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APPRECIATION

Irvienne Goldson, longtime ABCD health advocate, dies unexpectedly

By John Lynds

Friends, family and colleagues of Irvienne Goldson said to know her was to love her.

Sadly, Mrs. Goldson, who served as deputy director of Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) Health Services, died suddenly last week.

Mrs. Goldson joined ABCD in 1992 as manager of education and training and rose to become deputy director of ABCD Health Services department and a powerhouse of healthcare advocacy in Boston.

"It is with the deepest sadness that I share that Irvienne Goldson passed away suddenly," said EBCD President and CEO John Drew in a statement announcing her passing. "Her rare leadership and

See GOLDSON Page 2

Irvienne Goldson, longtime ABCD health advocate, died suddenly last week.

VIGIL IN MAVERICK SQUARE

On New Year's Eve friends and family held a candlelight vigil for Eastie murder victim Kerwide Barthélemy. Barthélemy was killed in Maverick Square on Christmas Eve while defending a friend. See Page 6 for story and more photos.

Prius catalytic converters being stolen in Eastie

By John Lynds

Just before New Years Eve an Orient Heights resident awoke to a loud noise outside his home.

"I heard a loud noise, looked outside and didn't see anything," said the residents who will remain nameless.

The next morning when he started his Toyota Prius he realized someone had stolen his catalytic converter.

"It was so fast within 10-20 seconds," he said. "They also got another resident who lives right near me."

A car's catalytic converter acts to decrease the harmful chemicals in car emissions and the theft of these parts from Toyota Priuses are on the rise here and nationally.

Apparently thieves target these devices on the underside of cars because they contain valuable metals that act as oxidation catalysts and are mandated to reduce pollution.

The Prius catalytic converters contain platinum, palladium and rhodium and thieves can pocket up to $200 per converter and it takes only minutes for a skilled thief to cut it from underneath the car. All the thief needs is a reciprocal saw and a steady hand. Experts believe it takes two to three minutes to pull off the heist.

This type of crime has gotten so bad that online manufacturers sell metal plates to cover the catalytic converters, which make them more difficult to steal. Those parts are rarely covered by insurance and retail at around $440 installed. While they're pricey they are cheaper than the cost to replace a stolen one. Even with insurance a replacement cost is around $500. Without insurance, it could

See PRIUS Page 2

Overall crime was up 21 percent for 2020

By John Lynds

This week, the Boston Police Department released the year-end crime report for East Boston that compared the overall crime stats in 2020 with the overall crime stats for 2019.

The report shows larceny from motor vehicles, or car breaks, in Eastie skewed the overall crime stats in the neighborhood and were up 100 percent from the previous year.

Part One Crimes, the more serious crimes that the Boston Police track, was up 21 percent overall in Eastie when comparing Jan. 1, 2020 through Dec. 31, 2020 with the same time period last year.

According to District A-7 Community Police Officer Dan Simons the main culprit for the uptick in overall crime was larceny from a motor vehicle.

There were only 107 reported car breaks in 2019 but that number increased to 213 for 2020.

"We ended the year with a 100 percent increase in car breaks," said Simons at a Harbor View Neighborhood Assoc. meeting Monday night. "Unfortunately I have the report that over this past weekend we did have some reports of some more car breaks up in the St. Andrew Road, Thurston Street and Bayswater Street area. The tough thing with these crimes is the victims that reported these car breaks also reported that they don't think they locked their vehicles. Ultimately, the best way to put a stop to the car breaks is for everybody to make sure that they take all their valuables into their home or lock them in the trunk and lock their vehicle. Our detectives are finding that probably 90 percent of the vehicles that are victims of car breaks left their vehicle unlocked and there's no forcible entry. We're hoping, going forward in 2021, we can bring some of these numbers down."

It seems the number of motor vehicle larcenies, an opportunistic crime that only takes seconds to pull off, is up all over Boston. Citywide the number has

See CRIME Page 3

EBECC receives city grant, makes appeal for community support

By John Lynds

This week the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council (EBECC) received one of 34 grants from Mayor Martin Walsh's Offices of Health and Human Services and Public Safety 2021 Youth Development Fund.

EBECC will use the funding to assist at-risk Latino students struggling in school through integrated academic and psycho-social programming, which promotes healthy lifestyles, problem solving skills and independent thinking.

"A fundamental part of our residents' public health and public safety is expanding existing services and implementing additional strategies to increase the accessibility of youth programming and violence prevention," said Mayor Walsh. "It's no question that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed added burdens on the wellbeing of residents, beyond their health. That's why I'm proud to work with these organizations who will complement the City's ongoing efforts, and I want to thank all of these partner organizations for their collaboration in these vital efforts."

The grant money to the EBECC is part of $885,000 in funding, 34 community-based organizations to support and increase youth development and violence prevention programming.

Mayor Walsh has doubled funding for the Youth Development Fund each

See EBECC Page 2

Walsh reflects on 2020, optimistic about 2021

By John Lynds

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic many would agree that Mayor Martin Walsh has led the city with a mix of compassion and authority.

Since the virus hit Boston in early spring 2020, Walsh has initiated citywide programs and funds that helped thousands of residents keep food on their table, a roof over their head and their small businesses open.

At the same time, Walsh wasn't afraid to call out those who didn't take the pandemic seriously and dished out stern warnings and consequences to residents who refused to wear masks in public, skirted city and state regulations or gathered in large groups.

Mayor Walsh reflects on 2020 and thanks the people of Boston for their help throughout the pandemic.

All in all, Walsh's job has not been easy for the last nine months and while there have been some bumps in the road throughout the pandemic, the Mayor last week thanked the majority of Boston for making his life a little easier.

Last week Walsh ended his press conference with a message of gratitude to the people of Boston.

"2020 has been one of the most challenging years we've ever seen," said Walsh. "It has been a year we will never forget. But through it all, and despite the hardships, Boston has grown stronger and more united. As we head into 2021, and into a brighter future, let's bring that same spirit and resilience with us."

Walsh continued, "I want to close by thanking everyone who has played a role in our response and recovery. Every nurse,

See WALSH Page 3

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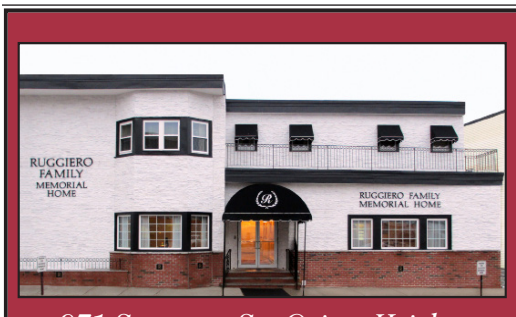

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Baker-Polito administration announces First Week Hikes at state parks

For the 30th year in a row, the State will offer residents and visitors the opportunity to explore the great outdoors through the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) First Week Hikes program in celebration of the start of the New Year.

An alternative to the traditional First Day Hikes, First Week Hikes encourage visitors to enjoy outdoor activities on their own throughout the first week of the New Year, until Friday, Jan. 8. This year, DCR celebrates 30 years of this tradition in the Commonwealth. Additionally, it marks 10 years that all 50 states have adopted this happy, healthy New Years' tradition.

"First Day Hikes are a time honored tradition for many people across the Commonwealth, with thousands of visitors ringing in the New Year with a hike in a state park," said Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. "It is with pleasure that the tradition continues and we are pleased to offer safe, healthy, recreational opportunities through these First Week Hikes."

Historically, First Day Hikes are popular adventures guided by DCR staff. In an effort to provide residents and visitors with outdoor recreation opportunities for the New Year in a safe manner during the COVID-19 pandemic, DCR will implement the following changes for this year:

•Extending the traditional one-day hike to any day or multiple visits during First Week 2021 to prevent crowds forming at parks;

•Introducing self-guided adventures to encourage social distancing in place of guided offerings, for a list of recommendations visit the DCR website.

"Taking a stroll in your local park for First Week Hikes is a great way to kick-off the new year, build tradition, and discover the stunning natural and recreational resources that Massachusetts has to offer," said DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery. "For the 30th year, the state parks system has provided hiking opportunities on January 1, and while this year may look a little different, DCR still encourages people to get outdoors safely."

Ahead of an adventure outdoors, watch the DCR First Week Hike video and see the following guidance:

•Pick a local park near you, not necessarily a state park;

•Print or download a trail map;

•Check the weather forecast and dress appropriately;

•Keep your hike short and safe;

•Be flexible – if a park is busy, visit another park or return at a later time; and,

•Return to your car by 4:30 p.m. before the sun sets;

DCR asks visitors to park in designated areas only, if a parking lot is full come back another time. Many visitor centers remain closed. However, restrooms or porta-johns within many DCR parks remain open. Dogs are to be on leash in state parks unless signage designates otherwise. Dogs are not permitted on DCR Water Supply Protection areas. To find a dog-friendly park, visit the DCR website.

First Day Hikes were started at the Blue Hills Reservation in the Town of Milton in 1992 in an effort to promote year-round outdoor recreation, and to motivate the public to explore the Commonwealth's awe-inspiring natural resources. A growing collection of participating states culminated in 2012 when all 50 state park systems joined together to sponsor America's State Parks First Day Hikes Initiative, which has since become the signature nationwide program for the National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD).

Developer pitches 9 unit building for Moore Street

By John Lynds

At Monday night's Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA) January meeting, local developer Joey Trichilo pitched his plans to demolish an existing two family home and erect a four-story, nine-unit building at 80-84 Moore St.

The plan received immediate backlash from HVNA members who thought the project was too large and out of context with the rest of the neighborhood.

However, Trichilo's attorney, Richard Lynds, reminded members that this was just the initial presentation and he and his client were at the meeting Monday night to get feedback from the community.

"This is our initial presentation that involves two parcels of land," said Lynds. "Mr. Trichilo entered into an agreement to purchase this property from the (current owners) and is proposing a redevelopment of the site. As is customary with any project we're required to go through a community process. So this is our first presentation with respect to this project and therefore we're interested in dialogue and discussion. We are not suggesting that this will be the final version of this project but this is the initial part of the process that we are undertaking."

Lynds said his client plans to demolish the existing two family home and combine that lot with the existing 2,500 square foot lot located adjacent to the current two family.

"We're proposing to combine those to create a new 5,000 square foot lot and proposing a four story, nine-unit residential dwelling with nine parking spaces," said Lynds. "The units would include two bedroom units and one, one-bedroom unit with ADA accessibility on the first level."

Lynds said all the units will be sold as individual condo units. Trichilo has also added one affordable unit even though he is not required to do so under the city's inclusionary development policy.

"We hear this a lot at meetings and I've been asked at multiple meetings in the past that when we are proposing a nine unit dwelling we are below the requirement that the City of Boston has set forth under the inclusionary development policy," said Lynds, pointing to the fact that the policy kicks in for developments of 10 units or more. "We understand this is a substantial project and we've heard concerns and criticism in the past that when a project of this size is proposed there are no affordable units because it's below the threshold. I've had a conversation with Mr. Trichilo about this and he is committed to doing one affordable unit, even though he's not required to do so. That will ensure that at least one of these nine units would be set aside as an affordable unit."

After showing slides of the proposal, Lynds again reminded members that the design was a very preliminary design.

However, HVNA members like Matt Barison said the variances being sought by the developer were too substantial.

"Looking at this proposal there are two lots," said Barison. "Each lot is zoned for two-family Development. So, if it's zoned for two- families then the permitted use would be to build four units on each lot. You're asking us to consider nine units but nowhere in your presentation did I hear anything about how the zoning code constitutes a substantial hardship on the reasonable use of the property."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, §18-20

The East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Incorporated

Notice is hereby given that on **Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 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 January 15, 2021** at which time you may register to participate

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

REGULAR MEETING
a. **Attendance 6:30**
b. **Approval of Minutes December 12, 2020 6:35**

New Business
a. **Proposed Amendment to Legislation and Bylaws regarding the Terms of PAC Directors 6:40**
b. **Treasurer's Report - 7:00 pm**

Old Business
a. **Update - Amendment to Operations, Security and Maintenance (OSM) Agreement (continued discussion) 7:15 pm**
b. **Update - Massport annual financial commitment (continued discussion) 7:25 pm**
c. **Motion to adjourn**

At the conclusion of its regular business meeting and prior to adjournment, the Board, 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 WELCOMED TO ATTEND

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.

