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East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

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A step backwards

Baker Administration announces statewide rollback to Step Three

By Lauren Bennett

The Baker administration on Tuesday announced that all Massachusetts cities and towns will roll back to Step Three, Phase One of the state's reopening plan, effective Sunday, December 13.

Following increases in hospitalizations and cases after the Thanksgiving holiday, the "sharp increase is putting a strain on our healthcare system and frontline workers," Baker said.

As of Monday, the state had 2,463 new cases of COVID-19, and the seven day average test rate is about 5.5 percent, the governor said. There are also 1,516 people hospitalized with the virus, and 302 in the ICU.

He said that continuing at this rate is "not sustainable over time" and will continue to put the healthcare system and healthcare workers at increased risk.

Prior to and "just after" Thanksgiving, Baker said that the "data was showing progress" from the restrictions put in place about a month ago, including a stay at home advisory from 10pm to 5am, and reducing the indoor gathering limit to 10 people.

He said that there is "hope" with the vaccine coming soon, but "we cannot simply wait for the vaccine to get here."

Reverting back to Phase Three, Step One will help to "reduce the opportunities this virus can have to spread," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. Baker ac-

See BAKER Page 2



The Quiet Few owner Josh Weinstein (left) hands out some food and drinks last Tuesday before the city's public space program ended. The program allowed restaurants in Eastie to use city sidewalks for outdoor seating.

Outdoor seating on private property extended, Public Space program ends

By John Lynds

Mayor Martin Walsh reminded owners that outdoor dining on private property was extended indefinitely without the need for further permits.

However, the city's "Public Space" program expired last Tuesday. Restaurant owners in East Boston who tried to increase business by providing an outdoor dining

option, started packing up their outdoor tables, chairs, heating lamps and barriers and rely solely on limited indoor dining throughout the winter months if they don't have private space for outdoor dining. Other restaurants with limited space have decided to switch to strictly takeout for the time being.

The Public Space program allowed restaurants

throughout Eastie to use city sidewalks, streets, parking lots and to set up tables, chairs and other amenities for outdoor dining.

"For restaurants, we have plans to continue our outdoor dining option," said Walsh last week during a press conference. "The public space ended on December 1. But, out-

See SEATING Page 2

Ruggiero Family Memorial Home hosts toy drive in honor of the late Peter Felt

By John Lynds

Just after Christmas last year, the man who brought smiles to thousands of faces over the years portraying Santa Clause at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home-sponsored tree

lighting in Orient Heights Square and other community events died suddenly.

Peter Felt brought joy to children, adults and seniors alike each and every Christmas season playing Santa during Eastie's tree lighting ceremonies, car-

oling events and special holiday luncheons and dinners.

Sadly, Felt died on January 3, 2020 just a few weeks after playing his beloved Santa role for the last time during Eastie's holiday season.

In honor of his memory and the fact that COVID has cancelled the annual tree lighting that Felt was a larger than life presence at year after year, the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home has decided to hold a toy drive in Felt's honor.

"Earlier this year we lost our dear loved one and favorite Santa Peter Felt," said Joe Ruggiero III. "While safety concerns won't offer us the opportunity to host the Orient Heights Tree Lighting, we are reaching out to the community for support in this cause. Every year Peter would deliver 100s

See FELT Page 2



Peter Felt playing Santa Clause last year during the annual Orient Heights Tree Lighting a few weeks before his sudden death. The Ruggiero Family Memorial Home has established a toy drive this year in Peter Felt's memory, a man who put smiles on countless faces during the holiday season and beyond.

Helping families

Annual Eastie's Elves toy drive fundraiser to switch gears due to COVID-19

By John Lynds

Usually around this time a year, East Boston would be buzzing with holiday cheer. However, neighborhood tree lightings, holiday parties and community events have all fallen victim to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Organizers of one such yearly event that has become a mainstay in Eastie and something many residents look forward to each year announced this week they will be doing things a little differently due to COVID.

Rep. Adrian Madaro's Madaro Family Community Fund announced that they have launched an Eastie's Elves toy collection program which will directly support local families who are in need of holiday gifts.

The toy collection drive will replace the annual Eastie's Elves gala usually held at the Hyatt Boston Harbor Hotel.

Last week, the non-profit organization placed toy drop-off boxes at twenty-four locations through-

out East Boston, Revere, and Winthrop. The drop-off sites will be available from now until December 15. The locations and program details can be found on the Madaro Family Community Fund's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/madarofamilycommunityfund/.

"We are very grateful to the businesses, organizations, and residential communities that have partnered with us as a drop-off location this year," said Ariel Madaro, Director of the Madaro Family Community Fund and wife of Rep. Madaro. "Even during this challenging holiday season, they have offered to help us in uplifting hundreds of families within our community."

As the largest toy drive in the neighborhood, the Madaro Family Community Fund was able to donate over 1,300 toys through Eastie's Elves last year. Ariel Madaro said the Madaro Family Community Fund hopes to exceed this amount during a time when the need is

See TOYS Page 12



Ariel Madaro, Director of the Madaro Family Community Fund and wife of Rep. Madaro with Milano's Delicatessen owner Vinny Caraglia. Milano's is one of 24 toy drop-off box sites for the annual Eastie's Elves toy drive fundraiser. The drop-off sites will be available from now until December 15.

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****Toys will be forwarded to Mayor Walsh's annual Toy Drive, Madaro Family
Eastie Elve's and other larger distribution drives that donate to countless of
families throughout East Boston, Boston and the surrounding communities****

For the latest news in East Boston that you need to know, check
eastietimes.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

EAST BOSTON YOUTH BASKETBALL SEASON ON HOLD

The organizers of the East Boston Youth Basketball regret to inform everyone that the 2020/21 season is currently on hold indefinitely due to Covid 19. A spokesperson for the group said, “ we regret this and would like to thank everyone for their understanding and patience. We would also like to say thank you to the following for their outstanding support of the program over the years Joe Ruggiero from Ruggiero Memorial Funeral Home, Joe Mario from Mario 21 Real Estate, and The East Boston Athletic Board. We also received a grant this past year from the East Boston Foundation. These contributions subsidize close to 200 participants each year. Finally, we would like to recognize our coaches and the staffs at Paris St. and The Marty Pino Center for all of their hard work. “

JPNA MEETING AGENDA

Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association will meet on Monday, December 14, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference.

AGENDA (subject to change):

- Greetings & Announcements
- Boston Police Update - TBD

- Lina Tramelli, Mayor's Liaison
 - New Board Member Swearing In - Karen Maddalena
 - The Trustees of Reservations - Piers Park Phase 3 Update
 - Tailwind Air - Sea-plane Service in Boston Harbor Update
 - VOTE: 156 Webster St - Request to change occupancy from a 3-Family to a 4-Family dwelling. Developer: Aaron Daigneault/Solskinn Properties
 - VOTE: 44 Cottage St - Raze Existing structures and erect a four unit residential dwelling with roof deck and parking for four vehicles. Developer: Crespo Construction. Represented by: Richard Lynds.
- As a reminder, all questions will be handled via the Zoom chat feature. We ask all attendees to remain muted unless called upon to speak. Looking forward to "seeing" you all there!
- We are using eBallot to manage the voting process. Within 48 hours after the meeting, eligible voters will be emailed a link that will allow them to vote online. All votes must be cast by Friday, December 18th at 7pm. Late votes will not be accepted, no exceptions.
- We hope you and your loved ones are well. We are all in this together as neighbors and friends. Please don't be afraid to reach out. The JPNA will be posting activities on Facebook for the next

three Wednesdays to promote community.

