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# East Boston

## TIMES - FREE PRESS

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Catholic  
Schools Week

Jan 31 - Feb 6  
Special Section  
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### City agrees to stop tree removal on Maverick Street after local objections

By John Lynds

It was a small win for local activists trying to increase East Boston's tree canopy to improve the health and quality of life for residents.

At a recent tree removal hearing, the City of Boston's Parks Department reviewed a developer's request to remove two healthy street trees in front of their building at 202 Maverick Street.

The builder had petitioned the city to remove the trees to accommodate two bay-windows extending beyond the property line below.

After consideration, the city determined that the developer should have prioritized the existing trees before locating such an impactful building feature. With widespread community opposition to the removal of the old-growth trees, the developers were instructed to modify the building design so as not create a negative environmental impact.

"We are pleased the Parks Department recognizes the importance of our old-growth trees and hope that this sends a message to developers as they plan their projects," said Lara Caralis of Eagle Hill Beautification. "As an Environmental Justice community, developers could actually do something positive for the neighborhood by setting their buildings back from the sidewalk to allow for landscaping or installing green walls and roofs in their design."

Among the local groups speaking out against the tree removal were Moth-

See TREES Page 2



Second Round of COVID-19 vaccines administered at EBNHC. Left, EBNHC's Michelle Hagerty receives her second Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine at the health center last Tuesday afternoon. Right, EBNHC President and CEO Manny Lopes talks to the press after receiving his second vaccine. The Moderna vaccine is given in two doses 28 days apart.



### Second round of vaccines for EBNHC workers

By John Lynds

Last Tuesday afternoon healthcare workers from the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center received their second dose of the Moderna vaccine for Covid-19. EBNHC medical staff received the first round of the Moderna vaccine, which is given in two doses 28 days apart, in December.

"I'm thankful to our vaccine team who have been focused on vaccinating our staff as quickly and efficiently as possible", said EBNHC Vice President of Human Resources Steven Snyder. "We are still giving out first doses and have just completed our first week of second doses and are close to 75 percent of our staff vaccinated. Staff have been thrilled to receive the vaccine, especially those treating COVID patients day in and day out."

The Health Center's Infectious Disease Director and Adult Medicine Doctor, Dr. Jaime Gallegos-Salazar, MD was the first person in Massachusetts to receive the Moderna vaccine on December 21 and then his second shot last week.

Based on evidence from clinical trials, the Moderna vaccine was 94.1 percent effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 illness in people who received two doses who had no evidence of being previously infected.

According to the CSC the vaccine appeared to have high effectiveness in clinical trials (efficacy) among people of diverse age, sex, race, and ethnicity categories and among persons with underlying medical conditions.

Although few people in the clinical trials were admitted to the hospital, this happened less often in the people who got the Moderna vaccine compared to people who got the saline placebo.

Last week the Baker-Polito Administration announced that all residents in Phase One of the state vaccine distribution plan are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, effective immediately.

State residents eligible for vaccine immediately

See VACCINES Page 2



EBNHC public safety personnel also received the second Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine last week at the Health Center.

### Davis Companies/EBNHC development plan may look a lot different at next community meeting

By John Lynds

In October the Davis Companies filed a Letter of Intent with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) in calling for the construction of 471 units of housing on a series of parking lots owned by East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) on the two streets.

At several East Boston virtual community group meetings residents and community leaders expressed their opposition to the size and scope of

the development, which abuts the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway. While Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway members feared the seven-story buildings would cast a portion of the bright and sunny greenway into darkness. Others argued that the project did not include enough affordability.

However, at the Gove Street Citizens Association (GSCA) meeting Monday, Davis Companies' Natasha Perez hinted that before her company submits the Project Notification Form (PNF) to the

BPDA in February there will be some major changes based on community feedback.

"I'm here tonight to let you know we were continuing to work with the city," said Perez. "The feedback we've gotten focuses on the affordability, unit count and unit make-up. The goal would be to file the PNF between mid to the end of February and then be able to present the changes based on the recommendation from the community and the city."

Perez said the Davis

See DAVIS Page 2

### Walsh announces new ZBA tracker

By John Lynds

For the past decade East Boston has experienced a development boom that can be hard to keep track of for the average resident.

Unless you have attended one of several community group meetings held each month in various parts of the neighborhood it has become increasingly difficult to keep abreast of development projects happening in Eastie.

This week Mayor Martin Walsh announced a new Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) project tracker that will allow residents to gather information about ongoing projects.

The new online tool that can be found at [https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c019ba9a25cb-4f33bb6cdd2f69b543d4/page/page\\_0/](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c019ba9a25cb-4f33bb6cdd2f69b543d4/page/page_0/) fulfills the requirements set forth in Mayor Walsh's Executive Order Relative to the Zoning Board of Appeal.

Walsh said this new tool will increase access to information related to proposed projects seeking relief from the ZBA. The tracker is designed for anyone to quickly search for a specific appeal that has been submitted to the ZBA, or to search for appeals based on criteria such as location or applicant, in order to identify the status of the appeal.

"Increasing access to the workings of municipal government is important for our residents to have access to resources about the city's role in the development and livelihood of our residents," said Walsh. "The Zoning Board of Appeals' online tracker will increase our city's transparency and our residents' understanding of our neighborhoods."

See ZBA Page 5

### Developer of proposed project near Wood Island launches online survey

By John Lynds

The developer proposing to construct a 180-unit, mixed-use development on the corner of Bennington and Bremen Streets near the Wood Island MBTA station has released an online survey to get feedback from residents on what they would like to see happen at the site.

The survey, which can be found at <https://courbanize.com/projects/355bennington/comments?ordering=-created&topic=Community%20Benefits>, asks residents what amenities, benefits, changes, additions, retail space uses and improvements that can be made in Day Square to make it more user friendly.

Already 35 residents have responded to the online questionnaire.

"It's currently an eye sore," wrote one resident. "It's also very hard to cross the street near that intersection with the dangerous highway. It feels very unsafe to walk near there at night. Day Square needs some more retail stores, trees, and a clean place for people to congregate. Hoping a project like this will give more access to the square, prevent garbage build up and become a welcoming part of Eagle Hill."

Another resident wrote the old industrial site is currently a dump, "So anything nice would be an improvement. Would want

See WOOD ISLAND Page 2



A developer wants to put 190 units of housing on this site on Bennington Street near Wood Island MBTA station. The project team recently posted an online questionnaire to get feedback from residents on the project.

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## Wood Island // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a nice cafe, clean grocery store, nice greenery / walkways and continued architecture to improve the look and feel of Day Square.”

Developer Redgate submitted a Project Notification Form with the Boston Planning and Development Agency last year and wants to transform a 50,000 square foot lot at 355 Bennington St. into a six-story building containing approximately 180 dwelling units, ground floor retail, acces-

sory parking, and amenities and services for building residents. The rental housing project includes 82 parking spaces and the 7,000 square foot retail space.

The site, that currently houses a single-story commercial business and paved lot, is bounded by Bremen Street, Bennington Street, the Martin A. Coughlin Bypass Road, and Excel Academy Charter School.

Redgate plans to demolish the existing build-

## Davis// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Companies is currently trying to formulate a proposal ahead of filing the PNF that is as close to the feedback they heard from the community about the number of units, the mix of affordability and

unit size to accommodate more families.

“We really looked at the affordability piece and want to make sure it goes to people in East Boston,” said Perez. “So those are all components that we’re

ing and construct the new six-story building.

The Boston Zoning Board of Appeals recently rejected a similar large-scale project on Bremen Street just down the road a bit from Redgate’s proposal.

Citing a lack of greenspace coupled with the size and scope of the project, the ZBA unanimously rejected the proposed project at 282-302 Bremen St. that would have brought 145 additional units to Eastie.

working on. We’re very hopeful that we can file (a PNF) in mid February to the end of February and hopefully we will have something to present to the community by the 28th of next month.”

The BPDA will also put together an Impact Advisory Group (AIG) for the project in the coming weeks and residents should get more details on that process soon.

Once the AIG is in place the community will begin to hear more details on the community benefits package for the neighborhood as it relates to the project.

As for the original proposal of 471 units Perez said that will most likely come down as community concerns are factored into an updated proposal.

Last year the Davis Companies’ entered into an agreement with the EBNHC over the land. Under the agreement the Health Center will get resources depending on how many homes are actually permitted by the city. For each home that is permitted as part of the project the Health Center will get a guaranteed fixed amount of \$80,000. That \$80,000 is not a percentage—it is a fixed amount the Health Center negotiated with the Davis Companies.

## Trees// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ers Out Front (MOF), Tree Eastie, Eastie Farm, AIR Inc., Eagle Hill Beautification, Friends of Belle Island Marsh, NOAH and Speak for the Trees. These groups have played an integral part in addressing environmental issues impacting our community.

In a letter cosigned by the group to Mayor Marty Walsh and Environmental Chief Chris Cook, Sonja Tengblad of Mothers Out Front urged more communication between the BPDA and Boston’s Department of Parks and Recreation.

“There seems to be a lack of communication to ensure that development projects aren’t approved that would potentially harm mature, healthy urban trees,” she said. “We are very hopeful the city’s upcoming Urban Forestry Master Plan will address this lack of communication to ensure the preservation of our urban forest from development. Our kids have so much stacked against them: pollution from planes, cars and gas leaks, flood zones, and old school buildings with poor HVAC systems. We can’t afford to lose the few healthy, mature trees we have, nor can we wait forty or more years for young replacement trees to provide their benefits.”

For the past year Tree Eastie, with the help of Speak for Trees, has been teaming up with NOAH’s youth group and, more recently, Eastie Farm and MOF to document open tree pits, to care for street trees, and to get new trees planted in the neighborhood.

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

In 2019, Tree Eastie and NOAH received a grant of \$10,000 to plant more trees in Eastie. The project



These trees that were scheduled to be uprooted due to an ongoing development project on Maverick Street were recently saved by the city after local activists fought for their survival.

is an effort to bring awareness to Eastie’s lack of street trees with the goal of doubling the neighborhood’s tree canopy coverage. Over 70 trees were planted last year and another 40 trees are slated to be planted this year.

Studies show that a good urban tree canopy has a tree every 20 to 25 feet.

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

Street trees naturally absorb pollution and can reduce urban noise by 6 to 15 decibels.

The topic of tree conservation has been a focus of other Environmental Justice communities in Boston. Up until recently, the city had planned to remove hundreds of mature trees as part of a road re-

construction project along Melnea Cass Boulevard in Roxbury. However after an outpouring of community resistance, the city modified plans to keep the existing trees.

“The city does listen to resident’s growing concerns about the impact of climate change on our communities,” said Bill Masterson of Tree Eastie. “In many cases the city has been willing to collaborate with community groups to develop a better way forward.”

Masterson said Eastie’s environmental groups will continue to work with the city to address issues impacting the health of Eastie residents and will encourage developers to include trees in their plans while vowing to oppose those who plan to remove trees as part of their development project on Maverick Street were recently saved by the city after local activists fought for their survival.

## WELCOME, GABRIEL



Carmen and Ernani DeAraujo celebrated the birth of their son, Gabriel Andres DeAraujo. Gabriel was born on January 16th and joins his older sister, Lyra. The family is grateful to the Boston Medical Center and East Boston Neighborhood Health Center for the excellent care in bringing Gabriel into the world.

THE EAST BOSTON FOUNDATION

The East Boston Foundation

Phone: 617-561-6336

DEADLINE ANNOUNCEMENT

Grant Application Deadline will be Feb. 1, 2021

For more information contact Lorene Schettino for an application 617-561-6336 by email: lorene.schettino@gmail.com or apply online at: www.ebfoundation.org

## Vaccines// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

under Phase One include: COVID-facing healthcare workers; Long term care facilities (LTCF) residents and staff; First Responders (EMS, Fire, Police); Congregate Care setting residents and staff (including corrections and shelters); Home-based healthcare workers; and Non-COVID-facing healthcare workers.

