said.

"So we're going to take down 32 trees; we are going to replant 32 trees, they're going to be in and around that area," Guerriero said. There are also additional plans for new landscaping as part of the project.

Massport representatives then outlined the construction phasing plans until the end of 2026. The first aspect of the project being undertaken is the new service road, with work slated to begin in December or "probably even beyond that," per Brogini.

In January, equipment will begin to be cleared at the LVSMF area to prepare for foundation work, which is slated to start around spring 2026.

Demolition of an existing bay at the green bus depot is also planned for January, with construction of a new one to follow

It should be noted that as part of the work, piles will be driven in the LVSMF construction area and drilled in the bus depot construction area.

Regarding construction hours, the work schedule is planned from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and potentially Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., if needed. Deliveries will not happen before 6:00 a.m.

Massport will also include construction mitigation measures for noise, rodents, dust, and other issues.

There are also plans for pre-construction home inspections for houses located near

construction sites. Guerriero mentioned homes at Neptune Circle and Swift Terrace.

"We've done that at other projects that we've worked on...It protects you, and it also protects Massport," Guerriero said.

As the presentation continued, the Massport representatives spoke more about the construction area.

They also shared results from a noise analysis conducted in June and July at Excel Academy, Festa Field, and 5 Cowper Street to inform a model that will help determine whether changes would occur with the new North Service Area configuration.

Per the presentation slideshow given to the HVNA, "Noise monitoring measurements show existing noise ranging from 64db to 71db during the measuring period. This is consistent with the FAA's annual noise contour (aircraft only)."

Mitigation plans were also discussed at the meeting, including a Byron Street entrance to the greenway, with construction potentially happening next summer, and audio and visual enhancements on the first and second floors of the Salesian Boys & Girls Club.

As for next steps related to the project, Guerriero acknowledged that they are still in the permitting phase, with mobilization expected in the winter.

The project is tentatively scheduled for completion in quarter four of 2028. A pre-construction meeting is also planned for the future.

To view a recording of this discussion, visit www.facebook. com/joseph.steffanojr/videos/669505112680112/?idorvanity=184081565337087 and skip to 27:15. HVNA's next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 1.

OBITUARIES

Yolanda Ghergurovich

Of East Boston, formerly of Croatia

Yolanda Ghergurovich, 90, passed away peacefully on November 6, 2025.

Yolanda was born in Crno, Croatia to Simeone Vukosa and Boska (Vidajic) Vukosa.

Yolanda married the late Giuseppe Ghergurovich and shared over 61 years of marriage. She was the devoted mother of John Ghergurovich and his wife, Carol of Connecticut, Frank Ghergurovich and his loving companion, Margaret Dirck of Charlestown and the late Anthony Ghergurovich and his wife, Kristen of Stoneham; dear sister of Alberto Vukosa and the late Dina Maria Vukosa, stepdaughter to the late Danica (Grgurovic) Vukosa, and sister-in-law to the late Pavle Grgurovic, Zorka Grgurovic, Anka Zekanovich and Yolanda Zadkovich; cherished grandmother to Jonathan Ghergurovich and his wife, Katelin Hoskins, Jacklyn Tobin and her husband, Kevin, Jennifer Lawson and her husband, Andrew, Joseph Ghergurovich and his wife, Christine Gonzalez, Megan Cronin and her husband, Steve, Anthony Ghergurovich, Jr., Robert Ghergurovich, Joseph Ghergurovich, Julia Ghergurovich, and the late Daniel Ghergurovich and special great-grandmother of Alina, James, Nicholas, Maeve, Conner, Callan, Micheal, Sophia,



John, Callum. She is also survived by several loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will celebrate Yolanda's life by gathering on Thursday, 13th of November, 2025 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Ruggiero Family Memorial Home in East Boston and again on Friday, November 14, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church, Brooks St., East Boston for a 10 a.m. Funeral Mass in celebration of Yolanda's life. Services will conclude with Yolanda laid to rest with her husband, Giuseppe, in Woodlawn Cemetery Everett. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Yolanda's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

To leave an online condolence visit www.ruggieromh.

