

# East Boston

## TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

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### HVNA releases Suffolk Downs poll results

By John Lynds

With the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) poised to give the green light HYM Investment Group's massive 162-acre mixed-use project at the historic Suffolk Downs site on Thursday, the Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA) recently conducted a poll of residents that will live the closest to the proposed development.

During the group's September meeting the HVNA board released the results of the poll that posed two questions to residents.

The results of the first question, "Do you support the current Suffolk Downs Development project?", 52 percent of residents answered 'yes' while 31 percent answered 'no'. Another 17 percent said they were 'not sure'.

The results of the first question, "If made to choose between the two options for the Suffolk Downs Development, (20 percent affordable housing or 50 percent affordable housing, which do you prefer?", 79 percent of residents said they support 20 percent affordable housing while only 21 percent said they support 50 percent affordable housing at the site.

The poll comes at a time when groups like City Life/Vida Urbana are trying to pressure the BPDA to delay a Suffolk Downs vote until HYM Invest-

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East Boston school-aged children are getting some remote learning help during the day through a new program at the Salesian Boys & Girls Club.

The new program gives working parents some piece of mind while the school year has started remotely for thousands of Eastie students.



## A Lifeline

Salesian Boys & Girls Club offers remote learning help during the school day for the children of working parents

By John Lynds

As East Boston students headed back to school remotely many of the neighborhood's working parents headed back to their jobs.

For the hundreds of parents unable to work from home, but have young children that need help with remote learning, the Salesian Boys & Girls Club's new program has been a lifeline for working

parents in the neighborhood.

"The Boys & Girls Club staff have all the school-age children's schedules for school and are assisting them with logging into their virtual classrooms and completing school work," said Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Michael Triant. "We started up On Monday September 14 when charter and parochial schools began online classes. We are

following a similar model as our summer program with pods of 8-12 kids and 1-2 staff with each group."

Triant said the Club received a \$20,000 donation from Cargo Ventures to support both the improvement of the Club's internet capabilities to serve the volume of WIFI usage and to provide scholarships to families.

"The cost of the pro-

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### Santarpio's Pizza in the top 10 of best pizza's in the nation

By John Lynds

An online food magazine has once again told America what East Bostonians have known for decades—Santarpio's Pizza has one of the best pizzas in the U.S.

In the Daily Meal's annual '101 Best Pizzas in America' list that was released last week, Santarpio's was named #7 on their best pizza list up 24 spots from its ranking of #31 on the list back in 2017.

To compile the list, the Daily Meal said it turned to a panel of experts to narrow the list down to America's 101 best.



A photo of Santarpio's Pizza's pepperoni pizza, ranked #7 on Daily Meal's list of 101 best pizzas in the U.S.

"If you're looking for pizza in this major sports city, it's gotta be Santarpio's," wrote the Daily

Meal. "This cash-only Boston restaurant has no shortage of options on the menu, down to even shrimp scampi pizza, but its top-selling slice is classic pepperoni. "We do our very best to please our customers," an employee told The Daily Meal over the phone."

The Eastie landmark and its awesomely chewy, cheesy, sweet-sauced pizza has received the coveted 'Best Pizza' prize numerous times by Boston Magazine over the years. Barstool Sports recently brought New England Patriots receiver Julian Edelman to Santarpio's to rate the pizza. Edelman gave

the pizza a solid rating.

"Delicious slices and pies are being cooked up all across America, so this ranking takes special care to highlight pizzerias from all parts of the country, as well as female- and Black-owned businesses," wrote Daily Meal. "While America does love its pizza chains, this list is focused on smaller establishments and local favorites that have found success branching out to a few locations. To find them, we used internal expertise, scoured Yelp and other review sites, looked at coverage by local jour-

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### Friendly Face

East Boston Community Soup Kitchen founder's smile to grace the front of Lay's Potato Chip bags

By John Lynds

While shoppers' smiles are currently hidden behind their masks, they'll soon spot plenty of friendly faces in the snack aisle thanks to Lay's, which is converting millions of potato chip bags to feature the real smiles of 30 "ordinary" people doing extraordinary things in their communities.

One of those smiles will be East Boston Community Soup Kitchen founder and director Sandra Nijjar.

Nijjar was one of thirty winners selected to be featured on the front of Lay's potato chip bags for doing

good deeds and spreading joy in their local communities.

"Sandra knows that a soup kitchen provides more than just food," said Sadira Furlow, vice president of marketing, Frito-Lay North America in a statement. "Through her organization, the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen, she provides a safe, welcoming space that serves 275 meals every Tuesday. During a time when joy is needed more than ever, the new Lay's bags continue the brand's mission to inspire

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East Boston Community Soup Kitchen founder Sandra Nijjar's smile will be featured on the front of Lay's Potato Chip bags as part of the company's Everyday Smiler contest.

### Car breaks continue to be a problem in Eastie

By John Lynds

The Boston Police Department released the third quarter crime statistics for East Boston and much like the first quarter report released back in May, car breaks continue to be a problem in the neighborhood.

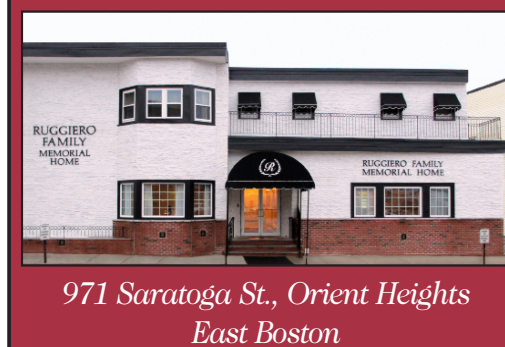
While Part One Crimes are down 40 percent since the first quarter report, crime is up 29 percent

when comparing January 1, 2019 through September 13, 2019 with the same time period this year.

Part One Crimes are the more serious crimes the Boston Police track.

When comparing January 1, 2020 through September 13, 2020 with the same time period during the third quarter of 2019 Larceny from Motor Ve-

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



# Time is running out to participate in the U.S. 2020 Census

By John Lynds

With the help of local organizations like Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE) the City of Boston is making a final push to get an accurate census count ahead of the Sept. 30 deadline.

“This once-in-a-decade opportunity will determine the amount of elected representatives Boston will have, how legislative districts will be formed, and the amount of federal funding we will receive for crucial services and programs for the next 10 years,” said Mayor Martin Walsh last week. “Only 57.4 percent of Boston’s households have self-responded. We are now less than two weeks away from the last day to be counted (September 30). This is an urgent call to all of Boston’s communities to make sure they’ve completed the U.S. 2020 Census. On this day and throughout the month of September.”

Mayor Walsh reminded residents that they can fill out the 2020 Census online or by phone, and either of these options is available in 13 languages. “If you already have done so, make sure to ask your friends, family, and networks to do the same,” he said. “Spread the message digitally. Use the city’s outreach toolkit to amplify that responding is not only crucial, but it is also quick, easy, and confidential.”

Walsh is also encouraging residents to volunteer to census phone banks with the City of Boston. “We are hosting daily phone banks to reach out and encourage households in some of our lowest response neighborhoods,” said Walsh.

For all Boston-related Census information and how to help Walsh said

to visit the city’s “Boston Counts 2020” website at [www.boston.gov/departments/intergovernmental-relations/boston-counts-2020](http://www.boston.gov/departments/intergovernmental-relations/boston-counts-2020).

Helping the city through a Rapid Response Grant to support the 2020 Census from the Massachusetts Census Equity Fund (MCEF) is NUBE.

NUBE has been using the grant money for more outreach and education ahead of Sept. 30. .

The grants by the MCEF went to some of the hardest to count communities in Massachusetts as well as communities that were among those hit the hardest by the global COVID-19 pandemic like Eastie,

“We are living through an unprecedented time. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic at the starting moment of the 2020 census we know now more than ever that a full and accurate census count is facing serious challenges,” said Chair of MCEF Alexie Torres. “MCEF has joined with our national funding partners in seeing a need for additional resources to our hardest to count communities.”

Founded in 2008, NUBE is an organization that mentors community leaders who support social transformation and shifting political power. NUBE’s leaders organize and advocate for inclusive democratic processes and just public policies to create a vibrant economy and environment for all East Boston.

NUBE’s work is guided by a commitment to developing a more just, understanding, and sustainable neighborhood. NUBE believes that leaders, who live its values and intentionally engage in social, economic, and political life, will help create alternative systems and struc-

tures that promote social transformation.

Since being created NUBE has Increased voter turnout 10-15 percent in recent elections in precincts with a high density of people of color.

Having an accurate 2020 Census count fits right into NUBE’s mission to transform the lives and amplify the voices of Eastie residents who have been excluded from prosperity by an inequitable economic system.

This year the United States will conduct its decennial census. In Boston there’s been a huge push to ensure a fair and complete count in the 2020 U.S. Census because it determines everything from representation in Congress, to federal funds for schools, affordable housing, infrastructure and health care programs.

MCEF used real-time census response rate data and knowledge of the impacts of the pandemic to make rapid-response grants between \$500 to \$5,000 for additional outreach activities. Organizations in these regions, who work with hard-to-count populations including communities of color, are struggling to increase Census response rates while simultaneously responding to communities’ needs, which have been increasing in the wake of COVID-19.

Historically, certain populations are “hard-to-count” in the census. Urban and rural areas with large low-income populations, people of color, immigrants, non-English speakers, migrant workers, ex-offenders, young children, the elderly, those who are disabled, renters, the homeless, and those living in mobile homes or multi-unit residences are historically hard-to-count.

