

East Boston

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Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Drive-in returns to Suffolk Downs for the first time in 50 years

By John Lynds

The 1950s and 1960s were the height of the drive-in movie theater craze that swept the U.S. and was immortalized in such films depicting the era like Grease and the Last Picture Show.

In East Boston, the Suffolk Downs Drive-In that opened in the mid 1950s and has been closed for a number of years will be revived starting this Thursday.

HYM Investments Group, who is developing the Suffolk Downs site into a large mixed use development, announced it is returning the drive-in to Suffolk Downs after a 50 year absence.

"As we plan for the long-term redevelopment of the site, we are looking at different ways to honor Suffolk Downs' rich entertainment history," said Thomas O'Brien, founding partner and managing director of The HYM Investment Group. "We saw an opportunity with a drive-in movie

See DRIVE-IN Page 3

No COVID deaths in Boston reported for a week

By John Lynds

Those testing positive for COVID-19 in East Boston dropped by almost two percent last week, and the infection rate in the neighborhood remains steady according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on Friday.

According to the BPHC only 5.4 percent of residents tested positive for the virus, down from 7.3 percent, and the rate of infection only rose by 1.8 percent.

On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

In one week Eastie's

See COVID-19 Page 2

PLAY BALL!



East Boston Expos third baseman Matt Costanza tried to make the play at third but the ball bounced out of play in the latest match up in the Yawkey League. Read about it on Page 7.

Eastie Summer Camps are back in full swing

By John Lynds

Adjusting summer camp programs to comply with state regulation during the state's phased COVID-19 reopening hasn't been easy, but East Boston's four premier youth camp program providers are adapting well.

"Summer camp is in full swing at the East Boston

Y at our Ashley Street location," said East Boston YMCA Executive Director Joe Gaeta. "We have taken all the necessary safety precautions laid out by the Department of Public Health in order to ensure a safe and fun summer for all our children and staff."

Gaeta said the Y is currently at capacity with 60

children and have been practicing the proper amount of social distancing and cleaning techniques daily.

"Each day the youth take part in awesome STEAM activities, physical activities, teamwork activities, and educational activi-

See SUMMER CAMP Page 2

Data shows 'PPP' saved thousands of jobs in Eastie

By John Lynds

Data released last week by the U.S. Department of the Treasury showed that the federal Paycheck Protection Program, or "PPP", was able to save thousands of jobs in East Boston during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The data was released by the Treasury's Small Business Administration (SBA) and showed that 46 small businesses in Eastie benefited from the program by receiving more than \$150,000 in loans.

These 46 businesses were able to save 1,943 local jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic when many businesses were forced to scale back significantly or close all together.

The data also showed 377 Eastie businesses that received SBA loans less than \$150,000 were able to save 1,497 local jobs.

"Small businesses are the driving force of American economic stability, and

are essential to America's economic rebound from the pandemic," said the SBA in a statement.

Places like Zumix, Angela's Cafe, East Boston Central Catholic, and Little Folks Community Day Care Center all received PPP loans from the SBA. Some like Zumix, Central Catholic and Little Folks were forced to close in March due to the pandemic and others like Angela's Cafe were forced to cease dine-in service until late June.

The SBA said they released the data as a key aspect of the SBA's Values Transparency program.

"SBA is maintaining a balance between providing transparency to American taxpayers and protecting small businesses' confidential business information, such as payroll, and personally identifiable information," continued SBA's statement. "SBA is committed to ensuring that any release of PPP loan data does not harm small businesses or their employees."

NOAH holds ground breaking on Phase I of Condor Street project

By John Lynds

With the COVID-19 pandemic putting a halt to all construction projects until recently, the East Boston Neighborhood of Affordable (NOAH) was excited to announce that it had broken ground last week on Phase I of its Condor Street project.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) approved the development project dubbed the "Aileron" will bring 40 mixed-use, mixed-income, ownership/rental housing units to Eastie along with gallery spaces for the neighborhood's artist community.

Phase I of the project will construct the first seven mixed-income condo units at the Condor Street parcel.

"NOAH is happy to announce that we just broke ground on Phase 1 of Aileron with 7 mixed-income condos," said NOAH Executive Director Phil Giffie. "We are very excited to get moving and are looking forward to a successful project. Thank you to the City of Boston, Department of Neighborhood Development, Landmark Structures Corporation, and Joy Street Design for all of your hard

See NOAH Page 3



NOAH breaks ground on the Condor Street project dubbed "Aileron."



U.S. Congressman and Massachusetts Senatorial candidate Joseph Kennedy III greets a young Eastie girl during his Jobs & Justice Tour across Massachusetts to talk about economic recovery and resiliency in the wake of COVID-19.

Kennedy makes campaign stop in Eastie

By John Lynds

U.S. Congressman and Massachusetts Senatorial candidate Joseph Kennedy III was back in Eastie Sunday, the place he chose to kick off his senate campaign against incumbent Ed Markey, to meet with business owners and residents during a daylong tour. .

Kennedy could be seen walking down Falcon Street Sunday afternoon, stopping to talk to residents sitting out on their stoops and taking pictures with supporters.

The visit to Eastie was part of Kennedy's Jobs & Justice Tour across Massachusetts to talk about economic recovery and resiliency in the wake of COVID-19. Kennedy was joined by Eastie community leaders Tony Portillo, Marvin Jimenez and Saul Ortez.

Kennedy's visit came after his announcement of the Kennedy Jobs and Justice Initiative (JJI) last week, a working legislative proposal to guide our country's economic recovery efforts in building a better, stron-

ger, more resilient post-COVID America.

As part of the 'Jobs & Justice Tour', Kennedy met with working families, business owners, Black and Brown communities, organized labor, essential workers, and other community leaders in Eastie to receive feedback from local stakeholders

The visit began with Kennedy and community leader Tony Portillo hosting a roundtable with LatinX business leaders

See KENNEDY Page 12



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Project Bread is a receipient of Boston Resiliency Fund grant

By John Lynds

East Boston-based Project Bread was recently awarded a grant from the Boston Resiliency Fund that will focus on enrolling more food insecure families into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Project Bread will develop and implement a public awareness campaign to promote SNAP enrollment and utilization. The campaign will target SNAP gap households and other eligible but unenrolled

families. These funds will provide operational and additional language support to the FoodSource Hotline and train community-based organizations and health centers to screen for SNAP eligibility and support with applications.

“SNAP has been incredibly effective in getting food to the people who need it, and it has become more important now than ever with the impact of COVID-19 on households,” said Project Bread in a statement.

Aside from trying to enroll more residents in SNAP, Project Bread has

been calling on Congress to expand the maximum SNAP benefit in the next coronavirus relief package by 15 percent through the COVID-19 public health emergency.

“SNAP prioritizes nutrition when providing food assistance, making the effort to ensure access to healthy food for low-income families during the pandemic particularly vital,” said Project Bread. “Congress took some early steps to address childhood food insecurity during the pandemic, especially through instituting P-EBT. The program

allowed households with children who were eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch to receive the cash value of those meals on electronic benefits cards. Unfortunately, only 15 percent of eligible participants had received P-EBT benefits by mid-May, which caused families to rely on other means of getting food at home. We are joining anti-hunger organizations across the country for an Anti-Hunger Week of Action to highlight the importance of SNAP and key nutrition priorities before Senators adjourn for the

summer.”

The grant to Project Bread was part of nearly \$1.9 million in grant money to 15 organizations sacross Boston from the Boston Resiliency Fund. In total, the Resiliency Fund has granted over \$22 million to 295 nonprofit and local organizations to provide support to Boston’s most vulnerable residents.

“The COVID-19 pandemic is still having major impacts on the City of Boston and our residents, and we will continue to use the Boston Resiliency Fund to support our communities

with the greatest need,” said Mayor Martin Walsh. “As we enter the summer months, I am pleased that the Fund will help us support essential and vital services, including providing and delivering meals, expanding capacity in the domestic violence shelter system, supporting those in recovery, and more.”

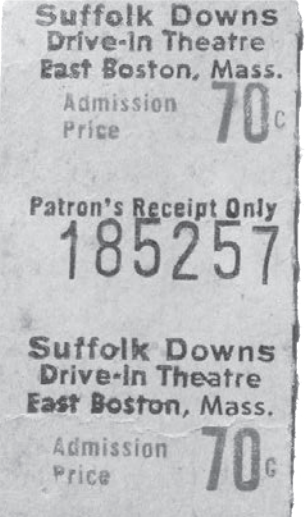
Many of the grants during the latest round went to supporting the expansion of campaigns to close the SNAP gap.

Drive-in // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

series to provide the East Boston and Revere communities with events that can be enjoyed safely during the current public health crisis, while also offering family-friendly and culturally-diverse programming to reflect the rich diversity of the community here.”

HYM will host a summer-long Weekly Movie Series starting Thursday July 16 through Sept. 10.

The first two films to be shown will be “Grease” on July 16 and “Field of Dreams” on July 23. Movie will be announced biweekly at www.summerscreenatsuffolkdowns.com. The Summer Screen at Suffolk Downs aims to curate a col-



A ticket stub showing a 70 cent cost per person to see a movie at the Suffolk Downs Drive-In.

lection of movies as diverse as the community of Eastie and surrounding cities and towns.

