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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

FREE



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT - BRIDGE

E-inc. offers new Renewable Energies curriculum

By Marianne Salza

E-inc., an environmental learning and action center located in the Charlestown Navy Yard, provides programming in 30 schools and community centers in Cambridge and across Boston. The non-profit organization has been implementing a new, Renewable Energies curriculum in Charlestown's Warren-Prescott School since September 2022. Students of all ages are learning about deriving energy from natural sources to cultivate a more sustainable future.

"Energy is the biggest issue we have. How are we going to save the planet? How do we get energy in new ways," proposed E-Inc. Founder and Executive Director Dr. Ricky Stern. "It's a massive thing we're trying to undertake. The whole idea is to get rid of fossil fuels in as many ways and as quickly as you can."

Educators teach students about alternative energies through understandable, hands-on activities, adapting material to suite various age groups. During the day school program, each grade spends eight weeks delving into a specific topic one day a week. In each lesson, students create a piece of machinery to demonstrate how each form of renewable energy is implemented, its challenges, and benefits.

"In the fifth grade, we invite children to support lowering energy," said Dr. Stern. "They have a week to write a composition. The



Photos courtesy E-Inc.

Shown (above and below) are students enjoying the Renewable Energies program.



top 10 meet with teachers once a week at lunch and start talking about things we could do to make what they already do more modern and renewable. It's their plan that they create. I think it's great to give kids something special to do."

E-inc. defines renewable energy during the first week of the Renewable Energies curriculum. Students begin writing in their science notebooks and are presented with individual tasks. A student may be responsible for turning lights off when the class leaves a room, lowering window shades, or gathering debris from

the schoolyard during recess.

Students build a waterwheel while discovering how hydro-power generates energy through flowing water. During the lesson about solar power, students use solar panels to activate toys. While studying wind power, students learn how wind is formed by the rotation of the earth; and enjoy harnessing wind through turbines to generate energy.

"Science is something you do, make, and test. It's not something you just read about," Dr. Stern asserted. "We try to put three-dimensionality into all our

(E-INC Pg. 11)

CNC posts Election results

By Nancy Johnsen

On Saturday, February 4, approximately 338 Charlestown residents showed up despite the arctic weather to vote for their chosen candidates in the Charlestown Neighborhood Council's Special Election.

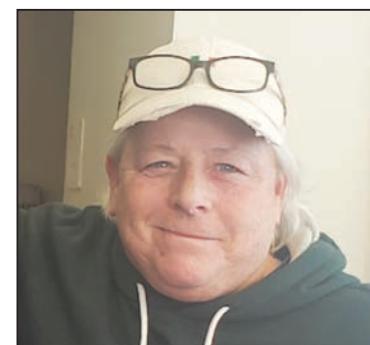
"When I told him how many people voted today, my Newport Beach, California son said 'Townies do not let a little weather, even if it is below 0, keep them from doing what they think is responsible and right.' and it's true. People took the election very seriously, asked a lot of questions over the past few weeks, and waited in line while we figured out which precinct book had their name" Barbara Babin, the Election Committee Chair shared. "It was crazy when people gave their address and they were on the other side of the street from the last person who checked in from that street and therefore in another precinct."

The polls were staffed by Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) members, and volunteers from the community. Sean Breen, Charlestown's Office of Neighborhood Services liaison was on hand to help voters identify their new precincts and Ann Kelleher, a local activist, spent the day helping to check-in Precinct 8 voters and then counting the ballots after the election ended.

"The council would like to thank everyone who came out to vote on a very chilly day and the Boston Police for letting candidates and voters to use of the station lobby to stay warm. People were waiting to vote even before 10:00 a.m. and had an amazing slate of candidates to choose from. Not only do all the candidates have a lot to offer the council and the community, but one of the candidates brought cof-



Crystal Galvin (At-large)



Kelly Tucker (At-large)



Jay Driscoll (Precinct 3)

fee and doughnuts to the election and many stayed to greet and arrange rides for voters right until the end. Great people and good neighbors" said Nancy Johnsen, the CNC Secretary and a member of the election committee. "Charlestown was always going to be the winner in this election,

(CNC Pg. 8)

EDITORIAL

NO CHILD SHOULD LIVE IN DEEP POVERTY

We wish to voice our support for a bill sponsored by State Senator Sal DiDomenico, the Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate, that seeks to accelerate the timetable for lifting children in our state out of what is known as Deep Poverty.

The Act to Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty would raise the maximum cash assistance grant by 25% a year until it reaches half of the federal poverty level. Families living below half the federal poverty level are considered to be in Deep Poverty. Under Senator DiDomenico's bill, grants would increase each year and would keep pace with inflation as the poverty level goes up.

Senator DiDomenico has been instrumental in leading the charge in the legislature to raise the grant levels three times for a total increase of 32% beginning in January, 2021.

According to the Massachusetts Budget & Policy Center, almost 80,000 children in our state live in Deep Poverty, a situation that not only is unconscionable in 2023, but that also is counterproductive to the future of our society.

We urge the legislature to pass this bill immediately to ensure that no child in our state lacks food, clothing, and the other basic necessities of life.

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.



GUEST OP-ED

Tired of hearing about China? Stop the cash flow

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Do you get tired of hearing about China? Now we have floating surveillance balloons over our country. We are yet to know for sure what this is about but time will tell. China is probably scouting out the next land or business purchase. They may have come up with an easy way to determine which military bases have available adjacent land. It doesn't matter if it's for sale they can come up with enough money to buy the property. All they have to do is to keep piling up the money from everything they sell to the United States.

Alarms went off in Washington when the Fufeng Group, a Chinese agricultural company, bought 300 acres of land and set up a milling plant last spring in Grand Forks, N.D. The plant is a 20-minute drive from an Air Force base that, according to North Dakota Sen. John Hoeven, hosts a space mission that "will form the backbone of U.S. military communications across the globe." Source WSJ

Ten years ago Smithfield Foods was purchased by China's

leading pork producer, Shuanghui International Holdings Ltd. (now called WH Group Ltd.), for \$4.72 billion.

