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Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Weekly COVID positive test rate decreases again in Eastie

By John Lynds

Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Eastie increased a half a percentage point while the weekly positive test rate dropped for the fourth week in a row.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), of the 34,076 Eastie residents tested for COVID since the pandemic began, 18.8 percent overall were found to be positive for the virus, a 0.53 percent increase from the 18.7 percent reported two Fridays ago.

However, 2,154 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 7.8 percent were positive--a 17 percent decrease from the 9.4 that tested positive two Fridays ago.

Citywide, 32,198 residents were tested and 5.8 percent were COVID positive--a 15 percent decrease from the 6.8 percent testing positive two weeks ago.

At a press briefing last week Mayor Martin Walsh said while the numbers are moving in the right directions, residents still need to remain vigilant.

"The average number of positive tests each day was about 375, also down from the week before," said Mayor Walsh. "Our current community positivity rate was 6.8 percent. That is lower than the

See COVID Page 3

TRASH DELAY

Due to the President's Day Holiday on Feb. 15th, Trash will be delayed by one day.

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FIRST AT PACE



Anthony Diccio of East Boston, seated, with son John Paul DiCicco and Revere Public Health Director Lauren Buck received the first Vaccine at the Pace office in Revere.

East Boston's Ben Downing announces bid for Governor

By John Lynds

On Monday afternoon, East Boston resident Ben Downing is inside Mi Pueblito Restaurant in Orient Heights Square picking up some tacos for lunch.

"The chicken jalapeno here is also really good," Downing tells me as he pays for his lunch.

It's been a busy morning for the Western Massachusetts native who has served 10 years as a State Senator from Pittsfield before stepping down in 2017 to work full-time in renewable energy.

Downing has been on the phone all morning tapping into his network of supporters, potential donors, friends and family.

On Monday morning, Downing released a video announcing he is formally entering the 2022 race for Governor of Massachusetts.

"Growing up in Pittsfield, I lived what it meant to be an afterthought in the state's political power circles," said Downing. "Now, as an East Boston



Ben Downing on the campaign trail.

resident, I'm part of a new community just as familiar with being written off. From one side of Massachusetts to the other, I have spent my life in communities that have had to fight harder than they should to get fair representation, equitable access to resources, and attention from Beacon Hill. So I know what a difference state leadership makes. And I know we need better than what we are getting right now."

Downing was one of the youngest state senators ever elected in Massachusetts history in 2006 at the age of 24. During his

tenure at the State House, Downing emerged as a leading climate advocate.

Downing moved to Eastie five years ago with his wife, Micaelah Morrill, and are raising their two young sons Malcolm, age 3, and Eamon, age 9 months, here. However, Downing's roots in Eastie are strong and the family got their start in the neighborhood at the turn of the last century. In fact, there's a Hero Square on the corner of Sumner and Cottage Street in Jeffries Point that was dedicated by Mayor Martin Walsh

See DOWNING Page 2

Eastie's Ernani DeAraujo tapped by Walsh for School Committee post

By John Lynds

Last week Mayor Martin Walsh appointed East Boston resident and East Boston Neighborhood Health Center Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel Ernani DeAraujo to the Boston School Committee

"I am pleased to welcome Ernani DeAraujo to this pivotal role on the Boston School Committee at a time when our work on behalf of the students of Boston has never been more important," said Walsh. "Ernani has strong roots in his community, and over the course of his career he has worked with an intentional focus on bringing equity and access to diverse Bostonians. He joins a group of leaders on the Boston School Committee committed to best serving the students of the Boston Public Schools."

The seven-member



East Boston resident and East Boston Neighborhood Health Center Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel Ernani DeAraujo was appointed by Mayor Walsh last week to the Boston School Committee.

Boston School Committee is responsible for defining the vision, mission, and goals of the Boston Public Schools; establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget; hiring,

See DeARAUJO Page 2

Proud to give back to Eastie

Special to the Times-Free Press

Local attorney A.J. Moscone has been unanimously approved by the East Boston Chamber of Commerce as a member of the Board of Directors. Born and raised in Eastie, he is the son of Al and Val Moscone and the Grandson of Roberta Daley (Molinaro) and Francis Daley and Diane Mozzetta, all of Eastie. A.J. is a prod-

uct of the Boston school system and Eastie's youth sports. "My strong work ethic and ability to connect with clients on a personal level are what set me apart, and I owe almost all of my success to what I learned growing up in Eastie, where I was taught not only to face adversity, but how to overcome it as well as to always be

See MOSCONE Page 2



A.J. Moscone with Giuliana Moscone, his daughter, at his Federal Court Admission Ceremony.

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Who's Your Valentine?

Love Line Messages on Page 6

Downing // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in 2019 in honor of Downing’s great great-granduncle Albert Henry Downing of Eastie who died during World War I.

