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CITY HOLDS REV. MLK ANNUAL BREAKFAST



The assembly stands and applauds the performance of Lift Every Voice And Sing during the 54th Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. 54th annual Breakfast held at the Boston Convention Center. See Pages 6, 7 and 8 for more photos.

Wu signs public tree protection ordinance

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu recently signed a public tree protection ordinance, a key recommendation stemming from the City's Urban Forest Plan. The Urban Forest Plan, released in September 2022, outlines strategies to preserve, cultivate, and expand the city's urban forest. A tree protection ordinance is a critical action item in preserving existing canopy cover. Mayor Wu's enactment of the public tree protection ordinance underscores the City's dedication to environmental justice, public health, and community resiliency. The City Council passed the ordinance on Dec. 13, 2023.

"The signing of the public tree protection ordinance is a testa-

ment to our shared goal of building a city that prioritizes environmental stewardship and community well-being," said Mayor Wu in a press release. "In taking this step, we're not only preserving our urban forest but also shaping a brighter, more sustainable future for all residents."

The Urban Forest Plan recommended changes in municipal code to protect mature trees and enhance the urban forest. By adopting a phased approach to tree protection regulations, focusing on public trees first, the City aims to lead by example before engaging with the community to extend regulations to trees on private property.

"As the department responsible for managing the implementation

of the Urban Forest Plan, we recognize the importance of addressing trees on both publicly- and privately-owned land," said Commissioner Ryan Woods of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department in a press release. "Fostering a thriving urban forest that reflects the diverse needs of all stakeholders is a top priority."

The recently signed ordinance establishes comprehensive regulations to preserve trees on City-owned parks, school grounds, libraries, and public housing, aligning with Boston's commitment to protecting and enhancing green infrastructure. Construction projects on City-owned land will now require a survey of all trees on

(TREES Pg. 3))

BPDA hosts meeting for 66 Cambridge Street Development

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Last week, during a public meeting hosted by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), 60 Cambridge Development LLC, the proponent of a proposed project at 60-66 Cambridge Street, presented plans to redevelop the site, which includes over 800,000 square feet of life science, office, research, and development space.

As part of this project, the proponent, which is comprised of Owens Companies, Inc. and the Fallon Company, is looking to revamp the current site that contains "warehouse, parking, and vehicle storage uses, an Ever-source/MBTA electrical substation structure, and an MBTA spur track," according to the project's Draft Project Impact Report (DPIR).

The proponent proposes providing a significant amount of space for life science, office, research, and development mentioned above by constructing two buildings.

One building, dubbed 66 Cambridge North, is slated to be 11 stories and stand 222 feet tall. Moreover, it will contain 429,900 square feet of life science, office, research, and development space, along with 6,000 square feet of retail space.

The other building — 66 Cambridge South — is proposed to be 13 stories and stand 252 feet tall. Further, this building will contain 372,900 square feet of life science, office, research, and development space and 4,000 square feet of retail space.

Regarding other aspects of the project, 23% of the site, or 41,000 square feet, is planned to be publicly accessible open space. Also, the parking plan for the site includes a 0.6/1,000 square feet ratio.

In addition to these aforementioned aspects of the project, there are also plans for a plethora of community benefits, which Danny Guadagnoli of the Fallon Company walked through.

(MEETING Pg. 4)

CNC MEETING DATES

CNC Basic Services - Sullivan Sq. Underpass Meeting, Thursday, January 18, 2024, 7 PM.

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council's Basic Services Committee will hold an in-person, public meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024, 7-9 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford Street, Charlestown. The sole agenda item is the Sullivan Square Underpass. A presentation by the Boston Transportation and the Boston Public Works Departments will be followed by an opportunity for the committee and community to ask questions about the project.

Please Visit

www.charlestownbridge.com

EDITORIAL

“TO THE SHORES OF TRIPOLI...”

The ongoing attacks against international shipping in the Red Sea by the former terrorist organization known as the Houthis, who presently are the ruling group in Yemen, are “illegal, unacceptable, and profoundly destabilizing,” in the words of the dozen nations who coalesced with the United States to launch a series of attacks against Houthi missile sites in Yemen last week.

The Houthis, who also have fired long-range rockets toward Israel and U.S. naval forces in the Red Sea, assert that their actions are in support of Hamas, the terrorists responsible for the slaughter, rape, and kidnapping of more than 1400 Israeli citizens on October 7.

Clearly, the Houthi attacks are part of an overall strategy by Iran, which has supplied weapons and funds for decades to the Houthis, Hamas, and Hezbollah, to cause as much death and destruction to Israel and its allies, with the stated goal of wiping Israel off the face of the map and killing every Jew they can find.

Some, both here and abroad, have criticized the United States and its allies for bombing the Houthi missile sites because it might lead to a widening of the ongoing war in the Middle East and draw the United States into the middle of the fight.

However, critics of U.S. policy are deluding themselves if they think that America somehow can remain above the fray, especially now that the Houthis are threatening the free flow of global commerce. U.S. history is instructive in this regard. In the 18th and early 19th centuries, what was then known as the Barbary coast nations of the Mediterranean -- present-day Morocco, Libya, Algeria, and Tunis -- plundered international shipping and enslaved thousands of their captives, including U.S. ships and citizens.

The United States Navy was established to respond to the blatant acts of nation-state piracy, culminating with an attack by the U.S. Marines, who burned the city of Tripoli in 1805 -- hence the phrase in the opening line of the Marine Corps anthem, “From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli.”

