

# East Boston

## TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

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### Some Eastie's community groups move to online format

By John Lynds

With the ban on construction due to COVID-19 lifted in the City of Boston and Zoning Board (ZBA) resuming hearings East Boston's community groups are switching to a virtual meeting platform in order to vote on development projects in the neighborhood.

Earlier this month the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association's (JPNA) board held its first community meeting since early March. JPNA became the first community group in Eastie to host a meeting via ZOOM since the entire city and state was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This week Eagle Hill Civic Association (EHCA) President Debra Cave said her community group would follow suit.

"Eagle Hill Civic Association will be conducting the June meeting via ZOOM on Wednesday, June 24," said Cave. "Due to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, we have not had an EHCA meeting since February of this year. With the Zoning Board of Appeals resuming business shortly, we want to ensure that the community groups can continue to meet and voice their concerns."

See COMMUNITY Page 2

### Eastie applauds SCOTUS's DACA ruling

By John Lynds

In 2017, East Boston High School's Valedictorian, Maybelline Perez, gave a powerful speech at that year's graduation on how Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program allowed her to live a safe life outside of her native El Salvador, succeed in school and begin on a path of higher education at Northeastern University.

Perez was a school leader, the president of the school's National Honors Society and received a scholarship to Northeastern University. Her parents, Benjamin Pérez and Flora Villatoro, brought Perez and her sibling to the United States in 2010 because they wanted their children to attend school safely.

See DACA Page 5

### MOBILE TESTING



EBNHC medical staff during a recent Mobile Pop-up COVID Testing Site at the Maverick Landing Public Housing Development. The pop up testing site targeted a specific population in Eastie that may not have had access to testing since the pandemic began. See Page 6 for more photos.



## Lasagna Mamas spreading across Eastie, the state and nation

By John Lynds

A Somerville woman's idea to make lasagnas with her daughter to pass the time and feed neighbors in need during the COVID-19 pandemic's stay at home order has spread to East Boston and across the state and nation.

Rhiannon Menn's idea to spread 'Lasagna Love' was born in the early days of the pandemic in March. While at home with her family, Menn, who loves

to cook, decided to make a few lasagna's to hand out to struggling families that were out of work due to the virus.

What started out as seven lasagnas for families in need in Somerville has turned into a nationwide phenomenon.

Menn began posting her efforts on Facebook and soon there was a growing number of families reaching out for a meal as well as other mothers that wanted to help.

Soon the group became known as "Lasagna Mamas" and the network of those looking to help grew and spread to Eastie.

Currently there are 11 'Lasagna Mamas' in the hard-hit COVID community here. They have all signed up to cook at least one lasagna per week for another Eastie family or individual in need.

Other chapters have started in Iowa, California, Texas and Arizona. Menn also has interested moms looking to set up chapters in Rhode Island, Southern New Hampshire, Atlanta, and Nashville.

Recently, Menn and her daughter Cimorene were featured on WBZ-TV Monday, as well as some of the other Lasagna Mamas helping out in Eastie.

"Lasagna Love has grown to over 120 volunteers, and we've delivered over 1,000 meals to families in need," said Menn after the piece aired. "I can't even believe it. We have 12 new Lasagna Mamas that signed up across Massachusetts after seeing the story on the news."

Menn told WBZ that La-



Rhiannon Menn and her daughter work on lasagnas at their home in Somerville.

See LASAGNA Page 5

## Funeral homes reopen with limited capacity

By John Lynds

At the height of the COVID-19 outbreak the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home was processing dozens of funerals for those who had succumbed to the virus.

From the end of March to the virus's peak in mid-April Funeral Director Joseph Ruggiero III reported 28 COVID-19 related funeral arrangements in a two-week span. The funeral home ended up processing around 70 COVID-19 funerals throughout April.

The pandemic not only increased the volume of funerals Ruggiero was arranging but also forced funeral homes like his to change how they operated.

For months the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home was unable to provide full-scale wakes and funerals for Eastie families due to the state's shutdown and stay-at-home order.

While funeral homes were still considered an essential business and remained open during the height of the pandemic, they were forced to hold 'private' services for immediate family members only. There were no funeral masses, no graveside burial services and no wakes.

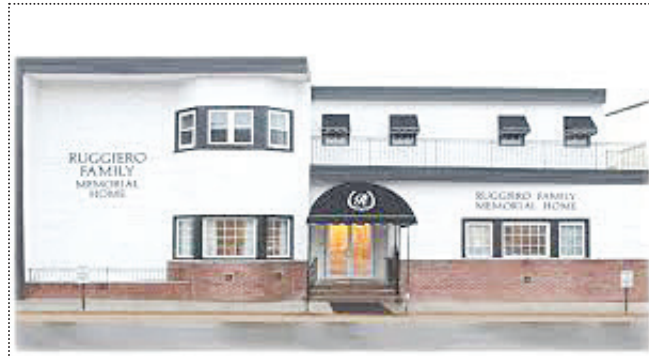
However, under the state's Phase II COVID-19 reopening plan funeral homes have been able to increase capacity and return some dignity for those who have passed away.

"We can do 40 percent capacity, everyone has to wear masks and we have to keep people six feet apart," said Ruggiero.

The Orient Heights Square funeral home held its first publicly advertised wake on Tuesday.

"Chairs are being placed six feet apart," said Ruggiero. "Hand sanitizer is on hand."

See REOPEN Page 2



The Ruggiero Family Memorial Home in Orient Heights Square.

## Eastie's youth summer programs plan for a unique summer

By John Lynds

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March forced East Boston's popular after school programs to close as the city, state and nation went into isolation in order to stem the spread of the virus.

Agencies like the East Boston Social Centers (EBSC), the Salesian Boys & Girls Club, the East Boston YMCA and Piers Park Sailing Center all had to put programs on hold until the state figured out its phased COVID reopening process and what was safe to open during each phase.

With the state's Phase II reopening plan in full swing, little by little life is starting to return to what is now being called the 'new normal'.

While some normalcy has returned, there are still restrictions, and youth program providers in Eastie are cautiously trying to figure out how to move forward with summer programs and camps.

"We are working to reopen in early July," said EBSC's Executive Director Justin Pasquariello. "The state is now requiring that we have no more than 10 children per classroom. Due to some recent renovations, we have some extra space so we are increasing the number of classrooms versus a usual year. Even with that, however, we will only be able to serve 100 children versus 159 in a typical school year program, and sometimes more in the summer. As of now, we believe this means we won't have any open enrollment spaces--as those already enrolled in our school-age program have."

See YOUTH Page 2

## Ruggiero Family Memorial Home

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# Walsh gives COVID-19 update on BPL, testing, business assistance

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Walsh held a press conference on June 18, where he gave an update on COVID-19 as well as the reopening plan.

He said that as of last week, the overall positive test rate is down 19.6 percent, the “first time our positive test rate in the city has fallen below 20 percent.”

Last week, pop up testing sites were opened for those who attended large gatherings such as recent protests. Walsh said that nearly 1300 people were tested, and the positive test rate was one percent.

“Any time that I see a protest, I’ve seen a high rate of face covering,” Walsh said. He also thanked the Boston Public Health Commission for handing out masks and sanitizer at many of the protests.

He said that while these positive numbers are en-

couraging, he still “encourages everyone to continue being safe as you make your voices heard,” and more test sites will continue to open, including at Brookside Community Health Center in Jamaica Plain for those who have attended large gatherings.

Walsh also said that the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021 includes an additional \$13 million for the Boston Public Health Commission to fight COVID-19, health inequalities, and mental health issues throughout the city. “That focus on public health is essential in Phase Two of the reopening plan,” Walsh said.

“I want to urge everyone to remain cautious,” he said. “If you don’t take this virus seriously enough, we can and will get spikes.” He said that this means to continue wearing face coverings, washing your hands,

and cleaning surfaces.

Walsh also recently announced a \$41.million increase in funding to provide 8,000 youth jobs and other opportunities this summer, and the jobs have been modified to fit the guidelines set forth for the virus to ensure that teens are able to gain experience safely.

The Boston Public Library (BPL) is now offering “BPL to Go” at select locations, which began on June 22. BPL cardholders, including e-card holders, will be allowed to pick up physical materials that are reserved ahead of time online. There will be return bins outside of the libraries where the materials can be returned. The program will first be offered at the Copley branch, the Codman Square Branch, the East Boston Branch, the Jamaica Plain Branch, and the Mattapan Branch, and will slowly roll out at other lo-

cations.

Walsh also said that more than \$13.5 million has been provided to small businesses during the pandemic, and \$5.9 million has been distributed by the Small Business Relief Fund to more than 1600 businesses such as restaurants, retail stores, hair and nail salons, gyms, childcare providers, home health aids, and more. The Reopening Boston Fund has also provided money for things like PPE, partitions, and cleaning supplies for businesses, he said.

Walsh also said that there is a list of resources at [boston.gov/reopening](https://boston.gov/reopening) such as a directory of open businesses and restaurants as well as guidance for different types of businesses.

The City Council has introduced a home rule petition for 184 new liquor licenses for restaurants across the city, as well as 15 set aside exclusively for

minority owned businesses. The state must approve the introduction of new liquor licenses.

“We need to continue to give our restaurants every opportunity to recover and succeed,” Walsh said.

On the housing front, Walsh said that the Boston Housing Authority is “working with hundreds of families of children on permanent rental vouchers to lift them out of homelessness.”

He said that construction has resumed on 3,000 affordable homes and last week launched the ONE+ Boston Mortgage Fund using CPA funds. The fund offers low interest rates and helps families buy their first home to build their own wealth.

Walsh also said that several public art projects are moving forward, including 24 new projects which have received grants. He said

that 61 artists will be painting utility boxes as part of the PaintBox program. New murals will also be worked on this summer.

“When you see the artists, please be respectful,” Walsh said, and “maintain physical distance.”

He added that “we look forward to seeing these projects...revitalize our neighborhoods.”

Walsh also said that the Boston Resiliency Fund “continues to get resources to communities in need.” More than \$32 million has been raised, and a little over \$20 million has been distributed into the communities in the form of COVID-19 testing expansion, meals to Greater Boston Food Bank and Lovin’ Spoonfuls, gift cards for families to buy groceries, 20 minority owned restaurants paid to cook meals for distribution, and various nonprofits.

## Sales tax holiday scheduled to take place August 29-30

The Baker-Polito Administration on Tuesday announced that the annual sales tax-free weekend will take place the weekend of August 29-30. This marks the second sales tax holiday held under the new law signed by Governor Baker in 2018 that made the weekend an annual occurrence.

“The annual sales tax holiday is an opportunity for us to support small businesses and consumers, and this year, it’s a great way to support our economy that’s been impacted by COVID-19,” said

Administration and Finance Michael J. Heffernan. “The upcoming sales tax holiday will be an opportunity for people throughout Massachusetts to help support local companies and generate much needed economic activity.”

In 2018, Governor Baker signed legislation that makes the annual sales tax holiday permanent. The Department of Revenue today is designating August 29-30 as the sales tax holiday under M.G.L. Chapter 64H, Section 6A.

## Reopen // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hand and we are making sure everyone follows the new restrictions.”

Ruggiero said funeral masses have also resumed but like visiting hours at the funeral home the masses are limited to 40 percent capacity.

“They are also allowing graveside services that are outside with family and friends wearing masks and social distancing,” said Ruggiero. “I think a lot of people will still be cautious. We have the capacity to stagger visiting hours and keep people outside while we are at a 40 percent capacity inside. I think a lot of people will just quickly pay their respects and leave quickly to allow others to do the same. For the time being I don’t think a lot of people outside of immediate family will hang around for a long time like they

would have before the pandemic.”

As for the community’s support during this difficult time, Ruggiero said Eastie has been tremendous.

“We have had tons of food delivered by residents and neighbors, people have volunteered to wash our limousines and other cars, and we’ve received a lot of messages of support,” said Ruggiero. “It was a tough time for a lot of our families and staff and the community’s support really helped.”

Over at the Magrath Funeral Home in Day Square, the Magrath Family will also begin hosting limited public services.

“On May 25, 2020 Massachusetts Governor Baker issued the Phase Two reopening order limiting gatherings to 40 per cent of the approved occupancy limit for gathering of indi-

viduals,” said the family in a statement. “In keeping with Governor Baker’s directive in response COVID-19, all funeral services must be limited to that amount of attendees only. It has always been our goal to strive to make every funeral to be a meaningful and dignified experience for both our families and their loved ones. As we are encountering these very troubling times in the world with COVID- 19, we must follow specific orders from Governor Charles Baker, the Center for Disease Control, City and Towns Health Departments as well as the Archdiocese of Boston and other Religious Denomination guides for Funeral Services. Thank you for your understanding, please keep yourselves safe,” Magrath Family said in a statement.

