


Text /Call Jeff Bowen

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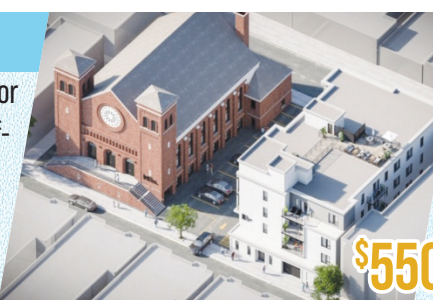
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eastbostonrealestate.com



157 Chestnut St.

14 new construction condos for sale; 2 bed/2 full baths; 904sf-1,280 with private balconies. Garage parking roof deck Media room



163 Chestnut st

16 loft condos in a Gothic Church ; 2 bed/2 full baths 904sf-1,786sf; High ceilings

\$550,000 - \$750,000

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022



FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

VISIT CHARLESTOWN HOSTS A HOLIDAY NIGHT OUT



On December 15, Visit Charlestown organized a Holiday Night Out, an evening to promote local businesses in Charlestown. Shown At The Cooperative Bank, a visit to Santa was offered to the good boys and girls of Charlestown. See Pages 6 to 9 for more photos.



Stove Factory artist Diedre Tao had a table by Monroe to show and sell her work.



Junebug was filled with shoppers looking for unique gifts.

Wu announces confirmation of new members to the Zoning Board of Appeal

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the confirmation by the Boston City Council of eight new appointees to the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA), bringing the new total of confirmed ZBA appointees to 10. Mayor Wu announced a slate of appointees in September and sent their nominations to the City Council for review. The Mayor's appointees live across the City and represent the diversity of Boston, including members who are multi-lingual, renters in income-restricted housing, homeowners, building trades members, first generation immigrants, and multigenerational Bostonians. Their collective training and experience include city and transportation planning, community development, affordable housing creation, sustainable development and architectural design, and construction.


As the City's zoning code has not kept up with Boston's growth, the majority of development proposals in the city require zoning relief and must be reviewed and approved by the ZBA. These new ZBA members will work closely with Chief of Planning

Arthur Jamison to help advance the Mayor's goal of rebuilding trust with communities through planning-led development while advancing equity, affordability, and resilience across all functions of the City's development review process.

"Thank you to the City Council for confirming these new members, who will play a crucial role in our work to build more housing and address the regional affordability crisis, support equitable and resilient neighborhoods, and shift to planning-led development," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These board members represent the diversity, talent, and expertise of our communities to ensure Boston's growth helps address our greatest challenges."

The ZBA totals 14 members – seven primary members and seven alternates with a range of experience as required by state law – who serve three-year terms. Alternates serve if primary members are unable to attend a ZBA hearing. All members currently serving on the ZBA were appointed by previous administrations.

(ZBA Pg. 3)



The Independent Newspaper Group office will be **closed** on **Monday, Dec. 26** in observance of the Christmas holiday..

Deadlines for next week's issue will be **Friday, Dec. 23 at noon**

Happy Holidays

From the Independent Newspaper Group



EDITORIAL

MERRY CHRISTMAS

This is the most wonderful time of the year, to paraphrase the popular song, with holiday music playing in the malls and on our car radios, resurrecting our earliest childhood memories of Christmases-past.

We choose just the right tree, decorate it carefully with our family-heirloom ornaments, and when we first turn on the lights, it brings a smile to the faces of even the oldest among us.

Despite the hectic rushing to and fro', everybody, it seems, is in a good mood. We endure the traffic and the long lines in stores because we know that what we are doing will bring joy and happiness to others.

For those of us with young children, we get to see Christmas through their eyes, giving us a second-chance to experience the wonder and joy that we felt when we were their age.

Although all of us celebrate the holiday season in our own way, the common thread is one of peace, joy, and happiness, regardless of religious or secular beliefs. Whether it be Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or a Seinfeldian Festivus, the spirit of the season imbues us with a sense of togetherness that transcends whatever negativity may exist both in our own lives and in the world around us.

We wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

A GREAT WORLD CUP

We don't pretend to be big soccer fans, but even we were caught up in the excitement and the drama of the World Cup, which reached its climax this past Sunday with the exciting and exhilarating victory by Argentina in a shoot-out over defending champion France.

As long-time Boston sports rooters, we know of the passion that we and our fellow local fans have for our local teams. But our enthusiasm does not even come close to that of World Cup fans for their heroes.

The raw emotion among the fans in the stands, their raucous celebrations in the streets back home, and the individual stories of fans who traveled thousands of miles (and who spent their life savings) just to be on hand were epic.

Moreover, it was a World Cup for everyone, including the U.S., which qualified for the cup for the first time in eight years and made it through the knockout round, but especially for the fans of underdog Morocco, which became the first team from Africa and the Arab world to reach the semifinals.

At a time when there is so much misery and conflict in our world, the World Cup brought nations together as no other event can.

We'll be looking forward to the 2026 Cup when it will be hosted in No. America by the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.



GUEST OP-ED

Light and strength for Christmas

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

When I was a child at Tomahawk Elementary School in Martin County, Kentucky there were many kids who got little to nothing for Christmas. I had classmates who I would never ask if they got anything for Christmas because I already knew the answer. Some of these kids were just glad to be in school. At school they could receive a free lunch and have access to a bathroom which they didn't have at home. This also meant they could wash their faces and their hands which was difficult at home especially in the winter months. While most of us didn't have much, what we did have seemed like a lot to those who had nothing.

This is where you need to stop and think. You stress about all you may not have but what do you have in comparison to those who have nothing? Do you have a place to sleep? Do you have a comfortable bed? Is your house or apartment warm and comfortable? Do you know you will have food to eat on Christmas day? Do you have a television to watch? Do you have a telephone? Do you

have a few dollars in your pocket?

I'm very aware there are millions of Americans who are below the financial income poverty level. They have it tough. Our cities are filled with growing numbers of homeless populations. People are sleeping under bridges, overpasses and on riverbanks. Too many of these have met with unfortunate circumstances in life due to bad choices, addictions, unemployment, mental illness, and family issues. The list is never-ending. This doesn't make their lives any easier. Just because there is a reason for the problems doesn't make their burdens lighter or unnoticeable. Their reality is still harsh and painful.

Millions more immigrants are coming to America. Where will they sleep? Where will they work? Many of them will work for \$8 an hour and work hard but many of them will be homeless or stranded in homeless shelters on government dependence for a long time. Would any of us want to trade places with them? I don't think so.

