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East Boston

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City Council passes Mayor's

ranks with uber progressives

budget, Edwards breaks

By John Lynds

With the ongoing racial

tension sweeping across the

nation and calls for police

reform in almost every ma-

jor U.S. city there was an emotional debate last week

in the City Council over

Mayor Martin Walsh pro-

George Floyd at the hands

of a Minneapolis police of-

ficer, big city Mayors like

Walsh have heard the calls

to restructure police bud-

Walsh proposed to real-

locate 12 million in Boston

Police overtime funds to

invest in social equity and

inclusion programs in Bos-

The Mayor's proposed

budget passed by a slim

margin in an 8-5 vote after

some councilors argued the

cuts to police spending did

In a surprise move, City

Councilor Lydia Edwards

broke ranks with uber pro-

gressives on the Council

not go far enough.

gets loud and clear.

Since the killing of

posed budget.

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

EBNHC Farmers Market to kick off this afternoon

By John Lynds

As East Boston slowly creeps to the "new nor-mal", in the neighborhood some restaurants have been able to reopen with limited capacity or outdoor seating, retail stores that have closed are reopening and residents feel a little safer being out in public.

One sign that the worst of the pandemic is over for now and summer has arrived is the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) Let's Get Movin Farmers Market in Central Square.

This year's Farmers Market will kick off today, Wednesday June 1 at 3 p.m. and last through October 1. The market will be open each Wednesday until 6

However, EBNHC and the Let's Get Movin' staff are making several changes to this year's market in order to protect the health

See FARMER'S MKT Page 2

Zumix's annual Walk for Music will be virtual

By John Lynds

For nearly 20 years, Zumix has participated in Boston's annual Walk for Music fundraiser, which brings music organizations from all over the city together to help raise money for local arts programs.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has put the breaks on large outdoor events in the city for the remainder of the summer.

As a nonprofit that has continually adapted throughout the pandemic, Zumix has decided to hold the annual Walk for Music virtually.

"For almost 20 years, we have come together to celebrate the Zumix community through the Walk for Music," said Zumix Co-founder and Director Madeleine Steczynski. "Over the years we have faced a number of challenges, but noth-

See ZUMIX Page 2

BUILDING A BETTER BOSTON MSBA Boiler Replacement East Boston High School # 7136B, Public Facilities Department



Shown above: EBHS Class of 2020 graduates Juan Velez and Isabella Londono stand next to a Coronavirus Can't Stop the Class of 2020 sign Saturday. Left: An EBHS graduate ceremonially throws his cap in the air after picking up his diploma Saturday. Shown below: cars decorated with balloons and signs congratulating the EBHS Class of 2020 parade by the high school.



EBHS holds special diploma pick up day for seniors

By John Lynds

It wasn't the graduation East Boston High School seniors (EBHS) worked so hard for four years expected or deserved, but the staff at East Boston High School held a special event over the weekend for the Class of 2020.

Organized by EBHS senior advisors Tianna Tassinari and Andrew Faiz with the help of their colleagues, the EBHS seniors were able to put on their cap and gowns Saturday, head up to the high school and pick up their diploma from Headmaster Phil Brangiforte.

The seniors were also given goodie bags that included voter registration forms along with their di-

"Congratulations to the East Boston High School Class of 2020," said Brangiforte. "You overcame the challenges of a global pandemic to achieve this milestone. Our community couldn't be prouder of your achievements. We provided each graduate with a prestamped voter registration form along with their diploma, and instructions on how to fill it out. We need to ensure that this spring's graduates are this fall's vot-

ers. I look forward to their voices being heard in our democracy.'

Tassinari said EBHS seniors deserved all the celebrations in the world, and was proud of the Eastie community for coming together and making the diploma pick up event as special as possible.

"To the Class of 2020, this isn't the way you imagined it would end, but I hope you still felt the pride and joy that this day should have been," said Tassinari. "You did it. You achieved so much to get to this moment. If you can overcome this you can do anything you put your mind to. Thank you all for teaching me what it means to be resilient. It really does take a village to do this work and we are fortunate to have a community that truly believes in the motto "when

all give all gain." I can't wait to see what amazing things the Class of 2020 will do."

The event also included special guests Rep. Adrian Madaro as well as City Councilors Lydia Edwards and Annissa Essaibi George, a former EBHS teacher and coach.

"Congratulations to all the graduates," said Rep. Madaro. "I was glad to be able to celebrate with you today. We look forward to seeing what you do next. Special thanks to Tiana Tassinari and Andrew Faiz for helping to organize this celebration and preparing the senior gift bags with the voter registration information.'

Phyllis Delvecchio, whose son Dominic was

See EBHS Page 12

Eastie COVID-19 Updates

By John Lynds

Those testing positive for COVID-19 in Eastie dropped once again last week and the infection rate in the neighborhood continues to slow.

Since the pandemic began in March Eastie has been a COVID 'hot spot' with some of the highest infection rates in all of Bos-

However, according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on Friday only 8 percent of residents tested positive for the virus and the rate of infection only rose by only 1.5 percent.

On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston Walsh's budget. Edwards joined Coun-

and voted to adopt Mayor

cilors Frank Baker, Kenzie Bok, Liz Breadon, Annissa Essaibi-George, Michael Flaherty, Ed Flynn and Matt O'Malley in voting to pass the budget.

City Council President Kim Janey and Councilors Ricardo Arroyo, Andrea Campbell, Julia Mejia and Michelle Wu all voted against the budget. "Over the past few

weeks, I have received an extraordinary amount of calls and emails from my constituents about this vote," said Edwards. "I want everyone that took the time to write or call to know that I really appreciate you letting me know your thoughts. Civic engagement and participation are key to a successful democracy and listening to people's concerns is a responsibility that I take seriously as an elected official."

See BUDGET Page 2

neighborhoods.

In one week Eastie's COVID-19 infection rate rose only 1.5 percent from 337.1 cases per 10,000 residents to an infection rate of 342.1 cases per 10,000 resi-

dents as of Friday. As of Friday confirmed were 1,607 COVID-19 cases in Eastie, up from the 1,582 cases reported by the BPHC the previous week.

Last week the BPHC reported that 6,235 residents were tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that only 8 percent percent of those tested were COVID positive. down from the 10 percent reported last week.

28.1 Overall since the pandemic began 26.1 percent of Eastie residents were found to be COVID posi-

See COVID-19 UPDATE Page 3

TRASH Due to the July 4th Holiday being on Saturday

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For the latest news in East Boston that you need to know, check eastietimes.com

News in Brief

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE SAFETY **CAMPAIGN**

The Animal Rescue League of Boston's (ARL) annual safety campaign, Too Hot for Spot, reminds pet owners about the dangers pets face when temperatures begin to rise. Even when it's below 80 degrees, the threat for heat stroke still exists.

- 5 Tips to Keep Your Pet
- 1. Prevention is best. Whenever possible, leave your pet at home in a cool humidity and temperature-regulated room.
- 2. If your pet must be outdoors, find a shady spot with ample air flow to prevent overheating.
- 3. Hydration is key, so keep a bowl of cold water accessible at all times.
- 4. Limit exercise to the morning or evening hours when temperatures are 5. Never leave your pet
- alone in a parked car—even with the air conditioner on or the windows cracked. If you suspect that your pet is suffering from heat

stroke, seek immediate medical attention from a veterinarian! Spot an animal in im-

minent danger or distress? Call 911 or contact your local Animal Control Office, Fire Department, or Police Department.

MARKEY CAMPAIGN SHOWS ITS GRASSROOTS **REACH**

The Ed Markey for U.S. Senate campaign demonstrated its grassroots power and statewide reach over the past weekend as it hosted an evening of virtual house parties with over 300 supporters and volunteers, joining from 35 different Zoom locations organized by supporters, for supporters, including in Dorchester, Somerville, Cambridge, Tufts University, Harvard University, and Northeastern University.

Senator Markey spoke to the virtual grassroots group as Suffolk County District Attorney Rachel Rollins, State Representative Nika Elugardo, and State Representative Tricia Farley Bouvier--all of whom have endorsed the Senator--also made appearances throughout the event. The house party also featured live music from Wheatus lead singer, and progressive activist, Brendan Brown.

"This is another example of our grassroots organizing success," said Campaign Manager John Walsh. "Our campaign is based on relational organizing -- friend-to-friend and neighbor-to-neighbor engagement. During this challenging time, we continue to organize in new and innovative ways, and our house parties are part of the enthusiasm and dedication of our supporters. And while we can't yet have house parties in the traditional sense, we can still come together."

The Markey Campaign's grassroots organizing has adapted to the public health crisis through social media, livestreams on the work Senator Markey is undertaking to combat the coronavirus pandemic, benefit concert, and digital

After winning 70 percent of the support at local city and town caucuses earlier this year--a significant grassroots achievement-the Markey campaign then turned in over 27,000 nomination signatures to the Secretary of State's Office. The campaign's digital

team has also designed a breakthrough grassroots tool allowing anyone interested in becoming involved with the Markey Campaign to create and distribute their own supporter page at: support.edmarkey.com. After launching the tool earlier this spring, hundreds of supporter pages identifying thousands of supporters have been created.

Budget //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Edwards said Both the COVID -19 pandemic and the protests after the murder of Floyd have made it clear there is a need for structural change.

"While I would like to see a different allocation of resources than what's in the proposed budget, I don't believe that voting "no" on this year's budget is going to bring about the systemic change we need at this time," she said. "The potential consequences of denying this budget are too great for me to risk. I have received many calls from constituents concerned about losing their jobs or parts of their salary if the budget isn't approved. Those are concerns that have weighed heavily on me as I make this decision."

Edwards said she also received many calls from constituents concerned that the current budget proposal does not reflect the values they'd like to see our city invest in.

"These concerns have been on my mind as well," said Edwards. "As I've thought about this vote, I've also thought about how I can answer these calls for change, justice, and investment in our future."

Edwards said this year she will pass or complete an agenda in the Council that includes charter reform language that structurally changes how the city allocates funds and changes budgetary powers as a city council.

She also plans to introduce a zoning amendment that incorporates civil rights into zoning and re-

than 400 young people

every year in programs in

songwriting and perfor-

July 8 online shoppers will

pick up orders at the Farm-

ers Market and customers

can simply pick up their

orders between 3:30 and

6:30 p.m. at the market's

pre-order pick-up Tent on

Border Street across from

Marshalls in Liberty Plaza.

In August, home delivery

While COVID-19 in-

quires developers to integrate communities and end neighborhood patterns of segregation. This would include reforming the Zoning Board of Appeals by adding environmental and urban planners to the board and changing the standard for granting a variance.

Edwards also called for structurally changing how the city keeps people safe by passing an ordinance creating a fourth level of first response for nonemergency and nonviolent concerns as well as protecting civil liberties by banning facial recognition surveil-

Edwards also called on making sweeping changes to the overtime contract for Boston Police.

