

THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, December 15, 2022

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Lynn Police Bicycle Unit Received Citation: Sheriff Kevin Coppinger, Tom Morley, Taylor Haberk, Mark Anthony Williams, Matt Ruggerio, Stacie Bloxham, and Jessica Oljey (Absent: Stg. Rick Connick & John Mackin).



Shown right, Sheriff Kevin Coppinger and State Rep. Peter Capano with two graduates, Candace and Tedje.

Essex County STAR transitional program successful

Special to the Journal

Essex County Sheriff Kevin Coppinger initiated a STAR program (Supporting Transition and Re-Entry) to help individuals who are confronted with personal challenges. These individuals faced barriers. "Entering STAR, these participants learn new skills, improve meaningful relationships, and take steps toward a positive life change," STAR Director of Programs Stacie Bloxham said.

"STAR is a program based upon reentering society. Basically, it starts on day one. When an

individual arrives at our facility, they begin a correctional process," said Essex County Sheriff Kevin Coppinger.

The STAR staff does an entire assessment beginning with why they are here, how to help them, and to know their background. "When these individuals eventually leave the program and return to the community, our purpose is to have them in better shape than when they arrived," expressed Sheriff Coppinger.

State Representative Peter Capano opened by saying, "How do we make things better? This is a partnership with Police Depart-

ments, with yourself, and with all the institutions working together in the community. This is what can be achieved. When city institutions and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts come together, these are the things that can happen."

State Rep Capano further addressed comments to the graduates, "This is a new beginning. You have the determination, willingness, and vision to get something done. You have proved to yourself that you can do it. This will give you hope in the future

Please see STAR Page 3

Free COVID-19 vaccines through Mobile Van delivered in Lynn

The Demakes Family YMCA in Lynn has teamed up with the Mass General Brigham Community Care Vans to host COVID-19 vaccines clinics through January.

"We want to keep people as healthy as possible this new year and the mobile van service that MGB provides makes it so convenient for everyone in Lynn to get their COVID-19 vaccine and booster," say Andrea Baez, Senior Branch Executive, Demakes Family YMCA. "There's no appointment, no waiting, no proof of insurance needed, just stop down and get the vaccine. The clinics are free and open to everyone in the community, it's that simple."

The MGB Community Care Van will be in Lynn on Fridays at the Demakes Family YMCA on Dec. 16 from 9:00am-1:00 pm and Dec. 30 from 10:00am-1:00pm; and on Dec. 9 and

Dec. 23 at the Lynn Community Brotherhood at 15 Coburn Street. The van will also be in a number of additional North Shore communities. You can view the full schedule online.

The clinic comes just in time as COVID-19 rates in Massachusetts are on the rise. The number of Mass General Brigham patients with COVID-19 has increased considerably. Cases and hospitalizations were rising prior to Thanksgiving and have accelerated since. The current Mass General Brigham trajectory and wastewater levels are similar to the intense COVID-19 winter wave last year. The CDC continues to issue guidance to wear masks indoors this holiday to prevent the spread of COVID-19, RSV, the Flu and other viruses.

"The goal of the van is to bring

Please see MOBILE VAN Page 3



Mass General Brigham Community Care Vans to host COVID-19 vaccines clinics through January.



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EDITORIAL

HAPPY HANUKKAH

The eight-day observance of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, starts this Sunday evening, December 18, and will culminate on Monday, December 26.

Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days by lighting the candles of the Menorah, one on each day of the eight-day celebration. (The Menorah itself consists of nine candles, one of which typically stands above the rest and is used to light the other eight.)

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees -- a group of fierce warriors who used guerilla tactics against an occupying army -- in 166 BCE when the Maccabees liberated the Jewish people from the Greek-based rulers who essentially had outlawed the Jewish religion.

When the triumphant Maccabees captured the city of Jerusalem, they quickly entered the Holy Temple, tossing out the images of the Greek gods that had been installed there by the occupying rulers. When the Maccabees went to light the Menorah candles in the Temple, they thought they only had one day's worth of oil. However, the candles remained lit for eight days -- hence the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah is a joyous occasion for Jews world-wide, marked by gatherings of friends and families and the playing of traditional games such as the dreidel and eating traditional -- and delicious! -- foods such as latkes.

We want to take the opportunity to wish our friends and readers of the Jewish community a happy, healthy, and joyful Hanukkah season.



GUEST OP-ED

Celine Dion, Kirstie Alley, Christmas, good news and bad

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Award winning actress Kirstie Alley was diagnosed with cancer shortly before her untimely death at the young age of 71. Grammy award winning Celine Dion has recently been diagnosed with a neurological disease called Stiff Person Syndrome. The disease attacks about one in a million and is a very debilitating disease. She is 54 years old.

Disease, death and bad news can attack anyone at any age and none of us are immune.

Good news came to Britney Griner who spent 10 months in a Russian prison for allegedly having hashish oil in her suitcase at a Moscow airport. She was recently released and is now back in the United States. The Bad news is that arms dealer Victor Bout who smuggled millions of weapons to the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Africa was released from prison in exchange for Griner's release.

Paul Whelan a former Unit-

ed States marine received bad news in that he is still being held in a Russian prison accused of spying. Russia is apparently holding onto him for another deal with the United States. It's tragic that he wasn't released with Griner.

Please stay out of Russia, North Korea, Iran and China. There are other places to avoid as well but there are plenty of nice places to visit.

My deceased wife was 37 when she received the bad news that she had multiple sclerosis. The diagnosis was very bad news and Karen died one day at a time for 12 years. The last four years of her life she could do nothing. She required 24-hour care. She became a person trapped inside a body. She died at the age of 49. The toll that such a disease took on our family and my young sons was severe. Such an illness changes the lives of the entire family. Everyone to some extent is involved in the caregiving and are changed by the emotional drain of sickness

and death. However, no one suffers as much as the person struggling with the disease.

Such life struggles play havoc with holidays such as Christmas. Our family never had a normal Christmas for at least 12 years. However, it became our new normal.

Jesus is good news at Christmas. He was bad news to King Herod of Judea. Herod was a mental illness case who ordered the death of all male babies two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem. He hoped to eliminate Jesus because wise men from the East had come to worship him.

We must pray for the families of Kirstie Alley, Celine Dion and Paul Whelan and many others. These families are suffering. Fame and fortune never provide a way of escaping bad news and the results of bad news. We should also pray for one another and rejoice with any good news that comes each other's way.

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Demakes Family YMCA dedicates indoor track in memory of Christopher P. Oesterlin

The Demakes Family YMCA in Lynn dedicated its Indoor Track this past weekend in memory of Christopher P. Oesterlin. Christopher passed away suddenly on December 13, 2019 and was the son of long-time YMCA employee Phil Oesterlin and his wife Pam.

“The YMCA has been our family for over 32 years and we are extremely honored they choose to dedicate the indoor track in memory of Christopher. We hope those using it will share in the same love and enjoyment for running as he did. We owe a great deal of gratitude to everyone at the Y who made the ded-

ication event incredibly special,” says Pam Oesterlin, Christopher’s Mother.