Whatever darkness you are facing this Christmas is your reality. Seeing the hurts of others doesn't make your troubles go away. However, if you can be thankful

for the life you have, then maybe Christmas will take on a whole new light.

Look to the most special gift of all this Christmas – the baby in the manger. Shepherds raced to see the baby just as the angels said they would. Wise men came from the east and worshipped him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Mary and Joseph did the best they could as peasant parents of a new baby boy.

Keep the scripture of Isaiah 9:6 handy this Christmas. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Price of Peace.

May His peace comfort your heart and be your light and strength through this seasonand every day to come.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week In over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

CHARLESTOWN
PATRIOT-BRIDGE

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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DiDomenico named Caucus Co-Chair and is a host of ending hunger forum

Senator DiDomenico joined his Food System Caucus (FSC) Co-Chairs in hosting a forum and strategy session about how Massachusetts can end hunger and tackle diet-related diseases this decade. Co-Chairs, other elected officials, and advocates also discussed takeaways from the momentous White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in September.

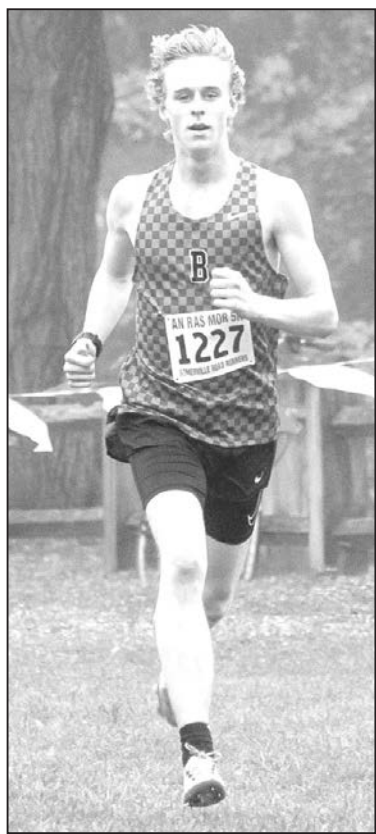
“Massachusetts is leading the country’s efforts to end hunger and I was proud to lead the efforts to extend universal school meals in our schools, expanding access to SNAP benefits, and increasing cash assistance to our neighbors who are most in need,” said Senator DiDomenico, Food System Caucus Co-Chair and Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. “However, our discussion made it clear that we still need to work incredibly hard next session and keep pushing to make sure we finally eliminate hunger completely by 2030. I am grateful we were joined by Project Bread President and CEO, Erin McAleer, The Greater Boston Food Bank President and CEO, Catherine D’Amato, Congressman Jim McGovern, and so many other colleagues and advocates who have helped our state come so far on addressing food insecurity.”

Senator DiDomenico will be a new Food System Caucus Co-Chair in 2023 after years of advocacy on this issue. Senator DiDomenico’s recent legislative accomplishments related to food access include passing Breakfast After the Bell and Universal School Meals to ensure no Massachusetts student goes hungry in school, increasing funding for food banks, creating a common application to expand access to SNAP benefits, and increasing cash assistance programs to families in need.

THREE-PEAT FOR CHARLESTOWN’S GAMBLE

Brimmer & May Senior, Brian Gamble, finished his career as the most decorated runner in Mass Bay Independent League (MBIL) history. He went undefeated this season, claiming the MBIL Individual Championship, League MVP and All New England honors for the third straight year, along with back-to-back NEPTSA D4 Championships. Brian set 3 course records this season and helped lead the Brimmer Boys to a third straight MBIL team championship. Brian also won the USATF National Youth 5K Championship and the Boston Mayor’s Cup Franklin Park 5K.

A high-honors student and managing editor for the school newspaper, Gamble will run cross country and track at Yale University next year.



Brian Gamble.

POSTAL SERVICE READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

At the Postal Service, we know the holidays are a hectic time of year. To make shipping convenient for customers, the Postal Service is extending hours at Post Offices across the nation.

Select Postal facilities in the Massachusetts / Rhode Island District are extending their hours and will provide full retail services, including stamp sales and package acceptance. Customers may click this link 2022 USPS Post Office Holiday Closings & Hours | USPS for the USPS holiday service schedule. Enter a ZIP Code to search for a Post Office near you to see the available services and holiday hours.

The Postal Service is focused on delivering for our nation this holiday season.

The MA / RI District serves ZIP Codes 010 through 029.

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Moraga, Mauricio D	Gramza, Kevin	10 Albion Pl #1	\$756,000
Oxman, Adam	Dungan Sally M Est	16 Concord St #2	\$1,050,000
Scott, Jessica	Turner, Alecia	36 Mystic St #2	\$1,005,550
Zarro, Maria C	Litchfield, Benjamin	45 1st Ave #212	\$752,000
Gray-Stevenson, Emily	Doig, Peter	91 Bartlett St #4	\$615,000
Dentremont, Thomas M	Gericke, Kim A	100 Pearl St #2	\$610,000
Salem NE LLC	203 Salem Street RT	203 Salem St	\$1,610,000

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Sleeping driver in running car, in Charlestown, awoken, arrested

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

A motorist sleeping in his running car and causing a backup on the Sullivan Square onramp to Rt. 93 north in Charlestown was awoken and arrested Monday morning for numerous offenses, including driving while intoxicated and illegal possession of a loaded 9mm firearm, District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced.

James Charles Knight, 45, of Cambridge was charged in Charlestown BMC Monday with operating under the influence, illegal possession of a firearm, illegal possession of ammunition and

possession with intent to distribute a Class B substance, subsequent offense. Judge Lisa Ann Grant ordered Knight held in lieu of \$10,000 bail, plus a stay away order from Charlestown with GPS monitoring. Knight will return to court January 17 for a pre-trial hearing.

At about 4:15 a.m. on Monday an MBTA police officer came upon a blue Lexus with its headlights off at the I-93 north ramp in Sullivan Square. Numerous cars were behind the Lexus, honking to get by. The officer drove his cruiser next to the vehicle and noticed the driver, Knight, asleep with the car running. The officer

engaged his horn and siren to wake Knight, to no avail. The officer then exited his cruiser and saw Knight's vehicle, which was not in park, start to move forward with Knight still asleep. The officer awoke Knight by banging on the car's hood.

