

East Boston

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Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Mosquito spraying Monday in **Eastie**

By John Lynds

With the COVID-19 pandemic keeping most people at home, backyards have been sanctuaries for residents trying to enjoy the outdoors while still remaining socially distanced.

However, there's been a nuisance all summer that has kept East Boston residents from venturing out and enjoying their yards.

Residents living near the beach and marshy areas in Orient Heights have complained that mosquitoes are worse than ever this season.

Many residents complained that all hours of the day--morning, noon and night--mosquitoes abundant and inflicting itchy bites on those trying to do yard work or enjoy a cookout with family mem-

"I can't even enjoy my yard," said Orient Heights

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Mail-in ballots for upcoming elections are on their way

By John Lynds

Despite President Donald Trump voting by mail during elections in 2017, 2018 and 2020, POTUS has spent the past week threatening to sue states that will allow mail-in voting for this upcoming Presidential Election--falsely claiming it will lead to widespread election fraud.

While Trump has even suggested the November election should be postponed, Boston is going forward with sending residents 'vote by mail' applications.

At a press conference last week, Mayor Martin Walsh said that registered voters in East Boston and the rest of the city should expect to get a mail-in ballot application in the mail this week, if they haven't received one already.

"This year, everyone can vote by a mail-in ballot," said Walsh. "In the past, Massachusetts residents had to show that they had a disability, that their reli-

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Farmer Dave's has been a regular staple at the East Boston Farmers Market on Wednesdays in Central Square.

What's new at the **Farmers Market?**

Online deliveries, Wicked Fresh Market Dollars and more

By John Lynds

The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center's (EBNHC) Let's Get Movin East Boston Farmers Market has been safely in full swing for over a month now and according to EB-NHC's Program Coordinator of Community Initiatives Nancy Slamet there have been some exciting new additions.

While the East Boston Times previously reported that the Veronica Robles Cultural Center's Dancing Elotes experience has returned to the weekly Farmers Market in Central Square for another season, Slamet said EBNHC welcomed a new vendor last

Slamet said Sherman & Cherie's Beezy Bees will be on hand one or two Wednesdays a month offering honey, creams and lip balms.

"Other great news is that Wicked Fresh Market Dollars from the City of Boston will be available to customers who come to our market over the next several weeks," said Slamet. "These dollars can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, and non -produce vendors will offer deals where customers can receive market dollars when they buy their prod-

Another exciting addition that will kick off this month is online delivery

from the Farmers Market. Using the WhatsGood app or website customers can order and pay for their produce and have it delivered straight to their homes. Customers can also use the app to place an order at the market and pick it up at the market's pre-order pickup Tent on Border Street across from the Marshalls in Liberty Plaza. Slamet said payment with SNAP/ EBT will also be an option.

Slamet said the City of oston Census Bureau staff will also be at the week-

See MARKET Page 2

School nurses reject reopening plan

By John Lynds

Last week over 100 Boston Teachers Union (BTU) members, including nurses and educators, joined a sitin protest at City Hall Plaza rejecting Superintendent Dr. Brenda Cassellius's draft reopening plan she recently submitted to the Boston School Committee.

The BTU members were calling on Cassellius, Mayor Martin Walsh and city leaders to safely and equitably reopen schools for in-person instruction with verifiable assurance that proper COVID-19 safeguards and facilities upgrades are in place. The nurses are also demanding "a seat at the table" to give meaningful feedback and input into reopening plans and decisions.

"No students or staff should be asked to risk their lives or their loved ones by going back in person - not even under a hybrid plan - until all possible health and safety precautions are addressed and verified," said BTU President Jessica Tang. "The District should work with educators, especially our school nurses, to plan and prepare for a reopening that is safe, equitable and healthy for everyone."

According to the BTU the draft reopening plans provided by BPS does not meet the standards necessary to ensure the safety of Boston school facilities, adequate staffing and supplies, and comprehensive guidance for families and

school personnel regarding COVID-19. Reopening plans must be guided by health and safety considerations and led by health

care experts. "Overall, the district must be transparent in all aspects of assessing and planning for safety in the schools,' said Jonathan Haines, BTUmember and nurse. "How can families decide whether or not to send their children to school, if they don't even know how it's being cleaned?"

More than 100 Boston Teachers Union nurses are responsible for the health and safety of all 55,000 BPS students. These health care professionals were left out of the reopening plan's

See SCHOOLS Page 6

Be on Guard

EBNHC launches campaign for high risk COVID-19 patients

Dr. Jim Pedulla, Medical Director, Neighborhood PACE of East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC), said this week although the incidents of coronavirus has lessened since April and May in Massachusetts, it is still very present in the state, with hundreds of new cases every day.

"It is thus very important that we continue to take every precaution to protect ourselves and others from the spread of this very contagious virus," said Pedulla.

Dr. Pedulla said this is

especially important for older adults, especially those older than 65, who are at a much higher risk for becoming very sick or dying from infection. Other persons at high risk include--but are not excluded to--people with multiple chronic conditions such as cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), transplant recipients, obesity, heart disease, or diabetes.

In response to keeping the high risk population safe, EBNHC has launched

See EBNHC Page 3



An EBNHC Medical Staff member conducts a Telehealth visit with a Health Center Patient.

Edwards, Janey file amendment to city's cannabis equity ordinance

Last year, City Councilor Lydia Edwards was a champion of the recreational marijuana shop in Maverick Square because it satisfied the city's cannabis equity ordinance.

However, because the Zoning Board of Appeals approved an adult use facility on Meridian Street that is now up and running, East Boston Bloom needed a variance from the zoning board because it was less than a half mile from Berk-

shire Roots on Meridian. While there are no state regulations of how close adult use facilities can be to one another the City of Boston adopted zoning that created a half mile buffer and prohibits two facilities from being within that half mile.

Many, including Edwards, went to bat for East Boston Bloom and supported the proposal because it met criteria for adult-use facilities in the neighborhood as well as being fully owned and operated by

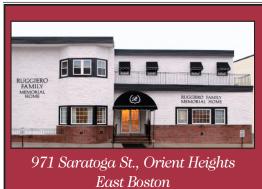
By John Lynds Eastie residents that were majority Latino.

While East **Boston** Bloom eventually got its variance from the ZBA it was a headache for all involved and the owners still are awaiting final approval from the state.

The issue with the two cannabis shops in Eastie shed light on some of the holes in the city ordinance like the half mile buffer rule as well as the host community agreement process.

Last week Edwards and Councilor Kim Janey filed amendments to Boston's cannabis equity ordinance in an effort to bring transparency to the municipal approval process for marijuana businesses by changing the process for executing host community agreements. The Boston Cannabis Board adopted its final rules and regulations on July 22. Under those rules and regulations. the host community agreements are negotiated after approval by the BCB and

See AMENDMENT Page 2



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Eastie COVID-19 Updates

After dropping for three straight weeks the percentage of residents testing positive for COVID-19 in East Boston is starting to once again climb as is the neighborhood's infection rate.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on Friday four percent of Eastie residents tested positive for the virus, up from 3.2 percent. East Boston's rate of infection also rose by 1.7 percent last week after only rising 0.5 percent the previous week.

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

In one-week Eastie's COVID-19 infection rate went from 361.6 cases per 10,000 residents to an infection rate of 367.8 cases per 10,000 residents as of

As of Friday, 29 more people became infected with the virus in Eastie and there were 1,726 confirmed COVID-19 cases. This was up from the 1,697 cases reported by the BPHC the previous week.

Last week the BPHC reported that 8,579 residents were tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that four percent of those tested were COVID positive, a 25 since the pandemic began 20.9 percent of Eastie residents tested were found to be positive. This was down from 22 percent reported last week.

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus rose 2 percent last week from 13,995 cases to 14,271 cases. So far 10,309 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus and five additional residents died last week bringing the total of fatalities in the city to 732.

Market // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ly Farmers Market for the next couple of weeks to provide information and to get people counted.

Slamet added that Farmers Market will take part in the Massachusetts Farmers Market Week that began Sunday and will last until August 8.

"Farmers Market Week is set aside not only to remind us to enjoy the delicious food available at farmers' markets, but to recognize contributions farmers markets make to local agriculture, and how these markets increase access to healthy food in communities across the Commonwealth," said David Webber, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

Webber said throughout Farmers Market Week the state is promoting farmers markets, like the one here in Eastie, across the state's social media accounts.

"We'd like to feature the great work market managers are doing to support farmers markets on our social media," said Webber. "We will try and highlight as many managers as possible."

So far, the 2020 Vendors at the East Boston Farmers

Market are Drunk on Jam: Boozy homemade jams; East Bos-

Farmer Dave's: Produce, bakery products, beans, preserves/sauces; Dracut, MA (weekly)

ton, MA

Hillside Harvest: Artisanal hot sauces; Boston, MA (1-2 times per month)

Meadowbrook Orchards: Fruit, baked goods, eggs, honey, boxed meals, and smoked meats. Sterling, MA (weekly) North of Boston Farm:

Newburyport, MA (week-Oriental Farm: Specialty vegetables; Brockton, MA

(weekly)

Produce, meat, eggs, flow-

ers, preserves; Boxford &

Sherman & Cherie's Beezy Bees: Local honey; Longmeadow, MA (1-2 times per month)

Steve's Original Sauces: Selec-

tion of barbeque and sriracha sauces; Belmont, NH

(bi-weekly) Veronica Robles Cultural Center: Elotes locos (Mexi-

can street corn); East Boston, MA (weekly) Boston Cyclists Union: Bike repairs while you wait. Lost Art Cultured Foods:

Artisanal sauerkraut; Providence, RI Samira's Homemade:

Authentic Lebanese hummus, dips, and finger foods; Cambridge, MA

Seven Hills Pasta: Artisan dried pasta; Melrose,

Organized and operated by EBNHC, the East Boston Farmers Market is a convenient, affordable source for fresh fruit and vegetables. The market runs on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. through October 15. The time slot between 3:00 to 3:30 is designated for shoppers 60 and over and others at high risk for COVID-19. For more info visit https://external. ebnhc.org/en/food-access/ farmers-market.html.

percent increase. Overall COVID-19 rate Rate = 207.4 reported cases per 10,000 residents (unadjusted for age) N = 14,093 reported cases Lower than the rest of Boston Higher than the rest of Boston Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Dow North End, West End Allston/Brighton Fenway Rate=56.5 Rate = Reported COVID-19 cases per 10,000 West Roxbur residents (unadjusted for N=468 N = Reported COVID-19 176 reported COVID-19 cases could not be assigned to a neighborhood and were were not included in this analysis. 4 Miles DATA SOURCE: Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Surveillance System (Jan. 1, 2020 to July 30, 2020, 12:24pm); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan. 1, 2020 to July 30, 2020, 12:00pm); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey,

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

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research and Evaluation Office

Amendment // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

there is no set timeline for their execution.

