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Wednesday, September 16, 2020

EBECC launches needed online fundraising campaign

By John Lynds

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council (EBECC) has been going strong and continues to help low income and immigrant families cope during these unprecedented times.

Executive Director Frank Ramirez announced EBECC, one of East Boston's oldest social service agencies, is seeking donations so the organization can continue to help families in need during the pandemic.

"Borrowing from an Advertisement by the Salvation Army that reads 'Poverty should not be a life sentence' I want to tell you that under the Covid-19 pandemic poverty can be a life sentence," said Ramirez. "In East Boston, by far the majority of patients being seen with COVID-19 are Hispanic. In Greater Boston, the population of Latinx folks is somewhat around 15 to 17 percent and nearly 50 percent of the people in our hospitals right now, in beds in the ICU or on the floor who have COVID are Hispanic according to official reports. Our community already suffers from acute respiratory infection, gastro-intestinal problems, diabetes, tuberculosis, hypertension, hepatitis B and C infections, neonatal complications, and AIDS. The only way to cope with such overwhelming problems is to build effective community support systems."

So far the generosity from residents and supporters have helped EBECC to continue serving more than 5,000 immigrants and minorities at a time when everything feels uncertain.

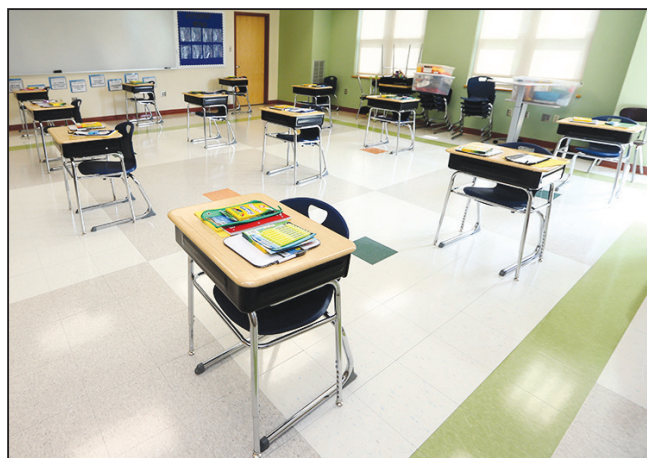
"We find comfort and encouragement knowing that you care about our cause," said Ramirez. "We need your help. Immigrants come to this country for many different reasons, but not to die from Coronavirus; instead all share a common goal: to make life better for themselves and their families. How much value do you

See EBECC Page 2



BPS staff uses a fogger for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting classrooms ahead of the school year.

An example of classroom configuration (right) once students return to in-person learning under BPS's 'hybrid' learning model.



BPS prepares for first day of school

By John Lynds

Last week and this week, Boston Public Schools (BPS) teachers, administrators and support staff have been busy preparing for the start of the 2020-2021 school year, which begins Monday, Sept. 21.

All BPS students will begin with remote learning on September 21. Then in October, BPS will gradually introduce optional "hybrid" learning for all students, starting with the highest need

students and the youngest students. BPS will then introduce optional hybrid learning for additional grade levels, starting with the youngest students, and moving up into the higher grades.

This week BPS families received their Hybrid A or Hybrid B group and information about how to request a change to the learning model (hybrid or all-remote) previously selected. In addition, families of students eligible for four days of in-person learning received forms

indicating their preference for either two or four days of in-person learning.

Mayor Martin Walsh and BPS Superintendent Dr. Brenda Cassellius said each new phase will be contingent upon the most up-to-date public health metrics.

"From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, keeping Boston's families safe, healthy, and equitably supported has been our top priority," said Walsh. "That's why we

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Hard work, big dreams

At-Large City Councilor Michelle Wu announces bid for Mayor of Boston

By John Lynds

On Tuesday, At-Large City Councilor Michelle Wu announced that she is going to attempt something that has not been accomplished in Boston politics since John Hayes unseated incumbent Mayor of Boston James Michael Curley in 1949.

Wu has officially tossed her hat into the 2021 Boston Mayoral race, and will try to oust Mayor Martin Walsh. An incumbent Boston Mayor has not lost election since the Hayes/Curley race some seven decades ago.

Wu released her campaign announcement via a YouTube video Tuesday and plans to hold a series of kickoff events in Eastie and across Boston this week.

In Eastie, Wu will make her first campaign stop on Thursday, September 17 at 3:30 p.m. with a visit to Eastie Farm Community Garden. She will also greet commuters at Maverick MBTA station at 4 p.m.

"The Boston we love

is a city that takes care of each other, where hard work meets big dreams with grit and resilience," said Wu in her announcement. "But for too many — during this pandemic and well before — it's been impossible to dream when you're fighting to hold on. Fighting to afford to stay. Fighting for our kids. Fighting a system that wasn't built for us, doesn't speak our languages, doesn't hear our voices. That's why today I'm announcing my campaign for Mayor to make Boston a city for everyone. If you're ready for leadership that matches the scale and urgency of our challenges — that includes and empowers every community — please add your name to join the movement."

Wu, a daughter of immigrants, said she has lived her whole life knowing what it's like to feel unseen and unheard, even when you most need help.

"My parents came to America with no money

See WU Page 2



A clip from At-Large City Councilor Michelle Wu's campaign announcement video released Tuesday.

BPDA expects to vote on Suffolk Downs proposal next week

By John Lynds

Following this summer's three additional public meetings that were held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic and simultaneously translated into Spanish and Arabic, the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) will finally vote next Thursday on the proposed phased mixed-use

development at the historic 161-acre Suffolk Downs site in East Boston.

Ahead of the vote, the BPDA is holding a public hearing on Thursday, September 24 at 5:30 p.m. BPDA's Director of Communications Bonnie McGilpin said the special public hearing, held separately from the regular monthly BPDA Board meetings, will allow time

for community members to participate and for the development team (HYM Investment, Inc.) and BPDA staff members to respond to questions from both the community and BPDA Board members.

The hearing will be held via Zoom and translation services will be provided in Spanish and Arabic. It will be broadcast live on Boston City TV (Xfinity

Channel 24, RCN Channel 13, and Verizon Fios Channel 1962) and Boston.gov.

"The Suffolk Downs redevelopment proposal has undergone a robust public process over the past three years, including over thirty public meetings alongside the community, elected officials, and local stakeholders," said McGilpin. "This engagement

has led to an updated proposal that better represents the needs of the surrounding neighborhood, including more affordable units, better transportation infrastructure, and improved open space and parks."

McGilpin said the BPDA has worked closely with the development team to create an inclusive

See BPDA Page 3



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Wu // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and no connections, not speaking English,” said Wu. “When my mom started struggling with mental illness, I became her caregiver and raised my sisters. It’s the struggles and dreams of my family and families across our neighborhoods that I’ve carried to City Hall for the last seven years. Together we’ve broken barriers on the Boston City Council, passed groundbreaking legislation, changed the face of government, and changed the conversation about what is just and what is possible. And we have so much more to do.”

Wu added that she plans to build wealth in all Boston communities, place a value on public education,

plan for the future of Boston neighborhoods, invest in affordable housing and transportation that serves everyone, truly fund public health for safety and healing, and deliver on a city Green New Deal for clean air and water, healthy homes, and the brightest future for children.

“Now’s the time to build on the activism of generations before,” said Wu. “With the urgency of this moment and this movement, we’re ready to go beyond fighting the system to hear us. Now’s the time for us to lead.”

Former City Councilor Tito Jackson was the last councilor to take on Walsh during Walsh’s run for his

second term. Walsh, a son of Irish immigrant parents, beat Jackson in all of Eastie 14 Precincts and trounced Jackson citywide winning the election with 70 percent of the vote.

However, there is some speculation that Walsh’s desire to run for a third term may hinge upon the upcoming Presidential election. If former Vice President Joe Biden wins, some suggest Walsh may be tapped by Biden for a position in his administration. Walsh may be prime to take over the US Ambassadorship to Ireland currently held by Trump appointee and Republican Party member Edward Francis Crawford.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Boston Redevelopment Authority (“BRA”) d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency (“BPDA”), pursuant to Sections 80A-2, 80B and 80C of the Boston Zoning Code (the “Code”), hereby gives notice that it will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. televised on Boston City TV (Xfinity Channel 24, RCN Channel 13, and Verizon Fios Channel 1962) and live streamed on [boston.gov](https://www.boston.gov), to consider the proposal of The McClellan Highway Development Company, LLC, an affiliate of The HYM Investment Group, LLC (the “Proponent”) for the Master Plan for Planned Development Area No. 124, Suffolk Downs Redevelopment, East Boston (the “Master Plan”) and five (5) associated Development Plans (each individually a “Development Plan, collectively referred to as the “Development Plans”), related to the Suffolk Downs development project located at 525 McClellan Highway in the East Boston neighborhood (the “Proposed Project”, as further described below), and to consider the Proposed Project as a Development Impact Project (“DIP”). The Proposed Project consists of the construction of an approximately 10.52 million square foot mixed use development, as well as an approximately 27-acre open space network consisting of approximately 7.31 million square feet of residential development and approximately 3.21 million square feet of office, hotel, retail and other commercial development on an approximately 109 acre site. The Proposed Project will also include an extensive network of new streets, sidewalks, bicycle facilities and pedestrian walkways as well as approximately 6,760 parking spaces. The Proponent is requesting approval by the BPDA of the Master Plan and five (5) associated Development Plans, which approval would authorize the Director of the BPDA to petition the Boston Zoning Commission for consideration and approval of the Master Plan and five (5) Development Plans and associated map amendment. Members of the public may participate in this Public Hearing by registering at <https://bit.ly/31SSsGk> or by emailing your testimony to BRABoard@boston.gov. Emailed testimony will be read aloud during the hearing. The Master Plan and five (5) associated Development Plans may be viewed at the BPDA website at <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/suffolk-downs>.

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

Por medio de la presente, la Autoridad de Reurbanización de Boston (“BRA”) también conocida como la Agencia de Planeación y Desarrollo de Boston (“BPDA”), en conformidad con las Secciones 80A-2, 80B y 80C del código de zonificación de Boston (el “Código”), da aviso de que llevará a cabo una audiencia pública el jueves 24 de septiembre de 2020 a las 5:30 p.m. televisado en Boston City TV (canal 24 en Xfinity, canal 13 en RCN, y canal 1962 en Verizon Fios) y transmitido en vivo en [boston.gov](https://www.boston.gov), Massachusetts para considerar la propuesta de The McClellan Highway Development Company, LLC, un afiliado del Grupo de Inversión HYM, LLC (el “Proponente”) del Plan Maestro para el Área de Desarrollo Planificado #124, la Reurbanización de Suffolk Downs, en East Boston (el “Plan Maestro”) y cinco (5) Planes de Desarrollo asociados (cada uno referido individualmente como “Plan de Desarrollo, y referidos colectivamente como los “Planes de Desarrollo”), relacionados con el proyecto de desarrollo de Suffolk Downs ubicado en 525 McClellan Highway en el barrio de East Boston (descrito como el “Proyecto Propuesto”, a continuación), y considerar el Proyecto Propuesto como un Proyecto de Impacto en el Desarrollo (“DIP”). El proyecto propuesto consiste en la construcción de un desarrollo de uso mixto de aproximadamente 10.52 millones de pies cuadrados, así como una red de espacios abiertos de aproximadamente 27 acres con aproximadamente 7.31 millones de pies cuadrados de desarrollo residencial y aproximadamente 3.21 millones de pies cuadrados para uso de oficinas, hoteles, locales y otros desarrollos comerciales en un sitio de aproximadamente 109 acres. El proyecto propuesto también incluirá una red extensa nueva de calles, aceras, instalaciones para bicicletas y vías peatonales, así como aproximadamente 6,760 espacios de estacionamiento. El Proponente solicita la aprobación de BPDA del Plan Maestro y cinco (5) Planes de Desarrollo, cuya aprobación autorizaría al Director de BPDA a pedir a la Comisión de Zonificación de Boston la consideración y aprobación del Plan Maestro y cinco (5) Planes de Desarrollo y enmienda del mapa asociado. Los miembros del público pueden participar en esta Audiencia Pública registrándose en: <https://bit.ly/31SSsGk> o pueden enviar su testimonio por correo electrónico a: BRABoard@boston.gov

Todos los testimonio enviados por correo electrónico se leerán en voz alta durante la audiencia. El Plan Maestro y los cinco (5) Planes de Desarrollo asociados pueden verse en el sitio web de BPDA en: <http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/suffolk-downs>.