While living in Eastie, Downing has seen first hand the inequities that have existed for quite some time but have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I think the major issues right are going to be the COVID response and the lessons we’ve learned from COVID,” said Downing. “What did it expose? What did it show? I think what it showed was something a lot of us already knew existed. We have these widening economic and racial gaps in Massachusetts around income and wages, around wealth and gaps between communities in parts of the state that have grown and have benefited from economic growth in recent decades. So the focus will be how do we close those gaps, how do we address economic and racial justice and, while doing that, take the urgent steps that we need to take to address climate change. We know that the scarcest resource when it comes to climate change is time. We only have really a decade here to take the steps we need to build a sustainable society and I don’t think our actions at the state level have reflected that.”

Downing argues that most urgent priority over climate change has percolated up from members of the legislature, there needs to be more sense of urgency from the executive branch of government.

“We need more of a sense of urgency,” said Downing. “We know communities like East Boston, Chelsea, Revere and even Pittsfield were targeted for the development of fossil fuel infrastructure and have the asthma rates and other public health indicators to reflect that. We know a transition to a clean energy economy and

the spillovers from that are positive. We have more jobs to create by putting solar on roofs, building energy storage, doing energy retrofits of homes, building offshore wind---there’s a lot of jobs there.”

Since 2017 Downing has served in a leadership role at Nexamp, a leading renewable energy company. In that role, Downing led efforts to improve accessibility within the green economy, expand to new markets outside of the northeast, and deploy cutting-edge energy storage solutions here at home. He serves on the board of the Environmental League of Massachusetts and is a leading advocate for climate action in the Commonwealth.

“I’ve come away from Nexamp more optimistic,” said Downing. “The naysayers will say, “Oh it’s big pie in the sky stuff” and it’s not going to really do anything with the economy. I think the most exciting thing for me is to see the solutions that we have to climate change that are at our fingertips--whether that’s solar energy efficiency, battery storage, offshore wind--they’re there to be tapped. What’s been missing is leadership that’s ready to tap into that potential and set a higher standard for all of us. All too often you see Governor Baker echo talking points from the real estate lobby and others who say these will cost too much and slow down development. We’ve heard those concerns every step along the way when it comes to the climate change debate in Massachusetts. But every step along the way those talking points have been proven wrong. Yes, there are costs but the benefits far outweigh the costs. We’ve seen that time and time again and the great thing about these jobs is they will be done in Massachusetts, the work has to be done here, and they’re

good blue collar jobs that can be done in every corner of the state.”

Another focus said Downing will be to invest in transportation that can help cut down on carbon emissions.

“A big part of addressing climate change issues is making transit more reliable and you look at Governor Baker’s record; it’s a record of cutting the budget at the MBTA,” said Downing. “We need to increase ridership and make it more reliable but we need to do the same with the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) because the BRT just isn’t relevant but we need it to be. We need people to see that as a viable option that gets them out of their cars. It is a significant undertaking but it’s that much tougher to do without leadership from the corner office.”

As a state Senator, Downing represented the largest district in the state, comprising 52 cities and towns. Over a decade in office he led legislative efforts to accelerate our clean energy development and respond to climate change, rebuild our urban and rural economies, reduce poverty and hunger, strengthen our state ethics laws, and expand protections for transgender individuals.

“I’m running for Governor to build a fairer, stronger Massachusetts,” said Downing. “I believe there is no limit to what we can accomplish here. But the leadership needed to unlock this potential is sorely lacking. As we recover and reimagine our future in the months and years to come, we need a Governor who sees, feels and understands the gravity of this moment and how we got here; who is not content with accumulating power but who is ready to use that power to respond boldly to the dire impacts of the pandemic, rising racial inequality, and the urgency of climate change.”

One dead, five injured in Eastie crash

By John Lynds

One person was killed and five others injured early Tuesday morning when an SUV lost control on Chelsea Street and hit a utility pole,

The deadly crash happened at 1 a.m. on Chelsea Street near the Marty Coughlin Bypass

Road. The severely damaged SUV could be seen wrapped around a utility pole just before the Chelsea Street Bridge. A child safety car seat could also be seen on the ground near the crash site. There’s no word if a child was injured in the fatal crash but it appears First Responders used the ‘jaws of life’ to

extract the injured occupants from the car.

Authorities as of deadline have released not much other information other than one person was killed and five others were transported to area hospitals after the crash.

They say the crash is currently under investigation.



A photo of the SUV that was involved in a fatal car crash on Chelsea Street Tuesday morning.

DeAraujo // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

managing, and evaluating the Superintendent; and setting and reviewing district policies and practices to support student achievement.

“I’m excited,” said DeAraujo, who lives in Eastie with his wife and two children. “I’ve been thinking about this for a while and then I saw the opportunity open up and I applied. It is a pretty extensive application process. Then you go through an interview process with different educators, administrators, and community people. Then they (the 13-member Citizens Nominating Panel) recommend a slate of candidates to the mayor. At that point it’s the mayor that chooses who he really wants on the committee and so it worked out.”

Historically, DeAraujo will become only the third Eastie resident to serve on the school committee behind former School Committee President John Nucci and Pixie Palladino. However, DeAraujo will become the first appointed member from Eastie since the committee switched from being an elected body to an appointed one.

“I believe I’m the first millennial school committee member,” he said. “I have comfort with remote and virtual technology and I hope I can bring some of that knowledge to the table.”