Registration Required!

Registration Required:
We ask everyone to register 24 hours in advance to help us manage the meeting.

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

2020 meeting dates are posted at jeffriespoint.org.

TRIAL COURT OPERATIONS THROUGH JAN. 8

In light of the major increase in COVID-19 infections in Massachusetts and experience with court staff testing and courthouse closures, the Trial Court will extend the reduction of in-person court operations begun on Nov. 27 through Jan. 8, 2021. Courthouses will remain open during this time, and Trial Court staff will be maximizing remote work and leveraging the technologies in place to conduct operations remotely.

The reduction of in-person hearings has the potential to significantly limit pre-symptomatic individuals from entering courthouses, and reduces the potential of those individuals infecting others.

Trial Court leaders have concluded that this plan is the best approach to balancing the need to provide access to courts and protecting the health and safety of court staff and court users.

To the extent possible, matters already scheduled during this time will be held as virtual proceedings. Parties, attorneys and court users with questions about matters scheduled during this time should contact the appropriate clerk's, register's, or recorder's office.

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Baker Administration orders first COVID-19 vaccines, expects December delivery

The state submitted the Commonwealth's initial vaccine order to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and expects to get 300,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine by the end of December.

The federal government allocated Massachusetts 59,475 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for this first shipment that is part of 300,000 doses that the CDC is expected to send to Massachusetts by the end of December. The first allotment of 300,000 COVID vaccines will be for the first dose of a two-dose regimen.

Anticipating that the federal government will

soon issue emergency use authorizations for additional vaccines, the Administration has been working with the COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group to prepare for a safe, equitable and efficient distribution that is based on guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Commonwealth has actively been working on preparedness and planning for a COVID-19 vaccine since early August. Over the past decade, the Commonwealth has invested in the state-of-the-art Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS), which

serves as the state's vaccine registry, ordering system, and inventory system. DPH has enhanced MIIS to prepare to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

This week, the Administration will roll out further information on vaccination prioritization.

For more information:

- Preparing for a COVID-19 Vaccine: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/preparing-for-a-covid-19-vaccine>

•COVID-19 Vaccination Plan (DRAFT): <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-interim-draft-plan/download>.

MBA Charitable Foundation honors MVES with \$5,000 Community Grant Award

Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) was recently selected to be a recipient of a \$5,000 Community Grant Award from the Massachusetts Bankers Association (MBA) Charitable Foundation. The award was given by the MBA Charitable Foundation, along with the Massachusetts banking industry, to MVES for all its hard work and initiatives throughout the years in supporting the communities the agency serves.

Close community partners Edward Doherty, CEO of StonehamBank, Jeffrey Worth, President and CEO of Wakefield Co-Operative Bank, and William Rivers, Vice President, Community Reinvestment Act Officer for Eagle Bank, nominated Mystic Valley Elder Services to recognize its positive and strong community impact.

"We are very grateful to the Massachusetts Bankers Association and its generous donation to our agency," said Daniel O'Leary, Chief Executive Officer of Mystic Valley Elder Services. "This donation will be a tremendous benefit to helping those older adults and adults living with disabilities in need. I would also like to thank our

community partner banks who nominated us for the grant award. They too are tremendous assets to the community.”

“On behalf of the entire Massachusetts banking community, we are thrilled to bring our collective strength to supporting organizations that are doing immense good in local communities across the Commonwealth,” said Peter G. Brown, Chairman of the MBA Charitable Foundation, and President and CEO of Dedham Savings. “As we see the impact of the Foundation’s support as well as the broader support from banks’ individual efforts, we are reminded that every gift-giving season amplifies the needs. As we recognize 49 organizations this year with the 2020 gifts, we do so with the knowledge and renewed focus that our work continues.”

Since its founding in 1996, the Foundation has provided gifts totaling approximately \$2.8 million, which is symbolic of the more than \$106 million in individual donations banks make on an annual basis to charitable non-profits and social agencies in communities throughout the Commonwealth.

The Massachusetts

Bankers Association represents approximately 135 commercial, savings, and co-operative and federal savings banks and savings and loan associations across the Commonwealth. Annually, the Charitable Foundation reaches out to member banks and ask to send in nominations of worthy charities and organizations who are actively addressing the needs of their community.

About Mystic Valley Elder Services

Celebrating 45 Years of helping older adults keep their independence, Mystic Valley Elder Services is a non-profit agency located in Malden, Mass., that provides essential home- and community-based care and resources to older adults, adults living with disabilities, and caregivers who reside in Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, North Reading, Reading, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield and Winthrop, regardless of their income level. Agency services include coordination of home care, transportation, Meals on Wheels, and information and referrals. For more information, please call (781) 324-7705 or visit www.mves.org.

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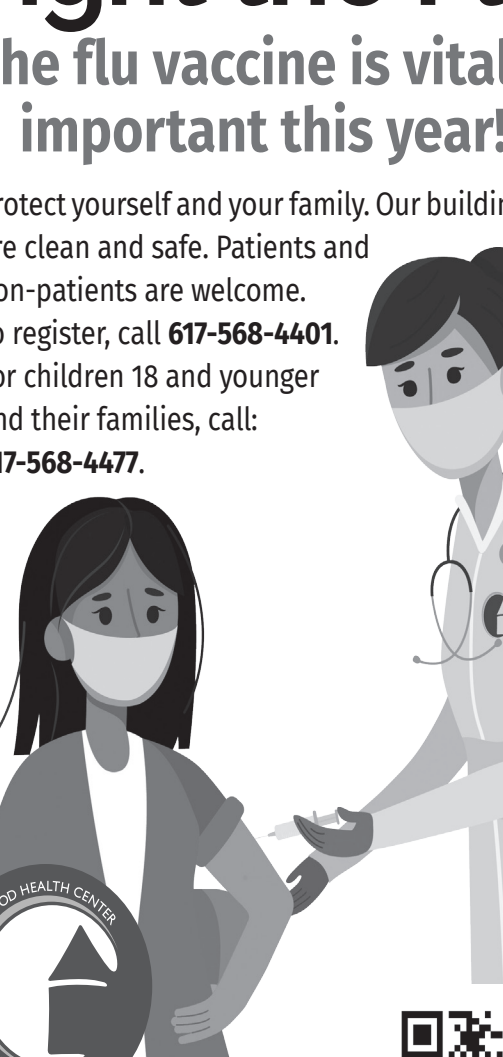
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Fight the Flu

The flu vaccine is vitally important this year!

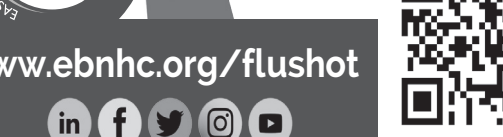
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For children 18 and younger and their families, call:
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in f t i y



Virtual Public Meeting

28-30 Geneva Street

Tuesday, December 15

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/28GenevaPublicMeeting

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 723 8268

Project Proponent:

Joel DeLuca

Project Description:

The 28-30 Geneva Street project was originally approved by the BPDA Board on May 16, 2019, as a 5-story building with 26 residential condo units and 19 parking spaces. On November 13, 2020, the Proponent submitted a document to the BPDA requesting authorization to revise the project. The proposed revisions include the elimination of 1 floor and 7 units from the previously approved building, which would result in a 4-story residential building with 19 residential condo units and 19 off-street vehicle parking spaces.

mail to: **Raul Duverge**

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Close of Comment Period:

1/4/2021

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HAPPY HANUKKAH

The eight-day observance of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, gets underway this Thursday, December 10, and will culminate next Friday, December 18.