Noting a strong odor of alcohol, the officer conducted a field sobriety test. The officer determined that Knight was intoxicated and placed him under arrest. The officer searched Knight and seized \$8,569 in cash held together by a rubber band. A subsequent search of Knight's vehicle yielded a Polymer80 9mm handgun loaded with eight rounds and 33.7 grams

of marijuana wrapped in individual plastic bags.

"This motorist is very lucky that his condition didn't result in him or someone else getting injured or worse. It was fortunate that an officer happened upon this situation before it turned into something more tragic," Hayden said.

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

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office serves the communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Mass. The office handles over

20,000 cases a year. More than 160 attorneys in the office practice in nine district and municipal courts, Suffolk Superior Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Boston Juvenile Courts. The office employs some 300 people and offers a wide range of services and programs to serve anyone who comes in contact with the criminal justice system. This office is committed to educating the public about the services we provide, our commitment to crime prevention, and our dedication to keeping the residents of Suffolk County safe.

Doctors and public health authorities offer tips to avoid the flu

This winter—the first in three years without widespread mask wearing and social distancing—public health authorities have their eye on a potential perfect storm due to three viral causes of acute respiratory illness: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Influenza (flu), and COVID-19. Here's what you need to know about these three viruses:

RSV is a relatively common respiratory virus that causes manageable cough and congestion in most people. However, it can cause more severe symptoms in adults over age 65 and children under age 2, including bronchiolitis (asthma-like symptoms) and pneumonia. This year, there is a large number of young children in the highest-risk age group who lack immunity to RSV and may be susceptible to more severe infection, and this has led to a rapid rise in cases and hospitaliza-

tions. While there is no antiviral treatment for RSV (except for a monoclonal antibody treatment used only in high-risk premature infants), the good news is that most children and adults with severe RSV recover fully with supportive care. Although in development, there is currently no vaccine against RSV.

Influenza virus or flu, which has more acute symptoms such as high fever, muscle aches, and upper or lower respiratory symptoms, usually peaks in January or February, but there is an unusually rapid rise in cases this year, with more than 6 million cases already (compared with approximately 9 million over the entire 2021-22 season) and the highest rate of hospitalization in over 10 years. This may also be due to a more susceptible population that is traveling and gathering more now than at any time over the past two years. For

Influenza, we have an effective prevention strategy—the yearly flu shot—which can be very effective not only for preventing cases but also for keeping cases milder. We also have Tamiflu (Oseltamivir), an oral antiviral that if started within the first 48 hours can lessen the effects and shorten the course of Influenza.

For COVID-19, the population has higher levels of immunity than at any time during the pandemic because of vaccines or infection, and the recently released bivalent COVID booster vaccine, now available for everyone 5 years of age or older, targets the now-dominant Omicron variant. While COVID-19 continues to evolve, with new subvariants that may partially bypass immunity induced by previous infection or the bivalent booster, that immunity still

helps to keep symptoms milder and reduce severe illness and hospitalization. There are effective outpatient treatments for COVID-19 that can be used within the first week of infection, including oral Paxlovid (Nirmatrelvir / Ritonavir) and IV Remdesivir, both readily available through local health systems.

To help you steer clear of the "triple-demic" this year, doctors and public health authorities recommend the following:

- Avoid crowded indoor spaces, and when you need to be in those spaces, consider wearing a mask.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- Clean contaminated surfaces (especially important for preventing spread of RSV, which is more

readily spread via surfaces than flu or COVID-19).

- Avoid contact with others who are sick.
- If you or a family member are sick with respiratory symptoms, stay home, avoid family gatherings, and contact your primary care doctor for further instructions—including how to treat your symptoms, get tested, and access antiviral treatment for Influenza or COVID-19 if necessary.
- Get vaccinated with this year's flu vaccine and the COVID bivalent booster—both readily available at your doctor's office and local pharmacies.
- If you have any questions, please reach out to your medical provider or clinic to receive the latest guidelines and advice.

Please take care and stay safe!

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

Standings for the week of 12/17/2022

	W.	L.	T
Bryan's Pals	11	1	2
Halligan Club	6	6	2
Duce 2.	5	7	2
A-1 Convenience.	2	10	2

Players of the week for 12/17/2022

A-1 Convenience - Cooper Smith, Nyel Rogue.
Bryan's Pals - Will Savage, Pierce Robinson
Duce 2 - James Schultz, Declan Tribble
Halligan Club - London Moralez,

2023/2024 Early Registration Is being held on: Saturday January 7th 2023 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at the Charlestown Boys and Girls Club 60 High Street. Ages are 3 to 10 years old anyone who turns 11 before 2/1/2024 is too old. You do not have to live in Charlestown to play! Come and watch a game while you register your child.

Thank You - Charlestown Gym Hockey Board

ZBA (from pg. 1)

Earlier this month, the City Council confirmed both Raheem Shepard and David Aiken to serve on the ZBA. Jeanne Pinado, Alaa Mukahhal and Thea Massouh are still awaiting confirmation by the Boston City Council.

Confirmed Members of Zoning Board of Appeal
At-Large
Giovanni Valencia, West Roxbury (primary seat)
Neighborhood Organization

Seats

Norm Stembbridge, Roxbury (primary seat)
Shavel'le Olivier, Mattapan (alternate seat)
Sherry Dong, Dorchester (primary seat)
David Aiken, East Boston (alternate seat)
Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Katie Whewell, West End (alternate seat)

Boston Society of Architecture
Hansy Barraza, Roslindale (primary seat)
Building Trades Employers Association
Raheem Shepard, Hyde Park (primary seat)
Building Trades Council
Alan Langham, Dorchester (primary seat)
Dave Collins, Roslindale (alternate seat)

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Patriot-Bridge encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.

COMMUNITY GATHERS TO MOURN THE SUDDEN PASSING OF MIMI WRENN

Shown are photos from the memorial that was held for Maryann "Mimi" Wrenn on Dec. 11, at the Charlestown Community Center. Hundreds of

people turned out to remember her contribution to the neighborhood.

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Maryann 'Mimi' (Dowd) Wrenn Director Of The Charlestown Community Center

Director Of The Charlestown Community Center, Maryann "Mimi" (Dowd) Wrenn, a lifelong resident of Charlestown, entered into eternal life suddenly on Saturday morning, December 10, 2022 at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. She was 57 years of age.

