

East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, May 13, 2020



Car breaks in Eastie are up, skewing the overall crime stats in the neighborhood

By John Lynds

Boston Police released the first quarter crime stats for East Boston and while the 49 percent increase in Part One Crime in the neighborhood may seem staggering at first, a closer look at the statistics shows that car breaks are the main culprit for the dramatic increase.

Part One Crimes are the more serious crimes the Boston Police keep track of and when comparing January, 2020 through May, 2020 with the same time period during the first quarter of 2019 Larceny from Motor Vehicles have nearly quadrupled in Eastie.

In the first quarter of 2019 there were only 20 motor vehicle larcenies, but that number has increased to 96 so far this year. 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 gone from 777 in the first quarter of 2019 to 981 so far in 2020.

After three recent arrests of criminals breaking into cars the Boston Police released a statement.

See CRIME Page 3



Longtime East Boston Community Soup Kitchen Volunteer Bruce Jones surrounded by his second family at the soup kitchen where he volunteered every Tuesday serving food, washing dishes and helping to comfort the poor and homeless.

East Boston Community Soup Kitchen volunteer dies at 28

By John Lynds

A young East Boston man that dedicated his free-time feeding the poor and homeless at the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen (EBCSK) has died.

Bruce Jones, died suddenly on Tuesday April 28 at his home in East Boston. Jones who worked full time at Burger King in Eastie had finished his shift the previous day but when his mom, Carlotta Jones, tried to wake him the next day he was gone. He was 28 years old.

"We were hit with the

passing of one of our most devoted volunteers, Bruce Jones, who would come in every Tuesday evening and quietly position himself to wash dishes, and he wouldn't leave until there was not one dirty dish left," said the EBCSK staff in a statement. "Our most heartfelt condolences to his mother and friends. You will be greatly missed."

Those who knew Jones remember him as a gentle and kind young man who loved his family, friends and the Eastie community. He volunteered faithfully at the East Boston Commu-

nity Soup Kitchen serving food, washing dishes or doing whatever else was needed.

Known for his warm spirit and easy going attitude, he was also involved with the Harborkeepers and a member of Assemblies of God church, and was employed at Burger King on Bennington Street in East Boston.

"I can't believe he's gone," said Harborkeepers Founder and Director Magdelena La Battaglia. "He was the sweetest and I will

See JONES Page 6

Eastie COVID-19 weekly update

By John Lynds

There was finally some good news last week in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic in East Boston. Having one of the highest rates of infection in all of the City, Eastie, after nearly two months, may finally be seeing a downward trend.

At his daily press briefing Monday, Mayor Martin Walsh reported that by the end of last week, the City conducted a total of 36,072 tests, or roughly five percent of Boston's population.

Walsh said the neighborhoods with the biggest reductions week-over-week were in Eastie and Mattapan.

Eastie experienced a 19 percent drop in positive results while Mattapan has a 15% drop. Overall Boston's rate of positive tests last week was 20 percent, bringing the city's cumulative positive test rate down to 29 percent,

"Every neighborhood saw its positive test rate go

down," said Walsh.

Walsh noted that the drop is a testament to the physical distancing Eastie residents are doing, and the expanded testing access his administration has created citywide.

With that said Walsh cautioned that while the numbers are encouraging Eastie and Boston may not be out of the woods. Walsh urged all Eastie and Boston residents to continue to follow social distancing rules, wear masks in public, practice good hygiene, and stay home whenever possible.

In one week East Boston's COVID-19 infection rate rose slightly from 206.9 cases per 10,000 residents to an infection rate of 252.9 cases per 10,000 residents as of Friday.

As of Friday there were 1,187 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Eastie, up from the 971 cases reported by the Boston Public Health Commission

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Resiliency Fund

Eastie organizations teaming up to deliver food and services

By John Lynds

Three East Boston organizations that have teamed up to deliver food and goods to the neighborhood's most vulnerable residents were part of the latest round of Boston Resiliency Fund grant money distributed last week.

With money from the city's fund, East Boston Social Centers (EBSC), in partnership with the ICA Watershed and Grace Church Food Pantry, will deliver food three days per week to vulnerable families, children, and seniors who are finding it challenging to get what they need due to increased demand and scarcity of goods.

The three Eastie organizations will share \$1 million in grant money with 13 other organizations working to help residents in the City of Boston impacted most by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The EBSC began serving adults alongside school age children at their food site in Central Square. On opening day for the EBSC's adult

food, the Eastie non-profit served 140 adult meals. The Social Centers also served 145 kids breakfasts and lunches. The number of adults served increased two days later by 81 and 221 adults meals were served while 177 children's breakfasts and lunches were served. The number rose again that Friday with 239 adult meals served and 223 children's breakfasts and lunches handed out.

Over at the Grace Church Food Pantry on Saratoga Street the church recently held a food drive to restock the shelves at the pantry. The number of people looking for help for the Food Pantry increased from 25 per week to nearly 100 since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Luckily the food drive last restocked most of the food needed for the church's weekend distribution efforts.

Grace Church's Jane Crapo said each family is given four bags of groceries and can come one Saturday each month. Since the on-

See TEAMING UP Page 3

Cargo Ventures teams up with YMCA, Community Soup Kitchen to help fight food insecurity in the neighborhood

By John Lynds

Cargo Ventures CEO Jacob Citrin, who owns a stretch of industrial land along the Chelsea Creek that is used for freight forwarding, recently stepped up to help fight food insecurity in the neighborhood.

Seeing a tremendous need for food in East Boston during the COVID-19 pandemic as one a neighborhood with one of the highest rates of infection in the city, Cargo Ventures recently teamed up with the East Boston YMCA and the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen (EBCSK) to help these non-profits that are working collectively to fill gaps and make sure children and families have food on their tables.

East Boston Y Executive Director Joe Gaeta said

each day the need grows and the ability to meet that need has to catch up and nonprofits are scrambling to be a catch-all in order to face the demand.

"Right when we think we have a steady stream to fill the need, it doubles the next day," said Gaeta.

The Y is spearheading food distribution, along with the City of Boston and Project Bread, to make sure children and families receive healthy meals during the pandemic here in Eastie.

"We serve about 20,000 meals a week just out of Bremen Street," says Gaeta. "Sometimes we run out and have to turn people away or refer them to another partner."

Gaeta said Citrin and Cargo Ventures saw the

See SOUP KITCHEN Page 7



YMCA staff bag food for distribution to community residents through a new partnership with Eastie's Cargo Ventures.



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Giovanni Graziani, restaurateur, longtime Zumix supporter

By John Lynds

Giovanni Graziani, a longtime East Boston resident, Salem restaurant owner and proud supporter of Zumix’s music program in the neighborhood died on Friday, May 1 from complications due to COVID-19.

For those who knew Graziani and were touched by his warmth and generosity knew him as a gentleman through and through. He will be terribly missed by the community that he called home and the people and organizations that he and his wife, Paula loved in the community.



Giovanni Graziani, restaurateur, longtime Zumix supporter

Graziani was born in Piglio, Italy before coming to Boston.

He made a career as the

proprietor for 25 years of Caffè Graziani in Salem, a place loved by patrons far and wide.

However, it was his and his wife’s commitment to Zumix that made him especially loved among the neighborhood’s music community.

“I’m so upset that Giovanni Graziani passed away from Covid-related illness,” said longtime Zumix instructor Steward Meradith. “I love that family. Their son Giacomo was a student for many years, and his wife Paula helped with Zumix’s Diversity band by helping transport their equipment from gig

to gig all the while running their restaurant in Salem.”

Graziani’s son, Giancarlo, said some of the things his father loved most were tennis and music. Giancarlo and his family set up a GoFundMe page at www.gofundme.com/f/giovanni-graziani-memorial-workout to help both Zumix’s music program as well as the Sportsmen’s Tennis and Enrichment Center nonprofit.

“We are asking for donations be given in his name for two Boston nonprofits that were close to his and our hearts,” said Giancarlo. “Zumix empowers young people to build success-

ful futures for themselves through music and creative employment while the Sportsmen’s provides academic, wellness and social development programs alongside recreational and competitive tennis instruction.”

As of Tuesday the fundraising effort has raised over \$300 over its \$2,000 goal.

“On behalf of everyone at ZUMIX, I want to extend my deepest condolences to Paula, Giancarlo and Giacomo Graziani,” said Zumix Founder and Executive Director Madeleine Steczynski. “We were all heartbroken to hear of Giovan-

ni’s passing, and will do everything we can to keep his spirit alive by inspiring our students to be kind, to work hard, and to give back to their community through music.”