## GSCA MONTHLY MEETING SET FOR SEPT. 28

The GSCA monthly meeting will be held ONLINE (and on phone) via ZOOM. The meeting will be held on Monday, September 28, at 6:30 p.m. Registration is required. If you have not received an invitation to register or have difficulty registering or attending, please go to <https://govestreet.org/zoom>, send an email to [secretary@govestreet.org](mailto:secretary@govestreet.org) or contact (781) 951-4111.

Though the agenda is subject to change, we plan to discuss the following items:

- Attendance Roll Call
  - Boston Police updates
  - Neighborhood Services updates from Lina Trammelli
  - Information regarding Mobility Hubs Pilot Project in East Boston termed GoHubs from Matt Warfield
  - Voting Procedures
  - Project Presentations
- Richard Lynds will oversee the project presentations regarding the following:

## NEWS IN BRIEF

a. 168 Gove Street - Change occupancy from 4 to 8 units, add vertical addition and roof deck - complete renovation of existing building

b. 173-177 Maverick - (Already approved for ground level retail and 9 residential units). Changing the project description from alteration and renovation of existing building to complete demolition and rebuild. Project will remain exactly the same as what was previously approved.

A status report regarding the Davis Companies/EBNHC proposed construction projects along Bremen and Orleans Streets.

tact us at [board@jeffriespoint.org](mailto:board@jeffriespoint.org).

The JPNA will be recording these meetings and may post the recordings online.

Wednesday, September 23th, 2020; 7 – 8:30 p.m. Zoom Video Conference

Registration Required! AGENDA (subject to change)

156 Webster Street, first Presentation: Certify occupancy as a 4-unit dwelling, “present existing conditions”. Owner/Developer: Aaron M. Daigneault

2020 Planning & Zoning Meeting dates are available at [jeffriespoint.org](http://jeffriespoint.org).

## EVENING PRAYER

You are invited to join services for Evening Prayer (Vespers) Monday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. This ancient liturgy of light in the darkness is set to beautiful contemporary music.

We will stream on Facebook at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church at 28 Paris Street, East Boston in English and Nuevo Amanecer in Spanish.

## HVNA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment agrees to more affordable housing.

On Tuesday, City Life/Vida Urbana held a rally outside City Hall.

“Suffolk Downs is the site of a plan for a massive mixed-use development including 10,000 housing units, and it’s surrounded by predominantly immigrant and working class families now at higher risk of eviction in the COVID-19 crisis,” said the group in a statement. “The BPDA plans to vote on core aspects of the land’s future this Thursday, September 24th, including the extent of affordable housing in the development. Tuesday’s rally, organized by a coalition of community-based organizations called PUEBLO, will call for the postponement of the BPDA’s vote until concerns about affordable

housing and displacement are resolved.”

Other groups have been outside the Suffolk Downs’ site during the week holding signs calling for 50 percent affordable housing although it is clear from the HVNA poll that the majority of residents most impacted by

the project do not agree with 50 percent. However, the same residents do think the affordable housing component at Suffolk Downs should be higher than the typical 13 percent mandated by the BPDA for large projects in the city.

# HVNA members hear 2nd presentation on former Eastern Flooring parcel

By John Lynds

Owner and developers of 7-11 Curtis St., Seth Williams and Jim Grossman, were back before the Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA) during the group’s September meeting earlier this month. .

This was the second time Williams and Grossman, along with their attorney Jeff Drago, pitched their plan to demolish the existing structure that currently houses Eastern Flooring, combine four separate parcels and erect two buildings—one on Curtis Street with 21 units and a second one on Saratoga Street with eight units.

Drago said his clients want to create a mix of condo/rental units. The building with 21 units will include 18 parking spots while the building with only eight units on Saratoga Street will have no parking spots.

“We have heard feedback that most people did not like the more contemporary design and we have now adjusted the design to a more traditional design that fits more with the surrounding community. “

Drago said the his clients have moved away from boxy brick building and have now incorporat-

ed bay windows, the use of fiber cement clapboard siding, shed

dormers and added continuity with windows to pick up site lines of adjacent buildings.

Drago said the project has gone down from five stories down to four stories and the parking has been sunk underground.

“We also added bike storage, street trees, and widened the sidewalks all to improve infrastructure

in the area,” said Drago.

At the meeting HVNA members seemed to be warming up to the project when compared to the initial presentation before COVID hit, but many still have concerns.

“I give credit for giving a new design but I still think it’s too many units for that amount

of land,” said one resident. “I hope you consider reducing even further.”

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AUTUMN NOW IS HERE, LEAF PEEPERS WILL APPEAR

GUEST OP-ED

## Let’s all do our part

By Lydia Edwards

Although we are starting to see great improvement, East Boston continues to have the highest Covid-19 infection rate in the city at 5.1% as of the Boston Public Health Commission’s latest report. This is down from the 11.8% rate we had a few weeks ago, but still higher than Dorchester, which is the neighborhood with the next highest rate at 4.9%.

There are a number of reasons for East Boston having the highest rate in the city. Our geography is one of them. We are isolated from the rest of the city and caught in between Chelsea and an international airport. We’re also a very densely populated neighborhood. A lot of our residents live with either multiple families in the same unit or multiple generations of the same family. We also have a high number of essential

workers in East Boston that have begun riding the MBTA again as businesses have continued to reopen.

There are other factors that are contributing to our high infection rate. When I go on my morning run down the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway, I still see too many people walking, running, and playing sports without masks on. In order to continue lowering the infection rate in the neighborhood, we need everyone to wear masks when they go outside and maintain social distancing whenever possible.

I was grateful to see Massport put up signs in their parks encouraging people to wear masks and maintain social distancing. I would like to see these signs go up in the harborwalk area along the waterfront where people are congregating without masks or distancing themselves from each other.

Each point of entry into the neighborhood should have signage about proper mask wearing and social distancing guidelines, including all MBTA stations. The rules regarding park closing hours should also be enforced. Hiring park monitors to enforce these rules could create new jobs and help some residents pay rent after they are hired.

As Rep. Adrian Madero has pointed out, East Boston is in a crisis and additional state funding needs to be allocated to the neighborhood to help find the sources of infection and reduce or eliminate them. Governor Baker should designate the neighborhood as one of the high risk communities in the Commonwealth and send aid as quickly as possible. The city should also increase funding for isolation housing to help slow the rate of family spread, which is one of the main sources of spread accord-

ing to research.

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of coming together for the greater good. We’ve seen incredible work being done by our local non-profits to help keep people fed and care for the children of essential workers. The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center has tested thousands of residents and is working with the city to help lower the infection rate. If everyone does their part, we will be able to lower the infection rate and try to get back to “normal” as quickly as possible. Unfortunately for too many people in East Boston there will never be a return to normal because they have lost a loved one to this virus. Let’s all do our part and prevent any more families from losing someone.

Lydia Edwards is City Councilor, District 1.

GUEST OP-ED

## Turn the page

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Fall season officially begins September 22 this year. For every season there is a change. Most of us like the seasons especially if we can have four of them.

I like the fall as the weather seems more stable in our part of the country. For our neighbors in California they are desperate for anything that will bring rain and an end to the devastating fires. This has been a cruel, harsh time that we pray passes by and ends very quickly for California.

On the east and gulf coast there is always another looming hurricane this time of year. Flooding and devastation have already occurred in Louisiana with the potential of more to come.

Every season brings the possibilities of pleas-

ant weather but also severe weather. Very much like our lives every season brings change because we have no choice but to deal with the change. When snow comes, we adapt and enjoy the change.

Our lives are like seasons - change comes. If we are fortunate, aging occurs. Children grow up. Our vocational lives and dreams change, mature, flourish or become a distant memory. Our lives are like an interesting book. Your life is probably very interesting if you were able to write out the whole story. Maybe you should write about your life? Write it out for someone later to read about. If you decide to do so write about the hard times as well as what you want everyone else to know.

Whenever you read or write a book it requires turning the page or writ-

ing a new page. You can’t finish the book if you stay on the same page. When our parents die, we have to turn the page. When we bury a spouse or loved one, we have to turn the page. When we change jobs or careers that require transition it’s tough but we have to turn the page. When children grow up and move away or no longer have time to be with us then we must turn the page.

A good friend is selling his lovely home. I can see that’s it a tough time emotionally as he has invested so many years into where he lives. He and his wife are moving into a smaller condominium. He loves his beautiful yard but he knows it’s time to turn the page as their age and health have changed.

The one difference between reading a book and life is that you may not

finish reading the book but we all finish life. You either turn the pages of life or in time they are turned for you. The worst decisions we make are no decisions. We procrastinate. We delay paying into retirement. We delay a health test. We put off what we dread and it doesn’t make it better.

Live a good life. Make decisions. Turn the page and keep going. Don’t get stuck on the same page in the same chapter. Run your race. Finish your course. Turn the page.

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

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# RMV renews over 163,000 licenses and IDs online during REAL ID promotion

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) continues to encourage all eligible customers to renew their Standard Massachusetts driver’s license or Massachusetts ID card online at Mass.Gov/RMV in order to qualify for a free upgrade to a REAL ID credential in 2021. This promotional opportunity, authorized and extended by Executive Order, will remain in effect until Massachusetts’ State of Emergency is lifted to provide customers more time and flexibility to conduct transactions and to support the RMV’s ongoing efforts to implement social distancing protocols while limiting in-person service center visits to keep customers and staff safe.

Customers are eligible to renew online and take advantage of this offer up to one year in advance of the expiration date printed on their license or ID, or up to two years after the expiration date. Customers will not be able to seek their free REAL ID upgrade until at least six (6) months after the State of Emergency is lifted.