Mimi was born in Boston on September 13, 1965, a daughter of the late Elizabeth Dowd. She grew up in Charlestown and was educated at St. Benedict's Parochial School (Little Flower) in Somerville and graduated from Christopher Columbus High School in 1984. Mimi was a dedicated "Townie" through and through during her life, always involved in so many affairs and activities throughout her beloved Charlestown giving her time to so many whether it was volunteering at the Charlestown Food Pantry with The Brownbag Program, the Charlestown Teen Center and the Girls Center. For all her work and dedication to Charlestown throughout so many years of her young life, Mimi rose to the position of Director Of The Charlestown Community Center which she has held for



and she cherished those special moments she shared with her husband and three sons. She loved life and always held the people of Charlestown close to her heart with her work ethic.

Mimi is the loving wife of 30 years to Paul J. Wrenn. She is the devoted mother to Paul M. Wrenn, Patrick D. Wrenn and Sean R. Wrenn. She is the beloved niece of Jane McLaughlin, Marie Marsden, Joan Connors and Brenda Dowd. She is the beloved daughter-in-law of Daniel and Amy Wrenn. She is the beloved sister-in-law of Danny Wrenn and his wife Patty, Carolyn Shannon and her late husband Danny, Kathleen Noonan and her husband Danny, Joe Wrenn and his wife Amy and Suzanne Fogarty and her husband Stephen. She is also survived by her many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Her burial took place at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden. In lieu of flowers, kindly make a memorial donation in Mimi's name to The Old Charlestown Schoolgirls Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 290276, Charlestown, Mass. 02129.

the past few years and oversees the many projects that take place concerning the people of the community. She has dedicated herself tirelessly and to make sure the many people of Charlestown who are in need are taken care properly. Mimi was also President of The Charlestown Old Schoolgirls Association and a member of The Daughters of Isabella # 1 and CHAD (Charlestown Against Drugs).

Mimi was very proud of her family and extended family

VISIT CHARLESTOWN HOSTS A HOLIDAY NIGHT OUT

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

On December 15, Visit Charlestown organized a Holiday Night Out, an evening to promote local businesses in Charlestown. Shoppers got to explore their neighborhood, discover unique and exciting items for gifts, and support local businesses.



Happy Holidays from the Residence Inn Boston Harbor On Tudor Wharf

Residence INN
BY MARRIOTT



Shoppers visit Mockingbird.



Monument was a hopping place for shoppers to continue the Holiday revelry.

Christmas at Saint John's

December 24, 4pm
Holy Eucharist
for Christmas Eve

December 25, 10am
Holy Eucharist
for Christmas Day

*Saint John's Episcopal Church
27 Devens Street, Charlestown
www.stjohns02129.org*



Warren-Prescott School students Brielle Deferiere, Evelyn Hill, Olivia Farland, Evie Stuppy, and Caroline Fillo sang karaoke to draw visitors to their fundraising table.



FROM THE STAFF OF
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VISIT CHARLESTOWN HOSTS A HOLIDAY NIGHT OUT

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Monroe employee Donna Garlough bags up a purchase made by Kara Kelly.



Shoppers explore the many items on sale at Junebug.



Dermatology practice Lexrx held a pop-up store in Junebug with Gillian Pfaff, Alexa Costa, Ashley Denmark, and Gabi Gigliotti offering information on what they had to offer.



Kathia Capellupo and Karen Tobykian



Shoppers explore the wares at Monroe.



Lisa Anderson and Chelsea Gillette were working hard at Junebug.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS CHARLESTOWN!

Thank You for your support in 2022 and looking forward to 2023!

FRIENDS of the CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD

Working to improve the quality of life for Charlestown residents and visitors
Join today at www.FriendsCNY.org



Laura Connolly and Rosie.

Wishing you a Happy Holidays!

We are thankful for all our neighbors who make Charlestown such a special place to live and the best community in Boston. We wish you a healthy, happy and prosperous holiday season!

Karen Colombosian & Myles Couyoumjian
(617) 519-6453
Karen.Colombosian@CBRealty.com

VISIT CHARLESTOWN HOSTS A HOLIDAY NIGHT OUT

DEREK KOUYOUNJIAN PHOTOS



"Mom Coach" Julia Ludwig's pop-up table promoted her work advocating wellness for new moms.



Laurie Fortunato selling Fortune Tees designed by her daughters Fay (12) and Ava (11) who couldn't attend as they had to do their homework.



Author Lindsay Cadigan had a pop-up location at Mockingbird to showcase her children's book Betty The Confetti Yeti.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

& HAPPY NEW YEAR

A group photo of a man, a woman, and three children standing together.

STATE SENATOR
SAL DiDOMENICO



Bradley Bettencourt offered gifts for golfers with Tee Up Modern Golfware.



Kelsey Berlin and Dozer visit the East Cambridge Bank where Katie Leavitt and Austin Childs are getting visitors.

Happy Holidays!

A circular logo with the text "THE BOSTON CHILDREN'S SCHOOL" around the edge. Inside the circle are two cartoon children, a girl and a boy, holding hands.

Merry Christmas
Happy Hanukkah
Buon Natale
Joyeux Noel
Feliz Navidad
Froh Weihnachten
Feliz Natal
Merii Kurisumasu

Educating children from around the world.
Celebrating 57 Years!

The Boston Children's School

8 Whittier Place - Boston

617-367-6239 BostonChildrensSchool.Org

Now registering for the 2023-2024 academic year.

A portrait of a woman with short dark hair, smiling.

HO
HO
HO

A statue of a person, possibly a historical figure, wearing a red Santa hat and holding a large red bag.

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A woman with long dark hair, wearing a grey sweater, stands behind a table. On the table are several small items, possibly jewelry or crafts.

Sofia Moon of Essemart Studio had a pop-up store of her work.

A logo for Rise Construction & Development, featuring the word "RISE" in a bold, sans-serif font, with a stylized "R" and "E". Below it, the words "CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT" are written in a smaller font.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

MAY YOUR DAYS BE MERRY + BRIGHT

www.RISE.boston

A group of people, including a woman with blonde hair and a man with a beard, are looking at items on a table. The items appear to be small, possibly handmade, objects.

Shoppers explore the many items on sale at Junebug.

VISIT CHARLESTOWN HOSTS A HOLIDAY NIGHT OUT

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Shoppers explore the wares at Monroe.



Jen Aballo, Rebecca Gillespie, Ashley Vutech, Amanda Mitchell, and Kelly Hudak wrapped up a busy evening at Place And Gather.



Alycia and Coco Castner check out gifts to buy at Mockingbird.



