

# East Boston

## TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, October 14, 2020



### City releases official artist renderings of new senior center design

By John Lynds

Last week the City of Boston released a set of artist renderings for the first time depicting what East Boston's first ever Senior Center will look like once construction is completed.

Construction on the future senior center began over the summer at the former Bremen Street branch of the Boston Public Library across from Orient Heights MBTA station.

Throughout August and September, interior demolition took place, and construction started. Construction work on the senior center will include accessibility upgrades, new HVAC systems, new elevator, window replacements, landscaping, new utilities, new bathrooms, new kitchen, sprinkler system and roof replacement.

The renderings released

See DESIGN Page 12



Artists for Humanity featuring teen leaders from Eastie work on one of the two murals at the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway.

Right, An artist puts the finishing touches on one of the murals at the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway.



### Six 'Sea Walls Boston' mural completed

By John Lynds

The first six murals that are part of a new public art initiative known as 'Sea Walls Boston' are done and a seventh mural is on the way.

"We completed six murals so far and a last minute

seventh mural will begin this week," said HarborArts Director Matthew Pollock, who is serving as Project Director for Sea Walls Boston.

Presented by Linda Cabot, Local public art group HarborArts is collaborating with the inter-

national nonprofit PangeaSeed Foundation to bring their globally renowned public art program to Boston. The initiative, known as Sea Walls: Artists for Oceans will install up to 15 public murals throughout

See MURAL Page 12

### Tree Eastie, NOAH, MOF and Eastie Farm collaborate to offer free trees to residents

By John Lynds

Tree Eastie, an organization that has been trying to rekindle the neighborhood's grassroots effort to get more trees planted in the neighborhood, is collaborating with three other neighborhood groups to provide free trees to Eastie residents.

Tree Eastie, NOAH (Neighborhood of Affordable Housing), Eastie Farm and Mothers Out Front (MOF) will be giving away 75 free trees to East Boston residents later this month.

"The link between trees and good health is indisputable," said Tree Eastie's Bill Masterson. "Decades of research suggest that exposure to nature and green spaces can help to reduce stress, promote restoration, and generally improve mental health -- and you don't need to walk through a forest to experience these benefits.



A resident shows off a free tree provided by Tree Eastie, Eastie Farm, NOAH and MOF. The group of collaborators will hand out more free trees to residents at the end of the month.

Urban trees, right here source of health benefits, in East Boston, can be a improved air quality and

decreased noise pollution, not to mention reduced energy costs."

Masterson said Eastie residents wanting to take advantage of these benefits in their own front or back yards now have a great opportunity with an upcoming tree giveaway.

"If you lost a tree in the recent storm, need some stress relief from this crazy year, or just want to see a little green outside your window, you can request a tree online at [tinyurl.com/eastietreegiveaway](https://tinyurl.com/eastietreegiveaway)," said Masterson. "Three species are available -- Red Oak, Yoshino Cherry and Eastern RedBud, all of which come in 5-gallon buckets and are four to six feet tall. They are ready to plant and instructions will be provided."

Masterson said pick up will be on Saturday, October 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at a location to be

See TREE Page 3

### Mayor, BPS hit pause school reopening plan

BTU seeks injunction to in-person learning

By John Lynds

With the city's positive test rate exceeding the four percent threshold last week, Mayor Martin Walsh and Boston Public School Superintendent Brenda Cassellius said the city would hit the pause button on the phased-in hybrid reopening plan that was to begin Thursday.

However, with 1,300 'high-needs' students attending schools each day since last Thursday the Boston Teachers Union (BTU) is seeking an injunction so teachers won't be forced to teach in-person until the positive test rate in Boston goes below four percent.

Throughout this pandemic Mayor Walsh said the city has made decisions based on science to protect Bostonians' health and safety, with special consideration for our most

vulnerable residents.

"The latest citywide positive rate puts us just over the 4% threshold that we set for moving forward with our phased-in, hybrid learning plan in the Boston Public Schools," said Walsh. "Consistent with our overall cautious approach to reopening, 4% is a conservative threshold by state, national, and global public health standards, which generally focus on staying below 5% positivity."

Because Boston has passed four percent the Mayor said the city would pause the school reopening plan, and push back the earliest possible start date for Phase 3 from October 15 to October 22. That means, as of now, the K0, K1, and K2 kindergarten grades may enter schools no sooner than

See BPS Page 3

### BPDA releases interim report for PLAN in East Boston

By John Lynds

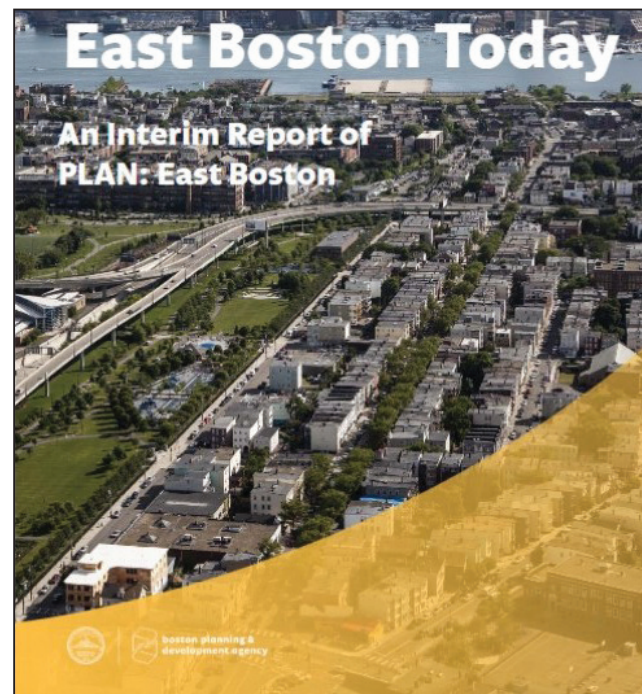
Last week the Boston Planning and Development Agency's (BPDA) PLAN: East Boston team released an interim report for the planning study, available on the BPDA website in English and Spanish (<https://bpda.app.box.com/s/hgmqpurzvg-jnuokzilvs7kk1894hwe1>)

The interim report follows two years of community meetings, work-

shops, neighborhood tours and other events that have engaged the Eastie community in the planning process to update the neighborhood's outdated Master Plan and zoning.

The BPDA's Director of Planning Lauren Shurtleff said the report measures the neighborhood as it exists today as a critical first step to adopting a new Master Plan for Eastie.

See BPDA Page 2



The front page of the BPDA's PLAN: East Boston Interim Report that was released last week.



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# Mayor files housing stability ordinance with City Council

Edwards calls it a ‘start’ to protecting renters during the pandemic

By John Lynds

Last week Mayor Martin Walsh filed the “Housing Stability Notification Act” with the Boston City Council. The ordinance would ensure East Boston residents and residents across the city at risk of eviction would know their rights and have access to the resources available to them.

The ordinance requires property owners and constables who are serving a Notice to Quit--the first

step in the legal process of an eviction--to provide a document containing information on tenant rights and resources available to them when issuing a Notice to Quit or non-renewal of lease. This multilingual document provides information about City and State rental relief funds, guidance on filing a federal declaration of need to potentially protect against eviction, and a list of services such as legal counsel, dispute mediation, fair

payment agreements, and other supports.

“The purpose of this Ordinance is to promote housing stability of Boston residents by ensuring that they have information about their rights and about housing resources that may be available to them,” said Walsh. “This Ordinance will do so by requiring landlords and foreclosing owners to notify the Boston Home Center when they serve a notice to quit or notice of lease nonrenewal. It

will also require landlords and foreclosing owners to provide information about housing rights and resources to residents whenever they serve a notice to quit or notice of lease nonrenewal.”

The ordinance is part of a larger effort by the City to aid residents who may be at risk of eviction. Mayor Walsh has advocated in support of An Act to Ensure Right to Counsel in Eviction Proceedings, a bill at the Massachusetts State House, which would provide any low-income tenant facing eviction with a court-appointed attorney for representation. More than 90 percent of renters who faced eviction in Massachusetts last year had to represent themselves in Housing Court, while 70 percent of landlords had a lawyer, according to testimony presented by the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute.

Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards thanked Walsh for filing the ordinance.

“I want to thank Mayor Walsh for filing this ordinance and asking that the council pass it during today’s hearing,” said Edwards. “These actions show a sense of urgency that is required of all elected officials in Massachu-

setts with the eviction and foreclosure moratorium set to end in 10 days. I can promise the mayor, my colleagues on the council, tenants, landlords, homeowners and housing advocates across Boston that as the chair of both the Housing and Community Development and Government Operations committees I am committed to ensuring this body will pass a comprehensive ordinance protecting renters and owners facing eviction or foreclosure. I am committed to doing so before the moratorium (on evictions) ends on October 17 or immediately afterward during our weekly meeting on October 21.”

Edwards said the ordinance filed by the Mayor is a good starting point, but it is just that: a start. “We must go further than what’s being proposed today to protect Bostonians from the coming housing crisis,” said Edwards. “The Mayor should call upon the Boston Public Health Commission to issue an emergency order establishing a moratorium on eviction enforcement during the pandemic. This would prevent the levying of an eviction order on commercial and residential tenants and protect tenants against people entering their unit except in limited circum-

stances. Governor Baker and Mayor Walsh have requested that residents stay home to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Evictions would make this impossible and would increase the risk to public health and safety.”

Edwards added that Boston should also implement one of the proposals in the Housing Stability Act (H.5018/S.2918) at the statehouse and provide property tax relief for landlords that do not evict tenants for unpaid rent.

“This measure will provide much needed financial relief for landlords who are facing foreclosure as a result of their tenants not paying rent,” she said. “Finally, the mayor should call upon Governor Baker to do his job and lead the nation in cancelling rent and mortgage payments until the pandemic ends. Tenants, landlords, and homeowners throughout the Commonwealth are facing an unprecedented crisis on the 17th if we don’t take immediate action. I look forward to working with the administration, my colleagues and the housing advocates who have not had the opportunity to review today’s proposal on finding solutions to the challenges ahead.”

## Trinity Financial updates residents on Orient Heights Public Housing development project

By John Lynds

Four years after kicking off the three-phase redevelopment of the Orient Heights Public Housing development Trinity Financial began construction on Phase III of the project in January.

Like Phase I and Phase II, Phase III will tear down the old post World War II-era brick housing on Vallar Road and portions of Faywood Avenue and be replaced with 81 units of new public housing.

During a public ZOOM meeting updating residents on the progress of the project, Eva Erlich the vice president of development for Trinity Financial and Boston Housing Authority’s Joe Bamberg said an additional 42 units would be modernized as part of Phase III.

Phase III will also include the construction of a centrally located park for residents, the demolition of the existing community center and the expansion of open space.

Erlich said the entire process to replace the aging public housing development has been moving along rather swiftly considering the need to cobble together funding from a variety of different sources.