East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc.
By: Louise Montanino, President

Goldson // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

unflagging commitment to the Boston community made her not only respected but beloved."

Drew said with more than 30 years' experience in health education and training, and curriculum and program development, Mrs. Goldson was a trailblazer, teacher, and tireless advocate who saw health equity as a human right.

"With a passion for reproductive health, HIV and adolescent sexuality, she was an innovator who championed the inextricable link between equal access to health information, education, and care to personal development and empowerment," said Drew. "Frequently recognized for her work with under-resourced people of color, particularly girls and young women, Irvienne was a woman of vision, determination, and action. We at ABCD mourn her loss as a dear friend and colleague, and we grieve alongside all those who knew her and loved her. Her heart was immense, her impact immeasurable. We will miss her always."

Director Emeritus of ABCD's East Boston APAC office John White called Goldson an inspiration to all that knew her.

"From East Boston to Roxbury to Mission Hill and JP and Dorchester – Irvienne Goldson was there for the young people of our neighborhoods – educating and advocating on health issues and teaching by example how to stand up for what you believe and make a difference for your community and the people who live there," said White. "For youth in the ABCD SummerWorks program, she gave the gift of empowerment, the ability to take charge of their lives and build careers… to be all they could be. We thank you Irvienne. You will be missed."

Former ABCD Health Services Director Joan Whitaker, who worked closely with Mrs. Goldson for so many years, said Mrs. Goldson was always a champion of women's and community health.

"From the 1980s when Irvienne was part of the founding of the Cambridge Feminist Health Center, she has championed women's and community health," said Whitaker, who retired in June. "She has exemplified empowerment for young people and community building by developing creative programs that have been key to alleviating health inequities. With compassion and wisdom, she has mentored and provided opportunities for countless young women of color. I will miss her kindness, her warmth, and the focused advocacy that have benefited me over the 27 years we worked together at ABCD."

EBECC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

year for the past three years. For Fiscal Year 2019, Mayor Walsh invested $250,000 into the Youth Development Fund, $500,000 was allotted for Fiscal Year 2020, and for Fiscal Year 2021, Mayor Walsh has committed $1,000,000.

As the funding will help support EBECC's to assist at-risk Latino students, EBECC CEO Frank Ramirez made an appeal for additional community support for the nonprofit's other programs.

"America is resilient and we find hope and meaning even under adverse circumstances," said Ramirez. "From Pearl Harbor to the September 11 attacks, we came out from the pain and sorrow of such events with our spirit intact, stronger to rebuild, grow and look to a brighter future. COVID-19 has presented to us a new reality. Illness and death, no large family gathering, avoiding traveling to visit loved ones and friends, distancing and one of the most difficult distancing measures for a Latin guy like me, no hugs. But let's not forget those who are struggling to get through this season. Our creeds, our beliefs bring us triumphant time to celebrate our brother/sisterhood during the season, and we hope the holidays brought you thoughts of giving to those in need, and the profound satisfaction of helping transform lives and this community. In East Boston, EBECC has been helping neighbors come together to achieve a better quality of life for the last 41 years."

Ramirez said while providing regular services during the pandemic, EBECC has distributed masks and sanitizing kits, personally referred clients to testing sites, to food distribution programs, and contacted housing and heating help services for families affected by unemployment.

"Facing tremendous constraints, EBECC continues promoting the advancement of immigrants of all ages through education, services, advocacy, community organizing, and leadership development," said Ramirez. "Just last year, EBECC has assisted over 5,000 Latino immigrant families and youth in East Boston to learn English; to integrate into a new society or reunite with their families; and to acquire skills to become leaders. How much value do you think there is in helping immigrants to be safe, succeed and enrich our communities?"

Ramirez said the following contributions to the EBECC can help the agency tremendously in fulfilling its goals in the community;

• $1,500 for youth to participate in life skills training, leadership development workshops and computer classes

• $1,000 for a father to have the legal support that allows him to be reunited with his family

• $300 for distant learning, educational materials and supplies to help women and mothers learn basic English

• $150 to help promote the participation of Latino immigrant parents in East Boston to improve the Boston Public Schools

• $50 to help prepare a confident group of women and youth to speak to elected officials administrators about community issues or concerns.

"As EBECC's CEO, I am proud to stand by an organization that provides the Latino community in East Boston with quality and invaluable services to help them realize their hopes for a better life," said Ramirez. "Please join me in supporting EBECC's mission by making a donation at the level of your choice to help youth, women and families from East Boston. On behalf of EBECC, I thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity."

To donate on line go to https://ebecc.networkforgood.com/projects/55255-fulfillment-of-families-together.

Prius // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cost a Prius owner $3,000 or more to replace.

It has gotten so bad that many Prius owners have asked Toyota to recall Priuses and install the metal plates that should have been there to begin with to protect converters.

"Yeah, we did get one theft recently in East Boston and I believe like three or four citywide," said District A-7 Community Officer Dan Simons. "The report I saw that was recorded in the last few days was that somebody went out and realized that their catalytic converter was taken. He realized this because the car was making a loud noise like a muscle car. Those are valuable parts to thieves. If you see someone at two or three o'clock in the morning underneath a vehicle, and it looks like there's another vehicle, maybe parked nearby still running, by all means call 911."

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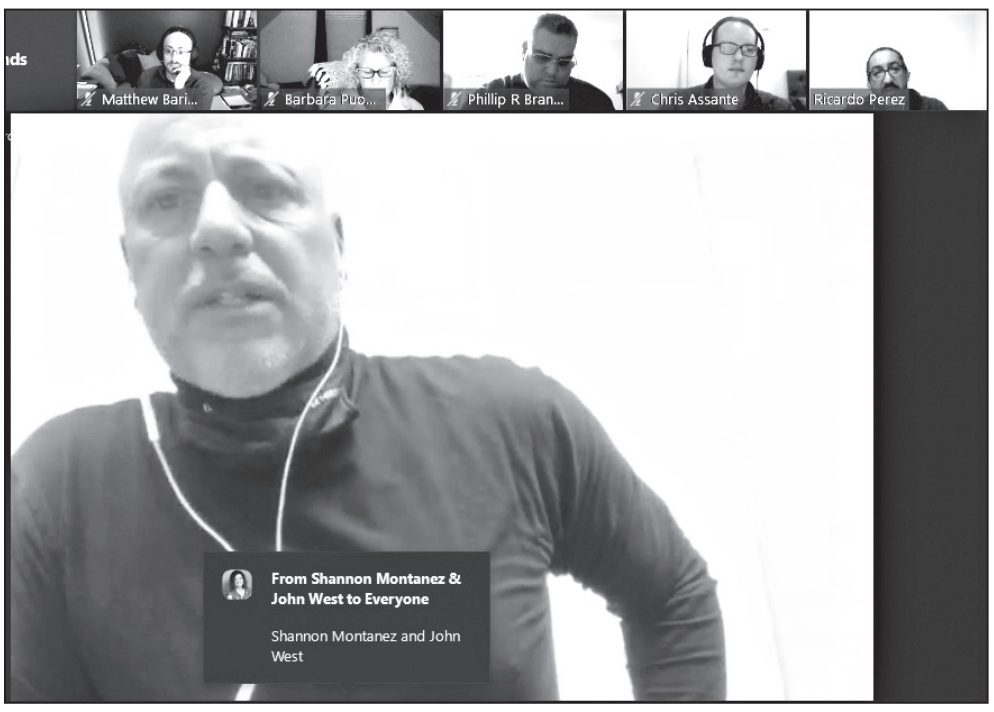

District A-7 Community Officer Dan Simons goes over the year-end crime stats with residents this week.

Crime // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gone from 2,713 in 2019 to 3,348 in 2020 or a 23 percent increase.

As for other Part One Crimes, Eastie nearly ended 2020 with no recorded homicides, but the Christmas Eve killing of Kerwide Barthélemy in Maverick Square became the only recorded homicide of the year.

"We were doing really well with homicides and we didn't have one until Christmas Eve unfortunately," said Simons. "We had the assault in Maverick Square that resulted in a fatality. However, I can't stress it enough that with the community's help, the help of witnesses and the quick action of the police we were able to apprehend the suspect that was ultimately charged with the homicide. Unfortunately 2019 ended the way it did with just one homicide in East Boston which is one too many."

Rape or Attempted Rape was down from 10 to 6; Robbery or Attempted Robbery remained the same at 57 for both 2019 and 2020; Domestic Aggravated Assault was up from 41 to 43; Non-Domestic Aggravated Assault was up from 49 to 67; Commercial Burglaries were up from 25 to 29; Residential Burglaries were up from 49 to 56; other Larcenies were up from 199 to 203; and Auto Theft was up from 44 to 51.

Overall there were 736 Part One Crimes, up from the 583 reported during 2019.

Administration awards $67.4 million in second-round grants to 1,366 businesses

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the funding of another $67.4 million in awards to 1,366 additional small businesses in a second round of grants through the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC).

Additionally, the new Sector-Specific Small Business Relief Grant Program, also administered by MGCC, is now accepting applications from businesses from sectors most impacted by the COIVD-19. Both grant programs are part of a new $668 million relief package announced in December.

The businesses being notified now of their successful grant application include many that are owned by minorities (50 percent) and women (48 percent). Restaurants and bars, beauty and personal services, health care and retail are among the top sectors receiving relief in this second round of awards. The first round of grants announced in late December totaled nearly $49 million in support of 1,158 Massachusetts small businesses.

MGCC is continuing to review existing applications and will make awards over the coming weeks to companies that meet demographic and industry preferences. Businesses that have already applied to MGCC's Small Business Grant Program do not need to reapply to the new program.

NEW GRANT PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

In addition to providing grants to businesses within the existing pool of applications for the Small Business Grant Program, applications are now being accepted for a new Sector-Specific Small Business Relief Grant Program that targets industries experiencing the most significant economic hardship and a loss of revenue. Industries given preference in this new program include:

•Restaurants, bars, caterers, and food trucks

•Indoor recreation and entertainment establishments

•Gyms and fitness centers

•Event-support companies (photographers, videographers, etc.)

•Personal services (nail salons, barbershops, independent pharmacies, etc.)

•Independent retailers

This new business relief program will offer grants up to $75,000, but not more than three months' operating expenses, to be used for payroll and employee benefit costs, mortgage interest, rent, utilities and interest on other debt obligations.

The online application portal for the new program will close on Friday, Jan. 15. Awards are expected to be announced in February.

Program details, application instructions, eligibility and documentation requirements, and more are available at www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org.

Walsh // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

doctor, and healthcare worker who pulled long hours. Every public health worker who has been on the frontlines of this crisis, 24/7. Every first responder who continued to keep our communities safe and respond to emergencies. Every small business owner and employee who adapted their business to stay open. Every city worker who kept our services running, and every essential worker, in every part of our workforce. Every student, teacher, and parent who persevered through an uncertain academic year. Every shelter worker who kept our shelters open as safe options for our homeless community. Every donor to the Boston Resiliency Fund or another COVID-19 relief fund, to make sure people's immediate needs were met. And every nonprofit and partner who made sure those resources were getting to the people who needed it most. Every resident who made a sacrifice -- both big and small -- to keep others safe."

Walsh said he was proud to watch his city come together in extraordinary ways.

"From the bottom of my heart, I thank you. I say this a lot, but I mean it every time: I am proud to be the Mayor of the greatest city in the world," said Walsh. "I'm looking forward to seeing better days with all of you, in 2021. I want to wish everyone a healthy, safe, and Happy New Year."

News in Brief

JPNA JANUARY 11 MEETING AGENDA

The Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association will meet on Monday, January 11, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. by Zoom Video Conference.

We ask everyone to register 24 hours in advance to help us manage the meeting.

* * * PLEASE NOTE***In order to qualify to vote at a voting meeting each person must be registered and join the meeting as an individual. You will not be counted as an attendee at a meeting should you participate in the Zoom call as a couple or family.

Welcome to 2021! May this year be more fun, more healthy, and more in person than 2020. Below is the agenda for the monthly meeting of the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association.