"I want it to be clear that review by the BCB of an application is the final point in the approval process before a business goes to the CCC. There can be no equity without transparency,' said Edwards. "If host community agreements are still being negotiated behind closed doors and there is no firm timeline on when they will be executed, entrepreneurs will continue to struggle with the lack of predictability that we have had for the last three years. This is the biggest frustration I have heard from people trying to get into the industry. They are paying rent every month and get no answers from the city about when they might be able to move on to the state application. I'm looking to fix that." Janes said the city can-

not continue to force entrepreneurs - some of which have been in the pipeline for years - across the city to indefinitely throw monev out the window with no

clear timeline for the City's application process. "The original legisla-

tion that formed the Boston Cannabis Board was focused on equity and transparency," she said. "The amendment we have filed will further strengthen this ordinance and the board's process by creating a clear and transparent timeline for negotiating host community agreements." Under the proposed

changes, the host community agreement negotiations would start within three days of the required community outreach meeting and a draft version of the agreement would be given to the applicant within 10 business days of that meeting. The negotiated agreement would then be reviewed by the Boston Cannabis Board as part of its review of a complete application. If the application is approved the agreement

would be executed. In addition to changes to the host community agreements, Councilor Edwards'

proposal also establishes the 1:1 minimum ratio of equity to non-equity licences for the various license types issued by the CCC. The CCC is only issuing delivery licenses to equity applicants for a two year

"We need to make sure that equity applicants are going to have the same opportunities to open dispensaries as non-equity applicants," said Edwards. "My concern is that the BCB will be issuing equity licenses to delivery businesses over the next few years and if we don't adjust the 1:1 ratio to include different types of businesses, non-equity applicants could get a much higher number of licenses to operate dispensaries than equity applicants."

The proposed amendments to the ordinance were introduced during the weekly council meeting on Wednesday, July 29 and will now be assigned to a city council committee for a public hearing.

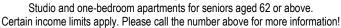
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, §18-20

The East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Incorporated

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. a public MEETING of the East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc., (aka PIERPAC) will be held via remote

participation in light of the ongoingState of Emergency declared in connection with the

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

a. Attendance 6:30b. Approval of Minutes August 4, 2020 6:35

Agreement (continued discussion)

f. Adjournment of public meeting

A copy of this notice has also been posted on the organization's website at: www.EBPierPAC.org
and has also been placed on file with the Regulations Division of the Secretary of the

A web link and Details on how to participate remotely shall be provided the

organization's website www.ebpierpac.org on or before August 15, 2020 at which time you may

c. Amendment and to By-Laws (continued discussion and Vote)
 d. Amendment to Operations, Security and Maintenance (OSM)

e. Update on Massport annual financial commitment (continued

At the conclusion of its regular business meeting and prior to adjournment, the Board, upon a

motion duly made and seconded, the Board may hold an Executive Session pursuant to G. L.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED

AND WELCOMED TO ATTEND

Commonwealth by mailing same via first class mail at least 5 days prior to the scheduled date of

30A.s.21 upon the conclusion of which, the Board will not resume its public meeting



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Spraying // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

resident Mary Berninger recently.

Well, there's some good news on the horizon for those dealing with mosquitos in Orient Heights.

This week the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) issued an advisory to residents that the city will conduct spraying to help control mosquito populations in Eastie on Monday, August 10.

BPHC partners with the Suffolk County Mosquito Control Project (SCMCP) to protect Boston residents from mosquito-borne disease transmission.

SCMCP will be using a truck mounted aerosol sprayer to apply a formula that contains the pesticide, sumithrin, to control mosquitoes. The spraying happens between sunset and 11:30 p.m.

On Monday spraying is scheduled in Orient Heights, including streets in the vicinity of Orient Ave., Boardman St., Andrew Rd. and Horace St. If spraying is postponed, it will be rescheduled for Wednesday, August 12.

"Residents do not need to take any special precautions for this application," said the BPHC in the advisory this week. "As with any pesticide, people should minimize exposure. If residents see a spray truck approaching, they are advised to go indoors for a couple of minutes while the spray dissipates. Residents are also advised to close windows during and immediately following spraying. Beekeepers do not need to take any special precautions since spraying begins after dusk." Sumithrin is a synthetic

ithrin and the small amount

pyrethroid that is classified as slightly toxic by the EPA. Mosquito control applications of sumithrin do not pose a significant risk to people or their pets due to the low toxicity of sum-

used to control mosquitoes. According to the BPHC Mosquitoes in Boston are most active from dusk to dawn during the months of July to September. However, mosquitoes can spread disease until the first hard frost--as late as November. Mosquito species have different breeding habits, but most want to lay their eggs near water – usually in vegetation or in still water.

The BPHC advises Eastie residents to limit places around the home where standing water can collect. Residents should turn over unused flowerpots, buckets, wheelbarrows and garbage cans; remove leaves and other debris that can clog gutters and trap water; dispose of or cover old tires; and cover swimming pools when not in use.

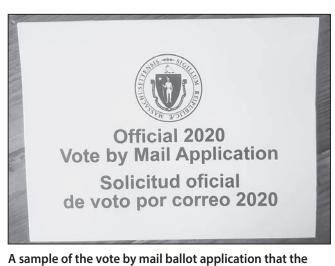
BPHC partners with the SCMCP to control the mosquito population in certain areas of Boston. SCMCP collects mosquito samples in traps every week during the summer and fall. Those mosquito samples are tested to see if West Nile Virus (WNV) or Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) are present. Mosquito control measures are also implemented during the summer and fall months. Wetlands, storm drains and other areas around the city are treated to limit the number of mosquitoes by killing mosquito

Election // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gion prevented them from voting in-person, or that they would be out of town on election day. This year, Massachusetts passed legislation that waives these requirements, and anyone who requests a mail-in ballot will get one. This will help make sure everyone can exercise their right to vote during COVID-19."

The Mayor said that it's important for residents to note that they are getting an application in the mail, and they must fill it out and send it back to the Elections Department to get a mail-in ballot. As of last week the City had received 4,000 applications for mail-in bal-

"Voters can choose which election they'd like a ballot for — the Primary Election on September 1st; the General Election on November 7th; or both," said Walsh. "Independent voters who want to vote in the primary must check a party box. They should then sign the form, and drop it in the mail. No postage is needed."



Boston Election Department sent out recently. All residents should have an application by the end of the week according to Mayor Walsh.

Applications to request a mail-in ballot must be received by Wednesday, August 26 for the State Primaries, and October 28 for the General Election.

"Voters who would rather go to their polling place in-person can still do so," said Walsh. "The City of Boston Elections Department is adding COVID-19 protocols on social distancing, sanitizing procedures, and the proper use of PPE

in their training for poll workers."

In addition, the City will hold Early Voting again this year. Early voting for the Primaries will happen August 22nd through August 28th; and for the General Election, it will run October 17th through October 30th.

To learn more about mail-in ballots and the upcoming elections, visit Boston.gov/elections.

EBNHC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a campaign aimed at paying particular attention to the needs of the high risk community living here. While the COVID 19 pandemic has been particularly devastating for those at high risk for serious illness, the Health Center has adopted throughout the pandemic to help residents stay safe at home, stay safe while out in the community, and stay safe and feel comfortable in accessing the EBNHC's

According to EBNHC Director of Strategy, Hollis Graham, RN, BSN about one quarter of all Health Center patients fall into the 'high risk' category.

"A large percentage of the health center's patients fall into the COVID-19 high-risk category," said Graham. "We want to make sure we are doing more than meeting their health care needs. We want to make it easier for our community to access the tools needed to keep themselves safe."

Graham said that after months of isolation it has become apparent that it may be more risky for patients with chronic conditions to not maintain routine check ups. Graham said first and foremost EBNHC's high risk patients should not delay care for chronic issues. She said EBNHC is taking great precautions and extra safety measures to meet the needs of high-risk patients who need to access care

"An impressive number of medical visits can be handled virtually, either telephonically or by using a video app," said Graham. "But for visits that do require in-person care, the health center has made safety its number one priority. In addition to routine cleaning and disinfection of facilities, all staff members, patients, and visitors are efficiently screened for symptoms before entering EBN-HC sites and are reminded to always wear a mask. The health center has also reconfigured patient flow, from the number of people allowed in an elevator at one time to the speed at which patients are escorted to exam rooms after check in. The focus is on social distancing and making sure patients feel safe. EBNHC asks patients to come alone to appointments if possible

One EBNHC patient

to reduce crowding and

contact but urges patients to

seek care when needed."

said, "I thought I was going to have to go without care for months, but I am still getting the care I need and the same quality of it, so I am really happy about

Graham said the health center has a long reputation for caring for special populations. From its grassroots beginnings 50 years ago, the health center's mission has been to invest in community wellbeing.

"During this pandemic, the safest place for everyone, especially those among the high-risk, vulnerable population, is to stay at home," she said. "To facilitate staying at home, EBNHC rolled out virtual medical visits, increased meals-on-wheels deliveries for senior citizens, increased American Red Cross food access, and started a door-to-door mobile vaccine clinic for pediatric patients."

As Massachusetts opens Graham said EB-NHC, in partnership with community agencies such as Action for Boston Community Development, has launched awareness campaigns to help keep community members safe when they leave home.

"While it is still safer to stay home, these campaigns provide resources to highrisk community members to help keep them safe if and when they venture out, such as washable, reusable face masks and fact sheets

to curb COVID-19 misinformation," said Graham. Some of these supplies are mailed directly to high-risk patients and others are distributed directly within elderly housing complexes."

Echoing Graham, Dr. Pedulla added that high risk patients should always wear a mask (with multiple layers of fabric) in public; maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others except those you live with regularly; wash hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer for at least 20 seconds; avoid any crowded locations unless absolutely essential, and if so, always maintain mask use, six foot distancing, and hand washing; and finally don't go out to public places if you are

"But, if you are having physical symptoms, don't delay seeking medical care out of concerns for the precaution has been taken to protect patients, and it is important that symptoms are addressed promptly," said Dr. Pedulla.

If you or someone in your family would like to make an appointment, schedule COVID-19 testing, or receive information on any EBNHC's services including elder care programs, contact the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center at 617-569-5800 or visit www.ebnhc.org.

EBNHC ramps up COVID testing at Orleans Street site

By John Lynds

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBN-HC) has ramped up efforts to get more Eastie residents tested for COVID 19 and launched a campaign this week to promote its Orleans testing site that will run through August 19.

The Orleans COVID testing site at the EBNHC's 164 Orleans Street parking lot provides testing six days a week for Eastie residents as well as residents from Everett, Chelsea, Revere and parts of Boston.

The site provides both a walk-thru and drive-thru testing options and is free to the public.

All residents need to do is call 617-569-5800 to

preregister and patients do

Visit eastietimes.com

not need to have symptoms to get tested.

'We are testing symptomatic and asymptomatic patients. Non health center patients are welcomed for testing," said EBNHC's Michelle Hagerty. "We are only testing patients 3 years and older at the testing site. Patients younger than 3 years old need to contact their Primary Care Physician." The hours of the test-

ing site are 8am to 12 pm Monday through Friday for the drive-thru option and walk-thru testing will be conducted from 1pm-5pm.