During the meeting, Erlich reported that the \$51.6 million Phase II portion of the project wrapped up over the summer on Vallar Road where crews demolished 87 old units in four buildings and constructed 88 replacement state-funded public housing units in two townhouse buildings and one mid rise building. Phase II also included improvements to the existing infrastructure and open spaces. Phase II leveraged \$10 million in proceeds from the sale of the Winthrop Square Garage, as well as \$1.83 million in Inclusionary Development Policy Funds, secured from



**Boston Housing Authority’s Joe Bamberg during the ZOOM meeting-updating residents on the progress of the Orient Heights Public Housing redevelopment project.**

made to the project they were done in response to residents’ concerns at previous meetings.

Trinity eliminated the 42 units of non-public market rate housing that was part of the original plan, but this was done after concerns were raised about increasing density after the planned second road connecting Vallar Road and Waldemar Avenue were dropped.

When the project started the cost of connecting Vallar Road with Waldemar Avenue below justified intersecting the two streets. With an original price tag of \$3 million the cost soared to nearly \$10 million after the road was studied and the soil tested. After meeting with engineers and looking at the cost so the road can meet city standards it became very expensive to make that connection from street to street.

The community expressed concern that replacing 331 units of public housing and then adding an additional 42 units of market rate housing could lead to congestion without the two roads connecting. So in response to these concerns Trinity decided to focus on replacing the 331 units over the same land area and eliminate the market rate component.

Erlich said these changes allowed Trinity to add more housing units on Waldemar during Phase I, as well as, freeing up some space as part of Phase II to add new open space for the community as well as refurbishing the basketball courts and community room.

Erlich pointed out that the brand new park planned for where Vallar Road meets Faywood Avenue, that is part of Phase III, as an example of increasing the project’s open space by cutting the 42 additional units.

## BPDA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Shurtleff said the document presents data and trends across six planning topics to establish various “baseline” conditions in the neighborhood. This, said Shurtleff, establishes important reference points for developing future PLAN: East Boston actions, including people, housing, climate and environment, transportation, jobs, and urban form.

“These measurements establish important reference points for developing future plan actions, and eventually, measuring progress towards our goals,” said Shurtleff. “The goals set out in this document are a reflection of our shared values and present an ambitious vision of the future of East Boston. Having established where we are today and where we would like to be in the future, our remaining task is to plan for how we get there from here. Future community engagement will focus on refining strategies and identifying specific actions needed to move towards our goals. All stages of the planning process rely on the robust participation of the East Boston community to be

both meaningful and sustainable and we look forward to continuing the dialogue.”

As part of the report’s release the PLAN: East Boston team will be holding office hours to provide the community with an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

The office hours will be held remotely on Wednesday, October 14 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.([https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdOy-hqT0tHbYuSjd8PyA\\_if-Fp7dtYUa](https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdOy-hqT0tHbYuSjd8PyA_if-Fp7dtYUa)), Wednesday, October 14 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. (<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsc-2vpj-suHsPTPuH94vXtRzT-P2HtqJec>) and again on Saturday, October 17 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. (<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlIce2gq-j8qHQHf8032Qe1DmPj-d20BNXXk>).

The report comes after more than 70 PLAN: East Boston community engagement events, including Advisory Group meetings, neighborhood walking tours, informal Chat with a Planner events at local businesses such as restaurants and bowling alleys, neighborhood as-

sociation visits, and discussions at community events.

In addition to planners, the PLAN: East Boston team includes a community engagement manager who focuses on building relationships and reaching out to new voices in the community. These events have facilitated important community conversations that helped shape the shared values reflected in the East Boston Today report and ongoing PLAN: East Boston initiative.

“PLAN: East Boston works with the community to produce a framework to predictably shape the future of East Boston and identify opportunities to preserve, enhance and grow,” said Shurtleff. “Specifically, the planning initiative will update East Boston Master Plan, produce urban design guidelines, recommend updates to East Boston zoning and advise immediate- to long-term improvement projects for the neighborhood’s transportation network.”

In 2018, Mayor Martin Walsh announced Eastie was chosen as one of five neighborhoods that would take part in the BPDA’s planning initiative. The initiative is part of an Imagine Boston 2030 effort to ‘preserve, enhance and grow’ the neighborhood.

The city has been working closely with Eastie community groups, community leaders and other stakeholders to ensure decisions made by the city are following the guiding principles of “preserves wisely, enhances equitably, and grows inclusively.”

As part of the initiative in Eastie comprehensive planning will include a focus on balancing contextually sensitive development alongside preservation. There will also be a focus on supporting existing residents and businesses through increased access to opportunity, affordability strategies, and anti-displacement policies.

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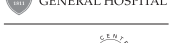
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BPS // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

October 22.

“We will re-evaluate this date and subsequent phases based on the data we see moving forward,” said Walsh.

While the decision to push back the earliest hybrid start date for those grades, Walsh said schools would continue to serve the highest-needs students in the district whose families opted to begin hybrid learning last week.

“This decision is based on the guidance of our public health experts and in consultation with state officials in public health and education, and it is consistent with our decision to prioritize our highest needs students in this plan,” said Walsh.

This decision to continue in-person learning for high-needs students and subsequent letter from Cassellius to school staff triggered the BTU to file for an injunction last week.

In her letter Cassellius wrote that teachers were, “expected to report to their school buildings” and failure to report for work could result in discipline.

“BTU is seeking injunctive relief because the union supports safe, high quality instruction for high-needs students,” said BTU President Jessica Tang. “We value in-person learning, and believe that the botched pandemic response of the federal government has put communities across the nation in an extremely difficult position. We believe that the school district must take steps immediately to assure safety with appropriate staffing ratios to protect not just high-needs students, but also their families, educators, and the community at large.”

Tang said BTU will continue to comply with the language in the safety agreement that allows for an option to teach remotely today, tomorrow and beyond, and will support any educators that may face undue repercussions as a result of exercising their right to work safely and remotely now that the city-wide rate is above 4%, and is much higher in many Boston neighborhoods.

“The union recognizes and supports the importance of in-person instruction for many of its high needs students,” said Tang. “Our educators are aligned with the parents who want a plan from BPS for the safest, highest quality in-person services possible for high needs students, and we strongly support the educators, who are also parents, and often parents of high needs students, as well, in doing what is best and safest for their families.”

In order to achieve the goal of providing the best possible instruction for all students, Tang said BPS must work with the BTU

to create a scheduling plan that ensures appropriate staffing for high quality instruction in buildings that are safe, without sending in thousands of non-essential staff whose presence unnecessarily increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission among students, educators, and the public at-large.

“In-person students should have teachers who can focus on their in-person services, while others are focused on remote students,” said Tang. “The BTU will keep fighting for what is best for students, families and educators both for their academic needs and also for their health and safety.”

However, Walsh pushed back, saying, “These are trying times for everyone; there are no easy choices. But we have to follow the public health guidance and we have to listen to those who are impacted. This decision came down to me realizing that, for our highest needs students, we -- the district -- are their choice. We are their chance to move forward. We cannot take this chance away from them so soon after they started -- not when there’s an opportunity, backed by public health, to have them in schools. There’s too much at stake for these young people. Every day matters for them and they deserve our very best effort.”

News in Brief

and state recommendations on social distancing.

**NEXT OHNC MEETING SET FOR OCTOBER 19**

The next meeting of the Orient Heights Neighborhood Council (OHNC) will be Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:30pm via Zoom. The Zoom meeting information is <https://bit.ly/3l-JKWb>.

Agenda

- Introductions - Welcome and report from the board
- New Board Introductions
- Chairperson: Toni Noble
- Vice Chairperson: Noah Lewkowicz
- Secretary: Tara Monuteaux
- Public Safety - (tentative)
- Station 7 Community Update: Sgt. Joe Cintolo & Officer Dan Simon
- Announcements
- Eastie Tree Giveaway
- When: October 24, 10:00am - 1:00pm
- Where: TBD (Either Liberty Plaza or Constitution Beach)
- For more info: [trees@sfttbos.org](mailto:trees@sfttbos.org)
- Orient Height Senior Center update from the Age Strong Commission
- Development Presentations - new and voting matters

**VOTE**

154 Faywood Ave: driveway extension to include an additional parking space.

1188 Bennington Street - redevelopment of existing 22,000 sf industrial site from industrial to residential (43 units, 32 parking spaces, 6 IDP Units) - previously presented at the September 2019, and July 2020 OHNC Meetings

**INFO**

1088 Saratoga Street - updated presentation (renovation and addition for existing 2 family dwelling and change occupancy to 5 units with 3 parking spaces.

1132 Saratoga Street - Vacant Lot on Shawshreen - Proposal for 6 residential units, with 7 parking spaces (plus 4 parking spaces

for existing 2 family dwelling) (Initial Presentation)

- Adjournment

The next OHNC meeting will be on Monday, November 16th, 2020

**COUNCILOR EDWARDS TO HOST NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOURS**

Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards will be holding her East Boston neighborhood coffee hours at Pazza on Porter (10 Porter St).

Pazza on Porter is a locally owned Italian restaurant. The coffee hours will be held this Saturday, October 17 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

In announcing these coffee hours, Councilor Edwards expressed her excitement to meet with community members in an informal setting to address concerns and improve the quality of life for residents. Coffee will be provided and all are welcomed to attend. Masks and adherence to social distancing guidelines are required. For more information, please contact [gabriela.coletta@boston.gov](mailto:gabriela.coletta@boston.gov) or call (617) 635-3200.

**BOSTON CITY COUNCIL TO HOLD HEARING HOUSING STABILITY**

Notification Act

The Boston City Council’s Committee on Government Operations will hold a hearing docket # 1032 , the Housing Stability Notification Act, filed by Mayor Walsh on October 5. The hearing will bring in stakeholders including housing advocates and tenants’ rights organizations along with administration officials to review the proposed ordinance and discuss how it could be expanded upon to protect tenants, landlords, and homeowners from the crisis they face after the state’s eviction and foreclosure moratorium ends on the 17.

Streaming will be live at [boston.gov/city-council-tv](http://boston.gov/city-council-tv) on Wednesday, October 14 at 3:30 p.m.

Tree // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

provided when you register.

“This will be a drive-through event, following COVID-19 safety protocols, and volunteers will be available to help with any questions,” said Masterson. “Those who want a tree but don’t have the means to transport it back to their home can request assistance when making their tree request and volunteers will do their best to arrange for delivery.”

For the past year, Tree Eastie has been teaming up with NOAH’s youth

group and, more recently, Eastie Farm and MOF to document open tree pits, to care for street trees, and to get new trees planted in the neighborhood.

The collaboration has been part of a years-long effort to increase Eastie’s tree canopy and improve the health and beauty of the neighborhood.

Last year Tree Eastie and NOAH received a grant of \$10,000 to plant more trees in Eastie. The project is an effort to bring awareness to Eastie’s lack of street trees with the goal

of doubling the neighborhood’s tree canopy coverage. Over 70 trees were planted last year and another 40 trees are slated to be planted this year.