DeAraujo is a lifelong resident of Eastie where he is very involved in the community through his work at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, and as a former neighborhood liaison for Eastie during the late Mayor Thomas Menino Administration. He is the former President of NOAH Community Development Corporation, where he oversaw the East Boston-based community development corporation and worked to create affordable housing and community building, especially through youth development and environmental justice. He co-founded a program for East Boston High School, named the Mario Umana Public Service Fellowship that works to connect students with internship opportunities in government and summer programs and helps students apply to college.

“In my interviews, I talked a lot about East

Boston and everything that is going on here with our mix of different populations,” said DeAraujo. “There is also a kind of the baby boom we are experiencing in Eastie that other parts of the city hasn’t seen. So I think a lot of our needs are different from other parts of the city so I definitely want to highlight that and then work together with the Superintendent and her team to listen and hear what the needs are across the district but in particular, East Boston. The first thing I’m going to do is meet with all East Boston school heads. I want to listen. I’m going to plug into the parent groups, welcoming folks to reach out and hope to speak with community groups or any one that cares about the system and can help. I really want to listen and do whatever I can to improve schools.”

DeAraujo’s experience at EBNHC, which opened up a full service satellite clinic at East Boston High several years ago, has given him insight to the connection between health and academic performance.

“When you focus on closing any achievement gap you focus on bringing resources to where they are needed and that is what EBNHC did at the High School,” said DeAraujo. “If you have kids that are struggling with depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, uncontrolled asthma it’s going to be really hard for them to learn. So that condition feeds into that cycle of absenteeism, poor performance and other academic struggles. I want BPS to do more of that through the Boston Public Health Commission and really address those issues and get more resources like the Health Center did at East Boston High.”

DeAraujo attended Boston Public Schools, including Bradley Elementary, Umana Academy, and Boston Latin School (BLS), and went on to receive a B.A. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Washington and Lee University School of Law in Lexington, VA. In addition, DeAraujo is a Trustee of the BLS Association, Board Secretary for the Center for Community Health Education Research and Service, Inc., and is Vice Chairman of the John William

Ward Fellowship, where he helps coordinate public service programs for BLS students.

“I’m grateful to Mayor Walsh for entrusting me with this opportunity to give back to the Boston Public Schools that have so positively impacted my life,” said DeAraujo. “From the Bradley Elementary School in East Boston to the Boston Latin School, BPS gave me a foundation of academic, social, and emotional strength for adulthood. I want to add my efforts on the School Committee to ensure that all BPS students have the opportunities I did. I look forward to working with the Committee, Superintendent Cassellius, and the dedicated staff of BPS to bring kids and staff back to school safely through this pandemic and continue the course of rebuilding and reimagining BPS to spread excellence across all of our kids and families.”

Alexandra Oliver-Dávila, chairperson of the Boston School Committee, said on behalf of the Boston School Committee, she was pleased to welcome DeAraujo as its newest colleague.

“He has strong connections in the community, a demonstrated passion for helping students succeed, and great experience as a graduate of our schools,” she said. “I look forward to working alongside him in service to the students, families, and educators of the Boston Public Schools and commend Mayor Walsh for this appointment and his ongoing commitment to ensure the Boston School Committee represents the diversity of our schools and our city.”

The members of the school committee are Boston residents appointed by the Mayor of Boston to serve four-year staggered terms. Mayor Walsh made these appointments based on a list of candidates recommended by a committee of parents, teachers, principals, and representatives of business and higher education. Under the legislation that established the appointed School Committee, “the Mayor shall strive to appoint individuals who reflect the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity of the city.”

Moscone // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the hardest worker in the room. These are valuable traits I carry into my practice that allow me to successfully advocate for my clients.” A.J. handles an array of legal matters including civil, business and criminal litigation as well as real estate and licensure matters. He has successfully argued before a judge or jury in multiple venues across the Commonwealth. Some of his local representative matters include Maverick’s, which involved Superior Court litigation, and Pazza on Porter, where he represented Pazza in the acquisition of their liquor license. “To

me, the word attorney is synonymous with being a problem solver and I view being an attorney as not only a profession, but a calling to help people in need. The most rewarding aspect of being an attorney is seeing the hard work payoff in the form of reaching successful results for your clients, whether it’s representing a lifelong friend in the purchase of their first home or a local restaurant in protecting or growing their business.” “As someone who was born and raised in Eastie I owe it to help improve the community and I am excited for the opportunity to

assist through the Chamber of Commerce.” “In addition to the support of my parents, I was fortunate growing up to be surrounded by many great local role models, business minds and community leaders including current Chamber president Jim Kearney as well as past Chamber presidents Joanne Chance and Joe Ruggiero.” A.J. is an associate attorney with D’Ambrosio Brown, LLP, he is admitted to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

REVISED NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, §18-20

The East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Incorporated

Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of The East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc., (aka PierPAC) scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 has been.

CANCELED

The next scheduled meeting via Zoom will be held on March 15, 2021.

A copy of this notice has also been posted on the organization’s website at:

www.EBPierPAC.org

and has also been placed on file with the Regulations Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth by mailing same via first class mail at least 5 days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting.

