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FIRST NIGHT BOSTON CELEBRATION



First Night Boston was a series of events throughout the city to celebrate the New Year. A parade that marched from Copley Square to Boston Common, free concerts, ice sculptures, and many other activities kept young and old entertained, from one year as it turned into the next. Shown above, Fireworks light up the overcast sky over Boston Common. Shown right, Spectators endure the rain to watch the First Night Parade and kick in 2023. Shown below, Members of the Puppeteers Collaborative match in the First Night Parade. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.





DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

New Year, New Heights

DiDomenico ascends to high leadership post in State Senate

By Cary Shuman

Sal DiDomenico was set to be inaugurated as state senator at the State House today for his seventh term representing Charlestown in a newly realigned district.

“I will have a different district than when I started this past session,” reported DiDomenico. “I will have all of Everett, all of Chelsea, all of Charlestown, and half the city of Cambridge.”

Allston, Brighton, and West End will leave the district. All told, DiDomenico will represent 175,000 residents.

“Yes, that’s a lot of people to



Sen. Sal DiDomenico

(DiDOMENICO Pg. 5)

CNC CORNER

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an election on Saturday, February 4, 2023 to fill precinct seats and at-large seats. Nomination papers with instructions will be available at CNC02129.org, by email request to cnc02129@gmail.com, and in the Charlestown BPL Branch. Completed nomination papers must be postmarked or hand-delivered no later than January 25, 2023.

There are a total of seven (7) seats open for election : two (2) at-large seats and five (5) precinct seats (Precincts 3,4,6,7, and 8). At-large candidates may live anywhere in Charlestown while precinct candidates must live within the boundaries of the voting precinct that they will represent, if elected.

Every voting precinct in Charlestown has new boundaries and yours may have changed significantly enough to place you in a new voting precinct. To confirm your precinct to run for a seat or to vote in the February election, go to <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA>.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to represent your neighbors, promote the well-being of Charlestown and its people, and ensure neighborhood participation municipal affairs. If you are not running, please vote in support of your neighbors who are asking to represent you!

EDITORIAL

GABRIELA COLETTA: OUR DYNAMIC CITY COUNCILOR

When Lydia Edwards, our former District 1 City Councilor, was elected to the State Senate, our immediate reaction was, “Our loss is the Senate’s gain.”

Ms. Edwards had been an outstanding member of the Boston City Council and we knew that she would be hard to replace.

However, in the eight months since Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta stepped up to run for the seat, and then was elected in a special election in May, it has become apparent that our community once again has a District 1 City Council member who is a dynamo.

Gigi, who was raised on Eastie’s Eagle Hill, knows our community inside and out -- she served as then-Councilor Edwards’s Chief of Staff for five years -- and has proven to be a fierce advocate for the residents of her district. Moreover, Councilor Coletta is incredibly accessible -- she seems to have the ability to be in three places at once and is at every community event.

We look forward to Gigi’s representation of our community in the coming year. We know that she always will have the interests of her constituents uppermost in mind and will do great things for our district.

WE ARE LIVING -- AND DYING -- WITH COVID-19

Although the restrictions -- masking, social distancing, etc. -- that were imposed during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic are largely gone and forgotten by the vast majority of Americans, the unfortunate reality is that COVID-19 has not forgotten us.

More than 315 Americans still are dying each and every day from COVID-19 -- that’s about 115,000 deaths per year -- making COVID-19 the third leading cause of death in the U.S. after heart disease and cancer.

Ordinarily, those huge numbers would be cause for a public health emergency. But in comparison to the 3,000 deaths per day that were occurring during the first two years of the pandemic, we’ve become complacent.

We also would note that beyond the still-shocking death toll, COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc with our economy, with even the most conservative estimates asserting that thanks to time lost from work, hospitalizations, long-term medical care, and other disruptions, COVID-19 continues to cost us more than \$500 billion per year -- a huge sum attributable to a little bug.

Perhaps one reason why we have become so blasé about the risks of COVID-19 -- beyond “pandemic fatigue” -- is that COVID-19 has become a deadly disease almost exclusively among our country’s senior citizens.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, people 65 and older accounted for 75 percent of all American Covid deaths. That dropped below 60 percent by September, 2021. But today, Americans 65 and over account for 90 percent of new COVID-19 deaths, even though 94 percent of American seniors have some level of vaccination.

However, far too many seniors have not received the new bivalent booster that became available a few months ago. Given that the immune systems of those over 65 are weaker to begin with and that the protection of the vaccine weakens over time, especially for seniors, the failure of senior citizens to get the latest bivalent vaccine booster has created a perfect opportunity for COVID-19 to infiltrate our senior population.

In our view, there are two takeaways from these statistics: First, every senior should get the new bivalent booster ASAP. Second, those who come into contact with seniors, whether in their personal or business lives, should wear a mask in order not to spread the disease to our most-vulnerable population.

Sorry to say, COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon. But two simple steps for our seniors and those who care about them -- an updated vaccine and a mask -- can go a long way toward mitigating the ongoing human tragedy of this pernicious disease.



GUEST OP-ED

Those who are grieving and suffering loss

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Throughout the years, many of us watched Barbara Walters from NBC to ABC. I always tried to watch her special interviews. Often, the people she interviewed on primetime television specials were “the” high profile people at that given time. She became the highest paid journalist of her day being the first to sign a million-dollar contract with ABC.

Regardless of what we do in life we are still confronted by difficulties that often debilitate us. Walters had survived her own personal struggles, like we all do, including four divorces. Unfortunately, her reported battle with dementia took its toll on her health. We can all accomplish much in life. Maybe not as much as Walters or maybe even more. Regardless, there is much about life we can’t do anything about other than try to deal with it and do the best we can.

