



List your Multi-family, Single Family or condo with us, and we will sell it at your pace.
There are too many buyer's and not enough seller's. Push our button and let's go! text/call/email today.
JEFF BOWEN: 781-201-9488 SANDRA CASTILLO: 617-780-6988
BOSTONJEFF.COM | JEFF@BOSTONJEFF.COM

BOSTON HARBOR REAL ESTATE
 188 Summer St. East Boston

WOLLASTON REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS

East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS

BOOK YOUR POST IT
 Call Your Advertising Rep
(781) 485-0588

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Gov. Baker and DESE releases school reopening guidelines for the fall

By John Lynds

Last week Governor Charles Baker's office and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released their initial guidance about reopening schools this fall.

According to Baker's office and DESE, current medical research supports a safe in-person return to school - with preventive measures in place - as infection and transmission rates are lower for children than adults.

The new guidelines include preventive measures like masks/face coverings, physical distancing, hand-washing, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.

Masks/face coverings will be required for all students in Grade 2 and above, and for all adults. They are also recommended for students in Grade 1 and below but not required.

Based upon current medical research, and in conjunction with other preventive measures, a minimum physical distance of three feet has been established

See SCHOOLS Page 3

Edwards calls for the council to have more budgetary powers

By John Lynds

Historically Boston has followed a 'Strong-Mayor' form of government as opposed to a "Weak Mayor" system practiced by small or mid-sized cities and towns across the country.

In the Strong Mayor system Mayor Martin Walsh is given almost total administrative authority and a clear, wide range of political independence, with the power to appoint and dismiss department heads without council approval and little or no public input.

Under this system Walsh, like Boston mayor's before him, prepares and admin-

See BUDGET Page 3



Volunteers stock donated food (above) for delivery to families in need inside the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen's Our Saviour's Lutheran Church location on Paris Street. The Soup Kitchen will close temporarily for cleaning and reopen for take out service at the end of the month.

Right, Since the pandemic began volunteers at the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen's Our Saviour's Lutheran Church location on Paris Street have been passing out grocery gift cards as well as food pick up by appointment.



Community Soup Kitchen adjusts to phased reopening

By John Lynds

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen (EBCSK) was forced to stop serving hot meals on Tuesdays from the basement of the Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on Paris Street. Instead, staff handed out grocery gift cards to residents and families in need.

"It's hard to believe it has been more than three months since we've gathered together for Tuesday meal services," said EBCSK Founder and Director Sandra Nijjar. "Our work has looked very different during this time, as we've focused our efforts on safely distributing grocery gift cards to our neighbors in need. For the past three months we have been seeing our soup kitchen guests by appointment to give a Shaw's Supermarket gift card to those who don't have a mailing address, and to those who have a home we sent it by mail. We have also given a meal voucher to those who don't have a home to cook in. We have

also given lunch meals and bags with groceries that some of our local organizations have shared with us."

Nijjar said behind the scenes the soup kitchen's leadership team has been hard at work monitoring COVID19 developments and cautiously planning its next phase of service as the state enters Phase III of the reopening.

"We are eager to once again offer weekly meals in a safe and welcoming environment for guests and volunteers," said Nijjar. "As a first step, we plan to transition to a 'take-out' model, where guests can pick up a hot, nutritious mid-day meal to-go, along with supplemental groceries and personal care items. There is much to do to prepare for this new service. This coordinated effort will largely rely on the generosity of donors and volunteers, and everyone's partnership in maintaining COVID-19 health and safety standards."

Nijjar said July 8 and 9 will be the last days that the soup kitchen will be seeing clients by appointment and

it will be the last time EBCSK will be giving out the gift cards.

"The soup kitchen will temporarily close to clean up and disinfect and prepare the kitchen for hot meals service starting towards the end of the month," said Nijjar.

Dates that the EBCSK will be closed are July 16, 17, 22, and 23 and will reopen on Tuesday, July 28 for takeout only, said Nijjar.

As EBCSK begins to cautiously get back to some sense of normalcy Nijjar said the soup kitchen is looking for the community to support its efforts.

Nijjar said there are a few ways to help EBCSK and interested residents can donate cleaning/sanitation supplies—including hand soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectant sprays and wipes, paper towels, and gloves.

"Residents can also make a monetary donation so we can purchase needed supplies, including face coverings, directly," said Nijjar. "Every donation, of every amount, makes a dif-

See KITCHEN Page 3

Angela Atenco Lopez, longtime restaurateur, passes away at 76

By John Lynds

Angela Atenco Lopez, whose recipes from her native Puebla, Mexico wowed residents, food critics and celebrity chefs far and wide, has died.

Mrs. Lopez, the namesake of Angela's Cafe's two locations in East Boston, had been bravely battling cancer for several months according to her son Luis. She finally succumbed to the disease on Monday at the age of 76 years old.

Mrs. Lopez was born in the State of Puebla, Mexico and learned how to cook at a young age watching her mother make traditional Puebla recipes from scratch.

After years of guidance from her mother, Mrs. Lopez fell in love with the traditional culinary traditions of the Puebla region and perfected dishes like Mole Poblano, Pepian Rojo and Chilauques.

Mrs. Lopez opened her first restaurant at the age of

twenty, realizing her dream to create an authentic experience of home-made dishes that followed in the footsteps of her mother.

After almost 50 years of professional cooking, Mrs. Lopez moved to Boston and joined her two sons, Luis and Joel, and opened Angela's Cafe's first location on the corner of Brooks and Lexington Streets in the mid-2000s.

The restaurant was an instant success and received widespread critical acclaim from Boston food critics.

Mrs. Lopez's Mole Poblano, tacos and other traditional Puebla recipes consistently made "Best of Boston" lists in numerous magazines and her traditional guacamole received numerous awards over the years.

In 2013, Mrs. Lopez and her recipes gained national fame when the Food Network's popular show, Diners, Drive Ins and Dives

See LOPEZ Page 3



Angela's Cafe's namesake Angela Atenco Lopez holding up a bowl of her famous Mole Poblano sauce. Mrs. Lopez died on Monday following a brief battle with cancer.

Making it Official

SEHC officially becomes part of East Boston Neighborhood Health Center

By Seth Daniel

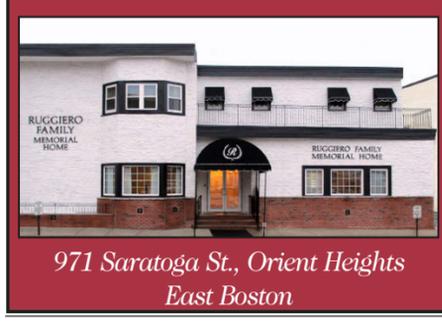
Calling it a great merger of two historic and value-aligned organizations, Manny Lopes, President and CEO of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC), announced the official merger of his organization with the nearby South End Community Health Center (SEHC) in Boston on July 1.

SEHC sites will operate as locations of EBNHC

and staff will become EBNHC employees, thus unifying the two health centers in providing comprehensive healthcare services to diverse Boston-area communities. SEHC patients will continue to see the same, nationally recognized team of providers and the name of the SEHC will not change.

"The SEHC has such a great history and has done

See EBNHC Page 2



Ruggiero Family Memorial Home

"Proud to welcome to our staff Mark Tauro, former owner and director of Rapino, Kirby-Rapino Funeral Homes"

- Ample Off Street Parking • Complimentary Valet Parking • Nonsectarian Transportation To & From Visiting Hours For Family & Friends • Se Habla Espanol

617-569-0990 • Visit us at our website: www.RuggieroMH.com

Eagle Hill Civic Association meets virtually since the start of pandemic

By John Lynds

At the end of June the Eagle Hill Civic Association (EHCA) board held its first 'virtual' meeting on ZOOM in order to once again begin informing the community of development projects and other issues happening in the neighborhood.

At the virtual monthly meeting, EHCA members received information on four development projects from Attorneys Jeff Drago and Richard Lynds.

The first project at 231 Saratoga St., Drago proposed a renovation project to change the occupancy of the existing residential dwelling from three to four rental units.

Drago explained to the group that the fourth unit will be a garden level apartment and the height of the building would remain unchanged.

The existing tenants in the three units would remain during renovation and the new garden level would be available to a potential new tenant.

Drago said prior to the COVID pandemic he and the owner met with abutters and the only concerns expressed were over the lack of park-

ing and the disruption that current tenants may experience during construction.

Drago said the next project at 226-228 Princeton St. calls for renovating the existing 5 unit residential home and adding three units with five parking spaces. The plan calls for building an additional story to the three story home while keeping the mansard roof.

Drago explained there would be no change to the building's footprint and the side and rear yard will remain the same.

The proposal also called for additional landscaping in the backyard.

Some at the meeting expressed disapproval of the extensive renovations. Others argued if EHCA members voted in favor of changing a three story home into a four story home it would open a Pandora's Box and future developers might want to do the same thus changing the character of Eagle Hill.

EHCA member Charlie Logrosso said the renovations were not historically appropriate and would destroy the character of the Victorian building. He urged the developer to change the design and come back to the group.

The next project at 141 Falcon St. was pitched by Lynds and called for renovating the existing home in order to maintain and preserve the existing structure while changing the occupancy from two to three residential condo units.

The project also called for building a rear addition and dormers to create a mix of one, two and three-bedroom units that would range in size from 1,025 - 1,100 square feet.

EHCA members approved the proposal because it does not destroy the elegant Victorian home. However, Logrosso, who advocates for historic preservation on Eagle Hill, wanted to see the developer add a little more original detail to the design.

The final project, again proposed by Lynds, was at an old industrial warehouse at 98-100 Condor St.

There, Lynds's client plans to renovate the building in order to maintain and preserve the existing historical structure while changing occupancy from a commercial warehouse and manufacturing plant to 39 residential rental units with parking for 15 vehicles.

Lynds said there would also be onsite bike storage as



The proposal at 141 Falcon St. was pitched by Attorney Richard Lynds at EHCA's virtual June meeting.

well as other building amenities like a fitness center and common room.

Lynds said units are intended to accommodate the city's compact living policy and five of the 39 units would be set aside as afford-

able housing units under the BPDA's inclusionary policy.

Lynds said the property has an area for open space but no waterfront access because his client does not own the lot behind the proposal that runs along the

Chelsea Creek.

EHCA members liked the plans, especially the proposed green roof but made a request for more affordable housing units and pick-up spots for Uber/Lyft.

Phase Three underway, Boston will join on July 13

By Lauren Bennett

Step One of Phase Three of the Massachusetts Re-opening Plan began on July 6 everywhere in the state except for Boston, which will enter Phase Three on July 13.

Governor Charlie Baker made the announcement during a press conference on July 2, where he also announced that the state's positive test rate was still at 1.8 percent, a 94 percent decrease from mid-April.

"As a whole, we've been encouraged by the significant progress we've made in these metrics," Baker said. "The success is due in no small part to the vigilance and dedication that has been shown by the people of MA. But we should not and cannot slow down or step back now." He urged residents to continue wearing face coverings, washing their hands, social distancing, and staying home when feeling sick.

"We need to maintain vigilance if we wish to continue to move forward," Baker said.

The first step of Phase Three allows for the re-opening of gyms, fitness centers, museums, cultural and historical sites, and movie theaters and outdoor performance venues, with protocols and guidelines.

"Fitness centers and health clubs, including those offering weight training, cross training, yoga, and spin classes will be allowed to reopen under sector-specific protocols just like we've done for other industry sectors," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.

"Going to the gym may

not look the same way it did before the pandemic, but we hope that these new protocols will allow more residents to return to exercise and fitness and get back into those routines that they were accustomed to."

Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy added that occupancy of gyms and fitness centers will be required to be kept under 40 percent, equipment must be sanitized between each use, and face coverings will be required.

"For general indoor and outdoor events such as weddings and parties, this means keeping bars and dance floors closed, keeping guests in groups not larger than 6 people, and limiting occupancy," he said.

Visible signage, a preference for timed entry ticketing, and limiting occupancy on buses, trolleys, and duck boats to 50 percent, will be required for museums and guided tours.

"Updates to all guidance will happen periodically in Phase Three," Kennealy said, "and as we've always said, data, and not dates, will dictate our progress."

Lt. Gov. Polito also thanked the Commonwealth's boards of health who helped businesses across the state comply with the sector-specific guidelines as well as enforced the "governor's provisions."

"Phase Three contains some bigger players that will certainly draw more people into indoor settings with respect to various activities like movie theaters and museums," Baker said. "Medical evidence con-

tinues to say that COVID has a much higher risk of spreading indoors in enclosed spaces than it does in outdoor spaces. This phase will last significantly longer than other phases so that we can closely monitor the impact to our public health data that comes with this move to Phase Three."

Phase Three also allows for professional sports teams to resume games without spectators, but they must also follow "league-wide rules," Baker said.

Baker also announced the revision of guidance on gatherings. "As I've said and will continue to say, COVID's not going anywhere this summer," he said.

Indoor gatherings will now be limited to eight people per 1,000 square feet, but no more than 25 people are permitted in a "single enclosed indoor space," Baker said.

If an outdoor gathering is in an enclosed space, capacity is limited to 25 percent of the maximum permitted occupancy of the venue. No more than 100 people in a "single enclosed outdoor space" are permitted.

"This includes community events, civic events, sporting events, concerts, conventions and more," according to the State. "This order does not apply to outdoor, unenclosed gatherings if proper social distancing measures or possible," nor does it "supersede previously issued sector guidance." This order took effect on July 6 everywhere in the state except for the City of Boston, where it will take effect on July 13.

EBNHC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

such great work in the community," said Lopes. "It's an amazing opportunity to be able to bring these two organizations together. We've been doing great work in East Boston and serving the community in East Boston, and we're excited to bring the two together to continue this work. It's a chance to merge both of our great histories together."

EBNHC's Steven Snyder said the first few days were about working out the kinks, but things are now going smoothly.

"The first couple of days of the merger last week were challenging for sure," said Snyder, Vice President of Human Resources, Marketing and Development for East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. "I'm really proud of the staff both in South End and back in East Boston, Revere and Winthrop. This took immense effort and teamwork by many staff. Now that many of the technical issues are running smoothly we will turn our attention to bringing our corporate culture and in particular our core values to the forefront for all staff as well as starting to market services to all of our communities. We have taken great effort to make our facilities safe for patients who cannot rely on TeleHealth to start coming in for care again - particularly those in high-risk categories. This is the case both at the South End location and back in East Boston - where for over 50 years patients have counted on us to be there for them."

The health centers have similar roots, both founded during the Civil Rights Movement, and share a common mission of providing high-quality care to all without regard to age, race/ethnicity, insurance status, or ability to pay. The move by EBNHC to merge

SECHC into its organization goes back to 2017, and had previously been announced in 2018 as the SECHC faced major financial difficulties. The details of the merger were being worked out all last year, and with the new fiscal year on July 1, it was the time to make it official.

Lopes said it is a great opportunity for scaling up SECHC and for strategic growth in EBNHC too.