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

A SHORT STORY ABOUT
GROWING UP WITH AN
UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

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

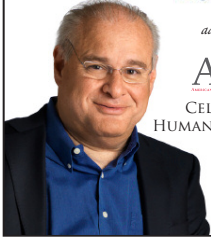
Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don’t give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin’s story inspires just one more person to make a difference,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

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News in Brief

NORMAL POSTAL DELIVERY SCHEDULE TO RESUME ON TUESDAY

Postal employees across the commonwealth will pause on Monday, February 15, to celebrate President’s Day. Retail offices will be closed and there will be no collection or street delivery of mail except for guaranteed overnight parcels. Full retail and delivery operations will resume on Tuesday, February 16. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

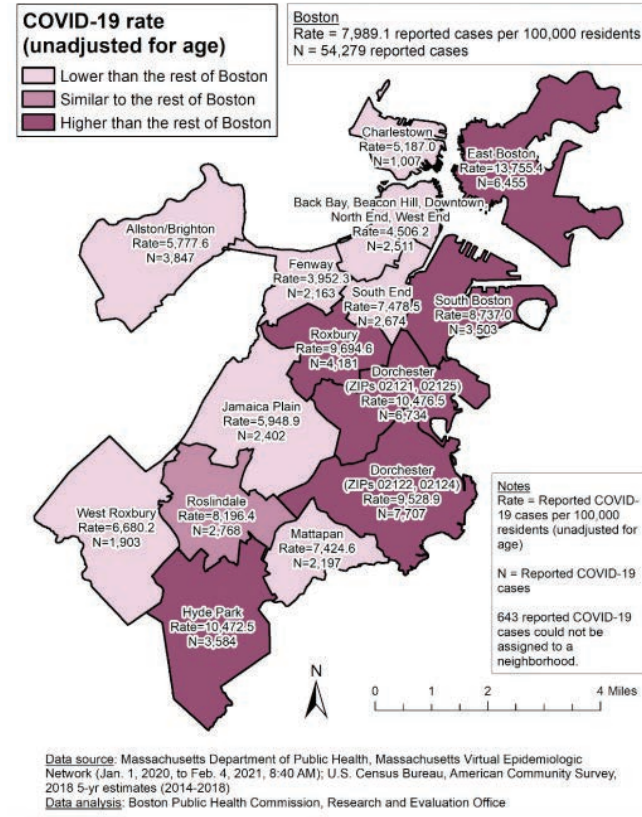
THE EAST BOSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMEMORATES PRESIDENT’S DAY

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce will be placing a display of American flags to commemorate the upcoming President’s Day on Monday, 2/15/21 at the Daniel H Solari Square outside the Chamber of Commerce office at 464 Bremen Street. President’s Day is a celebration of United States’ Presidents. It is a day to remember the founding of our nation. Please note that the flags are for display purposes. If anyone wishes to obtain a flag, please feel free to contact the Chamber at eastbostonchamber.com to purchase a flag. You can take a selfie of yourself or others with the flag display and post it on social media with the hashtag #eastbostonchamber to enter in a raffle for a free US flag like those found in the display. We will announce the winner on the East Boston Chamber of Commerce Facebook Page. Spanish Version: Nota de prensa Cámara de Comercio de East Boston 5 de febrero de 2021 Veronica Robles 617-308-2314 La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston conmemora el Día del Presidente. El Día del Presidente es un día para recordar la fundación de nuestra nación. Tenga en cuenta que las banderas son para fines de exhibición. Si alguien

desea comprar una bandera, póngase en contacto con la Cámara de Comercio por medio de la página oficial en eastbostonchamber.com. Para participar en un sorteo de una bandera estadounidense tómese una selfie solo o con otras personas en donde se encuentran las banderas en exhibición y publicarlas en las redes sociales con el hashtag #eastbostonchamber. Anunciaremos al ganador en la página de Facebook de la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston. STORYWALK SERIES COMING TO BOSTON PARKS Families and caregivers looking for a fun February vacation children’s activity are invited to head outside for the first-ever StoryWalk series in City of Boston parks, available starting Friday, February 12, through Friday, March 12. StoryWalks can be found in Brighton, East Boston, Hyde Park, Roslindale, and Roxbury, with a bilingual Spanish/English installation in centrally-located Franklin Park. Children and families participating are encouraged to wear a face covering, stay six feet away from others, and enjoy with members of their own household. A StoryWalk is an innovative and delightful way for children and adults to enjoy both reading and the outdoors. Laminated pages from children’s books are attached to wooden stakes and installed along outdoor paths. As visitors stroll through the park, they are directed to the next page in the story. StoryWalks have been installed in 50 states and 13 countries and are now coming to Boston’s parks. Boston Public Library branches near the StoryWalks will offer activities for families to enjoy, including craft activities and live book readings on Facebook Live. “Parks Department staff have been working to find new and innovative activities tailored to the current social distancing guidelines, and the Boston Public Library offered to lend the StoryWalk materials for installation in parks,” noted Mayor Martin J. Walsh. “Boston Parks and Recreation’s first StoryWalk is a great perfect way to encourage children to exercise and get some fresh air, while learning and discovering a great book. When City departments collaborate, residents win.” The Boston Parks and Recreation Department teamed up with the Boston Public Library, the High-