The RMV continues to see a dramatic increase of online renewals by cus-

tomers during the pandemic and this promotional opportunity period. More than 163,000 online renewals were completed since promotion began June 12th, compared to just 49,600 over the same time period in 2019. In August 2020, there were over 62,000 online credential renewals, compared to just 15,739 in August 2019. The RMV has bolstered back office support efforts to accommodate this continuing increased demand.

Beginning in mid-August, limited in-person license renewal appointments became available in Service Centers for customers. The RMV suspended those in-person transactions due to the pandemic and applied multiple extensions to expiring licenses and IDs as outlined below. The RMV asks that those who can renew online please do so and preserve these limited appointments for those individuals with credentials expiring in September 2020 who cannot, especially if their license or ID currently benefits from an extension.

Qualifying customers who complete their renewal online and wish to

upgrade to a REAL ID for free will have to wait until at least six (6) months after Massachusetts’ State of Emergency is lifted to visit an RMV Service Center. Customers currently do not need a federally compliant REAL ID for the purposes of boarding domestic flights prior to October 1, 2021, as the federal government delayed the compliance effective date by one year. The fee for renewing a non-commercial standard or REAL ID license is \$50, while the fee for upgrading to a standard or REAL ID card is \$25. The typical \$25 upgrade / amendment fee will be waived under these qualifying circumstances.

Obtaining an initial federally compliant REAL ID requires customers to visit a Service Center in-person to present verifying documents. The RMV introduced this initiative and fee waiver pursuant to Executive Order 39 which was issued by Governor Baker on June 12, 2020, and was subsequently extended through Executive Order 47 on August 11, 2020, in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency to encourage social distancing and limit unnecessary travel

by reducing the need for many customers to visit a Service Center. This also allows for the prioritization of essential in-person transactions, which remain by appointment only.

Customers should take the following steps to determine their online renewal eligibility and qualify for this offer:

- Visit Mass.Gov/RMV, login to their “myRMV” account, and find out if they are permitted to renew online.
- Renew online – their new standard license or ID card will be sent via U.S. mail.
- The cost for renewing a driver’s license is \$50. The cost for renewing an ID card is \$25. These costs are the same for both a standard or REAL ID license or ID card. The cost for upgrading or amending a license or ID card outside of their renewal cycle is \$25, which will be waived for participating, eligible RMV customers.
- Customers who renew online will have to wait until at least six (6) months after Massachusetts’ State of Emergency is lifted to make an appointment for a REAL ID and have their \$25 upgrade / amendment fee waived. Anyone who

holds a valid U.S. passport or other federally-compliant form of identification may never need an RMV-issued REAL ID.

- As a service to its members, AAA continues to issue REAL ID credentials for their members only and members should make an appointment before visiting a AAA location.
- Limited in-person license renewal reservation appointments are available in RMV Service Centers for customers. The RMV asks that those who can renew online please do so, especially if their license or ID currently benefits from an extension, thus preserving these appointments for those individuals with credentials expiring in September 2020 who cannot renew online.

While the RMV has previously announced the below automatic extensions to certain expiring licenses and ID cards, all eligible customers are encouraged to take advantage of this offer by renewing online up to one year prior to their expiration date:

- Driver’s licenses and ID cards that expired or were set to expire in

March, April, and May 2020 have been extended until September 2020.

- Driver’s licenses and ID cards that expired or were set to expire in June have been extended until October 2020.
- Driver’s licenses and ID cards that expired or were set to expire in July have been extended until November 2020.
- Driver’s licenses and ID cards that will expire in August have been extended until December 2020.

All RMV customers are encouraged to visit the RMV Online Service Center or [www.Mass.Gov/RMV](http://www.Mass.Gov/RMV) to renew their license or ID card, and complete one of over 40 other transactions available online, by mail, or by phone.

For details on these and other credential expiration date extensions and additional information on RMV service offerings during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit [www.mass.gov/rmv](http://www.mass.gov/rmv) or <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rmv-covid-19-information>.

## FRESH AND LOCAL

### Kitchen safety rules

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

With many new cooks and many more distractions and stresses for experienced cooks, kitchen rules are important. Here are topics to think about as you decide what is important to you.

**Safety First**

One very important rule can save both lives and property. Call 911 first if you start a fire or have a scary injury. You can call off 911 if you gain control of the situation, but always follow that first instinct to call for help. With fires or bleeding minutes count!

Even if you put out a fire or stop the bleeding, first responders are better qualified to determine if the fire might have extended into interior spaces, if the area needs to be ventilated, if smoke inhalation may be a danger, or if that cut or burn needs more than first aid.

**Fire Prevention**

The Massachusetts Department of Fire Services (DFS) confirms, “Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.” Good habits can prevent kitchen fires in your home or help you deal with them safely should they occur. DFS has lots of recommendations on its webpage and we have a few.

Be sure combustible items like dish towels or pot holders are not within reach of a burner. Keep a large cover near the stove when you’re cooking. Don’t try to move a burn-

ing pan. Instead, cover it as the first step in controlling the fire.

Have a kitchen fire extinguisher near your kitchen exit to grab after you call 911. If the fire is in the oven or microwave, turn it off but DON’T open the door.

Finally, don’t leave your pans unattended. Don’t walk away from a pan that is preheating or something that is frying. Don’t leave the house when something is simmering away on a burner or in the oven.

**Prevent Burns and Cuts**

Dress for cooking. Chef’s jackets have long sleeves and many cooks wear kitchen clogs. Sleeves help prevent burns from spatter, oven racks, hot pans, and spills. Kitchen clog soles are designed to be non-slip on wet floors and are thick enough to protect from a dropped knife, grease spills, or other foot dangers.

Place pan handles out of the way to prevent burns and spills. If a pan is in the oven, you not only need a potholder to grab it, but also to place over the handles when it comes out of the oven. That warns off anyone from touching it while it can still burn.

Steam can produce a very bad burn. Remove a

cover of a pan or a dish in the microwave in a way that the cover will shield you from the steam.

Most cuts can be prevented by learning good knife skills. Sharp knives slide through food without pressure. Dull knives require force which is dangerous. In our kitchen, knives live on a magnetic wall rack and are cleaned immediately after use. They are never put in a sink full of soapy water or left on a counter where they might cut a hand reaching for something else.

You might also prepare a kitchen first aid kit with some quick clot or blood stop in addition to bandages. Working smoke alarms and a fire extinguisher are both important. But it is the habits you develop day-to-day and the rules you set for those around you (including pets, children, and people who reach for something you’re cutting) that make

a difference. In reality, a big dose of common sense can make your kitchen a much safer place.

*Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.*



Protective shoes, a long-sleeved shirt, first aid kit, and fire extinguisher are all part of our kitchen equipment.

## Let’s get it Together - Together!

### Save the Date

## for the East Boston Resiliency Assembly

Saturday, November 14 - 9:30 am -12:30 pm

Please save the date for the East Boston Resiliency Assembly, a virtual (ZOOM) meeting that will bring together City health and emergency management leaders, first responders, non-profits, civic associations, LatinX groups, and residents to think about “Blue Sky” actions we can take to prepare for emergencies and disasters before they occur and “Dark Sky” actions we can take once disasters strike.

In a recent survey we conducted of East Boston residents, over 80% reported that they expected to experience a major flooding event, snow-storm, or heat wave over the next five years, and yet fewer than 20% were sufficiently prepared. Similarly, over 80% of East Boston residents believe that climate change will hurt their family or their community, but only about one-third think they have a role to play in any political process.

Preparedness for these major emergencies that range from natural hazards and extreme weather events to pandemics requires effort at the individual and household level as well as at the community and political level. The East Boston Resiliency Assembly will be the forum for us to think about the best opportunities for action to protect our community, and how to make them happen. Many local groups are already developing social networks to respond to COVID and emergency food relief efforts so we are already headed in the right direction.

Scheduled speakers at the Assembly include former FEMA Deputy Director Rich Serino, who began his emergency services career in East Boston, as well as top officials from Boston’s Office of Emergency Management and the Boston Public Health Commission, among others.

Please reach Phil Giffie at NOAH ([pgiffie@noahcdc.org](mailto:pgiffie@noahcdc.org)) for questions or more information about the Assembly and how you can participate.

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# Construction on Eastie’s first ever senior center underway

By John Lynds

For decades East Boston’s senior citizens and senior groups like the Golden Age Club have been clamoring for their own space in the community. Today, seniors share space at other non-profits for senior programs, social hours, parties and other events. A dedicated senior center would allow seniors to accomplish these things within the confines of their own permanent location. Last year, Mayor Martin Walsh joined hundreds of Eastie seniors at the Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) Paris Street Community Center

to kick off the community process for a new senior center at the former Orient Heights library location on Barnes Avenue. After several meetings initial construction is now underway at the former library in Orient Heights. For the past few weeks construction crews have been busy gutting the inside of the former library to make room for the community’s vision for Eastie’s first ever dedicated senior center. According to the Mayor’s Office the investment will transform the former library into a new senior center. The project will be managed by the City’s Public Facilities Department and will include creating flexible rooms to support the programs that will be offered, building a new deck on the North side of the building, relocating and upgrading the kitchen, and making all entrances and bathrooms fully accessible. In addition, all major mechanical systems will be upgraded or replaced including electrical, plumbing and HVAC. Investments from Massport, through a mitigation struck with the Logan Impact Advisory Committee (LIAG), will help support the programming and operational needs of the newly-renovated center once construction is complete. Rep. Adrian Mada-



Construction on Eastie’s first ever dedicated senior center is underway.

ro, who helped create the LIAG in response to Massport’s Terminal E project, once the senior center opens it will be a great day for Eastie. “This long-awaited project will provide important community resources and activities for

seniors.” Senior centers and the senior programming they house promote connection, education, health and personal enrichment for older adults,” he said. The East Boston senior center is being developed in collaboration

with design firm Fennick McCredie Architecture and City of Boston departments including Budget, Public Facilities, Property Management, Age Strong, Department of Neighborhood Development, and Neighborhood Services.