To place a memoriam in the Times-Free Press, please call 781-485-0588

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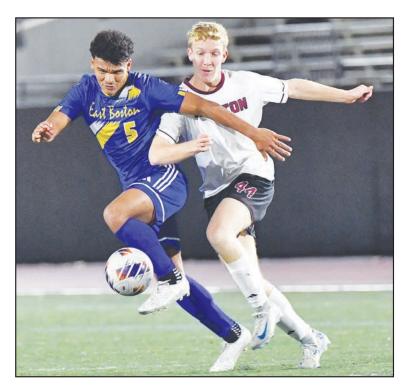
140 years of faithful & trusted service to East Boston and the surrounding communities

EAST BOSTON BOYS SOCCER FALLS 1-0 TO WESTON

East Boston's quest for a deep run into the MIAA Division III post-season tournament ended unexpectedly last Wednesday as the Jets were grounded, 1-0, by the defense-minded Weston Wildcats at windswept Memorial Field. Weston played a smothering defense that frustrated the Jets potent offense all night. Coming off of last year's run to the Division 4 semi-finals, East Boston raised the bar this year and played in Division 3. The Jets earned the Division No. 8 seed after a successful 11-3-4 season.



East Boston captain Fredy Garay is alone in his thoughts after the Jets heartbreaking 1-0 loss to Weston Wednesday at Memorial Stadium.



Santiago Mosquera (5) tangles with Weston's Lucas Scully-Power.



 $\label{thm:continuous} \textit{Helio Spinola (right) tries to work his way around Weston's Ian Xie.}$



Santiago Mosquera (5) is pursued by a pair of Weston defenders.



David Alas (8, left) is tripped up by Weston defender Matias Mago.

EAST BOSTON BOYS SOCCER FALLS 1-0 TO WESTON



A class act, Eastie's David Alas shakes hands with Weston's Luca Andrea after Eastie was eliminated from MIAA Division 3 post-season play with a 1-0 loss to Weston.



David Alas is sandwiched between a Weston defender and Wildcat goalkeeper Sawyer Jacobson, who gets his hands on the ball to block Alas's bid to tie the score late in the game. Eastie lost 1-0 in the Round of 32 in the MIAA Division 3 post-season tournament.



East Boston's Eliel Flores in a footrace for a bouncing ball with Weston's Luca Andrea.

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With cold weather on the way, state fire marshal urges heating fire safety

Special to the Times-Free Press

With temperatures falling into the 30s this week, Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine is reminding residents protect themselves and their loved ones from some of the most common home heating hazards.

"Most of Massachusetts will see some of the coldest weather since last winter over the next few days," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "Heating equipment is the leading cause of carbon monoxide at home and the second leading cause of residential fires. Whether you're using gas, oil, solid fuel, or space heaters to keep warm, be sure you keep safe, too."

State Fire Marshal Davine said there were more than 6,400 heating fires in Massachusetts from 2020 to 2024. These fires claimed eight lives, caused 153 injuries to firefighters and residents, and contributed to over \$52 million in damage. And in 2024 alone, Massachusetts fire departments reported finding carbon monoxide at more than 4,700 non-fire incidents.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Every household needs working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of their home. Check the manufacturing date on the back of your alarms so you know when to replace them: smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years, and carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced after 5 to 10 years depending on the model. If your alarms take alkaline batteries, put in fresh batteries twice a year when you change your clocks. If it's time to replace your alarms, choose new ones from a well-known, national brand with the mark of an independent testing lab such as UL or Intertek/ETL. Select smoke alarms with a sealed, long-life battery and a hush feature.

Natural Gas and Oil Heat

If you have a furnace, water heater, or oil burner, have it professionally checked and serviced each year. This will help it run more efficiently, which will save you money and could save your life. Always keep a three-foot "circle of safety"

around the appliance clear of anything that could catch fire. Never store painting supplies, aerosol cans, or other flammable items near these appliances. If you smell gas, don't use any electrical switches or devices: get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1 right away.

Solid Fuel Heating

If you use a fireplace or a stove that burns wood, pellets, or coal, always keep the area around it clear for three feet in all directions. This circle of safety should be free of furniture, drapery, rugs, books and papers, fuel, and any other flammable items. To prevent sparks and embers from escaping, use a fireplace screen or keep the stove door closed while burning. Use only dry, seasoned hardwood and don't use flammable liquids to start the fire. When disposing of ashes, wait until they are cool and shovel them into a metal bucket with a lid and place it outside at least 10 feet away from the building.

Have your chimney and flue professionally inspected and cleaned each year. Most chim-

ney fires are caused by burning creosote, a tarry substance that builds up as the fireplace, wood stove, or pellet stove is used. If burning creosote, sparks, embers, or hot gases escape through cracks in the flue or chimney, they can cause a fire that spreads to the rest of the structure. Annual cleaning and inspection can minimize this risk. Contact the Massachusetts Chimney Sweep Guild or Chimney Safety Institute of America to identify reputable local companies.

