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East Boston

TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

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Piers Park Sailing Center looks to the future

By John Lynds

In his masterpiece “The Great Gatsby,” F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote “So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past”. The last lines of the novel were a metaphor of a burning desire to row against the flow of a current --even when it seems pointless.

In this era of COVID we can relate to the ending of Gatsby as many are trying to row against a negative current even when it seems useless to do so.

Some have had success while others have not, but nonprofits like Piers Park Sailing Center (PPSC) are weathering the storm and continue to row against the current--hopeful that the pandemic will be over and the world will return to normal soon.

“We have been a strong community through highs and lows,” said PPSC Executive Director Alex De-Fronzo reflecting on this past sailing season and looking forward to next year. “Masked up, our students socialized, learned together, had fun together, and grew together.”

However, pulling off the program was a big

See SAILING Page 7



Above, Harbor Explorers out on the water in kayaks this summer at Piers Park Sailing Center. The sailing program operated at only 20 percent of the enrollment of a normal year. However, the youth program cost more to operate in 2020 than it did in 2019.

Right, despite COVID and having to drastically change its operations, the Piers Park Sailing Center still had a successful summer. Now in the offseason the sailing center hopes to raise enough money to make 2021 even better.



State budget to send pandemic aid to Eastie

By John Lynds

Last week Senator Joseph Boncore and Representative Adrian Madaro joined their colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature to pass the state’s \$46.2 billion Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) budget.

Within the state budget is direct aid to an East Boston agency that has been helping the community during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic by addressing food insecurity among residents.

At a time of widespread food insecurity in the neighborhood due to the COVID, Boncore and Madaro announced \$50,000 in funding for the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen. The earmark will allow the soup kitchen to continue their work providing essential food and nutritional aid to East Boston residents.

“Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the



Eastie’s state elected officials Rep. Adrian Madaro and Sen. Joseph Boncore (shown here during a pre-COVID press conference last year) announced FY21 budget earmarks for Eastie this week.

East Boston Community Soup Kitchen has been on the front lines serving those in need,” said Boncore. “The \$50,000 secured for the Soup Kitchen will allow them to continue these critical efforts and remain a welcoming, inclusive presence in our community.”

Boncore added that as the state continues towards recovery from the COVID pandemic, the FY21 bud-

get provides critical funding: including relief for

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those most impacted by the public health crisis.

“Despite the fiscal difficulties caused by the COVID-19 emergency, I am pleased that the legislature has passed a budget which has avoided any major cuts and preserves funding for critical programs across Massachusetts, including those right

See BUDGET Page 3

Back to school

BPS returns some students to in-person learning at two Eastie schools

By John Lynds

Mayor Martin Walsh and Boston Public School Superintendent Dr. Brenda Cassellius announced that approximately 1,700 students across 28 schools, including East Boston High School and the Mario Umana Academy, returned to in-person learning on Monday.

The students returning to school this week have complex disabilities and language needs, and were identified by BPS as having a high priority for in-person learning.

“After the return three weeks ago of students to

our special education-focused schools we returned the next group of students on Monday, December 14,” said Cassellius. “We are communicating directly with those families in collaboration with their school leaders to outline next steps. This group includes approximately 1,700 students across 28 schools. These plans are based on families who selected hybrid learning for their students and on each building’s ability to welcome students and staff back to in-person learning. We will add free-standing

See SCHOOL Page 3

Giving back

Carlo’s Catering to team up with the Salesian Boys & Girls Club to help feed families during Christmas holiday

By John Lynds

During a normal Christmas season, Carlo’s Catering owner Stevie Scire and his family take a well-deserved break for the holiday. But before Carlo’s Catering on the corner of Bennington and Moore Street closes for a little Christmas vacation, Scire would give back to the community and spread

some holiday cheer.

“We usually don’t deliver on Christmas Eve, but for years we’d find some family or organization that needed donations and we’d make a delivery of food and toys,” said Scire.

With COVID-19 still a major concern in the neighborhood this year

See CARLO’S Page 3

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The office will be closed Thursday Dec. 24 and
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For the latest news in East Boston that you need to know, check
eastietimes.com

Community updated on possibility of second seaplane company coming to Eastie’s shores

By John Lynds

Cape Air Senior Vice President Andrew Bonney repeatedly told the community at numerous public meetings that the take-off and landing area in the waters off Eastie would be restricted by the FAA to only Cape Air operations. The takeoff and landing base approved by the FAA and U.S. Coast Guard just off the Hyatt Boston Harbor Hotel, explained Bonney, would be restricted by the FAA to only Cape Air operations. “This is a private, restricted sea base,” said Bonney earlier this year. “So you wouldn’t have to worry about other carriers using the area.” Well, it seems that statement was not entirely true as a second air carrier is looking to join Cape Air in running seaplanes from Boston Harbor to New York City. When Cape Air was seeking neighborhood

support for their plan, residents in Jeffries Point feared that allowing Cape Air to land seaplanes off Eastie would open a floodgate for other seaplane carriers to start using the landing area. Once assured by Bonney that Cape Air would be the only carrier using the landing zone, residents started to warm up to the idea. However, Tailwind Air CEO Alan Ram said while he couldn’t speak for Bonney or Cape Air President Dan Wolf, having one seaplane company monopolize a landing area in the Harbor would never be considered by the FAA. “What I can say is that each seaplane operator has to individually apply to the FAA for permission to use the waterway,” said Ram at a Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association meeting Monday night. “It would obviously be anti-competitive for the FAA to award a monopoly to the first company

that comes through the door. So each application is looked at individually and I think that’s what they (Cape Air) meant in that their application was exclusive to them as ours is for us. So just because we’re approved, doesn’t mean anyone else is automatically approved. And the same thing went for Cape Air.” A look into FAA approvals for the water landing area shows Tailwind, as well as Cape Air, were both granted the right to use the harbor for seaplane operations. At Monday night’s meeting, Ram said Tailwind has proposed a plan for seaplane service from Boston Harbor to New York City, similar to Cape Air’s service. “What we’re proposing is roughly a four time daily and weekday departure and arrival from Boston Harbor to the Manhattan seaplane base at East 23rd Street in the East River,”



Tailwind CEO Alan Ram during Monday’s Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association meeting. Ram’s company is joining Cape Air in running seaplanes between Boston Harbor and New York City.

said Ram. “This is an existing facility that’s been in use for a long time. In low visibility conditions, the airplanes will not operate which means not only bad weather, but we do not operate before dawn and we do not operate after dusk.” Tailwinds has two bases, one in Westchester New York and another in

Bridgeport, Connecticut. “We have been operating seaplanes in and out of New York City for about seven years,” said Ram. “We have a very stable and experienced management team and company’s core management team has been together nearly that entire time. We have a great team of pilots, dis-

patchers and maintainers and are up to nearly 30 employees.” Like Cape Air, Ram said Tailwind will be using the Cessna Caravan for seaplane operation to and from New York and the cost of a one-way trip between the two cities will be between \$295 and \$495.

Sixteen local, state and federal elected officials send letter challenging Eastie substation hearing

By John Lynds

With the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) poised to make a decision later this week on whether or not to approve Eversource’s highly controversial plan to build a new substation in East Boston at the City Yards in East Eagle Square, 16 elected officials wrote a letter this week to Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides asking her to intervene and postpone the meeting. The letter was signed by U.S. Sens. Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren; U.S. Reps. Ayanna Pressley, Joseph P. Kennedy, III and Katherine Clark; State Senators Joseph A. Boncore, Sal N. DiDomenico and Jamie B. Eldridge;

State Reps. Adrian C. Madaro, Daniel J. Ryan, Liz Miranda and Michelle DuBois; as well as Boston City Councilors Lydia Edwards, Michelle Wu, Julia Mejia and Annissa Essaibi-George. “We write to request that the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) postpone the upcoming virtual public hearings on the proposed Eversource electrical substation in East Boston and reopen the determination of need for the project,” read the letter. “We have serious concerns about the accessibility of these hearings — currently scheduled for December 16-17, 2020 — to members of the affected community, which the COVID-19 pandemic has hit especially hard.”

The elected officials argue that with Eastie experiencing one of the highest rates of COVID-19 infection in the state the high positivity rate has led to stark economic fallout, including unemployment, food insecurity, and homelessness and holding such an important meeting and vote is unfair—given Eastie’s steadfast opposition to the proposal over the years. “At a time when the number of COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts is sharply rising and so many community residents must focus on maintaining their own and others’ physical and economic well being, it is unfair to ask them to engage — virtually — on a highly technical project,” said the letter. The letter also questioned the need to further impact a neighborhood that is already an environmental justice community. “Furthermore, the proposed site of the new substation, on the banks of Chelsea Creek, is already an area of industry overuse,” stated in the letter. “If approved, the Eversource electrical substation would have de-

grades-long effects on an extremely vulnerable and disproportionately impacted population. Residents in and around this congested area must be given the opportunity for meaningful involvement, which the currently scheduled meetings do not provide. We urge the EFSB to require the proponent to release its own outdated and proprietary data upon which the justification for this electrical substation is based. It is the EFSB’s mission to ensure that proposed projects provide a reliable energy supply, with a minimum impact on the environment, at the lowest possible cost. To best assess whether the determination of public need should be reconsidered, we believe that the only responsible and fair course of action is to provide the most up to date and accurate data in a way that is transparent to the affected public. The siting of any new significant energy project requires the full and informed input of the surrounding public, especially in this instance as this planned industrial infrastructure is in an already disproportionately

overburdened Environmental Justice community.” Over the years, community members and advocates have highlighted concerns about the EFSB’s inadequate language access since the project’s inception. “There are multiple Title VI Civil Rights complaints filed with federal agencies, which have yet to render a decision,” stated in the letter. “Steamrolling ahead despite these concerns shows an utter disregard for those with limited English proficiency — who comprise a high percentage of East Boston residents and who may be excluded from this critical and complex process.” To ensure that civil rights are upheld and the full and meaningful engagement of all persons is protected, the elected officials argue the EFSB must comply with any directives resulting from those complaints before it holds any public hearings. “This neighborhood of East Boston is one of the most racially and ethnically diverse communities in Massachusetts,” stated in the letter. “For far too

long, black, brown, and immigrant communities have been excluded from the decision-making processes that directly affect their quality of life. We must address the inequities that intersect race, class, and public health, and that begins with ensuring that the residents of East Boston have a full say in the evolution of their neighborhood.” Madaro, who has helped lead the charge against the proposed substation said he was happy to have the support of so many state, city, and federal colleagues in opposing the proposed substation. “East Boston is an Environmental Justice community,” said Madaro. “Our neighbors’ voices deserve to be heard. Holding this hearing during the COVID emergency is unacceptable. Thank you to GreenRoots and all the East Boston community activists who have led the way in expressing our neighborhood’s opposition to this project. Your efforts have been essential in making East Boston heard.”