In summary, Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees -- a group of fierce warriors who used guerilla tactics against an occupying army -- in 166 BCE when the Maccabees liberated the Jewish people from the Greek-based rulers who essentially had outlawed the Jewish religion.

When the triumphant Maccabees captured the city of Jerusalem, they quickly entered the Holy Temple, tossing out the images of the Greek gods that had been installed there by the occupying rulers.

When the Maccabees went to light the Menorah candles in the Temple, they thought they only had one day's worth of oil. However, the lights remained lit for eight days -- hence the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah is a joyous occasion for Jews world-wide, marked by large gatherings of friends and families and the playing of traditional games such as the dreidel and eating traditional foods such as latkes.

Although Hanukkah celebrations this year will be much more subdued than is typical because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we wish all of our Jewish friends a happy, healthy, and meaningful Hanukkah in 2020.

THE VIRUS IS A HUNTER -- AND WE ARE ITS PREY

It now has been nine months since lockdowns went into effect in many states, including here in Massachusetts on March 16. However, despite all of our previous efforts, the COVID-19 pandemic is surging across the entire United States.

The pleas of public health and government officials can only go so far if Americans fail to heed their warnings and do not take the common-sense and easy-to-follow steps of wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and not congregating in group settings of any kind.

With the promise of a vaccine on the horizon, this is no time to let our guard down. The virus is everywhere and no one is safe from it. Each and every one of us must assume personal responsibility for the safety of ourselves, our families, and our friends.

The coronavirus is a living organism that is stalking us wherever we go and whatever we do. We are its prey -- and it requires that we must be ever-vigilant in order to avoid becoming another victim and spreading it to others.

Selfishness and failure to follow the rules simply are not options amidst this widening pandemic.

PEARL HARBOR WAS 79 YEARS AGO

It was 79 years ago this week -- December 7 -- that the nation of Japan launched its attack on Pearl Harbor.

The very next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt convened a joint session of Congress in which he famously declared the attack as, "A day that will live in infamy," and asked Congress for a Declaration of War.

For more than two years prior to the attack, America had stayed out of the war that already had engulfed the rest of the world. By the time of the Japanese attack, Hitler's Nazis had conquered all of continental Europe and much of Africa, while the Japanese had invaded almost all of Asia, save for the U.S. outposts in the Philippines and other small islands in the Pacific.

Americans clung to the belief that our isolation, separated from the rest of the world by two oceans, would keep us out of the war. But after Pearl Harbor, we no longer could keep our heads buried in the sand.

The lessons of Pearl Harbor are many, but chief among them is that freedom isn't free -- and that we always must be vigilant to recognize the forces of evil that seek to destroy our way of life.

Your opinions, please

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

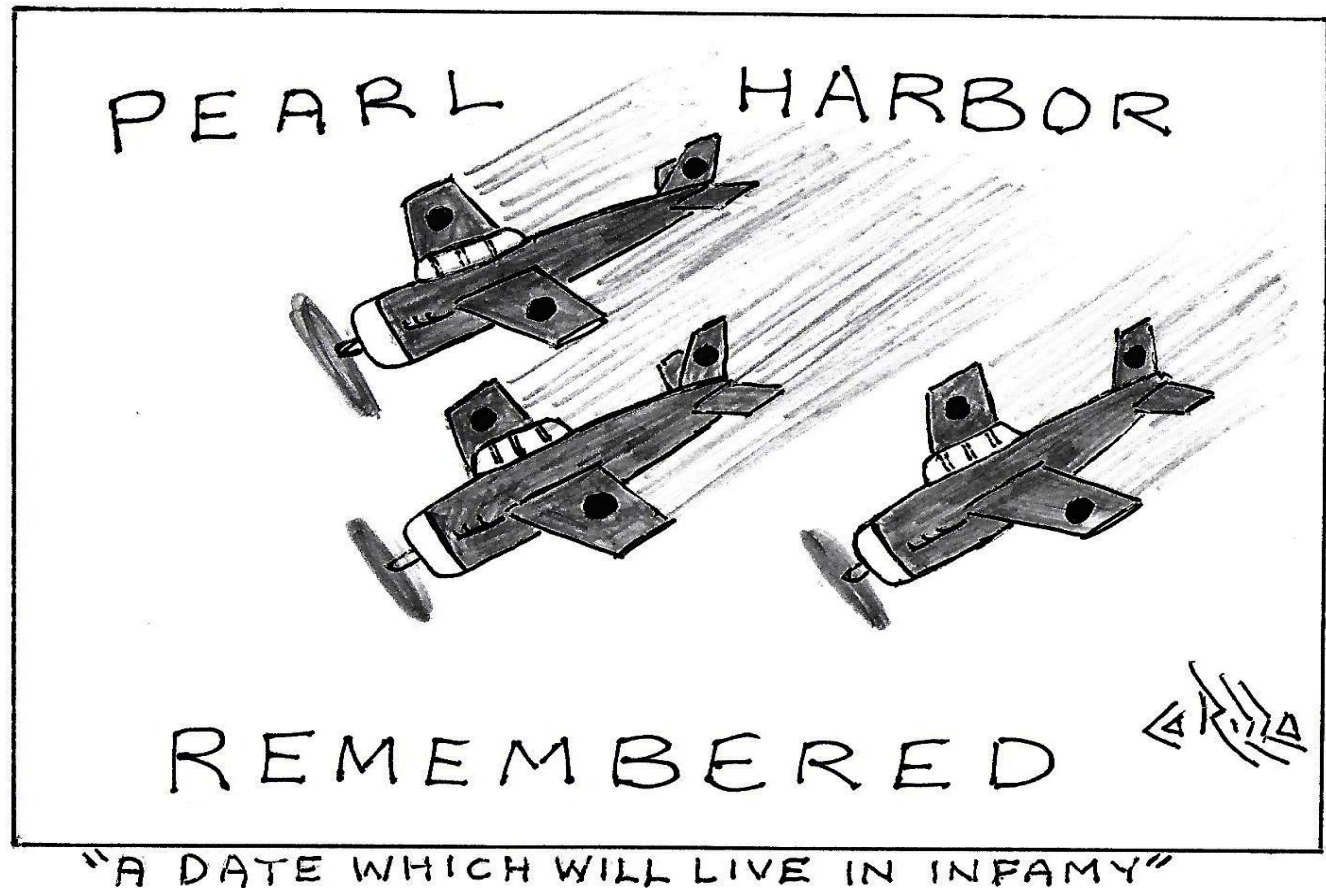
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Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@eastietimes.com. Letters must be signed.

We reserve the right to edit for length and content.



Forum



"A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY"

GUEST OP-ED

Cheer, brightness and hope

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Christmas has different beginning times for most everyone.

For some it's when you put up the Christmas tree and decorations.

For others it's when you wrap some presents and put them under the tree.

While for others it's about the Christmas music. When they first start hearing Christmas songs on the radio then Christmas has begun for them.

Christmas may begin for you when your family arrives home to share in your celebration. Or your Christmas celebration may really begin when your family finally leaves.