Films will satisfy various ages, audiences, and cultures, including Spanish language movies.

O’Brien said the event space will have capacity for 300 vehicles, with a limit of up to six people per vehicle. Viewers will be able to park their cars on-site to enjoy movies every Thursday. Each vehicle will be parked 6 feet apart from each other, attendees will remain in their cars unless going to the bathroom or a food truck, and attendees will be required to wear a mask any time they are outside of their vehicle.

All events will require one ticket per car to enter and tickets will cost \$15. All visitors should practice city and state recommendations on social distancing.

Many residents recall the old drive-in and the memories made there as a place where teens of the era would meet, a place to take a date and a weekly summer tradition for entire Eastie families that would put their children in pajamas and watch the latest films from their cars.

And everyone that grew up during that time has fond memories of the unique drive-in that was under a



An aerial view of the Suffolk Downs Drive-In circa late 1950s beside an aerial view of Suffolk Downs’s former racetrack oval where HYM Investment Group will host a summer drive-in series starting Thursday.

Logan Airport flightpath and in a marsh. Yes, the noise and bugs were sometimes a problem but everyone agreed it was a lot of fun and full of great memories.

“I went on a date there with my now husband,” said Phyllis Campagna D’Amato. “I was not supposed to go for a drive in. I had to be home at 9:30 pm. Of course we didn’t notice the time and I was in a panic because now I was late getting home. We quickly left the drive in but forgot to take the speaker out of the window and it smashed his car window.”

Like the drive-in scene straight out of Grease, Ray Poirier said he remembers years ago they would charge per person so he’d guide his friends in the trunk. Eventually the drive-in operators caught on to the teen prank and started charging \$5 per car for admittance.

JoAnne Overlan Vitiello said her dad never really liked the drive-in, but her mother did and convinced him to take her and her brother from time to time.

“We hid under a blanket so my parents only paid for two people,” said Vitiello. “One time when we were leaving, my brother forgot to take the speaker out of the window and it pulled out the speaker and broke the window. Needless to say that was the last time we went as kids. However, when I went as a teenager we would go in two or three cars and park beside each other and bring pepperoni and provolone with fresh Italian bread and pass it from car to car.”



The entrance of the former Suffolk Downs Drive-in in the early 1960s.

NOAH // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

work.”

According to BPDA filings the Aileron, located on approximately 26,250 square feet of vacant land, at 131-151 Condor Street in the Eagle Hill will consist of approximately 49,750 square foot mixed-use, mixed-income development that includes two buildings. There will be a total of forty residential units, artist studios, a work bar/gallery space, community studio space and a workshop. The project includes 35 off-street vehicle parking spaces, and at least 40 on-site bicycle storage spaces. Twenty-eight of the units will be income-restricted under the BPDA’s

inclusionary policy.

Giffey said NOAH named the project Aileron because it will help the area take flight economically and culturally.

The proposed gallery and workbar will be available for residents in the building and are designed as communal spaces--not be strictly artist work spaces.



The proposed gallery space will have wireless internet access, mirrored walls and perhaps a gas-fed fireplace. NOAH envisions a comfortable, neatly appointed space where there can be conversion, communication and community for artists. Giffey said neighborhood residents who are

interested in having a space to work can access this space as well. Also, there will be an open streetscape concept in the rental building that will highlight public studio and gallery spaces on the ground floor.

The vacant land was previously owned by BPDA, and was transferred to the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) in 2017 for disposition in support of affordable housing. Last month, Mayor Walsh announced that the project has received Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding to support affordable housing.

Real Estate Transfers

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Larsen, Wyatt	Foote, Katharine	69 Cottage St #3	\$495,000
Thornton, Christopher R	Botto, Warren D	155 Everett St	\$675,000
Bassiouni, M Reada	Wingaersheek RT	2-12 Jeffries St	\$2,200,000
D&I Isaac 2007 RET	Kolb, Pamela	65 Lewis St #508	\$1,005,000
Hassan, Tarek A	Ankiewicz, Roseanne	238 Lexington St	\$1,010,000
Bassiouni, M Reada	Wingaersheek RT	391-393 Maverick St	\$2,200,000
Hu, Qiaochu	Carroll, David M	250 Meridian St #407	\$545,000
Lang, Frank J	217 Paris Street LLC	217 Paris St #2	\$620,000
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WHEN DID THE U.S. GO FROM FIRST TO WORST?

For those of us of the Baby Boom generation, it was unquestionable that the United States was "the best" country in the world.

Despite the war in Vietnam, Watergate, recessions, 9/11, and other setbacks, America continued to be a global leader in just about every aspect of world affairs.

Basically, there was the U.S. -- and then there was everybody else.

American exceptionalism was taken for granted (even if in truth we often were not all that exceptional).

However, the coronavirus has pulled back the curtain and exposed us for what we have become -- a nation that ranks among the worst by many metrics. Compared to our supposed peers in Western Europe and Asia, our response to the pandemic has been pathetic. COVID-19 death rates per capita in Western Europe are only a 10th of the death rate in the U.S. And while theirs are falling, ours is rising.

Consider these additional facts:

How can it be that we have 4% of the world's population, but we have 25% of the deaths from COVID-19?

How can it be that four months into the pandemic, we still do not have enough PPE (personal protective equipment) for our hospital and other front line workers?

How can it be that some of our states have more new cases of COVID-19 than entire countries?

How can it be that not only is the amount of our testing still woefully inadequate, but that our labs are so backed up that it is taking 5-7 days to get results -- which all but makes the testing useless because results need to be made available within 24-48 hours?

COVID-19 has revealed us to be the equivalent of a so-called Third World country.

To put it simply, we have devolved from being a global leader to that of a global laggard with the result that thousands of Americans are getting sick and dying and our economy remains in tatters -- and with no end in sight.

NAME CHANGE WAS A LONG TIME COMING

The decision this week by the Washington Redskins to change its team name was long, long, LONG overdue.

The term "redskin" is -- and always has been -- a racist reference to Native Americans.

For anyone who doubts that notion, just think about all of the western movies that have permeated our culture for almost 100 years. When the hero would say something like, "Let's kill all of those thievin' redskins," (or something similar), the use of the term "redskin" was meant to dehumanize Native Americans.

It certainly was not a complimentary term.

We should point out that the obnoxious and arrogant owner of the Washington football team for years has ridiculed any suggestion that he change the team's name.

It finally was the force of economics, not a sudden surge of altruism, that prompted the team's about-face. When various team sponsors -- who themselves became motivated to do so only in light of recent events -- threatened to remove their millions of dollars of revenue, that finally is what got the team ownership's attention.

So we're happy to see that yet another vestige of America's racist past is falling. There still is a lot more to do, but changing the name of Washington's football team is yet another step in the right direction as we acknowledge and renounce our racist and genocidal past.

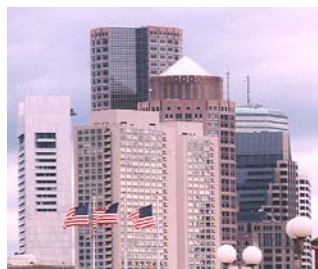
To quote the Sam Cooke song:

It's been a long, a long time coming

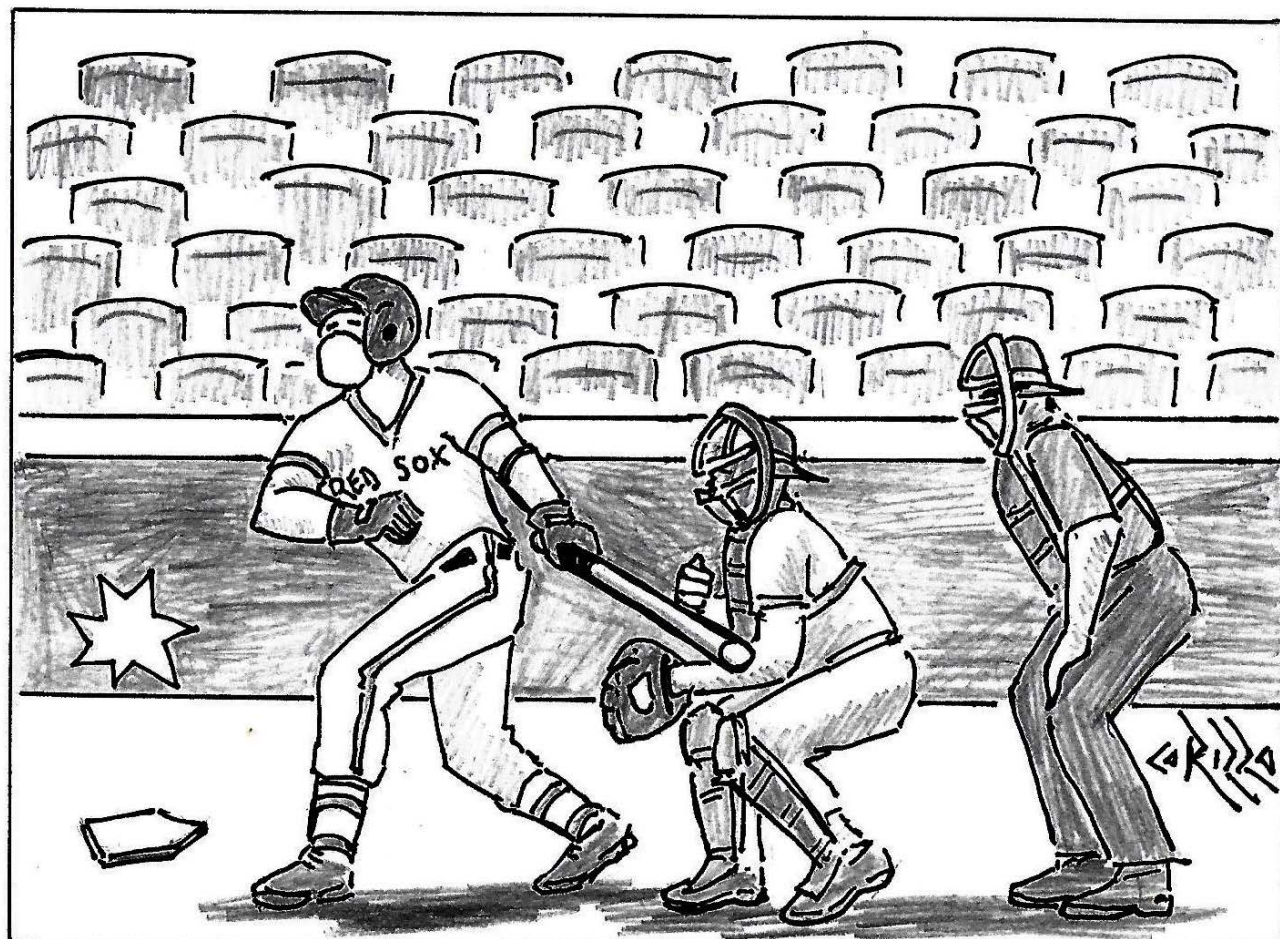
But I know a change's gonna come, oh, yes, it will