Keep in mind China has 1.5 billion people. This requires a lot of people to feed. China would love to gain as much of our farmland as possible to gain more control of our food production. This is one area where China really needs us. Our agricultural exports to them increased by over 27% from 2020 to 2021. They would need us if they can gain control of our farmland. It's also a plus for them if they can have it close to our military bases. This provides a two-fold benefit for them. In the middle of the cornfield, they can watch everything we are doing or even attempt to thwart what we are doing.

The U.S. trade summary reveals the depth of our trade with China.

In 2021, U.S. exports to China were \$151.1 billion, a 21.4% (\$26.6 billion) increase from 2020; U.S. imports from China were \$506.4 billion, a 16.5% (\$71.6 billion) increase; and the trade deficit with China was \$355.3 billion,

a 14.5% (\$45.0 billion) increase from \$310.3 billion in 2020.

China was the United States' third-largest trade partner in 2021.

In 2021, 8.6% of total U.S. exports of \$1.8 trillion were exported to China and 17.9% of total U.S. imports of \$2.8 trillion were imported from China.

Mechanical Appliances, Sound Recorders and TV sets were the most traded commodity sectors. In the last five years, U.S. exports of those commodities show an upward trend from \$25 billion in 2017 to \$36.1 billion in 2021. The percentages of imports of those commodities from China out of total imports from the World are impressive with 37.0% in 2017 and 29.3% in 2021.

In 2021, U.S. exports of Agricultural Products to China continue to show an upward trend. In 2021, U.S. exports of Agriculture Products were \$31.6 billion, an increase of 27.5% (\$6.8 billion) from \$24.8 billion in 2020.

In 2021, China remained the major source of U.S. imports of

(Op-Ed Pg. 3)

CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE

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NEWS BRIEFS

WINTER WALK BOSTON-CHARLESTOWN COMMUNITY GIVING BACK

Please Join Us!

This Sunday, February 12, a team representing Harvest on Vine Food Pantry and the Charlestown Community will participate in Winter Walk Boston, a two-mile walk to raise money for organizations that care for the homeless.

The walk begins in Copley Square at 9:00 am.

We will meet in front of Talbots, 500 Boylston Street, at 8:30 AM so we can walk together and do our part to end homelessness in Boston.

For more information and to register go to the

Winter Walk website at <https://winterwalk.org>

Hope to see you there!

MONTHLY RACE DIALOGUES

Join us on Tuesday, February 21st at 5:30pm for our monthly Race & Equity Discussion. This series explores important topics about the impact of race, policing in urban settings, and equity. It is open to all members of the Charlestown community and the general public. Please note meetings are indoors once again, at 10 Green Street.

This forum is being co-sponsored by the Charlestown Coalition, Turn It Around Youth Program, Councilor Gigi Coletta and her team.

NATIONAL GRID OFFERS SAVINGS INITIATIVE

National Grid is proud to serve a diverse community of Massachusetts residents and provide bill help solutions during challenging economic times. Through the company's Winter Customer Savings

Initiative, nearly 60,000 customers have enrolled in the company's discount program, which provides eligible customers with 25-32 percent savings on their utility bills. An additional 12,000 customers have signed up for bill management programs since the program was launched in September 2022.

Spanish and Chinese speaking customers can now find the resources they need in their favored language through the Winter Customer Saving Initiative web page at ngrid.com/heretohelp.

National Grid remains committed to providing customers a variety of energy-saving tips and billing options to help offset the increases in this winter's energy prices. Customers in need of billing assistance or additional support can visit ngrid.com/heretohelp to learn more.

Spanish Translation

National Grid se enorgullece de prestar servicio a una comunidad diversa de residentes de Massachusetts y brindar soluciones de ayuda con las facturas durante tiempos difíciles a nivel económico. A través de la iniciativa de ahorro para clientes durante el invierno de la empresa, casi 60 000 clientes se han inscrito en el programa de descuento de la empresa, que ofrece a los clientes elegibles un ahorro del 25 al 32 % en sus facturas de servicios públicos. Otros 12 000 clientes se han inscrito en programas de gestión de facturas desde que el programa se puso en marcha en septiembre de 2022.

Los clientes que hablan español y chino ahora pueden encontrar los recursos que necesitan en su idioma favorito a través de la página web de la iniciativa de ahorro para clientes durante el invierno en ngrid.com/heretohelp.

National Grid mantiene su compromiso de proporcionar a los clientes una variedad de consejos para ahorrar energía y opciones de facturación para ayudar a compensar los aumentos en los precios de la energía de este invierno. Los

clientes que necesitan asistencia con la facturación o ayuda adicional pueden visitar ngrid.com/heretohelp para obtener más información.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

Looking for ways to celebrate and learn about Black history in the Mystic? Check out these opportunities and community events happening around the watershed:

- Explore the works of Medford Poet Laureate Terry E. Carter. We were excited to see Terry E. Carter, GreenRoots and environmental justice featured in the newest installation at the Mystic Mural Project (pictured above) — a 22-year-long mural project near Blessing of the Bay in Somerville sponsored by the Somerville Arts Council and led by artist David Fichter.

• Learn more about the Royall House & Slave Quarters in Medford, MA: "As one of the only remaining freestanding quarters where enslaved people lived and worked in the North, the museum bears witness to their lives, to the intertwined stories of wealth and bondage in pre-Revolutionary Massachusetts, and to the resistance and political and legal activism of enslaved and free Black people in the eighteenth century."

• Visit the Museum of Science's Black History Month celebration, spotlighting influential Black scientists and engineers — including local figures like Lewis Howard Latimer (1848 –1928), the inventor, electrical engineer, and patent draftsman born in Chelsea, MA.

• Follow the West Medford Community Center as they share Medford's Black history and uplift Black entrepreneurs, creators, and artists.