When I was a child Christmas started for me when everything came together. The big fresh tree was hewn down from the hillside. Once it was decorated, I started watching for Santa. But it still was 't Christmas until I came up with a big pack-

age of firecrackers, cherry bombs and other noisy fireworks. I always loved putting firecrackers and cherry bombs under cans to see how far they would fly through the air.

My mother would make cookies, cakes and pies. My dad would always buy a big box of apples and oranges. It seems like they lasted a week.

Christmas really began when family came home. When we all got together that's when it seemed Christmas really started. The excitement came by us all being together. Sharing gifts was fun and provided moments of laughter. Eating my mother's delicious meal was always a stable holiday treat we always enjoyed.

The best past part was everyone being together for a couple of days. With social distancing, this may be one element of Christmas that many will not get to enjoy in 2020.

So many thousands of people have died from Covid-19 and they will be missed at the Christmas table. If this is you please cling to the hope of life beyond this world and that you will see your loved one again.

I believe throughout our planet that seeing our sick friends get well would make Christmas for all of us.

Christmas is different this year. We must enter Christmas this year with hope. You have to have hope to live. Life without hope is like a car with no fuel. A vaccine for Covid-19 is coming. We are praying this will spare lives in 2021. We have hope that by next Christmas we can all get together and celebrate.

Keep in mind there has never been anything normal about Christmas. Mary and Joseph and the baby spent their first Christmas in a barn which

was like a cave for animals. The baby was laid in a cow's trough for a bed. Christmas always has the potential of being very different.

Remember Christmas is in your heart and that's where your main celebration and hope lie. May hope and Christmas be bright and rekindled anew and afresh. May you within your spirit hear the bells on Christmas day. And may you hear the angels sing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all men on whom his favor rests."

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

LETTER to the Editor

FINALIZE, PASS AND ENACT A COVID RELIEF PACKAGE

To the Editor:

With Election Day well behind us and most races settled, we renew our urgent request for action to help stave off further job loss on Main Street, especially as spiking coronavirus cases put economies across the country at further risk. A COVID RELIEF NOW Coalition survey of over 1,800 cities, counties and industry associations finds 80% of respondents indicating their financial health has been impacted negatively by COVID-19.

The time to advance the next round of COVID-related economic relief is now, during the 2020 lame-duck legislative session. Our country can't wait until 2021. Ninety-one percent of respondents believe that without another stimulus, their business, organization or government's condition will worsen.

New jobless claims again exceeded 700,000. There are signs that a once-nascent jobs recovery has markedly

cooled—especially at the lower rungs of the income ladder. Thirty-five percent of respondents to our survey say their business, organization or government has slashed its workforce due to the current economic situation. However, the worst may be yet to come: 95% of survey respondents believe their organization or industry will face growing challenges—or be forced to shutter altogether.

Revenue shortfalls are imperiling the delivery of many public services for both city and county governments. In fact, most local governments believe they will face significant challenges in providing needed services.

Though certain segments of the economy have managed to adapt and thrive during the pandemic, others are at the mercy of coronavirus-related shutdowns, and have borne the worst of the economic fallout. Travel, for instance—which encompasses segments like lodging and transportation, but also has enormous downstream impact for industries such as restaurants, retail and business events—current-

ly accounts for more than a third of all U.S. unemployment. Travel-supported jobs employed one in 10 Americans prior to COVID-19, but 4.5 million of those jobs are projected to be lost by year's end.

Spiking infection rates

and new rounds of restrictions have profoundly diminished the outlook for an immediate economic recovery. Earlier rounds of legislative relief never anticipated the extended length of closures and

See LETTER Page 9

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Roy's Cold Cuts on Marion Street turns 60

By John Lynds

When you step into Roy's Cold Cuts and Pizzeria in East Boston it's like stepping back in time. Inside the Antonuccio Family-owned sub shop at 198 Marion St. very little has changed. The counters and deli slicer are in the same spot, the Beatles and other 1960s memorabilia that adorn the walls are the same and, of course, the subs are still as solid as ever.

At the end of November Roy's Cold Cuts, founded by Roy Antonuccio Sr. and his wife Ceceilia in 1960, celebrated its Diamond Anniversary and after six decades in the neighborhood not even COVID has slowed the popular sub shop down.

"Sixty years ago my mother and father, along with three year old me, started with nothing and became a tradition that's still going strong 60 years later," said Roy Antonuccio Jr. who still runs Roy's with his family. "We have a lot of customers that have been with us since the beginning and lots of new customers everyday who already feel like family. We are grateful for your



Roy Jr. with his dad, Roy Sr. Roy Antonuccio Sr. and his wife, Ceceilia founded Roy's Cold Cuts on Marion Street in 1960.

loyalty and we'll continue to give you the best experience and prepare the best quality food for you and for your family everyday. We feel the love and hope you feel it too. Thank you for 60 years. We're looking forward to seeing you for 60 more. Long live Roy's Cold Cuts and long live Rock and Roll."

For 60 years Roy's has had a captive audience on Eagle Hill and serves up quality hot and cold subs, salads, appetizers and other specialty items like homemade stuffed peppers and fried ravioli.

Over the years Antonuccio said he and his family have watched customers that were once kids now bring their own kids to Roy's to get the food that has made the sub shop a neighborhood sta-



Roy Antonuccio Sr. behind the counter at Roy's Cold Cuts.

ple. "It's always been a real neighborhood place and it continues to be that way," said Antonuccio. "We have old friends that come back from as far as Saugus and Peabody but we've made a lot of new friends along the way. It's nice to see people grow up on your food."

From subs like the "Mad Cow"--shaved steak, bacon, nacho cheese, and jalapenos to the homemade meatball subs filled with perfectly seasoned cotton soft meatballs, marinara and melted provolone cheese, the food at Roy's has been consistently good for six decades.

The recipes haven't changed much since his parents ran the business but Antonuccio Jr. creat-

ed some new and exciting subs as the business has evolved.

Many of the subs listed on Roy's menu have been assigned whimsical names that are right in line with Antonuccio's laid back jovial personality.

Like the 'Which Came First?'--a chicken cutlet topped with an over-easy egg and melted cheese or the 'Angry Leprechaun'--a corned beef sandwich with melted jalapeno cheese and Dijon mustard.

Over the years, Roy's lore in the neighborhood caught the attention of food shows as well as celebrities like Johnny Depp who frequented Roy's when he was filming Black Mass in Boston.

Some come in for a quick bite while others spend some time deciding on which signature sub to order or to check out Antonuccio's extensive collection of Beatles and Rock and Roll memorabilia.

"I love this place," said Maria Vivas. "This was my childhood store. After getting out of school we would stop by and get pizza. We used to get it on a napkin and all the cheese would get stuck on it but



The Antonuccio Family, from left, Roy Sr., Roy Jr. and Ceceilia Antonuccio.



Roy's Cold Cuts and Pizzeria owner Roy Antonuccio Jr. with his daughter, Rachel, and mother Ceceilia, who founded Roy's with her husband 60 years ago.

to us it was the best pizza ever. Twenty years later I went back and spoke to (the Antonuccio -- Roy, Jr.) who recognized me and still remembered me. Not many places are still around in East Boston like this so I'm glad they are

still going strong." Jacqueline Bowe Di-Michele called Roy's "the best" and an Eastie staple. "Roy's was a wonderful part of my childhood and is a wonderful part of my adult years," she said.