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Forum



LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING BACK

GUEST OP-ED

What to consider before adopting a pet

By Susan Marie

As word grew that people were going to have to shelter-in-place for an unspecified length of time, animal shelters began to empty. Thousands of people realized that they may be lonely during this time of social-distancing from family and friends. In some situations, parents came to the conclusion that their children needed a happy diversion and agreed to add a furkid to their family. Whatever the reason, shelters began to empty and animal lovers, like myself, were thrilled. However, families are seeking guidance on what dog might be right for them. Those who have already added a dog to their family are concerned with how to keep their new pet happy. Below are some points to consider, as you ponder which animal to bring home and what to do once they step their excited paws through your threshold.

1. The coronavirus pandemic will not last forever,

but adopting your "forever friend" is a lifetime commitment of unconditional love. The first thing to consider is your family's lifestyle. Are you looking for a dog that is high energy that will join the kids in playful romps in the yard and long runs? Or are you looking for a less active dog who enjoys binge watching TV while you are on Zoom meetings and the kids are in online classes? Do you want your dog to be happy with a leisurely walk after dinner and easy, quiet fun in the home or yard? A senior citizen might consider a smaller senior pup who enjoys cuddling on the sofa and healthy snacks. It is important to keep in mind your pup's breed, size and temperament when considering what your home and lifestyle can reasonably accommodate. Though the adoption process itself may differ slightly during COVID-19, please feel free to contact your local shelter and rescue organization and they will gladly help you choose the "forever

friend" that is best for your home and family.

2. Consider preparing for the pandemic as you would to prepare for a disaster, like hurricane season. Compile a first aid kit and an emergency kit and for your pet that includes at least two weeks of food and treats, medications, medical records, veterinarian(s) contact information. Also be sure to have all necessary everyday supplies, such as collars, leashes, harnesses and disposable bags. Make sure your dog has ID tags and is microchipped with your current contact information as well as that of an emergency contact outside the area.

3. How much time will you be able to spend with your dog during and after the pandemic? More time spent at home together while you work from home is a great opportunity to bond with your furkid and also increases your availability to train. For some behavioral concerns, including separation anxiety, please contact a profes-

sional trainer who may offer online classes. When you return to work, keep in mind who will look after your pup during the day. You may decide to take your pup to doggy day care or hire a professional pet sitter to visit your home in the morning and afternoon for bathroom breaks and exercise.

4. If adopting is something that you may not be able to commit to at this time, please consider fostering a dog. Contact your local shelter or rescue organization to see if they have a foster plan that better suits your family's lifestyle. Keep in mind adopting a pet into your family is a lifetime commitment that will change both of your lives "forever."

For over fifteen years, Susan Marie has been spreading the word about puppy love through her national weekly radio show, The Doggy Diva Show. Susan is also the author of the award-winning Miss Olive children's book trilogy The Doggy Diva Diaries.

LETTER to the Editor

STOCK MARKET RELEVANCE EDITORIAL

Dear Editor:

I strongly agree with your incisive editorial which eviscerated the common myth that the stock market accurately represents the U.S. economy. As you point out there is

in fact a major dichotomy between the stock market and the economy, known as the Wall Street-Main Street disconnect which continues to be a huge factor in the long term erosion of America's essential middle class, the country's heart and soul.

The coronavirus pandemic has clearly intensi-

fied this trend toward growing economic equality to the point where significant public sector monetary and fiscal policies are urgently required for immediate implementation in order to avoid a 1929 era Great Recession repeat. Louis Brandeis was right: "America can choose between a true democracy, or wealth

concentrated in the hands of a few, but not both."

The country must immediately invest in our long-term future to begin the rebuilding of our middle class which historically has been the nation's economic recovery engine while reducing economic inequality.

John Vitagliano

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EBNHC Let’s Get Movin Farmers Market officially open

After thunderstorms cancelled the original kick off date of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) Let’s Get Movin Farmers Market in Central Square, the market finally opened last Wednesday.



East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) Let’s Get Movin Farmers Market staff guides shoppers through this year’s market that has a focus on health and safety.



Shoppers check out during last Wednesday’s weekly Farmers Market in Central Square.

kicked off Wednesday June 7 and will last through October 1. The market will be open each Wednesday until 6 p.m.

EBNHC and the Let’s Get Movin’ staff are making several changes to this year’s market in order to protect the health and safety of the public and farmers that will be on hand to sell their goods.

For example the market 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.

There will also be designated entrances and exits to the Central Square Farmers Market. The Farmers Market now has two specific entrances. The entrance for the main market will be at the corner of Saratoga Street and Border Street.



East Boston Neighborhood Health Center’s (EBNHC) information booth at the Farmers Market.

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 remain six feet away from other shoppers and vendors are not allowed to touch reusable bags.

There will also be no eating allowed inside the market.



Staff man an information booth at the Farmers Market.



One of the many vendors that will be present each week at the Farmers Market through October.

Planet Fitness reopens in Boston under Phase III this week

By John Lynds

Boston was a week behind the rest of the state when it came to Governor Charlie Baker’s Phase III of Massachusetts’s phased COVID-19 reopening strategy.

In Boston, businesses that were eligible to reopen in Step One of Phase III but subject to industry-specific rules concerning capacity and operations, included movie theaters and outdoor performance venues; museums, cultural and historical sites; fitness centers and health clubs limited to 40 percent occupancy; as well as certain indoor recreational activities with low potential for contact, according to Mayor Martin Walsh.

“Boston is taking this step one week later because of the size of its population,

density, and the size of our commercial, hospitality, and other sectors,” said Mayor Walsh.

While Eastie doesn’t have movie theaters many in the neighborhood were excited that Planet Fitness on McClellan Highway has reopened its doors.

Many stuck at home have complained about the so-called “COVID-15” a play on the virus’s name and the 15 lbs many claim they gained during quarantine.

According to Planet Fitnesses Danielle D’Amelio members can return to the Eastie location and get back in shape.

“As an industry leader, the health and safety of Planet Fitness’ members and team members is a top priority,” said D’Amelio. “In preparation for reopening clubs and welcom-

ing members back to the Judgement Free Zone in a safe and responsible way, Planet Fitness has taken several steps to strengthen existing cleanliness policies and procedures, in an effort to protect the health and well-being of members, team members and the local community.”

D’Amelio said some changes include all team members having completed extensive training related to enhanced cleanliness and sanitation policies and procedures

Planet Fitness team members will receive daily temperature checks when they arrive to work each day.

There will be increased thorough cleaning using disinfectant on the EPA list effective against COVID-19, including 20-minute walk arounds by our team to con-



tinually clean and sanitize high-touch areas.

Planet Fitness in Eastie has also implemented;

Increased sanitization stations will be available throughout the gym floor and members will continue to be asked to wipe down equipment before and after use

Touchless check-in is available via the free Planet Fitness app. Simply down-

load the app in advance and scan in at the front desk

New signage will be placed throughout the club that highlights sanitization and Social Fitnessing guidelines

Some pieces of cardio equipment will be temporarily marked out of use to enable Social Fitnessing and create additional distance between members

Clubs will be open un-

der 40% capacity; members can contact their home club for details

Masks or face coverings will be required for members at all times, except when partaking in strenuous cardio exercise and positioned at a distance of 14 feet from others

Lockers will be limited to allow for safe distancing and all showers will be closed



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF

Millennium Park | 315 Gardner Street | Saturday, July 25 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

If you come to our event, please keep in mind:

- face coverings must be worn
- we don't take latex paint, and
- you must place your waste in your trunk or the bed of your truck.