Eligible residents can now make appointments to receive vaccines at more than 150 locations across the state. These locations can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-locations-for-individuals-in-phase-1#find-a-location-to-get-vaccinated-if-eligible>

Additional mass vaccination sites, pharmacy sites, and community clinic sites will open in more locations on a rolling basis.

So far the state has vaccinated close to 360,000 people with 86,230 doses administered last week alone.

The state will roll out vaccines during a three

phase approach that will take place between now and April.

Phase II will be between February and March 2021 and will include individuals with two or more co-morbid conditions with a high risk for COVID-19 complications; other workers including early education, K-12, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, restaurant and cafe workers; employees across the food, beverages, agriculture, consumer goods, retail, and foodservice sectors; meatpackers; sanitation, public works and public health workers, vaccine development workers, food pantry workers, Uber/Lyft/ride-share services, pharmacy delivery drivers, workers in the passenger ground transportation industry; water and wastewater utility staff; and adults 65 and over.

Starting in April the state anticipates the vaccine will be available to the general public once the higher risk groups in Phase I and II receive their vaccines.



Infectious Disease Director and Adult Medicine Doctor, Dr. Jaime Gallegos-Salazar, MD was the first person in Massachusetts to receive the Moderna vaccine on December 21 and got his second shot last week.



EBNHC COO Dr. Jackie Fantes, MD, receives her second Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine.



Felipe Flores, a screener at the EBNHC Maverick Square building gets his second shot.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

HARBOR VIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

The next meeting of the Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA) will be on February 1 at 6 p.m. This meeting will be translated in Spanish for our members and it will be via Zoom.

Please check the website (harborvieweastboston.com) for instructions to participate by video or telephone. HVNA will continue to stream the meeting via Facebook live as well as at Facebook, <https://www.Facebook.com/groups/harborview-na>.

Agenda

Welcome/Introduction

Boston Police Station 7 Update Officer Dan Simmons

City Legislative Update with Councilors: Lydia Edwards, Anissa Essabi-George and Michelle Wu.

61-63 Horace Street. second Presentation and vote. Attorney Richard Lynds for owners Terese and Richard Riamondi. Proposal to build a three unit building with parking. 490 Bennington Street. Informational Presentation by Attorney Richard Lynds for EB MHRC Holding LLC. Demolish existing single family home and erect a four story mixed use building with retail space on the ground floor level and nine residential units with roof decks.

Our next meeting will be on March 1. Visit us at <http://www.Facebook.com/groups/harborview-na>.

MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL GUARD SELECTED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE D.C.

At the request of federal authorities, members of the Massachusetts Na-

tional Guard, alongside National Guard members from other states, will provide additional assistance in Washington, D.C., to support the United States Secret Service beginning this week.

Governor Charlie Baker today signed an order approving up to 700 Massachusetts Air and Army National Guard personnel for the mission, which was requested by the Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau, and Secret Service. These guard members will be traveling to Washington in the coming days and are expected to return to the Commonwealth on February 23.

This mission is separate from the 500 personnel who served last week in DC in support of inauguration events and returned home to Massachusetts over the weekend.

The Massachusetts National Guard will ensure all appropriate force health protection measures are implemented leading up to, and throughout, the mission. This includes pre-departure screenings, COVID-19 testing, and mandatory mask wear. Additionally, Soldiers and Airmen will have individual rooms while deployed to the D.C. area to further reduce risks during this pandemic.

Today's activation will not interfere with the Massachusetts National Guard's ability to respond to and assist in emergencies within the Commonwealth.

The Massachusetts National Guard trains regularly with military, law enforcement, and civilian agencies to provide a broad spectrum of services in support of security, logistics, disaster relief, and other missions. The Guard has a proven track record of success supporting civilian authorities and their frequent side-by-side training with state and local first responders makes them well-suited for this mission.

Weekly COVID positive test rate decreases again in Eastie

By John Lynds

Last week, the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Eastie went up slightly while the weekly positive test rate dropped for a second week.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), of the 32,715 Eastie residents tested for COVID since the pandemic began, 18.4 percent overall were found to be positive for the virus, a 2.2 percent increase from the 18 percent reported two Fridays ago.

However, 2,786 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 9.7 percent were positive--a four percent decrease from the 10.1 that tested positive two Fridays ago.

Citywide 37,455 residents were tested and 7.2 percent were COVID positive--a 5.2 percent decrease from the 7.6 percent testing positive two weeks ago.

At a press briefing last Friday, Mayor Martin Walsh said Boston has seen positive test rates go down in almost every single neighborhood.

"We're seeing some improvement in our numbers, as they start to stabilize," said Walsh. "However, our overall case numbers are still concerning, and our hospital numbers are higher than we'd like as well. Our COVID hospital admissions are slightly down from the previous week, but the percentage of our adult Non-Surge ICU Beds occupied remains high, at 99%. Hospitals can add surge beds if necessary, and go beyond 100% of normal usage."

The Mayor said that the City is in constant contact with our hospitals to support them, and help preserve their capacity.

Walsh said last weekend the first case of the new COVID variant was detected in a Boston resident who traveled internationally, and another Massachusetts resident has also tested positive for the variant. The Boston Public Health Commission's Infectious Disease Bureau is working closely with the state's Department of Public Health to monitor this situation.

"The health and well being of our residents remain our top priority," said Walsh who shared information that is known about this new COVID variant. "There is no evidence that it causes more severe illness or increased risk of death. However, it spreads more easily and quickly than other variants. A higher transmission rate will lead to more cases, and could potentially burden our healthcare system."

With that being said Walsh said everyone must double down on the precautions to slow the spread of the virus. That includes wearing a mask outside your home, keeping at least six feet of distance between yourself and others, avoiding gatherings, washing your hands often,

and continuing to get tested.

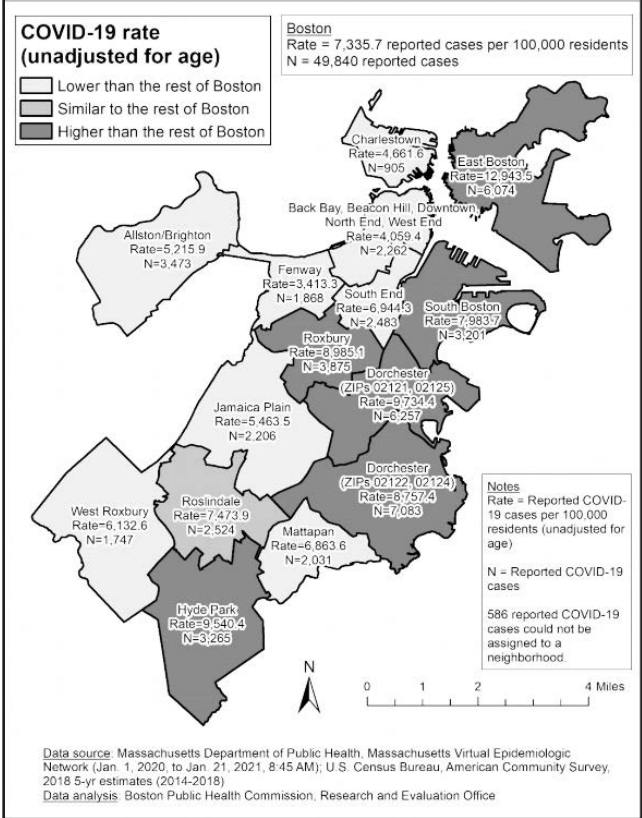
Walsh added that the State made some adjustments to the statewide re-opening plan. Gov. Charlie Baker lifted the Stay At Home Order between the hours of 10 pm to 5 am, effective Monday, January 25. Also effective Monday is the lifting of the Early Closure Order, which requires certain businesses to close by 9:30 pm. The state is also extending the temporary limit on capacity and gatherings, currently at 25 percent, until February 8th.

Walsh said that the State's lifting of early closing times will apply to businesses in Boston. However, the list of allowed in-person activities will continue to be subject to the City of Boston's temporary rollback to Phase 2. As a reminder, Boston extended this rollback to at least January 27. Walsh said for a full list of what activities and businesses are allowed in the City of Boston go to [Boston.gov](http://Boston.gov).

The Mayor said that the City of Boston's rollback is an effort to slow the spread of the virus, protect hospital capacity, and avoid a more severe shutdown later on.

Walsh ended by saying that the City of Boston continues to work with the State to implement an equitable vaccine distribution plan. The full schedule of vaccine distribution can be found at [Mass.gov](http://Mass.gov).

"We urge everyone to get the vaccine when it's your turn. It's safe. And it's one of the best things you can do to protect your family, community, and yourself," said Walsh. "We understand that some people are hesitant to take this



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

vaccine. That is especially true in Black and Latino communities. There's no doubt that throughout history, communities of color have faced discrimination, manipulation, and outright cruelty in the healthcare system. COVID-19 has hit communities of color the hardest. The economic fallout has hit communities of color hardest. We don't want communities of color to miss out on this vaccine, because it is the best tool we have to put this pandemic behind us and begin to heal. I urge everyone to get it when your time comes, and I thank everyone who has taken it already."

Eastie's infection rate rose by 4.2 percent according to the data released by the BPHC last Friday. Eastie's COVID infection rate went from 1,242.1 cases per 10,000 residents to 1,294.3 cases per 10,000 residents. The citywide average is 733.5 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 245 Eastie residents contracted the virus and there are now 6,074 confirmed cases, up from the 5,829 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 8.1 percent percent last week and went from 47,607 cases to 51,506 confirmed cases in a week. Fifty-one additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,133 total deaths in the city from COVID.

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# East Boston

Times-Free Press

**PRESIDENT:** Stephen Quigley

**PUBLISHER:** Debra DiGregorio

**EDITOR::** Cary Shuman

**PUBLISHER EMERITUS:** John A. Torrone

## THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER

Amidst our winter of discontent, there is some good news on the horizon (literally): The days are getting longer.

As this is being written, we will have passed the first full month of the astronomical winter (which starts on December 21 and ends on March 21) and we will have completed almost two months of the meteorological winter season, which is defined as December, January, and February.

On December 14, the sun set at 4:13 in the afternoon and on December 21 (the start of astronomical winter) the total amount of daylight was just nine hours and eight minutes. But on this Friday, January 29, the sun will be setting at 4:56 in the afternoon and we will have nine hours and 56 minutes of daylight.

The longer days, combined with the positive news on COVID-19 vaccines, signal hope for the future that sunnier days lie ahead.

## LAWSUITS WILL BRING OUT THE TRUTH

The announcement this past week that Dominion Voting Systems Inc., the company that manufactures voting machines that are used widely across the United States, has filed a \$1.3 billion lawsuit against Rudy Giuliani for his deliberately defamatory statements about the company, is the perfect antidote to the disinformation campaign that was spread by Donald Trump and his minions in their attempt to subvert the results of the November election.

It was one thing for Trump, Giuliani, and others to spout their ridiculous claims, in general terms, about a stolen election, but it is quite another when their patently-false statements negatively affect the reputation and business interests of individuals and companies.

Just as this newspaper cannot publish false and defamatory information, neither can major media outlets nor individuals such as Rudy Giuliani. We would note that an employee of Dominion has filed a separate suit against a number of media outlets, as well as the Trump campaign, for their defamatory and injurious statements about him.

A few years ago, a web site named Gawker Media posted a video of the former wrestling star Hulk Hogan that was the basis for an invasion of privacy suit filed by Hogan that ultimately resulted in a \$140 million judgment against Gawker, which put Gawker out of business.