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBERED DURING CEREMONY IN CHARLESTOWN

A commemorative event was held in Charlestown for the 79th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on Sunday, Dec. 7. The event that was held on board U.S.S. Cassin Young in Charlestown.

Guest speaker Micheal Creasey, National Park Service of Boston Superintendent, and Religious Program Specialist Chief Select Jesse Kiepper spoke at the event.



Religious Program Specialist Chief Select Jesse Kiepper.



Guest Speaker Michael Creasey, National Park Service of Boston Superintendent.



Taps was played by a member of the Charlestown ROTC.



The memorial wreath is tossed overboard into the ocean.

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NOAH’s Manlio Mendez honored by Rep. Madaro and the MBLLC

By John Lynds

Rep. Adrian Madaro and the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) recently honored NOAH’s (Neighborhood of Affordable Housing) Manlio Mendez as a Latinx Trailblazer for his continued impact on the East Boston community despite grim challenges.

Madaro nominated Mendez for his many contributions to Eastie through his work with NOAH and beyond.

Mendez was born in El Salvador and immigrated to the United States in 1992. He moved to Boston in 1995. He overcame the challenges many new immigrants face, including learning English, obtaining legal status, finding work, and a decent, safe affordable home. But he loved the city and the opportunities Boston offered.

In 2003, Mendez began working as a community organizer at NOAH and now serves as their Senior Community Organizer.

For years, Mendez has helped countless new immigrants transition to life in the United States by teaching them English, providing information about resources to support their families, and uplifting the leadership of community members who are eager to create positive change.

Mendez leads NOAH’s ESOL programming, 2020 Census outreach, citizenship classes, and community building efforts.

“I have always believed



NOAH’s Manlio Mendez was honored by Rep. Madaro and the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus as a Latinx Trailblazer.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic Mendez has led efforts to distribute food and basic necessities to residents impacted by economic and food insecurity.

Madaro said Mendez’s passion is to help others learn the skills necessary to organize for social justice.

“Manlio (Mendez) is committed to helping our neighbors learn and grow their leadership skills, and to have patience with the process of creating positive community change,” said Madaro. “I am incredibly proud to be able to nominate Manlio for this year’s award. He is an incredible organizer and force for change in East Boston and among our Latinx community. I deeply appreciate all of his hard work, dedication, and commitment to our neighborhood”.

The annual celebration recognized the rich cultural history of the Massachusetts Latinx community and serves as a valuable opportunity to learn from one another.

the diversity of the Commonwealth is one of its greatest assets, and celebrating cultural heritage not only instills a sense of personal pride, events like this allow others to share in that celebration, which fosters understanding and appreciation and makes our state a better place for all,” said Speaker Robert DeLeo.

The event was filled with powerful remarks offered by nominees, who served as a testament to the resilience and innovation of the rising population of Latinos across the Commonwealth who continually impact their communities despite challenges.

“The Latino contributions are shaping a new and diverse Massachusetts,” said Chairman of the MBLLC, Representative Carlos González (D-Springfield). “We are teachers, principals, nurses, doctors, builders, motivators and are motivated to make a difference in our communities for the next generation. Somos un pueblo - we are one community.”

Nominated by legislators of the House and Senate, each 2020 Latinx Trailblazer has demonstrated exceptional leadership and served as powerful reminders that leadership means a dedicated investment in the power of community.

The MBLLC was created in 1973, with the intent to be a leading voice on Beacon Hill for communities of color across Massachusetts.



As NOAH's Senior Community Organizer since 2003, Mendez has helped countless new immigrants transition to life in the United States by teaching them English, providing information about resources to support their families, and uplifting the leadership of community members who are eager to create positive change.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

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Birds Eye Steam Fresh Vegetables 2/\$4.00
Southland Squash and Turnip..... 2/\$4.00
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OBITUARIES

Rose Mambuca

Operated Haborview Oil with her late husband for many years

Rose (D’Amore) Mambuca of East Boston passed away due to complications of COVID-19 in her 103rd year.

Rose helped her husband operate Harborview Oil for many years.

The beloved wife of the late Dominic Mambuca, she was the devoted mother of Janice Lyons and her husband, John of East Boston, Judith Raye and her husband, Ronald of Upton and the late James Mambuca and his surviving wife. Marilyn of Malden; cherished grandmother of Janine, Ronald, Kenneth, Julie, John and the late Anthony and adored great-grandmother of Janelle, Jennifer, Alyssa, Ethan, Tyler, Jillian, Jared, Jianna, Jaidan and Nicholas. She was prede-



ceased by one sister and two brothers.

In accordance with the family’s wishes, all services are private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Italian Home for Children, 1125 Centre St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. For more information, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

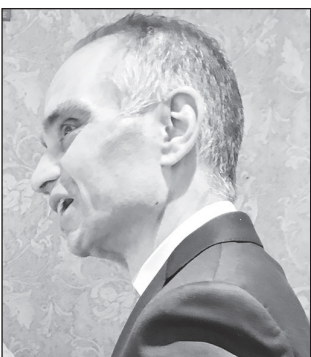
John Anthony Zankowski

He will be forever remembered

John Anthony Zankowski, a lifelong resident of Revere, was taken from us too soon at the age of 59. John passed away unexpectedly on December 3, 2020.

John will be forever remembered as the youngest, loving, and special child of the late Anthony A. and Dolores A. (Cecere/DiGiulio) Zankowski. John was a beloved brother to the late Denise (Zankowski) Winter and her late husband, Edward, and sisters Darlene (Zankowski) O’Keefe and husband, Thomas, and Doreen M. Zankowski, Esq. and her partner, Billie Jean Potter. He leaves behind his beloved nieces, Kimberly Winter, Tara Diefenbach (Paul), Tina Gongas (William), and nephew Daniel Winter (Kenneth Holgersen). John was great uncle to Mia McLean, Lucas and Alexia Gongas, and Thomas and Declan Diefenbach. He leaves behind many cousins who love him.

John was special indeed. His early life included his enrollment in the prestigious May Institute in Chatham, MA, where he lived away from his family at great angst to his parents and siblings. At the May Institute, he thrived and overcame many of life’s obstacles from autism. Upon returning home, John was



forever cared for by his family. He was a very funny guy and could surprise those around him with some salty talk and funny expressions. John’s persona created a sense of love, duty, honor, and empathy in his family. His sisters always felt a duty to protect him, include him in their activities, and make sure he was loved and understood. He will be forever remembered. He is with his mother, father and sister now, and at peace.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Anthony’s Church, 250 Revere St, Revere on Thursday, December 10 at 11 a.m. everyone to meet directly at church (Names and temperatures will be taken upon entrance). Interment at Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in John’s name to the May Institute, 41 Pacella Drive, Randolph, MA 02368, and designate the Revere May Facility as the beneficiary or at MayInstitute.Org. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

Mark Babin

Past member of many East Boston and Chelsea organizations

Mark W. Babin of East Boston, passed away after a brief illness surrounded by his loving family on Thursday, December 3.

Mark was a past member of USVVE Post #4 East Boston, Merit Club of Chelsea, ITAM Post #6 East Boston and the Sons of the American Legion East Boston.

The former husband of Theresa (Merlino) Babin, he was the loving father of Marc, Christopher and Jacqueline Babin, dear brother of Lucretia Deeran, Beverly Colglazier, Brian Babin and Philip Babin and cherished grandfather of Arianna DiSciscio.