"When South End approached us, they were looking for a partner that had the ability to scale and who had experience serving a similar population and who had shared values," said Lopes. "I'm happy they selected us. For us, it fits into our strategic planning purposes... This fits nicely into our plans for growth. We're excited about that."

He reiterated there would be no change in the name, and there would be no staff reductions.

"That's very important," he said. "Having no staff reductions was our commitment that we made. That's huge. I think the staff will agree coming into our organization. This is the scalability. There is more opportunity for mobility and growth with us. The quality of care will not change either. We have no plans to change any of that. We only hope to enhance it."

The Board members of the SECHC said they are excited about the merger, and have spoken highly of the plan over the last year as well.

"EBNHC has shown time and again that they can thrive in today's challenging health care environment. In 2017, our Board foresaw a looming financial cliff and, in 2018, approved EBNHC's visionary proposal to merge. Since then, their leadership team and

Board have been exemplary collaborators," said David Gleason, SECHC Board Chair. "We are delighted to join together as one company in service to our patients."

EBNHC Board Chair Rita Sorrento said, "It is a privilege to welcome SECHC's staff and patients, as well as members of the South End community, into the EBNHC family."

Some of the only differences will be on the patient electronic record system, which will be switched over to the EBNHC system, though that will only be administrative.

Lopes said there will be further discussions about adding a shuttle service to the SECHC that would connect the other sites in East Boston and beyond - giving patients and employees better access to the new network of providers and opportunities.

Beyond that, EBNHC is very involved in their communities and pride themselves on being an award-winning workplace, Lopes said.

"I'm very excited to get out into the community and to begin learning about the South End," said Lopes, who is also chair of the Boston Board of Health. "We're looking forward to sharing what we know, learning from them and learning from the community... We want to be a great place to work for the staff. We've been recognized for that. We do that because the staff is big part of what we do... We want people to feel great about where they work."

EBNHC provides comprehensive medical and behavioral health services, along with support services to address non-medical needs and promote healthy living. SECHC operations will continue without change in hours of operation or provider options. Additionally, SECHC patients will gain access to unique EBNHC services such as Neighborhood PACE, which serves older adults, and CATCH, which provides coordinated care for children with complex medical needs. EBNHC and SECHC will continue to coordinate COVID-19 response activities, including testing and tracing initiatives.

With an operating budget of approximately \$180 million, EBNHC will remain one of the largest health centers in the nation, now serving more than 110,000 patients and employing nearly 1,300 staff members. Lopes will continue to oversee all EBNHC locations and services across the Greater Boston Area.

Northgate Dental Center

A General & Multi-Specialty Practice

Specializing in Emergency Care

- Fillings, Crowns & Bridges
- Extractions
- Root Canal Treatment
- Gum Treatment
- Partial, Dentures
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Veneers, Invisalign, Bleaching, Botox Injections
- Digital Radiographs
- State-of-the-Art Sterilization Techniques
- Microscope Aided Dentistry

- F. Mobed, D.M.D. Endodontist (Root Canal Specialist)
- R. Satayosh, D.M.D. Periodontist (Gum Specialist) and Implant Surgeon
- V. Varasteh, D.M.D. (Cosmetic Dentistry)
- L. Parsi, D.M.D.

www.ngdental.com

603 Broadway, Revere • 781-289-3600

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
London, Drew	Everett Lamson LLC	153 Everett St #1	\$460,000
Judge, Casey	Everett Lamson LLC	153 Everett St #2	\$499,900
Kale, Taylor	Everett Lamson LLC	153 Everett St #3	\$559,000
Legee, Michael J	LG Falcon LLC	24-26 Falcon St #1	\$560,000
EB M1B Holdings LLC	Correnti, Anthony	126 Leyden St	\$850,000
Cataldi, Mariel	335-337 Maverick St Dev	337 Maverick St #3	\$699,000
Delliacona, Diana	Velkor 14 NT	14 Murray Ct #3	\$749,000
Breed, Edward M	Demodena FT	182 Princeton St	\$570,000
Saratoga EB LLC	Saratoga Inc	223 Saratoga St	\$1,355,000



37 MAVERICK SQUARE ■ EAST BOSTON ■ 617/561-4495

Lopez // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(Triple Ds), debuted its segment on Angela's Cafe.

Host and celebrity chef Guy Fieri was beyond impressed by the Puebla/Mexican cuisine being served at Mrs. Lopez's small corner restaurant on Eagle Hill.

On the show Mrs. Lopez dazzled Fieri with a traditional Puebla dish and staple among Mexican Food enthusiasts.

The entire segment focused on Mrs. Lopez's Chilaquiles and the traditional Puebla dish did not disappoint.

Mrs. Lopez and her son, Luis, walked Fieri through preparing the dish's important 'green sauce'. The mother and son duo showed Fieri how, at Angela's Cafe, nothing comes from a can.

After one bite Fieri was propelled into food ecstasy that only a dish like Angela's Chilaquiles can cause.

"I'm coming back to get this tomorrow," said Fieri of the dish.

Fieri was also impressed by how quick Mrs. Lopez made her famous homemade tortillas as well as Angela's Cafe Pepian Rojo and Mole Poblano.

The Mole Poblano was something that has dazzled food enthusiasts since Angela's Cafe opened.

Mrs. Lopez once said there are 50 to 60 ingredi-

ents in this sauce and among them are about 10 varieties of chili and the sauce usually takes her two days to make.

Capitalizing on her national fame Mrs. Lopez and her two sons opened Angela's Cafe's second location in Orient Heights on Bennington Street in 2016.

Fieri was so impressed the first time around with Angela's Cafe that his show returned to the restaurant last year to film another segment that recently aired on the Food Network.

This time around Fieri and company focused on two recipes unique to Puebla, Chiles Rellenos and Huevos Rancheros.

Aside from being the culinary force behind Angela's Cafe, Mrs. Lopez was a gracious host and made all her customers feel like family.

During dinner service Mrs. Lopez would come from the kitchen and greet her loyal customers, pinch the cheeks of their children, and, on many occasions, prepare a special homemade desert on the house.

In many way Mrs. Lopez was not only the matriarch of the Lopez Family but the matriarch of the East Boston community and she will be terribly missed by all.

Ferry service to Spectacle Island is now in operation

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, National Park Service, Boston Harbor Now, and Boston Harbor Cruises announced that a public ferry service to Spectacle Island, one of the 34 islands and peninsulas in Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park, began for the season.

Public ferry service to other islands remains closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Spectacle Island boasts some of the most magnificent vistas of the Boston skyline and is only a 20-minute ferry ride away from downtown Boston. With ferry services beginning for the summer season from Long Wharf, the island

will be open and accessible to visitors. Safety measures including enhanced cleaning protocols on island and onboard the public ferry vessels have been instituted. Reduced ferry capacity, revised boarding procedures, touchless ticketing and instructional signage supporting physical distancing – will be in place in compliance with Governor Baker's reopening plan. Facial coverings will be required while onboard the ferry and visitors are strongly encouraged to continue to wear their facial coverings while exploring the Island.

Although the visitor center will remain closed, restrooms, hiking trails, the swimming beach, moorings, and the marina will be available for public use. Physical distancing and COVID-19 guidelines will

remain in place while on the island and onboard the ferries.

"With physical distancing extending throughout the summer, public outdoor spaces like Spectacle Island are critical to the mental and physical health of our communities, and to keeping people feeling connected to each other and to nature," said Kathy Abbott, President and CEO of Boston Harbor Now. "We look forward to a fantastic summer for visitors of all ages to safely experience and enjoy Boston Harbor and its islands."

Michael Creasey, General Superintendent for National Parks of Boston, agreed, "As we navigate the impacts of COVID-19 on our daily lives, I am mindful of what a gift it is to live so close to the water's edge

where we have access to such an incredible system of island and peninsular parks. Whether exploring peninsular parks on the south shore like Worlds End and Webb Memorial State Park, or taking the ferry from Long Wharf to Spectacle Island for 360 degree views of Boston Harbor, it's outdoor open air places like these and the experiences they offer that enliven our communities and contribute to our vitality and resilience."

Ferry service to Spectacle Island is provided by Boston Harbor Cruises. For more information on ferry schedules, pricing and amenities, visit <https://www.bostonharborislands.org/> or <https://www.bostonharborcruises.com/harbor-islands>.

State doubles rent relief and foreclosure prevention resources in Partnership with Metro Housing and Regional Network

Staff Report

Metro Housing and other regional housing organizations have partnered with the Department of Housing and Community Development to almost double the assistance available to families impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis by providing assistance that will help households who fall behind in their rent or mortgage payments that may lead to eviction or foreclosure.

The need for rental assistance for residents in Greater Boston is illustrated by the fact that Metro Housing distributed more than \$1 million dollars in RAFT assistance during the month of June alone, more than any other month in the history of the program.

The Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance

(ERMA) program builds upon the popular and effective Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program that Metro Housing administers in 29 greater Boston communities. Funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development, ERMA is a homelessness prevention program for families experiencing housing crises and expands eligibility to households with income of 80 percent of the area median, which for a family of three is \$86,650.

ERMA allows eligible households to apply for up to \$4,000 in assistance that can be used flexibly to meet the expenses often associated with housing instability, eviction, foreclosure, and homelessness. The program has allocated \$20 million statewide for rental relief through June 2021, which

when added to the funding available for RAFT in the last fiscal year doubles available resources.

"The impact of this relief for property owners cannot be understated," said Chris Norris, Executive Director of Metro Housing. "Not only do these property owners provide housing for thousands of renters in our region, but their own housing stability is at risk. It is in everyone's interest that renters and owners alike get this help."

A recent survey of 1,500 people by MassINC Polling Group, found that 29 percent of renters missed all or part of a housing payment in April, May, or June. The report says that if the current health and economic crisis continues for another six months, that only 40 percent of people expect to be able to keep

up with their housing payments. While 12 percent of property owners reported that they had missed all or part of a mortgage payment through June, 61 percent of home-owning poll respondents stated that they were likely to keep up with payments through six months.

"There have been so many families faced with a loss of income during this health crisis," said Felisha Marshall, Director of Housing Supports at Metro Housing. "The demand for rental and mortgage assistance has surged over the past three months. This increase in funding and expansion of eligibility will help meet a great community need in metropolitan Boston and across the state."

For information on ERMA, visit <https://bit.ly/Rentrelief>.

Schools // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for all schools.

In a statement from the Massachusetts Parents United founding president Keri Rodrigues was proud to have five of its parent members participating in the state's Return to School Working Group to help bring the important perspective of parents in several Gateway Cities like Boston to the table.

"While the recommendations issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

(DESE) did not address all of the needs and concerns of parents and families, we do feel that some progress has been made," said Rodrigues. "We are grateful that the perspective of families of color, families who are English Language Learners, and families of color with children with special needs were included in these conversations where we could demand these guidelines be based in equity for all children."

Budget // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

isters the city budget, although the council often must approve that budget, and has veto power over council votes.

This differs from a weak-mayor system where the mayor has no formal authority outside the council, cannot directly appoint or remove officials, and lacks veto power over council votes.

This week, City Councilor Lydia Edwards filed a proposed amendment to Boston's city charter that would give the Boston City Council budgetary powers equal to those of the Mayors.

The historic proposal was filed under a provision in state law that allows local elected officials to propose amendments to city charters which have never been used before.

"I've spent a lot of time over the past few weeks thinking about how to answer the calls for systemic change and investment in our future," said Edwards. "An annual up or down vote alone on the mayor's budget cannot bring about

the long term change that is needed and that people are calling for. That change will not come from any one vote or annual budget. It's time to break the wheel of Boston's budget making process. This will take time, research, negotiations, and sustained conversations about what we want to invest in as a city. Until we change the budget process, we don't have an opportunity to have those conversations in a meaningful way."

According to Edwards the proposed amendment specifically targets the budgetary powers of the City and is separate from the complete charter reform the councilor proposed earlier this year. "Boston can move forward on specific reforms to our budgetary process even as we pursue a democratic process to examine the entire charter," said Edwards. "That process will require much more organizing and eventually candidates will have to run for an opportunity to write the charter. I am still committed to writing

a clear, accessible, complete charter but right now people are asking for direct impact and influence on our budget. We can give them that power by modernizing and democratizing the budgetary process and expanding participatory budgeting, which would give residents greater control over portions of the budget."

Under Massachusetts General Laws, a member of the city council may suggest a charter amendment. After a hearing and final vote by the city council the Attorney General must approve the question's constitutionality and then it will be put to the voters to decide in November 2021. This proposal would be the first known charter amendment to be implemented using this process.

If Boston voters approve this amendment next fall, the Boston City Council and the Mayor would share power over the city's budget. This includes the ability to create proposals for the city's capital and operating budgets, change line

items within the proposals, allocate parts of the budget for a participatory budget process (voter direct allocation), and amend the budget for Boston Public Schools.

Additionally, this change would also give the city council tools to more quickly respond to the need for budget cuts in times of fiscal austerity and allow for public deliberation on

what services could or should be reduced without lasting harm. This change also allows for earlier budgetary deliberation should either the Mayor or Council desire to do so.

Kitchen // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ference."

Residents can also sponsor a meal service prepared by an EBCSK partner restaurant that can serve approximately 200 guests.

"Residents can also volunteer during the weekly meal services or lend expertise if you have experience reopening in the COVID19 environment," said Nijjar. "We are hopeful that with your help we will be able to offer weekly take-out meal service for our guests toward the end of July. Please

reach out to us if you can help."

Nijjar said EBCSK volunteers are extremely grateful and humbled by the support that they have received from so many kind and generous organizations throughout the pandemic—such as Cargo Ventures, Channel Fish, Empower East Boston, Resurrection Church, The Boston Foundation, and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.]

"Thank you, everyone, for helping us out during

this coronavirus crisis," said Nijjar. "We are blessed to have your support. We would also like to give a huge thank you to our brothers and sisters from the BCYF Paris Street Community Center and also to the Eastie Farm team for sharing their food supplies with us at the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen so that we can help our most marginalized folks. We are immensely grateful to have your support and partnership."

SIMPLY FREE CHECKING

MAKES LIFE SIMPLE



OPEN ANY NEW CHECKING ACCOUNT AND YOU'LL RECEIVE FREE:

-  Instant Issue ATM/VISA® check card with access to Allpoint® network
-  Online Banking, Bill Pay and e-Statements
-  Mobile Banking, People Pay and Check Deposit



Plus, get your **FREE GIFT** when you open any new checking account!



EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Member FDIC | Member DIF



East Boston Savings Bank™

800.657.3272 EBSB.com

\$50 minimum deposit required to open any checking account. Other fees may apply, see schedule of fees for details. Free gift is awarded when account is opened. EBSB reserves the right to substitute a gift of similar value. Please note, in the event the value of the free gift exceeds \$10, the bank is required to report the gift value on form 1099-INT. The recipient is responsible for all applicable taxes. Bank rules and regulations apply. Ask a representative for details.