• Check out the Chelsea Black Community's great series of events and community activities throughout Black History Month!

DIDOMENICO JOINS MOTHERS OUT FRONT RALLY FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE



Senator Sal DiDomenico recently joined the Mothers Out Front organization for a rally (above and below) at the State House. Senator DiDomenico was joined by other elected officials and an impressive showing of Mothers Out Front advocates from his district and from local chapters throughout the Commonwealth. DiDomenico vowed to attendees that he would continue to fight for the most aggressive climate actions in the legislature so we can protect our environment and planet for generations to come. The advocates walked through the State House to the Governor's office and were able to spend time meeting with Governor Healey, Massachusetts' newly appointed Climate Chief, Melissa Hoffer, and the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Rebecca Tepper.



Op-Ed (from pg. 2)

Textile Products. In 2021, U.S. imports of \$50.3 billion of Textile Products from China constituted 32.6% of the total U.S. imports of Textile products.

Additionally, in 2021, China remained the major source of U.S. imports of Furniture, Bedding, Lamps, Toys, Games, Sports Equipment, Paint, and other Miscellaneous Manufactured Items. In 2021, the U.S. imports of \$68.5

billion of Miscellaneous Manufactured Items from China constituted 53.2% of total U.S. imports of those commodities. Source: Government info data

What can we do about China? Try to buy products not made in China. You have to shop but it's possible. Shrinking the cash flow to China is crucial to reducing their growing economic and military power. By all means, please do

not sell them your land.

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.

Upcoming community events

The Public Facilities Department (PFD), Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF), and Fennick McCredie Architecture invite residents to join officials for an in person public meeting to discuss the BCYF Clougherty Pool Project. The officials will highlight the overall project, show the initial pool and bathhouse design options and receive feedback.

The meeting will be held at the Charlestown High School Cafeteria at 240 Medford Street on February 13 starting at 5:30 p.m.

Interpretation, translation, and disability accommodation services are available at no cost. If you need them, please contact officials by February 9, 2023.

For questions, please contact niall.murphy@boston.gov

Other events happening in Charlestown include a coffee with Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta on Saturday, February 18 at 10 a.m. in the Navy Yard at the Style Cafe, 197 8th Street. Register for a ten minute slot at <https://bit.ly/ColettaCoffeeHour> or email Gabriela Ramirez at (Gabriela.ramirez@boston.gov) with questions.

The next meeting of the Charlestown Neighborhood Council will be held the Knights of Columbus Hall, 545 Rutherford Ave on March 7 starting at 7 p.m.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Proposals are invited for operating the ON-SITE CAFETERIA, CENTRAL CAFE & VENDING SERVICES at Bunker Hill Community College's

Campuses. The Request for Proposal BHCSV2023 will be available to download from the College's website on and after February 20, 2023. Please visit <https://www.bhcc.edu/news/>. The deadline for proposal submission is March 31, 2023.

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Healey-Driscoll announce appointments to the State Veterans' Homes Council

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced the appointment of seven members to the Veterans' Homes Council. Established through a 2022 law aimed at strengthening the governance of veterans services in the Commonwealth, the Council is an advisory body that makes recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans' Services to ensure the health, well-being, and safety of residents of state-operated Veterans' Homes and access to equitable, high quality, and competent care for veterans across the Commonwealth.

"The Veterans' Homes Council will play a critical role in ensuring that we are providing the care that our veterans need and deserve. These seven appointees have an intimate understanding of the complex needs of veterans, including access to health care, mental health care, housing and food assistance," said Governor Maura T. Healey. "Our administration is grateful to the Legislature and our teams at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and Department of Veterans' Services for their hard work to create this important council."

"As the proud daughter of a Navy veteran, I understand how important it is that our veterans receive comprehensive services and care," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "This Council will be critical for ensuring that families can trust that their loved ones are being well cared for in our Veterans' Homes and that their health, safety and well-being are protected."

"We are pleased to reach this important milestone in the implementation of chapter 144 and appreciate the valuable perspective that today's appointees will bring to the Veterans' Homes Council," said Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services Mary A. Beckman. "The Council will contribute meaningfully to ensuring that the Commonwealth's Veterans' Homes provide high quality care and support the health, safety and wellbeing of our veterans."

The Council's responsibilities include recommending improvements and policies for Veterans' Homes to the Secretary of Veterans' Services, submitting recommendations for appointments

and removal of Veterans' Homes Superintendents, and developing an annual report reviewing the Veterans' Homes' demographics, finances, staffing levels, efficacy, equity, and resident well-being.

These council appointees include four individuals appointed by Governor Maura Healey and three individuals appointed by the Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services Mary Beckman, and as indicated in statute.

Appointed by the Governor:
Ziven Drake

Ziven Drake is a US Air Force Veteran who served as a Crew Chief in Tactical Aircraft Maintenance. She is a current member of the Pile Drivers Local 56 Union. Drake currently serves as Assistant Executive Director of the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters Apprenticeship Training Fund.

Lt. Colonel USMC (Retired)
Mike Dunford

Mike Dunford is a retired US Marine Corps Reserve Officer and served as the Chief Human Resources Officer and Senior Vice President of Human Resources for Covidien. Dunford is an active member of the business community and a veteran advocate focused on employment, food security, homelessness, case management and outreach. Dunford currently serves as president of the Cape & Islands Veteran Outreach Center.

Colonel USA (Retired)
Andrea Gayle-Bennett

Andrea Gayle-Bennett, Retired Army Colonel, Brigadier General (Massachusetts), served for more than 35 years in the Massachusetts Army National Guard, including as a chief physician assistant and battalion surgeon. Gayle-Bennett currently serves on the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, the Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans' Services, the North Shore Community College Board of Trustees, and is corporate secretary for the Veteran Business Owners Initiative.