On Saturday drive-thru testing will occur between 10am-12pm while walk-thru testing will occur from 1pm-3pm. The testing site is closed on Sunday.

RMV to pilot drop-off registration and title services

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has started to pilot drop-off registration and title services at the Braintree Service Center, with additional locations to follow beginning Monday, August 10. These Registration Drop Off Centers will be dedicated to performing a number of vehicle-based registration and title services for both commercial and individual customer transactions on a dropoff only basis. Customers choosing this option will be able to drop-off appropriate paperwork for processing within a few business days. "The RMV is excited

to pilot and offer this new drop-off service to all of its customers for certain vehicle-based transactions," said RMV Registrar Jamey Tesler. "Customers in need of one of these vehicle-based transactions can drop-off their paperwork and return to pick it up in just a few business days. This alternative service channel will help meet increased RMV service demands during a time when services are limited by appointment-only due to the need to enforce social-distancing to keep our customers and employees safe."

Registration renewals will still be conducted exclusively online or by mail for individual customers. Customers will continue to be able to make appointments for certain vehicle-based registration and title services up to 14 days in advance.

How Does 'Drop-Off' Registration and Title Service Work?

· Customers in need of one of the services listed below should compile and complete all appropriate paperwork and any supporting documents. This includes contacting your insurance agent/company to obtain a completed Registration and Title Application (RTA). Customers must drop-off the required paperwork within 30 days of obtaining their RTA. Drop-offs with an incomplete or inaccurate RTA will not be processed.

• Customers will be able to visit any Registration Drop Off Center between the hours of 9:00AM and 4:00PM to drop-off their transaction paperwork. An RMV door advocate will review the customer's paperwork to determine if it's correctly completed and ask customers to fill out a coversheet with their name, email and phone number. Customers will not be allowed to wait and should expect a phone call or email from the Service Center within a few days when their transaction is completed.

• Transactions will be processed in the order received. Customers will receive a phone call or email when their transaction is completed and be instructed to pay for their transaction online.

• Customers will return to the Service Center to pick up their plates and/or registration.

Customers who are dropping-off or picking-up their paperwork will be served in the order of arrival and should anticipate a wait time for the intake and pick-up process, but will not have to wait for their transaction to be completed that same day.

How Long is the 'Drop-Off' Turnaround Time?

While the RMV asks for its customers' patience during the initial days of this service offering, anticipated turnaround time for completion of drop-off transactions is within four business days. Drop-offs with an incomplete or inaccurate RTA (see above) will not be processed. However, customers

may expect additional wait times if their transaction paperwork is incomplete, inaccurate or requires additional review. What If I Don't Want to

'Drop-Off' My Transaction or Wait 4 Business Days?

Customers may alternatively continue to book an appointment-only reservation for these services. Appointments are available online up to 14 days in ad-

What Type of Transactions Can I 'Drop-Off' for

The following types of transactions can be dropped off by both commercial and individual customers, including casual sales, campers, trailers and motorcycles. Registration renewals will still be conducted exclusively online or by mail for individual customers.

- Register and title a ve-• Transfer plate to a new
- Reinstate a registration
- Apply for a registration
- Transfer a plate between two vehicles
- · Register previously ti-
- tled vehicle
- Transfer vehicle to surviving spouse
- Registration amend-
- Plate cancellations

Where is My Nearest Registration 'Drop-Off' Center and When Can I

Drop-off hours will be between 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The following locations will begin performing drop-off registration and title services on Monday, Aug. 10, while the Braintree Service Center will begin performing drop-off registration and title services on Monday, August 3:

- Boston / Haymarket Service Center
- Braintree Service Center (Monday, August 3)
- •Chicopee Service Cen-
- Haverhill Service Cen-
- Milford Service Center Taunton Service Center
- Wilmington Service

Why is the RMV Offering Certain 'Drop-Off' Ser-

The RMV is introducing this service channel alternative in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency to encourage 'social-distancing' in its Service Centers and prioritize other essential in-person needs by appointment-only. All RMV customers are encouraged to visit www.Mass.Gov/ RMV to complete one of over 40 other transactions available online, by mail,

or by phone.

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East Boston

Times-Free Press

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WAITING FOR THE BIG ONE

As we are writing this, we are awaiting the arrival of Hurricane Isaias, which is the earliest-ever ninth named storm of a hurricane season.

Although Isaias was a weak Category 1 hurricane when it made landfall in the Carolinas and will be a tropical storm by the time it reaches us, it is forecast to combine with a storm front out of the west by the time it reaches New Jersey, bringing heavy rain to western New England and strong winds to eastern New England, similar to what Hurricane Irene did in late August of 2011.

Irene caused widespread power outages in Eastern Mass. (we recall losing all of the contents of our freezer in the basement) and the same is being forecast for Isaias, so we trust that all of our readers are prepared for some degree of inconvenience in the coming days.

Although Isaias will not cause major damage, the record number of named storms already this season gives us pause. Climate change undeniably is occurring in ways that are not fully understood, but one thing that is clear is that the number and severity of tropical storms are on the

Climate change is bringing warmer ocean temperatures, which are the jet fuel for tropical storms. And for the record, the ocean temperature in Boston Harbor these past two weeks uncharacteristically has been above 70 degrees, which is wonderful for swimmers, but a harbinger of bad things to come.

The Hurricane of 1938 still stands as the fiercest hurricane ever to strike our part of the country, a once-in-ahundred years weather event. In terms of the odds alone, we are overdue for another major hurricane. But with the effects of climate change factored into the mix, it is clear that Mother Nature could do some serious damage if another coastal storm makes its way here.

So as with everything else in life, it's just one day at a time as we await the inevitability of The Big One to strike.

DEATHS ARE ONLY PART OF THE COVID STORY

Whether the subject is drunk driving, gun violence, or COVID-19, the headline that grabs our attention always is the death toll, of which there tragically have been more than 150,000 of our fellow Americans from COVID-19.

However, what often goes unreported are the large numbers of injuries, whether caused by drunken drivers, guns, or the coronavirus, that have life-altering consequences for

Recent studies have shown that even individuals who are totally asymptomatic when they contract COVID-19 still are likely to have long-term, if not permanent, damage to their heart, lungs, brain, kidneys, and other organs.

With respect to the heart, a study revealed that more than 3/4 of a group of 100 relatively young and healthy persons who contracted COVID-19 had some degree of visible heart damage -- 76 had evidence of a biomarker signaling cardiac injury typically found after a heart attack -- two months after the virus had cleared their bodies.

We still are learning about the coronavirus, but as time goes on and as our nation lurches ahead with no strategy to contain the pandemic, thereby endangering the lives and health of all of our citizens, it is becoming increasingly clear that COVID-19 is a far more insidious threat than initially had been thought.

And as we learn more and more about how damaging COVID-19 can be to even healthy individuals, it is hard to imagine reopening schools and businesses without a national strategy and adequate funding to ensure the health and safety of our people.

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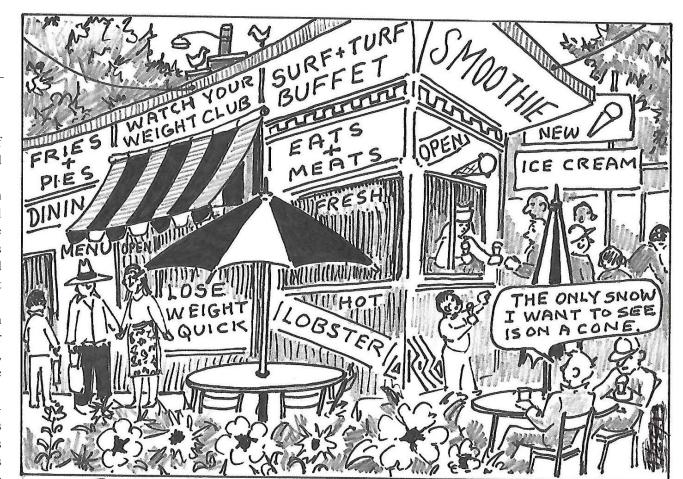
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Boston City Council to hold historic hearing on amendment to city charter

The Boston City Council's Committee on Government Operations will hold a hearing on a proposed amendment to the city charter filed by Councilor Lydia Edwards. Councilor Edwards filed the amendment in response to the calls for systemic change in Boston and nationally. Under Massachusetts General Laws,

Chapters 43B, section 10, subsection (b), a member of the city council may suggest a charter amendment. The proposal by Councilor Edwards will give Boston residents a choice in what the city's budgetary process should be and, if approved by voters, would give taxpayers a greater say in how their tax dollars are spent by allowing for an expanded participatory budgetary process. During Thursday's hearing the council will review the proposal by Councilor Edwards and suggest possible changes to it. Once the ballot question is finalized and approved by the city council it will be reviewed by the Attorney General to determine

its constitutionality. If ruled to be constitutional, Boston voters will decide the future of the city's budget process during the November 2021 municipal election.

The hearing can be viewed by streaming live at boston.gov/city-counciltv, at 10 a.m., on Thursday, August 6.

Parks Department summer sports centers extended to August 28

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce that with the gradual return of activities to City parks the 2020 White Stadium, East Boston, and South Boston Sports Centers are being extended through August

The Sports Centers offer free summer camp alternatives to Boston youth who might otherwise have no opportunity to attend such programming. Each location offers instruction in a

number of popular sports through Friday, August 28. All Sports Centers are offered free of charge to Boston residents and open to boys and girls ages 7 to 14. Parents may register their children for just one week or the entire summer.

The Sports Centers are operated in accordance with current public health guidelines. Children and staff wear face coverings and maintain six feet of social distance at all times, activities are organized in groups of ten or fewer, and programs are held completely outdoors.

For more information about the White Stadium Sports Center serving Jamaica Plain and Roxbury, please call (617) 961-3084 or email woodley.auguste@

boston.gov. For more information about the East Boston Sports Center at East Boston Memorial Stadium, please call (617) 961-3083 or email damien.margardo@boston.gov.

more information about the South Boston Sports Center at M Street Park, please call (617) 961-3039 or email mavrick.

afonso@boston.gov. Please note that lunch will be provided but participants must provide their own transportation. Pre-registration is required for both groups and individuals. For more information or to register online please go to boston.gov/sports.

Congressman Adam Schiff endorses Joe Kennedy for U.S. Senate

On Monday, Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA), a Framingham native, endorsed Joe Kennedy for U.S. Senate in an email and video to Kennedy for MA supporters. As Chair of the House Intelligence Committee, Congressman Schiff is known for fighting tirelessly against injustices and abuses by the Trump Administration.

"I can unequivocally state that Joe is one of the most powerful progressive voices in the Democratic

Party today," Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA) said. "From the moment he stepped foot on the House floor, I recognized Joe as a unique talent, as a shrewd legislator and tactician, and as a passionate warrior for justice. And I have seen how Joe has used his skill, talent and determination to fight Trump's abuses of power every single day of this presidency."