At least 37 people died from the recent winter storm in Buffalo, New York. Families are grieving. Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, freezing temperatures,

and snow have wreaked devastation on our country in the last twelve months. Loss of life can come from disease, weather, accidents or unconsciously by design.

We all have been horrified by the death of four college students in Moscow, Idaho. It’s been beyond us how four beautiful people could be stabbed to death in their beds reportedly between 3:00 and 4:00 in the morning. A young man who is a student at nearby Washington State University on the Pullman campus

has been arrested at his parents’ house in Albrightsville, Pennsylvania. Moscow police believe they now have the murderer in custody.

How anyone could commit such a heinous crime is beyond our comprehension. I’m sure it was beyond the scope of thought for these innocent young adults. We never know who is taking note of our lives, whereabouts and activities. Regardless of how calm and safe your community seems you can’t take anything

(Op-Ed Pg. 3)

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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Charlestown sees 10-percent spike in Part One crime in '22

By Dan Murphy

Charlestown saw a 10-percent spike in Part One crime in 2022 from the previous year, according to Boston Police.

Between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31 of last year, 287 incidents of Part One crime were reported in Area A-15, compared with 257 during the same timeframe in 2021.

Last year did mark an approximately 13-percent decrease in Part One crime from the five-year average of 330 incidents, however.

Part One crime includes violent crimes (homicide; rape and

attempted rape; robbery and attempted robbery; and aggravated assault), as well as property crimes (burglary and attempted burglary; larceny and attempted larceny; and vehicle theft and attempted vehicle theft).

No homicides were reported in Charlestown last year, compared with one in '21; the five-year average in this category was also one incident.

Two rapes and attempted rapes were reported in '22, compared to none the previous year, while the five-year average was five incidents in this category.

Robberies and attempted rob-

beries saw a slight decline as the number dropped to 13 from 14 in '21; the five-year average was 16 in this category.

Incidents of domestic aggravated assault were down nearly 18 percent, with 14 in '22, compared to 17 the year before. Nineteen incidents was the five-year average in this category.

In contrast, incidents of non-domestic aggravated assault saw a slight uptick as the number climbed to 22 last year from 21 in '21, while the five-year average in this category was 30 incidents.

The rate of commercial burglaries doubled last year, with

eight incidents, compared to only four in '21; the five-year average for this category was five incidents.

Residential burglaries were up nearly 32 percent as the number climbed to 25 in '22 from 19 the previous year, while the five-year average was 24 in this category.

Incidents of larceny from a motor vehicle saw a minor uptick, with 83 incidents in '22, compared to 82 the previous year; the five-year average in this category was 95 incidents.

Other larcenies were up more than 17 percent as the number climbed to 102 in '22 from 87 the

previous year, while the five-year average was 129 incidents in this category.

Auto theft was up 50 percent as the number climbed to 18 from 12 in '21; the five-year average in this category was 19 incidents.

Citywide, Part One crime was down 2 percent in '22 as the number of incidents dropped to 14,863 from 15,087 the previous year.

2022 also saw a more than 10-percent decrease in Part One crime citywide from the five-year average of 16,533 incidents.

Coletta reflects on first seven months with annual report, wins for the community

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Councilor Gabriela Coletta recently released her 2022 Annual Report reflecting on her first seven months on the Boston City Council. In the report, she highlights funding wins, community service initiatives, policy and organizing efforts, and looks ahead to priorities on the Council and in our neighborhoods for 2023.

“As we close 2022, I’m proud to share our important work over the past seven months and what I’m advocating for in the new year. As promised when I was interviewing to work for you, I hit the ground running and I’m incredibly honored to serve district one every day.”

Coletta states she’s prioritized staying deeply rooted in the community while being as accessible and responsive as possible.

“Together, we fought for more housing affordability, environmental justice and climate resilience, quality public education for kids, and so much more. ... In the community, I remain committed to improving quality of life for all residents through efficient municipal services. We’ve advocated for more transparency, held special interests accountable, and organized service projects to help beautify our neighborhoods.”

Coletta mentions that she looks

forward to implementing a robust agenda that envisions a brighter and more inclusive Boston in 2023 and beyond.

Highlights of the report include:

Over \$500,000 in budget amendments to improve city services and quality of life in District One

Once-in-generation oversight of Federal ARPA investments in affordable housing preservation, school infrastructure, food access, and youth and senior programming

Calling for a district-wide, comprehensive plan for our waterfront to protect against displacement due to coastal flooding and storm surge

Zoning Board of Appeals systemic reforms and prioritizing planning before development

Coordination of construction and utility street work while improving technology systems for permits

Standardizing an environmental justice and climate change curriculum in Boston Public Schools

Fostering a welcoming and inclusive City by supporting migrant families and policies supporting our LGBTQ+ residents

Encouraging residents to give back to their neighborhoods through community service projects

“It has been a privilege to serve a district that I love and that has given me everything. I am hopeful

that we can expand prosperity and continue to foster the vibrancy of Charlestown, East Boston and the North End, together.”

Coletta encourages residents to reach out to her office for a meeting for suggestions and ideas to solve our most persistent issues. To see her 2022 Annual Report in full, please visit bit.ly/2022ColettaReport for English and bit.ly/2022ColettaReporteAnual for Spanish.

For additional information please contact the Office of Councilor Gabriela Coletta by phone at (617) 635-3200 or by email at elizabeth.sanchez@boston.gov.