Studies show that ideally for a good urban tree canopy there is a tree every 20 to 25 feet.

The NOAH youth found there were 1,924 trees in Eastie and over 300,000 linear feet of sidewalk space. On average there is a tree every 167 feet. If a tree was planted every 25 feet Eastie could have over 12,500 trees.

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# East Boston

## Times-Free Press

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### RENTAL RELIEF PROGRAM IS A WIN-WIN

The announcement by Gov. Charlie Baker on Monday of a \$171 million package of programs that will help renters stay in their homes comes as welcome news for both tenants and landlords alike.

Housing insecurity never is a good thing both for individuals and society-at-large, but that is especially true amidst a pandemic, when overcrowded shelters could become a breeding ground for the coronavirus.

With the state’s moratorium on evictions set to expire at the end of this week, the need to provide relief for renters, many of whom have been affected by the decline in the need for their services in the hospitality industry (hotels, restaurants, and travel), is immediate and necessary to avoid a societal and humane catastrophe for tens of thousands of families across the Commonwealth.

The governor’s plan also comes as good news for landlords for whom evicting a tenant for non-payment always is a last resort. Although the big real estate companies that own and manage thousands of apartments probably could get by with an increase in defaults on rents, the small landlords, who have just a few apartments and who need the monthly rent in order to pay their mortgages, would be facing financial disaster without a relief package.

Although some may question whether the \$171 million is enough to get everybody to the other side of the pandemic -- and quite frankly, it probably won’t be -- it nonetheless is a good start that can be supplemented as circumstances warrant in the future.

Gov. Baker’s rental relief program comes as good news for all of us. We trust the legislature will join in, and perhaps even augment, what the governor has proposed.

### MASK UP AS WE APPROACH WINTER

The wonderful weather we enjoyed for much of this past weekend certainly was welcome as we approach the darker and colder days that lie ahead.

However, make no mistake about it: Winter is coming, and so is the need for all of us to be extra-vigilant about taking precautions to ensure the health and safety of ourselves and our loved ones in the months ahead.

This means that wearing masks, not gathering in large groups, and always maintaining physical distancing become crucial measures that all of us easily can follow in order to avoid spreading the coronavirus.

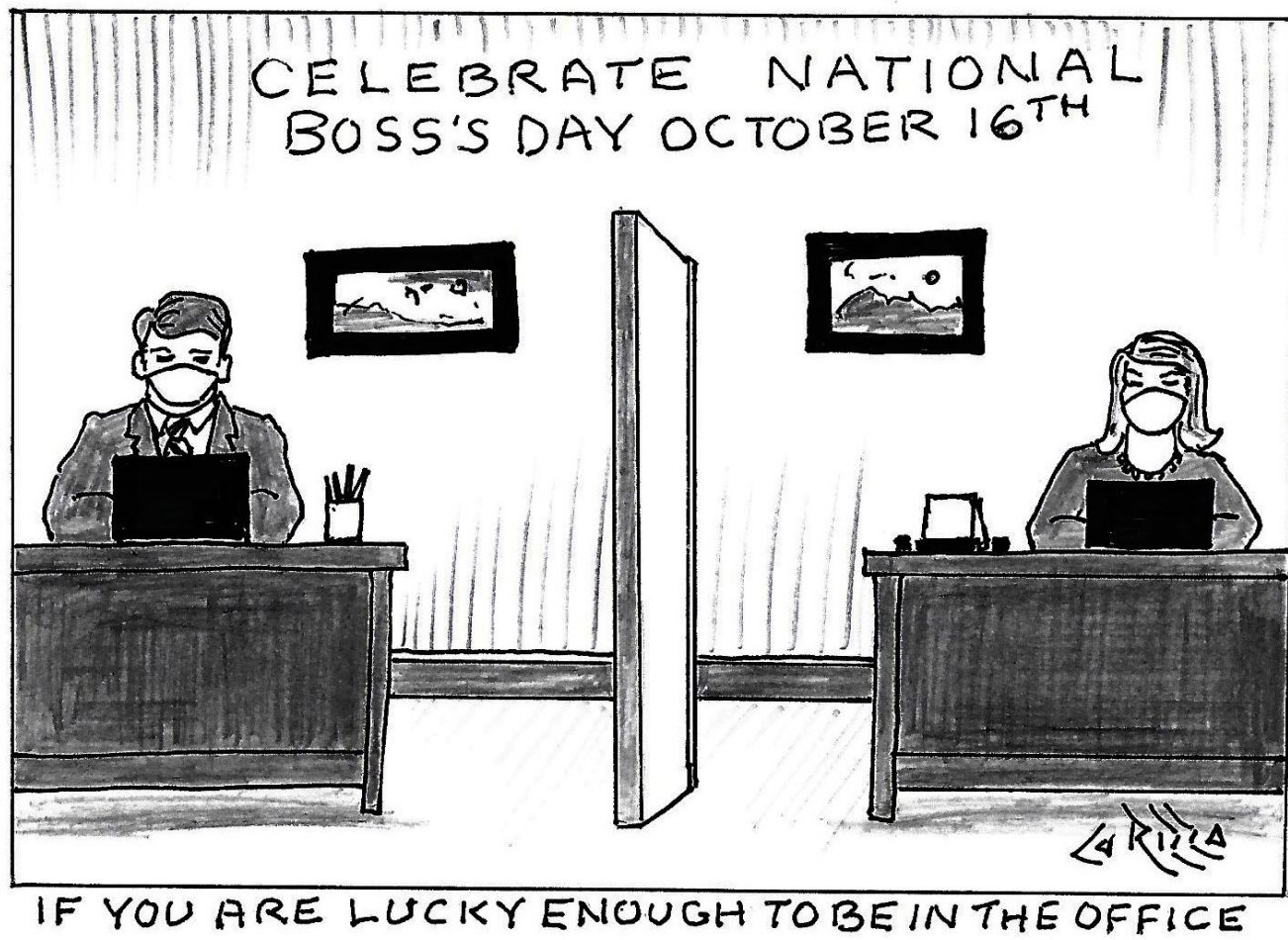
We were struck by a statistic from the CDC that we saw the other day concerning the state of Arizona. COVID-19 cases in Arizona spiked 151% after a state-wide stay-at-home order expired, but then dropped precipitously by 75% after local mask mandates were put into effect.

Each of us has the ability to stay safe amidst a pandemic if we just follow a few simple rules -- wearing masks, avoiding crowds, washing our hands frequently, and staying at least six feet apart from others when out in public.

Admittedly, this is not an ideal way to lead our lives. But with 215,000 of our fellow Americans already dead, the only way we can avoid doubling that number in the months ahead is if we adhere to these common-sense measures at all times.



# Forum



## Eastie COVID-19 positive test rate decreases; infection rate goes up only 1.8 percent

By John Lynds

After experiencing a 44 percent increase in the COVID-19 positive test rate and a three percent increase in East Boston’s infection rate two weeks ago the numbers have slowed dramatically last week.

According to the data released by the BPHC Friday, Eastie’s COVID infection rate rose only 1.8 percent and went from 515.6 cases per 10,000 residents to 525 cases per 10,000 residents. The last increase two weeks ago was three percent. The citywide average is 262.6 cases per 10,000 residents and Eastie still has one of the highest infection rates in all of Boston.

Eastie experienced an all time high with an 11.8 percent positive test rate back in August but efforts by the city and health officials brought that number down to 5.1 percent last month.

However, two weeks ago the positive test rate number climbed to 6.1 percent and two weeks ago jumped 44 percent to 8.8.

Last week during his daily press briefing Mayor Martin Walsh again invited Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez to share the latest COVID-19 data in Boston. Chief Martinez said that since the beginning of the pandemic, the Administration has been committed to sharing data

with residents in a timely and transparent manner, including at both [boston.gov/coronavirus](http://boston.gov/coronavirus) and [bphc.org](http://bphc.org).

He said that this increase in COVID activity is evident across many Boston neighborhoods and, like Eastie two weeks ago, Hyde Park saw a significant increase in its positive test rate.

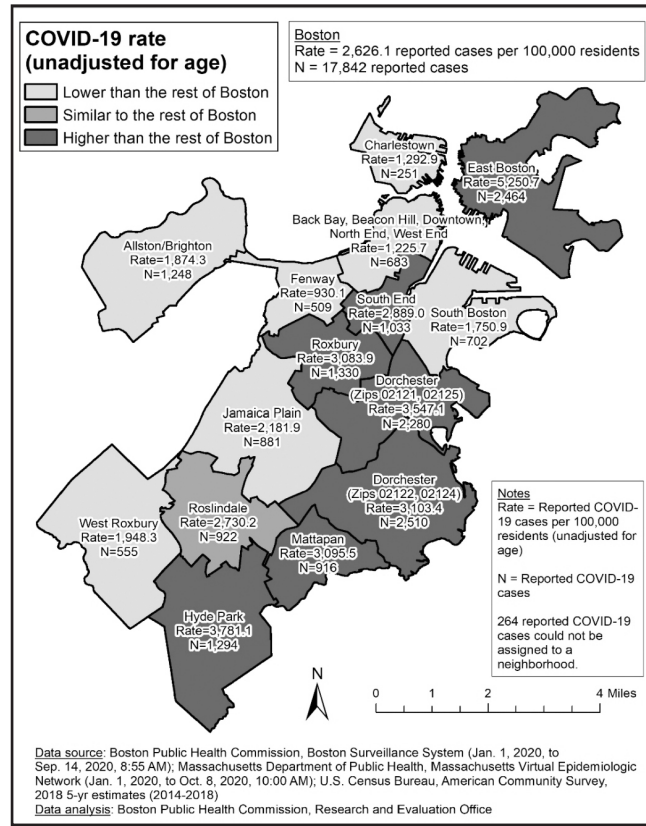
“Dorchester, which had gone up, remained level; and East Boston, which had the highest rate for some time, came down,” said Martinez.

As of Friday 44 more residents became infected with the virus in Eastie and there were 2,464 confirmed COVID-19 cases, up from the 2,420 reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Of the 18,166 Eastie residents tested for COVID last week 6.5 percent were found to be positive for the virus, a decrease of 26 percent from the numbers reported two weeks ago. The citywide positive test rate climbed from 3.9 percent to 4.1 percent.

Overall since the pandemic began 14 percent of residents here have been found to be positive.

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 and race.



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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus rose by 1.6 percent last week from 17,649 cases to 17,937 confirmed cases. So far 15,175 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus and no Boston residents died last week. The total of fatalities in the city remains at 764.

“We continue to respond to this activity with testing resources, with outreach in multiple languages, and with door-to-door and business-to-business outreach in communities seeing the biggest increases,” said Martinez.

“The City is monitoring a range of metrics in order to understand whether this increased activity is a sustained trend or a brief bump in the road. This is the first time since early June that the citywide positive test rate has surpassed 4%, our threshold for reassessing where we stand with reopening. The Administration has been consulting with our experts at the Boston Public Health Commission and at the state about what kind of guidance this data calls for.”