Facebook.com/EastBostonSavingsBank

East Boston

Times-Free Press

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

PUBLISHER: Debra DiGregorio

EDITOR: Cary Shuman

PUBLISHER EMERITUS: John A. Torrione



Forum

THE STOCK MARKET DOES NOT REPRESENT THE U.S. ECONOMY

We don't pretend to be experts either in the stock market or the economy in general.

However, as Bob Dylan put it, "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows," and similarly, the average American doesn't need a Ph.D. in economics to understand that the recent record height of the stock market indices -- the S&P 500, the Dow Jones 30 Industrials, and the Nasdaq -- does not reflect the health of the U.S. economy.

Increasing economic inequality -- what has become known as the disconnect between Wall St. and Main St. -- has been the broad trend of American life for the past 40 years.

Ever since Ronald Reagan (aided and abetted by the Democrats, by the way) deregulated the banking and other industries, gutted the labor unions, reduced tax rates for the rich, and abrogated the antitrust laws, America's immense wealth has become concentrated in the hands of the very few to an extent never before seen in the modern world.

Consider that the top 1% of American households now control more than half of the equity in U.S. public and private companies, according to data from the Federal Reserve. In relative terms, the top 1% now has more wealth than the entire middle class and as much wealth as 90% of all Americans.

The ratio of the salary of a CEO vs. the salary of the typical worker of a publicly-traded company in 1965 was about 20-1. That ratio today is about 350-1.

This is only part of the story, however. The real reason for the increase in the disparity between the top 1% and everyone else is that middle-class jobs in America have disappeared at an alarming rate to the benefit of the top 1%.

According to a Brookings Institution report, the two most highly-valued companies in the country in 1962 -- AT&T and General Motors -- employed nearly 1.2 million people combined.

Last year, the two largest companies in the S&P 500 -- Microsoft and Apple -- employed just 280,000 persons. Apple puts together almost all of its products in China, using third-party manufacturing companies that operate the modern-day equivalent of sweatshops.

Further, consider that the wealthiest top 10 percent of Americans own about 84 percent of U.S. stocks, with the top 1 percent owning 40 percent.

So put those two trends together -- fewer middle class jobs and stock ownership of American companies concentrated in the hands of a few -- and the result simply is this: Income that formerly went to the American middle-class has shifted to countries with low-wage workers, with the wealthy netting the difference.

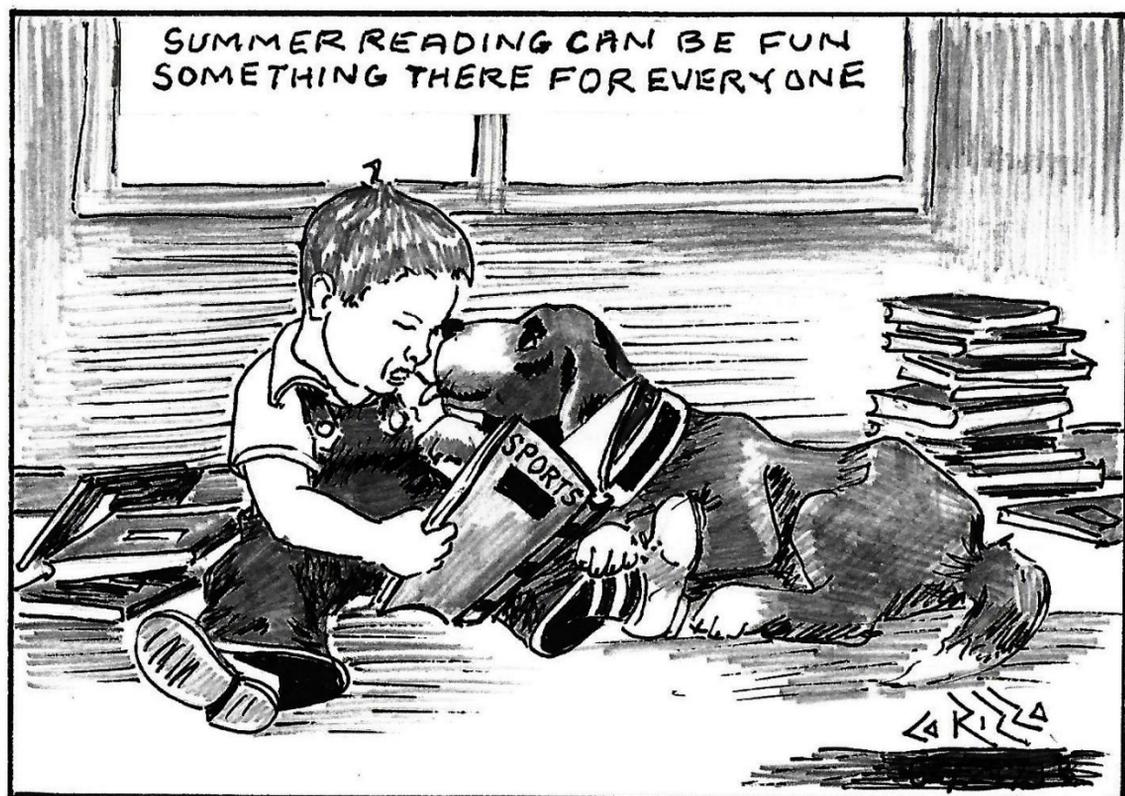
There also is another factor at play. The health of the U.S. stock market not only does not represent the U.S. economy, it also does not even represent the stock market itself.

The five largest listed companies -- Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Alphabet (Google), and Facebook -- have continued to climb this year. Through the end of April, these companies were up roughly 10 percent, while the 495 other companies in the S&P were down 13 percent. These highly valued firms -- Microsoft, Amazon and Apple are each worth more than \$1 trillion -- now account for about one-fifth of the market value of the entire index, the highest level in 30 years.

The coronavirus pandemic is exacerbating the trend of the past 40 years: The rich are getting richer, while everybody else is getting poorer and deeper into debt.

Without government policies -- higher tax rates on the wealthy, vigorous antitrust enforcement, and support of labor unions -- that will bring back into alignment the economic forces that created the great American middle-class of the 1950s and 60s, America is destined to become an oligarchy, otherwise known as a banana republic, with grave consequences for our democracy.

A phrase attributed to Louis Brandeis succinctly put it this way, "We must make our choice. We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."



THE BEST THING NEXT TO A YOUNG READER IS A GOOD LISTENER

GUEST OP-ED

Life is a puzzle

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Don't give in that you cannot do any better. You can do better if you put your mind to doing better. If you give up then you don't have a chance. The only people who do better and go forward are those who try. Everyone has the freedom to try.

Think about what you would like for your life to look like. Get a clear picture in your mind. What would it take to achieve that life? Some things are difficult to achieve but most situations can be made better.

What will it take to make your life a little better? Could changing your daily eating just a little make a significant difference in how you feel? Could it make a difference in how your clothes fit? Are you

willing to try?

Most people need a little more money. How will you obtain it? Chances are it won't just appear. Utilize what you know and your skills to work for you. Everyone has gifts and abilities that can be useful if channeled properly. Often it may be what you know or what you can do that will work for you to develop more income. Keep in mind that this may take some time. What you are thinking about today could take weeks or months to see results. Therefore, start now.

We often give up. We try and work hard and seldom see much results and then stop. Often, we get close to being where we want to be and then quit. We lose 20 pounds but put it right back on. We give up a habit but go back to it. We start a project and then quit. So

often, a great idea is like a puzzle with so many pieces that have to fall into place. Once you find all the pieces the puzzle is a beautiful picture that you put together with patience and trying and trying again to fit the right pieces where they belong.

Our lives are like puzzles. We must have a picture in our minds of what we would like to look like if we are going to put that kind of life together. We try different pieces and often they don't fit. Too often we try to make the pieces fit where they don't belong and that never works for a picture. So, you have to keep trying. I've seen people with puzzles out on a table for weeks trying to figure out which piece goes where. This is where most of our lives are much of the time. Trying to find the

right piece of the puzzle.

Making the picture of our lives the way we want it to be is often changing. What we may want today has probably changed from what we wanted even ten years ago. The dynamics are still the same though. Whatever you are working on still requires patience, effort, faith and most importantly a clear picture in your mind of what you are trying to put together.

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

Baker, MBTA and Community Partners highlight food security partnership with The RIDE

Governor Charles Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito last week joined MBTA General Manager Steve Poflak and officials from the City of Boston, Greater Boston YMCA and Greater Boston Food Bank to highlight an innovative partnership to help provide Boston's most vulnerable residents with access to food by utilizing RIDE paratransit service.

"Our administration is committed to addressing food security concerns created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and this partnership between the MBTA, City of Boston, YMCA and Greater Boston Food Bank is an innovative way we can support our most vulnerable residents during these unprecedented times," said Baker. "We are glad this initiative is making a difference, and appreciate the work of so many partners to make it happen."

MBTA General Manager Steve Poflak added, "I want to express my sincere gratitude to the operators of our RIDE vehicles who have stepped up to help our most vulnerable neighbors access food. This partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank, the City of Boston and the YMCA has been a tremendous success, resulting in the delivery of tens of thousands of bags of groceries to citizens in



Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito tour the YMCA of Greater Boston headquarters last week.

need."

"We acknowledge the strong leadership of Governor Baker during the pandemic and relish this opportunity to partner with the MBTA, Mayor Walsh and City of Boston officials to deliver food to our most vulnerable children, families and seniors. It is a blessing to coalesce our organizational skills, infrastructures and 'people power' in the spirit of serving others," said James Morton, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Boston. "We thank the MBTA and City of Boston for allowing the

YMCA of Greater Boston to participate in this important partnership, as we are universally committed to mitigating hunger for all Bostonians during this crisis and beyond. We appreciate the recognition of our work from our partners, Governor Baker and Mayor Walsh."

As ridership on the MBTA's RIDE service has significantly declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, available RIDE vehicles are currently being utilized to pick up and deliver food items and school meals to residents. Collaborating with GBFB and the YMCA,

RIDE drivers arrive at the YMCA location on Huntington Avenue daily to pick up an assortment of grocery bags and shelf stable school meals. Groceries are delivered by RIDE vehicles to designated homes, the amount based on the size of the household and whether or not the family is enrolled in the Boston Public School partnership.

As of the end of June, the RIDE has completed over 8,000 deliveries, totaling more than 12,000 grocery bags and nearly 60,000 school meals to over 1,200 Boston Public School children.

TIMES-FREE PRESS DIRECTORY

617-567-9600 • 781-485-0588

FAX: 781-485-1403

Advertising and Marketing

Debra DiGregorio

Assistant Marketing Director

Maureen DiBella

Senior Sales Associates

Peter Sacco

Kathleen Bright

Legal Advertising

Ellen Bertino

Editorial

Reporters, Regular Contributors

John Lynds

Seth Daniel

Copy Editing, Layout

Scott Yates

Kane DiMasso-Scott

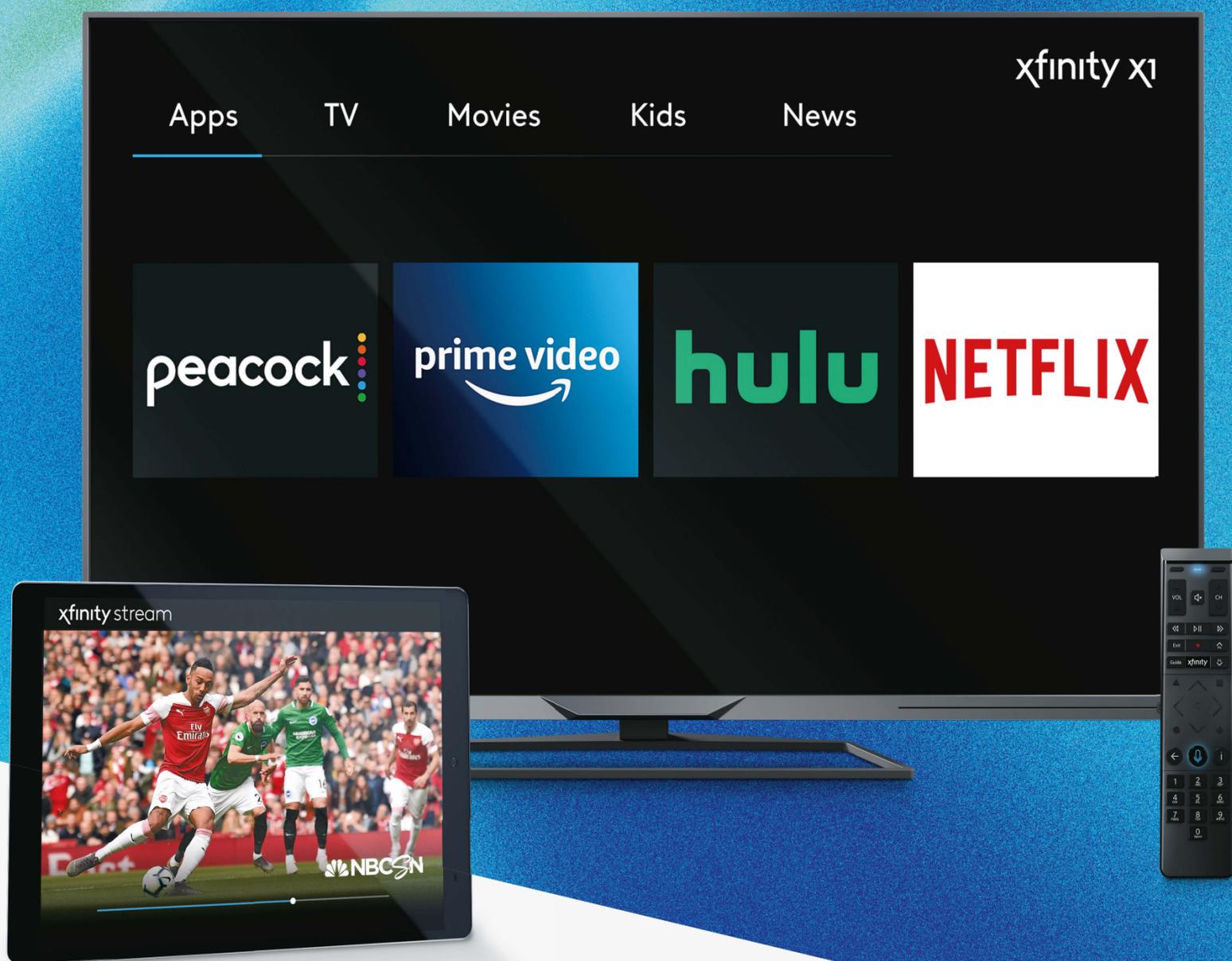
Business

Accounts Executive

Judy Russi

Printer

GateHouse Media



Think you've watched it all? Think again.

If you're looking for an all-in-one entertainment experience, look no further than Xfinity X1, featuring the Xfinity Sports Zone, *the* place to be reunited with live sports, scores, highlights and more. Plus, with X1 all your favorite streaming apps are in one place. And with the award-winning Voice Remote, finding your next show has never been easier. There's always more to see with Xfinity X1, the ultimate entertainment experience. Now that's **simple, easy, awesome**.

Internet | TV | Voice

\$89⁹⁹ / month

for 2 years with 2-year agreement

Equipment, taxes and other charges extra, and subject to change. See details below.