OP-ED (from pg. 2)

for granted. Lock your doors. Lock your bedroom door. Keep your handgun on your lampstand and try your best to create an environment that protects you as much as possible. With so many people sleeping in the rental house in Moscow, I’m sure these young college students felt safe. What appeared to be safe for them became an opportunity for an evil mind.

Typically, the attacker has the element of surprise on his side. It’s always best to try to think ahead. Sadly, four Idaho University students were killed by someone who planned, plotted, and was patient enough to find the right moment to carry out the murders.

Accepting and dealing with

what we cannot change is one thing. Preparing for life but rolling with the punches, the turns and twists is another. Being watchful, careful, and never taking anything for granted could make the difference between life and death

Pray for these families and all the many friends and loved ones as they grieve and suffer from such devastating loss.

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.

Real Estate Transfers

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Top five pet New Year's resolutions for 2023

By Kim Salerno, Founder/CEO
TripsWithPets

We all make some type of New Year's resolution. We set goals for ourselves to eat healthier, lose weight, spend less time on our phones, exercise more, be more mindful – yada yada yada. Well, it doesn't stop with just us. With all the unconditional love and joy pets bring us, an overwhelming number of pet parents also set New Year's resolutions for their pets.

There are countless ways that we can further enrich the lives of our pets. What better time to get started than the New Year ahead.

TripsWithPets surveyed pet parents to find out what their New Year's resolutions are for their furry family members in 2023. Here are the top 5.

#1 Do more together
There's no better way to bond more with your pet than engaging in new activities together. Top spot on the resolution list for pet parents in 2023 is taking more pet-friendly road trips and exploring new things to do with their pets. Paddleboarding, kayaking, hiking, and exploring pet-friendly places to shop, dine, and stay are among the activities noted.

#2 Introduce natural ways to support pet health
Loving our pets as we do means doing all we can to ensure they lead long, healthy, and happy lives. Many pet parents have resolved to take a closer look at natural health care for their furry family members. This includes their pets diet/nutrition, supplements, lifestyle, and alternative therapies – such as acupuncture, laser treatment, homeopathy, and the like. Improving our precious pets' well-being is the ultimate goal.

#3 Brush pet's teeth regularly
Daily brushing of your pet's teeth is just as important for him as it is for you. Regular tooth brushing helps to prevent gum disease – and even other diseases. Yet, many pet parents overlook it. What makes it a bit tricky is if you don't start your pet out when he is young, it becomes more challenging to make him amenable to getting his teeth brushed as he gets older. That's what typically makes many pet parents "intermittent" tooth brushers.

The good news is, New Year's resolution #3 is that pet parents plan to commit daily to brushing their dog's and cat's teeth.

#4 Get more exercise
We all need to move our bodies more - and that includes our pets. It's not just about losing weight, it's about overall health - mind, body, and soul. Getting out for more walks, play dates, fetch, and games of "hide and go treat" are on the docket for more pet parents in this coming year.

#5 Work on better manners & training
Whether it is barking at house guests, begging at the table, or bossing you around, most pets have some unfavorable behaviors that need to be curbed. Pet parents have committed to working with professional trainers this new year to help their pets with anxiety and behavior issues so they can be happier, more relaxed, and responsive. Yappy New Year!

About TripsWithPets
TripsWithPets is a leader in the pet travel industry – providing online reservations at pet-friendly hotels across the United States and Canada.

With over 45,000 accommodations, TripsWithPets provides pet travelers with a wide variety of pet-friendly options.

Pet parents go to TripsWithPets.com for all they need to find and book the perfect place to stay with their pets – including detailed, up-to-date information on hotel pet policies and pet amenities.

As passionate animal advocates, TripsWithPets supports local and national 501(c)(3) animal welfare organizations by raising much needed funds through their annual Partners for Animal Welfare Series (PAWS)

CHARLESTOWN BEAT

COMMUNITY ROOM: The 2nd floor Community Room at 20 Vine St. is available to neighborhood groups for meetings.
Please call Christine Vraibel at 617-343-4627 or email christine.vraibel@pd.boston.gov to reserve.
POLICE RELATED INFO: Contact the District A-1 Community Service Office at 617-343-4627.

INVESTIGATE PERSON
12/28/2022 – At about 4:45 p.m., police responded to a radio call for a person with a gun at 2 Carney Court.
Channel 2 operations notified officers that the caller stated she received an email from a resident identified as "Jacqueline" that stated someone waved a gun at her through a third-floor window.
Police arrived on the scene and asked the caller to identify themselves to locate the suspect with the firearm and provide further information regarding the call. The caller was unwilling to accommodate the officers' request and would not describe the person of interest, nor would they meet with officers. Police canvassed the area to no avail.


VANDALISM
12/30/22 – At approximately 12:08 p.m., while on patrol, an officer was flagged down by a victim who stated that an unknown individual/suspect had taken both the tires and rims from the driver's side of their vehicle.
The officer observed the car, a 2007 Black Honda Civic, had been lifted on a quick-jack lift that was left behind. The officer also observed both the tires and rims on the driver's side were missing but that no additional parts were missing from the vehicle. An Area A-1 detective was notified of the incident before responding, processing, and photographing the scene. The officer advised the victim to follow up with their insurance company.

ROBBERY
12/30/22 – At around 3:33 p.m., police responded to a radio call for an armed robbery at 27 Austin St. (Whole Foods Supermarket).
Officers spoke to security (the victim), who stated that the suspect stole some crab legs and walked out of the front door. The suspect made it to the parking lot, the victim said, and when confronted about the stolen items, the suspect displayed a 9mm firearm.
The victim stated that the suspect was a regular shoplifter and was accompanied by two unknown female acquaintances at the time of the incident. Officers spoke with the Store Team Leader, who stated the store had CCTV footage of the incident. Area A-1 Detectives were expected to conduct the follow-up investigation.