Teresa Polhemus, Directora Ejecutiva/Secretaría

الإخطار بجلسة استماع عامة

تقدم إدارة بوسطن لل عمران (BRA) تحت اسم وكالة بوسطن للتخطيط والتنمية (BPDA) ووفقاً لل فقرات 80A-2, 80B, و 80C من قانون بوسطن لتقسيم المناطق, تقدم إعلاناً ب عقد جلسة استماع عامة في يوم الخميس الموافق تاريخ 24 سبتمبر, 2020 في الساعة 5:30 مساءً, يتم البث على قناة مدينة بوسطن التلفزيونية (القناة 24 على Xfinity, القناة 13 على RCN, والقناة 1962 على Verizon Fios بالإضافة إلى البث الحي على موقع [boston.gov](https://www.boston.gov), لمراجعة مشروع قدمته شركة McClellan Highway Development Company وهي تابعة لمجموعة استثمار HYM (المنفذ) لتطوير منطقة رقم 124 وهي منطقة سافوك داونس Suffolk Downs في إيست بوسطن, إضافة إلى خمس خطط تنموية متعلقة بمشروع تطوير سافوك داونس الواقع على 525 McClellan Highway في حي إيست بوسطن.

يتكون المشروع المطروح بإنشاء منطقة عمرانية متعددة الاستخدام مساحتها تقريباً 10,52 مليون قدم مربع بالإضافة إلى شبكة من الحدائق مساحتها 27 فدان. ويشمل المشروع ما يقرب 7,31 مليون قدم مربع من العمران السكني و ما يقرب 3,21 مليون قدم مربع من المكاتب والفنادق والمتاجر وغيرها من التطوير التجاري في موقع مساحتها تقرب 109 فدان. المشروع سي شمل شبكة واسعة من الشوارع الجديدة والرصيف ومواقف لدراجات وطرق للمشى بالإضافة إلى تقريباً 6760 موقف سيارة. يطلب المنفذ الموافقة من قبل الBPDA على الخطة العامة وخمس خطط تنموية. يمكن مشاركة الجمهور في هذه الجلسة العامة عن طريق التسجيل في <https://bit.ly/31SSsGk> أو بإرسال تعليقاتكم بالبريد الإلكتروني إلى BRABoard@boston.gov. يتم قراءة التعليقات المرسله علناً أثناء الجلسة. يمكن رؤية الخطة العامة والخطط التنموية الخمسة على موقع ال<http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/suffolk-downs>.

مديرة عامة – أمينة عامة Teresa Polhemus

Schools // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

made the tough but necessary decision to close Boston Public Schools buildings in March. In a matter of days, we began distributing Chromebooks and WiFi hotspots to students, we set up meal sites to continue feeding tens of thousands of students and families, and we transitioned to fully remote learning. It was an all-hands-on-deck effort, and one we kept up while planning the upcoming school year.”

Walsh said the city is still facing uncertainty from the COVID-19 pandemic, but the values that guide the city are unchanged.

“Our plans for the upcoming school year put health, safety, and the needs of our most vulnerable students at the center of our plans,” he said. “After conducting an equity analysis and incorporating the feedback of thousands of stakeholders, we have decided to move forward with a cautious, responsible, phased-in hybrid model for the school year. In the optional hybrid model, students learn at home three days a week and attend school in-person two days a week.”

The BPS reopening plan is as follows:

- On September 21, all students will start with all-remote learning.
- No sooner than October 1, the option of hybrid learning will begin for students with the highest needs.
- No sooner than Oc-

tober 15, optional hybrid learning may begin for the three grades of kindergarten: K0, K1, and K2.

- No sooner than October 22, opt-in hybrid learning may begin for grades 1-3.
- No sooner than November 5, opt-in hybrid learning may begin for grades 4-8. That will include grades 6-8 in the high schools that include those grades.
- And no sooner than November 16, opt-in hybrid learning may begin for grades 9-12.

“In every step, families have the choice of whether to opt in to hybrid learning or stay fully remote,” said Walsh. “BPS is surveying families about their learning environment and transportation preferences for the fall. We know that many families want and need their children to be in school, but many other families are not yet comfortable with in-person learning. That’s why we are honoring family choice.”

Walsh said BPS learned a lot from the spring remote learning period. This plan is an opportunity to make remote learning more robust, inclusive, and creative.

“We are expanding technology and internet access; creating new outreach and support plans for families; developing solutions for special education students and English learners; and talking with childcare providers,” he said. “We have also

spent months preparing our school buildings and training staff to protect students’ and teachers’ health. We are working with school leaders and facilities professionals to make sure every school is safe and in compliance with DESE recommendations. We will not send students, teachers, or staff into buildings that are not safe.”

Walsh said the city needs to balance keeping our communities safe while getting kids back to school, and provide quality education.

“That’s what this plan makes possible,” he said. “At every step, we will follow public health data. Every family will have the choice about when to send their children into school buildings. And we will continue the work that began long before COVID-19: to close opportunity and achievement gaps, and give every single child the quality education that they deserve.”

Walsh said he and BPS are deeply grateful to all of the teachers, school leaders, staff, families, students, and public health experts who lent their time and expertise, and helped the city consider all aspects of our plan.

“This is the most difficult chapter in our city’s recent history, and time and time again the Boston community rises to the challenge with solidarity and compassion,” said Walsh.

EBECC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

think there is in helping immigrants succeed?”

Ramirez said a donation of \$1,500 will help youth to access technology and material to advance in a path to higher education, life skills training, leadership development workshops and computer classes. A donation of \$1,000 can help a father or mother to have the legal support that allows him or her to be reunited with their family. A donation of \$150 to \$300 can help promote the participation of Latino immigrant parents in Eastie to improve the Boston Public Schools, and for educational materials and

supplies to help women and mothers learn basic English. A donation of \$100 to \$150 can help pay for childcare so a mother can attend an advanced English class and help not only herself but her children and family.

“The pandemic has disrupted many organizations, but our mission has not and will not be placed on hold,” said Ramirez. “That’s why we are asking you to help us cover the cost of continuing our work together by giving a gift. As EBECC’S Chief Executive Officer, I am proud to stand by an organization that provides the


immigrant community in East Boston with invaluable services to help them realize their hopes for a better life. Please join me in supporting EBECC’S mission by making a donation at the level of your choice to help our families. On behalf of EBECC, I thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.”


Donations can be made to https://ebecc.networkforgood.com/projects/55255-fulfillment-of-families-together&utm_campaign=dms_email_blast_750693.

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APOCALYPSE -- NOW

The photos of the wildfires in our western states that have incinerated entire communities and that have turned daytime skies to night by their heavy smoke have illustrated the dramatic effects of climate change upon the daily lives of millions of Americans.

Record heat has accelerated the effects of dry conditions, leading to the record-setting wildfires out west.

Yes, climate change undeniably is happening here and around the globe.

Last January, it was the bushfires in Australia that similarly wrought havoc and destruction in that part of the world.

An article in the New York Times on Monday began this way, “The effects of global warming in the Arctic are so severe that the region is shifting to a different climate, one characterized less by ice and snow and more by open water and rain, scientists said Monday.”

More ominously, that same article discussed the perils of climate change facing the world from another source, the melting of the Antarctic glaciers at the bottom of the world.

“Another study released Monday suggested that two Antarctic glaciers that have long been of concern to scientists over their potential to contribute to sea level rise may be in worse shape than previously thought.”

From east to west and north to south, climate change is posing an existential threat to life as we know it.

There is still time for us to reverse, or at least halt, the impending doom that awaits us if we take immediate action to limit greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere.

But we need to act soon, because it will not be too long before it will be too late.

DONALD TRUMP IS NO WINSTON CHURCHILL

Rage, the new book by veteran journalist Bob Woodward about the presidency of Donald Trump, has revealed unequivocally that Trump deliberately has downplayed the lethality of the Covid-19 pandemic from the very beginning of the virus’s detection in the United States.

Whether one wants to characterize Trump’s mendacity as outright lying for political purposes, or merely as a benevolent effort by Trump to prevent social chaos, the bottom line is the same: Trump has not been straight with the American people.

But even if one accepts Trump’s explanation for his deceit, the book makes clear that Trump treated the American people with disdain, as if we were children who needed to be shielded from the truth.

“I don’t want to jump up and down and start screaming, ‘Death! Death!’ because that’s not what it’s about,” Trump said at a press conference last week, when asked about his months and months of deceptions.

A few days later, at a campaign rally in Michigan, Trump asserted that his handling of the pandemic has been similar to how Winston Churchill addressed the people of England during the height of the Nazi bombing in WWII.

“As the British government advised the British people in the face of World War II, keep calm and carry on. That’s what I did,” said Trump, who then invoked the comparison of himself directly to Churchill.

Trump, by his own admission, reads nothing, so it is not surprising that Trump has no knowledge of what Churchill said and did during the epic Battle of Britain, when England’s survival was at stake.

For if Trump knew even the slightest bit about Churchill’s tenure as Prime Minister, he would have known that from the outset, Churchill never sugarcoated the reality of the threat that was facing every British citizen.

In his very first speech, three days after he had become Great Britain’s leader, Churchill laid out clearly and explicitly the difficult task that lay ahead:

“I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat,” said Churchill. “We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering.”

The test of a true leader is to recognize the reality of a situation and face it head-on, not merely to play the role of a cheerleader.

As things stand now under Trump’s presidency, American deaths from the pandemic now stand at just about 200,000, with another 200,000 Americans expected to die by the end of this year.

It is clear that Donald Trump is no Winston Churchill.

He’s merely Donald Trump.

Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is 781-485-1403.