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### LETTER to the Editor

#### MBA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

**To the Editor:**  
Thank you for all those who participated in the MBA Charitable Foundation Social Media Campaign. Your votes helped us distribute funds to various agencies who have worked endlessly in supporting those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic across the Commonwealth.

Each campaign awarded \$5,000 to six organizations. All selected organi-

zations received a base of \$500 and we used your input and the general public to allocate the remaining \$2,000. Here is a review of the September campaign:

- Boston Health Care for the Homeless - \$550
- Bread of Life, \$1,650
- Friends of Boston’s Homeless - \$700
- Greater Boston Food Bank - \$550
- Project Hope - \$1,050
- Boston Resiliency Fund - \$500

**Daniel Forte**  
**Massachusetts Bankers Association**

## Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor.

Our mailing address is  
385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151.

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Letters may also be e-mailed to  
[editor@eastietimes.com](mailto:editor@eastietimes.com).

Letters must be signed.

We reserve the right to edit for length and content.



# Grant will fund the City’s first heat resilience study in Eastie

By John Lynds

In 2017 a late summer thunderstorm sat over the North Shore, and dumped four inches of rain on the Orient Heights section of East Boston, Lynn, and Winthrop. The slow moving system overwhelmed storm drains and flooded streets, backyards and basements across the area. When the flash flood waters receded, residents were left with the reality that they would have to deal with thousands of dollars worth of damage and most, if not all, the damage would not be covered by insurance.

On Thurston Street one resident lost a hot water heater, a gas furnace and all her valuables that were stored in the basement as floodwaters reached nearly three feet. On Bennington Street, several homes across from Orient Heights MBTA station were flooded and similar stories of

total losses of everything in those basements were reported. When all was said and done, many of the working class residents of Eastie were forced to shell out tens of thousands of dollars to replace heating and water systems, electrical units and clean and dry their basements. Again, insurance agencies came back time and time again rejecting claims because the storm event was considered a ‘flood’ and floods are typically not covered under traditional homeowners insurance policies.

This was a storm that lasted just over an hour but many scientists agree that as the planet continues to heat, more moisture will evaporate from the seas and storms like the one in 2017 that devastated Eastie will be commonplace.

Mayor Martin Walsh announced this week new grant money for East Boston and four other Boston

neighborhoods that will fund the city’s first heat resilience study. The study will focus on Eastie and other neighborhoods most vulnerable to the projected increases in extreme heat due to climate change.

The City of Boston was awarded a \$280,070 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant that will fund a strategic heat resilience planning study, an essential next step in preparing for the projected increases in extreme heat events over the coming decades.

“Combating the very real threat of climate change is crucial as we continue to invest in strategies that prioritize our vulnerable communities to ensure an equitable, healthy future for all Bostonians,” said Walsh “I’m proud the City has received this award, and thank the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for their partnership in this

vital work.”

The study will focus on “hot spots” throughout Eastie, as well as the neighborhoods of Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, and Chinatown. Climate Ready Boston will develop heat mitigation scenarios in partnership with communities facing disproportionate effects of urban heat risk and compounding social inequity. The solutions will be community-driven and will result in equity and public health focused strategies and metrics to protect the health and safety of Boston neighborhoods for years to come.

“Our priority is to protect all residents from ecological hazards and climate change, but we know that not everyone is equally impacted,” said Chris Cook, Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space. “This heat resilience planning study will intentionally center on environmental

justice communities to guide us to protect our especially vulnerable neighborhoods from the effects of climate change with actionable, innovative, and community-driven solutions.”


The Heat Resilience Planning Study is a critical component of Climate Ready Boston, an initiative to develop resilient solutions that will prepare our city for the effects of climate change: flooding due to sea-level rise and increased storms and extreme heat. The plan will build on heat preparedness work to date and explore a suite of potential heat mitigation strategies to identify infrastructure solutions and opportunities, as well as strengthen policies and programs needed to reduce urban heat and heat risk.

“Boston is one of four communities that are leading studies on extreme heat in this new MVP grant cycle,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. “This summer reminded us of the dangers of the urban heat island effect, particularly for our most vulnerable residents, and this work on heat resilience planning has the potential to serve as an important model for other regions across the Commonwealth.”

This work builds on Walsh’s vision for a prepared, healthy, and resilient Boston. Since the initial release of the first Climate Ready Boston report in 2016, the City of Boston has completed a series of neighborhood-level coastal resilience projects in East Boston, Charlestown, and South Boston, and will soon announce reports and implementation roadmaps for the North End, Downtown, and Dorchester.

## Adrian Madaro discusses issue during coffee hour

By John Lynds



On a recent Saturday morning Rep. Adrian Madaro hosted a virtual coffee hour to discuss issues, give recent legislative updates and answer questions from residents who tuned in.

One of the issues that Madaro highlighted during the coffee hour was Suffolk Down’s commitment to connect the open space at the proposed site to existing open space in Eastie.

“We were able to secure 40 acres of open space at the Suffolk Downs site along with a commitment that the open space can be used by residents in an unrestricted manner,” said Madaro. “The developer also agreed to fund connections with their onsite open space with the Belle Isle Marsh and future Mary Ellen Welch Greenway extensions.”

Last year Madaro secured \$100,000 in the state budget for an engineering, environmental and feasibility study to extend the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway past Constitution Beach to Belle Isle Marsh and eventually to Winthrop and Revere.

Support for the decades-old plan to connect the Greenway with neighborhoods north of Eastie has been long supported by the Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway (FoMEWG).

Recently, the group has begun engaging residents and gauge the number of

residents that would use any future extension of the park system for commuting, running, biking, leisurely strolls, walks with family members or simply a route to access businesses and amenities in places like Winthrop or Revere.

The FoMEWG have been working for years on extending the Greenway further to the north to Revere and east to Winthrop, allowing more people to enjoy this amenity and access the open space and safe, beautiful, low-stress corridor for active transportation that it affords.

There are several proposed extensions to the existing Mary Ellen Welch Greenway. Four proposed extensions include:

- Winthrop Extension: Mary Ellen Welch Greenway to Winthrop
- Revere Extension: Constitution Beach to Revere
- Chelsea Creek: Chelsea St to Revere Beach Parkway
- Chelsea Spur: Wood Island Station to Chelsea

## CWA members win new agreement at WGBH

Communications Workers of America Local 1400 has reached a tentative agreement with WGBH on a new three-year contract covering 240 workers at the public broadcasting station.

The agreement includes substantial improvements over the previous contract, which expired in February of 2020. Wage minimums will increase by 13 percent and annual wage increases will no longer be left to the discretion of management. All employees covered by the contract will now receive overtime and holiday pay. There will be limits on cost-sharing for health insurance premiums.

“This strong contract is a result of our members’ determination to win much-needed changes at WGBH,” said Don Tremontozzi, President of CWA Local 1400. “The agreement shows the power workers have when they join together in a union to

fight for fair and equitable working conditions. When we fight, we win.”

“We bargained this agreement under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Barry Clegg, CWA Local 1400 District Vice President and Senior Editor for FRONTLINE PBS. “It wasn’t easy, but we stuck together and the result is a contract that sets a high standard and that we can all be proud of. The union members at WGBH are passionate

about the rich and important programming we provide for our public media audience, and we are excited to continue this work moving forward.”

Other improvements include guaranteed vacation and sick leave, guaranteed holidays, improved severance pay and a provision that the use of contractors cannot result in layoffs.

The agreement will be sent to members for a ratification vote.

## Pressley signs on to Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2020

Last week, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley signed on as a co-sponsor of the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2020, historic legislation led by Congresswomen Nydia M. Velázquez (NY-07) and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14) that would formally call for a Status Convention where delegates, elected by the people of Puerto Rico, would develop a long-term solution that would free the Island of its current status as a U.S. territory.

Congresswoman Pressley’s decision to co-sponsor the legislation follows a virtual meeting she convened last month with

Massachusetts advocates and researchers who have close ties to Puerto Rico, including organizers who have long been working in support of those on the Island and the Puerto Rican diaspora in Massachusetts. The advocates shared their support for the legislation as it will allow for a transparent and democratic process created by and for Puerto Rican people to determine their future as an island.

“For far too long, Puerto Rico’s status as a U.S. territory has served as a roadblock to the Island’s progress, inflicting over a century of hurt and harm on the Island’s residents and depriving them of

their fundamental right to determine their own future,” said Congresswoman Pressley. “That’s why I’m proud to co-sponsor the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2020, bold legislation that would affirm the dignity and humanity of the Puerto Rican people by establishing a fair, transparent and inclusive process to determine a long-term solution to the Island’s political status. We must finally end the subjugation of Puerto Rico—and I am grateful to Congresswomen Velázquez and Ocasio-Cortez for their bold leadership in this effort.”

The Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2020, introduced by Congresswomen Velázquez and Ocasio-Cortez in August, would prompt Puerto Rico’s Legislature to create a Status Convention whose delegates would be elected by Puerto Rican voters. This body would develop a long-term solution for Puerto Rico’s status, be that statehood, independence, free association or any option other than the current territorial arrangement. What the convention negotiates and puts forth would then be voted on in a referendum by the people of Puerto Rico before presentation to the U.S. Congress.

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# The Platters Light Up Boston

## Legendary group films “Twilight Time” video in Eastie

By Cary Shuman

The world-famous vocal group, The Platters®, used one of the most picturesque views of the Boston skyline to record a music video for the Disney+ series “WandaVision.”

The four current members of the legendary group that was founded by Rock and Roll Hall of Fame artist Herb Reed in 1953 – Kingsley McIntosh, Lance Bernard Bryant, Leslie Grate, and Omar Ross - performed The Platters’ timeless hit, “Twilight Time” along the boardwalk outside the Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor Hotel in East Boston.

The Platters’ classic song is being featured by Marvel Studios in its six-episode Disney+, WandaVision series.

Frederick J. Balboni Jr., president, and CEO of Herb Reed Enterprises, and manager of The Platters, has overseen the resurgence of the group, whose many hits, including “The Great Pretender” and “Only You,” still resonate today around the world. At the video shoot in East Boston, Balboni said he was excited about the music video being recorded in East Boston and the new generation of fans that are being introduced to The Platters’ sound.

“Putting faces to The Platters’ name, the video re-release of Twilight Time affords millions of our fans here and abroad an opportunity to see the group today, and the re-release of the track provides a chance to download the track onto personal playlists,” said Balboni.

Balboni hypothesized that Marvel Studios selected “Twilight Zone” for WandaVision because of its classic sound. “And Sony just used the song for an international campaign for their PlayStation games,” he added.

### Bringing forth the legacy of Herb Reed

Mr. Reed had an extraordinary career in the recording industry. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012. Many credit the song “The Great Pretender” with helping The Platters become one of the first African-American groups to achieve international superstardom.