We realize that the circumstances between 1805 and today are vastly different, but the principle remains the same. More significantly, we must recognize that the world is being destabilized by an Axis of Evil consisting of Iran, Russia, and China. We cannot afford to bury our heads in the sand and pretend that they do not pose a threat to the Free World.

We must deal with the Houthis and their terrorist brethren to the full extent that we are able to do so. Anything less only will encourage them to go further.

WITH NO. KOREA NOW INVOLVED, AID TO UKRAINE IS NEEDED ASAP

The delay in providing much-needed military aid to Ukraine by a minority of Republican members of Congress these past few months has been nothing less than unconscionable.

But now that No. Korea has intervened by giving Vladimir Putin an estimated one million artillery shells (which comes on top of military drones being supplied to Putin by Iran), the need for the U.S. to resume supplying Ukraine with the arms to resist Putin’s aggression has become urgent.

It is not a coincidence that Russia’s war in Ukraine is being supported by China, Iran, and No. Korea, all of which are despotic countries whose stated goal is to destroy democratic nations across the globe. With No. Korea sending weapons to Russia, there can be no doubt that Putin will be supplying Kim Jong Un with the technology to develop long-range missiles that will threaten the United States and our allies with a nuclear attack.

The U.S. must stop playing nice with Putin and provide Ukraine with as much of our arsenal as is needed to destroy the Russian army as soon as possible. The longer that No. Korea remains a player in this conflict, the worse it will be for the entire world.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

PIER 5 ASSOCIATION ENCOURAGES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR A CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD PUBLIC, WATERFRONT PARK

To the Editor,

Pier 5 Association, Courageous Sailing Center, and an active community of Charlestown residents attended the BPDA ZOOM presenting FOTH Engineering Report on the current condition of Pier 5. The majority of community comments and in the chat favor a public, open, green, public waterfront park, with public access to the Boston Harbor.

We have high expectations for an iconic, creative, critically needed climate resilient, public, waterfront park, with an engaged public process, for the best possible outcome for all to enjoy now and for decades to come. We are confident something wonderful is possible. We envision a design competition defined by community needs, wants and great ideas.

Please send comments to Natalie.Deduck@Boston.gov, by February 4 deadline. We need your voices and your ideas.

Background: Pier 5 Association paid for DeSimone Engineering to determine what is possible on blighted Pier 5, a 650’ long and 125’ wide pier, built within one year of Pier 7/ Constellation Wharf. Pier 5’s 1650 piles includes a main rail spine for a WWII crane to hoist steel ship parts for repairs. For pedestrian use, 100 pounds/sq ft is required instead of thousands of pounds sq ft for steel ship parts. New piling technology allows the reduced number of piles to be wrapped and reinforced, reducing the cost and environmental risks.

Pier 5 is protected by Commonwealth of Massachusetts’s Chapter 91’s water based use:

The Commonwealth’s primary tool for protection and promotion of public use of its tidelands and other waterways is Massachusetts General Law Chapter 91, the waterways licensing program. The Commonwealth formally established the program in 1866, but the philosophy behind Chapter 91 dates back to the earliest days of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, most notably in the Colonial Ordinances of 1641-1647.

The Colonial Ordinances codified the “public trust doctrine,”

a legal principle that dates back nearly 2000 years, which holds that the air, the sea and the shore belong not to any one person, but rather to the public at large.

The oldest program of its kind in the nation, Chapter 91 regulates activities on both coastal and inland waterways, including construction, dredging and filling in tidelands, great ponds and certain rivers and streams.

Through Chapter 91, the Commonwealth seeks to preserve and protect the rights of the public, and to guarantee that private uses of tidelands and waterways serve a proper public purpose.

The majority community comments embraced preservation of the Head of the Harbor view corridor of the City skyline and outer harbor. Educational and environmental floating pods are favored. The use of native plantings and oyster upwellers protect and preserve Boston Harbor. A public, floating swimming pool has some advocates and some concerns on whether Pier 5 is the right location. (Between Harborview and Spaulding Rehab Hospital there is a open inlet, away from the wave and boat traffic which we hope to explore for feasibility.)

Courageous Sailing Center is located on a newly rebuilt Pier 4, and seeks additional dockage which seems feasible on the south side of Pier 5. Pier 5 Association and CSC are collaborating to enhance both Pier 5 and the CSC program needs to serve their treasured program for Boston residents.

The National Park Service of Boston, with our national treasure of “Old Ironsides”/ the USS Constitution; the USS Cassin Young, a

steel destroyer named for Medal of Honor recipient Cassin Young for his heroism during WWII; along with the Constitution Museum The Boston Harborwalk; the landing site of Paul Revere on the night of his famous ride; and the Boston Freedom Trail all will benefit from a public waterfront Pier 5 Park to enrich the experience of our historic waterfront. Tourist revenue benefits all Bostonians. Our shared story of the birth of American Democracy benefits Americans and visitors from around the globe.


Charlestown will host the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill in 2025; the Tall Ships in 2026, and the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Charlestown in 2030, Boston’s earliest settlement. We envision an exciting Pier 5 Park for residents, workers, and visitors from near and far to marvel and enjoy.

We hope our community becomes actively involved in this once of a lifetime opportunity to create a beautiful waterfront amenity in our historic neighborhood. East Boston has a vibrant, community based, recreational and passive use waterfront, as do many coastal cities like Brooklyn, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, DC.

It is our time for good stewardship, to add to the greatness of this town of so many “firsts” in the Nation, and the first battle for independence and self governance, from land and by sea.

Please be part of history, help Pier 5 Park become a future gem in historic Charlestown. See www.pier5.org for more information.