AGENDA (subject to change):

• Greetings & Announcements

• Boston Police Update - Tentative

• Lina Tramelli, Mayor's Liaison - Tentative

• Tall Ship Alcohol License - Informational

Please note that the discussion of an alcohol license for the Tall Ship at Lewis Wharf will continue at next month's meeting. This month the project will present to the community, answer questions and explain the proposal. At the February monthly meeting, the issue will go for a vote before the community. We remind everyone that if you wish to be eligible to vote on this topic, you must be present at the time of the vote, and have attended one monthly meeting in the previous three months.

• State of the JPNA - 2020 Year End Review

• VOTE: 156 Webster St - Request to change occupancy from a three-family to a four-family dwelling. Developer/Represented by: Aaron Daigneault/Solskinn Properties

• VOTE: 42 Everett St - Gut rehab of existing structure including life safety, proposed addition, extension of living space into basement, and change occupancy to multi-family dwelling seven units. Developer: Sunrise Bay, LLC. Represented by: Richard Lynds.

As a reminder, all questions will be handled via the Zoom chat feature. We ask all attendees to remain muted unless called upon to speak. Looking forward to "seeing" you all there!

We are using eBallot to manage the voting process. Within 48 hours after the meeting, eligible voters will be emailed a link that will allow them to vote online.

2021 meeting dates are posted at jeffriespoint.org

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East Boston Times-Free Press

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Forum

EMISSIONS BILL IS A BIG STEP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The approval on Monday by both houses of the Massachusetts legislature of a bill that requires the state to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 85% below 1990 levels by 2050 represents a huge step toward the goal of mitigating the effects of climate change in our state.

Although the total carbon emissions emanating from Massachusetts obviously is only a small fraction of global emissions, the legislation provides a blueprint for other states and private industry to follow.

Some say that the ultimate goal of net-zero by 2050 is unattainable, but in our view, that is understating the reality of what is happening in the world today.

Despite the best (or worst) efforts of the Trump administration to perpetuate the use of coal and other fossil fuels, renewable energy actually is cheaper than fossil fuels thanks to the advances in technology of wind and solar energy.

Most excitingly, the progress in the development of hydrogen fuel cells, which has been more than two decades in the making, finally is beginning to look like it will become a feasible source of energy within 10 years, making the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 more than just a dream.

We applaud the action by Gov. Charlie Baker and our legislature in bringing to fruition an environmental action plan that recognizes the pressing need to address the issue of climate change.

Although the pandemic rightly is in the forefront of government leaders' attention today, that problem will seem like a stroll in the park if we do not take immediate action to avert the looming climate catastrophe that threatens our planet's very existence.

IT WAS A GREAT RUN, PATS' FANS

The 2020 season for the New England Patriots came to a merciful close this past weekend. The woeful Pats finished with a 7-9 record, their first losing season since 2000, and missed the playoffs for the first time since 2008.

We have to admit that we feel badly for young Patriots' fans, those born after 1990, who have become accustomed to the dominance and excellence, year-after-year, by Bill Belichick's crew. This season has been the equivalent of having an ice bucket thrown over your head, a rude wake-up call to the reality of the ebb-and-flow of professional sports that the Patriots alone among all sports franchises in the modern era have managed to avoid for an unprecedented two decades.

Admittedly, even for those of us who are long-time Pats' fans who can recall all of the decades of ignominy, from Braves Field to Fenway Park to Harvard Stadium and then to Schaefer Stadium, the relegation of the Patriots to the bottom tier of the NFL this season, in which Foxboro and Gillette Stadium no longer were the epicenter of the football universe, was jarring.

So let's be grateful for the two decades of fun that Bob Kraft and his team brought our way.

But as the proverb says, all things must come to an end -- and so they have for our Patriots.

It was a nice ride -- and those championship banners always will be there to remind us of the good times.

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GUEST OP-ED

What six dollars can do

Dr. Glenn Mollette

When I was sixteen years old, I was invited to speak at a little country church in rural Denver Kentucky, not far from Paintsville.

The church had all but closed its doors but one man, Harold Rice, and his family wanted to see the church stay open and do well.

A church with few to almost no people typically does not attract too many interested ministers. I had spoken in my home church a few times and was a guest speaker in a few others. Mr. Rice asked if I would consider speaking at the church on the second and fourth Sunday afternoons at 2:00. I agreed, and brought a message to maybe seven or eight people my first Sunday. The crowd consisted of Harold and his wife June Rice and their family. The church was an old building with a pump organ and a sign behind the pulpit that said, "Preach the Word."

I stayed with the little congregation called Liberty Baptist Church throughout high school. By the time I was seventeen Mr. Rice was talking to me about being the official pastor and about ordination. In time I would become the pastor and would be ordained. I was too young, too inexperienced and unskilled for such a responsibility but youth is adventurous and will try what those of us who know better would never consider.

The church grew and we started having 20 to 30 people and often more. People literally received Christ, joined the church and were baptized. This was all amazing.

Even more amazing was Mr. Rice offered me a grand salary of $60 a month to help buy my gasoline. The trip one way from home was over 30 miles so this was appreciated. He also presented me with paperwork for a perk. The church was going to put 10 percent or $6 of my salary into the church denominational retirement plan, then known as The Annuity Board. It's called Guidestone today. He had me to complete a form solidifying my agreement to this monthly contribution. I was about seventeen at this stage and had zero interest or thoughts about retirement. Six dollars a month kind of seemed like a joke.

I was with Liberty church a couple of years or more and about ten to twelve of those months Mr. Rice made that $6 contribution to my retirement faithfully. Although, I never thought another day about it from the moment I signed those papers.

Seven or eight years ago I did wonder if that account even existed. I called up The Guidestone retirement people and with my Social Security number they told me in a few seconds that the account did indeed exist and my balance was $31,000. Shocked would not describe how I felt. I almost had to pick myself off the floor. If Mr. Rice had made as many as 12 contributions the total invested would have been $72. Now, years later I was looking at over $31,000. Since that day of first inquiring that little $6 account now has over $46,000 and still growing.

The point of all this is save some money when you can. Start as young as possible but even if you are old put something away every month. If you can save hundreds every month that is wonderful, please do. However, don't ever underestimate the growth potential of saving a little bit of money every month, even if it's just $6. And yes, every time I look at that account, I remember Mr. Rice and the good people of Liberty Baptist Church who not only encouraged me then but are still encouraging me today with just $6.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week In over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

APPRECIATION

Jim Popeo – East Boston man and Mass leader of LBJ's Great Society and 'War on Poverty' – passes at 90

V. James "Jim" Popeo, an East Boston native who dedicated his life to helping underserved families in Massachusetts as a leader of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, passed away peacefully recently at the age of 90. Jim Popeo grew up on the streets of East Boston, a son of Italian immigrants who raised their large family in an atmosphere of love, packed in a unique A-frame home near Logan Airport. The Popeo family home was the oldest in East Boston when Jim was a child. Prior to the great Logan Airport expansion, Jim had many fine memories of playing in the airport hangars, mostly with his younger brother Bob, as being up close to the sights and sounds of the Airport were a constant part of growing up for the Popeo children. The East Boston Social Center proved to be a driving force in their lives as were the affiliated East Boston camps Jim and his siblings attended throughout childhood. When he was 13 years old, Jim met Joan DeCristoforo while attending the East Boston Camp in Westford. Jim went on to marry Joan and the couple celebrated 68 years of marriage last summer.

Jim Popeo (left) and his brother, Attorney Robert Popeo.

Jim Popeo graduated from Christopher Columbus High School and Boston University. Growing up in East Boston, and throughout his teen years Jim developed his true passion, helping people in need. The more success Jim achieved in his life the more he understood the importance of providing opportunities for people living in underserved communities, especially in America's long-neglected urban centers. Jim worked for many years in the City of Springfield, running the Greater Springfield Community Center Association and its network of three community centers that were dedicated to helping children and families living in poverty. During their Springfield years, Jim and Joan's seven children have cherished memories of their father and his dedication to Springfield families in need, including hosting homeless families at holiday dinners, finding money to help a poor child get badly needed dental care and delivering Christmas presents and food to a family who had nothing but a kitchen chair in their apartment. Jim Popeo had a positive impact on the lives of thousands of Springfield residents while also inspiring others in the community to give back and help provide opportunities for those who had been denied a fair shake due to systemic racism and the devastating impact on poverty.

With his growing reputation as an empathetic and skillful social service leader with the proven ability to impact change and improve

See POPEO Page 5

Baker signs police reform legislation

Gov. Charles Baker signed "An Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth," a controversial piece of legislation that creates a mandatory certification process for police officers, increases accountability and transparency in law enforcement and gives police departments a greater ability to hire or promote only qualified applicants.

"This bill is the product of bipartisan cooperation and thanks to the Black and Latino Caucus' leadership on the hugely important issue of law enforcement accountability, Massachusetts will have one of the best laws in the nation," said Baker. "Police officers have enormously difficult jobs and we are grateful they put their lives on the line every time they go to work. Thanks to final negotiations on this bill, police officers will have a system they can trust and our communities will be safer for it."

Former Speaker Bob DeLeo added, "I am proud that the House lived up to its vow of listening to folks with lived experience in enacting one of the most comprehensive approaches to police reform in the United States since the tragic murder of George Floyd. My unyielding gratitude to Speaker Mariano and Chairs Cronin, Michlewitz and González for their persistent effort to improve our law enforcement system. I am confident that the House of Representatives will build on this achievement in the time ahead and am humbled that legislation which promotes fairness and equality are part of the House's legacy."

"I am grateful to the Governor and key leaders in the House and Senate for their wisdom in coming together to carry this bill across the finish line," said Sen. William N. Brownsberger (D – Belmont). "I believe that within five years, the Commonwealth will be a significantly better place as a result of this legislation."

"This law represents a mile-marker, not an end," said Sen. Sonia Chang-Díaz (D – Boston). "Among the 50 states, it will create the first civilian-led police oversight board with subpoena power and decertification authority; it will ban chokeholds and limit no-knock warrants; it will create a duty-to-intervene for police officers and a duty to de-escalate; it will ban racial profiling and put enforcement powers behind that ban; it will end the requirement of police officers in schools. But no one bill will dismantle structural racism—in policing, or in all the other places it exists. As much as we celebrate these hard-won steps forward today, we must equally resolve to keep walking the road of racial justice in 2021."

"The members of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association are eager to turn the page on what has been an unprecedented and incredibly difficult and enduring year on so many different levels," said Chief Edward A. Dunne, President of the Massachusetts Chief of Police Association. "We are extremely confident that this comprehensive legislation signed into law by the Governor today will serve to renew an elevated sense of faith, confidence, and trust that the residents of the Commonwealth will have in their law enforcement agencies across the state. The MCOPA fully realizes and wholeheartedly agrees that the general public deserves nothing less than the highest level of professionalism, accountability and transparency in their respective police departments and this legislation will assist in enhancing our long-standing position as what are viewed by many national experts as model police departments across the entire country."

This legislation will, for the first time, create a mandatory certification process for police officers through the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST). The Commission, through a majority civilian board, will certify officers and create processes for decertification, suspension of certification, or reprimand in the event of certain misconduct. The nine-member commission will include six individuals from outside of law enforcement, and will also be responsible for investigating and adjudicating claims of misconduct, maintaining databases of training, certification, employment, and internal affairs records for all officers, and certifying law enforcement agencies. By creating a central entity to oversee officer certification, the Commission will ensure that those officers' training and misconduct records are available both to the Commission and to those officers' current and future employers, improving accountability.

Gov. Baker amended the bill to strengthen its due process protections for law enforcement, added police labor representation on the commission, and strengthened the bill's facial recognition provisions ensuring law enforcement agencies can continue to access these potentially lifesaving tools responsibly.

The new law identifies the general circumstances under which police officers can use physical force, and specifically bans the use of chokeholds and prohibits firing into a fleeing vehicle unless doing so is both necessary to prevent imminent harm and proportionate to that risk of harm. The bill also generally precludes officers from using rubber pellets, chemical weapons, or canine units against a crowd. Violations of any of these provisions may provide grounds for an officer to have their certification suspended or revoked.

The bill places strict limits on the use of so-called "no-knock" warrants, requiring such warrants to be issued by a judge and only in situations where an officer's safety would be at risk if they announced their presence and only where there are no children or adults over the age of 65 in the home. The legislation provides for an exception when those children or older adults are themselves at risk of harm. In addition, the bill requires law enforcement to seek a court order when conducting a facial recognition search except in emergency situations.