"Joe's voice for change is needed in the Senate now more than ever to demand accountability, action, and progressive change. In moments of great national urgency, like the COVID-19 pandemic or the recent protests for racial equality, Joe has been a champion for those struggling to get by and those struggling to overcome."

As Chair of the House Intelligence Committee, Schiff has been a fighter for accountability and to protect our democracy from the abuses of the Trump Administration.



California Congressman, and Framingham native, Adam Schiff has endorsed Congressman Joe Kennedy III for US Senate.

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

Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is

781-485-1403.

Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@eastietimes.com.

Letters must be signed.

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Eastie teen arrested in connection with fatal shooting on Revere Beach Boulevard

By John Lynds

An East Boston teen has been arrested in connection with the fatal shooting of Yaseen Butt, 20, of Revere outside Twist and Shake ice cream shop on Revere Beach Blvd.

State Police and the Suffolk County District Attor-

ney's Office said Felix Martinez, 19, of East Boston had been charged in Butt's death. Martinez was taken into custody last Thursday, four days after the fatal

The incident occurred just after 10 p.m. on Sunday, July 26 when Troopers from the State Police-Revere Barracks and Revere Police

responded to a shooting in front of the Twist and Shake at 82 Revere Beach Blvd.

Troopers and Officers were on scene within minutes and located a 20-yearold male, later identified as Butt, suffering from a gunshot wound. The victim was conscious upon Troopers' arrival and was transported to Massachusetts General

Hospital, where he was later pronounced deceased.

Preliminary investigation suggests the shooting followed an altercation.

Martinez was arraigned in Chelsea District Court on charges including murder, assault with a dangerous weapon and armed robbery, according to prosecutors.

Prosecutors said Marti-

nez stole two backpacks, one that was worth \$800, from Butt and an acquaintance of Butt's after Martinez and an accomplice flashed a gun at the pair.

Later, Butt and his friend comforted Martinez about the stolen backpacks and got into an altercation. Martinez and others chased Butt and after he fell to the ground

During the attack Martinez allegedly shot the 20-year-old Revere resi-

"Yaseen's (Butt) life was stolen over a backpack," District Attorney Rachael Rollins said in a statement. "This violence and complete disregard for human life is unacceptable."

Schools // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

creation process, and are fighting for safer physical conditions in schools.

"We want to see our students, but we want to do it with proper safety procedures in place," said Marta Bausemer, BTU member and nurse. "That means rapid testing, a solid plan for when infections inevitably happen, and training for all educators to slow the spread, among others."

In response, Walsh said this week that keeping kids safe continues to be the number one priority as the City looks at starting the new school year. He said Boston is taking all of their needs into account and exploring every option.

"It's not a decision that can be rushed, because the City doesn't know what the data will say a month from now, or even next week," said Walsh.

The Mayor said the City and BPS are planning for every scenario, so that all students can learn in a safe environment this school year. He said that the school year would not start with all in-person learning because it's not safe.

"Right now, the City is focused on all remote learning, and a hybrid model for the start of the year," said Walsh. "When kids walk through the doors of Boston's school buildings, it will be when the public health experts say it's safe."

He said that parents could choose to keep their kids fully remote, no matter what happens.

"But it's important to remember: many families don't really have that choice because the parents must go to work, and someone must care for their children," said Walsh. "For many students, the learning gap grows with every day they're away

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\$600,000

\$710,000

\$707,000

\$1,200,000

\$625,000

\$474,900

\$930,000

\$600,000

\$725,000

\$472,000

\$525,000

\$565,000

from their teachers and classrooms. Some families have the resources to make at-home learning work, and some don't. That's why it's important to explore every possible way to safely bring kids back to school, especially for students of color who already face challenges. It's about equity."

For their part, the BTU Nurses have identified five demands in order for students to return to school safely. They are as follows:

• Policies consistent with Safe Nursing Practice must be reviewed and approved by our nurses.

• Rapid testing must be in place for quick identification of COVID-19 in our school communities.

• Sufficient PPE supplies, including fitted N95 masks for nurses and appropriate protective gear for all educators who need them must be obtained and supplied in adequate quantities by the district.

• There should be adequate ventilation in all areas; cleaning and sanitizing policies must be strictly enforced; there must be isolation rooms and safe waiting areas near health offices, working sinks in all health offices, soap and paper towels in all bathrooms, working windows, and safe drinking water. Air quality and ventilation assessments must be done and the results must be made public.

• Increase the number of

substitute nurses and teachers, hire more psychologists, social workers, custodians, and other staff in order to support all students and to implement all safety protocols.

Mayor Martin Walsh gives a press briefing on BPS reopen-

Cassellius has held 24 public meetings so far, with more to go to discuss and get feedback from parents, staff and students on reopening. "BPS has been planning

ing last week.

for months, gathering data through student, staff and family surveys, as well as evaluating the spring remote learning program," she said. "All of that input has informed the BPS draft plans. They are addressing facility concerns such as bathrooms, water temperature, fixing windows, and ordering HVAC filters."

She said BPS would continue to monitor the data and science from medical and public health professionals, following CDC guidance as well as guidelines from state officials.

"Safety is the top priority for students, families, and all teachers and staff," said Cassellius.

She added that she understands the concerns families have about sending their children back to school and heard from them firsthand and understands on a personal level, as a mother of three.

"But one thing is clear to me — that we cannot throw our hands up in the air," she said. "We are all reinventing education. And we have to. Because our children don't get a rewind. There is no do-over. And we don't know how long this will continue. Our children need us to rally."

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- Sickle cell disease
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Avoid all cruise travel and nonessential air travel.



Piers Park Sailing Center's summer cruises along

By John Lynds

It's halfway through the summer and Piers Park Sailing Center's (PPSC) summer programs, both in-person and virtually, have been a success so far.

"Our in-person youth programs resumed June 29," said PPSC Executive Director Alex DeFronzo. "Summer sessions of the Inclusive Youth Development

Program, now in the fifth week, are going well. With reduced enrollment and strict adherence to guidelines, students are learning in an environment as safe as reasonably possible."

DeFronzo said outdoor education was a key to student growth and learning in past pandemics, and holds great value now.

"Students have been advancing through the

program curriculum at an impressive speed," said DeFronzo. "In total, we have 360 youth program slots this summer. In a typical year, we see more than 1,900 young sailors, so this was a difficult reduction in student enrollment. Priority enrollment went to students from environmental justice communities, students from families with low household income, and students with disabilities."

DeFronzo said there was a special exception and one program saw a growth in enrollment this year.

"Our teen program, Future Leaders and Instructor Trainees, has 26 students enrolled, up from five enrolled three years ago," said DeFronzo. "These teens are our future sailing instructors and building their skills is essential for sustaining youth programs in 2021 and beyond." Operating the sailing

programs safely meant acquiring a lot of new gear including personal protective equipment like face coverings and gloves, disinfectants, hand washing stations, dock brushes, soap foaming hose attachments, about 100 new life jackets, hand sanitizer, and more. "It also meant changing instructor to student ratios from 1:6 to 1:2 in most programming," said DeFronzo. "We would not have been able to make these adaptations without the support of many individual donors, corporate partners, foundations, and state grants. A very big thank you to all who have supported us in 2020."



A young sailor out in the harbor during PPSC in-person summer program that has been greatly reduced due to the pandemic.

To supplement its in-person programs the Sailing Center developed more than 30 videos for online education

"If you haven't already, visit our YouTube chan-

nel for new content," said DeFronzo. "Every week through the summer, we will release videos on sailing skills and marine science. You can subscribe to our channel to get the latest updates."



Harbor Explorers out in kayaks off the PPSC's docks.

Tawakal Halal Cafe named "Best of Boston"

By John Lynds

Bon Appetit named Yahya Noor's small cafe that serves up home cooked Somalia cuisine on the corner of Maverick and Jeffries Streets in East Boston to its annual "Hot 10" list saying Noor's restaurant "should be your first stop off the plane" at Logan Airport.

Since opening Tawakal Halal Cafe Noor has received nothing but praise for his food, his community giving and his ability to breathe no life into a forgotten corner of Eastie that abuts Logan Airport.

So it's no surprise that this week Boston Magazine named Tawakal Halal Cafe to its annual "Best of Boston" list.

This much-anticipated annual issue highlights the absolute best that the Greater Boston Area has to offer in food, drink, retail, design, fitness, and so much

"Among this year's outstanding "Best of Boston" honorees is Tawakal Halal Cafe, which was named to the list as the Best Takeout Food in East Boston," said Neal Malone, Vice Presi-

Regan Communications Group who runs press for Boston Magazine. "They were selected by the magazine's editorial team, which ate, drank, shopped, and explored its way around the city to come up with the best possible list. Many of these businesses have successfully weathered the storm that COVID-19 has created, while others have struggled."

In their review Boston Magazine writes, "Fromscratch sambusa wrappers stuffed and fried to a hot, flaky crisp, followed by tangled piles of spaghetti

sauced with a velvety stew of fragrantly spiced braised goat: Such soul-warming Somali comfort food certainly takes the edge off these anxiety-ridden times. Bonus points for bottles of signature hot sauce available for enlivening humdrum home cooking with East African herbs."

Noor said he wouldn't have been able to make his restaurant a success if not for the support and love from the community.

"I guess in the sense of being named best restaurants I will say thank you to East Boston for welcoming us with open arms," he said. "If it wasn't our community and our dedicated customers, we would have struggled and even maybe close our small family busi-



A plate of soul-warming Somali comfort food that helped make Tawakal Halal Cafe to this year's Boston Magazine's 'Best of Boston" list.

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Application period open for citizenship and assimilation grant programs

Staff Report

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is accepting applications for two funding opportunities under the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program. The grant opportunities, mandated by Congress and funded with appropriations rather than the agency's operating funds, will provide up to \$10 million in grants for citizenship preparation programs in communities

across the country. These competitive grant opportunities are open to organizations that prepare lawful permanent residents for naturalization and promote civic assimilation through increased knowledge of English, U.S. history, and civics.

USCIS expects to announce award recipients in

September 2020, if agency staff are available to review applications and oversee the program. However, should agency staff be furloughed in late August, USCIS anticipates that the grant program could be impacted or even terminated for the fiscal year.

USCIS seeks to expand availability of high-quality citizenship and assimilation services throughout the country with these two grant opportunities:

•Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services. This grant opportunity will fund up to 33 organizations that offer both citizenship instruction and naturalization application services to lawful permanent residents. Applications are due by Aug. 31.

•The Refugee and Asylee Assimilation Program. This grant opportunity will fund

up to six organizations to provide individualized services to lawful permanent residents who entered the United States under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program or were granted asylum. Applications are due by Aug. 31. USCIS will consider var-

ious program and organizational factors, including past grantee performance, when making final award decisions. In addition, all funded grant recipients must enroll in E-Verify as a regular employer within 30 days of receiving the award and remain as a participant in good standing with E-Verify throughout the entire period of grant performance. Funded grant recipients will be required to verify all new hires at hiring locations performing work on a program or activity that is funded in whole or in part under the grant. New to this year's program is a prerequisite that applicants and sub-awardees certified under the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) must comply with all SEVP requirements at the time of application.