Together, as a community,
Pier 5 Association Board



CHARLESTOWN

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EBNHC appoints Yang as new Assistant Vice President

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) announced the appointment of healthcare veteran Evonne Yang, MPH, MSW as the Assistance Vice President of Integration and Operational Excellence, availing additional operational leadership to the health center's executive team.

"We're excited to welcome Evonne to our team," said EBNHC Chief Operating Officer Ryan Boxill. "Her leadership brings additional perspective, skills and experience in driving innovation and navigating complex challenges, particularly around behavioral health integration. This new role will foster a culture of collaboration and shared accountability across our health system's diverse functions and processes. Evonne will bring additional capacity to successfully realize our strategic goals in a rapidly changing health-



Evonne Yang, MPH, MSW

care environment."

In her new role, Yang will contribute to the organization's growth and adaptability as EBNHC navigates complex challenges facing healthcare. She will oversee the integration of large

scale and interdisciplinary strategic initiatives as well as provide tactical support on clinical and operational initiatives.

"I am honored to join such a caring team here at EBNHC in what I feel is a pivotal role," said Yang. "Having spent a number of years in healthcare, I am eager to contribute my experience and passion to advance this great organization's mission to provide high quality care to everyone who walks through our doors. I look forward to having a positive impact with the team here at EBNHC and the community it serves."

Prior to joining EBNHC, Yang served as Director of Behavioral Health at Boston Medical Center (BMC) Health System, where she was responsible for leading and executing on behavioral health operations, quality performance, and strategic initiatives across the health system. In this role, she

worked closely with BMC Hospital departments, BMC's WellSense Health Plan, and BMC's Boston Accountable Care Organization (BACO) partners. Her previous work includes leading population health initiatives in both primary and specialty care clinics at BMC, as well as expanding BMC's Integrated Behavioral Health service where she improved overall performance and clinical integration across service lines.

Yang holds masters' degrees in both public health and social work from Boston University. She completed her undergraduate degree in psychology at Stanford University.

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) is one of the nation's largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 100,000 patients and recog-

nized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a Health Center Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, EBNHC has offered access to comprehensive care for the underserved populations of Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Winthrop, Everett and Boston's South End. EBNHC is dedicated to promoting and sustaining healthy communities, families, and individuals by providing accessible, person-centered, compassionate, and high-quality health care services, including primary care, 24/7 emergency care, behavioral health care, specialty care, and various other health and wellness programs, to all who live and work in our service area. For more information, visit www.ebnhc.org

Celebrate Black History Month on Freedom Trail African-American Patriots Tours

Freedom Trail Foundation's acclaimed African-American Patriots Tours celebrate the African-American patriots that played a vital role in the start of the American Revolution in Boston and in the formation of our country. Led by 18th-century costumed guides, tour-goers have the opportunity to view history through the eyes of these courageous men and women

throughout Black History Month in February.

African-American Patriots® Tours begin on Saturday, February 3, and are held regularly in February on Saturdays and Sundays departing at 10:45 a.m. from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center. Revolutionary figures such as Crispus Attucks, Phillis Wheatley, Prince Hall,

Peter Salem, and others come to life during these 90-minute walking tours while zigzagging through the Freedom Trail – Boston's iconic 2.5-mile brick trail leading to 16 nationally significant historic sites. African-American Patriots Tours invite visitors and residents alike to discover the immense contributions of black Bostonians during the American Revolution

and beyond, as the stories unfold along Boston's historic red-lined path. Hear about the sacrifices these patriots made, the battles they fought, and the legacies they left behind, as well as the stories of significant abolitionists and civil rights activists in Boston's history.

African-American Patriots® Tours are ideal for groups, schools, residents and those visiting the city. Public tour tickets may be purchased at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center at \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, and \$8 for children under

12 years old. Tickets may also be purchased online at TheFreedomTrail.org. The African-American Patriots® Tours are also available year-round for groups as private tours.

Other events and programs celebrating Black History Month are held at official Freedom Trail sites. For information regarding Freedom Trail events and programs, tickets, reservations, group rates or questions, please call (617) 357-8300 or visit TheFreedomTrail.org.

TREES (from pg. 1)

the site with a trunk three inches in diameter or wider. Furthermore, healthy trees can only be trimmed or removed with adequate notice and a public hearing, ensuring community involvement in decisions impacting the urban forest.

The new ordinance will also improve the management of public street trees in Boston. It expands and clarifies the rules for the removal of healthy street trees, ensuring that they are replaced with trees of equivalent size and species in the same neighborhood. The City's Tree Warden will be responsible for replacements, advancing the Urban Forest Plan's objective of achieving equitable distribution of tree canopy. Closing the tree canopy gap among

neighborhoods is crucial for mitigating the impact of urban heat islands, improving air quality for all residents, and accelerating the Green New Deal for Boston.

"Healthy trees play an important role in enhancing the health and quality-of-life of residents in Boston, as the City deals with climate change, more frequent heat waves, and extreme weather events," said Councilor Liz Breadon, a co-sponsor of the ordinance, in a press release. "This ordinance will protect existing trees, create more public awareness of the benefits of healthy trees, and help support urban forests in our diverse neighborhoods."

Since the September 2022 release of the Urban Forest Plan,

the Urban Forestry Division has implemented several recommended action items. In 2023, the division expanded its workforce, responded to over 7,500 requests through the 311 system, pruned close to 3,000 trees, treated 1,165 ash trees to protect them against the invasive Emerald Ash Borer beetle, and secured an \$11.4 million grant from the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program. In the coming year, the division will leverage funding and staffing investments to reduce response time for constituent requests, redouble maintenance efforts to preserve existing canopy, and expand tree planting efforts by partnering with community-based organizations.