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HVNA votes down two development proposals

By John Lynds

At the December meeting earlier this month, members of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA) voted down two development proposals. The first project at 647-

649 Bennington, HVNA members voted 22 to three against the project that called for converting an existing three family into a two-family, subdivide the lot and erect another two-family on the site. Attorney Marc LaCasse, representing own-

er Barry Caine, said no major changes would happen to the existing building except some interior work. For the new structure, LaCasse said his client reduced the project from four stories with three units to three stories with two units. The project would still include two off street parking spaces. HVNA members argued that the pandemic, and Eastie’s high infection rate, should be a warning that developers should be trying to decrease density, not add more density to the neighborhood. The next project at 7-11 Curtis Street, the site of the Eastern Flooring company, HVNA members voted 23 to nine against the project to demolish the existing business and erect two buildings. One building would be on Curtis Street with 21 units and a second building would be constructed on Saratoga Street with eight units. Attorney Jeff Drago, representing owners Seth Williams and Jim Grossman, said his clients took a lot of feedback from the previous communi-

ty meetings and a BPDA meeting. Drago said his clients reduced the building size from five stories to four stories and parking has been put underground. They also added greenspace and added landscaping along the frontages. The owners also reduced the overall square footage by 1,400 square feet and completely changed from a contemporary look to a more traditional look that mirrors current buildings on Saratoga Street. Some members were on board with the changes with one resident saying, “I have been in the neighborhood for over 40 years. This could be a great opportunity for the neighborhood. I look forward to the new building and new activity in the area”. However, others pointed again to then density, lack of parking and the overall size and scope of the project as another example of over building in the neighborhood. Both projects will need approval from the city before moving forward.

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Being away from family and friends during the holidays can be hard.

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Doing what's best for you includes eating healthy foods and getting enough sleep.

Do what is best for your health and the health of your loved ones. This year spend time with those in your own household.

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Cocaine dealer sentenced to five years

By John Lynds

A Colombian national caught last year trafficking cocaine in East Boston was sentenced to five years in prison by a federal judge last week.

Ricardo Lopera-Arteaga, 59, was sentenced by the U.S. District Court Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV to five years in prison and four years of supervised release. Lopera-Arteaga will be subject to deportation proceedings upon completion of his sentence.

In August 2020, Lopera-Arteaga pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute

500 grams or more of cocaine, one count of possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine and one count of unlawful reentry of a deported alien. He has been in federal custody since his arrest on Oct. 9, 2019 with co-defendant Diego Sanchez, 34, who pleaded guilty to similar charges and was sentenced to 27 months in prison.

According to court documents, Sanchez engaged in two sales of cocaine to a cooperating witness on Sept. 10 and 27, 2019 in East Boston. Sanchez and Lopera-Arteaga also conspired together to sell one kilogram of cocaine to that

same cooperating witness.

On Oct. 9, 2019, law enforcement agents observed both men meet and walk together towards a spot in Eastie arranged for the drug transaction. Agents arrested both men a short time later and seized one kilogram of cocaine from Lopera-Arteaga.

This case is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach.

News in Brief

ORIENT HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Orient Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting will meet on Monday December 21 via Zoom.

Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m., but the Zoom link will open at 6:00 p.m. to get acclimated. The meeting will be recorded.

Zoom meeting information: <https://zoom.us/j/91714062900>

Agenda

- Public Safety
- Station 7 Community Update: Officer Dan Simon
- Announcements & General Presentations

We now have our very own website! <https://www.ohnc.org/> - Check it out!

COVID Testing Efforts in East Boston

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center's has a walk-thru testing site at 79 Paris St. You do not need to have symptoms or be a patient at EBHHC. Call 617-569-5800 to pre-register.

Monday-Friday: 8am-11:30am and 1pm-4:30pm

Saturday: 10am-1:30pm

See <https://external.ebnhc.org/en/visitorpatient-info/covid-19/> for more information.

Orient Heights Design Review Committee

Formation of a new committee that will meet with developers/attorneys after the abutters meeting and prior to their presentation at an OHNC meeting.

Thank you to Gail Miller for the suggestion and spearheading the discussion!

Effort to review project proposals and ensure that

abutters' concerns are addressed and the structure aligns with existing neighborhood properties.

Contact OrientHeightsNC@gmail.com to get involved.

New public waterfront park at Piers Park III

Amy Eynatian & Nick Black - Trustees (Boston Waterfront Initiative)

- Development Presentations

INFO

90 Ashley Street - erected a two-family dwelling on a vacant lot

1209 Bennington Street - Raze existing building and erect a four (4) story seven (7) unit residential dwelling with parking for five (5) vehicles.

VOTE

N/A

- Adjournment

The next OHNC meeting will be held on Monday, January 18th, 2020.

School // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

air purifiers into the school buildings without HVAC systems to promote airflow."

However, the Boston Teachers Union (BTU) passed a vote of 'no confidence' in Dr. Cassellius's reopening plan.

"The BTU has advocated to Cassellius for common sense reopening provisions such as prioritizing in-person learning for special education students, particularly those who cannot access remote learning," said the BTU in a statement after the vote.

Other requests by the BTU included safe ventilation and air quality standards; vents in bathrooms and working sinks with soap for hand washing; a scheduling process that takes into account pre-existing medical conditions of educators and their families; PPE for educators, nurses and staff working with students who cannot socially distance or wear masks; and access to COVID-19 testing.

The union did not seek additional provisions with regard to safety, instruction, or staffing issues covering the two schools in Eastie and the 26 other schools in Boston, but

merely sought the same provisions that were formally agreed to by the superintendent for the first four schools that were opened last month.

"These key provisions were at last agreed to with the Superintendent in November for the initial four schools that were reopened with our support for some of our highest-need students," the statement continues. "Prior to the vote of no confidence, the union had passed a resolution calling for the same safety, instructional, and staffing provisions that exist at the four currently open schools to be extended to the 28 additional schools where staff and students will be present on Monday."

On Monday, Walsh blasted the BTU's no confidence vote and credited Cassellius and her team for doing this work and prioritizing the students who most need our support.

Walsh addressed the vote that the BTU took over the weekend that criticized the district and the superintendent on Monday during a press briefing.

"That action doesn't help our collective efforts at a critical time," said Walsh. "I value deeply the work that our teachers are doing and have done, all year, under very difficult circumstances. I am sympathetic to their concerns about COVID safety. These are all of our concerns, and we are responding to those concerns. 100 percent of the safety measures that the teachers union requested are implemented in all the schools we have opened. The result is that, today, many more high needs students and their dedicated teachers and support staff are in school, working together, being safe, and learning. That's a great accomplishment by all involved. We're going to continue to support our teachers and school staff in that work. And we're going to keep our promise to the families of our city to do everything we can to get kids safely back in school, where they belong. I have absolute confidence in the Superintendent and her team's commitment to these values and this work."

Carlo's // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has been anything but normal--so Scire had an idea to partner with the Salesian Boys & Girls Club on Byron Street to help feed families in need this Christmas Eve.

"I just came up with that idea," said Scire. "I said let me try to do something and try to give back to people that are really struggling."

So, Scire called Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Mike Triant to formulate a plan.

"Because Mike has a good handle on families that may be in need within the Salesian Community," said Scire. "So we came up with the idea of having the community sponsor a meal for a family in need with children because this year more than ever, families need our help."

For \$199 residents can sponsor a meal as well as a gift for each child in an Eastie family.

The food and gift will be delivered on Christmas Eve day and includes salad, a pasta dish, eggplant Parmesan, spiral ham or steak and veggies, rolls and butter as well as holiday cookies.

"If you'd like to sponsor a meal and gift for a family you can call us today for details at 617-567-0058, text us at 617-719-8709 or email us at sammycarlos-delicatering@gmail.com," said Scire.

Over at the Boys & Girls Club, Triant called Scire's idea 'amazing'.

"Stevie (Scire) thought of this and asked me if we had families who could benefit," said Triant. "As we all know the need for food and the financial strain on families is greater now than ever before. I think the success of an initiative such as this speaks volumes to the respectability of the people and the organiza-

tions that are involved. Stevie and his family have been such generous East Boston business owners for so long that people always want to be involved in anything that Stevie stands behind. They are such generous and kind people."

Triant said the Boys & Girls Club is beyond grateful for all that Carlo's Catering has done over the years to help the Salesian.

"For more than 75 years we have been a place that serves our community and provides affordable opportunities to everyone, especially the families and children that need us most," said Triant. "It is always a privilege to help others, but to do so during the Holiday Season makes it even more special. A huge thank you to Stevie and his family on behalf of all of us here at Salesian Boys & Girls Club."

Budget // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

here in East Boston," said Madaro. "As many in East Boston continue to suffer from food insecurity, funding for the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen ensures that it will be able to continue the necessary work providing food to local families."

In addition to COVID support the state legislature approved funding to support students and families at East Boston High

School.

The budget calls for full funding for Mass Insight. This will allow Mass Insight to continue supporting Advanced Placement and STEM Programming at the High School. Last month, these programs earned East Boston High School the Josh Boger Innovative School of the Year Award from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation.

"In addition, students at

East Boston High School affected by virtual learning will continue to be fully supported in their AP and STEM programming as a result of the Mass Insight earmark," said Madaro. "I was proud to vote in favor of this budget and I look forward to seeing it signed into law."

The budget now goes to Governor Baker's desk for his signature.

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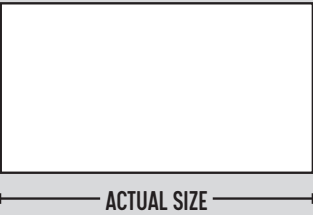
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Forum



WINTER SOLSTICE... SHORTEST DAY. DEC. 21

THE VIRUS IS IN OUR HOMES

We now are fully amidst the holiday season. Hanukkah is here and the Christmas and New Year's holiday week is fast-approaching.

Public health officials at all levels of government have been warning us for months that we must change our usual manner for celebrating the holidays if we are to have any chance of stopping the deadly spread of the coronavirus.

Unfortunately however, far too many of us have been ignoring these warnings. Families and friends continue to gather for holiday celebrations as if they are completely oblivious to the existence of a pandemic.

But consider these somber and alarming statistics recently released by the state: The overwhelming numbers of active coronavirus clusters across Massachusetts between the period of Nov. 1-November 28 (coinciding with the Thanksgiving holiday time frame) were traced to households, which accounted for 9393 of the state's 9883 clusters and 23,756 of the 26,451 confirmed cases.

In other words, the coronavirus is being spread by family and household members to each other.

This transmission of the virus among household members is nothing new, but its prevalence is striking -- about 90 percent of new coronavirus cases are now occurring within our homes.

The arrival of vaccines is wonderful news, but until each of us has a "jab" (that's what the British call getting a shot) in our arms, none of us are safe and all of us have to assume that everyone we come into contact with is a carrier.

We realize that staying apart from our family members and friends during the holidays is tough medicine -- but it's the only prescription that will work to suppress the spread of the virus.