Bea Patino greeted visitors to Monument with complimentary hot cider and cookies and Kassandra Laskarides with Chattermark Distillers talked about "spirited" gifts for adults on the gift list.

Seasons Greetings & Happy New Year to All!

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAN RYAN
www.RepDanRyan.com

Please Recycle

To our friends and neighbors...
Happy Holidays
From the students, faculty, and staff at
MGH Institute of Health Professions

MGH INSTITUTE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
Member of Mass General Brigham

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THINK OF IT AS AN OWNER'S MANUAL FOR YOUR MONEY.

The free *Consumer Action Handbook*. It's in print and online at ConsumerAction.gov. Order your free copy online at ConsumerAction.gov or write to Handbook, Pueblo, CO 81009.

Have a Happy Holiday, and a Wonderful New Year!

Boston City Councilor
Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta



Wishing Everyone Happy Holidays!

John F. Kennedy
Family Service Center
23A Moulton St.
15 Tufts St., 3rd Fl.

We hope you will consider us for a year end gift
<https://www.kennedycenter.org/give/donate-now/>

Season's Greetings!

FROM

CHARLESTOWN

GYM HOCKEY



CHRIST CHURCH
CHARLESTOWN

Merry Christmas


CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Worship WITH US


CHRISTMAS EVE AT 3:30PM
10 GREEN STREET

Wishing you a season full of joy and hope!


SOBER HOLIDAY TIPS




It's okay to say no to Holiday gatherings




Bring your own beverages.




Don't feel like you have to be social.




Always have an exit plan.



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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

The Artist Group of Charlestown celebrates the 20th anniversary of Stove Factory Gallery.



Stove Factory artist and President Dara Pannebaker speaks.




Titi Alailima celebrates his win.



Dave Irish drew the door Prizes.

Wishing All Happy Holidays!

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE STOVE FACTORY GALLERY

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



AGC members and guests enjoying the Stove Factory 20th Anniversary Party.



Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia (right) with her mother Mirta Peña and daughter Annalise Cooper.



Stove Factory Treasurer Dick Emrich speaks.



Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia (center) presents Proclamations from the Boston City Council and the Mayor's Office to Stove Factory artists Dara Pannebaker and Diedre Tao. The Proclamations recognize the Stove Factory's dedication and efforts in promoting the art community and enriching the city.

Harvest on Vine

Emergency Food Pantry

Friday, December 9th - 3 pm - Set-up
 Saturday, December 10th - 10 am - Distribution
 End of month
 Dec. 23rd - 3 pm - Set-up Dec. 27th - 2pm - Distribution

Director, Tom MacDonald 617-990-7314
<https://stmaryscatherine.org/harvest-on-vine/>

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Keep fats oils and grease out of your pipes this holiday season!

Excess fats, oils, and grease (FOG) may result from preparing food and should never be poured down the sink, or flushed down the toilet. FOG that's poured into the sink or toilet will harden in the pipes causing backups in your plumbing and Boston's sewer system. Always dispose of FOG into the trash.

BWSC encourages you to Can The Grease! After cooking, let FOG cool in the pan. Once cooled, pour or scoop FOG into a can, cover the can with a BWSC Grease Lid and store it in the freezer until full and dispose of the can on your regular trash collection day.

Boston residents can request a FREE BWSC Grease Lid! Call BWSC at 617-989-7599, or request one online at www.bwsc.org.



 Boston Water and Sewer Commission

Wu joined City officials to discuss winter preparations currently underway

Mayor Michelle Wu joined City officials at the Public Works yard on Frontage Road to discuss winter preparations currently underway in the City of Boston, and resources to offset rising utility costs available to residents, including older adults and individuals experiencing homelessness. This year, three minority-owned businesses (MBEs) and or women-owned businesses (WBEs) were awarded contracts for the clearing, plowing, and salting of staircases and footpaths across the City.

“From the tools to clear snow from our City streets, to resources to help residents save on their electric bills – Boston stands ready for winter weather,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “This year we’re also proud that several of our snow removal contracts are also investing directly in our local communities. I encourage residents to get ready, check our snow clearing regulations, and check in on neighbors.”

The Public Works Department (PWD) currently has 40,000 tons of salt on-hand to treat City streets. Along with 170 pieces of in-house snow clearing equipment, the PWD has the capability to place over 800 additional pieces on the roads during larger storms. As part of their neighborhood plowing operations during winter storms and to ensure the safety of riders following events, PWD allocates pieces of equipment to clear snow from Boston’s dedicated bike lanes.

This year three companies owned by women or people of color were awarded snow removal contracts, with two of those contracts being part of the City of Boston’s Sheltered Market Program to advance equity in procurement with direct outreach support from the Department of Supplier and Workforce Diversity. To assist the Public Works Department during snow and ice control operations, bids were issued to clear, plow, and treat staircases and footpaths across the City of Boston before, during, and after inclement weather events.

These one-year contracts were divided into five separate zones and awarded to Casablanca Services Inc. (two zones), NS Contracting (two zones), and A & M Home Services (one zone). Both Casablanca Services and A & M Home Services are owned by people of color, while NS Contracting is both minority and women-owned. A & M is based in Dorchester and NS Contracting in Roxbury.

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) monitors

forecasts and maintains open lines of communication with the National Weather Service. OEM also works across City departments and with external partners to ensure coordinated response plans are in place. Residents can sign up to receive AlertBoston notifications by phone, text, or email in the event a snow emergency/parking ban is declared.

As temperatures drop and utility costs are expected to rise, Mayor Wu is reminding residents, small businesses, and local organizations to opt in to Boston Community Choice Electricity (BCCE). This City-run program gives residents three options for electricity pricing and renewable energy. Even on the most expensive 100% renewable option, the average residential customer would save over \$70 versus Eversource’s upcoming/winter 2023 Basic Service rate. On the cheapest BCCE plan (20% renewable energy currently, 22% starting January 2023) the average residential consumer would save nearly \$90/month. Individuals interested in learning more should visit [Boston.gov/BCCE](https://boston.gov/BCCE) to opt in, opt up, or opt out at any time.

Rules on clearing snow:

- Property owners must fully clear snow, sleet and ice from sidewalks and curb ramps abutting the property within three hours after the snowfall ends or three hours after sunrise if the snow ends overnight. Curb and pedestrian ramps to the street should be cleared fully and continually over the duration of the storm to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities. If a storm will last over an extended period of time, property owners are asked to continually check ramps abutting their property for compliance.