DVR service included for 1 year

Get the **xFi Gateway** for speed, coverage and security

This incredible offer ends July 19.

Go to **xfinity.com**, call **1-800-xfinity**, or visit an **Xfinity Store** today.



Restrictions apply. Not available in all areas. New residential customers only. Limited to Standard+ More Triple Play with Performance Pro 200 Mbps Internet. Early termination fee applies if all Xfinity services are cancelled during the agreement term. Equipment, installation, taxes and fees, including Broadcast TV Fee (up to \$14.95/mo.) and Regional Sports Fee (up to \$8.75/mo.), and other applicable charges extra, and subject to change during and after agreement term or promo. May not be combined with other offers. **TV:** Limited Basic TV service to receive other levels of service. Subscriptions required to access Peacock, Amazon Prime Video, Hulu and Netflix. Netflix, Hulu and Amazon Prime Video use your internet service and will count against any Xfinity data plan. **Internet:** Actual speeds vary and are not guaranteed. For factors affecting speed visit www.xfinity.com/networkmanagement. **Voice:** If there is a power outage or network issue, calling, including calls to 911 may be unavailable. All devices must be returned when service ends. Call for restrictions and complete details. © 2020 Comcast. All rights reserved. Individual programs and marks are property of their respective owners. NPA231941-0004 GBR-Comp-Q3-JulySale-V3

Eastie COVID-19 Updates

By John Lynds

The number of those testing positive for COVID-19 in East Boston dropped once again last week and the infection rate in the neighborhood remains steady according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on Friday.

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

On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks in-

fection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

In one week Eastie's COVID-19 infection rate rose only 1.8 percent from 342.1 cases per 10,000 residents to an infection rate of 348.4 cases per 10,000 residents as of Friday.

As of Friday there were 1,635 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Eastie, up from the 1,607 cases reported by the BPHC the previous week.

Last week the BPHC reported that 6,678 residents were tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that only 7.3 percent percent of those tested were COVID

positive. Overall since the pandemic began around a quarter of Eastie residents tested were found to be positive. This was down from 28.1 percent reported last week.

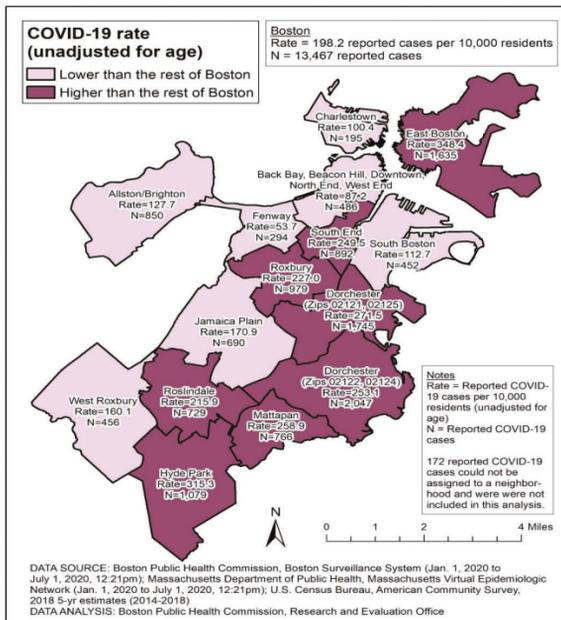
However, Eastie still leads the city in the percentage of residents testing positive for COVID-19. Places like Mattapan, parts of Dorchester and Hyde Park all experienced a big drop in positive tests last week. For example only 1.5 percent of Dorchester residents tested last week were COVID positive.

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 .08 percent from 13,441 cases to 13,556 cases in a week. So far 9,504 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus.

Boston experienced a huge drop in deaths from COVID-19 with only one death reported last week. Deaths from the virus rose by only .14 percent from 709 to 710 deaths.



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

Going on a vacation? Pack your bags, set the GPS...and get a COVID test

By Seth Daniel

Traveling this summer will be awkward at best, but a breath of fresh air is on a much-needed getaway for residents who have been under long quarantines. However, vacationers may have to supply proof of a negative COVID-19 test in many locations.

As people begin to travel regionally – mostly in cars or trains due to the continued risk of air travel – many states are requiring that visitors to Massachusetts either quarantine at their destination for 14 days (which likely isn't happening on a vacation from quarantine), or bring proof they have received a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of arriving. That is exactly the case for Maine, which released its new travel guidance on June 26 – opening up with some restrictions the vacation playground once again to those from Boston.

For Maine officials, the guidance about testing is about protecting the residents there as much as it is about protecting those who are coming up to vacation – and being tested before arriving is something tourism officials there are giving a big thumbs up to.

“We feel really strongly about it and feel it's a great solution,” said Heather Johnson, commissioner of the Maine Dept. of Economic and Community Development. “When you think about tourism in Maine, you grow from 1.3

million people to 22 million in the summer months. That's a very large swing in population. This is one of the options to keep residents and tourists safe. We feel strongly about keeping residents and people coming to Maine safe.”

In Maine, the choices are to quarantine or to test, and it's about protecting the work that has been done on containing COVID-19, while still being able to enjoy a getaway.

“States where numbers are under control need to protect that,” Johnson said. “The best available options to do that are to quarantine or to test. We decided to let visitors make that decision...For the people who want to go downtown or enjoy areas that are populated, they can go to get the test and be confident they are safe and healthy.”

That is exactly what David Belton, a health administrator in Boston, plans to do with his family before they travel to Maine later this month.

Having already had to cancel trips to Italy, Slovenia and Los Angeles in the last three months, he said he's vacation-deprived, and looks forward to some respite in Maine. However, he also wants to follow their rules and have confidence that he isn't bringing COVID-19 north.

“We're planning to go to Maine on July 11 and rent a house there for two weeks,” he said. “My plan is for us to be tested at Boston's South End Commu-

nity Health Center site in advance and then head up that way. We'll get the test on Wednesday, and then leave on Saturday. I'll have my letter or certificate with my result from the health center. I'll carry it with me so they know I'm safe and so I can present it if I get stopped or questioned with my Massachusetts license plates.”

He said if that's what has to be done, he could understand the logic.

“Our plan is for everyone going to be tested,” he said. “I want to be active and out up there. I don't want to self-quarantine for two weeks up there. We've all had enough of that.”

Belton said it's probably a response from Maine to help the vacation destination industry – which is

really hurting – and to also reassure Maine residents that outsiders aren't bringing in the virus.

At the Bayside Inn Bed & Breakfast in Booth Bay Harbor, former Boston residents and Inn proprietors Peter and Kathryn Sullivan said the lodging industry was down 80 percent in April and likely just as much in May. They were only allowed to welcome guests from Massachusetts as of June 26.

Right now, in such uncertain times, they are trying to adjust to COVID-19 restrictions, new sanitary procedures and other ways of doing business. Maine issued its executive order last week allowing Massachusetts residents to come up and visit. With proof of a negative result, visitors can

move about freely without any worry – especially since the Booth Bay area only had 23 cases during the entire COVID-19 outbreak, so it's relatively free of the virus. With the certificate, Sullivan said visitors could take boat tours, hit the hiking trails and get tickets to the world-famous Booth Bay Botanical Gardens. The hope is that Boston residents will take the chance to come up north – even as many have said they will defer summer vacations this year.

“Up until last Friday, we were only allowed to have Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont residents without certification of being virus free,” she said. “As of June 26, anyone who travels here has to sign a certificate of com-

pliance. We'd love to have more Boston people come up. It's much quicker to get here than to the Cape now, I believe. There are some great opportunities here to get outside and enjoy nature.”

Johnson said the state of Maine also is encouraging Massachusetts residents to come up north this summer, but they do want to make sure everyone is safe in doing so.

“We just don't want the back and forth of opening up and closing down,” she said. “We're looking forward to serving them. We are anxious to see them and hope they come and hope they feel safe here. We will do everything we can to protect them.”

DOR reminds taxpayers of income tax filing deadline on Wednesday, July 15, 2020

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) this week reminded Massachusetts taxpayers that the deadline to file both federal and state income tax returns is Wednesday, July 15, 2020. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the tax filing deadlines were extended 90 days from the original April 15, 2020 deadline.

Taxpayers should keep in mind that a range of free electronic options are available for eligible taxpayers, including free fillable forms.

“The Department encourages all Massachusetts taxpayers to utilize the DOR website and review options for filing their state income taxes,” said DOR

Commissioner Geoffrey E. Snyder. “To date, more than 90 percent of Massachusetts taxpayers who have filed their 2019 income taxes have done so electronically. Given social distancing requirements and remote working conditions, electronic filing remains a safe and secure option for refund processing.”

•Assistance for Massachusetts Taxpayers

Volunteers certified by the Internal Revenue Service will provide free tax help for lower-income taxpayers, as well as senior citizens, with both federal and state tax returns. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is for taxpayers with an an-

nual income of \$56,000 or less, those with disabilities, as well as taxpayers with limited or no English language proficiency. The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program provides free tax help to taxpayers who are 60 and older. TCE sites are often operated in partnership with AARP Tax-Aide. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, only some in-person services are available. Taxpayers who qualify for tax-free preparation program should check directly with local VITA and TCE sites.

•Earned Income Tax Credit Increased this Year

The Massachusetts Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) has increased from

23% to 30% of the federal credit. The credit is available to certain taxpayers who meet the requirements of the federal EITC. In order to claim the Massachusetts EITC, you must be a resident of the Commonwealth for at least part of the taxable year and file a tax return.

Massachusetts taxpayers can find more information, including forms, instructions, and helpful tips on DOR's website. To avoid penalties, returns for Massachusetts taxpayers must be filed electronically or postmarked by midnight July 15.

State announces GIC deferring \$190 million in FY21 premium payments for municipal members

Staff Report

Governor Charles Baker announced that the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) would defer \$190 million in premium payments during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) from local cities and towns, regional school districts, and other entities that became members of the GIC through the Munic-

ipal Partnership Act.

This measure will provide important cash-flow relief to GIC municipal members across Massachusetts without compromising the GIC's ability to pay all member claims without any impact on total FY21 revenue.

“By deferring these monthly GIC premium payments, we are providing relief to local munic-

ipalities that are facing budget challenges and cash-flow constraints due to COVID-19,” said Baker. “We are pleased to implement this payment deferral and will continue working to support municipal budgets and government services that are important to the people of Massachusetts.”

All FY21 revenues will be billed and collected later during the fiscal year. The total cash-flow relief anticipated as a result of the FY21 first quarter deferral is approximately \$63 million per month or approximately \$190 million total.

This announcement builds upon additional measures put in place by the Administration to provide cash flow relief and budgetary support to municipalities. This includes making up to \$502 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund available to cities

and towns for COVID-19 response efforts, as well as making up to \$200 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund available for costs related to reopening public schools, \$194 million in federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund grants, and \$25 million in matching funds for remote learning technology grants.

The Group Insurance Commission is a quasi-independent state agency governed by a 17-member Commission. It provides and administers health insurance and other benefits to 460,000 members including the Commonwealth's employees and retirees, and their dependents and survivors, as well as participating municipalities, Housing and Redevelopment Authorities' personnel, retired municipal employees, and teachers in certain governmental units.

WINTHROP TAXI
©/O Ride Right Transportation Inc.

Safe Professional Service EST. 2011

Looking for GREAT drivers
AM & PM Shifts
Good Driving Record, Neat, Clean appearance
 req. Apply in person. Call (617) 539-9999

31 Sachem St., Revere MA
65 Revere St., Winthrop MA

Earn CASH EVERY DAY

Notice of Public Hearing & Request for Comments

CITY of BOSTON

The City of Boston's **Department of Neighborhood Development** announces a public hearing seeking citizen feedback on the draft Program Year 2020 (7/1/20-6/30/21) Action Plan, in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR 91.105(b).

The Action Plan is submitted annually to the US Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD), and serves as the City's application and plan for using \$27.9 million in HUD housing and community development resources from: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic, this will be a Virtual Hearing held on 7/15/20 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Interpretative services in Spanish will be provided. To request another language, including American Sign Language, email DNDComments@boston.gov at least 7 days prior to the hearing date. Every effort will be made to accommodate your request.

Comments are encouraged and may be sent by e-mail to DNDComments@boston.gov until July 30th at 11:59 PM.

To access the plan and the hearing link, go to: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/neighborhood-development/hearings-and-public-comment>

Tim Davis, Deputy Director (DND)

THINK OF IT AS AN OWNER'S MANUAL FOR YOUR MONEY.

The free *Consumer Action Handbook*. In print and online at ConsumerAction.gov, it's the everyday guide to protecting your hard-earned money. For your free copy, order online at ConsumerAction.gov; send your name and address to Handbook, Pueblo, CO 81009; or call toll-free 1 (888) 8 PUEBLO.

Being a smart shopper just got easier.

A public service message from the U.S. General Services Administration.

Four Eastie non-profits receive Better Beaches grant

By John Lynds

During a virtual awards ceremony on ZOOM last week, four East Boston nonprofits received grant money totaling \$21,500 to support free summer beach events throughout the neighborhood as part of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) annual Better Beaches grant program.

In the past the grant money allowed organizations like Piers Park Sailing Center, East Boston YMCA, NOAH, and the Harborkeepers to host events such as Kayaks to Go, Sunset Family Fitness, Kayaking on Constitution Beach, and the Annual East Boston Marine and Maritime Festival.

However, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Executive Director Chris Mancini said this year's grants will support efforts to keep the region's public beaches safe and open this summer. The grant money will go towards supporting free, re-imagined, beach events and programs when the Covid-19 pandemic has passed and public programming can safely resume.

"As the nation continues to wrestle with the challenges of both the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequences of systemic racism, safe and accessible blue and green spaces like the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket are more important than ever" said Mancini. "In

these uncertain times, you can be sure that Save the Harbor/Save the Bay will continue to support our partners in the region's waterfront neighborhoods and beachfront communities, as we work together to keep these spectacular urban natural resources safe, open and welcoming to all."

Overall Piers Park Sailing Center received \$10,000; NOAH received \$5,000; East Boston YMCA received \$5,000; and the Harborkeepers received \$1,500.

"Save the Harbor/Save the Bay is one of Piers Park Sailing Center's most valued partners," said Piers Park Sailing Center (PPSC) Executive Director Alex DeFronzo. "When it comes to making Boston's beaches welcoming and accessible to everyone they are a true champion. Through their advocacy and the great work that they do with the Metropolitan Beaches Commission and the DCR we have been able to work together to activate beaches and the harbor for East Boston youth and families. Our partnership with Save the Harbor created PPSC's Harbor Explorers program for 6-9 year old youth more than 14 years ago."

DeFronzo added that the Better Beaches grant has given PPSC the opportunity to expand free community kayaking both here in Eastie and at Carson Beach in South Boston.

"We are very grateful for all that Save the Harbor does to make the beaches and Boston Harbor wel-

coming to everyone," he said.

Over at the YMCA, Executive Director Joe Gaeta said each year Save the Harbor/Save the Bay helps bring fitness and fun to Constitution Beach.