Since it began in 2009, USCIS Citizenship Assimilation Grant Program has awarded approximately \$92 million through 434 grants to immigrant-serving organizations in 39 states and the District of Columbia.

To apply for one of these funding opportunities, visit grants.gov. For additional information on the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program for fiscal year 2020, visit uscis.gov/ grants or email the USCIS Office of Citizenship at citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov.

USCIS adjusts fees to help meet operational needs

Last week, the Department of Homeland Security announced a final rule that adjusts fees for certain immigration and naturalization benefit requests to ensure U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) recovers its costs of services.

Unlike most government agencies, USCIS is fee funded. Fees collected and deposited into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account fund nearly 97% of USCIS' budget.

As required by federal law, USCIS conducted a comprehensive biennial fee review and determined that current fees do not recover the cost of providing adjudication and naturalization services. DHS is adjusting USCIS fees by a weighted average increase of 20% to help recover its operational costs. Current fees would leave the agency underfunded by about \$1 billion

"USCIS is required to examine incoming and outgoing expenditures and make adjustments based on that analysis," said Joseph Edlow, USCIS deputy director for policy. "These overdue adjustments in fees are necessary to efficiently and fairly administer our nation's lawful immigration system, secure the homeland and protect Americans."

The rule accounts for increased costs to adjudicate immigration benefit requests, detect and deter immigration fraud, and thoroughly vet applicants, petitioners and beneficiaries. The rule also supports payroll, technology and operations to accomplish the USCIS mission. The rule removes certain fee exemptions, includes new nominal fees for asylum applicants, and reduces fee waivers to help recover the costs of adjudication.

This final rule also encourages online filing by providing a \$10 reduction in the fee for applicants who submit forms online that are electronically available from USCIS. Online filing is the most secure, efficient, cost-effective and convenient way to submit a request with USCIS.

USCIS last updated its fee structure in December 2016 by a weighted average increase of 21%.

For a full list of changes and a complete table of final fees, see the final rule.

This final rule is effective Oct. 2, 2020. Any application, petition, or request postmarked on or after this date must include payment of the new, correct fees established by this final rule.

OBITUARIES

Carmen DePaulo

Proprietor of DePaulo Insurance and Accounting

Carmen J. DePaulo of East Boston passed away peacefully at the Katzman House on August 3.

Carmen was a proprietor of DePaulo Insurance Agent and Accounting since 1972.

He was the beloved hus-

band of Laraine (Albano) DePaulo and the late Joan (Mercandante), devoted father of Stephen DePaulo and his wife, Maria of Texas, Thomas DePaulo and his wife, Sheila of East Boston, Claudia DePaulo of Texas and Gregory De-Paulo and his wife, JoAnne

of East Boston; cherished

grandfather of Michael,



Alivia, Giovanni, Ava, John, Ana Marie and Ryan.

A memorial service will be planned at a later date, please check back on our website www.ruggieromh. com for more information.



Louis R. Vazza ~ Funeral www.vazzafunerals.com



Please visit eastietimes.com



In Memoriam



Today and Everyday is a Perfect Day for Thinking Happy Thoughts of You

> Love Mom, Dad + Family

Christine Ann Promise

December 10, 1947-May 8, 2020

announce the passing of our sister, Christine Ann (Doyle) Promise of Revere, formerly of East Boston, due to COVID-19. The second of four

With great sadness, we

daughters of the late Ralph and Marion Doyle of East Boston, Christine is survived by her brothers: Jim Doyle of Agawam and Father Tom Doyle and her sisters, Maureen Doyle Flores and Kathleen Doyle and her husband, Jay Lifson, all of California. She was also the sister of the late Patty Doyle, cherished aunt of Kate Doyle of Westfield, David Flores, Kaitlin and Hannah Lifson and Carrie Lifson Macdonald; beloved Great Aunt of Nicholas and Samuel Florek, Jayden Lifson and her newest nephew, James Macdonald, born December, 2019.

Christine was happily married to Rick Promise (deceased 2019) who she met at a Scrabble tournament she was hosting. Married for 27 years, Chris and Rick were united by their unwavering devotion and commitment to the Catholic faith and were active congregants of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Revere, where they wed in June

Christine was class Valedictorian of both her high school (East Boston High School, 1965) and college (Boston State College, 1969) graduating classes, the latter to which she received a full academic scholarship. To ease the financial burden of her higher education, Chris worked weekends for four years in



the gift-wrapping department at Jordan Marsh in downtown Boston. life-long cherished the friendships she made at school and at work.

Following graduation from college, Christine worked in finance and was employed by John Hancock Insurance for more than two decades. Following her retirement from John Hancock, she worked as a special education assistant for the Revere school district.

She found the children delightful and her position there very rewarding.

During her last years, Christine bravely and uncomplainingly faced many health challenges, including early onset Alzheimer's disease. She often stated, "I don't have a single thing to complain about. Nothing hurts, and I really feel fine.'

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no services will be held at this time. When restrictions are lifted, she and Rick will be interred together at the National Cemetery in Bourne, after which a celebration of both their lives will be held.

Christine, you filled our lives with kindness, joy, love and laughter. Rest well dear sister. Your spirit lives on in all of us.

Lucinda Lanzilli

Past employee of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Lucinda A. (Giddings) Lanzilli of East Boston, formerly of Beachmont, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family on July 29. A past employee of the

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, she was the beloved wife for over 48 years of Nicholas Lanzilli, dear sister of Kathleen Arcovio and her late husband, Joseph of Melrose, cherished aunt of Matthew Arcovio and his wife, Giuliana of Melrose; adored great-aunt of Mackenzie and Rose Arcovio. She is also survived by many other loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements were by the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Ev-



cinda's honor can be made to the Brain Tumor Center at Massachusetts General Hospital, 125 Nashua Street, Suite 540 Boston MA 02114, 617-726-2200. information, more For please visit www.ruggi-

eromh.com.

MBTA to host forum on fall bus schedule tion the Service Planning

Staff report

The MBTA will host virtual meetings on Sunday, August 12, and Monday, August 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. to present details on fall bus schedule details and changes. The virtual meeting on August 12 will be in Spanish and the virtual meeting on August 13 will be in English. These virtual meetings will be held on GoToWebinar, a video conferencing platform.

MBTA Service Planning staff will outline temporary schedule changes that go into effect August 30, 2020. The temporary changes being made are in the best interest of riders in order to maximize both safety and service levels during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the presenta-

team will cover the follow-

- Why route changes are necessary;
- The service planning
- Specifics of the service changes and impacted routes; and
- MBTA's response to the pandemic.

• Other key elements on

During the meetings, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide input on future service changes.

Virtual Meeting Infor-

The meetings will be held via GoToWebinar. The MBTA encourages the public to participate and provide their feedback. To register, visitmbta.com/servicechanges.

Administration launches #MaskUpMA initiative

The Baker-Polito Administration last week launched #MaskUpMA, an effort to continue to remind residents to wear masks and face-coverings in public to stop the spread of COVID-19. The effort will underscore the importance of wearing masks across multiple channels including video testimonials on social media, a new PSA, and a website, Mass.Gov/ MaskUp.

Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito helped launch #MaskUpMA with video testimonials where they urge residents to wear masks to protect themselves and others. Red Sox mascot Wally the Green Monster also joined the effort today, and in the coming weeks, additional local

public figures will remind everyone in Massachusetts to "mask up."

In addition, the Department of Public Health today also launched an updated public service announcement video. Residents can also visit Mass.Gov/MaskUp to learn more about wearing face-coverings, including best practices and multilingual resources. In May, Governor

Baker issued an order requiring residents to wear face-coverings in public where social distancing is not possible. This applies to both indoor and outdoor spaces. Exceptions include children under the age of 2 and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition.

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This is NOT a hearing date,

but a deadline by which you

must file a written appear-

ance and objection if you

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you fail to file a timely writ-

ten appearance and objec-

of objections within thirty

tion followed by an affidavit

(30) days of the return day,

action may be taken without

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TION UNDER THE MASSACHU-

SETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

further notice to you.

CODE (MUPC)

administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J.

Date: July 28, 2020

Register of Probate

Felix D. Arroyo

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Concord, NH 03301-9053 603-271-2767

Dunn, First Justice of this

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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR **FORMAL** ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU20P0474EA Estate of: Diana Paz Date of Death 12/24/2019 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC Appointment of Personal Representative has been in an unsupervised administration is not required to filed by Maria Rodrizuez file an inventory or annual of Deerfield Beach, FL and accounts with the Court. Jamie R. Hincapie of East Persons interested in the Boston, MA requesting that estate are entitled to notice the Court enter a formal regarding the administration Decree and Order and for directly from the Personal such other relief as request-Representative and may ed in the Petition. petition the Court in any The Petitioner requests that: matter relating to the estate, Maria Rodrizuez of Deerfield including the distribution Beach, FL and Jamie R. Hinof assets and expenses of capie of East Boston, MA be

appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain

a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court.

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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU20P1188EA Estate of: Santos Aparicio

Rivas Date of Death 04/23/2020 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Vanessa Lizette Rivas of East Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Vanessa Lizette Rivas of East Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s)

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object

of said estate to serve With-

out Surety on the bond in an

unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

JPNA MONTHLY to this proceeding. To do so, **MEETING AGENDA** you or your attorney must file a written appearance The Jeffries Point and objection at this Court Neighborhood Association before: 10:00 a.m. on the will hold its monthly meetreturn day of 08/27/2020. ing on Monday, August 10 This is NOT a hearing date, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. on but a deadline by which you must file a written appear-ZOOM. For more informaance and objection if you

object to this proceeding. If

you fail to file a timely writ-

ten appearance and objec-

tion followed by an affidavit

(30) days of the return day,

action may be taken without

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TION UNDER THE MASSACHU-

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A Personal Representative

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in an unsupervised admin-

istration is not required to

file an inventory or annual

accounts with the Court.

Persons interested in the

estate are entitled to notice

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Representative and may

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including the distribution

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WITNESS, Hon. Brian J.

Date: July 23, 2020

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of objections within thirty

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

tion visit: jeffriespoint.org.

Below please find the agenda for the Jeffries Point

as a couple or family.

News in Brief

Neighborhood Association scheduled monthly meeting

for August,. The meeting will be held via Zoom Video Conference due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. AGENDA (subject to

change):

- Greetings & Announce-
- Mayor Martin J. Walsh • Boston Police Update
- BTD Representative -Tentative
- VOTE! 324 Sumner St – Change of occupancy to a three unit residential dwelling and add vertical addition. Property Owner: Bobby Gerasimidis; Rep-

resented By: Richard C. Lynds

• VOTE! - 223 Everett St – Add new rear addition to existing three-family along with new rear deck. Property Owner/Developer: Paul Hardiman

• VOTE! - 16/18 Cot-

tage St – Addition of a rear and fourth story addition & roof decks to both proper-Owner/Developer: Norberto Perez; Represented By: Jeffrey Drago

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

2020 meeting dates are posted at jeffriespoint.org.