Giancarlo and his brother, Giacomo, are planning a memorial workout event for their father this Saturday. The workout will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday May 16.

“It will be accessible to all levels of fitness and experience,” said Giancarlo.

To join the workout please visit this link at the stated date and time at <https://us02web.zoom.us>.

Blue Line work to begin Monday

Shuttle services to replace train service from Airport to Bowdoin Stations

By John Lynds

Beginning on Monday, May 18 the MBTA will fully close down the Blue Line from Airport to Bowdoin stations for 14 days and run shuttle busses instead of train service until May 31.

The goal of this is to allow for accelerated track and infrastructure work to take place while ridership and traffic is at an all time low due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The work was originally going to be spread out over a longer period of time and only on weekends.

According to MBTA’s General Manager Steve Poftak, during this accelerated work, shuttle buses will replace service between Bowdoin and Airport stations for fourteen consecutive days, including both weekdays and weekends, beginning at the start of service May 18 through the end of service on Sunday, May 31.

“The work accomplished during this closure will lead to numerous benefits, including increased train speeds, shorter travel times,

and a more reliable service schedule,” said Poftak. “Our main focus continues to be safety, especially during the COVID-19 situation, with the MBTA’s shuttle plan including measures that promote social distancing. We know these diversions can be an inconvenience, but the service suspension allows us to expedite critical track and tunnel infrastructure work and remove the restrictions that currently limit train speeds.”

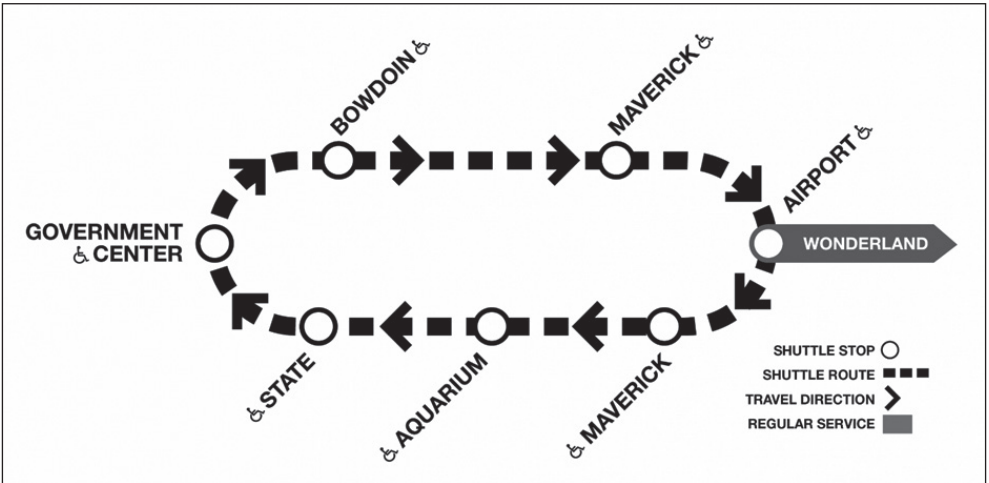
Poftak said this work comes as part of the MBTA’s plan to quicken the pace of infrastructure projects in 2020 and the MBTA is assessing whether other projects can be further accelerated. This Blue Line work was previously scheduled to be accomplished through a series of weekend diversions later this year, and doing the work now allows its completion at a time when both transit ridership and traffic on the roadways that shuttle buses will use is much lower than it is likely to be by the fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, Poftak said the MBTA recognizes that many essential riders do continue to use the Blue Line and that ridership may rise as the Commonwealth begins to consider reopening opportunities within the coming weeks.

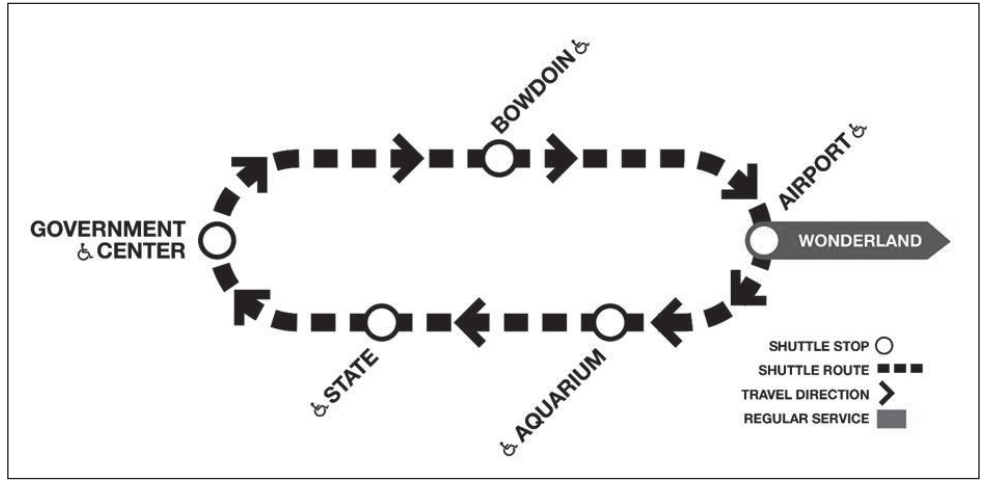
Addressing the ongoing pandemic, Poftak said the MBTA’s shuttle plan includes measures to promote social distancing that protect MBTA workers and riders, and the MBTA will carefully monitor ridership levels on the shuttle buses, adjusting service levels if needed.

In compliance with the Executive Order that went into effect on May 6, MBTA customers must wear face coverings while onboard shuttle buses. Additionally, in an effort to promote social distancing efforts and protect the health and safety of MBTA riders and bus operators, ridership on shuttle buses will be limited. The MBTA will also operate additional shuttle buses than originally planned with a robust fleet of shuttles on standby to accommodate ridership demands as needed.

Due to the road geography around most Blue



Full Shuttle Route during May 18-31 Blue Line Diversion.



Express Shuttle Route during May 18-31 Blue Line Diversion.

Line stations within the diversion limits, accessible shuttle buses will stop at stations between Bowdoin and Airport in a loop configuration. Buses will travel from Bowdoin to Maverick to Airport to Maverick again to Aquarium to State to Government Center before returning to Bowdoin

to repeat the loop.

In an effort to save time and expedite trips for essential riders, an express shuttle bus will operate between Airport and Government Center that makes select stops. Customers seeking the express bus should see station personnel and/or station signage

for more information and pick-up/drop-off areas.

For more information, please visit mbta.com/BLwork, www.mbta.com/BBT2020, or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA.



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CONGRATULATIONS JOULIETTE MILLAR

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With Eastie currently experiencing one of the highest rates of COVID-19 in the city of Boston the ICA was alerted to the need for fresh produce and healthy food through conversations with its community partners here. The museum reached out to its caterer, The Catered Affair, who offered to donate their labor in creating fresh food boxes for distribution over the next

“During the ongoing public health emergency, Bostonians have shown their true colors and have demonstrated that we can lean on each other during difficult times,” said Walsh. “The City of Boston is proud to quickly deploy these critical resources made available by the generosity of Boston’s residents and businesses, to support organizations in our community that are on the frontlines of providing

The Boston Resiliency Fund exists within the Boston Charitable Trust, a non-profit designated trust fund managed by the City of Boston's Treasury Department. For more information on how to make a donation, please visit: boston.gov/resiliency-fund. For general inquiries, please email brf@boston.gov.

"The Department obviously takes great pride in the fact that arrests were made in all three incidents. We would, nevertheless, like to take this opportunity to remind community members to employ common sense preventative measures to protect items of value when exiting their vehicles," said the statement. "As simple as it may sound, protecting your motor vehicle from a break-in starts with locking the doors and closing windows. Simple? Yes. But, highly effective."

As for other Part One Crimes in Eastie there have been zero reported Homicides for 2020; Rape or Attempted Rape is down from 4 to 2; Robbery or Attempted Robbery is up from 15 to 18; Domestic Aggravated Assault is up by one from 16 to 17; Non-Domestic Aggravated Assault is up by four from 11 to 15; Commercial Bur-

Again, police are reminding residents that of the 81 additional reported Part One Crimes reported so far in 2020, 76 of those crimes have been traced back to motor vehicle larcenies.

As always, if you observe any unusual activity or observe a car theft or a break-in in progress, don't hesitate to call 9-1-1.