Michael Jefferson

Michael Jefferson, a veteran of the US Marine Corps, is president of Somerville IAFF Local 76 and founder of the Fraternal Order of Firefighter Military Veterans, Inc. He is also a member and director of the Member Assistance Program for the Professional Fire

Fighters of Massachusetts.

Appointed by Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services:

Dr. Louis Chow, PhD

Dr. Chow is the Sr. Director of Network Development and Training Institute at Home Base, a Red Sox Foundation and Mass General Hospital program. He is a clinical psychologist, Assistant in Psychology at MGH, Instructor in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, and a specialist in treating veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and other invisible wounds of war. Dr. Chow has overseen the education and training of thousands of clinicians and health professionals across the Commonwealth seeking to care for veterans impacted by the invisible wounds of war.

Tony Francis, MBA

Tony Francis serves as the president and CEO of Edgar Benjamin Health Center, a non-profit nursing home in Boston and the only minority-owned nursing home in New England. Francis brings with him broad experience in long-term care, business administration and management consulting. He has served as chairman of the Central Boston Elder Services Board of Directors and is currently a co-chair of the Boston Healthcare Preparedness Coalition.

Jill Landis, RN

Jill Landis has been the vice president of quality management at Integritus Healthcare, a not-for-profit committed to fulfilling the health and residential needs of communities, since 2008. Landis previously was a regional nurse manager at Genesis Health Care, where her responsibilities included the management of quality outcomes for nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Landis is certified in rehabilitation nursing and is a member of the Massachusetts Senior Care Association.

In addition to the seven members appointed by Governor Healey and Acting Secretary Beckman, the Veterans' Homes Council includes Executive Director of Veterans' Homes and Housing Robert Engell, who serves as chair, and Chelsea and Holyoke Soldiers' Homes Boards of Trustees members, who are ex officio, voting members.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF BOSTON HOLD ANNUAL DINNER

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB), the city's largest youth-serving nonprofit organization, held its 2023 Annual Dinner to celebrate the organization's staff and kick off its 130th year in operation. Attended by more than 800 people, BGCB's Annual Dinner convened the city's most prominent corporate and civic leaders to raise critical funds that support the organization's life-changing programs at the Omni Boston Hotel at Seaport.

Attendees enjoyed performances from BGCB Club members and a star-studded speaking program, which featured Robert Lewis Jr., Nicholas President and CEO of BGCB; Michelle Wu, Mayor of Boston; and Imari Paris Jeffries, Executive Director of Embrace Boston. Charlestown native and club member Pippa Nilson also joined the speaking program to participate in the Q&A section.



Imari Paris Jeffries, Executive Director of Embrace Boston, addresses the crowd during BGCB's 2023 Annual Dinner.



Co-Chairs John Capone and Grace Lee enjoy a Q&A session with BGCB members Pippa Nilson and Junior Cruz Martinez.



BGCB Club members perform in front of 800+ event attendees at the 2023 BGCB Annual Dinner.



Nicholas President and CEO of BGCB Robert Lewis Jr. and Mayor Michelle Wu embrace on stage during BGCB's 2023 Annual Dinner.



BGCB's staff and Ready to Work Fellows, the organization's workforce readiness program for teens and alumni, sing and dance during the closing of the 2023 BGCB Annual Dinner.

Photos by Matt Stone

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



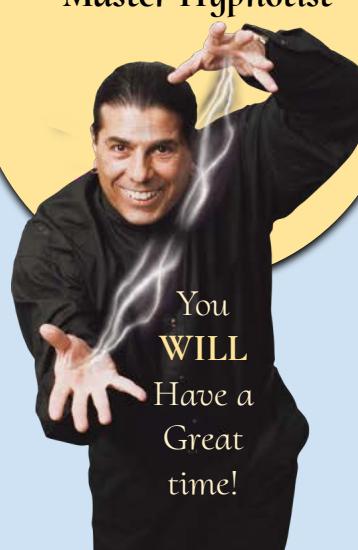
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CHARLESTOWN RESIDENTS ENJOY THE MOVIE '80 FOR BRADY'

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

"80 For Brady" is a movie from Paramount Studios about four longtime friends who share an adventure getting to the 2017 Super Bowl to see their hero Tom Brady in action.

It only seemed natural that the studio, working through its local partner Allied Marketing, would reach out to some die-hard fans of Tom Brady at the Golden Age Center and invite them to a premiere showing of the movie at Boston Common Cinema.

The Golden Age Center reached out to the A1 Community Service Office and the Walk The Beat team to include them in the festivities and the David Whelan

Foundation contributed a special lunch to compliment an 80 For Brady Bingo game to get the ladies excited for the night's activities.

After the bingo match, over 50 ladies from the Golden Age Center and Walk The Beat were brought into Downtown Boston for a "tailgate party" before the movie at Guy Fieri's Kitchen And Bar. When the Brady themed festivities concluded, everyone went to the premiere showing of the film up the street at the Boston Common Theater. The ladies loved the movie and had an adventure of their own to relate to the plot of the Tom Brady produced film.



Danielle and Honor Jones show off their Patriots spirit in mother-daughter style.



Peggy Lynch, Peggy Sindoris, Mal Brassil, and Kim Mahoney show off their Brady excitement.



Linda Montgomery (a Buccaneers fan but that still includes Brady and Gronk), Janice Price, and Peggy Pieper are all thinking about Brady.



Boston Police District A1 CSO Chrissy Vraibel and Officer Lauren Woods



Before their "80 For Brady" Bingo match, the ladies of the Golden Age Center were treated to lunch paid for by the David Whelan Foundation.



Happy Valentine's Day from Patrick & Evelyn



Golden Age Center Director Meaghan Murray, Allied Marketing Account Executive Beatrice Haens, and Mary Ruth Kelly can barely contain their excitement for seeing Tom Brady on the big screen.



Virginia Upton with Anne Gill are excited to see "80 For Brady."

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Deb Sablone has a sweater for this very occasion.