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

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DiDOMENICO (from pg. 1)

make happy, but we do our best," said DiDomenico humbly. "I am very excited and looking forward to continuing to work on behalf of the residents that I represent in Chelsea, Charlestown, Cambridge and Everett."

Constituents have come to expect the best from the popular state senator, and DiDomenico has delivered. He has been recognized district and statewide for his many legislative accomplishments.

Constituents say DiDomenico's office quickly and efficiently responds to requests for assistance or guidance. He has become a leading advocate for education, children, seniors, and low-income families.

Though many supporters and friends urged him to consider a run for one of the state's constitutional offices in the 2022 election, DiDomenico opted to run for re-election, and he was unopposed on the ballot.

His visibility factor throughout the district is off the charts. DiDomenico is a royal presence at all events, where he always generates a warm reception from city councillors, school committee members, and residents.

A return as the Senate's assistant majority leader

During the past session, DiDomenico, 51, was the third most powerful leader in the 40-member State Senate, having served as assistant majority leader.

"I look forward to continuing in that role," said DiDomenico. "I'm hopeful to be reappointed [by Senate President Karen Spilka] as chair of the Bills in Third Reading Committee and vice-chair of the Education Committee as well."

Priorities for the new session

"Education has always been one of my top priorities," related DiDomenico, a 1995 graduate of Boston College. "Also lifting

people out of poverty and food insecurity, helping children and families, and our elderly population as well."

In fact, one of DiDomenico's top accomplishments in the past year was working to provide universal school meals for every student in the Commonwealth. The state's \$110 million appropriation ensures that every student in Massachusetts, regardless of family income, receives free breakfast and lunch in the schools.

DiDomenico said he has been following the issue of surging enrollments in the Everett schools and the need for a new high school.

"I can be helpful with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, which is under the control of State Treasurer Deb Goldberg," said DiDomenico. "I would have a role in advocating for a new school with state funding, for sure. I know the City of Everett and the School Department have expressed strong interest in getting a new high school, and I look forward to working with them to accomplish that goal."

Working with the new administration to achieve goals

DiDomenico will be working with a new gubernatorial administration as Maura Healey takes office as governor and Kim Driscoll become lieutenant governor.

"I'm looking forward to working with Gov. Healey and Lt. Gov. Driscoll. They've been longtime friends, and I know they care about the issues that we care about in my district," said DiDomenico. "Because of our strong relationship and friendship, I know we'll be able to get a lot accomplished together."

DiDomenico will also be building on his his strong, professional relationships with Rep. Joseph McGonagle, Rep. Dan Ryan, and Rep. Judith Garcia.

"I will work closely with them to get funding for our communities and legislation that will help our communities as well," said DiDomenico.

Aided by an excellent team in the senator's office

Sen. DiDomenico begins the new session with the same staff working in his office on Beacon Hill.

Chief of Staff Christie Getto Young and Director of Constituent Services Jim Henry have been on DiDomenico's office leadership team since his first day in office. Getto Young was the recipient of the prestigious National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Staff Achievement Award for 2019. The other members of the staff are Legislative and Budget Director Martina Matta, Director of Communications Eli Fenichel, and Legislative Aide Ayla Thorntona.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be held in March

Outside of his numerous successes in the State Senate, DiDomenico and his wife, Tricia, have built the Domenico Family Foundation's annual Saint Patrick's Dinner into one of the most anticipated and fun happenings on the social calendar, one that kicks off the celebratory season of events in March. Tricia serves as president of the Foundation.

"We'll be back hosting the dinner the first Friday or Saturday in March," said DiDomenico. "Because of that successful, annual event, we're able to hold the toy drive, which allowed us to purchase \$35,000 in toys for low-income families. It was an amazing event, but the behind-the-scenes stuff is a lot of work. An event like that requires a lot of help, and we're fortunate to have it."

Also helping the Foundation and supporting the family's char-



The DiDomenico family celebrated St. Patrick's Day for a good cause.

itable endeavors are Sal and Tricia's two sons, Matthew and Sal, who are students at Everett High School.

"My family has been very supportive," said the senator. "Obviously being in public office

requires the whole family being a part of it. They've been great, and I'm lucky that they love it as much as I do."

"And don't forget my dog, Buddy – he's part of the family, too," said DiDomenico.

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

2023/2024 Early Registration

Saturday, January 7th 2023

9:30am to 11:30am at the

Charlestown Boys & 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!

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FIRST NIGHT BOSTON CELEBRATION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

It was uncertain if many would venture out on the last night of 2022 with the rain coming down, but the unseasonably warm temperatures in the upper 50s helped bring out the crowds. First Night Boston was a series of events throughout the city to celebrate the

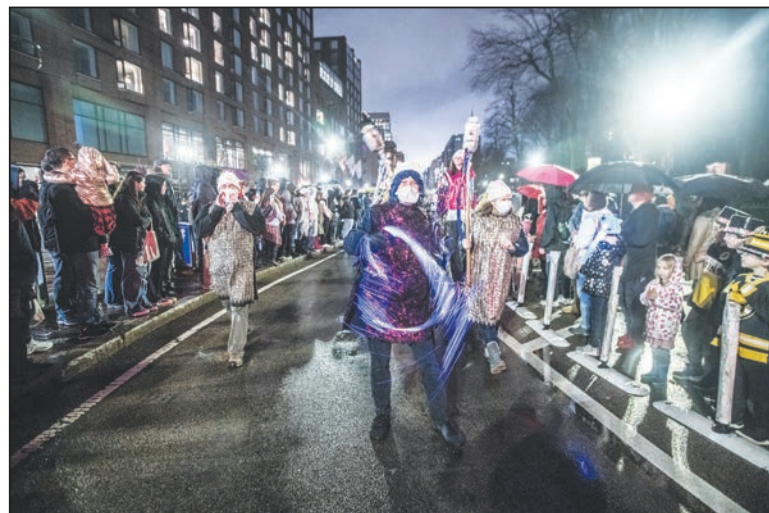
New Year. A parade that marched from Copley Square to Boston Common, free concerts, ice sculptures, and many other activities kept young and old entertained, from one year as it turned into the next.