“We’re representing the legacy of Herb Reed and we’re bringing that legacy forward, which is very important to the African-American community, to music culture, and to women’s gender issues,” said Balboni.

For the first time in 45

years, The Platters will release a new album that will include new music and some of the classic hits.

“This is an exciting time and a third rebirth of the group and that very rarely happens,” said Balboni.

### Choosing East Boston for the video recording

Balboni called the view [from the Hyatt Regency] of the Boston skyline “spectacular.” “The location does the fusion of what we’re doing, which is retro-contemporary,” said Balboni, “Twilight Time is a timeless song that we can make relevant today in a contemporary setting against the new Boston skyline,” said Balboni.

### Praise for Balboni and enjoying Boston

The Platters enjoyed a tremendous reception from Hyatt Regency hotel guests and local residents who watched the video shoot unfold with such landmarks as the Custom House and John Hancock Tower in the background. The performers were congenial and accessible to fans and expressed humbly their feelings of pride to be representing the incredible legacy of Herb Reed. Each vocalist seemed genuinely excited to be in Boston and working in coordination with Frederick Balboni.

“It [the Boston skyline] is absolutely beautiful and it’s wonderful to be a part of such an important part of music history and this resurgence of The Platters going into the new generation of a new market, so it’s extremely exciting and very gratifying,” said Lance Bernard Bryant, one of the lead vocalists who grew up in Rochester, N.Y. and studied classically at SUNY Fredonia. “I think this video is going to reintroduce the group to several people who are familiar with The Platters’ music and introduce them to a brand new generation of younger music lovers who relate to the same style of music and will continue to grow with our new evolution of the music. Our new song, “It’s My Time,” is getting a wonderful response from people young and old.”

Kingsley McIntosh, who is known widely as “Cousin Brian,” actually performed on the road with Herb Reed prior to his passing.

“It [performing on stage with Mr. Reed] was an experience of a lifetime in every way imaginable,” said McIntosh. “He was a genuine person. His spirit is always around us.”

McIntosh, who grew up in Lexington, N.C. “The barbecue capital of the world”), said Mr. Reed taught him “that no matter who we were, whether it was a million people or five people, he had a motto: “Give it your all every night like this [performance] is the best thing that can ever happen to you.”

About working in Boston on the video, McIntosh said, “Boston is fun until you get in traffic around 5 o’clock and everybody is blowing their horn at the guy with the North Carolina license plates,” he said. “But we have one of the most important jobs in the world and that’s making people feel good.”

Speaking about Balboni, the group’s dedicated manager, McIntosh offered, “Fred is the best. He’s a standup guy. He’s doing a great job for the group.”

Omar Ross is the newest member of The Platters. “It’s an honor to be with The Platters,” said Ross. “They have such a long history of great songs. I just feel honored to be a part of it. We’re a good team.”

Ross, who was born in Detroit, grew up in Florida and attended the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, said he is enjoying his time in Boston. “Boston is growing on me. It’s a great city. I haven’t gotten to see too much because of COVID-19 but what I have seen I like.”

Leslie Grate, the stunning vocalist and native of South Carolina (“I’m a North Carolina fan, though”) said it was “amazing” to be performing with The Platters. “We’re a group that does everything together. Boston is wonderful. I love the water and scenery. I’m excited to be in Boston. We can’t wait to see everyone when we begin to tour again.”

Michael Larson, long-

time music director for The Platters, said, “It was a pleasure working with Herb Reed. The greatest thing about Herb Reed was that he was a great storyteller. And there’s nothing like sitting next to him in airports and Herb telling stories about meeting the Queen of England when he was young. Any time we went into a new city, he would have five stories about the city because he had been everywhere. It was so much fun being with him. And it’s great to be with this group who is really dedicated to this music.”

Larson, who has been a Boston resident since 1997, said he met Frederick Balboni during his own piano-playing performance with his wife on vocals at the Encore Lounge in Boston’s Theater District.

“Fred used to come in and sing some songs and we got to know each other,” said Larson. “He knew I had a history with rock bands and groups and one day Fred brought



CARY SHUMAN PHOTOS

Frederick J. Balboni Jr. (background), with The Platters, at the recording of their music video for “Twilight Time” in East Boston, from left, Lance Bernard Bryant, Leslie Mone, Omar Ross, and Kingsley McIntosh.



CARY SHUMAN PHOTO

Frederick J. Balboni Jr., manager of The Platters, with Michael Larson, music director, at The Platters’ music video recording at the Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor Hotel in East Boston.

Herb Reed with him to our show. We chatted and he liked what I did and I be-

came music director,” said Larson. “It’s been a lot of fun.”

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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### COVID RAPID DRUG TESTING SITE IN SCHOOLS

CHELSEA - The top state health director, Marylou Sudders, has been called on by Chelsea Public Schools, five other diverse public school districts and a group of leading health researchers to be designated officially for a pilot COVID-19 fast-testing program they're calling the 'Safe Teachers, Safer Students Back to School Testing Collaborative.'

The reason for the program, the collaborative stated, is largely because the traditional flu season is going to overlap with what is believed to be a second wave of COVID-19 infections. The fact that the symptoms for both sicknesses are very similar will make it difficult to figure out who has COVID-19, and who simply has the flu and a common cold.

"Each district in the Commonwealth must have access to testing capacity to identify those who are infected with COVID-19 within 24 hours, such that districts can isolate individuals and reduce transmission," read a memo on the program. "Such testing will also facilitate the return to school for those who are not infected, thereby preserving the workforce and reducing unnecessary quarantines. Furthermore, existing safety measures whose implementation is proposed are proving insufficient to reduce fear amongst teachers and parents given that they do not provide actual evidence of the number of asymptomatic COVID-19 cases in our public schools."

To try out the quick-testing program in the schools, Chelsea, Revere, Somerville, Wellesley, Watertown and Brookline have asked for a pilot program, which would be launched immediately as cohorts of students and staff begin to return to the various schools. They were joined in the call by Dr. Douglas Golenbock, chief of infectious disease at UMass Medical, Dr. Nira Pollock, associate director of infectious disease diagnostic

lab at Boston Children's Hospital, and Dr. Jesse Boehm, institute scientist at the Broad Institute.

Supt. Almi Abeyta said she was very glad Chelsea was in alignment with the other districts and medical professionals on the testing program.

"I am grateful to be part of the Safer Teachers, Safer Students: Back-to-School (COVID-19) Collaborative Pilot because as a collaborative we are learning and working with each other to bring our teachers and students back to school through testing," she said. "With this pilot, it is my hope that when we are able meet physically in-person for school, we can pilot this program with the first phase-in of our hybrid model and bring our most vulnerable students back first."

The memo on the stated it would be the first of its kind in the state, and maybe the nation – if accepted by Sudders as a pilot.

"We believe this multi-district pilot is the first of its kind in the public school setting, both in the State of Massachusetts and in the Nation," read the memo. "If successful, this effort will demonstrate how to reduce fear and anxiety about return-to-school, pave the way toward ensuring that in-person public school K-12 learning can continue as long as possible, and increase safety of both teachers and students. Critically, it will create a generalizable framework that any town in the Commonwealth can follow."

The districts were chosen by the medical professionals due to their different choices in back-to-school formats, their different geographies, and the different community compositions. Since the pilot launched, the memo indicated 10 other districts have inquired about being involved.

The program would run roughly through Dec. 1, and would include the following types of testing.

- Symptomatic Testing and Contact Tracing: this testing will be covered by insurance.

- Time Zero Benchmark Testing: one-time testing

of all staff and students prior to back-to-school.

- Weekly Assurance Testing for Staff: continuous monitoring of staff given their diversity of hometowns.

- Longitudinal Surveillance: weekly monitoring of all individuals in selected schools to provide real time estimation of risk in buildings and provide evidence of whether our safety protocols are working or not.

The collaborative of school districts and medical professionals asked primarily that Secretary Sudders designate the program as a state-supported pilot, and reconfigure existing Stop the Spread test sites in 'red' communities to support the schools.

### HOOPBUS COMES TO CHELSEA

CHELSEA - The HoopBus came to the city to join with the Chelsea Youth Adult Alliance and the Chelsea Black Community for a BLM Protest for Breonna Taylor Saturday at Chelsea City Hall.

Residents and participants in the rally and march agreed it was quite an accomplishment for local leaders, including CBC President Joan Cromwell and her son, CYAA leader Kyle Umemba, to bring the HoopBus to Chelsea.

Joey Greenstein, HoopBus driver and producer, said the HoopBus had visited large cities such as Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. [for the March on Washington], New York City, and Springfield, the third largest in Massachusetts by population.

"The HoopBus is about spreading love through basketball and shooting the basketball around [there is an actual basketball hoop connected to the bus] Is a way to show solidarity," too," said Greenstein.

He said the goal of the HoopBus is "bringing people from all walks of life to show support and love each other and to make a positive impact."

Chelsea's second all-time basketball scorer Cesar Castro understands how the sport can bring the community together.

### HOOPBUS JOINS WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS



PHOTO BY DARLENE DEVITA

Chelsea's Kyle Umemba takes it between the legs for a massive dunk on the Hoop Bus last Saturday, Oct. 3, before the Black Lives Matter protest in memory of Breonna Taylor, which he helped to organize.

er. Castro and Umemba co-founded the Let It Fly Classic Tournament that has become a very popular event in Chelsea (COVID-19 forced the duo to cancel the Classic this summer). The Classic has resulted in thousands of dollars being awarded to Chelsea students.

"Kyle is my longtime best friend and I'm very proud of him for doing this and he knows he has my support 1,000 percent," said Castro. "This is a beautiful thing bringing the city together and sending a positive message and saying everything about Breonna Taylor and racial justice and making sure that everything becomes the right thing to do and comes to life."

Cromwell delivered the opening remarks at the rally. "I thank you all for being here on such short notice. We reached out to the City and the Police Department and amazingly as usual, everybody is on board as our community always stands with one strong voice and I'm so thankful for that."

Cromwell encouraged residents to fill out the U.S. Census form. "We want to make sure that we get as much [Federal] funding as we can in this city," said Cromwell.

She also urged residents to vote in the Nov. 3 election. "This is an election year and this vote absolutely going to change our country and our world, so please make sure you register to vote," said Cromwell.

Councillor-at-Large Leo Robinson said he was impressed by the appearance of the nationally recognized HoopBus in Chelsea.

"But I would like to see more of my colleagues in city government attending this rally and showing their support," said Robinson.

### PUBLIC FORUM PLANNED BY COMMISSION

EVERETT - The Diversity, Equity and Equal Employment Commission announced that plans are being finalized for the first public forum addressing police policies and practices in Everett, according to Chairman Bishop Robert Brown.