The legislation includes key provisions of the State Police reform legislation the Administration filed in January that provide new tools to improve accountability and discipline within the Department and to enhance diversity in the Department's recruitment and promotional practices. Those key provisions include establishing a State Police cadet program, enhancing the Colonel's ability to address and correct misconduct, updating rules governing promotions of uniformed members to officer positions, removing the requirement that the Governor look exclusively within the State Police when appointing a colonel, and creating a new criminal offense for police officers who knowingly receive payment for a fraudulent claim of hours worked.

Popeo // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

people's lives, Jim was named Executive Director of the "War on Poverty" for the City of Worcester. This pioneering program was established by the Economic Opportunity Act introduced by President Lyndon B. Johnson as part of his Great Society vision, where programs such as that led by Jim Popeo in Worcester were collectively aimed at eliminating poverty by improving living conditions for residents of low-income neighborhoods and by helping the poor access economic opportunities long denied them. As a leader within LBJ's Great Society, Jim subsequently was asked to serve in a similar role for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Governor Francis Sargent created a new state cabinet system to address poverty, installing Jim Popeo as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs. In this role, Jim oversaw monies that funded critical public housing projects and other developments in low-income areas. Jim Popeo's work and leadership during LBJ's War on Poverty and the Great Society helped forge significant positive change for inner city residents, including the establishment of community health centers which to this day remain an important aspect of life in Boston, Worcester, Springfield and other cities across the nation.

Starting in 1970, Jim and his family lived on Crest Road in Swampscott. The Popeo family home was a hub of activity for friends of Jim and Joan's seven children. All of Jim's sons and daughters graduated from Swampscott High School.

Jim Popeo and his brothers and sisters never forgot where they came from – East Boston. Up until his final years, Jim would get together regularly for dinner at an old favorite Eastie haunt with a group of his old friends, and talk about their old days boxing in East Boston. A photo of Jim's old gang is hanging in the restaurant today. Jim was especially close to and admired his brother Bob, a brilliant attorney who, like his big brother Jim, was beloved by those he encountered in his personal and professional life. Just last year, Jim was beaming alongside his brother as his beloved East Boston Social Center held its annual celebration in honor of Bob Popeo.

Jim was especially proud of his fourteen grandchildren and reveled in their accomplishments and wedding celebrations where he showed off his dance floor moves. Jim was always the life of the party but his most cherished place to be, any time of year, was his beloved cottage on Newfound Lake, his true home with his beloved Joan.

Jim Popeo passed away on December 23, 2020 at the age of 90.

V. James "Jim" Popeo is survived by his wife, Joan DeCristoforo Popeo; and his seven children, Paula Popeo and her husband Robert Schilling of New Bedford, Nancy Popeo and her husband Robert Murphy of Natick, James Popeo and his wife Holly of North Reading, Andrea Popeo of Marblehead, William Popeo and his wife Sharon of Portsmouth, NH, John Popeo and his wife Michele of Marblehead, Victoria Popeo of Bedminster, NJ; sons-in-law, Paul Johnson of Swampscott and Daniel LaVecchia of Bedminster, NJ; and fourteen grandchildren, Thomas Popeo, Jacquelyn Popeo, John Popeo and his wife Sarah, Vanessa and her husband Patrick Coonan, Anthony Popeo, Haley Bernatas, Emily Johnson, Sam Johnson and his fiance Pip Owen, Mary Popeo, Andrew Popeo, William Popeo, Katrina and Nick Aielllo-Popeo and Olivia Popeo and Troy LaVecchia. He is survived by three siblings, Victor R. Popeo, M.D. and his wife Annette of Marco Island, Florida and Yarmouthport, MA (formerly of Walpole) and Attorney R. Robert Popeo and his wife Brenda of Needham and Oyster Harbors, and his sister, Mary A. Popeo (wife of the late Hank Greenberg) of Venice, Florida (formerly of Louisville, Kentucky). He was the brother of the late Helen J. Gladney (wife of the late Arthur Gladney) of Barrington, Rhode Island and the late Constance Popeo Wilson (wife of the late David Wilson) of Lexington, KY.

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Ramin, George B	Petrie, Sara B	250 Meridian St #411	$600,000
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bpda | Virtual Public Meeting

Flood Resilience Zoning Overlay District

Wednesday, January 13
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/CFRODJan13
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 062 3707

Friday, January 15
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/CFRODJan15
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 772 4427

Project Description:
Please join Boston Planning & Development planning and zoning staff for a virtual meeting to review the draft Coastal Flood Resilience Zoning Overlay, which will provide new zoning definitions, dimensional and use standards for development projects to promote resilient design and better prepare new and existing buildings for future coastal storms and sea level rise. The meeting will include a presentation of the draft zoning article and updates to existing zoning, followed by Q&A and comments.

The same presentation and content will be covered at the meetings on January 13th and 15th. We will take comments on the draft Resilience Zoning Overlay until Friday, February 12th.

Translation and interpretation services can be made available upon request by reaching out to chris.busch@boston.gov at least a week in advance of the meeting.

mail to: **Chris Busch**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4451
email: chris.busch@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
2/12/2021

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Friends and family hold vigil for Eastie murder victim, suspect arraigned

By John Lynds

East Boston's Kerwide Barthélemy, or 'Lakay' as he was known among close friends, was on his way to a bright future.

Barthélemy, and his longtime girlfriend were expecting their first child together and wondered if it would be a boy or a girl.

The Hatian-born Barthélemy, who came to the United States 13 years ago, had a good paying job as a security guard and hoped to one day join the Boston Police Department.

Most of all, his friends and family said Barthélemy had the uncanny ability to make others smile simply because of his positive attitude and infectious grin.

Sadly, Barthélemy was killed on Christmas Eve in Maverick Square--stabbed to death while protecting a friend according to the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office.

On New Year's Eve, friends and family gathered at the corner of Maverick Square and Sumner Street to hold a candlelight vigil for the man they said was "eager and willing to be the first to offer help" to someone in need.

So it was no surprise, Barthélemy stepped in when he saw a friend in trouble. Many of his friends and family at the vigil said they were not surprised by his fearless instinct to intervene to help his friend and that he died a hero.

Last week Barthelemy's alleged murderer Steven Hatfield, 36, of East Boston, was arraigned in East Boston Municipal Court. Judge John McDonald ordered Hatfield held without bail.

According to court documents Barthelemy died from a stab wound to the torso after he tried to break up a fight between two men in Maverick Square on Christmas Eve.

According to the DA's office, police only had to go around the corner to go to find Hatfield after he ran from the scene outside the Burger King in Maverick Square where Barthelmy was found.

According to the DA's office, Hatfield, who had blood on his clothing from the attack, fled into his South Bremen Street apartment building. Inside the building, he began to yell and behave in a manner that prompted the building's security guard to call police. Boston Police who responded to the stabbing also arrived at the building after learning that Hatfield resided there.

"The holiday season is supposed to be a time of joy and happiness," said Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins. "For a loved one's life to be ripped away on Christmas Eve inflicts additional pain during this already challenging time. The violence (this man) is accused of inflicting is deeply troubling. (He) will be held accountable for (his) actions. Just as importantly, my staff and I are here to ensure that Mr. Barthelemy's loved ones have the services they deserve and may require at every step of their path in the legal process and on their journey toward healing."

Hatfield is scheduled to return to court on January 28, 2021.

Kerwide Barthélemy, or 'Lakay' as he was known among close friends, had the uncanny ability to make others smile simply because of his positive attitude and infectious grin. He worked as a security guard and wanted to become a police officer.

The memorial outside Burger King in Maverick Square where Kerwide Barthélemy was killed on Christmas Eve. An Eastie man has been arraigned in connection with his death.

Keep Your Name in the News!

As the cold winter months bear down and the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, let us get your message out to our thousands of readers of **The Revere Journal**, **The Winthrop Sun Transcript**, **The East Boston Times Free Press**, **Chelsea Record**, **Everett Independent**, and **Lynn Journal** in our January editions.

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State announces availability of $4 million to fund electric-vehicle charging infrastructure

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that an additional $4 million has been made available to support new and enhanced electric-vehicle charging infrastructure programs across the state, as part of the Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (MassEVIP). These programs, funded by the 2017 settlement of the Volkswagen (VW) diesel emissions court case, will provide $1.5 million in funding for fast-charging stations, $1.5 million for public-access charging stations, and $1 million for workplace and fleets charging station infrastructure.

"Shifting a zero-emission transportation system is essential as we seek to cut greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The electric vehicle charging programs announced today will also provide economic development opportunities across Massachusetts and support the growth of innovative clean energy jobs," said Gov. Charles Baker. "This announcement builds on our recent commitment to launching the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program to reduce transportation emissions and invest in cleaner, more affordable transportation options for Massachusetts residents."

The Massachusetts Volkswagen Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan announced last December committed the Commonwealth to designating 15 percent of the VW funding to electric vehicle charging infrastructure, totaling approximately $11.25 million. The Administration has previously made $5 million in VW funds available for various MassEVIP programs, and today adds $1.5 million in funding for a new competitive Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) program, $1.5 million for a new rolling-enrollment Public Access Charging (PAC) program, and an additional $1 million for a revamped Workplace and Fleets (WPF) charging program.

Administered through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), MassEVIP is making these funds available to private, public and non-profit employers, and educational and multi-unit residential property owners in the Commonwealth in order to install standard Level 1 (120-volt) and Level 2 (240-volt) EV charging stations, as well as Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) stations.

"Adding more charging stations to our current network will accelerate and increase market demand for electric vehicles," said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg. "Drivers will have greater access to convenient and reliable public fast-charging locations, reducing range anxiety and allowing them to travel without concern about where to charge."

Under this new and enhanced funding under the VW settlement, MassEVIP will fund electric vehicle charging equipment and installation costs through the following programs:

- A new $1.5 million for a competitive Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) program, with an application deadline of March 19, 2021.
- An additional $1.5 million for a rolling-enrollment Public Access Charging (PAC) program, extending a prior fully subscribed $2 million competitive version of this program. Improvements over the prior PAC program include accepting applications on a rolling basis and adding Level 1 charging stations as eligible equipment.
- An additional $1 million for a rolling-enrollment Workplace and Fleets (WPF) charging program, extending the existing $1.5 million program, for a total of $2.5 million. Improvements over the prior Workplace Charging and Fleets programs include allowing private and non-profit fleet owners to apply, adding Level 1 stations as eligible equipment for fleets, and adding coverage of installation costs for workplaces.
- An existing $1.5 million for a rolling-enrollment Multi-Unit Dwelling and Educational Campus charging program. Improvements over the prior program include reducing the minimum number of residential units from 10 to five, allowing educational campuses to apply, and adding coverage of installation costs.

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Weekly COVID positive test rate at 10 percent

By John Lynds

Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Eastie as well as the weekly positive test rate decreased for the first time in weeks.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), residents testing positive for COVID last week decreased 43.5 and the weekly positive test rate dropped 19.5 percent.

Of the 29,855 Eastie residents tested for COVID, 16.7 percent overall were found to be positive for the virus, a 43.5 percent increase from the 29.6 percent reported two Fridays ago.

Last week 2,406 Eastie residents were tested and 10.3 percent were positive--a 19.5 percent decrease from the 12.8 that tested positive two Fridays ago.

Citywide 34,463 residents were tested and seven percent were COVID positive--a 4 percent decrease from the 7.3 percent testing positive two weeks ago.

At his daily press briefing last week, Mayor Martin Walsh noted that on Tuesday, December 29, the City of Boston surpassed 1,000 deaths from COVID. He said that every number represents a person, with family and friends who are grieving their loss and missing them every day.

"My prayers are with everyone who has lost a loved one or continues to suffer from this terrible virus," said Walsh.

He acknowledged residents are all tired of living with the virus, and that it's tempting to let one's guard down but the virus is still with us, and will be in 2021.

"In Boston, we remain concerned about an increase in COVID activity following the holidays," said Walsh. "Our hospital numbers are higher than we'd like them to be. We have more people hospitalized right now due to COVID than we've had since early June. We all have a role to play in protecting each other, especially our most vulnerable, and helping to prevent further loss. That means staying vigilant -- and continuing to follow the public health guidance."

Walsh said the city and public health officials continue to encourage everyone to get tested -- especially if you were traveling during the holidays.