"The above efforts require real work, collaboration, and conversation. It is about more than one vote, it is several votes, plus lobbying, researching, negotiating, and grassroots organizing," said Edawrds. "The fact is the easiest thing I could do is vote "no" on the budget. But I didn't take this job for the easy, temporary victories. I'm in it for the long haul. That is systemic. I am voting for the budget and pushing for real change right now. I can tell you what my "yes" vote will bring for my district and policy. I'm still waiting to know what the "no" vote will do for either. I can't say to any worker that they were worth the sacrifice, even temporarily, for an undefined goal with an undefined timeline."

While she said she knows that a lot of people are frus-

trated by the fact that the budget doesn't answer the cry for systemic change, the system doesn't allow for that kind of change or even conversation.

"If you are really tired of false choices between workers and an ok budget, join me in reforming the system," she said. "I'd rather break the wheel through charter reform than pretend that voting "no" does anything but continue the systemic false choice by working within the system."

In Mayor Walsh's budget the reallocated Boston Police overtime funds will fund the following;

\$3 million for the BPHC to begin implementing the eight strategies he outlined in his declaration

\$1 million to support trauma teams and counseling services at the BPHC

\$2 million in new funding for community-based programs, such as violence intervention grants, youth programming, language and food access, Immigrant Advancement, the Age Strong Commission and the **Human Rights Commission**

\$2 million for additional public mental health services through a partnership between the Boston Police Department and Boston Medical Center Emergency Services Program or BEST

\$2 million to support economic development initiatives to support minority and women owned businesses

\$2 million to provide additional housing supports and youth homelessness programs



Zumix staff and participants during last year's annual Walk for Music. Zumix hopes this year's Walk for Music will raise \$50,000 for the popular Eastie youth music program.

Zumix // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing has stopped us from walking together. This year, COVID-19 presents a unique challenge because we cannot walk together in person. However, that will not stop us from holding the Walk for Music as a virtual walk-a-thon."

The virtual Walk for Music will take place on Sunday, July 12, and has already raised \$29,310 towards Zumix's \$50,000 Donations for the Walk

for Music can be made to https://www.firstgiving. com/event/zumix/Walkfor-Music-2020. For more information on how to participate contact Zumix's Director of Development Kimberly Dawson at kdawson@zumix.org.

"We can't walk together, but we can still sing, laugh, learn, create and band together," said Steczynski. "Our young people are the hope for a better future and we are bolstering the next generation to thrive."

The Walk for Music is one of Zumix's largest fundraisers each year. The money raised through this event makes it possible for Zumix to provide high-quality private lessons and group programs to over 1,000 young people each

"Since the pandemic hit, we haven't skipped a beat as all of our programs are continuing remotely," said Steczynski.

Zumix was created to empower youth to use mu-

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, July 7, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. a public MEETING of the East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc., (aka PIERPAC) will be held via remote participation in light of the ongoing State of Emergency declared in connection with the COVID-19 Pandemic A web link and Details on how to participate remotely shall be provided on the organization's website www.ebpierpac.org on or before July 1, 2020 at which time you may register to participate

It is the intention of the Committee to discuss in open meeting the following matter(s):

a. Attendance 6:30
b. Approval of Minutes from February 2020 meeting 6:35 p.m. (5 minutes)

OLD BUSINESS

c. Massport informational updates 6:40 p.m. (15 minutes)
- Parking at Phase II Site
- Tall Ship docked at East Boston Waterfront

d. Review and Discussion of proposed amended by-laws 6:55 p.m. (20

minutes)
Review/Discussion/Update – renewal of the Operation Security and
Maintenance Agreement 7:15 p.m. (20 minutes)
Other New Business 7:35 p.m. (10 minutes)
Adjournment of public meeting – estimated 7:45 p.m.

At the conclusion of its regular business meeting and prior to adjournment, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board may hold an Executive Session pursuant to G. L. 30A. s.21 upon the conclusion of which, the Board will not resume its public meeting. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED AND WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE

A copy of this notice has also been posted on the organization's website at: www.EBPierPAC.org
and has also been placed on file with the Regulations Division of the Secretary of the
Commonwealth by mailing same via first class mail at least 5 days prior to the scheduled date of
the meeting.

has grown to serve more and creative technology.

and safety of the public and farmers that will be on hand to sell their goods.

will host special shopping hours for seniors. The designated shopping hours for those 60 plus or others at high risk for COVID-19 will be each Wednesday from 3 to 3:30 p.m.

priority. The East Boston Farmers Market will continue to provide access to affordable, local and farm-fresh food during the COVID-19 said Slamet. "The 2020 season will be different in many ways to protect shop-

pers, farmers, and staff. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and look forward to seeing you there."

The Farmers Market has launched a new online ordering and delivery service to this year's market.

Shoppers who do not feel

comfortable with spending

time shopping at the mar-

ket can simply pay for their

"Your health is our top pandemic," you pick-up.

There will also be designated entrances and exits to

instrumental instruction, through in-school partnerships with East Boston mance, community radio, High School and the Umana Middle School Acade-The Farmers Market

They serve an additional

400 young people per year

my. The powerful impact of the program is illustrated by the fact that in the past 4 years, percent of its graduates enrolled in college.

Farmer's Market //continued from page 1 produce using the Whats-Good app. Beginning on

EBNHC's Program Co-

sic to make strong, posi-

tive change in their lives,

their communities, and

the world. Since its found-

ing in 1991, the program

ordinator for Community Initiatives Nancy Slamet said the Health Center has printed new fliers for the weekly market highlighting changes that put an emphasis on health in safety. For example the market

> will also be an option for those who do not feel comfortable venturing down to the market.

fections continue on the downswing in Eastie and Boston Slamet said the organizers are asking residents to please stay home if they are sick and wear a mask and maintain social distance from others when Slamet said when coming to the Farmers Market do not come if you are sick

or have been exposed to COVID-19. Masks or face coverings must be worn at all times. Only bring children if you have no other option but children must stay beside you. No pets are allowed at this year;s mar-

market. In order to avoid personal contact the Farmers Market staff is urging shoppers the Central Square Farmers to refrain from using cash

whenever they can and in-

now has two specific entrances. The entrance for the main market will be at the corner of Saratoga Street and Border Street. The entrance for Farmer Dave's stand will be at the intersection of Meridian Street and Central Square. Only a limited number of shoppers will be allowed at any time inside the market and you may have to wait to enter the market. Before shopping the

EBNHC would like customers to sanitize or wash your hands at one of our hand-washing stations when you enter the market. Shoppers must follow the one-way traffic flow of the market with no backtracking. Shoppers can go through the shopper's loop in the main market area again if they want to make another round. Shoppers must also re-

main six feet away from other shoppers and vendors are not allowed to touch reusable bags. There will also be no

eating allowed inside the

stead pay with debit, credit cards, and apps if possible. Other acceptable forms of payment include WIC coupons, Senior coupons, SNAP/food stamps/EBT, and P-EBT.

SNAP/EBT customers receive a 100 percent incentive (a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$40-\$80, depending on household size) for each SNAP dollar spent on targeted fruits and vegetables purchased at the Farmers Market.

WIC supports farmers as well as good nutrition through the Farmers Market Nutrition Program. WIC Farmers Market coupons may be used at the East Boston Farmers Market on fresh, uncut fruits and vegetables.

Also eligible seniors can contact the senior agency that serves their town to find out when and where Senior Farmers Market Coupons will be distributed. Senior Farmers Market coupons may be used on fresh, uncut fruits and vegetables and honey.

The 2020 list of local farmers and vendors for this year's market can be seen on our website by visiting: http://eastietimes. com/?p=15561

Eastie's Nina Gaeta Coletta and Magdelena LaBattaglia picked as 'Commonwealth Heroine's'

By John Lynds

Two East Boston women that have made a huge impact on the quality of life for countless fellow residents were picked as 2020 Commonwealth Heroines.

Nina Gaeta Coletta and Magdelena LaBattaglia were honored last week as members of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women's 2020 class of Commonwealth Heroines.

Senator Joe Boncore and Representative Adrian Madaro recommended Coletta and LaBattaglia for this recognition because of their strong commitment to the East Boston Communi-

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women virtually celebrated the 17th Annual Commonwealth Heroines Class of 2020 with a slideshow provided through a shared link last Wednesday. As a lifelong East Bos-

ton resident, Coletta serves as the Director of the East Boston High School Family Center, where she empowers and mentors families through a range of circumstances.

In addition to ensuring youth have access to fundamental resources through her role as Key

Club advisor, she encourages them to volunteer in a variety of activities, including the community's annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner and Eastie's Elves, the largest holiday toy drive in our area. Coletta is an ardent ad-

vocate for improvements to our public schools. She has contributed to numerous community efforts, including the Kiwanis Club, the Impact Advisory Group (IAG) for a major development in our neighborhood, and the Edwards Empowerment Fund.

She has also modeled a love of service to her community for her fellow East Boston residents, instilling in them a strong commitment to civic duty.

"Thank you to State rep Adrian Madaro for nominating me as a Commonwealth Heroine for 2020. It's brought me great joy to assist families and youth at EBHS," said Coletta, who has been recovering from a bad bout of COVID-19. "It's allowed me the opportunity to ensure we all shine our brightest and support my beloved community.

Thank you to my family including my husband Ed and my children for their love. Please wear your masks to stop the spread of COVID-19!"

LaBattaglia is Founder and Executive Director of The Harborkeepers, an East Boston based grassroots coastal resiliency organiza-

A multilingual native of Argentina who grew up in New York and New Jersey with a Bachelor's from Montclair University in International Relations, LaBattaglia came to Boston in 2003 to work and raise a family. She very quickly dis-

covered that Boston, as a coastal city, experiences a dichotomy between socio-political economic progress and the challenge to building equitable resiliency. LaBattaglia said she believes these changes will require shifting the resiliency narrative and making systemic changes in climate resiliency-building, multi-sector collaboration and developing more innovative models of stakeholder engagement.

She brings her extensive experience in community engagement, cross-sector partnership building skills and knowledge of multicultural sensitivity to find points of collaboration between diverse stakeholders in order to advance local, state and regional climate resiliency plans and assure that environmental policies work for more impacted communities. "I'm humbled and grate-

ful to have this recognition by Senator Boncore's office and the Commonwealth,' said LaBattaglia. "This critical coastal resiliency work in East Boston would not be possible if it wasn't for the support, partnerships and collaboration of a wide range of community, city and State stakeholders. I plan on continuing doing that deep resiliency work with passion and dedication until we, as a community, build a more resilient coastal neighborhood."

Commonwealth Heroines are women who don't make the news, but make the difference. Thousands of women in every community of the state perform unheralded acts on a daily basis that make our homes, neighborhoods, cities, and towns better places to live. Commonwealth Heroines use their time, talent, spirit, and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others



Magdelena LaBattaglia.