State allocates \$50 million from the Governor's **Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund**

Staff Report

The Baker-Polito Administration announced last week that it will allocate more than \$50 million in federal CARES Act funds to benefit education in elementary and secondary schools, as well as colleges and universities. The funding from the

federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund will improve early literacy, expand remote learning opportunities, and cover costs associated with reopening certain schools and colleges, as well as boost financial aid for college students in greater need of financial assistance.

As part of the federal CARES Act, governors in each state were granted a share of discretionary dollars to ensure continuity of educational services during the COVID-19 crisis. The Baker-Polito Administration previously allocated nearly \$1 billion in federal

funds to help municipalities, school districts, and colleges and universities in the Commonwealth address COVID-related expenses. The funding announced

will support the following initiatives:

•Up to \$10 million for early literacy programs that provide extra help to students through Grade 3, aimed at remediating learning loss children may have experienced since schools closed in March, as well as accelerate reading skills of children in high-need com-

•Up to \$7.5 million to expand access to online courses, including vanced placement, early college or dual enrollment •Up to \$25 million to

cover COVID-related expenses associated with reopening colleges and universities, as well as certain non-public elementary and secondary schools. Funds will be allocated based on the number and percent-

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age of low-income students these schools enroll;

•Up to \$2.5 million in financial aid for low-income college students attending public colleges to ensure they can cover emergency expenses to continue their education:

•And up to \$5 million set aside in an emergency reserve fund.

"Our administration is committed to supporting every student in our schools as districts and universities prepare for the start of the school year," said Governor Charlie Baker. "This \$50 million investment represents flexible funding that can be used for a variety of critical resources for schools and colleges as they begin to reopen and bring kids back into the classroom, especially in our most vulnerable com-

This funding builds on the nearly \$1 billion previously allocated to schools, childcare programs, colleges, and universities.

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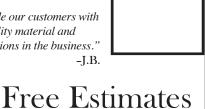
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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

PLANNING FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

CHELSEA - The Chelsea Public Schools are beginning a whirlwind of planning and meetings starting tonight when the administration unveils its re-opening plans to the School Committee – plans that have three alternatives and a lot of grey areas in between.

Supt. Almi Abeyta said they went over the plans at the School Committee meeting on Thursday, July 30, and then begin a full week of virtual meetings and one in-person meeting as well to hear what parents

"We will presented to School Committee the three plans and show what we've worked on,' she said. "Then we'll have some community conversations and hear what parents think. We're going to be busy.'

The input sessions started on July 31 and went through the first week in August as well, with an expected School Committee vote on the final plan by Aug. 11.

The three plans are based upon a very strong parent survey that went out two weeks ago and had 1,900 responses. The results of that showed that about 66 percent of families would be willing to send their children in-person to school all the time or part of the time. However, a large number – 33 percent – said they only wanted online learning.

"We had a strong response to the survey and of the 1,900 that responded, 79 percent were in Spanish," she said. "We know that two-thirds of our families would be willing to come back with in-person and remote learning and with all in-person learning. So we know a good two-thirds of parents are willing - maybe not every day - to come back. We also know that one-third are not willing to come back and we have to meet those needs too."

Abeyta said no matter what they decide about in-person, they have real-

THE

ized from the survey they need a robust remote plan in place by the start of school - which will come 10 days later than normal by state decree earlier this week.

"We can't have 33 percent of our students not learning," she said.

One key in Chelsea is that it was such a hot spot for the virus and so many student families were impacted directly. Abeyta said one member of the Re-Opening Task Force had been inflicted with COVID-19, and was in no way interested in having students back in school. This is an experience that must be anticipated in Chelsea, Abeyta said, as so many were traumatized here by sickness or death.

"That person's reaction to us bringing students back to school was that we had no business being in school buildings until there was a vaccine," she said. "On the other hand, I also had a parent who is part of the special education program and they said their child isn't receiving services and they want them back in school to get services."

That will mean that remote learning will need to be much improved over last Spring's emergency online learning plans - which were good for some, and not for others.

"Families are saying they need more rigor and more structure with the remote learning," she said. "The work we've done this summer is how do we strengthen that and how do we improve it. It will be improved and it will be guided and it will be more organized."

Abeyta also said they have to be ready for the virus to return if they go in person, but it will be a matter of controlling it as the community is doing now with masks and precau-

If students are in person, they will be in groups of 15 and spaced out accordingly in the classrooms with teachers. They will be kept in a cohort so that if someone in the cohort tests pos-

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itive, it will be much easier to quarantine the group.

'If someone is positive, we'll know they have been in certain areas," she said. "We know the virus is going to happen. We know it's still out there. We just want to maintain control. In a way, school will be safer than a grocery store. We'll monitor things completely and there will be PPE and hand-washing all the time."

One part of the plan that is universal for Chelsea is that students will be spaced out six feet apart. State regulations allow for as low as three feet between students to increase numbers, but Abeyta said six feet is right for Chelsea.

"In Chelsea, we're looking at six feet and not three feet," she said. "We're going by the data from the Harvard Department of Public Health. We feel six feet is right. We're going to hold to the highest standard."

BILL PASSES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN CHELSEA

CHELSEA - Last week, Bill H.4368 Home Rule Petition, an Act relative to certain affordable housing in the city of Chelsea, passed in the Senate. Sponsored by Reps. Dan Ryan and RoseLee Vincent, H.4368 would exempt the redevelopment project of Chelsea's Innes Apartments from general law related to the procurement and award of contracts - providing greater predictability of cost, a more streamlined construction schedule and union contractors with past experience with the construction team. It will also allow a greater ability to meet diversity goals for the

"We applaud Representatives Ryan and Vincent and Senator DiDomenico for their work in continuing to advance the much-needed redevelopment of affordable housing for Chelsea residents," said Jennifer Corcoran, Project Director of Joseph J. Corcor-

Tie it Up

Mooring study shows Everett is ripe to become boating community



A recent boat mooring study concluded that about 40 to 50 moorings could be placed successfully in a field off of the Gateway Mall in the Malden River. Fire Chief Tony Carli - also the City Harbormaster - said it is an exciting possibility and a rare opportunity.

an Company. "Without a Home Rule Petition, this project would not be possible. We're grateful for their work in helping move this bill through the House and bring Chelsea residents the high-quality housing they deserve."

Thursday, July 30, from 10 a.m.-noon Joseph J. Corcoran team will be hosting a Voter Registration Drive for residents at 61 Watts St. Chelsea has been selected to envision a \$135 million redevelopment of the existing Innes Apartments public housing community. The redevelopment of the Innes Apartments public housing community in Chelsea will offer new homes for all current residents and create a fully accessible, mixed-income, mixed-use community. All 96 existing public housing units will be replaced onefor-one while adding 40 new middle-income units and 194 market-rate units all inter-mingled through-

out the property. When complete, the transformed Innes Apartments will feature a range affordable housing solutions for both current residents and new-comers to Chelsea, including market-rate transit-oriented housing, small business retail, increased public green space, a modernized playground, and a robust resident programming component that includes job training, educational services, and youth activities.

A MIX OF **LEARNING IN EVERETT SCHOOLS**

EVERETT - The Everett Public Schools said if all remains the same with guidance from the state and the data on COVID-19, they would probably open up school with a completely virtual teaching model – albeit much different in look and content from what was rolled out on an emergency basis last spring.

Supt. Priya Tahiliani said they have learned that many parents won't be comfortable sending their children back to school in September – but may grow more comfortable with the idea as time goes on if the virus continues to be controlled. While changes can happen at any time to set the process back, she said they are meeting parents in that place of uncertainty and taking a phased approach even as other districts wade into the waters of hybrid in-person plans starting in September.

many families not comfort-

able sending students back

working with." "At this point, our current plan...we're talking about is our instruction would be completely virtu-

al," she said. "What I mean be to transition in the secby that is we know we have

"Many districts are doing

third Quarter.

ond Quarter and then in the

of the renewed waterfront

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in the fall. This would mean all students are doing the same thing whether they are in the building or not." At the same time, teach-

ers aren't necessarily comfortable returning in the fall 'What I hear from teachers is they would prefer coming back virtual too,"

she said. "It's not going to be the emergency instruction we had, but rigorous and high-quality instruction being created by teachers and we have expectations on grading and bell-to-bell school days and schedules." This first Quarter situ-

ation would work with a combination of students that are working from home and of students that are set up in school buildings at Virtual Learning Centers (VLCs).

Teachers would not be in front of a classroom, and the VLCs would likely be a cohort of students that would be prioritized by need and preference. Teachers would prepare and present lessons online to students at home and at the VLCs using computers and tablets. Students would have a set schedule for their classes just as if they were in a traditional school day. The one difference is the VLCs would have a monitor for every cohort that would not be a teacher, but would be someone qualified to answer questions or help with technology.

Students would also report to the schools on certain days for clubs, or sports or other school activities - whether at-home learners or in the VLCs. All of it would be clearly laid out and there would be no "figuring it out," she said.

The schools came to this plan because, so far, the parent surveys sent out last week were overwhelmingly uncertain. Some 45 percent of the parents surveyed – and there were a lot of surveys returned - said they were unsure right now about how school should resume. Then there was an even split as to how many were comfortable with sending kids back, and how many were not comfortable sending them back. At best, it was inconclu-

sive right now, and a main reason for the phased approach. "It might change with

time," she said. "We like to think it will be black and white, but I think it will be across the spectrum of how families navigate this. I actually think there are all shades of grey we will be

The plan, though, is CITY OFFICIALS not to stay virtual for very LOOK TOWARD long. If things continue to WATERFRONT improve, the plan would

See REGION Page 11

have kids at home trying to learn online without super-"This plan also gives us the ability to learn from... other districts," she said. "There are so many different ways school is being done and it will be import-

ant in that first Quarter to

look at them and build off

a week in and a week off in

the fall," she said. "We do

plan to do that in Quarter 2,

but we are taking a phased

approach. Quarter 1 is the

VLCs and Quarter 2 is a

hybrid balance and Quarter

3 is when hopefully we can

pretty much have everyone

back in school. With smart

spacing, we should be able

to fit all students in for five

not starting with a hybrid

model of schooling came

down to adult work sched-

ules, said Tahiliani. She

said many parents weren't

sure how they would be

able to go to work, and also

One of the key drivers in

days of instruction."

The VLCs for the fall are just now being sorted out, and the logistics are still being worked out right now with teachers, parents, students and staff. Tahiliani said they would probably choose those for in-school VLCs through a lens of equity - meaning those that do not have internet or do not have reliable technology would be first in line. Others who prefer to be in person would then be allowed. She said she believes it will probably sort itself out without have to make difficult selections of who come into the building

and who stays at home. Fall sports, clubs and band will be on despite virtual classrooms

Supt. Priya Tahiliani said this week that, while they are waiting for more specific guidelines from the state, they do expect sports and extra-curricular activities to take place this fall.