Arroyo completed his undergraduate studies and received a Masters in Secondary Education at the University of Puerto Rico. He was the first member of his family to earn a college degree; he continued with his graduate studies at Harvard University, MIT, and



Arroyo's political career in Boston spans nearly four decades. He ran for the Boston School Committee in 1981 and 1983, becoming the first Latino to run citywide, and the first Latino to pass a primary. In 1984, Arroyo founded the Latino Democratic Committee, the first statewide Latino political organization in Massachusetts, and served as the Latin American Affairs Director for United States Senator John Kerry. Arroyo served in the cabinet of Mayor of Boston Raymond Flynn from 1985 until 1992. In 1992, Arroyo resigned his salaried position as the Director of Personnel for the City of Boston, in order to take an unpaid position as a member of the Boston School Committee. He would later serve as Vice President and President of the Boston School Committee, where he served from 1992 until 1999.

Prior to being elected Suffolk County Register of Probate Arroyo was elected as one of four at-large City Councilors in 2003, Arroyo was re-elected in November 2005.

“While the maximum donation per person is \$1,000, there is no donation too small or unappreciated,” said Councilor Arroyo. “Please give as much as you can so that his campaign will have the resources needed to win so my father can continue fighting for justice and equity as our Suffolk County Register of Probate.”

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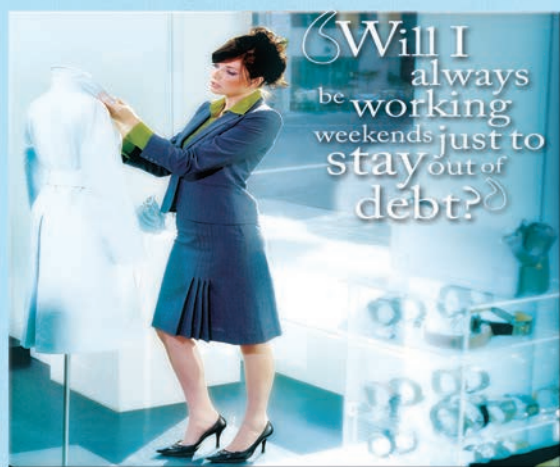
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A NEWFOUND RESPECT FOR TEACHERS

The closing of schools across the country for the remainder of the school year because of the coronavirus has presented many challenges for educators and parents alike.

School districts have been experimenting with the implementation of on-line classes in their effort to provide a meaningful learning experience for students of all ages.

Parents have been enlisted in this effort to varying degrees, mostly-dependent upon the age of their children. High schoolers are able to do what they need to do with little parental supervision and guidance.

On the other hand, parents of children in the youngest age-groups have been required to spend a lot of time with their children in order to assist teachers in fulfilling the school system's, and their child's, educational needs and goals.

In our view, the coronavirus has brought to the forefront a number of issues with our educational system in general, and on-line learning in particular.

First and foremost, remote learning can be only as successful as the technological capabilities of the students, their families, and their households. Access to high-speed internet and ownership of up-to-date hardware (and software) are crucial to successful on-line learning.

Second, the degree to which young students are dependent upon their parents to make on-line learning a meaningful experience has become painfully obvious. Parents need to have the time, the patience, the skills, and a certain degree of knowledge if they are going to participate meaningfully in their children's at-home instruction.

Third, parents have discovered that instructing younger children is far more complex a task than just knowing the ABCs and basic arithmetic. The large number of parents who basically have given up on the process as the pandemic grinds on attests to the frustration of the average parent in attempting to participate meaningfully in their children's education.

Finally, the current crisis has brought into crystal-clear clarity the crucial role played by teachers in educating and inspiring our nation's children. Until now, most parents -- and certainly non-parents -- have taken for granted the unique and amazing job performed each day by America's educators. The typical parent puts their child on the bus, gets them off the bus, and that's about it.

But just as the pandemic has highlighted the incredible work that our first and second-level responders accomplish day-in and day-out, so too, the value of America's educators has become abundantly clear to all.

We hope that one of the lasting effects of the pandemic is the degree to which we acknowledge that our children's education -- and the very future of our country -- depends upon a well-funded public educational system, and that the backbone of that system are our qualified, professional, and dedicated teachers.

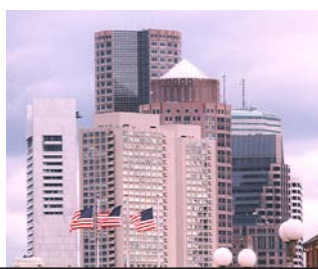
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Forum



GUEST OP-ED

Saving the water of the U.S.

By Jack Clarke

There are almost one hundred law suits pending against the Trump Administration as it does its best to recklessly dismantle America's common-sense public health and environmental protections.

In addition to taking advantage of the coronavirus pandemic by providing an enforcement holiday for industrial polluters, among the most blatant rollbacks is one taking place under the Clean Water Act of 1972.

A proposed rule coming out of the White House would gut defenses against pollution for about half the country's wetlands and millions of miles of streams that are primarily fed by rainfall. It is an unprecedented and dramatic setback of decades of environmental security for our nation's waters.

And it won't be going unchallenged, as Mass Audubon, the Conservation Law Foundation, and the National Resources Defense Council, along with five watershed groups from around the country, have filed a legal action in the federal district court in Boston to stop the repeal.

Although America's overall water quality has improved significantly

since passage of the Clean Water Act, a recent federal assessment showed that nearly half of the nation's rivers and streams, a third of our wetlands, and a fifth of our coastal waters and Great Lakes waters are still in "poor biological condition."

Rather than reverse an almost five-decade legacy of clean water protection, we need to step up our efforts in the fight against pollution along with the negative impacts of climate change.

The Clean Water Act is one of the nation's most important environmental laws. It safeguards permanent and temporary rivers, lakes, channels, creeks and streams that millions of Americans rely on for drinking water and for activities such as swimming, fishing, and hunting.

The law also protects millions of acres of associated wetlands that keep those water bodies healthy by filtering out pollutants and reducing flood damage -- these are public health and safety benefits that should not be lessened in this time of climate change-induced weather disruption.

In New England, the rule changes would also affect isolated wetlands and thousands of vernal pools -- seasonal bodies of water in forests that provide habitat

to many wildlife species including resident and migratory birds.

Of the Bay State's 143 breeding bird species recently evaluated by Mass Audubon, 43 percent are "highly vulnerable" to the effects of climate change alone. Reducing the protections for critical waters used by avian life to breed, nest and raise their young will only add to their levels of stress and vulnerability.

Nationally, we've already lost 3 billion birds in the past half-century due to pollution and loss of wetlands habitat, and we know that two-thirds of North American bird species are now at further risk of extinction from climate change. This rule change piles on the threats.

The decisions to reform environmental laws should be based on sound science -- science that informs and drives public policy, not the other way around. In this case, and as it has in the past, the White House has dismissed all scientific evidence.

Just this past winter, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) advisory panel of 41 scientists responsible for evaluating the scientific integrity of the agency's regulations, including the proposed clean water standards, concluded that the new rule

ignores science by "failing to acknowledge watershed systems." They found "no scientific justification" for excluding certain bodies of water from protection under the new regulations, noting that pollutants from smaller and seasonal bodies of water can have a significant impact on the health of larger water systems.

It is no surprise, as The New York Times pointed out several weeks ago, that "...a disregard for scientific advice has been a defining characteristic of Trump's administration."

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, a former coal lobbyist, is re-writing the law at the behest of industry groups including the American Farm Bureau, American Gas Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the American Petroleum Institute, the National Mining Association, US Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Farm Bureau, and the Heritage Foundation.

So, in response, some of the country's leading conservation advocates are fighting the rollback in the courts -- at the behest of the nations' waters and public health.

Jack Clarke is the director of public policy and government relations at Mass Audubon.

State Treasurer's unclaimed property division pays out \$5.5 million in claims during covid-19 pandemic

As COVID-19 has forced millions to work remotely, businesses and government agencies have also had to adjust to these unprecedented times. The Massachusetts Unclaimed Property Division (UCP), however, was uniquely positioned to remote work without disrupting the customer experience and has paid out over \$5.5 Million in claims since the start of the pandemic.

In 2016, UCP updated its database system and public-facing website. State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, who oversees UCP, ensured that the division moved from an internal, on premises only, server-based system, to a secured-cloud-hosted web-based system. Employees who now work remotely are able to do so with the

same functionality as if they were on site. The division also built a robust outreach program. As a result, staff already had experienced working remotely to initiate and pay claims outside of the office.

"By introducing new technology into Treasury departments and agencies we have been able to continue to efficiently serve the people of Massachusetts during these uncertain times," said State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, "By establishing an advanced web-based system, Unclaimed Property has been able to serve thousands and pay out millions, which is currently needed by a lot of people."