We predict that the lawsuits filed by Dominion (they previously sued another of Trump's lawyers) will have far-reaching consequences, particularly if Dominion names others who, similar to Giuliani, have made defamatory statements about Dominion.

Rudy Giuliani now is facing financial ruin, all of which he brought on himself because of his antics, a very fitting and appropriate ending for a man who tried to subvert a free and fair election, the most basic element of our Constitution.

## HANK AARON WAS A WONDERFUL MAN

Boston baseball fans never got to experience firsthand the greatness of Hank Aaron. The Boston Braves left for Milwaukee in 1953 and Aaron joined the Braves in 1954.

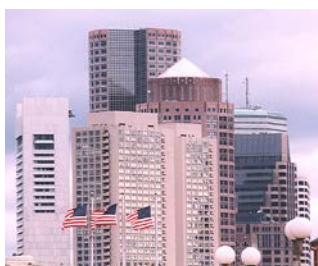
With Aaron leading the way, the Braves then embarked on a run of great seasons, culminating in the 1957 World Series championship.

Although the Braves descended into mediocrity in the 1960s, Hank Aaron continued to perform at a high level, year after year, for more than two decades. When all was said and done, Aaron not only had broken Babe Ruth's career home run record, but he also set career marks for RBI and total bases (the latter by a wide margin) that still stand today.

Hank Aaron was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, but it was his achievements off the field that have earned him everlasting fame. He was a pioneer in the civil rights movement who was among a handful of Black athletes who helped to bring to an end the dark era of segregation and discrimination that existed in the 1950s and '60s.

On a personal level, Hank Aaron was admired and respected by all who knew him. He was one of those very few people who never had an unkind word to say about anybody, and vice-versa.

Hank Aaron was not the most-outspoken of persons, but he literally and figuratively epitomized the meaning of the phrase, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." He will be missed.



# Forum



### GUEST OP-ED

## Don't live your life based on Biden or Trump

Dr. Glenn Mollette

When did life begin for President Donald Trump or President Joe Biden? Did Trump's life begin when his father loaned him millions to start investing? Did it begin when he married Melania? Or, did life begin when he was elected President? Maybe his life is beginning now that his Presidency is over?

What about Biden? Did Biden's life begin each morning when he boarded Amtrak headed for Washington? Maybe his life began when he was elected a Senator or even the Vice President? Maybe his life is just beginning now?

Trump will have options after the White House. He is a businessman. He will figure it out. Maybe NBC will seek him to do The Celebrity Apprentice once again? Yes,

NBC hates him but they love money. The Celebri-

ty Apprentice made NBC and Trump hundreds of millions of dollars. Someone will publish Trump's memoirs. I predict he'll make about 50 to 75 million dollars off his book royalties. He has over 70 million loyal followers. If ten million people buy a book with a \$6 to \$9 profit for the publisher then you can start multiplying the cash. Book publishers are all about money and sales. They know the market potential. Trump will stay busy on the speaking circuit. In about a year look for him in a city near you drawing a crowd.

Biden's life is only changing in that he finally gets to sleep in the White House. He will be in the same place where so many politicians and families have slept before. Biden is familiar with the nation's Capitol. He has practically spent his entire life there in politics. It's what

he has awakened to almost every morning of his life. Although now, he will sit in the Oval Office.

Life is changing for these two men in different ways but what about your life? When did your life begin? Did it begin at your conception? Your birth? When you turned 16 years old or 21? Maybe it began when you retired? When will your life end? The beginning of your life starts when you start living your life. The end of your life concludes when you give up and stop living your life.

Our lives are brief, here today and gone tomorrow. Don't base your life on who is The President. The quantity and quality of our lives typically hinge on our decisions and the transitions we adjust to. Life is filled with transitions, just look at Biden and Trump.

Change disrupts us and the climate of fear and

skepticism is dominating our nation.

For you and I we must live our lives right now. Every day we wake up is a new beginning and a new life. The old life was yesterday and we can't relive, change or erase it. However, we can learn from yesterday and education is very valuable.

When someone else's life begins is all conjecture on our part. When your life begins is your daily decision. Live your life. Maybe at this moment, your life is just really beginning.

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

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# Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2021

January 31 -February 6 #CSW21

This year's theme is **“Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.”** Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, love God and neighbor and enrich society with the leaven of the gospel and by example of faith.

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## East Boston Central Catholic School’s hybrid learning model a success

By John Lynds

While the 2020-2021 school year has looked a lot different for students and staff at East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Principal Robert Casaletto said the reopening plan at Eastie’s remaining Parochial School has been smooth as can be.

EBCCS kicked off the school year in September with ‘in-person’ learning for some students and ‘remote’ learning for others but recently switched to ‘hybrid’ learning. “Everything has been

going really well at EB-CCS,” said Casaletto. “We have had our Pre-School and Kindergarten students in five days per week since September and we just transitioned grades 1-8 to hybrid learning when we returned from Christmas break. That is going very well so far.”

Casaletto said EB-CCS’s hybrid schedule offers two days per week of in-person learning and three days of remote learning for all students.

“Group A has in-person learning on Monday-Tuesday, all students are remote on Wednesday,

and then Group B has in-person learning on Thursday- Friday,” said Casaletto. “Our students have been fully engaged on their remote learning days and times, and we are not noticing any learning loss or feelings of isolation. In fact, when given the option to return to in-person learning, many of our families elected to remain fully remote because they are happy with both the teaching and learning that has occurred so far this year during our fully remote days.”

EBCCS has added some additional safety

precautions for the 2020-2021 school year like staggering arrival and dismissal times to limit the gathering size outside the school.

“We also added sinks and air purifiers to every classroom,” said Casaletto. “Each student has their own individual desk sneeze guard, individual sanitizer provided by East Boston Savings Bank, the use of a Chromebook, and over six feet of space separating them from the next student.”

The school also created a “Care Room” in the event a student or facul-



EBCCS teacher Lauryn Rozzi in her classroom. EBCCS began a hybrid learning model after the Christmas break.

ty member becomes sick while in the building with disposable gowns, safety glasses, gloves, and KN-95 masks.

EBCCS also purchased webcams, live streaming cameras, microphones, speakers, a ZOOM licence, and privacy walls for the teachers to keep the staff safe and allow them to teach

to both in-person and remote students at the same time.

“We just opened re-enrollment and new enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year,” said Casaletto. “Families can visit ebccs.org for more information. We will have virtual tour videos up on the website next week.”

## In-person learning at St. John School in the North End a success

By John Lynds

In its 126 year history St. John School arguably

has never faced a crisis quite like the COVID-19 pandemic that has turned the world upside down.



A young student at St. John School in the North End during an in-person lesson. The school successfully reopened in-person learning in September.



Middle Schoolers at St. John School in the North. Principal Claire Cassidy said students are very grateful to be back in school and tell staff how excited they are each day.

However, the staff and students at St. John School have successfully returned to ‘in-person’ learning for the 2020-2021 school year.

Principal of the parochial school, Claire Cassidy, said since September 9 St. John School has been open for in person learning five days a week. The school has also been offering an eLearning program for students whose families do not wish to have them attend school in person.

Cassidy said so far the school year has been a success and teachers have worked extremely hard to seamlessly integrate eLearners into the classroom daily and to redesign lessons to ensure they are successful in a socially distant classroom and digital environment.

“It has really been phenomenal,” said Cassidy. “It’s been such a privilege to witness the way in which our students came back to school.



The St. John School building layout has lent itself to the school being able to successfully return to in-person learning this year. The classrooms are between 800 and 1,000 sq. ft. which allows for proper social distancing.

They seamlessly came the door in September and have been washing their hands, wearing their mask, sanitizing, and social distancing--as is the norm now. Our teachers have done the most amazing job of making the integration of our in-person learners and our eLearners just look so easy. They’ve really worked hard to shift lesson plans and activities so that classroom discussions are between a student who is in-person and a student who is an

eLearner and you see the way in which it continues to bring that beautiful sense of community that St John’s school is known for.”

Cassidy said St. John School has been very fortunate that the school building lends itself to staff and students being able to do in-person learning successfully.

“The spaciousness of our classrooms has meant we are able to allow 6 feet or more of space between students,” said Cassidy. “We have

also limited class size to give students additional space. We do have enormous windows in our building, all of which are open and have between 800 to 1,000 square feet for most of our classrooms. We were able to purchase air purifiers for our classrooms too. We also had plumbing work done over the summer to add additional sinks to our buildings so our students had more places to wash their hands.

See ST. JOHN Page 9

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# Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2021

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## IC School goes above and beyond amidst pandemic

By Donis Tracy,  
Academic Coordinator

The past ten months have been challenging for all. Schools forced online; students learning from home; fear of contagion abounding; civil unrest erupting in various places in the country.

Navigating it in order to provide a safe, healthy school has been no small task. But according to Juan Velasquez and Kimberly Orellana, parents of two daughters at Immaculate Conception Parish School in Revere, their children's school has done it and more.

Velasquez and Orellana reflected on the past year and how her daughters, grades five and three, have been helped

by their Catholic education.

"I did not feel comfortable that the mandatory homeschooling was going to be the only option for a long period of time," Orellana stated, thinking back to last spring when all the schools in the state were put on lockdown. "We all know the importance of social interaction at this age."

Velasquez agreed, but added that he was incredibly impressed with the school's ability to continue teaching in spite of the chaos last spring. He noted that the school only missed one day of learning before transitioning to a full-remote model. "It was very impressive," he said. Although at first it seemed "IC Online"

would only last for a few weeks, reality quickly set in that the school building would be closed for the remainder of the year. Even the prospect of opening in the fall seemed to be in question.

However, the school continued to thrive, Velasquez said. He pointed to several school-wide traditions that were rethought in order to fit a full-remote model. STEM projects were uploaded and shared; the school's art show became a Virtual Showcase. Students continued to thrive.

As summer began to come to an end, the uncertainty of whether or not the school could open for in-person learning was looming, Velasquez

recalled, noting that Revere and its neighboring communities were among the worst affected by the pandemic.

In late August, the school sent out a document detailing its Re-Opening Plan, and allowing families to choose whether or not to send their children to school in-person or virtually.

"After reading through the [Reopening Guide], I realized that the school was going above and beyond to ensure the safety of the kids and staff," Orellana said. Together the couple decided to opt for in-person learning.

"IC has definitely provided a safe environment for my girls," she said. She praised the school's ability to re-think many

of the fun school activities in order to make sure that students are also developing socially and spiritually.

Agreeing, Velasquez pointed to the recent Christmas Bazaar -- a longstanding tradition at Immaculate Conception School and a school event that seemed impossible to pull off with social distancing and other health and safety restrictions. Although it was not the same as other years, Orellana praised the teachers and

the administration for creating a safe, healthy alternative and

retaining the fun that was at the heart of the tradition.

"IC school has been a second home for my girls," Orellana said. "The relationships they are making are very important. Having families that share the same spiritual values and beliefs that we

do is something that we appreciate and are deeply grateful."

## Malden Catholic HS girls winter sports program off to a terrific start

By Cary Shuman

The Malden Catholic High School girls basketball team, under the direction of head coach Jay Keane, is in its third year of existence, and its second at the varsity level.

Because the girls division (Malden Catholic School for Girls) began three years ago, Keane's first-year team was made up entirely of ninth graders competing at the sub-varsity level.

Last season, the Keane Contingent, consisting of freshmen and sophomores, jumped up to varsity and qualified for the MIAA Tournament with a 15-5 record. The Lady Lancers defeated Snowden in their first tournament game before falling to eventual champion Matignon in the Division 4 North Sectional semifinals.

Can you say instant success story?

Aided by a strong freshman class this season in addition to seven juniors and two sophomores, Malden Catholic has a 2-1 record and is ranked among the top teams in the division by the Boston newspapers.