"There are more than 30 testing sites in the City of Boston, including mobile testing sites which are free and open to all, regardless of symptoms," said Walsh. "To learn more about these, or any of our testing sites, go to boston.gov/coronavirus or call 3-1-1."

Walsh added that the city continues to be in communication with healthcare partners as the federal and state governments work on distribution of the COVID vaccine.

"This week, Boston EMT's began getting vaccinated," said Walsh. "Since day one of this crisis, they have been on the frontlines, risking their own health for the health and wellbeing of all Boston residents. Our EMS providers have encountered more than 3,500 COVID-positive patients in Boston."

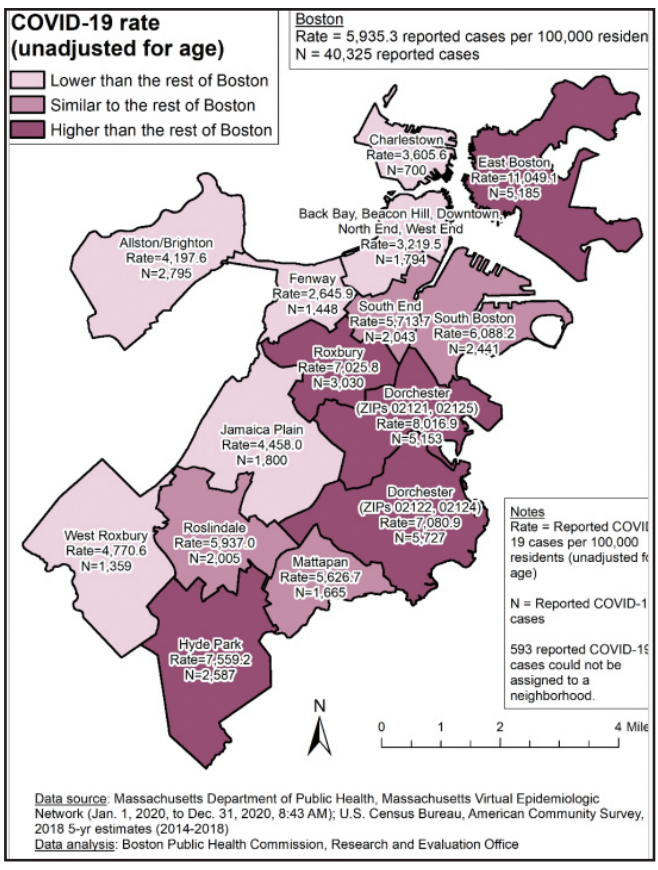
He also said that vaccine distribution to long term care facilities across Boston, like the Don Orione Nursing Home, began this week and this will help protect Boston's most vulnerable people, in the city's most vulnerable settings.

You can visit the State's website at Mass.gov to see the full schedule of when vaccines will be available.

"I encourage everyone to get the vaccine, when your time comes," said Walsh. "It's safe, it's free, and it's the best way you can protect yourself and those around you. It's how we can help get life back to normal sooner -- and get back to doing all the things and seeing the people we love."

Eastie's infection rate rose by 6.1 percent according to the data released by the BPHC last Friday. Eastie's COVID infection rate went from 1,040.5 cases per 10,000 residents to 1,104.9 cases per 10,000 residents. The citywide average is 593.5 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 302 Eastie residents contracted the virus and there are now 5,185 confirmed cases, up from the 4,883 reported two weeks ago.



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

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 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 race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 11.9 percent percent last week and went from 37,366 cases to 41,847confirmed cases in a week. Thirty-two more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 1,020 total deaths in the city from COVID.

RMV to continue designated service hours for customers 75 years of age or older

The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has announced it will continue to offer dedicated weekly Wednesday service hours for customers who are 75 years of age or older into the month of January at 17 locations including Revere. Individuals in this age group are required by state law to renew their Massachusetts driver's license in person.

The designated service hours began on Sept. 2 to offer an option to senior citizens to facilitate proper "social-distancing" protocols to keep customers and staff safe and healthy. The following centers will continue exclusively serving these customers on Wednesdays who make renewal appointments: Brockton, Danvers, Fall River, Greenfield, Lawrence, Leominster, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Revere, South Yarmouth, Springfield, Watertown and Worcester.

Below are the options for seniors to renew by appointment:

•If you are a AAA member, you may make a reservation now to renew your driver's license/ID at a AAA location. Visit aaa.com/appointments to schedule your visit.

•If you are not a AAA member, visit Mass.Gov/RMV to make a reservation to renew at an RMV Service Center. Select the Seniors License Renewal option on the Make/Cancel a Reservation transaction tab.

•Email the RMV for assistance to renew: MassDOTRMVSeniors@dot.state.ma.us

•Call the RMV at 857-368-8005.

The RMV would like to remind customers of the additional information below, including the status of several initiatives launched due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

Non-Commercial Licenses, IDs, and Learner's Permit Credentials

•Most non-commercial RMV credential extensions granted for customers in 2020, including learner's permits, will expire by Dec. 31 and customers may need to act soon to renew a license or ID online. Driver's licenses and ID cards that have expired this year may still be renewed online. Permit applicants must retake the exam if they have expired. With the main exception for customers 75 and older being accommodated through the above dedicated service offerings, most licenses and ID's can be renewed online at Mass.Gov/RMV and do not require a visit to a Service Center.

•Eligible customers who may need a REAL ID in the future can take advantage of the current REAL ID promotion and renew their Standard Massachusetts driver's license or Massachusetts ID card online now at Mass.Gov/RMV and upgrade to REAL ID credential at no cost in 2021. Qualifying customers who complete their renewal online and wish to upgrade to a REAL ID for free will have to wait until at least six (6) months after Massachusetts' State of Emergency is lifted to visit an RMV Service Center. Customers currently do not need a federally compliant REAL ID for the purposes of boarding domestic flights prior to Oct. 1, 2021, as the federal government delayed the compliance effective date by one year.

•License and ID renewal appointments are available at open RMV Service Centers that offer general appointments to the public. Select Renew My Driver's License or Mass ID option on the Make/Cancel a Reservation at Mass.Gov/RMV to view availability and make a reservation at one of these locations for any day of the week, Monday-Friday.

Commercial Credentials (CDLs/CLPs)

•The federal government has extended eligible Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL) and Commercial Learner's Permits (CLP) until Feb. 28, 2021.

•Extensions were applied to customer records beginning the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 29. Commercial customers should visit Mass.Gov/RMV or log into their myRMV account for further information and to verify their status.

Road Tests

•Road Tests continue at most Service Centers and can be scheduled online.

•State vehicles are being used to conduct road tests to ensure the health and safety of employees and customers. Vehicles are cleaned and disinfected between tests.

•During a road test, only the examiner and the student are permitted inside the vehicle.

•Driving schools continue to be permitted to perform remote or online instruction under existing public health protocols.

Junior Operators

•An Executive Order signed by Gov. Charlie Baker on June 12 for Junior Operators remains in effect.

•A Junior Operator is permitted to do 46 hours of supervised driving hours with a parent, guardian or other adult over 21 with a valid license for over a year.

•The Executive Order overrules the statute that requires Junior Operators with a learner's permit to complete six hours observing another student driver, and 40 supervised driving hours with a parent, guardian or other adult over 21 with a valid license for over one year.

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

Registration Transfers After Vehicle Purchase Grace Period

•From June 12 until the date of when the State of Emergency ends, an Executive Order issued by Gov. Baker temporary extends this grace period requirement to 21 calendar days from the date you dispose of your previous vehicle to register your new one.

Suspension Hearings

•Suspension Hearings continue to be conducted by phone, however, customers must report to a designated RMV Service Center in person to begin the process.

•Hearing locations include: Boston/Haymarket, Brockton, Fall River, Lawrence, *Pittsfield (Wednesdays only), Springfield, and Worcester.

•Customers are limited to one hearing on a particular suspension or revocation.

National Safety Council Classes

•With limited exceptions and accommodations, anyone needing to take National Safety Council classes may continue to take them online through March 1, 2021. An online course completion counts as a customer's in-person class requirement.

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Tuttorosso Canned Tomatoes.... 4/$5.00 limit 4
Pillsbury Toaster Strudel ..... 3/$5.00
Ore-Ida Frozen Potatoes .....2/$5.00
Mama Rosie's Manicotti ..... 2/$7.00
Green Giant Mashed Cauliflower.....$4.49
Pillsbury Cookies .....2/$5.00
(ex character varieties)
Simply Orange Juice 52 oz..... 2/$6.00

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Deli

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Great Lakes Swiss Cheese $4.99/lb
Dietz&Watson London Broil Roast Beef $10.99/lb
Our Own In Store Rotisserie
Chicken Salad.....$7.99/lb

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"Pick Your Own" Red Bliss Potatoes... 79¢/lb
Fresh Super Select Cucumbers.....69¢
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California Sweet Halo Clementine's.....$4.99
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Grade A Roasting Chickens $1.39/lb
Boneless Chuck Pot Roast.....$4.79/lb
Hatfield Pork Tenderloins.....2/$12.00
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Hatfield Bacon 16 oz .....2/$10.00

Weekend Specials

Friday, January 8th to Sunday January 10th
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BAKERY
Blueberry Nut Bread $3.99
Pizza Dough (White Only).....2/$3.00
DELI
Our Own In Store Cooked Turkey Breast $7.99/lb
Hans Kissle Seafood Salad $4.99/lb
PRODUCE
Fresh Tender Asparagus..... $2.99/lb
Iceberg Lettuce..... 99¢ limit 2
Fresh Blueberries Pint Pkg .....2/$6.00
MEAT
Family Pack Petite Sirloin Steaks $3.99/lb
Family Pack Boneless Country Pork Ribs..... $1.79/lb
Best Yet Raw Shrimp 51-60ct $5.99
GROCERY
Geisha Canned Tuna..... 99¢ limit 3
Green Mountain K-Cups.....2/$10.00 limit 4

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OBITUARIES

Beatrice Ryan

She filled many lives with her endless warmth and kindness

Beatrice M. Ryan of Revere passed away peacefully on January 2 at the age of 98.

Formerly of the Boston's West End, she lived in Revere for many years with her devoted husband, Thomas Ryan and her much-loved sister, Anna Bifulco.

Bea filled the lives of so many with her endless warmth and kindness. She never had children of her own yet was always surrounded by those who adored her as a mother and grandmother figure: the family of Leonard and his wife, Carol Doucette of Plymouth, Godson Paul and his wife, Kathy Doucette of North Andover and their children and grandchildren, the late Robert and his wife, Elaine Doucette of Saugus and their children and grandchildren and her Goddaughter, Joanne Shaughnessy and her husband, David Algiers and their children. She was predeceased by her dear sisters: Anna Bifulco, Connie Bertuccini, Rose Mastacusa and Lucy Tavano and brothers, Harry and John LaSpina. She was a favorite aunt to loving nieces and nephews and a fun-loving cousin. Bea was a loyal friend and neighbor to so many.

Due to the current spike in COVID-19, the guidelines issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and local officials, Funeral Services will be privately held for the immediate family under the direction of Paul Buonfiglio & Sons - Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere Street, REVERE, MA 02151. She will be laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery with her late husband, Thomas and sister, Anna, side by side forever.

A Memorial service will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to 501 St. Jude Place • Memphis, TN 38105 or www.stjude.org. For guest book, please visit: www.buonfiglio.com

John Giuffre

Of Beachmont Revere

John N. Giuffre of Beachmont Revere passed away at the age of 70 on January 3.

Born in Boston on May 6, 1950 to the late John J. Giuffre and Helen (Cullen), he was the beloved brother of Peter Giuffre and his wife, Jeannie and Cynthia LaBonte and her husband, Richard, all of Revere; adored uncle of Renee LaBonte and Juliette LaBonte of Melbourne, FL and Peter John Giuffre and Nicholas Giuffre of Revere and cherished godfather to Lawrence Guarino III. He was the dear friend of Lawrence Guarino and his wife, Lauren of Peabody and is also survived by many loving cousins.

A Visitation will be held at the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St, Revere on Friday, January 8 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. followed by a Prayer Service at 11 a.m.

Strict capacity limits are enforced, please make your visit brief to allow others to visit (names, phone numbers, and temperatures will be taken upon entrance). Relatives and friends are kindly invited. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in John's name to The Foundation of the MEEI, 243 Charles St, Development Office, Boston, MA 02114 or at masseyeandear.org/online-donation-form. For guest book, please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

Ann Albano

Her door was always open to everyone

Ann (Ivers) Albano of Salem, NH, formerly of East Boston and Revere, passed away on January 2.