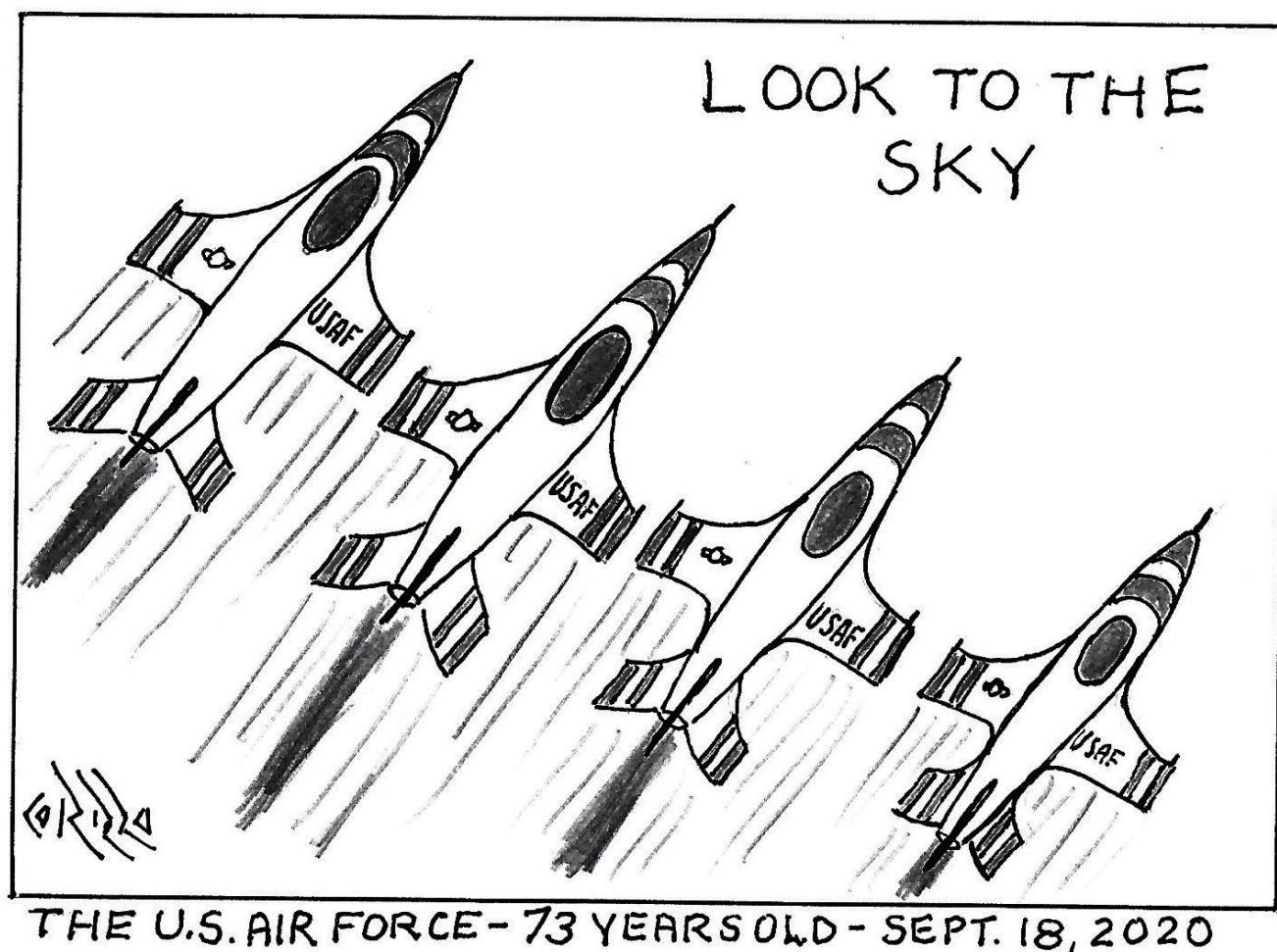
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Letters must be signed.

We reserve the right to edit for length and content.



Forum



GUEST OP-ED

Our fall school plans are guided by health, safety, and equity

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Superintendent Brenda Cassellius

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, keeping Boston’s families safe, healthy, and equitably supported has been our top priority. That’s why we made the tough but necessary decision to close Boston Public Schools buildings in March. In a matter of days, we began distributing Chromebooks and WiFi hotspots to students and families, and we transitioned to fully remote learning. It was an all-hands-on-deck effort, and one we kept up while planning the upcoming school year.

We are still facing uncertainty from coronavirus, but the values that guide us are unchanged. Our plans for the upcoming school year put health, safety, and the needs of our most vulnerable students at the center of our plans.

After conducting an equity analysis and incorporating the feedback of thousands of stakeholders,

we have decided to move forward with a cautious, responsible, phased-in hybrid model for the school year. In the optional hybrid model, students learn at home three days a week and attend school in-person two days a week.

This is our plan:

- We pushed the first day of school back to September 21, to give schools and teachers extra time to prepare.

- On September 21, all students will start with all-remote learning.

- No sooner than October 1, the option of hybrid learning will begin for students with the highest needs.

- No sooner than October 15, optional hybrid learning may begin for the three grades of kindergarten: K0, K1, and K2.

- No sooner than October 22, opt-in hybrid learning may begin for grades 1-3.

- No sooner than November 5, opt-in hybrid learning may begin for grades 4-8. That will include grades 6-8 in the high schools that include those grades.

- And no sooner than

November 16, opt-in hybrid learning may begin for grades 9-12.

In every step, families have the choice of whether to opt in to hybrid learning or stay fully remote. BPS is surveying families about their learning environment and transportation preferences for the fall. We know that many families want and need their children to be in school, but many other families are not yet comfortable with in-person learning. That’s why we are honoring family choice.

We’ve learned a lot from the spring remote learning period. This plan is an opportunity to make remote learning more robust, inclusive, and creative. We are expanding technology and internet access; creating new outreach and support plans for families; developing solutions for special education students and English learners; and talking with childcare providers.

We have also spent months preparing our school buildings and training staff to protect students’ and teachers’ health. We are working with school leaders and facilities professionals to make sure every school is safe and in compliance with DESE recommendations. We will not send students, teachers, or staff into buildings that are not safe.

We are focusing on equity and meeting the needs of our students. Our plan responds to the significant opportunity gaps facing students from low-income households, students of color, immigrants, and English language learners. Many parents are essential workers who must return to work, and cannot leave their young children home

alone. For these families, opportunity gaps grow with every day students are out of school. It’s also important to remember that school is about much more than learning. For many students, it’s their place of safety, support, and social development.

Supporting students with special needs is a big focus of this plan. We are prioritizing high needs special education students by giving them the option of in-person learning, up to four days per week, starting October 1. This is the right thing to do. We are committed to meeting the requirements of every student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP).

We need to keep our communities safe, get kids back to school, and provide quality education. That’s what this plan makes possible. At every step, we will follow public health data. Every family will have the choice about when to send their children into school buildings. And we will continue the work that began long before COVID-19: to close opportunity and achievement gaps, and give every single child the quality education that they deserve.

We are deeply grateful to all of the teachers, school leaders, staff, families, students, and public health experts who lent their time and expertise, and helped us consider all aspects of our plan. This is the most difficult chapter in our city’s recent history, and time and time again the Boston community rises to the challenge with solidarity and compassion.

To see the full BPS reopening plan, and for more information about how to submit feedback, visit bostonpublicschools.org/reopening.

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House provides an update on ongoing productive 2019-2020 session

During the ongoing Massachusetts 191st General Court’s 2019-2020 session – which has been extended through legislative action – the House has passed emergency legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as major legislation relating to education, transportation, and climate change.

“I am proud of the work the House has done this session to pass groundbreaking legislation addressing important issues across the Commonwealth,” said Representative Adrian Madaro. “Despite historic disruption from the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to adapt and continue our work on critical bills covering pandemic relief, aid for businesses, housing, police reform, and environmental justice. I look forward to continuing this work when formal sessions resume this fall.”

Following a decisive vote in July to extend the formal legislative session, the House remains at work on bills vital to the Commonwealth. This action followed the passage of major legislation relating to the COVID-19 State of Emergency that included provisions to extend unemployment benefits, protect public health, and institute landmark provisions for remote voting in the House and mail-in voting for local, state and federal elections held in 2020. The emergency legislation also included one of the strongest moratoriums in the country protecting tenants and homeowners from eviction and foreclosure and creating opportunities for restaurants to serve alcohol, beer and wine for carry out service.

For the first time in the history of the Commonwealth, the House voted on emergency rules to establish procedures for remote voting. These temporary changes enabled the House to vote on items requiring formal votes (such as a measure facilitating the postponement

of the tax deadline) while reinforcing public health and safety.

Amid a difficult fiscal climate, the House also voted to keep Chapter 90 level-funded at \$200 million for key repairs for the maintenance and upkeep of municipal roads and bridges in Massachusetts. As part of a sweeping economic development bill, the House passed legislation to legalize sports betting, provide supports to small businesses and at-risk populations and make investments in affordable housing. In recognition of the House’s commitment to a safe, accessible, and reliable transportation system, the House also approved an \$18 billion investment in the Commonwealth’s transportation infrastructure.

In keeping with the House’s ongoing commitment to protecting public health and safety, the House passed health care legislation to facilitate the use of telemedicine as well as strengthen community hospitals. The House also passed legislation aimed at eliminating racial inequities in maternal health that have resulted in women of color dying of pregnancy-related causes at more than double the rate of white women. Under a policing reform bill, the House voted to establish a certification process for police, creating an independent and empowered oversight board, and codifying restrictions on use of force measures. The House also voted to protect public sector employees rights and to approve campaign finance reform.

In building on the House’s history of leadership in climate change policy, the House passed legislation setting a statewide 2050 net zero greenhouse gas emissions limit, establishing environmental justice population criteria, increasing statewide renewable energy requirements, and bolstering green programs for underserved populations.

In keeping with the

House’s commitment to the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable and at-risk children and families, in May, the House announced the formation of its Early Education and Care (EEC) Recovery Advisory Group. The group is tasked with helping address the challenges facing childcare in this new and changing landscape, and established the EEC Public-Private Trust Fund, creating an infrastructure to foster public-private and philanthropic efforts for childcare providers, including providing \$500,000 for technical and small business support during the recovery process. In July, in response to growing concerns about the significant drop in reports of child abuse and neglect during the COVID-19 crisis, the House also passed legislation to strengthen oversight policies and operations at the Department of Children and Families.

At the start of this session, in 2019, the House passed several pieces of landmark legislation including an historic \$1.5 billion statewide investment in public schools – known as the Student Opportunity Act. Given the long-term importance of the transportation infrastructure to the region, the House also passed the \$600 million investment in new transportation funding – known as the An Act Relative to Transportation Finance.

The House also passed nation-leading legislation to modernize tobacco control and ban all flavored tobacco and legislation to reduce distracted driving. In addition, the House passed legislation to protect college students by ensuring higher education financial stability and oversight. The House also banned conversion therapy for minors, ensured no student in-need would go hungry by requiring breakfast after the school bell, and provided supplemental funding for women’s reproductive health

organizations as a result of federal cuts the Title X program, which was included as part of a supplemental state budget.

Helping to protect the most vulnerable children and families in the Commonwealth prior to the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the House voted to lift a decades-old family welfare cap to extend cash benefits to the 8,700 Massachusetts children and their families who had previously been excluded. The House also passed legislation creating a care registry to protect persons with intellectual or developmental disability from abuse. To address the complex health and wellness needs of the Commonwealth’s 1.4 million children, the House led efforts this session passing comprehensive legislation to ensure increased access to services and a more holistic approach to children’s health and wellness supports.

The House acted to address climate resiliency by advancing a \$1 billion investment – known as GreenWorks – over the next 10 years to help communities across Massachusetts adopt technologies that cut greenhouse gas emissions, fortify infrastructure, and reduce municipal costs.