For safety reasons, we won't remove materials from back seats.

This event is weather permitting. For the latest updates, visit our twitter feed **@BostonPWD**

To check a list of acceptable items, visit: **boston.gov/hazardous-waste**

Sports

EB Expos start Yawkey League season with four victories

Special To The Times

The East Boston Expos are off to a tremendous start in the Yawkey Baseball League, winning their first four games.

The high-flying Expos have been using Tony Conigliaro Field at Revere High School for their



Revere Parks and Recreation Director Michael Hinojosa fills his spare time as a Yawkey Baseball League umpire, and here makes a called third strike during Sunday's game between The BASE and the Boston Braves.

homes as the team had not yet been given clearance by the city to use their home field in East Boston.

Several East Boston players appear among the league's batting and pitching leaders. Eric Rodriguez, Derek Adamson, Chris Carey, Michael Oliveira, and Matt Ferro have the Expos

offense rolling along. Adamson was particularly prolific with five hits in his first six at-bats, including a double, a triple, and three RBIs.

Expos fireballer David Kerns had an immense pitching performance, striking out 13 batters in only five innings. Cam Monagle, Scott Hall, and Raul Martinez have also been standouts on the Expos pitching staff.

Matt Costanza, who had an outstanding career at AIC and St. Mary's High school in Lynn, is another "player to watch" on the Expos' talented roster.

The other teams in the highly competitive league are The BASE, Brighton Sox, Stoneham Sabers, Charlestown Townies, Al Thomas Athletics, Brighton Braves, and McKay Club Beacons.

Former East Boston High multi-sports star Kevin Sinatra is excelling for



Kevin Sinatra of East Boston pitched The BASE to a 10-0 win over the Boston Braves in Yawkey Baseball League play this weekend at Revere High.

The BASE, the well-known organization led by community leader Robert Lewis Jr. In recent action, Sinatra pitched a shutout in a win

over the Braves.

The Expos are wearing classy red, white, and blue uniforms similar to those worn by the former Montreal Expos team,

who played in the National League from 1969 to 2004 before relocating to Washington, D.C. and becoming the Washington Nationals.

Raise Up Massachusetts to launch 'Invest in Our Recovery' campaign

Staff Report

Warning that severe state budget cuts would only worsen the effects of the COVID-19 crisis and impair our economy's recovery, the Raise Up Massachusetts coalition of community groups, faith-based organizations, and labor unions is launching the 'Invest in Our Recovery' campaign this week to advocate for increased state taxes on profitable corporations and their wealthy shareholders.

During a series of local outdoor demonstrations across the state beginning on Wednesday, July 15, community, faith, and labor advocates will join educators, healthcare and human service workers, bus drivers, and other public-sector workers to call on Massachusetts lawmakers to avoid devastating budget cuts, and instead invest in public services by asking profitable corporations and investors to pay their fair share.

"Lawmakers have a choice: Massachusetts can let deep budget cuts drive us further into a recession that deepens racial and economic inequities, or we can invest in public services that improve public health, grow our economy, and reduce racial inequality," said Beth Huang, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Voter Table and a member of the Raise Up Massachusetts Steering Committee. "Our legislators can and should raise significant new revenue from profit-

able corporations and their shareholders this year, avoid destructive budget cuts, and instead, invest in healthcare, transportation, education, safety net programs, and other critical areas of the state budget that will drive an equitable recovery."

A list of planned local demonstrations is below:

- BOSTON – Wednesday, July 15 at noon
- Outside the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, Nubian Square (2300 Washington Street, Roxbury)
- REVERE/EVERETT/CHELSEA/EAST BOSTON – Wednesday, July 15 at 6 p.m.
- Revere Beach Bandstand (88 Revere Beach Blvd., Revere)
- LYNN / NORTH SHORE – Thursday, July 16 at noon
- Outside Lynn City Hall (3 City Hall Square, Lynn)

The COVID-19 public health crisis and the crisis of economic disruption created by the pandemic have increased the needs of working families across the state, even as the state budget faces a multi-billion-dollar deficit. Workers need access to paid sick time so that workers who feel sick or may have been exposed can stay home and avoid spreading the virus. Students across the state need more support to handle the trauma and learning loss caused by school closures, not less. Direct care workers on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response ef-

fort need wages and proper workplace protections that reflect the essential work they do.

Children under the protection of the state, whose fragile lives are further disrupted by the pandemic, need added support and attention. Our public transportation systems need resources to run frequent service that allows for social distancing, and investments that will prevent traffic congestion from returning.

Throughout the crisis we're facing, many large corporations continue to generate enormous profits that flow to their extremely wealthy shareholders. According to an analysis by the Institute for Policy Studies, the 19 billionaires in Massachusetts saw their wealth increase by a total of \$17 billion during the first three months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Raise Up Massachusetts

is calling on legislators to adopt policies that ask profitable corporations and their wealthy shareholders to contribute more to our economic recovery:

- Increase the Tax Rate on Corporate Profits – Like most states, Massachusetts taxes corporate profits. Businesses that are turning a profit should be expected to contribute more to support the public goods on which their profits are based, especially during a public health and state fiscal crisis. Raising the current rate of 8.0% to the pre-2009 rate of 9.5% could generate \$450 million to \$525 million annually from profitable businesses, even during a recession.
- Tax Profits Shifted Overseas by Increasing the Tax Rate on GILTI (Global Intangible Low Taxed Income) – Many multinational corporations that do business in MA dodge taxes

by using complex accounting schemes that make their MA-based profits appear to have been earned in off-shore tax havens. This "income shifting" often places these profits beyond the reach of US tax authorities. Massachusetts should do the same as many other states and the federal government, and adopt a federal provision that identifies this shifted income and allows states to tax a portion of it. Could generate \$200 – \$400 million annually.

- Increase the Tax Rate that Investors Pay on Unearned Income – Over the last several decades, Massachusetts has reduced the tax rate on most types of unearned income (income from investments and other forms of asset ownership, such as stocks, bonds, and dividend and interest income). Today, most unearned income is taxed at the same rate as earned in-

come (income from wages and salaries). Unearned income goes overwhelmingly to corporate shareholders and other high-income individuals, who currently pay a smaller share of their income toward state and local taxes in MA than the rest of us do. These high-income investors should be expected to contribute more to support the public goods on which we all depend. Each percentage point increase from the current rate of 5.0% could generate \$400 to \$500 million annually.

With these revenue policies, the 'Invest in Our Recovery' campaign aims to avoid destructive budget cuts that would only add to the harm the COVID-19 pandemic has caused, and instead move forward with investments that improve public health, grow our economy, and tackle racial inequalities.

DO YOU SPRAY ROUND UP?

COULD YOU BE AT RISK

Originally introduced in 1974 by Monsanto, Roundup is one of the world's most commonly used herbicides. Roundup contains glyphosate, which has been declared a "probable human carcinogen" from the International Agency for the Research on Cancer.

Source: YourGreenPal.com The Complete Guide to Roundup Exposure. Are You at Risk?

Bayer bought Monsanto in 2018. Despite Bayer's denial of any wrongdoing, Bayer reached a \$10 billion dollar settlement on June 24, 2020 to settle lawsuits regarding claims that Roundup® causes cancer.

The Massachusetts State Legislature's bill, House No. 4413, which would ban consumer use of glyphosate, is pending in the House Committee on Ways and Means. The Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture has recommended its passage.

The Winthrop Board of Health is issuing this Advisory to inform consumers of the potential risks associated with the use of Roundup®.

For additional information and list of alternative options, go to Northeast Organic Farming Association/Massachusetts Chapter at www.nofamass.org.