Members of the Open Air Circus march in the parade.



Hasaan and Mahira Iqbal.



Members of the Open Air Circus march in the parade.



Miss Massachusetts Skarlett Ramirez.



The trees of Boston Common are colorfully lit to help revelers celebrate First Night.



History reenactors representing The Boston Tea Party exclaim "HUZZAH!"



Ruby and Gus aren't waiting for Midnight to share a New Years kiss.



The Hot Tamales Brass Band soldier through the rain to bring their music, keeping spirits dry in spite of the rain.

We wish to send a
BIG THANK YOU
to Doug MacDonald and his crew of elves
for once again decorating the
Training Field during the Holiday Season.
You put some many smiles on so many faces!
It is very much appreciated.
The Friends of the Training Field

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Electrifying Brass was a free percussion and organ performance at The Old South Church as part of Boston's First Night celebrations.



Amay Nirmal is excited to watch the remainder of 2022 turn into the start of 2023.

FIRST NIGHT BOSTON CELEBRATION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Danny Nickelson of the Puppeteers Collaborative.



Mark Pelliter of the Puppeteers Collaborative "high" fives a spectator in the parade.



Dave Everett from the Harvey Traveler boutique makes his way in the parade in style, driving a reproduction of a 1967 Buggati Traveler.



Spectators watch as the Liberty Jazz Band proceeds by with soothing music to help start the new year.



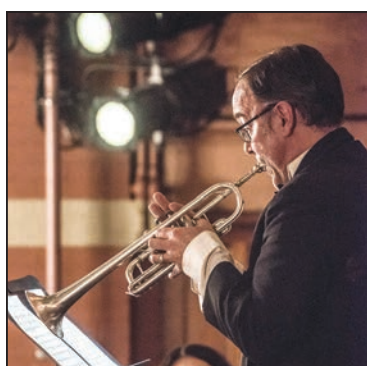
Valeria Huyke's outfit lights up the Boston Common for her and Timothy Devino.



Spectators line up along Boylston Street to watch the First Night Parade.



Manny, Tere, Katalina, and Adrianna Balderas.



Trumpet player Andrew Sorg of The Old South Brass performs in the balcony.



Conductor Lawrence Isaacson leads the audience at the Old South Church in singing the National Anthem.



Organist Mitchell Crawford performs Fanfare For The New Year.

Harvest on Vine

Emergency Food Pantry

January 2023
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 Sat., Jan. 14th - 10am - Distribution
 1/30 - Set-Up 3pm - Distribution 1/31-2pm

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Happy New Year

BOSTON CONDO MARKET

based on MLS data from 2022

| AVG. SOLD PRICE | AVG. # OF SALES | BACK BAY |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
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| | | CHARLESTOWN |
| | | Avg. sale price ↑ 12% |

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FIRST NIGHT BOSTON CELEBRATION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



The trees of Boston Common are colorfully lit to help revelers celebrate First Night.



Tami Kellogg with her First Night bike.



Brian, Ranisha, and Ocean Pacheco share some family fun to celebrate First Night.



An audience takes in the musical expertise of Sons Of Levin, performing in front of the Boston Public Library in Copley Square.



Lya Bennett shows off her enthusiasm for the performance of Sons Of Levin, performing in front of the Boston Public Library in Copley Square.



Liz Chen and Quan Nguyen are lit up to celebrate the start of 2023.



Conductor Lawrence Isaacson leads the audience at the Old South Church in singing God Bless America with gesturing.



First Night revelry in the Commonwealth Ave Mall.



Ava McTomney and Jaymie McManus.



Some happy visitors from Morocco are excited for the New Year.



The Boston Public Library is lit up to serve as a performance stage for First Night.

State Treasurer's office launches small business toolkit and resource map

Massachusetts State Treasurer, Deborah B. Goldberg, recently announced the launch of the Treasurer's Office's newly designed Small Business Resource Toolkit website. The toolkit provides access to comprehensive resources and materials for small business owners and future entrepreneurs in Massachusetts.

Under the direction of Treasurer Goldberg, the toolkit was designed to provide a range of relevant, important information, often needed, when facing the enormous challenge of starting a small business for the first time. Typically, it has been impossible to easily find the resources and advisors that can help lead to success. This website offers valuable educational materials on how to plan,

maintain, and grow a successful small business.

"By collecting relevant resources in one place online, we are providing an understandable road map for people as they begin to develop and open their own businesses," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "One of my top priorities has been to ensure that everyone has equal access to the tools and information they need to succeed. And by supporting the growth of independent small businesses, we not only positively impact their own development, but also our local communities and the state's economy, in many positive ways."

To help ensure that small businesses thrive, this toolkit provides additional information about

banks, community development financial institutions (CDFIs), and community partners available across the Commonwealth.

"Successful small businesses are critical generators of wealth, they are the backbone of the economy," said State Senator Lydia Edwards (D-Boston). "I am so thankful to Treasurer Deborah Goldberg and her team for creating a website that serves as a one-stop-shop for small businesses new and old. I look forward to sharing this new resource with my constituents."