# Magdalena LaBattaglia, founder and executive director for The Harborkeepers, honored by EPA

By John Lynds

Magdalena LaBattaglia moved to East Boston in 2003 to work and raise a family. She very quickly discovered that her neighborhood, as a coastal city, experiences a dichotomy between socio-political economic progress and the challenge to building equitable resiliency. In 2016 LaBattaglia founded The Harborkeepers, a grassroots coastal resilience nonprofit, to help shift the resiliency narrative and make systemic changes in climate resiliency-building, multi-sector collaboration and developing more innovative models of stakeholder engagement. Last week the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognized LaBattaglia and seven other individuals and organizations in Massachusetts for their work to protect New England’s environment. LaBattaglia was among 24 recipients across New England honored by EPA’s New England office at the 2020 Environmental Merit Awards virtual ceremony. At the awards, EPA New England Administrator Dennis Deziel said LaBattaglia has helped build an equitable and sustainable coastal community in

Eastie. “Her organization’s mission is to create a community prepared for potential impacts of major flooding or storms,” he said. “East Boston, with its unique geography, cultural diversity and long relationship to maritime history, is particularly vulnerable to environmental and climate-related impacts. A clear and dire need for climate resiliency and education here led LaBattaglia to found Harborkeepers in 2016.” The Harborkeepers has provided free education to youth and adults about coastal issues and the impact of climate change. Over the last four years, under LaBattaglia’s leadership, Harborkeepers has worked with several local schools, housing developments and community groups to address the need for building resiliency in the community. “Recognizing the impact of marine trash pollution around East Boston, Harborkeepers has held volunteer shoreline clean ups since its founding,” said Deziel. “By the end of 2018, it had removed over 2,555 pounds of trash from the coastline. Deziel added that over the past four years LaBattaglia has demonstrated

leadership, passion and innovation. “I was surprised but extremely humbled and honored for this recognition from such an important government agency,” said LaBattaglia. “I wake up every day and think about how we can find implementable solutions to help our coastal environment. This is a critical time for all coastal areas and we have no time to waste to do whatever we can to help our ocean and urban coastal communities. I am truly grateful for this award and to be able to do this stewardship work.” EPA New England’s annual Environmental Merit Awards are given to community leaders, scientists, government officials, business leaders, schools, and students who represent different approaches, but a common commitment to environmental protection. “Initiatives led by individuals and groups, like Magdalena LaBattaglia, have driven progress toward clean water and clean air, built community support for revitalization investments, sparked environmental innovation, reduced waste, and protected the public from exposure to harmful substances,” said Deziel.



Magdalena LaBattaglia, founder and executive director for The Harborkeepers, was honored by the EPA for her climate resiliency work in Eastie.

“EPA is always proud to recognize the honorees’ dedication, commitment to partnerships, and passion for success that has led to measurable change.” Deziel noted that this year’s award celebration – an online video presentation - by necessity differed from past years, but reaffirmed the awards ceremony is more important than ever. A multilingual native of Argentina who grew up in New York and New Jersey and holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Montclair

University in International Relations, LaBattaglia came to Boston in 2003. With her, LaBattaglia brought her extensive experience in community engagement, cross-sector partnership building skills and knowledge of multicultural sensitivity to find points of collaboration between diverse stakeholders in order to advance local, state and regional climate resiliency plans and as well as assure that environmental policies work for more impacted communities, like Eastie.

“I am pleased to join EPA Region 1 as they honor municipal officials, environmental activists, state transportation planners and celebrate their amazing work to protect our environment and the public health,” said Commissioner Martin Suberg of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). “I celebrate their success and achievements as they safeguard our natural resources and ensure the health of communities across the Commonwealth.”

# Smile // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

even more smiles in 2020, with up to \$1 million in proceeds benefiting Operation Smile.” The Lay’s Smiles packaging and brand’s digital media channels will also spotlight the unique stories of Nijjar and the 29 “Everyday Smilers” whose impact includes helping the homeless, veterans, youth, elderly and more – in hopes that their inspiring work will bring smiles to the faces of people across the country. However, due to COVID the in-person photo shoot for Nijjar and others was cancelled so Lay’s had to get more creative and use the latest technology for the potato chip bag designs. Nijjar, using her phone, sent an image to Lay’s designers who turned the portrait into the new bag design. “Having poured through thousands of nominations and already being person-



East Boston Community Soup Kitchen founder Sandra Nijjar inside the soup kitchen in the basement of Our Saviour Lutheran Church on Paris Street.

ally committed to these Smiles ourselves, particularly now when people are looking for more reasons to smile than ever before, we knew we couldn’t let a cancelled photoshoot keep Lay’s from sharing these

inspiring stories with the world,” said Furlow. “Across stores and within households, Lay’s has the power to reach millions of Americans every day. We already know that what’s inside the bag brings joy,

but turning the Lay’s bag into a canvas to multiply that happiness factor is what makes the Smiles program so special.” Last year, more than 71,000 people scanned the Lay’s Smiles QR codes to hear the unique stories behind each “Everyday Smiler” and 2020 offers even more inspiration from around the country. “The Smile with Lay’s program reflects the true power of how a smile can change the world, beginning with the one-on-one interaction you may have with a stranger to the life-changing surgeries and resources Operation Smile is able to provide thanks to our committed staff, generous donors, medical volunteers and longtime partners like Lay’s,” said Kristie Magee Porcaro, Chief Strategy Officer & Partnerships Operation Smile. The Lay’s Smiles bags

are available nationwide while supplies last. The East Boston Community Soup Kitchen started as an idea and a way to address what Nijjar saw as a growing problem in East Boston. Nijjar was seeing an ever-increasing number of homeless in and around Maverick and Central Squares. So four years ago Nijjar recruited Pastor Britta Carlson, John Ribeiro, Jr, Lydia Edwards and Baljinder Nijjar to establish the neighborhood’s first ever soup kitchen. Now four years later, the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen in the basement of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church on Paris Street is going strong and feeding over 275 families in need every Tuesday that are homeless or just in need of a hot meal. Nijjar works with local businesses and restaurants to secure donations, recruits volunteers to help

her in the kitchen and handles much of the cleaning. She gets to know all of her clients on a personal level and frequently visits guests in rehabilitation facilities and accompanies them to court appearances. Last year, Nijjar was selected as one of this year’s Myra Kraft Community MVP Award winners for her volunteer efforts at East Boston Community Soup Kitchen. The Kraft Family provided Nijjar with a \$10,000 grant at Gillette Stadium last summer to help further the Soup Kitchen’s reach. In addition to the meals, Nijjar and the Soup Kitchen provides blood pressure checks, immunization clinics, donated clothing, free haircuts and assistance with housing applications. She epitomizes kindness and patience while providing invaluable support to those in need.

# Three Eastie students named Red Sox Scholars

By John Lynds

Three East Boston students were recently named as Red Sox Scholars by the Red Sox Foundation.

Eastie residents Faviola Rodriguez from Mario Umana Academy, Juan Santana also from Mario Umana Academy and Sofia Taborda from John D. O'Bryant School, all 13, we're welcomed into the newest class of Red Sox Scholars, a college success program managed by the Red Sox Foundation. The program seeks to empower Boston's youth to pursue and complete a higher education through a \$10,000 scholarship, mentorship and access to academic, professional and social opportunities.

Faviola was awarded as a 'Straight A' student and has been named Student of the Month for upholding Umana's core value of

responsibility. She is also a member of her school's Debate Team and has received various awards for her participation and engagement. Faviola has a passion for writing and participates in advance writing classes to advance her skills. Outside of school, Faviola loves to roller skate.

Juan was selected as an Honor Roll student, Student of the Month and 'Perfect Attendance' Award recipient. Juan has a passion for technology and is a member of the Chromebook Managers and, in this role, offers technical support for his classmates. He also volunteers as a tutor at his school.

Sofia, also an Honor Roll student, has a passion for giving back to both her school and neighborhood communities. She participates in various



As recipients of the 2020 Red Sox Scholars, Faviola Rodriguez (left), Juan Santana (center) and Sofia Taborda (right) of East Boston we're honored with a \$10,000 college scholarship as part of the Red Sox Foundation's Red Sox Scholars Program during a special ceremony at Fenway Park.

extra-curricular activities, including Choir Club, Photography Club, and Student Government. Sofia also plays on the volleyball, basketball, swim and softball teams while also finding the time to learn and practice playing the trombone.

Red Sox Scholars is a college success program managed by the Red Sox Foundation and presented by Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), the Official Hospital and Official Health Care Provider of the Boston Red Sox and Fenway Park.

The Red Sox and Red Sox Foundation have supported and empowered 313 students to pursue their goals since the program's creation in 2003.

Throughout the years, 100 percent of the Red Sox Scholars have graduated from high school

and are enrolling in a 2- or 4-year college program. With that, approximately 80 percent of Red Sox Scholars in the Class of 2020 graduated from a post-secondary program within 4 years.