CHARLESTOWN RESIDENTS ENJOY THE MOVIE '80 FOR BRADY'

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Jackie Fabiano and Sheila Jackson hang with Gronk and Brady.



The ladies of the Golden Age Center show their anticipation for attending the premiere of "80 For Brady."



Boston Police CSO Chrissy Vraibel and Sgt Paul Chevrette (right) with Carol Coleman and Tricia Butler.



Sheila Jackson, Jackie Fabiano, Loretta Woods, and Mary Rizzo

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CNC (from pg. 1)

no matter the result."

The new Charlestown Community Council members are: Crystal Galvin (At-large), Kelly Tucker (At-large), Jay Driscoll (Precinct 3), Ameeth Deenanath (Precinct 4), Kelli Gillen Forbes (Precinct 6), and Mary Catherine Boucher (Precinct 8). The new council members will be seated at the CNC meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford St., Charlestown, MA 02129. The council will then elect its 2023 officers and discuss its 2023 priorities.

"We have a great group joining the council and it's going to be a very productive year working for Charlestown. Bring your concerns to meetings - anyone can speak from the floor. We will also be reaching out to the community with quick polls about issues and



Ameeth Deenanath (Precinct 4)



Kelli Gillen Forbes (Precinct 6)



Mary Catherine Boucher (Precinct 8)

priorities to keep the focus on the people's business," said Tom Cunha, election committee member and CNC chair.

In other CNC news, Tom Cunha was returned to the position of Chair for the coming year at Tuesday night's Annual Meeting

that was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Other officers elected for the coming year were Nancy Johnsen, First Vice Chair; Richard McCarthy, Second Vice Chair; Crystal Galvin, Secretary and Tim McKenna, Treasurer.

The CNC meets at 7 p.m. on

the first Tuesday of the month at the Knights of Columbus except during their hiatus in July and August. You can send questions and concerns to cnc02129@gmail.com or sign up for notifications on cnc02129.org.

2023 Election Results

AT-LARGE: 2 seats available
Crystal Galvin : 183 (elected)
Kelly Tucker : 156 (elected)
Pippa Nava: 95

Johanna Hynes: 90
Tom Ward: 86
Jean Wilson: 16

PRECINCT 6: 1 seat available
Kelli Gillen Forbes: 41 (elected)
Ross Wilson: 12

Philip Cappadona: 7

PRECINCT 8: 1 seat available
Mary Catherine Boucher: 30 (elected)

Betty Carrington: 4

The other new representatives are Jay Driscoll (Precinct 3) and Ameeth Deenanath (Precinct 4). Precincts 3 and 4 were uncontested races so there were no ballots.

Mass Humanities announces 2023 funding opportunities through grants

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mass Humanities, the Commonwealth's leading funder of humanities programs, announced upcoming opportunities for its 2023 grant season.

In 2022, the Northampton-based foundation awarded more than \$1 million in grants to non-profits, supporting free public events, oral history projects, and community conversations and media partnerships. This year, Mass Humanities seeks to increase its impact through the Expand Massachusetts Stories initiative, and its long-running Reading Frederick Douglass Together program.

Applications and guidelines are available at masshumanities.org.

"We believe the work of Massachusetts residents to reimagine our stories provides a pathway to reinvigorating our democracy at the local, state, and national level," said Brian Boyles, Executive Director of Mass Humanities. "These vital programs amplify the diverse ideas, stories and conversations that continue to make the

Commonwealth a global leader in ideas and the fight for equality."

Mass Humanities grants opportunities for the 2023 season include:

- **Expand Massachusetts Stories (Up to \$20,000)**—At this pivotal time, Massachusetts needs new voices and fresh narratives to meet our challenges. We support organizations that embrace this historical moment as an opportunity to bring communities together to reimagine stories, revitalize traditions, and ignite new ideas for the future. Expand Massachusetts Stories (EMS) grants support projects that collect, interpret, and share narratives about the commonwealth, emphasizing the voices and experiences that have gone unrecognized or have been excluded from public conversation. As part of the EMS grant program, Mass Humanities will also offer Advancing Equity Track grants to 15 applicants whose projects are led by people from historically excluded communities, and whose organizations meet additional criteria. The Advancing Equity Track applications open on Monday,

Feb. 6, with Letter of Inquiries due on Monday, March 20. Applications for the EMS Open Track opens Monday, March 20, with applications due on Monday, May 22.

- **Read Frederick Douglass Together Grants (Up to \$2,000)**—Each year, Mass Humanities organizes and funds free events where communities gather to read and talk about Frederick Douglass' influential address, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" The most celebrated orator of his day, Douglass' denunciations of slavery and forceful examination of the Constitution challenge us to think about the stories we tell and do not tell, the ideas that they teach or do not teach, and the gaps between our actions and aspirations. To quote Douglass: "We have to do with the past only as we can make it useful to the future." Applications are open now and grants are made on a rolling basis each month.

An online webinar for anyone interested in applying takes place on Feb. 16 at 1pm. A video of the webinar will be shared on masshumanities.org.

Last year Mass Humanities awarded more than \$713,000 in grants to 42 organizations across the Commonwealth through the Expand Massachusetts Stories grant program with support from the Barr Foundation. Of the 42 grantees, 62% had people who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) among their project leadership;



In 2022, the Southeast Asian Coalition was an Expand Massachusetts Stories (EMS) grant recipient, one of 42 organizations across the state that received a Mass Humanities EMS grant.

60% of the organizations funded had operating budgets under \$500,000; and 48% had operating budgets under \$350,000.

More than 25 organizations hosted Reading Frederick Douglass Together events across the state. Each event features a group of diverse people gathering to read portions of the Douglass' Fourth of July speech. The readings provide the opportunity for communities to discuss race, democracy, and our responsibilities to the past and how we might find ways to strengthen our future together.