## Community// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nity has a say on upcoming projects. With that in mind, our first virtual meeting will be focused solely on development.”

Cave said tonight’s meeting will be limited to Eagle Hill residents and presenters and the ZOOM link will be emailed to members 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

If you would like to attend, Cave said residents can register on EHCA’s website here at <https://eaglehillcivic.org/meetings/register>.

“The meeting will consist of four projects, and each proposal will be posted on our website a week ahead of the meeting, allowing ample time for review,” said Cave.

Over at the Orient Heights Neighborhood Council (OHNC), the groups secretary, Sarah Plowman, said while the group decided to skip June’s meeting they plan to

meet in July.

“The YMCA is unable to host us at present,” said Plowman. “Additionally, Phase 2 of the state’s reopening plan does not give clear guidance on an indoor gathering size, although it would assuredly not allow everyone to meet in person yet.”

Plowman said the group has been exploring how to effectively use ZOOM as a community meeting platform.

“Several East Boston neighborhood associations are using virtual options such as ZOOM and we are exploring this possibility as well,” said Plowman.

The OHNC has been taking a poll among members on how to move forward.

“We appreciate feedback from members on the idea of a fully virtual or hybrid virtual/in person model meeting,” said Plowman. “We are also exploring outdoor, physically-distanced meetings.”

Suggestions and feedback can be sent to [OrientHeightsNC@gmail.com](mailto:OrientHeightsNC@gmail.com).

As for July’s meeting, Plowman said the OHNC plans to meet on July, 20 at 6:30 p.m.

“Location is ‘to be announced’ depending upon the nature of the reopening process,” said Plowman. “It might be in person, hybrid in person/virtual, or totally virtual. Agenda items from March will be prioritized, and nominations for new board elections will be taken up to and during that meeting as well.

## Youth // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

priority. However, if that changes, we will let people know.”

Over at the YMCA, Executive Director Joe Gaeta said the Eastie Y still plans on running “in person” summer camp but with a dramatically smaller amount of youth this summer due to new state guidelines.

“We usually run a 230 youth camp but can only do 60 this summer to ensure safety,” said Gaeta. “We filled all our spots within a day, so at this time we do not have any availability. We have had to make huge modifications in our daily schedule, activities we can do and implementing increased cleaning/social distancing measures. We want to make sure our staff and children are safe so we will be going above and beyond state protocol.”

Gaeta said the Eastie Y is used to these protocols given the Y has been safely running emergency child care throughout the pandemic and shutdown.

“We also will not be able to run our dual language camp out of the Umana,” he said. “For those who can’t get a spot in “in person” camp or don’t want to send their child to camp we have a new on-line program called Y CAMPish.”

Gaeta said Y CAMPish is a virtual camp that has a weekly subscription service and is full of awesome activities, advanced interaction and virtual field trips.

“You can find more info at <https://ycampish.org>,” said Gaeta. “We will still be hosting summer youth em-

ployment at the Y through our partner organizations for teens. We will also continue meal service to the community though the summer at both Bremen and Ashley Street locations.

Over at the Boys & Girls Club on Byron Street, Executive Director Mike Triant said the Salesians are running an eight week camp program.

“The big change for us is that we are not capable of allowing parents to register for individual weeks,” said Triant. “The registration fee is \$1,000 and that gets their child 8 weeks of camp, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This was done to limit group sizes and number of kids that others are exposed to. All groups will consist of 12 or fewer campers and staff. Each group will remain together all summer for all activities. Each group will have all of their own supplies and we will have a full time nurse on staff. We also have a COVID response plan which includes, temp checks and a brief questionnaire upon arrival, hand washing/sanitizing schedule as well as a disinfecting schedule “

Camp at the Boys & Girls Club begins June 29 and ends on August 21.

PPSC Executive Director Alex DeFronzo said the sailing center will hold its three major programs, Harbor Explorers, Science of Sailing, as well as the Future Leaders program in person this summer.

However, all programs are at a significantly reduced capacity and have been split into half-day ses-

sions instead of the usual full day program.

“We have reduced enrollment from a typical summer of 1,900 youth to only 360, about 19 percent of our capacity,” said DeFronzo. “All of the program slots are full and we do not have a wait list this year because of the reduced capacity available. Priority for enrollment was given to children from Logan-impacted communities, children from low-income households, and children with disabilities.”

DeFronzo said students will be in a 1:2 instructor to student ratio on sailboats and 1:1 on kayaks.

“Each child will have an assigned life jacket which they will use for the duration of their session,” he said. “Students will work with the same small team of staff throughout the session. Everyone will be required to wear masks at all times, families will be required to attest to their health before arriving at Piers Park, and student temperature checks will be recorded daily.”

Staff will be cleaning and disinfecting boats, tillers, paddles, lines, gangway railings, and more every morning, afternoon, and evening.

“Unfortunately, we will not have our usual on-site lunch program available this summer,” said DeFronzo. “It is going to be an unusual summer but we are glad to offer some in-person programming to improve student outcomes in socialization and education.”

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, July 7, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.** a public MEETING of the East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc., (aka **EBPIRPAC**) 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](http://www.ebpierpac.org) on or before July 1, 2020 at which time you may register to participate

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

a. Attendance 6:30

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

c. Massport informational updates 6:40 p.m. (15 minutes)

- Parking at Phase II Site

- Tall Ship docked at East Boston Waterfront

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

e. Review/Discussion/Update – renewal of the Operation Security and Maintenance Agreement 7:15 p.m. (20 minutes)

f. Other New Business 7:35 p.m. (10 minutes)

g. Adjournment of public meeting – estimated 7:45 p.m.

At the conclusion of its regular business meeting and prior to adjournment, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board may hold an Executive Session pursuant to G. L. 30A. s.21 upon the conclusion of which, the Board will not resume its public meeting.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED AND WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE**

A copy of this notice has also been posted on the organization’s website at: [www.EBPierPAC.org](http://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.

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• V. Varasteh, D.M.D. (Cosmetic Dentistry)

• L. Parsi, D.M.D.

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# Gov. Baker files Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Investment Plan

Gov. Charlie Baker and his administration released its Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Capital Investment Plan on June 17.

The spending blueprint maintains existing investments and enables the Administration to continue working with stakeholders across the Commonwealth to support ongoing capital projects. The plan will ensure Massachusetts is well-positioned for short, medium and long-term COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

The capital plan also provides future flexibility by holding on pursuing new programs or funding sources due to the COVID-19 public health crisis and the related uncertainty. This purposeful investment strategy will also afford the Administration the flexibility to revisit the capital plan as the full economic and fiscal impacts of the public health and economic crisis become clear.

The FY21 plan provides capital investments in all regions throughout Massachusetts in critical areas such as transportation, housing, support for cities and towns, health and human services, higher education, and public safety. The plan also continues the administration’s commitment to integrating climate change preparedness into its capital program and it considers the environmental impact and resiliency of all investments.

“During the unprecedented COVID-19 public health crisis and the resulting economic uncertainty, our administration is sustaining support for existing projects and investments while maintaining flexibility in our capital program,” said Governor Charlie Baker.

“This responsible strategy will allow us to maximize response and recovery efforts, and continue working towards key priorities in transportation, housing, health and human services, and climate change.”

The \$2.46 billion capital plan is fiscally responsible and demonstrates careful long-term planning, and is informed by numerous factors including the Debt Affordability Committee.

As with previous plans, the FY21 plan focuses on six major themes: asset stewardship, supporting local communities, economic opportunity, value optimization, customer orientation, and climate resiliency.

These six priorities continue to be important in the era of COVID-19 amid the response to the public health crisis. By maintaining parks and green spaces, increasing access to broadband internet, promoting economic opportunity and job creation, and investing in health and human services infrastructure, the Commonwealth is continuing to provide resources and accommodations that ensure the health and safety of the people of Massachusetts.

Responsible Asset Stewardship

Since taking office, the Baker-Polito Administration has prioritized the maintenance of the Commonwealth’s existing assets and the prudent investment of capital funds, investing billions to upgrade and modernize existing infrastructure. From road and bridge maintenance to the renovation of aging court facilities to the repair of dams and seawalls, investing in maintenance allows the state to tackle infra-

structure repairs in accordance with best practices, system-wide prioritization, and a comprehensive plan before they become costly emergencies.

The plan funds:

- More than \$3.7 billion in investments in the Commonwealth’s transportation infrastructure
- Six major higher education projects authorized through the DCAMM higher education capital plan in FY19
- \$95 million to support maintenance and improvements at local housing authorities
- The new, state-of-the-art long-term care facility for veterans at the Soldiers’ Home in Chelsea

Supporting Local Communities

The Baker-Polito Administration continues its strong partnerships with the Commonwealth’s cities and towns through the capital program. More than 20 programs funded in the plan provide grants to municipalities to support important local infrastructure including roads and bridges, parks, economic development initiatives, and environmental improvements. The FY21 plan continues funding for the Body Armor Replacement program, which provides a state match to federal funding and helping cities and towns purchase bulletproof vests for police officers at no cost to the community.

The plan also funds:

- \$200 million in Chapter 90 funding for local road and bridge repairs
- \$10 million for the Municipal Small Bridge Program
- \$10 million for the Complete Streets Program
- \$3 million in Commu-

nity Compact information technology grants

- \$2 million for the Municipal ADA grant program, which enables cities and towns to improve accessibility to municipal facilities for people with disabilities

Economic Opportunities for All

The plan provides critical investments that help encourage economic growth across Massachusetts, including:

- \$100 million for the MassWorks program, which funds local infrastructure improvements that pave the way for major economic development projects
- \$40 million for the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center capital program
- \$11.3 million for the final phase of a major harbor dredging project in New Bedford
- \$9.7 million for the Broadband Last Mile infrastructure program, for Western Massachusetts towns that lack residential broadband service

Customer Orientation

Through capital investments in MBTA infrastructure, affordable housing, recreational trails, public parks, rinks and playgrounds, the Baker-Polito Administration has worked to prioritize projects that provide direct, tangible value to people across Massachusetts. The Commonwealth also continues to make significant technology investments to improve the customer experience at various agencies such as the Registry of Motor Vehicles, where technology improvements are helping optimize appointment-based operations.

The plan funds:

- \$42.5 million for infrastructure transformation and modernization, in order to transform and improve IT networks and better deliver government services
- \$27.6 million to improve and maintain Department of Conservation and Recreation facilities
- \$6.7 million to continue implementing a new technology platform at the Registry of Motor Vehicles, improving customer service for residents and businesses across Massachusetts

Value Optimization

The FY21 plan supports construction and maintenance across various infrastructure, grants and programs that impact every municipality. Throughout all of these initiatives, the Administration remains committed to investing strategically and sustainably, using data, collaboration, leverage from additional funding resources, and planning to provide a holistic approach to solving problems and preparing for the future in partnership with cities and towns.

The plan funds:

- \$16.3 million for the Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative, a matching federal grant program that supports research centers around emerging manufacturing technology
- \$15 million in Workforce Skills Capital Grants, awarded to educational institutions that demonstrate partnerships with local businesses and align their curriculum with industry demand
- \$1 million for the Massachusetts Food Trust program, which leverages private funding to expand healthy food access in un-

derserved communities

Preparing for a Changing Climate

The Baker-Polito Administration is committed to carefully addressing climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency throughout its capital planning program. The FY21 plan makes considerable investments in Commonwealth-owned assets to ensure they are more resilient to climate change. As our local cities and towns are on the front lines in the fight against climate change, the Administration is continuing to take a communities-first approach. The capital plan continues to make state-owned facilities more efficient by supporting energy projects at hospitals, public colleges and universities, public safety facilities, and office buildings. These investments will help to put the state’s assets on a path to meet the Governor’s newly announced goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

The plan funds:

- \$12 million for the repair of Inland Dams and Seawalls
- \$11 million for grants to cities and towns to help plan for climate change resiliency and implement priority projects through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program
- \$5 million for sustainability and resiliency improvements in public housing
- \$3.3 million for the Greening the Gateway Cities tree-planting program

To view the full FY21 Capital Investment Plan, visit: [www.mass.gov/capital](http://www.mass.gov/capital).