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tfuller@kennedycenter.org
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Hayden identifies approximately 70 inmates affected by SJC's Mattis and Robinson decisions

District Attorney Kevin Hayden today said his office has identified approximately 70 inmates who will eventually become eligible for parole as a result of today's state Supreme Judicial Court's ruling regarding persons convicted for first-degree murder committed when they were 20 years old or younger.

The SJC's Mattis and Robinson decisions deemed unconstitutional the mandatory sentences of life in prison without possibility of parole for individuals convicted of first-degree murder committed when aged 20 years or younger, retroactive to all cases. With the ruling, any imprisoned person who meets that criteria will become eligible for parole in accordance with state law. The ruling does not change the status for inmates convicted of first-degree murder committed when 21 or older.

Hayden emphasized that the ruling does not automatically grant parole to applicable inmates. Rather, it makes them eligible for parole in accordance with the state Parole Board's hearing and review standards.

Hayden encouraged survivors of applicable homicide cases to visit the SCDAO website where a form is available referencing services provided by the office. The office's victim witness advocates are knowledgeable about the decision and stand ready to assist survivors, Hayden said.

"We know this decision will generate questions among the survivors of homicide victims of both the immediate and distant past, and we want to make sure that those survivors get accurate information about the ruling. Our victim witness advocates will help these families and loved ones understand how the SJC decision affects them," Hayden said.

His office is reaching out to survivors with current contact information, Hayden said. But contact information for many older cases is no longer accurate, he said.

"I'm urging anyone impacted by this decision to contact us so we can provide the information necessary to understand what this ruling does and does not do," Hayden said.

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

MEETING (from pg. 1)

ny walked through.

For example, the development will house a Cambridge-based non-profit's — Just a Start — Bio-medical Careers Training program.

"Very excited about that. It's a nine-month program; equips people for skills and coaching and resources to get jobs in the life science field, which we know is much needed, and we think there's great synergies with the use of these buildings," said Guadagnoli.



My first valentines day is coming
and I can't wait to celebrate with
the best mommy and daddy ..
Love Julian

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your
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Happy Valentine's Day
from Jax & Bella

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February 14 & 15

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Healey-Driscoll Administration celebrates Northeastern University for winning \$6 million

The Healey-Driscoll administration is celebrating Northeastern University for winning three federal grants totaling \$6 million from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund to support their Institute for the Wireless Internet of Things (WIoT). The federal investments supported by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, which provided \$1.52 million in capital grant funding from the Technology & Innovation Ecosystem Awards program managed by the Innovation Institute at MassTech.

Altogether, these NTIA grants – funded by the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 – will help unlock innovation in testing and strengthening of the wireless supply chain across the nation, helping reduce costs, increase competition, and lower security risks for future mobile networking.

“Massachusetts has a proud history of paving the next frontier of telecommunications and is continuing this tradition through the initiative of our colleges and universities, who are staying on the cutting edge of mobile tech,” said Governor Maura Healey. “We want to congratulate Northeastern on their innovative approach to ensuring our communications are more secure, cost-effective, and will create the jobs of tomorrow, and we thank the Biden-Harris administration for making this funding available.”

“We’re a state filled with the best universities in the country,” said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. “This support from the Biden-Harris administration allows us to further empower our academic institutions and students. By equipping them with the necessary tools, we aim to motivate them to reach exceptional heights in technological innovation.”

“For more than 50 years, U.S. universities have worked in

partnership with government to advance the frontiers of science and maintain our global competitiveness,” said Joseph E. Aoun, president of Northeastern University. “This federal investment in Northeastern’s wireless communications research – supplemented by the Healey-Driscoll administration’s vital support – will enable our scientists to develop breakthrough technologies that benefit our region, the nation and the world.”

The three NTIA grants to Northeastern include:

- August 8, 2023: A \$2 million award for the TENORAN project, with partner Dell Technologies, NVIDIA, an automated end-to-end energy-efficiency profiling of Open RAN systems through high-fidelity standardized testing scenarios.

- November 28, 2023: A \$2 million award for DigiRAN project, with partner Dell Technologies, focused on the interoperability, security and performance testing of an open RAN (radio access network architecture) system.

- January 10, 2024: A \$2 million award for AutoRAN project with partner Nvidia, which will research the automation of “end-to-end continuous testing for open and disaggregated cellular systems.”

“Northeastern’s commitment to build a more intelligent mobile networking infrastructure here in Massachusetts has the potential to increase competition and grow our economy,” said Secretary of Economic Development Yvonne Hao. “We’re grateful for the support of the Biden Administration and the NTIA for enabling Northeastern University to pioneer technological advancements, break barriers, build a hub for economic development, and provide workforce opportunities for their student population.”

“Through these investments, Northeastern will help advance

the wireless networks that power our innovation economy, making them more agile, responsive, and secure,” said Pat Larkin, Director of the Innovation Institute at MassTech. “For our startups in the advanced wireless space, this new technology will expand their access to cutting-edge technology and the world-class researchers at NU.”

“We are grateful to President Biden, Secretary Raimondo and the NTIA for their decision, and congratulations to Northeastern on this exciting award,” said Director of Federal Funds and Infrastructure Quentin Palfrey.

“We will continue leveraging Massachusetts’s strengths in technology and innovation as we compete for federal funds that strengthen our supply chains, while creating good-paying jobs and investing in our communities.”