Nina Coletta.

in their community. They are mentors, volunteers, and innovators who strive to protect and represent the interests of seniors, victims of violence, children, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations. They are the glue that keeps a community together.

"Magdalena embodies the very definition of the Commonwealth's Unsung Heroines as someone 'who doesn't always make the news, but truly makes the difference,' which is why I was so proud to nominate her for this recognition,' said Sen. Boncore. "Magdalena has a vision for East Boston's future; one that is equitable, sustainable, and uplifts our entire community. She is a fierce advocate for environmental justice, climate action, and access to recreation. Nina's commitment to the East Boston community and her dedicated work with our youth make her equally deserving of this recognition. We are so grateful to both Magdalena and Nina for their leadership and service."

Rep. Madaro called Coletta and LaBattaglia "bedrocks of the Eastie community".

"Nina's hard work supporting youth and families across our neighborhood, and Magdalena's environmental and educational initiatives along our waterfront are outstanding" said Rep. Madaro. "Their tireless dedication and commitment to volunteerism is an inspiration to us all, and we are all thankful for their longtime efforts to foster community spirit. As amazing mentors to East Boston's youth, Nina and Magdalena's strength, resiliency, and positive spirit make them both true embodiments of Commonwealth Heroines."

NOAH receives Boston Resiliency funding to provide emergency gift

By John Lynds

Eastie's Neighborhood

of Affordable Housing (NOAH) that has focused on helping residents during the COVID-19 pandemic received additional grant money from the Boston Resiliency Fund this week. Mayor Martin Walsh an-

nounced the fund's Steering Committee distributed \$500,000 in funding to the Eastie organization as well as 17 others across Boston during the 11th round of the Boston Resiliency Fund.

NOAH has been helping to support the neighborhood's most vulnerable residents since the pandemic began. "Through the generosity

of so many individuals and organizations, the Boston Resiliency Fund has allowed us to support over 225,000 Boston families in every neighborhood of our city," said Mayor Walsh. "We will continue to use this incredible generosity to partner with our most impactful community based

organizations to support our residents and families in need." NOAH's Executive Director Phil Giffee said

NOAH will use the funding

cards to Boston households severely impacted by the pandemic, especially those facing financial hardship and/or experiencing home-

NOAH's staff, volun-

teers, and partners will distribute emergency grocery gifts to between 50 and 70 households weekly. The amounts of the emergency grocery gift cards given will range from \$50 to \$200, depending on the size

of the households. 'NOAH is proud to partner with the City in these life-saving emergency relief measures," said Giffee. "With the weakened economy and so many layoffs, thousands of hard working families are bereft of income. It is down to survival for adults and children. Fortunately we will live in a community which has a strong moral code and wants to help people, no matter their background or status. NOAH has been providing emergency food relief for months now. We know how to be efficient and we know who needs assistance. There is a sol-

id network here in East

Boston. We are glad for

this support and we will

disperse it wisely."

Since the first round of fund distribution, the Fund has raised over \$32 million from over 6,400 donors. The Fund serves every neighborhood in Boston, but has focused on the neighborhoods hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Resiliency Fund has allowed the City of Boston to provide critical services and supports.

"Every child and adult in Boston should be able to go to bed nourished and secure in the knowledge that tomorrow and every day after, their essential food needs will be met," said Aziza Musa, Director of Philanthropic Partnerships at Health Leads. "We are incredibly grateful for this philanthropic investment from the Boston Resiliency Fund. This donation enables Health Leads to uncover and address the structural barriers and inequities preventing families from accessing critical food and other essential health resources. Together, we can ensure that those hardest hit by the pandemic and its secondary socioeconomic impact are able to receive the essential health resources they need, when they

need them the most."

Even during times of crisis, Roca continues to prove that change is possible

Nobody wants to be defined by their challenges but Covid-19 has highlighted a crisis among a population that, in the best of times, was struggling to thrive. Roca believes in the most vulnerable young adults in the Commonwealth. They are a human service organization, with 5 sites across Massachusetts (Boston, Chelsea, Lynn, Holyoke and Springfield) and a site in Baltimore, MD. Roca engages with young adults, police and systems in the center of urban violence to address trauma, find hope and drive change. The young people that

Roca works with live with fear that never turns off. They are at the center of urban violence and poverty, they are court and gang involved, have not finished high school, have no job history and don't know where they are sleeping tonight. Amongst this group is over 200 of the highest-risk, highly-traumatized, systems-involved young mothers in Massachusetts. They are not willing to accept home visitors, not ready to go to education or training programs, and in need of intensive outreach and case management over several years. This group of young mothers falls between the cracks of most current state and federal

The Covid-19 crisis has drawn these women from the shadows and has truly highlighted the disparities of an already unequal system. While teen pregnancy rates are declining across Massachusetts, they are increasing within this group, exacerbated by increasing domestic violence. When times are tough, more people are in need, which exacerbates these disparities.

Laura started in Roca's Young Mothers' Program two years ago when pregnant with her third child, referred by DCF after losing custody of her daughters (then) ages 1 and 3 as a result of domestic violence. She came to Roca with low literacy, diligently worked on her basic literacy and ESL, and finally confronted her reality. She filed a restraining order against per partner and started domestic violence and parenting classes. After 1.5 years and 3

DCF workers, Laura finally regained custody of her two daughters, now 4 and 6. She got a housing voucher and moved into a small apartment in Everett, ready for a fresh start. Then, the pandemic hit and so did an unprecedented economic crisis. Laura lost her job, her childcare and was unable to pay her rent. She was

threatened with eviction and was unable to get into a shelter. Laura was scared. She had Covid-19 symptoms, but was afraid to get tested out of fear of being separated from her children and potentially losing them again. On May 25, it got worse as Laura found out that she did have Covid-19. "The day started out so great" she said. "I was celebrating because after almost two years, my DCF case was closing. I have worked so hard and now, I am beside myself."

Sunindiya Bhalla, Chief of 2gen programming at Roca said: "Our young moms program is already experiencing the negative effects of this health and economic crisis. We've had to turn away referrals and are looking at graduating some of our participants

earlier due to monetary constraints." When asked to describe her participants, she said "Our young mothers are amazing. They are resilient, courageous and nothing is more important to them than their children. But as we become unable to support the needs of our moms and their kids, they will cost the state even more over the coming years."

Even during this health crisis, Roca's nationally recognized programming is transforming the lives of these young women by providing a safe environment for mothers to succeed and for their children to thrive. This team continues to provide socially-distant in person outreach, intensive crisis intervention and case management, and has dramatically increased virtual programming.

Despite their challenges, thirty (30) young mothers have closed their DCF cases with Roca's help in the past year. In the past three months of the COVID-19 pandemic, young mothers have increased participation in educational and behavioral health programming. Roca has also launched a domestic violence support group and has expanded their parenting classes during a time with it is needed more than ever. 'We give our moms and their kids the support they need," said Scott Scharffenberg, executive Director of Roca, MA. "We have engaged and committed partners who like our organization, are forced to tighten our belts and make tough decisions due to this economic crisis that isn't going

For more information on Roca, Inc., please go to their website: www.ro-

away any time soon. "

COVID-19 Update //continued from Page 1

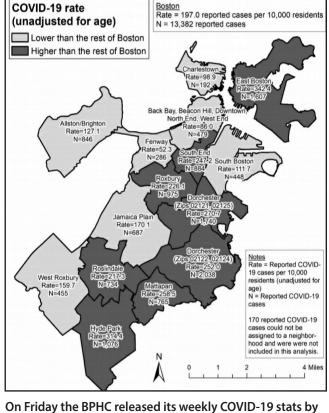
tive, down from 28.1 percent reported last week.

However, Eastie still leads the city in the percentage of residents testing positive for COVID-19. Places like Mattapan, parts of Dorchester and Hyde Park all experienced a big drop in positive tests last week. For example only 4 percent of Mattapan residents tested last week were COVID positive.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID-19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus rose only .08 percent from 13,326 cases to 13,441 cases in a week. So far 9,384 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus.

Deaths from COVID-19 deaths to the 709 deaths rerose 1.7 percent from 697



neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

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East Boston

Times-Free Press

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ENJOY A SAFE FOURTH OF JULY

It goes without saying that this will be a Fourth of July unlike any other in the history of our nation.

Americans traditionally have celebrated the Fourth both with large community gatherings and with smaller get-togethers.

The Fourth of July rekindles fond memories from our childhood of the times when we spent the holiday with our families and friends for gatherings at barbecues, at the beach, and at municipal fireworks displays in the evenings.

However, the coronavirus has changed everything. The recent attempts by states to reopen their economies, even in those states that were the most cautious and with seemingly well-designed plans, have resulted in skyrocketing rates of infection that have placed millions of Americans at risk of contracting this dreaded disease.

A story on a cable news channel earlier this week highlighted a California family in which 18 family members contracted COVID-19, with some requiring lengthy hospitalization and one, the family patriarch, dying. There was no single gathering at which the infection

could have been spread. The family thought that they had been taking the proper precautions during their interac-

However, the disease only needed a small window of opportunity to be transmitted among three generations of this family, with tragic results.

In addition to the coronavirus, the Fourth of July in 2020 comes amidst unprecedented unrest and turmoil throughout our nation. The tragic events and subsequent protests and demonstrations have demonstrated that our nation utterly has failed to live up to the lofty ideals upon which we were founded:

"... that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happi-

When Thomas Jefferson wrote those words, he literally meant "men" only, and white men in particular. His lofty language was the ultimate in political hypocrisy: It did not apply to millions of enslaved persons nor to women, who were considered not much more than their husband's prop-

It is indisputable that those twin legacies have cast a shadow over the promise of America that continues today, 244 years later.

Another "traditional" aspect of the Fourth of July is that it encourages far too many among us to engage in behavior that is risky not only to ourselves, but to our loved ones and others around us.

Fireworks are illegal for everybody, and in no event should be allowed in the hands of children. It is a sad -- but inevitable -- fact that countless Americans will be maimed for life because of accidents involving fireworks this weekend.

Alcohol abuse is rampant in our country and the Fourth unfortunately provides an opportunity -- which is to say, another excuse -- for those who have alcohol abuse issues to indulge way more than they should, especially when operating a boat or automobile.

It is the responsibility of each of us to ensure that the Fourth is enjoyed safely not only by ourselves, but by those whom we care about. If someone has had too much to drink, take their keys. None of us wants to say to ourselves the next day, "If only I had not let them drive..."

In addition to those usual safety precautions, we also must ensure that however we celebrate the Fourth this year, we must do so wearing masks and observing physical distancing -- none of us wants to be the cause of another person's death because we were the vector who brought the coronavirus to a family member or loved one.

Admittedly, this is not a happy time in America. But we

must make the best of it.