The House passed following legislation over the General Court’s two-year session from on January 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020. Due to the public health emergency, the House and Senate have extended the legislative session through December 31, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

An Act to Facilitate the Delay of the Income Tax Filing Deadline (H.4677)

An Act Providing Additional Support to Those Affected by the Novel Coronavirus Through the Unemployment Insurance System (H.4648)

An Act Addressing COVID-19 Data Collection and Disparities in

Treatment (H.4672)

An Act Relative to Voting Options in Response to COVID-19 (H.4820)

An Act Making \$15 million in Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2020 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations Relating to the Coronavirus (H.4561)

An Act to Further Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities, School Districts and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19 (H.4616)

An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19 (H.4598)

An Act Providing for a Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures During the COVID-19 Emergency (H. 4647)

An Act Granting Authority to Postpone 2020 Municipal Elections in the Commonwealth and Increase Voting Options in Response to the Declaration of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19 (S.2608)

An Act Authorizing Waiver of the One Week Waiting Period for Unemployment Benefits (S.2599)

An Act to Expand Take-Out/Delivery Options in Response to COVID-19 (H.4856)

COVID-19 Legislation Awaiting Final Passage

An Act Relative to Long Term Care Facility and Elder Housing COVID-19 Reporting (H.4667)

An Act Addressing Challenges Faced by Food and Beverage Establishments Resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic (H.4774)

Other Enacted Laws

An Act Financing the General Governmental Infrastructure of the Commonwealth (H.4932)

An Act Relative to Collective Bargaining Dues (H.3854)

An Act to Mitigate Arbovirus in the Commonwealth (H.4851)

An Act Regarding Breakfast After the Bell (H.4218)

An Act Relative to Ed-

ucational Opportunity for Students (S.2412)

An Act to Lift the Cap on Kids (H.3594)

An Act to Support Improved Financial Stability in Higher Education (H.4099)

An Act Requiring the Hands-Free Use of Mobile Telephones While Driving (H.4203)

An Act Modernizing Tobacco Control (H.4196)

An Act Relative to Abusive Practices to Change Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Minors (H.140)

An Act Relative to Children’s Health and Wellness (H.4210)

An Act Relative to Campaign Finance (H.4223)

An Act Relative to Strengthening the Local and Regional Public Health System (H.4503)

An Act to Protect Persons with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities from Abuse (S.2367)

Other Legislation Awaiting Final Passage

An Act to Reduce Racial Inequities in Maternal Health (H.4818)

An Act to Reform Police Standards and Shift Resources to Build a More Equitable, Fair and Just Commonwealth that Values Black Lives and Communities of Color (H.4886)

An Act Enabling Partnerships for Growth (H.4887)

An Act Authorizing and Accelerating Transportation Investment (H.4547)

An Act Financing Improvements to Municipal Roads and Bridges (H.4803)

An Act Creating a 2050 Roadmap to a Clean and Thriving Commonwealth (H.4933)

An Act Relative to Transportation Finance (H.4530)

An Act Relative to the Host Community Agreements (H.4367)

An Act Relative to GreenWorks (H.3997)

DUA disburses final lost wages assistance benefits

The Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has disbursed the sixth and final Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) \$300 supplemental benefit to unemployment claimants in the Commonwealth. The application for these federal supplemental unemployment benefits was submitted by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), in coordination with the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

The limited additional weekly unemployment benefit to claimants under the federal LWA program went to all eligible claimants for the weeks ending Aug. 1 through Sept. 5. Approximately 461,000 standard unemployment insurance (UI) beneficiaries and 234,000 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) beneficiaries were determined eligible for LWA during that time-

frame. The total amount disbursed to eligible claimants was over \$1.3 billion. This program was administered and funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA has informed DUA that no additional LWA payments will be available beyond the six weeks already allotted.

All LWA-eligible unemployment claimants in both the UI and PUA programs should receive the supplemental funding by Sept. 15. If a claimant has questions about eligibility or their payment status they can call the Department of Unemployment Assistance call center at 877-626-6800. The call center is open from 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday, and 8 a.m.–noon on Saturdays. Multilingual call agents are available. More information about unemployment assistance in Massachusetts can be found at mass.gov/unemployment.

MassDOT advisory: Statewide exit renumbering project

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing an upcoming virtual Public Information Meeting for MassDOT’s Statewide Exit Renumbering Project on Thursday, Sept. 24, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This project is converting all existing exit numbers on freeways to a milepost-based numbering system, per Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements.

The public meeting will cover information about the project, the construc-

tion schedule, and the project team will be there to answer questions.

Construction is scheduled to begin on this project in mid-October of this year and is anticipated to end in the summer of 2021. This is a statewide project; however, this public meeting will be focused on the scope and schedule of the following corridors:

- State Route 3
- State Route 24
- State Route 25
- State Route 128
- State Route 140
- U.S. Route 3

- U.S. Route 6
 - Interstate 93
 - Interstate 95
 - Interstate 195
 - Interstate 295
- Additional virtual public meetings will be scheduled throughout the Fall to cover the rest of the impacted corridors.

Project updates and corridor-specific construction schedules will be posted regularly on the project’s website. To learn more about the project, sign up for updates, and ask the project team questions, visit www.newmassexits.com.

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East Boston Community Soup Kitchen celebrates anniversary feeding the homeless

By John Lynds

It started as an idea and a way to address what Sandra 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 three years ago, Nijjar recruited Pastor Britta Carlson, John Ribeiro, Jr., Lydia Edwards and Baljinder Nijjar to establish the neighborhood's first-ever soup kitchen.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen (EBCSK) in the basement of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on Paris Street was feeding hundreds of people a week that are both homeless or just in need of a hot meal.

However, like many organizations, the EBCSK had to shift gears and reinvent itself in this age of social distancing. Since

the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the EBCSK was forced to stop serving hot meals on Tuesdays from the basement of the Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Instead, staff handed out grocery gift cards to residents and families in need.

This week marked the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen's Fourth Anniversary and while the usual celebration and fundraising event has been scrapped due to the virus, the EBCSK volunteers are still going strong.

"Around this time last year we gathered at ZUMIX with our friends, supporters, and partners to celebrate our achievements and envision the year ahead of us," said Sandra Nijjar. "Never could we have imagined how the year would unfold. It's disappointing that we won't be able to hold an event this year.

One of the things we will miss most is honoring the people at the heart of our mission, those who make the soup kitchen a true community."

While the EBCSK team can't invite them onto an event stage this year their stories can still be shared.

"Hundreds of guests visit the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen every week," said Nijjar. "Yes, they come for a hot meal and groceries but many guests are seeking much more than the soup."

Nijjar said pervasive inequality and material hardship manifest in many forms.

"For some of our guests it results in homelessness and addiction," she said. "Our friend Victor, for example, has sought our help in finding rehabilitation for chronic alcoholism. He trusts us at the Soup Kitchen to make a connection, without judgment.

We celebrate his successes alongside him, and we share his fears that the despair of being discharged back to the streets will lead to relapse. East Boston does not have a day shelter--or an overnight shelter for adults without children. Geographically isolated, with unique demographics, people like Victor don't have a neighborhood safety net. With your help, EBCSK can continue weekly services -- distributing food, clothing, essentials, referrals for treatment programs and housing -- and we can plan to build a more robust program that Victor and the larger East Boston community deserve."

You can support EBCSK by donating at https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=6LTEFRHMRD-NC4&source=url.



Volunteers help prepare and bag food for distribution at the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen. The EBCSK celebrated its 4th Anniversary in the neighborhood this week.

Legislature enacts \$1.8 billion bond bill to strengthen information technology, physical infrastructure

House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo, Senate President Karen E. Spilka, and Representative Adrian Madaro joined their colleagues in House and Senate to pass legislation authorizing up to \$1.8 billion in spending for the improvement of information technology equipment and other capital projects in Massachusetts.

The legislation also authorizes funding for food security, law enforcement body cameras, and investments in educational technologies in Massachusetts schools.

"Now, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, more than ever, everyone realizes the importance of our information technology infrastructure," said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo (D-Winthrop). "These investments will strengthen the resilience of our state and help provide more equitable access to key services for our residents. I thank Governor Baker, Senate President Spilka, and my colleagues in the Legislature for their work on this important bill."

"As we adjust to a world transformed by a global pandemic we stand committed and ready to

supporting existing programs and finding new ways to invest in underserved and underrepresented populations," stated Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "I am thrilled to see this bill authorizes additional much-needed supports for childcare providers. I am equally proud to see this borrowing bill directs resources to a program aimed at supporting communities of color. I would like to thank all my colleagues, including House Speaker DeLeo and Senator Michael Rodrigues, for their work priorities."

"This bill makes critical investments in IT infrastructure across the Commonwealth. It strengthens resiliency and improves responsiveness for essential services in our communities, while also providing for important COVID-19 recovery resources, such as food security," said Representative Madaro. "I was proud to advocate for increased funding for community health centers in this legislation, especially for East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. The funding from this bill will help them update their digital infrastructure and

security, better serving patients across East Boston and keeping confidential patient information more secure."

"The IT Bond bill contains numerous and necessary upgrades to services that our constituents rely on each and every day," said Representative Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means. "By enacting this legislation, we are ensuring that the Commonwealth will continue to provide those services in a timely and efficient manner, despite the lasting effects of COVID-19."

"As we continue to confront challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the enactment of this bond bill to modernize our Commonwealth's general government infrastructure and to invest in underserved populations is critically needed at this juncture," stated Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport), Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means. "Whether it's empowering communities of color disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system or ensuring equitable access to remote learning opportunities for families in need, this bill reflects our commitment to work together during this public health crisis and deliver critical investments in a meaningful and timely way."

"The final General Government Information Technology bond bill invests a great deal in technological improvements, enabling our state government to better serve

its residents during public health and economic crises," said Representative Antonio F. D. Cabral (D-New Bedford), Chair of the House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets. "We are utilizing a measured and thoughtful approach to improving our state agencies' online delivery systems, including the Department of Unemployment Insurance's platform, to address the complex challenges we are facing as a Commonwealth."

"The COVID-19 pandemic has made us more reliant than ever on our information technology infrastructure," said Senator Michael Moore (D-Millbury), Chair of the Senate Bonding Committee. "By passing this legislation, we have taken the proper steps towards ensuring that all services provided by the Commonwealth may be accessed remotely."

"It was an honor to be a part of this process, and this bill provides much needed infrastructure investment across Massachusetts including a critical training facility for our public safety officers and resources for our colleges and universities," said Representative Danielle Gregoire (D-Marlborough), Chair of the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. "I am grateful for the work that all of the conferees put into this process and look forward to the Commonwealth's residents experiencing the results of this work."

"I am pleased to have voted with my Senate colleagues in favor of legislative that will extend valuable resources for critical information technology improvements throughout the Commonwealth," said Dean of the Massachusetts Senate Marc R. Pacheco (D-Taunton), Chair of the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. "Unique challenges brought on by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have magnified pre-existing gaps in our society, putting unprecedented strain on our existing infrastructure. Critical upgrades made possible by this legislation will ensure that Massachusetts residents from every region have access to more efficient and more effective services."

"This bond bill provides over \$1.5 billion in critical funding for library construction, public safety initiatives, food security programs, and technology upgrades throughout state and local government," said House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr. (R-North Reading). "These are important investments that will allow Massachusetts to continue to address its infrastructure needs while also responding to the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 global pandemic."

"House and Senate members made certain that the components of this legislation would have positive wide-ranging impacts for our residents over many key areas. We modernize the state's economic, justice and educa-

tion systems, harden our cybersecurity capabilities and combat food insecurity with farm and fisheries grants to make food supply channels more robust and connect those in need with food resources," said Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R - Gloucester).

The capital plan, which includes \$794 million for state and local general technology and physical infrastructure, features the following targeted investments.

- \$110 million in public safety infrastructure and equipment
- \$134 million in statewide economic development grants and reinvestment in disproportionately impacted communities
- \$80 million in educational IT and infrastructure grants, including \$50 million to assist public schools in facilitating remote learning environments
- \$10 million to fund technology investments at community health centers
- \$37 million in food security grants
- \$25 million in capital improvements for licensed early education and care providers and after school programs to ensure safe reopening during COVID-19
- \$30 million in public safety accountability technologies including body cameras and a race and ethnicity data sharing system

The legislation has been signed into law by the governor.



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We hope and pray, through the intercession of Our Lady of Sorrows, that we will be able to resume this salutary devotion on the 19th of September 2021.

Our Mother of Sorrows, pray for us!



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Sports

Blue Jays take home EBLL Senior Division title

Staff Report

The East Boston Little League concluded its 2020 summer season last week with its Senior Division playoffs, as the Blue Jays took home the championship with a win over the Mets in the deciding game of their best-of-three series.