Malden Catholic is continuing as an indepen-



Jay Keane is the head coach of the Malden Catholic High School girls varsity basketball team.

dent team with no league affiliation for the 2020-21 season.

"We were hoping to join a league this year, but with COVID-19, it just didn't materialize with anybody," said Keane. "We were able to schedule 11 games with schools that were in the same boat as we are."

MC has games scheduled with Catholic Conference schools Notre Dame Academy (Hingham), Fontbonne Academy (Milton), and Ursuline Academy (Dedham), along with Catholic Central League powerhouse St. Mary's (Lynn).

See MALDEN Page 9

## A blessing to be in school: St. Anthony's of Everett keeps in-person learning at forefront this year

By Seth Daniel

Counting one's blessings is a daily exercise at St. Anthony's School of Everett, but never did the school community think one of those counted blessings would be actually going to school in person.

However, that has been the case as the Pre-School to Grade 8 Catholic School in Everett has stayed in person most every week since September using some reconfigured routines and strict COVID-19 protocols. It has been a great and wonderful things for the children, and the families, said Principal Maria Giggie.

"We've been in school since Sept. 16," said Giggie, now in her 15th year at St. Anthony's. "We recently did a partial re-opening after Christmas in phases of 1, 2 and 3 because the cases in Everett were so high. Now everyone is back this week...Everybody is back physically in the building this week. Remote is okay, but over a long period of time, it becomes impossible for students and parents."

St. Anthony's is participating in Catholic Schools Week throughout next week and will have special, COVID-19 conscious, celebrations -- such as a Mass and other fun things like a Pajama Day. Meanwhile, prospective students and parents are encouraged to come in-person to their Open Houses from Feb. 1-3 after making an appointment. The Open Houses are generally between 9-11 a.m. on those days, but Giggie said they are flexible.

Keeping away from all-remote has been very helpful to students and families, Giggie said, and has been a highlight of the year for them while their counterparts in the public schools have remained online this entire year.

"Remote is hard," she said. "If people have to go to work, especially with younger children, you have to worry about getting them up on the screen. Nobody

needs this kind of stress. Getting everyone back in school is best and of course, keeping necessary precautions in place when they are here is essential."

Giggie said they have moved desks six feet apart in all classrooms, and now have four lunch sessions per day with two children at each table. There are a lot of other guidelines they've picked up from the best practices, such as having teachers come to the older students, instead of having students switch classrooms each period. That keeps them at the same desk all day and keeps them from having to move about the school and having contact with others.

"We've been blessed in this," she said. "The teachers are a treasure and have gone above and beyond during school and after school. It is beyond what a teacher's job description would be. They are always on. It's been an amazing effort."

The school has also been smart about utilizing the new technology as well. Some students have chosen to be at home, and teachers have quickly adapted to teaching in person and

remotely at the same time -- carrying around a technology cart to each classroom that doubles as the remote computer link for students at home. Likewise, on a few occasions, they have chosen to go all remote when the percent positive case numbers in Everett have soared far beyond 8 percent. In addition, some of their special occasions, have been moved online -- like this year's Christmas Play that was put together in a video celebration that was widely proclaimed as one of the best in years.

Needless to say, it is the in-person learning that has retained students this year, and increased the numbers of students in the older grades, Giggie said.

The student population has remained at around 200 this year, but that comes with fewer students in the pre-school and kindergarten, while more in the older grades.

"We did see an uptick in the older grades, quite a lot actually," she said. "Because we provide on-site in school sessions, we have seen an increase in the numbers because we're open."

She said the younger

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# Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2021

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## MC girls hockey records its first-ever victory

By Cary Shuman

Head coach Guy Angiuoni and the Malden Catholic High School girls hockey team have earned their first victory in school history.

Playing with only eight skaters and one goaltender on its roster in the second game of its first varsity season, Malden Catholic defeated Saint Joseph Prep, 2-1, last Tuesday at the Warrior Ice Arena in Brighton.

Freshman defenseman Juliana Angiuoni of Wilmington, daughter of the head coach, scored the first goal on a shot from the point. Saint Joseph tied the game at 1-1 in the second period. Freshman center Antonia DiZoglio of Wilmington netted the tie-breaking and game-winning goal with 1:24 left. Sophomore goaltender Danielle DeJon of Cambridge had 25 saves.

The historic victory drew notice from the hockey community with Malden Catholic garnering headlines on the Hockey Night in Boston and Mass. High School hockey Web sites and in the Boston newspapers.

“It was all over the Twitter-verse that this upstart team with just nine girls won a game,” said Angiuoni. “It was a great victory. The girls played so hard. It was amazing.”

This past Sunday, Malden Catholic lost a tough one, 3-2, to Bishop Feehan (Attleboro) Sunday. Dizoglio opened the scoring with a nifty end-to-end rush in the 2nd period. Angiuoni pulled the goaltender with two minutes left and Susan Hobart scored the game-tying goal. But Feehan scored the game-winner in the final minute of play. Danielle DeJon made an incredible 45 saves on 48 shots. MC has a 1-2 record.

“We’ve had three exciting games,” said Angiuoni. “The girls have worked hard. We’ve been practicing for six weeks. Not one girl has missed a single practice the entire season. That shows the girls’ commitment to the program.”

The MC players have been logging plenty of minutes. Defensemen Mary Katherine “MK” Zablocki of Revere and Juliana Angiuoni are the lone defensive tandem and rarely leave the ice. DiZoglia, an elite player and a future star, has three goals and three assists through three games.

Alexia “Lexi” Engvaldsen of Wilmington scored the program’s first-ever goal against Shawsheen on opening night. The other members of the first-year Lancers are Susan Hobart of Ipswich, Sadie Bowden of Malden, Amelia Han-

sen of Melrose, and Erin Smail of Stoneham.

Guy Angiuoni, 50, became the program’s first-ever head coach when Athletic Director Bill Raycraft brought him on board in November.

“I have two great assistant coaches – Craig Edwards (Andover) and Steven Hunt (Wilmington),” said Angiuoni. “I’m really blessed to have two coaches that are so talented and emotionally invested into our program.”

The unsung hero of the MC girls hockey program has been AD Bill Raycraft, a former football coach and athletic director at Windham High where he built one of New Hampshire’s most successful athletic programs.

“Anything that I have asked of our athletic director, he’s gotten it for our players,” credited Angiuoni. “We have NHL-replica game home and away jerseys. He also got us practice jerseys in four different colors. We have just as much ice time as the boys team. Everyone from the admissions office, to the finance department, to the headmaster, to the athletic director – the school has been 100 percent supportive. It’s really been an amazing experience.”

Malden Catholic plays its home games at Valley Forum in Malden.



Pictured at the Warrior Ice Arena after the Malden Catholic girls hockey program’s first-ever victory on Jan. 20 are, from left, Susan Hobart, Sadie Bowen, Erin Smail, Juliana Angiuoni, Antonia DiZoglio, Amelia Hansen, MK Zablocki, Danielle DeJon, and Lexi Engvaldsen.

## St. Mary’s High School sports teams succeed through the challenges caused by the pandemic

By Cary Shuman

The St. Mary’s High School boys and girls basketball and hockey teams are winning a lot of games this winter. That is no surprise for a program that produces state champions and title contenders every year.

But this season and the fall season that preceded it have been impacted greatly by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Many high schools canceled their fall and winter sports seasons.

St. Mary’s officials decided to go forward, with its teams adhering to strict guidelines for social distancing and some new in-game rules established by the MIAA.

St. Mary’s Director of Athletics Jeff Newhall said that more than 270 student-athletes participated in the fall sports season. This winter St. Mary’s has 275 student-athletes competing in sports. There are nine basketball teams from the middle school through varsity levels, four hockey teams at the varsity and JV

levels, along with a varsity swimming team.

“The fall season went off without a hitch,” said Newhall. “During the winter we’ve had some issues but thankfully they were minor, though it did require a brief shutdown. But the athletes continue to do what they’re supposed to do, and we were able to get up and running in 14 days.”

Newhall said all athletes and coaches must wear masks at all times – at practices and games, during halftime strategy sessions, and on the buses to and from games. Spectators also have to wear masks at the games.

Students must wear masks in all classrooms, in the school corridors, and during school activities.

“The only time students take off their masks is when they eat lunch,” said Newhall. “They know what they need to do to be able to go to school and play sports. And the students have been great at really following the rules.”

Newhall, who also coaches the girls basket-

ball team, has the Lady Spartans rolling along with a 9-1 record, the lone setback to reigning Division 1 South champion Bridgewater Raynham. Senior guard Nikolette D’Itria of Revere is one of the team’s leading scorers.

The boys basketball team, coached by Winthrop Police Officer David Brown Sr., is also excelling. Coach Brown’s son, sophomore guard David Brown Jr., has emerged as a star with 32 and 33-point individual performances to-date.

The boys hockey team, led by Hall of Fame Coach Mark Lee, is again one of the contenders in the powerful Catholic Central League. One of St. Mary’s elite college prospects is Dante D’Ambrosio of Revere.

While the MIAA State Tournament has been canceled due to the coronavirus, Catholic Central League teams will compete for the CCL Cup in a single-elimination, intra-league tournament following the regular season.

## Sacred Heart School happy to be back

When Gov. Charlie Baker ordered all schools closed in March, Sacred Heart School Principal Kristina Relihan had a remote-learning plan in operation within two weeks and the well-administered academic process continued successfully through the end of the school year.

Sacred Heart returned to full, in-classroom learning in September.

“We’re happy to be back in person everyday with our scholars,” said Relihan, who is in her third year as principal at the well-known Catholic school in Lynn. “We do have some families who have chosen to keep their scholars remote, but we just updated technology to ensure that scholars can Zoom in to the classroom or be in person in the classroom.”

The health of the Sacred Heart community is supreme, aided by the installation of hand-washing stations in every classroom and multiple hand-sanitizing stations throughout the school, along with updated cleaning protocols.

Sacred Heart, a sister school of St. Mary’s Middle and High School, has students ranging from its youngest class at 2 years, 9 months, to pre-K and Kindergarten, and all the way up to grade five.

“Even the little ones keep their masks on,” said Relihan.

During lunchtime, scholars are socially distanced six feet apart at tables in the large school gymnasium. Students in the early



Kristina Relihan  
Sacred Heart Principal

childhood program have lunch in a socially distanced arrangement in their classrooms.

Sacred Heart School has an excellent teacher-to-student ratio that has been lauded by parents. There are 23 members of the faculty educating the school’s 190 students.

“Our enrollment has stayed about the same,” said Relihan. “I think COVID-19 definitely limited our capacity in classrooms because of socially distancing and making sure that we’re adhering to the six-foot rule between desks and between children and that there’s enough space for everyone to safely be in the classroom.”

“But looking to the future, we hope to see the expansion of early childhood and expansion of grades 1-5 – just continuing to offer a great education at Sacred Heart,” added Relihan.

Relihan, a dynamic, hands-on administrator who holds undergraduate and master’s degrees from

Wheelock College, is excited about Sacred Heart’s educational partnership with St. Mary’s of Lynn, which is led by St. Mary’s Head of School Dr. John Dolan.

“It’s going really well – we are a 2.9 (years) to grade 12 continuum, which is something that is not seen in many Catholic schools today, so it’s exciting to be a part of it,” said Relihan.

The principal said the transition to the new learning environment at Sacred Heart has been made possible by a professional and cooperative faculty.

“Our teachers are truly rock stars,” said Relihan. “They come to school every day and have passion to do this work. Everyone here is amazing. We all work together and make it through each day.”

Relihan commended George Sonia and his staff at Lancelot for their diligent efforts in keeping the school clean.

Addressing the trying times in elementary school education caused by the coronavirus, Relihan said, “I’m very positive in a not-so-known time. I think what we’re offering here at Sacred Heart is positivity and reinforcement that we can be in school and learn every day in person.”