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Rice-A-Roni..... 10/¢10.00

Gatorade 64 oz 2/¢4.00

Xtra Laundry Detergent 75 oz..... 2/¢5.00

Capri Sun Drinks..... 2/¢4.00

Skippy Peanut Butter..... 2/¢4.00

Barilla Pasta 4/¢5.00

(gluten free-protein-tortellini-pasta ready)

Chicken of the Sea Chunk Light

Canned Tuna in water..... 4/¢5.00

Turkey Hill Iced Tea..... 2/¢3.00

Redi Whipped Cream..... 2/¢5.00

Stok Cold Brew Coffee 48 oz..... ¢3.99

Deli

Best Yet Oven Roasted Turkey Breast ¢5.99/lb

Alpine Lace Swiss Cheese ¢6.99/lb

Kretschmar Rotisserie Chicken Breast.. ¢6.99/lb

Best Yet Imported Cooked Ham ¢3.99/lb

Hans Kissele Cheese Tortellini Salad ¢6.99/lb

Produce

Fresh Italian Plum Tomatoes ¢1.29/lb

Imported Sweet & Juicy Cantaloupes .. 2/¢5.00

Tropical Sweet Golden Pineapples ... 2/¢5.00

California Fresh Sleeved Celery ¢1.29

Sweet & Tasty Driscoll Raspberries 6 oz. ¢2.99

Bakery

Pecan Sticky Buns 6 pk..... ¢4.99

Our Own Assorted Brownies ¢3.59

7" Chocolate Oreo Cake ¢7.99

Meat

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Assorted Bone In Pork Chops ¢1.49/lb

Center Cut Steaks ¢2.99/lb

Bone In Chicken Thighs ¢1.19/lb

Tyson Bacon..... 2/¢11.00

Bob Evans Mashed Potatoes & Macaroni & Cheese..... 2/¢8.00

Weekend Specials

Friday, July 17th through Sunday July 19th

"while supplies last"

BAKERY

Lemon Poppy Muffins 4pk ¢4.99

Parisian Bread ¢1.99

DELI

Great Lakes American Cheese ¢3.29/lb

Best Yet Roast Beef..... ¢8.99/lb

PRODUCE

Creamy Smooth Tropical Avocados..... 4/¢5.00

Bi-Color Sweet Corn..... 5/¢2.99

Fresh & Crisp Iceberg Lettuce..... 4/¢5.00 limit 4

MEAT

Family Pack Boneless Sirloin Strip Steak ¢8.99/lb

Family Pack Boneless Chicken Breast ¢1.89/lb

Family Pack Chicken Drumsticks 99¢/lb

GROCERY

Starbucks K-Cups ¢5.99 limit 3

Kemps Frozen Yogurt..... ¢2.99 limit 3

Tropicana Orange Juice 89 oz ¢4.99 limit 2

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New Store Hours starting June 22: Mon-Sat 7:30 am-8pm; Sun: 7:30am-7pm; Senior Hours: Mon-Sun: 7:30am-8:30pm

Not responsible for typographical errors. We have the right to limit quantities.

OBITUARIES

Ann Colvario

Late proprietor of Willie’s Classic Barbershop formerly of Maverick St., East Boston

Ann M. (Speciale) Colvario of Saugus, formerly of East Boston, died on July 9.

The late proprietor of Willie’s Classic Barbershop, formerly of Maverick St., East Boston, she was the beloved mother of Gina Colvario Krupka and her husband, Mike Krupka of Rhode Island and the late Diane Colvario VanMeter;



grandmother of James and Lucas VanMeter; daughter of the late Emily (Cioffi) and James Speciale; sister of Edward Speciale and his wife, Kathy, Joanne Lovetere and her husband, Frank and the late Ida Pennacchio and her surviving husband, Anthony “Spinny” Pennacchio and niece of John Speciale. Ann has been blessed by a family of many friends and loved ones.

In keeping with safe COVID-19 practices, all indoor services will be private. Anyone attending graveside services at Woodlawn Cemetery today, Wednesday, July 15, at noon is requested to meet in the lot behind the chapel and remain in their vehicles.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Ann’s memory to either the American Cancer Society or Greater Lynn Senior Services (GLSS) would be appreciated.

Please send messages of condolence to Ann’s family on the funeral home website Tribute Page: Magrath-FuneralHome.com.

Michael DiVenuti

A known figure around Eastie

Michael G. DiVenuti of Lynn passed away suddenly on July 2.

Michael worked many years at some of Massachusetts finer lodging facilities and also supervised many local Dunkin Donuts. Mike loved being with family.

He was a known figure around Eastie always following any team his dad was coaching on any level. Standing 6 foot 3 inches, he was a strikingly huge man who was as happy and loving as he was large. As many of us know, our families always have a member who struggles. Mike’s struggles are now over.

He is survived by his father, Gerard ‘Gerry’ DiVenuti Sr. of East Boston/ Lynn and Melrose and Barbara Jensen DiVenuti of Lynn and Wilmington and his grandfather, John of Lynn and his late grandmother, Phyllis. He is also survived by his aunt, Joan



of Middleton and brothers, John of Revere and Gerard ‘Gerry’ Jr. of East Boston. He was the nephew of the late Mark and his aunt, Sally of Portsmouth, Virginia. Also included are his dear late grandparents, Otto and Josephine Jensen and his uncle, Robert Jensen. Michael also leaves his pride and joy, Aubree DiVenuti of Dover, NH and his niece, Jaylani Thalia DiVenuti of East Boston. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Dorothy Grace Polito

Of Melrose, formerly of East Boston

Dorothy Grace Polito, 33, of Melrose, formerly of East Boston, died on Wednesday, July 1 at Melrose Wakefield Hospital due to complications from staph and sepsis infection.

Born in Boston on October 20, 1986, she was the cherished daughter of Ronalee (Small) Polito of East Boston and the late Richard Polito.

Dorothy was a graduate of East Boston High School, Class of 2005, attended Bunker Hill Community College, Gibbs College and earned her Practical Nursing Certificate in 2013 at the Medical Professional Institute in Malden.

She was the devoted mother of three-year-old Illyana Polito and the fiancé of Michael Murray of Melrose; the adored sister of Everett Fraser of East Boston and Richard Polito of Winthrop; the loving niece of Catherine Clapp



of Rosedale, MD, Lillian Nesbit and Samuel Small of East Boston, Suzanne Small of Everett and the late Carol Kilbreth, Louise Shepherd, Marion Cheffro, Patricia Brown, Charles Small, William Small and Barbara McCormack.

She is also survived by many loving family members and friends.

Family and friends honored Dorothy’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston, MA on Wednesday, July 8.

James Furlong

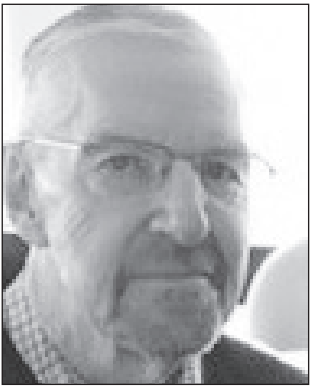
Gillette retiree



James (Jim) P. Furlong passed away in peace on July 7.

Born in Medford on June 10, 1939, Jim attended St. Joseph’s Parochial Grammar School and Matignon High School in Medford. After graduating high school, Jim attended Northeastern University earning a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in accounting and economics. After college, Jim enlisted in the military serving for two years in the Army Signal Corps. During his military service, Jim served in Seoul, S. Korea, and in Arizona.

Following his honorable discharge, Jim had the good fortune to work for The Gillette Company for 37 years in various capacities. Jim joined the company as an internal auditor, then advanced to positions within the finance, employee benefit, human resource, and community affairs departments. Jim enjoyed his time at Gillette and developed close ties to a number



of terrific people.

Jim loved the theatre and was an avid movie buff, particularly of film noir. He was also a voracious and lifelong reader.

He was a devoted uncle to his nephew, James Alberetti and his wife, Maria and a beloved great uncle to his great nieces, Ava and Tess Alberetti. He is also survived by many loving cousins and friends.

At Jim’s request, all services will be held privately. Jim will be buried alongside his sister, Ann Elizabeth (Furlong) Alberetti and his parents, Irene (Gillespie) and James Furlong in the family plot at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden. For guest book, please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

JON D. “JD” FINOCCHIO

5th Year Anniversary
Aug. 19, 1954 - July 15, 2015



*If we could have one lifetime wish,
One dream that could come true,
We would pray to God
With all our hearts
For yesterday and you.
Friends may think we have
forgotten,
When at times they see us smile,
But little do they know the pain
Our love hides all the while.
We think of you in silence
And often speak your name,
Now all we have are memories
And your picture in a frame.
They say that time heals all sorrow
And helps us to forget,
But so far time has only proven
How much we miss you yet.
We know you'll walk beside us
And when our lives are through,
We pray that God will take our
hand
And lead us straight to you.
Lovingly Remembered
& Sadly Missed by
Your Loving Family*

6th Year Anniversary Remembrance July 12th 2014 - July 12th, 2020

Rosemarie (Mona) Leone

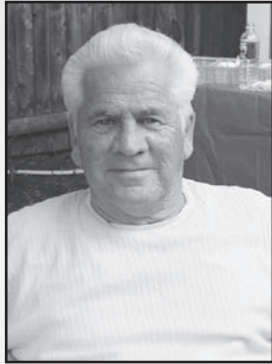


*It has been 6 long years
Since you were taken from us.
The days are so long and hard not
hearing your beautiful voice and seeing
your beautiful face. We miss seeing
you sitting in Nonny's Chair enjoying
your Dunkin Donuts ice coffee and
scratching tickets. We will always continue
to love and miss you every day of
our lives. Please keep watching over us.*

**We Love You, Rest in Peace Our
“Beautiful Guardian Angel”**

**With all our Love,
Your Loving Husband, Children & Grandchildren**

Birthday Remembrance Charles F. Moore "Pee Wee" — July 17, 1936—



*If we could only
write it on the clouds
or sky of blue,
We'd send a special
message as our birthday
card to you.
We'd tell of how we
miss you, and think
of you each day.
We wish that we*

*could tell you, on this your special day.
Forever in Our Hearts on
this Special Day and ALWAYS*

**We Love You and Miss You,
Your Loving Wife, Children,
Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren**

Rita Vitale

Loving wife, mother, grandmother and
crackerjack bookkeeper

Rita (D’Ortona) Vitale of Revere, formerly of East Boston, passed away at the age of 89 on July 5.