The Mets, coached by Len Cambria, Steve Gear, and Ramon Alcantar, had advanced to finals by defeating the Pirates in their opening round series. The Blue Jays, coached by Daryl Martin, Chuck Cassaro, Jason Dasilva, and Dr. Robert Gilbride advanced by finishing the season in first place for the third year in a row. The Mets took the series opener, 9-6, behind the pitching of Miguel Pimental, who struck out 10 batters in six strong innings. The Mets drew away in a tie game when John Quentin, Francis Guzman, and Santino Perullo all scored in a

five-run seventh inning.

Game 2 went to the Blue Jays, 12-3, with Robert Gilbride, Joe Ferullo, and Jason Dasilva scoring three runs each and Johanxi Amparo providing four innings of hitless ball.

The Blue Jays won the deciding game, 10-0, behind the once-again dominant pitching of Amparo, who threw a three-hit, complete-game shutout in which only one Mets baserunner reached third. Cam Martin scored three times while Jeriel Cuello, Matt DeCarney, and Carmine D'Amelio each drove in two runs for the Blue Jays, giving the team their third title in four years.

"This group has been so committed and focused, it was a pleasure coaching them," Coach Martin said. "I'm so proud of the kids, it was a total team effort and a well-deserved championship".

League President Chuck Cassaro was

pleased that the league was even able to provide baseball to the community this season. "Obviously it was challenging having a league this year, but we followed all protocols put in place and were able to provide the kids with something fun to do this summer," Cassaro commented. He added, "It's always great baseball played at the senior level with a lot of good players up there. And it showed in the support the league got not only there but in all of its divisions. It was great to see so many faces at the parks and everyone embracing the league. I think the community really was behind the league and appreciated the fact that East Boston was able to play ball this year while so many other surrounding cities did not." Cassaro's only regret is the league not being able to hold its annual year-end banquet celebrating the players, due to the current

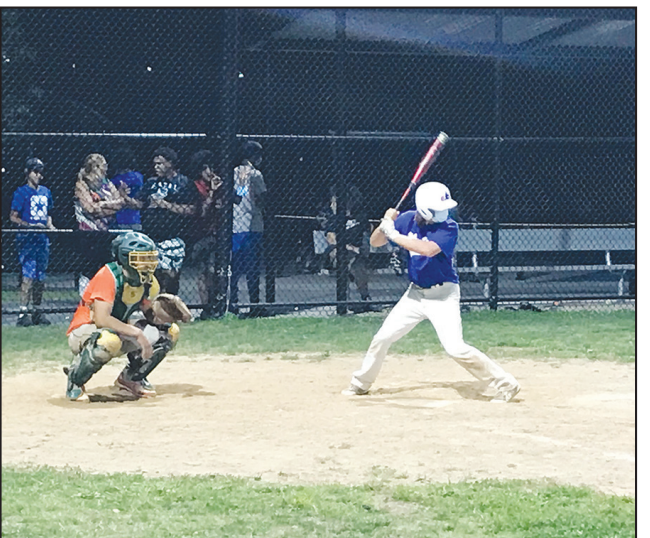


The Blue Jays are pictured after winning the 2020 East Boston Little League Senior League championship at Noyes Park. Front row, from left, are Carmine D'Amelio, Jason DaSilva, Ken Street, Cam Martin, Brian Kelly, Jeriel Cuello, and Joe Ferullo. Back row, from left, are Robert Gilbride, Sammie Santiago, Robert Melo, Johanxi Amparo, and Matt DeCarney.

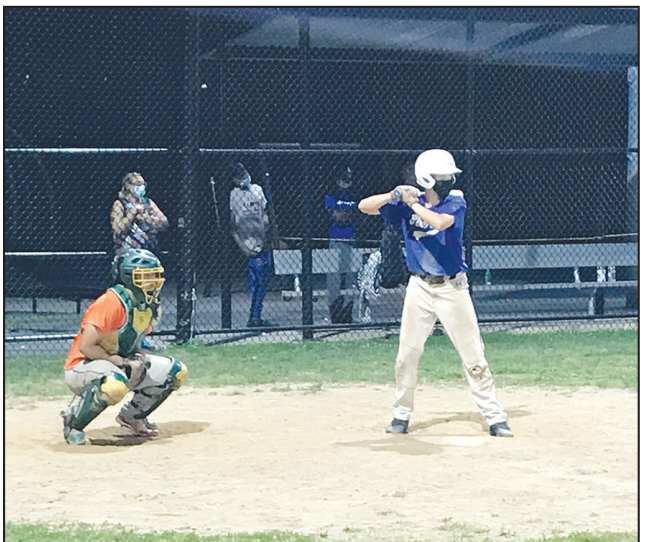
restrictions on gatherings in the state. But he is optimistic that the special celebration can be held again next year.



Miguel Pimental of the Mets fires a pitch in the EBLL championship series.



Robert Gilbride of the Blue Jays is ready to hit in the East Boston Little League Senior League championship series.



Jason DaSilva of the Blue is at the plate ready to hit in the East Boston Little League Senior League championship series.



Yohanxi Alcantar of the Mets delivers a pitch to home plate.



Francis Guzman of the Mets looks in for the sign from the catcher.



Jeriel Cuello of the Blue Jays dives back to first base ahead of the throw to John Quentin of the Mets.



Joe Ferullo of the Blue Jays looks in for the sign while standing on the pitcher's mound.



Johanxi Amparo of the Blue Jays had an impressive pitching performance in the championship series.

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| Citterio Mortadella..... | ¢5.99/lb |
| Kretschmar Black Forest Ham..... | ¢6.99/lb |
| Stella Mozzarella | ¢5.99/lb |
| Best Yet Corned Beef | ¢6.99/lb |

Produce

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Tropical Sweet Golden Pineapples ... | 2/¢5.00 |
| Fresh Maine Broccoli Crowns..... | ¢1.39/lb |
| Juicy Seedless Navel Oranges..... | ¢1.19/lb |
| Green Giant Baby Carrots 1 lb pkg.. | 4/¢5.00 |
| California Sweet & Seedless | |
| Green Grapes | ¢1.99/lb |

Bakery

| | |
|---|---------|
| Lemon or Triple Chocolate Bundt Cake... | ¢3.99 |
| Chocolate or Almond Croissant | 2/¢3.00 |
| Muffin Town Cornbread | ¢2.99 |

Meat

"Meat Cut Fresh Every Day"

Family Pack Specials

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Grade A Chicken Leg Quarters | ¢0.79/lb |
| Bone In Split Chicken Breast | ¢1.99/lb |
| Top Round Center Cut Steaks | ¢3.79/lb |
| Assorted Bone In Pork Loin Chops .. | ¢1.49/lb |
| Top Round Roast Beef | ¢3.79/lb |
| Bob Evans Side Dishes..... | 2/¢7.00 |
| Al Fresco Breakfast Links | 2/¢6.00 |
| Kayem Polska Kielbasa 14 oz | 2/¢10.00 |

Weekend Specials

Friday, September 18th through Sunday September 20th

"while supplies last"

BAKERY

| | |
|---|-------|
| Apple Cider or Pumpkin Donuts 6pk | ¢4.99 |
|---|-------|

DELI

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Great Lakes American Cheese | ¢3.99/lb |
| Carolina Deluxe Turkey Breast | ¢4.99/lb |
| D&W London Broil Roast Beef | ¢9.99/lb |

PRODUCE

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Locally Grown Bi-Color Corn..... | 8/¢3.99 |
| Yellow Onions 2lb bag..... | .99¢ |
| McIntosh Apples 3lb bag | ¢2.99 |

MEAT

| | |
|---|----------|
| Family Pack Boneless Chicken Beast..... | ¢1.69/lb |
| Family Pack Boneless Pork Country Ribs..... | ¢1.99/lb |
| Best Yet Bacon 16oz. | 2/¢8.00 |

GROCERY

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Tropicana Orange Juice 89 oz..... | ¢4.99 |
| Hood Ice Cream..... | 2/¢6.00 |
| Pepsi 2 Liter..... | 4/¢5.00 *deposit |

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

BUILDING MOMENTUM ON SECOND STREET

CHELSEA - The gas station on Second Street in Chelsea Square is now slated for development as the long-time owner looks to retire and has an option to sell the property to Broadway Capital, which has proposed to develop the property into a new residential building.

Reggie's Service at 31 Second St. is now being slated for 24 units of housing, with 20 percent of it being affordable units. The project was presented by Broadway Capital's Mike Vienneau on Tuesday at the Planning Board and is making its way through the review process.

It will include 36 parking spots, all underground, he said.

Vienneau said they are very open to making the units condos for sale, rather than rental apartments. Right now, they are just finishing up the former nursing home at 932 Broadway, and if sales go as well as they hope there, then Vienneau said they would use the same formula on Second Street – if approved.

“The nursing home is kind of our test site for homeownership here and if it works – which we believe it will, we’ll plug in the same formula for Second Street,” said Vienneau.

The project will move to the Zoning Board in the coming weeks for additional reviews and potential approvals.

LUXURY HOUSING ON BROADWAY

CHELSEA - The fortress of a building that was once a nursing home at 932 Broadway seemed like an insurmountable task to transform into luxury housing earlier this year when Broadway Capital started construction on the project.

Yet, a transformation

is exactly what has happened at the home through the COVID-19 pandemic and now a very unique home ownership opportunity is about ready to be delivered to the market in November.

“We’re at about 80 percent construction completion,” said Mike Vienneau of Broadway Capital. “The goal is to finish things up in the next few months and have it ready for occupancy by November...One thing we really focused on is the owner-occupancy and the affordability. Ownership is a huge thing the City wanted. Because Chelsea has such a high percental of rental properties, they’re looking for more owner-occupancy projects.”

That is exactly what will be delivered, with 33 condos for sale, and six of them affordable to 80 percent AMI (two of them two-bedrooms and four one-bedrooms).

Listing agents Jeff Bowen and Robert Ricardo of RealWay said the for sale units offer a great opportunity to live and work in Chelsea – with prices starting in the mid-\$300,000 range and going up. The property also includes an 1,800 sq. ft. roof deck with wood flooring, a dog run, Italian cabinets, in-unit washer/dryer and a Bosch appliance package. There will be management on site too, and Broadway Capital and RealWay intend to open offices in the retail portion of the project on the ground floor.

There are also 33 parking spots and one spot deeded to each owner.

Bowen said it is a milestone development as well, because it is the first significant ownership building put on the market since Mill Creek in 2004.

Ricardo, who has lived in Chelsea all his life after immigrating from Colombia as a child, said he is really excited to bring premiere ownership opportunities to Chelsea – whether it’s existing residents

wanting to move into a new building or people coming into the city looking for a diverse community away from Boston or Cambridge.

“I’m excited to be part of this and to really boost the opportunities in Chelsea,” said Ricardo. “Overall, I think the City of Chelsea is on a path to recovery and moving forward in the right direction without losing that urban blue-collar feel...When I was a kid I used to go up on the roof and see how close we were to Boston. I always wondered why more people didn’t come to Chelsea. Now, I’m part of seeing Chelsea become what I thought it could always become...Chelsea is becoming the go-to place. It has its challenges – like any city – but it can surpass them.”

Bowen added that the home-ownership rate in Chelsea is at 17 percent, which is the 5th lowest in the nation behind Newark, NJ. He said that’s why this project is so important.

“We’re trying to bring affordable home-ownership to the City of Chelsea so we can increase tax revenues and have Chelsea provide better schools and infrastructure and change the perception Chelsea is a pass-through community,” he said.

ZONING BOARD REMOVAL WAS NOT POLITICAL

EVERETT - While some are saying the removal of long-time Zoning Board member Mike Dantone is political retribution, Mayor Carlo DeMaria this week said that couldn’t be further from the truth and is actually a move over several years to diversify Boards in the City.