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 remember that they're for temporary use. Always turn a space 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 company such as UL or Intertek/ETL. Newer space heaters should have an automatic shut-off

switch that turns the device off if it tips over. Unvented kerosene space heaters and portable propane space heaters are not permitted for residential use in Massachusetts, State Fire Marshal Davine said: the risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning that they pose is too great.

Create and Practice a Home Escape Plan

Everyone should have a home escape plan that accounts for two ways out of every room, and everyone should be able to open the doors and windows along the way. Remember that children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need extra 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, on the DFS web site.

Healey-Driscoll administration awards over \$1.1 million for public safety initiatives

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced \$1,155,240 in public safety grants through the Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhood (CPSN) Initiative and the Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant Program. These awards strengthen partnerships between state and local law enforcement, enhance prosecution of violent crime and human trafficking, and expand community-based prevention and intervention services

For the Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhood Grant, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office received \$62,500.

For the Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office received \$75,000.

"During a recent series of public safety roundtables across the state, we heard firsthand that when law enforcement, prosecutors, and community organizations work together, we can enhance safety in our communities," said Governor Maura Healey. "This initiative is proof that investing in collaboration and prevention makes our communities safer and stronger. That's why we're continuing to build on this success and expand programs that give people, especially young people, the opportunity to choose a better path."

"Public safety thrives when law enforcement, community partners, and residents all work together," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "By combining targeted enforcement with robust victim support and community engagement, we're building safer neighborhoods across the state."

Launched to focus enforcement in areas where collaboration could have the greatest impact, the CPSN Initiative invests state resources to bring state and local police together in joint operations targeting gang activity, firearm violations, narcotics distribution, and human trafficking. Specialized MSP units, including the Gang Unit, Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section, Community Action Teams, Detective Units, and the High-Risk Victim Squad, worked side-by-

side with local departments in Boston, Brockton, Fall River, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lynn, Springfield, and other cities facing increased public safety challenges. The program also awards funds to District Attorney's offices to support prosecutions of violent crime as well as prevention and diversion programming. This year, the program will deliver \$949,955 to support these efforts.

Following a comprehensive analysis of the FY25 program, the collaborative enforcement efforts between state and local police, supported by state grant funding, resulted in nearly 500 arrests, the removal of more than 65 illegally possessed firearms, the seizure of nearly 30,000 grams of narcotics, and the recovery of more than \$265,000 in suspected illicit proceeds. These measurable outcomes demonstrate the initiative's progress in reducing violent crime, removing illegal firearms, disrupting drug trafficking networks, and supporting victims of human trafficking.

In addition to enforcement,

the CPSN Initiative directs significant resources to District Attorney's Offices, which are required to dedicate at least 25 percent of their awards to prevention, intervention, and diversion programming. DAs work closely with community-based organizations to provide services such as recovery support, mentorship, youth engagement, and reentry programs. This dual approach ensures that prosecutions of violent offenders are matched with meaningful investments that address the root causes of violence and create safer, healthier pathways for residents.

An additional \$205,240 is being awarded through the Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant Program to strengthen prosecutions, enhance trauma-informed services for victims, and expand collaboration among law enforcement and advocacy partners.

This year's Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant Program utilizes both state funds allocated by the Massachusetts Legislature and

federal funds received by the state through the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program to help prosecutors and their law enforcement and community partners hold violent human traffickers accountable and ensuring that victims of exploitation have access to services.

"Public safety is a shared responsibility, and these grants equip law enforcement with the tools and resources they need to respond to evolving challenges," said Interim Public Safety and Security Secretary Susan W. Terrey. "By supporting programs that target the root causes of violence and strengthen community partnerships, we are helping Massachusetts communities stay safer and more resilient."

The Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative and the Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant Program are administered by the Office of Grants and Research (OGR) within the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS).

ELECTION DAY LUNCHEON AT SANTARPIO'S

A tradition for over 50 years, local politicians have convened at Santarpio's Pizza in East Boston for a celebratory lunch on Election Day.



The parents of Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata: Ed and Nina Coletta



U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley mingles with attendees.



Host of the Election Day Lunch Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata (center) with Massachusetts State Senator Lydia Edwards and State Rep. Adrian Madaro.



Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, Councilor Gabriela Coletta-Zapata, and Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico.



Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico, Suffolk County DA Kevin Hayden, and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.



U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley speaks to the press outside Santarpio's Pizza.



Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court Allison Cartwright, Massachusetts State Senator Lydia Edwards, Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, and City Councilor Sharon Durkan.



Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan, Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court Allison Cartwright, Massachusetts State Senator Sal DiDomenico, Suffolk County DA Kevin Hayden, Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Massachusetts State Rep. Adrian Madaro, Boston City Councilor Henry Santana, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, and U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley.

BELLE ISLE ROTARY'S ANNUAL COMEDY NIGHT AT GIGGLES



Kay Sexton and Joyce Myette with Joe Myette.

Last week the Belle Isle Rotary hosted its annual comedy night fundraiser. Their continuing community support showed itself once again, with a capacity crowd and a generous one. The Rotary Club is instrumental in supporting many community programs and financial support in worldwide medical issues.



Johnny Pizzi is the first name you mention when comedy is king. Pizzi opens up the program at Giggles last week for the Belle Isle Rotary fundraiser.



The East Boston Yach Club was on hand to support a great organization the Belle Isle Rotary, Commadore Larry Venezia, Phil Longo and Peter Scolaro



Ryan Noonan with Randy Cipoletta Sr. and Randy Cipoletta Jr.



If poured down the drain, **F**ats, **O**ils and **G**rease produced by cooking – **FOG** for short – can clog pipes and cause unsanitary backups and overflows from your kitchen sink to the public sewer.

Fortunately, disposing of FOG and keeping pipes clear is easy: Just Can the Grease! After cooking, let FOG cool, scoop FOG into a can, then cover the can with a BWSC Grease Lid. You can store it in the freezer until full, then remove the lid for reuse, and dispose of the can in the trash.

Visit our table at the following locations to get your free grease lid in time for holiday cooking!

Friday, November 21st

Shaw's Grocery Store 1377 Hyde Park Ave, Hyde Park 3PM – 8PM

Saturday, November 23rd

Farmer's Market at Adam's Park in Roslindale Square 9AM – 1PM

Sunday, November 23rd

Shaw's Grocery Store at 246 Border Street in East Boston 9AM – 4PM



Beverly Gallant, Allan Alpert, Jonathan Alpert, Bruce Mauch, Peter Zaksheski, and Sue Gallant.

BELLE ISLE ROTARY'S ANNUAL COMEDY NIGHT AT GIGGLES



From Massport, Ali Xenos, Christina Grise, and Donna Kurz.



Republican State Committeeman Paul and Marianne Ronukaitus.



Revere Veterans Services Officer Dan Hernandez with his wife Faith was at Giggles to support the Rotary Club.



 $Having\ a\ great\ time\ at\ Giggles,\ Michael\ and\ Gianni\ Falzone,\ Zoe\ Zankowski,\ Mike\ and\ Annemarie\ O'Rourke,\ and\ Jay\ Woodman.$



It's pizza time before the comedy show at Giggles, Meghan Delehanty, Ben Currier, Betty Vacira, Gemy Celona, Vivian Ingersoll, and Nunny Celona.



The committee for the annual comedy night. Joseph Steffano Jr., Vera Carducci, Randy Cipoletta, Felicia DeCicco, Amy and Stephen Miliotis.

Massachusetts launches new campaign to support young adults in quitting vaping and nicotine

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), in partnership with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, has launched a new public health campaign to support young adults across Massachusetts to quit vaping and stop using other tobacco or nicotine products.

The campaign, called "This Ad Won't Make You Quit Vaping," aims to reach 18-24-yearolds who vape or use other nicotine products, including pouches, and connect them with free, trusted quitting support. According to the 2023 Massachusetts Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 14 percent of young adults vape-and according to a national 2024 study from Truth Initiative, nearly half (48 percent) express a desire to quit. The campaign meets young people where they are, with honest and empathetic messaging that highlights the mental health benefits of quitting and introduces them to resources that are free and ready when they are, framing

support as empowering.

The campaign is funded through the settlement the Attorney General's Office reached with Juul Labs, Inc. in 2023, holding the company accountable for its role in fueling the youth vaping epidemic.

"This campaign is about righting the wrongs of Juul's predatory marketing," said Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell. "By investing settlement funds into prevention and cessation programs, we are giving young people the tools, resources, and support they need to break free from nicotine addiction and build healthier futures."