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and safe -- Fourth

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INDEPENDENCE DAY ..

GUEST OP-ED

Juneteenth to July 4th — The Promise Matters

By Phil Giffee

This weekend, we rightfully celebrate the human centered principles upon which our nation was founded, but it is also a moment for reflection, confession, justice and eventually, healing. But healing cannot happen with words alone, that is why the urgent but unfulfilled Promise of July 4th Matters to us all, especially now!

From Juneteenth to July 4th is a mere two weeks, but it's taking a couple centuries longer for the promise of freedom, equality and opportunity to be more than a belated memo delivered to Black American citizens in our struggling and beloved nation. We need to do much better, faster, so current BLM calls for Re-allocating the Police budget to spending more on services including housing and demilitarizing the way we approach safety and security are small but secure first steps we need to endorse in order to deliver on the promises of our Declaration of Independence and

our Constitution. I know some are offended by (BLM) Black Lives Matter. I'm not. We need to hear their urgency. In our laws, if there are legitimate grievances, and the people cannot get responses, the people have rights to petition the government for redress. That is what these largely peaceful protests are about. I am not defending random looting or the torching of police cars, but righteous anger over repeated and deadly chokeholds, unannounced forced entries, relentless poverty and massive incarceration of young Black men is just not acceptable. We are much the poorer for repressing the talent, skills, passions and beauty in the Black community. Repres-

sion, neglect, no longer. It makes some uncomfortable I know, but meaningful change does not come easy, politically or personally – me either. Certainly the public murders and killings of unarmed Black men and women over these past years give graphic credence to those who think everyone is (or has been) equal and no affirmative responses are required. These are not Black problems. Our fellow citizens did not cause their own lynchings, burn crosses, assassinate leaders, deny mortgages, or ask to live in poverty. Nor are these just policing problems. Our system has been training folks, and ourselves, in this bellicose way for generations. These Blues, men and women are on the front line of order and safety, and we respect them, but true order and safety come through mutual respect, good jobs, solid families, small businesses, low crime rates, affordable housing, decent schools, houses of worship....

Now is a time for re-training. It is likely we all need re-training, re-thinking. Me too. A good deal of the kind of work needed is not the kind of work Police want to do anyway. Fortunately, in Boston, the City is ahead of the game and willing to go further to make the system equitable and safe. Yes, there is a debate about how far, how fast. Locally, we thank Councilor Edwards for working for sophisticated resolutions that meet budget needs as well as the need for re-allocation of resources. We thank the Mayor for his heavy investments in housing and openness to reforms. We encourage continued dialogue and debate on these critical issues.

For NOAH's part in the racial pandemic amidst the COVID contagion, in alignment with our Mission* we will:

- Listen to and work alongside voices of dissent to better understand problems and potential solutions
- Accept the discomfort that accompanies significant changes; respect the voices of those who are not yet ready
- Promote non-violence in all we do.

- Be inclusive and non-partisan in our approach - Re-commit ourselves
- to justice and equality of opportunity - Stand with those who propose extensions to eviction moratoriums and sup-
- port lenders and landlords in restructuring debt so no one is harmed - Push for more housing funds for Rent Relief as well as affordable and
- workforce housing at the City and State levels - We respect the flag; respect those who serve; respect those who 'take a

knee'; even respect those

who won't respect those

- who do. - Recognizing that discrimination has kept people in poverty for centuries and that there are wide disparities in wealth, we support City/State funding and public/private partnerships which build good schools and systems which will support families and respect women at the same
- Women of all cultures have been marginalized and discriminated against forever. Like Black Americans, it took a Constitutional Amendments to permit women and people of color to vote. We cannot forget women are only beginning their journey to full personhood and participation in the life of our nation.
- Since this is a moment focusing on equality, we realize that human rights are for LGBTQ, Trans, Native Americans and others who have faced significant discrimination
- East Boston is half a LatinX community. We will support true immigration reform which encourages a path towards citizenship for our undocumented neighbors. We encourage people to sign up for the 2020 Census so Massachusetts does not lose funding opportunities for resources such as tax credits for hous-
- We will work with others to encourage Everyone to vote, not for a particular

party, just vote!

- We will continue to build leaders of all backgrounds in the community so residents can raise their voice and be heard in the democratic process
- We will fund youth environmental work. Young people need to get involved in community affairs, particularly in climate change and environmental activities. After all, it's their fu-
- Young working adults can bring new blood, ideas and capital to a neighborhood, build culture and thrive, but absentee investors and speculators 'need not apply.' We will continue to work with the City and other non-profits such as City Life to prevent displacement and protect vulnerable tenants
- Climate Change/ Sea-level rise/extreme temperatures threaten the economic well-being and safety of all East Boston residents, no matter their background. We will work with the City, multiple neighborhood tions, small businesses and like-minded non-profits such as Belle Isle Marsh, GreenRoots, Mary Ellen Welch Greenway advocates, Harborkeepers, Eastie Farms, NUBE, UCB and others to preserve the integrity and vitality of our pre-
- We will continue to raise funds and spends tens of thousands of dollars to work with our local non-profits to provide Emergency Food Relief for vulnerable or undocumented families in our community thrown out of work by

cious neighborhood.

We believe each person has their own interior beauty and God-given attributes, no matter the color of their skin. As Dr Martin Luther King said shortly before he was murdered by a white supremacist (and there are still plenty out there and some in the highest levels of government), "I have a dream that my four little

See OP-ED Page 7

LETTER to the Editor

EDWARDS IS ON THE MARK

Dear Editor:

As a retired police officer of 28 years who retired in 2013, i thought City Councilor Lydia Edwards was right on point in her recent commentary (Progressives too, can back the blue, June 22)

Edwards is right that in today's hostile atmosphere filled with righteous emotion sometimes does highlight the worse of every issue and pushes all of us into opposite corners

in some kind of boxing match. As she states and I wholly agree, "Life isn't black or white...in order to move forward from this moment together, we need to learn how to have tough conversations...about the changes (needed) to see

and working to make those

happen."

We are all Americans and we should always have more in common than what separates us. We can emerge stronger together.

Sal Giarratani

Your opinions, please:

The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is 781-485-1403. Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@eastietimes.com. Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

Boston Pops to air virtual 4th of July special; no live fireworks

By Lauren Bennett

This year, instead of gathering around the Hatch Shell, you'll have to gather around your tele-vision for the Boston Pops virtual Fourth of July spectacular. There will be no live performance or fireworks on the Esplanade this year because of COVID-19.

The three hour special, which is set to broadcast on Bloomberg Television and Radio, as well as simulcast on WHDH-TV from 8-11pm on July 4, is called "A Boston Pops Salute to Our He-roes" and will honor those who have fought on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic and those who have lost their lives. Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart has expressed his sadness that the Pops won't be able to perform live, but they are looking forward to present-ing this special to viewers near and far.

"All of us at the Boston Pops are pleased to have this opportunity to present A Boston Pops Salute to Our Heroes, a special broadcast that will pay trib-

ute to the many frontline workers who continue to do so much to keep our communities safe and running during the COVID-19 pandemic," Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart said in a statement.

"One of the positive things we have learned during the last few months is that even in the mid-dle of a health crisis so many Americans are strong, resilient, helpful, and hopeful. It has been absolutely inspiring to see our frontline workers show such extraordinary dedication to the well-being of others, with their amazing acts of sacrifice, generosity, support, and kindness, as well as the incredible skill and knowhow they bring to every situation. We also think it is es-sential to address one of the most crucial/fundamental themes of our times the truth that we must do better as a people to confront racism and achieve a just and equal society for every-one throughout our country. These messages of honor, unity, diversity, equality, and fellowship will resound throughout the 2020 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular broadcast by way of inspiring retrospective performances by our most popular artists of the last few years, side by side with brand new content developed over the last two months."

As previously reported by the Boston Sun, the special will highlight memorable moments from previous Boston Pops Fireworks Spectaculars, such as performances by Melissa Etheridge, Andy Grammer, Queen Latifah, and others, along with an appearance by the first youth poet laureate of the United States, Amanda Gorman, according to a release from the Boston Sym-phony Orchestra (BSO).

The program will also feature new content, including a performance by singer Renese King and Keith Lockhart on the piano, as well as a video performance by the Boston Pops of their re-cent "viral hit" Summon the Heroes, which will feature an introduction by the song's composer, John Williams. Other new content includes a



The Boston Pops, led by Keith Lockhart, at a previous July 4th Fireworks Spectacular on the Charles River Esplanade. Due to COVID-19, this year's celebration will be purely broadcast on TV and radio.

virtual performance by the Boston Pops Viola Section of "Over the Rainbow," a performance of Leroy Anderson's Bugler's Holiday by the BSO Trumpet Section, and a video message from General James C. Mc-Conville, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

"Look for surprises throughout the evening; special messages from musical and community figures, and a tribute to our nation's first responders that we're going to put together," Lock-hart said in a recent announcement.

Also included in the special are Boston Pops traditions such as the patriotic sing-along, a per-formance of John Philip Sousa's The Stars and Stripes Forever, a performance of Tchaikovsky's "1812" Overture, the US Army Field Band and Soldiers Chorus, and a fireworks display from past years to round out the program. Brian Stokes Mitchell will open the program with "America the Beauti-

According to the BSO release, Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart will also "put a special focus on intrinsic messages of the Independence Day holiday and fundamental themes of our times around achieving

a just and equal society for everyone."

The show will be hosted by Keith Lockhart and Kim Carrigan, Joe Shortsleeve, and Janet Wu of Bloomberg Media.

Additionally, the Boston Pops is asking fans to participate in the Great American Picnic Sweepstakes.

"Between now and July 6, the Boston Pops wants to spotlight the many ways people around the country plan for and celebrate the Fourth," the BSO said in a release. "Contest partici-pants can snap a photo or film a video of their celebration and post them on Facebook, Insta-gram, or Twitter. By tagging #Great-AmericanPicnic @thebostonpops participants will be auto-matically entered into a sweepstakes for a chance to win great prizes," such as "prime seat-ing" for the 2021 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular, with airfare and hotel accommodations for four guests, the release states.

Up to ten winners can also be the recipient of a "Be a Star!" video, where participants can "kitchen spoons, shake maracas, snap fingers, or play air guitar and we'll edit it together with footage of the Pops to create a video keepsake," according to the release. A third prize includes a Coca-Cola branded Yeti cooler with a variety of products.

For more details and sweepstakes rules, visit bso.org.

The BSO and Boston Pops are also seeking donations, "as these challenging times of COVID-19 force the cancellation of live performances by the Boston Pops (its 2020 spring season) and Boston Symphony Orchestra (part of its 2020-21 Symphony Hall season and the entire live performance season at Tanglewood)..." the release states. Visit www.bostonpops.org/donatetoday make a donation.

For a complete list of how to watch the broadcast, visit bostonpopsjuly4th.