Family and friends will honor Mark’s life by gathering for a memorial service in celebration of his life on Saturday, Dec. 12 from noon to 2 p.m. at the



Ruggiero Family Memorial Home 971 Saratoga St., East Boston. 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. For more information or to leave an online condolence, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

John ‘Jacky’ Connolly

Longtime Malden Evening News compositor

John “Jacky” Connolly of Revere passed away on December 2 at the age of 69.

Jack loved the beach (Rocky Beach) and was referred to as Weaser by his Beachmont friends. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Jacky was a long time compositor with the Malden Evening News.

Born in Boston on April 8, 1951 to the late Thomas and Marguerite “Peggy” (Chandler), he was the devoted father of Christopher Connolly and his wife, Melanie of Winthrop, cherished grandfather of Brianna, Michaela, and Victoria, dear brother of Thomas Connolly and his wife, Mary of Winthrop, Judith McGhee and her husband, William of Harwich Port and Robert Connolly Sr., and his wife, Susan of Revere. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.



Due to the current spike in COVID-19, the guidelines issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and local officials, funeral services will be privately held for the immediate family under the direction of Paul Buonfiglio & Sons - Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere Street, Revere, MA 02151. Interment Woodlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the M.S.P.C.A, Angel, 350 S. Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02130 or at mspc.org. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

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

OBITUARIES

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Letter // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

protracted reopenings. Huge numbers of the most-impacted employers have already exhausted aid funds with a recovery yet to materialize—or were left unable to access the relief programs to begin with.

Although encouraging news on a vaccine offers a ray of light at the end of a long and very dark tunnel, under the best possible scenario it will not be widely available in time to prevent the permanent loss of more businesses and the communities they sustain.

A huge and diverse coalition of business and public-sector voices has been pleading with Washington for months to reach a new relief deal. Each passing moment guarantees more job losses and a hamstrung recovery.

We urge you to finalize, pass and enact a COVID relief package into law this year. The time for federal relief and leadership is now.

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President & CEO

American Apparel & Footwear Association
Stephen Lamar,
President & CEO

American Gaming Association
Bill Miller,
President & CEO

American Hotel & Lodging Association
Chip Rogers,
President & CEO

American Society of Association Executives
Susan Robertson,
President & CEO

Go LIVE Together Coalition
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Karen Kerrigan,
President & CEO

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David Audrain,
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The United States Conference of Mayors
Tom Cochran, CEO and
Executive Director

U.S. Travel Association
Roger Dow,
President & CEO

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU20P21996D In the matter of: William Kenney RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person Of: East Boston, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that William Kenney is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Public Guardian Services, LLC of Braintree, MA (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 01/07/2021. 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: November 24, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 12/9/20 EB

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU20C0361 CA In the matter of: Mirna E. Orellana A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Mirna E. Orellana of East Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Mirna Elizabeth Monterrosa Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/24/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: November 19, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 12/9/20 EB



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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

CHELSEA EATS PROGRAM ROLLS OUT

CHELSEA - The Chelsea Eats debit card program – one of the first such municipal programs in the nation - has been nearly fully deployed for those who won the chance in the lottery last month, that allowed 2,000 residents to get a set amount loaded on their new cards every month through March.

After a number of logistical issues that had to be ironed out, City Manager Tom Ambrosino said the Chelsea Eats program started in earnest last week just before Thanksgiving, when the first amount was deposited onto the cards. The cards are procured through a Visa provider and can be used at any store in the region.

“We distributed the cards to residents at City Hall the week before Thanksgiving,” he said. “We distributed about 1,500 cards of the 2,000 cards that we announced to lottery winners. We loaded that batch of cards with the first installment of money on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving and so far everything is going well.”

The City has committed to funding the first two months, including last Tuesday’s money and another loading in December before Christmas. Meanwhile, two donors have submitted large donations to the City to fund the months of January and February.

“That should get people to the end of March and hopefully there is a vaccine and everyone is able and everyone is back to work,” he said.

The donations came from the Shah Family Foundation and the United Way, both of which like the idea of Universal Basic Income. Ambrosino said he isn’t so much interested in that, but says it could help them secure more funding for beyond March.

“It’s possible we could get more donations for that concept, but for now we

can get people to March,” he added.

The card is provided by Prepaid Expense Card Solutions, Inc. out of New York, and they have been a good partner with the City on this trailblazing program. He said the City would incur less than \$10,000 in fees for the program, which officially can go until June 30, 2021 if there is funding.

Those who have the card get a set amount based on family size, Ambrosino said. Those with three or more in a family get \$400 per load, two in a family get \$300 and a single person gets \$200.

The lottery was weighted to favor those who had more children, who were elderly, disabled, veterans or were in deep poverty. There was also a check for those who were already receiving state or federal public assistance. No one qualified unless they were under 100 percent of the federal poverty line, which is about 30 percent of AMI in Greater Boston.

Ambrosino said there are about 500 cards that weren’t picked up and they have reached out to those individuals, but their contact information isn’t helping. Letters have gone out, but it is assumed many moved on since the application period last August. Anyone not living in Chelsea does not qualify for the program.

CITY COUNCIL SETS TAX RATE

CHELSEA - The Chelsea City Council took every measure in protecting homeowners with rising tax bills in setting the tax rate at its regular meeting – but did so with a warning that next year those tools won’t be in the toolbox if people are still struggling with the fallout from the pandemic.

The Council applied the maximum commercial shift of 175 percent to commercial property and away from residential property in an 11-0 vote, a move allowed by law and applied virtually every

year.

That said, Council President Roy Avellaneda reminded everyone that this usual shift does create a hardship for small business owners – particularly this year when stores and commercial offices are sitting vacant at higher rates.

“I want us to all be cognizant this shift does unfairly burden the small commercial owners,” he said. “I think of Madelyn Garcia who bought a commercial building in Cary Square and has \$20,000 worth of taxes. To overcome that tax burden means you’ll need to make 10 times that amount in revenue. She has to get \$200,000 in revenue to get that. It’s easy to shift to the commercial side, but we have to think about being fair to the small guy as well as the homeowner.”

As well, the Council voted 11-0 to set the owner-occupant residential tax exemption at 35 percent – a rise of five percent and higher than the City had planned for. The City had been carefully rolling out that tax savings over five years and was expected to go to 32 percent this year, and 35 percent next year.

However, City Manager Tom Ambrosino said he recommended the 35 percent owner-occupant fee so that residents could have maximum savings during this difficult time in Chelsea.

“The maximum amount we can give is 35 percent and over the time I’ve been on the Council we’ve upped it consistently,” said Councilor Damali Vidot. “However, after we apply this one there is no more room left to give any higher tax breaks. I want to urge this administration to do what it can. We’re carrying burdens right now that, quite frankly, no municipality should have to carry. At this point, we’ve exhausted all the tools in the toolbox.”

That program erases 35 percent of the value of a residential property that is owner occupied, up to a three-family home. That results in substantial savings on the tax bill for

those homeowners occupying their homes in Chelsea.

That 35 percent, as Vidot said, is the maximum amount allowed by state law, a law that was changed in Chelsea’s favor some years ago by Avellaneda. He said that effort was a second go-around for the savings, and he had tried previously with former Councilor Stan Troisi and they were rejected at the State House.

He said it was a “special moment” to be able to have that savings to give, and thanked Troisi for getting the ball rolling so many years ago

With all savings applied and shifted, the residential tax rate was set at \$13.62 per \$1,000 of value. The commercial rate came in at \$26.65.