“The Oesterlin’s are a huge part of the YMCA of Metro North family,” says Kathleen Walsh, President and CEO of the YMCA of Metro North. “We are grateful to Pam and Phil for allowing us to honor Christopher in this way.”

Christopher attended St. Mary’s Junior High School in Lynn, MA, and St. John’s Prep High School in Danvers, MA. He graduated from Bucknell University with dual degrees in history and political science. He was also a first-year law school

student at New England Law in Boston.

He began his running at St. Mary’s; however, his love of the sport developed at St. John’s Prep under the mentorship of Coaches Ray Carey and John Boyle. There he was a member of their cross-country and indoor and outdoor track teams, serving as captain of all three in his senior year. While at St. John’s he was a three-time letter winner in cross country and track; 2009 state champion for the 4x800; 2010 state champion for the 1,000; indoor track team MVP in 2010. Along with his team members, he set school records in the

4x800 and 4x400 relays.

While at Bucknell, he ran for their cross-country and indoor and outdoor track teams under Coach Kevin Donner. During his four years at Bucknell, at the 2012 IC4A Championships, he was a member of the indoor distance medley relay team finishing at 9:59.75, giving them the eighth fastest time in program history; he was a member of the school’s outdoor relay that holds the school record (7:30.63); a member of the outdoor 4x800 relay team at the 2012 Patriot League Championships, finishing at 7:33.07, ranking seventh in program history.

Chris was known for his workout regimen, a passion he inherited from his dad. He loved running (even when not in competition), biking, swimming, and the outdoors. He enjoyed history, particularly WWII, movies, country music, plays, and the annual tradition of Christmas at the Pops concert. Most of all, he loved his friends and, besides his beloved cousins, counted his teammates and coaches as among his most cherished inner circle.

The Indoor Track was dedicated on December 3, 2022.

Star CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to go forward.”

This was the inaugural Essex County STAR graduation ceremony for nine participants at the Lynn Police Station. The program provides education, career

training, and treatable resources. Also recognized by STAR Assistant Superintendent, Jessica Oljey, was the Lynn Police Department’s Bicycle Unit for referring 43 candidates to the program.

Mobile Van CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

access to vaccines closer to the community to make them accessible to everyone,” says Christine Valdes, MD, Medical Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Community Health, Salem Hospital/NSPG and Medical Director, NSPG Saugus. “As the holidays are time to gather with friends and family, we want to help our communities do this as safely as possible by providing COVID vaccines to cut down on transmission and illness severity. We are also providing free COVID test kits for community members to use, if they have any hint of illness, in order to help stop the spread. We continue to recommend hand washing/sanitizing and use of masks in crowded situations. We hope our efforts can help everyone enjoy a healthy and happy holiday sea-

son and new year.” To date, Mass General Brigham has distributed 20,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine through its mobile van program. In addition to vaccines, the MGB Van will offer free blood pressure screening and at-home COVID tests. The YMCA of Metro North is a leading Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization providing health, fitness, and youth development programs to the nearly 60,000 community members it serves annually. The association awards more than \$1,600,000 in financial assistance to members to attend Y Academy early learning and after school programs, summer camps, and evidence-based health programs. Learn more: www.ymcametronorth.org.

Op-Ed CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

We are all sojourners in this life. The message of Christmas is a Savior is born, Christ the Lord, peace on earth and good will toward all.

May good news find its way to you this season of the year and may we all with God’s grace be there for each other when the news is not so good.

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.

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Healey, Driscoll announce administration and finance secretary, top staff

Governor-elect Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor-elect Driscoll announced their first round of hires for their incoming administration. Matthew Gorzkowicz will be appointed as Secretary of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance. Kate Cook will be Chief of Staff and Gabrielle Viator will serve as Senior Advisor.

Matthew Gorzkowicz has more than 25 years' experience in state finance and budgeting in the Commonwealth. He has served as the Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance at the University of Massachu-

setts President's Office for more than a decade, where he has had a direct role in setting the University's long-range administrative and financial goals and managed the development of an annual operating budget of \$3.8 billion. Prior to UMass, Matt worked in the Massachusetts Senate, the Department of Mental Health, the School Building Authority, and the Executive Office for Administration and Finance under Governor Deval Patrick, where he served as Assistant Secretary for Budget and then Undersecretary. He is a graduate of Northeastern University and lives in

Winthrop, MA with his wife and two children.

"In this time of record state revenues and economic stress for so many of our residents, it's essential to have an Administration and Finance Secretary with a proven record of maintaining economic stability and implementing processes that ensure efficiency and effectiveness," said Healey. "Matt Gorzkowicz has done just that in his decades of service to Massachusetts, and I'm proud to have his leadership in our administration."

"I'm honored to be appointed as Secretary of the Executive

Office for Administration and Finance by Governor-elect Healey and Lieutenant Governor-elect Driscoll," said Gorzkowicz. "This is going to be a dynamic and effective administration, and I'm proud to contribute my experience in state finance and budgeting to serve the Commonwealth. I'm looking forward to getting to work on a number of important priorities that center on equity and affordability and drive progress across the administration."

Kate Cook currently serves as the First Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, where she assists AG Healey with oversight, operations and decision-making in all legal and policy matters across the office. For over two decades, Cook has served as a trusted legal advisor and litigator for public officials and state and local government agencies. Prior to her appointment as First Assistant, Kate was a partner at Sugarman Rogers, where she chaired the government law and election law practice groups and had an active pro bono practice focused on civil rights and civil liberties matters. Kate formerly served as Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Deval L. Patrick, General Counsel to the Massachusetts Senate Ways & Means Committee and Assistant Corporation Counsel to the City of Boston. She holds degrees from Harvard University and Brown University and lives in Marblehead with her husband and daughter.

"Kate has been integral to the operations of the Attorney General's Office and a wonderful addition to our team over the past year," said Healey. "With her strong background serving both in state and city government as well as the private sector, I'm confident that she is the best person to lead our office and build a team that's going to deliver real results for people."

"I'm honored that Governor-elect Healey and Lieutenant

Governor-elect Driscoll have placed their faith in me to lead the Governor's Office and for the opportunity to continue my service to the Commonwealth," said Cook. "We're committed to building a strong, experienced and diverse team that is ready to get to work delivering for people and moving Massachusetts forward."

Gabe Viator is the Chief Deputy Attorney General in the Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey. She oversees litigation efforts across the office and coordinates policy, government affairs and strategic initiatives. Gabrielle previously served as Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor to AG Healey, and as an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division. Before joining the Attorney General's Office, Gabrielle practiced commercial litigation as an associate at Ropes & Gray. She also served as a Legislative Director in the State Senate and as a legislative aide in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. She is a graduate of Boston College and Suffolk University Law School, and lives in Beverly with her husband and two daughters.

"Gabe has been a close and trusted advisor to me for many years, and I'm thrilled to have her guidance with us in the Governor's Office," said Healey. "She has outstanding legal and policy experience, a strong commitment to public service and a passion for teamwork, all of which will be invaluable for our team."