"We hope everyone throughout the country will gather around their televisions or radios, or watch the show on their phones or tablets," Lockhart said, "and join us as we show our ap-preciation for the heroes of our times and celebrate the intrinsic messages of Independence Day that unite us all in this great and beautifully diverse country."

Performances from previous Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular Programs are as follows in order of appearance, as provided by the BSO:

- Broadway legend Brian **Stokes Mitchell sings "America** the Beautiful" and "Wheels of a Dream"
- · Amanda Mena, America's Got Talent semifinalist from Lynn, MA, sings Pink's What About US and the national anthem with the U.S. Navy Sea Chanters
- · American folk-rock singer-songwriter Melissa Etheridge performs her mega-hit "I Wanna Come Over"
- Amanda Gorman, first-ever Youth Poet Laureate of the United States, performs a new take on the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" entitled "Believer's

Hymn for the Republic"

- Broadway star Leslie Odom, Jr., sings "Sarah" from The Civil War, and "Without You" from Rent
- · Grammy Award-winning artist Rhiannon Giddens, lead singer, violinist, banjo player, and a founding member of the acclaimed country, blues, and old-time music band the Carolina Chocolate Drops, performs her hits "Pretty Little Girl" and "She's Got You"
- · Rita Moreno, iconic singer/actor/dancer and winner of the Academy Award for best sup-porting actress for the 1961 film version of West

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Side Story, narrates excerpts from Ellis Island: The Dream of

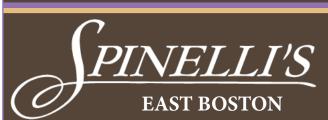
- · Great American folk singer-songwriter, Arlo Guthrie and The Texas Tenors sing "This Land Is Your Land"
- The incomparable Queen Latifah, American rapper, singer, songwriter, actress, and pro-ducer sings "Mercy, Mercy,
- Multi-platinum Singer/ Songwriter Andy Grammer performs his hit "Give Love"
- The U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus join the **Pops for "The Stars and Stripes**



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Kennedy responds to Tom Steyer endorsement

Staff report

Congressman Joe Kennedy III issued a statement regarding billionaire Tom Steyer's endorsement of Senator Ed Markey in the U.S. Senate race.

In 2013, Steyer funneled hundreds of thousands of outside dollars into Massa-

chusetts to help elect Senator Markey. At the time, the Senator had entered into a People's Pledge with then-opponent, Congressman Stephen Lynch. Markey denounced the Steyer money, with his campaign saying: "Ed Markey has repeatedly repudiated Tom Steyer's threats and ultimatums in this race and

once again calls on him to end his involvement in the special election. This race should be focused on big issues, not big-money outside interests.'

Steyer's endorsement today follows Senator Markey's decision to allow another Super PAC to formally enter the race for

him, spending \$200,000 in non-disclosed dollars to help prop up his campaign already this month.

For months, Congressman Kennedy has been asking the Senator to sign a People's Pledge to keep dark money out of the primary. The People's Pledge can only go into effect if

both candidates sign the agreement.

"I have made it clear that I want to run this race without Super PACs, without dark money, and focused solely on the issues and on the merits of our candidacies," said Congressman Joe Kennedy III. "That's why, so far, I have rejected Super PAC money on my behalf. From day one of the campaign, I have asked Senator Markey to sign the same pledge he signed seven years earlier. But Senator Markey — a so-called progressive champion — has refused and already allowed dark money to infiltrate this race. That is why, for the last time, I am calling on Senator Markey to finally commit to transparency and sign the People's Pledge with me — the same pledge he signed in 2013. An agreement only works if both parties sign the pledge.'

Five Eastie schools get art expansion grants from EdVestors

By John Lynds

With the fear looming that state budget cuts will impact education programs due to the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Ed-Vestors is stepping up to the plate to ensure art remains a vital part of student learning in East Boston.

Last week President & CEO of EdVestors Marinell Rousmaniere announced five Eastie schools will share in \$360,000 in Arts Expansion Grants.

Rousmaniere said with the uncertainty around the nature of next year's school year due to the pandemic, the grants aim to ensure students across Boston continue to receive high-quality arts education which is essential to meeting their academic, social, and emotional needs.

The five Eastie schools, and 55 other schools across the district, will work with more than 30 arts partners across the city focused on ensuring that all BPS students - regardless of where they attend school - have access to a high quality arts education.

In Eastie the Adams Elementary, O'Donnell Elementary, Bradley Elementary, East Boston High School and the McKay K-8 School will receive grant funding.

"Arts education is an integral part of students' social emotional well-being and engagement, whether schooling is in person or remote. The pandemic coupled with the heightened attention to racial injustice has been tremendously difficult for students, and arts education is a powerful and effective tool in helping them to process and share complex emotions," said Rousmaniere. "Schools everywhere should be moving mountains to provide access to quality arts education, as so many BPS

leaders, teachers, and arts partners have done in the last three months. We are proud to work with all our partners in keeping this commitment to ensure BPS students have access to high quality arts education."

Superintendent of the Boston Public School Dr. Brenda Cassellius said the newly announced grants for the 2020-2021 school year highlight the importance of arts education, particularly in the current climate. Cassellius said given the uncertainty and the challenges faced by families throughout Boston, students need arts education now more than ever, as it helps them creatively engage with their classmates and communities, combat isolation, process their feelings, and express themselves.

Throughout the period of remote learning, the arts have thrived in the Boston Public Schools, with arts educators thinking outside the box with ways to ensure their students still have the ability to creatively express themselves.

"For over a decade, the

BPS Arts Expansion initiative has built an incredible legacy in our schools, and the latest round of grants will help support a variety of arts education programs that are essential to meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of students," said Dr. Cassellius. "Arts education and student expression contribute to a student's sense of self and confidence, which is critical now more than ever during these extraordinary and challenging times. We are grateful for these grants and programs, which support our commitment to ensuring access to arts education programs for all students."

Despite school closures, arts programming tinued through the spring with BPS arts teachers and partners providing theater, dance, visual art, and vocal and instrumental musical instruction virtually. In the last month, EdVestors, in partnership with Open Door Arts, an affiliate of Seven Hills Foundation; Boston Public Schools (BPS); Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) and the YMCA of Greater Boston secured and distributed thousands of art supply kits to Boston students in need so they had access to necessary supplies and tools to be creative that are otherwise unavailable to them during the shutdown.

"Over the years, we've been proud to collaborate with BPS, EdVestors and members of the arts community to develop and increase access to innovative arts programming" said Nicole Agois Hurel, Managing Director of Open Door Arts, an affiliate of Seven Hills Foundation that increases access, participation, and representation of people with disabilities in the arts. "Given the unprecedented challenges that students faced in adapting to online learning and the uncertainty concerning what the 2020-2021 school year will look like, the BPS Arts Expansion initiative plays an even more important role in bringing together members of the education and arts communities to ensure that our students have equal access to a wholesome arts education experience."

Over the last 11 years, BPS Arts Expansion has leveraged increased public funding for arts teaching positions in BPS schools, resulting in nearly 17,000 additional students receiving arts instruction during the school day.

Core donors include the Barr Foundation, the Boston Foundation, The Klarman Family Foundation and Linde Family Founda-



RisingEMOTIONS: East Boston was an art installation outside the library on the East Boston Greenway that brought attention to sea-level rise and climate change last summer.

Last year's library art installation up for an award

By John Lynds

Last April, the community joined together at the East Boston Branch Library to unveil an art installation outside the library on the East Boston Greenway that brings attention to sea-level rise and climate change.

Science has told us that Boston expected to experience damaging flood level due to climate change by the end of the century.

With Eastie being particularly vulnerable to the impact of sea level rise the Friends of the Greenway, the library, and community members partnered with Carolina Aragón, public artist and assistant professor of Landscape Architecture and Narges Mahyar, assistant professor of Computer Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst to bring RisingEMOTIONS: East Boston to the neigh-

Using colorful ribbons to signify just how high flood levels could be along the Greenway RisingEMO-TIONS was constructed in collaboration with community groups and was on dis-

play along the Greenway in the front area of the library last summer

The bands were carried across the library's patio and upward against the building windows. The height of the frames and the lines on the building represented the height for the projected 1 percent annual chance flood for Eastie in 2070, about 3.7 feet.

Now the public art installation is up for the internationally acclaimed CODAaward and Eastie residents have been voting online all last week in hopes that Eastie's powerful art installation gets picked.

The annual CODAawards celebrates the projects that most successfully integrate commissioned art into interior, architectural, or public spaces. The CODAawards program honors the individuals and the teams whose collective imaginations create the public and private spaces that inspire us every

The CODAawards jury voted to select the Top 100 most successful design projects and RisingEMO-

TIONS and voting for the "People's Choice" category opened on June 18 and closed on Tuesday.

The final winners will be announced on August 30. All the colorful ribbons

used in RisingEMOTIONS included writing from local students who express their concerns over climate

Some of these writings were very striking and there were a lot of concerns about sea level rise in Eastie.

Professor Mahyar said RisingEMOTIONS project also piloted the implementation of digital technologies to gather data on public's emotions related to flooding due to sea level rise as part of the overall art installation. The goal was to increase the public's engagement with climate issues and connect participants to ongoing governmental and grassroots

RisingEMOTIONS was funded by the Friends of the East Boston Greenway and was supported by the Boston Society of Landscape Architects with scientific data provided by Sustainable Solutions.

Op-Ed //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

I recognize any list is inadequate, but we have to re-start and re-commit to justice and equality. After all, The Flag flies over all of us. It doesn't belong to any one narrow person's view or color, and no one is excluded, especially our Black American brothers and sisters who've helped build this nation in so many ways and for whom this time is most painful still. Our personal response and national character are at stake. The Declaration tells us we have a sacred duty. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men (and women) are cre-

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ated equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Justice demands we act, now. We need to work together to build the Promise of July

Blessings on all of us. Phil Giffee, Executive Director, NOAH

*NOAH's Mission Statement: NOAH, a community development corporation,

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

DACA RECIPIENTS STILL ON EDGE DESPITE **FAVORABLE** RULING

CHELSEA - There might have been a celebration after the Supreme Court decision that rejected President Donald Trump's bid to end the DACA program after more than 10 years, but any such celebration in Chelsea was muted and wary of the fu-

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last week that the DACA program – which allows those brought illegally to the country as children to be held harmless in regards to immigration deportation and work rules. It has been in place for more than 10 years, brought in under great fanfare by President Barack Obama - allowing hundreds of Chelsea young people at the time to go to school, work legally and pursue their dreams.

Now that those young people are grown up, the threat to end DACA made many very nervous, and the decision blocking the effort to end it makes many even more nervous.