THANK YOU, GOV. BAKER

We'd like to take a moment to express our appreciation to Gov. Charlie Baker, who has demonstrated incredible leadership during the past nine months of a crisis that is unprecedented in our state's history.

Day-after-day, Gov. Baker has confronted a deadly pandemic and an economic collapse (not to mention a dangerous president from his own party) with a degree of intelligence, competence, and assuredness that is unmatched by any governor in the country.

Massachusetts has been very fortunate to have Charlie Baker's steady hand at the tiller of our ship-of-state during this stormy period. And (to extend the metaphor), although we know there are still some rough seas ahead, thanks to Gov. Baker's helmsmanship, we can see clearing skies on the horizon.

REMEMBER THE NEEDY

We saw a statistic the other day that was absolutely mind-numbing: 18% of all Americans, and 24% of American children, do not have enough to eat on a daily basis.

We mention this because during this Christmas season, when many of us normally would be splurging on holiday parties, vacations, and the like, those of us who are fortunate enough not to fall within the 18% must consider how we can use our unspent resources to help our fellow Americans who are dealing with a situation that is even worse than what America faced at the height of the Great Depression.

Hopefully, Congress will get its act together shortly and provide relief for those in need. But until that happens, it is up to each of us to do what we can to assist our fellow citizens through donations to organizations -- of which there are many -- that will help to ensure that every American at least has enough to eat every day.

Your opinions, please

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

Our fax number is 781-485-1403.

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

We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

By Catholic Bishops of
Massachusetts

The consistent teaching of the Catholic Church is that life begins at conception and ends with natural death. As the Roman Catholic Bishops of Massachusetts, we at all times hold firm to that teaching so as to promote the preservation of life and to create a culture of respect for life as the foundation of a just and moral society.

Today, we are deeply disappointed at the recent

legislative action that, if enacted, would expand access to abortion in Massachusetts. The direct, intentional taking of a human life, regardless of the purpose or circumstances, is not morally acceptable and is particularly harmful to the common good. Most troubling is the fact that under these provisions, women will have greater access to late term abortions throughout the term of their pregnancy with no specific statutory requirement that a phy-

sician utilize lifesaving medical equipment if a child is born alive.

Despite our disappointment we are hopeful that the full legislature accepts the language proposed by the Governor to retain 18 as the age of consent, as provided by the current Massachusetts law, and not reduce the age to sixteen. Clearly, a young girl of age 16 needs the guidance and support of a caring adult when considering the possibility of a decision that will affect

her for the rest of her life.

We remain committed to life and pray for the end to all abortions. Our society is best served by the protection of every person's life, including those waiting to be born and those approaching natural death. We pledge ourselves to work to bring about a more just society that offers humane and effective alternatives for women facing a crisis or difficult pregnancy.

GUEST OP-ED

Boston's Community Choice Electricity program is making us a more sustainable and resilient city- here's how you can take part in it.

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Boston is a leader on climate action. We're preparing our communities for climate impacts like coastal flooding and heat waves, and we're cutting the emissions that cause climate change to begin with. We've committed to becoming carbon neutral by the year 2050, and we've developed a Climate Action Plan to get us there.

An important part of this work is bringing more clean, renewable energy into our city. And now, we're taking another big step in this work with the rollout of our Community Choice Electricity program. This is our policy to combine the buying power of Boston's homes and businesses, in order to get more stable and affordable electricity rates and bring more clean energy into our city. CCE allows the community to make informed electricity choices, increases utilization of renewable energy, and helps protect vulnerable populations who are most at-risk from the climate crisis.

The City has been sending notices to residents who are enrolled in Eversource Basic Service. The notice lets you know that you're being enrolled in the clean energy program starting February 1. You don't have to do anything to get that benefit and be part of this program. The Community Choice Program is an opt-out program, meaning that customers who are on Eversource Basic Service will be automatically enrolled unless they

choose to opt-out. We're also providing discounts for 20,000 low-income residents, through a solar energy program.

The opt-out period goes from December 4, 2020, through January 11, 2021. During this time, customers can opt-out by signing and returning a postage paid opt-out card received by mail. Customers can opt-in or out at any time without penalty, and have the option to "opt-up" to receive 100 percent renewable electricity. Participation in the program will only change where a customer's electricity is coming from, not how it is delivered to their home.

The program will officially launch in February 2021 and will be the largest municipal aggregation program in New England. This is an opportunity for residents to be in better control of their energy consumption by placing power in the hands of the City rather than a company or utility. I assure everyone that the City of Boston is committed to moving forward with affordable and stable electric rates, and we are a trusted resource for residents seeking information on their electricity options.

We are committed to making sure that residents have all the information they need about this program and their options. Starting December 14th, the City of Boston's Environment Department will host a series of 11 webinars for residents and businesses. Staff will answer questions on how the program works, customer benefits, electric rates and

renewable energy offered, key features, and what to expect over the next few months as the program launches.

I encourage everyone to attend one of these webinars to learn more about how this program will benefit our goal to make Boston a more sustainable and resilient city. More information about these webinars, including instructions for registering, is available at Boston.gov/community-choice-energy.

Recently, I was named the Chair of the US Climate Mayors. This is an opportunity to highlight the progress we're making here in Boston, and work

with our fellow cities to promote climate action at the national level, as well. As cities across the country continue to look to Boston as a leader in this work, our Community Choice Electricity program will be a key component of our efforts. I encourage all Boston residents to support this work by participating in this program, and continuing to take climate action in your everyday lives. For more information about the City of Boston's efforts, and about other steps the City is taking, visit Boston.gov/environment.

Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.

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LETTER to the Editor

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. WALENSKY

To the Editor:
On behalf of the entire Mass General family and with enormous pride and admiration, we congratulate Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH, chief of Infectious Diseases at Mass General, on her appointment as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). President-Elect Joseph Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris yesterday announced the members of the leadership team who will be shaping, overseeing, improving and ensuring the health, well-being and safety of our nation. Dr. Walensky will be an integral part of this national health executive team, whose first and most pressing challenge will be directing and implementing the United States' response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

A Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and the Steve and Deborah Gorlin MGH Research Scholar 2015-2020, Dr. Walensky is an inspired choice for this top public health role. She is an accomplished clinician, scientist and educator who will bring creativity and boldness, wisdom and compassion to her new role. Committed to equity and fairness, Dr. Walensky has been a relentless advocate for ensuring that the highest quality healthcare is accessible and available to underserved communities, a priority that has defined her leadership in the Mass General Division of Infectious Diseases.

For the past 10 months,

Dr. Walensky has been leading and supporting staff in her division as they battle against COVID-19. She has played a critical role advising Mass General and the Mass General Brigham system in all aspects of understanding, controlling, treating and preventing the virus. At the state level, she has served on Gov. Baker's COVID-19 Advisory Board, shaping key decisions and actions. She also has helped both the medical community and the public sort through changing guidelines and conflicting information, co-authoring more than a dozen COVID-related papers, organizing infectious disease leaders across Boston to publish a series of important op-ed pieces, and reaching millions as a medical analyst on CNN.

Dr. Walensky is internationally recognized for her work in the field of HIV/AIDS. She has pushed U.S. and global policy toward routine HIV screening and promoted the idea of HIV treatment as prevention. As the first investigator to assess the survival benefits of AIDS treatment, Dr. Walensky, through her fierce advocacy, helped increase investment in research and treatment. She is a past chair of the National Institutes of Health's Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council.

When she takes the reins of the CDC this January, Dr. Walensky will lead a federal agency responsible for protecting and guiding the nation's public health and safety. Headquartered in Atlanta, the CDC is part of the Department of Health and Human

Services, with more than 10,000 employees and a budget of approximately \$12 billion. The CDC coordinates, supports and funds a vast range of programs including immunization, HIV/AIDS, emerging infectious diseases, environmental health, disease prevention, injury prevention, and public health preparedness and response.

Dr. Walensky holds an undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis, a medical degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and a master's in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health. She trained in internal medicine at Hopkins and in infectious diseases in the MGH/BWH combined fellowship program. She and her husband, Loren Walensky, MD, PhD, a physician-scientist at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Boston Children's Hospital, are the parents of three sons.

In Dr. Walensky, the new administration has chosen a fearless, brilliant and compassionate ally who will give her all to protect and advance the health of our nation — just as she has done for patients, colleagues and the community at Mass General.

Peter L. Slavin, MD
Mass General President
Timothy G. Ferris, MD
Mass General Physicians Organization CEO
Katrina Armstrong, MD
Chief, Department of Medicine

Most Americans will not travel for Christmas

A recent national survey commissioned by the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) shows that nearly two-thirds (69 percent) of Americans will not travel for Christmas. With a new surge in COVID-19 cases, the CDC recommending that Americans do not travel over the holiday season and new stay-at-home orders in place in states across the country, the holiday season will compound the challenges already facing the hotel industry during this public health crisis.

"We understand the importance of following CDC guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and support the government's actions. However, with the dramatic decline in travel, hotels will face a harsh winter through no fault of our own. The hotel industry needs aid to survive until travel demand returns. Given this current environment,

Congress cannot nor should not contemplate recess until a relief bill is passed now," said Chip Rogers, President and CEO of AHLA. "Millions of Americans are out of work, and thousands of small businesses are struggling to keep their doors open. We cannot afford to wait until the next Congress is sworn in for relief. We need help now."

The survey of 2,200 adults was conducted Nov. 2-4 by Morning Consult on behalf of AHLA. Key findings of the survey include the following:

- 74 percent of those traveling overnight for Christmas report they will stay with a family or friend.
- Only three in 10 (32 percent) respondents have taken an overnight vacation or leisure trip since March.
- Looking ahead to next year, 24 percent are likely to travel for spring break
- 44 percent say their

next hotel stay for vacation or leisure travel will be a year or more from now or they have no plans to stay in a hotel

- Business travel has been even more impacted as only 8 percent of Americans say they have taken an overnight business trip since March

- Only 8 percent of all adults expect to travel for business within the next six months

- 62 percent of employed Americans have no plans to stay in a hotel for business

The hotel industry is facing record job loss if Congress does not provide relief. Every hour Congress doesn't act hotels lose 400 jobs, with up to 3 million permanent jobs lost. Seventy-one percent of hotels will not be able to last another six months without immediate assistance according to a recent AHLA survey of hotel owners and operators.

Americans are ready to be vaccinated

New survey data show only 15 percent of Americans believe a return to normal life is possible without a vaccine, a broad and bipartisan acceptance that policy makers should capitalize on.

The public opinion survey conducted by ScienceCounts, a non-profit whose mission is to promote public awareness and support for science, was conducted the week leading up to Thanksgiving attempting to understand the public's feelings on the COVID-19 pandemic and willingness to vaccinate.

While an assumed narrative exists that an individual's views on the seriousness of COVID-19, and necessity of a vaccine are bitterly partisan issues, the ScienceCounts survey indicates that conservatives, liberals, moderates, and notably black-non-hispanics alike view the pandemic as serious and

will take the vaccine even if social distancing and other disease transmission preventatives are necessary for a time after vaccination.