The list of unclaimed property owners in Massachusetts has grown each year. As we experience un-

precedented circumstances, the UCP team's established online presence is fully accessible to the public and continues to be extremely effective, as the number of searches and claims for unclaimed property has increased.

In the past five weeks alone, UCP has processed over 12,000 claims. With an efficient and customer-friendly claims system in place, over \$5.5 million worth of claims have been properly paid out during the pandemic.

With unemployment numbers increasing, the opportunity for Massachusetts residents to discover unclaimed property that is rightfully theirs has been beneficial. Unclaimed Property can consist of bank accounts, uncashed checks, stocks or divi-

dends, insurance policies, or the contents of safe deposit boxes.

"Similar to other agencies and businesses, we have had to quickly adapt to our new normal," states Mark Bracken, Assistant Treasurer/Director of the Unclaimed Property Division, "But because of thoughtful planning and preparation we are in a much better place than most and have been able to help thousands of people in the past five weeks."

UCP currently holds over \$3.4 billion in unclaimed property at Treasury and it could be yours. One in ten Massachusetts residents are owed money. To search to see if you have unclaimed money, visit: <https://find-massmoney.com/>.

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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

MALDEN CATHOLIC HONOR ROLL STUDENTS FROM EAST BOSTON - WINTER 2020

Malden Catholic High School students have completed the coursework for the third quarter for the 2019-20 academic year. Malden Catholic divides honors into three levels: Headmaster's List, First Honors and Second Honors.

Headmaster's List – Scores of 90 and above in all classes

First Honors – Scores of 85 and above in all classes

Second Honors – Scores of 80 and above in all classes

es
The following students at Malden Catholic are East Boston residents and have achieved the following honors:

Headmaster's List
Alex Nguyen – Grade 12
Rocio Rodriguez Cabarcas – Grade 10
Samantha Seeley – Grade 10
Jose Ordenez – Grade 12
First Honors
Claudia Minacapilli – Grade 10

About Malden Catholic High School:

Founded in 1932, Malden Catholic offers a unique Codivisional model among Catholic schools in the greater Boston area.

Codivisional education is an educational model that offers children the best of both worlds, rigorous single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular opportunities after school. With 565 students currently enrolled in the private, Xaverian-inspired educational institution, Malden Catholic boasts a proud history of academic excellence and leadership. It has graduated a Nobel Laureate, a U.S. Senator, business leaders, and students who have gone on to attend Harvard, Cornell, Columbia, the University of Chicago and Georgetown in recent years.

Amtrak to return Acela service

Beginning June 1, Amtrak is restoring Acela service on the Northeast Corridor on a modified schedule in response to anticipated increased demand. Modified service will include the restoration of three weekday Acela roundtrips. Northeast Regional frequencies will also be increased from eight to 10 roundtrips.

“We are dedicated to doing everything possible to return service safely. We want everyone to feel comfortable as they navigate this new normal,” said Amtrak President and CEO Bill Flynn.

Amtrak continues to take extra steps to sanitize stations and trains. Additional measures include the following:

- Facial coverings: As part of Amtrak's ongoing commitment to protect customers and front-line employees in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Amtrak is requiring that all

customers in stations, on trains and thruway buses wear facial coverings. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of simple cloth facial coverings or masks to slow the spread of the virus and prevent transmission.

- Limiting bookings: To help maintain CDC recommendations for physical distancing onboard trains, we have temporarily reduced Coach, Business, and Acela First Class sales to 50% capacity.

- Cashless service: As an added measure to ensure the health and safety of our customers and employees, we are temporarily accepting only cashless payments in stations and on trains.

- Physical distancing: Signage has been displayed at several of our busiest stations to indicate safe distances in high customer traffic areas such as waiting rooms, in front ticket offices, at the base/top of escalators,

tors, lounge entrances, etc. In addition, clear protective barriers have been retrofitted at stations where there are no current glass barriers.

- Food and beverage service: We are temporarily offering Flexible Dining service in the dining or lounge car on all long distance routes (except Auto Train) and encouraging all Sleeping Car customers to select optional room service for their meals. In addition, we are limiting seating in dining and café areas.

While some services were reduced or suspended, Amtrak has and will continue to operate as an essential service as our nation recovers. In addition to the Acela and Northeast Regional, trains will be restored to service by monitoring demand, working with state partners and continuing to prioritize customer and employee safety.

RMV cautions customers to be aware of unofficial third-party websites

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is cautioning customers to use only Mass.Gov/RMV when they are trying to renew a license or registration or process any business transactions online. Customers may inadvertently come across unofficial third-party websites or “mimic sites” that advertise similar services but have no affiliation with the RMV.

“Customers need to ensure that they are using the official Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles website Mass.Gov/RMV to conduct their business transactions,” said Acting Registrar of Motor Vehicles Jamey Tesler.“Customers should avoid using any unofficial third-party websites that are offering RMV services to ensure that their personal and financial information is protected.”

Customers can use the helpful hints listed below to determine whether the website they are using is the official site for the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles.

tor Vehicles.

- Massachusetts uses the abbreviation “RMV.” Any website using the phrase “Department of Motor Vehicles” or “DMV” should be avoided.

- Make sure the Commonwealth's seal is located somewhere on the page. This will help ensure that it is an official government website. If it cannot be found, customers should leave the site immediately.

- Always read the fine print and look for key phrases such as “for-profit” or “privately owned” at the top or bottom of the third-party websites which may note that they are not affiliated with the Commonwealth.

- The Registry will never charge a customer to check the status of a license, registration, or title. If the site requires payment to access this information, it is an unsecured mimic site.

- At Mass.Gov/RMV, a customer will never be charged to access Registry forms and information, but unofficial third-party sites

may charge for this service. Their information is also not guaranteed to be accurate.

- The Registry never charges for address changes. If a customer uses a mimic site, the change cannot be guaranteed to have actually gone through.

Any information on these third-party websites may not be accurate, and any details or payments that customers submit may not be secure. The RMV is not responsible for the content or actions taken by these sites. For more information on the dangers of third-party services, visit the Mass.Gov/RMV.

Customers with additional questions can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation by calling the Consumer Hotline at (617) 973-8787, or toll-free in MA at (888) 283-3757.

For the latest Registry updates and information, follow the RMV on Twitter @MassRMV.

Zoom meeting highlights Social Center's involvement in Boston Basic Campaign

By John Lynds

The Boston Basics Campaign is inspired by the fact that 80 percent of brain growth happens in the first three years of life. During this period, skill gaps between socio-economic, racial, and ethnic groups become clearly apparent.

However, this does not need to be.

Everyday interactions between children, their parents, and other caregivers provide abundant opportunities to give children from every background a more equal start in life.

During a recent Zoom meeting, East Boston Social Centers highlighted their involvement with the Boston Basic Campaign.

“Before I arrived, the Social Centers were already working with the Basics and it was still a very young initiative at the time,” said EBSC Executive Director Justin Pasquariello. “Michele D’Ambrosio, Gloria Devine, and Parent Partners have been participating in the Boston Opportunity Agenda’s work.”

The Boston Opportunity Agenda had been working with parents and more than 200 representatives from early education centers, family day-care centers and nonprofit organizations like the Social Centers to create a citywide plan for children from birth to age eight.

Boston Opportunity Agenda identified large community-wide endeavors that can be leveraged to help its goals and mission.

One is the Boston Basics Campaign, which educates parents of infants

in five codified behaviors, or basics, in interacting with infants that boost their children’s language abilities, reasoning and confidence—starting from birth.

“Michele had integrated them into education for all her staff in our early education programs--and other East Boston early learning centers had done the same,” said Pasquariello. Pasquariello said he knew Mari Barrera, who was the Boston Basics’ Executive Director until recently, from other work.

“Mari and I wanted to work together more,” said Pasquariello. “At the same time, East Boston was a community where the Boston Basics wanted to go deeper, and the Social Centers was a good partner for that.”

Over the years Boston Basics presented at Family Engagement Network meetings led by the Social Center’s Gloria Devine and was integrated in Families First Parenting Program training.

“They partnered with us to think about how to expand their reach, including having billboards throughout the neighborhood,” said Pasquariello. “We have been exploring partnering on grants to expand our reach for some time--always with a focus on this vision of making East Boston one of the first places anywhere where all children enter Kindergarten thriving, joyful and ready to learn. We don’t know of anywhere that has achieved that goal yet--though other places also are trying to ensure everyone is ready for

kindergarten.”

Pasquariello said the Social Centers has come to see the Boston Basics as a key part of that effort, because they can help all families improve outcomes for all children.