"The State of MA Treasurer's Office has taken yet another step to actively support economic empowerment for entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout the Commonwealth," said Samilys Rodriguez, Director – Eastern

Massachusetts Center for Women & Enterprise. "The Center for Women & Enterprise Women's Business Centers are just one of many business resources in the Treasurer's new Small Business Resource Toolkit, which can provide additional support and guidance for clients to achieve their next business milestones."

"Congratulations to the Office of the Treasurer's team for their hard work and dedication in creating a website that connects and provides resources for business owners in Massachusetts," said Aliesha J. Porcena, City of Boston Director of Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion. "At the City of Boston, we are committed to working across agencies, to make sure business owners have

the resources and tools to start, grow, and build a business in Boston. As we work to address the many hurdles that businesses face, and build a community of support for businesses, this tool is an effort in that direction."

There are several organizations and community partners across the state that help business owners with technical assistance and business counseling. The Treasurer's Office's website has identified these organizations and placed them by county and category on a Small Business Resource Map. This map will be updated on a regular basis.

Nearly \$2.74 million awarded to combat violence against women

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that dozens of law enforcement, criminal justice and victim services organizations have been awarded grants through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant program including the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office with a grant of \$119,919.88.

The federal funds will help Massachusetts agencies in efforts to prevent, reduce and improve responses to acts of gender-based, sexual and domestic violence; stalking; and human trafficking. The 44 grant recipients were selected through a competitive application process administered by the Office of Grants and Research (OGR), a state agency that is part of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). Each organization funded in FY23 will be eligible for additional funding during the three following years.

"These grants allow our Commonwealth to enhance our work combatting domestic violence and sexual offenses. Meeting the needs of survivors, providing safety nets for those seeking to escape, and holding perpetrators accountable requires a coalition of law enforcement and service providers. VAWA funds have allowed us to build these vital partnerships and provide resources, not just in 2023, but for years to come," said Governor Charlie Baker.

"Since taking office, this administration has shown an unparalleled dedication to ending domestic and sexual violence. As chair of the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and

Domestic Violence, I've had the privilege of working with professionals and organizations across the Commonwealth that are committed to this mission. This funding will allow state agencies, police and service providers the resources they need to effectively respond to and reduce these offenses," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.

"These grants help improve how law enforcement and the criminal justice system respond to violence against women through training opportunities and enhanced capacity to investigate and prosecute these offenses. It also ensures that the victims of domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual assault and exploitation, and stalking have access to the services they deserve," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy.

"The VAWA Grant Program is one of the most impactful programs administered by the Office of Grants and Research. These funds help ensure that victims have access to the protections of law enforcement and the criminal justice system, as well as trauma-informed and culturally-competent services. We look forward to working alongside all our funded partners to achieve this mission," said OGR Executive Director Kevin Stanton.

The VAWA Grant Program is funded by the Department of Justice. Through an application review process, recipients were selected from across four categories: Courts, Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Victim Services, and Discretionary.

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With the arrival of winter, here are some energy-saving tips

With the increase in winter energy costs, what are some quick and affordable changes one can do to lower my energy use?

Some energy-saving options that you can do yourself at home include:

- Checking and changing the air filter in your furnace on a monthly basis. Unclean filters slow down airflow and make the system work harder, thereby wasting energy.

- Adjusting your thermostat just a few degrees can make a big difference in your bill. When home, set your thermostat at 68 degrees Fahrenheit or lower for heating. Lower the thermostat 7 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit each time you leave the house for two or more hours, and then again when you go to sleep at night.

- In the winter, open window dressings during the day to capture warmth and close them at night to prevent heat loss.

- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter – it allows warm air to escape right up the chimney.

- Switch to ENERGY STAR® certified light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs. LEDs use up to 90 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last up to 25 times longer.

- How can the Sponsors of Mass Save help one with financial or billing assistance?

The Sponsors of Mass Save offer two income-based offerings the

Enhanced Residential Incentives and the Income Eligible Program. Both start with a no-cost Home Energy Assessment and offer discounted or no-cost products and services. You can use this table to determine if you qualify for either of these offerings. Information about State and Federally funded payment assistance programs that provide relief on winter heating bills can be found on your utility's website. Local Community Action Agencies may also provide bill assistance and financial assistance toward home improvements. Lastly, you can enroll in a budget or balanced billing plans, which allows you to pay the same amount each month for energy. Based on an estimate of your energy usage for the year, your utility will bill you in 12 equal increments.

- What is a no-cost energy assessment, and how does one qualify?

Whether you're a homeowner, renter, landlord, or business owner, the Sponsors of Mass Save® offer no-cost virtual or in-person Energy Assessments. This assessment is a great way to find energy-saving opportunities within your home or business. An Energy Specialist will assess your current energy use, help you develop a plan to make your home or business more energy efficient, as well as educate you on available rebates and incentives.

- What kind of help can one expect to receive from the

Sponsors of Mass Save?

On top of no-cost assessments and financial assistance programs, the Sponsors of Mass Save also offer a range of rebate options and incentives. To see available rebate options for both your home or business, follow the links or visit www.masssave.com

- Where do one go to get energy efficient products? (Mass Save Marketplace)

To find and purchase affordable energy efficient products, use the Mass Save Marketplace. Access sales through the residential or commercial marketplaces for items such as electronics, appliances, and other equipment, valid through 12/31/22.

- Con el aumento en los costos de energía durante el invierno, ¿cuáles son algunos cambios?