"With this grant we hope to provide free family and adult Group Exercise classes once it is safe to do so at the beach," said Gaeta. "Save the Harbor/Save the Bay has been a strong partner of the East Boston Y in making sure our community's youth have safe access to our beaches and waterfronts. We appreciate the continued support and are excited to see what we can work on for late summer/early fall."

Harborkeepers Founder and Director Magdalena LaBattaglia said her organization will use the grant money to host smaller events in lieu of the larger Maritime Festival.

"The Harborkeepers is incredibly grateful for Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's continued support of our summer waterfront programming," said LaBattaglia. "As part of our mission to build coastal resiliency in and around East Boston, we rely on valuable partners like Save the Harbor/Save the Bay to help us foster and amplify coastal stewardship of the Boston Harbor and the Chelsea Creek. This grant allows us to provide community residents equitable, educational and recreational access to the shoreline and the water through our signature summer Marine and Maritime



East Boston's Constitution Beach. Four Eastie nonprofits were recipients of this year's Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) annual Better Beaches grant program.

Festival."

LaBattaglia added, "This year, we will be using the funds in a series of smaller educational and fun waterfront activities that continues the path of coastal access and stewardship while adhering to current pandemic guidelines. We look forward to our continued partnership with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay."

Each year Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches grant program funds a host of activities along Eastie's shoreline during the summer months.

In total, more than \$200,000 was awarded in Better Beaches Program grants. These grants will allow 39 organizations in nine communities to fund

great partnership. I look forward to seeing you all on your beach, hopefully very soon."

Funds to support the Better Beaches Program come from DCR, JetBlue and the proceeds of the Harpoon Shamrock Splash fundraiser. Since Save the Harbor/Save the Bay began the Better Beaches Program partnership with the Department of Conservation & Recreation in 2008, they have awarded almost \$900,000 in small grants to support nearly 500 events on the region's public beaches for kids and families in Eastie Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull.

DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery took part in the ZOOM ceremony and applauded the power of the Better Beaches Program partnership with DCR, which has invested more than \$1 million dollars in free beach programs since it began in 2007.

"The Baker/Polito Administration has made it a priority to support great partnerships like this, that encourage people to get and enjoy the outdoors in a safe and responsible way" said Montgomery. "With Covid-19, our beaches and parks are even more important for people's mental and physical health. It is a

Mayor Walsh creates illegal fireworks task force

By John Lynds

Last month, Boston Police began cracking down on illegal fireworks in East Boston and in neighborhoods across the city.

In one incident back in June, Boston Police from District A-7 were trying to disperse a crowd at Lopresti Park that were setting off fireworks after receiving numerous complaints from residents. When police arrived they were struck by fireworks thrown by a male suspect, later identified as Felix Martinez.

East Boston Police and across Boston have been receiving calls and complaints nightly of illegal fireworks being set off in parks, shot off from backyards and launched from Constitution Beach.

Last week Mayor Martin Walsh said he has had enough and formed a new Task Force to address the increase of illegal fireworks in Eastie and other neighborhoods.

The Task Force will be made up of the Mayor's Chief of Civic Engagement, the four At-Large City Councilors, the Boston Ar-

son Squad/Fire Investigation Unit, the Boston Police Department's Bureau of Community Engagement, and community leaders.

"Fireworks are a serious issue not only in the City of Boston, but all across the country. People lose sleep, babies are woken up, some people with PTSD experience real harms, pets are terrified and they're fire hazards," said Walsh. "Working together with our partners in public safety, the City Council and the community as a Task Force is an important way to address this issue and work to take fireworks off the streets."

The At-Large City Councilors joining the Task Force include Councilors Annissa Essaibi-George, Michael Flaherty, Julia Mejia and Michelle Wu.

While there have always been some illegal fireworks leading up to the Fourth of July the Mayor said this year has been worse than usual.

Firework calls to the Boston Police Department were up by a factor of 5,543% in June 2020, compared to June 2019. There

were 139 calls last June and 7,844 this June, to date.

At a press conference last week the Mayor said illegal fireworks pose significant dangers to the safety of our residents and their property, and do not belong in our communities. Walsh pointed to Massachusetts General Law that states that it is illegal for residents to use, possess or sell fireworks in the state. It is also illegal to purchase them legally elsewhere and then transport them into the state.

The City has been hold-

ing outdoor community meetings to share information and create inclusive responses to the problem.

Walsh urged residents who hear or see fireworks being displayed in their neighborhood to please call 911 immediately for a police response. If you wish to report the illegal purchasing or selling of fireworks, you can do so anonymously by contacting the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word 'TIP' to CRIME (27463).



The BPD has confiscated significant amounts of fireworks so far this year.

WINTHROP MARKETPLACE

Your Independent Grocer, Where Old Friends Meet And New Ones Are Made

SALE DAYS THURSDAY, JULY 9TH THROUGH WEDNESDAY JULY 15TH, 2020

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

<p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Grocery</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Great grocery specials</p> <p>Gatorade 32 oz 10/ \$10.00</p> <p>Chobani Yogurt & Flips 10/ \$10.00</p> <p>General Mills Honey Nut Cheerios... 2/ \$4.00</p> <p>General Mills Golden Grahams Cereal 2/ \$4.00</p> <p>Dunkin Donuts Bagged Coffee..... \$5.99</p> <p>Chicken of the Sea Solid White Canned Tuna 4/ \$5.00</p> <p>Arm & Hammer Laundry Detergent 2/ \$6.00</p> <p>Bertolli Olive Oil 16.9 oz..... \$5.99</p> <p>Ellios Pizza 2/ \$7.00</p> <p>Rays Bagels 2/ \$4.00</p> <p>Grown In Idaho Frozen Potatoes 2/ \$4.00</p> <p>Axelrod Sour Cream 16 oz 2/ \$3.00</p> <p>Best Yet Buttermilk Biscuits..... 2/ \$1.00</p>	<p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Bakery</p> <p>Ciabatta Bread \$2.99</p> <p>Peanut Butter Brownies \$3.99</p> <p>Flatout Breads..... \$2.99</p>
<p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Meat</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">"Meat Cut Fresh Every Day"</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Family Pack Specials</p> <p>Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops \$1.99/lb</p> <p>Split Chicken Breast \$1.69/lb</p> <p>Grade A Chicken Leg Quarters \$0.89/lb</p> <p>Shell Sirloin Steaks..... \$3.99/lb</p>	
<p>Best Yet Bacon 16 oz..... 2/ \$10.00</p> <p>Boca Burgers select varieties 10 oz. 2/ \$6.00</p> <p>Simply Mashed Potatoes select varieties 2/ \$5.00</p>	
<p style="color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Weekend Specials</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Friday, July 10th through Sunday July 12th</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: green; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">"while supplies last"</p> <p>BAKERY</p> <p>New York Style Crumb Cake \$6.69</p> <p>DELI</p> <p>Great Lakes American Cheese \$3.99 lb</p> <p>Natural Casing Hot Dogs..... \$5.99 lb</p> <p>Our Own In Store Antipasto Salad \$5.99 lb</p> <p>PRODUCE</p> <p>All Purpose Yellow Onions 2 lb bag \$1.29</p> <p>Super Select Cucumbers..... 2/ \$1.00</p> <p>Bi-Color Corn 4/ \$3.00</p> <p>MEAT</p> <p>Family Pack Boneless Chicken Thighs \$1.99 lb</p> <p>Baby Back Ribs \$4.99 lb</p> <p>Best Yet Cooked Shrimp 31-40 ct 16 oz bag \$6.99</p> <p>GROCERY</p> <p>Hood Ice Cream..... 2/ \$5.00 limit 4</p> <p>Tropicana Orange Juice 59 oz 2/ \$4.00 limit 2</p> <p>Hellmann's Mayonnaise 30 oz \$4.99 limit 2</p>	

Deli

Krakus Imported Polish Ham..... \$6.99 lb

Butterball Oven Roasted Turkey Breast \$5.99 lb

Carando Genoa Salami \$7.99 lb

Great Lakes Swiss Cheese \$4.99 lb

Hans Kissele Red Bliss Potato Salad \$3.99 lb

Produce

Fresh Plump Blueberries 12 oz pkg. 2/ \$5.00

Sweet Seedless Clementine's 3 lb bag. \$4.99

Tropical Sweet & Delicious Mangoes 10/ \$10.00

California Fresh Celery Hearts 2/ \$5.00

Fresh & Sweet Premium Red Seedless Grapes \$2.29 lb

35 REVERE ST., WINTHROP • (617) 846-6880 • WWW.WINTHROPMTPLACE.COM

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

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

DO YOU SPRAY ROUND UP?

COULD YOU BE AT RISK

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



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

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

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

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

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

OBITUARIES

Anita Veldhuizen-Taylor

She had an upbeat personality and a beautiful soul

Anita Veldhuizen-Taylor who celebrated her 50th birthday on June 10, peacefully passed away after a 17-year battle with cancer.

Born in Zwolle, Netherlands, Anita's adventurous spirit and fierce independence inspired her to move to Boston at the young age of 20. Her easy-going personality and hard-working mentality led to strong and lasting relationships.

Thirteen years after moving to America, her path crossed with John Taylor while accompanying a friend to an Easter gathering. With her upbeat attitude and beautiful soul, John and his family instantly loved Anita, just as she instantly loved them.

Anita filled her garden and home with creativity and her family with laughter and countless happy memories. She transformed her garden into a sanctuary and shared it with her cat, Missy, who she had taken in from the outdoors and nurtured back to health.

Anita is survived by her loving husband, John Taylor, her mother, Gea Krekel, her father, Frits Veldhuizen, her brother, Richard Veldhuizen, his wife, Laura and their two daughters, Lynn and Nora, her mother-in-law, Sabina



Taylor, brother-in-law, Edward Taylor, sister-in-law, Judy Taylor-Crespo and her four sons: Richard, Joshua, Ethan and Evan Crespo and brother-in-law, Ricky Crespo.

Please join us as we celebrate her life on Sunday, July 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Vazza's "Beachwood" Funeral Home, 262 Beach Street, Revere.

At the family's, request please omit flowers. Donations may be made in Anita's memory to Mass General Hospital Yawkey Cancer Center. Adhering to the guidelines of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the CDC, visitation will be limited to 40 family members and friends. A mask will be required to attend services. For guest book and directions please visit www.vazzafunerals.com.

Anna Patricia Blair

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

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

She was the beloved wife of the late Kenneth P. Blair, Sr., devoted, loving and amazing mother of the late Kenneth P. Blair, Jr., Vincent, Janet, Lee-Ann and Edward Blair of East Boston and Joseph and his wife, Sally Blair of Lincoln, MA; adored and proud grandmother of nine grandchildren: Kristina (Blair) and her husband, Andrew Howard of Washington, DC, Casey (Blair) and her husband, Dave Hunt of Londonderry, NH, Robert G. Vitale, Jr. of Peabody, Olivia (Danielle) Fernandez of East Boston, Matthew, Thomas, Andrew, Joan and Emma of Lincoln, MA and two great grandchildren, Cody and Mackenzie Hunt of Londonderry, NH and also the late Linda Bohnicky of Maynard, MA.

Anna was born on July 26, 1932 and was a life-long resident of East Boston. She was the cherished daughter of the late Joseph A. Pepe, Sr. and Pasqualina (Grieco) Pepe of East Boston, originally from Bonito Avellino, Italy. Anna was the cherished sister to the late Alexander (Sonny) Pepe and his late wife, Pam of Marstons Mills, Cape Cod, Gilda (Pepe) Morgan and her late husband, Jack of Moreno Valley, CA, Anthony and his wife, Fran of



Punta Gorda, FL and Joseph Pepe, Jr. and his wife, Marie of East Boston. Anna was loved and adored by many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

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

We lost a remarkable woman full of Life, Courage and Determination with such Style, Elegance and a Personality that Lit up a Room.

Anna was the Family's Matriarch, Historian and Storyteller. Her Talents were Endless. She will be Missed, Loved and Remembered by All. Our Tears were no match for the Cheers in Heaven.

Funeral arrangements were by the Ruggiero Funeral Home, East Boston. She was laid to rest at the Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden. For more information, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

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

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

RESIDENTS EARN DEGREES FROM CLARK UNIVERSITY

The following local residents received a degree from Clark University on Sunday, May 24.

* Diana Argiles Castillo, of East Boston graduated with a Master of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

* Juan Lopera, of East Boston graduated with a Master of Business Administration.

Clark conferred 465 bachelor's degrees, 379 master's degrees, and 39 doctoral degrees during the University's 116th Commencement; the virtual ceremony featured musical performances, video montages, and messages of congratulations, pride, and encouragement that were livestreamed on Clark's website and on Facebook Live. (No on-campus public event was held this year in accordance with safety protocols surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.) Clark administrators delivered speeches live from five podiums set up on the Clark University campus, arranged to adhere to social distancing requirements; the ceremony also included two prerecorded student addresses.

President David Angel requested a moment of silence and reflection for the more than 300,000 people worldwide who have lost their lives to COVID-19.

In his remarks, President Angel told the graduates, "We dedicate this ceremony to you, our graduating students. We do so with joy in our hearts, a sense of awe for all you have accomplished during your time at Clark, and a passionate belief in the lives of purpose, curiosity, love, and continued growth that lie ahead for each and every one of you."

Angel emphasized that

while Clark has long been fertile ground for individual aspirations and achievements, it's as a community that the University thrives. "[Clark is] a community of courageous thinkers and resilient doers, a community that seeks unabashedly to change the world for the better, and to be a place of purpose guided by values of equity, justice, compassion, rigor, and excellence. Clark graduates throughout the decades have made a difference, and we are proud and excited to welcome you to this distinguished alumni community."

President Angel is retiring after a 33-year career at Clark, 10 of those years as president. Angel said when time is right and it is safe to do so, he and his wife Jocelyne will return to campus to join them for a "celebration under the stars that all of you so richly deserve."

Highlights from Clark's 116th Commencement ceremony are available on the web.

About Clark University
Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, nearly 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our learning community to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence. Clark's academic departments and institutes develop solutions to complex global problems across the disciplines, and the University addresses the behavioral health of adolescents and young adults through the Mosakowski Institute for Public Enterprise.

Magrath
FUNERAL HOME

336 Chelsea St., East Boston
617-567-0910 | www.magrathfuneralhome.com



VERTUCCIO & SMITH
HOME FOR FUNERALS, INC.

Danny S. Smith

773 Broadway
Revere, MA 02151
Phone (781) 284-7756
www.veruccioandsmith.com

Vazza
"Beechwood"
Funeral Home

262 Beach St., Revere
(781) 284-1127

Louis R. Vazza ~ Funeral
www.vazzafunerals.com

Please visit eastietimes.com

VOZZELLA GRANITE INDUSTRIES

CEMETERY LETTERS
GRAVE STONES
MONUMENT CLEANING

617-592-2209

vozzellagraniteindustries.com

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices

will be at a cost of

\$100.00 per paper.

That includes photo.