If you’re interested in enrolling at Sacred Heart for the 2021-2022 school year please visit our website <https://www.sacred-heartschoollynn.org> and schedule a Tour Tuesday today.

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# St. John // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

With all of those things in place we've been able to successfully open and remain open since September."

Cassidy said extra precautions include a cleaner who is present throughout the day to clean all high touch surfaces. The school also expanded its nursing program hours to ensure nurses were available throughout the day as well as staggered arrival and dismissal times to promote student safety.

"I do think that having the privilege of being able to open for in-person learning and to be able to continue is really important," said Cassidy. "Our students are very grateful and they tell us how excited they are to be at school each day. Our families are as well and they see the joy that their children get from coming to school."

Cassidy added that with appropriate adjustments St. John School has been able to contin-

ue with its Tower Garden program and to date has grown over 60lbs of food that is donated to the Arch Street Shrine. The school has even been able to hold private socially distanced school mass each week since school started in the fall.

In the end Cassidy said St. John School has also been very blessed that school parents have been tremendously supportive since school started.

"They have done a great job of reinforcing the routines that we have here with their children," said Cassidy. "They've also kept their kids home when they are sick, which I know is a strain for a family, and tested and quarantined their kids as needed. All the parents have been extremely supportive of our school policies and worked with us to ensure our school community remains healthy throughout the year."

# Malden // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

There are also plans for a season-ending Catholic schools' tournament.

Not many coaches get to build a varsity program from the ground floor, but Jay Keane was given that opportunity when MC became a co-divisional school (Boys and girls do not attend academic classes together at the school and are situated in a separate half of the same school building).

"My original plan when I applied for the job was that in Year 3 we'd be varsity," said Keane. "But we had a really good freshman class with a lot of good pieces, and I knew since we were independent, I'd make my own schedule and we were very lucky - a 15-5 record is pretty respectable for a first-year program with only sophomores and freshmen."

Athletes from several nearby communities are playing varsity basketball, including freshmen Luna Murray and Marcella Bonfardeci of Revere and Mary Turco of Winthrop.

Malden Catholic has added junior varsity and freshman teams. Jess Popken is the junior varsity coach while Mike Gioia is the freshman coach. There are 38 players participating in the program.

A retired Somerville district fire chief, Keane formerly served as the head girls basketball coach at Wilmington High School for eight seasons (2005-13). He played high school basketball at St. Mary's, Cambridge.

"My senior year, we were undefeated and played Cathedral in the (Division 3) North finals at the old Boston Garden," recalled Keane. "Cambridge Rindge and Latin was undefeated and played Don Bosco right after us, so all the Cambridge fans were rooting for us. We had a pretty

good rooting section."

Keane is happy that his Malden Catholic team is competing in a season amidst the concerns and challenges of the coronavirus. Coaches and players must wear masks during games and practices.

"We're just lucky to be playing basketball," he said. "We talked about it with the kids how fortunate we are to be in the gym. It's been a challenging year but it's just good to get them in the gym and have some sense of normalcy."

Malden Catholic Director of Athletic Bill Raycraft is being lauded by coaches, players, and parents for being so supportive of the program and giving it resources it needs to be competitive.

"He's really done a great job, especially this year with all the changes and craziness that's been surrounding schools and sports," said Keane. "He's been great at expanding the entire girls' athletic program."

The future is certainly bright for the MC girls' basketball program.

"No. 1, the school has outstanding academics and our athletes love being at the school," said Keane. "Girls' sports are starting to take off. We were the first girls' team [at MC] to go varsity last year. The school really rallied around us and now this year the other programs are scheduling varsity games."

Perhaps as early as next season when the MIAA Tournament hopefully returns, the MC girls basketball players might realize the incredible experience that their coach Jay Keane enjoyed many years ago: playing a championship game on the famed parquet floor of the Boston Garden.



Malden Catholic girls varsity basketball head coach Jay Keane strategizes with his players during a timeout.

## Rose Ann D'Angelico

Everyone knew her as NANA and her heart was filled with love and care

Rose Ann (Golini) D'Angelico, a lifelong East Boston resident, passed away on Saturday afternoon, January 23, holding her daughter's hand as she went home to her God in her 104th year.

Rose's parents were born in Vittorito, L'Aquila providence of Abruzzo Italy, moved to Pennsylvania and then resided in Everett. Rose married an East Boston fellow and became a lifelong resident of East Boston. She worked at the gumball factory for years and then Salvatore Lombardo, Liberty Market where she was a meat packer for many years until she retired.

She enjoyed traveling, loved bingo, making crocheted blankets and baking delicious anise cookies. Most of all, she loved being close to her family, she adored her loving children, grandchildren and nieces.

She lived at the Barnes School Apartments and everyone knew her as NANA, her heart was filled with love and care. Her contagious smile would light up a room. Her love was endless and unselfish. She lived a very long life, outlived all her siblings; she will truly be missed.

She was the beloved wife of the late Dominic D'Angelico, devoted mother of Diane Ingemi and her husband, Frank and the late Joanne Vargus and her surviving husband, William, all of East Boston; dear sister of the late Nicky, Louie, Tony, Gina and Marion;



cherished grandmother of Roseann Vargus Pasuy and her husband, Tony and Tiffany Ingemi; adored great grandmother of Dominic and Gabriella Pasuy. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will gather today, Wednesday, January 27 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St. (Orient Heights) East Boston and again on Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church, Brooks St. for a Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in celebration of Rose's life. Services will conclude with Rose being laid to rest with her beloved husband, Dominic in Holy Cross Cemetery.

All services will be held in accordance with Phase-2 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts phased reopening plan due to COVID-19. Capacity will be limited. Face coverings are required to be worn and social distancing measures are encouraged.

For more information or to leave an online condolence, please visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

## Pauline LoVerme

Of Saugus, formerly of East Boston

A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, January 20 in St. Anthony of Padua Church for Pauline L. (Carco) LoVerme, 77, who passed away on January 15 following a long illness.

The beloved wife of 39 years to the late John F. LoVerme, Jr., she was the cherished mother of Jessica D. LoVerme and Saugus Police Patrolwoman, Jenna D. Fennelly and her husband, Patrick J. Fennelly, all of Saugus; dear sister of Emanuel J. "Mannie" Carco and his wife, Catherine "Cookie" of Malden, Josephine P. Fauci and her husband, Leonard of Saugus, John R. Carco and his wife, Christine of West Peabody and Linda A. Larkin and her husband, Ronald E. of Mashpee; devoted daughter to the late Louis J. and Dorothy E. "Dora" (d'Este) Carco. She is also



lovingly survived by her faithful canine companion "Wilson" and by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Interment was in Puritan Lawn Memorial Cemetery, West Peabody.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the care and direction of the Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals. To send online condolences, please visit [www.vertuccioandsmith.com](http://www.vertuccioandsmith.com)

## Paul E. Winer, Sr.

August 20, 1942 ~ January 19, 2021

Paul E. Winer, Sr. of Winthrop, formerly of East Boston, passed away at the Whidden Hospital in Everett on January 19. He was 78 years old.

Born in East Boston, the beloved son of the late Frances (Burke) and George Winer, he was a resident of East Boston before moving to Winthrop 11 years ago. Mr. Winer was employed as a concierge for 180 Beacon St. and University Green for over 20 years.

He was the devoted husband of Mary (Capo) and the loving father of Paul E. Winer, Jr. of Winthrop and his companion, Jenn Chavez of Swampscott and Kim Winer and her companion, John Hunter of Saugus; dear brother of Norma Leach of Winthrop, Priscilla MacDonald of Everett and Barbara Eaton of Tennessee.



see and cherished grandfather of Kaela and Shane.

A Funeral Mass in St. John the Evangelist Church, Winthrop was followed by interment in the Belle Isle section of Winthrop Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Ernest P. Caggiano & Son Funeral Home, Winthrop.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Paul E. Winer, please visit our floral store.

## Italo Freda

Proprietor of Freda Corp.

Italo S. Freda, 72, of Winthrop and Saugus passed away at the Melrose-Wakefield Hospital on January 10.

Born in Avellino, Italy, he came to this country at an early age residing in Chelsea. A graduate of Chelsea High School he went on to become the proprietor of Freda Corp., a heavy equipment company building parks for the City of Boston.


He was the devoted husband of Gina (Campo) and the loving father of Italo Freda, Jr. and Gregory Freda, both of Saugus and Marissa Freda of Winthrop; dear brother of Joseph Freda, Anthony Freda, Gina Musto and Filomena Sellitto and cherished grandfather of Carli.



The funeral was conducted from the Caggiano-O'Maley-Frazier Funeral Home, Winthrop on Friday, January. Services concluded with the interment in the Belle Isle section of Winthrop Cemetery.

To sign the online guestbook go to [www.caggianofuneralhome.com](http://www.caggianofuneralhome.com).

In Loving Memory of  
**Richard A. 'Richie' Breault**  
June 24, 1963 – Feb. 1, 2017  
**4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



*We knew little that morning that God was going to call your name. In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone; for part of us went with you, the day God called you home. You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide; and though we cannot see you, you are always at our side. Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same; but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.*

**Forever Missed & Loved  
Always in Our Hearts  
Cheryl, Richard, & Lexi**

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**J.M.**

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

CONCERNS  
OVER EVICTION  
MORATORIUM  
EXPIRING

CHELSEA -A key concern in Chelsea and surrounding communities since last November has been the lifting of the eviction moratorium and how that might affect thousands of residents and their housing situations, but initial statistics through Jan. 1 from the state Housing Court show Chelsea seems to be in a good position so far with a lower number of filed evictions for non-payment of rent.

It's a piece of good news in what has been a huge worry for elected officials and advocates over the past several months, with many worrying that joblessness as a result of the pandemic could lead to massive numbers of people without homes. So far, that hasn't come true in the official stats, to the relief of everyone.

In Housing Court, to begin an eviction process one must file a Summary Process Eviction for non-payment of rent. It is a standard process for most landlords and tenants, but it had been frozen during COVID-19 until last fall – when Housing Court opened back up for evictions in October.

While other locales have been swamped with such filings, Chelsea has had just 129 Summary Process Evictions filed for all of 2020. That was a little more than 10 per month and showed that the City has staved off the onslaught of filings that many expected. It's not the case in other places like Worcester, Fall River and New Bedford.

Worcester led the state with 874 filings as of Jan. 1 for all of 2020. Springfield had 711, Fall River had 604, and Brockton

had 315. All were well above Chelsea's numbers.

Chelsea did have a lot in common with Everett and Revere, which also expected a lot of filings but so far have not had so many. Everett had 87 filings and Revere had 154 – all well-below what was expected and, like Chelsea, places where substantial resources were directed to stemming the tide.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said he felt really good about the numbers and the resources the City has marshaled to keep evictions from happening in large numbers.

"It's good news and I don't have a specific explanation, but we have put a lot of resources and money to assist people," he said. "We have helped residents fill out RAFT applications and our own rental assistance applications and program. We have the Chelsea Legal Aid Clinic and the Eviction Task force that intervene quickly. I'm hopeful all of these things are helping the situation. These statistics seem to be a positive trend."

At the same time, he said statistics only tell the official story, and he has heard from advocates that many illegal evictions are happening that don't show up on paper.

"I have no doubt that does occur and that's why we set up the Chelsea Legal Aid Clinic – a place to call and get advice," he said. "I agree that is a reality in these communities."

City Solicitor Cheryl Fisher Watson chairs the effort at the Chelsea Legal Services Housing Clinic – as it is officially known – and said it has helped avoid evictions before they happen in court.

"Chelsea has a unique approach to combating evictions and have armed our residents with different options," she said.

"The Chelsea Legal Services Housing Clinic is not only representing residents of all incomes in evictions, but also it is making sure they are connected with services within our community.