Coach Dave Arinella, Rami Laribi and State Championship Meet Director Peter Foley.

## Rami Laribi set school record at the state championship

Lost in the Covid 19 pandemic was the elite performance of East Boston High School's Rami Laribi at the State Swim Championship last winter.

Before school was closed and the state went into lockdown Laribi, now an EBHS senior, set a new school record and emerged as one of the fastest swimmers in the state.

"He is one of a handful of the fastest swimmers in the Commonwealth and I mean a very small handful," said EBHS swim coach Dave Arinella.

"Rami broke the existing Eastie records in the 50 and the 100 Freestyle. He swam a blistering 22.45 in the 50 Freestyle and an equally impressive 50.92 in the 100 freestyle. He gave as solid a performance as any swimmer at the State meet and he is now widely recognized as a dual threat against any sprinter in the State. He is a mega talent and everyone should have the opportunity to see him compete. Stay tuned for his senior season providing we can have the season."

## MODERN LOVE



Haley Hanton, of Revere, and Patrick Lindquist were married at Revere City Hall on Tuesday Sept. 22, by Mayor Brian Arrigo during Equinox at 9:30 a.m. This special moment for the couple planned on this day, the Autumnal Equinox, which is when the sun crosses the celestial equator and day and night are of equal length.

### How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Mask

Accessible: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

#### WEAR YOUR MASK CORRECTLY

- Wash your hands before putting on your mask
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- Do not place a mask on a child younger than 2

#### USE A MASK TO HELP PROTECT OTHERS

- Wear a mask to help protect others in case you're infected but don't have symptoms
- Keep the mask on your face the entire time you're in public
- Don't put the mask around your neck or up on your forehead
- Don't touch the mask, and, if you do, clean your hands

#### FOLLOW EVERYDAY HEALTH HABITS

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available

#### TAKE OFF YOUR MASK CAREFULLY, WHEN YOU'RE HOME

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Place mask in the washing machine
- Wash your hands with soap and water

Personal masks are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, both of which should be saved for health care workers and other medical first responders.

For instructions on making a mask, see: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## WINTHROP MARKETPLACE

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**SALE DAYS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH THROUGH WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2020**

**WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**

### Grocery

*Great grocery specials*

Prince Pasta.....	10/¢10.00
(ex lasagna & jumbo shells)	
Betty Crocker Helpers .....	10/¢10.00
Kraft Macaroni & Cheese.....	10/¢10.00
(single box only)	
Progresso Canned Beans.....	10/¢10.00
Campbell's Original Chicken Noodle or Original Tomato Soup .....	10/¢10.00
Pede's Large Round Raviolis .....	10/¢10.00
Classico Pasta Sauce.....	2/¢4.00
Red Pack Canned Tomatoes 28 oz..	4/¢5.00
B&M Baked Beans 16 oz.....	4/¢5.00
Best Yet Pitted Olives.....	2/¢3.00
"Grown in Idaho" Frozen Potatoes ...	2/¢5.00
Delizza Eclairs .....	2/¢9.00
Best Yet Sour Cream 16 oz.....	2/¢3.00
Oui French Style Yogurt.....	3/¢4.00
Pillsbury Grands Biscuits .....	3/¢5.00

### Bakery

"Bake at Home" French Dinner Rolls ...	¢2.99
Pretzel Hamburger Rolls 4 pk.....	¢2.79
Assorted 4" Cookie Pies.....	4/¢5.00

### Meat

"Meat Cut Fresh Every Day"

*Family Pack Specials*

New York Sirloin Strip Steaks.....	¢7.99/lb
Boneless Pork Loin Chops .....	¢1.99/lb
Grade A Chicken Thighs.....	.99¢/lb
Grade A Chicken Wings .....	¢3.49/lb

Blade & Center Cut Pork Roasts... ¢1.89/lb

Claussen Pickles..... 2/¢7.00

Oscar Meyer Lunchables..... 2/¢5.00

Sugardale Bacon 16 oz..... 2/¢8.00

### Weekend Specials

Friday, September 25th through Sunday September 27th

"while supplies last"

#### BAKERY

Blonde Brownies .....

¢3.99

#### DELI

In Store Cooked Turkey Breast .....

¢6.99/lb

Our Own Antipasto Salad.....

¢5.99/lb

Natural Casing Hot Dogs .....

¢5.99/lb

#### PRODUCE

Cluster on the Vine Tomatoes .....

¢2.59/lb

Yellow or Orange Bell Peppers.....

¢1.99/lb

#### MEAT

Family Pack Chicken Cutlets .....

¢2.99/lb

Baby Back Ribs .....

¢4.69/lb

Best Yet Raw Shrimp 51-60ct .....

¢5.99

#### GROCERY

Best Yet Butter Quarters .....

2/¢5.00

Dunkin Donuts Bagged Coffee.....

¢5.99

### Produce

Natures Finest All Purpose White Potatoes .....	2/¢5.00
Tropical Sweet & Delicious Mangos..	4/¢5.00
Locally Grown Green Bell Peppers....	¢1.29/lb
Fresh & Tasty Pint Size Grape Tomatoes .....	2/¢4.00
Northeast Grown Fresh Iceberg Lettuce.....	4/¢5.00

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New Store Hours starting June 22: Mon-Sat 7:30 am-8pm; Sun: 7:30am-7pm; Senior Hours: Mon-Sat: 7:30am-8:30pm Sun: 8am-9am

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



Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

neighborhood, helping existing businesses and perhaps spawning new businesses.

“We are excited to get proposals,” he said. “Even in this climate, there is strength in the affordable housing market with state and federal tax credits. There’s definitely a demand for affordable housing. This is the mayor’s vision and Pope John was his idea...It’s not every day a City or Town in Massachusetts puts up its own money to buy a property and bid it for affordable housing.”

•St. Theresa’s Project Likely To Break Ground

The Neighborhood Developers (TND) is reportedly looking to break ground on its first affordable housing proposal in Everett – after many years of such developments in Chelsea and Revere.

City Planner Tony Sousa said despite COVID-19 slowdowns, the project has been moving forward and is just about ready for construction.

“It’s all been moving forward and they expect to break ground this fall,” he said.

The plan for St. Theresa’s, a former Catholic church on Broadway shut down several years ago (and whose parishioners staged one of the longest vigils to keep the church open in many years), is to have 77 units of senior affordable housing in a building above a service center operated by Mystic Valley Elder Services. The plan also calls for six, new deed-restricted homeownership units for families. The townhouses would be so-called “workforce housing” and would be on the Gledhill Avenue side.

The 77 units would be for those earning 60 percent of AMI. For seniors in a one- or two-person household, that would mean anywhere between \$50,000 and \$56,000 per year.

Sousa said the units would likely be determined with a lottery, as they expect there to be more demand than supply.

“There will be a lottery and that will be done by TND,” he said. “It’s anticipated that would take place at the end of the year or early 2021.”

He said he is excited that TND is doing their first project in Everett, and hopes there might be more.

“It’s important to emphasize the St. Theresa’s project is the first for TND here and they’ve been known for developments over many decades in Chelsea and have many projects already in Chelsea and Revere.”

Bringing TND to Everett is largely credited to a partnership between Sen. Sal DiDomenico and Mayor Carlo DeMaria. To help along the project, both have been able to secure state and local funding to help the project along.

Sousa said the mayor has authorized using \$1.5 million in HOME funds and \$467,000 in Community Development Block Grant money. The state has committed \$500,000 to the project and the state Housing Choice program has awarded \$250,000 to Everett for use there too. There are also a number of tax credits that can be applied to the project as well.

“You put all these combined together and it helps get these projects togeth-

er,” he said. We hope to be successful on this and then do it at Pope John too.”

NAVIGATORS TO RETURN IN 2021

LYNN - Derek January, owner and general manager of the North Shore Navigators, said the Lynn-based franchise in the Futures Collegiate Baseball League (FCBL) will return for the 2021 season.

January said it was challenging season for the Navigators organization as it dealt with the state’s strict COVID-19 guidelines that prohibited spectators from attending the home games at Fraser Field.

“It was a tough season from an ownership standpoint where we had a lot of very good players but no one got to see them play for the Navs, unless they watched our games online,” said January, estimating that an average of more than 400 fans per game watched the games online.

January and his staff put together one of the most exciting teams in the franchise’s history. With the Cape Cod Baseball League canceling its season, several college players opted to play in the FCBL. For example, Boston College’s Sal Frelick of Lexington, a likely 2021 Major League draft pick, had an outstanding season for the Navigators batting .398 in the leadoff position.

Navigators fans no doubt would have enjoyed watching Marblehead’s Beau Dana, a 6-foot-2-inch righthander from Dickinson College who reportedly hit 97 miles per hour on the radar gun this season. Former St. Mary’s High School baseball star Ryan Turenne, who plays Division 1 college baseball at Maine, would likely have been a crowd favorite.

But there were no ticket sales at all at the Navigators’ box office.

“We had to refund all of our ticket sales,” said January. “It hurt a lot financially. The Navs averaged close to 1,000 fans per game in 2019. This was never about the money when our family purchased the team, but we wanted to make sure that we didn’t lose money and we lost a lot of money this year.”

Other supplementary sources of revenue, such as food concessions and souvenir sales, also never materialized due to the lack of spectators at games. Chomps, the Navigators’ popular mascot, was also a no-show for games due to the COVID-19 restrictions. There were no mascots this season at all FCBL venues.

The Navigators were set to unveil their new navy blue and burnt orange uniforms this season to fans across the FCBL. January said a limited number of fans were allowed to attend games in Nashua, N.H. (Silver Knights) and New Britain, Conn. (Bees).