The largest tax increase is expected to hit two-family and three-family homeowners this year.

The Council has been submitted a request from Ambrosino to transfer \$750,000 into the new Homeowner Stabilization Fund to help those with increasing residential taxes to get assistance. That program would likely roll out in January, and the Council is set to vote on the transfer at the Dec. 14 meeting. They are expected to approve it.

•GETTING THE VALUES RIGHT

One of the main issues on Monday night, and back to last year, was the questions raised by Avellaneda, Vidot and Councilor Giovanni Recupero about the valuations of multi-unit buildings of eight units or more.

Avellaneda has consistently said those larger buildings are undervalued in his estimation, and Vidot and Recupero have agreed with that.

“Those values are not up to the proper value in my opinion compared to how well they do on smaller properties,” he said. “We have to no disagreement with how they value singles, two-families, condos and three-families. But we feel there is a lot of catching up to do with the

others. That under-valuation puts an unfair burden on the smaller residential properties.”

Vidot also stressed that she would like the Assessor’s Department to look to an outside consultant or find a way to address these values.

“We have to make sure these bigger commercial buildings are being held accountable and paying their fair share so the burden is not on our residential or small business owners,” she said. “We don’t have any more to give.”

Avellaneda said he would like to see a consultant brought on this year, particularly after Ambrosino announces the hiring of a new permanent City Assessor in the coming months.

“The clock starts ticking today for the Assessor’s to do a better job with these identified properties in that sector so we don’t have this problem next year,” he said.

Ambrosino said they would be paying closer attention next year to those values.

“I think that will be the focus of attention in the next year,” he said. “We’re in the process of naming a new Chair of the Board of Assessors. That will be the top priority for that new person. When we present a tax rate next November I hope we can say with confidence those values are accurate.”

COUNCILOR NAPOLITANO RESIGNS SEAT

EVERETT - Councilor Peter Napolitano confirmed late Tuesday that he has submitted his letter of resignation from the City Council, and will apply for the recently-opened Assistant City Clerk position.

“I have submitted my resignation and plan on issuing a statement in my own words addressing the situation this week,” he said. “I’m confident where I stand with the City and I’m more than ready to do the job and have a great working relationship with (City Clerk) Sergio Cornelio. I’ve lived in Everett 63 years and I’m not ready to go away. I’m anxious to continue to be of service.”

Napolitano said it was time to take a new direction, and that was particularly made clear after he and his entire family became ill with COVID-19 in October. He said that was a deciding moment, and after 20 years on the Council he was ready to make a change.

As of the close of business on Tuesday, he was no longer a councilor, which he said was tough to grasp after so many years. Napolitano was often controversial on the Council and was the one that made the biggest push to change the City Charter and get away from the bi-cameral system. He said he had to announce the resignation at this time in order to be out of office 30 days, which is required before applying for a City job.

OWENS MOVERS SELLS BUILDING

EVERETT - The long-time Owens Movers company has sold its building in the Commercial Triangle area of the city recently to Boston commercial real estate company Oliver Street Capital.

The transaction for 44-48 Garden St. came in at

\$15 million for the property, which has been in the Owens family for years and leases to the scene shop for the Huntington Theatre Company – among others.

Eddie Owens Jr., chief financial officer of the company, did not return a phone call from the Independent for comment.

Oliver Street Capital was founded in downtown Boston in 2014 by Jonathan Hyde and Jonathan O’Donnell. Their company strategy is “a value based real estate investment manager focused on acquiring and managing high quality commercial and residential real estate investments.”

Neither Hyde nor O’Donnell returned e-mails seeking comment on the purchase of the Owens Business Center.

The property has ongoing leases and it could be possible Oliver Street only intends to take an income investing approach to managing and operating the existing tenants. However, the area is rapidly changing and has seen several long-time industrial and/or commercial uses flip to residential or office. Research and Development is also a target for City Planners in the area, while the old industrial uses are now being discouraged under the 2019 Commercial Triangle Redevelopment Plan.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria said he was encouraged by the sale and others that share his enthusiasm for the area.

“I am excited to see developers sharing my enthusiasm for the future development of the Commercial Triangle Area,” he said. “I appreciate the commitment that long standing businesses such as Owens Movers have made to Everett and certainly hope that these deals are mutually beneficial to all parties. The changes that will be taking place in this part of our City will present new and different opportunities for economic growth. I look forward to these new development opportunities and appreciate the increasing recognition of Everett as a place where residents and businesses can grow and thrive.”

In February, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) honored the Owens family at their regular meeting in a spotlight on vendors who had benefitted from the casino introduction to the state.

Eddie Owens Jr. and Ed Owens both appeared and told the story of their company, which includes Henry Owens Jr. making the rare move in 1927 as a black man to open his own major moving company. Soon, they had become one of the top companies in the Boston area, and Ed Owens expanded the company when he took over to include more commercial accounts such as Raytheon and others.

The company had been located in Everett for decades and recently had found success in working for Encore Boston Harbor, and also in leasing out portions of their facility to organizations like the Huntington Theatre Company.

COLE JOINS MAYOR’S STAFF

LYNN - What we didn’t know about Michael Cole was that he was a phenom-

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Region //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

enal high school golfer at Malden Catholic who likely would have earned a position on the Division 1 Holy Cross team.

Cole, the communications and outreach coordinator in Mayor’s Thomas McGee’s Administration, has been busy handling media requests during these unprecedented times of a coronavirus and keeping Lynn residents informed about all aspects of the city’s assistance related to COVID-19.

Cole, 26, began in his new position on Sept. 25, having previously served as the community relations coordinator in Mayor McGee’s office.

Cole has been a key member of the mayor’s administrative team since the outset of the new administration. He served as a manager of McGee’s successful campaign for mayor.

McGee praised Cole’s important contribution to his team at City Hall.

“Michael has been such a great part of the team from the day I came into office,” said Mayor McGee. “He’s been such a great addition and he’s bilingual. He’s been really great in terms of his interaction in our community and he has the skills and the temperament and the ability to really step up and do even more of what he’s been doing in the past. I’m very excited for him to be with me and he’s going to be a great resource, not only for me, but for the community in being able to communicate with the media and residents to get the information out that’s important. I’m really have Mike on the team and it’s great for us to have him taking on this role.”

Cole had a stellar three-sport (golf, basketball, and lacrosse) career at Malden Catholic. He became the No. 1 golfer and the Lancers’ team captain. The 5-foot, 10-inch Cole battled former St. John’s Prep star and future Mass Amateur champion Nick McLaughlin to a tie in a head-to-head matchup in high school. ICole’s first job as a youth was at Gannon Golf Course working in the pro shop and in oth-

er capacities.

Interestingly, Cole was an MC golf and lacrosse teammate of Matt Hamill, who is the younger brother of his current colleague in Mayor McGee’s office, Chief of Staff Meaghan Hamill.

The Lynn Journal interviewed Michael Cole about his new position and his background in Lynn and following are his responses:

Do you put together a daily coronavirus update?

I post on social media and send it out each day. Public health maintains the dashboard and just sends me the data to share, then I will typically include one bit of public information in the update as well.

When did you first meet Mayor Thomas McGee?

My younger brother [Joshua] played sports with his son, Thomas, growing up. I knew Mr. McGee since I was younger but came to establish a relationship with him in college.