land Street Foundation, and the New England Patriots Foundation to produce a series of StoryWalk installations in five neighborhood parks across the city with additional support provided by Xfinity. The StoryWalk Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. The distance between stations will naturally support social distancing, but visitors are reminded to stay 6 feet away from those who are not members of their own household. Face coverings must be worn in public parks. If participants find the StoryWalk to be crowded, they are encouraged to come back another time or choose a different StoryWalk location. Lopresti Park, 33 Sumner Street, East Boston Book: “The Dot” Language: English Description: Vashti believes that she cannot draw, but her art teacher’s encouragement leads her to change her mind. For more information on the StoryWalk Series, visit Boston.gov/StoryWalks. For current social distancing guidelines in City of Boston parks please visit: www.boston.gov/news/coronavirus-covid-19-updates-boston-parks-and-recreation. ORIENT HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA The next meeting for the Orient Heights Neighborhood Council will be held Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. For your information and so that you may post and share it, the agenda is below: Orient Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting Agenda - Tuesday February 16th, 2020 Location: Zoom Meeting starts at 6:30 pm, but the Zoom link will open at 6:00pm to get acclimated. The meeting will be recorded. Zoom meeting information: https://zoom.us/j/8418035902 Agenda Public Safety Station 7 Community Update: Officer Dan Simons Announcements & General Presentations East Boston Transportation Justice Coalition The TJC is a coalition of neighbors fighting to unify concerned East Boston residents and voices to find community-driven, equitable solutions to Eastie’s transportation challenges.

You can help improve transportation safety in East Boston by taking their survey at: http://bit.ly/36WSrmZ Updates from Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards Lydia Edwards has served as City Councilor for the 1st district of Boston since 2017. She represents East Boston, Charlestown, and the North End. Renegade’s Pub Change of majority ownership in existing business which currently holds a neighborhood-restricted liquor license. The change in ownership requires a new liquor license application pursuant to the neighborhood-restricted license rules. Otherwise, no changes are proposed to the existing business. Orient Heights Design Review Committee Presentation on Design Review Committee process and meeting timeline. While the existing bylaws do not need to be amended a vote will be taken on moving informational development presentations to the Design Review Committee meetings. All development presentations that are up for a vote will remain in OHNC meetings, and Design Review Committee meeting notices and agendas will be sent out the same as OHNC meetings are. Development Presentations VOTE 137 Leyden Street - New three-story building with six 2-bedroom units varying from 961 sq ft to 1,199 sq ft with a total of five parking spaces. Presentation: https://bit.ly/3pHG4CR 6-8 Saint Andrew Road - renovation of existing rear deck. Scope includes extending deck to upper floor, addition of an egress stair, and extension of first floor portion of deck. Renovation of rear basement access stair/door also included. Adjournment The next OHNC meeting will be held on Monday, March 15, 2021.



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

COVID // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

week before, and down 1.6 percentage points over the last two weeks.” The Mayor said that, throughout the pandemic, Boston has taken a cautious approach to reopening, and only moves forward with reopening if public health experts say it’s safe. “In recent weeks, we’ve seen some improvement in our COVID numbers,” said Walsh. “That is why we are moving into Phase 3 Step 1 today (Monday). You can go to Boston.gov/Reopening to find the list of businesses allowed to reopen.” The Mayor also mentioned that, last week, the State moved Boston from “high risk” to “moderate risk” on their map, which is encouraging news. However, Walsh warned that we must stay vigilant. “The numbers could change any time,” he said. “Every single person has a role to play in keeping these numbers down. Everyone can take actions on a daily basis to protect themselves and their loved ones.” He reminded everyone to wear a mask; social distance; wash your hands with soap and warm water; disinfect surfaces; and avoid gatherings. He also reminded everyone to make testing a part of your routine. “We have over 30 testing sites including mobile sites that are free and open to all, regardless of symptoms. Visit Boston.gov or call 3-1-1 for complete details,” said Walsh. Eastie’s COVID infection rate only increased 2.2 percent last week and went from 1,346.5 cases per 10,000 residents to 1,375.5 cases per 10,000 residents. The citywide average is 798.9 cases per 10,000 residents. An additional 136 Eastie residents contracted the virus and there are now 6,455 confirmed cases, up from the 6,319 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 4.8 percent percent last week and went from 52,704 cases to 55,236 confirmed cases in a week. Forty-one Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,194 total deaths in the city from COVID.

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WINTRY BLAST IS NOT SO HARD TO TAKE

The polar vortex once again has spun out of control, as it has done often in recent years. Instead of remaining in a tightly-wrapped circular motion around the Arctic, the vortex has been weakened by record-high temperatures in the Arctic in recent years because of climate change, thereby loosening the vortex’s centrifugal force and allowing waves of cold air to drift from the Arctic to the continental United States.

We have to admit however, that the cold air has been refreshing. We’re not suggesting that we want the sort of cold that is gripping the midwest with below-zero temperatures and -50 wind chills, but what is winter without a little spell of cold weather?