“We’re putting together our online souvenir store so people will be able to purchase Navs’ gear and stuff in the next couple of weeks with our new logo and new colors,” said January. “The feedback was great for our new look. Everybody loves it.”

January said the organization had formulated a comprehensive plan in the

spring “to make sure the city and fans knew what to expect at the ballpark” in the COVID-19 environment. “We just never got a chance to put our plan into place,” said January.

Jack Wallace, a Navigators’ pitcher from Winthrop and Franklin Pierce University, said he was grateful to the January family for giving him an opportunity to play a highly competitive brand of baseball this summer.

“It was an honor to play for the Navigators this season,” said Wallace. “We had a great group of players and it was a first-class organization. I just wish the fans could have come out and enjoyed our games.”

A former Swampscott Little League legend who played on back-to-back Massachusetts state champion 12-year-old teams and helped Frank DeFelice’s Swampscott High teams advance to three consecutive North sectional finals, Derek January pledged that the Navs will definitely return to Fraser Field in 2021.

“We started planning for next year back in July,” said January. “We look forward to seeing our loyal fans enjoying baseball in Lynn next summer.”

OVERNIGHT PARKING GOES INTO EFFECT OCT. 15

REVERE - The City of Revere’s new city-wide resident parking program will take effect October 15 in an effort to maximize availability of parking for Revere residents, while discouraging long-term visitor parking on residential streets and commuter parking near public transportation access points. All passenger vehicles parked on city streets between 12AM and 6AM are required to have a permit displayed on the lower left corner of their windshield by October 15 to avoid a violation.

The program will be enforced between 12AM and 6AM daily, except holidays. Citywide overnight parking stickers are valid on the street where the vehicle is registered, as well as any adjacent street, unless otherwise posted. Commuter zones remain 24-hour resident parking only and will be getting different stickers. Stickers have been mailed to residents whose vehicles are registered to a Revere address and meet the qualifications (i.e. no outstanding parking tickets, excise tax payments up to date). If residents have not received a sticker, they are encouraged to visit [www.revere.org/parking](http://www.revere.org/parking) to apply before October 15.

“This is a new program for the City and residents, and it will take some time for everyone to become familiar with it,” said Jim Rose, Director of the Parking Department. “I expect lots of questions as we launch this program and want the residents to know we are available to answer and assist them in whatever way we can.”

DEDICATED BUS LANE COMING TO REVERE

REVERE - Revere motorists who already are experiencing congestion on Broadway in the morning now will be sharing this roadway with a dedicated bus lane that will run from Revere Street to the Chelsea line starting on Sep-

tember 30.

The Revere Traffic Commission approved the Pilot Program that will be in operation from September 30 through December 31, 2020, at their meeting last Thursday.

The bus lane will run along the southbound side of Broadway and will be in operation Monday through Friday from 4 a.m. to 9 a.m. There will be no parking allowed on this side of Broadway during these hours. Motorists who use the lane are subject to a \$25.00 fine.

The dedicated lane will not operate in the immediate vicinity of the Central Fire Station approaching Park Ave. because Broadway is not wide enough at that point to accommodate the dedicated bus lane.

The primary goal of the bus lane is to improve bus service for passengers who use the two bus routes that traverse Broadway.

According to Eric Burkman of the MBTA, these routes, the 116 and 117, carry a combined ridership of more than 2,700 passengers each weekday and are the third busiest routes in the entire MBTA system. School buses and emergency vehicles, as well as bicyclists, also possibly could take advantage of these dedicated lanes.

Jay Monty from Everett Transportation Planner told the commissioners of the experience with a dedicated lane in Everett. He mentioned that Everett’s dedicated bus lane was the first in the area and was started in 2016. Although there have been a few complaints, Monty overall termed the bus lane as “a home run.”

Commissioner Nicholas Rystrom asked if there had been any negative impacts with the bus lane in Everett.

Monty noted that while it took some time for people to become accustomed to the bus lane, this is not a high speed bus lane and the buses seldom exceed 17 m.p.h.

Julie DeMauro, the On the Move Active Living Coordinator for Revere who has been doing the community outreach, informed the commission that the entire cost for lane marking and signage will be paid for by the MBTA. She also noted that the red paint that will delineate the lane will wash off Broadway by the spring if the pilot program is rejected.

While most of the businesses in front of the bus lane are either closed or have off-street parking available for their customers, a few do not like Community Market and Deli at 270 Broadway. Raj Patel, owner of Community Market said his main concern is that most of his deliveries arrive during the proposed hours. However, City Planner Frank Stringi noted that for these few businesses, “The buses will work around early morning deliveries.”

Mayor Brian Arrigo commenting later on the designated bus lane said, “seating capacity restrictions forced by Covid-19 have forced the MBTA to add additional buses to their various routes, and to experiment with Bus Only lanes during high-traffic times in communities throughout their region. Revere’s pilot program, which will be in effect from 4 a.m. to 9 a.m. only on the southbound side of Broadway from Revere Street to Chelsea, will expedite travel for our resi-

dents who rely on the T to get to work. Our role in this, in conjunction with the MBTA and surrounding communities, recognizes the importance of mass transit for our residents.

We have studied the similar program that was implemented on Broadway in Everett several years ago, which has proven to be hugely successful despite initial skepticism. The limited time frame preserves on-street parking during the normal business operating hours and maintains parking on the northbound side of Broadway. As we have observed in Everett, and in communities such as Arlington and Watertown as well, the dedicated bus lane not only reduces commuting time for passengers, it also expedites traffic because buses no longer have to pull in and out of vehicular traffic, an maneuver that causes consistent backups as buses pick up and drop off passengers.

We will monitor the new program before making any determination whether to make it permanent in this or some revised format.”

Mary Gandolfo of Washington Ave. was opposed to the pilot program, stating that she believed it will create unsafe conditions.

However, Commissioner and Revere Fire Chief Chris Bright summed up the consensus of the other commissioners. “This is a good time to initiate this pilot program. If it does not work, then we just back out of it,” said Bright.

In another matter that drew some discussion, the commissioners spent a few minutes debating whether to place a handicapped parking sign outside of a home at 839 Winthrop Ave. Ward 1 Councillor Joanne McKenna spoke in favor of the request, noting that Winthrop Ave. is very congested and that the senior citizen who have handicap plates and live at this home have a very difficult time walking from the driveway.

However, Commissioner Ralph DeCiccio noted that the house has off-street parking with a very wide driveway for at least four cars and that there is only a slight slope to the driveway.

“We have denied other requests that also have available off-street parking,” DeCiccio said.

“We have to be consistent, since we have denied other similar requests,” added Bright.

Stringi likewise urged that inasmuch as the

building has a driveway, then the Commissioners should stick to their usual protocol.

The commissioners voted to deny the request.

In other business, the request from the Point of Pines Yacht Club to have additional parking along the front of their property on Rice Ave. was moved to a public hearing.

The commissioners also moved to a public hearing a request by the Turkish Cultural Center for a new street sign on Ford St. that will allow for a maximum of two hours for parking on Monday-through Friday from Revere St. to a point 60 feet northerly on Ford Street.

Handicapped signs for 20 Hauman Street, 22 Burnett Rd., 202 Constitution Ave., and 560 Revere Street also were moved to a public hearing.

A new truck route that will help make the Winthrop Ave. neighborhood safer was sent to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. McKenna noted that 16-wheel trucks have driven on Winthrop Ave. until they hit Crescent Avenue, and then are stopped at the rotary. Police Sgt. Christopher Giannino will be recommending that trucks use the Revere Beach Parkway and then go to Winthrop Parkway.

A new crosswalk and stop signs on Harris Street also will be headed for a public hearing.

City Councillor Jessica Giannino requested that a handicapped parking sign be placed at 25 Malden Street. This request, which the commission previously denied, was tabled.

Another motion that was tabled was to have the following streets -- Witherbee Ave., Bateman Ave., Fowler Ave., Whitin Ave., Lancaster Ave., Bickford Ave., Alden Ave., Delano Ave., Chamberlain Ave., Goodwin Ave., Harrington Ave., Pines Rd., and Wadsworth St. -- be posted for 24-hour permit parking.

Councillor John Powers noted that because of the Covid-19 pandemic, parking has become very difficult for residents on these streets and this could be the solution to providing more parking for the residents.

However, some commissioners noted that this could be problematic given that contractors and health care workers working in this area could be affected. The consensus was that it is better to wait until the overnight parking program that is scheduled to start on October 15 gets underway.

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# Major national gun safety organizations endorse Ed Markey for United States Senate

Four major gun safety organizations -- the Brady PAC, Giffords PAC, Everytown for Gun Safety, and Moms Demand Action -- endorsed Ed Markey for re-election to the United States Senate this week, citing his career-long fight for commonsense federal gun safety reforms and gun violence prevention.

"I am honored to have the support of these incredible advocacy organizations that are fighting for a safer and healthier world. In the face of a NRA-controlled Republican Party, these groups have led the charge to end the scourge of gun violence in our communities. Too many times we have witnessed senseless tragedies due to gun violence -- in our schools, in our houses of worship, in every community. These

leaders know that enough is enough, and I am proud to partner with them to put commonsense gun laws on the books," Senator Ed Markey said.

The Brady PAC was originally created in the lead up to the 2018 mid-term elections to oppose the "dark money" Super PACs created by the gun industry lobby. It upholds the policy ideals that have been championed by its sister organization, Brady Campaign -- one of the nation's oldest gun violence prevention grassroots advocacy organizations -- and backs candidates running for state and federal office who support universal background checks, reenacting the assault weapons ban, and enacting other common-sense gun violence prevention laws

that will make our homes, schools, and communities safer.