Did you have an internship in Lynn during college?

I interned with Mayor McGee for two summers in the State Senate.

Please talk about your family’s support of your endeavors in your development years.

Michael and Mary Cole are my parents. They have been incredibly supportive of me my entire life. My mother actually worked for Mayor DiVirgilio and I sit in the same desk as she did then.

Which elementary, middle, and high schools did you attend? Was there a high school teacher that may have inspired your interest in English, writing, or communications?

I attended St. Pius V Elementary/Middle School and Malden Catholic High School.

I first became interested in Politics during the 2008 Presidential Election (Barack Obama versus John McCain). I always enjoyed history but in my seventh and eighth grade American History classes we used to mock-debate the topics related to the Presidential Election and

would be asked to choose a candidate’s side.

Then in High School I became very interested in Spanish language through Mrs. Maria Crotty at Malden Catholic and later went on to major in the language in college.

Did you play youth sports and high school sports?

Yes, I played golf growing up, Little League and Babe Ruth baseball, CYO and Middle School basketball, Lynn Youth Soccer, and played golf, basketball and lacrosse at Malden Catholic.

Where did you attend college? What was your major field of study? In what year did you graduate?

I graduated from Holy Cross in 2016. I was a double major in Political Science and Spanish.

What field of employment did you enter following your graduation from college?

I started working at the United Way of Central Massachusetts in Worcester after graduation. I then worked as Mayor McGee’s campaign manager in 2017 and have been working in the Mayor’s office since he came into office in 2018.

What do you want to say about the collaboration and teamwork demonstrated by you and your colleagues in Mayor McGee’s office?

I think we have had a great team working in the Mayor’s office during our time. I already had relationships with some of the staff that came over from the State Senate and through my internship and the campaign. We are just now at a full-staffing capacity in the office with a few recent hires which is helpful as well.

What have been the challenges of working during the COVID-19 pandemic and trying to inform the residents of Lynn about important matters related to the health crisis?

It has been very difficult working through the COVID-19 pandemic and trying to keep residents informed. We created a Coronavirus Resources webpage on the City Web-

site, have been sending daily updates, plan to send out a COVID-19 mailer to all residents soon, hosted two town halls, collaborated with Revere, Chelsea, Everett and Boston in their media efforts and sent out Smart 911 messages to keep residents informed.

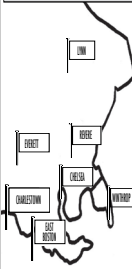
Mayor McGee received a tremendous vote in defeating a popular, incumbent mayor. He is widely credited for doing an exceptional job as mayor. What do you want to say about his leadership of this city, especially during these unprecedented times?

One thing that has always been clear to me about Mayor McGee is his love for the City of Lynn. He’s lived here his entire life, and each and every day he is doing what he thinks is in the best interest of the City and its residents. There are many difficult decisions he has to make especially during the current pandemic, but I know the Mayor is doing everything he can to be the leader the city needs during this time. What I admire most about the Mayor is his ability to weigh every option before making what he believes is the best decision for the City at the time.

Have you considered running for office yourself in the future?

No I have not.

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Toys // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

greater than ever due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Rep. Madaro's Family Community Fund took over the reigns of the annual holiday event from former Sen. Anthony Petrucci after he left office in 2016.

"Each year since the Madaro Family Community Fund took over the event, my family and I are truly overwhelmed by the generosity of the community," said Rep. Madaro. "Hopefully, the community's generosity exceeds its generosity from years past due to COVID. Throughout this pandemic this neighborhood has been a shining example of charity, compassion and care. Due to the econom-

ic downturn, job loss and food insecurities plaguing out neighbors we need everyone's help more than ever to make the holiday season a bright one for thousands of families in need."

The annual fundraiser to raise toys for low-income families in Eastie and other neighborhoods was started by Petrucci when he served in the House and continued through his years in the Senate. After being elected to office in 2015 Madaro's Family Community Fund took over the annual event.

Over the years Eastie's Elves has collected thousands of toys that are later dropped off to agencies like the East Boston So-

cial Centers, the YMCA, Crossroads Family Shelter, the Salesian Boys & Girls Club as well as agencies in Revere, Winthrop and the North End.

"All the toys that are donated will still benefit the communities of East Boston, Revere, Winthrop and the North End," said Rep. Madaro.

If you have questions or would like to get involved with Madaro Family Community Fund, please contact the organization at madarocharity@gmail.com. To stay up to date on Eastie's Elves and future community events, follow the Madaro Family Community Fund on Facebook @madarofamilycommunityfund and on Instagram @madarofamilyfund.



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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

REGIS STUDENT MAKES THE DEAN'S LIST

Regis College is pleased to announce that 603 students made the Dean's List for academic achievement for the 2020 spring semester. The following student was among those who made the dean's list.

* Giancarlo Vasquez, of East Boston, class of 2023.

To be eligible for the Dean's List as a senior, junior or sophomore at Regis, a student must have a semester grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.50. For first-year students, a semester GPA of at least 3.25 must be attained.

"I am very pleased to see so many of our students excelling across the university," said Regis College Vice President of Academic Affairs, Mary Erina Driscoll, PhD. "The Dean's List and the diversity of academic disciplines speak to a dedicated student body and to a faculty that promotes intellectual curiosity and achievement."

Regis College is a coed, Catholic university 12 miles west of Boston in Weston, Mass. With over 3,000 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students enrolled on campus and in fully online graduate programs, Regis provides an academically rigorous education within the schools of nursing, arts and sciences, business and communication, and health sciences. The Young School of Nursing at Regis has consistently been recognized by the National League of Nursing as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education. In line with Regis' mission of providing innovative, industry-focused learning opportunities, the university offers academic partnerships with hospitals and local employers, a clinical dental center in Waltham, Mass., and bachelor's completion and accelerated nursing programs at its campus in Lawrence, Mass. The university's 20 NCAA Division III athletic teams compete within the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC). Inspired by the social justice values of its founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, Regis engages with service initiatives within the local community and around the world. Visit

<https://www.regiscollege.edu/> to learn more.

SEVEN EAST BOSTON RESIDENTS NAMED TO HONOR ROLL AT BC HIGH

Boston College High School is proud to announce that the following students from East Boston have been named to the school's First Quarter Honor Roll.

BC High successfully reopened for in-person learning this past September using a hybrid model with two cohorts of students coming onto campus on alternating weeks. This model provided all BC High students with completely synchronous learning opportunities throughout the fall, regardless of whether the student was at school or at home. The school also implemented extensive safety protocols to help keep students, faculty, staff, and others safe and healthy during the global pandemic, and plans to continue offering in-person instruction in January.

1st Quarter High Honors

For High Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.80 quality point average and all grades "C+" or higher. Freshmen need a 3.6 quality point average and all grades "C+" or higher.

- Jack Brodin
- Gabriel Aviles-Lemus
- Thomas Zirpolo

1st Quarter Honors

For Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.20 quality point average and all grades "C-" or higher. Freshmen need a 3.165 quality point average and all grades "C-" or higher.

- Iesai Galvan
- Maxwell Mercer
- Matthew Muneton
- Jesse Ramos

About Boston College High School: Boston College High School is a Jesuit, Catholic, college-preparatory school for young men in grades 7 to 12. Founded in 1863, the school enrolls approximately 1,500 students from more than 140 communities in eastern Massachusetts. For more information please visit bchigh.edu.

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