Some key takeaways from the survey include:

- 84 percent of survey respondents believe that a vaccine is the path to returning to normal with only 7 percent liberals / 16 percent moderates / 20 percent conservatives disagreeing.
- 53 percent of survey respondents are likely to get vaccinated once a vaccine is available, one in five are undecided at this time with Black American's making up the plurality of undecideds.
- Willingness to get vaccinated is unaffected by the possibility that mask wearing, and social distancing could remain necessary for the foreseeable future.
- "We must recognize, contrary to political pun-

ditry, the majority of Americans are ready to do what is necessary to get COVID-19 under control," said ScienceCounts Executive Director Chris Volpe. "While clear differences exist when you look at a person's political philosophy, our data tell us that the clear majority of American understand the pandemic is serious and understand taking the vaccine is the best chance we have at returning to normalcy.

"Public health and public policy leaders should recognize this and develop a COVID vaccination response plan that is ready for the silent majority of Americans — including Black Americans — to be vaccinated," he continued. "Our unique data tell us that American's are ready, willing and able to be vaccinated at levels not fully appreciated."

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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COVID still on the rise in Eastie

Walsh announces new citywide restrictions to start Dec. 16

By John Lynds

The COVID-19 surge across Boston is continuing and Mayor Martin Walsh said the city is focusing its efforts on neighborhoods like East Boston that have a high volume of community spread ahead of the Christmas holiday.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), Eastie residents testing positive for COVID last week increased another 16 percent and one out of every four residents tested were positive. This comes on the heels of a 78 percent increase in positive test results the week after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Last Friday, 26,928 Eastie residents were tested for COVID and 25.4 percent were found to be positive for the virus, a 16 percent increase from the 21.9 percent reported two Fridays ago. Eastie again has the highest positive test rate in all of Boston.

Overall since the pandemic began 15 percent of Eastie residents here have been found to be positive.

The citywide positive test increased 45 percent last week and went from 11.9 percent of Boston residents testing positive for the virus to 17.3 percent.

On Monday, Mayor Walsh and Gov. Charlie Baker announced new state-wide restrictions for the city and state. In an effort to reduce the further



Mayor Martin Walsh announcing the new state-wide restrictions for the city and state.

spread of COVID and its impact on Boston's health care system and essential services, Walsh said starting Wednesday Boston will return back to a modified Phase Two, Step Two of the Reopening Massachusetts plan. The

"Unfortunately, we are at the point where we need to take stronger action to control COVID-19 in Boston, and urgently, to ensure our health care workers have the capacity to care for everyone in need," said Walsh. "We are hopeful that by reducing opportunities for transmission throughout the region, we will reduce the spread of this deadly virus and maintain our ability to keep critical services open. We continue to urge everyone to take personal responsibility and follow the public health guidelines while visiting any public space or business, and employees to allow their employees to work from home as much as possible. Together,

we will be able to get this virus under control, save lives, and ultimately come back stronger."

Returning to a modified Phase Two, Step Two requires the closure of certain businesses that were allowed to open during the Phase Three reopening plan. Gatherings in private and public settings are required to have no more than 10 people for indoor settings and 25 people for outdoor settings.

The following industries in the City of Boston are required to close starting Wednesday, December 16 for at least three weeks:

- Indoor fitness centers and health clubs, including gyms using alternative spaces. One-on-one personal training sessions are allowed.
- Movie theaters
- Museums
- Aquariums
- Indoor recreational and athletic facilities (except for youth 18 and under)

• This does not apply to collegiate or professional sports. Collegiate sports teams in the City of Boston may continue to use indoor recreational facilities and fitness centers.

• Indoor pools may remain open for all ages under pre-registration format structure limited to one person per swim lane.

• Indoor recreational venues with potential for low-contact (batting cages, driving ranges, bowling alleys, rock-climbing)

• Sightseeing and other organized tours (bus tours, duck tours, harbor cruises, whale watching)

• Indoor historical spaces & sites

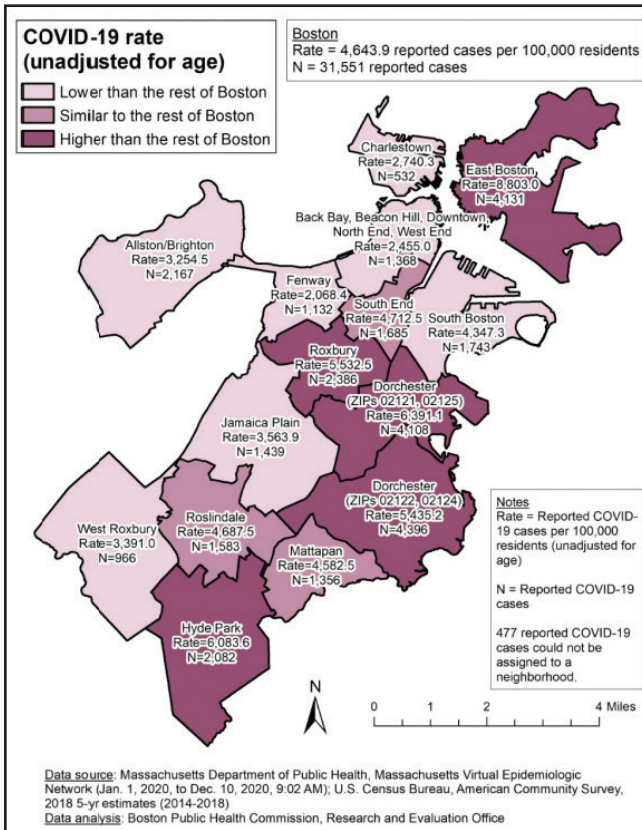
• Indoor event spaces (meeting rooms, ballrooms, private party rooms, social clubs)

• Private social clubs may continue to operate, if they serve food, consistent with restaurant guidance.

• Indoor and outdoor gaming arcades associated with gaming devices

Walsh said bars and restaurants may remain open with bar seating restrictions and a strictly enforced 90-minute seating limit.

"Right now, we need to use every tool in our public health and healthcare toolboxes to mitigate the spread of COVID-19," said East Boston Neighborhood Health Center President and CEO Manny Lopes. "The vaccine is the light at the end of the tunnel,



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

nel, but just because help is on the way does not mean the fight is over. For ten months, Mayor Walsh and his team have followed the data and acted in the best interest of the residents of the City of Boston. I applaud him for continuing this strategy and look forward to mobilizing in support of our shared battle against COVID-19."

Eastie's infection rate rose by eight percent according to the data released by the BPHC last Friday. Eastie's COVID infection rate went from 814.6 cases per 10,000 residents to 880.3 cases per 10,000 residents. The citywide average is 464.3 cases per 10,000 residents and Eastie still has the highest infection rates in

all of Boston.

An additional 308 Eastie residents contracted the virus with 4,131 confirmed cases, up from the 3,823 reported two weeks ago.

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.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased nearly 10 percent percent last week and went from 30,342 cases to 33,323 in a week. Twenty more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 953 total deaths in the city from COVID.

Massport's Winter Coat Drive benefits children in East Boston and South Boston

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) is pleased to announce a successful turnout for this year's Winter Coat Drive. More than 70 employees donated their time and money to purchase 40 coats and other winter accessories and deliver them to Crossroads Family Center in East Boston and Condon Community Center in South Boston.

"We are so proud of the support and generosity shown by the employees here at Massport," said Massport Director of Community Relations

and Government Affairs Alaina Coppola. "During these tough times, it is crucial that we look out for our neighbors. The coats, gloves and other winter accessories we provided will not only keep these children warm but also provide relief to their families during this holiday season."

Massport delivered 20 coats, gloves and hats to children at Crossroads Family Center and another 20 coats and winter accessories to children at Condon Community Center. The children range in

age from two to 17 years old.

"We are thankful for our partnership with Massport and being able to work with them again on this year's Winter Coat Drive," said Shakira Floyd, Program Coordinator at Crossroads Family Center. "During these hard economic times, these donations will allow families to dedicate their resources to other important needs."

"Thank you to Massport for the incredible donation of coats and winter items for our most vulnerable families here in South

Boston," said Barbara Kelly, Program Supervisor at Condon Community Center. "As we approach winter, being able to provide the basic need of a warm winter coat is more important than ever."

The Massachusetts Port Authority owns and operates Boston Logan International Airport, public terminals in the Port of Boston, Hanscom Field, and Worcester Regional Airport. For more information, please visit massport.com.



Pictured L-R Shakira Floyd, Program Coordinator, Crossroads Family Center & Audrey Nagle, Manager of Charitable Giving Programs, Massport.

An illustration of a healthcare worker in a blue protective suit and mask using a swab to test a person's nose. The person is sitting and looking up.

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A circular logo with a blue background and a white stylized 'E' shape. The text 'EAST BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER' is written around the circle.

Visit ebnhc.org/covid19 for other testing sites around Boston

Jolly Old Saint Nick won't be making any appearances for photos this year

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A close-up photo of a black and white cat wearing a red Santa hat with white trim and a white pom-pom.

A photo of a dog sitting in the driver's seat of a red classic car, looking out the window.

Published in the East Boston Times, Revere Journal, Everett Independent, Chelsea Record, Winthrop Sun Transcript, Lynn Journal and Charlestown Patriot-Bridge

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BPDA opens applications for \$49,000 of community benefits fund

By John Lynds

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) announced that it is now accepting applications for approximately \$49,000 of community benefits funding, which was secured through the Article 80 process for the Hodge Boiler Works project under construction at 99 Sumner St.

“Funding will be prioritized for applicants whose services benefit local residents, with an emphasis on residents of East Boston,” said BPDA Director of Communications Bonnie McGilpin. “To be eligible for this community benefit funding, an applicant must be a non-profit operating in Massachusetts and/or an organization that has identified a local non-profit as its fiscal agent. All awards will be subject to

BPDA Board approval.”

In 2017 the BPDA approved a ‘Notice of Project Change’ for the Hodge Boiler Works waterfront development project.

When the site was owned by the DeNormandie Companies a few years ago, the group pitched a scaled down version of their original plan to build an 8-story, 119 unit residential complex. DeNormandie decided to build a 5-story, 95 units building that is 80,000 sq. ft. less than the original design.

The Davis Companies recently scooped up the property and reverted back to the original plan of building 119 condo units. The Davis Companies will also pay into the BPDA’s fund to create affordable housing units off site to the tune of \$2.19 million.

According to the Davis Companies and the BPDA filing, the project that is under construction will result in a six story, 125,678 sq. ft.. mixed-use development.

Aside from the 119-condo units there will be a 7,200 sq. ft. public facility. The project also calls for 83 off-street parking spaces, 119 bicycle storage spaces within the building for residents and 28 exterior bicycle storage spaces to be made available for the general public, visitors, and residents.