## The Platters to perform at Kowloon Restaurant

Kowloon Entertainment Complex presents the official Grand Opening Celebration of the Kowloon Carhop and Drive-in, an innovative, outdoor dining experience featuring internationally acclaimed, Diamond, Rock & Roll, Vocal, and Grammy Halls of Fame recording group, The Platters.

Diners will be able to sit, relax, and enjoy Kowloon’s signature Polynesian, Thai, and Sushi delicacies in the comfort of their vehicles, or may opt to dine in the outdoor, socially-distanced seating area or now-famous Tiki Bar. Kowloon patrons will be able to enjoy libations while listening to live music and watching major motion pictures on their newly built 40’ by 25’, open-air screen. A contemporary throwback to the early days of family entertainment.

There is no charge for the opening night; however, at future select future events, attendees with outdoor reserved seating will be required to purchase a \$20.00 per person food and beverage voucher. Vehicle



The Platters

reservations are required. Please call 781-233-0077 to reserve a spot and for more information.

The grand opening celebration kicks off Thursday, June 25, 2020, at 6 p.m. in the Kowloon parking lot, located on Route One North, Saugus, Massachusetts. The rain date is the following evening.



The Platters, who earned their place on America’s Soundtrack after their first timeless hit, Only You (and You Alone), catapulted the group onto the national music charts, followed by The Great Pretender, recently featured in a vital scene on Disney’s hit series Empire. The Platters mega-hit My Prayer appeared on the Oscar® nominated soundtrack of The Curious

Case of Benjamin Button. The classic, Twilight Time, was just featured in F.X.’s The X-Files and was recently the showcase piece for Sony PlayStation’s international ad campaign. These placements prove that The Platters continue to engage music fans of all ages today with their vibrant, musical legacy.

The transcending vocal group was founded by naming member Herb Reed, a longtime Massachusetts resident who is the only vocalist to record on their more than 400 recordings. The Platters continue to travel the world today, playing theatres, arenas and will release their first L.P. with new music in more than 50 years in 2021.

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Bahsi, Fatih	601 Bennington St Condo	601 Bennington St #1	\$485,000
Montanez, Shannon	601 Bennington Street RT	601 Bennington St #2	\$495,000
Kane, Gunnar	Turnkey Realty Group LLC	23 Everett St	\$490,000
Mccarthy, Brian	166 Falcon Street LLC	168 Falcon St #1	\$550,000
Searle, Stephen A	Steam RT	90 Havre St #1	\$457,000
Szaro, Matthew	335-337 Maverick St Dev	337 Maverick St #2	\$640,000
Donahue, Marie L	Diane M Patryn RET	156 Porter St #406	\$635,000
Yang, Jacqueline	K&K Development Inc	286 Sumner St #1	\$600,000
Foote, Katharine	K&K Development Inc	286 Sumner St #3	\$799,000



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# East Boston

Times-Free Press

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## COVID-19 IS A PREDATOR -- AND WE ARE ITS PREY

The media, politicians, and others have likened our ongoing battle with the corona virus as the equivalent of “going to war.”

The doctors and nurses in the overburdened ERs in New York City, when its hospitals were being overwhelmed with corona patients in March, put it this way in discussing the stresses and challenges they were facing when they lacked personal protection equipment, ventilators, and other essential medical needs: “It’s like going to war, but without being given guns and ammunition.”

But as we enter the fourth month since the start of the lock-downs in many of our states, the “going to war” metaphor does not seem entirely appropriate.

Rather, the corona virus, which is stealthy and unseen except under a microscope (it is 1/1000th the width of a hair on our heads), is more like a hunter seeking its prey -- and its main prey is the human race.

We like to think of ourselves as kings of the world, sitting atop the food chain. Even if we cannot match a shark in the water or a lion in the jungle, we have weapons readily at our disposal to cope with any threats we may face from the natural world.

But the corona virus has humbled us. We as a species have proven no match for this pandemic that Mother Nature has thrust into our midst.

As with any predator in the wild, the corona virus seeks out the easy targets, the old and the weak. Per Darwin’s theory of evolution, only the strongest survive.

But intelligence also is a key to the survival of members of a species. The pandemic has proven that point as well, also taking as its victims those whose arrogance exceeds their common-sense, and whose folly makes them an easy target for a hunter that fears nothing and that will take advantage of any lapse in judgment.

The early openings in the Southern states, where people have refused to wear masks and do not practice physical-distancing, and where infections now are predictably skyrocketing, have shown the folly of underestimating the power of the virus.

We think a more accurate way for us to view the corona virus is that it has reduced the human race to the equivalent of meerkats. (Timon in the Lion King is a meerkat.) Meerkats, small mongooses, live constantly on alert and retreat to their underground network of burrows upon sensing the slightest threat of danger. If they let their guard down for an instant when above-ground, they can become easy targets for predators.

We too, now find ourselves in a state of existence in which our movement is restricted. We must remain ever-vigilant and be aware that the corona virus is everywhere. As with any predator, the corona virus always is on the prowl and stalking, just waiting for any one of us -- its prey -- to make that one, fatal mistake.

As is becoming clear in the Southern states, we are fooling ourselves if we think that we have outwitted this virus and that three months of lockdown were sufficient to save us from its grip. The reality is that the corona virus never will cease hunting us and that we must devise a new normal if we wish to regain a semblance of our former lives.

Hopefully, our new way of life, whatever that will look like, will be something better than our present meerkat-like circumstances.



# Forum



GUEST OP-ED

## Progressives too, can back the blue

By City Councilor Lydia Edwards

Thank you. I haven’t said it enough to the men and women in blue that serve our great city. Time and time again they are expected to be at their best when we are at our worst. Whether it was during 9/11, the marathon bombings, or riots, we’ve seen police officers answer the call and step up to keep our cities safe. They answer the call and show up no matter who is calling and without knowing if they will be coming home. I’ve personally watched several befriend and mentor our youth, serve food at our soup kitchens, participate in countless peace walks, help seniors with groceries, and sometimes give people rides home to Maine in the middle of a snowstorm. As we begin to have conversations about the role of police in our society, it’s important that we acknowledge everything they do and thank them for it. We cannot let their entire role in society be defined by bad actors. I certainly won’t.

The best way for us to acknowledge their service is to respect their vision and

their experiences and rely on them for their perspective as we seek the changes that many people are calling for. I know that many police officers want to see some of these same changes. The vast majority of officers want nothing more than for the abusive police officers to be brought to justice, for the hotheads at the station to get training and change or leave, for young people to trust them, and to be the good guys. The vast majority want to see more women and people of all colors be proud members of their fraternal family.

Today, many people are calling for us to change. Let’s be clear: it is not just the police but every aspect of our lives that is getting a second look because of the pandemic and because we are in a civil rights movement. Change can be a good thing. What I do not agree with is calls to abolish the police entirely. We need the police. But we also need to need to acknowledge that we are asking them to do too much right now. A lot of police officers are tired and don’t want to respond to mental health issues or nonviolent community disputes. There are nonviolent

and non-criminal calls for service that we can instead give to an unarmed, trained, community response team. The ordinance that I will be introducing during this week’s council hearing will divert these calls away from the police so that they can focus on the violent calls we need them at their best for.

The Globe recently wrote that “other American cities, including Dallas, New Orleans, and Miami, have implemented emergency response alternatives that have reduced arrest rates and homelessness, while cutting costs that are associated with transporting people who are in custody, hospitalization, and incarceration.” Over the next few weeks I will be reaching out to our police and police chiefs around the country to discuss their programs and better understand how this might work in Boston.

I am tired of today’s hashtag click bait culture that highlights the worst of every issue and forces people to pick a side. Life isn’t black and white and neither is change. You cannot call for inclusion and exclude people that think different-

ly from you. In order for us to move forward from this moment together, we need to learn how to have tough conversations about these issues and we can’t let ourselves get distracted by outside narratives. It’s possible for us to support our police officers and realize that some change is needed. Recent polling shows that a majority of Democrats, Republicans, and independents all support creating a new agency of treatment professionals that would respond to calls when someone has overdosed or when a family member is having a mental health crisis. If we sit and truly listen to each other, we will find that we have more in common than what separates us.

We want a police force that looks like us, that lives with us, that protects us and so does every police officer I know. I am committed to listening to the police officers in my life, including some of my own family members, about the changes they’d like to see and working to make those happen.

*Lydia Edwards is City Councilor of District 1.*

## Baker-Polito administration files bill to implement police officer certification system

Last week, the state administration filed legislation to create a framework for certifying Massachusetts law enforcement officers, provide accountability, ensure that police departments in and outside Massachusetts have access to candidates’ training and disciplinary records, and provide incentives for officers to pursue advanced training to better serve their communities.

“This bill will create a more modern, transparent and accountable system for law enforcement credentialing and training. It will provide police departments with the tools they need to build trust and strong relationships with every community across the Commonwealth—at a time when we need it most,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “We are grateful for the Black and Latino Caucus’ and Public Safety

officials’ collaboration on this bill, and look forward to working with the Legislature to get it passed.”

The bill, entitled An Act to Improve Police Officer Standards and Accountability and to Improve Training, would for the first time require police officers in Massachusetts to be certified, and it would allow for decertification, suspension of certification, or reprimand in the event of certain misconduct. Toward this end, the bill would create the Police Officer Standards and Accreditation (POSA) Committee, which would be comprised of law enforcement and civilian representatives, at least half of whom would be required to be persons of color.

“Massachusetts is one of four states without a police certification process,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “But the high standards of training we require for

our police departments give us a strong foundation on which to build one. This bill will allow police departments to make better-informed recruitment and hiring choices while improving accountability for all the communities we serve.”

The bill would charge the POSA Committee with the responsibility of certifying all law enforcement officials in Massachusetts, including those from non-municipal departments serving transit agencies, colleges, and other entities. The bill would also require the Committee to create a database of certified officers, ensure that training and misconduct records are available to officers’ current and future employers, and develop a standardized background check for those seeking employment with a new police department. The background check

would include a check of the POSA database and the National Decertification Index.

“A comprehensive POSA system will enhance accountability and apply consistent standards statewide,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Thomas A. Turco. “It will improve public safety and public trust for the men and women who serve, protect, and inspire our cities and towns.”

Finally, the Administration’s bill would provide incentives for law enforcement officers who pursue advanced training in relevant skills and specialties beyond the levels required of all police officers. Such training would include foreign languages, advanced domestic violence and sexual assault response, advanced de-escalation techniques, and other high-level proficiencies.

## Your opinions, please

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## DACA //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

without fear of the rampart gang violence.

At her graduation in 2017 Perez told of how gangs tried to extort her family and threatened murder if they didn’t receive money. Perez arrived speaking only a few words of English but rose to be one of the more stellar students to ever walk the halls at East Boston High.

Of the more than forty thousand residents who call East Boston home, over half are from Latin American countries. Of that half a majority hail from El Salvador, and arrived here during their country’s civil war during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Then, another wave arrived to this country and to this neighborhood following a series of devastating earthquakes that rocked El Salvador and killed scores of people in 2001 while others fled the lawless gang violence in their homeland.

The DACA program has helped many Eastie students, like Perez, to fulfill their life goals--goals that may have otherwise been unfulfilled if they stayed in their homeland.

However, one of President Donald Trump’s first orders of business after assuming office was to end the DACA program that allows some individuals with unlawful presence in the United States after being brought to the country as children to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation.

On June 18, 2020, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) ruled that the way the Trump administration ended DACA was arbitrary and not justified, and therefore violated

the Administrative Procedure Act.

SCOTUS’s decision overruled the Trump administration’s ending of DACA, meaning that DACA continues to be in effect.

The news spread far and wide in Eastie last week with thousands of families celebrating SCOTUS’s decision.

“This Supreme Court decision and the one earlier last week that ICE can’t force local law enforcement to share information and turn people over are important victories for our immigrant community,” said City Councilor Lydia Edwards. “Our country is made better by people coming here seeking a better life for themselves and their families and I’m happy that they will have the protections that come with these decisions. DACA is an opportunity to so many young people who are American except for a piece of paper. They are our future military members, doctors, teachers. I am thrilled and surprised by the Supreme Court decisions.”

East Boston Ecumenical Community Council’s (EBECC) Chief Executive Officer Frank Ramirez, whose agency helps immigrant families in Eastie with a whole host of issues, called the decision a tremendous victory for families in Eastie. However, he warned that those who fight for immigrants’s rights should not let their guard down.