Last week, Dantone confirmed that he had been removed from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) after 15 years of service. A letter from the mayor dated Aug. 27 indicated his

MEET THE MARINERS, LITTLE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



The Mariners proudly display their Winthrop Little League championship trophies for the 2020 season. Front row, from left, are Michael Barron, Tony Bordonaro, mascot Nicky DiPrisco, Antonio Sullivan, and Noah Survilas. Middle row, from left, are Danny Connolly, Ricky Mackenzie, Louk Belghiti, Carmen DiPrisco, Stephen Barron, and Dax Sabin. Back row, from left, are coaches Dan Connolly, Victor DiPrisco, Jack Joyce and Greg Sullivan. Missing from photo: players Joe Dalton and Francesca Indrisano and coaches Jessica Sabin and Steve Indrisano.

last day of service was to be Aug. 31.

Dantone said he goes to nearly every meeting, makes site visits, and has had to be involved in legal issues related to the Board a number of times over the years. He said he takes the job very seriously, but did not know why specifically he was removed.

Mayor DeMaria told the Independent any talk of political retribution is totally false.

“There was no politics in it at all,” he said. “I’ve been asking board members the last two years to step off if they’ve been on a Board for too long...I could care less who held a sign for Mike. Antonio Amaya is on a Board and he held a sign for Mike and I didn’t rescind him. People are welcome to vote for whomever they want and hold signs if they want.”

He said the effort is all about diversifying the Boards to reflect the current population and make sure no one is serving too long and making decisions inconsistent with the times.

“Everyone else has been ok with it,” he said. “I do not want someone on a Board for 20 years. We had Joe DeSisto on the ZBA far too long and he ran it like it was his...We really need to increase the diversity on that Board. I don’t want people on that Board who have friendships with developers.”

He said the ZBA has recently elected a new chair in Mary Gerace, and he said he will have her run the ZBA for a few years and then ask her to step off the Board and onto another Board if she wishes.

“That’s all I’m doing here,” he said.

To that end, he said he has nominated Le Cao to replace Dantone as part of his initiative to increase diversity and nominate Everett residents that haven’t ever served on a Board. He said he put out the request for applications and was impressed with Cao in the interview.

“I thought he was very interesting and had some good ideas about how developers can contribute, like adding to a public Wi-Fi network,” said the mayor.

REMOTE LEARNING AT NSCC

LYNN - When North Shore Community College’s 56th academic year began, classes and learn-

ing continued, but in a very different format. To prioritize the health and safety of NSCC’s entire community, the vast majority of NSCC students began the fall semester in a predominantly virtual environment.

“I think it is safe to say that this is the beginning of the most unprecedented semester NSCC has ever faced,” said Dr. Nate Bryant, NSCC Interim President. “Six months following the coronavirus pandemic outbreak, we still find ourselves in its throes. We have spent significant time and resources over the summer preparing for our utmost goal of keeping our students and staff safe and healthy.

“Only about five percent of our classes will be offered in person on campus, most of which are those that require face-to-face labs and simulations. Students and faculty will continue to adapt to an online learning environment, while those employees who can effectively perform their work from home will continue to do so. I extend my sincere thanks and admiration for the efforts of so many who have worked diligently to prepare for what promises to be an auspicious year,” Dr. Bryant noted.

NSCC started planning the conversion to online learning in March when the college moved away from face-to-face learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, Dr. Bryant says, NSCC is poised to deliver an online learning experience that is equal in quality to the face-to-face experience. Our full-time faculty and adjunct faculty have been training all summer to prepare for the new school year and I’m delighted with the progress they made. Students this fall will receive an exceptional online learning experience.

Dr. Karen Hynick, Vice President of Academic Affairs, said, “Thanks to the hard work and ability of NSCC faculty to quickly pivot to a new educational reality, our students will continue to receive an exceptionally high-quality educational experience at NSCC, albeit in different formats. We have only 29 sections of face-to-face courses for the fall semester, mostly in health professions, aviation and other areas that require hands-on experiences where the equipment can’t be replicated at home or through virtual means. Our faculty and Center for

Teaching, Learning and Innovation (CTLI) staff have spent countless hours preparing for the fall semester, enhancing over 300 sections of online, 250 sections of hybrid and 250 sections of video conference courses.”

NSCC has made a considerable investment to ensure high academic standards continued across all academic programs in the new virtual modality. Over \$700,000 was spent on training full-time and adjunct faculty to develop online, hybrid and video-conference courses and labs. The college also dedicated significant resources to ensure that students had what they needed to succeed – Chromebooks, Hot Spots, virtual resource access and emergency loans if needed.

In addition, NSCC student affairs staff have worked tirelessly since the spring to address anticipated enrollment shortfalls. Work has included lots of virtual weekend registration and orientation events, and shifting student supports to virtual delivery such as advising, tutoring, counseling, and more. Countless hours were spent to drive down what started out as a significant double-digit decline, which is now much closer to original projections.

“All of us at NSCC remain steadfast in our commitment to the health and safety of our students and staff and to student success. We will continue to adjust and adapt to the changes brought forth by the COVID pandemic,” Dr. Bryant said. “We maintain social distancing, wear facemasks, and are getting used to a new way of life in the hopes of keeping our families and communities safe and limiting the spread of the coronavirus.”

CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY TO FIGHT COVID-19

REVERE - The Baker-Polito Administration stepped up its targeted initiative to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in communities across the Commonwealth with the highest number of positive cases. This initiative brings even greater focus to the top five highest-risk communities with regular neighborhood-level assessments and a comprehensive multi-lingual public messaging campaign.

See REGION Page 9

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Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The initiative focuses efforts on Chelsea, Everett, Lawrence, Lynn and Revere. The Commonwealth’s COVID-19 Enforcement and Intervention Team (CEIT), in partnership with local community officials, is leading this effort. This targeted initiative includes regular meetings with local leadership to understand residential and business activities contributing to trends, an even greater level of state focus to stop the spread and a new public messaging campaign.

The goal of the public messaging campaign is to ensure residents know they live in a high-risk community and reiterate the importance of wearing a mask and other best practices to stop the spread. Built around a message of, “You have the power to save a life,” the comprehensive campaign will encourage the use of masks and social distancing and will run in English, Portuguese, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, Arabic and other languages common to these communities. The campaign includes:

- A new online resource at Mass.gov/Stop-COVID19
- (Spanish: Mass.Gov/ DetenCOVID19)
- (Portuguese: Mass. Gov/PareCOVID19)
- (Additional multilingual online resources will be available soon)
- Advertising on billboards, digital and social media
- Downloadable materials in multiple languages
- Multi-lingual field teams deployed in the communities
- Phone and text communications
- Outreach to local community groups

This new website Mass.gov/StopCOVID19 provides residents and local business owners with information on how to stop the spread, state restrictions on gathering sizes, testing locations and materials that can be printed for display in apartment complexes, restaurants and community areas.

The campaign’s advertising will run on hundreds of displays, message boards, signs, billboards and other channels in these top 5 communities through paid partnerships and via state-owned resources, such as at MBTA stations, on MassDOT signs and much more. During Labor Day weekend, the field teams will be active at approximately 15 locations in these top 5 communities. All aspects of this campaign will expand throughout the fall.

In early August, the Administration established CEIT through the COVID-19 Command Center. CEIT is a cross-agency response unit, which includes representatives from the Community Tracing Collaborative, Department of Public Health, Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, Massachusetts State Police, Department of Labor Standards and other agencies.

Since it was launched, this team has worked closely with all higher-risk communities to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in areas that are persistently above the state average. CEIT partnered with local elected and community officials, including municipal leadership, police chiefs and local health departments, to assess trends and most effective-

ly utilize resources. Collectively, these teams have enforced gathering size restrictions and shared with municipalities additional state support, such as testing and contact tracing information.

Over the last two weeks the statewide average daily incidence rate is 4.2 cases per 100,000 people, while Chelsea is 29.4, Revere is 20.9, Lynn is 12.1, Everett is 15.9 and Lawrence is 14.9. As new community data is reported, CEIT will adjust as cities and towns move into or out of higher-risk categories. Throughout September, the campaign will expand beyond the top 5 communities.

Mayor Brian Arrigo’s remarks during the press conference were as follows:

“Thank you Undersecretary Thorpe and Thank you Governor and Secretary Sudders for having me and for the support you continue to provide to the City of Revere in our COVID-19 response.

In the month of August, the City of Revere averaged 12.6 new cases of covid-19 per day - up from an average of 6 daily new cases in July.

For the 6th consecutive week, our positive test rate has remained at more than three times the state average, this week at 5.75%. With data as our guide throughout this crisis, we have suspended all city events and programming until further notice, and all of our students will start the school year remotely on September 16.

Our City shares many of the same characteristics as our neighbors in East Boston, Chelsea, Everett and Lynn who are facing the same challenges we are --

We are a city of essential and frontline workers, many of whom rely on public transportation to continue to report to work. Many of our residents live in densely populated areas, and in multigenerational and multifamily households. We continue to see clusters of cases emerge at single addresses.

Half of our population is comprised of immigrants and communities of color. We know that this virus impacts Black and Brown communities disproportionately and we are seeing those impacts firsthand in Revere.

And, finally, we know many of our residents are tired. Of hearing from us.

Of restrictions. And of the sacrifices they continue to make to protect themselves and their loved ones. I certainly understand where they are coming from.

It’s been a long seven months and it would be easy to throw up our hands and give up.

But, instead We have to do more.

We have to think of new ways to communicate with our residents, bring awareness to the current risk levels and implement new policies to encourage greater compliance with public health guidelines.

We are grateful for the continued support the Governor and his team are providing to us- in the form of expertise, manpower and autonomy to make the decisions that are right for our city and residents.

Since the launch of the Governor’s enforcement and intervention team we’ve bolstered our education and enforcement efforts in the city of Revere:

We are hiring multilingual ambassadors to engage directly with residents in their neighborhoods, distribute masks and connect them with other resources.

We have begun issuing citations for private gatherings that violate the Governor’s revised gatherings order. Since we announced this enforcement mechanism we have seen greater compliance. We will be monitoring for gatherings closely as we head into this holiday weekend.

We have tightened capacity limits at our grocery and big box stores.

We have ramped up our business inspections and are hiring additional inspectors to reach hundreds of businesses on an ongoing basis.

We’ve received additional support from the ABCC at licensed establishments and private clubs.

We have begun closing parks and playgrounds where large gatherings have persisted without mask wearing or social distancing. Every weekend we reach every one of our city owned parks and playgrounds and have distributed hundreds of masks.

And since rolling out two free testing sites as part of the Stop the Spread initiative, we are administering more than 2,000 tests a week for Revere residents, quadrupling the

number of our residents being tested since mid-July.

Our work moving forward will include all of this and more.

Next week we will launch a regional, paid Spanish-language media campaign in partnership with the cities of Boston, Chelsea, Everett and Lynn.

We will continue to tap into additional state and federal funding to hire Ambassadors, inspectors, and fund overtime for existing staff. And we continue to have access to the entire enforcement and intervention team to support us in our efforts.

We are doing everything within our control to help slow the spread in our community, and we’re also asking our residents for their help and to make smart decisions.

To wear a mask, limit sizes of gatherings, practice social distancing and to take care of each other - particularly our residents that we know are more vulnerable to this virus.

MACIR DONATED MASKS TO SCHOOLS

REVERE - When the COVID-19 Pandemic hit Revere, MACIR (Moroccan American Connections in Revere) switched gears from an organization that helps integrate the growing Moroccan American population in the city of Revere to becoming one of the leading producers of masks and face coverings to help people stay safe during the pandemic.

After producing over 20,000 masks for the City of Revere and its em-

ployees MACIR recently dropped off another 12,000 to Revere Public Schools.