Annie, as she was affectionately referred to by family and friends, was the loving mother of Kelly (Ivers) and Richard Marino of Salem, NH and Kenneth and Vonnette Ivers of Melrose and the cherished Nana of Leonora and Victoria Ivers of Melrose. Annie was the beloved daughter of the late Marie (Parillo) and Fred Albano, dearest sister of Joan M. Albano Toriglione of East Boston and aunt to many nieces and nephews. She was the former wife of the late Ken Ivers and Nonnie to her fur babies, Sammy and Penny.

She was a retired employee of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents and the former cheerleading coach and director for East Boston Pop Warner in 1980.

Annie was known for her kindness and generosity and her door was always open to everyone. On any given day, her home was

filled with children who weren't her own yet they called her "Ma" and today she is still referred to as "Ma" by many.

Family and friends will honor Annie's life on Thursday, January 7 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Vazza's Beachwood Funeral Home, 202 Beach Street, Revere. Services will be held according to the State's Covid restrictions and face coverings will be required. Once Covid restrictions have been lifted, a Memorial Mass and gathering in celebration of Annie's life will be held for those unable to attend her service at this time.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude's Children's Fund in Annie's honor.

Anna DiPalma

She was everyone's 'grandma' and was loved by all

Anna M. (Gullifa) DiPalma died unexpectedly in East Boston on December 30.

The beloved mother of the late Robert J. DiPalma Sr., she was the grandmother of Robert J. DiPalma Jr. and his wife, Danielle of Beverly; great-grandmother of Staci DiPalma of Beverly; loving aunt of Diane Vaughn, Gail DellaCroce, Geri DellaCroce, Lynne Tranfaglia, Doreeen DeCrescito and Billy Gullifa and is also survived by many grand-nieces and grand-nephews. She was the dear friend of Adriana and Lisa Giuliano who were the daughters she never had, their love and devotion was immense and was appreciated by her every day, and the beloved cousin of Rhonda Mariano.

Anna was well known for her generosity in all things. She had a big heart and loved to cook and had a special attachment to children. She became everyone's "grandma." She would greet you with her brash and tough voice, though beneath it all was the biggest heart and kindest soul. She was adored by her family, friends and anyone who came in contact with her.

Her kitchen table was the core of her home and heart where a fresh pot of coffee was always brewing. You could find someone at any given time at the table sampling her famous pizzelle or biscotti. Her door was always open, especially to the "landlord" Rafaele and his sons Neffo and Ralph "Ralphy" who

she watched grow up as children on Chelsea Street. Within the last few years, she grew a strong affection for the "landord's" grandson Christian. A special bond developed between the two of them. The sparkle in Anna's eyes reappeared when he was born and from that day forward, she happily awaited his daily visits.

Anna was genuinely loved by all. A simple, humble woman who lived her life to her fullest desires; baking, cooking, sharing her boisterous laughter with friends and family, she provided a comfort to everyone who crossed her path. There could never be another "Anna" but a bit of her will always live within us. She taught us to not take life so seriously and to enjoy the present moment. Rest In Peace dear Anna.

Visiting hours were held at Magrath Funeral Home, Tuesday, January 5 followed by graveside services in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. Because of her love for children donations in her memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital would be appreciated.

Diane Sandra Donovan

Of Revere, formerly of East Boston

Diane Sandra Donovan of Revere, formerly of East Boston, passed away peacefully on Dec. 31.

The beloved wife of the late Albert Donovan, she was the devoted mother of Albert Donovan and his wife, Kristine of Colorado, Stephen Donovan and his fiancé, Yari Escobar of Revere and Brittney Amaro and her husband, Bryan of Lynn; dear sister of Crystal Capone and the late Anthony Straccia, Theresa Kaprelian, Alfred Capone and Paul Capone and adored grandmother of Albert Jr., Shea, Reece and Raegan.

Family and friends will honor Diane's life by gathering for a memorial celebration of life at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston on Saturday, January 9 from 1 to 3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Revere Fire Department, 400 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. In accordance with the Commonwealth of MA Phase 2 Covid-19 re-opening restrictions, all attendees must wear face coverings and social distancing measures will be maintained. For more information, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

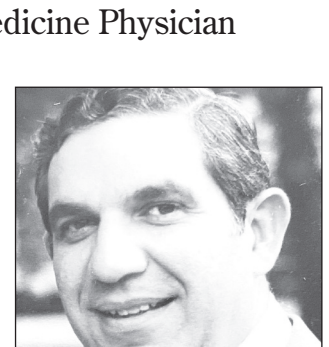
Anthony Scapicchio

Emergency Medicine Physician

Anthony P. Scapicchio, 83, of San Diego, formerly of Nahant, passed away on Christmas morning.

He was born to the late Armando and Fannie Scapicchio of Revere and was a graduate of Boston College and Seton Hall New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry. After serving in the Vietnam War as a Major in the Army Medical Corps tending to the wounded, he established a successful career in Emergency Medicine. He served as Chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge for two decades. He is credited with that department's growth into a fully staffed teaching hospital and for advocating for holistic care for emergency room patients during his tenure.

He was married to the late Diana Beatrice Scapicchio and is survived by his daughter,



Sarafina Scapicchio and son-in-law T.J. Seguine of San Diego, CA and his extended family of in-laws including Henry and Lita Beatrice of Revere, Chucky and Diane Beatrice and Melissa and Greg Burrill, all of Scituate, Stacy and Greg Hetrick of Lynn, and Stephanie and Paul McSweeney of Swampscott and their children.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, January 4 at St Anthony's Church, Revere. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the San Diego COVID-19 Community Response Fund at www.sdfoundation.org. For guestbook please visit www.Buonfiglio.com.

Norma E. Compagnone

Member of the Brandywyne Senior Club

Norma E. (Pesaturo) Compagnone of East Boston passed away on December 28.

Norma was a member of the Brandywyne Senior Club and a resident for over 40 years.

The beloved wife of the late Gino Compagnone, she was the devoted mother of Francis and his wife, Judith of Peabody and Jeanne Haynes of Woburn; dear sister of the late Armando Pesaturo, Edio Pesaturo, Emma Vergados, Delphine Markis and Salvatore Pesaturo; loving grandmother of Gino, Jodi, Gina, Stephen and Nicholas; cherished great-grandmother of Domenic, Gianni, Ali, Stephen, and Douglas. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends honored Norma's life on Saturday, January 2 by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston followed by an 11 a.m. Mass at St. Anthony's of Padua Church, Revere. Services concluded with Norma being laid to rest at Puritan Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery. For more information or to leave an online condolence. please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

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

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OBITUARIES

Anthony James Diaz

His magnetic personality won the hearts of everyone he met

Anthony James Diaz of Revere was taken from us too soon at the age of 29. He passed away unexpectedly on January 1.

Anthony was the youngest son of Gail Scimone and Jimmy Diaz Sr. of Revere, the beloved brother of Jimmy Diaz Jr., Christina "Bags" Bagnera and Tanya Bagnera; cherished grandson of Gloria Zagarella, Richard and Angela Diaz, Karen Scimone and the late Elaine Riley, and Joe "Red" Scimone; adored nephew of Joni Scimone and Lee Scimone, Lisa Diaz Edwards and Chris Cavanaugh, Phillip Douglas and Shirley Duddy, Richie Diaz, Jodi Scimone and Patty Lewis Pepi; dear cousin to Ronnie Particelli, Stephanie Particelli and Davey Goodrich, Nicole and William Dunn, Lauren Diaz, Kristina Diaz and Bobby Pelosi, Tori Pepi and Richie Diaz Jr.

Anthony was a graduate of The Northeast Metropolitan Tech, Class of 2009 - Automotive Technology. He worked for Sears Automotive and for the Department of Revenue. After graduating the Academy in 2015, Anthony began his career with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. Most recently, Anthony was selected for a special assignment to work in the department's Automotive Division and brought his expertise and work experience and was able to follow his passion and help others.

Anthony was a kind, thoughtful and a generous soul. He worked hard and played hard. His favorite thing to do was to spend time with the people he loved. His family and friends meant the world to him. He and his brother, sister and his cousins were all best friends. They did everything together and always had a great time.

He was sincere, funny, caring and quick to share his honest opinion. He loved to travel, loved to ride his motorcycle, loved to set goals and make a plan. His magnetic personality won the hearts of everyone he met. Anthony had a unique way of making everyone feel special, loved and protected. He loved a good joke and was a prankster. He had a caring way to make the darkest situations brighter. His outlook and perspective on life was positive and inspiring to all who knew him. He had an exceptional way of looking at life and seeing endless possibilities. His spirit was infectious and an inspiration to all he crossed paths with.

Anthony was an incredible soul with so much light and love to share with the world. We are grateful and will cherish the time we had with him here on earth and vow to always celebrate his life.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at the Immaculate Conception Church 133 Beach St, Revere on Saturday, January 9, at 12 noon (Everyone to meet directly at church) capacity limits will be enforced. Masks and social distancing are required, and names and temperatures will be taken upon entrance to church. For guest book, please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude PL, Memphis, TN 38105-9959.

Baker signs health care legislation on Jan. 1

Gov. Charles Baker has signed a comprehensive healthcare legislation that promotes key priorities initially included in the Administration's healthcare legislation filed in 2019.

The new law increases insurance coverage for telehealth services, expands the scope of practice for nurse practitioners, other specialized nurses, and optometrists, and takes steps to protect consumers from surprise medical bills. Recognizing the continuing impacts of COVID-19, the law also extends requirements for all insurance carriers in Massachusetts to cover COVID-19 testing and treatment.

The legislation signed contains several priorities initially included in the Baker-Polito Administration's healthcare legislation, which was introduced in the fall of 2019, including requiring coverage of telehealth services and expanding the scope of practice for Advanced Practice Nurses. The legislation also extends, and in some instances codifies, critical measures taken through executive action throughout the pandemic to ensure timely access and coverage for COVID-19 treatment and services.

In addition to the provisions enacted, the recently signed Fiscal Year 2021 budget includes several provisions that correspond to proposals initially introduced in the Administration's healthcare legislation. These proposals require all Massachusetts insurers to use a standard credentialing form, and prohibit additional costs for same-day billing for multiple primary care and behavioral health visits.

The key provisions of the new law include:

•Requiring coverage of telehealth services including behavioral healthcare

•Expanding Scope of Practice for Advanced Practice Nurses and Optometrists

•Increasing disclosures around provider costs and network status to protect consumers from surprise medical bills.

•Removing barriers to urgent care centers for MassHealth members.

•Extending insurance coverage and access to COVID-19 testing and treatment.

•Directing a study and report of the impacts of COVID-19 on the health care system.

"Massachusetts has long been a leader in ensuring health care quality and access and with this new law, we are making further progress in building a strong, accessible and affordable healthcare system, a goal that is more important now than ever," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "I am proud to sign this legislation which promotes telehealth services that have become vital during this pandemic, expands access to high-quality, affordable care, takes steps to protect consumers from surprise medical bills, and preserves access to COVID-19 testing and treatment. We look forward to working with our partners in the Legislature and the health care community to build on these reforms in the future."

Key provisions of the law signed today include:

•Strengthening Telehealth Coverage: At the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Baker-Polito Administration, through emergency order, required insurers to immediately cover telehealth to ensure the continuity of services remotely when it was not safe to do so in person. This led to a rapid shift to remote delivery and significant uptake in telehealth services. The legislation builds on these emergency flexibilities, and requires coverage parity for telehealth services and implements permanent telehealth rate parity for behavioral health services. Additionally, it requires rate parity for telehealth coverage for primary care and chronic disease management services for two years, and rate parity for all services for 90 days past the state of emergency.

•Expanding Scope of Practice: During the public health emergency, the Administration implemented emergency orders to increase health care system capacity, including temporarily expanding the scope of practice for several types of practitioners, and streamlining licensure requirements before independent practice. The new law makes permanent certain measures to expand scope of practice for nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, psychiatric nurse mental health specialists and optometrists.