Mass Humanities grants are made possible in part by a partnership with Mass Cultural Council, the state arts agency, and by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

To learn more about Mass Humanities grant opportunities contact Katherine Stevens, Director of Grants and Programs, at

grants@masshumanities.org.

Mass Humanities, a non-profit foundation based in Northampton, creates opportunities for the people of Massachusetts to transform their lives and build a more equitable commonwealth through the humanities. Since its founding in 1974, the organization has provided millions of dollars to support thousands of humanities projects across the Commonwealth. Established as the state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Mass Humanities is an independent programming and grant-making organization that receives support from the NEH and the Massachusetts Cultural Council and private sources.

For more information, visit [www.masshumanities.org](http://masshumanities.org) or connect on social media at:

[Facebook.com/masshumanities](https://www.facebook.com/masshumanities)

[Twitter.com/masshumanities](https://www.twitter.com/masshumanities)

[Instagram.com/masshumanities](https://www.instagram.com/masshumanities)

Harvest on Vine

Emergency Food Pantry

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Boston Public Schools add electric buses to its fleet

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu celebrated the arrival of the first two electric school buses to the Boston Public Schools (BPS) school bus fleet. An additional 18 buses will arrive in the coming weeks and are expected to be in use following the February school vacation. This is a major milestone in creating a Green New Deal for the City of Boston, leading to immediate health and quality-of-life improvements for Boston students, workers, and residents, while advancing climate action. Mayor Wu joined BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper, Green New Deal Director Oliver Sellers-Garcia, BPS Director of Transportation Dan Rosengard, bus driver trainers, and community members at the Readville bus yard in Hyde Park to see how these electric buses are being integrated into the fleet.

"I'm grateful to the many people who have been instrumental in getting Boston to this point and helping us demonstrate the many overlapping benefits of moving to a green economy and ensuring that our kids and our workforce are at the center of that transition," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Today is one of many steps we are taking to make Boston a Green New Deal city and to move with the urgency that our communities and residents deserve. From cutting down on emissions from every part of our education infrastructure – where our students learn and how they get to class – to preparing our next generation of workers to build and sustain cleaner, greener infrastructure for all of us, we're so excited about where this will lead Boston."

"Our children deserve to learn, grow up, and play while enjoying clean air and experiencing a healthy environment free of air pollution," said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. "When these buses hit the road, they will operate with zero emissions and significantly lower noise levels than



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu (speaking), joins Superintendent Mary Skipper, Green New Deal Director Oliver Sellers-Garcia to celebrate the start of school bus fleet electrification.

their diesel-fuel counterparts. So when you see the buses with the green bird with a plug logo on each side, be sure to wave and smile as they and the children inside represent our great city's future."

"As a City, we know we must prioritize the development of electric vehicle infrastructure to support the future of green mobility in Boston to advance our Green New Deal for all of our residents," said Green New Deal Director Oliver Sellers-Garcia. "I'm grateful to Boston Public Schools for their leadership in making critical climate investments while supporting the health of our communities and growing our green workforce trained with these skills."

The BPS Department of Transportation carefully selected the first routes – 111 trips, across 42 schools – to run electric school buses based on a variety of factors, including distance from the dispatch yard charging station, total length of route, and the expected traffic patterns along the route, with a preference for stop-and-go traffic rather than highway driving. Additionally, the cold weather deployment was factored into route selection to ensure power supply for battery conditioning and bus heating.

Routes travel through nearly all of Boston's neighborhoods.

BPS is finalizing installation of 20 charging stations at the Readville bus yard, utilizing increased charging capacity that was added with support from Eversource. Each electric bus will have a dedicated charger and be charged every day. The total time to charge each bus is about three to four hours. The learnings from this first phase of electric school bus deployment will support the City in designing and implementing future electric school bus fleet expansion.

Prior to integrating the 20 buses into the fleet, BPS is training driver trainers, drivers, mechanics, operations staff, and emergency responders to ensure familiarity with the bus design and operation. During the upcoming February vacation, drivers will test routes to ensure they are comfortable driving the new buses in advance of students boarding later this month. An estimated 2,561 students across 42 schools will be riding the 20 buses each school day. BPS currently has 620 buses on the road each day.

Boston's Green New Deal works to address climate change with positive co-benefits including cre-

ating good jobs, enhancing public health, and transforming structures to promote racial and economic justice. School bus electrification will protect children from diesel particulate matter, eliminate tail-pipe emissions, address air quality and noise concerns around school pick-up and drop-off, and offer a healthier work environment for bus drivers and monitors. The City of Boston is fostering the Green New Deal by leveraging funding to invest in solutions that improve the lives of Bostonians and catalyze the transition to a just, green City.

In April 2022, Mayor Wu first announced that up to 20 electric school buses would be deployed during the 2022-23 school year. These electric buses will replace existing diesel buses. These buses were funded through the BPS operating budget and the federal American Rescue Plan Act. Mayor Wu previously shared the goal that BPS will work to replace additional big buses each year, and then move to replacing smaller buses until the entire fleet is electrified by 2030.

Additionally last spring, the Public Works Central Fleet Maintenance Division introduced the first ever train-the-trainer class for fleet mechanics from the Public Works Department (PWD) and BPS on how to safely service and repair electric vehicles at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School. To date, eight mechanics from the PWD and two from BPS have completed the course and

continue to take online classes to keep pace with the ever-changing technology. Beginning in the fall of this year, electric vehicle maintenance will be added as part of the core curriculum for seniors participating in Madison Park's automotive program.

This celebration will lay the foundation for the future of the Boston Public Schools bus fleet. The City intends to use federal funding from the Environmental Protection Agency and Inflation Reduction Act to further expand the number of electric buses in the fleet and enhance training for staff.