The Commission was formed in June of this year in the wake of a rise in police violence around the country aimed particularly toward people of color, as well as an increase of activity by white supremacists and other hate groups. The DeMaria Administration recognized how concerning this was to Everett residents, many of whom are people of color. In response, Mayor DeMaria appointed Bishop Brown of the Zion Church Ministries to chair and direct the Commission in its work to address inequities in policing as well as other City services and the recruitment, hiring, and training practices throughout the city.

The Commission's initial focus was a review of the Everett Police Department's policies regarding the use of force, training standards, and the process of reporting and maintaining data. This important focus, which would include a presentation to and input from the public, has been ongoing since July with the cooperation of the Everett Police Department. The Commission is in the final planning stages of a public forum in which it will present its initial findings. The public will be invited to provide input to address some of the challenges that may impact the relationship between the community and the Everett Police Department.

In addition to this crucial first step, the Commission is also engaged

in the important work of increasing diversity throughout our City systems. The work of the Commission is long term and on-going. Commission members, with the support of the DeMaria Administration, said they are fully committed to achieving meaningful and sustainable change for the betterment of the community.

"There are no band-aid solutions," read a statement from the Commission. "The Commission was not formed as a short-term solution to an urgent problem. The members of the Commission are fully committed to ongoing conversation and sustainable solutions to the challenges caused by systemic racism, discrimination, and disenfranchisement. We look forward to continuing this work and to receiving feedback from the community during our upcoming forum."

The date and additional details of the Forum will be published soon.

### VIRTUAL SCHOOLING STILL FACES CHALLENGES

EVERETT - The vast majority of students in the Everett Public Schools are logging on and participating in this fall's virtual learning program, Supt. Priya Tahiliani told the School Committee but she said all efforts are going towards connecting with the 11 percent of students that aren't as engaged.

Monday's attendance figures were the first analysis of the remote learning program this fall – a revamped program over last spring's emergency effort that wasn't as successful and was challenging to teachers and students. The numbers reflected the first 12 days of school, and had some bright spots and areas for improvement, said Tahiliani.

For the entire district, 55 percent of students have 100 percent attendance, while another 17 percent had missed only one day. That meant 72 percent of the students were regularly engaged in school online – whether at home or in the e-Learning Centers.

"That means right now we have no attendance issues for 72 percent of our population, which is a good start," she said. "Another encouraging sign is attendance percentages increased from Day 2 to Day 7 and then again on Day 12. That does not mean we aren't concerned

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING  
Pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, §18-20

The East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Incorporated

Notice is hereby given that on **Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.** a public **MEETING** of the East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc., (aka **PIERPAC**) will be held via remote participation in light of the ongoing State of Emergency declared in connection with the COVID-19 Pandemic

A web link and Details on how to participate remotely shall be provided on the organization's website [www.ebpierpac.org](http://www.ebpierpac.org) on or before **October 15, 2020** at which time you may register to participate

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

REGULAR MEETING:  
a. Attendance 6:30  
b. Approval of Minutes September 15, 2020 6:35

New Business  
c. Nick Black – Trustees of Reservations – Discussion of "Phase III" 6:40 pm  
d. Election to fill open Director's seat - 6:55 pm  
e. Election of Officers for 2020-2021 – 7:15 pm  
f. Treasurer's Report - 7:45 pm

Old Business  
g. Amendment to Operations, Security and Maintenance (OSM) Agreement (continued discussion) 7:30 pm  
h. Update on Massport annual financial commitment (continued discussion) 7:40 pm  
i. Discussion - Terms Of Director's 8:00 pm  
j. Motion to adjourn

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED  
AND WELCOMED TO ATTEND

A copy of this notice has also been posted on the organization's website at: [www.EBPIerpac.org](http://www.EBPIerpac.org)  
and has also been placed on file with the Regulations Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth by mailing same via first class mail at least 5 days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting.

East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc.  
By: Louise Montanino, President

See REGION Page 9



Region //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

about the other 11 percent of students that have attended school 59 percent of the time or less. Absolutely not. In fact, the 11 percent is what is driving our attendance outreach efforts across the district.”

Some of the best attendance has been at the elementary and middle school levels, but challenges exist within Everett High School and within vulnerable student populations – particularly English Language Learners (ELL) and low-income students.

While elementary and middle school attendance was above the district average, the high school began the school year below the district average.

However, she said over the last two weeks the attendance at Everett High has been on the upswing – perhaps because some technology problems have been resolved and that outreach specialists have been hitting hard with communications to families with student that aren’t regularly attending.

“One guidance counselor at one school...tried to contact a family five times by phone, 18 times by the classroom Dojo and 12 times by class e-mail,” Tahiliani said. “That is not an isolated example. It’s indicative of what people throughout the district are doing.”

Another adjustment at the high school was adjusting how attendance was taken. While it was only at first period, the district is now looking at first period and then again at 1:30 p.m. Some students were missing the morning, but logging in for all of the remaining day. Tahiliani said if a student attends 50 percent or more of a day’s classes at EHS, they will now be counted present for the daily attendance figures – though they would still be marked absent for individual classroom attendances they missed.

Finally, she said she

knows many students are a little down at EHS because they are missing sports, clubs, and social interactions that in-person school brings and which is so important at the high school age.

“Not playing your favorite sport or not being part of a cherished club or organization is no small consideration,” she said. “Nor is missing the daily abundant social interactions that a school environment provides. We do understand teen-agers are adjusting to this too and want them to know we are here to help them.”

One of the worst attendance groups were the ELL students, where only about 40 percent had 100 percent attendance and 60 percent didn’t have attendance issues in total. That left a large portion of about 40 percent that were having trouble and also the only portion of students that logged having no contact at all with the schools since the term began. Low-income students also showed a challenge as well, but not as significantly as ELL students.

•E-LEARNING CENTERS

Visions of the e-Learning Centers being swarmed with kids for parents needing support has not materialized, but those that need the help are getting it, Tahiliani said.

There are about 59 percent of those invited to the Centers who are utilizing them, and spots are available for those that need them. Last week, 51 student requested to come to a Center and were accepted. The average daily attendance district-wide was about 270 students per day last week, with a dip on Friday, Oct. 2.

One issue with the Centers, however, is there needs to be more staff for the younger kids, and the district has responded by calling back all paraprofessionals to the Centers this week.

“We did identify one concern that demanded immediate action,” she said. “We found we needed more staff to monitor the Centers – particularly for our younger grade students. On Monday, we did call our paraprofessionals to our schools.”

The paraprofessionals will be monitoring the Centers, and they were needed even if the Center population stayed where it is at.

•DEVENS SCHOOL OPENS

The Devens School in-district special education program opened up on Sept. 28 for in-person classes serving the most vulnerable students in the district, and things went very well.

“Because the opening was very positive, we expect more families to choose in person learning due to the success we had in opening that school,” she said.

She thanked Principal Brian Wallace for all of his hard work in getting the school ready, an noted some positives in that students were easily able to transition between classes and teachers were able to easily toggle between in-person and remote learning platforms.

LOOKING AT SOME SALARIES

REVERE - Councilor-at-Large Anthony Zambuto said he was not happy with Mayor Brian Arrigo’s memo to the councillors concerning the Mayor’s proposed restoration of certain salaries that were reduced by the City Council during the budget process. Zambuto aired his criticisms at a recent Council meeting through a motion that was eventually referred to the Ways and Means Subcommittee meeting on Oct. 26.

“I am distraught by a memo that tells me that the Mayor is about to circumvent the will of

the City Council,” began Zambuto. “We had a lengthy budget, sometimes contentious budget deliberation. I don’t know about you but I know my constituents voted for the City Council to be the legislative body for the Mayor. I’m sure there’s a loophole and the Mayor’s found it and we’ll deal with that in the future.”

Zambuto asked in a motion that Mayor Arrigo be directed to justify his authority to make [salary] appropriations without the approval of the City Council. The increases in salary are believed to be for the members of the Mayor’s Cabinet. The Council voted against the salary increases during the Fiscal Year 2021 budget process.

“I’m asking for the justification and how the Mayor has gotten around the law,” said Zambuto.

Councillor-at-Large Gerry Visconti asked that the City Council request a written opinion from the Mass. Bureau of Municipal Finance Law “on the legality of certain appropriations relative to salaries made by the Mayor in excess of what was approved by the City Council in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget.”

“This is not political,” continued Visconti. “This is strictly about checks and balances. I want to make sure we are doing the right thing. I assume the Administration has

done that, but I’m here to represent the residents.”

Councillor-at-Large George Rotondo said, “We are the checks and balances. To make it simplified for people, the Mayor is the President and we’re the Congressional, Senate body – we are the ones that deliberate on the budget and the allocation of money, the appropriation of dollars etc.”

“The issue is how can you give a pay raise – when you have people being laid off and people losing their house and people losing their job here in the city itself, it’s hard to justify that,” said Rotondo.

“The issue here is beyond the law. It’s about perception at this point and that part of this issue.”

Zambuto concluded by expressing his further disapproval of the Mayor’s actions. “I said during the budget process that at the time it was morally repugnant to put up [salary] increases during a pandemic when we laid off people and when people are asked to retire early,” said Zambuto. “I can’t think of anything more morally repugnant than finding a way around the will of the City Council. Right now, I’m very uncomfortable with what’s going on here.”

Ward 6 Councillor Richard Serino requested that the Mayor’s communication to the Council be read aloud at the

meeting and City Clerk Ashley Melnik did so. It was a somewhat unusual request, but to her extreme credit, Melnik had the communication on tap immediately for public consumption.

In that communication, Arrigo wrote, “The Council’s action [rejecting the proposed salary increases of seven positions from the budget] does not diminish the importance of the positions I sought to fund. The reorganization of our administrative framework is critical to facilitate outstanding and efficient service to our residents. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impose extraordinary demands on our workforce and underscore the need for skilled and dedicated staff, I have explored alternative means of funding the payroll adjustments without affecting the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget. I have determined we are able to restore the unfunded portions of salaries with a combination of federal, state, and local dollars without impacting the city’s bottom line.”


City Council President Patrick Keefe said the matter will be referred to the Ways and Means Committee, asking that Director of Finance Richard Viscay be present for the next meeting to respond to questions from the Council.

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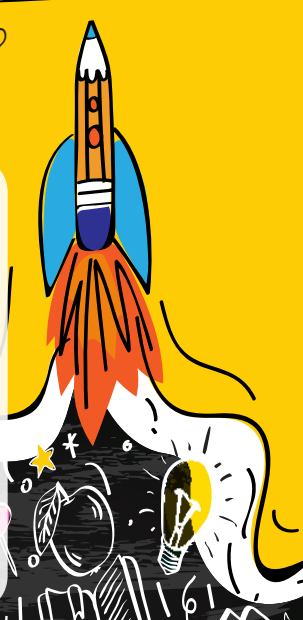
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## OBITUARIES

### Marjorie Virginia Colwell

Her family was her first priority; she was a rock in her community, well known and well loved by so many

Marjorie Virginia (Anderson) Colwell, a lifelong resident of Eagle Hill (Falcon, Trenton and Lexington Streets), East Boston, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on October 10 after a courageous battle with Pancreatic Cancer.