“Sharing the Boston Basics is a relatively low cost intervention relative to many others,” said Pasquariello. “For as little as perhaps \$200/ child, we can ensure all children ages 0-3 have multiple exposures to these Basics. We can’t figure out how to do this alone and can’t effectively reach all children alone. That is why we are working through the Family Engagement Network, and with other leading East Boston organizations, to develop a plan to change the culture for parents of young children--so “doing the Basics” with infants and young children becomes the norm in East Boston.”

Pasquariello said Right now, perhaps half of children in Eastie are entering kindergarten ready to learn.

“Kindergarten readiness is associated with a variety of lifelong outcomes, including educational attainment, health, and lifetime earnings,” said Pasquariello. “We can ensure all children in East Boston enter Kindergarten thriving, joyful, and ready to learn. When all the people who interact with our youngest children--parents, nurses and doctors, early education teachers, business and church leaders, and others--know the Basics, we will have taken a huge and important step toward this vision.”

More than 2.5 million residents in Massachusetts got Stimulus payments

Staff Report

The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service today released updated state-by-state figures for Economic Impact Payments, with approximately 130 million individuals receiving payments worth more than \$200 billion in the program’s first four weeks.

“We are working hard to continue delivering these payments to Americans who need them,” said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. “The vast majority of payments have been delivered in record time, and millions more are on the way every week. We encourage people to visit IRS.gov for the latest information, FAQs and updates on the payments.”

More than 150 million

payments will be sent out, and millions of people who do not typically file a tax return are eligible to receive these payments. Payments are automatic for people who filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019, receive Social Security retirement, survivor or disability benefits (SSDI), Railroad Retirement benefits, as well as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Veterans Affairs beneficiaries who didn’t file a tax return in the last two years.

California was the state with the most payments and the highest amount of benefit, with 13,564,730 payments totaling \$22,465,995,771. Texas was the state with the second most payments.

For those who don’t receive federal benefits and didn’t have a filing obligation

in 2018 or 2019, the IRS continues to encourage them to visit the Non-Filer tool at IRS.gov so they can quickly register for Economic Impact Payments. People can continue to receive their payment throughout the year.

Economic Impact Payments, totals by State (Northeast only)

- Massachusetts - 2,503,206 - \$4,008,005,049
- Connecticut - 1,325,813 - \$2,162,539,412
- New Hampshire - 560,833 - \$941,099,188
- Rhode Island - 446,941 - \$725,567,957
- Maine - 594,555 - \$1,005,363,003
- Vermont - 267,295 - \$450,251,509
- New York - 7,737,476 - \$12,523,017,409

More than 50 filmed-in-MA movies & TV series available

As the COVID-19 public health emergency continues, many people staying home are looking for more films and TV shows to watch on the streaming services they subscribe to. Many are also looking for ways to connect virtually to our local communities. Thanks to the Massachusetts film industry’s resurgence over the past several years, Massachusetts residents can choose from hours of locally-filmed TV and film content available on the streaming services they already subscribe to.

The Massachusetts Production Coalition, a network of film and media professionals and businesses throughout the state, has created a directory of 50+ films and episodic series shot in Massachusetts in just the last 5 years that are available now for streaming on various video-on-demand streaming services. You can watch these locally-filmed movies and TV

series on popular streaming services including Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV+, HBO Now, Hulu, Netflix, Passionflix, Showtime, Starz, and Tubi.

“Watching locally-filmed series and movies is a great way to connect with your friends and neighbors during social distancing, whether it’s by holding a virtual watch party or just watching a movie and discussing it later,” said David Hartman, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Production Coalition. “Pointing out local landmarks; spotting neighborhood small businesses; arguing about the routes characters choose to drive; laughing when we’re used as a stand-in for other states – watching a locally-filmed production is just more engaging and connection-worthy.”

See the directory at mass-prodcoalition.org/news/made-in-ma-streaming.


Since 2006, more than 250 film and television pro-

ductions have filmed in over 220 Massachusetts cities and towns, together spending more than \$2.6 billion in the state. Film and television productions have a significant impact on a local economy, from supporting thousands of jobs, to buying goods and services from small businesses, to donating to local initiatives.

“Filming is suspended right now due to the coronavirus, but it’s a great time to relive memories from past sets I’ve worked on by watching locally-filmed movies and shows,” said Taryn Walsh, a key costumer who has worked on projects including Little Women and Patriots Day. “There are so many amazing films and TV shows that were shot here in Massachusetts available at your fingertips. Staying home and watching local is the ideal way to practice social distancing while still supporting our local arts industry.”

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The BPHC's latest breakdown of COVID-19 cases and infection rates for Boston that was released Friday.



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www.baycove.org/jobs

If you are interested in taking the program online, please visit www.atozdiscoversteno.org.

Bruce Jones, a longtime East Boston Community Soup Kitchen volunteer, died suddenly on Tuesday April 28 at his home in East Boston.

We want to see you.... at home!

Telemedicine allows health care professionals to evaluate, diagnose, and treat patients at a distance using telecommunications technology, such as a smart phone or computer. Telemedicine allows us to continue to provide high-quality care to our patients during the COVID-19 pandemic while minimizing exposures.

Telemedicine appointments are being scheduled in Pediatrics, Adult Medicine, Family Medicine, Women's Health (OB/GYN), Behavioral Health, Neighborhood PACE, and other departments. We use certified medical interpreters during telemedicine appointments for languages other than English.

Do you need to schedule a telemedicine appointment with your primary care provider? Did you miss an appointment that needs to be rescheduled? If so, call 617-569-5800 to schedule a telemedicine appointment. This is especially important if you have a chronic or a behavioral health condition. You should be treated if needed, especially during this public health crisis. We're here to keep you healthy!

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
Celebrating 50 Years

www.ebnhc.org •

Soup Kitchen // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

need and immediately reached out to the Y and to the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen to see where they could fill these gaps.

Listening to each organization’s unique circumstance, they quickly mobilized support.

“During these difficult times, we are fortunate to be in a position that our team at Cargo Ventures can help community groups in need,” said Cargo Ventures spokesperson Pat Capogreco. “We are doing what we can to support our East Boston neighbors.”

Sandra Nijjar, Founder and Executive Director at the EBKSC sees the same need here in Eastie.

“My soup kitchen board of directors and I are speechless and incredibly grateful to Cargo Ventures because it’s been over two months and they have not missed one week of helping us help our most vulnerable neighbors, we help over 250 folks who are suffering from homelessness, hunger, addiction, mental illness and unemployment,” she said. “Cargo Ventures has been one of the main reasons my soup kitchen has been able to



Founder and Executive Director at the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen Sandra Nijjar (center) with soup kitchen volunteers get food ready for distribution.

continue to provide food resources to our most vulnerable neighbors.”

Each Tuesday the EBCSK would open and serve the community directly; but because of the current situation, they have been forced to work more hands-off and were forced to find other methods to continue their work. Now Nijjar and her volunteers serve the community three days a week through contactless exchanges.

Due to the continued community partnership with Cargo Ventures, the East Boston Y is able to provide alternative options

once normal food service runs out for the day for those in severe need.

Additionally, the Soup Kitchen is able now to reach remotely the community and to provide much needed assistance in real time.

“Seeing smiles on the faces of people from our community when we are able to provide them with life-sustaining services is what community is all about,” said Gaeta. “Its partners like Cargo Ventures and so many other local businesses in the community that make us Eastie Strong.”

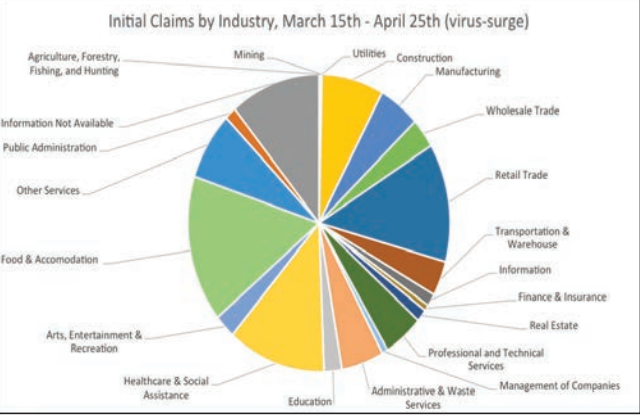
New unemployment claims decline for the fifth week

Massachusetts had 55,223 individuals file an initial claim for standard Unemployment Insurance (UI) from April 26 to May 2, the fifth consecutive week of fewer initial claims filing over the previous week.

Since March 15, a total of 777,232 initial claims have been filed for UI. For the week of April 26 to May 2, there were a total of 556,272 continued UI claims, an increase of 5.4 percent over the previous week.