Approximately 35,750 square feet of the project site will be used as public open space that will include one of the last links missing from the East Boston Harborwalk. This missing link will finally connect the Charlton Wharf site with Lopresti



An artist rendering of the Hodge Boiler Works waterfront development project. The BPDA announced this week that it is now accepting applications for approximately \$49,000 of community benefits funding attached to the project.

Park. With Clippership Wharf, Portside at Pier One and the Boston East Site completed, the Harborwalk will be one continuous path that extends from the Hyatt Logan Airport Hotel all the way to the Boston East Site on Border Street.

McGilpin said interested and eligible applicants for the community fund are encouraged to apply by Thursday, January 12, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

The application link can be found at <http://www.bostonplans.org/getattachment/c67ad2ea-d912-4e50-ac7e-c678d7d9de0c>.

Sailing // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

challenge this year and it seemed the entire program was operating in those last lines of Gatsby.

“We went from a 1:6 staff to student ratio to 1:2 and many of our usual routines went out the window,” said DeFronzo. “Our staff did it all with grace because one thing you’ll find in every Piers Park Sailor is the ability to adapt and persevere.”

The Sailing Center had 45 instructors on staff this summer with 26 teen instructor trainees.

“We had 180 Harbor Explorers and 140 Science of Sailing students this past summer as well,” said DeFronzo. “That’s a community of 391, where in a normal year we would have more than 2,000.”

Now into the cold season PPSC is getting ready to run an in-person learning pod for high need stu-

dents in partnership with Maverick Landing Community Services. This will allow students who are at home learning remotely to get the extra help they may need through the learning pod.

However, all this comes with a cost, and DeFronzo is hoping for additional community support as the pandemic continues to rage in Boston.

“Even though that’s less than 20 percent of the enrollment of a normal year, our youth program cost more to operate in 2020 than it did in 2019,” said DeFronzo. “We plan to come back strong again in 2021. An inclusive harbor isn’t going to happen by itself – we need your help. Please join in and support what we are doing at Piers Park with a charitable gift today. Your past support was essential in the re-

covery and strengthening of our programs over the last four years. Building an inclusive community on and around the harbor is a team effort and we are asking for your help.”

Donations to the Sailing Center can be made at <https://piersparksailing.org/donate>.

“The 2020 CARES Act allows you to deduct up to \$300 in charitable contributions even if you don’t itemize your taxes,” explained DeFronzo. “If you do itemize, the CARES Act also increases limits on charitable deductions.”

A generous matching gift made by the Piers Park Sailing Center Board of Directors and by Elizabeth and David Basile means that the first \$5,000 raised through this campaign will be doubled.



Sailers relax on a boat out in the Harbor during the Sailing Center's summer season. The popular sailing program is looking for donations to help make the 2021 season even better than years past.

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Best Yet Medium Size Shrimp Ring 31-40 ct .. 9.99

Kayem Kielbasa 2/\$8.00

Bob Evans Side Dishes..... 2/\$7.00

Grocery

Great grocery specials

Gold Medal Flour 5lb bag 2/\$4.00 (ex organic)

Campbell's Gravy..... 10/\$10.00

Ocean Spray Cranberry Juice 64-oz. 2/\$5.00

Ronzoni Pasta..... 10/\$10.00 (excludes gluten free, super green & garden veggie)

Classico Pasta Sauce..... 2/\$3.00

Kitchen Basics Stocks 2/\$4.00

Tuttorosso Canned Tomatoes 10/\$10.00

Green Giant Canned Vegetables 3/\$2.00 (ex 3-bean & asparagus)

Starbucks K-Cups \$6.99

Heinz Gravies..... 2/\$3.00

Stove Top Stuffing 2/\$3.00

Betty Crocker Frosting..... 2/\$3.00

Betty Crocker Cake Mixes 4/\$5.00

Ocean Spray Cranberry Sauce..... 2/\$3.00

Vlasic Pickles 2/\$4.00

Progresso Bread Crumbs 4/\$5.00

Cool Whip 10/\$10.00

Green Giant Steamers 10/\$10.00

Pepperidge Farm Layer Cakes 2/\$6.00

Lenders Bagels..... 2/\$3.00

Birds Eye Steam Fresh Vegetables 2/\$4.00

Southland Squash and Turnip 2/\$4.00

Maria Cavatelli..... 4/\$5.00

Cracker Barrel Cheese..... 2/\$5.00

Tropicana Orange Juice 52oz 2/\$5.00

Land O Lakes Butter Quarters 2/\$6.00

Pillsbury Cinnamon Rolls..... 2/\$4.00

Pillsbury Cookies 2/\$5.00

Pillsbury Pie Crust 2/\$5.00

Dragone Ricotta 2lb \$3.99

Hood Sour Cream 16oz 2/\$3.00

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We have the right to limit quantities.

Boston Ballet presents “BB@yourhome: The Gift”

Boston Ballet presents “BB@yourhome: The Gift,” a one-hour long program featuring new works choreographed by Boston Ballet Company dancers Paul Craig, Chyrstyn Fentroy, John Lam, Haley Schwan, My’Kal Stromile, Gabriel Lorena (Boston Ballet II) and Arianna Hughlett (post graduate), set to Duke Ellington’s “Nutcracker Suite.” The classical grand pas de deux in Act II from Mikko Nissinen’s “The Nutcracker,” performed by Principal Dancers Viktorina Kapitonova and Tigran Mkrtchyan, to Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s music, enhances the program. “The Gift” will premiere at on Thursday, Dec. 17, and will be available until Dec. 27. Subscribers will receive a streaming link prior to the premiere.

“This program is nothing like our traditional ‘Nutcracker,’ and unlike anything we have ever performed. Duke Ellington’s score adds a delightfully jazzy touch to the classical music we know and love,” said Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen. “Paired with choreography from seven of our dancers, it will be a unique and fun way to celebrate the holiday season.”

Duke Ellington’s ‘Nutcracker Suite’ is a jazz interpretation of Tchaikovsky’s score of ‘The Nutcracker.’ Arranged in 1960 by Ellington and his frequent collaborator Billy Strayhorn, their rendition fea-

tures nine movements. Ellington (1899–1974) is considered the greatest jazz composer and bandleader of his time. He led his band for more than 50 years, composed thousands of scores, and created one of the most distinctive ensemble sounds in Western music. Boston’s own jazz aficionado Eric Jackson, from GBH, will introduce Ellington and the toe tapping score.

“I consider Ellington to be simply one of the most important and iconic American musical voices,” said Boston Ballet Music Director Mischa Santora. “I think it’s fantastic we’re adding this really fun, sophisticated, and intriguing twist to our holiday season with his music, and I can’t wait to see the choreography the dancers come up with.”

Choreographer and Principal Dancer Paul Craig said, “Hearing Ellington and Strayhorn’s reworking of familiar melodies made reimaging ‘Nutcracker’ choreography so much fun. It has been amazing getting to choreograph on and with my pod of dancers. After being quarantined for almost six months, it really is a gift to all of us.”

Choreographer and Soloist Chyrstyn Fentroy said, “Creating a section for The Gift has been a unique holiday-themed choreographic adventure. As a choreographer for this project, the familiarity of the score gives you a sense of comfort, but

the subtle differences between this version and the original Tchaikovsky score allowed me to challenge myself to think outside of the ‘Nutcracker’ box and create something completely different and new.”

Choreographer and Principal Dancer John Lam said, “It has been inspiring not only to create a new visual interpretation of this piece, but to explore the magnificent counterpoints and interplay among the voices in Ellington’s virtuosic band.”

Choreographer and Second Soloist Haley Schwan said, “Duke Ellington’s music encapsulates the spirit of the holiday season that we so enjoy bringing to the people of Boston each year. This process has really been about bringing some magic to the end of 2020. I hope that our joy of being back in the studio jumps through the screen to our audience at home.”

Choreographer and Artist of the Company My’Kal Stromile said, “This project has been an exciting challenge! I wanted to create choreography that is relatable, joyful and fun, while honoring the history of the original Tchaikovsky score. Duke Ellington illustrated his interpretation of The ‘Nutcracker’ in 1960, 68 years after the original, making the music feel very modern and quite jazzy.”

Choreographer and Boston Ballet II member Gabriel Lorena says, “El-

lington’s music gives me power to feel like I own the whole stage. I wanted to create a work that would make the dancers feel the same way, with a piece that would bring power, personality, musicality, and artistry from their heart to your screen.”

Choreographer and post-graduate student Arianna Hughlett said, “As a young choreographer, I am especially grateful for Boston Ballet’s trust in me to create a piece. I’m very proud to be part of an organization that has so swiftly adapted to the times in order to keep creating art. ‘The Gift’ has brought me a sense of optimism for the future that I hope reaches audiences watching from home.”

“The Gift” is the second of six BB@yourhome programming. Single tickets for “The Gift” are on sale until Dec. 27 for \$40 or it can be viewed as part of a BB@yourhome subscription. Boston Ballet’s virtual season features new creations, signature works, and classical ballet favorites captured live in-studio. Dancers have been back in the studios since September, rehearsing under a new health and safety plan, which was developed in partnership with a team of medical professionals and infectious disease specialists.

For more information on BB@yourhome, visit bostonballet.org.

Baker announced \$300,000 grant to stormwater coalitions

Building on its commitment to protect and improve water quality throughout Massachusetts, the Baker-Polito Administration has announced nearly \$300,000 in grants to five multi-community stormwater coalitions across the Commonwealth to help local cities and towns meet existing and upcoming stormwater management requirements.

“The Baker-Polito Administration is committed to protecting water quality across the Commonwealth and these funds will make a real difference in the 228 communities that will benefit from these projects,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. “The stormwater collaboratives funded today will share resources, creative ideas and watershed protection strategies that have a proven record of success.”

“Stormwater is a significant source of water pollution across the state and is a complex issue that requires innovative ideas and cooperative solutions,” said Commissioner Martin Suuberg of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). “MassDEP is pleased to provide funding that will lessen the costs of permit compliance locally, while we continue to work closely with communities and stormwater coalitions

to provide critical technical assistance.”

The projects, selected by MassDEP, were awarded to the Statewide Stormwater Coalition, Neponset River Watershed Association, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, Charles River Watershed Association, and Massachusetts Maritime for Buzzards Bay Stormwater Collaborative.

The funding awarded by the Baker-Polito Administration will enable Massachusetts municipalities subject to the current MS4 permit, issued jointly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and MassDEP, which took effect on July 1, 2018.

Permit requirements that the MS4 communities must meet include the development and implementation of a public education program, adopting more stringent local development rules, locating and removing pollutants that are illegally entering municipal stormwater systems, and installing stormwater management systems.

The groups receiving funding are:

- Statewide Stormwater

Coalition – \$75,354

The Statewide Stormwater Coalition has developed education and outreach programming for more than 180 municipalities in Massachusetts that satisfies one out of six minimum control measures of the 2016 MS4 permit. For this project, the Statewide Stormwater Coalition will expand the education campaign through social media and YouTube advertising, translate video outreach materials to Spanish to reach a broader audience, and offer social media training for municipal staff on how to reach underrepresented audiences.

•Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) – \$59,771

This project proposes a new collaboration with the Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition to develop Phosphorus Control Plans for communities affected by the Lakes and Ponds and Charles River Phosphorus TMDLs. CRWA will develop model Phosphorus Control Plan templates that will contain several recommendations on phosphorus reduction crediting and by-law updates for each of the 54 communities included in the project.

Massachusetts Maritime Academy for Buzzards Bay Stormwater Collaborative – \$47,000

“MS4 grants play a crucial role in assisting cities

and towns with their efforts to meet stormwater management standards, and I applaud MassDEP for their commitment to supporting our municipalities’ ongoing work to protect the Commonwealth’s water resources,” said State Senator Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett). “I am especially pleased that the grant awards going to both the Charles River Watershed Association and the Statewide Stormwater Coalition will reach every municipality in my district, including historically underserved Environmental Justice communities. Ensuring that our communities have the resources they need to develop effective solutions and meet challenges will go a long way toward preventing the harmful environmental and public health effects of stormwater pollution.”

The grants are funded through the Commonwealth’s Fiscal Year 2021 capital plan’s “MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program.”

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

Rep. Pressley introduces Transit Parity Resolution

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07), along with 32 Members of Congress, introduced the Transit Parity Resolution last week calling for equal funding for transit and highways.

Currently, Congress uses a 40-year precedent to determine funding for highways and public transportation. Since 1982, approximately 80 percent of federal transportation program funding has been allocated to highways, while only 20 percent has been allocated to public transit. When this 80-20 split was decided, it was intended to be a user fee, but since 2008 over \$144 billion in general taxpayer dollars have been used to supplement dwindling gas tax revenues for highway and transit spending. This split is out of step with the current needs of our country and leaves too many reliant on deteriorating transit systems with infrequent and unreliable service.

“Public transit is a public good, and it’s past time our government treat it like one,” said Congresswoman Pressley. “For too long, our federal transportation investments have prioritized highways over public transit, incentivizing travel in private cars which increases traffic congestion, produces pollution, and exacerbates racial and economic inequality. Today, we have an opportunity and an obligation to fundamentally realign our federal transportation policy to center community connectivity and emphasize equity, access, and sustainability. As transportation agencies in my district and across the country face record budget shortfalls due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we must act swiftly to make

the investments in public transit our communities deserve by establishing real funding parity. This is about addressing the damage from this epidemic and committing to the future of our transit systems. I’m proud to stand with Congressman García, Chairman Jeffries, and our colleagues in calling on Congress to do just that.”

Said Will Anderson, Sierra Club’s Associate Director of Legislative, Administrative Advocacy for the Clean Transportation for All campaign, “The Sierra Club supports Congressman García’s resolution to acknowledge frequent and reliable public transportation as the civil right and climate change solution that it is by adequately funding it. We must treat public transit as essential infrastructure—just like roads, bridges, tunnels and utilities—that is crucial to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of our communities.”

In October 2019, Congresswoman Pressley founded the Future of Transportation Caucus, a Congressional caucus focused on centering equity, access, and sustainability in our transportation systems. In June, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, she led a letter advocating for \$50 billion in annual emergency funds to support and sustain our nation’s public transit systems. Later that month, she introduced the Freedom to Move Act, which would provide federal grants to transit agencies that move to a fare-free model. Rep. Pressley is also a co-chair of the Congressional Bike Caucus and a tireless advocate for sustainable and equity focused transportation and infrastructure policies.

HUD, VA announce support to help homeless veterans

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced it is awarding \$804,181 in rental assistance in Massachusetts to house 63 veterans at risk of experiencing homelessness. This funding is part of \$46 million being awarded nationally.

The local agencies providing supportive housing include:

- Boston Housing Authority \$263,028 – 20 vouchers
- New Bedford Housing Authority \$43,473 – seven vouchers
- Quincy Housing Authority \$249,796 – 16 vouchers
- Barnstable Housing Authority \$51,900 – five vouchers
- Milton Housing Authority \$139,733 – 10 vouchers
- Mass DHCD \$56,251 – 5 vouchers

The supportive housing assistance is provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program, which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by the VA.

A component of the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, the HUD-VASH vouchers being awarded today enable homeless veterans to obtain affordable, decent housing in the private market. These vouchers are critical tools in helping communities effectively end homelessness among veterans.

“We’ve made significant progress reducing homelessness among veterans here in Massachusetts,”

said David Tille, HUD New England Regional Administrator. “These vouchers will continue to help communities build on these gains, providing targeted assistance to those in need to ensure that every veteran has a home.”

“Ending veteran homelessness has been a top priority for the Trump Administration since day one,” said HUD Secretary Ben Carson. “We have an obligation to ensure that our nation’s veterans, who have given so much for our country are not left out on the streets. They fought for us, now it’s time for us to fight for them.”

In the HUD-VASH program, VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) assess veterans experiencing homelessness before referring them to local housing agencies for these vouchers. Decisions are based on a variety of factors, most importantly the duration of homelessness and the need for longer term, more intensive support in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing. The HUD-VASH program includes both the rental assistance the voucher provides and the comprehensive case management that VAMC staff offers.

Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent. VA offers eligible homeless veterans clinical and supportive services through its medical centers across the U.S., Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT

TO G.L.c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405 Docket No. SU20P2221GD

In the matter of: William Kenney To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, MA and Public Guardian Services LLC of Braintree, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and

requesting that Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court. 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 01/21/2021.

This 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: December 08, 2020

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

12/16/20

EB

CHD calls for more study of Pfizer COVID vaccine for seniors and minorities

Children’s Health Defense (CHD) is raising significant concerns based on the briefing released for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee meeting Thursday, Dec. 10, to review the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine BNT162b2.

Less than 2.1 percent of the safety study cohort had been followed for over three months as of the Nov. 14 cutoff date. This is inadequate to determine any long-term effects of the vaccine. If the manufacturers allow vaccination of the placebo group after six months, longer follow up of these early cohorts will be lost. Manufacturers bear no liability for any adverse events under the Prep Act.

Only 2.1 percent and 1.8 percent of the study cohort included patients 75 years old and over with pre-ex-

isting medical conditions, for the vaccinated and the placebo groups, respectively. There were only 41 total African Americans over age 75 in both arms of the Pfizer vaccine study. These are insufficient samples on which to base broad recommendations for these very important and vulnerable segments of the population.

The change in the age groupings from 18-55 and 65-85 in Phase 1/2

to 12-15, 16-55 and >55 years of age in Expanded Phase 2/3, has limited the assessment of safety and efficacy in elderly, frail populations by combining working age, community-living empty-nesters and seniors with an older, sicker population.

In the Phase 2/3 portion, “In participants ... 75 years of age and older ... efficacy of COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2 was ... 100 percent (two-sided 95 percent confidence interval of -13.1 percent to 100.0 percent)....” 100 percent efficacy means that they had no COVID-19 cases in the oldest group that received the vaccine; but the confidence interval is statistically meaningless.

Also, the initial Phase 2 portion of the trial, which looked at blood immune responses to vaccination, included a maximum of 22 people over age 68 in the 65-85-year-old group. It showed that older adults did not have noteworthy immune responses until after the second vaccination. With less robust immune responses in the elderly, extensive follow up on titers and how long they last is needed.

Children’s Health Defense is calling for further intense study overall, particularly for the elderly residential population and Blacks.

Ursula Maccaro

One of the first WWII War Brides

Ursula (Wehren) Maccaro of Revere passed away on December 7 at the age of 94.

Ursula was one of the first War Brides in the Boston area coming to Revere in 1947. She met her future husband “Mac,” as he was called, while he was stationed in Berlin. Their story made the Boston Globe when they arrived. Ursula, along with her husband, owned “Tony’s Fruitland” in East Boston from the mid 50’s to the early 80’s. She will truly be missed by all who knew her.

Born in Berlin, Germany on September 25, 1926 to the late Johann and Gertrude (Wagner) Wehren, she was the beloved wife of 40 years to the late Anthony Maccaro, devoted mother of Peter Maccaro and his wife, Maureen of Dracut, and Maryann Russo and her husband, Stephen of Winthrop; cherished grandmother of Michael and his wife, Sharon, Rebecca Maccaro, Kimberly Cash and her husband, William, Jennifer Green and her husband, Joshua, and Stephen Russo Jr. and his wife, Emily; adored great



grandmother of Sophia, Audrey, Scarlett, Kyle, Elise and Benjamin. 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 Bethany Health Care Center, in care of Sister Jacquelyn McCarthy, 97 Bethany Rd, Framingham, MA 01702. For guest-book, please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

OBITUARIES

Elaine Harder

Boston Herald retiree

Elaine M. (Miles) Harder, a lifelong resident of East Boston, passed away on Dec. 8 after a long battle with lung cancer. She was 73 years old.

Elaine loved spending time and going places with her grandson, Timmy. She enjoyed doing arts and crafts and playing Bingo. She was a retired employee of the Boston Herald as a switchboard operator for over 20 years.

The beloved daughter of the late A. Frank Miles and A. Lucy (Discenza) Miles, she was the cherished mother of Lauren J. Robinson and her husband, Mark of Millbury, Jennifer J. Buonopane and her companion, Anthony of Derry, NH, Dana M. Harder and his wife, Jessica of Quincy and Darcie L. Harder of East Boston; adored grandmother of Brittany, Kayla, Sydney, Marissa, Bobby, Timmy, Evan, Anthony and Rino; dear sister of Ellen J. Connell and her husband, Dave, Debbie Tassinari and her husband, Thomas, all of East Boston and Cindy F. Homer of Alabama and her late husband, Brian Homer. She



is also lovingly survived by her dear cousin, Bobby Discenza and his wife, Virginia of Minnesota and by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grand-nephews.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, Funeral Services were private. A Memorial Mass will be scheduled and announced at a later date. Remembrances may be made to the East Boston Social Center, 68 Central Square, East Boston, MA 02128.

The staff at Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals of Revere, is honored to have assisted the family in completing arrangements. To send online condolences, please visit www.vertuccioandsmith.com.

Russell Quigley

Of Peabody, formerly of East Boston

Russell J. Quigley of Peabody, formerly of East Boston, died on December 11.

Russ had a love of Harleys, he was on the track team at East Boston High School and loved to sing Elvis Presley songs. He serenaded Anna with “You Are Sincere” on their wedding day.

He was the beloved husband of Anna (Birkmaier) for 30 years, father of Brittany, Marissa, Russell Jr. and Phillip; brother of the late Robert and William Quigley, son of the late Helen (Todesco) Quigley-Finno and the late Joseph Quigley, stepson of the late Alfred Finno who had a great influence on his life, half-brother of Alfred Finno, Jr. and is also survived by many nephews.