That coming despite a modified virtual classroom for Everett right now in the first Quarter of the school

"We want to do sports and we want to bring clubs together," she said. "Band practice has already started. The traditional hybrid won't preclude us from doing anything else." She said right now the

district is moving forward with the idea that sports will be allowed, but they are waiting for specific plans from the state. "Whatever the state al-

lows us, we'll do," she said.

EVERETT - One benefit

Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

is boating – and Everett has the potential to squeeze in about 50 moorings on the Malden River and bring new boating to the community to the community for the first time in generations.

The City commissioned a study on waterfront access and a potential mooring field from GEI Consultants this year, and the study just came in at the end of June with good results.

The study concluded among many other things - that the City could get at least 40 moorings onto the Malden River off of Gateway Park for boats up to 25 feet long. Such a plan would bring boating access to Everett, and also bring in a source of revenue through mooring fees and excise taxes that would go directly back into improving and maintaining the waterfront.

Moorings are small balllike equipment that are anchored to the river floor and hold a boat in place during boating season. They are removed in the winter. The moorings allow boat access via a shuttle service or using a dinghy boat and a dock. Such facilities are extremely popular in Boston Harbor, and it's very rare that new facilities with close access open up to the public.

The study predicted the City could begin turning a profit on the bargain in about three to five years.

"Based on the assumptions noted...in this report, potentially 40 moorings for 25-foot-long vessels are feasible," read the report. "This location and layout provide easy access to the locks, while maintaining the existing

channel along the western side of the river. The moorings are laid out such they wouldn't impede on the channel and maintaining sufficient space between them to accommodate the variations in the swing radius and water level changes."

Fire Chief Tony Carli by charter – is the harbormaster for Everett. It's not just a title though. Chief Carli was a member of the Coast Guard, is an avid boater and has his Captain's License for up to 100 ton vessels. He said he was extremely excited to see the results of the mooring

study. He said there are marinas and yacht clubs further up the Mystic River in Somerville and Medford that are exclusive and popular and not in nearly as good a position as the Everett location. He expects any offering to

be gobbled up very quickly. "It's an excellent location because you get through the locks and you're in Boston Harbor and the Little Mystic," he said. "I think we open up a lottery for the first 30 to 35 moorings. When that lottery opens up, we have all 35 taken and an endless waiting list. There are some cities and towns that have waiting lists 20 years long. I think the potential is incredible. We will never lack customers. We want to make sure it's fair."

Carli said he believes they can get 50 moorings in the field, and if they limit the size to smaller boats, probably even more. If things go successfully, there is also a way to double-up on the moorings.

One key is that with the size of the boats, there is no threat to having to lift the Alford Street Bridge to get these boats under the Bridge. He said at the size of 25 feet or below, most every boat would fit under the bridge without it having

to be raised. "The height of the Alford Street Bridge is always going to be a concern," he said. "However, the size

of these boats we're look-

ing at, we should be able

to clear under the bridge at any height...We don't want to come in and have the Alford Street Bridge opening up 50 or more times."

Right now, it's too late to get anything started for this boating season, but Carli said this allows them time to carefully plan for next year. They will need to decide on a fee, and Carli thinks they can increase the report's suggested fee by about \$5 to \$10 per foot. They would also have to figure out how to manage it, and that would likely be farmed out to a professional service to administer for the City – paid for with the new mooring fees. The off-season would also provide ample time to start the permitting process and the waterways discussions. The mooring equipment would be paid for and provided by the boat owners.

up costs of about \$45,000 and annual revenues of up to \$11,000. That would mean in year four or so, the City would be able to begin using the fees to pay for improvements to the waterfront. "The overall revenue

The study indicated start-

may not outweigh the costs of design, permitting

and management of the moorings themselves," read the report. "Applications for permits, design and overall management may not enable the City to break even or make revenue for approximately 5 years, however, after that the City could net money and use the revenue to perform maintenance to the other potential access points along the river."

Carli said they would be setting aside some of the moorings for public use, with an eye on people coming from out of the area by boat with Everett as the destination – a totally new

"They could tie up here, take a dinghy to the dock and then they're at the bike path and that's a short walk to the casino, the Gateway Mall and beyond," he said.

Overall, Carli said it is a very rare opportunity and a new access point for Everett residents and the Boston Harbor boating community. He said it was the vision of Mayor Carlo DeMaria almost 12 years ago when the mayor was first elected. Carli said he remembers being called in with the late Chief Butler to talk about boat access and moorings off the Gateway Mall. Carli said he was skeptical, but it was a dream of the mayor's and they considered it.

Now, so many years later, it's an exciting and real possibility.

"This is something the mayor has talked about for a long time and I was skeptical, but it is exciting to begin to think about it in real terms," he said. "It's not too often in Boston or Massachusetts that they start to create new areas of access. It's kind of like what it's been for 100 years and that's it. This could be really exciting for the City."

FRELICK RETURNS TO ACTION

LYNN - Sal's back.

And that's very good news for the North Shore Navigators as they begin their playoff drive in the Futures Collegiate Baseball League.

Sal Frelick, the Navigators' superb leadoff batter from Lexington, returned to the lineup Tuesday and scored the only run in the team's 1-0 victory over the Westfield Starfires at Fraser

Field. Frelick, who plays for Boston College and is a potential first round pick in next year's Major League

Baseball Draft, had been

sidelined after sustaining

LOCAL STUDENTS

EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

LOCAL STUDENTS **RECEIVE BACHELOR'S DEGREES FROM UMASS AMHERST**

6,600 Approximately students received bachelor's degrees in over 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as the university held a virtual commencement celebration for the Class of 2020 on May 8.

Below is a list of students from your area who earned

Brandon Francis Dsouza Melissa Ruiz Mejia

SORTO COMPLETES **FIRST YEAR** AT LASELL UNIVERSITY

Brandon Sorto of East Boston completed their first year at Lasell University in Newton, Massachusetts.

Sorto joined the Lasell community for the 2019-2020 academic year. The University looks forward to their continued success!

For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications at smocle@ lasell.edu or at 617-243-2386.

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY **ANNOUNCES** SPRING DEAN'S LIST

Select students have been named to the Spring 2020 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

Rachel Gover of East Boston About RWU: With

campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the heart of Providence, R.I., Roger Williams University is forward-thinking private university committed to strengthening society through engaged teaching and learning. At RWU, small classes, direct access to faculty and guaranteed opportunity for real-world projects ensure that its nearly 4,000 undergraduates - along with hundreds of law students, graduate students and adult learners graduate with the ability to think critically along with the practical skills that today's employers demand. Roger Williams is leading the way in American higher education, confronting the most pressing issues facing students and families - increasing costs, rising debt

EMERSON COLLEGE ANNOUNCES **GRADUATES**

and job readiness.

ing a graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 in person when it is safe to do so, at a to be determined date.

The College launched an Emerson 2020 Celebration website to honor graduates' achievements with more than 800 submissions from students, families, alumni, faculty, and staff, which includes photos, videos, audio submissions, and text. The website strives to reflect the many facets of the Class of 2020 and the wider Emerson community - its creativity, daring, thoughtfulness, irreverence, and humor.

Video submissions include well wishes from well-known alumni and celebrities in the entertainment industry, including actors Jennifer Coolidge, Henry Winkler, comedians Jay Leno, Bill Burr, and Steven Wright, screenwriter Adele Lim, actress Chrystee Pharris, and producer Kevin Bright, among

Gianna Gironda of Boston received a BA degree in Writing, Lit & Pub: Pub-Patrick Kearns of Bos-

ton received a BA degree in Media Arts Production. Alana Scartozzi of Bos-

ton received a BA degree in Writing, Lit and Publishing. Andrew Stanton of Bos-

tonreceived a BS degree in

Journalism. Simon Gusev of East Boston received a BS de-

gree in Journalism. Jake McManus of Boston received a BFA degree in Creative Writing BFA.

Jane Cardona of East

Boston recieved a BS degree in Communication Studies.

Daniele Sestito of East Boston graduated in December 2019 and received a BFA degree in Media Arts

Production.

About Emerson College Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has approximately 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs at Emerson Los Angeles, located in Hollywood, and at its 14th-century castle, in the Netherlands. Additionally, there are opportunities to study in Washington, DC, London, China, and the Czech Republic, Spain, Austria, Greece, France, Ireland, Mexico, Cuba, England, and South Africa. The College has an active network of 39,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information,

On Sunday, May 10, Em-

erson College awarded 959 undergraduate degrees for the Class of 2020. The College is committed to hold-

> getting back in the lineup front of fans and scouts, and I was happy we could I'm just grateful for the opget the win. Hopefully we portunity to play baseball can keep this momentum this summer." going into the next couple

Navigators fans, who are not allowed to attend home

visit emerson.edu.

a hamstring injury in a July 12 game. The Navigators (9-10) struggled during Frelick's absence and slipped out of a playoff

But with Frelick back at full speed, the Navigators won a hard-fought, wellpitched game versus the playoff-contending fires.

It didn't take long for Frelick to announce his presence. The 5-foot-9, pound left-handed batter led off the bottom of the first with a single to right field. He advanced to second on Ben Malgeri's basehit. Frelick stole third and scored on Cam Climo's

sacrifice fly to center.

The Navs' Cam Climo pitched six scoreless innings, allowing two hits while striking out seven batters. Peter Saskellaris (Virginia Tech), Jack Wallace (Franklin Pierce), and Max Meier (Stanford) each pitched one inning in relief, with Meier earning the save for a perfect ninth inning.

Frelick talked about his return to the Navigators, who are within two games of the second and final playoff spot in the FCBL standings.

"I am obviously super excited to be back after missing a couple of games," said Frelick. "It felt great of weeks down the final stretch." Scouts from Major League Baseball teams have been attending Navs' games and evaluating the skills of Frelick and many of his teammates as they re-

late to the 2021 MLB Draft. "Seeing all the scouts at the games is definitely exciting, but my main focus this summer is to have fun and develop as a baseball player," said Frelick. "Whether we are playing

in an empty stadium or in

games due to state regulations for the coronavirus pandemic, will have an opportunity to see Manager Bob Macaluso's exciting team on live television in August. Joshua Kummins, director of media relations the Navigators, said the North Shore Navigators-Nashua Silver Knights game in Nashua on Saturday, Aug. 15 at 1 p.m., will

be televised line on NESN.

bpda

Virtual Public Meetings

Suffolk Downs

How to Participate

Each meeting will be hosted online, using Zoom. You must register for each meeting through the links provided below, then you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the meeting. You will also receive an email before the meeting regarding technical assistance. The meeting will open about 20 minutes before the start time for each meeting for you to join and troubleshoot any technical issues, including respecting simultaneous translation services. If you're calling in by phone, you'll need to download the Zoom application to see the presentation and access language interpretation.