"The one thing about the decision is it give the administration a roadmap to maybe try again to revoke authorization," said Daisy Gonzalez, Immigration and Citizenship Coordinator at the Chelsea Collaborative. "Even though it's a victory, we still understand that decision gives the Trump Administration another chance and this roadmap to try again. We believe if he's re-elected, he will try again and they will have a better understanding how to do it properly. We're striving for those with DACA to have permanent residency and eventually citizenship. It's a long way to go."

The decision by the high Court did not reject the proposal outright, but as Gonzalez said, rejected it on a technical problem. The decision identified the problem, and many believe that another effort will be made to file it correctly.

Ahead of the decision, Gonzalez said many residents with DACA were apprehensive to re-file for renewal - worrying they would lose their application fees and maybe they would be identified for deportation if their status was revoked.

Most of the DACA recipients in Chelsea are now older, though when the program was issued, there were many in high school and college. Unfortunately, Gonzalez said a lot of them were not able to finish college due to finances. Being able to work legally, many were counted on to get jobs to support the family and not focus on school.

"A lot of them started out trying to pursue their college education, but due to the economic impacts now and responsibilities they acquired, the simply did not complete the college education they hoped for," she said. "They are now very concerned about their children...They are also concerned about the new public charge laws too. They have a lot of concerns, and this decision was just a temporary relief."

DISCUSSING THE COLUMBUS **STATUE**

CHELSEA - More than 500 years later, Christopher Columbus's checkered past is finally catching up with him – at least in Chelsea and many other communities where he has been honored with statues and celebrations of his voyages.

Several members of the

Chelsea City Council put forth an order at the June 15 Council meeting to immediately take down the Christopher Columbus statue in Chelsea Square and replace it with a thoughtfully designed memorial to the indigenous peoples who inhabited Chelsea prior to

Veneers, Invisalign, Bleaching, Botox Injections

white settlement.

Council President Roy Avellaneda and colleagues Melinda Vega Maldonado, Naomi Zabot, Judith Garcia, Damali Vidot, Enio Lopez and Yamir Rodriguez introduced an order calling for the immediate removal of Columbus. They asked that the Chelsea Historical Commission and the Chelsea Arts and Culture Commission place on their agendas a motion to collaborate a discuss "a memorial for the original indigenous inhabitants of Chelsea to remember their place in Chelsea's history."

Council President Avellaneda moved to pass the order, but was held up by Councillor Giovanni Recupero, who said he would like a conference to discuss the matter. He said he isn't in favor of removing the statue or replacing it. It has stood in its place since Dec. 12, 1938. It proclaims on its base that Columbus was the 'Discoverer of America.'

Councilor Calvin Brown said he felt that the Council needed to slow down the effort, and he advocated for Recupero's conference to discuss it.

"It's been there 70 years so I wonder if we have any obligation to find out any history about it and who put it up," he said. "I don't know the history of it. I think we're moving too fast...I see no problem in the order, but I do see you still have some obligation to the public to have a discussion. We have conferences about almost anything if it's controversial and I think this is controversial."

Councillor Damali Vidot said if the Council is going to fight structural racism, this is the move to make.

"We're talking out of both sides of our mouths if we're talking about fighting structural racism and then we don't want to do this to fight it," she said. "But I'm in favor of dialog all the time."

Said Zabot, "Dialog is always important, but it is also important to stand up always for what we believe

Councillor Todd Taylor said it is important to talk with the community about

TRADE AND TALENT NELSON SALDANA WORKS AS A MECHANIC, SPEAKS AS AN ARTIST



Chelsea artist Nelson Saldana works on his "We Are 1" Mural at the TD Bank building on **Broadway Saturday.**

and then make a decision. He said the place to make the decision is not quickly during a remote Council meeting.

"This is a decision that needs to be made by the community in a discussion," he said. "If the community wants it taken down, take it down. Being a trained historian and understanding how history is taught in American universities, there should be a dialog before we take this action. It's only fair we talk about these things before we do them."

The consensus of the Council was to move it to a Subcommittee on Conference, which has yet to be scheduled. There, the Council and members of the community can look carefully at the issue.

The statue has gone barely noticed for probably the last 20 years or more since the Knights of Columbus folded in Chelsea. There is no Columbus Day celebration in Chelsea for years, and the statue is obscured to a great degree from the street by large trees.

Some didn't even know the statue existed until the recent debate.

According to the base of the statue, its sponsors were Armando Diaz Society, the Chelsea Council #83 Knights of Columbus,

Sons of Italy Chelsea Lodges #1460, Chelsea Ladies Lodge #1772, Chelsea Girls Junior #80, Victorian Junior #81, the S. Arcangelo Trimonte Society, the S. Stefano Medio Society, Societa Regina Degli Angioli, and the Ward 5 Precinct 2 Club.

CITY RAISES PRIDE FLAG FOR **FIRST TIME**

EVERETT School Committeeman Marcony Almeida Barros has taken to the podium at City and School events - and even state events for the Attorney General's Office - many times, but none were as intensely personal as when he stepped to the microphone last week as the City's first openly gay elected official to see the Pride flag raised for the first time in City his-

"For me as the first openly gay man elected in the City's history, it is a special moment today," he said. "It's been a long journey since the Stonewall riots on June 28, 1969...Since that fight, the fight for equal rights brought marriage equality rights to Massachusetts in 2004. That is the year I met my husband in City Hall - right behind us. I arrived from Brazil to Everett and met my Everett born husband in Everett City Hall...It is a special moment not only for me as a gay man, but for the City also.'

On Monday, the City of Everett held their 1st Annual Pride Flag raising ceremony in honor of Pride Month. Led by Mayor Carlo DeMaria, the ceremony featured a short speaking program, and then the raising of the flag on the ceremonial pole outside the Church Street entrance.

"The City of Everett has come a long way - I am proud to stand with you today as we turn a corner as a community," said the mayor, noting that the first time the flag was raised was 41 years ago in San Francisco. "Everett is a melting pot of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. In Everett- everyone is accepted, welcomed, and at home."

The flag will be flown on the Church Street entrance of Everett City Hall throughout the month of

City officials, Mayor De-Maria, Senator Sal DiDomenico, Representative Joe McGonagle and Almeida Barros all spoke in front of a crowd of approximately 50 people.

Sen. Sal DiDomenico talked about his fight to pass the Transgender Bill in the State House only a few short years ago, and the pushback he got from within the Legislature and within parts of

the community. "It seems like an easy decision today, but at the time it was not," he said. "I spoke on the floor in favor and said it's time to change the word fear to the word fair. That's

exactly what we do. Mayor DeMaria spoke about the recent Supreme Court decision that affirmed that an employee cannot be fired or removed simply because of his or her sexual orientation. That ruling came only two weeks ago, but it elicited a lot of discussion in Monday's com-

"The fight is not over," said the mayor. "Now more than ever, we must come together in unity with members of our community. We all must advocate for equality for everyone. LGBTQ rights are human rights,'

ments.

Almeida Barros said his message for the day was to the LGBTQ youth - who are found to be more at risk of suicide than their peers.

Mayor DeMaria said.

"My message today is for our LGBTQ youth," he said. "Be proud of who you are. Do not let someone tell you that you aren't important. You are."

OUTDOOR DINING SPACES POPULAR

EVERETT - As restaurants throughout the City have the green light from the state to begin using indoor spaces to serve, the popularity and creativity for outdoor dining spaces has picked up to an even greater degree.

It seems counterintuitive, but City officials and some establishments in Everett indicated they have had tremendous response from patrons to their outdoor dining options, and there is also some speculation that not all patrons will be comfortable inside eating - though they might take a stab at summer dining outside.

There is also the case of regulations, which severely

impact the numbers of ta-

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this, hear all points of view



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See REGION Page 9

Region //continued from page 8

bles inside that a restaurant can use – slashing indoor capacity by 50 percent in some cases. To make up for that, restaurant owners and the City of Everett have turned to being creative in order to "recover tables" lost inside at the outdoor

"We're up to close to 15 establishments that are already doing it or looking to do outdoor dining and we expect that number to grow," said Tony Sousa, planning director. "We do expect there will be more restaurants and eateries participating. Now that indoor dining is allowed, we believe there will be more. It's another option for businesses to have outdoor dining. Many of the guidelines for COVID-19 inside limit space and tables, so having outside also is helpful. For the diner's perspective, having the outdoor option is very important for safety and comfort."

To that end, the City has begun partnering with restaurants and eateries and cafes to build extra space on sidewalks, in City parking lots, on parking spaces and on sidewalks. It has been a whirlwind of work whereby the City's Facilities Department has used experience from building a parklet dining area last summer to create even more on a much faster pace - including in the municipal parking lot for La Hacienda, and outside of Bakes and Cakes on Norwood Street.

They also expect to be working with Taco El Paso, the 8/10, Oliveira's, Stewarts Pub, and Square Deli. Pretty much any business that asks for help will get a consideration. Already, on private property, Ferry Street Grill, Texas Roadhouse, TGI Fridays, Bone Up Brewery, Village Bar & Grill, and Night Shift Brewery have entered into the outdoor realm with great success.

At Village and Bone Up, on the parking lot there is a beer garden on one side, which is separated from a larger tent for food service from Village.

Bone Up owners Jared and Liz Kiraly said they opened outdoor on Weds., June 17, and it was a quick success.

"It has started off fantastic," she said. "It was definitely great to be open. To go sales treated us well, but that is not what our brewery is built for. The last four months have been life-changing. Everything is going well so far. We've been on a wait list and we're doing first come first served."

The beer garden aspect is something she said they have really liked and hope that it can stay all summer – maybe even next summer. While they will re-open the inside, they said they are having a good response from customers.

"A lot of people are really happy to be outside again and be able to do something fun. There have been a lot of really bored people sitting at home."

At Village – another early outdoor dining location - the tent next to Bone Up has been extremely popular

and attracting several diners for lunch and dinner.

And the City believes outdoor dining - even if right now it's by necessity – is here to stay in Everett.

"The mayor sees the opportunity here and doesn't want it to pass without doing this," said Tom Philbin, a spokesman for the mayor. "I think he understands it's time to seize the moment and it's here to stay."

Said Sousa, "Outdoor dining is here to stay. It's an opportunity, a real placemaking and activation that isn't going away."

To that end, the name of the game is moving fast on behalf of the restaurants.

After a hiccup with the License Commission a few weeks ago in approving the first batch of outdoor dining establishments, the Commission and the mayor agreed to turn over approval process as an administrative process. That means anyone applying who has their plan in order and insurance/liability in place will be approved by Sousa or the Planning Department, and they are moving quickly.

"When it's a simple ex-

tension or expansion of an existing license, we agreed to allow that all to be made at an administrative level," he said. "The only exception is if there is a special permit required or if there are any complaints, the License Commission would retain that. Instead of having the License Commission meet one time a week, we'll do it administratively. Already it's helped to streamline it and move faster and turn these around in 24 hours - even on the weekends."