For example, she said tenants are referred to the City and other agencies for rent help through the state RAFT program and also referrals are made to housing agencies. The Clinic members right now are meeting residents twice a week at La Colaborativa to discuss their options. Meanwhile, Greater Boston Legal Services and the Volunteer Lawyers Project are also helping and representing residents that make it to court.

"There is a referral network in place," she said. "Our Landlords are also doing their part by not pursuing evictions and working with the Clinic and the City."

State Sen. Sal DiDomenico said keeping up the effort will be critical in the next few months, but he is encouraged to see that it appears the current efforts are succeeding in Everett and Chelsea.

"We have to continue working to ensure that we don't have any evictions," said Senator DiDomenico. "But, we can see that the work being done in our community through state and local partnerships has had positive outcomes for many residents. There is still much more work to be done and we will keep pushing to get resources to address our housing crisis."

On the streets of Chelsea though – similar to Everett – there is another story and that's the one that doesn't appear on paper, as Ambrosino said.

La Colaborativa Director Gladys Vega said the two things that keep her up at night during the pandemic have been food

insecurity and housing. Food has an easy answer she said; Getting resources and distributing them. Housing is much different in Chelsea, as there are so many unofficial and complex living situations. They aren't the kind of situations that would show up on official court statistics.

"The numbers may show something, but the reality is totally different," she said.

The organization has four staff members dedicated to housing, including Norieliz DeJesus. She said much of the problem is there are tenant subleases, and extended family situations, and other non-traditional living arrangements that disintegrate in the stress of COVID-19.

"There are a lot of people that sublease in the community and who out of fear abandon their homes before they get to court," she said. "They often leave because they're getting harassed by the landlord at times... Other tenants may be paying their rent, but they're doing it because they're borrowing money or they aren't paying their bills and letting them skyrocket for heat and electricity. We've seen where landlords are using utilities to push tenants out. They control the switches and they turn off the lights or heat until they leave.

"It's really hard to categorize the situations we see because there are so many dynamics, and they don't show up on paper," she continued.

She retold the story of a teen mother who was kicked out of her home by her mother, an eviction that wouldn't show up on any statistics, but one that creates an emergency situation, nonetheless.

"Some family tenant situations aren't showing up on paper because

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The Chelsea Public Schools would like to congratulate Grace Noble, Chelsea High School Science Teacher, for being named Mass Insight Education & Research Partners in Excellence Teacher Award recipient for her exemplary work in Advanced Placement STEM and English Program. Noble is one of 16 Massachusetts AP teachers being recognized for her outstanding contributions to student success during the 2019-2020 academic year. As an honoree, she will be presented with a plaque and \$750 honorarium in recognition of her achievement.

they're coming from family members evicting other family members," she said. "I have a young mother who is 18 with a baby and her mother told her to leave because she couldn't find a job. She was on the street. We had to try to find her housing and a hotel for a few nights. That didn't show up on court stats because it was within the family – in fact her mother."

Many expect the numbers of filed evictions to increase in the coming months, but a nationwide rebound in the economy is also predicted for the second half of 2021 – leading many to believe at the City

and state level that getting through the last two months and the next four could be enough to avert a housing disaster – at least on paper.

EDUCATORS  
EXPRESS  
THOUGHTS ON  
IN-PERSON  
LEARNING

EVERETT - Scores of educators in the Everett Public Schools sent letters with serious concerns to the Everett School Committee last week in anticipation to approve a plan to move towards a hybrid

See REGION Page 11

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Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

in-person education model.

The School Committee meeting took place on Tuesday night due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, and came after deadlines for the paper. That said, the topic of moving to a hybrid in-person model came up at the last meeting and an initial plan for the move had the schools returning grade by grade starting on Feb. 1. Meanwhile, last week there were talks between the School Administration and the Everett Teachers Association about a concrete timeline for the return. That timeline is expected to be shared at the Tuesday night meeting.

However, prior to that educators from across the district sent a mass mailing to members of the Committee saying they had major concerns about returning to the classroom and felt they weren't at the table.

"As an educator of the Everett Public School District, I am very concerned regarding the strategy to move to a hybrid teaching model when the pandemic is currently raging at dangerously high levels," read the letter. "At the time of writing this letter, Everett's positivity rate is 14.5%. While this is not unique to Massachusetts or the rest of the country, the concept of gravitating to a hybrid model is very premature and puts all educators, students, and administrators at risk... Please do what is right for our community and allow this to be a transparent process where all stakeholders have a voice."

Across the board, many educators in the Everett Public Schools have concerns about the district's plan to move students back into the classroom, even on a staggered basis. That sentiment has been growing stronger over the past several weeks as cases have surged in Everett after the holidays, and many educators have only recently learned of the plan. Some have said the membership of the ETA didn't even expect a discussion about returning until positivity rates were at least below 5 percent. With those rates now approaching 15 percent,

many in the ranks were a bit taken by surprise.

Some School Committee members and Supt. Priya Tahiliani have said over the past week that the game-changer in the conversation was the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine, and that it could become available as soon as early February for Everett educators. That, Tahiliani said, was one reason things changed so rapidly with the plan.

The letter on Tuesday from educators asked for clarification on three key questions from the membership.

The first was about not being included in the conversation and planning on the hybrid plan – asking why educators and administrators were not included in the planning.

Second, the letter asks for an explanation of why the key metric of being below 5 percent positivity rate suddenly doesn't apply.

Finally, the letter asks why such a disruptive move to hybrid in-person education is being considered when it could be risking lives and instruction likely won't improve.

It wasn't immediately available how many letters were sent to members of the School Committee by educators, but it was believed on first glance that hundreds were e-mailed.

**MATEWSKY MAKES COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

EVERETT - Council President Wayne Matewsky doled out Committee assignments last week, with most everyone finding a place on a Committee.

Matewsky has said under his leadership this year there will be fewer Committees of the Whole and more Committee meetings. He said he would rely on the Committee system to work out the details of issues, and that would hopefully shorten Council meetings and bring about better legislation in a more timely manner.

He announced five committees for the coming legislative year, with a revived Celebrations Committee still under consideration.

The Budget Committee

will be chaired by Councilor Michael McLaughlin and co-chaired by Councilor Anthony DiPierro. All councilors will be members of this committee.

The Committee on Business and Development is to be chaired by Councilor Rosa DiFlorio and co-chaired by Councilor Michael Marchese. Members will be Councilors John Hanlon and Gerly Adrien.

The Government Operations and Public Safety Committee will be chaired by Councilor Stephanie Martins and co-chaired by Councilor Jimmy Tri Le. Members will be Councilors Richard Dell Isola and McLaughlin.

The Legislative Affairs and Elections Committee will be chaired by DiPierro and co-chaired by DiFlorio. Councilors Fred Capone and Martins will be members.

The Ways & Means Committee will be chaired by Marchese and co-chaired by DiFlorio. Members will be Le and Dell Isola.

**LOCAL ARTISTS NEEDED**

LYNN - Caldwell, the 10-story multi-use community featuring smart open-concept apartments, modern amenities, and local retail partners, looks to enlist local artists in creating a design to be featured on their custom branded masks.

Artists are encouraged to think creatively and come up with something that represents the City of Lynn and its surrounding areas. The design must also include Caldwell's logo or brand elements somewhere within the design to qualify. The artist whose design is chosen by the Caldwell team will be included in press outreach to local media, will be featured on Caldwell's social media accounts, and any art the artists may have for sale can be showcased in Caldwell's common areas.

The custom masks will be given out to the winner and residents of Caldwell. Additional masks will be donated to local businesses and non-profit organizations. Caldwell is currently accepting residents for their apartment homes

on floors two through six and offering two-months free! Pre-leasing for the top floors of Caldwell is also happening now.

To learn more about Caldwell, please visit [www.livecaldwell.com](http://www.livecaldwell.com) or call the leasing office at 781-386-4911. For additional information, check out Caldwell on Instagram and Facebook.

Entries will be accepted now through January 31, 2020

Entries can be sent to Caldwell via email, [emma@dpacommunications.com](mailto:emma@dpacommunications.com).

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**LOCAL LEADERS ADDRESS CAPITOL EVENTS**

REVERE - The January 6 assault on Capitol Hill where Trump supporters broke into the Halls of Congress and tried to stop the Senate from certifying the Electoral College votes and officially name Joe Biden as the next President of the United States shocked the nation.

The violence of the day left five people dead, several law enforcement officers injured and put an eternal blemish on the country's peaceful transfer of power.

In Revere, the news footage from Washington, D.C., that day shook city leaders to their core.

At a School Committee meeting following the violence of January 6, Revere School Superintendent Dr. Dianne Kelly and Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo, who serves as president of the committee in his capacity as mayor, addressed the incident and told the committee resources were being made available for students and families.

"I want to begin tonight by recognizing what happened in our Nation's Capital," said Kelly. "It's both shocking and heartbreaking and nothing I ever thought that I would see in the United States of America. It is very troubling without a doubt."

Kelly said Revere Public School's administrative team immediately began working to put resources together for teachers and students to help both kids and adults process these riots and identify the underpinnings of this violence.

"We encourage students and help them to share their feelings and know that ultimately we will be safe through this period of turmoil," said Kelly.

Mayor Brian Arrigo, who once lived in Washington, D.C., said the violence in the Capitol really hit home.

"Obviously the events are heartbreaking," said Arrigo. "As a former D.C. resident. I have a special place in my heart for that city and to see what's unfolded really hit home. What we're seeing is really sad but I think the saddest part of the whole situation is how predictable it is and has been for the last several weeks. What we were seeing was an attack and an assault on our democracy and it has to be acknowledged and condemned."

To Revere's Public School students and families, Arrigo said the city is preparing to have support services available.

"I thank Dr. Kelly for being so proactive in being able to make sure that our students are able to process these challenging things that we're seeing unfold," said Arrigo. "I appreciate the fact that we are able to have those kinds of supports available and that we're focused on making sure that our families and our children in the district can handle the trauma that they're seeing unfold on TV. With that, as Dr. Kelly said, I want to impress upon the fact that we are here to create safe spaces for our residents and for our families and we will continue to do that."

Arrigo said what transpired on January 6, was certainly some of the worst acts he's seen but was optimistic things will get better soon. .

"I know that better days are ahead," said Arrigo. "But it's really a heartbreaking scene to watch."

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# Massachusetts unemployment and job estimates for December

The state’s December total unemployment rate is up 0.7 percentage points at 7.4 percent, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced last Friday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ preliminary job estimates indicates Massachusetts lost 600 jobs in December. This follows last month’s revised gain of 12,600 jobs. Over the month, the private sector added 5,200 jobs as gains occurred in Professional and Business Services; Trade, Transportation, And Utilities; Construction; Manufacturing; and Financial Activities. Losses occurred in Leisure and Hospitality; Education and Health Services; Information; Other Services and Government.

From December 2019 to December 2020, BLS estimates Massachusetts lost 335,400 jobs. Losses occurred in each of the

private sectors, with the largest percentage losses in Leisure and Hospitality; Other Services; Construction; and Education and Health Services.

The December unemployment rate was 0.7 percentage points above the national rate of 6.7 percent reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The labor force increased by 70,400 from 3,588,100 in November, as 39,800 more residents were employed and 30,600 more residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 4.6 percentage points.

The state’s labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – was up by 1.2 percentage points over the month at 64.5 percent.

Compared to December 2019, the labor force participation rate is down by 3.4 percentage points.

December 2020 Employment Overview

Professional, Scientific and Business Services gained 8,400 (+1.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Professional, Scientific and Business Services lost 9,900 (-1.6%) jobs.

Trade, Transportation and Utilities added 6,100 (+1.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 30,700 (-5.3%) jobs.

Construction added 2,600 (+1.8%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Construction has lost 11,300 (-7.0%) jobs.