We think all would agree that Sunday’s snowstorm, with those huge flakes of snow floating down upon us, was wondrous. Catching them in your mouth (as we did while out for a run before the Super Bowl) was something to be appreciated by all of the senses.

Sure, milder winters are easy on our heating bills and we don’t have to worry about freezing pipes, slippery roads, and all of the other difficulties that come with winter weather.

But it is precisely the harshness of winter that makes us appreciate summer all the more. It won’t be long before the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are here and these days of sub-freezing weather will barely be a memory.

TB SETTLED THE GOAT QUESTION

Yes Pats’ fans, it was bittersweet to watch the duo of Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski lead the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a Super Bowl championship.

On the other hand, no Pats’ fan should be deluded into thinking that if the Pats’ management had kept #12, New England fans would be celebrating with a victory parade this week.

Tampa Bay started the season with far more talent on its offense than the Patriots and then went out and added Rob Gronkowski, Leonard Fournette, and Antonio Brown -- all of whom not so coincidentally scored the Tampa Bay touchdowns.

But analysis aside, the game captured the imagination of fans -- and even non-fans --across the country because of the matchup between the greatest QB of all time, now at the age of 43, vs. the up-and-comer, 25 year-old Patrick Mahomes, from Kansas City.

In addition, en route to the big game, Brady had vanquished two other GOAT wannabes, Drew Brees and Aaron Rodgers, while another GOAT pretender, Ben Roethlisberger over in the AFC, had fizzled out.

The Brady-Mahomes matchup was a classic, made-for-TV, duel-for-the-ages.

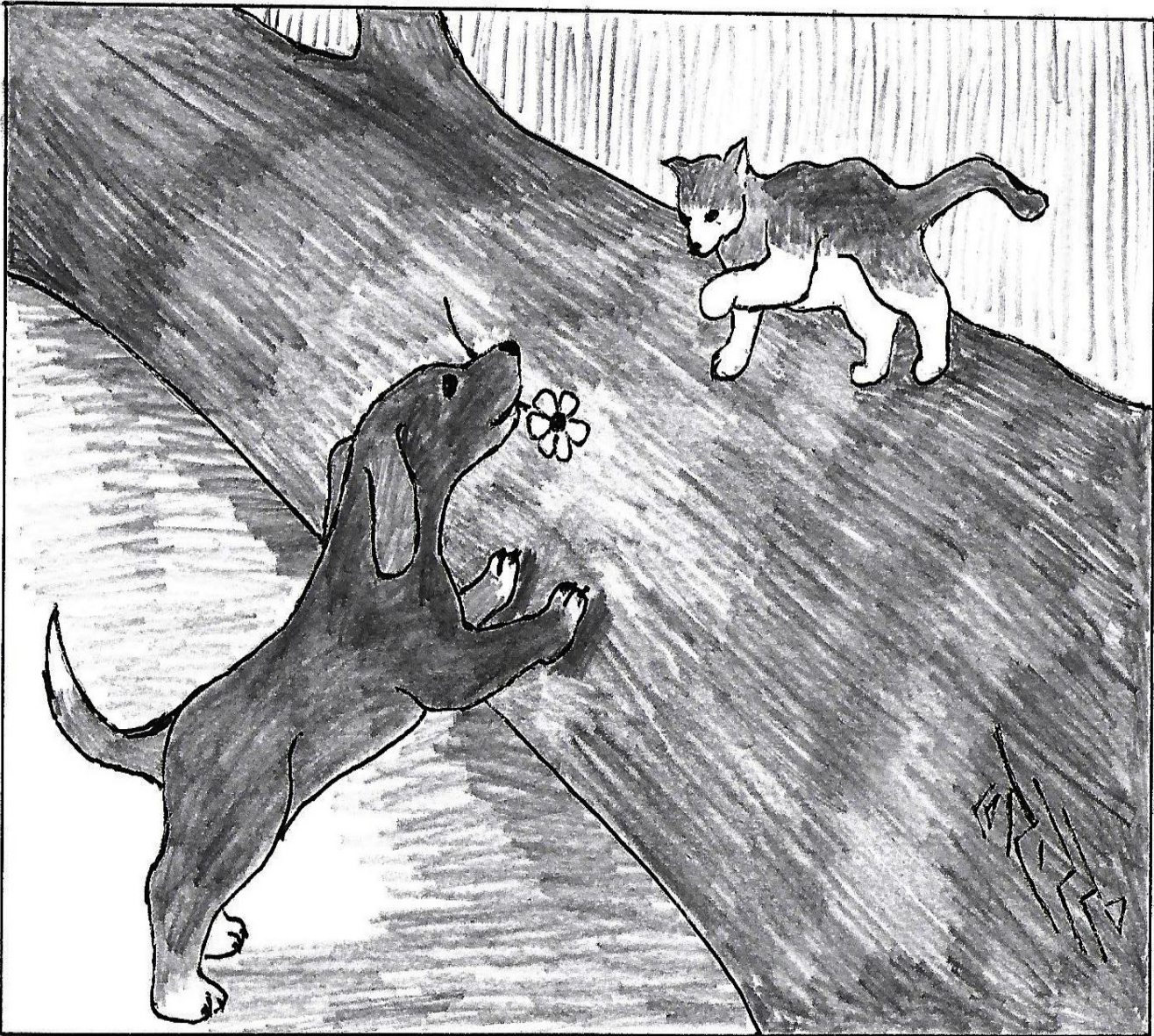
But in the end, it was #12 who stood tall and confident in the pocket, firing lasers to his receivers, while Mahomes was scrambling around haphazardly and making costly mistakes.