"From working with Governor-elect Healey for more than a decade, I've seen firsthand her commitment to the people of Massachusetts and her ability to bring together the very best team to make real progress," said Viator. "I'm honored to continue this partnership in the Governor's Office and excited to get to work creating a stronger Massachusetts."

Latest MBTA bus redesign forum looks at equity

By Adam Swift

The MBTA's Bus Network Redesign meets almost all standards for equity under the federal Civil Rights Act according to T officials.

Last week, the MBTA held an online forum on equity implications of its proposed Bus Network Redesign project, including an analysis of how it squares with Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act.

The MBTA released an initial draft of system-wide changes in May, and during the summer, incorporated public input into a revised draft of the plan. The T ended up making changes to 85 of the 133 proposed route changes from the May draft, while still increasing service by 25 percent across the network.

"There are distinctions between equity and Title VI," said Justin Antos, the MBTA's senior director of bus transformation. "We are officially here to talk about the Title VI findings of the bus network redesign, which is a legal requirement. More broadly, we want to speak about how this project pursued the spirit of equity from the start."

Over the past two years, as part of the redesign initiative, Antos said the MBTA has been listening to riders about what makes good bus service. From those efforts, Antos said four main themes arose – the need to get someplace when riders want to get there, frequency and reliability of service, service being easy to understand, and the need to serve the people who need bus service the most.

The equity analysis and work focuses on that last point of serving the people who need it most, Antos said.

Using anonymous cellphone data and surveys, Antos said the MBTA was able to determine how people actually travel and went into understanding how low-income people and people of color travel in all parts of the bus network.

"This redesign is based on the best information we've ever had on how low-income residents and people of color travel," said Antos. "It allows us to prioritize trips made by these groups twice as much ... and it also ensures that the new service proposed represents everyone whether they had time to participate in outreach or not, or if they were using the T or not."

As a result, Antos said the redesigned bus network brings high frequency service, defined as a bus leaving a stop every 15 minutes, to 95,000 more minority residents across the Boston region and to another 29,000 low-income households.

"We started out this project leading with equity and to fill gaps in transit service in our bus network for people who need it the most," said Antos. "We used good data on our equity populations, we weighed our decisions toward these populations, and these results you see bring more and better service to these groups."

Melissa Dullea, the MBTA's senior director of service planning and equity monitoring, said the T performs an annual report looking at service availability and quality standards, including span frequency, reliability, comfort, and network quality.

"Each standard has an equity check, where we check the performance of the overall network against our standards and then the performance for low-income

riders and riders of color to check for differences," said Dullea.

Steven Povich, the T's fare policy and analytics director, said the Title VI equity analysis looks at equity in accordance with the Civil Rights Act and with guidance from the federal government.

"We are really asking two questions with these analyses," said Povich. "On the service side, we ask how does the change in the amount of service provided to the protected population compare to the change for all other riders."

The analysis also looks at how the change in the average fare paid by protected populations compares to all riders.

"It's a relatively technical exercise and we work with the Central Transportation Planning Staff on this analysis," said Povich. The analysis looks at 12 ratios for service between the protected populations and the general ridership.

Povich said 11 of the 12 ratios show there is not a potential disparate impact or disparate burden on minority or low-income riders. The single ratio that did not meet the minimum metric is a relatively weak measure that will likely be changed for future analysis, Povich said.

During the question and answer portion of the forum, there were some questions raised about changes to specific bus routes, as well as some more systemic concerns about the public not being involved in the redesign at the beginning of the process.

When it came to route concerns, MBTA officials said they would pass on the issues that were raised, but steered the conversation back to the main topic of the forum.



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A winning basketball tradition

Tom Sawyer's Classical contingent will contend for GBL championship

By Cary Shuman

When Lynn Classical girls basketball coach Tom Sawyer was asked how many wins he has had in his highly successful career, he couldn't answer the question right away.

Sawyer had to look up the statistics and add up the season-by-season totals before providing the number: an impressive 178 victories in 16 seasons.

Add in 12 MIAA state tournament appearances and Sawyer stands as one of the most successful girls basketball coaches in the city's history. He also served as an assistant on Gene Constantino's staff for three seasons.

The Rams are led by three outstanding senior captains, Ava Thurman, Lauren Hennessey, and Akiyah Brown. Lauren Wilson and Keisha Perez are also in the starting five. Key reserves are Linda Jallow, Nevaeh Eth, and Kylee Mills.

The Thurman-Hennessey backcourt combination could be the GBL's best duo.

"It's a very good backcourt," said Sawyer. "They've been playing basketball together for four years. There is no backcourt in the league that I would rather

have."

Sawyer said the goals are to compete for the league title and qualify for the MIAA Tournament.

"We have a good group of kids eager to learn," said Sawyer. "I'm excited about the season."

Classical finished 16-4 last season, falling just shy of winning the GBL title in a last-second 51-49 loss to Lynn English. Both schools were competing in their first season in the GBL.

The captains talk about basketball

Classical's captains, Akiya Brown, Lauren Hennessey, and Ava Thurman talked about the 2022-23 season during a break in practice Monday.

"Our goals this season are to win as many games as possible and get a good seeding for the state tournament," said Brown.

A 5-foot-10 forward, Brown said that Coach Tom Sawyer has been an excellent mentor during her Rams' basketball career.

"He's been a great mentor and a great coach during my four years, and I'm really grateful to have him as our coach," said Brown.

Can Classical win the GBL title this season?

"Definitely," replied Brown.

Hennessey and Thurman have been a backcourt duo since sixth grade. "We've been a backcourt for a while, so I think it will be good for the team," said Hennessey.

Hennessey's association with Classical basketball goes back to third grade when she began attending Tom Sawyer's free basketball clinic. "Coach Sawyer has been really great for me and throughout the four years, I feel he's stayed consistent. He inspired and motivated me to be the player I am today," said Hennessey.

Thurman is coming off an MVP season for the Classical girls soccer team. She's ready for her final high school basketball season.

"It feels really good to finally have the title of a [basketball] captain, even though I feel like I've always been a leader," said Thurman, a three-time league All-Star.

Thurman lauded Sawyer's guidance throughout her time in the basketball program.

"He's always been almost like a second father to me since freshman year," said Thurman. "He's really helped grow and I'm happy about the season ahead."



Coach Tom Sawyer and the captains of the Lynn Classical girls basketball team, Ava Thurman, Akiyah Brown, and Lauren Hennessey, pictured at a practice.

Duchane Jamboree a success

Tom Sawyer said he was pleased with the response to the annual Paul Duchane Basketball Jamboree that was held Saturday at Classical.

"The jamboree was great," said Sawyer. "It honored Mr. Duchane. We raised over \$1,000 for scholarships for graduating seniors. We had 18 teams playing in good, competitive games, and we had a large crowd all day enjoying all the action."

Assistant coaches are Classical alumni

Shardaye Berry, a former Lynn Classical standout, will be the assistant varsity coach. Rob Smith, also a Lynn Classical alumnus, will be the junior varsity coach. Lynn Classical alumna Alina Garrity, who teaches at the school, will also be an assistant coach.

Boverini Tournament Ahead

Classical will compete in the Walter Boverini Christmas Tournament on Dec. 27 and Dec. 29 at Classical. Lynn Tech, Lynn English, and KIPP Academy are the other participants.