Since April 20, around 185,000 claimants have filed for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).

Over the last month, the customer service staff at the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has grown from



around 50 employees to over 1,300. The remote customer service operation is now making over 25,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host daily unemployment town halls – which are being held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese – and have been attended by over 230,000 constituents. Massachusetts was one of the first states to suc-

cessfully launch the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. Due to DUA’s previous efforts to migrate their systems to the cloud, the first unemployment agency in the country to do so, the unemployment online platforms for both regular UI and PUA has maintained functionality throughout the surge in demand.

Two Roxbury juveniles arrested in Eastie for B&E

By John Lynds

With most people sheltered in their homes during the day in East Boston amid the COVID-19 pandemic one would think would-be-robbers would take a hiatus from breaking into homes.

However, for two juveniles from Roxbury the fact there are more residents are at home and keeping a close eye on the neighborhood didn’t seem to matter last Wednesday afternoon.

Just before 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6 officers from District A-7 station arrested the two juvenile males after responding to a call for a breaking and entering in progress in the area of 154 Lexington St.

While on the way to the scene police were told that the suspects had made entry to the home through a first-floor window and were found by the homeowner inside a second-floor apartment. The suspects

then fled on foot with the victim in pursuit.

Officers arrived on scene and secured one of the suspects, later identified as a 17-year-old male from Roxbury. Additional responding officers were able to locate the second suspect, later identified as a 16-year-old male from Roxbury, in the area of 125 Trenton St.

Both suspects were placed in custody after being positively identified and will appear in Boston Juvenile Court on charges of Delinquent to Wit: Breaking and Entering (Residence).

According to police documents residential burglaries, or B&Es, are up by two when comparing January, 2020 through May, 2020 with the same time period last year. In 2019 there were 18 B&Es during that time period compared to 20 that have occurred so far this year.

East Boston Youth Basketball concludes 2020 season

On March 14, the EBY-BL season came to a screeching halt due to the corona virus. That Saturday the 12 and under division was set to play their semi-final games. The 76ers lead by Sonny Sarro, Juan Torres, and John Paul Forbes, having defeated the Magic in week one featuring Matthew Scudiere and the much improved Heyden Schettino and Chris DiPrima, were set to take on the 2nd place Warriors. The Warriors with the outstanding trio of Angel Figueroa, Manny Santiago, and Jonathan Brown had defeated Christian Basile and the Spartans in a hard fought game the previous week. The other game featured Charlie Frazier, Chris Marroquin, Roman Cinelli, Caden Pelosi and the Blazers who had erased the Hornets lead by Christian Holt and Jordan Copeland against the Regular Season Champion Lakers, who had only dropped one game all season. Both games promised to be hard fought affairs. Unfortunately, like the NBA, the season was halted. As a result the Lakers due to their regu-

lar season dominance are being awarded the 2020 Championship. Coach Dan Nucci’s squad was very exciting to watch all year with their tough defense and unselfish offensive play. The team was led by the D’Amelio cousins Carmen, Michael, and David. All three shot very well but more importantly kept their teammates involved with their tremendous passing ability and leadership. Cam Testa and Johnny Ferrara were tenacious all season defensively. Chipping in offensively when needed. Rookies Giovanni Shire and Antonio Capogreco were very good coming off the bench. Both had key hoops in the opening round victory over the Celtics and their star Gideon Nieves who put a scare into the 1st place team.

That same day the Marty Pino Division run at the Paris St. Gym by Christian Lopez and Chris Snow were set to play their final game. It was a much anticipated match between the number two seed Lakers coached by former Savio standout Chris Snow

and the top seeded Celtics coached by East Boston High legend Anthony Copeland. The Celtics according to Copeland were set to avenge their only loss of the season. Unfortunately the game was never played. As a result of their regular season record the Celtics are being awarded the championship. The Lakers team featured East Boston High Sophomore sensation Jr. Andular. He was the league’s top scorer. Other Laker players were Jason DaSilva, Elijah Canales, Angel and Luis Franco, and rookie Angel Figueroa. The Champion Celtics featured high scorer Miguel Pimental, Carmen D’Amelio, Kai Lau Quan, Jerry Lieske, Amaya Yarde, Ayman Amgher, Terrel Wilkerson, Daiquan Hinnant, and Charles Harris.

Congratulations to the Lakers and Celtics as well as all of the players for a fine season. Special thanks to all of our volunteers for their hard work. Without their efforts the league could not operate.

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Pass the time while trying out these recipes!

PANTRY CHICKEN CASSEROLE
INGREDIENTS:

- cooking spray
- 1 (16 ounce) package penne pasta
- 4 tablespoons salted butter
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper - stemmed, seeded, and finely chopped
- 1 (8 ounce) package sliced fresh mushrooms
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 (8 ounce) packages processed cheese food (such as Velveeta(R)), cubed
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 (10 ounce) can diced tomatoes and green chiles (such as RO*TEL(R)), undrained
- 1 (4 ounce) can mild chopped green chile peppers
- 4 cups cooked chicken, cut into bite-sized pieces

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Spray a large casserole dish with cooking spray.

STEP 2: Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add penne and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender yet firm to the bite, about 11 minutes. Drain.

STEP 3: While the pasta is cooking, melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion and bell pepper and cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are tender, about 5 minutes. Add mushrooms and cook until they release their liquid, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until fragrant, about 1 minute.

STEP 4: Stir in processed cheese food, diced tomatoes and juice, diced tomatoes and green chiles with juice, and mild chile peppers. Cook and stir until cheese has melted, 5 to 10 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in cooked pasta and chicken. Pour into the prepared baking dish.

STEP 5: Bake in the preheated oven until heated through, about 20 minutes. Serve warm.

FROZEN VEGETABLE STIR-FRY
INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 2 teaspoons peanut butter
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 (16 ounce) package frozen mixed vegetables

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1: Combine soy sauce, brown sugar, garlic powder, and peanut butter in a small bowl.

STEP 2: Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat; cook and stir frozen vegetables until just tender, 5 to 7 minutes. Remove from heat and fold in soy sauce mixture.

LEMON BLUEBERRY BREAD
INGREDIENTS:

- ½ cup melted butter
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 eggs
- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ cup milk
- 2 tablespoons grated lemon zest
- ½ cup chopped walnuts
- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- ¼ cup white sugar

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease an 8x4 inch loaf pan.

STEP 2: In a mixing bowl, beat together butter, 1 cup sugar, juice and eggs. Combine flour, baking powder and salt; stir into egg mixture alternately with milk. Fold in lemon zest, nuts, and blueberries. Pour batter into prepared pan.

STEP 3: Bake in preheated oven for 60 to 70 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into center of the loaf comes out clean. Cool bread in pan for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, combine lemon juice and 1/4 cup sugar in a small bowl. Remove bread from pan and drizzle with glaze. Cool on a wire rack.

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OBITUARIES

Isabel Gleason

General Electric retiree

Isabel M. “Sis” Gleason died peacefully on May 9 at West Revere Health Center, 10 days before her 95th birthday.

“Sis” was born in East Boston on May 19, 1925. She attended Our Lady of the Assumption Grammar School and went on to graduate from Fitton High School. She then went to work at General Electric in Lynn, where she was employed for over 40 years before her retirement. Upon retiring she took care of her mother for some time before her death.

The daughter of the late Joseph E. And Elizabeth P. (Crawford) Gleason, she

was the sister of James Gleason of East Boston, Pauline Miozza of Dover, DE, Eleanor Bernabei of Portland, ME and the late Alice Corlito, George, Joseph, Charles and Robert Gleason. She is survived by many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

A public Mass in celebration of Isabel’s life will take place at a future date. Due to restrictions in place by the CDC and the Dept. of Public Health burial will be private. Please send messages of condolence to the family on our Tribute Page, MagrathFuneral-Home.com.

Antonio Schena of East Boston, formerly of Italy, passed away on Thursday, May 7.

The dear brother of the late Giovanni and his late wife, Margherita Schena, he was the cherished uncle of Anna Derienzo and her husband, Pasquale and Josephine Schena Iannessa and her children, Giovanni and Ava Iannessa.

In accordance with the CDC, Mass. Department of Public Health, Archdiocese of Boston guidelines and local restrictions on gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, all services will be held for the immediate family privately. If you have any questions or would like to express your



condolences please contact the funeral home during normal business hours 617-569-0990 or leave a message for the family on the tribute wall at www.ruggieromh.com. Antonio will be laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery Mausoleum, Everett.

Robert Patrie

Owned Delta Fuel Oil Co.

Robert E. Patrie of Winthrop passed away on Thursday, May 7.