New England fans were fortunate to have had the joy of watching Tom Brady perform his magic for 19 seasons, including six championships in nine Super Bowl appearances.

It was a run of excellence that will not be repeated, either here or anywhere else -- because there is only one GOAT.



Forum



HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY

Edwards files hearing order on coordination of construction permits

Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards has filed a hearing order to discuss how construction and utility permits can be issued in a way that would minimize quality of life impacts on residents.

“I’ve heard from residents throughout the district about how they’re affected by having multiple construction and utility

projects in their neighborhood at the same time,” said Councilor Edwards. “I’m filling this hearing order to bring everyone together and have a conversation about how we can make sure that essential work gets done in a way that minimizes the disruption to residents.”

The hearing order is also meant to address the

issue of resident notification when permits are issued.

“Many of the issues that people currently face could be solved with proper notice,” added Councilor Edwards. “If people knew that a street was going to be closed they could plan ahead.

We have to make sure that residents are notified

when there are utility permits issued in their area.”

The hearing order will be introduced at Wednesday’s council meeting and assigned to a committee. A public hearing will then be scheduled where members of the public will be able to testify.

LETTER to the Editor

I STAND SHOULD TO SHOULDER WITH THOSE AGAINST THE SUBSTATION

To the Editor,

East Boston has a long, storied history of fighting back against special interests with an activist heart.

As many Eastie residents know, in the 1960s the Maverick Street Mothers blocked construction vehicles with baby carriages to protest against airport expansion. They began protesting because of unsafe conditions, noise, and pollution negatively impacting their quality of life.

The spirit and legacy of the Maverick Street Mothers lives on through today’s environmental justice battles. Last week, WBUR highlighted the

stories of Diana Cifuentes and Maritza Manrique as they fight against the proposed Eversource substation on the banks of the Chelsea Creek. Reading the article filled my heart with pride and joy and I am honored to stand shoulder to shoulder with those against the substation.

The activism of Diana, Maritza, and the rest of the activists organized by the incredible work of GreenRoots echoes the fight of the Maverick Street Mothers in the ‘60s. This community has shown time and time again that it will stand up and fight when faced with injustice, whether it’s caused by airport pollution or a new substation.

The proposal is the wrong idea, provides the wrong energy source, and is at the wrong location.

Despite the victories of the Maverick Street Mothers, East Boston continues to be overwhelmed by more than our fair share of environmental burdens with the airport, jet fuel tanks, and pollution from the traffic on Route 1A. Adding a substation on a flood prone site in a densely populated neighborhood to that list is unacceptable.

A few years ago, I set up the Edwards Empowerment Fund to distribute Maverick Street Mothers Scholarships to local parents that have shown a commitment to the community and a desire to empower themselves by continuing their education. My hope is that the scholarship will help the legacy of the original Maverick Street Mothers live on as future Eastie generations fight against their own in-

justices.

Last fall, Martiza and Diana received Maverick Street Mothers Scholarships from the Edwards Empowerment Fund in recognition of their work in the neighborhood. I’m so grateful for all of the donors and sponsors that contributed to help provide an opportunity for them to reach their full potential. It’s heartwarming to see the community come together to support activist parents as they work to make our neighborhood a better place to live.

I look forward to celebrating each honoree’s successes along with a new group of activists at this year’s scholarship celebration in November.

**City Councilor
Lydia Edwards**

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FAX: 781-485-1403

**Advertising and
Marketing**
Debra DiGregorio

**Assistant Marketing
Director**
Maureen DiBella

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We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

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

deb@reverejournal.com

Rep. Madaro, Sen. Boncore help push landmark climate legislation over the goal line

By John Lynds

Last week Rep. Adrian Madaro and Sen. Joseph Boncore helped push the passing of landmark climate change legislation in the House and Senate.

The legislation aims to overhaul the state’s climate laws, drives down greenhouse gas emissions, creates clean energy jobs, and protects environmental justice communities.

The passage of An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy (S.9), sets a 2050 net-zero

greenhouse gas emissions limit, as well as statewide limits every five years. The bill increases the requirements for offshore wind energy procurement bringing the statewide total authorization to 5,600 megawatts and requires emission reduction goals for MassSave, the state’s energy efficiency program.

For the first time the bill establishes the criteria in statute that define environmental justice populations like the one that lives here in Eastie.