Classical wins season opener

Lynn Classical won its season opener, 52-17, over Somerville Tuesday.

Ava Thurman led the way with 11 points and five assists. Keisha Perez (10 points) and Lauren Hennessey (9 points) also helped Classical pull away from the Highlanders in a solid opening-night team effort.



The Lynn Classical High School girls basketball team opened its 2022-23 season with a win over Somerville High Tuesday. The team is pictured at a practice. Front row, left to right, Lauren Hennessey, Kylee Mills, Maegan Baker, and Savannah Tang. Back row, left to right, Head Coach Sawyer, Keisha Perez, Ava Thurman, Lauren Wilson, Akiyah Brown, Nevaeh Eth, Gigi Ramirez, Mea Papazoglou, and Coach Shardaye Berry. Missing from photo: Linda Jallow, Kaleigh Bullock.

MAYOR THOMAS MCGEE PORTRAIT UNVEILED

Former Lynn Mayor Thomas McGee received a wonderful tribute inside the City Council Chamber. His official portrait as chief executive will hang inside the chamber along with former mayors and with his father's 1956 City Council picture.

Mayor Jared Nicholson welcomed the McGee family, Council colleagues, State officials, and friends who worked with Thomas McGee throughout his public career. Mayor Nicholson said, "We are here to celebrate Mayor McGee's tenure at this moment. He is a role model in his leadership to our entire city and to Massachusetts. Thomas Mc-

Gee is passionate and competitive; he always believes in doing good things for people. Tom has always been a great resource to our city."

State Senator Brendan Crighton who was a staff member in McGee's state house office said, "Thomas McGee had an immeasurable impact on our community through his leadership. I am so fortunate to call Tom my former boss, a mentor, and a friend."

An office staff member for Mayor McGee, Meaghen Hamill expressed, "Mayor McGee made Lynn a better place from his accomplishments. I will remember his dedicated executive service,

not only from me, but of his staff who served with him. More importantly, our staff gained experience and we learned firsthand his positive impact for the City of Lynn."

"I could not have done any of this without my family, my legislator colleagues, and my city staff," said Thomas McGee. He continued, "We worked during challenging times to make sure that we did the right thing for the people and the City of Lynn. The vital services the city needed were so important to make everyone's lives better; this is what our work is all about."

Congratulations to Thomas McGee for a job well done!



McGee Portrait with former colleagues – Meaghen Hamill, former Mayor Thomas McGee, Mayor Jared Nicholson, and State Senator Brendan Crighton.



Tom McGee Portrait – Thomas, Maria, Katherine, and Tom McGee.



McGee Family – Ray Desmarais, Christine Locke, Michelle Desmarais, Thomas McGee, Maria McGee, Barbara Desmarais, Former Mayor Tom McGee, Katherine McGee, Gerry and Colleen Kavanaugh, Shawn and Michael McGee.

'Tis the Season to share your family's Christmas photos!

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CITY PAWS

Dog training season

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Winter is a great time to concentrate on dog training. When icy cold days have you seeking alternatives for long walks to burn off your dog's energy, turn to training to engage the dog's mind. Learning something new can be exhausting. Following a training session with a game of fetch is good exercise.

Neither your dog's age nor how long you've had the pup matters. Solid basic training and constant reinforcement are critical to a great canine/human relationship. Think about how you'd like to adjust how you and your dog interact and use the quieter months ahead to work on specific goals.

Positive Training, Not Pain

The Humane Society of the United States warns, "Some trainers use aversive collars to train 'difficult' dogs with correction or punishment. These collars rely on physical discomfort or even pain to teach the dog what not to do. They suppress the unwanted behavior but don't teach him what the proper one is. At best, they are unpleasant for your dog, and at worst, they may cause your dog to act aggressively and even bite you. Positive training methods should always be your first choice."

First, Train Yourself

After years of having dogs,

training dogs, and writing about dogs, Penny recently took an online course in positive dog training. She learned new ways to approach specific issues we still have with our Westie Poppy, like barking inside our home. This approach proved worth the time it took to train the human.

There are excellent resources online, available through library cards, and in-person classes that train you and your dog together. You might need a veterinary behaviorist or qualified positive trainer if you have serious issues.

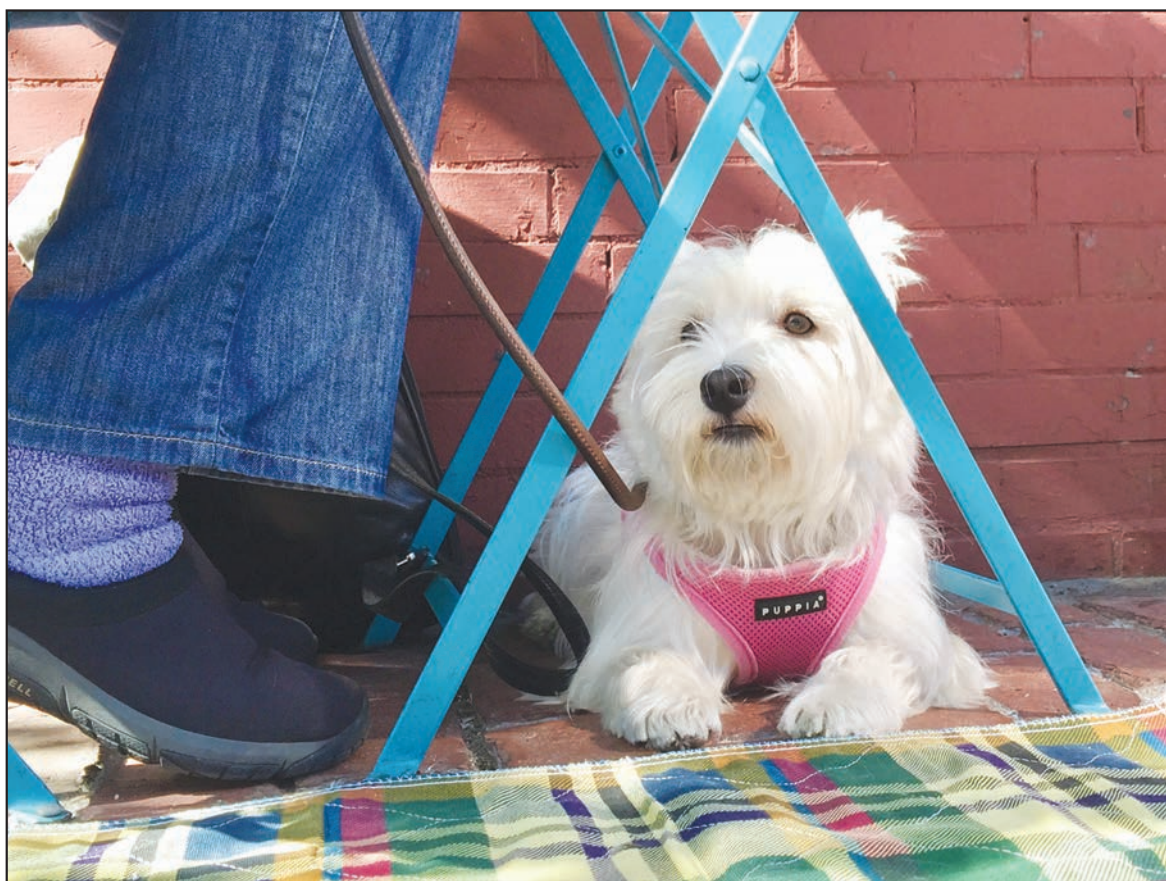
Motivation

Whatever positive method you choose, you must determine what motivates your dog. Since many treats are needed to keep up the training, they should be small. Tiny bits of cheese, sausage, or jerky might work. It should be something reserved for training and that your dog loves. Naturally, you can double up the reward with lots of praise and a pat here and there.