Research shows that many young adults turn to nicotine to try to manage anxiety or stress, but nicotine can make those feelings worse. A recent study indicates vaping cessation is associated with improved quality of life and mental health among U.S. adults.*

campaign's concepts were tested with English- and Spanish-speaking young adults who use nicotine products to ensure the benefits of quitting nicotine for your mental health were

The call to action directs people to Text "Start" to 36072 or visit mass.gov/QuitVaping (For Spanish: Llama al 1-855-DÉJE-LO-YA). Through the Massachusetts Quitline, young adults can connect with live, trained quit coaches by text or phone, create a personalized quit plan, and access free quit medications such as patches or gum-all at no cost. The campaign will run in both English and Spanish across platforms where young people spend their time—including

Meta, TikTok, YouTube, Google, connected TV (CTV), Twitch, streaming radio, and posters at colleges statewide.

By combining evidence-based support with a digital-first campaign, Massachusetts is working to ensure that more young adults try to quit vaping—and succeed.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH

OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND **FAMILY COURT** Suffolk Probate **And Family Court** 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR **FORMAL** ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU25P2427EA Estate of: Jacqueline A. Bossi Date of Death: 02/06/2025 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Joseph A. Bossi, Jr. of Hartford, CT requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Joseph A. Bossi, Jr. of Hartford, CT 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 12/04/2025. 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 (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMIN-

ISTRATION UNDER THE

PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM

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 administra-

WITNESS, Hon. Janine D. Rivers, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 31, 2025 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate

11/12/25

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate **And Family Court** 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU25P0774EA Estate of: Jacqueline Elizabeth Rogers Also known as: Jacqueline E. Rogers Date of Death: 01/09/2025 To all interested persons: A Petition for S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Gary D. Rogers of Riverdale, GA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:Gary D. Rogers of

Riverdale, GA be appointed

as Personal Representa-

tive(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 12/11/2025. 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 ADMIN-ISTRATION 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 administra-

WITNESS, Hon. Janine D. Rivers, First Justice of this Court. Date: November 03, 2025

Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate

return day, action may

notice to you.

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UNSUPERVISED ADMIN-

ISTRATION UNDER THE

PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative

appointed under the MUPC

in an unsupervised admin-

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file an inventory or annual

accounts with the Court.

Persons interested in the

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the estate, including the

distribution of assets and

expenses of administra-

WITNESS, Hon. Janine D.

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MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAI ADJUDICATION Docket No.

S1125P2483FA Estate of: Robert J. Ballam Date of Death: 08/21/2025 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Beverly A. Fulton of Exeter, NH requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Beverly A. Fulton of Exeter, NH 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 Plaintiff 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 12/16/2025. 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

Rivers, First Justice of this Court. Date: November 04, 2025 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate 11/12/25

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND **FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court**

24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 DIVORĆE SUMMONS BY **PUBLICATION** Docket No. SU25D0005DR Hugo Adiel Vega

Gladys Noemy Chamul de Vega Defendant To the Defendant: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate** Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Hugo Adiel Vega 5 Bradford Terrace, Everett, MA 02149 your answer, if any, on or before 12/05/2025. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer,

Register of this Court. WITNESS, Hon, Janine D. Rivers, First Judge of this Court. Date: October 14, 2025

if any, in the office of the

Stephanie L. Everett Register of Probate Court 11/12/25

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YOUR REP



East Boston Holiday Lighting Committee gears up for season three of festivities

Special to the Times Free

The East Boston Holiday Lighting Committee has started efforts in fundraising and planning out the Christmas and New Year Holiday Season. In its third year, the committee has raised funds to light up the business districts of Orient Heights, Day Square, Central and Maverick Squares.

"Our hope is to keep growing the program and continue

to light up East Boston and expand in other neighborhoods. We are also hosting another Christmas Party for the East Boston children on December 6th courtesy of the Hilton Garden Inn and the East Boston Holiday committee. Each year we see the enthusiasm to celebrate Christmas, and more residents and businesses are decorating to make Eastie as festive as can be."

The committee is also ac-

cepting donation for wreaths in memory of loved ones. Wreaths will be placed on the streetlamp poles throughout the squares.

Thanks to the sponsors including the East Boston Foundation for their generous grant.

For sponsorship or to purchase a wreath please contact Lisa Capogreco-Cappuccio at Lisa@bostonconcepts.net or venmo @eastbostonholiday_lighting



Shaw's Supermarket in Central Square donates \$1,000 for the lights. Shown (left to right) are E. B Holiday Light Co-Chair, Lisa Cappuccio, President of the East Boston Chamber of Commerce, Shirley Fabbo, E. B Holiday Light Co-Chair, Luke Fanuele, Shaw's East Boston Store Director Marcus Amann, Assistant Store Director, Ludgero Couto, Not in photo, Lazell Simmons, Evening Manager.





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