“This has been a tremendous victory for DACA “Dreamers” and for the rights of all immigrants here in Eastie and nationwide,” said Ramirez. “The SCOTUS decision deter-

mined that DACA is lawful so far, but the administration can still end it. So there is still concern and anxiety in the immigrant community. The SCOTUS may disagree with the rationale for ending DACA, and thus reversed the DACA rescission, but acknowledged that the Trump Administration has discretion to end the program. So they still remain at risk. I suspect the administration could speed up its efforts to rescind DACA on different grounds.”

Ramirez suggested the Trump Administration instead do “what’s right”.

“They should restore DACA and keep it in place while Congress works on a permanent solution,” he said. “That is what we hope for but we are still concerned and therefore we think all sectors of society should protect these young people.”

Ramirez said the private sector can be key in advocating and protecting DACA recipients as employers. Likewise, state and local leaders can advocate to keep these new Americans in their communities that many are employed in professional and paraprofessional capacities.

“In Massachusetts, about 19,000 people were eligible, and another 4,000 could qualify in the future,” said Ramirez. “EBECC has processed more than 500 in the past and we are estimated to process another 300 in the short run here in East Boston. The Covid-19 pandemic creates an incredible need for keeping Dreamers here and we strongly encourage DACA recipients to renew their status, especially if it is due to expire in 2020.”

## Union construction site in Eastie, pauses to affirm Black Lives Matter during Juneteenth observation

By John Lynds

On Friday, June 19 Boston Building Trades Union partners from across the industry took part in a ‘stand down’ event at all construction sites in Boston to honor George Floyd and observe the Juneteenth holiday.

At the Orient Height Public Housing Development project on Vallar Road union workers from Suffolk Construction, who are building an affordable housing project, stood in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

The stand down event in Eastie was part of a city-wide pause at all union construction sites in Boston to affirm Black Lives Matter during the Juneteenth holiday observation.

The Juneteenth holiday commemorates the ending of slavery in the U. S. Celebrating the holiday on June 19 gives communities a chance to learn about the positive contributions African Americans have made to society.

This year’s Juneteenth was more poignant given the backdrop of racial tension that has swept across the nation in the wake of George Floyd’s murder at the hands of Minneapolis police officer.

At the Eastie event, Suffolk Construction union workers participated in the “stand down” that lasted for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time that Minneapolis officer Derik Chauvin knelt on the neck of George Floyd before he died.

At last Friday’s event, speakers and participants included Reese Caron, member, Boston Building Trades Unions; Alexis Jones, member, Boston Building Trades Unions; Darlene Lombos, Principal Officer of the Greater Boston Labor Council; Brian Doherty, General Agent, Boston Building Trades Unions; John Fish, Chairman and CEO, Suffolk; Linda Dorcena Forry, Vice President, Suffolk; and Derek Cherry, Project Executive, Suffolk.

## Massachusetts Building Trades Council endorses Joe Kennedy III for U.S. Senate

The Massachusetts Building Trades Council announced their endorsement of Joe Kennedy III for U.S. Senate Wednesday, citing his strong leadership in support of unions and working families.

“Joe has spent his entire career fighting for working people,” said Frank Callahan, President of the Massachusetts Building Trades Council. “He knows that working families deserve affordable healthcare, good wages, and safe job sites,



**Boston Building Trades Union partners from across the industry took part in a ‘stand down’ event at all construction sites in Boston to honor George Floyd and observe the Juneteenth holiday. Here union workers from Suffolk Construction take part in the event at the Orient Heights Public Housing Development construction site on Friday.**

Lombos said our country is on fire and many are fed up.

“Racism in all its forms must be abolished so that our multiracial working class can unite,” said Lombos. “The Labor Movement knows that we cannot win economic justice without racial justice, and that Black Lives Matter. It is time to act. We will say their names--George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Sandra Bland, Eric Garner and Tony McDade. We will grieve with our black families, friends, and neighbors who continue to suffer unimaginable violence and loss. We will speak up and speak out for more resources for black communities. We will march against police brutality and against any new jails. We will show up in the streets for homes for all, health care for all and good jobs for all. We will have hard conversations with each other to push for greater understanding, healing and unity. We will

use our collective power to make sure black and brown people can breathe and thrive. We will organize to tax the rich so that we can defend and advance the public good. We will strategize and struggle together with our community partners. And we will fulfill our duty to fight for the new world that we know is possible. We are Boston’s Labor Movement and we fight for Black lives.”

Fish added that in the past several weeks we have seen heartbreak, anger and frustration over the tragic incidents of violence against people of color.

“This is a complicated multilayered issue that cannot be addressed overnight but the time has come to take the systematic racism plaguing our country and end it once and for all,” said Fish. “It is time for action. It is time to take this personally. We have to ask ourselves what we can do to create a more diverse and inclusive world.”

to fight alongside them for fair wages, safe working conditions, and better benefits every day. I have stood with them since my first day in Congress and I will be proud to stand with them moving forward. It is an honor to have them with me in this race.”

The Massachusetts Building Trades Council is the latest in a list of over 60 labor organizations to endorse Kennedy in this race.

## Lasagna //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sagna Mamas here in Eastie like Rebecca Lynds recently made lasagna for a mom who is six months pregnant and recovering from COVID. Another Eastie Lasagna Mama cooked for a mom who suddenly lost her daughter to cancer.

“The number of kids facing food insecurity has gone through the roof since the pandemic started and there are families that have never had to ask for help before that are now having to find help and it’s so hard for them to ask,” Menn told WBZ. “I can’t tell you how many messages I get that start with something like ‘I’m embarrassed’ or ‘This is really hard for me to do’ or ‘I’ve never had to do this

before,’ to be able to say we’re here for you and we want to help, that’s really powerful right now.”

Menn has set up a website at <https://www.begoodtomama.com> where Lasagna Mamas can sign up to cook and those in need of a hot meal can connect with Lasagna Mamas in their community.

“I was just happy that we could help the families in my own neighborhood,” Menn told WBZ. “If you would have asked me 3 months ago if I would be sitting here managing a network of 100 volunteers and delivering and making lasagnas I would have told you you are crazy.”



**Rhiannon Menn and her daughter work on lasagnas at their home in Somerville.**

## State announces additional administrative tax relief measures for local businesses

Gov. Charlie Baker, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Robert DeLeo on Thursday, June 18, announced additional administrative tax relief measures for local businesses that have been impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, especially in the restaurant and hospitality sectors.

This tax relief builds upon previous similar tax extensions and includes postponing the collection of regular sales tax, meals tax, and room occupancy taxes for small businesses that would be due from March through August, so that they will instead be due in September. Additionally, all penalties and interest that would otherwise apply will be waived.

“We are proud to join our colleagues in the Legislature to announce this

additional relief for local businesses throughout Massachusetts while we all continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and work to protect the health and safety of the Commonwealth’s residents,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “These administrative changes extend tax relief measures put into place earlier in March and will allow additional support for local companies including small businesses in the restaurant and hospitality industries.”

“The House has been proud to provide local businesses with a toolkit of resources to help them weather the economic realities resulting from COVID,” said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo. “In addition to the House’s multifaceted restaurant relief package, we believe that a deferral of tax collections will provide

the restaurant and hospitality industry with a measure of stability and clarity.”

Businesses that paid less than \$150,000 in regular sales plus meals taxes in the year ending February 29, 2020 will be eligible for relief for sales and meals taxes, and businesses that paid less than \$150,000 in room occupancy taxes in the year ending February 29, 2020 will be eligible for relief with respect to room occupancy taxes.

For businesses with meals tax and room occupancy tax obligations that do not otherwise qualify for this relief, late-file and late-pay penalties will be waived during this period.

The Department of Revenue will issue emergency regulations and a Technical Information Release to implement these administrative relief measures.

## Baker-Polito administration initiates transition to Step Two of second phase of four-phase approach

The state announced that Step Two of Phase II of the Commonwealth’s four-phase reopening plan, Reopening Massachusetts, began on Monday, June 22, allowing additional industries to resume operations under sector-specific guidelines.

Businesses and sectors choosing to operate in Step Two of Phase II are subject to compliance with all mandatory safety standards.

On May 18, the Administration released a four-phased plan to reopen the economy based on public health data, spending at least three weeks in each

phase. Key public health data, such as new cases and hospitalizations, has been closely monitored and seen a significant decline allowing for Step Two of Phase II on June 22.

The following were eligible to reopen in Step Two of Phase II on Monday, June 22:

- Indoor table service at restaurants with safety restrictions;
- Close-contact personal services, with restrictions;
- Retail dressing rooms, by appointment only;
- Offices, at 50 percent capacity.

A full list and safety protocols available at [www.mass.gov/reopening](http://www.mass.gov/reopening).

In order to give Step 2 businesses time to prepare, the Administration had previously released sector-specific guidance in advance of Phase II for industries including restaurants, close-contact personal services and sectors not otherwise addressed.

Before these sectors can resume operations under the guidelines, businesses must meet all safety standards, create a COVID-19 control plan, and complete a self-certification.

Please visit [eastietimes.com](http://eastietimes.com)



EAST BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER HOSTS POPUP COVID TESTING SITE

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center recently hosted a Mobile Popup COVID Testing Site at the Maverick Landing Public Housing Development.

The Mobile Testing Site was aimed at a targeted population in the area that may not have had easy access to testing since the pandemic began in March.

EBNHC has been on the frontlines fighting the pandemic here and rapidly changing and adapting their approach as each week passes. One of the biggest tools to combat the virus has been to increase testing for as many residents as possible.

According to EBNHC Vice President Michael Mancusi testing leads to quick identification of cases, quick treatment for those people and immediate isolation to prevent spread. Early testing also helps to identify anyone who came into contact with infected people so they too can be quickly treated.



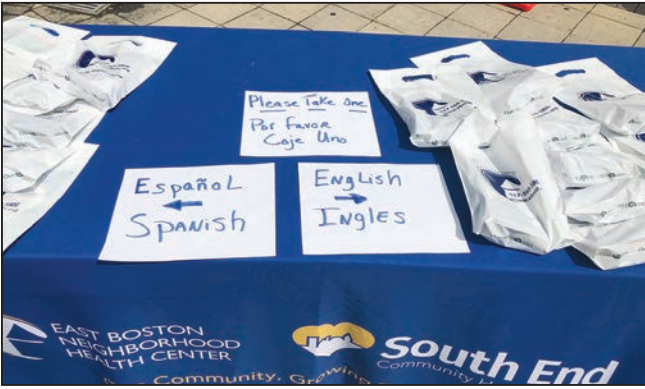
Eastie resident Jose Duque gets ready to be tested.



Eastie resident Lovia Duarte is about to be tested.



EBNHC mobile popup COVID testing tent at Maverick Landing.



The test site also included information about the virus, how to protect yourself as well as contacts to food support services.



Jose Duque (above and below) receives the COVID swab test.



Lovia Duarte (above and below) is tested for COVID.



# Your Opinion Matters East Boston

The Davis Companies is hosting a webinar for you to learn more about their project to redevelop four parcels owned by the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center located along Bremen and Orleans Streets in East Boston.

Date: Monday, June 29, 2020

Time: 2:00PM

The Davis Companies llevara acabo un webinar para infórmale sobre este proyecto para reurbanizar cuatro parcelas poseídas por EBNHC y localizadas a lo largo de las calles Bremen y Orleans en East Boston.

Fecha: lunes, 29 de junio

Tiempo: a las 2:00pm

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EBNHC medical staff during a recent mobile popup COVID testing site at the Maverick Landing



The EBNHC mobile popup COVID testing site tent at the park at Maverick Landing.

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# Eastie COVID-19 Updates

By John Lynds

Last week, East Boston experienced one of the lowest rises in COVID-19 infections since the pandemic began in March.

While Eastie has been a COVID ‘hot spot’ with some of the highest infection rates in all of Boston things seem to be finally on the downswing.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on Friday only 10 percent of residents tested positive for the virus and the rate of infection only rose by only 2.5 percent.

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

In one week Eastie’s

COVID-19 infection rate rose only 2.5 percent from 328 cases per 10,000 residents to an infection rate of 337 cases per 10,000 residents as of Friday.

As of Friday there were 1,582 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Eastie, up from the 1,542 cases reported by the BPHC the previous week.

Last week 5,822 residents were tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 28.1 percent percent of those tested were COVID positive. down from the 29.3 percent reported last week.

Last week only 10.3 percent those tested in Eastie were found to be COVID positive, a 17 percent reduction from the previous week where 12.4 percent of residents were found to have the virus.