The investments will help Northeastern expand on the WIoT Institute infrastructure to acquire equipment which, combined with their Open 6G Testing & Integration Center, will create a unique facility to test interoperability and AI research around the deployment of 6G wireless, while also building a hub for economic development around Open

RAN/6G wireless ecosystem in Massachusetts and a tech incubator for locally based startups. In addition, the public investments will strengthen workforce development efforts around Open RAN and 6G in the state.

The new tools will complement Northeastern’s existing telecommunications research hubs, such as the wireless network emulator, called Colosseum, and the FCC Innovation Zone, which allows qualified federal “licensees to test new advanced technologies and prototype networks.”

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING Project File No. 119537

A Public Informational Meeting will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements project in Somerville and Charlestown.

WHERE:

Somerville Public Library - Central Branch
79 Highland Ave,
Somerville, MA 02143

WHEN:

Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 6:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public an overview of the Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements project prior to the commencement of construction activities. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of replacing the two deteriorated bridge superstructures of the Maffa Way and Mystic Avenue bridges over the MBTA Orange Line and Commuter Rail lines in Boston and Somerville. This project is set to improve public safety, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit accommodations by addressing substandard bridge conditions. The project will be integrated with adjacent projects, such as Assembly Square, Rutherford Avenue, and the One Mystic development.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event of inclement weather a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE
CHIEF ENGINEER

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CITY OFFICIALS HOLD REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ANNUAL BREAKFAST

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Mariah Diaz Perez receives an MLK Middle School Art Award.

The 54th Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. 54th annual Breakfast was held at the Boston Convention Center. The event celebrated MLK's mission of peace, justice, and righteousness.



Yaribel Marcelino Romero of Madison Park Technical Vocational High School is presented with a \$2500 MLK Scholarship Award from US Representative Ayanna Pressley and Séanne Denny Putnam Investments.



Cyrielle Marsh receives an MLK Middle School Art Award.



The Drum Major Award is given to those who have gone above and beyond for justice, peace, and righteousness. This year's recipients are, sharing an award, the Rev Richard Richardson and his wife Justina Richardson, founders of Children's Services of Roxbury with fellow recipient Greg Almeida, founder and CEO of Global View Communications with Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.



Roxbury Community College student Juan D Lopez is presented with a \$1500 Allied Health Scholarship by US Representative Ayanna Pressley and the Hon Justin A Petty of St Cyprian's Episcopal Church.



Roxbury Community College student Hawa Jalloh is presented with a \$1500 Allied Health Scholarship by US Representative Ayanna Pressley and the Hon Justin A Petty of St Cyprian's Episcopal Church.



COURAGEOUS SAILING

REGISTER FOR THE STEPS TO LEAD SUMMER SAILING PROGRAM

Serving youth aged 8-18 at the Charlestown Navy Yard and the Jamaica Pond boathouse.



Register online for the Steps to Lead Lottery from February 1st-15th

ABOUT STEPS TO LEAD:

In our 5-Step summer program, youth experience sailing as a platform to develop leadership skills, gain confidence, explore Boston Harbor, and delve into hands-on science.

PROGRAM FEES:

\$600 per week, Full Scholarships and Partial Scholarships are available.

PROGRAM LENGTH:

Charlestown: Step 1 is offered in three 1-week sessions July 29 - August 16. Steps 2-5 are offered in two 3-week sessions.

Jamaica Pond: JP1 and JP2 are offered in three 2-week sessions.

MORE INFO:

To find out more about Courageous Sailing, its youth programs, and activities on Boston Harbor, visit www.courageoussailing.org.

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DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey speaks.



The Benediction was given by Bishop Peggy A. Johnson of the United Methodist Church.



MLK Breakfast Keynote Speaker Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad, professor at the Harvard Kennedy School, addresses the assembly.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu speaks "When it comes to democracy, the world looks to Boston."



US Senator Ed Markey speaks.



US Representative Ayanna Pressley speaks of Martin Luther King Jr: "the love letter he sent to future generations is embodied in the young people we salute today."



Abdulhaleef Sotunbo of John D O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science is presented with a \$2500 MLK Scholarship Award from US Representative Ayanna Pressley and Séanne Denny Putnam Investments.



Hasina Whittaker of John D O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science is presented with a \$2500 MLK Scholarship Award from US Representative Ayanna Pressley and Séanne Denny Putnam Investments.



Massachusetts State Rep Attorney General Andrea Campbell.



Boston Latin Academy instructor Matt Heriveaux, US Senator Ed Markey, and Massachusetts State Rep Jeffrey Turco.



US Senator Ed Markey with Jessica Tantin, Vikki Spruill, and Ferris Batie of the NE Aquarium.

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The Boston Arts Academy Spirituals perform Lift Every Voice And Sing.



Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune and Mayor Michelle Wu.



Massachusetts State Rep John Moran, Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, Massachusetts State Senator Liz Miranda, a guest, Massachusetts Lt Governor Kim Driscoll, Attorney General Andrea Campbell, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Dr Khalil Gibran Muhammad, US Representative Ayanna Pressley, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey, and Reverend Dr Jay Williams.



Members of the Greater Boston Association Of Black Social Workers.

House unanimously passes bill to prevent abuse and exploitation

The Massachusetts House of Representatives last week passed legislation that combines several separate legislative initiatives into one bill that will help to prevent abuse and exploitation, while also enhancing protections for survivors. The legislation addresses teen sexting and image-based sexual assault, commonly referred to as “revenge porn;” expands the definition of abuse to include coercive control for the purposes of obtaining a restraining order; and extends the statute of limitations for certain domestic violence offenses from six years to 15 years.