The City has been making progress on its commitment to installing electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout Boston's neighborhoods for both municipal use and residents. The City currently operates 66 LV II EV charging plugs across 14 municipal parking lots. There are plans to add an additional 18 LV II EV charging plugs, and four high-speed LV III DC fast chargers this year. This investment in public charging, along with the City's EV readiness policy for new development and right-to-charge rules for condominium residents provide a foundation for the rapid, equitable electrification of transportation in Boston. The City also continues to electrify its vehicle fleet, adding charging plugs where City vehicles are garaged, prioritizing EVs in its replacement cycle, and adding its first all-electric street sweeper last year.

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Wu announces members of Reparations Task Force

Mayor Michelle Wu on Tuesday announced the ten individuals that will serve on the newly formed Reparations Task Force, created to study the lasting impact of slavery in Boston. The formation of this task force follows Mayor Wu signing a 2022 City ordinance, sponsored and led by Councilor Julia Mejia and co-sponsored by Councilors Tania Fernandes Anderson and Brian Worrell, to study the impact of slavery in Boston. Mayor Wu joined members of the City Council, Reparations Task Force, and Equity and Inclusion Cabinet at the African Meeting House to announce the establishment of the task force.

"For four hundred years, the brutal practice of enslavement and recent policies like redlining, the busing crisis, and exclusion from City contracting have denied Black Americans pathways to build generational wealth, secure stable housing, and live freely," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Our administration remains committed to tackling long standing racial inequities and this task force is the next step in our commitment as a city to advance racial justice and build a Boston for everyone. I'm grateful to the City Council, advocates and task force members for their critical work to strengthen our communities and ensure that Boston documents and addresses the historical harms of slavery and its continued impact on our Black residents."

"As the lead sponsor of this ordinance, I want to thank Tanisha Sullivan of the NAACP for inviting our office to lead this effort and to Dr. Kamara and Yvette Modestin for their leadership in drafting the ordinance," said Councilor Julia Mejia. "We are extremely proud



Mayor Michelle Wu (at podium) participates in the Reparations press conference at the Museum of African American History on Beacon Hill.

of the work we did alongside the community and look forward to monitoring the processes moving forward"

"The forming of this reparations task force is an important step in the ongoing process of bringing justice to the Black community of Boston," said Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson. "This is so both for the historical legacies of anti-Black racism going back to the enslavement of kidnapped Africans, to the current manifestations of structural and systemic white supremacy that are embedded and entrenched within the political and economic status quo."

"This is a major step forward for the City of Boston," said Councilor Brian Worrell. "I would like to thank the Mayor and my City Council colleagues for helping bring this important conversation to the top of the agenda. Since the late Senator Bill Owens began this journey, we are proud to now have a diverse group of people working towards a solution that will address past injustices in this City. As the representative of one

of the most diverse districts in Boston, I look forward to bringing new opportunities to the district and fixing previous disenfranchising to build up what makes Boston diverse."

The members of the task force are community leaders in law, academia, community organizing, and education and represent diversity in age, gender, and discipline to fully encompass the Black experience in Boston. The task force's duties will include leading research on the historical impact of slavery in Boston and exploring ways the City can provide reparative justice for Black residents. Over the next 18 months, the task force members will convene and work on proposing recommendations to Mayor Wu for reparative solutions for the descendants of enslaved persons.

The individuals appointed to the task force include:

- Chair Joseph D. Feaster, Jr., Esq., Attorney, former President of the Boston branch of the NAACP, current member of City's Black Men & Boys Commission
- Denilson Fanfan, 11th grader at Jeremiah E. Burke High School

- L'Merchie Frazier, Public historian, visual activist, and Executive Director of Creative and Strategic Partnerships for SPOKE Arts

- George "Chip" Greenidge, Jr., Founder and Director of Greatest MINDS

- Dr. Kerri Greenidge, Assistant Professor of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora at Tufts University

- Dr. David Harris, Past Managing Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice

- Dorothea Jones, Longtime civic organizer and member of the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

- Carrie Mays, UMass Boston student and youth leader with Teen Empowerment

- Na'tisha Mills, Program Manager for Embrace Boston

- Damani Williams, 11th grader at Jeremiah E. Burke High School

"I am honored to be asked by Mayor Wu to chair this Reparation Task Force and serve with such distinguished people," said Joseph D. Feaster, Jr., Chair of Reparations Task Force. "We are looking forward to determining recommendations for how we reckon with Boston's past while charting a path forward for Black people whose ancestors labored without compensation and who were promised the 40 acres and a mule they never received."

The task force will be housed within the City of Boston's Equity & Inclusion Cabinet and work closely with Lori Nelson, the City's Senior Advisor on Racial Justice. In the coming weeks, the City and task force will launch a request for proposal (RFP) to select a research partner to study the legacy of slavery in Boston and produce a

report on its impact. The results of the report will inform recommendations brought forth by the task force. For more information about the task force, visit boston.gov/reparations.

"This is a historic moment for Boston, for this nation," said Mariangely Solis Cervera, Chief of Equity and Inclusion. "We are creating an opportunity to intentionally address harms of the past and embed racial equity into the fabric of our city. I am thankful for the leadership, expertise, and lived experience this task force brings to the table and I look forward to working beside them."

"This important initiative will center the truth, acknowledgment, and reconciliation that history once ignored," said Lori Nelson, Senior Advisor on Racial Justice.

"The task force will give us the chance to fully engage and challenge policies that have harmed and marginalized Black people in Boston for generations. I am eager to collaborate with the task force with the goal of repairing and restoring injustice to move our city forward."

This action builds on Mayor Wu's work to acknowledge historic harms and build an equitable Boston for all. Last year, Mayor Wu established the Office of Black Male Advancement and the Commission of Black Men and Boys to create initiatives to improve outcomes for Black men and boys. The Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion has made strides to increase supplier diversity to include more businesses of color in City contracting and to close the racial wealth gap across the city.

Seasonal Affective Disorder: Lack of sunlight can lead to depression

The winter doldrums are upon us, and shorter days can leave many of us yearning for brighter, longer daylight hours. But, for some, these feelings can go well beyond the "winter blues."