The beloved wife of Peter Gillen Colwell, she was the daughter of the late Arthur and Annie (Finney) Anderson; devoted mother of Susan Colwell Boriso and her husband, Edward of Virginia and Peter Glenn Colwell and his wife, Trevia of Maryland; dear sister of Charles Anderson of Halifax and Helen Campbell of Florida; adored grandmother of Peter, Kelly, Vanessa, Kyle and Ryan. She is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and in-laws.

Margie specialized in the Tonsorial Course of Study as a student at Boston Trade School and received her high school diploma from the Boston Trade School the same day she earned her diploma from the New England Barber School in 1956. Margie was a Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star, a member of the Margaret Winthrop Rebekah Lodge 153, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Mystic Valley Railway Society.

Margie dedicated herself to self-improvement. She had a spontaneous sense of humor and a sharp, truthful response to current issues of the day. She entertained people in nursing homes, prisons, and performed at birthday parties. She was a hostess of the traveling entertainment show called "The Singletones" – performing with her brother Charlie and her husband, Peter. Margie was a Sunday School teacher for several years at St. John's Episcopal Church in East Boston.

Margie loved her family and was known for putting on fun and elaborate family gatherings and was especially known for her baked haddock dinners, great haircuts, and her warm hospitality. Her energy lit up a room and imprinted on people what families are all about – enthusiastic love for each other.



Margie's first priority was her family. She was a cheerleader, always encouraging her husband, children, and grandchildren to be their very best. Margie contributed much of her time volunteering at her children's schools: assisting the teacher at Montessori School, organizing events and being "lunch lady" at St. Rose Elementary School in Chelsea and soliciting yearbook advertisements for Boston Latin School.

Margie was a rock in her community, well known and well-loved by so many people. Family and friends will honor Marjorie's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston on Thursday, October 15 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. before leaving in funeral procession to Sacred Heart Church, Brooks St., East Boston for an 11 a.m. Funeral Mass in celebration of Majorie's life.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation, PO Box 1848 Longmont, CO 80502. 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 and social distancing measures are encouraged. To leave an online condolence please visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

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

### Hazel "Dottie" LoRusso

Her positive influence will live on throughout many generations

Hazel "Dottie" (Campbell) LoRusso of Revere, formerly of the North End of Boston, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on October 10 at the age of 92.

Hazel raised her family of eight children in the North End of Boston before moving to Revere in 1980. She loved having company. Her home was always filled with love and family especially on Sundays for Sunday Dinners. Her positive influence is seen and felt and will live on throughout many generations.

The former wife of Salvatore "Sammy" LoRusso of the North End, she was the devoted mother of Celia Plagenza and her husband, Joseph of East Boston, Domenic LoRusso of Revere, Karen Cavallo and her husband, Carmen of Revere, Suzanne Hemsthat and her husband, Mac of Thailand, Thomas LoRusso and his wife, Janice of Brockton, Phyllis LoRusso of Revere, Doreen McWade and her husband, Charles of Winthrop and John LaRusso and his wife, Allison of Boylston; dear sister of Chester Campbell of North Andover and



Carol Campbell of Saugus and the late Thomas Campbell, Florence Chaput and Frances Shay and the adored grandmother of 19 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Hazel's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston today, Oct. 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. 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 won in the funeral home and social distancing measures are encouraged. To send an online condolence, please visit: [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

### Rose Caruso

Devout Catholic

Rose (Rossi) Caruso, a lifelong resident of Revere, died on October 8 at the age of 97.

Rose was a devout Catholic who attended Mass regularly at St. Anthony's Church. She enjoyed spending summers with her family and friends at Revere Beach. She will be truly missed by all who knew her.

Born in Revere on June 22, 1923 to the late Anthony Rossi and Marie (Rappa), she was the beloved wife of the late Armando Caruso, devoted mother of Armand Caruso of Revere and the late Angela Adams (Caruso), cherished grandmother of James Adams and his wife, Lisa of Maynard, adored great grandmother of Sofia Adams and dear sister of the late Michael Rossi, Anthony Rossi, and Emily Martuccio.



A Funeral Mass was Celebrated at St. Anthony's Church in Revere and Entombment was at Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Rose's name to American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005 or at [www2.heart.org](http://www2.heart.org). For guest book, please visit [www.buonfiglio.com](http://www.buonfiglio.com).

### Raffaella Sujko

Of Saugus, formerly of East Boston

Raffaella "Raffie" Sujko of Saugus, formerly of East Boston, passed away surrounded by her loving family on Friday, October 2 at the age of 94.

The beloved wife of the late Stanley Sujko, she was the devoted mother of Karn DiFava of Wilmington and the late Mark, Stephen and Ann Sujko; dear sister of Annette Caruccio of Chelsea, Emma Maffei of Weston, Christopher "Sonny" DiChiara of Arizona, Carol Aliberti of Saugus and the late Angelo "Holly" DiChiara, Nicholas DiChiara, Rose Brogna, Florence Constanzo and Millie Sousa and cherished grandmother of John and Rachelle DiFava and Stephen, Mark, Loren, Tara, Taylor and Nicolas. She is also survived by four great-grandchildren and many loving nieces and nephews.



Family and friends will honor Raffie's life by gathering on Saturday, October 17 at St. Joseph - St. Lazarus Church 59 Ashley St., East Boston for an 11 a.m. memorial mass in celebration of Raffie's life. All services will be held in accordance with Phase 3 of the Commonwealth of MA COVID-19 reopening. Face coverings are required and social distancing is encouraged.

To send an online condolence please visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

## MVES recommends simple steps to avoid falls

One in four Americans aged 65+ falls each year, according to the National Council on Aging. Every 11 seconds, an older adult is treated in the emergency room for a fall; every 19 minutes, an older adult dies from a fall. Falls are the leading cause of fatal injury and the most common cause of nonfatal trauma-related hospital and nursing home admissions among older adults.

Although falls are prevalent in older adults, there could be many ways to help your loved one continue to live safely in their own home.

Falls and accidents seldom "just happen." Usually there are at least several contributing factors that lead to a fall. The danger in some of these factors can be eliminated or reduced by taking simple steps recommended by Mystic Valley Elder Services to make an elder's home safer. Read more to find out a room-by-room breakdown of some of these steps:

**Bathrooms:** Place a rubber mat or rubber safety strips in the tub or shower. Install sturdy grab bars in the tub/shower area to provide support. Have a night light available to use after dark and in the middle of the night.

**Bedrooms:** Use night lights or bedside, remote-controlled light switches. Place the telephone in an area easy to get to and keep the cord out of walking pathways. Consider a cordless telephone.

**Stairs and hallways:** Put light switches conveniently at both the top and bottom of stairs. Make sure carpeting is not loose or buckling and use non-skid treads on stairs. Both sides of each stairway should have sturdy handrails running their entire lengths. Avoid waxing hardwood

floors that could create a slippery surface.

**Living areas:** Secure and place electrical/telephone cords out of walking pathways. Remove throw rugs that might slide or attach non-skid strips to rug backings. Furniture should be arranged to allow for unobstructed walkways. It is important to keep floors clear of clutter.

Other tips to prevent falls:

- You should also be aware of clothing and behavior that can help create a safer environment. You should wear well-fitted, flat, rubber-soled shoes to prevent slipping.
- Do not walk or climb stairs with arms loaded—always leave a hand free for balance.
- Slowly get out of bed and slowly rise from sitting to avoid dizziness.
- Make sure to have your vision tested regularly and keeps your glasses clean.
- Be aware of any medications you are taking that could cause difficulty with balance.
- You should be discussing the falls with your primary care physician to see if there is a medical condition that needs attention.

The dangerous situation created by a fall is frequently compounded by the inability to call for help. Personal emergency response systems should be installed whenever someone appears to be at risk of falling. The systems provide 24-hour access to emergency help, giving both the elder and family members some sense of security.

For more information on services provided by Mystic Valley elder Services, please call (781) 324-7705 or visit [www.mves.org](http://www.mves.org).

## Justice Department prevails in habeas class action lawsuit

The U.S. Attorney's Office prevailed in a habeas class action brought by law firms WilmerHale and Todd & Weld LLP seeking the release of over 150 detainees awaiting trial on federal charges, including serious drug and gun crimes, on the ground that continued detention was unconstitutional because of the threat to health and safety posed by COVID-19.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has put enormous pressure on detention facilities," stated United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling. "Our law enforcement partners in Plymouth met that challenge by swiftly instituting measures to ensure the safety of detainees, staff, and the public. Consequently, they prevailed, despite the plaintiffs' insistence that the facility was still unsafe. We are pleased the Court recognized Plymouth's efforts in this case."

"The health and safety of the persons committed to the Department's care and custody, the staff, and the public is of paramount importance," Plymouth County Sheriff Joseph D. McDonald, Jr., said. "It is gratifying to see that the Court has recognized the many measures the Department has taken to protect people during this time of unprecedented

challenge."

In April 2020, the detainees filed a habeas petition challenging the conditions at the Plymouth County Correctional Facility ("PCCF"), the state jail where they are held, as inadequate to address the COVID-19 pandemic. They sought an injunction that would require the immediate release of some or all of them, as well as various other forms of relief. In May 2020, U.S. District Court Judge Leo T. Sorokin denied their request for an injunction based on the many measures and policies in place at PCCF to protect detainees and staff, but stopped short of dismissing the case at that time. In September 2020, the Court found that the detainees could not establish an entitlement to habeas relief, and that it would deny the habeas petition unless they presented additional evidence by Oct. 8, 2020. Instead, the detainees voluntarily dismissed the case.

U.S. Attorney Lelling and Sheriff McDonald made the announcement today. The case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jason C. Weida and Rachel Goldstein of Lelling's Civil Division, with assistance from Lisa Olson of the Justice Department's Civil Division.



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# AG Healey announces statewide voter protection initiative

With a clear message that her office will protect the right to vote in Massachusetts, Attorney General Maura Healey today announced major initiatives to ensure election integrity in the weeks leading up to November 3.

“As Election Day approaches, I want each and every voter to know that my office is working hard to ensure your vote is counted, your voice is heard, and our elections have integrity,” AG Healey said. “We are here to strengthen trust in our democratic process and protect your right to vote.”

•Election Protection Task Force

AG Healey has made voter protection and election integrity a priority of her office and is taking action to ensure a free and fair election. She convened an internal task force to coordinate election protection related priorities across the office and with state attorneys general across the country.

The task force includes attorneys in the AG’s Office with expertise in civil rights, civil litigation, and criminal prosecution. Its work is focused on ensuring that every ballot cast is counted and preparing to respond to and prosecute voter intimidation, which includes staffing the office’s civil rights hotline to address concerns of interference at the polls.

•Voter Education Campaign

The AG’s Office has launched a new website with resources available for voters, including important dates, information about voting options, and how the AG’s Office is protecting your right to vote. For more information, visit [mass.gov/protectthevote](https://mass.gov/protectthevote).