Algunas opciones de ahorro de energía que puede hacer usted en casa incluyen:

- Revisar y cambiar el filtro de aire de su horno mensualmente. Los filtros sucios bloquean y reducen el flujo de aire, haciendo que el sistema trabaje más y desperdicie energía.

- Ajustar su termostato solo unos pocos grados puede hacer una gran diferencia en su factura. Cuando esté en casa, configure su termostato a 68 grados Fahrenheit o menos para la calefacción. Baje el termostato de 7 a 10 grados Fahrenheit cada vez que salga de la casa por dos horas o más, y de nuevo cuando se vaya a dormir por la noche.

- En invierno, abra las cortinas/persianas durante el día para captar el calor y ciérrelas por la noche para evitar la pérdida de calor.

- Mantenga cerrada la compuerta de la chimenea a menos de que haya fuego. Mantener la compuerta abierta es como mantener una ventana completamente abierta durante el invierno: permite que el aire caliente escape por la chimenea.

- Cambie a bombillas de diodo emisor de luz (LED por sus siglas en inglés) certificadas por ENERGY STAR®. Los LED usan hasta un 90 por ciento menos de energía que las bombillas incandescentes y duran hasta 25 veces más.

- ¿Cómo pueden ayudarme los patrocinadores de Mass Save con asistencia financiera o de facturación?

Los patrocinadores de Mass Save® ofrecen dos ofertas con base en los ingresos: los Incentivos Residenciales Mejorados y el Programa Elegible Según los Ingresos. Ambos comienzan con una evaluación de energía del hogar sin costo y ofrecen productos y servicios con descuento o sin costo. Puede usar esta gráfica para determinar si califica para cualquiera de estas ofertas. Puede encontrar información sobre los programas de asistencia de pago financiados por el estado y el gobierno federal que brindan alivio en las facturas de calefacción de invierno en el sitio web de su empresa de servicios públicos. Las Agencias de Acción Comunitaria Local también pueden brindar asistencia con las facturas y asistencia financiera para realizar mejoras en el hogar. Por último, puede inscribirse en un plan de presupuesto o facturación balanceada, que le permite pagar la misma cantidad

cada mes por energía. Según una estimación de su uso de energía para el año, su empresa de servicios públicos le facturará en 12 incrementos iguales.

- ¿Qué es una evaluación de energía sin costo y cómo califico?

Ya sea propietario de una vivienda, inquilino, arrendador o dueño de un negocio, los patrocinadores de Mass Save® ofrecen evaluaciones de energía virtuales o en persona sin costo. Esta evaluación es una excelente manera de encontrar oportunidades de ahorro de energía dentro de su hogar o negocio. Un especialista en energía evaluará su uso actual de energía, lo ayudará a desarrollar un plan para hacer que su hogar o negocio sea más eficiente energéticamente y lo educará sobre los reembolsos e incentivos disponibles.

- ¿Qué tipo de ayuda puedo esperar recibir de los patrocinadores de Mass Save?

Además de evaluaciones sin costo y programas de asistencia financiera, los patrocinadores de Mass Save® también ofrecen una variedad de opciones de reembolso e incentivos. Para ver las opciones de reembolso disponibles para su hogar o negocio, siga los enlaces o visite www.masssave.com

- ¿Dónde debo ir para obtener productos energéticamente eficientes? (Mass Save Marketplace)

Para encontrar y comprar productos económicos de bajo consumo, utilice Mass Save Marketplace. Acceda a las ventas a través de los mercados residenciales o comerciales de artículos como electrónicos, electrodomésticos y otros equipos, válidos hasta el 31/12/22.

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NEW HEALTH HOSTS A WINTER FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

Photos courtesy NEW Health



Several tables of local artists were on hand during the Winter Festival.

On Tuesday, December 20, NEW Health hosted a Winter Festival Celebration and offered a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at their Charlestown facility. First and second vaccines and boosters were available to both pediatric and adult patients.

Based on state data, demand has been waning for COVID-19 booster shots. As an incentive, vaccine and booster recipients were entered into a raffle to win an Xbox and \$100 giftcard. All clinic participants will receive a \$50 Amazon gift certificate and \$25 DoorDash gift certificate. These incentives are being provided thanks to a grant from the Mass. League of Community Health Centers.

A Winter Celebration was also open to the entire Charlestown community with free food, stocking stuffers, hot cocoa and cider, and giveaways.



Rosie Pagan of Charlestown won the X-Box incentive for her son at the COVID-19 vaccine clinic.



A Winter Celebration was also open to the entire Charlestown community with free food, stocking stuffers, hot cocoa and cider, and giveaways.



Fresh produce was available.

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.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

What's for dinner?

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

If your job is meal planning and preparation, this is a question you'll ask yourself all too often in the months ahead. For us, that question is, "What's for Lunch?" since that is our main meal of the day. Even for an experienced home cook, coming up with an endless array of meals that are tasty, nourishing, and easy to prepare can be daunting.

So much so that one savvy entrepreneur offers a set of dice you can roll to help decide what to cook or order for that next meal. Each die has a bunch of options, including cooking methods, proteins, grains/carbs, herbs, bonus ingredients, and vegetables for each season.