"Sen. Ed Markey has been a gun violence prevention champion throughout his time in Congress," said Brady Campaign President Kris Brown. "From his instrumental support for the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban and Violence Against Women Act to his more recent calls for a ban on untraceable 'ghost guns,' Sen. Markey has continued to demonstrate his commitment to saving lives and protecting communities. In 2019, Sen. Markey successfully led the fight in the Senate to secure funding for research on the gun violence epidemic -- the first such funding in a generation -- passing it even in a divided Congress. This lead-

ership and record of action is why Brady is proud to endorse Sen. Ed Markey for re-election to the U.S. Senate."

The Giffords PAC, founded by former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords after her own shooting incident and recovery, strives to mobilize voters and educate lawmakers in order to end gun violence.

"In his very first Senate floor speech, Senator Markey called for gun safety legislation, a testament to his enduring commitment to the issue," the Giffords PAC said. "Senator Markey sponsored legislation to ban the online posting of blueprints for 3D-printed guns and cosponsored measures to implement universal background checks, enact extreme risk protection laws, ban weapons of war, invest

in violence intervention programs, and repeal immunity for firearm manufacturers. Senator Markey recognizes gun violence as a public health crisis and has repeatedly led his caucus in calling for funding for gun violence research. Senator Ed Markey will continue taking a firm stand to fight for comprehensive gun safety legislation that ensures the safety of all Americans."

Everytown for Gun Safety is the nation's largest gun violence prevention organization. It is the parent organization of Moms Demand Action and was founded by former U.S. presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg and former Boston Mayor Thomas Menino. Moms Demand Action is a grassroots movement fighting for public safety measures to protect communities from gun violence, and is part of Everytown.

search at the CDC and get to the heart of this public health crisis. We are grateful for his leadership and look forward to continuing our fight together for meaningful changes to our federal gun laws."

Ed Markey is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our family, friends, and neighbors in Massachusetts. He is a fierce advocate for universal background checks, banning assault weapons, making gun trafficking a federal crime, prohibiting high capacity ammunition magazines, and closing the loopholes surrounding the creation of undetectable, plastic guns. Ed Markey is committed to fighting for comprehensive gun legislation in the United States Senate so that no child has to walk the halls of their school or their streets and fear for their life.

In December of 2019, Ed Markey secured \$25 million in CDC funding to go toward gun violence research, the first time research has been allocated to the public health crisis since 1996. As a Congressman in 1994, Ed Markey identified a deadly loophole enabling cheap Chinese semi-automatic assault weapons to flood into the United States. He urged then-President Clinton to place an emergency moratorium on the importation of these military style assault weapons from China, including the SKS, MAK-90 and other similar weapons.

## OBITUARIES

### Marie Goldspring

Retired waitress

Marie A. (Correale) Goldspring of East Boston passed away on Sept. 16.

For many years, Marie worked as a waitress at the 1800 Club in East Boston, finishing her career at Brother's Restaurant in Winthrop.

She was the devoted mother of MaryAnn Barbarisi and her husband, Richard of Winthrop, Joseph Goldspring and his wife, Cynthia Goldspring, the former wife of Joseph Goldspring, Sr., dear sister of Carmella Calvino and Dorothy Gobiell of West Peabody and the late Anthony Correale, Domenic Correale Jr., Ralph Correale and Phyllis Curtis; loving grandmother of Danelle, Melanie, Richard Barbarisi II and Rebecca Goldspring; cherished great-grandmother of Nicholas, Jessica, Adyana, Sydney and Kaleigh and doting great-great grandmother of Isaiah.



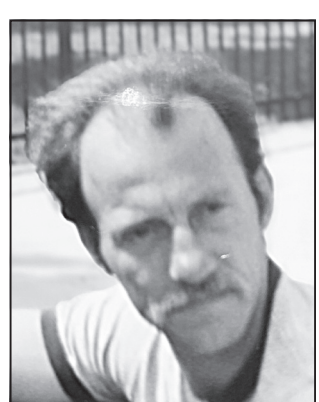
Funeral arrangements were by the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, East Boston. Interment services were private. As suggested by the family, you may send flowers or make a memorial donation in Marie's name to American Cancer Society, 30 Speen Street Framingham MA 01701 <https://www.cancer.org/> or to All Care VNA, Hospice and Home Care 210 Market Street Lynn MA 01901 <https://allcare.org/donate/>. For more information: [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com) 617-569-0990.

### Daniel Johnson

Lifelong East Boston resident

Daniel T. Johnson, 67, a lifelong resident of East Boston, passed away on August 8 after a brief illness.

He was the beloved son of the late Allen and Molly (Stornaieulo) Johnson, brother of Richard Johnson and his wife, Geraldine, Irene Costello and her husband, Edward, Cheryl Van Meter, Warren Johnson and the late Dorothea Greco, Allen Johnson and Anthony Stornaieulo. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.



A Memorial Mass was celebrated for Danny on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at Sacred Heart Church, Brooks St, East Boston.

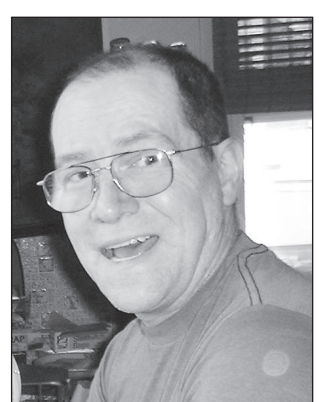
### Michael Amirault

Of East Boston

Michael C. Amirault of East Boston passed away on Saturday, Sept. 19.

The beloved son of the late Charles and Mary (Doherty) Amirault, he was the dear brother of Kathleen Murphy and her husband, Thomas of Woburn, Charles G. Amirault of East Boston and the late Stephen P. Amirault; cherished uncle of Jean Paul Montgomery, Stephen Montgomery, Sean Amirault, Shane Amirault and Andrew Murphy and is also survived by many loving cousins.

Memorial donations may be made in Michael's name to MSPCA-Angell by going to <https://www.mspca.org/donate-now/> or by mailing a check to



MSPCA-Angell, Attn: Donations, 350 South Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02130. In accordance with Mr. Amirault's wishes, services are private. An interment of his cremated remains will take place at the family grave in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. To leave an online condolence, please visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com)

## RCN, Grande Communications and Wave Broadband conclude acquisition of EnTouch Systems

RCN, Grande and Wave, award-winning providers of high-speed internet, digital TV and phone services across the U.S., today finalized its previously announced acquisition of EnTouch Systems, Inc. (EnTouch). The agreement adds residential and business services in Houston, TX to the organization's joint service portfolio, as well as approximately 22,000 customers to its coverage area in Texas. This closely follows another September announcement that RCN, Grande and Wave surpassed the milestone of serving more than one million customers nationwide.

"With the acquisition of EnTouch, the company will be joining the Grande Communications eco-system, which also includes RCN and Wave Broadband, allowing customers to take advantage of Grande's higher internet speeds and streaming services," said Jim Holanda, CEO. "The addition of EnTouch creates further opportunities for sustained growth in our Texas service area and continues the expansion of our reliable, robust fiber-rich network on a national scale for both residential and business customers."

EnTouch is one of the fastest-growing providers of high-speed internet, video, voice and home security services in the greater Houston area. This new addition expands the organization's existing Texas presence established with Grande Communications,

servicing both residential and business customers in Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Waco, Temple, San Marcos and Midland/Odessa.

"As part of Grande Communications' service network, we will continue to focus on providing customers with high-quality technology and customer service," said Sam Luxton, President and CEO of EnTouch. "Together, we will offer new and improved products and services and continue to grow and innovate."

In 2017, TPG Capital, the global private equity platform of alternative asset firm TPG, acquired RCN and Grande Communications. In 2018, the organization finalized its acquisition of Wave Broadband, creating the sixth largest cable provider in the U.S. Now a nationwide broadband service platform managed by Patriot Media Consulting, the joint organization provides industry-leading high-speed internet, broadband communications solutions, digital TV, phone services and fiber optic solutions for residential and business customers across the United States.

For more information on EnTouch, please visit [www.entouch.net](http://www.entouch.net). For information on RCN, please visit, [www.rcn.com](http://www.rcn.com). For more on Grande Communications, please visit [mygrande.com](http://mygrande.com). For more on Wave Broadband, please visit [www.wavebroadband.com](http://www.wavebroadband.com).



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# Massachusetts unemployment and job estimates for August

The state’s August total unemployment rate is down 4.9 percentage points at 11.3 percent following a revision to the July rate at 16.2 percent, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced Friday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ preliminary job estimates indicate Massachusetts added 51,600 jobs in August. This follows last month’s revised gain of 70,900 jobs. Over the month, the private sector added 51,200 jobs as gains occurred in Education and Health Services; Leisure and Hospitality; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; Manufacturing; Other Services; Information; and Construction. The one loss occurred in Financial Activities. Government added jobs over the month.

From August 2019 to August 2020, BLS estimates Massachusetts lost 403,200 jobs. Losses occurred in each of the private sectors, with the largest percentage losses in Leisure and Hospitality; Other Services; Construction; and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities.

The August unemployment rate was 2.9 percentage points above the national rate of 8.4 percent reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The labor force decreased by 127,600 from 3,673,400 in July, as 65,400 more residents were employed and 193,100 fewer residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 8.5 percentage points.