However, Eastie still leads the city in the percentage of residents testing

positive for COVID-19. Neighborhoods like Mattapan, parts of Dorchester and Hyde Park all experienced a big drop in positive tests last week. For example only 3 percent of Mattapan residents tested last week were COVID positive.

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus rose only 1 percent from 13,186 cases to 13,326 cases in a week. So far 9,111 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus.

Deaths from COVID-19 rose 2 percent from 682 deaths to the 697 deaths reported last week.

## Jamey Tesler named Registrar of Motor Vehicles

Tesler has served as Acting Registrar since June 25, 2019 and held multiple senior management roles in the public sector for over 16 years

Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack has announced the appointment of Jamey Tesler to the position of Registrar of the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV). Tesler, who has implemented a series of safety-focused reforms at the RMV and Merit Rating Board (MRB) since being named Acting Registrar on June 25, 2019, has more than 16 years in the public sector in senior management roles.

“Jamey Tesler’s experiences in the course of his career in the public sector give him a unique lens to look at Registry operations and make improvements so that the Registry is in compliance with statutes and policies, was quickly able to change its service model in response to the pandemic and can continue to deliver quality service to customers,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “I am pleased the Registry will continue to have Jamey’s leadership as the agency continues to fulfill both its safety-related and customer service functions.”

“The many steps Jamey has taken in the last year have demonstrated his ability to make changes in collaboration with the workforce which better position the Registry to meet its goals including serving the public as efficiently as possible,” said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. “I am confident Jamey will continue to prioritize operational improvements to streamline transactions and take measures which carry out the Registry’s responsibilities pertaining to protecting public safety.”

“After stepping up to lead the Registry of Motor Vehicles at a difficult time, Jamey has re-prioritized and re-oriented the RMV and MRB around public safety responsibilities and functions, while transforming the RMV’s service model in the midst of a pandemic,” said Secretary Pollack. “He has built a strong leadership team and excellent relationships with the workforce while demonstrating the ability to identify and implement changes in longstanding practices that failed to ensure that the Registry met its core safety and credentialing functions. I am delighted that Jamey has finally agreed to stay on in a permanent capacity to build on nearly a year of change management and complete the job he began last June.”

Over the last year, Tesler has overseen the hiring of

new senior managers, including a Deputy Registrar for Safety, Chief Compliance Officer and Director of Policy & Risk, has enhanced training and improvements in key departments, including the Merit Rating Board, and has made other organizational changes to reprioritize the RMV’s public safety mission and functions. There has been an increased focus on accuracy and timeliness of updating driver records and improving the reliability of state-to-state data sharing and communications concerning violations by Massachusetts licensed drivers.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to work with the RMV’s strong and resilient workforce who day-in and day-out continue to meet the demands for changing and improving how we do both critical back-office safety work and our front-line business,” said Tesler. “I admire the dedication of these employees who have informed, developed and launched many important initiatives in the last year, and who have been relentless through the pandemic to focus on the challenges ahead. The RMV is proving it can reinvent operations to be a nimble, responsive organization that prioritizes the public health and safety of everyone, especially RMV customers and those who use Massachusetts’ roads.”

The RMV is committed to building on the safety and customer service-based improvements that have been made since June 2019, including:

Prioritizing ‘one driver, one record’ by ensuring RMV records of Massachusetts drivers are as up to date and accurate as possible based on the information available to Massachusetts from law enforcement, the courts, and other states and external partners, through primarily electronic and automatic data-sharing means. Continually refining and updating the process for regularly checking all 5.2 million Massachusetts’ driver records against the National Driver Registry (NDR) and establishing other data-sharing agreements with states as done with New Hampshire.

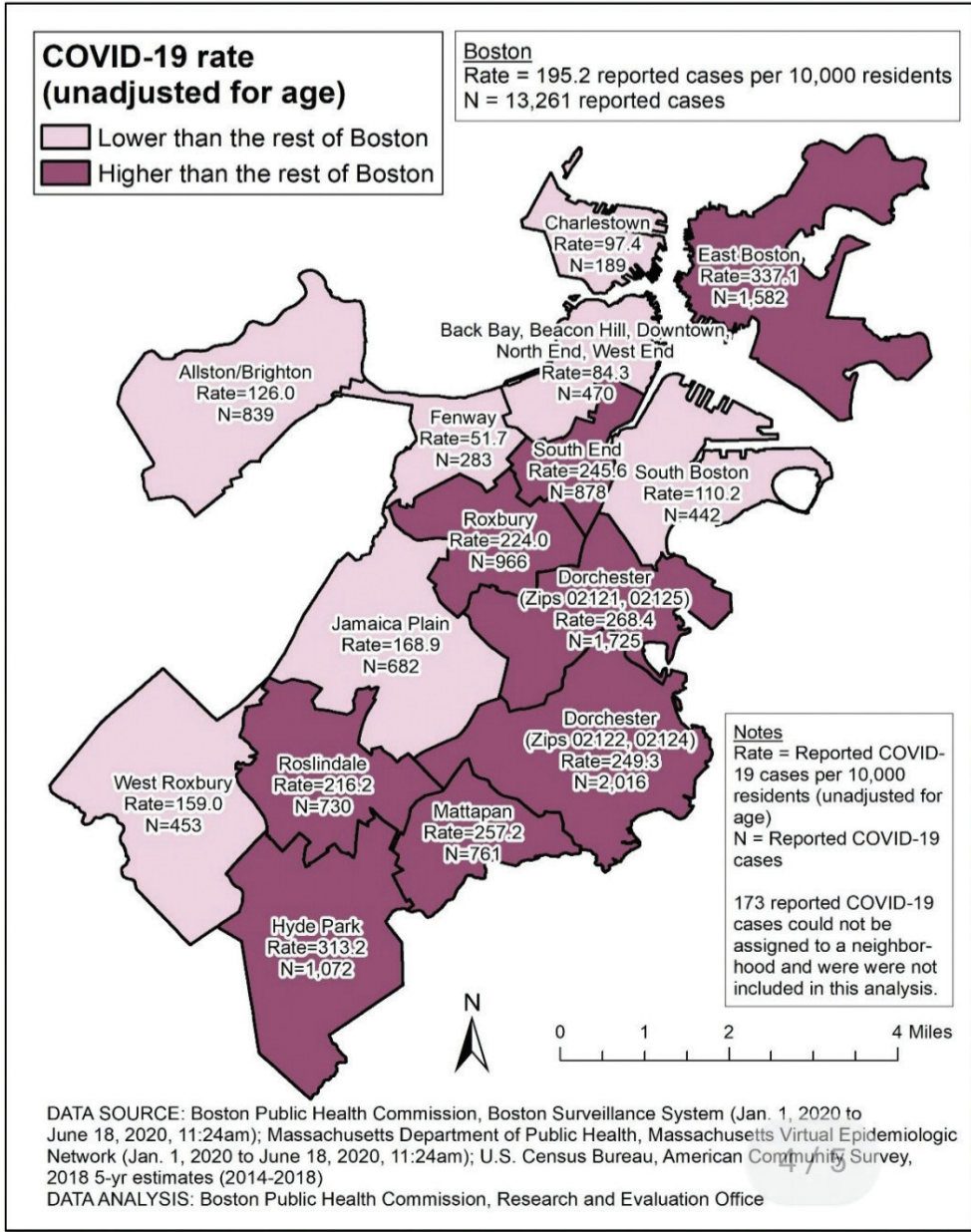
Advocating for a federal CDLIS-like system that automates state-to-state communications for non-commercial drivers and bolster Commercial Driving License (CDL) administration.

Leveraging the Commonwealth’s investment and opportunity in the RMV’s new ATLAS technology system, which became fully operational in the fall 2019, and has allowed for the implementation of multiple, significant changes across the agency, including enhanced

state-to-state communications, automatic voter registration, a non-binary gender option for Massachusetts’ credential holders, an appointment-only reservation system and online learner’s permit test, and external business partnerships that reduce the demand for in-person services while offering more customer-friendly, web and phone-based transactions.

Tesler has worked for more than 16 years in the public sector, including roles as General Counsel to the Massachusetts State Treasurer, Deputy Legal Counsel in the Office of the Governor, Deputy General Counsel for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, MassDOT Assistant Secretary for Procurement and Contract Management, Acting Chief of Staff for the Secretary of Transportation, and then as Chief Operating Officer at MassDOT. In April 2019, Tesler left state government for the position of Chief of Staff at Suffolk Construction and then returned to work for the Commonwealth as Acting Registrar on June 25, 2019.

Tesler received his bachelor’s degree in Economics and International Relations and his Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan.



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

## Boston commits to first-in-the-nation zoning amendment proposed by Councilor Lydia Edwards

The City of Boston will zone with an eye towards equity. This morning during a working session hosted by Councilor Edwards, the lead sponsor of the zoning amendment, the Boston Planning and Development Agency committed to drafting fair housing into the zoning code. It will codify requirements removing barriers to housing choice, affirmatively furthering fair housing, and addressing displacement. Councilor Lydia Edwards first introduced such an amendment in April 2019. When approved by the Zoning Commission later this year, the amendment will be the first of its kind in the country.

“I want to thank the administration for their commitment today to implementing this historic zoning amendment by the fall,” said Councilor Edwards. “With this amendment Boston is

setting a standard for cities throughout the country to follow. For too long, zoning has played an unfortunate role in causing a lot of harm and perpetuating stereotypes about people and which communities matter and don’t matter. Today’s commitment by the administration to codify equity into zoning is an important step towards healing.”

In 2017, the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Community Advisory Committee was established to examine the city’s efforts to

further fair housing opportunities. On June 6, 2020 the committee held a town hall during which it released its report after three years of research. One of the group’s recommendations was codifying equity into the zoning code.

Another working session will be scheduled in the coming weeks to finalize the amendment after which the City Council will vote on it and send it to the Zoning Commission for final approval.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

LOOKING AT \$5M DEFICIT

CHELSEA - The crisis of the City Budget is in full swing now as City Manager Tom Ambrosino submitted a \$181 million City Budget to the City Council this week that is down by \$2 million from last year – a first in many years – and also has a \$5 million deficit lingering.

“I would not characterize this budget submission as a positive effort,” said Ambrosino. “This is not the budget I had in mind when I was first proposing it in March. In fact, I had a budget for the first time in a long time not that did not rely on any reserves. We usually buttress our budget with about \$1 million in reserves every year. I had a fully funded budget that was healthy and positive. That was all thrown out the door.”

The one silver lining is that there will not be any layoffs right now of any City or School personnel – a stark contrast to Everett which just laid off 92 school workers and is looking to lay off or eliminate many City worker positions. The budget deficit of \$5 million will be filled with money from the Rainy Day Fund.

“This budget does represent using \$5 million in Stabilization Fund reserves to balance the budget,” he said. “We have hit so many problems with revenue and we have reserves and think now is the time to use it. Several unions have agreed to defer raises in their pay to prevent layoffs. We’re confident we can get through Fiscal Year 2021 without layoffs.”

A key problem for the City has been revenues, particularly hotel excise tax decreases and car rental decreases. Chelsea is heavily invested in the health of Logan Airport, and with it being basically shuttered for the last three months, millions of dollars are lost and will continue to be lost.

“I’m not sure how fast the economy can come back for a city like Chelsea that is dependent on the travel industry,” he said. “We have a lot of businesses that depend on Logan

Airport...Travel is down 95 percent and it has an impact on our two biggest revenue generators including the hotels and the car rental companies – particularly Enterprise. We have serious concerns going into FY 21. It’s no different than Boston or any other City or Town.”

Ambrosino said they are expected a cut of about 30 percent to State Aid payments, which make up a substantial portion of the City Budget. However, there are federal bills floating around that could make a huge difference, including the HEROES Act. Were that approved, there is a chance that State Aid could be level funded from last year and a lot of things could return.

“If that bill were to pass in some form, the state wouldn’t have to cut city and town funding so much,” he said. “That’s the same for the School Department too. They might be able to provide some of the Student Opportunity Act money that was promised. We have a budget now that has \$0 for Student Opportunity Act funding.”

He said that would prevent them from having to use the \$5 million Rainy Day Fund money as well.

So far, though they have been able to keep personnel on and have been able to save the Summer Youth Employment Program and the Navigators, there are things that had to be deferred. Most of those things include projects in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

For instance, Marlborough Street was to be reconstructed this summer, and it really needs it after years of neglect. However, that has had to be deferred until next year when things hopefully improve.