Have Fun!

You can invent your helpful interactions. Penny taught Poppy to back up using the cue, "Beep Beep." It's useful when our little dog climbs like a goat on the arm of a sofa or tries to invade the kitchen.

You might teach your dog to dance with you, do funny tricks, or play fun games like finding a hidden treat. As long as your dog enjoys the activities and it makes



Training your dog to sit quietly under a table without begging is something you can do over the winter.

both of you happy, it's good training.

Favorite Tips

Whatever you decide to teach your dog, add a sound to indicate you want your dog to pay attention to you. A hand signal, in addition, to each verbal cue, is helpful when you're on Zoom or engaged in conversation. Hand signals are valuable in later years

if a dog's hearing fails.

For some training, you might need another dog or person to act as a distraction. When your dog is dependable inside, it's time to add the challenge of doing the same outside around other dogs and people. Consider partnering with another dog family to refine some behaviors.

Dogs need to learn and re-

member how to behave in public, and it's more critical with city dogs because they spend so much time out and about. Training should begin at the start of your relationship and continue for a lifetime.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

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Hayden announces Transition and Community Advisory Committee

Special to the Times-Free Press

District Attorney Kevin R. Hayden today announced the formation of his Transition and Community Advisory Committee, which will advise him and his office as he prepares to begin his first full term as District Attorney and throughout his first 100 days.

The Transition and Community Advisory Committee will be tasked with providing recommendations to improve the functions and operations of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, helping to increase community engagement by making the office more accessible and responsive to the public, and advise on policies that will seek to strengthen transparency, accountability, and equity throughout the Suffolk County legal system.

The committee will be co-chaired by State Sen. Lydia Edwards, Robert Gittens, and Reverend Dr. Ray Hammond.

"This is an extraordinary group of individuals with extensive knowledge of administrative functions and city and county issues ranging from legal system operations to civic engagement. I'm deeply grateful for their willingness to help shape our approach over the next four years," Hayden said.

CO-CHAIRS

State Sen. Lydia Edwards represents the Third Suffolk District, consisting of Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, the North End, Beacon Hill, and the Back Bay. She previously represented District 1 on

the Boston City Council. She served as Deputy Director of Office of Housing Stability for the City of Boston, and worked as a public interest attorney with Greater Boston Legal Services, focusing on labor issues such as fighting for access to unemployment insurance, back wages, fair treatment for domestic workers, and human labor trafficking.

Robert Gittens is the former Commissioner of the Department of Youth Services, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and First Assistant District Attorney in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. He currently serves on the boards of the Children's League of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network and Commonwealth Care Alliance, and is the executive director for Cambridge Family and Children's Service.

Reverend Dr. Ray Hammond is the co-founder of Bethel A.M.E. Church and chairman of the Ten Point Coalition, an ecumenical group of Christian clergy and lay leaders mobilizing the Greater Boston community around issues affecting Black and Latino youth. He is an Executive Committee member of the Black Ministerial Alliance and serves as a trustee on many institutions, including the Yawkey Foundation, BMC Health System, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, and the MATCH School.

MEMBERS

Dr. Aisha Miller is the Vice President of Permitting,

Community, and Corporate Engagement for Related Beal and the Vice Chair of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. She previously served as Chief of the Civic Engagement Cabinet for the City of Boston and as Regional Steward for Suffolk County Probation Officers.

Andrea Cabral is a former Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, and twice elected Sheriff of Suffolk County. She was Chief of the District Courts at SCDAO and is currently CEO of a multi-state cannabis company.

Annissa Essaibi George is the President & CEO of Big Sister Boston and is a former Boston City Councilor At-Large. On the Boston City Council she chaired both the Committee on Education and the Committee on Homelessness, Mental Health, and Recovery. She has previously worked as a Boston Public Schools teacher and is a small business owner.

Byron Knight is a former Suffolk assistant district attorney who joined the Deval Patrick administration as special counsel to assist in providing discovery to all parties affected by the Hinton Lab drug scandal. He later served as Deputy Legal Counsel for Patrick.

Brian Arrigo has served as mayor of the City of Revere since 2015. During his tenure, Mayor Arrigo has professionalized and modernized the city's government and has worked to help those most in need. He established the Substance Use Disorder Initiatives office, making Revere one of the Commonwealth's leaders in focusing efforts toward tackling the opioid crisis. Prior to his election as mayor, he served for several years on the Revere City Council.

Pastor B. Christopher Sumner is Executive Director of St. Stephen's Youth Programs and associate Pastor at Jubilee Christian Church. He also serves on the City of Boston Civilian Review Board. He previously served as Chief of Operations at the Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Community Center of Boston, and

as Executive Director of the Boston Ten Point Coalition the Blue Hill Boys and Girls Club of Boston.

Courtney Grey is Director of Disaster Behavioral Health in the Office of Public Health Preparedness at the Boston Public Health Commission. She has coordinated many local and national DBH deployments to deal with incidents of homicide, suicide, fires, as well as natural and man-made disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing.

Darryl Smith is Co-Founder of Communities of Color (COC), former Assistant Commissioner of Boston's Inspectional Services Department, and former chair of Mayor Thomas Menino's Neighborhood Response Team.

Gladys Vega is executive director of Chelsea's La Colaborativa and has led organizing efforts for immigrants' rights, welfare rights, tenants' rights, open space and the environment, multicultural and anti-racism programs and in numerous grassroots campaigns.

Helen Chan Kwong is President of the Gee How Oak Tin Association of New England and Secretary of the Chinatown Business Association. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, an umbrella organization in Chinatown which sponsors Chinatown Crime Watch. She is one of Chinatown's affordable housing developers.

John McGann is President and CEO of the Gavin Foundation, a community-based addiction education, prevention and treatment facility. He is a licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor, Certified Addiction Specialist, and a Certified Domestic Violence Counselor. He is also Vice President of the MA Recovery Homes Collaborative and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Action for Boston Community Development.

Joseph D. Feaster Jr. is an attorney with over 45 years of experience and is chairman of the Urban League of East-

ern Massachusetts. He has served as Receiver for Roxbury Comprehensive Community Health Center, Interim Administrator of the Boston Housing Authority, and President of the Boston Branch NAACP. Feaster is of course at McKenzie & Associates, P.C. in Boston.