Manufacturing gained 800 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Manufacturing lost -6,500 (-2.7%) jobs.

Financial Activities added 300 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Financial Activities lost 600 (-0.3%) jobs.

Leisure and Hospitality lost -9,200 (-3.8%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Leisure and Hospitality lost 145,800 (-38.4%) jobs.

Education and Health Services lost -2,800 (-0.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Education and Health Services lost 66,500 (-8.1%) jobs.

Information lost 800 (-0.9%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Information lost 4,300 (-4.6%) jobs.

Other Services lost 100 jobs OTM (-0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Other Services are down -25,900 (-18.7%) jobs.

Government lost -5,800 (-1.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Government lost 33,700 (-7.4%) jobs.

Labor Force Overview

The December estimates show 3,386,700 Massachusetts residents were employed and 271,800 were unemployed, for a total labor force of 3,658,500. The unemployment rate at 7.4 percent was up by 0.7 percentage points from the November estimate of 6.7 percent. The December labor force increased by 70,400 from 3,588,100 in November, as 39,800 more residents were employed, and 30,600 more residents were unemployed over the month. The labor force participation rate, the share of working age population employed and unemployed, was up 1.2 percentage points over the month at 64.5 percent. Over the year, the labor force was down 175,800 from the 3,834,300 December 2019 estimate, with 340,900 fewer residents employed and 165,200 more residents unemployed.

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

# Red Cross urges blood donation to maintain supply amid pandemic

The American Red Cross typically has a tough time keeping the blood supply strong during the winter months when inclement weather and seasonal illnesses can impact donors. This year the pandemic adds in another challenge in keeping the blood supply strong. The Red Cross is urging healthy individuals to make an appointment to give blood or platelets this month.

Every day there are thousands of patients who rely on lifesaving blood donations – people like Leslie Johnson. In 2005, a farming accident left Johnson with broken bones and massive bleeding. In the first 24 hours after the accident, she received 10 units of blood and platelets. Additional transfusions and surgeries followed.

Johnson’s high school-

age daughter, Emily, hosted a blood drive last semester because she recognizes the role of blood in helping save her mom’s life. “If blood had not been available when she needed it, she might not be here today. I might not have had my mom growing up. It’s my honor to be able to promote blood donation and help pay it forward to others in need.”

As Leslie Johnson faces additional surgeries to address ongoing injuries from the accident, she may need more blood transfusions.

“It’s so important, especially as we navigate this pandemic, to make sure there is blood available,” said Emily. “Blood is such a meaningful gift to give.”

One heartwarming gesture deserves another

As a thank-you for helping ensure a stable blood

supply, those who come to give this February will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, courtesy of Amazon. (Restrictions apply. Additional information and details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Together.)

Make your appointment to give blood, platelets or plasma with the Red Cross by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Important COVID-19 information for donors

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Jan. 25 - Feb. 16

Suffolk County Boston

1/27/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m., Boston Blood

Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

1/28/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

1/29/2021: 9:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

1/29/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Big Night Entertainment Group, 110 Causeway Street

1/30/2021: 8:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

1/31/2021: 8:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

2/1/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

2/2/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

2/3/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

2/4/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Boston Park Plaza, 64 Arlington Street

2/4/2021: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza

2/4/2021: 12:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

2/5/2021: 9:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

2/6/2021: 8:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

2/7/2021: 8:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

2/8/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Boston Blood

Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

2/9/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Boston College Club, 100 Federal Street, 36th Floor

2/9/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

2/10/2021: 12:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

2/11/2021: 7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Northeastern University, 77 St. Stephen Street

2/11/2021: 12:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

2/12/2021: 9:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., Boston Blood Donation Center, 274 Tremont Street

2/12/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Big Night Entertainment Group, 110 Causeway Street

# U.S. Attorney’s office returns more than \$235 million in fiscal year 2020 to crime victims

U.S. Attorney Andrew E. Lelling has announced that the District of Massachusetts collected more than \$235 million in criminal and civil actions in Fiscal Year 2020. Of this amount, \$208,282,537 was collected in civil actions, including \$77,933,472 in restitution for crime victims, and \$27,194,175 was collected in criminal actions.

“I’m proud of the work the civil and criminal prosecutors in my office have done to secure

more than \$235 million in collections, restitution to crime victims, and asset forfeitures, in 2020 alone,” said U.S. Attorney Andrew E. Lelling. “The District of Massachusetts has long been a leader in financial recoveries in the areas of health care fraud, securities fraud and civil settlements, and we will continue to aggressively pursue collections that return money to victims of crime and U.S. taxpayers, and deprive criminals of their ill-gotten gains.”

The 94 U.S. Attorney’s Offices jointly collected over \$8 billion in civil and criminal actions in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2020. The \$8,064,931,805 in collections in FY 2020 represents nearly four times the appropriated \$2.25 billion budget for the 94 U.S. Attorneys’ Offices.

The largest civil collections were from affirmative civil enforcement cases by the Office’s Affirmative Civil Enforcement Unit, which recovered government money lost to fraud or other offenses. Settlements with three pharmaceutical companies for illegal use of third-party foundations as conduits to pay kickbacks account for the office’s largest civil collections. In September 2020, Gilead Sciences paid \$97 million and Novartis paid \$51 million in July 2020, and Sanofi-Aventis paid \$11.85 million in February.

In addition to these civil and criminal collec-

tions, in Fiscal Year 2020 the Office’s Asset Recovery Unit was responsible for the collection of \$77,933,472 in restitution for crime victims, as well as forfeiture of \$22,449,306 in criminal proceeds or other property involved in crimes. The Asset Recovery Unit locates, seizes, and forfeits proceeds of crime, including health care fraud, securities fraud, mail and wire fraud, drug trafficking, as well as money and property involved in money laundering. The Unit pursues forfeiture of ill-gotten gains both domestically and abroad and works closely with units across the Office and its law enforcement partners to ensure that crime doesn’t pay. Forfeited assets deposited into the Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund are used

to restore funds to crime victims and for a variety of law enforcement purposes.

U.S. Attorneys’ Offices, along with the Department’s litigating divisions, are responsible for enforcing and collecting civil and criminal debts owed to the U.S. and criminal debts owed to federal crime victims. The law requires defendants to pay restitution to victims of certain federal crimes who have suffered a physical injury or financial loss. While restitution is paid to the victim, criminal fines and felony assessments are paid to the Department’s Crime Victims Fund, which distributes the funds collected to federal and state victim compensation and victim assistance programs.

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LIBRARY NEWS

East Boston Branch of the Boston Public Library has started the following upcoming teen programs:

Introduction to Tarot w/ Kiki Dombrowski  
Wednesday, January 27, 2021—7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Online event  
Description  
Have you ever wondered what each tarot card means? Or why tarot card readers use different layouts? Want to learn how to read tarot for yourself and your friends? Join tarot card reader Kiki Dombrowski for an introductory class on the basics of tarot!

This program is open to teens and young adults. Registrants will receive an email with the Zoom link prior to the event.

Virtual Study Hall  
Every Wednesday through March 2021—4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Online event  
Description  
Shhh . . . we’re trying to study here!

Welcome to Virtual Study Hall, where students can gather to study and get schoolwork done in a virtual teacher-free zone. Eliminate distractions and hold yourself accountable to get a head start on that term paper, finish that assignment you’ve been procrastinating on, or study for that test tomorrow!

East Boston Branch YA librarian Paul Flagg will monitor students throughout the video call. Upon entering the space, students will be asked their first name, grade level, and school.

Students will be split into breakout rooms by level of education—middle school, high school, and college or university. If you’d like to work together in small groups or socialize with fellow students, additional breakout rooms can be created upon request.

#21for2021 : 21 Goals for 2021  
Sunday, January 31, 2021—1:00 – 2:15 p.m.  
Online event  
Description  
We’re already one month into the New Year! If you haven’t made any resolutions or goals for 2021, now is the perfect time to get on the #21for2021 goal-setting trend.

Join YA librarian Paul Flagg on Zoom in creating, revising, tracking, and discussing 21 goals for 2021. Whether you want to read, meditate, walk, or exercise 21 minutes every day this year or save money to buy a car or move into a new apartment, creating realistic measurable goals with a clear timeframe can be a step in the right direction.

What better way to ensure success than with

a group of likeminded young adults to help hold you accountable and cheer you on?

Homework Assistance Program (HAP) at the Boston Public Library  
Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday—3:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
Online event  
Description  
The Boston Public Library offers free online homework help, mentorship, and social time provided by trained, high-achieving high school students. The Homework Assistance Program (HAP) is available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., from September 21, 2020 - May 14, 2021. The program is open on a drop-in basis to students in grades K–8, no registration is required.

HAP mentor trainings are provided by Harvard University’s Public School Partnerships Team, the developers of SmartTALK, a program that uses research-based tools, strategies, and resources to support students during homework time. Homework Help can be accessed through Zoom links on: [www.bpl.org/homework](http://www.bpl.org/homework).

All programs are provided subject to parental supervision.

OHNC members votes down one project, hear info on two other projects

By John Lynds

Members of the Orient Heights Neighborhood Council (OHNC) voted against one development project at the group’s January meeting last week and heard informational presentations on two other development projects.

OHNC members voted 39 to 1 in opposition to the proposal at 1209 Bennington Street. Ricky and Josh Crespo have proposed to raze the existing building and erect a four-story, seven-unit residential dwelling with five off-street parking spaces.

Architect from Joy St. Design, Treia LaRaia, said the Crespos have worked with her firm to create a spacious floor plan for families with a mix of two and three-bedroom units. The top unit will be a 1,600 square foot three bedroom unit.

There’s been some criticism over the years from OHNC members to developers that there hasn’t been enough emphasis on larger, family-size units. Most condo developments being constructed up the Heights usually consist of studio, one or two-bedroom units and residents complain

those smaller units do not attract families to the neighborhood. LaRaia said the design at 1209 Bennington attempts to address those concerns.

At the meeting OHNC members said some abutters had questions about setbacks and direct abutters had questions of the proposed fence, shadows and the proposed removal of a large tree on the property.

There were also some concerns over the height and density of the proposal and suggested knocking an entire floor off the proposal while others suggested just reducing the total number of units.

For the second project, residents heard an informational presentation for the proposed project at 6-8 St. Andrew Rd.

Owner Fouad Hamzeh told OHNC members that he wants to renovate the existing rear deck. His attorney, Jeff Drago said the scope of the project includes extending the deck to the upper floor, addition of an egress staircase, and the extension of the first floor portion of the deck. The renovation of the rear basement access stair/door is also included in the proposal.

Drago said he and his client held an abutters meeting in early January and got overwhelming support from neighbors. Most agreed that Hamzeh is a ‘great’ neighbor and wished to support his proposal.

Finally, OHNC members heard information on the proposed project at 90 Ashley Street. Owner Robert DeLeo wants to erect a two-family dwelling on a vacant lot.

The proposed two-family will be constructed as a duplex with two-bedroom, two-bathroom units in each. The proposal also includes two off-street parking spaces

DeLeo is looking for a variance for the side yard. Zoning code requires a seven foot distance for the side yard but the proposal only has a five foot Buffer. However, DeLeo’s attorney, Derek Smalls, said the neighbor next door has a driveway that abuts the side yard--so the distance between the buildings would be 15 ft. even though the setback to the property line is currently proposed at five feet.

The next OHNC meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16th, 2021.

Pressley leads colleagues in calling on Biden to commute all federal death row sentences

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley led 35 colleagues in sending a letter to President Joe Biden, urging him to immediately commute the sentences of everyone on federal death row.

“As members of Congress, we stand ready to work with you on your commitment to rebuilding the dignity of America,” wrote the lawmakers in their letter. “We believe that rebuilding the dignity of America requires that we recommit ourselves to the tradition of due process, mercy, and judicial clemency when it comes to matters related to the criminal legal system. For this reason, we urge you to immediately commute the sentences of all those on death row.”