- Removal of snow, ice from a private property to the street or sidewalk is prohibited.

- Failure to comply with the rules can result in fines issued by PWD’s Code Enforcement Division. Fines associated with improper removal of snow can be found here.

Parking during a declared snow emergency:

- If a snow emergency is declared, cars will be ticketed and towed if parked on a posted snow emergency artery.

- Space savers must be removed within 48 hours after a snow emergency has been lifted. Please note: space savers are NOT allowed in the South End and Bay Village.

- During declared snow emergencies, discounted parking is available at some parking lots and garages for Boston residents. A list of discounted parking garages can

be found here.

Trash and recycling:

- During severe snowstorms, recycling and trash collection may be canceled, but this is extremely rare. Most often, severe snowstorms can cause delays in service. To view your neighborhood recycling and trash schedule, locate a textile dropbox in your neighborhood, and to find out what items you CAN and CAN’T recycle, download our free Trash Day App.

- Crews have a difficult time reaching trash barrels and recycling carts placed behind snowbanks. Please clear an area at the curb for collection or place containers next to or in front of snowbanks.

Caring for vulnerable populations:

- If you see homeless and vulnerable individuals out in the cold who appear immobile, disoriented or underdressed for the cold, please call 911.

- The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) utilizes a city-wide network of emergency shelters, outreach providers, city agencies and first responders to assist those in need of shelter.

- Boston’s emergency shelters are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and amnesty is in place for those with nonviolent restrictions. Men can access shelter at the 112 Southampton Street Shelter, and women should go to the Woods-Mullen Shelter at 794 Massachusetts Ave. BPHC and the City work closely with shelter providers in the city to ensure that no client is without shelter, food, resources, and a warm respite from the cold.

- From Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m., please call 617-534-4440 to facilitate access to shelters. Outside of these hours, guests should access shelter directly.

- During extreme cold weather, street outreach teams operate with extended hours and provide mobile outreach vans on the streets in the evening and throughout the day.

Safety tips:

- If you are able, keep catch basins and fire hydrants clear of snow and debris. This will help prevent flooding and allow for access in the event of an emergency. For a map of catch basins and fire hydrants, visit here.

- Shoveling snow requires significant exertion; please be cautious and pay attention to symptoms. Stop if you feel chest pain, shortness of breath, lightheaded, nauseous/vomiting. Call 911 if those symptoms do not resolve quickly.

- Snow piles can make navigating intersections dangerous for walkers and drivers. Please take extra care when turning corners with snow piles that might limit visibility.

- Carbon monoxide poisoning is a concern during winter weather, especially with the use of generators. Residents should use their home heating systems wisely and safely, and have a working carbon monoxide detector on each floor of the home. Call 911 immediately if you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Sitting in a car while idling can be deadly if the tailpipe is blocked. Do not let children sit in an idling car while shoveling. Clear any household exhaust pipes of snow.

- Have a contractor check the roof to see if snow needs to be removed. If roof snow can be removed from the ground with the use of a snow-rake, do so with caution. Avoid working from ladders and be mindful of slippery surfaces.

Dress for the weather:

- Wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing.

- Outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.

- Always wear a hat and cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.

- Dress children warmly and set reasonable time limits on outdoor play.

- Restrict infants’ outdoor exposure when it is colder than 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Watch for signs of frostbite:

- Signs of frostbite include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.

Watch for signs of hypothermia:

- These include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion. If you or someone you know shows any of these symptoms, get in touch with a healthcare provider immediately. If symptoms are severe, call 911.

Heating guidelines for property owners and tenants:

- In accordance with the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code, the heating season officially begins on September 15 and runs through June 15. Property owners must heat habitable spaces at a minimum temperature of 68° between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. and 64° between 11:01 p.m. and 6:59 a.m.

- In cases of emergency, property owners are encouraged to keep a list of licensed contractors (electrician, plumber and general contractor) on file. Tenants experiencing problems with their heating system should check the thermostat, ensure the dial is turned on, and report insufficient or no heat problems to the property owner or manager immediately.

- If your landlord or property manager is unresponsive, contact the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) at (617) 635-5300 to file a complaint, or call 311.

Heating safety:

- Never try to heat your home using a charcoal or gas grill, the kitchen stove, or other product not specifically designed as a heater. These can cause a fire or produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide very quickly.

- Have your heating system cleaned and checked annually.

- Make sure all vents are clear of snow or any other debris.

- Install and maintain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide is an invisible gas produced whenever any fuel is burned. Common sources include oil or gas furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces, stoves, and some space heaters. It has no smell, taste, or color. It is a poison and is deadly.

Tips to keep water flowing and pipes unfrozen during extreme cold:

- The Boston Water and Sewer Commission recommends homeowners locate a home’s main water shut off valve, and learn how to use it. Should a frozen pipe burst, shutting the main valve quickly will minimize flooding and property damage.

- Homeowners should insulate pipes in unheated areas like basements, garages and crawl spaces. Use inexpensive hardware store materials to prevent pipes from freezing and to keep warm water flowing.

- Circulate warm air around pipes by keeping cabinet doors open. Circulate a trickle of tap water through pipes during extreme cold to help prevent them freezing up.

- Locate your water meter, protect it from drafts, and make sure basement doors and windows are shut tight.

- If pipes do freeze, slow thaw with a hair dryer. Never use an open flame to thaw pipes. If water is lost in all taps, call BWSC 24-hour Emergency Assistance Line at 617-989-7000.

Officials remind residents about the importance of flu and COVID-19 vaccinations

With flu season underway, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is reminding residents of all ages to get vaccinated. Flu activity across the country is higher than usual so far this year. Residents can get both a flu shot and a COVID-19 booster in the same visit.

"This flu season, residents can protect themselves and their families by getting a flu vaccine even if they haven't gotten a vaccine in years past," said Public Health Commissioner Margret Cooke. "It's easy to get your flu shot along

with your COVID-19 booster if you're eligible for one, and both vaccines are widely available."

The flu can lead to serious illness, hospitalization, or death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that there have already been 13 million cases, 120,000 hospitalizations, and 7,300 deaths due to flu this season. The most common symptoms of flu are fever, cough, and sore throat. Symptoms can also include body aches, headaches, chills, runny nose, and fatigue.

Flu vaccination is especially

important for people who are at higher risk of severe disease which could result in hospitalization or death. People at higher risk include those who are over age 65 or under 2 years, and anyone with a chronic respiratory condition, heart disease, a weakened immune system, or who is pregnant. Antiviral medications, such as Tamiflu, are available with a prescription to help reduce disease severity.