Saturday, August 15 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

https://bit.ly/2BAIZud Call-in Options:

US: +1 669-254-5252 or +1 646-828-7666 or 833-568-8864 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 161 467 0532

Thursday, August 20 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm https://bit.ly/2WXzD1R

US: +1 669-254-5252 or +1 646-828-

7666 or 833-568-8864 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 161 409 0862

Tuesday, August 25 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm https://bit.ly/3eYCBtm

Call-in Options:

US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 or 833 568 8864 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 160 286 0002

Project Description: The BPDA will hold three (3) additional virtual meetings on Saturday, August 15, 2020, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Thursday, August 20,

2020, $6:00 \, \text{pm} - 8:00 \, \text{pm}$, and Tuesday, August 25, 2020, $6:00 \, \text{pm} - 8:00 \, \text{pm}$ on the Suffolk Downs development project consisting of the Boston portion of the planned redevelopment of the Suffolk Downs horse racing facility located at $525 \, \text{m}$ McClellan Highway in East Boston. Project proponent The McClellan Highway Development Company, LLC, an affiliate of The HYM Investment Group, proposes approximately 10.5 million square feet of development on the approximately 109 acres of the Suffolk Downs site in the City of Boston. The multi-phased proposal for the Boston portion of the site will include the development of a new mixed-use neighborhood, an approximately 27-acre publicly accessible open space system in Boston (with approximately 13 additional acres planned for the Revere portion of the site), and a new retail square at the Suffolk Downs MBTA station (an additional retail square is planned in Revere, at the Beachmont station).

BPDA's review of the project. At each meeting, there will be a presentation by the proponent that will provide an overview of the project, anticipated impacts, and proposed mitigation. Following the presentation, members of the public will be given an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments and feedback. Simultaneous translation services will be provided through the Zoom platform. Suffolk Downs project documents have been translated into Spanish and Arabic, and these are available to the public on the BPDA's and project proponent's websites. The BPDA's project-specific website is at http://www.bostonplans. org/projects/development-projects/suffolk-downs

The virtual meetings are being held to facilitate additional outreach to Spanish- and Arabic- speaking residents, as part of the

Printed information about the Suffolk Downs project is available by mail upon request.

mail to: Raul Duverge Boston Planning & Development Agency

617.918.4492

phone:

One City Hall Square, 9th Floor

raul.duverge@boston.gov

Public Comments: Public comments may be submitted, including in Spanish and Arabic, via

the BPDA's project website located here: http://www.bostonplans.org/ projects/development-projects/suffolk-downs via email to Raul.Duverge@ Boston.gov, or through the mail to Raul Duverge, Senior Project Manager, BPDA, One City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201

BostonPlans.org | 🗐 @BostonPlans

AFT Massachusetts calls for remote start to school this fall

On Friday, the American Federation of Teachers (ATF) Massachusetts Executive Board, made up of elected representatives of the 23,000 AFT members statewide, voted to call for a remote start to school this fall, citing the rising levels of COVID-19 transmission in Massachusetts, lengthy delays in obtaining test results, and the lack of hot water, adequate ventilation, and space for social distancing in school buildings.

"We miss our students terribly, and we all wish we could be back in the classroom with them. But it's become clear in the last few weeks that an in-person re-

turn to schools would unacceptably put the health and safety of our students, their families, and educators at risk. Parents, grandparents, and educators - maybe even students - would die," said AFT Massachusetts President Beth Kontos. "Community transmission of COVID-19 is on the rise again in Massachusetts, and lengthy delays in testing mean we won't know whether a sick student has the common cold or the deadly virus. In the schools AFT Massachusetts represents, especially in Boston and our Gateway Cities, years of chronic underfunding have left us with unsafe school facilities: windows that don't open, bathrooms that lack

hot water and soap, ventilation systems that need upgrading, and nurses that treat sick students in converted closets with no room for social distancing. We've outlined a series of criteria that districts and the state must meet before it is safe for students and educators to return to the classroom, and it's clear that a period of remote learning will be necessary before those criteria are met. Now, we must focus on working with our local school teams to redesign remote learning so that it works for all students."

AFT Massachusetts is the statewide affiliate of American Federation of Teachers, and represents educators in many of the state's major cities, including Boston, Lawrence, Lowell, Everett and Lynn. In its statement, the union cited the effective reproduction rate of COVID-19 in Massachusetts, which is currently above 1.0, meaning that the virus is spreading, not being contained. According to the COVID Act Now model developed by experts from Georgetown University and Stanford University, 'the total number of active cases in Massachusetts is growing at an unsustainable rate.' On Sunday, the state's positive test rate jumped to 2.65 percent, its highest level since mid-June.

AFT Massachusetts outlined several public health and safety criteria that the union believes are neces-

sary in order for in-person learning to resume:

- Community transmission of COVID-19 is under control in the region.
- There is a public health infrastructure to support effective disease testing, surveillance, tracing and isolation in schools.
- All staff who are at high risk have access to remote work assignments.
- The district and school have funded safeguards and implemented protocols, including the below essential components:

*6-foot physical distanc-

*Face coverings provided by schools to all students and staff, from Kindergar-

*Adequate personal pro-

tective equipment provided to staff

*Access to hand-washing facilities with consistent 100oF degree water

*Resources and staffing to clean and sanitize facil-

ventilation and building systems to ensure safe levels of air flow *Adequate space for

*Necessary updates to

nurses to isolate potentially infected students

*Paid sick time to ensure that no educator or staff member brings COVID-19 into school

 AFT members and leaders, families and community partners are included in the reopening planning

Senate passes bill to criminalize female genital mutilation

Staff Report

The Massachusetts State Senate unanimously passed legislation to criminalize the practice of female genital mutilation and cutting, also known as FGM/C.

An Act relative to the penalties for the crime of female genital mutilation includes creating education and prevention programs for communities with females who are at a high risk of undergoing genital mutilation, and creating interagency partnerships directed towards prevention. The bill also sets fines and sentences for those who practice female genital mutilation or remove a child from the Commonwealth for the purpose of carrying out this practice.

"One of the most powerful things we can do to create a better Commonwealth and a better world is

protect the health and safety of, and empower, women and girls," stated Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland), "I am proud of the Senate for voting to take steps to end this practice, which does nothing but cause suffering on so many levels. Thank you Senator Boncore for championing this issue and seeing this bill through."

"Today, the Senate has stood up to clearly denounce gender-based violence and affirm our commitment to the health and safety of women and girls across the Commonwealth," said Senator Joe Boncore (D-Winthrop). "The advocacy and testimonies of survivors, including Mariya Taher, was critical in moving this bill forward. Their resilience and commitment to ensuring that not one more girl suffers is admirable and appreciated. Medical experts have agreed that female

genital mutilation has no basis in medical purposes or benefits: it is a method used to control women's anatomy. By criminalizing female genital mutilation, we tell survivors that they are heard, and we tell girls and women that they are protected from this abuse."

"Over two years ago, I started a petition with two other Massachusetts-based residents to call attention to the fact that our state did not have a law protecting girls from FGM/C. To date, over 400,000 people have signed it," said Mariya Taher of Sahiyo. "Today, I am beyond ecstatic to let those petition supporters and let every girl in the Commonwealth know that the Massachusetts Senate passed this bill in a 39-0 vote, to protect girls in our state from undergoing this form of gender-based violence. It has taken many years, many individuals,

and many attempts to have a bill passed, and finally, Massachusetts made the right choice. Thank you to Senator Boncore for listening to survivors and letting community members tell their stories of the negative impacts FGM/C has had on their lives, and for leading the charge in the Senate to support them and protect future generations from this form of gender-based violence. Also, my deepest appreciation to Rep. Natalie Higgins and Rep. Jay Livingstone for being the bill

sponsors in the House." As of 2020, some 38 states have enacted statewide laws to criminalize and prohibit female genital mutilation. For 20 years, female genital mutilation was illegal in the United States, when a federal law was passed in 1996 banning the

In 2018, a United States District Court overturned

the 1996 federal law on technical grounds, citing that Congress had overstepped its authority in interceding in local criminal activity by passing the nationwide ban. In their decision, the court agreed that the practice of female genital mutilation is "despicable" and "essentially criminal assault." Since this decision, many state legislatures swiftly passed laws

banning female genital mutilation.

Massachusetts would become the 39th state in the country to pass a law criminalizing female genital mutilation should this legislation become law.

The bill has already passed the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and now moves to the Governor for his consideration.

BOSTON MEDICAL

Why have some communities not been a part of medical research? You can help researchers develop new and better treatments that benefit all of us. Many groups of people have been left out of research in the past. That means we know less about their health. When you join the All of Us Research Program, you'll help researchers learn more about what makes people sick or keeps them healthy. JoinAllofUs.org/NewEngland (617) 768-8300 AllofUs **New England** *All participants will receive \$25 after completion of their visit. To complete the visit, participants must create an account, BRIGHAM HEALTH give consent, agree to share their electronic health records, answer health surveys, and have their measurements taken (height, weight, blood pressure, etc.), and give blood and urine samples, if asked.

Unemployment claims increase for the week ending July 25

Staff Report For the week ending July 25, Massachusetts had 19,179 individuals file an initial claim for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI), an increase of 1,025 over the previous week.

Increases were widespread throughout all sectors. From March 15 to July 25, a total of 1,144,983 workers have filed an initial claim for regular UI. For the sixth week in a row, continued UI claims at 502,471 were down 8,235 or 1.61 percent over the previous week.

Pandemic Un-The employment Assistance (PUA) initial claims filed for the week ending July

| Industry | Percent |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Food & Accomodation | 19.07% |
| Healthcare & Social Assistance | 12.79% |
| Retail Trade | 11.62% |
| Administrative & Waste Services | 7.07% |
| Transportation & Warehouse | 5.49% |
| Professional and Technical Services | 5.45% |
| Manufacturing | 4.64% |
| Construction | 4.37% |
| All other industries | 29.49% |

25, at 14,850, were 2,448 more than the previous week. Since April 20, some 691,298 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 implemented on May 21. For the week July 18 to July 25, some 4,155 PEUC initial claims were filed, 612 lower than the previous week, bringing the total of PEUC filings to 79,278 since implementation.

Since March, the customer service staff at the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has grown from

around 50 employees to over 2000. 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 held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese - and have been attended by around 400,000 constituents.

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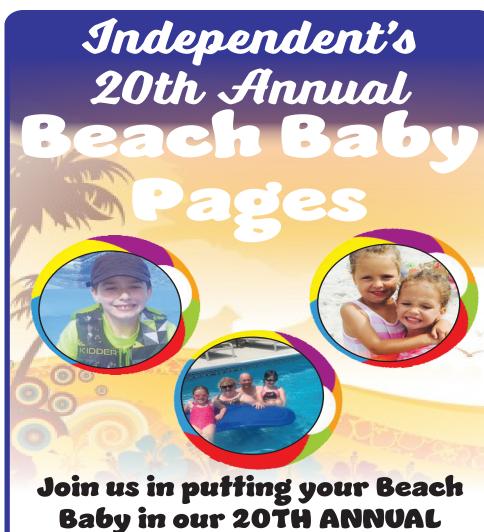
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SEND YOUR BEACH BABY TO: promo@reverejournal.com by

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.