Please send to

obits@reverejournal.com

or call 781-485-0588

House passes bill to address racial inequities in maternal health

Rep. RoseLee Vincent joined Speaker Robert DeLeo and their colleagues in the House to pass a bill aimed at eliminating racial inequities in maternal health.

An Act to reduce racial inequities in maternal health will create a special legislative commission to make recommendations that reduce or remove the kind of racial inequities that result in women of color dying of pregnancy-related causes at more than double the rate of white women. The commission will gather information and raise awareness of this systemic societal problem, in addition to reporting on barriers to equitable maternal care and best practices for remedying inequities.

"The House understands that an important part of addressing racism is battling systemic and institutional barriers to equity, such as racial disparities in health care. We want to make sure all women are treated equitably by our healthcare system," said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo (D-Winthrop). "I thank Chair Aaron Michlewitz, Chair Kay Khan, Acting Chair Dan Cullinane, Rep. Liz Miranda and my colleagues in the House for their work on this bill that confronts racial inequities in maternal health and will save lives."

"I thank Speaker DeLeo and Chairwoman Khan for their leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor of the House," said Rep. RoseLee Vin-

cent (D-Revere). "As we address and tackle the issue of systemic racism in our Commonwealth, I am proud to have voted in support of this needed bill that will help address racial disparities in healthcare for mothers in Massachusetts."

"This important piece of legislation will allow us to continue to address the fight to end racial disparities in maternal health," said Michlewitz, Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means (D-Boston). "I look forward to continuing to work on these vital issues with my colleagues so that every family can benefit from the world class healthcare system the Commonwealth has."

"Tragically, racism perpetuated over generations has caused life-threatening inequities in maternal health for Black and Brown mothers. I was honored to file this bill with Miranda, as I believe it is incumbent on us as leaders in state government to do everything we can to keep all Massachusetts mothers healthy and thriving," said Khan, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities (D-Newton). "I am grateful to Speaker DeLeo for recognizing the urgency in acting on H.4818, as well as my House colleagues who voted unanimously for the passage of this vital maternal equity bill."

"I am proud that the House, under Speaker DeLeo's leadership, once

again led with urgency in prioritizing and passing H.4818, a bill which establishes a commission to address racial disparities in maternal health here in the Commonwealth," said Cullinane, Acting House Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing (D-Dorchester). "We see issues like this play out every day in districts like mine which is one of the most diverse districts in the Commonwealth. The fact is that in 2020 it is unconscionable that you are twice as likely to die giving birth if you are a black mother than if you are a white mother. Today's vote is another positive step in the movement to address racism by tackling the systematic and institutional barriers to equity in Massachusetts. The passage of H.4818 shows that issues of justice and equity remain front and center in the House of Representatives."

"Maternal Justice is Racial Justice. Research on maternal health has focused on bandaging the effects and focusing on individual women's actions, rather than on addressing the larger, systemic problem: racism, poverty, lack of access to care and the social determinants of health. Here in Massachusetts, Black women die at over twice the rate of white women. In a state with some of the best health care in the country, this issue should not be ignored. This legislation is timely, important and necessary," said Rep.

Liz Miranda (D-Boston). "Too many Black women are dying in the United States, and this crisis isn't far away from us. It's right in our backyard. Representing the most diverse district in the Commonwealth, I know that far too many in our communities have an intimate connection to this issue."

The 25-member commission will investigate and report on:

- Best-practices by other states or grass-roots organizations to reduce or eliminate racial inequities in maternal health or severe maternal morbidity, including, among other approaches, culturally competent and affordable doula services;

- Accessibility and affordability of birthing centers, maternal medical homes, and doula care and the diversity and cultural competency of maternal health care providers;

- Barriers to accessing prenatal and postpartum care;

- How historical and current structural, institutional and individual forms of racism affect maternal mortality as well as potential solutions, such as bias training in hospital facilities and birthing centers;

- Available data relating to maternal mortality and morbidity.

An Act to reduce racial inequities in maternal health now moves to the Senate.

NEWS IN BRIEF

JPNA JULY 13 MEETING AGENDA

Below please find the agenda for the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association scheduled monthly meeting for July, 2020. The meeting will be held via Zoom Video Conference due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.

AGENDA (subject to change):

Greetings & Announcements

Boston Police Update

State Senator Joseph Boncore – Update

NOAH Youth – Update on summer work

Review of Voting Procedures – JPNA Board Members

VOTE! - 492 Sumner St – Presented by Jeff Drago and Assoc. Renovation of an existing structure and change of Zoning from a three to a four family.

VOTE! - 323 Maverick St – Presented by Jeff Drago and Assoc. Demolition of an existing building and build a three family with three parking spaces.

VOTE! - 32 Orleans St – Presented by Richard Lynds. Proposal for demolition of an existing structure, combine two lots and build a five story multi family dwelling with two tandem parking spots.

VOTE! - 159-165 Everett St – Presented by Richard Lynds. Demolition of an

existing structure, combining multiple lots to create a 7-unit residential dwelling with 8 parking spots.

VOTE! - 333 Maverick St – Presented by Richard Lynds. Proposal to add an addition on the back and living space in the basement. Change zoning from a three to a four family.

Questions will be handled via the Zoom chat feature. Looking forward to “seeing” you all there!

2020 meeting dates are posted at jeffriespoint.org

BPL NEWS

Need some summer reading books, dvds or some beach books? The East Boston Branch Library can help. The East Boston Branch Library is now open in the afternoon for holds pickups as part of the BPL to Go program. Patrons can request items with their library card at www.bpl.org, email eastboston@bpl.org or by call 617-536-5400. When the items come in, they will receive notification with instructions how to schedule a pickup. The library is open for scheduled pickups, Monday-Thursday from 2 to 6 and on Fridays from 1 to 4. Books and other materials can also be returned during these hours. If you have others questions or need more assistance, please email eastboston@bpl.org.

• Revere • Everett • Winthrop • Lynn • East Boston • Chelsea • Charlestown

Independent Newspaper Group

Classified

Call: 781-485-0588 Fax: 781-485-1403

7 COMMUNITIES *More Than 100,000 Readers Each Week*

REAL ESTATE
Sales • Rentals
Land • Commercial
RECRUITMENT
Professional • Medical
General • Services

• Auto Sales • Yard Sales
• Miscellaneous

HELP WANTED

Personal Care Attendant needed in Everett area, Afternoons & Evenings. If interested, call Susan, 617-389-6190 7/20

APT FOR RENT

WINTHROP - Ft. Heath Apts. - Ocean View 1 & 2 BR apts. in mod. shoreline bldg. Non-smoking/no pets. Steps to beach, minutes to Boston. Pool, billiards, exercise facility, lounge, pkg. Heat & HW incl. 617-846-7300 Debra. 7/15

SOBER HOUSING

Sober Housing Accommodations Safe and sober housing accommodations for men and women available now in Revere, East Boston and Lynn. Call today 617-610-0053 or visit americasober.com 7/8

HOUSE FOR RENT

House for Rent Beachmont area, 2nd floor, 2 Bdrm, 2 car pky, central air, walk to beach, shopping, T. References Required. 617-846-0106 \$1,700/mo 7/8, 7/15

SELLING YOUR AUTO? Call for our 4 week special! Call 781-485-0588

SELLING YOUR AUTO? Call for our 4 week special! Call 781-485-0588 or fax the ad to 781-485-1403

DEADLINES: For classified line ads, deadlines are Monday by 4 p.m. Call 781-485-0588 or fax the ad to 781-485-1403

LOOKING FOR Great Results? Call our classified department. Call 781-485-0588 or fax the ad to 781-485-1403

LOOKING FOR Great Results? Call our classified department. Call 781-485-0588 or fax the ad to 781-485-1403

PHAP AGENCIES & OTHER STATE/ LOCAL REFERRAL AGENCIES

BOSTON FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION
One City Hall Plaza, Suite 966
Boston, MA 02201-1054
617-635-4408

CAMBRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
51 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139-1732
617-349-4396

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES
21 Grand Street, 4th Floor
Hartford, CT 06106-1561
860-541-3400

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
51 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
207-624-6050

MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
One Ashburton Place, Room 601
Boston, MA 02108-1599
617-994-6000

RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
180 Westminster Street, 3rd floor
Providence, RI 02903-3768
401-222-2616/2

VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
2 Chennell Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633-6301
802-826-2400

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
135 State Street, Drawer 33
Concord, NH 03301-9053
603-271-2767

NEW HAVEN COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
200 Orange Street, Room 402
New Haven, CT 06510
203-946-8160/8165

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" tollfree at 1-800-646-8777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5300. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

EMERGENCY ALL BLOOD TYPES NEEDED.

Give now. American Red Cross

NEEDTORUNALEGALNOTICE?
BesuretocheckwiththeCourtsto seeifyouqualifyforaFEEWAVIER

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Docket No. SU20P0875EA
Estate of: Robert J. Whelan, Sr. Also Known As: Robert J. Whelan
Date of Death: April 18, 2020
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Alanna C Flaherty

of Hingham, MA. Alanna C Flaherty of Hingham, MA. Robert J Whelan, Jr. of Southampton, NY. Has been informally appointed as the Personal Representatives. Of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the

Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting

the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

7/8/20 EB

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

Eastie's Professional Service Directory

ASPHALT/PAVING

R. SASSO & SONS
ASPHALT PAVING - CONSTRUCTION
Curb Cuts - Landscaping - Water Lines - Excavation
Concrete Foundations - Retaining Walls - Stone Delivery
Bobcat Service - Concrete - Seal Coat - Sewer Lines - Free Fill
BOB 781-284-6311 Family Operated Since 1963
617-A-S-P-H-A-L-T

ELECTRICIAN

Dominic Petrosino Electrician
"No Job Too Small"
Prompt Service is my Business
Free Estimates
Licensed & Insured E29162
617-569-6529

CLEANING SERVICES

Dynamic Duo House Cleaning
Free Estimates
dynamicduocleaning@hotmail.com
857-389-4090

Call 781-485-0588 to Advertise with us

FANTASTIC CLEANING SERVICE
Complete Housekeeping & Carpet Cleaning
Residential • Commercial
Free Estimates
Call Mary
Office (617) 567-5317
Cell: (617) 719-9498

CONSTRUCTION

978-852-5643
www.dandrbuildersinc.com
D&R Builders
Finish Work Is Our Specialty
New Construction • Additions • Design
Vinyl Siding • Kitchen/ Bath Remodels
Licensed & Insured • FREE ESTIMATE

CONTRACTING

Neighborhood Affordable General Contractors
857-258-5584
Home Improvements Consultants
Residential/ Commercial • Interior/ Exterior • New Construction Build and Design • Attics • Basements • Additions
Vinyl Siding • Roofing • Porches
Windows • Kitchen and bathrooms
Pre-approved Contractors for first time home buyers programs
VICTOR V. MA CSL#088821
Quality Work @ Reasonable Rates
Free Estimates! 30 Years Experience!

HANDYMAN

HANDYMAN
Painting | Landscaping
Yard Cleaning
Call 561-352-0749
Servicing Revere & Local Areas

1 col. x 1 inch \$60.00

HOME REPAIR

HOME REPAIR?
Call AL COY
617-539-0489
Masonry & Chimney Pointing, Carpentry & Odd Jobs

We Clean & Repair Gutters

PLASTERING

AUGUSTA PLASTERING
Interior/Exterior
• Blueboard • Plastering
Jim 617-567-5927
Free Estimates
978-777-6611

LANDSCAPING

Spring Clean Ups
CLOVERS LAWN CARE
• New Lawns Installed
• Trees and Branches
• Mulch & Hedges
• Mowing & Fertilizing
• Junk Removal
FREE ESTIMATES
Call Kevin
617-884-2143
cloverslawn@icloud.com

PAINTING

Prestige Painting Inc.
Free Estimates!
Fully Insured!
GIVE US A CALL 617-970-6314

Luciano Viola President
246 Webster St. E. Boston, MA 02128
or reach us by email
PRESTIGEPAINING75@GMAIL.COM

Painting and Landcaping
Residential Painting • Cleaning & pruning plants
Call or text 617-767-5048
elvessantosta@hotmail.com

Beautiful Home Painting
617-767-5048
www.beautifulhome-mass.com
- FREE ESTIMATES -
Elvis Da Silva
elvessantista@hotmail.com

JOHN J. RECCA PAINTING
Interior/Exterior
Commercial/Residential
Fully Insured
Quality Work
Reasonable Rates
Free Estimates
reccapainting@hotmail.com
781-241-2454

Nick D'Agostino Professional Painter
Cell: 617-270-3178
Fully Insured
Free Estimates

HOME IMPROVEMENT

RICH BUILDERS
Winthrop, MA 02152
Licensed & Insured
617-212-7792 Cell
Interior & Exterior • Construction
Remodeling • Painting
Over 25 years in business
FREE Estimates

Hanton Home Repairs
• Handyman
• Windows
• Painting
• Decks
781-307-0947

TO ADVERTISE IN OUR SERVICE DIRECTORY CALL
781-485-0588 X110 OR EMAIL
KBRIGHT@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

PLUMBING

Dj Mechanical
Quality & Affordable Service
D/B/A Dj Mechanical
Call Anthony
(617) 784-4521

2 col. x 1 inch \$120.00 for 3 Months (\$10.00 per week)

ROOFING & SIDING

Always the Best Value
Roofing & Siding by V.S.R.
WINTER SPECIALS

“Our goal is to provide our customers with the highest quality material and professional installations in the business.”
-J.B.

Free Estimates
781-520-1699
Licensed & Insured • General Contractor

• Custom Porches & Decks
Windows • Gutters • Commercial
Flat & Rubber Roofs

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

COUNCIL APPROVES BUDGET

CHELSEA - The Chelsea City Council approved an overall City Budget of \$181.086 million, but not without a great deal of discussion and low marks for the effort and presentation by City Manager Tom Ambrosino.

The Budget was not a unanimous vote, passing 8-3. Those voting against were Councillors Damali Vidot, Enio Lopez and Yamir Rodriguez.

Those voting for the budget were Councillors Roy Avellaneda, Calvin Brown, Leo Robinson, Todd Taylor, Judith Garcia, Naomi Zobot, Giovanni Recupero, and Melinda Vega Maldonado.

The City Budget, by his own admission, wasn't going to win any awards – Ambrosino said earlier this month – but it was one that avoided layoffs and major cuts to critical programs by using money from the Rainy Day Fund.

By renegotiating with City unions about deferring pay raises, most union workers in City Hall and beyond were spared layoffs – something that is happening in large numbers at other municipalities.

The three parts of the budget approved included:

- Salaries: \$49,580,934
- Operations: \$131,210,157
- Capital Improvements: \$295,000

To balance the budget that was approved, the Council had to give the okay to using \$4.9 million from the Stabilization Fund – which has grown over the years as Chelsea socked away money in good times.

Now, everyone agreed, was a Rainy Day.

However, there was no love of the effort given to the City Budget this year by most every councillor, even those that voted for it.