•Taking Steps to Address Surprise Billing: The new legislation takes steps to protect consumers from surprise bills, including a provision that requires providers to notify patients in advance as to whether a procedure is in or out of network. Additionally, it directs the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to work with the Health Policy Commission, Center for Health Information and Analytics, and Division of Insurance to recommend a default rate for out of network billing by September of 2021.

•Increasing Access to Urgent Care for MassHealth Members: Retail clinics and urgent care centers provide important access points to healthcare beyond the traditional hours and sites of physician offices, community health centers, and hospitals. This legislation takes several steps to increase MassHealth member access to urgent care sites, including eliminating referral requirements before urgent care visits and requirements for care coordination with the member's primary care physician.

•COVID-19 Related Provisions: The bill extends requirements for insurers in Massachusetts to cover COVID-19 testing and treatment. Under this legislation, insurers, including MassHealth, are required to cover all COVID-19 related emergency, inpatient, and cognitive rehab services. Additionally, coverage is required for medically necessary outpatient COVID-19 testing, including for asymptomatic individuals under specific circumstances outlined by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The legislation also directs the Health Policy Commission and Center for Health Information and Analytics to analyze and report on the effect of COVID-19 on healthcare accessibility, quality and fiscal sustainability in both the short and long term, as well as those effects on long-term policy considerations, including an examination of existing healthcare disparities due to economic, geographic, racial or other factors.

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NEWS FROM AROUND *THE REGION*

AVELLANEDA REMAINS COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CHELSEA - Council President Roy Avellaneda received a unanimous, 6-0, vote to likely serve a second term as Council President, that coming during an organizational meeting of the Council on Dec. 21.

Councilor Damali Vidot voted 'present,' as did Avellaneda – which is customary in Chelsea for the candidate not to vote for themselves. Absent were Councilors Giovanni Recupero, Melinda Vega-Maldonado and Enio Lopez. Still, Avellaneda received the required six votes, which propelled him to a likely second term. The official vote will take place on Jan. 4 at the first Council meeting of the year.

"I know all of us when we pulled papers last year back in May 2019, and we had what we thought was an agenda and a platform and were elected in Nov. 2019 – none of us expected to experience what this community, this country and this world went through," he said. "Of course, all of those plans, ideas and agenda got shifted aside and COVID-19 response was front and center. All of that, this City had to adapt and struggle with the community that, more than many, got hit hard."

He also praised the City Manager, public safety officials, Council staffers and many other City employees for keeping things together and serving in one of the most difficult times in the City's modern history. He also praised the City's IT Department and Chelsea Cable for being able to pivot and, nearly seamlessly, hold hybrid online meetings that allowed the City Council to move forward in a normal fashion.

"At the City Council we had to adopt to meeting in a much different way," he said. "The ability to Facetime has been available for a while but until this year I never used it. I never warmed up to it, but I used it this year and I know many of my other colleagues have done it…I read with satisfaction how other cities have struggled to accommodate their colleagues so they could safely meet from their homes. They didn't have the infrastructure and technology. I know it wasn't easy and I remember that beginning where we had to figure it out. You MacGyver-ed it with Ricky of Chelsea Cable and it was to our benefit and our constituents' benefit..."

Councillor Calvin Brown said Avellaneda stood up when the chips were down last year, and he is glad that he will be president again.

"I want to thank the president of this City Council for really standing up in 2020," said Brown. "I'm sure when he was elected president, he didn't realize we were going to get hit with a pandemic that would last his entire term. Roy Avellaneda has dedicated himself to being on the front lines…He helped us and supported us and at times he was the only one here. I know it took a lot of his personal time. I'm glad we re-elected him as Council President in 2021 as well."

Councillor Vidot, who did not vote for Avellaneda, still gave him accolades for keeping the meetings going and keeping everyone in the loop.

"As the immediate past president…I feel spoiled to have had Paul Casino by my side and we were able to meet in person," she said. "It was just a lot smoother and I recognize how much work it took for you to be able to chair these meetings remotely, reading your orders when Paul couldn't come in. I think it's absolutely commendable. I have an autoimmune disorder and cannot come in because I am vulnerable. I want to thank everyone for making sure I could still attend these meetings and kept me in the loop as much as possible…It has not been an easy year."

In other election news, Councillor Judith Garcia was elected to a second vice president term as well, getting a unanimous 7-0 vote.

The School Committee representative was not voted, but it will be taken up on Jan. 4 and filled at that time.

The new voting order drawn – as tradition dictates – for 2021 will be:

Vidot, Avellaneda, Recupero, Garcia, Vega-Maldonado, Leo Robinson, Yamir Rodriguez, Todd Taylor, Lopez, Brown and Naomi Zabot.

The new order of seating for 2021 – chosen as tradition dictates on Dec. 21 – is the following:

(Left side) Vega-Maldonado, Rodriguez, Robinson, Zabot and Garcia.

(Right side) Recupero, Vidot, Brown, Lopez and Taylor.

RENOVATIONS CONTINUE AT GARDEN CEMETERY

CHELSEA - The historic renovation program for the Garden Cemetery in Chelsea continues on this winter with restoration crews now working on restoring and setting the old tombstones in the cemetery – a key part of Phase 3.

The Garden Cemetery is an historic property, designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, but has fallen on tough times over the last decade or more. About one year ago, the City's Planning Department unveiled a multi-phase project to fully restore the cemetery, and now Phase 3 is underway. The current phase includes restoring some of the older stones, and also building a retaining wall.

"We're planning to fully fund this and we have at least three more years of work there to do," said City Manager Tom Ambrosino.

The project has been headed up by Planner Karl Allen.

Recently, preservationists restored the stone of Capt. Olsen, who was lost at sea in 1862.

Meanwhile, the hard work in this part of the project is finding all of the broken pieces for many of the stones, and then getting them re-assembled. Most are broken, and many of the pieces are scattered about the cemetery. The contractor uses a previously completed inventory of the monuments and grave markers to locate, sort, and assess each one, before beginning the careful restoration of each feature.

Right now, the contractor is seeking to continue monument restoration throughout the winter.

DEMARIA DISTRIBUTES MASKS TO RESIDENTS

EVERETT - Mayor Carlo DeMaria announced that last week the City mailed masks to Everett residents to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Each resident will be receiving a reusable mask with the City of Everett "E" printed on it

"It is important that we are all being safe during these uncertain times," said Mayor Carlo DeMaria. "I am truly grateful for all the sacrifices our community has made throughout the year and these masks are a small token of my gratitude. We need to continue to fight this virus and stay safe. I hope residents will wear these masks with pride."

The mask includes a QRC code printed on the inside that can be scanned by using a smartphone camera. Once this code is scanned, residents will be brought to the COVID-19 resources section of the City of Everett's website.

For residents who did not receive a mask or for residents who would like additional masks, please email your name, address, and phone number to mask@ci.everett.ma.us.

DAV SCHOLARSHIP IS SECURE

EVERETT - City Councilor and Everett attorney Fred Capone met with Supt. Priya Tahiliani earlier in December to cement the future of an annual scholarship program that celebrates a great American service organization and equally dedicated Everett residents.

The Everett Disabled American Veterans Chapter 51 (DAV), which was formed in 1937 and merged with Malden Chapter 85 in 2012, has long awarded an annual $1,000 scholarship to an Everett High School senior. The Everett chapter was led by the tireless direction and supervision of George Desiderio and Richard F. Horgan for many years. Richard Connolly and John Troy were also instrumental in the chapter's earlier work and charitable efforts. Mr. Capone has served as the organization's legal counsel for more than two decades.

The trustee, pursuant to the terms of the trust, recently decided that coordinating the scholarship fund is best left to the Everett Public Schools, which can carry on this tradition every June by awarding the "Disabled Veterans' Camp Corporation/Janet Connolly O'Neil Memorial Scholarship." The late Janet Connolly O'Neil was a beloved Everett educator and a former Webster School assistant principal.

"Naturally, it will be our honor to maintain this scholarship program well into the future," Superintendent Tahiliani said. "While the membership of Chapter 51 has dwindled in recent years, the mission and core values of the DAV will endure. I know I speak for everyone in the EPS when I say it will be a privilege to recognize this organization and the memory of Ms. O'Neil as part of our annual scholarship awards night."

Attorney Capone expressed sincere appreciation, on behalf of the scholarship fund trustee and former Everett Chapter, that the School Department will continue the Everett DAV's proud tradition.

The Disabled Veterans' Camp Corporation/Janet Connolly O'Neil Memorial Scholarship will be presented to an EHS senior who has maintained a minimum of a 4.0 grade point average and is planning to attend a four-year college or university to pursue a career in medicine and/or the health sciences.

LYNN NATIVE HAS A NEW INVENTION

LYNN - Lynn resident William B. Lott Jr. is well-known locally as the interim executive director of the Community Minority Cultural Council (CMCC) on Union Street.

In that organization, Lott has worked closely with community leaders such as Darrell Murkison and Andrew Burton to help create opportunities and jobs for Lynn residents while strengthening the community overall. The CMCC's annual the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast has become the city's foremost celebration in honoring the outstanding civil rights leader.

Lott is also a retired senior IBM computer software engineer, a licensed pilot, and a veteran of the United States Air Force.

Through his work as a pilot and his service in the U.S. Air Force, Lott feels he "gained a unique perspective on oxygen and air delivery systems."

And Lott believes those experiences make him eminently qualified for his "ambitious undertaking" of creating a Portable Powered Air Respirator (mask) that was initially designed to combat the coronavirus.

"I have developed a PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) that we (LottoGraphs Company – LGC) call a PPEE (Personal Protective Equipment for Everybody) – because everybody needs to wear a mask during the pandemic," said Lott, who is the founder, creator, and CEO of LottoGraphs. "I have invented a mask that's based off an inspirational thing I saw. The mask is as easy as putting on a baseball cap and it covers all three vital areas: your mouth, your nose, and your eyes."

Lott said he is putting together a public relational campaign to raise awareness for his invention, help him fund his project, and begin production "and help with the fight against COVID-19."

He has launched a GoFundMe campaign "to help support, a small minority-owned, veteran business."

"The GoFundMe drive will fund the formation of a corporation and the IP, which is the Intellectual Property rights – patents, copyrights, trademarks, service marks, utility patents and all that stuff," said Lott.

He has been reaching out to the Lynn community for its support. "I'm just trying to help the cause."

Lott said he has five prototype masks ready

See REGION Page 11

HELPING THE NEEDY

PHOTO BY DARLENE DEVITA

Volunteer Edith Sabala helped organize toys and gifts for families at the Chelsea Salvation Army Center on Chestnut Street last Tuesday, Dec. 22. The Center had a huge toy drive this year and was able to help 2,600 children and families have a merrier Christmas.

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Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

for the initial phase in the production process. He explained the exact design and function of his invention.

"Basically, it's a mask that you slip on. There are powered fans that push nice, clean fresh air," said Lott. "So instead of wearing a stuffy mask all day, you have a nice breathing environment. I've looked at the industry, looked at what the doctors and experts are saying, and incorporated some of the best technology and features into my design. Even with the vaccines, you are still going to need to wear a mask. Wearing a mask is going to be around for a while. It's not going away."

Lott grew up in Sudbury and attended Lincoln-Sudbury schools before moving to Danvers.

"In my sophomore year of high school, my dad moved us to Danvers, Massachusetts," said Lott. "My dad was a doctor. He was the VP for years at the Family and Children's Services Agency in Lynn. I used to work at General Electric and knew a lot of people in Lynn. I attended North Shore Community College and studied in the Professional Pilot Program. I got my pilot's license at Beverly Airport. In fact, I used to live right behind the Beverly Airport on Burley Street in Danvers. It was a stone's throw away from the airport."

COMMITTEE HEARS ABOUT SPORTS PROGRAM

REVERE - At Revere Public School Committee meeting on Dec. 15, RPS Athletic Director Frank Shea updated the committee on a plan to bring school sports back to the district in a limited capacity and with new rules and regulations.

"As you all know I was a high school coach for many years," said Shea at the Dec. 15 meeting. "We're obviously in unprecedented times and I think that everybody on the committee and at the district level and above wants nothing more than to get our kids back and playing (sports). But we have to do what's best for everybody and what's safe for everybody."

Shea said that he and RPS Superintendent Dianne Kelly met with the Greater Boston League about six weeks ago where the decision was made to suspend all sports till after the holidays.