“This legislation modernizes our criminal laws by ensuring that those who share explicit images of others without their consent face punishment, while also educating minors on the dangers of sharing explicit images of themselves rather than imposing some of the criminal justice system’s most severe consequences,” said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). “I’m also incredibly proud of this legislation’s bolstered protections for survivors, including the added consideration of nonphysical forms of abuse for those seeking restraining orders from their abusers. I want to thank Chairman Day and the Judiciary Committee, along with each bill sponsor and all my colleagues in the House for prioritizing this vital legislation.”

“The House has heard the urgent call of survivors to enhance pro-

tections and ensure that our laws keep up with technology. But the House doesn’t just listen, we act,” said Representative Michael S. Day (D-Stoneham), House Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. “It’s critical that these reforms pass into law quickly so that victims of coercive control, adolescent sexting and revenge porn aren’t left without relief.”

Currently, minors who possess, purchase, or share explicit photos of themselves or other minors are charged with violating Massachusetts child pornography laws and are required to register as sex offenders. The legislation passed today instead authorizes commitment to the Department of Youth Services (DYS), but also allows minors to be diverted to an educational program in lieu of criminal punishment. A district attorney, however, is allowed to petition the court to bring criminal charges in extreme cases.

The educational diversion program, to be created by the Attorney General in consultation with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), DHS, and the District Attorneys Association, would provide teenagers with information about the legal and nonlegal consequences of sexting, which would be made available to school districts. DESE should also encourage districts to implement media literacy programs in their schools as a preven-

tion measure.

“This legislation represents a coordinated effort and a holistic approach to address an increasingly prevalent behavior and provides mechanisms to protect individuals victimized by those who threaten, intimidate, and harass the subjects of these images,” said State Representative Jeffrey N. Roy (D-Franklin), a lead sponsor of the bill. “The sexting provisions provide law enforcement officers with a middle ground that will allow them to educate kids about the consequences of their actions without ruining their lives. It will have a tremendous impact on people who have become entangled in the web and transmittal of images that can cause traumatic and lifetime harm through a diversion program that will educate them about the legal and personal consequences of this behavior.”

In addition to teen sexting, the bill addresses the nonconsensual distribution of explicit images by adults by establishing a penalty in the existing criminal harassment statute, including up to two and a half years of prison time and/or a monetary fine of up to \$10,000. The bill increases the upper limit of the fine for criminal harassment from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Under this bill, a victim may also petition the court for a harassment prevention order against a person who has violated this statute.

The bill passed today also adds

coercive control to the definition of abuse. Coercive control is a nonphysical form of abuse which includes a pattern of behavior, or a single act intended to threaten, intimidate, harass, isolate, control, coerce or compel compliance of a family or household member that causes the family or household member to fear physical harm or to have a reduced sense of physical safety or autonomy. Examples of coercive control include threatening to share explicit images, regulating or monitoring a family or household member’s communications and access to services, and isolating a family or household member from friends or relatives.

The legislation passed today also extends the statute of limitations for assault and battery on a family or household member or against someone with an active protective order from six years to 15 years. This change brings the Massachusetts statute of limitations for these domestic violence offenses in line with the statute of limitations for rape, assault with intent to commit rape and sex trafficking.

“Massachusetts can and should be granting restraining orders for coercive control, but we know that for so many survivors, their emotional and psychological trauma is not given the same seriousness as physical violence. And the reality of that barrier can be deadly,” said Representative Natalie M. Higgins

(D-Leominster), a lead sponsor of the bill. “I am incredibly grateful to the Speaker and my House colleagues for taking a critical step forward in protecting our neighbors by codifying coercive control in the Mass General Laws and extending the statute of limitations so that survivors of domestic violence can build more safety and supports to come forward and report domestic abuse to law enforcement.”

“Domestic violence is not always physical violence, sometimes it’s much more insidious. During my time as a legal services attorney, I represented many survivors who suffered emotional trauma and financial devastation through fear and manipulation. Survivors and the courts need our help to update our laws to make it clear that coercive control is a type of domestic abuse that will not be tolerated,” said Representative Tram Nguyen (D-Andover), a lead sponsor of the bill. “I want to thank Speaker Mariano, Chair Michlewitz, and Chair Day for advancing this transformative and bipartisan legislation. I am also grateful for the partnership of Rep. Higgins, who co-filed this legislation with me and the survivors and coalition advocates who spoke up for the thousands of women, men, and children in our Commonwealth who would be better able to take back control of their future if this bill is signed into law.”

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Division
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU24P0046EA
Estate of: Irene Grace Morey
Date of Death: 11/29/2022
To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Robin Waine of Everett, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: Robin Waine of Everett, MA

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding.
To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/19/2024.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 08, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate
1/18/24 CT

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Division
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UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 08, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate
1/18/24 CT

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU23P2770EA
Estate of: Sidney Joseph McComiskey
Also known as: Sidney McComiskey
Date of Death: 06/16/2014
To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy has been filed by Rita H. Boyden of Charlestown, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding.
To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/30/2024.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
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WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 19, 2023
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate
1/18/24 CT

Rockland Trust launches its 20th Annual Scholarship Program

Rockland Trust is pleased to announce the launch of its 20th Annual Scholarship Program, which is open to students who are enrolling in a part-time or full-time post-secondary studies for the first time at an accredited two or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school for the entire upcoming academic year (2024-2025). Rockland Trust will award up to sixteen \$3,000 renewable scholarships this year. Applications are available online at RocklandTrust.com/Scholarship.