J.W. Carney, Jr. is a renowned criminal defense attorney who began his career as a public defender and is a contributing author to treatises on Massachusetts Criminal Practice. He has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America since 1998. Carney also has been a member of the Massachusetts Judicial Nominating Commission for 20 years.

J. Larry Mayes is Senior Vice President for Government and Community Relations at Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Boston. He previously served as Cabinet Chief of Human Services for Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and as an advisor for public safety issues for the City of Boston.

Katie O'Leary is the Director of Recovery at North Suffolk Mental Health and has spent her career in the mental health care and recovery services industry. She previously worked as a Recovery Services Coach at the Gavin Foundation and in the United States Probation Office.

Kimberly Pelletreau is Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. She previously served as Executive Director of Safety Services for Boston Public Schools and as a Special Agent with the United States Department of Justice.

Kristen Palma is a former victim witness advocate at SCDAO who became public affairs director of the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance.

Kourou Pich is executive director of HarborCOV, which provides services and opportunities that promote long-term stability for people affected by violence and abuse. She began work there in 1998 as the Cambodian advocate. Kourou

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Hayden/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

has served as a consultant for the Women of Color Network since 2011.

Linda Dorcena Forry is a business leader and former state senator, currently serving as Vice president of external affairs at Suffolk Construction. She previously served in both the Massachusetts House and Senate representing Mattapan, Dorchester, and South Boston. Dorcena Forry was the first, and to date only, person of Haitian descent elected to the Senate.

Lisa Howard is the Superintendent of Winthrop Public Schools and a past board member of the Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education. She is a lifelong resident of Winthrop.

Lisa Holmes is an associate lecturer at UMass Boston and former Boston police officer, with 33 years in the department. Prior to her retirement from BPD, Lisa most recently served as Superintendent-in-Chief of the Bureau of Professional Development responsible for overseeing the training and education of officers at the Boston Police Academy.

Louis Elisa is a community activist with over 40 years of experience working in local, state, and federal government. He has served as Region 1 Director for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and is a former President of the Boston Branch NAACP.

Marjorie Pauléon Tynes, an attorney and former Suffolk ADA and victim witness advocate, is a member of teaching team at Harvard's Trial Advocacy Workshop.

Michael Kozu is the Co-Director of Project Right, a neighborhood-based organization that works to prevent crime and violence in the Grove Hall neighborhood of Roxbury and North Dorchester.

State Sen. Nick Collins represents the First Suffolk District, consisting of Dorchester, South Boston, the South End, and Chinatown. He serves on both the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery and the Joint Committee on Public Service.

Prior to his election to the Senate, Collins served a number of years in the House.

Talia Barrales is an attorney specializing in issues of immigration who founded her own firm, Barrales Law in 2013. She has spent her career helping clients navigate complex immigration and employment matters and has represented clients across Massachusetts. Barrales serves on the boards of Cosecha and the Chica Project, and in 2020 was recognized by the Boston Business Journal as one of the Top 40 under 40 Boston professionals.

Paul Popeo is co-chair of Choate's litigation department and has served as a special assistant attorney general and special Suffolk ADA.

Paulo DeBarros is Director of the Teen Center at St. Peter's Church in Dorchester and a founding partner of the Safe City Collaborative. Barros serves as President of the Cape Verdean Community UNIDO and is on the board of the National Alliance of Cape Verdean Organizations.

Sandra M. McCroom is president and CEO of Children's Services of Roxbury, which provides comprehensive childcare services to economically disadvantaged families. She previously served as for Criminal Justice in the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

State Sen. William Brownsberger represents Second Suffolk and Middlesex District, which includes the towns of Belmont and Watertown, and the Boston neighborhoods of Allston, Brighton, Fenway, and Back Bay. During his tenure Sen. Brownsberger has been a leader on issues of criminal justice and legal reform. He has served as the Massachusetts State Senate President Pro Tempore since 2019.

Bishop William E. Dickerson II is pastor of the Greater Love Tabernacle church in Boston. He is the founder and President of Restoration Ministries Inc. and the President of Greater Love Community Cares, Inc., a philanthropic agency that helps the needy.

Senator Warren and Senator-elect Welch raise concerns over reports of Pfizer's planned COVID-19 vaccine price hike

United States Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Senator-elect Peter Welch (D-Vt.) sent a letter to Pfizer CEO Albert Bourlas, criticizing Pfizer plans to dramatically increase prices for its COVID-19 vaccine in the new year, which would make it more difficult for millions of Americans to afford the vaccine. The Senators sought information from Pfizer about the justification for the price increase, and the impact of this price increase on Americans forced to pay high out-of-pocket costs for the vaccine.

"Pfizer is already raking in billions in profits through the sales of their COVID-19 vaccines," said Senator Elizabeth Warren. "Everyone deserves easy and affordable access to these lifesaving vaccines and I'm urging Pfizer to reverse this planned price hike and put public health ahead of corporate greed."

"Here we go again. Throughout the pandemic, Pfizer promised to put public health before their bottom line. But not anymore. Pfizer's planned price hike would break that promise and once again put a lifesaving medication out-of-reach for many Americans," said Senator-Elect Peter Welch. "I urge Pfizer to meet its past commitments to vaccine equity and scrap this brutal price hike."

In November 2022, Pfizer announced plans to quadruple the

cost of its COVID-19 vaccine increasing it to \$130 per dose. This price increase would likely put the vaccine out of reach for many uninsured or under-insured Americans, while the U.S. is still in a public health emergency from the pandemic, and despite the fact that billions of federal dollars were used to support production and delivery of the vaccine.

"Although Pfizer has pointed to its Patient Assistance Programs to help cover the cost of the drug for those without insurance, it is unclear how these will work or whether they will actually close the cost gap for the uninsured Americans who cannot afford the life-saving vaccine," wrote the lawmakers.

The pharmaceutical giant stands to bring in an additional \$2.5 to \$3 billion in annual revenue with this planned price hike. This comes after the company raked in billions throughout the pandemic, including a \$1.95 billion advance purchase agreement under Operation Warp Speed and predicted profits of around \$4 billion from the vaccine in 2021 alone.

The lawmakers are requesting information from Pfizer regarding the company's pricing plans no later than January 9, 2023, and urging Pfizer to rethink their "unseemly" price hikes to "ensure COVID-19 vaccines are reason-

ably priced and accessible to people across the United States."

Senator Warren has long fought to ensure that that the COVID-19 vaccine is accessible and affordable for everyone:

- In July 2021, Senator Warren Rep. Jayapal (D-Wash.), and their colleagues called on Congress to provide \$34 billion for global vaccine manufacturing in the reconciliation package. She also called on Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson to expand global vaccine access.

- In June 2021, Senator Warren sent a letter with Senator Murphy (D-Conn.), and Representatives Porter (D-Calif.) and Pocan (D-Wis.) to Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla, raising concerns over Pfizer executives' statements earlier this year indicating the company would significantly raise the price of its COVID-19 vaccine, BNT162b2, once the pandemic subsides.

- In April 2021, Senator Warren, along with Senators Markey (D-Mass.), Baldwin (D-Wis.), Merkley (D-Ore.), and Murphy (D-Conn.) sent letters to Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson requesting information on their plans to expand access to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccines and vaccine manufacturing capacity across the globe.