Councillor Vidot led off the discussion by saying she would not vote for the budget, and followed through with that.

“We’re in the middle of a pandemic and yet we’re seeing proposed budget cuts to some of the most important departments, such as Health and Human Services” said Vidot. “We needed more creativity in this budget. Cutting the funding for this department in a city that has lost 152 lives is unacceptable... We had a chance here to lead and create a real need that addresses the needs of the community. I think it misses the mark sorely and I will not support it.”

Said Calvin Brown, “A lot more could have been done. I really think we had an opportunity to make some change on several issues. There were none of those things mentioned.”

Council President Avellaneda said he expected a more professional presentation, roles of employees defined and mission statements for every department. He said there were parts he couldn't even follow, and if he cannot follow it with decades in government service, then certainly the public couldn't either.

“Some of this didn't even have page numbers,” he said. “It was a disaster. If I were a professor, I'd give you an 'F' absolutely. That's not even something you could present online for the public to look at and digest. I don't want to hear COVID-19 – I don't. I'm not buying it. I hope next year this looks a lot better...”

He also said on the substance of the budget, he disagreed with a lot of the revenue projections, and predicted that the City Manager would be back in the fall for cuts or to try to

raise taxes.

“Come October and November, we're going to look at ourselves and say, 'It's time to pay for this budget.'”

Councillor Garcia said she understood the issues, and she too was disappointed with the budget, but felt voting against it wasn't necessary.

“As much as I wish I could join in collectively to make a statement on the budget that we're not proud of and could have been better, I have a civic duty to vote on a budget,” she said.

Councillor Taylor said he wasn't impressed with the format or presentation, but he said it was quite an accomplishment to avoid layoffs in these dark times.

“Speaking as someone who has 700 employees and I had to lay all of them off and my industry has been destroyed, I'm pretty proud of this budget that we don't have to lay anyone off. That's a big deal,” he said. “To save people's jobs and keep everyone employed is important and needs to be recognized.”

Councilor Robinson said the Council needs to shoulder some of the burden for the bad budget as well.

“We have just as much responsibility to develop programs and help our community,” he said. “We as a City Council need to step up to the plate and share in these responsibilities.”

There were no cuts to the City Budget in the form of amendments by the Council, though one was defeated.

OUTDOOR DINING HAS MIXED REVIEWS

CHELSEA - The excitement of outdoor dining in Chelsea Square's wonderful ambiance fluttered out for a lot of restaurant owners at about the third table they had to drag out to the sidewalk and street – knowing they had to also drag them back in every night.

Friday night, June 26, marked an exciting night in Chelsea Square and beyond as many restaurants opened for the first time in months – allowing some indoor dining and special outdoor sidewalk/street considerations for restaurants willing to participate.

At Mi Salvador, they had six colorful tables on the brick sidewalk, as the sun shone on Chelsea Square and they opened to diners for the first in weeks June 22. Last Friday, they decided to try the City's outdoor program as well.

“It's better than nothing,” said Vladimir Chino, owner.

However, that was about the best review from owners that the program got, despite loads of hard work and effort put into the program by the City, the License Commission and Chelsea Prosper.

One of the key problems was that the dining areas had to be broken down every night at closing, around 10 p.m. They were only able to go out at 5 p.m., so a gargantuan effort had to be made for about five or six tables.

“I think it's good for what it is now,” said Whitney Huynh, general manager of Tijuana's. “It is a lot of work bringing the tables in and out every day. I appreciate the City's effort. For people who are younger, they are going to like this... People really love outdoor dining, and this is the first time we've done this. We do need more space and this does give us more space outdoors.”

Danny from Catracho's on Broadway said he was extremely disappointed, and he said others near him were as well.

They didn't like the

wooden pallet barriers that were assigned and used – which were built on the fly by volunteers. He said they were dangerous and weren't very aesthetic. He also said they were told they couldn't put creative lighting – nothing with electricity – or heating lamps outside. And, he said he and another establishment had a plan to really decorate their spaces with plants and flowers. However, it wasn't going to work if they had to take them inside every day.

“I don't want to throw dirt on the City, but they could have done this a lot better,” he said. “I'm going to give this a try, but it's not the lifeline I was hoping for. My customers are going to look at this, and then go and look what they're doing in other cities – like East Boston – and they're going to go to East Boston. I love the idea and I love their effort. I just don't like how they did it. There are too many rules, too many things we can't do, and other places have been doing this for weeks now. We're actually behind.”

Both Danny and Huynh said if the City is going to do outdoor dining, it has to be permanent.

Downtown Coordinator Mimi Graney said the trouble was there was some hesitation from the City Council and the Traffic Commission to commit to permanent assemblies until restaurants committed to the program. Meanwhile, restaurants didn't want to commit until the City committed to something more.

She said the program is in its infancy, and she hopes early issues can spur City boards to make more changes – leading to greater closures and more permanency such as has been done on Moody Street in Waltham, which is closed to all traffic except morning deliveries.

The Traffic and Parking Commission and City Council approved only just the evenings for the parklets,” she said. “When we were going before them the businesses were not sure they were interested and we were hearing only concerns about 'losing' parking spaces. The city had only ever allowed parklets for just a few hours on one day so this was going to be a big ask for them to approve reserving so many spaces all at once. I've fielded those complaints. My hope was by showing there was interest by both businesses and customers we could go back to the Commission to expand the program. The barriers from the roadway are significant but on the other side there are complaints that anything less would be less safe.”

She did clarify that lights and heaters are allowed under the program, but businesses just need to detail how it would be set up and be safe from fire hazards.

CORBELLI FAMILY REUNITED ON FATHER'S DAY

EVERETT - The Corbelli family was prepared for anything, with doctors informing them of virtually every possible outcome as the days went on that their husband – their father – continued to be unconscious in a coma due to infection from COVID-19.

They weren't allowed to see him except on Facetime, and even then, he was unconscious and didn't look like the man they knew.

They hoped for the best possible outcome, but knew that the worst could happen.

Ten days in a coma went on to 15 days, and then 20 days, and finally 30 days.

But after that excruciating time, Joao Corbelli, began to stir, and then he awoke from his coma –

AFTER A MONTH IN A COVID-19 COMA, CORBELLI FAMILY REUNITED ON FATHER'S DAY



Joao Corbelli with his family, Lorena, Marileda and Lorraine Corbelli, just before he left the rehabilitation center. More than a month ago, he began feeling sick and drove himself to the hospital. He remembers nothing after that, but his family said they persevered while he was in COVID-19 related coma for 30 days. After two weeks in rehab, he was able to return home just in time for Father's Day. Lorena said an epiphany in the home disappeared immediately as soon as her father arrived.

weak, but recovering. After two long weeks at a rehabilitation hospital in Braintree, Corbelli was able to return home on the day before Father's Day – making it an utterly emotional and timely return to the family's Everett home.

“My dad did come home the day before Father's Day on June 20 and we were so grateful to have him back,” said his daughter, Lorena Corbelli, a senior at Everett High that helped lead the #StayHomeEverett movement in April. “When we went to pick him up it was so amazing. There were times the doctors had told us – just prepared us for what could happen... It's amazing he was able to come home and celebrate Father's Day.”

It has been a situation where the home – which had been full of uncertainty – has now once again been restored, and a hole in the family had been filled.

“He was in a coma 30 days and in the hospital,” said Lorena. “He was gone a long time. We didn't know anyone that had COVID-19 and had stayed in the hospital so long. My dad did everything around the house. He would fix things here and help me work on my car. When he was gone our boiler broke and my car had trouble. It's always been my dad, myself, my mom and my sister. When he was gone, the house felt empty. When he walked back in, the house didn't feel empty anymore. It felt full again and our family felt whole.”

Earlier this spring, Joao – who works at the Westin in Boston in the Maintenance Department – began not feeling well. He drove himself to the hospital, and that is literally the last time he remembers anything before waking up from the coma.

“He told us the last thing he remembers was going to the hospital,” she said. “We showed him pictures of his face and body and he didn't even recognize himself.”

Joao started his time in care at Cambridge Hospital and then was transferred to Best Israel where he was on a machine giving him care 24/7 for his kidneys – which were being damaged by COVID. After 30 days there, he did wake up about four weeks ago.

It was a moment that Lo-

rena said would be a changing moment for her life.

“At first he slowly opened his eyes,” she said. “We could only see him on Facetime, but I could tell he missed us so much by looking at his eyes. It was life-changing for me because when he was in the hospital he got pressure sores. I realized it wasn't going to be a great idea for me to see him that way. Once I saw he started opening his eyes, I wanted to see him again. We were so relieved he was okay. It was so emotional when he woke up.”

While their father was gone, Lorena said the family did their best to take on new responsibilities to try to fill in the gaps left by Joao not being there. Lorena took on cooking duties while her sister, Lorraine, and her mother, Marileda, went back to work and tried to help pay the bills. Her sister even tried to fix the boiler when it broke, which was brand new territory. Interestingly, none of the rest of the family got COVID-19 or showed any symptoms, and they are not sure how their father came down with it. They don't know of anyone close to them that also got it. However he got it, it got him good and took an otherwise healthy and strong man to the brink.

Lorena said everyone should realize that the virus is not a joke, and that anyone can get it. She said she participated in the #StayHomeEverett campaign as a way to draw attention to that fact, and to let people know she was trying to keep her home safe and healthy for when her dad came home.

No one knew if that would happen, but Lorena said they had hope, and now her father is recovering nicely – and it's been great to have him home, even if he's not quite ready to fix the boiler or her car.

“We know it will take a while, but he's getting stronger every day,” she said. “We try to give him what he wants. When he came home, he was tired of hospital food and wanted a huge bowl of pasta – which we gave him... He used a walker the first week at home and the other day he decided he didn't need it

and walked on his own. It's those things that fill us with happiness.

DEMARIA SEEKS NEW ZONING ORDINANCE

EVERETT - Mayor Carlo DeMaria announced that a new zoning ordinance aimed at reducing the transportation impacts of new development will be presented to the Everett City Council next week.

This ordinance will allow the Administration to bring greater housing affordability to the City of Everett, and institute a cooperative transportation structure between multiple developments.

The Transportation Demand Management ordinance, which has been in development for several months, requires new developments to measure their likely transportation impacts and address them holistically, taking into account not only parking, but transit, cycling and walking.

“Historically, our development process has looked at transportation through the single lens of parking and traffic, however this approach overlooks the fact that half of all trips in Everett are not taken in an automobile and the exorbitant cost of constructing new parking which can increase the cost of a unit of housing by as much as \$100,000,” said Mayor DeMaria.

The proposed ordinance will use a points system of debits and credits based on the severity of the impact on the proposed development. Debits will be measured by new vehicle trips, added traffic congestion, or the sheer size of the development itself. Credits will be received for measures that actively reduce vehicle dependency. Examples of these include but are not limited to: improvements to the transit system, providing shuttle service to MBTA stations, sponsorship of bike sharing stations, or reductions in on-site parking.

The proposed ordinance also requires that those seeking to develop pay into a public-private partnership.

This organization is

Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

conventionally known as a “Transportation Management Association (TMA)” which will provide services to those seeking to develop and monitor all development for compliance.

The City and the Planning Board have worked with the developers of several recently approved projects to test the ordinance and ensure that it is workable for all parties. For example, the developers of the Market Forge Site agreed to widen a portion of Second Street to accommodate the future Silver Line, provide shuttle service, bike share and prohibit their residents from seeking residential parking stickers. Similarly, The 600 on Broadway was allowed a reduction in overall parking spaces in exchange for dedicated car sharing spaces, a prohibition on residential parking stickers, sponsorship of a bike sharing station, and separating the cost for available parking spaces from the cost of rent. These measures have been proven elsewhere to dramatically reduce the number of vehicle trips generated by new housing development and reduce rental costs while still providing much needed new housing for City residents. The new Ordinance is expected to be introduced to the City Council during the month of July for their input and approval.

EBNHC FARMERS’ MARKET UNDERWAY

EAST BOSTON - As East Boston slowly creeps to the “new normal”, in the neighborhood some restaurants have been able to reopen with limited capacity or outdoor seating, retail stores that have closed are reopening and residents feel a little safer being out in public.

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

This year’s Farmers Market will last through October 1. The market will be open each Wednesday until 6 p.m.

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

EBNHC’s Program Coordinator for Community Initiatives Nancy Slamet said the Health Center has printed new fliers for the weekly market highlighting changes that put an emphasis on health in safety.

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

“Your health is our top priority. The East Boston Farmers Market will continue to provide access to affordable, local and farm-fresh food during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Slamet. “The 2020 season will be different in many ways to protect shoppers, farmers, and staff. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and look forward to seeing you there.”

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

Shoppers who do not feel comfortable with spending time shopping at the market can simply pay for their produce using the Whats-Good app. Beginning on July 8 online shoppers will pick up orders at the Farm-

ers Market and customers can simply pick up their orders between 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. at the market’s pre-order pick-up Tent on Border Street across from Marshalls in Liberty Plaza.

In August, home delivery will also be an option for those who do not feel comfortable venturing down to the market.

While COVID-19 infections continue on the downswing in Eastie and Boston Slamet said the organizers are asking residents to please stay home if they are sick and wear a mask and maintain social distance from others when you pick-up.

Slamet said when coming to the Farmers Market do not come if you are sick or have been exposed to COVID-19. Masks or face coverings must be worn at all times. Only bring children if you have no other option but children must stay beside you. No pets are allowed at this year’s market.

There will also be designated entrances and exits to the Central Square Farmers Market

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

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

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

There will also be no eating allowed inside the market.

In order to avoid personal contact the Farmers Market staff is urging shoppers to refrain from using cash whenever they can and instead pay with debit, credit cards, and apps if possible. Other acceptable forms of payment include WIC coupons, Senior coupons, SNAP/food stamps/EBT, and P-EBT.

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

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

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

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

MCGEE SEEKS TO ELIMINATE RACISM

LYNN - Mayor Thomas M. McGee announced ini-

tial steps to strengthen efforts to eliminate systemic racism within the City of Lynn through policy creation, systemic change, and increased community conversations.

“Systemic racism adversely affects the Black Community and Communities of Color every day, said Mayor Thomas M. McGee. “Absolutely no one should live in fear of the act of simply living because of the color of their skin. We must listen and learn from those who have endured far too much, and take concrete action to update and reform our policies. I look forward to continuing the dialogue with members of our community to rid our City of hatred and inequity that has permeated throughout our society for too long. That starts by acknowledging that racism is a public health emergency and acting accordingly.”

Mayor McGee, along with Lynn Public Health Director Michele Desmarais, have submitted to the Board of Health a “Joint Order Declaring Racism an Emergency and a Public Health Crisis in the City of Lynn.” The Order is on the agenda for the Board of Health’s next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 30th.

“The City of Lynn is committed to reviewing our policies and working to enact the necessary changes to address the public health disparities and the barriers to healthcare that the Black Community and Communities of Color experience,” said Director Desmarais.