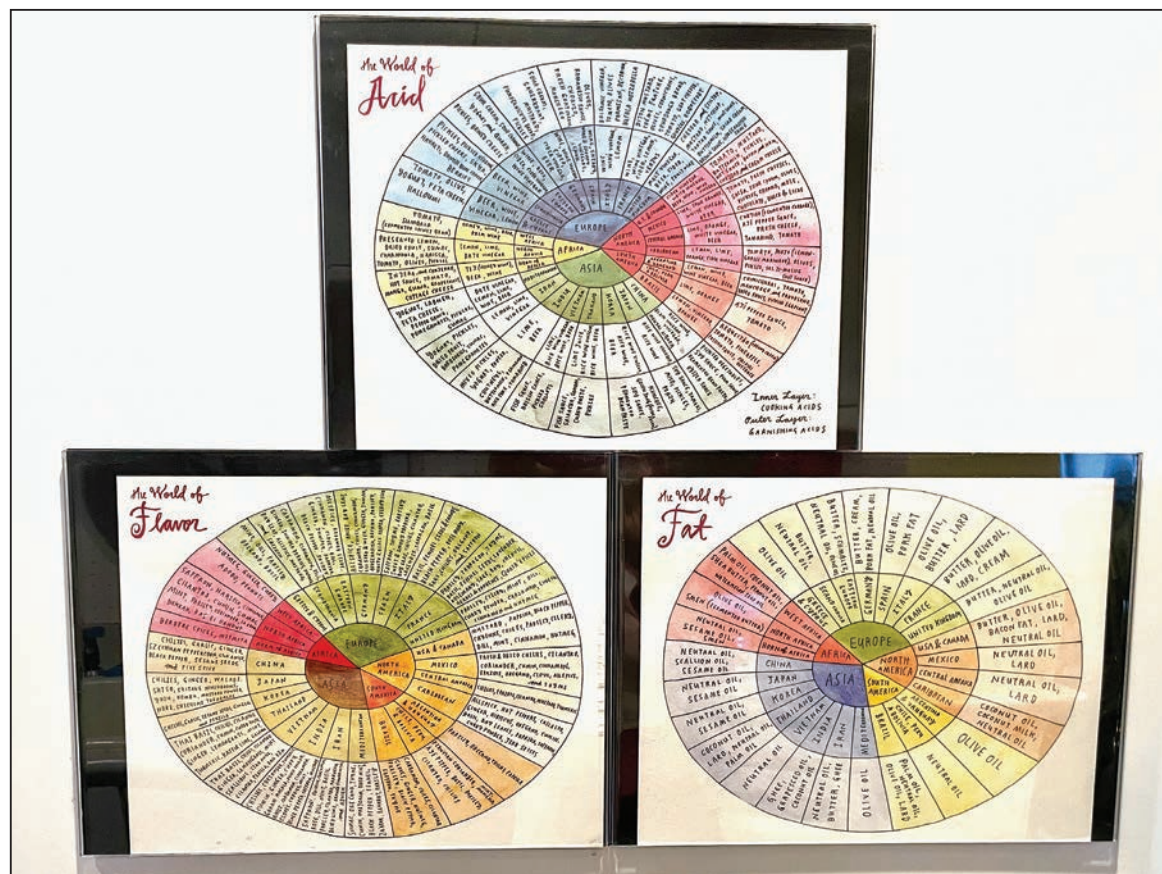
Penny uses a similar approach to add cultural variety to our meals. She purchased Wendy MacNaughton's illustrations of the flavor wheels from the book

"Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat" by Samin Nosrat. They conveniently live on our refrigerator. She can then choose the salt, fat, and acid that will spin what we have on hand into the taste of Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, or South America.

Reduce Decision Fatigue

Steve Jobs often wore a black top and jeans to eliminate one daily decision. In the world of food, this has resulted in themes like Meatless Monday, Taco Tuesday, Fish on Friday, or Sunday Roast.

Many long-time cooks develop a rotation of dishes they can whip together without referring to a recipe. Some of these may be recipes made from leftovers and pantry staples at the last moment, like tacos, egg dishes, quesadillas, grain bowls, salads, soups, and sandwiches.



Illustrations of the flavor wheels from the book "Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat" live on our refrigerator. We use these to spin a meal to the taste of Africa, Asia, Europe, North or South America.

Intentional Leftovers

When she has enough time, Penny will make a large batch of

soup, stew, a casserole, or a braised or roasted dish that we'll dine on for a few days. She'll freeze some of these as single servings to feed us on busy days. As she cooks, she'll also make extra supplies of cooked and spiced minced lamb or beef, sauces, and poached chicken to turn into a quick meal.

We have food writer David Leite to thank for the jar of cooked onions and garlic that's often in our refrigerator, ready to give us a head start on a meal. In his book, "The New Portuguese Table," Leite wrote, "I find spending up to half an hour sautéing onions takes a chunk out of busy weekday evenings, so I make big batches of the stuff and scoop out what I need when I'm at the stove."

Stuck in a Food Rut?


In avoiding decision fatigue, you may be bored with what you're cooking and eating. There are many solutions for this issue thanks to prepared food, the Internet, and our excellent library system.

Type "recipe for" plus an ingredient or two into a web browser, and you'll find hundreds of options for a new dish. Pick one that sounds good to you. If you learn better by watching than by reading, do the same on YouTube.

If you have a cookbook collection, pull a favorite off the shelf or open one in your e-reader for inspiration. You can also download many ebook versions of popular cookbooks from your library. Or, you can stop by and scan the library shelves to choose something from a favorite author, culture, or cooking method.

Finally, you can have a few prepared meals in your freezer to give the cook a break. Or, you can dine out or order takeout from restaurants that still need your support to survive the slower winter months.

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



Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2023
January 29 - February 4
#CSW23

This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, love God and neighbor and enrich society with the leaven of the gospel and by example of faith.

As communities of faith, Catholic schools instill in students their destiny to become saints. Academic excellence is the hallmark of Catholic education intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Finally, service is fundamental to Catholic education and the core of Catholic discipleship. Service is intended to help form people who are not only witnesses to Catholic social teaching, but also active participants through social learning.

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