“When the pandemic started we were looking into ways to help the community,” said MACIR director Rachid Moukhabir. “One of our board members, Blanca Bedoya, is a local tailor and fashion designer and we really liked the design of the masks she was producing and thought we could use her talents to help the community.”

Using \$1,500 from its fund Moukhabir said MACIR purchased a couple of sewing machines and fabric and MACIR quickly produced 2,000 masks in a week.

“Then we began recruiting people to help us make masks and soon we were up to 20,000 masks for the city and 12,000 masks for Revere Public Schools,” said Moukhabir.

The group was able to expand through crowdfunding and grants from several organizations.

“I really appreciate the other groups that are helping us like the Revere Emergency Response Team, Revere Works and some collaboration with Revere Cares,” said Moukhabir. “We started serving the Moroccan community here but we are very happy to see our organization grow and serve the community at-large during this crisis”

Moukhabir said each mask costs nearly \$2 to make so the production and donation of masks to Revere Public schools wouldn’t have been possible without financial help from groups like the Boston Foundation, Revere

Raise Up and Revere residents that donated time and money to the cause.

“We are very happy and it has been a wonderful journey,” said Moukhabir. “It is our way to give back to a community that has embraced our organization.

Moukhabir the production of masks has stopped but MACIR has started another project for Revere Public Schools.

“The new project is part of our IT program,” he explained. “Once our IT students graduate they will begin refurbishing computers and Chromebooks that we will donate to Revere Public Schools.”

Revere Public School Superintendent Dr. Dianne Kelly thanked MACIR for their support once again.

“Rachid Moukhabir and his team are great partners to the School Department,” she said.

MACIR was established in 2016 to help integrate the growing Moroccan American population in the city of Revere, MA, estimated to be at least 10 percent of the Revere’s population. MACIR runs youth activities that focus on culture and Arabic language learning in addition to the yearly street festival to promote diversity and inclusion in the city of Revere and beyond. The group also organizes youth special programs such as the Youth City Council to civically engage immigrants’ kids at a younger age. MACIR has been organizing a yearly soccer tournament to raise a \$1000 scholarship for Revere High School called the Bob Haas-MACIR scholarship.

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Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU20P1232EA Estate of: Edward McCarthy Date of Death: 04/10/2017 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Timothy K. McCarthy of East Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Timothy K. McCarthy of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/23/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action

may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: September 11, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 9/16/20 EB

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OBITUARIES

Maria Chilante

Former East Boston resident

Maria (Rancitelli) Chilante, formerly of East Boston, died on Sept. 8.

Maria came to the United States in 1966 with her young children to join her husband. She worked for several years at Converse Rubber and Cold Water Fish Co. and enjoyed playing Bingo and cards in her retirement.

The beloved wife of the late Vincenzo Chilante, she was the loving mother of Franco Chilante and his wife, Darlene of Peabody and the late Matilde Badolato; grandmother of Michael Badolato Jr. of Arizona, Franco Paul Chilante and Danielle Stone, both of Peabody; great-grandmother of Gianna Marie Chilante, sister of Rossana Lafrate of Abruzzo, Italy and the late Benito Rancitelli, special aunt of John DeNapoli of Revere and several other nieces and nephews in the



United States and Italy.

Maria's Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Anthony of Padua Church, Revere on Monday, Sept. 14 and interment followed in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett

In lieu of flowers, donations in Maria's memory to the Little Sisters of the Poor would be appreciated. Please send messages of condolence to the family on the funeral home Tribute Page: MagrathFuneralHome.com.

Eduardo Colon

Of East Boston

Eduardo R. Colon of East Boston passed away on August 30.

The beloved husband of Elaine Colon, he was the loving son of the late Rosenda Raices and Florencio Sanchez, devoted father of Eduardo Colon Jr. of Oklahoma, AnnMarie Colon Porto of New Hampshire, Michael Colon of East Boston, Stephen Colon of Methuen and Kevin Colon of East Boston; adored brother of Luis Sanchez, Gloria Sanchez and the late Roberto, Ramon, Rafael, Angel, Maria and Ana Sanchez and is also survived by many loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



dren.

Family and friends honored Eduardo's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home (Orient Heights) East Boston, on Saturday, September 12. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.ruggieromh.com 617-569-0990.

Carol Firby

Member of VFW Auxiliary and
Loyal Order of Moose

Carol C. (Eccleston) Firby of Exeter, NH, formerly Saugus, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, Sept. 10.

A member of the VFW Auxiliary and the Loyal Order of Moose, she was the devoted mother of Yvette Landry and her husband, Gary Sr. of North Anson, ME, Carolann George and her husband, David of Merimac, MA and Kimberly Florentino of Saugus, the dear sister of Cynthia, William, Wayne, Louanne, Sandy, Jerry, Joseph, Ricky, Pamela, Linda, and the late Etta; cherished grandmother of Gary Jr., Jason, Charle, Josh, Felicia, Kristina, Christopher, Tommy, Michael, Stephen, Jayleen, Amanda, Little Mikey, and Ashley and beloved great-grandmother of Gavin, Carver, Ava, Maverick, Lorreta, Virgil, Cohen, Hailey, Gary III, Xavier, Kylie, Landen, Christopher, Dylan, Kaden, Logan, Kane, Aubrey and Ryder. She is also survived by



many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Carol's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston, today, Wednesday, September 16 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon before leaving in procession to Puritan Lawn Cemetery, Peabody, where she will be laid to rest. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Carol's name to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005. For more information, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

William Minichello

Retired US Customs Inspector and Past
Exalted Ruler of Winthrop Elks #1078

Family and friends are invited to attend Visiting Hours today, Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals, 773 Broadway (Rte. 107) Revere for William R. "Bill" Minichello, who passed unexpectedly on Friday, September 11 at Boston's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, 88 days following the unexpected death of his beloved wife, Frances M. "Fran" (Hickey) Minichello on June 15. His funeral will be conducted from the funeral home on Thursday, Sept. 17 at 10 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass in the Immaculate Conception Church (Corner of Beach St. and Winthrop Ave.) Revere at 11 a.m. Interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett will be private.

A reminder to all attendees to the funeral home and the church, due to the ongoing pandemic, all mandates issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Archdiocese of Boston must be followed; Masks must be worn and social distancing maintained.

Bill was born in Revere and lived in East Boston until moving to Swampscott in 2012. He was a graduate of Sacred Heart High School in East Boston, Class of 1967, attended Emerson College during his freshman year and then transferred to the University of MA, graduating in 1971. He entered the work force with Blue Cross Blue Shield in 1968, achieving the position of Medicare Manager. In 1992, he changed careers and entered the employ of U.S. Customs, first serving as an inspector and retiring as an Auditor in 2008.

For many years, both he and his late wife, "Fran" were active members of



the Winthrop Lodge of Elks #1078 and both were Past Exalted Rulers of that lodge, creating a whole network of close relationships. Bill also served with the Mass State Elks Association as an organist. Both Bill and Fran were also Past District Deputy Life Members. Their work and energy spent within the Elks Foundations is both immense and outstanding.

He was the cherished father of Boston Police Sergeant Andrew J. Minichello and his wife, Maria and the adoring "Nonno" to Matthew Daniel Minichello, all of East Boston, the dear brother to Edward T. Minichello and his late wife, Valerie A. (LeBlanc) of Winthrop, the special uncle of Ronald Moore of Revere and Stephanie Lane and her husband, Michael of Winthrop. He is also proudly and lovingly survived by Fran's family (The Hickey and Crotty Clan) and his extended family at Winthrop Elks and U.S. Customs.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Mass State Scholarship Fund, c/o Winthrop Lodge of Elks #1078, 191 Washington Ave., Winthrop, MA 02152. To send online condolences, please visit: www.vertuccioand-smith.com Funeral Arrangements are under the care and direction of Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals.

Jennifer Turco

Of Revere

Jennifer L. Turco of Revere passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, September 9.

The beloved daughter of Carol (Boutwell) Turco and the late Rosario Turco, she was the devoted mother of Nicholas Turco, Ronnie Burnett Jr., Jami-Lyn Turco-Burnett and Christopher Moriconi; dear sister of Joseph Porter, Jeffrey Turco, John Turco and the late Gregory Turco and James M. Porter and adored grandmother of Ronnie Burnett III.

Family and friends honored Jennifer's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street,



East Boston, on Sunday, September 13. Services concluded with Jennifer being laid to rest at Woodbrook Cemetery, 100 Salem Street, Woburn, MA 01801, on Monday, September 14. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.ruggieromh.com 617-569-0990.

Joseph "Jiga" Giacalone, Sr.

Of the North End

Joseph "Jiga" A. Giacalone, Sr., of the North End of Boston, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, September .

The beloved son of the late Vito and Geraldine (Taromino) Giacalone, he was the devoted father of Joseph Jr., Gianna, and Danielle Giacalone, all of Revere and former husband of Roseann (Ventola) Giacalone of Revere.

Family and friends honored Jiga's life by gathering at Saint Leonard of Port Maurice Parish, 320 Hanover Street, Boston on Friday, September and again on Saturday, September 12. Services concluded with a Funeral



Mass at 2 p.m. Sept. 12. Committal services were private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Jiga's name to Saint Leonard of Port Maurice Parish. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.ruggieromh.com 617-569-0990.

Amy Juneau

Beloved mother, sister, nurse and friend

It is with great sadness that the family of Amy (McLoon) Juneau announces her unexpected passing on Friday, Sept. 4 at the age of 60 at her home in Revere.

Amy was a beloved mother, sister, nurse and friend. She was the devoted mother to Raquel Miller of Biddeford, ME, and will be deeply missed. Amy will also be lovingly remembered by her partner, Angelo Grech of Revere, her siblings: Lauren Moskowitz of Georgetown, David McLoon of Watertown, Chris McLoon of Brunswick, ME, and Wendy Waterman of Portland, ME; her many nieces and nephews: Evan Moskowitz, Ilana Walker, Ian McLoon, Erin Basile, Patrick McLoon, Meredith McLoon, Emelia Waterman, Bailey Waterman and Colin Waterman and countless other family members and friends.

Amy was born in Amesbury on April 3, 1960, the daughter of Richard McLoon and Marilyn J "McLoon" Tedesco and was predeceased by her father and her mother. She is survived by her step-father, Theodore Tedesco of Stow.

Ever since she was a little girl, Amy wanted to be a nurse. Amy became a registered nurse in 1986, receiving her education from Westbrook College/UNE in Maine. She dedicated over half of her life to her career as a nurse. Amy found a way to connect with all of her patients, always meeting them with compassion, and left a lasting impact on all she worked with.

Amy was ferociously dedicated to the wellbeing of children. She loved to be with children--laughing,



playing silly games, teaching them how to swim, and making them all feel special and seen. Their happiness was her own.

Amy is in the hearts of many. She is remembered as a sensitive soul who saw the best in everyone. She found ways to connect with every person she met, creating friends wherever she would go. Amy loved to laugh--whether it be with her coworkers on Unit 1 at Franciscan Children's Hospital, or amongst family and friends in the backyard by the pool. Amy was a snapchat selfie queen, an animal lover and a delicious pie baker.

As we celebrate the legacy of this incredible woman, we want to encourage all to try to see the goodness in everyone, be kind to all, and spread humor and joy in life--as Amy did daily.

Those who wish to pay their respects can do so on September 19 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Paul Buonfiglio & Sons Funeral Home, 128 Revere St., Revere. Relatives and friends are kindly invited.

Contributions may be made to Canines For Kids in her honor: <https://caninesforkids.org> . For guest book, please visit www.buonfiglio.com.



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OBITUARIES

William “Wilian” Flores Of Mattapan

William “Wilian” Flores of Mattapan, formerly El Salvador, passed away on Tuesday, September 1.