“For two decades, our scholarship program has enabled hundreds of local students to advance their journey through post-secondary education,” said Andrea Borowiecki, Vice President of Charitable Giving & Communi-

ty Engagement. “Each year, we’re inspired by the ambition and talent of the students as they work toward their goals, ultimately bettering our communities.”

Applications will be considered based on financial need, academic performance, and unusual personal or family circumstances. Applicants must reside in a county Rockland Trust serves. To learn more about guidelines, eligibility criteria, and access the application, please visit RocklandTrust.com/Scholarship.

The Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation’s mission is to strengthen the communities served by the Bank. We enable individuals and their families to access opportunity and improve the quality of their lives. To date, the Founda-



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tion has distributed more than \$26 million in grants to qualified non-profit organizations in the

communities served by Rockland Trust. For information about the Rockland Trust Charitable Foun-

dation, please visit www.RocklandTrust.com/CharitableGiving.

Opportunities for veteran-owned businesses announced to aid with bid on contracts

The Healey-Driscoll Administration last week announced that the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO), which is responsible for bringing fairness to the state’s bidding and procurement process, has entered into a new partnership that will help veteran-owned businesses bid on contracts across the state.

The SDO is partnering with the National Veteran Owned Business Association (NaVOBA), an independent nonprofit that certifies businesses owned by veterans and service-disabled veterans. Both organizations will work together to increase contracting opportunities with veteran-owned businesses.

“Our Supplier Diversity Office does incredible work every day to expand opportunities for diverse and small businesses to win contracts with the state, which makes our businesses, our economy and our communities stronger,” said Governor Maura Healey. “Our veterans have sacrificed so much in service to our country, and we take the responsibility of supporting them very seriously here in Massachusetts. We are proud to launch this new partnership that will

lower barriers for veteran-owned businesses to bid for contracts and do business with the state.”

“This new partnership is an important step in our administration’s efforts to bolster support and services for Massachusetts veterans under the leadership of Secretary Jon Santiago,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “We look forward to working with NaVOBA to cut red tape and streamline the process for veterans to do business with Massachusetts.”

“This is an important step toward removing administrative burdens on veteran-owned businesses to becoming certified, opening up tremendous opportunities for these individuals who have served our country to bid on state contracts and grow their businesses here in Massachusetts,” said Secretary for Administration and Finance Matthew J. Gorkowicz. “I am proud of the work SDO has been doing to expand opportunities and look forward to continuing our efforts to help small businesses thrive.”

“The SDO has been successful in helping bring fairness in the state’s bidding process through our cross-certification partnerships,

such as with the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council, Center for Women’s Enterprise, City of Boston, Disability:IN, and the National LGBTBE Chamber of Commerce,” said SDO Executive Director William McAvoy. “We expect our partnership with NaVOBA to help business owners who have served their country.”

“NaVOBA is thrilled to join forces with the Supplier Diversity Office in this impactful collaboration,” said Matthew Pavelek, President and CEO of NaVOBA. “Our partnership exemplifies a shared commitment to advancing opportunities for veteran-owned businesses. We aim to empower veterans to thrive in the business world by streamlining the certification process. We appreciate the Executive Office of Veterans Services for their support and commend the Supplier Diversity Office for their dedication to fostering an inclusive and thriving business environment for our nation’s heroes.”

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the SDO and NaVOBA, the SDO will grant certifications to businesses already certified with NaVOBA.

Typically, businesses need to apply and undergo an investigation from the SDO before they receive certification. This agreement streamlines the process, making these businesses able to receive the benefits of SDO certification, such as the ability to bid on state contracts and attend SDO trainings and networking events. Certified businesses are also included in the SDO’s listing of certified businesses used by prime vendors and state agencies looking for vendors.

The MOU also allows the SDO to access NaVOBA’s membership database to reach out to members about becoming SDO certified.

“Partnerships like the one between the Supplier Diversity Office and NaVOBA ensure veteran-owned businesses play a pivotal role in our economy. This collaboration marks a significant step in fostering their success,” said Secretary of Veterans Services Jon Santiago. “The Executive Office of Veterans Services strongly supports initiatives streamlining certification for veteran-owned businesses in state contracts, and we commend the Supplier Diversity Office and NaVOBA for their dedication to empowering our veterans.”

“NaVOBA is thrilled to join forces with the Supplier Diversity Office in this impactful collaboration. Our partnership exemplifies a shared commitment to advancing opportunities for veteran-owned businesses. We aim to empower veterans to thrive in the business world by streamlining the certification process. We appreciate the Executive Office of Veterans Services for their support and commend the Supplier Diversity Office for their dedication to fostering an inclusive and thriving business environment for our nation’s heroes.”

The announcement marks the SDO’s latest effort to aid veteran-owned businesses. Recently, the Commonwealth’s Municipal Construction Affirmative Marketing Program (MCAMP), part of the SDO, released new guidelines mandating that certain construction projects must allocate at least three percent of its funding to Veteran-owned Business Enterprises (VBEs) and/or Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (SDVOBEs). This is a first for the Massachusetts construction industry.

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Hayden credits police, community for record-low homicides

Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden credited cooperation and participation by residents of Boston's neighborhoods and the "professional and tireless" work by Boston police for the historically low number of homicides in the city in 2023 and the high arrest and prosecution rate of suspects.

There were 37 recorded homicides in Boston in 2023, with two of the deaths having occurred in 2022 but not ruled homicides by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner until 2023. Arrests were made in 24 of the cases, resulting in a 67.5 percent case arrest rate.