Visiting hours in the Magrath Funeral Home, 336 Chelsea St [at Day Sq] East Boston today, Wednesday, December



16, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Funeral service at 1 p.m. will be followed by interment in Woodlawn Cemetery. Please omit flowers. Donations to aid in the support of his children would be appreciated. **PLEASE NOTE: Masks must be worn at all times in the funeral home and at the cemetery. Social distancing required. Occupancy is limited. Please pay your respects and exit to allow others to enter.

Please feel free to express condolence to the family on our Tribute Page: MagrathFuneralHome.com.

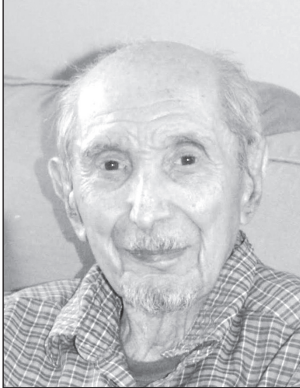
John Corrado

World War II US Army Veteran

John E. Corrado of Revere died on December 8 at the age of 98.

John proudly served his country in the United States Army in WWII. He was a recipient of the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon, American Theater Campaign Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal of Germany. A member of the V.F.W. Mottolo Post, John and his wife, Paula were devout parishioners of St. Anthony’s Church where John was a member of the Holy Name Society. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Born in East Boston on January 25, 1922 to the late Pasquale and Lucy (Fredestefano) Corrado, he was the beloved husband of 60 years to Paula (Fala); devoted father of John B. Corrado and his wife, Karen of Revere, and Paul Corrado and his wife, Domenica of Lynnfield; dear brother of Joseph P. Corrado and his wife, Ann of Revere and



the late Adeline Corrado; cherished grandfather of Christopher and Catherine Corrado; step grandfather to Jamie Hershey and her husband, Jarrod, and Kristin Degou and adored great grandfather of Theodore Harrison and William Hershey. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and great nieces and great nephews.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Anthony’s Church, 250 Revere St, Revere on Saturday, December 12. Interment followed at Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601 or at alz.org. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

Helene Edwina Courier

Her sense of humor, contagious smile and poetic moments are treasured.

Helene Edwina Courier, 88, of Pine Hill Rd, Berwick, ME died peacefully at home on November 28.

She was born on November 10, 1932, daughter of Herbert Bolivar and Helen (Mosher) Bolivar. She married Edward E. Courier III on April 5, 1953 and they were together for a total of 75 years. She was a devoted wife, best friend and mother.

Helene lived in East Boston until 1994 and was an active member of Grace Church Federated. You could find her every year at the church fair sharing a table with her best friend for life, Marilyn Ford. She loved her flower garden in her small back yard and to this day a rose bush still blooms that her father, Herbert Bolivar brought back from the Cape.

After moving to Berwick, she worshipped at the First Parish United Church of Christ in Somersworth, NH. She enjoyed camping, crafts and spending time with her family and friends.

Helene had a kind and caring heart and helped those in need whenever she could. Her sense of humor, contagious smile and poetic moments are treasured.

She was predeceased by her sister, Ruth Bou-



dreau, son-in-law, Frederick Ross and grandson,

Walter Smith. Helene is survived by her husband, Edward Courier, sister, Margaret Flanagan and sister-in-law, Eleanor Chenevert; her children, Ruth Ross of Wakefield, Edward H. Courier and

his wife, Jaynie Courier of East Boston, Lori Smith of Berwick, ME and Cindy Courier of

Tewksbury; her grandchildren: Elizabeth Courier, Nathaniel Ross, Meghan Courier,

Angelin Ross Cocorochio, Edward Courier Jr., and Emma Smith and three great-grandchildren:

Autumn, Abigail and Gregory.

A Celebration of Helene’s Life will be held sometime next year.

Cremation care by Peaslee Funeral Home. To express condolences, please visit:

www.peasleefuneralhome.com.

OBITUARIES

Effective Jan. 1, 2021

All obituaries and death notices

will be at a cost of

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Includes photo.No word Limit.

Please send to

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

STABILIZATION FUND APPROVED

CHELSEA - Help is on the way for homeowners that find themselves with increasing tax bills, as the City Council voted 10-0 to transfer \$750,000 to the Homeowner Stabilization Program to help some owner-occupants with tax increases.

The Homeowner Stabilization Fund had been in existence and had a \$250,000 balance this fall, but after the tax rate was set and it was discovered many people were going to get his with tax increases – particularly two-family and three-family homeowners – it was proposed to be expanded. The program combined will have \$1 million in funding and will be available to those making under \$119,000 as a household.

Councillors were in agreement on the program, but Councillor Giovanni Recupero wanted clarification and wanted to send it to committee.

“I want homeowners to get it, but I want to know how they’ll be disbursed,” he said. “Will it be one sum of money for everyone under \$119,000? If it’s one amount for everyone, I’m for it. But if its not, then we need to talk about it.”

His motion for committee was defeated 1-9.

Council President Roy Avellaneda explained that the Council had gone over the program in detail for more than an hour before the last meeting with Planner Alex Train.

The matter was moved to a vote and approved 10-0.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said he believed the program would roll out for taxpayers in January following the issuance of the first tax bills.

•CARES ACT

The City Council approved its second CARES Act payment on Monday night of \$4.029 million – money that comes from the federal government for COVID-19 related expenses.

Ambrosino said the

amount was \$3 million above the previous allotment provided by Gov. Charlie Baker. The money will be used to fund all of the COVID relief since July 1. That includes the Chelsea Legal Clinic, Rental Assistance Round 2, Chelsea Eats and the Food Pantry program.

•CENSUS WAS A DUD IN CHELSEA

It was reported on Monday night that early indications appear that Chelsea, at least officially, will have a smaller population in the 2020 number than it did in the 2010 number – a number that was entirely too low back then.

It was bad news for all facets of government in the City, from simply having a good count of residents to losing out on millions in federal funding.

“Unfortunately, due mostly to the COVID-19 pandemic, our outreach efforts were constrained,” said Ambrosino. “As a result, our self-response rate was lower than hoped for and worse than in 2010.”

The self-response rate is made up of those that sent in their Census forms or filled it out online earlier this year. It doesn’t include those that were counted last summer and fall in door-to-door efforts.

State data for the Census 2020 is expected in early 2021, and data for cities like Chelsea is expected to come in the spring.

SANTA PARADE ON DEC. 19

CHELSEA - Santa’s always been mobile, but COVID-19 this year has him moving quite efficiently.

The City, Chamber of Commerce and a number of partners are coming together to have Santa Claus hosted in a parade through Chelsea on Dec. 19 from 3-5 p.m. Residents can look out their windows, from their porches/balconies or on Facebook.

Chelsea Police, Chelsea Fire, Cataldo Ambulance and several classic cars will accompany Santa

through the streets.

The three routes are as follows (maps are available on the City of Chelsea’s website):

•#1 – Chestnut to Medford to Beacon to Mulberry to Chestnut to Everett Avenue to Essex Street and back on Congress Avenue.

•#2 – Park Street to Central Ave/Willow to Marlborough to Highland Street to Broadway/Stockton to Clark Avenue to Orange Street to Carter Street to Washington Avenue to Jefferson Avenue.

•#3 – Jefferson Avenue to Exeter Street to Wesley Street to Washington Avenue/Prospect to Springvale to Washington Avenue to Sagamore Avenue to Bloomingdale Street to Washington Avenue.

DELL ISOLA RETURNS TO COUNCIL

EVERETT - Former City Council President Rich Dell Isola will return to the Council perhaps as soon as next Monday to fill the vacancy now left by the resignation of Peter Napolitano – as is dictated by the City Charter.

Dell Isola, who was the last man out in the City Election in 2019, said he will take the seat and likely run again for it in the 2021 City Election.

“I’m going to go in like I left a year ago,” he said. “When I became president last year, I said we had to work as a team. I hope that can happen. Me, personally, I don’t see a team right now. We have to work together with the Mayor’s Office, the School Committee and everyone as one. I’m going in as a team player and whatever is good for the residents, that’s what I’ll do.”

He said he understands that there is what is likely to be a competitive City Election next year, and he’s ready to cast his hat in the ring as of now to run for re-election.

“As of now, I am going to run next year,” he said. “Being out for a year, you begin to look at politics

BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE...



One never knows how normal things will play out in the pandemic, and that was the case for the Warren Tavern’s annual Toys for Tots drive – which nets many toys for needy kids in the Town. Some were nervous, but Charlestown was more generous than ever this year. Kim Mahoney, of the Tavern, said they had the largest amount of toys ever given for the drive. Here, on Sunday, staff members at the Tavern posed with a few of the many toys that were collected before doing an online raffle drawing.

differently. I want to have us working as a team.”

City Clerk Sergio Cornelio said the City Charter dictates the at-large Council replacement process, calling for the sixth-place finisher in the five-seat race to automatically take the seat if accepted.

The caveat is that the City Election cannot be less than 90 days away (which would be August 2021) and that the replacement candidate must have received at least 20 percent of the ballots cast. In this case, the City Election is nearly 11 months away, and Dell Isola received approximately 33 percent of the ballots cast in the 2019 election.

Cornelio said the Council would have to vote on the matter, but that is a formality as the Charter is specific in saying the 6th place finisher is automatically the new councilor on a vacancy.

“By his vote, he automatically gets it,” said Cornelio. “It goes to a vote of the Council, but the Charter says they ‘shall’ vote for that candidate. It is a formality vote really. He automatically receives it according to the Charter because he was 6th and had more than 20 percent of the ballots cast.”

The Council has 30 days to take the action of voting Dell Isola in and swearing him into office. Cornelio said they were contemplating taking that action on Monday, Dec. 14, but the agenda hadn’t yet been set.

SOME WINTER SPORTS GIVEN GO AHEAD

EVERETT - The Everett School Committee voted 8-0 to return some Winter Sports to Everett High School (EHS), allowing boys and girls basketball and hockey to begin practices as early as Dec. 15.

It is the first time any interscholastic sports have been given the okay in Everett since last year’s Winter Sports season ended and no spring or fall sports resumed due to COVID-19. However, with long discussions had within the Greater Boston League (GBL), Supt. Priya Tahiliani and Athletic Director Tammy Turner said they felt prepared to safely offer these sports to students as soon as possible.

“We’re asking for approval for this and have a recommendation, but are interested in discussion on it,” said Tahiliani on Monday.

“Winter coaches are on board with this proposal and are ready to make the best of what is not the best situation...We have put a priority on clubs and activities that are small in scope and that have a chance of being sustainable. We believe the athletic plan falls into that category.”

The plan allows girls and boys basketball – both varsity and junior varsity – and hockey, which is mixed boys and girls at Everett High. Indoor track would be moved to the Fall 2 Season, which is scheduled to be on Feb. 22. Wrestling is a high-risk activity under COVID and would likely be in the spring, if at all. The new Winter Season would begin Dec. 15, with practices able to start on Dec. 15.