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), sometimes referred to as seasonal depression, is a type of depression that happens most commonly in fall and winter months. Symptoms usually ease during the spring and summer and tend to come back and then improve on a yearly cycle.

There are two major patterns of seasonal depression: fall-onset and spring-onset. With fall-onset, it's believed that less daylight hours may trigger a chemical change in

the brain leading to symptoms of depression. Melatonin, a sleep-related brain hormone that is secreted under darker conditions, is more plentiful when the days are shorter and has been linked to seasonal depression. A less common, but more acute type of SAD is bipolar disorder with seasonal variation, in which episodes of elevated mood (mania or hypomania) alternate with depression in a seasonal pattern.

What are the most common symptoms of fall-onset seasonal depression?

- Loss of interest and pleasure in activities that you once enjoyed.
- Feelings of anxiety, guilt, and hopelessness.

Lack of sunlight can lead to depression

- Extreme tiredness, which can include increased sleep and daytime fatigue.

- Trouble thinking clearly and difficulty focusing.

- Increased appetite, especially for sweets and carbohydrates.

- Weight gain.

If you are concerned that you may be suffering from SAD, it is important to check in with your healthcare provider. And there are some things you do for yourself to help ease the symptoms:

- Eat healthy, well-balanced meals. For food resources in Charlestown and surrounding communities, please reach out to local social service organizations (such as the Charlestown

- Coalition, the John F. Kennedy Center, or Harvest On Vine). You can also find local food resources through the City of Boston Food Resources Chatbot by texting 'FOOD' to 617-579-8238.

- Get regular exercise. You don't have to do it alone – ask a friend or family member to join you in a walk around the Monument St Track or the Bunker Hill Monument.

- Stay away from alcohol and illegal drugs. These can make depression worse.

- Set realistic goals and don't take on too much. Break large tasks into small ones, set priorities, and do what you can as you can.

- Let your family and friends help you.

- Try to be with other people and confide in someone.

- Don't make a big change right away. Talk it over first with others who know you well. Delay big decisions until the depression has lifted.

- Try to be patient and focus on the positives. This may help replace the negative thinking that is part of the depression.

- People don't often snap quickly out of a depression. Expect your mood to get better slowly, not right away. Feeling better takes time.

E-INC (from pg. 1)

topics. Lessons are hands-on in that students recreate the process of renewable energy."

Students also study geothermal power, heat energy sourced from deep within the earth, biofuel, produced by the breaking down of organic materials, and nuclear energy, generated from the center of an atom.

"They also really like the debate at the end for each energy source," added Education Director Annabeth Gausepohl. "They enjoy thinking critically about how practical it would be in Massachusetts. They have a lot of fun, and like the competitive edge."

E-Inc. has been teaching Warren-Prescott School students about the planet for over a decade; and Dr. Stern hopes to recruit 10 schools to her program starting in February.

"Science in elementary schools is limited. Kids don't know as much as they should," revealed Dr. Stern. "But the Warren-Prescott

School has a spectacular science teacher. We have had a collaboration with the Warren-Prescott forever-and-a-day."

Doctor Stern is gathering interest and support to form an after-school youth program for middle and high school-age girls at a local community center in Charlestown. She hopes to build relationships with students, encourage them to set goals and direct their own meetings, have fun with science, and discuss how they can positively impact their community.

"The pandemic made it hard. Post-pandemic, there is always a little anxiety about letting folks into buildings. We have a lot of sites now, but it's still a long and investing building process," shared Dr. Stern. "Everything we do is interesting, exciting, and committed."

Visit www.einc-action.org to learn more about E-Inc.'s day school, after school, and summer programs.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through February 18**

This is a brief overview of construction operations and impacts for the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project. MassDOT will provide additional notices as needed for high-impact work and changes to traffic configurations beyond those described below.

Scheduled Work

- Erection of steel begins on Feb. 14 (weather permitting)
- Installation of bridge deck formwork at North Abutment
- Installation of utility conduits on bridge structure
- Installation of steel support and bolting
- Installation of marine wooden fender
- Installation of sidewalk steel and formwork

Work Hours

- Most work will be done during weekday daytime hours (6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Contraflow Pilot

- The MassDOT-implemented contraflow pilot will continue to be in effect during evening peak traffic (3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.), Monday through Friday.

- Traffic monitoring will be in

place to determine if the contraflow traffic setup is effective in improving traffic flow.

- Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic during set up and operation of the contraflow.

Travel Tips

For everyone using the temporary bridge, please help share the space: walk to the right, walk bikes, and be mindful of people coming from both directions, if walking in a large group.

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge side-

walk remain closed until rebuilt.

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, the following TD Garden events are scheduled during this look-ahead period:

- BRUINS: Feb. 11 at 3:30 p.m. and Feb. 18 at 5:00 p.m.
- CELTICS: Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 12 at 2:00 p.m., and Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m.
- ALL OTHER EVENTS: Feb. 9 at 3:00 p.m., Feb. 13 at 4:30 p.m., Feb. 17 at 7:30

Stay up-to-date and informed by following the @MassDOT twitter account and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.

You can also sign up to receive project updates via email by clicking this link.

Project website: mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement

Project email: NorthWashing-tonStreet@dot.state.ma.us

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EMERGENCY ALL BLOOD TYPES NEEDED.

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SAD (from pg. 10)

- Reach out and seek help from your health care provider.

How is seasonal depression treated?

- Exposure to sunlight. Simply spending time outside every day, even in winter weather, is often the most effective first-line treatment for seasonal depression.

- Light therapy. If increasing sunlight is not possible, exposure to specially designed artificial light

sources for a certain amount of time each day may help. Certain light sources are best for SAD. Check with your healthcare provider for a recommendation.

- Antidepressants. Prescription medicines, such as SSRIs (serotonin-specific reuptake inhibitors), can help correct the chemical imbalance that may lead to SAD.

- Psychotherapy. Cognitive-behavioral or interpersonal ther-

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