The City Budget now goes to the Council, who has already begun having hearings this week to review the submission. It must be passed by July 1.

FIREWORKS A PROBLEM IN CHELSEA

CHELSEA - Fireworks

have struck a COVID-19 nerve this year, with Chelsea residents up in arms as louder and bigger fireworks seemingly go off every night all night long – and City officials and Chelsea Police are looking to crack down.

Councilor Todd Taylor said about five weeks ago he began getting angry texts from his constituents living next to Voke Park about fireworks going off at all hours of the night. Knowing Chelsea in the summer, fireworks are a part of life for about three weeks surrounding Independence Day, but this was somehow different.

“After getting five calls I went down to the park,” he said. “It was just littered with big fireworks. One of them was three feet tall and stuck in the middle of the field. That was exactly what the neighbors were saying. It isn’t like bottle rocket. It was bombs going off, and every night until about 3 a.m. or later.”

That same day, Councilor Taylor put up a Facebook post on Chelsea Happenings to see if anyone else was being bothered.

And boy were they.

“I had no idea what a nerve it would strike,” he said. “It ended up triggering about 400 complaints in the comments. People were really mad all over the city, while some of the younger kids on there were mocking their anger. Shortly after I read an article in the Boston papers about this being a problem in Boston, Revere, Everett and Somerville. It really appeared something was going on here.”

City Manager Tom Ambrosino and Chief Brian Kyes are taking the matter very seriously and have put on overtime to find those that are shooting off fireworks so late at night so consistently.

Ambrosino said they are telling residents to call 9-1-1 and report the location and police will respond.

Kyes said it was a breach of the public peace.

“We are issuing verbal warnings to apparent violators but if that does not work we have no choice but to impose monetary

DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT



PHOTOS COURTESY MAYOR CARLO DEMARIA'S OFFICE/MICHELLE FENELON

Two young people sit atop their family's van on Friday night, June 12, to watch the City's drive-in movie night showing of 'ET: The Extra Terrestrial.' The event was a hit with residents who were excited to be outside at RiverGreen Park and taking a break for the indoor COVID-19 restrictions.

finances as a violation of our city ordinance,” he said. “The frequency and duration of these displays well after midnight is not only a nuisance and breach of the public peace but they are very dangerous as well as well in terms of a potential fire hazard. We can continue to do everything we can working with our concerned residents to respond in both a reactive as well as a proactive manner. We remain optimistic that we attain a high level of compliance due to the public safety risk involved.”

Taylor said there appears to be something coordinated about the fireworks – particularly in that so much money would be required to buy so many to shoot off for so long every night. He said he believes law enforcement will get to the bottom of whatever the real motivation is.

“There does seem to be some sort of coordinated effort going on,” said Taylor. “I don’t know if it has any connection to the protests or not. I’ve been told that might be the case. It’s going on all over the City and I still have people calling me or texting me about when they start and when they stop. It’s every day. I’ve never seen people more upset in Chelsea than about this. The question becomes who is funding all of this because it has to be very expensive.”

Taylor said he has reports of elderly people, veterans with PTSD and pets being traumatized – not to mention the essential workers who are trying to sleep prior to having to work long, tough shifts.

He said he would be willing to investigate whether or not there needs to be a hearing at City Hall, and maybe a change to the ordinance to stiffen the penalties for shooting off fireworks, particularly very late at night.

DeMARIA CALLS RACISM A HEALTH CRISIS

EVERETT - On Tuesday, Mayor Carlo DeMaria made a declaration officially declaring racism a public health crisis in Everett - ensuring that racism and discrimination both remain intolerable.

That was bolstered by the announcement of a review of policies and practices at the Everett Police Department, and a list of action items that have been initiated immediately – including barring chokeholds, continuing more diverse hiring, and creating regional reforms to the Internal Affairs departments in area law enforcement departments.

“The City of Everett is culturally rich and abundantly diverse,” he said. “Racism or discrimination, in any form, will not be accepted nor tolerated. It is with this in mind that I find it imperative to declare racism a public health crisis in

the City of Everett.”

Following President Barack Obama’s call to mayors to pursue policing reforms, Mayor DeMaria signed the Mayor’s Pledge issued by the Obama Foundation’s My Brother’s Keeper Alliance. The “Mayor’s Pledge” commits the City of Everett to the following:

- Review police use of force policies;
- Engage communities by including a diverse range of input, experiences, and stories;
- Report review findings to the community and seek feedback; and
- Reform police use of force policies.

The City of Everett Police Department’s policies and procedures strictly mirror and adhere to the guidelines set forth by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC). The MPAC is an organization responsible for the development, delivery, and enforcement of training standards of municipal police departments throughout Massachusetts.

The recommended use of force policies set forth by the “8 Can’t Wait” campaign has resulted in a cursory review of current policies to ensure that nothing was overlooked, said the mayor.

The following action items have been taken as of this week, he said.

•UPDATED USE OF FORCE AND DE-ESCALATION POLICIES

The City of Everett Police Department is actively updating the use of force and de-escalation policies, as well as the rules and regulations with a duty to intervene clause.

“As a result of our initial review of the current Everett Police Department policies, our Department will soon be equipped with a policy surrounding Biased Based Policing,” he said. “For years, the Everett Police Department has been trained to never initiate any police involvement with another person on the sole basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, or physical ability. Although it exists as a past-practice, such training has never been codified into a policy until now. This policy will be published and implemented within the next 10 days.”

•CHOKEHOLDS BARRED FOR SUBDUING PEOPLE

Police utilization of chokeholds, strangleholds, or other tactics in which an officer cuts off the oxygen supply of another person in order to subdue them has, rightfully, become a main focus in the national spotlight as it pertains to police departments’ use of force policies. Chokeholds have never and will never be a method of restraint taught to the Everett Police Department, the mayor said.

In fact, chokehold training is explicitly barred in the State of Massachusetts, citing the inherent dangers

which accompany that tactic.

“This is further reiterated to our Police force that, barring a situation in which an officer’s life is in imminent danger and deadly force has thus been authorized, a chokehold shall never be utilized on a person as a means to subdue them,” said the mayor.

•MAYOR CALLS FOR REGIONAL INTERNAL AFFAIRS REFORM

The Internal Affairs division of a Police Department refers to the enforcement arm within the department that investigates incidents and possible suspicions of law-breaking and professional misconduct attributed to officers on the force. This has been highly scrutinized based on current events.

Mayor DeMaria said on Tuesday he is seeking to form a Regional Internal Affairs Coalition to increase the transparency of police misconduct and the processes by which they are investigated. Mayor DeMaria said he will be calling upon local leaders to join him in forming this coalition to increase the impartiality of all Internal Affairs investigations. Additionally, the Everett Police Department have taken their own proactive measures in monitoring their internal affairs investigations. They are one of the few departments in Massachusetts that utilize the leading professional standards software, IA Pro and Blue Team, used by approximately 800 public safety agencies in five countries. The IA Pro and Blue Team software acts as an early warning system, helps frontline supervisory documentation, case management of internal affairs investigations, and overall organizational accountability.

“As the needs of society change, it is the responsibility of local leaders to implement changes,” said Mayor DeMaria. “My Administration will not be defunding our police department; rather, we will be re-equipping the force by adding more tools to their duty belts.”

•RENEWED COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY POLICING

One of the greatest tools that a police department can use is their ability to use community policing to interact with residents and businesses alike, the mayor said. As part of their ongoing efforts in community policing, the City pointed to the fact that the Everett Police Department has engaged numerous organizations over the years in an effort to better serve their residents. These relationships, they said, have allowed the department to gain the trust of all Everett residents from the youth to the elderly population, and resulted in the creation of the Cops Corner at Everett High, the Junior Police

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# Region //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Academy, and the 25 Days of Christmas tradition.

“The men and women of the Everett Police Department take their responsibilities seriously,” said Chief Steven Mazzie. “We have always valued our relationships with our residents and strive to provide our services in a fair and impartial way. Over the years we have found that transparency, communication, and mutual respect have helped de-escalate volatile situations and often led to positive outcomes.

We acknowledge that now is an important time to reinforce our dedication to getting the job done right while protecting those we serve and building a lasting trust,” he continued.

## •COMMITMENT TO DIVERSE HIRING

It will remain the goal of the Everett Police Department, as it has been in over the past 10 years, the Chief said, to continue to hire police officers who are visually and culturally reflective of the community and its residents. The last class of police officers hired were predominantly of diverse backgrounds and ethnicities, speaking multiple languages. The Everett Police Department will continue to strive to recruit people of color so as to best represent our diverse community, said the Chief.

## •MORE CITY FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH

The City has committed to adding the necessary personnel to support police officers in the City of Everett. Mayor DeMaria said he will be reallocating Everett Police Department funds to hire mental health professionals, therapists, and additional personnel who will provide access to services needed by the City. This will be done in partnership and conjunction with local nonprofits and mental health providers. This collaboration will allow for a heightened ability of the Everett Police Department to achieve preventative results, rather than to respond with reactive measures.

## ZBA APPROVES PROJECT

EVERETT - The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) voted to approve plans for a 396-unit residential building at 65 Norman St. that came via one of the largest home builders in the nation – Lennar Development.

“Over the past few years the Village has become one of the hottest neighborhoods north of Boston,” Mayor Carlo DeMaria said. “We have created a recreational entertainment district, boating, biking, rock climbing, axe throwing, basketball, hockey soccer, along with Village Fest, Nightshift, Bone Up, Short Path Distillery, Village Bar and Grill, all having outdoor dining. Now we are transforming an old, industrial wasteland and creating a unique residential community, bringing hundreds of residents to take advantage of this unmatched area.”

Councilor Michael McLaughlin – who represents the area – had expressed concerns with the project at the Planning Board two weeks ago, calling for a neighborhood meeting. Local Attorney David O’Neil represented Lennar and helped to coordinate meeting with neighbors.

McLaughlin said on Monday all of his concerns and those from neighbors had been resolved, and questions about traffic impacts and construction mitigation were also addressed.

The new state of the art building will consist of 81

studios, 181 one-bedrooms, and 134 two-bedrooms and will also have amenities such as an outdoor pool area and Cyberdeck. There will also be 59 affordable units within the development to add to other affordable units being built in Everett including St. Theresa’s and the proposed veteran’s housing at Pope John.

The new development will replace the blighted and underutilized property, which held freight containers. In addition to the residential units, the development will also create open space where containers now exist, a pocket park and a number of areas to sit.

Mayor DeMaria added, “This development will provide additional public access for Everett resident to our revitalized waterfront and Riverwalk. I am truly excited not only for this development but for all the future investment that I know will come following this pioneering project. I am so happy to see so much private investment in the area after we have opened up our waterfront.”

The goal is to transform the area into a vibrant, active neighborhood with recreational activities, outdoor restaurants, breweries and art galleries for current, new residents and the public.

## ARRIGO NAMES CALLAHAN AS NEW POLICE CHIEF

REVERE - Mayor Brian M. Arrigo named Lieutenant Dave Callahan as Revere’s new Chief of Police, effective July 1. Callahan, 51, replaces retiring interim Chief James Guido.

The move comes as law enforcement departments across the country confront the challenges to public safety posed by the coronavirus pandemic, civil unrest regarding racial injustice in America, and shifting attitudes about crime and the police officer’s role in the community.

“Dave Callahan is the type of talented and conscientious individual whose leadership qualities are imperative in a modern urban police department,” said Mayor Arrigo. “His commitment to fairness, his compassion for people, and his ingrained respect for our City especially qualify him to lead our Police Department as Revere continues to grow and diversify.”

Callahan, who joined the Revere Police in 1991 after two years as a patrol officer in Old Orchard Beach, Maine, cites his tenure on the Revere force and his deep-rooted familiarity with the city as key factors of his qualifications. “As police officers, it is imperative that we hold the highest standard and that we are known for our integrity,” he said. “My extensive experience in the field, supervisory roles, and collaborating with other law enforcement agencies has prepared me well to lead the police department. I look forward to work with the outstanding men and women who comprise the RPD.”

Callahan attained the rank of Lieutenant in the Revere Police Department in 2003. A popular figure among his department colleagues for his tireless work and motivational personality, Callahan advocates community policing as “an essential element of a successful municipality.”

“Every neighborhood,” he says, “deserves to be a place where people want to live and safely raise their families.”