Rita and her late husband, Charlie raised their family in the Beachmont section of Revere. In the early years, Rita entertained her family by playing the organ and ukulele, which she taught herself to play. She and Charlie sang along with the kids often. Rita enjoyed doing crafts of all sorts, including sewing, knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching and cake decorating.

In more recent years, her favorite hobby was scrapbooking. She lovingly made beautiful scrapbooks for her children and grandchildren using the many pictures she took over the years. Before and after raising her family, Rita was a cracker-jack bookkeeper.

Born in Boston on March 4, 1931 to the late Nicholas and Mary Costa) D’Ortona, she was the beloved wife of 56 years to the late Charles (Charlie) Vitale Sr., devoted mother to Charles (Chuckie) Vitale Jr. of Lynn and his partner, Debbie Dwyer, Patti Vitale Cameron and her husband, Dan of Reading and Maria



Vitale Cannatella of Peabody; dear sister of Lorraine Repoli and Marianne Fiore, both of Revere and the proud grandmother of John Jr. and Joseph Cannatella, Christopher, Gregory and Stephanie Cameron, and Darla Vitale. Rita was mother in law to Cindy Vitale of Medford and John Cannatella of Salem, NH. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held privately due to Covid-19. The family is planning a memorial service to celebrate Rita’s life in early August. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are welcome to Dementia Society of America, PO Box 600, Doylestown, PA 18901 <https://www.dementiasociety.org/> For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

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Markey and Kennedy answer questions posed by inmates in socially distanced forum

By Lauren Bennett

On July 7, the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department held a Senate Forum with Senator Ed Markey and Congressman Joe Kennedy III, candidates for the US Senate in this year’s election.

The forum, which was moderated by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tompkins, was closed to the public, but was live streamed on Facebook and included questions from men and women in custody at the South Bay House of Correction. Each candidate had their own round of questions and were not in the room at the same time, and masks were worn by everyone and social distancing was observed.

Questions ranged from concerns about transportation access to ensuring support after prison to child-care and housing.

In his opening statement, Senator Markey said that the criminal justice system needs to be “overhauled,” and that resources are not currently provided to people to make sure they get the help they need before, during, and after prison. “We have to change that,” he said.

“You learn a lot about a country by who it imprisons,” Markey said. “We imprison the black and the brown citizens in our country in disproportionate numbers.”

When asked about the necessity for access to

transportation, Markey said that he and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley introduced legislation saying that public transportation should be free “so that you’re able to go to your destination, to be where you have to be, to do what you have to do.”

Congressman Kennedy agreed that “the obstacles that exist” for people to be able to get to and from places like work, school, and the grocery store “are massive” and possibly expanding or rethinking programs like the MBTA’s The Ride could be part of the solution.

Markey was also asked why prisons and jails are becoming “de facto mental health institutions,” and he said that de-institutionalizing people about 35 years ago put people with mental illness out on the streets.

“What we did was we took one program and ended it,” he said, adding that the government then did not provide funding to ensure that individuals received proper health care. He said that making access to treatment available “before they do something that results in the police taking them” is necessary, as are sufficient funds for the mental health system in general.

“We criminalize low level offenses rather than give resources,” he said, saying that mental health issues should be treated like the diseases they are.

Markey was also asked why he is “interested in what we have to say if we

are not able to vote as inmates?” In Massachusetts, those incarcerated for a felony are ineligible to vote, but are permitted to do so again once they are released.

Markey responded with “because you’re citizens; because everyone should be treated with dignity.” He said that one day, “you’re going to go back out there,” and after leaving prison, he wants to make sure they get the help and support they need to be successful. “We have to think of you as a part of a larger family,” he said, and make sure that many issues are treated as health issues, not criminal ones.

“Our country in this moment is in the midst of a massive cry for change,” Kennedy said in his opening statement.

Kennedy called for fewer people in jails, and “[making] sure we aren’t incarcerating folks who are sick.”

On police reform, Markey said that “every police officer should have to wear a camera. There should be no circumstances of where they aren’t and there should be a full recording of what took place.”

He added that “any police officer that engages in conduct that violates the constitutional rights of an individual should be held accountable...in the criminal justice system.”

Markey also called for more social workers, mental health resources, drug

rehabilitation workers, and employment opportunities to be funded with the reallocation of resources. He said doing so will help rid of the “school to prison pipeline” in America.

“This is the moment of reckoning,” Markey said. “We need police accountability” and to deal with the “racial bias that is built into the system.” He talked about sentencing guidelines and the discrepancy that exists between crack and powdered cocaine.

Markey was also asked about his initiatives against gun violence, and why there is a lot of housing for people dealing with substance abuse but not those involved in gun violence.

Markey said that despite the National Rifle Association (NRA) not wanting it, he succeeded in adding \$25 million to the federal budget for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to conduct research on the causes of gun violence. He also agreed that more assistance and funding for those involved in gun violence is necessary.

“A vision without funding is a hallucination,” he said.

When asked about how he will help with racial disparities if elected to the Senate, Kennedy said “we need to be doing so much more. My efforts are obviously not enough. My commitment to you is to do everything I possibly can.” He talked about filing legislation to address structural inequities, but he said

showing up to communities “who have been screaming about this for longer than I’ve been alive” and “where people are unseen and unheard” is vital. “There is value in showing up,” he said.

Kennedy said that “the way in which we approach the ‘war on drugs’ does not work,” and it “has to change.”

He said those in prison for a long period of time also need access to education and professional development programs to give them skill sets to be able to provide for their families once they are out of prison.

Markey also said he will advocate for change to the mandatory minimum sentencing system, which he said is “leading to over incarceration.” Kennedy agreed that they system needs to change.

Housing was another issue brought up several times in different contexts. Markey said that making sure people do not get evicted from their homes and ensuring they have income coming in each month is important.

Kennedy said that “housing is one of the biggest roadblocks that we face here,” and more money is needed for affordable housing as many people who are vital to running the city can’t even afford to live in it. “100 percent, we have to do an awful lot more,” Kennedy said.

One of the women said that many inmates do not

trust elected officials like Kennedy because “you haven’t had our background.” She said that when she gets out, she wants to fight for women inmates, and suggested that hiring people like her would be a huge help to elected officials. “People that don’t know what it’s like to be arrested” shouldn’t be the ones making decisions on related topics, she said, adding that she believes former inmates acting as consultants could be beneficial.

“I think it’s a great idea,” Kennedy said. “Government is the way we as a collective respond to challenges.”

In closing, Markey reiterated his commitment to working on the lack of funding for substance abuse and mental health issues, which are “making it difficult for people to reincorporate into society,” he said.

“I promise you that I will fight with every ounce of strength which I have to overhaul this criminal justice system; this policing system,” he added. There are “too many people behind bars who shouldn’t be there.”

Kennedy said that “our normal...isn’t good enough. We have a chance to actually reset the trajectory of our country.” He called for “policies that meet people where they are and say ‘let’s do something about it.’”

The full Senate forum can be viewed on the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department Facebook page.

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COURT DEPARTMENT
Suffolk Probate

And Family Court
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BY PUBLICATION
AND MAILING
Docket No.

SU19D2493DR
Juliana Restrepo
Plaintiff
vs.
Ricardo Ortiz
Defendant
To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a
Complaint for Divorce re-
questing that Court grant a
divorce for Irretrievable
Breakdown.
The Complaint is on file
at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining
Order has been entered
in this matter preventing
you from taking any
action which would nega-
tively impact the current
financial status of either

party. SEE Supplemental
Probate Court Rule 411.
You are hereby
summoned and required
to serve upon: Juliana
Restrepo 21 Moore
Street, East Boston, MA


02128-1010 your answer,
if any on or before
08/19/2020. If you fail
to do so, the court will
proceed to the hearing
and adjudication of his
action. You are also

required to file a copy of
your answer, if any, in
the office of the Register
of this Court.
Witness, Hon. Brian J.
Dunn, First Justice of this
Court.

Date: June 19, 2020
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

MGC SEES NEED FOR BEACHAM ST. IMPROVEMENTS

CHELSEA - The City and the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) can agree on one thing – that Beacham Street needs significant monies to improve the path to the Encore Boston Harbor casino for guests and employees.

The Beacham Street corridor is one of the only connections from Chelsea to the casino, and it is also a major freight corridor for the region's food supply from the New England Produce Market, and the MGC voted on June 25 to award \$1.5 million to Chelsea to assist in building out their re-construction of Beacham.

The City applied for two grants from the MGC's mitigation funds, which was rare for one project to request significant funds for mitigation. Nevertheless, the MGC's review board felt Beacham was very important.

They awarded \$500,000 from the Specific Impact Program based on a Casino Traffic Study the City conducted showing more traffic after the casino opened. Then the City also got a \$1 million grant from the Transportation Construction Program.

"We're indescribably excited and pleased with the Gaming Commission's decision," said Planner Alex Train. "This is a benefit to the community as well. By getting this Mass Gaming grant, we can finance the project independently and allows the City to finance other capital projects. It relieves an immense financial burden on us given the current fiscal condition."

The project has been in the works for some time, and is just about ready to go to construction. Train said it has been fully engineered and designed. It has also been permitted and the City plans to release it for bids this month.