Fire Marshal reminds residents to handle candles with care

Special to the Times-Free Press

Candle Safety Day is observed on the second Monday of December, and State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey is reminding residents to follow safety guidelines as we enter the period when most candle fires start.

"There have been more than 1,000 candle fires in Massachusetts over the past 10 years," State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. "Together, they caused nine deaths, 192 injuries, and over \$32 million in damages. More of these fires started in December than in any other month, and especially on the days leading up to Christmas. If candles are part of your celebration or decoration, be sure to use them carefully."

Candles are part of many holiday traditions this time of year, including Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. State

Fire Marshal Ostroskey offered the following safety tips to reduce the risk of fire:

- No matter the season, have working smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside bedrooms, at the top of open stairs, and at the base of cellar stairs.

- Keep a one-foot "circle of safety" around candles, free of anything that can burn.

- Always extinguish candles when you leave the room or go to sleep, and don't leave them unattended.

- Use a non-combustible saucer or candleholder.

- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets, and store matches and lighters up high where kids can't access them.

- Consider switching to battery-operated flameless candles.

There were 93 candle fires in Massachusetts last year and 75 took place in residential set-

tings. The most common location was the bedroom, followed by the kitchen, bathroom, and living room. One such fire in Boston began when a candle ignited bedroom curtains and spread, causing half a million dollars in damages and displacing five people from their home.

"Candle fires peaked in Massachusetts in 1999, when we recorded 342 of them," State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. "The following year, we began observing Candle Safety Day on the second Monday of December to promote awareness of the problem. Since that time, we've observed a 73% decrease in candle fires. Let's continue to practice safe candle use, especially around the holidays."

For more candle safety resources, including Spanish-language information, visit the DFS website.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

COUNCILORS RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT 311 SYSTEM

CHELSEA- The 311 system is intended to give Chelsea residents a number to call if they have municipal issues they would like to see taken care of, from trash pick up to potholes and sidewalk repair requests.

But at Monday night's City Council meeting, several councilors had questions about the 311 service itself.

District 6 Councilor Giovanni introduced an order requesting City Manager Thomas Ambrosino verify that 311 employees are working either out of an officer or their home. Recupero said he's received a number of complaints lately from residents unable to get through to one of the city's three 311 operators.

"I don't understand why it goes to a recorded message," said Recupero. "People have complained to me, and I've called myself, and it went right to a recorded message."

Recupero said he understands that one of the 311 employees is pregnant and working from, which he said he didn't see as an issue. Still, the councilor said he was flummoxed as to why so many calls go unanswered.

"Who supervises these people?" Recupero said. "It's

supposed to be the DPW, but I don't understand how you have three people and it goes to an answering machine."

District 4 Councilor Enio Lopez said he's also heard complaints about 311 going unanswered. He said he was also concerned because when Spanish speaking residents call the line, there is not someone there who speaks Spanish.

"I thank Councilor Recupero for bringing this up," said Lopez. "There are some answers that need to be given to our community."

With changes in recycling for items such as textiles and mattresses, Lopez also noted that the calls to 311 from the community are also likely to increase.

District 1 Councilor Todd Taylor added to the chorus of those who have received complaints about 311.

"As a councilor, I've been getting feedback from the community that this isn't working," said Taylor.

He said he understood from the city side that the 311 system might be more convenient that the older ticket-based computer system, but that it wasn't working well for a number of residents.

"Some improvements need to be made if we are going to stick with this 311 system, otherwise we need to figure out something else, because

this is not just coming from up here, this is real feedback coming from the community," said Taylor.

Councilor-at-Large Damali Vidot said she has not heard the complaints about 311, but recommended discussing the issue further at a subcommittee on conference meeting to hash out what the issues are and how they can be fixed.

"I think it does bring value, but we should have a discussion on how we can work out the kinks," Vidot said.

SLIM MAJORITY OPPOSES BROOKE CHARTER SCHOOL'S ADDITION

EAST BOSTON- In a vote of 15 to 13, a slight majority of residents who attended and voted during the Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA) meeting on Monday, Dec. 5, were not in favor of the proposed addition to the Brooke Charter School on Horace Street.

The Brooke Charter School is a public college preparatory school that serves underserved students in the community - low-income students, students of color, English language learners (ELL), and students with disabilities. Over time the school has done tremendous work for its student body and was named the best-performing non-exam High School in

the city just last year.

However, even as the school has succeeded, it is still looking to improve and better serve its students. Now the Brooke Charter School is looking to add an addition to its building that would span about 4,500 square feet.

"Our school next door - 94 Horace Street - has always been one of our smallest buildings which means it has kind of the smallest ability to provide programmatic space for our students, and we want to improve that with this addition," said Brooke Charter School's Chief Operating Officer Mark Loring.

The three-floor addition would add space to build sci-

ence labs, a designated art room, and additional small pull-out spaces for special education and ELL students.

"There's been new regulations that have been passed in the last several years which effects this in terms of number of kids within a group, number of minutes that we need to serve students, so it's affecting how many spaces we need to be able to provide these services," said Loring.

Loring indicated the school's population has changed over time, saying, "As we tried to recruit more ELL and special needs students, we have gotten those

Please see REGION Page 11

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Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

students, and as we get those students, we have more need for staff or spaces in order to provide the required services for those students.”

Since March, this project has been presented and debated; if the latest vote is any indicator, it has been polarizing.

One of the main issues with the project brought up in the past and even at Monday’s meeting is that the school would increase its enrollment, admitting more students and contributing to more traffic in the area.

However, Loring once again denied that notion saying, “There’s a common belief that we’re going to build this addition because we’re trying to add more students. We have stated clearly and continue to state clearly that is not true – we are not looking to expand our enrollment.”

Loring mentioned that the school has been willing to put the fact that the addition is not being built to add students in writing with the board of the HVNA.

Debate raged on Monday, mainly about the school’s enrollment, as some residents were not convinced that the school would not add students even with it in writing.

Other concerns broached Monday about the project involved parking issues during construction as well as construction bringing rodents to the area.

While an HVNA majority opposed the project, the project is slated to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals Tuesday, Dec. 13.

“All I’m trying to do is build space as considerately as possible, knowing that there’s some disruption and trying to address those disruptions in order to give the space for the kids who deserve it – I’m not trying to build myself an office,” said Loring.

TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES DOWNTOWN PARKING PLAN

WINTHROP- After months of discussion and debate, the Town Council approved new

parking regulations for the Center Business District at its meeting Tuesday night.

There will now be two hour street parking allowed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in downtown district street spaces, with a handful of 15 minute spaces in front of several local businesses.

There are no meters going in, but there will be time limits on parking in the spots during the daytime hours. Winthrop residents with residential parking stickers will still be able to use those spaces to park overnight.

In addition, the council also approved new regulations for the town’s municipal lots, allowing people who need to park longer to conduct business downtown to park for up to four hours or longer in some municipal lots.