Robert was the owner of Delta Fuel Oil Company. He was also a Paul Revere bus driver, a coach for Malden Pop Warner and Little League. He founded the Golden Tornadoes Booster Club. Robert was also a member of the Winthrop Elks.

The longtime partner of Frances Spinazzola, he was the devoted father of Robert Patrie Jr. and his wife, Sherri of Wilmington, Laurie Cooley and her husband, George of Stoneham, Steve Patrie and his wife, Theresa of Lynn, and the late John Patrie; dear brother of Paul Patrie and his wife, Linda, Janet Lanni and her husband, Jack and Judy Berry, all of Malden, and the late George Patrie and his late wife, Constance; cherished grandfather “Grumpy” of Ryan Patrie and his wife, Ashley, Kyle Patrie, Justin Patrie, Timothy Patrie, Cory D’Entremont, Jessica Todd and her Husband, Cody, Cameron D’Entremont, Steven Patrie, Andrew Patrie and Matthew Patrie and beloved great-grandfather of Jameson and Ada-



lyne.

He was the former husband of the late Loretta Patrie and is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. In accordance with the CDC, Mass.

Department of Public Health, Archdiocese of Boston guidelines and local restrictions on gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, all services will be held for the immediate family privately. If you have any questions or would like to express your condolences, please contact the funeral home during normal business hours or leave a message for the family on the tribute wall: www.ruggieromh.com.

Robert will be laid to rest at Winthrop Cemetery, Belle Isle section, Winthrop.

Mystic Valley Elder Services reminds it is open for business

Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) wants to remind our communities that it is open for business and is working to be sure that those individuals in need receive the necessary services.

- MVES continue to accept calls and referrals via our online referral form and/or by calling us at 781-324-7705.

- MVES have funding available to help older adults and adults living with disabilities with urgent needs for food, grocery shopping assistance and more.

- MVES continue to serve home delivered meals.

- MVES are in regular communication with our consumers. Our care managers are calling them on a regular basis to assess their well-being and need for services.

- Support Groups for caregivers are being run virtually.

- MVES are not conducting home visits but are assessing our consumers’ needs through telephonic means.

- MVES is in constant contact with the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Department of Public Health, and we are following their guidance as

well as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended best practices.

- MVES are in close communication with our extensive network of in-home service provider agencies and our community partners to deliver services in a safe and effective manner.

- Be assured, MVES will always let consumers know if services will be interrupted, reduced or cannot be delivered.

MVES is working to ensure the wellbeing of all those who depend on us by continuing to provide essential services to older adults, adults living with disabilities, and caregivers who reside in Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, North Reading, Reading, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield and Winthrop.

MVES is proud to be a highly respected resource in your community and we want you to know that keeping our community – consumers, families, staff, volunteers and community members – safe is our highest priority.

Please visit our website for the latest updates concerning MVES and COVID-19 here.

Filomena Romano

Of East Boston

Filomena E. (Puglielli) Romano of East Boston passed away on Thursday, May 7.

The beloved wife of the late Benedetto Romano, she was the devoted step-mother of Annmarie D’Angelo and her husband, William of Revere; dear sister of Anna M. Puglielli of the North End and the late Gennaro Puglielli and his surviving wife, Joanne, Maria Stein, Raffaella Magaletta, and Michelina Puglielli and cherished aunt of Paul Magaletta, Steven Puglielli, Maria Anderson and the late Domenic Puglielli. She is also survived by many loving great nieces

and nephews.

In accordance with the CDC, Mass. Department of Public Health, Archdiocese of Boston guidelines and local restrictions on gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, all services will be held for the immediate family privately. If you have any questions or would like to express your condolences please contact the funeral home during normal business hours 617-569-0990 or leave a message for the family on the tribute wall at www.ruggieromh.com. Filomenia will be laid to rest at Saint Michael’s Cemetery, Boston.

George Nolan, Jr.

Of Georgetown

George J. Nolan, Jr. of Georgetown passed away on Thursday, May 7.

The beloved husband of Francesca (DeVellis) Nolan, he was the loving son of George J. Nolan Sr. of New Hampshire and Karen (Gillespie) Nolan of East Boston; devoted father of Cameron G. Nolan and the cherished brother of Jodi Festa of East Boston. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

In accordance with the CDC, Mass. Department of Public Health, Archdiocese of Boston guidelines and local restrictions on gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, all services will be held for the immediate family privately. If you have any questions or



would like to express your condolences please contact the funeral home during normal business hours 617-569-0990 or leave a message for the family on the tribute wall www.ruggieromh.com.

George will be laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

Albert Vitello

Of East Boston

Albert A. Vitello of East Boston passed away on Saturday, May 2.

The beloved husband of Harriet (Littlefield) Vitello, he was the devoted father of Diane D’Andrea and her husband, Anthony, cherished brother of Lillian Costello and her late husband, James Costello of Bellingham and loving grandfather of Melissa and Nicolette D’Andrea.

In accordance with the CDC, Mass. Department of

Public Health, Archdiocese of Boston guidelines and local restrictions on gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, all services will be held for the immediate family privately. If you have any questions or would like to express your condolences please contact the funeral home during normal business hours 617-569-0990 or leave a message for the family on the tribute wall www.ruggieromh.com.

Joseph Doucette

Long time Raytheon electrical engineer

Joseph Doucette, 62, of Revere died on May 6.

Joe worked many years as an electrical engineer at Raytheon. In his free time, he enjoyed fishing, wood-working, traveling and being around family and friends.

He was the beloved son of the late Alfred and Rose (Dana) Doucette, devoted husband of Cheryl Ann (Dominik), loving stepfather of Shawn Dominik of Franklin, dear brother of Alfred and his companion, Sandra, John and his wife, Maryanne and Dorothy Mazzullo (Doucette) and her husband, Jim. He is also survived by his loving nieces and nephew, Linda Mrockowski, Anne Marie Mathews, and her children Summer and Macey and Jimmy Mazzulla and his fiancé, Paulina.

In accordance with the CDC’s restrictions on so-



cial gatherings due to Covid -19 all services will be private. A celebration of life will be announced for a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Joseph’s memory to the First Congregational Food Pantry 230 Beach St, Revere, and MA 02151. Family and friends are encouraged to leave a message or share a memory in the online guestbook at www.Buonfiglio.com.

Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home.

Doreen Faretra

Of East Boston

Doreen A. Faretra of East Boston passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Saturday, May 2.

The daughter of the late Charles and Helen (Tango) Faretra, she was the devoted mother of Jermaine Wiggins and his wife, Talena and Breanna Faretra; cherished grandmother to Takida, Jermaine Jr., Jaden, Giovanni and Althea; dear sister to Charles Faretra and Douglas Caponigro and his wife, Joan and beloved Goddaughter to Orazio Cardinale. She is also survived by a host of loving

cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

In accordance with the CDC, Mass. Department of Public Health, Archdiocese of Boston guidelines and local restrictions on gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, all services will be held for the immediate family privately. If you have any questions or would like to express your condolences please contact the funeral home during normal business hours or leave a message for the family on the tribute wall: www.ruggieromh.com.

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What to do if you are sick with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC’s webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19?

If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don’t go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

Statistics for Massachusetts

COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts as of MAY 11

Confirmed cases of COVID-19	78,462
	+669 from the 10 th

Massachusetts residents subject to COVID-19 quarantine by current status as of May 5

Total of individuals subject to quarantine	32019
Total of individuals who have completed monitoring (no longer in quarantine)	22148
Total of individuals currently undergoing monitoring/under quarantine	9871

COVID-19 INFECTION BY AGE BRACKET

≤19 years of age: 2895	20-29 years of age: 9948
30-39 years of age: 11606	40-49 years of age: 11270
50-59 years of age: 12721	60-69 years of age: 10437
70-79 years of age: 7381	≥ 80 years of age: 11952

DEATHS IN CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES

5108

Total Number of Cases by County

Barnstable	1075
Berkshire	478
Bristol	4999
Dukes	23
Essex	11432
Franklin	296
Hampden	4763
Hampshire	688
Middlesex	17774
Nantucket	12
Norfolk	7004
Plymouth	6457
Suffolk	15356
Worcester	7818
Unknown	287

For the most up to date information scan this with your smartphone at any time to visit the State’s website for all information related to the virus.



FRESH AND LOCAL

Potatoes as a leftover platform

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Good things can come out of hard times. One of the handiest tips we picked up while sheltering in place was the concept of using baked potatoes as a way to use up leftovers. As sweet potato lovers, we extended this idea to include that tuber.