This week, the AG’s Office will also distribute thousands of voter protection flyers in multiple languages to the state’s community-based organizations, faith-based groups, neighborhood associations, disability rights advocates, senior centers, colleges and

universities, government officials, and municipalities. The flyers have been translated to Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese, and are also available online at [mass.gov/votingflyers](https://mass.gov/votingflyers).

The AG’s Voter Protection Flyer has information about how to vote, including making sure voters register or confirm their voter registration at [www.RegisterToVoteMA.com](https://www.RegisterToVoteMA.com) by the deadline of Oct. 24, 2020. Voters can vote four ways:

•Vote Early by Mail: Apply now at [www.MailMyBallotMA.com](https://www.MailMyBallotMA.com). We recommend you submit your application by Oct. 20. Return your ballot by mail or deliver it in person to your local election office, an official ballot return drop box, or any early voting location in your city or town during early voting hours. Your ballot must be postmarked or dropped off by Nov. 3 and, if mailed, must be received by your local election office by Nov. 6. Track your ballot at [www.TrackMyBallotMA.com](https://www.TrackMyBallotMA.com) or look up drop-off locations at [www.mass.gov/vote](https://www.mass.gov/vote).

•Vote Early in Person: Vote at an early voting location in your city or town between Oct. 17 and Oct. 30. Early voting locations and hours will be posted by Oct. 9 on [www.MassEarlyVote.com](https://www.MassEarlyVote.com).

•Vote Absentee: You

can vote absentee if you will be out of town or have a physical disability or a religious belief that prevents you from voting at your polling location. Request an absentee ballot by October 28 and postmark or drop off your ballot by November 3. If mailed, your ballot must be received by your local election office by Nov. 6. Request an absentee ballot application by calling 1-800-462-VOTE or visiting [www.mass.gov/vote](https://www.mass.gov/vote).

•Vote in Person on Election Day: On Nov. 3, vote at your polling location between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. If you are in line by 8 p.m., you have the right to vote. Confirm your polling location at [www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com](https://www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com).

The AG’s flyer also discusses voters’ rights to equal access, to vote without intimidation and to have their vote counted.

•Right to Equal Access: All polling locations are required to be accessible, have an accessible voting booth, and have a system that allows voters with disabilities to mark their ballot privately and independently. People with disabilities may also have someone assist them at an early voting or polling location, use the accessible vote-by-mail system, or vote absentee. Call 1-800-462-VOTE / TTY: 1-800-720-3480 for more info or visit [www.mass.gov/vote](https://www.mass.gov/vote).

•Right to Vote without

Intimidation: State law prohibits election interference and voter intimidation. If someone verbally or physically confronts you while you are trying to vote, requests documentation where none is required, follows you, or interferes in some other way with your right to vote, call the Attorney General’s Office at 617-963-2917.

•Right to Have Your Vote Counted: If you vote by mail, track your ballot at [www.TrackMyBallotMA.com](https://www.TrackMyBallotMA.com) to make sure it is received and accepted. If your ballot is rejected, your local election official should contact you and send another—you can submit the ballot or vote in person. If you receive a mail ballot but do not return it or if you are concerned your election office will not receive it in time, you may vote in person.

•Protecting Against Voter Intimidation

Voters have the right to cast their ballot free from intimidation, harassment, or interference. State and federal laws protect this right and AG Healey has said that those who engage in this type of illegal activity will be prosecuted. The law prohibits voter intimidation by public officials and private citizens alike.

In September, after President Trump threatened to send law enforcement officials to polling locations to monitor elections, AG Healey’s Of-

fice issued an advisory to make clear that intimidating or interfering with voters is illegal. The advisory reminds voters that their right to vote safely and free from intimidation, harassment, and coercion is protected under federal and state law.

AG Healey is reminding voters that if someone verbally or physically threatens or harasses you while you are trying to vote, or interferes in some other way with your right to vote, you can call the AG’s Civil Rights Division for help at 617-963-2917. If you need immediate assistance, dial 911 or contact your local police department.

•Multistate Action

AG Healey joined a coalition of attorneys general in filing for a preliminary injunction, which was granted, in a lawsuit

seeking an immediate halt to illegal changes to the United States Postal Service (USPS) that interfere with postal workers’ ability to effectively deliver the mail. In their lawsuit, the attorneys general assert that in some parts of the country, USPS’s actions from July 2020 have led to significant delays, harmed veterans, seniors, and rural communities, and could disrupt the November election without court intervention.

Information regarding voter registration and voting procedures in Massachusetts can be found on the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s Elections Division website at: [www.sec.state.ma.us/election](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/election).

For more information about AG Healey’s election protection efforts, visit [mass.gov/protectthevote](https://mass.gov/protectthevote).

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### LEGAL NOTICE

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PETITION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF  
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PERSON PURSUANT

TO G.L. c. 190B,  
§5-304  
Docket No.  
SU20P1858GD  
In the matter of:  
Joyce Moore  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated  
Person  
Of: East Boston, MA

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed Mass. Dept. Of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Joyce Moore is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 11/12/2020. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: October 06, 2020  
Felix D. Arroyo,  
Register of Probate  
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## Design // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by the city for the first time show the all glass, 850 square foot addition that will house the senior center’s main entrance, lobby, elevator and stairwell. The renderings also show the outdoor terrace that is part of the design.

“I’m proud to see construction is underway on the new senior center in Orient Heights, East Boston,” said Mayor Martin Walsh. “In Boston, we are dedicated to making investments that directly benefit in our communities, and this senior center will be vital to increasing services for our older Bostonians.”

For decades East Boston’s senior citizens and senior groups like the Golden Age Club have been clamoring for their own space in the community. Currently, Eastie seniors share space at other non-profits for senior programs, social hours,

parties and other events. A dedicated senior center would allow seniors to accomplish these things within the confines of their own permanent location.

Investments from Massport, through a mitigation struck with the Logan Impact Advisory Committee (LIAG), will help support the programming and operational needs of the newly renovated center once construction is complete.

“We are proud to join with Mayor Walsh to support this great project for the East Boston community,” said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. “Massport strives to be a good neighbor to our surrounding communities. Over the years, with the help of East Boston residents and elected officials, we have fulfilled many community commitments in East Boston. Our support of this new Senior Center is

a great example of these collaborative efforts.”

The City’s current budget for the design and construction is \$5.43 million and the estimated completion date is fall 2021.

“I think this senior center is a wonderful opportunity for our community, and I thank Mayor Walsh and Massport for making it possible,” said Fran Carbone, who has been advocating for a senior center for the past five years. “Seniors look forward to having some substance every week. It’s going to empower us to have somewhere to go everyday and enjoy. Participating in the community process is a wonderful opportunity for us to put our happy wishes into the building. It feels like a dream—it’s finally coming to fruition. We have a lot of plans, and we are ready.”



This photo shows the back of the new senior center complete with the 850 square foot glass enclosure and outdoor terrace.



Last week the city released the official artist renderings of new senior center design. This photo shows the center’s entrance on Bayswater Street with the new 850 square foot addition.



The 850 square foot glass addition will house the new senior centers main entrance, lobby and staircase to downstairs.

## Mural // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

East Boston in 2020.

Sea Walls: Artists for Oceans is part of global initiatives that has produced over 400 murals in 16 countries calling attention to climate change from New Zealand to Mexico to Indonesia to the Caribbean.

This was the first time Sea Walls: Artists for Oceans has come to the Northeast and Eastie is home to “Sea Walls Boston”. The art initiative is going to be part of a bigger pilot project that will involve more artists and more murals all in Eastie in the near future.

Sea Walls Boston kicked off in September with the creation of the first four of six large-scale ocean-themed murals at the Boston Harbor Shipyard and Marina. Then, two subsequent murals were painted on the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway later in the month.

Participating talents are local ARTivists Silvia López Chavez, Julia “JULZ” Roth + Cedric “Vise1” Douglas, Josie Morway, IMAGINE, Sophy Tuttle, and Artists for Humanity featuring teen leaders from Eastie.

Pollock said these six murals were painted with a purpose to give our oceans a creative voice, by serving as educational tools and conversation-starters about locally relevant key issues affecting our oceans, environment, and people.

Presenting Sea Walls Boston is long-time PangeaSeed Foundation supporter Linda Cabot. Cabot is a lifelong ocean advocate, sailor, and founder of Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs, a Boston-based nonprofit that challenges students to explore issues impacting the oceans through art.

As part of Cabot’s support of the project, she has recruited Artists For Humanity for one of the murals located at the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway.

“I am thrilled to be able to present Boston Sea Walls, especially this year when we are exploring the intersection of social and environmental justice,” she said. “As an artist and ocean educator I know art and creative expression has an unique superpower to engage, educate and inspire beyond what is traditionally known. Boston, a waterfront city is prime for this type of innovative and relevant activation as a community that is concerned about sea level rise, depleted fish stocks and warming waters. Working with the world renowned PangeaSeed Foundation and HarborArts is a dream come true. I have also engaged Artists for

Humanity for this project so that youth and their creative voices can be represented in this one-of-a-kind project to raise awareness for the health of our oceans.”

A seventh Sea Walls mural painted by Colombian-American artist, Felipe Ortiz, will now be added to the series of new installations.

Ortiz is scheduled to begin painting this week. The painting will reference the topic of warming seas, a new topic in the list of Ocean-themed environmental issues covered in this year’s Sea Walls: Artists for Oceans.

“It’s not front of mind for a lot of us, but the Gulf of Maine is the fastest warming body of water in the United States, which is causing many of the cold water marine species in the US to migrate to colder waters,” said Pollock. “The same issues that are destroying coral reefs and causing biodiversity to disappear all over the world also affect us right here at home. This mural will represent how our oceans are all connected.”

Sea Walls Boston is produced in partnership with Boston Harbor Now, Ocean Havens, East Boston Main



HarborArts Director Matthew Pollock is serving as Project Director for Sea Walls Boston. Here Pollock discusses one of the completed Sea Walls Boston murals at the Boston Harbor Shipyard and Marina.

Streets, the Davis Companies, the East Boston Foundation, Artists for Humanity, the Donald McKay School, the Barr Foundation, the Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway (formerly the East Boston Greenway), Montana Cans, and many members of the East Boston community. The project is also supporting local small businesses and restaurants impacted by COVID-19 by purchasing materials and food for the artists and volunteers.

For more information on Sea Walls Boston, please visit seawalls.org or contact the local Sea Walls team at SeaWallsBoston@pangeaseed.org



Participating talents are local ARTivists Silvia López Chavez, Julia “JULZ” Roth + Cedric “Vise1” Douglas, Josie Morway, IMAGINE, Sophy Tuttle, and Artists for Humanity featuring teen leaders from Eastie.



Artist Silvia López Chavez works on her mural as part of the Sea Walls Boston public art initiative.

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