The state’s labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – dropped to 62.6 percent. Compared to August 2019, the labor force participation rate is down by 5.2 percentage points.

August 2020 Employment Overview

Education and Health Services gained 17,400

(+2.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Education and Health Services lost 60,700 (-7.5%) jobs.

Leisure and Hospitality gained 13,100 (+6.0%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Leisure and Hospitality lost 146,000 (-38.7%) jobs.

Trade, Transportation and Utilities added 12,300 (+2.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 60,600 (-10.5%) jobs.

Professional, Scientific and Business Services gained 4,300 (+0.8%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Professional, Scientific and Business Services lost 33,100 (-5.5%) jobs.

Manufacturing added 2,300 (+1.0%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Manufacturing lost 10,800 (-4.4%) jobs.

Other Services gained 1,100 (+1.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Other Services are down 34,500 (-24.8%) jobs.

Information added 500 (+0.6%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Information lost 3,800 (-4.0%) jobs.

Construction gained 300 (+0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Construction has lost 20,200 (-12.4%) jobs.

Financial Activities lost 100 (0.0%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Financial Activities lost 6,100 (-2.7%) jobs.

Government added 400 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Government lost 27,200 (-5.9%) jobs.

Labor Force Overview

The August estimates show 3,144,600 Massachusetts residents were employed and 401,200 were unemployed, for a total labor force of 3,545,800. The unemployment rate at 11.3 percent was down by 4.9 percentage points from the revised July estimate of 16.2 percent. The August labor force decreased by 127,600 from 3,673,400 in July, as 65,400 more residents were employed and 193,100 fewer residents were unemployed over the month. The labor

force participation rate, the share of working age population employed and unemployed, was down 2.3 percentage points over the month at 62.6 percent. The labor force was down 276,400 from the 3,822,200 August 2019 estimate, with 569,200 fewer residents employed and 292,800 more residents unemployed.

The unemployment rate is based on a monthly sample of households. The job estimates are derived from a monthly sample survey of employers. As a result, the two statistics may exhibit different monthly trends. The Bureau of Labor Statistics implemented the Current Population Survey level-shift outliers into the estimation models to incorporate the state claims and CES inputs starting with the revised March estimates. These level shifts preserved movements in published estimates that the models otherwise would have discounted as sampling error. Seasonal factors, which were suspended beginning with the March estimates, have been resumed and were applied starting with the June estimates.

NOTES: The labor force is the sum of the numbers of employed residents and those unemployed, that is residents not working but actively seeking work in the last four weeks. Estimates may not add up to the total labor force due to rounding.

For further information on seasonal adjustment methodology, please refer to the Bureau of Labor Statistics website <https://www.bls.gov>.

Local area unemployment statistics for August 2020 will be released on Tuesday, September 22, 2020. The preliminary September 2020 and revised August 2020 unemployment rate, labor force and job estimates for Massachusetts will be released on Friday, October 16, 2020. See the 2020 Media Advisory annual schedule for a complete list of release dates.

Detailed labor market information is available at [www.mass.gov/lmi](http://www.mass.gov/lmi).

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## State Treasurer Goldberg receives Jesse M. Unruh Award

The National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) announced that Massachusetts State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg was honored with the Jesse M. Unruh Award.

Utah Treasurer David Damschen made the presentation to Treasurer Goldberg.

The Jesse M. Unruh Award is named for a founding member of NAST and former California State Treasurer. This distinguished award recognizes a current Treasurer's commitment to the association, the profession, and his or her state.

"Treasurer Goldberg truly epitomizes outstanding service to the association and the profession," said Utah Treasurer David Damschen, "Her tireless work as the NAST President during these unprecedented times has steadied our course, as she provided truly extraordinary and timely leadership."

Goldberg is currently serving as President of NAST. Throughout her year-long term she has



State Treasurer Deb Goldberg.

successfully led the association's efforts to support sound fiscal policies and programs throughout the country. She has advocated for increased federal aid for states and localities hurt by the pandemic, legislation to rebuild our country's infrastructure, increase access to financial literacy programs, enhance returning unclaimed property to its rightful owners, and grow affordable retirement and ABLE savings accounts.

"We are grateful for Treasurer Goldberg's leadership," said NAST Executive Director Shaun Snyder, "While

COVID-19 was certainly not contemplated when she was elected NAST President, she quickly pivoted and led us through very difficult times. As a result of her skillful stewardship, we have been able to provide meaningful virtual learning and networking opportunities for our members and have maintained and increased strong advocacy efforts, helping to shape legislation and regulations impacting public finance and the Treasurers' constituents across the country."

Treasurer Goldberg's extensive business and fiscal management experience provided her with a strong foundation to effectively carry out NAST's top priorities.

After being elected State Treasurer in 2014, Treasurer Goldberg was reelected in 2018. She is known for her deep commitment to the advancement of policies that break down barriers and create economic opportunities for everyone.

## Supreme Judicial Court issues new order regarding jury trials and operation of courts

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) last week issued an updated order regarding the operation of Massachusetts state courts and courthouses during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The order goes into effect immediately.

Under the new order, on or after October 23, 2020, courts will begin Phase 1 of the gradual resumption of jury trials, in general accordance with the recent recommendations contained in the report of the Jury Management Advisory Committee (JMAC). Phase 1 will consist of a limited number of six-person jury trials that will be conducted in person in a select number of locations, with no more than one trial at a time conducted in each location, and with specified limitations on the number of peremptory challenges available to each party. The cases that will be tried to juries during Phase 1, as well

as the locations thereof, will be determined by the Chief Justice of the applicable Trial Court department, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Trial Court. The SJC shall issue direction regarding Phase 2 of the resumption of jury trials after reviewing the JMAC's evaluation of Phase 1. It is anticipated that Phase 2 will begin in February 2021, although plans regarding the resumption of jury trials may be adjusted in response to significant changes in the rate of COVID-19 transmission in the Commonwealth.

Otherwise, courts will continue to conduct most business virtually and courthouses will continue to be physically open to the public for limited purposes, including certain other in-person proceedings. Judges will continue to schedule and conduct bench trials, either virtually or in-person. Each Trial Court department

will continue to post notices to the court system's COVID-19 webpage identifying how (virtually or in-person) it is addressing various categories of matters.

Clerks', registers', and recorder's offices will continue to be physically open to the public, while still endeavoring to conduct business virtually as much as possible.

New grand juries may be empaneled subject to certain approvals and such conditions as may be necessary to minimize risk to members of the grand jury, court personnel, and witnesses.

All orders, standing orders, guidelines, and notices issued by any court department or appellate court in response to the pandemic, as well as all amendments, modifications, and supplements are posted upon issuance on the court system's COVID-19 webpage.

## CITY PAWS

### Pet photo pointers

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

With smartphone cameras always at the ready, most of us take hundreds of photos of our pets. We can snap away and choose the best of what we shoot to keep and share. It's easier if your dog or cat either ignores the camera or is a ham who loves to be the center of attention. With camera-shy critters, you have to use a full bag of tricks to capture a great photo.

#### Planning the Photo

If you hope to take a special photo, say for your pet's birthday or a holiday card, plan ahead. A second person might help. They can distract the animal with a toy or treat or keep it safe while you sit or lie on the ground to get an eye level view.

Background is important. Find a light colored background for a dark dog. Our little white dog shows up best on a dark background. Look at the photos you already have of your pets to see what background works best for them.

Have treats, toys, and something that makes a funny noise on hand to capture your pet's attention when you are ready to shoot. We've used squeakers, giggle toys, and made funny sounds the dog doesn't usually hear, or say a favorite word like treat or cheese. Be sure to have that cheese or treat on hand to reward your model. This will help train your dog or cat to look forward to and cooperate with photos.

Don't forget the lighting. Outside, try for the golden hour. That's the time shortly after sunrise



Stairs are one way to take a photo at a dog's eye level. This pup is named Farmer and his attention was captured by the photographer behind his photographer.

or before sunset, when daylight is redder, softer, and more flattering to man or beast. Days with clouds and flat light create fewer shadows and are better for photography than bright sunny days.

Inside, try to dim or raise room lights and use shades or a piece of cloth to adjust the daylight coming through windows. We never use a flash because it can scare the animal and seldom results in a good photo.

#### Portrait or Action

Great portraits of dogs and cats are often those taken at eye level. This means that either the photographer has to get down or the animal has to get up. We've used comfy chairs, park benches, stairs and stone walls to raise up small subjects.

For action photos practice taking high speed bursts on your camera or phone. These will give you more choices as you edit photos of your cat at play or your dog running on the beach.

#### Safety and Comfort First

Any time you are pho-

tographing an animal, try to be aware of both their comfort level and safety. Back when most of our photos were taken with big Nikon DSLR cameras with three inch lenses focused on a pup's face, we had many dogs afraid of our camera. With research we learned that some dogs see the lens as a big, threatening eye staring at them. Phones are less scary.

You won't see photos of our dog Poppy without a leash attached to us or a solid object unless she is inside. She's a terrier and can never be trusted off leash in the open. While you are concentrating on taking a photo, your dog may spot a squirrel, another dog, or a favorite person and be gone in a flash.

If you think through the photo you hope to capture and have all the treats, toys, and camera settings ready, you'll be able to take a great photo quickly and safely.

*Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.*

## COVID-19 has changed everything.

Connect with our readers of **The Revere Journal, The Winthrop Sun Transcript, The East Boston Times Free Press, Chelsea Record, Everett Independent, and Lynn Journal** who are looking for options in light of the current crisis in our Septemer editions:

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