Picture this – supper time’s approaching and there’s a mishmash of leftovers in the refrigerator. Let’s say you have a bit of stew that everyone is slightly tired of after a few days of dining on it. Another container has a few spoonfuls of Indian chickpea curry. However, there is nothing for the picky eater in the family who wants pizza.

We’re here to tell you that you can make your family happy by scrubbing a few potatoes – russets, sweet potatoes or both. Cut shallow crosses on the top, rub them with butter or oil, and bake until the skin is crisp and the center tender. (Plan on turning and/or checking for doneness of the sweet potatoes before the russets.)

When roasted to perfection, you can toss a hot potato to each eater and tell them to top it with what they can find on hand. The family carnivore will be quick to grab a bit of the stew to microwave and serve over one regular potato. Your vegetable-forward eater will grab a sweet potato as a base for those chickpeas. A few pantry staples like a jar of pizza sauce and some cheese and pepperoni and a few minutes in that already-hot-oven can turn a baked spud into a twice-baked pizza potato!



Here, roasted planks of sweet potatoes became a base for a bit of goulash left in a take-out container, adding flavor, nutrition, and fiber to the meal.

What if Time Is Short?

While we both prefer long slow-baked potatoes with oven-crisped skins, we have been known to resort to a microwave when time is of the essence. For those who dine solo, you can microwave a single baked potato in about five minutes. If you have a toaster oven, you can microwave to cook the inside and then pop it in the oven for a few minutes to crisp the skin.

Be sure to poke a few holes in raw potatoes with a knife or fork to let the steam that builds up inside as it heats to escape. If you microwave more than one potato at a time, try to choose similar sizes and add a bit extra to your cooking time for each addition.

Another way to get those potatoes under something fast is to roast potato planks. For this, you cut your scrubbed potatoes lengthwise into half-inch-thick slices. Toss these with oil, bake in a hot oven, turning to brown both sides, and when done, top with whatever you have on hand.

Make it Your Way

While we love the idea of using potatoes as a platform for leftovers, they can also become a platform for creativity. Our minds went immediately to some of our favorite fillings for tacos, dumplings, or empanadas.

Online you’ll find endless pages of recipes for stuffed baked potatoes and stuffed sweet potatoes. If you put the phrase “stuffed potato fillings” into a search box, you’ll find pages that lead you to 50, 14, 18 or 35 recipes and suggestions for fillings. Some are as simple as bacon and cheese, others help create a specific flavor profile like the pizza potato we mentioned above. Many are vegetarian, vegan, or easily adapted to other dietary restrictions. A few have inspired us to do some batch cooking to freeze containers of fillings for future baked potato meals.

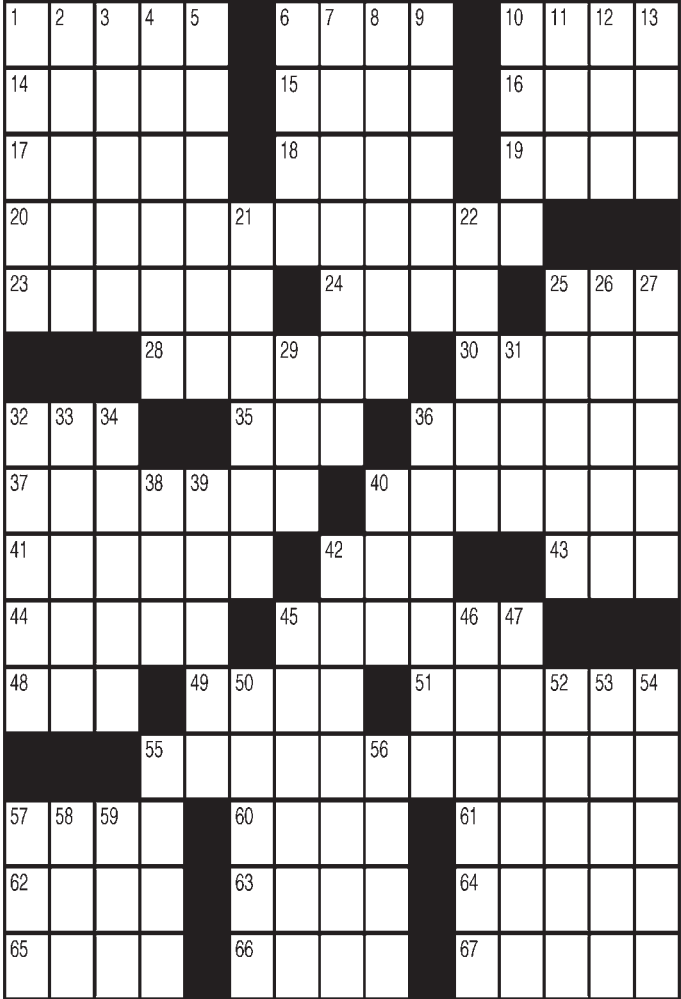
Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

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15 The last word
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23 Buddhist enlightenment
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30 Boredom
32 TV regulator
35 In favor of
36 Aphorism
37 Part 2 of quote
40 Part 3 of quote
41 Is unable
42 That girl
43 A Caesar
44 Poetic contraction
45 Abdominal exercises
48 Foxlike
49 Waste treatment center
51 Singer Twain
55 End of quote
57 Wise men
60 Palo __, CA
61 All confused
62 Elliptical
63 Banana wrap
64 Fix in the memory
65 Fit
66 Neophyte
67 “The Flying Dutchman” soprano

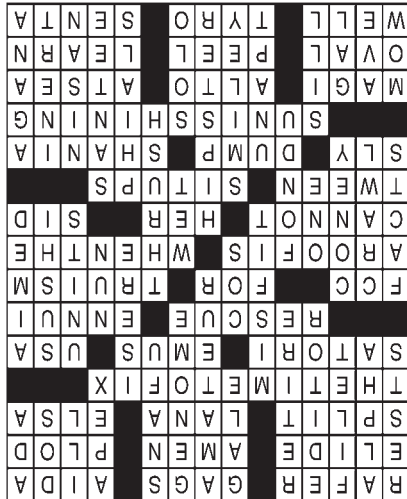
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38 Five before six
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VERONICA ROBLES CULTURAL CENTER HELPS WITH RELIEF EFFORTS

By John Lynds

Just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Veronica Robles moved her popular Cultural Center from McClellan Highway into its new digs at the former Meridian Street Library.

However, once the virus spread through Eastie and quarantine and social distancing put an end to the usual dance and music classes at Robles's Cultural Center she and her team switched gears.

"I think it's important people know what's happening so please stay home a little longer," said Robles. "There are people who try to take care of you and all you have to do is stay home, be patient and ask for help if you really need it. Local officials, organizations and volunteers are all working together to get food and financial assistance to residents as it becomes available."

Robles said thanks to the Maverick Landing Community Services, Eastie Farm, Centro Cultural she, Rita Lara, Kannan Thiruvengadam and her husband, Willy Lopez have been able to deliver some fresh vegetables, milk, eggs, tortillas and bread to residents in need.

"Over the past four weeks, we have also been able to provide financial support to 10 families in East Boston in collaboration with Resurrection East Boston Church," said Robles. "We are working hard to find more resources, if you want to help, let us know or if you need help, do not hesitate to ask for help."

Robles also praised Mayor Martin Walsh's team for doing an amazing job.

"In East Boston we are working as a team with the Mayor to identify those who need immediate assistance to provide some kind of support," said Robles.



Veronica Robles husband, Willy Lopez, delivers some food.



Veronica Robles and Willy Lopez hit the streets near Central Square helping to distribute food.



Volunteers and staff from the Veronica Robles Cultural Center help with the food relief efforts in Eastie amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



Inside the Veronica Robles Cultural Center a team of volunteers prepare bags of fresh vegetables, milk, eggs, tortillas and bread to residents in need.



Robles said thanks to the Maverick Landing Community Services, Eastie Farm, Centro Cultural she, Rita Lara, Kannan Thiruvengadam and her husband, Willy Lopez have been able to deliver some fresh vegetables, milk, eggs, tortillas and bread to residents in need.



Willy Lopez sorts portions of tortillas.



A volunteer from the Cultural Center makes a home delivery.



Here they load up the van at Maverick Landing.

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A SHORT STORY ABOUT A HARD CURVE. AND A HOME RUN.

Carol Truncale's story isn't just about how she prevailed through a severe childhood case of scoliosis, or curvature of the spine. It's about what she did when she grew up.

She became a nurse—a decision inspired by the support and dedication she received from her own medical team during her long years of treatment and successful recovery.

Carol Truncale's story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know: don't give up, and remember to give back. If Carol's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.

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