Additionally, Mayor McGee has signed on to the “Mayor’s Pledge” issued by the Obama Foundation’s My Brother’s Keeper Alliance. The pledge asks mayors from across the country to commit to the following actions: “review our police use of force policies; engage our communities by including a diverse range of input, experiences, and stories in our review; Report the findings of our review to the community and seek feedback; Reform our community’s police use of force policies.”

“While these are steps that will move our City in the right direction, there is still a long way to go. Addressing structural racism requires a long term focus and continued efforts from my office and through all levels of city government. I look forward to engaging with my fellow Lynners in this critical work.” McGee said.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPROVE PROJECTS FOR SHIRLEY AVE.

REVERE - The Revere Zoning Board of Appeals approved three separate projects for Shirley Avenue, all of which required several variances last week.

The projects will comprise a total of 95 residential micro-units among three buildings and three commercial spaces in two of the buildings. The city’s coffers will realize more than \$450,000 in permit and other fees and will bring in another \$200,000 for the Community Improvement Trust Fund for infrastructure improvement projects within the vicinity of the new development.

A unique aspect of the project is that there is no provision for off-street parking for the 95 residential units. The leases will specify that each tenant who rents a micro-unit cannot own a motor vehicle, which the developer, Jamie Russo, and the proponents assert obviates the need for off-street parking. With the MBTA’s bus stop on Beach St. within easy walking-distance, the project is deemed

a “transit-oriented development.”

For all three of the projects, Russo’s three companies (Eastern Equity Partners LLC for the Bagel Bin site at 207-209 Shirley Ave., Shirley Ventures LLC for the former St. Jean’s Credit Union site at 180-184-186 Shirley Ave., and EB VENTURES LLC for the corner block at Shirley Ave. and Thornton St.) came before the board seeking variances involving some degree of relief from the zoning ordinances regarding minimum lot size; frontage; side yard, rear yard, and front yard setback; floor area ratio; parking; maximum building height; and buffer zone screening.

The first project to come up for discussion was for 207-209 Shirley Avenue, the site of the Bagel Bin Restaurant that was destroyed by a fire in 2018. The height of the project will be four-stories with one commercial space and 32 studio apartments consisting of 456 square feet each.

There will be 11 parking spaces in the back for commercial parking, but there will be no off-street parking for tenants since they cannot own a motor vehicle according to the lease that they must sign.

Robert O’Brien, the city’s Economic Development Director, spoke in favor of the project. “The developer made a commitment to lease no units to tenants who own cars for this building, as well as the tenants for the other two projects that the zoning board also is reviewing during this meeting,” said O’Brien.

Hansi Villadesi, the owner of the Bagel Bin, spoke in favor of the project, noting that this will be an opportunity for his restaurant to return to Shirley Ave.

Ronald Hogan, who has owned a laundromat across the street on Shirley Ave. for 10 years, supported the project, noting that he was pleased to see the invest-

ment in the area.

Both Councillor-at-Large Tony Zambuto and Ward 2 Councillor Ira Novoselsky voiced their support for the project. “This project is transit-oriented and no developer has done more for the neighborhoods than Jamie Russo, who has a track record,” said Zambuto, who concluded his remarks by adding, “We all want the Bagel Bin back on Shirley Ave.”

“This project is privately-funded, so there are no affordable units offered,” said Novoselsky, who also noted the various issues raised by area residents. “I am pro-development, but a lot of the opponents have concerns about height and parking.”

Ralph DeCiccio, the Chairman of the Revere Disabilities Commission, also spoke, pointing out, “None of the tenants can get either a resident parking permit or visitor stickers.”

Area resident Kristen Janjar of Campbell Ave. supported the return of the Bagel Bin, but echoed the concerns of the other opponents, saying, “Do we need four stories above them? We don’t need people who are not invested in the neighborhood.”

The second project, located at the corner of Shirley Avenue and Thornton Street, calls for the present building to be razed and for the construction of a three-story structure with 18 micro-units. Similar to the other project, there will be no off-street parking provided by the developer, but each unit will be leased only to tenants who do not own cars.

Anne Steinman of 45 Thornton St. noted that there is no sticker required to park overnight on Thornton St. She added, “I do not have the warm and fuzzies with no low-income housing units.”

Lor Holmes, another resident of the area, added, “Put this on hold and do not rush into this. Neighborhood input is needed.”

The third project, formerly the site of the St. Jean’s Credit Union at 180-184-186 Shirley Ave., entails 45 micro-units with two commercial spaces on the street level in a five-story building.

O’Brien, speaking in favor of the project, noted, “The developer will get the right commercial tenants.”

Dr. Jeff Coen, whose business personally has been on Shirley Ave. for 30 years and whose family has been there for 60 years, said, “This is a long time coming. The last 10 years have been an improvement for the neighborhood.”

Hogan, speaking again, noted, “Street-level development will need housing density to succeed.”

Novoselsky added, “I am still a proponent of this project, but have some reservations on the parking and the way it is built. We did not have a community meeting because of Covid-Virus in order to answer some of the concerns from opponents.”

The opponents again reiterated that they thought the process was rushed and that the community had been left out. They noted that all three projects lacked off-street parking for the tenants.

Chairman of the Appeals Board Michael Tucker told the opponents that the issues of who rents the units and whether there has been a lack of community involvement do not fall within the purview of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The projects received the unanimous approval of the ZBA members who were present (Tucker, Alfred Buccilli, John Lopes, and Arthur Pelton; member Nick D’Angelo was absent), but with the following restrictions: All of the residential micro-units will be leased only to tenants who do not own cars and that this restriction will be a permanent one applicable to any future owner of the properties.

Independent’s 20th Annual Beach Baby Pages






Join us in putting your Beach Baby in our 20TH ANNUAL BEACH BABY PAGES!

Photos should be at a beach or swimming pool setting. Please include your child’s name and the paper you wish to be published in.

SEND YOUR BEACH BABY TO: promo@reverejournal.com by **Thursday, August 13th**

Photos will be published in our Aug. 25 and 26 issues of The Revere Journal, Winthrop Sun Transcript, Lynn Journal, The Everett Independent, Chelsea Record & East Boston Times.

Not responsible for lost or unpublished Photos.

Unemployment claims rise for public administration, education

Staff Report

From June 21 to June 27, Massachusetts had 29,072 individuals file an initial claim for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI), a small decrease of 469 over the previous week, the third consecutive week of decline, but there were big movements for municipal workers and those in education as budget cuts played out statewide.

However, as the school systems closed for the summer, over-the-week increases in filings were seen

in public administration and education. With layoffs and budget cuts in most school districts and in most municipal governments, claims increased tremendously in both sectors.

Public Administration claims were up 47 percent statewide, while Education was up almost seven percent statewide.

Increases in initial claims filed were, also, posted in other sectors with the highest in manufacturing, at 22 percent.

From March 15 to June 27, a total of 1,057,496 have filed for regular

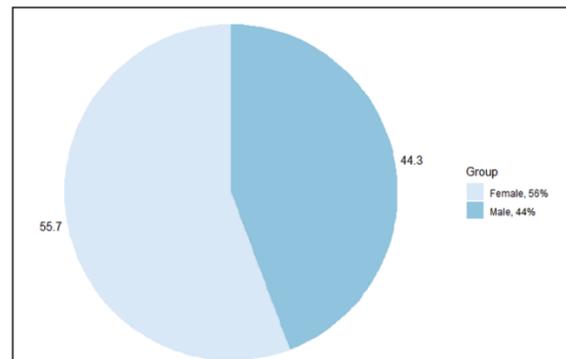
UI. For the second week in a row, continued UI claims at 548,441 were down 9,828 or 1.8 percent over the previous week.

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) initial claims filed for the week ending June 27, at 14,154, were just slightly more than the previous week. Since April 20, some 638,245 claimants have filed an initial claim for the PUA.

The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which provided up to 13 weeks of extended benefits was im-

plemented on May 21. For the week ending June 20, some 4,503 PEUC initial claims were filed bringing the total of PEUC filings to 59,144 since implementation.

Since March, the customer service staff at the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has grown from around 50 employees to nearly 2,000. The remote customer service operation is now making over 35,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host unemployment town halls - which have been



The below charts are relative to standard UI only.

held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese - and have been attended by more than 350,000 constituents.

Kennedy raises over \$1.9 million in two months for election campaign

STAFF REPORT

During the second fundraising quarter of 2020, Kennedy for Massachusetts announced more than \$1.9 million raised - over \$1 million of that in June alone - despite temporarily suspending campaign fundraising operations due to COVID-19. Joe Kennedy heads into the final quarter before the U.S. Senate primary race with \$4.7 million cash on hand.

Due to COVID-19, Kennedy temporarily suspended all political operations, including fundraising, in mid-March. He did not resume digital fundraising or virtual fundraising events until the last days of April. During the cam-

paigned suspension, Kennedy used his email list to raise over \$100,000 for organizations and workers on the frontlines of COVID response. Additionally, Kennedy raised over \$15,000 in grassroots donations for Black-led racial justice organizations in the wake of George Floyd's murder.

"These strong fundraising numbers reflect the energy for Joe and the momentum behind our efforts to bring Massachusetts stronger leadership to the United States Senate," said Campaign Manager Nick Clemons. "When Joe decided to pause all fundraising in the wake of COVID-19 and to help raise money for the hardest hit families, communities, and frontline workers, we fully expected

to take a financial hit this quarter. The extraordinary outpouring of support since we resumed fundraising in May indicates the growing excitement around Joe and this campaign. We are proud of the effort this quarter, humbled by the support, and ready for the next two months."

Kennedy was grateful for the support of many high-profile colleagues and supporters who helped raise money on his behalf, including: Rep. John Lewis, Rep. Katie Porter, Rep. Adam Schiff, Rep. David Cicilline, Rep. Annie Kuster, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, Senator Kyrsten Sinema, Beto O'Rourke, Jim Obergefell, and Jason Collins.

State announces updated travel guidelines

Staff Report

The Baker-Polito Administration last week announced new COVID-19 public health guidelines on travel and transportation.

Effective Wednesday, July 1, all travelers arriving to Massachusetts, including residents returning home, are to self-quarantine for 14-days. This guidance does not apply to travelers

from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York or New Jersey. Additionally, workers designated by the federal government as essential critical infrastructure workers are also exempt from this directive.

Travelers who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 are instructed to not travel to Massachusetts.

All visitors and residents of Massachusetts are also reminded that the use of masks or face coverings in public places where individuals cannot socially distance from others remains required.

These new guidelines replace previously announced Massachusetts travel guidance. For national travel information, please visit www.travel.state.gov.

New research finds that renters with Section 8 vouchers face higher levels of discrimination

Staff Report

People with Section 8 rental vouchers in Greater Boston face higher levels of discrimination than people without vouchers according to a new study released by the Housing Discrimination Testing Program (HDTP) at Suffolk University Law School, Analysis Group, and the Boston Foundation.

The study also revealed that many landlords and real estate brokers discriminate against Black renters, whether they have a voucher or not.

Barbara Chandler, Senior Advisor on Civil Rights and Fair Housing at Metro Housing|Boston, served as a consultant to the research teams and assisted in the design of the testing used for the study. Metro Housing is the state's largest regional administrator of housing vouchers.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program, commonly known as Section 8, is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, elders, and people with disabilities to afford housing in the private market. With a Section 8 voucher, the tenant pays up to 30 percent of his or her income toward rent and utilities and the voucher covers the rest of the housing costs up to a set maximum rent.

Metro Housing|Boston provides rental assistance to 10,000 families, and we know that people with vouchers face many barriers when trying to rent

safe, decent housing that they can afford.

"My experience has shown that discrimination against voucher holders is both widespread and difficult to identify," says Julio Marcone, Fair Housing Client Advocate at Metro Housing. "Participants often cite that property owners are unwilling to perform voucher program-mandated repairs of their units, or refuse to fill out the required paperwork. Such noncompliance is not as obvious as an ad that spells out 'No Section 8,' but presents a barrier that is just as high."

M.L. is a housing voucher holder living in Boston who is Black. He wanted to move to Revere and found an apartment he liked. He was pre-approved; however, once the property owners learned of his voucher, M.L. began getting the run-around.

"First I was approved. Then they said I needed more income to help pay for utilities," said M.L. "I got a part-time job in Revere. After that, they started to make up reasons why I wouldn't be able to move in. They didn't make any sense. It was clear that they did not want to rent to me because I had a voucher."

"Although a voucher is a great resource to those experiencing a housing crisis, it tends to be the primary reason behind participants being denied housing opportunity," said Deyanira Gonzalez, Fair Housing Client Advocate at Metro Housing. "Even when pro-

vided with the appropriate fair housing information, certain property owners will still choose to discriminate against voucher holders."

The study confirmed what Metro Housing's clients know firsthand. Voucher holders are shown fewer apartments and given fewer options than tenants paying market rate even when rental assistance will pay the rent being requested by the owner.

When race is added to the equation, Black people get treated worse than those who are White.

The authors of the study encourage, and Metro Housing|Boston supports asking policy makers to consider the data to develop policies to address the discrimination occurring throughout the Boston area.

Their recommendations include:

- Increase penalties and mandatory training for real estate professionals and prohibit them from charging broker's fees.

- Strengthen anti-discrimination laws and fair housing enforcement and education and increase resources for testing.

- Improve and streamline the system for using vouchers.

Both federal and state law prohibits housing discrimination based on race, and it is illegal in Massachusetts to discriminate against a person because they have a housing voucher, known as source of income.

Now You can be UPFRONT & CENTER

With our
STICKY NOTE
on the Front Page

Perfect for: Community Reminders,
Schedules, Coupons, Sales,
Announcements, Programs and more!

3-inch-by-3-inch Sticky Note
Req. 3-week advance placement



Example Page
Sticky Note represented
by Black box

Four Options to Choose From

7,000 COPIES 2-COLOR \$600	7,000 COPIES 4-COLOR \$700	12,000 COPIES 2-COLOR \$800
12,000 COPIES 4-COLOR \$900	4-COLOR STICKIES CAN BE A COMBINATION OF COLORS. 2-COLOR STICKIES CAN BE MADE WITH ANY 2 COLORS	

Call or Email Your Rep Today!

781-485-0588 ext. 103:Maureen 106:Peter 101:Deb 110:Kathy 125:Sioux

Reading on a Screen?? Click on Your Rep's name to start sending them an email!

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS

ONLINE ADVERTISING AVAILABLE

Size: 160x600 IAB
\$300⁰⁰ per month/per site

3 SPOTS AVAILABLE
ON EACH SITE
JUST A CLICK AWAY

Combo Rates available!
Buy any 3 sites, get 4th FREE

12 COMMUNITIES TO CHOOSE FROM

reverejournal.com • winthroptranscript.com
lynnjournal.com • everettindependent.com • eastietimes.com
chelsearecord.com • charlestownbridge.com • beaconhilltimes.com
northendregionalreview.com • thebostonsun.com
jamaicplainingazette.com • missionhillgazette.com

Traffic reports available upon request
Call your Rep. at 781-485-0588

Sales Rep Ext
Deb x101 Kathy x110 Maureen x103 Sioux x125 Peter x106
First Come - First Served