Callahan served as Commander of the Drug Control Unit and also was assigned to the Criminal Investi-

gation Unit from 2004 to 2012. “During that time, I cultivated a strong relationship with outside agencies such as the Massachusetts State Police and the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office. We worked together to build substantial cases.”

In particular, Callahan spearheaded a public corruption investigation of a fellow officer who ultimately was arrested by the FBI and charged with federal criminal violations. “This was an officer who betrayed the oath we have all taken. His criminal actions tarnished the honest and dedicated work of all law enforcement.”

Callahan also played a major role in shutting down a narcotics distribution enterprise operating out of the defunct Ocean Lodge Motel on Revere Beach Boulevard. More than 20 individuals were arrested. In addition, his investigative work led to the prosecution of four U.S. Postal workers who used their mail carrier routes to facilitate cocaine and marijuana distribution.

He was awarded the Massachusetts State Police Medal of Merit in 2012 for his action during the hazardous conditions that erupted into an eight-alarm fire after a fatal tractor-trailer rollover on Route 1 in Saugus. Callahan’s, off-duty at the time, was one of first people on the scene. He called for emergency assistance while assisting four injured motor vehicle passengers and then evacuated an elderly resident whose nearby home had become engulfed in flames.

Since 2012, Lieutenant Callahan has served as the Group Commander of the Night Patrol Division, overseeing 16 officers in addition to responding to calls.

Mayor Arrigo praised Callahan’s record of accomplishment and his appreciation for teamwork in law enforcement. “Lieutenant Callahan is active in community outreach and is well-acquainted with the most demanding issues that face our City. He has extensive contacts to the “Revere Cares” program administered by the Massachusetts General Hospital and has worked closely with the North Suffolk Mental Health Collaborative both as a police officer and as a volunteer. He understands the human side that underlies the complex issues that plague our community and modern society.”

Lieutenant Callahan holds a Bachelor of Science degree Law Enforcement and a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, both from Western New England University. He has completed extensive supplementary training through the FBI-LEEDA program, including certifications from the Supervisor Leadership Institute, the Command Institute for Law Enforcement Executives, and the Executive Leadership Institute. In 2012 he earned a certificate from the FBI National Police Academy. He also holds a certificate in Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings from New Mexico Tech.

Chief Callahan and his wife Rhonda have a daughter, Cadence. The son of Charles and Janet Callahan and his step-mother Judith Callahan, David was raised in Revere and attended the Lincoln School leading up to his graduation from Revere High School, Class of 1987. He is the grandson of the late Victor and Nellie Duca of Revere. He has two step-sisters, Lee Venezia and Lauren. Lieutenant Callahan’s brother Chuck is a sergeant in the Revere Police Department.

## MVES PARTICIPATES IN USDA COVID-19 FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES), in collaboration with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, is taking part in the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Farmers to Family Box Program.

Eight Councils on Aging and Senior Centers in Mystic Valley Elder Services’ service area participated in the program receiving a total of 865 food boxes to distribute to older adults in their communities. The food boxes, which contain hot dogs, sausages and sausage patties or chicken, are no cost to the resident so it is a form of “food pantry” items provided to Massachusetts by the USDA.

The initial delivery took place last week at the Stoneham Council on Aging where 100 boxes were

# NEWS IN BRIEF

dropped off. Council on Aging Director Maureen Canova and her staff will be delivering these boxes to those older adults in need in the Stoneham community.

In total, the program—which runs through the end of 2020—will provide more than 36,000 boxes of food to older adults in Massachusetts, benefiting more than 20,000 seniors.

## MWRA WATER REPORT IS IN THE MAIL

Throughout the month of June, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority will be mailing its Annual Water Quality Report to every household in its service area.

The report also ensures that the water system meets every federal and state drinking water standard.

“Of course coronavirus is first and foremost on everyone’s mind this year. While this report looks back on water quality results from 2019, I want

to assure you that your drinking water does not contain or carry the virus and that your water quality remains as excellent,” said MWRA’s Executive Director Fred Laskey. “The dedicated women and men who run this critical water system have been hard at work throughout the pandemic - protecting the watersheds, running the treatment plants, taking samples every day and performing maintenance.”

The report is distributed to over 850,000 homes in the MWRA service area as required under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Community-specific inserts also provide information about municipal water systems.

The report is also available on-line and a Spanish language version will be available soon. A larger-print version is available upon request.

For more information, please visit MWRA’s website at [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com) or call 617-242-5323.

# DPH offers summer safety tips

With the arrival of summer weather, and as COVID-19 related restrictions on daily activities begin to lift, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) reminds residents of the recommended precautions to keep families, including young children, safe this summer.

## Prevent Tick Bites

Ticks can make you sick when they bite you. They are most commonly found in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas. They only attach when you come into direct contact with them — they cannot jump or fly. Follow these steps if you live, work, or spend time in areas where ticks are present:

- Check yourself for ticks once a day — it’s the single most important thing you can do.
- Use repellents that contain DEET on your exposed skin and those that contain permethrin on your clothes.
- When walking or hiking, stick to main pathways and the center of trails if you can. Brushing against tall grass and bushes will increase your exposure to ticks.

- Weather permitting, wear long-sleeved, light-colored shirts and long pants tucked into socks. This will help keep ticks away from your skin and make it easier to spot ticks on your clothing.

Because dogs and horses are particularly susceptible, talk to your veterinarian about the best ways to protect your animals from tick-borne disease.

## Prevent Mosquito Bites

The 2019 mosquito season was an active season for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Massachusetts. This mosquito-borne illness appears generally in 2-3 year cycles, traditionally peaking during August.

While the risk for human infection of EEE or West Nile Virus won’t happen until later this summer, people have an important role

to play in protecting themselves from these illnesses which can be very serious. To prepare for mosquito season:

- Drain standing water in and around your house or yard to prevent mosquito breeding.
- Repair window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- Use a mosquito repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient according to the directions on the label.
- Wear clothing to reduce exposed skin when weather permits.

To learn more, watch this 3-minute video narrated by State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine Brown about the mosquito-borne virus and how to protect yourself and your family. For more information about preventing mosquito and tickborne illness, visit [www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks](http://www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks).

## Water and Pool Safety

Drowning is a leading cause of death among young children, both nationally and in Massachusetts, with backyard pools posing the highest risk for children under the age of 5. To help prevent water-related injury and drowning:

- Children should be supervised in and around water at all times.
- Whenever infants and toddlers are in or around water, including the bathtub, an adult should be within an arm’s length at all times providing “touch supervision.”

- Completely separate the house and play area of the yard from the pool area with a fence. Consider automatic door locks or alarms to prevent access.

- Remove floats, balls, and other toys from the pool after use so that children are not tempted to reach for them. After the children are done swimming, secure the pool so they cannot get back in.

- Keep rescue equipment (such as a shepherd’s hook

or life preserver) and a phone by the pool.

- For children who cannot swim, use a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket. Do not use toys such as “water wings” or “noodles” in place of life jackets. These are not designed to keep swimmers safe.

In public swimming areas:

- Be sure to practice social distancing from others before and after you swim and wear a cloth face covering or mask when you cannot maintain 6 feet of distance from others.

- Select swimming sites that have lifeguards whenever possible, and swim only in designated swimming areas.

- Always swim with a buddy.

## Window Safety

Falls are the leading cause of injury to children, and falls from windows involving young children are especially serious. Window falls are preventable. Screens are not strong enough to protect children from falling out of windows. In order to prevent window falls, parents and caregivers should:

- Keep furniture – and anything a child can climb on – away from windows.
- Open windows from the top, not the bottom, when possible and lock all unopened doors and windows.

- Be sure children are always supervised.

- Install quick-release window guards which can be found in most hardware stores.

Additional tips on preventing falls among children can be found on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention fall prevention website.

To learn more about childhood injury prevention, visit the DPH injury prevention and control program website.

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# OBITUARIES

## Thomas Michael Burke

Of Revere



Thomas Michael Burke of Revere died on June 20 at the age of 69.

Thomas was a Corporal in the US Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and received the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and a Rifle Sharpshooter Badge.

Born in Boston on January 27, 1951 to the late James Burke and Virginia Mary (Barry) Mantica, he was the beloved husband of the late Evelyn (O'Neil), dear brother of Loretta Adreani and her husband, Raymond of Winthrop and the late Steven J. Burke and the adored uncle of Melissa and Raychel Adreani.

A visitation will be held at the Paul Buonfiglio &



Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St, Revere on Thursday, June 25 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. followed by a Prayer Service at 10:30 a.m. Relatives and friends are kindly invited. A private interment will be held at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the New England Center and Home for Veterans, 17 Court St #2601, Boston, MA 02108. For guest book please visit [www.buonfiglio.com](http://www.buonfiglio.com).

## Benita Rose Festa

Retired Executive Secretary

Benita Rose Festa of Orient Heights, East Boston, passed away in her 103rd year after a brief illness.

Benita was a 1935 graduate of Boston's Girls High School and then went on to secretarial school. She met her husband to be, Al, in 1936 and they married two years later.

Benita worked for City Service Oil Company (CITGO) in Kenmore Square as an executive secretary. After CITGO relocated, Benita was offered a position at White Fuel Oil Company in Braintree where she worked until retirement. She was passionate about her work and loved her career. She would often share stories about her experience in the oil company industry. After retiring, Benita went to work at East Boston District Cour, as an administrative assistant in the Juvenile Court Department. She was 73 when she left her job to care for her loving husband.

She was an avid reader and a fan of every Boston sports team. She also had a strong interest in fashion and loved shopping for herself and her family.

She was the loving daughter of the late Mark and Felicetta Corrado of East Boston, originally from Avellino, Italy; beloved wife of the late Albert Festa, Sr., devoted mother of Barbara Holden and her husband, Fred of Delray Beach, Florida, Beverly Pacheco and the late Richard Pacheco of Marshfield, Elaine Festa of Saugus and



Albert J. Festa Jr. and his wife, Arline of Winthrop; dear sister of Stella Polcari of Belmont and the late Henry Corrado; cherished grandmother of Cheryl Holden Cuddy, Rick Holden, Robert Bagley, David Bagley, Kristin Mackenzie, Albert Festa III, Jennifer Festa Buono and Stephanie Dunbar and adored great-grandmother of 12 great-grandchildren.

Family and friends honored Benita's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston on Monday and again on Tuesday morning before leaving in funeral procession to St. Joseph - St. Lazarus Church for a Funeral Mass in celebration of Benita's life. Services concluded with Benita being laid to rest with her beloved husband, Al at Woodlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: Boston Wounded Vet. Run - ATTN: Vet Ride ITAM Post 6, 60 Paris Street E. Boston, MA 02128. For more information, please visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

## Frances Minichello

Past Exalted Ruler and HLM of Winthrop Lodge of Elks and 47-year employee of Blue Cross BlueShield of Massachusetts,

A Funeral Mass was celebrated in the Immaculate Conception Church on Saturday, June 20 for Frances M. (Hickey) Minichello, 73, who was stricken at her home and later passed at the North Shore Medical Center in Salem. Services concluded with interment in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

A current resident of Swampscott, Fran was a native of Boston and a resident of East Boston for over 65 years. She was educated in St. Mary Star of the Sea Grammar School and was a graduate of the Fitton School, Class of 1964. Fran then attended Emanuel College and Boston State College.

She began an exceptionally long and rewarding career with Blue Cross - Blue Shield of Massachusetts that spanned 47 years. Her hardworking and diligent personality allowed her to rise to the title of Provider Relations Manager. Fran took such pride in anything she did.

She was married to her one and only true love, William R. Minichello on June 10, 1979 and they just celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary together.

She was the very proud mother of her only son, Andrew. Fran was devoted to her family and to anything she believed in.

Both she and her husband were active in the Winthrop Lodge of Elks #1078. Fran was the Past Exalted Ruler (P.E.R.), Past District Deputy (P.D.D.) State Chairman of the Elks National Foundation and an Honorary Lifetime Member (H.L.M.). She was also the past President of the Association of the Notre Dame Alumni. Fran was committed to these causes because of her strong convictions and her belief to make a difference.

Wherever she went, she made friendships that lasted a lifetime. She remained close to her childhood friends, classmates, work colleagues and her brother and sister Elks throughout



the country. Her small stature and bright smile was nothing compared to her enormous heart and unwavering love for life and family.