"Everyone over the age of 6 months is eligible for both the flu and COVID vaccines and can receive both vaccines at the same

time. Spending time around more people increases the chances you will be exposed to one or more viruses," said Dr. Larry Madoff, Medical Director of DPH's Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences. "The current flu vaccine is a good match to the circulating strains and gives you the antibodies you need to help fight off infection."

COVID and flu vaccines are both widely available for everyone 6 months and older. Other actions that people can take to help prevent the spread of respiratory

illnesses like the flu and COVID-19 include staying home when sick, keeping children home from daycare or school if sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and practicing good handwashing hygiene.

More information on how to find a flu and/or COVID-19 vaccine site near you can be found here. Information about influenza and COVID-19 is available by visiting mass.gov/influenza or mass.gov/covid19, calling your health care provider, local board of health, or DPH at (617) 983-6800.

FRESH AND LOCAL

Holiday comfort food

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

What special comforting foods do you plan to include in this year's holiday celebrations? Food and feasting are part of the Christmas, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, and Kwanzaa year-end celebrations. When you reflect on past seasons, it may be friends and family gathered around food traditions that

you remember most clearly.

Penny always craves the French pork pie or tourtière her Aunt Sophie included in holiday meals. Ed often talks about the lasagna his grandmother made in addition to the turkey, ham, and numerous side dishes on their holiday table.

Many Italian families begin their December celebration with a traditional Feast of the Seven

Fishes on Christmas eve. Your holiday table may only be complete with mulled cider, roasted chestnuts, plum pudding, or even the much-maligned fruitcake.

Holiday Baking

Even those who seldom bake often have one or two holiday specialties that they create this time of year. There are cultural traditions like Swedish gingerbread, Swiss Zimtsterne, German lebkuchen, French bûche de Noël, British mincemeat and plum pudding, and all-American toll house cookies.

Even those who don't bake can buy a wide assortment of holiday baked goods. We always enjoy a selection of panettones. Penny is one of those hold-outs who still loves a good fruitcake! Yes, there are excellent fruitcakes available by mail order. This year's selection came from the Vermont Country Store.

Making New Traditions

As we grow and our taste evolves, we may decide that some traditional foodways and holiday happenings don't fit our current tastes or lifestyles. It is perfectly okay to make your own. We have substituted a pile of lobsters or Dungeness crabs for the feast of the seven fishes.

This year we'll combine Penny's love of lobster with Ed's passion for pasta and give the cook a night off. We'll order the Lobster Spaghetti as take-out from Little



This year, we plan to order the Lobster Spaghetti from Little Whale on Newbury Street to enjoy on Christmas Eve.

Whale on Newbury Street to enjoy on Christmas Eve.

After all, celebrations are a perfect time to be a bit extravagant. It's also time to buy treats we'd typically avoid. Eggnog and whipped cream show up in the refrigerator with a plan to get back on track in the new year.

New Year's Eve

The new year is one holiday everyone can enjoy. We prefer a quiet New Year's Eve celebration with particular food favorites and a great bottle of sparkling wine to being out and about with a big crowd.

Most years, that is an evening of appetizers, great cheese, and charcuterie. It's the perfect food to sit and enjoy over a long evening as we savor a great wine. Shopping for our celebration is half the fun. We visit our favorite area food and wine shops and wish them success in the new year.

While you enjoy your once-a-year holiday traditions, consider spreading the pleasure over the year by treating yourself to some of your favorite aspects of this season throughout the months ahead.

For example, on New Year's Eve 2007, we made a Sparkling Resolution that we have faithfully kept. We resolved to drink more sparkling wine and toast the first of every month with a glass of bubbles. We might give thanks for something nice that happened in the past month or raise a glass to an event or goal for the upcoming weeks. If you don't drink wine, you can enjoy a glass of any special beverage. The point is to treat yourself to small celebrations of food and drink that lift your spirits.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

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National Grid prepares for winter storm to impact Massachusetts

National Grid is preparing for a winter storm to potentially impact Massachusetts Thursday night through early Saturday morning, bringing a wintry mix of snow and rain along with strong winds into the region.

The primary concerns associated with this storm are accumulations of wet heavy snow and gusting winds expected to impact Western and Central Massachusetts, counties including the Berkshires, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden, as well as high winds and rain expected to impact Eastern Massachusetts, Nantucket, and coastal regions of Massachusetts. The wind gusts and accumulation of heavy snow have the potential to damage trees and knock down power wires, causing power outages across the region. The storm is expected to depart by Saturday afternoon, and calmer weather is anticipated for Sunday.

“National Grid is monitoring the forecasts closely and we have crews and personnel in place across Massachusetts ready to respond as quickly and safely as we can,” said Tanya Moniz-Witten, Vice President of New England Electric

Operations.

National Grid is preparing for this storm by securing more than 300 field-based crews and about 1,000 personnel as part of the company’s emergency response operations. This includes overhead line, forestry, contractors, underground, damage assessment, wires down, transmission, and substation workers.

The company has been preparing for the storm for several days, and is continuing to monitor the weather, communicating with local officials, first responders, and life support customers.

The Company offers the following tips and reminders: Customers Should Stay Connected:

- Report power outages at www.nationalgridus.com or call 1-800-465-1212.

- Use your mobile device to track outage information and storm-related safety tips through National Grid’s mobile site accessible at www.ngrid.com/mobile.

- Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram; we post all the latest storm and restoration updates. News Release National Grid Prepares

for Winter Storm to Impact Massachusetts

Customers should stay connected for updates

- Track outages and estimated restoration times at www.nationalgridus.com/outage-central

- To stay connected during storms and outages, text to 64743 using any of the below commands.

- o REG to sign up for text alerts
 - o OUT to report an outage
 - o SUM followed by your town, county, or state to get a summary of outages in your area
 - o HELP for the full list of commands

Stay safe:

- Never touch downed power lines, and always assume that any fallen lines are live electric wires. If you see one, report it immediately to National Grid or your local emergency response organization.

- Power problems can sometimes interrupt public water supply systems or disable well pumps, so it’s an especially good idea to keep a supply of bottled drinking water handy, as well as some canned food.

- People who depend on electric-powered life support equipment, such as a respirator, should

let National Grid know. To register as a life support customer, call the company’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-322-3223.