He was the beloved husband of Nidia Ruiz Flores, devoted father of Alexander William Flores, William F. Rivera, Gravier Rivera, and Kimberly Rivera.

Family and friends honored William’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston on Sunday, September



13 and again on Monday, September 14 for the burial at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.ruggieromh.com 617-569-0990.

Maria G. Contrada Of East Boston

Maria G. (Castriotta) Contrada, of East Boston, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family, on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

Beloved wife of the late Fiore Contrada and Matteo Quarato. Devoted mother of Maria Quarato of East Boston, Giulia Sorrentino and husband Francesco of Woburn, Michael Quarato of East Boston, Vincenzo Quarato of Florida, Rosa Carbo and husband Alfonso of Everett, Domenico Quarato and late wife Linda of South Boston, the late Pasquale Quarato and surviving wife Laura of Boston, and the late Raffaele Quarato and surviving wife Debra of Winthrop. Dear sister of the late Lorenza, Michele, and Vincenzo. Cherished grandmother of Gaspare, Matteo, Giuseppe, Agata and husband Daniel, Matthew, Gabriele, Leanna, Accursia, Alfonso, and Domenic and wife Vanessa. Adored great-grandmother of Vincent, Alessandro, and Amelia. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, and friends.

Family and friends will honor Maria’s life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home,



971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston, on Sunday, September 20, from 2 to 6 p.m. and again Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to the Sacred Heart Parish, East Boston, for a funeral Mass celebrating her life at 10 a.m.

Services will conclude with Maria being laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Maria’s donation page within her obituary on www.ruggieromh.com to offset funeral expenses. All services will be held in accordance with Phase-3 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts phased reopening plan due to COVID-19. Face coverings are required to be worn in the funeral home and social distancing measures are encouraged.

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 Doro-

thea Greco, Allen Johnson and Anthony Stornaieulo. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated for Danny today, Wednesday, September 16 at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, Brooks St, East Boston. Masks and social distancing protocols will be required in accordance with church policies.

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But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don’t give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin’s story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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Eastie COVID-19 positive test rate drops by nearly half

By John Lynds

In August, East Boston's COVID-19 positive test rates and infection rates reached all time highs since the pandemic began, raising the alarm that immediate action needed to be taken by health and elected officials to curb the dramatic spike in infections.

While the local positive test rate jumped to 11.8 last month, the rate of residents testing positive has decreased to 6.2 percent, a 42 percent reduction.

"In East Boston, an area that has seen the highest rates of COVID-19 this summer, we are seeing a promising trend," said Mayor Martin Walsh. "The positive test rate is at 6.2 percent-- still higher than we want, but significantly lower than 11.8 percent, which is where it stood before the City's targeted outreach efforts began a few weeks ago. The Mobile Team will stay in East Boston for an additional week, and we'll continue outreach. Every other neighborhood's positive test rate is under four percent and most were under three percent."

The Mayor thanked everyone who has contributed to lowering these numbers and noted that three weeks ago, the City

launched an elevated outreach plan for Eastie to address the increase in case data.

"The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is working with several City departments to distribute 2,000 COVID-19 kits with cleaning supplies and information to residents and businesses in multiple languages, across the neighborhood," said Walsh. "The City is also partnering with local churches, and is focused on helping people in households with multiple generations learn strategies for preventing the spread of the virus."

In addition, business outreach began last week in multiple languages, to make sure management and staff know the regulations; have access to PPE, signage, and prevention efforts like social distancing and hygiene; and know that they need to report to BPHC when they have an employee test positive.

According to the latest data released by the BPHC on Friday, Eastie's COVID infection rate rose only 2.8 percent and went from 468.2 cases per 10,000 residents to 481.6 cases per 10,000 residents. The last increase two weeks ago was 4.3 percent. The citywide average is 236.3 cases per 10,000 residents

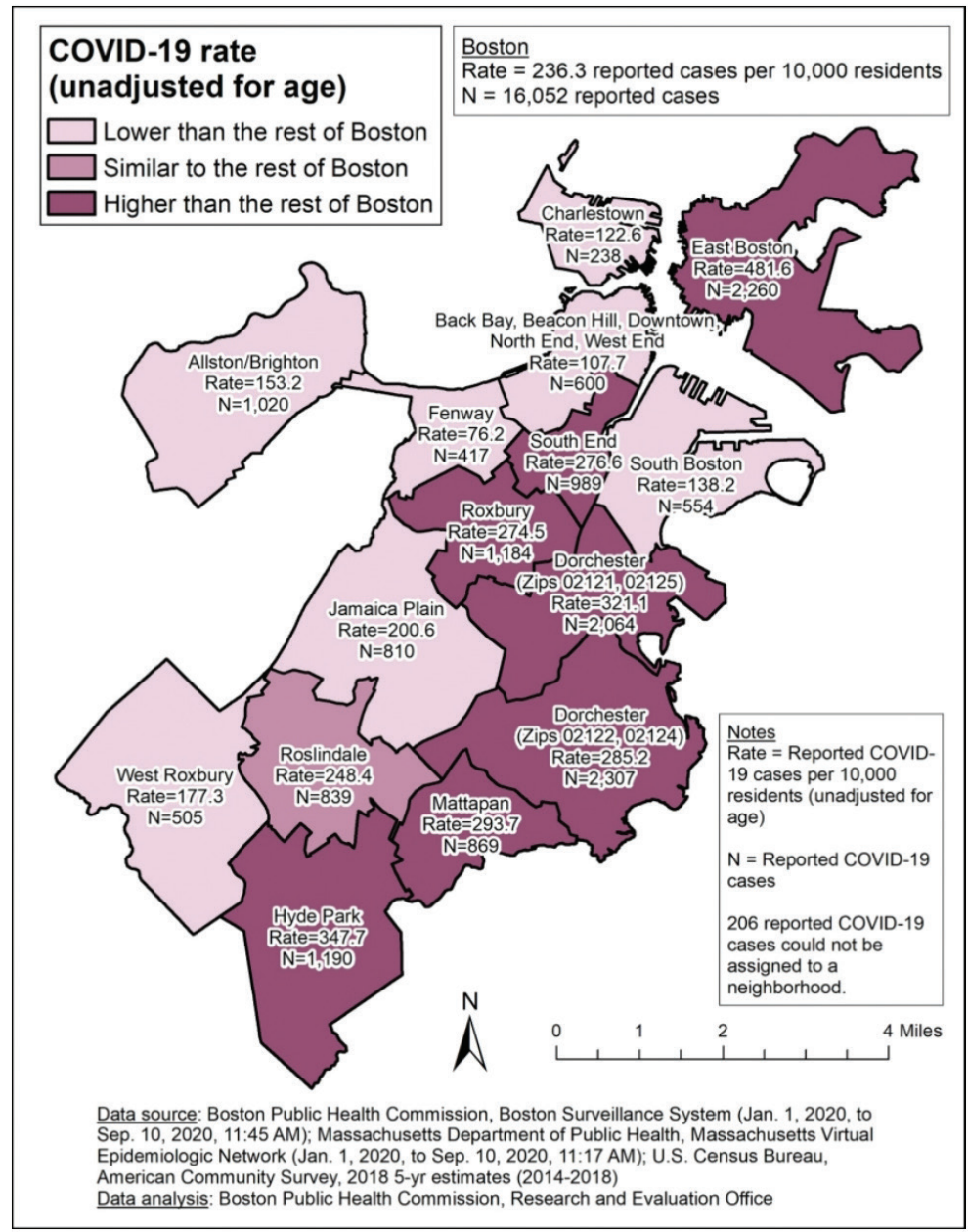
and Eastie still has the highest infection rate in all of Boston.

The infection rate in Eastie had been steadily climbing since late July but the city's response mentioned by the Mayor has seemed to be 'bending the curve' so to speak here in the neighborhood. The week over week infection rate rose by only 1.7 percent in early August but then jumped by 3.6 percent five weeks ago but jumped again by 5.5 percent the following week and then 6.8 percent three weeks ago.

As of Friday 63 more people became infected with the virus in Eastie, and there were 2,260 confirmed COVID-19 cases, up from the 2,197 reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Of the 14,653 Eastie residents tested for COVID last week 6.2 percent were found to be positive for the virus. Overall since the pandemic began 15.8 percent of residents here have been found to be positive. The citywide positive test rate is 1.6 percent.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender



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

and race. Citywide positive cases of coronavirus rose only 2 percent last week from 15,788 cases to 16,106 cases. So far 12,640 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus and one additional resident died last week bringing the total of fatalities in the city to 755.

Michael Valerio, former Eastie resident, Papa Gino's founder at 89

By John Lynds

Michael Valerio, who immigrated from Italy to East Boston in the 1930s and expanded a small pizza-by-the-slice operation into the iconic Papa Gino's franchise, died Wednesday, Sept. 2. He was 89 years old.

Valerio was born in Villa Latina, Italy and immigrated to East Boston with his family in 1936.

In 1954, after serving in the Korean War, he

opened his first restaurant serving pizza and ice cream in Eastie on Bennington Street with help from his brother Gino using his service earnings that his mother had saved for him while overseas.

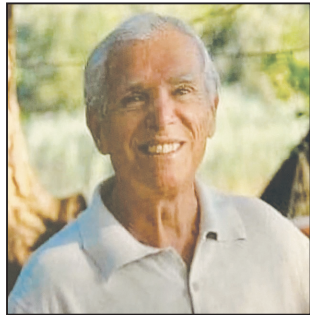
What would eventually become the Papa Gino's dynasty started as a humble take out pizza window on Bennington Street near Marion Street called Paradise Restaurant.

In 1957 Valerio married

Helen (Kazukonis) who grew up in the Maverick Projects at 66 Grady Court

By 1961, Valerio and Helen changed the name of the small take out pizza operation to Piece O' Pizza and later to Papa Gino's in 1967 in honor of his brother.

Shortly afterwards, Valerio opened restaurants in Revere Beach, Roxbury, Dorchester, East Cambridge, Canton, and Brockton.



Michael Valerio, who died earlier this month, founded Papa Gino's as Piece O' Pizza on Bennington Street in East Boston.



Former Eastie natives Michael and Helen Valerio at the opening of one of their first Papa Gino's Pizzerias in the 1960s.

Having come from humble backgrounds, Valerio and Helen truly lived the American Dream building over 300 privately held restaurants and employing more than 7000 employees in New England, upper-state New York and Florida.

"I remember the first Papa Ginos was next to John's Tavern (later Morelli's Pizza and then Kelly's) on Bennington Street," said Eastie's Betty

Falzarano Marotta. "Michael was the owner and his brother was Gino. His brother Gino opened a Pizza place on Revere Beach and Michael later opened Papa Ginos on Squire Road and I made the cafe curtains for the windows when I was younger. I remember all this because it was prom time and I wanted to ask Michael, but he

was already taken by Helen."

Papa Gino's Pizza became an iconic restaurant chain where many New Englanders have strong embedded memories of the savory pizza, pasta, sandwich and grilled food recipes.

When Valerio and Helen sold the chain in 1991, they had 220 company-owned Papa Gino's restaurants across New England.

Valerio, a devout member of the Catholic church raised money for inner-city kids' camps run by the Catholic Charities and various religious causes throughout his life. He also spearheaded programs to promote Christianity and Family Values.

In tandem with promoting Christianity and Family Values, Valerio became an active member of the Republican Party, served as the chairman of the Massachusetts Republican Party during part of The 1980s, and purchased and ran WEEL radio station, an all-news format radio station from 1983 until 1990. From there, he tirelessly continued his support of conservative values and causes throughout his life.

Michael is survived by his wife of 62 years, Helen, son Michael and his two son's Michael and Luke, daughter Laura Valerio MacKinnon and her husband Bob, daughter Linda Stenzel and her husband Tom and sister Mary (Clarke).



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