She is the beloved wife of 41 years to William R. Minichello of Swampscott, formerly of East Boston; loving and proud mother of Boston Police Sergeant Andrew J. Minichello and his wife, Maria of East Boston; cherished grandmother of Matthew Daniel; dear sister of Evelyn M. "Lynn" Wilson and her husband, R. Lee of New Hampshire, James A. Hickey and his wife, Nancy of Virginia and the late George B. Hickey, Jr. and his surviving wife, Ann Hickey of New Hampshire; devoted daughter of the late Ret. Boston Fire Captain George B. Hickey, Sr. and Evelyn M. (Crotty) Hickey. She is also lovingly survived by many loving nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, four godchildren, lifelong friends, extended family and colleagues.

Remembrances may be made to the Elks National Foundation c/o Winthrop Lodge of Elks #1078, 191 Washington Ave., Winthrop, MA 02152 or Mass State Elk's Scholarship Fund, c/o Winthrop Lodge of Elks #1078, 191 Washington Ave. Winthrop, MA 02152. To send online condolences, please visit [www.vertuccioandsmith.com](http://www.vertuccioandsmith.com). Funeral Arrangements under the care and direction of the Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals.

## Mable Lillian Lombardo

She was beautiful, compassionate and graceful

Quite possibly the most graceful woman in the world passed away peacefully in her home, surrounded by her loving family, on May 27, 2020 at 2:15 p.m. Our tears were no match for the cheers in heaven.

Mabel Lillian (DiTullio) Lombardo was a special loving daughter, wife, mother, nana, sister, aunt, great-grandmother and friend to so many lucky people. She was beautiful, compassionate and graceful throughout her entire life.

Mabel was married to Sal Lombardo, who passed away in 2008. She was born on June 26, 1923 in Quincy where she lived almost all of her life and was to turn 97 in one month.

Mabel and Sal fell in love before WWII and were devoted to one another. Mabel saved all of his love letters and he signed each one "yours to love" or "love me as I love you." They were forever romantic. They were married in 1946 and lived in Sal's parent's house in Somerville before Sal built her dream house in Quincy where she would be closer to her family.

Mabel was a great cook! Her dinners were the stuff of legends. Where do we begin? Stuffed artichokes? Roasted peppers? Sal would bring them home by the case and we have sweet memories of her at the kitchen counter, tirelessly preparing food with love. There was always a platter of chicken cutlets in the fridge and pounds of gnocchi in ziplocks in the freezer. She liked to make them around 10 o'clock at night if she was bored.

The highlight of our summer Cousin's Weekends down the Cape would be her cooking lessons. The entire family chipped in, making an organized mess, listening to Nana and watching carefully as she taught so many of her favorite recipes.

For many years Mabel and Sal hosted a spectacular Christmas Eve party. There was always room for one more at the table. And Mabel always had a stash of presents so everyone got to sit on Santa's lap.

Was there ever a family that did not receive one of her famous apple pies? Cortland apples were her secret. Summertime brought many pool parties to Adams Street-so many pounds of pasta and sausages! Mabel had a sense of style that was unparalleled. She could put together fabulous outfits, always with an incredible pocketbook.

Mabel was humble. She never knew how many young women she influenced. High schoolers to longtime friends were able to talk to her and she would listen without judgement. She knew how to say the right thing to help them



along. She knew the right time for a hug. She was patient. Even in her busy life, she always made the time for you.

And then there was the time Frank Sinatra kissed her left cheek. "I'll never wash my cheek again!" she said. Certainly a highlight in her life and a favorite story to tell. Mabel loved Tom Brady and the Patriots. She had her favorite TB shirt and beads she wore to watch every game.

Traveling was very important as was keeping in touch with her Italian family. There were many trips to Sicily and Filetto. Cruises around the Caribbean in a sailboat or an ocean liner. Hong Kong. Brazil. Skiing in Switzerland. And she was a daredevil! Parasailing at 50. White water rafting on the Colorado. Mabel was always ready for an adventure!

Mabel leaves a legacy of a loving family. Paula Lombardo of Braintree and her son, Nicholas Colia, daughter, Alessandra Hashemi, her husband, Paymon and Mabel's first great grandchild, Giavana, Vincent Lombardo of Canton and his fiancé, Natalie Flaherty and son, Sal, his daughter, Francesca Lombardo Carbotti and her husband, Jordan; Dennis Lombardo and his dearly departed wife, Cindy, their daughter, Jessica Bigge and her husband, Richie and great granddaughter, Hazel; sons, David and his fiancé, Julia Kacmarek and Matthew and his fiancé, Kate Gragnolati, Nina Barros, her husband, David and their children, Manny and Joe.

Francelina Cruz is our angel who took care of Mabel like she was her own mother for four years. We love her very much and will never forget all she has done for us. Mabel also has many adoring nieces, nephews and dear friends.

Due to Covid 19 the services will be private. We will plan a celebration of her life in the future. Donations can be made to The Sal and Mabel Lombardo Scholarship Fund. Make checks out to East Boston K-Trust. EB Kiwanis Club PO Box 503 East Boston Mass 02128 or the Friendly Food Pantry, PO Box 802, Randolph, Mass 02368

Arrangements are under the care of the Cartwright Funeral Home, 419 No. Main St., Randolph. To leave a sympathy message for the family, visit [www.cartwrightfuneral.com](http://www.cartwrightfuneral.com).



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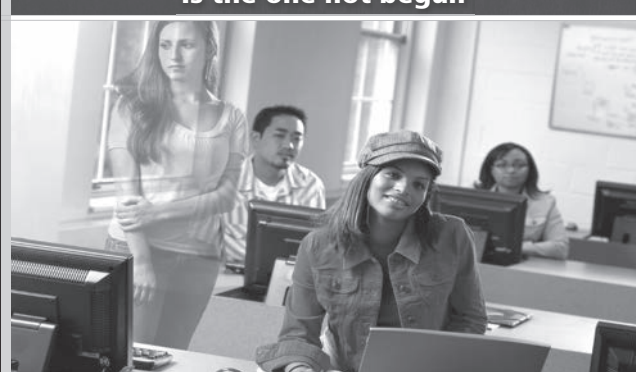
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Gabriela Giubilo of East Boston: BS in Event Management  
Kayli Guthrie of East Boston: BS in Fashion and Retail Merchandising

CURRY COLLEGE

ANNOUNCES

SPRING 2020

DEAN’S LIST

STUDENTS

Curry College congratulates roughly 1,000 students including Jennifer Albanese of East Boston and majoring in Nursing who were named to the Spring 2020 Dean’s List. To earn a place on the list, full-

time undergraduate students - those who carry 12 or more graded credits per semester - must earn a 3.3 grade-point-average (GPA) or higher.

About Curry College  
Founded in 1879, Curry College is a private, four-year, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Mass. Curry extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth, Mass. Curry offers 28 undergraduate majors, as well as graduate degrees in business, accounting, education, criminal justice, and nursing, with a combined enrollment of over 3,700 students. The student body consists of approximately 2,000 traditional undergraduate students, and 1,700 continuing education and graduate students. Approximately 1,575 of its students reside on the Curry campus. The largest majors are business

management, communication, nursing, criminal justice, and education, and the college is also internationally known for its Program for the Advancement of Learning (PAL). The College offers a wide array of extra-curricular activities ranging from 15 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre program. Visit us on the web at [www.curry.edu](http://www.curry.edu).

LOCAL RESIDENTS

MAKE DEAN’S LIST

AT WENTWORTH

INSTITUTE OF

TECHNOLOGY

The following local residents have made the Dean’s List at Wentworth Institute of Technology for the spring 2020 semester.

- \* Xi Xi Lin of East Boston
- \* Jeffrey Scott Vacherese of East Boston
- \* Bryan Benjumea of

East Boston

- \* Ivan Facundo Cesar of East Boston

Founded in 1904, Wentworth Institute of Technology stresses project-based, hands-on learning, with an emphasis on cooperative education and careers, community enrichment, and contributing to the economic vitality of the Greater Boston region. The nationally ranked school is recognized as a leader in engineering, technology, design and science.

Wentworth has some 19 bachelor’s degree programs in areas such as architecture; construction management; mechanical, biomedical and civil engineering; and computer science. It offers master’s degrees in in applied computer science, architecture, civil engineering, construction management, facility management, and technology management.

Governor Baker Issues Proclamation Marking Juneteenth

Gov. Charlie Baker on Friday issued a proclamation declaring June 19, 2020 as “Juneteenth Independence Day” in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Celebrated each year on June 19, Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, and is an opportunity to reflect on the need to continue working toward racial justice.

“Juneteenth is a chance for us all to reflect on this country’s painful history of slavery and the systemic impact that racial injus-

tice continues to have today,” said Gov. Charlie Baker. “It is also an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the goal of creating a more equal and just society. As our country continues the national conversation around racial injustice, it is especially important that we recognize Juneteenth. I look forward to working with our legislative colleagues to recognize this important day more widely going forward.”

Juneteenth is recognized each year on June 19. On that day in 1865, Major

General Gordon Granger and his Union troops landed in Galveston, TX and announced that the Civil War had ended. Major General Gordon read a proclamation declaring that all enslaved people were free. The first Juneteenth was celebrated a year later in Texas and today is recognized across the country to mark this important milestone.

State Law states, “The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart the nineteenth of June as Juneteenth In-

dependence Day, to be observed on the Sunday that is closest to June 19 of each year, in recognition of June 19, 1865 when Union General Gordon Granger announced freedom for all slaves in the Southwestern United States and in recognition of the end of slavery in the United States as well as the significant contributions individuals of African descent have made to the Commonwealth and to the United States and recommending that said day be observed in an appropriate manner by the people.”

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# Eastie Farm, Rep. Madaro honor the community farm’s youngest volunteer

By John Lynds

Jeffries Point resident Josue Tejada, a fourth grader at Patrick J. Kennedy School (PJK), is one of Eastie Farm’s youngest volunteers who shows up each day ready to help out at the community food distribution site.

“He is our friendly interpreter that shows up at a moment’s notice,” said Eastie Farm founder Kanan Thiruvengadam. “He also brings a lot of joy by being his curious, social self.”

As East Farm began feeding food insecure families in the neighborhood due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic downturn, Josue has

been an intrical part of the farm’s efforts over the past few months.

After learning about the young man’s tendency to help, Rep. Adrian Madaro decided to honor Josue with a citation last week at Eastie Farm’s Sumner Street site.

“I presented a citation to Josue Tejada of Jeffries Point for his invaluable service to Eastie Farm,” said Rep. Madaro. “Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, he has stepped up in a major way to offer Spanish interpretation and assist with food distribution to our neighbors in need.”

According to Thiruvengadam, Josue lives upstairs in the building next to Eastie Farm.

“If he hears a Span-

ish-speaking person and an English-speaking person in the farm struggling to talk to each other, which happens with some frequency, he pops his head out of his window and offers to translate,” said Thiruvengadam. “If you accept, he is down in two seconds, mask, gloves, and all. If he notices someone has been working away on the farm, he offers water.

Sometimes he just comes out to his porch and sits down so he can keep them company.”

Last week Josue saw 60 produce boxes arriving from its partner World Farmers. Eastie Farm has been distributing the World Farmers produce boxes to various Eastie groups feed-

ing families-- including the Mutual Aid Network, the Soup kitchen, the Donals McKay, and CCDS.

“Josue realized it was going to take a while, so he came down and made himself part of the crew,” said Thiruvengadam. “After working for about four hours, as we were giving away the last few and signing up new volunteers, he looks at me, and he says: “Go home! I’ll take care of the rest!”

His principal at the PJK, Kristen Goncalves added, “Josue makes us proud every single day. Thanks so much to Rep. Adrian Madaro for taking the time to honor him. He was so excited to show his class his award on ZOOM.”



Jeffries Point resident Josue Tejada proudly holds his citation from Rep. Adrian Madaro. Josue was honored for being one of the youngest Eastie Farm volunteers throughout the pandemic.



Josue Tejada inside Eastie Farm on Sumner Street. Josue lives in the building next to Eastie Farm and spends his days helping out other volunteers.



Rep. Adrian Madaro gives Eastie Farm volunteer Josue Tejada a high-five for his work helping distribute food to Eastie families and providing translation for residents.

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Josue Tejada, one of Eastie Farm's youngest volunteers, is hard at work preparing produce boxes for distribution.



Eastie Farm and Rep. Adrian Madaro honored Josue Tejada last week at East Farm on Sumner Street.

## OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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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.



Take advantage of this promo to explain new protocols in place at your establishment to ensure safety of staff and guests while using your 2x4 COLOR AD to showcase your best offerings!