- Check on elderly family members, neighbors and others who may need assistance during an outage period.

Electric safety:

- If you use a generator to supply power during an outage, be sure to operate it outdoors. Before operating generators, disconnect from National Grid’s system by shutting off the main breaker located in the electric service panel. Failure to do this could jeopardize the safety of line crews and the public.

- If you lose power, turn off any appliances that were on when the power went off, but leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

Gas Safety

- If you suspect a natural gas leak:

- Get Out - All occupants should leave the house immediately. Do not use the telephone or light switches for any reason.

- Call Us – After leaving the house and reaching a safe environment, call the National Grid

24-hour gas emergency numbers:

- NewEngland:1-800-640-1595

- Stay Out - Do not return to your home until National Grid tells you it is safe.

Reminder: It’s not safe to work in an elevated bucket during periods of increased wind gusts. Our line workers begin restoration work only when conditions are deemed safe.

About National Grid About National Grid: National Grid (NYSE: NGG) is an electricity, natural gas, and clean energy delivery company serving more than 20 million people through our networks in New York and Massachusetts. National Grid is focused on building a path to a more affordable, reliable clean energy future through our fossil-free vision. National Grid is transforming our electricity and natural gas networks with smarter, cleaner, and more resilient energy solutions to meet the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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Fuel assistance benefit levels increased to \$2,200

At the urging of ABCD and other Community Action Agencies, more LIHEAP funding is now available to people in need this winter. The maximum benefit level has been increased to \$2,200, from \$1,600 which will help struggling families, individuals and elders to make it through the harsh winter season. ABCD continues to accept new applications for Fuel Assistance and encourages everyone to explore the potential for assistance.

Residents are urged to see if they meet the guidelines for the increased benefit. The program will run through April 30, 2030.

Residents of Boston, Brookline or Newton can apply by calling at 617-357-6012. Residents of Malden, Medford, Everett, Winchester, Melrose, Woburn or Stoneham can call 781-322-6284.

Visit bostonabcd.org/heat for information about ABCD’s Fuel Assistance Program including a listing of neighborhood centers.

Application assistance is available in-person by appointment at all ABCD neighborhood centers including:

ABCD Central Office; ABCD Roslindale; Allston/Brighton Neighborhood Opportunity Center; Brookline Fuel Assistance; Chinatown; Dorchester Neighborhood Service Center; East Boston; John F. Kennedy Center; Mattapan Family Service Center; Mystic Valley Opportunity Center; Newton Fuel Assistance; North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center; Parker Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Service Center; Roxbury/North Dorchester Neighborhood Opportunity Center; South Boston

Action Center and the South End Neighborhood Service Center.

A Massachusetts-based non-profit human services organization, ABCD provides disadvantaged residents in the Boston and Mystic Valley areas with the tools, support, and resources they need to transition from poverty to stability and from stability to success. Each year, we serve more than 100,000 individuals, elders and families through a broad range of innovative initiatives as well as long-established, proven programs and services. For 60 years, ABCD has been deeply rooted in each neighborhood we serve, empowering individuals and families and supporting them in their quest to live with dignity and achieve their highest potential. For more information, please visit bostonabcd.org.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Patriot-Bridge encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.

We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.

National Fire Protection Association urges added caution this holiday season

Many hallmarks of the holiday season, including Christmas trees, holiday decorations, and festive meals, present potential fire hazards that contribute to an annual increase in U.S. home fires at this time of year. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Christmas Day and Christmas Eve are among the leading days of the year for home fires.

"December is a leading month for home fires, in large part because many of the activities we engage in during the holiday season reflect leading causes of home fires year-round," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "Plus, as colder temperatures impact much of the country, use of heating equipment increases significantly."

Fortunately, Carli notes, the majority of winter fires can be prevented with a little added awareness and planning.

"By knowing where potential fire hazards exist and taking some basic safety precautions to prevent them, people can enjoy a festive, fire-free holiday season,"

said Carli.

The NFPA Winter Holidays page offers a wide variety of tips and resources to reduce the risk of fires, while the latest NFPA statistics underscore the increased risk of fire during the holiday season and beyond:

Christmas Trees

- An estimated average of 160 home fires involving Christmas trees caused two civilian deaths, 11 civilian injuries, and \$12 million in direct property damage per year between 2016 and 2020.

- Some type of electrical distribution or lighting equipment, including decorative lights, was involved in more than two of five (44 percent) of home Christmas tree fires. Nearly one in five Christmas tree fires (19 percent) were started by decorative lights.

- The majority (74 percent) of Christmas tree fires occur in December and January.

Decorations

- An estimated average of 790 home fires that began when decorations (other than Christmas trees) caught fire caused an average of one civilian death, 26 civil-

ian injuries and \$13 million in direct property damage per year between 2015 and 2019.

- One in five home decoration fires occurred in December.

- Year-round, 35 percent of home decoration fires began with candles; in December, the number jumped to 45 percent.

- In more than two of every five fires (44 percent) involving decorations, the decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle, cooking or heating equipment.

Candles

- An estimated average of 7,400 home fires (2 percent) started by candles caused an average of 90 civilian deaths (three percent), 670 civilian injuries (6 percent), and \$291 million (4 percent) in direct property damage per year between 2015 and 2019.

- Candle fires peak in December and January with 11 percent of candle fires in each of these months.

- In three of every five candle fires, the candle was too close to something that could catch fire.

- Christmas is the peak day for

candle fires with roughly 2.5 times the daily average; Christmas Eve ranked second.

- Falling asleep was a factor in 10 percent of the home candle fires and 12 percent of the associated deaths.

Cooking

- Cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires (49 percent) and home fire injuries and the second-leading cause of home fire deaths.

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed

by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.

Fires caused by heating equipment, the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires year-round, peak during the winter months, when temperatures drop and more people use heating equipment to keep their homes warm. Put a Freeze on Winter Fires, an annual NFPA campaign with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), works to educate the public about ways to stay safe during the colder months, offering tip sheets and other resources to help reduce the risk of heating fires and other winter hazards.

Christmas Remembrance



Ruth M. Lori Napolitano

December 5, 1927 – June 9, 2007

Missing you at Christmas...

Even though Christmas without you here could not possibly be the same,

We still have had the precious gift of you, And the memories and love will remain the same.

We're missing you at Christmas, as we have throughout the year. The greatest gift we ever had were the days when you were here.

Remembering you at Christmas – and every day.

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Your husband, family and loved ones.

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