"This project will allow the corridor to further its use as a freight corridor, but also it will allow it to become more of a pedestrian and bicycle corridor," he said.

The project is a full reconstruction of the area, including new drainage with double the capacity for flood absorption. They will rehabilitate the sewer and water piping, and do a full-depth reconstruction of the roadway.

There will also be a shared use path installed for pedestrians and cyclists and landscaping installed along the corridor to "green up" the area.

The City has already received federal grant money for the project, and some state money as well. Everett is in the midst of planning their section of the project as well, which will allow for the entire Beacham Street stretch between Chelsea and Everett to be one, matching, contiguous reconstruction.

The corridor has not been seriously improved, Train said, since it was built in the 1960s.

MURAL ON FIFTH STREET PLANNED

CHELSEA - Active members of the community and the arts community in Chelsea are being sought to plan and design a massive mural on Fifth Street to be painted by highly-regarded muralist David Fichter.

The Chelsea Cultural Council has approved funding provided by the State Gaming Commission to engage the highly regarded muralist David Fichter to create an 80-foot mural for the Fifth Street side of 466 Broadway.

Over the next five months

the design will be developed with input from members of the community, and Downtown Coordinator Mimi Graney is recruiting members of the community for a Steering Committee. Fichter will paint the design on aluminum panels in his studio over the winter and the Chelsea Heritage Mural will be installed in late May/early June 2021.

"David has a distinctive, realistic style that features the people, architecture and other details reflective of the mural location," said Graney. "For over 30 years he has created murals and mosaics, taking him all over the United States and internationally, including Nicaragua, Armenia, and Georgia. You likely have seen some of his work in high profile locations like the Alewife T station."

"What's exciting about working with David is that his approach is to collaborate closely with the community in the development of the design," she continued. "Working with residents of all ages, he's completed more than 200 permanent murals that have become beloved local landmarks that communicate the story of each neighborhood."

Over a series of virtual meetings members of the Steering Committee will be working progressively to define the mural's theme, identify specific elements to include in the mural, source reference images for his illustration, and reach out to other members of the community for gather their input.

Art skills are not required, Graney said.

"We're looking for folks who are reflective of the city and who are ready to contribute their ideas and insights on the people, history and architecture of Chelsea," she said.

The Steering Committee will be most active through the design development phase with four meetings held between July to November. The decision-making and design process will be sequential so they are seeking a consistent group through these four meetings to build on the ideas and to keep the project moving forward.

BREAD OF LIFE KEEPS HELPING

EVERETT - As the COVID-19 pandemic continues into the summer months, it can be taken for granted that the need for many families to access food continues just as strongly as it did in April or May.

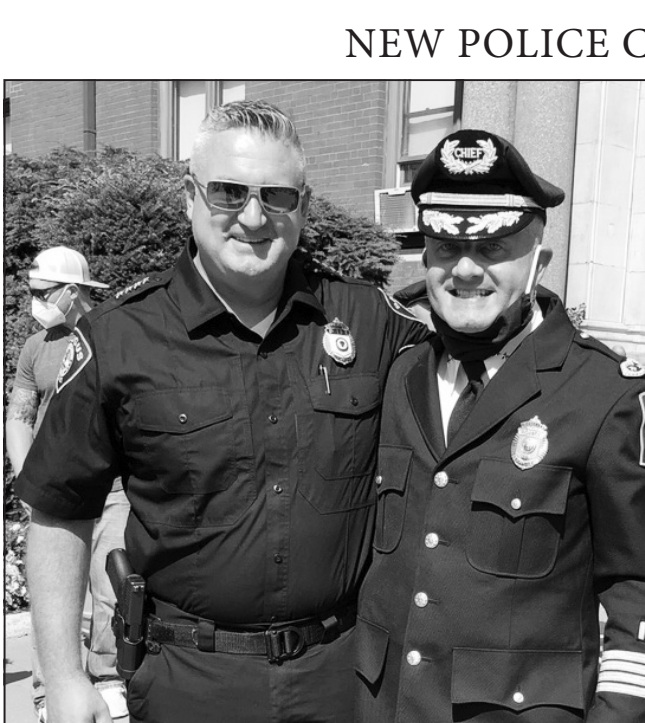
Lines at the Food Pantries in Everett have not let up as the months have gone on, and that's why Bread of Life introduced their pop-up food pantry at the Lafayette School in late May.

The pantry has a walk-up option, but it also has a very smooth drive-thru option as well – which involves much less contact and time than the pantries with lines for service.

Tainara Candido runs the pop-up, which takes place from 3-5 p.m. every Thursday at the Lafayette front door. She said there are no requirements, and the pop-up – which has operated out of City Hall for years – simply wants to get food into the hands of needy people.

"There are no requirements and no one has to prove anything to get help," she said. "There definitely is still a huge need in Everett. I really think this one can be easier for a lot of people. The need is there and I don't think everyone is aware of all the places giving out food, like ours."

Last week the traffic at the pantry was steady, and Candida said they serve about 200 families per



week that drive thru or walk up on a Thursday.

The first week, on May 28, they had 240 families come through.

Patty Kelly of Bread of Life said they have served 555 households in June, and a total of 795 households since they opened in May.

"We've been in City Hall for quite some time," said Kelly. "City Hall is closed for now and the need in Everett continues to grow. There are other food resources in Everett, which is wonderful, but there is need for more. That's why we decided to add a day on Thursdays."

Candida said the site is really smooth, and almost made for such a system.

"I do like the site because it's visible and for us it's a quick and easy set-up," she said. "For those coming, you just drive down the street, get the food and leave."

Last Thursday, cars came in one after another in the afternoon. Volunteers asked where they were from, just for record keeping purposes, and then they proceeded to the distribution point, where volunteers loaded their food in the trunk or back seat.

Margaret Mato, her son Samuel Costa and his friend, Vinicius Terra, have been volunteering at the Lafayette for several weeks. Mato said there is so much need, and it's something she can do to help.

"I always like to do volunteer work and I do volunteer at my church too," she said. "It's our way to help others who need it. There are a lot of people who are in need. Some don't know or aren't aware this is here. So, I always tell everyone about it too. My son and his friend didn't want to come the first time. Now, they have a lot of fun and they like to help. It's good to know when times are tough whom you can count on."

Other volunteers are needed to help load up the truck at Bread of Life in Malden and unload it at the Lafayette. Volunteers are also needed to break down the pantry and take supplies back to Malden. Likewise, many volunteers there come from Encore Boston Harbor and with them going back to work, there could be a shortfall of hands to help. Anyone who would like to participate

NEW POLICE CHIEF IN REVERE



Numerous law enforcement officials attended the swearing-in of new Revere Police Chief David Callahan last week at City Hall, including Saugus Police Chief Michael Ricciardelli (top left), Massachusetts State Police Troop A Commander Matthew Gravini and Executive Officer Captain Punzio Orlando (top right), and Troopers Joseph MacFarlane and Carlo Mastromattei (left).

and Charlestown. Already, last year, neighborhood leaders in Charlestown threatened to take another look at the DPA in Charlestown to unlock some parcels for recreation. That was dropped when several amenities were included in a new lease agreement with MassPort. In Chelsea, a full review of their DPA with the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) agency in 2018 bore mixed results. Some parts Chelsea wanted out of its DPA on the Chelsea Creek were kept in, and other places they weren't excited about particularly were taken out. It is a process that is full up to CZM and to the maritime businesses that inhabit the DPA. That said, including the MGC, believe the Everett DPA could be a different story given that a \$2.1 billion resort casino lies but 200 yards from the boundary of the DPA. This has also been a fact that Mayor Carlo DeMaria has touted for many years, most recently when Encore opened last summer.

Tom Philbin, waterfront and resiliency director for Everett, said there are plenty of examples of DPAs throughout Massachusetts being altered for different uses, including hotels and HarborWalks.

Sousa said he could envision some sort of cruise ship terminal to complement Black Falcon in the Seaport and to serve Encore. Meanwhile, he said a helicopter heliport that is needed in Greater Boston could be located in the DPA as well. He said it will also be important to work with the strong businesses that are there, and also to complement the plans being made for Lower Broadway in the future by Encore and others.

"I'm super-excited because this is what starts it all – the Lower Broadway Master Plan we've been talking about for years," he said. "There will be transformative. It's hard to believe we have the ability and it can open up a lot of opportunities to build off the strong businesses that are there. We were really excited as a City to get that grant. It's always been, 'Hey, it's the DPA. We can't do anything.' This will be looking at it with an open mind."

Philbin said the first step will be procuring the grant money from the MGC, and then getting a consultant on board sometime in July or August. That will lead to a one-year study which will solicit community and business input, and will update the existing Municipal Harbor Plan done several years

ago ahead of Encore's construction. That study will then be submitted in 2021, likely, to CZM, who will analyze it and look to see if there is any room for altering the DPA in Everett.

There are about 100 additional acres of land in the DPA that is over the City Line in Chelsea, and they will likely become a partner eventually in the study.

COUNCIL TO RETURN TO CHAMBERS

REVERE - City Council President Patrick Keefe said the 11-member Council will return to the Joseph A. DeGrosso Chambers at City Hall for its next meeting on July 27.

The Council has been participating remotely in meetings for the past few months during the COVID-19 health crisis.