PRIDE FLAG RAISED IN LYNN

LYNN - The raising of the Pride Flag encourages the North Shore Pride members to express who they are and their personal individuality. This traditional event is a celebration to bring the community together no matter what sexual or gender you are.

In June of 1969 the Stone wall Rebellion in New York City brought people out to stand up for equal rights for all individuals regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. A recent Supreme Court ruling prohibits work place discrimination on the basis of sex that equally applies to gay and transgender Americans.

Mayor McGee presented a City of Lynn Proclamation recognizing the LGBTQ community and declaring June is Pride month; he said, "The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) took a positive stance against discrimination and to promote their dignity and equal rights in freedom and fairness". He continued to state, "The LGBTQ contribute greatly to neighborhood revitalization, economic vitality, arts and culture, and the social fabric of our city". Congratulations to the

LGBTQ community celebrating Pride Month and their on- going community commitments in the City of Lynn.

RONALD JANNINO

REVERE - The Revere community is mourning the loss of one of its longest-serving and most dedi-

Ronald Jannino, who

Mr. Jannino was not only are held district wide.

A graduate of Everett await Northeast graduates.

David DiBarri, superintendent of the Northeast School District, expressed his condolences to the Jannino family on behalf of the school. He praisied Mr. Jannino's outstanding service on the Committee.

"We are deeply saddened difficult time."

The City Council ob served a moment of silence for Mr. Jannino at its meeting. Ward 5 Councillor John Powers said he and Ronald Jannino were close friends for 40 years.

"Ron was our city's representative on the Northeast School Committee and he did a very effective job helping young people from Revere who wanted to pursue their education at the school," said Powers. "I can't think of anybody who was as effective as he was in that position. He was a good, honest, sincere person. I wish his family my deepest sympathy."

DEAD AT 75

cating public officials.

served as Revere's representative on the Northeastern Metropolitan Regional Vocational School Committee for 35 years, died on June 20. He was 75 years old.

widely admired in Revere but throughout the entire Northeast school district that includes 12 communities. He was re-elected to the committee with tremendous votes in the elections that

Vocational School, Class of 1963, Mr. Jannino was a strong advocate for the many Revere students attending Northeast Regional. He was always accessible to parents of eighth grade students who were considering applying to the Wakefield vocational high school, explaining the many specialized programs in trades and the many potential employment opportunities that

by the sudden passing of longtime School Committee Member Ronald Jannino," said DiBarri. "A Revere resident and retired woodworking teacher from another district, he joined us in 1986 and was re-elected to the board for nearly 34 years – a true testament to the calling he felt to promote the best interests of students and educators alike. We are so thankful for his service to our district and the thoughtfulness and care with which he undertook his role on the board and our hearts are with his family during this

City Council observes a moment of silence

City Council President Patrick Keefe served on the Revere Pop Warner Board with Mr. Jannino's daughter, Melissa Elam, who was the organization's cheerleading director, and son-in-law, Craig Elam, who Keefe's predecessor as RPW president. "I'm very friendly with

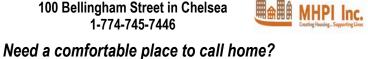
his son-in-law and daughter and his grandchildren," said Keefe. "Ron and I are brother Knights at the Knights of Columbus.

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An artist's rendering of what the station will look like once completed in 2021.

New District A-7 police station coming along ground on a new state-of-

By John Lynds For over two decades

the residents and police officers in East Boston have awaited the construction of a new police station at the City Yards in Eagle Square across from American Legion Playground. Last year, Mayor Martin

Walsh and Police Commissioner WIlliam Gross joined elected officials and the community to break the-art police station at the City Yards. The \$30 million project

will create a more efficient and better station for police and replace the aging District A-7 station on Meridian Street near Maverick Square. In the Mayor's Five Year

Capital Plan released as part of the recently approved budget guarantees money remains in city coffers to

fund the ongoing construction of the new station.

The station will be roughly 27,000 sq. ft. with an entrance on the corner of Condor and Trenton Streets. There will be parking in the rear of the station for 50 vehicles and the building will be LEAD Silver Certified.

According to the city the public art will be placed on the future new Area A-7 Police Station in Eastie with the aim of creating a new public building that is welcoming to the community, while having a civic presence through public art and community space.

The station will also contribute to Mayor Walsh's "Percent for Art" program by permanently housing a piece of public art. The "Percent for Art" program is the City of Boston's five-year commitment to granting \$13.4 million to public art pieces over the timeframe. It is a part of the City's cultural plan, Boston Creates, founded in 2016.

The City has identified several potential sites for the artwork, including the entrance lobby, the community room, and three locations outside of the station.

The project is expected to take approximately two years to complete.

Under construction and moving along. The \$30 million project will create a more efficient and better station for police in East Eagle Square and replace the aging District A-7 station on Meridian Street near Maverick Square.

LOCAL STUDENTS

EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

LOCAL RESIDENT **RECEIVES DEGREES**

Late this spring, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) celebrated the Class of 2020 with a socially distanced commencement season in place of its traditional 152nd Commencement exercises.

Marilyn Galdamez of East Boston, was awarded a bachelor of science degree

in biomedical engineering. Since the Class of 2020 was unable to receive diplomas in person this year, they instead received personal commencement packages, mailed to their home. that that included their diplomas, commencement regalia, and other items to celebrate their successes, as well as a congratulatory video message from President Laurie Leshin. In total, WPI awarded 1,043 bachelor's degrees, 674 master's degrees, and 54 doctoral degrees. In her video message,

Leshin made the traditional Commencement walk to the WPI's iconic Earle Bridge, which students walk over during New Student Orientation and then again when they graduate. She then stopped, turned, and told graduates, "You should be here. But make no mistake: Today is still your day. You've walked this bridge together once, and you will walk it again. I can't wait to see you do

ceremonies in the future, at

just that. Until then, it's my honor to wait for you." WPI plans to hold in-person undergraduate and graduate Commencement

a date to be announced. About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, a global leader

in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier universitechnological ty founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 50 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 14 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials

LOCAL STUDENT **EARNS AWARDS** FROM MALDEN **CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

and manufacturing; cyber,

data, and security systems;

learning science; and more.

www.wpi.edu.

Malden Catholic High School announced

winners of numerous distinguished achievements, athletic and extracurricular activity awards for the members of the Class of 2020.

The following East Boston resident achieved honors in a variety of catego-

Alex Nguyen - SFX Scholar

Since 1932, Malden Catholic High School has shaped emerging leaders in our community, claiming a Nobel Laureate, a Senator, two ambassadors and countless community and business heads among its alumni. Annually, graduates attend some of the nation's most renown universities including Harvard, Georgetown, Brown, Cornell, Tufts, Georgia Tech, Boston College and Amherst College. Foundational to student success is Malden Catholic's codivisional model which offers the best of both worlds, single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular opportunities after school. Malden Catholic is known in the community for its rigorous academics, SFX Scholars Program and award-winning STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with electives such as Robotics and Engineering Design Malden Catholic curricu-

lum is designed to improve

individual growth mindset,

leadership principles, suc-

cess outcomes along with

integrating the Xaverian

values of trust, humility,

compassion, simplicity and

zeal. https://www.malden-

catholic.org.

OBITUARIES

Stephanie Ciampa

VA Dental service retiree

A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, June 29 in St. John the Evangelist Church, Winthrop for

Stephanie M. (Plakias)
Ciampa who passed on
Thursday, June 25 after a
five month struggle with
metastatic cancer at the
Kaplan Family Hospice of
Danvers. Interment was in
Winthrop Cemetery (Belle
Isle Section), Winthrop.

Born in Newport, RI, she lived in Winthrop her entire life, attended Winthrop Schools and was a 1974 graduate of Winthrop High School and a 1976 graduate of Northeastern-Tufts Dental Assistant Program. She spent almost 40 years in the Dental Service Profession and had a 32-year career with the V.A. Administration, Dental Service. Recently, and until the onset of poor health, she worked with Doctors Becker, Becker and Silvius Dental Service of Shirley Avenue,

Stephanie was a petite, vivacious and always... "exciting" personality, always to be remembered and loved. Nothing was more vital and fulfilling than her role as a Devoted Mom, Doting Grandmother, Cherished sister and Special



Aunt.

She was the adoring daughter of the late William and Lillian (Ricupero) Plakias, the devoted mother to Boston Police Patrolman Francis R. "Frankie" Ciampa and his wife, Christina G. Ciampa and the doting grandmother to Francis C. "Frankie" and Leo M. Ciampa, all of East Boston, formerly of Winthrop and adoring sister to Paul T. Plakias of Winthrop. She is also lovingly survived by her niece, Dena M. Plakias and her fiancé, Hershel Beard and her grandnephew, Colton H. Beard, all of Winthrop. Stephanie also leaves a legacy of extended family and friends, many of which she has enjoyed since her years at Northeastern-Tufts Dental Assistant Program.

A BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



H. Elaine Halkopoulos, Ed.D. "HP"

July 3, 1935 - November 25, 2016

On this day we reminisce
With smiles & frequent tears.
As we think about all the memories &
Wish you were still here.
You can never be more than a thought apart,
For as long as there are memories,
They & you will live on in our hearts.
When someone you love becomes a memory,
The memory becomes a treasure.
Always in our hearts, minds & prayers,

With Love, Tony



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Angelina DeLeo

Of the North End of Boston

Angelina M. DeLeo of the North End passed away on Monday, June 29.

The beloved daughter of the late Alfonso and Maria (Guardino) DeLeo, she was the dear sister of Lillian Buscanera of East Boston and the late Frank, Leo, Nat, James, Rose, Grace, Kay and Anna and is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Angelina's life by gathering at Saint Leonard of Port Maurice Parish in the North End of Boston, on Thursday, July 2 from 9 to 10 a.m. before a Funeral Mass celebrating her life at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with Angelina being laid to rest at Saint Michael Cemetery, Bos-



ton. Services will be held in accordance to Phase 2 of the MA reopening plan. All attendees will be asked to wear face coverings during any services and maintain social distancing practices. For more information or to leave an online condolence please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Rita Padova

Of Revere

Rita (Santoli) Padova of Revere died on June 26 at the age of 98.

Born in Boston on July 23, 1921 to the late Nicola Santoli and Theresa (Selvitella) Santoli, she was the devoted mother of the late Lorraine Padova, and James Padova and his surviving wife, Bernice of Florida; cherished grandmother of Jenna Harrity and her husband, Tim of Revere, Jimmy Padova of Florida and Anthony Padova of Revere; adored great grandmother of Charlotte and Declan Harrity; dear sister of the late Frank and Benjamin Santoli and late step sister of Dorothy Schena. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held at the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St, Revere on



Thursday, July 2 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. followed by a Prayer Service at Holy Cross Cemetery. Relatives and friends are kindly invited. Interment will be in Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Carroll Center for the Blind, 770 Centre St, Newton, MA 02458. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

Anna Patricia Blair

A Stay at home mother with a huge heart and a bright smile

Anna Patricia (Pepe)
Blair passed away peacefully on June 19 in her
home, surrounded by her
loving family at the age of
87.