“The rationale behind this is because parking down in the center is a resource and we need to manage that public resource like we do most other public resources,” said Precinct 6 Councilor Stephen Ruggiero. “It’s not the most exciting thing to talk about, I don’t think we all feel great about it, but at the end of the day there are plenty of downtowns in the Commonwealth that have parking restrictions. What we are not talking about is meters, we are just talking about what our ordinance is going to say.”

While the parking restrictions are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Councilor-At-Large Rob DeMarco noted that it does create some leeway for residents who use the downtown spots for overnight parking. Since there is a two-hour parking limit, DeMarco said residents would be able to park in the spots until 9 a.m., and could take a spot again at 5 p.m., and still be within the bounds of the time limit and the allowable resident overnight parking.

Ruggiero stated that there are also parking spots on Putnam Street that were not included in the new ordinance, allowing residents to park for an unlimited amount of time, provided they move their vehicles within 72 hours.

“I just want to commend the

rules and ordinance committee,” said Precinct 3 Councilor Hannah Belcher. “I went to most, if not all of the meetings on this, and think these ordinances do a really great job of striking a balance between protecting resident parking for people who live in the CBD and businesses. I think this is a really good way to meet in the middle.”

Public Works Director Steven Calla stated that the town is already sitting on \$6,000 worth of parking signs that have the parking hours listed as 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Calla agreed that the town could possibly still use the same signs, but cover up the five with a seven.

The municipal parking lot ordinance sets a four hour time limit in the town’s downtown municipal lots, giving residents who need a longer time to park downtown and other areas of Winthrop more time. Ruggiero noted that there would be some spots with unlimited parking, and that the parking lot near the town tennis courts would not have a time limit because it is near a school.

In other business Tuesday night, Town Manager Tony Marino gave an update on several projects and initiatives around Winthrop.

“The capital plan is en route, we are sending out forms this week to all the department heads,” said Marino. “We’ve got a smaller capital plan that was formed by our facilities department, but we are going to do a more in-depth one this year.”

Marino said the town is also working on finalizing a draft for a trash policy.

“I’ll get that out to the council hopefully by the end of the week to take a look at and review, and we can bring that up at a future meeting,” said Marino.

Marino added that the \$160 annual trash bills will also be going out in January.

The town received five bids on a request for proposals for town legal services, including one from the town’s current legal counsel, according to Marino. He said those bids will be reviewed in the coming days.

Marino also said the town ferry is currently in Newburyport undergoing repairs.

“When all is said and done, we will have two new engines and two new transmissions and we will be ready to kick off,” said Marino. He said the town had the \$100,000 needed for repairs, and that the ferry should be ready for service again in March.

COUNCIL APPROVES INITIAL DEPOSIT TO OPIOID RECOVERY TRUST FUND

By Adam Swift
REVERE-More than \$250,000, the initial payment in a statewide opioid settlement, has been transferred to a special trust fund in Revere.

Monday night, the City Council approved transferring the \$254,470 for calendar year 2022, the first year of the settlement, to the new Opioid Recovery and Remediation Trust Fund. Revere is slated to receive over \$1.2 million as a result of the settlement through 2038.

The council had the option of reviewing the transfer in subcommittee, but unanimously voted to move ahead and approve the transfer to the trust fund.

“I have no problem whatsoever, we talked about creating the trust fund at our last meeting, and it just makes perfect sense to fund it,” said Councilor-at-Large Dan Rizzo. “It just makes perfect sense to fund it, the funding is there, (city finance director Richard Viscay) shows where the money was allocated in the general fund and it’s just a matter of sliding it over.”

Last month, the council approved setting up the trust fund.

“The purpose of this trust

fund, once established, will be to supplement prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery programs throughout the city,” stated Viscay.

In July of 2021, state Attorney General Maura Healey announced a \$26 billion resolution with opioid distributors and Johnson & Johnson which will provide more than \$500 million to Massachusetts and its cities and towns for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services.

Per the state’s revenue department, all the money collected from the settlement goes into a municipality’s general fund unless a general law exists to spend it for a particular purpose.

The vote to create the special trust fund allows the city to use the funds in the manner set out in the opioid settlement.

Healey, the governor-elect, also has several other potential opioid settlements in the works, which could mean more money for cities and towns.

On Nov. 15, Healey announced a proposed \$3 billion nationwide resolution with Walmart, which could provide more than \$61 million to cities and towns in Massachusetts.

On Nov. 23, Healey announced a proposed \$6.6 billion nationwide resolution with drugmakers Teva and Allergan, which will provide more than \$130 million to the Commonwealth and its cities and towns for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery across Massachusetts, once finalized. The AG stated that the parties are optimistic that the proposed settlements will gain critical support from attorneys general nationwide, so that local governments have an opportunity to join the resolutions during the first quarter of 2023.

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Notice is hereby given by Gaeta’s Enterprises, Inc. of 14 Newbury Street West Peabody, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L.c. 255,

Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after December 21, 2022 beginning at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers’ lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicles are being stored at Gaeta’s Enterprises, Inc.

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Carmen Gaeta
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Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, presents Otherworldly Realms of Wu Junyong

In *Otherworldly Realms of Wu Junyong*, heroes face off in mighty clashes with their enemies; charming animals growl at one another, vying for superiority; and troubled souls retreat into murky caves, searching for inner peace. The exhibition, on view at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), starting January 13,

2023, marks the artist's U.S. museum debut. Wu (born 1978) grew up in a family of artisans who created sculptures and murals for local temples in their southern Chinese village. Immersed in China's folklore throughout his childhood, he became fascinated with European painting and the he-

roes of ancient Greek mythology after arriving in art school. His work reflects all these influences, seamlessly blending diverse historical traditions with his contemporary experience to express human emotions, conflicts and aspirations that transcend time and borders.

Otherworldly Realms of Wu



Junyong features more than a dozen mixed-media works on paper, where, beneath playful imagery, exuberant brushstrokes and riotous color, dark truths hide and serenity awaits in secluded haunts.

Museum visitors will have a unique opportunity to see painting performances by the artist at the MFA's Lunar New Year celebration on February 2. The annual event will offer \$5 admission for the evening (5–10 pm), lion dances and Spotlight Talks in the

galleries.

The press release is available in English and Chinese on mfa.org.

"*Otherworldly Realms of Wu Junyong*" is generously supported by Bonnie Huang. Additional support from Eva Hu, the Joel Alvord and Lisa Schmid Alvord Fund, the Diane Krane Family and Jonathan and Gina Krane Family Fund and the Dr. Robert A. and Dr. Veronica Petersen Fund for Exhibitions.

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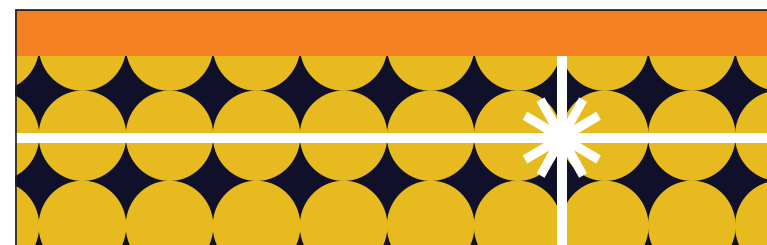


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