"Even though a lot of our neighbors were aggressive and said we're gonna start on the 14th of December," said Shea. "However, what we have seen in the last couple of weeks is that a lot of those communities have rolled back to rethinking this decision. Malden, Everett, Peabody, Salem, Boston, have all rolled back till after the holidays and schools like Bishop Fenwick decided to shut down and delay till after the holiday. So I just think that was the right call at the time."

Shea said tentatively RPS hopes to start winter sports in early January through late February. Fall sports will be played between February 22 and April 25 and spring sports will most likely be played from April 26 through June 3.

"The MIAA is having no tournaments, at least not in the fall and winter season so that allows us to play with these dates even further," said Shea. "So if the Greater Boston League decided that we could safely have sports in mid January, we could offer winter sports and go past the February 21 deadline. If the numbers in the community and surrounding communities dictate that we couldn't play in January we could start February 1 and play on into March. So there's a lot of flexibility, which is a good thing."

Shea said RPS is preparing now to get its students on fields in all three winter sports shortly.

While Shea is excited at the prospect of bringing kids back for sports to help with their mental health and physical wellness during the pandemic, the sports seasons will look vastly different than years past with new MIAA rules and regulations.

"If we do play it's really not going to look like the sports that we had last winter," said Shea. "There've been many modifications made both at district level up to the state level," said Shea. "Each sport will have their own modification so the seasons have basically been cut down to half and there are no MIAA playoffs," said Shea. "The goal is that we play one game per week with the option, if things are going well, that we can add a second game per week as the season goes on and our teams would practice every other day."

Shea said the MIAA has put limits on rosters, added locker room and transportation protocols and limited the number of coaches and eliminated spectators during games.

There have even been changes to the sport rules.

However, Shea said while it is not ideal for students' parents there are alternatives.

"Our hockey rink is equipped with cameras to live stream games so parents would be able to watch their kids live on live stream," he said. "And in contests of basketball or swimming we would work with Revere TV and some of the RHS personnel to get those games taped and sent out."

As for the rules of the games, Shea said the new protocols went through four committees.

"Each sport had their own committee," said Shea. "These committees took each sport as we know them and said how do we make these sports safer? They came up with certain modifications in each sport. Those sport committees reported to the MIAA COVID-19 taskforce and the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee, which consists of doctors and trainers throughout the state. Those two committees signed off on these modifications as being as safe as they possibly can. From there that went to the MIAA board of directors who okayed the modifications."

For example the recommendation included for instance taking away the jump ball in boys and girls basketball in order to limit contact. The MIAA will only allow four players in the free throw lane instead of six.

"They've taken away under the basket inbounds where there's a lot of physical contact so everything would be a side throw-in," said Shea. "So there's a lot of different protocols. Ice hockey for instance during an ice hockey game aplayer got the puck in the corner and you get a scrum. You get three four or five kids going into battle for the puck. What the committee has ruled is there's only two people one from each team that can go into the corner. Once a third player enters the corner the whistle blows, the play is stopped and there's a face off."

In the end Shea told the committee he just wanted to give as much info as possible and hopefully sports can be safely played.

"I just wanted to give you as much information as possible as you make these tough decisions on whether we play and when we play," said Shea. "I just thought the more information you know on protocols it will help guide your decision as soon as we get into a safer zone in the weeks ahead."

DUKE DOHERTY OFF TO NAVAL ACADEMY

WINTHROP - Duke Doherty went back to the place where his parents purchased his first football gear.

And with his proud parents, Rob and Joanie Doherty, looking on at the Winthrop Pro Shop, Duke signed his letter of intent to attend the U.S. Naval Academy and compete in the Midshipmen's Division 1 college football program. The All-Scholastic quarterback will enter the prestigious service academy next fall.

"I'm really excited to be attending the Naval Academy," said Duke. "I love the school. They have made me feel very welcomed. It's like a brotherhood and they really preach that you become family and it's more than just a game."

Sports career began in Winthrop

Duke said he wanted to have his signing ceremony at Jimmy Gillis' Winthrop Pro Shop because "I grew up here and the Pro Shop always had my sports stuff. It's like family over here."

"We just wanted to be at the Pro Shop with Coach Gillis where it all began," said Duke's father, Rob Doherty, a former four-year Winthrop Viking football player who played in the Super Bowl at Miller Field in 1993. "Coach Gillis has been putting Duke in sports attire and uniforms since his first day of football and Little League."

Duke made his debut on the gridiron for the Winthrop Youth Football organization in second grade. His skills improved steadily in the program that was led by President and Coach Peter Caggiano.

"I actually played running back and linebacker and a little bit at safety when I first started in Winthrop football," recalled Duke. "I remember my father was coaching the fifth-grade team and he brought me up from the second-grade team. I was taking some hard hits, but it helped me become a better player."

Duke moved to the QB position in seventh grade and helped pilot Winthrop to a berth in the Cape Ann Youth Football League Super Bowl. He also quarterbacked Team Massachusetts to victory in a U.S.A. national All-Star Game in Naples, Fla.

Having transferred to Winthrop High in September, Duke said he can't wait to take the field with his Winthrop High teammates, some of whom he competed with in Winthrop Youth Football.

"Coach [Jon] Cadigan has created a close-knit bond with this team and I already feel like I'm a part of that," said Doherty.

"We're really excited obviously to have him on our team," said Cadigan. "We're excited to get back into the swing of things starting in February. It's great that the winter sports are starting now and hopefully in late February we're kicking the ball off and ready to go."

A star at EHS

Duke Doherty made his debut for the Everett High varsity football team as a freshman. He would lead the Crimson Tide to one Super Bowl title and three Greater Boston League championships. In the 2019 state playoffs, Duke's EHS team fell to Central Catholic in a controversial 39-37 loss in overtime. During a crucial point in the game, the Red Raiders were given a "fifth-down" play after the officials lost track of the downs.

One of the career leaders in touchdown passes and rushing yards for a quarterback at Everett High, Duke twice earned All-Scholastic recognition. One of his favorite targets at wide receiver was Mikey Sainristil, who now plays football at Michigan.

Duke's passing and running exploits at Everett drew the attention of several college programs. The 5-foot-11-inch, 200-pound quarterback ultimately accepted an offer from the Naval Academy which is known for its run/pass option offense. Last season's Navy quarterback, Malcolm Perry, is now playing for the Miami Dolphins. Former Navy quarterback Roger Staubach won the Heisman Trophy in 1963, three seasons after Winchester's Joe Bellino, a Navy halfback, won the award in 1960.

Duke watched this year's Army-Navy game on television. Army won, 15-0, at Michie Stadium with President Donald J. Trump in attendance. Next year's Army-Navy game will be played at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

Family tradition in service to the country

Duke noted Saturday how proud he was of his father Rob's service in the United States Marine Corps.

"My father was in the Marine Corps so he definitely has that military background," said Duke. "He thinks that Navy is a great decision for me and it will be a great place to grow and have a better future. My father has always been my coach and he's taught me everything I know, so I'm very grateful to have him as my father. I just want to thank my parents and everybody who's been there for me on this journey. I'm just ready for the next step."

"I couldn't be prouder of Duke," said Rob Doherty. "He's worked really hard for it and he felt this was the best decision for him and we supported him."

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2020 HOLIDAY WINDOW DECORATING COMPETITION WINNERS

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce held their 2020 holiday window decorating competition over the weekdays of December 14, 15, and 16. Businesses participated by decorating their storefront windows with decorations of the season and by having their decorations photographed by Chamber Board members. From the many decorations, three winners were chosen (first, second, and third place) as the best decorated windows by an East Boston business in 2020. Certificates were awarded to the three winners along with a congratulatory letter from the East Boston Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber would like to thank each and every business in East Boston for their decorating, beautifying, and demonstrating the spirit of the holidays in our community.

First Prize winner – Advocate Health Care formerly known as the Don Orione Home.

Second Prize winner – La Chiva Restaurant.

Third Prize winner – Balloon City.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com

MBTA partners with New England Patriots, New England Revolution, and Patriot Place to distribute masks and hand sanitizer

The MBTA is pleased to announce that the New England Patriots, New England Revolution, and Patriot Place recently donated 2,500 facemasks and 5,000 bottles of hand sanitizer to distribute to MBTA riders in support of the T's Ride Safer campaign.

"The health and safety of our riders and employees continue to be our top priorities during these challenging times," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "The MBTA greatly appreciates this contribution from the Patriots, Revolution, and Patriot Place as we strive to provide safe, essential transit services to those who rely on buses and trains."

"We are proud to support the MBTA's Ride Safer program to help meet the ongoing needs for masks and hand sanitizer in our surrounding communities," said Brian Earley, Vice President and General Manager of Patriot Place. "We are thankful to continue our strong partnership with the MBTA by teaming up on this great initiative to keep members of our communities safe and healthy."

The MBTA's Ride Safer campaign consists of three components: providing face coverings to riders in need at key stations during peak travel times; signage and messaging to promote the importance of keeping a safe distance and wearing face coverings while on the T; and the Ride Safer webpage at mbta.com/RideSafer that provides travel tips and a behind-the-scenes look at the MBTA's expanded efforts to clean and disinfect stations and vehicles.

PIERS PARK III
PUBLIC MEETING
THE TRUSTEES
BOSTON WATERFRONT INITIATIVE

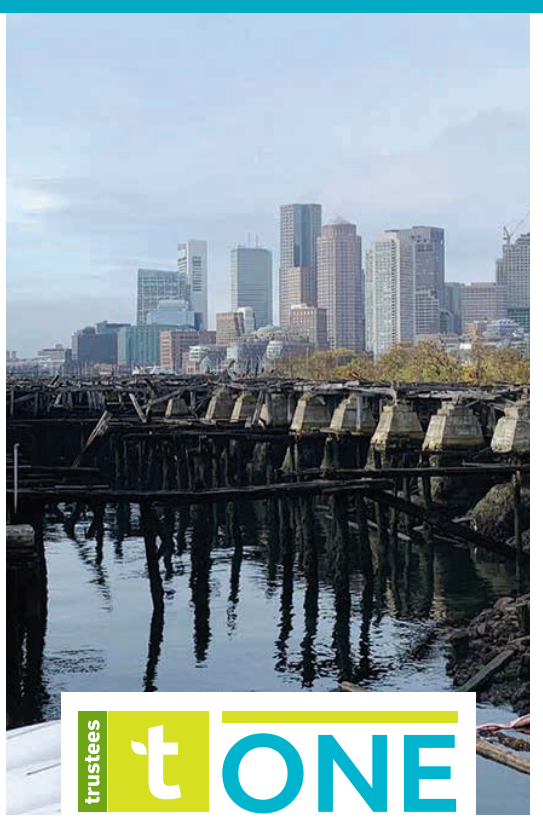
REUNIÓN PÚBLICA
PIERS PARK III
LOS TRUSTEES
BOSTON WATERFRONT INITIATIVE

Tuesday, January 12
6-7:30pm (ET)

Join The Trustees' Boston Waterfront Initiative team to learn more about the Piers Park III project, give input, and ask questions. This event is free and open to all—advance registration is required.

TO REGISTER:
onewaterfront.thetrustees.org/community-events

The Trustees has received official site developer designation from Massport to transform the pier adjacent to Piers Park and Piers Park II into a signature public waterfront destination, Piers Park III. Landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. will lead the park design process, working with the community and The Trustees to gather and incorporate public input. Meetings with neighborhood associations and community groups began this fall, with outreach continuing throughout the project.



trustees tONE WATERFRONT

Miércoles, el 13 de enero
6-7:30pm (ET)

El 13 de enero, participe en la reunión del equipo de los Trustees Boston Waterfront Initiative para informarse más sobre el proyecto Piers Park III en East Boston, compartir opiniones y hacer preguntas. Este evento se realizará en español.

REGISTRARSE:
onewaterfront.thetrustees.org/community-events

Los Trustees of Reservations recibieron la designación oficial como desarrollador del sitio de Massport para transformar el muelle adyacente a Piers Park y Piers Park II en un importante destino público en la costanera, Piers Park III. El arquitecto especialista en paisajismo Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. liderará el proceso del diseño del parque, trabajando con la comunidad y los Trustees para obtener e incorporar la opinión del público. Las reuniones con asociaciones del vecindario y grupos comunitarios comenzaron este otoño, y las actividades de extensión continuarán durante el proyecto.