"We're working out the details and our intention is to hold our meetings in the Chambers with restrictions," said Keefe. "It's a good sign that's we'll be back at City Hall and I feel it's a better format for our meetings to be held in our historic Chambers. And the meetings will still be broadcast live on Revere TV."

Keefe said the Zoom remote meetings went well and the technical aspects of having the 10 other councilors participating from 10 different locations improved with each meeting.

"I think we were effective in having our discussions heard and making sure that people weren't speaking over each other," said Keefe, whose responsibility as president is to recognize each councillor when he/she requests to speak. "Overall it went well considering we were conducting meetings for the first-time in this manner."

Keefe said there were a few attempts by residents to interrupt meetings on Zoom, including a prolonged, 30-minute stretch during the last sub-committee meeting on June 29, but he and City Clerk Ashley Melnik were able to keep "the disrupters" from voicing "vulgar language" on the Zoom broadcasts.

Keefe said Melnik's efforts were very professional and very helpful during the Zoom meetings.

"There is a reason that Ashley has been granted lifetime tenure," said Keefe. "She's a consummate professional, she's highly effective at her job and she supports the entire city, not just the City Council."

New study examines diversity of civic workforce in Massachusetts

Staff Report

The people who work for Massachusetts cities and towns are overwhelmingly whiter and older than the communities or region that they serve, creating a looming diversity challenge as public employees retire, according to a study released this week by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in Boston this week.

Using Census data from the American Community Survey and locally reported demographic information, MAPC analyzed municipal workforces by race, ethnicity and gender in more than 160 cities and towns across the Commonwealth. The resulting report, “Diversity Deficit: Municipal Employees in Greater Boston,” paints a dismal picture of the lack of diversity among our municipal workforce, and recommends steps we can all take to overcome and address this lack of representation.

“We all have a stake in making sure our public servants reflect the make-up of our communities and the entire region, whether that’s by race, ethnicity, age, or gender,” said Marc Draisen, Executive Director of MAPC, which helps cities and towns in Greater Boston plan for the future and collaborate on common challenges.

“A municipal workforce that doesn’t look much like the community it serves or the region as a whole may have a hard time understanding resident problems and needs,” he continued. “In an era when the racial and ethnic diversity of the region’s population is fast changing, and there’s growing attention to longstanding issues of injustice and discrimination, it is critical for any employer to have a representative and diverse workforce. This is especially true for cities and towns.”

According to the research, the municipal workforce skews older than the civilian workforce, with a wave of retirements projected to stress the system over the next decade. More than half of current city and town employees will be past traditional retirement age – 65 years old – by 2030, creating an even greater need for new workers to staff municipal functions like libraries, animal control, municipal department heads, DPW, school nurses, receptionists, emergency dispatchers, and more.

Additionally, the lack of racial and ethnic diversity plaguing the workforce of many cities and towns is already even more pronounced among younger workers, who may not see a home for themselves in civic jobs. This is compounded by the fact that the racial

and ethnic gap among managers and department heads is particularly severe.

Representation of people of color among senior management in municipalities helps to shift workplace culture, and also provides hope of advancement to entry-level and mid-career staff of color, the study points out. If paired with equitable HR policies and practices, better representation among management-level municipal staff can positively impact policy decisions that affect the public, and foster more trust among government and marginalized communities. Jobs with fewer formal education requirements can also provide expanded opportunities to those from disadvantaged backgrounds, opening up access to the stable employment and living wages public-sector jobs can provide.

Some municipalities have made strong efforts at diversifying their workforce, while others lag behind. Overall:

- Workers born before 1970 make up 52% of all full-time local government workers, compared to 46% of the region’s overall labor force;

- People of color are under-represented among municipal employees, and this disparity is even worse among younger workers – an extremely concerning trend as more senior work-

ers retire;

- Current municipal workers are much more likely to be male, except for predominantly female education occupations;

- And law enforcement in particular is made up of 78% white males, a group that constitutes just 35% of the population at large.

So how can Greater Boston’s residents and policy makers go about fixing this diversity deficit? The report suggests several changes to recruitment methods and hiring practices:

- Each municipality should collect and report data around municipal workforce demographics, on an annual basis, and according to consistent state-

wide data standards;

- Ensure candidates of color are interviewed for senior positions;

- Re-evaluate hiring based on residency for some jobs;

- Create employee affinity groups to improve retention through peer support;

- Withdraw police and fire departments from the state’s civil service program, replacing it instead with locally tailored criteria meant to mirror the community’s specific needs, including diversity;

- Develop internship, fellowship, and mentoring programs for young people of color, to help spur municipal hiring.

“If we are truly serious

about addressing the lack of diversity in the municipal workforce, we must also begin to tackle deficiencies in how these work environments may be structured,” said Seleeke Flingai, Lead Researcher and Report author.

“Diversity recruitment efforts can only go so far if the workplace one enters is toxic or restricting for marginalized people. To see real, sustainable change, we must do the work of transforming our workplaces to become more equitable anti-racist, anti-sexist institutions.”

To read the full report, visit metrocommon.mapc.org.

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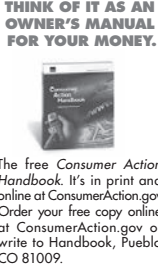
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Metro News //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

cil. And her whole department represents us well.”

NU NURSING STUDENTS HELPING AT CITY HALL

REVERE - Revere City Hall resumed in-person operations on June 29 with the help of nursing students from Northeastern University. Revere’s Public Health Nurse, Carol Donovan, works with Northeastern each year to bring nursing students into Revere schools to help those students earn more public health experience. With closures due to COVID-19, Carol enlisted the help of those students to safely reopen various municipal services.

The students are stationed at City Hall, the American Legion building and the Recreation Center. They greet residents as they enter the building, complete a symptom check and ask about potential exposures within the past two weeks. Residents are asked to provide their names and phone numbers for the purpose of contact tracing.

“I knew I needed their help and that they wanted public health experience, so this was the perfect opportunity. They are a fantastic group of students, and we are so grateful for their flexibility and for their willingness to go above and beyond to help Revere,” Carol Donovan said. Beyond basic screening procedures, the student nurses created posters in English, Portuguese, and Spanish to better spread awareness about safety precautions.

Nursing student Jessica Marroquin added: “Our role is to educate residents and city employees to do their part in protecting themselves and the people around them. We do this by making sure we get the message out to as many visitors and employees as we can.”

As for the Parks and Recreation Department, the nursing students have provided the youth summer employees with training and tips for maintaining social distancing and best practices. They are work-

ing diligently to inform as many Revere residents as possible in order to slow then spread.

“Revere needs assistance in opening up safely, and we are here to do that. Carol Donovan has been instrumental in getting this done. It has been great for the nursing students to get out into the public and to hear firsthand the concerns that many residents currently have,” said Kathleen Tracy, RNC, DNP, clinical instructor for Northeastern.

COUNCIL SEEKING TO FORM A HRC

WINTHROP - At a meeting on July 7, Council President Phil Boncore announced Winthrop would be forming a Human Rights Commission (HRC).

Town Manager Austin Faison is in the process of drafting a mission statement and is immediately seeking community members to serve on the committee.

The role of an HRC is to educate communities on inclusion and diversity, provide resources on civil and human rights, ensure that all residents have easy access to government services, and support arts and culture. It also handles complaints of discrimination and is empowered to intervene before they turn into costly lawsuits.

Many local towns and cities have already established human rights commissions, including Beverly, Belmont, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Danvers, Malden, Medford, Salem, Somerville and Wakefield. Revere is also considering creating one.

The idea of an HRC in Winthrop was first discussed as early as 2018. A group of concerned residents pressed the council to create an official committee dedicated to diversity and inclusion. Despite emails, calls, op-eds and social media posts pushing for its development, it was never brought to a vote.

Residents renewed their discussions about a possible HRC following the death of George Floyd, buoyed by the growing public support

for the Black Lives Matter movement and the presence of a number of new councilors.

“The community seems to have a desire for [it],” said Town Manager Faison in an interview with the Transcript published June 22. “I think that would be a useful step, to begin learning about and embracing all of the cultures that are represented within the community and the region.”

In the week prior to the council meeting, the Transcript ran two community letters in support of an HRC.

“Such a committee would help deal with any form of alleged discrimination,” wrote Donna Segreti Reilly. “I trust that the council would create an HRC and appoint qualified members to oversee it.”

“It is not enough to be a silent bystander in this fight for equality and inclusion; we must take action,” echoed Reverend Terri Bracy. “The establishment of an [HRC] would be a good first step.”

During the public comment period of the meeting, several residents called in to praise the council’s decision.

The matter was moved to the Committee on Appointments, Commissions, and Committees.

3 ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE GRANTS

WINTHROP - During a virtual awards ceremony on ZOOM, three Winthrop nonprofits received grant money totaling \$11,500 to support free summer beach events as part of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) annual Better Beaches grant program

In the past grant money allowed organizations like theFriends of Winthrop Beach, Winthrop Chamber of Commerce, and Friends of Belle Isle Marsh to hold larger events that drew many to the country’s first public beach during the summer months.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has put the brakes on larger gatherings as people continue to practice social distancing.

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