In 2015, the Obama ad-

ministration halted federal executions by placing a moratorium on the federal death penalty. In 2019, the Trump administration abruptly announced it was reversing the moratorium and moving forward with the first execution in 17 years. On the same day, Rep. Pressley introduced legislation to abolish the federal death penalty and resentence all individuals on death row. In their letter today, the lawmakers call on Biden to go further than the Obama administration and commute every sentence on death row, ensuring no future president could do what the Trump administration has done in resuming federal executions.

“We appreciate your vocal opposition to the death penalty and urge you to

take swift, decisive action. After referring to the death penalty as ‘deeply troubling,’ President Obama halted federal executions and commuted the sentences of two federal prisoners on death row,” the lawmakers continued. “However, the Obama administration’s reticence to commute more death sentences has allowed the Trump administration to reverse course and pursue a horrifying killing spree over the final seven months of his presidency. Commuting the death sentences of those on death row and ensuring that each person is provided with an adequate and unique re-sentencing process is a crucial first step in remedying this grave injustice.”

The letter is co-signed by 35 House Democrats.

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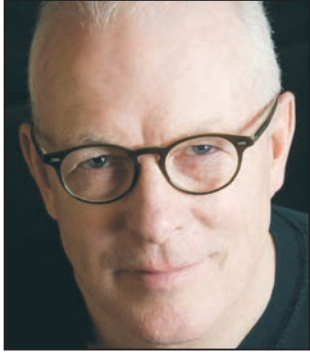


# ‘Murder in the Marsh,’ a review

By Marianne Salza

In this suspenseful work of fiction, Detective Eddie Devlin, of the Revere Police Department, witnesses a murder in progress, and he opens fire at the killer; but by the time officers report to the scene, the attacker’s body has slipped into the murky marsh. Now Detective Devlin is a person of interest, and is relieved from his duties. Determined to clear his name, Detective Devlin conducts his own investigation with the help of his bartender friend, Dana, and love, Gwen.

In this crime novel, “Murder in the Marsh,” written by Kevin Carey, all evidence leads to Detective Devlin’s guilt.



PHOTOS COURTESY KEVIN CAREY  
Kevin Carey, author of “Murder in the Marsh,” a crime novel set in 1980s Revere Beach,

“It’s about a flawed character who is unable to handle this traumatic event. His life spirals out of control,” Carey explains about “Murder in the Marsh,” published in October 2020. “It’s dark and violent.”

The fictional mystery is

set in 1980s Revere Beach, when packed bar rooms lined the boulevard, and gambling was abundant in the city.

“The ‘80s on the beach were interesting. It was a busy beach,” describes Carey about the era that inspired his 195 page book. “Revere, like any beach, had challenges over the years. It was in a transition in many ways.”

Growing up in the Point of Pines, Carey remembers the arcades, roller coasters, nightclubs, and the remnants of Wonderland Park amusement rides that slowly began to disappear in the 1970s. He recalls rumors of mob activity, and chatter amongst residents about bodies appearing in the marsh.

“I do think some of it was probably true. A lot of folklore grew out of that,” admits Carey, who is a creative writing professor at Salem State University, where he has taught for 17 years. “I say to my students, ‘The best fiction is borrowed from someone’s truth.’ That’s how we bring characters to life.”

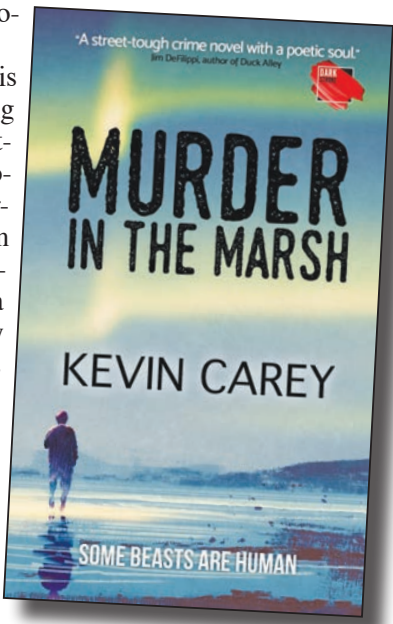
Carey has written four other books: three of personal, narrative poetry, and a chapbook of fiction titled, “The Beach People.”

In the early 1990s, he also created the documentary film about Revere Beach with his friend, Tim Young, “Revere Beach: the Changing Tide,” which discussed America’s first public beach at the turn of the 20th Century, and fea-

tured archival photographs and footage.

“Revere Beach is still an interesting place with constantly changing demographics,” says Carey, who now lives in Manchester, Massachusetts. “It holds a special place in my heart. My memories are fond of Revere. I think fans of crime fiction and people who remember Revere in the 1980s will enjoy this book.”

The vigilante justice novel, “Murder on the Marsh,” by Kevin Carey, can be purchased at Amazon.com.



“Murder in the Marsh,” a vigilante justice novel about a detective determined to clear his name.

## LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

**FALL 2020 DEAN’S LIST AT DEAN COLLEGE**

Dean College is pleased to announce Patrick Aiken of East Boston has earned a place on the Dean’s List for the Fall 2020 semester. These students have

demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin Massachusetts, 45 minutes from Boston, Massachusetts, and Prov-

idence, Rhode Island. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the

calendar year.

**HURLEY NAMED TO HAMILTON COLLEGE FALL 2020 DEAN’S LIST**

The following local resident was named to the

Dean’s List at Hamilton College for the 2020 fall semester:

Clarissa Hurley of East Boston (02128). Hurley, a sophomore, is a graduate of Middlesex School.

To be named to the Dean’s List, a student must have carried throughout the semester a course load of four or more graded credits with an average of 3.5 or above.



Kari Anne Irwin, a proud Eastie resident of Orient Heights, earned her Master’s Degree in Nursing Management and Executive Leadership from Sacred Heart University in Dec. 2020. Graduating summa cum laude with a grade-point-average of 4.0, Kari plans to continue in her current role as Nurse Director for Boston’s internationally renowned Brigham and Women’s Hospital. A true hero, Kari volunteers her time vaccinating frontline healthcare practitioners during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Originally founded in 1793 as the Hamilton-Oneida Academy, Hamilton College offers an open curriculum that gives students the freedom to shape their own liberal arts education within a research- and writing-intensive framework. Hamilton enrolls 1,850 students from 49 states and 49 countries. Additional information about the college can be found at [www.hamilton.edu](http://www.hamilton.edu).

**LASELL STUDENTS NAMED TO FALL 2020 DEAN’S LIST**

Lasell University students were recently named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List for strong academic performance, with a semester GPA of 3.5 or high-

er are as follows:

Katherine Henriquez of East Boston  
Gina Munoz of East Boston  
Kaylene Sheran of East Boston

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Great grocery specials

Barilla Pasta ..... 10/ \$10.00

ex: gluten free-protein-tortellini-pasta ready

Duncan Hines Cake Mixes ..... 10/ \$10.00

ex: Signature Varieties

Chicken of the Sea Chunk Light

Canned Tuna ..... 10/ \$10.00

Progresso Canned Beans 19 oz. 10/ \$10.00

Celeste Pizza ..... 10/ \$10.00

Campbell's Chunky Soups ..... 2/ \$3.00

Duncan Hines Frostings..... 2/ \$3.00

Hellmann's Mayonnaise 30 oz..... \$4.99

Barilla Pasta Sauce 24 oz..... 2/ \$4.00

B&M Baked Beans 16 oz..... 4/ \$5.00

Life Cereal 13 oz ..... 2/ \$5.00

Kens Salad Dressing 16 oz..... 2/ \$4.00

McCain's French Fries ..... 2/ \$4.00

Boston Market Dinners..... 2/ \$5.00

Pillsbury Cookies ..... 2/ \$5.00

Hood Sour Cream 16 oz ..... 2/ \$3.00

Hood Cottage Cheese 16 oz ..... 2/ \$5.00

#### Bakery

Assorted Bagels 4pk ..... \$1.99

Pretzel Hamburger Buns 4 pk..... \$2.79

Apple Pie ..... \$3.99

#### Deli

Russer Canadian Maple Ham ..... \$5.99/lb

Great Lakes Mozzarella Cheese..... \$4.99/lb

Magnifico Genoa Salami..... \$4.99/lb

Natural Casing Hot Dogs..... \$5.99/lb

#### Produce

California Sweet Halo Clementine's

3 lb bag ..... 2/ \$9.00

Fresh & Crisp Green Bell Peppers..... \$1.69/lb

Fresh Plum Tomatoes..... \$1.59/lb

Green Giant Baby Carrots 1 lb bag ..... \$1.29

Eat Smart Fresh Cut Bagged Green Beans ... \$2.79

#### Meat

"Meat Cut Fresh Every Day"

Family Pack Specials

Grade A Chicken Drumsticks..... 79¢/lb

Boneless Pork Loin Chops ..... \$1.99/lb

Boneless Country Ribs ..... \$2.19/lb

Petite Sirloin Steaks..... \$4.99/lb

Grade A Roasting Chickens ..... \$14.9/lb

Al Fresco Chicken Sausage ..... 2/ \$8.00

Boca Burgers 10 oz ..... 2/ \$6.00

Perdue Breaded Nuggets or Cutlets... 2/ \$4.00

#### Weekend Specials

Friday, January 29th to Sunday January 31st

"while supplies last"

BAKERY

Chocolate Chunk Cookies 10pk ..... \$2.99

DELI

Dietz & Watson Roast Beef..... \$10.99/lb

Our Own In Store Cooked Turkey Breast.. \$5.99/lb

Our Own In Store Antipasto Salad..... \$6.99/lb

PRODUCE

Sweet & Juicy Cantaloupe ..... 2. \$4.00

Nature's Finest

Red Bliss Potatoes 5lb Bag..... \$2.99

Nature's Finest

Yukon Gold Potatoes 5lb bag..... \$2.99

MEAT

Family Pack Bone in Chicken Thighs..... 79¢/lb

Boneless Center Cut or Blade Pork Roast.. \$1.89/lb

Best Yet Cooked Shrimp 3 1-4 Oct ..... \$7.99

GROCERY

Tropicana Orange Juice 52oz. 2/ \$5.00 limit 2

Best Yet Bagged Coffee ..... 2/ \$5.00 limit 2

Coca Cola 2 Liter..... 4/ \$5.00 +deposit

35 REVERE ST., WINTHROP • (617) 846-6880

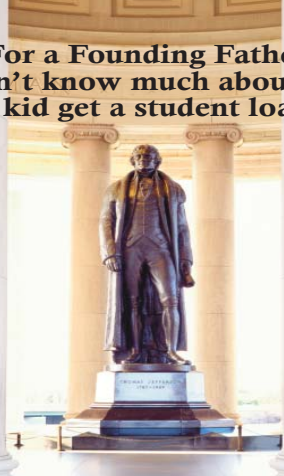
WWW.WINTHROP MKTPLACE.COM

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

Not responsible for typographical errors.

We have the right to limit quantities.

For a Founding Father, he doesn't know much about helping a kid get a student loan.



Not everyone in the government knows everything about the government. So when you need official info about Social Security, getting a student loan, renewing a driver's license, or if you're just checking your local weather, go to FirstGov.gov. A monumental source of useful information.





**FIRSTGOV.gov**  
1 (800) FED INFO

A public service message from the U.S. General Services Administration.

## THE CITY OF BOSTON CAN HELP YOU

save money throughout the year.

For more information about resources you may qualify for, visit [www.boston.gov/benefits](http://www.boston.gov/benefits) or call 311.



**B**

Mayor Martin J. Walsh

**#BOSCanHelp**

**BOS:311**