"This is a heartening story of increased cooperation and participation by members of our community and top-notch work by Boston police officers and homicide detectives, all combining to provide a slice of positive news in relation to this most terrible of crimes. No one is taking any victory laps here, especially when serious crime still disproportionately affects our communities of color, but it's important to point out promising trends," Hayden said. "When our communities reach an 'enough is enough' consensus, positive change is possible and I think that's an important part of what we're seeing here."

Hayden also praised the Massachusetts State Police contingent assigned to his office for making

arrests in each of the three homicides that occurred in other Suffolk County communities in 2023.

Hayden credited Mayor Michelle Wu's Office of Neighborhood Services with increasing communication and cooperation with members of the public. He also said that technology, such as video surveillance and digital forensics including cell phones and social media traffic, has given investigators added tools to help solve homicides and other cases.

"One thing I've learned over my career is that reductions in any type of crime come as a result of numerous factors, some of them human and some of them scientific or technological, all contributing to a certain outcome. The continuing goal is to identify what is working, stay with it, and recognize further unmet needs," Hayden said.

Hayden's office secured convictions in 12 of the 13 homicide cases that went to trial in 2023 for a 92.3 percent conviction rate. The office also secured 19 pleas in homicide cases.

Hayden pointed out that Boston's homicide rate in 2023 compared favorably with numerous other cities with similar population size, including Washington D.C. (678,972 pop., 274 homicides), Baltimore (569,931 pop., 259 homicides), Detroit (620,376

pop., 252 homicides), San Francisco (808,437 pop., 53 homicides), and Memphis (621,056 pop., 397 homicides).

"There's always work to be done and improvements to be made. Gun-related violence remains a public health crisis in our communities of color and is a problem rooted in racial inequity locally and nationally. But perspective is also important, and looking at what's happening in other cities of similar size gives Bostonians the ability to take pride in our community while we strive for even better outcomes," Hayden said.

Hayden also praised police and the community for the 20-percent reduction in 2023 shooting incidents in Boston, from 180 in 2022 to 144 last year. Hayden's office assigns a prosecutor to every case of fatal or non-fatal shooting in Boston to work with detectives on identifying suspects and to help spot any patterns that could develop information on past shootings and help prevent future shootings.

"The intersection between guns, gangs and drugs is perfectly clear to us. Developing data and intelligence on cases involving any of these elements can give us valuable insight into prior incidents and how those incidents may lead to future violence. This is a crucial aspect of our approach," Hayden said.

OBITUARIES

Irene "Renie" Murphy

Former Mayor of Charlestown, longtime owner of Renie's Subs on Bunker Hill Street

Irene "Renie" Murphy, 79, of Vero Beach, Florida, formerly of Charlestown, passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 13 at home after a long battle with cancer. She was surrounded by friends and family according to her wishes.

Renie was born in Charlestown to Cornelius Murphy and Mary Goggin, and lived most of her life here. She owned Renie's Subs on Bunker Hill Street for many years which was a hub of the neighborhood and she also worked for the MWRA. Renie was also a former Mayor of Charlestown.

She is survived by her son, C.J. (Murph) Murphy and his partner, Sabra Mitchell, her beloved grandson, Declan Murphy as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews. She was a loving sister to the late James and Dodie Murphy and is also survived by her other brother, Mickey (Irish Mike) Murphy. She is the widow of Richard Penta, formerly of Medford.



A Celebration of Life will be held on Tuesday January 23 at Anthony's of Malden on 105 Canal Street in Malden from 4 to 6 p.m. Buffet and desert provided, cash bar.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in her name to the Claddagh Fund. Donations can be made at www.claddaghfund.org.

To place a memoriam please
call 781-485-0588

MCSW announces a new scholarship for women students

The State Women's Commission is proud to announce the launch of a new scholarship program which aims to support emerging leaders of the Commonwealth to continue their education journey to leadership and economic empowerment.

The mission of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) is to provide a permanent, effective voice for women and girls across Massachusetts, and to innovatively promote and empower the women of the Commonwealth. Designed to support woman-identifying students already enrolled in a Massachusetts Public Higher Education Institution, scholarships will be available to help an individual complete their degree.

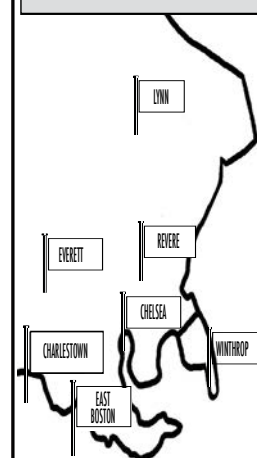
"This new program seeks to provide funding for women students, who may not be able to access scholarship and grant funding typically available to more traditional students, to continue their education and path to economic success," said MCSW State Com-

missioner Denella Clark, serving as the Chair of the new Scholarship Committee.

The MCSW will award 5 individuals with a scholarship of \$5000 each for the 2024-2025 academic year. Applicants must complete the online application and submit supporting materials no later than March 1, 2024. Applicants must currently be enrolled in an accredited degree or certificate program in Massachusetts and have completed at least one year towards their degree. The funds from this scholarship will go towards tuition, fees, books and related supplies or equipment for study. All funds awarded are provided by the MCSW Trust Fund.

The Commission exists to provide a permanent, effective voice for women across Massachusetts. The MCSW represents and recognizes all women, regardless of their age, race, color, creed, abilities, language, socio-economic status, immigration status, sexual orientation, or gender assigned at birth.

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