She was a stay at home mother with a huge heart and bright smile, who devoted everything to her loving family. For those who had the pleasure of meeting and knowing her, they made friendships that lasted a lifetime.

We Lost a Remarkable Woman full of life, courage and determination with such style, elegance and a personality that lit up a Room.

Anna was the family's matriarch, historian and storyteller. Her talents were endless. She will be missed, loved and remembered by all. Our Tears were no match for the Cheers in Heaven.

She was the beloved wife of the late Kenneth P. Blair, Sr.; devoted, Loving and Amazing Mother of the late Kenneth P. Blair,-Jr, Vincent, Janet, Lee-Ann and Edward Blair, all of East Boston and Joseph and his wife, Sally Blair of Lincoln; Adored and Proud Grandmother nine grandchildren: Kristina (Blair) and her husband, Andrew Howard of Washington, DC, Casey (Blair) and her husband, Dave Hunt of Londonderry, NH, Robert G. Vitale, Jr. of Peabody, Olivia (Danielle) Fernandez of East Boston and Matthew, Thomas, An-

drew, Joan and Emma of

Lincoln; two great grand-

children, Cody and Mack-



enzie Hunt of Londonderry, NH and the late Linda Bohnicky of Maynard.

Anna was born on July 26,1932 and was a lifelong resident of East Boston. She was the cherished daughter of the late Joseph A. Pepe, Sr. and Pasqualina (Grieco) Pepe of East Boston, originally from Bonito Avellino, Italy and the cherished sister to the late Alexander (Sonny) Pepe and his late wife, Pam of Marstons Mills, Cape Cod, MA Gilda (Pepe) Morgan and her late husbandm Jack of Moreno Valley, CAm Anthony and his wife, Fran of Punta Gorda, FL and Joseph Pepe, Jr and his wife, Marie of East Boston. Anna was loved and adored by many nieces, mephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Funeral Services for the family were held on Wednesday, June 24 at Ruggiero Funeral Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston with a Funeral Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Brooks St. East Boston. She was laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden. For more information,

please visit www.ruggi-

eromh.com.

Barbara Lombard-Angiulo

Authority, honesty, leadership, life of the party... are all the things she abided by

Barbara A. Lombard-Angiulo of Nahant passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 23 at her Nahant residence surrounded by her loving family. She was the life partner of the late Jerry J. Angiulo.

Born in Boston and raised in East Boston, Barbara was the daughter of the late Stephen A. and Edith L. (Cuddi) Lombardozzi.

Authority, Honesty,

Leadership, Life of the party... are all of the things that Barbara abided by. There are not many people that could say they achieved nearly as many adventures as our MOM has completed in her 80 years.

From her start as a cocktail waitress at Jay's Lounge where she met Dad in the 1960's, to her many travels around the world such as skiing the Swiss Alps with Auntie Laurie, Italy with our late sister Thais, and jet setting here, there and everywhere to visit family and friends, Mom made all holidays extra special and always included the whole extended family by reaching out with her amazing Christmas Cards.

Her latest accomplishment was becoming "Nanna A." to Baby G. She was a one of a kind and extraordinary woman who could light up a barstool with a glass of Cutty and a Benson and Hedges in her hand, no matter what the "rules" were. Mom always kept her "girls" near and dear but made room for the Johnny-come-lately's and brought them under her enormous wings and swept them into the kitchen in Nahant. Never missing a



dancing ball or a milestone birthday, Mom celebrated in style at every possible occasion and will continue setting trends along her final ride.

Barbara is survived by her two beloved children. Gennaro Jay Angiulo and his fiancée, Gabriella and Barbara Jay "B-Jay" Angiulo, all of Nahant; her step-son, Jason B. Angiulo of Nahant; her cherished grandson, "The Prince" Gennaro Francesco Angiulo; her brother, Stephen A. Lombardozzi and his wife, Nancy of Florida; three nephews: Stephen Lombardozzi, John Lombardozzi and his wife, Lisa, and Christopher Lombardozzi and his wife, Tracy. She was predeceased by her step-daughter, Thais Susan Angiulo. Barbara is also survived by many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews; and her loyal

companion, Ziggy the cat.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Barbara's memory may be made to the Northeast Animal Shelter at northeastanimalshelter. org/donations/memorial-tribute or to the MGH Cancer Center in Danvers at giving.massgeneral.org/cancer/donate/.

Assunta Luongo

Devoted parishioner and choir member of St. Joseph-St. Lazarus Church and Don Orione

Home volunteer

Assunta "Suzy" (Polcaro) Luongo of East Boston passed away on June 26.

Suzy was a long time devoted and dedicated parishioner of St.Joseph-St.Lazarus Church in East Boston as well as a member of their choir which she enjoyed greatly. She was also a volunteer at the Don Orione Home in East Boston.

The loving wife of the late Joseph Luongo, she was the devoted mother of Joseph, Gregory and Rossano Luongo; cherished sister of Joseph Polcaro of North Carolina, Alba Maiorano of Revere and the late Giovanna Contrada, Giuditta Pagliuca, Giusepina Giannelli and Antoinetta Baldassarre and the adored grandmother of David, Rebecca, Emma, Jackson, Evan and Ellinor. Due to the ongoing

health concerns regarding the COVID-19 Pandem-



ic, all services will be held privately. Suzy will be laid to rest at the Woodlawn Cemetery Mausoleum in Everett. A memorial service in celebration of Suzy's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to St.Joseph-St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashely Street, East Boston MA 02128. For more information, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Lisa LaCorte Of Revere

Lisa M. LaCorte of Re-

vere passed away on June 23.

She was the loving

daughter of Gaetano "Guy" and Muriel (McCormick)
LaCorte, devoted mother of
Zachary LaCorte and cherished sister of Noelle LaCorte and her husband, Carl
Testa and Joseph LaCorte
and his wife, Melissa. She
is aAlso survived by many
loving family and friends

loving family and friends.

Funeral arrangements
were by the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East



tion, please visit ww.ruggieromh.com.

- To place a memoriam in the Times Free Press, please call 781-485-0588

OBITUARIES

Gloria Perullo

Colonial Provision retiree

A Graveside Service was held on June 25 at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden for Gloria J. Perullo, 88, who passed on Saturday, June 20 at the Boston Medical Center, following a brief illness.

Born, raised and educated in East Boston, she lived there until moving to Winthrop in 1986. Gloria had a 27-year career with Colonial Provision of Boston as a packer and processor. Family always and forever meant everything to Gloria and she most enjoyed the company of her daughter, Carol, Vinnie and her three boys, Anthony, Santino and Dominic. Gloria was a long-time member of the Third Order of St. Francis (Mt. Carmel Chapter) Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, East Boston. She was most proud of her affiliation with the Third Order and received much comfort and joy from her associa-She was the daughter of

the late Louise and Maria (Santoro) Perullo and the cherished mother of Carol F. Sorrentino and her husband, Vincent of Winthrop; the devoted grandmother to Anthony J. Perullo and



Winthrop. She is also lovingly survived by her two great-grandsons, Santino and Dominic Perullo. She is the last of her siblings and was the dear sister of the late Philomena Lepore, Frank, Anthony, John, Edward and Charles Perullo, Louise Tolentino, Yolanda Tramonte, Anna Birchett and Virginia and Michael Perullo. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to St. Jude Children's' Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959. To send online condolences, please visit www.vertuccioandsmith.com. Funeral Arrangements under the direction of the Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals.

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Maria Recupero Of East Boston

and Veronica Ford, cher-

Maria Recupero of East Boston passed away on June 22. The beloved wife of

Francesco Recupero she was the devoted mother of Catena Ford and her husband, Robert of East Boston, Joseph Recupero and his wife, Lucille of Peabody and the late Giovanni Recupero; loving grandmother of Kayla and Joseph A. Recupero, Robert ished great grandmother of Jaden, Dante, Savannah and Aria and the dear sister of Brigida Stefano. Funeral arrangements

were by the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston. Entombment was at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden. For more information, please visit www. ruggieromh.com.

Give now.

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. SU20P0839EA Estate of: Loretta Helen Giuffre Date of Death: 03/19/2020 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Joseph D. Giuffre of Winthrop, MA

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

08/04/2020. 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) 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: June 23, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

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EBHS //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a 2020 EBHS graduate, praised the school staff for Saturday's event.

"This is not how I imagined my son would receive his diploma but I think East Boston High School did a great job handing out diplomas and awards acknowledging our seniors," said Delvecchio. Domenic is a member of the National Honors Society and received the school's highest award, the Blue and Gold Award for academics and sports. "A big thank you to Headmaster Brangiforte and

his staff for making Eastie what it is. Also a big thank you to all the school's wonderful teachers, coaches, and administrators for giving the students every skill and encouragement to succeed in class as well in their futures after high school." Brangiforte said he hopes that if the COVID-19 pandemic slows considerably over the summer EBHS will be able to hold a proper outdoor graduation at the East Boston Stadium sometime in August.



Bob Bolognese

Owner



Sary Soler (left) and Stephanie Faiella (right) show off their brightly decorated graduation caps during Saturday's diploma pick up event.



Stephanie Faiella, Isabella Walsh, Milena Gil, and Steven



Senior Advisor Tiana Tassinari prepares the goodie bags for seniors that include voter registration forms.

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Sary Soler and EBHS Senior Advisor Tiana Tassinari.



EBHS Class President Andrew Allen and his family with EBHS Headmaster Phil Brangiforte and City Councilor Lydia Edwards.





Graduate Cesar Flores Ayala with EBHS Senior Advisor



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Notice of Construction Activity in Your Neighborhood

BWSC will be conducting sewer separation and lining work in East Boston to improve the drainage system in the area. The work will begin on Monday, June 29th and is expected to be complete in August. The following streets will be impacted:

- Eutaw Street -estimated work 7/6/20 7/7/20
- Meridian Street -estimated work 7/7/20 7/8/20
- Trenton Street- estimated work 7/9/20 8/15/20

The impacts residents can expect are noise, parking restrictions, traffic detours and possible water disruptions.

For questions please contact:

BWSC Project Engineer: Christopher Dzidek 617-989-7450

Contract Number: 16-309-005 Contractor: Albanese D&S Inc.

BWSC Inspector: Paul MacDonald 617-828-5239 Project Manager: Dave Laramee 617-593-3733 BWSC's 24-hour Emergency Hotline 617-989-7000



Graduates Cesar Flores Ayala and Luis Yuvini Rodriguez



Edwin Pineda Landaverde shows off his decorated car Saturday.



Santiago Perez Guzman, Luisa Fernanda Saurez Usuga and Senior Advisor Andrew Faiz.