Teams will have a maximum of 15 players per squad and 20 for hockey, and there will be try-outs posted soon. Players will have to wear a mask at all times in both sports, there are no locker rooms and benches would be arranged with social distancing. There will be no spectators allowed at any of the games, but Tahiliani said they are working with ECTV closely to make sure that games are broadcast live for friends, family and students to watch.

Interestingly, referees will be ask to enforce a protocol where there is limited amounts of loud cheering and yelling from the bench areas.

The first games, Turner said, would be in January after the break.

If necessary, sports might create a “bubble” if need be. For instance, Turner said if there is worry, they could designate Medford High as the location of all girls basketball games. Meanwhile, the teams will have different practice dates at Everett High as well to keep the teams segregated and to help with contact tracing.

“It is great to see the letters GBL back on the sports landscape where they belong,” said Tahiliani.

Turner said the GBL has been active all fall in coming up with strict protocols to ensure safety of student athletes – and to also allow them to return for their social-emotional benefits that having been missing for months.

“The GBL athletic directors and athletic trainers have been working since the fall,” she said. “We have been doing everything we can to come up with a winning plan because we know it the social-emotional benefit for the kids that we need... Because it’s just the GBL playing each other, we can adapt. The AD’s have been working together and building up the flexibility. We want to play and are willing to move to be able to do that.”

Public Health Nurse Sabrina Firicano warned that there has been a major increase in November for cases among kids age 0-19. That is a concern for her, she said, in returning to sports and something to watch. She said it will need to be watched carefully and sports might spread the virus.

“As far as the spread, it could be a risk where there are players in close contact with each other,” she said.

School Committee members Samantha Lambert and Dana Murray said they had read all of the protocols put out by the GBL and were impressed and comfortable.

“They are extensive and show a lot of thought and preparation went into the kids,” said Lambert. “That’s why I’m leaning towards voting ‘yes.’”

She also said it will be important to press upon the kids how the virus spreads, and staying home from a game with symptoms is the right thing to do.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

“The students may not see the impact of a chain virus,” she said. “Whatever we can do to make sure they understand it’s not just themselves, but their family and other people’s families at risk if they don’t want to follow the guidelines.”

SIERRA IS FIRST WOMAN TO WORK IN DPW

LYNN - Maraya Sierra wasn’t aware that she was the first woman in the history of the city to work in the Lynn Department of Works Street Division.

But when she learned of her groundbreaking achievement, the 35-year-old Lynn resident was understandably proud.

“It feels good – the crew treats me well, they’ve all been welcoming like I’m part of the team,” said Sierra. “I didn’t know I was the first woman in the division. But I feel it’s a good thing. There are a lot of movements going on right now and to be part of it is pretty cool.”

Sierra began her employment in the Lynn DPW in October and it’s been a busy schedule each day. “We do street work, paving, tree work, pot-holes – things like that,” said Sierra.

Last Thursday, Sierra was contributing to the Street Division’s meticulous paving of a sidewalk and driveway on Bennett Street. The weather was cold and winds were brisk, but the DPW contingent worked diligently to make the sidewalk safe for the public and complete the job.

Sierra credits the expertise of her foreman, Dan Baetzel, and the other members of the DPW crew for helping her making a seamless transition to the department.

“Dan is my foreman and he’s been teaching me a lot and he’s a great teacher,” said Sierra. “The crew makes sure I’m safe on the job. I was really nervous when I started, but they made me feel so welcomed, like one of them.

“I also want to thank [DPW Associate Commissioner] Lisa Nerich,

[DPW Commissioner] Andy Hall, and [DPW Street Superintendent] George Potter for giving me the opportunity and believing in me to take part in this,” said Sierra.

“We’re very happy that Mariah is breaking new barriers as the first woman in the DPW Street Division,” said Nerich.

DPW foreman Dan Baetzel said Sierra has been an excellent addition to the team.

“It’s been great – ever since she’s been on the department, she’s been a great addition,” said Baetzel. “She gets her assignments every day, goes out, works hard, does her job – she’s been a blessing to have on my crew. Everyone gets along well with her. We got a great team of individuals down here in the DPW.”

DPW crew member Danny Cannata said, “This is my first week on the job and my first day I worked with Mariah and she’s great to work with. She’s good at the job. She’s actually showing me what to do. I enjoy working with her.”

Sierra previously worked for Aero Snow Removal and American Sweeper in plowing and street-sweeping operations. She had been working for Jet Blue at Logan Airport for seven years and received her Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) with the MBTA.

“I can’t work in an office,” she says of her path toward mechanically inclined, outdoor places of employment. “I have to be outside doing things. I also like working in my hometown keeping the city nice and neat.”

Maraya graduated in 2004 from Lynn Classical where she played in the basketball program under the direction of varsity coach Gene Constantino and JV coach Geoffrey Boyd. “I was a freshman when Helen Ridley was a senior,” recalled Maraya. “I was at the game when Helen broke the scoring record. I actually know Helen well. I used to play street basketball with her. She’s a very good person and very dedicated to the sport.”

Maraya praised her favorite educator at Classical, Mrs. White, who was her English teacher. “She’s really dedicated to the kids,” said Maraya. “She went above and beyond for her students.”

After Classical, Maraya continued her education at the New England Institute of Art in Brookline.

Sierra and her DPW crewmates received a preview of New England’s cold winters Friday with the first snowstorm of the season. With her experience in snowplowing, the first woman in the DPW Street Division will be helping the department keep Lynn roads safe for motorists and residents alike, free of the wintry hazards of snow, sleet, and ice.

KEEFE SEEKS COLLABORATION BETWEEN ASSESSOR'S AND BUILDING DEPARTMENTS

REVERE - City Council President Patrick Keefe said that the assessment from the tax collector’s office on homes doesn’t always correlate with the use as defined in the Building Department’s Office.

Keefe said he would like to see a collaboration between the Assessor’s Office and the Building Department “because there are many cases in the city where a home is assessed as a two-family, but in the Building Department as a one-family.”

“This situation exists more often in single-and-two-family homes, typically homes that were built without all the proper building permits to have a legal in-law or legal accessory dwelling,” said Keefe. “Now as the homes are getting sold, these homeowners are finding that they cannot legally sell it as a two-family, because it’s not on the books as a two-family and it triggers an issue with the Fire Department because they can’t issue a smoke detector’s certificate if the house has not been legitimized.”

Assessor Dana Brangiforte and Building Commissioner Louis Cavagnaro joined Keefe and the Council in discussing the issue at the City Council meeting Monday night.

“It’s going to take a long time – I’m not expecting this to change overnight and be fixed in a year or two,” said Keefe. “It’s going to take years. The sooner we can coordinate this, it will be beneficial for everybody. Some homeowners will have to spend money to legitimize their homes, but rather than having to deal with it years later upon the sale of their home, I think it will create less confusion and make the residents of Revere a little happier if we begin the process now. There will be a lot more consistency in the process. It’s very confusing to sell your home and your tax bill says it’s appraised as a two-family and you go to sell it, and you’re told it’s a one-family because that’s what the Building Department has listed.”

The Council approved Keefe’s motion that Mayor Brian Arrigo request the Assessor’s Office to coordinate with the Building Department relative to home assessments.

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The Zonta message board gets the word out of “NO to Violence Against Women.”



Zonta message board decries violence against women

As part of Zonta’s annual Fall advocacy campaign, “Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women,” the Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore has partnered with the City to get that message out. During the International Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, November 25th through December 10th, the electronic message board outside City Hall

has proclaimed exactly that, in Spanish and in English. The newly re-named Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore has historically been a staunch financial supporter of HarborCov. Past Fall campaigns have included partnerships with a local taxi company to raise awareness of domestic violence and the available local resources, and to provide travel vouchers

for HarborCov residents in need of assistance. The club also provides college scholarships to girls graduating from Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, Everett and Saugus high schools, and provides food vouchers to families in those communities. The Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore recognizes that one of the many tragedies of COVID 19 is the increase in domestic violence. The club’s message is the continued support of local agencies that denounce violence against women and provide safety and services. HarborCov’s hotline number is 617 884-9799.



Zonta Club members are, L to R.: Joan Lanzillo-Haesy; Diane Cambria; Bonnie Fishman; Sheila Arsenaault; Janis Tatarka, President, and Theresa DiPietro. Photos by Georgia Green.

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Keep in mind pet safety over the holidays

We all know that cats and dogs love to chew (and unfortunately swallow) a surprising array of household items. In fact, one of the most common claims we receive at Trupanion is for Foreign Body Ingestion. The holidays, along with all of its festive decorations, provides additional chewing opportunities – and potential emergency visits to the veterinarian – for our furry friends. So as we all start to deck the halls this holiday season, Trupanion, a leader in medical insurance for cats & dogs, offers up these 5

holiday items (along with related mishaps from Holidays past) to keep pets away from this holiday season.

1) Tinsel
Tinsel and ribbon can cause a tangled mess in the intestines if swallowed by a pet – ideally it should not be used in households with cats. A British Shorthair cat from Oregon ingested tinsel which resulted in a trip to the veterinary – the Trupanion policy paid out \$807

2) Ornaments
Make sure to hang any small or fragile ornaments high enough on your tree

to avoid the wagging tail of your dog or a paw swipe from your cat. Although keep in mind, that for many cats there is no safe height. A lovable pooch in Washington state made an emergency visit to the vet when they ate a Christmas ornament – the Trupanion policy paid out \$4,495

3) Holiday lights
Pets are drawn to holiday lights, just like we are. The only difference is they may be tempted to chew on them. Be sure to also keep the electrical cords taped down or out of reach. A Brittany spaniel from Indiana succumbed to the temptation to chew and ingested some Christmas lights. After a trip to the veterinarian the Trupanion policy paid out \$1,566.

4) Turkey bones
Bones from turkey and other traditional main courses around the holidays can have dangerous effects when in the mouths of dogs and cats. Cooked bones especially can splinter and break, causing serious internal injury. An enthusiastic dog in Alberta found him-

self at the veterinarian after he ingested some turkey bones a few days after Christmas – the Trupanion policy paid out \$3,800.

5) Holiday plants and trees
Many holiday plants can cause gastrointestinal upset if ingested by your dog or cat. These include holly, mistletoe and amaryllis. A Shih Tzu from California ingested poinsettias, which are toxic to dogs. After a trip to the veterinarian the Shih Tzu was back in tip top shape – the Trupanion policy paid out \$59. Lilies are also extremely toxic for cats, even contact with the pollen or water in the vase may be enough to cause kidney failure.

“If you have a Christmas tree, make sure it is secure – it doesn’t take much for a cat or excited dog to knock it over, said Dr. Sarah Nold, Staff Veterinarian at Trupanion. “You should also take care to restrict your pet’s access to the tree’s water or ingestion of the tree’s needles, because both may cause vomiting and diarrhea, and can contribute to a tipped tree.”

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