“For the first time in

Massachusetts history, Environmental Justice (EJ) will become the law,” said Rep. Madaro. “Despite the governor’s unfortunate veto of the first bill, the legislature recently passed an identical bill by an overwhelming margin. We have allowed low-income communities and communities of color to bear a disproportionate burden of pollutants and environmental hazards for far too long, while excluding them from the decision-making process affecting their neighborhoods. The provisions in

this bill are the first step in a long overdue process to ensure environmental equity and finally recognize environmental justice and EJ communities in state law. I was proud to join my colleagues in the House and Senate to pass this legislation as part of the larger Climate Roadmap bill, and I want to thank my fellow sponsors, co-sponsors, and the many grassroots activists of the Environmental Justice Table who worked so hard to get this done.”

The bill is good news for Eastie residents who

have been overly burdened environmentally by Logan International Airport, a highway that cuts through the middle of the neighborhood and other environmental impacts.

“The swift passage of the Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy underscores the Legislature’s commitment to addressing the devastating impacts of the climate crisis and protecting our environment for future generations,” said Sen. Boncore (D-Winthrop). “From storms that flood our coastal streets,

to increased rates of asthma among children, the climate crisis is in our backyards. This legislation supports a targeted approach to combating climate change in our Environmental Justice communities.”

The legislation also increases support for clean energy workforce development programs including those targeting low-income communities, and improves gas pipeline safety.

The bill is now on the Governor’s desk to be signed into law or not.

Councilor Lydia Edwards gives City Council update

By John Lynds

At Monday night’s Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association meeting, City Councilor Lydia Edwards gave an end of the year report on the Council’s successes during 2020 as well as victories addressing local issues like the Suffolk Downs development.

“Suffolk Downs I think was by far one of the biggest issues,” Edwards began at the meeting Monday night. “It is the biggest privately owned project ever in Boston’s history so that took a great deal of time and this year we voted to approve the initial zoning for it. That does not mean it’s a complete and absolute approval for the next 20 years it just means they get the start. There are many amendments and they have to come back to the community to announce what they’re going to do and go through the process for each amendment. Again, as it’s the single largest private development in our history it meant we were going to have to lead

in a special way and we couldn’t just accept what is typical for development.”

One victory was ensuring that upping the affordable component from 13 percent to 20 percent as well as calling for more construction of family-size units.

“Seventy percent of our units in East Boston are two or three bedrooms but Suffolk downs, as originally proposed, had 70 percent of their units as one bedroom and studios and that was unacceptable. So we pushed that down, and got it closer to 50 percent to be units for families.”

Edwards said the city also made sure that there was some immediate relief given to Eastie because of the pandemic and got up to an \$800,000 commitment between the city and the developer.

“The first \$200,000 should be coming in the next week or so, just to East Boston residents,” said Edwards. “We are the first community to have a neighborhood stabiliza-

tion fund. We also made sure we develop for all and we develop with our eyes towards an integrated community that celebrates our diversity.”

Edwards also discussed her Fair Housing amendment and how it can improve the lives of thousands of residents in the neighborhood.

“The Fair Housing movement is something that we really got national attention for,” said Edwards. “This fair housing amendment essentially says that we are going to take our civil rights, we’re going to take our understanding of what is equitable, we’re going to take our protected classes of individuals--whether gay, lesbian, or bisexual or transgender, people of color or immigrants--and say our zoning laws will reflect a plan that includes fair housing for all. It must include them. It’s a federal mandate that the Trump Administration walked away from. Essentially we’re saying to the BPDA you’re going to plan better. You will plan but you

won’t plan it in a way that assumes that families belong here that affordable housing belongs there and displacement shouldn’t be something that naturally happens. The community process should be more inclusive. All of those things are now part of our zoning code and we’re the first state and city in the nation to actually demand such at a local level. For those of you who have or might be history buffs you’ll know that zoning has been by far the most effective tool at discriminating and segregating our communities, especially Boston. Being able to hold developers accountable is exciting for me and is one more tool for a lot of neighborhood associations and people to make sure that our communities actually heal and get better as they build and grow. And if they don’t provide for healing and if they don’t provide for making us better they shouldn’t get the permits, they shouldn’t be allowed to build here because this probably isn’t the community for them.”



City Councilor Lydia Edwards.

Edwards also discussed Zoning Board reform and changes that are being discussed.

“Zoning Board reform I think is by far the one thing that has impacted most people, and has been the most well received in terms of what we’ve gotten done,” said Edwards. “Initially proposed as a home rule petition that was very wide sweeping in its revamping the zoning board, the membership, how it operated, demanding that it actually included members from urban planning and environmentalist backgrounds as well as term limits.”

Mayor Martin Walsh

took the proposed home rule petition and took out proposed changes that he could act on immediately through executive order.

“So now we have in the executive order that requires board members to recuse themselves of projects with a conflict of interest,” said Edwards. “We instituted electronic notices, better records and timely information so that you will be able to sign up on a project by project basis and be able to receive all notices about a given project. Also the language accessibility is something I’m very passionate about.”

HVNA members support Horace Street project

By John Lynds

The Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA) released the voting results from their February meeting earlier this month.

HVNA members voted 29 to 12 in favor of the project at 61-63 Horace Street, a project that calls for the construction of three-units of housing with parking.

Richard Lynds, the attorney for owners Terese and Richard Riamondi, said his clients own the two-family home at 61 Horace but recently acquired the vacant lot next door.

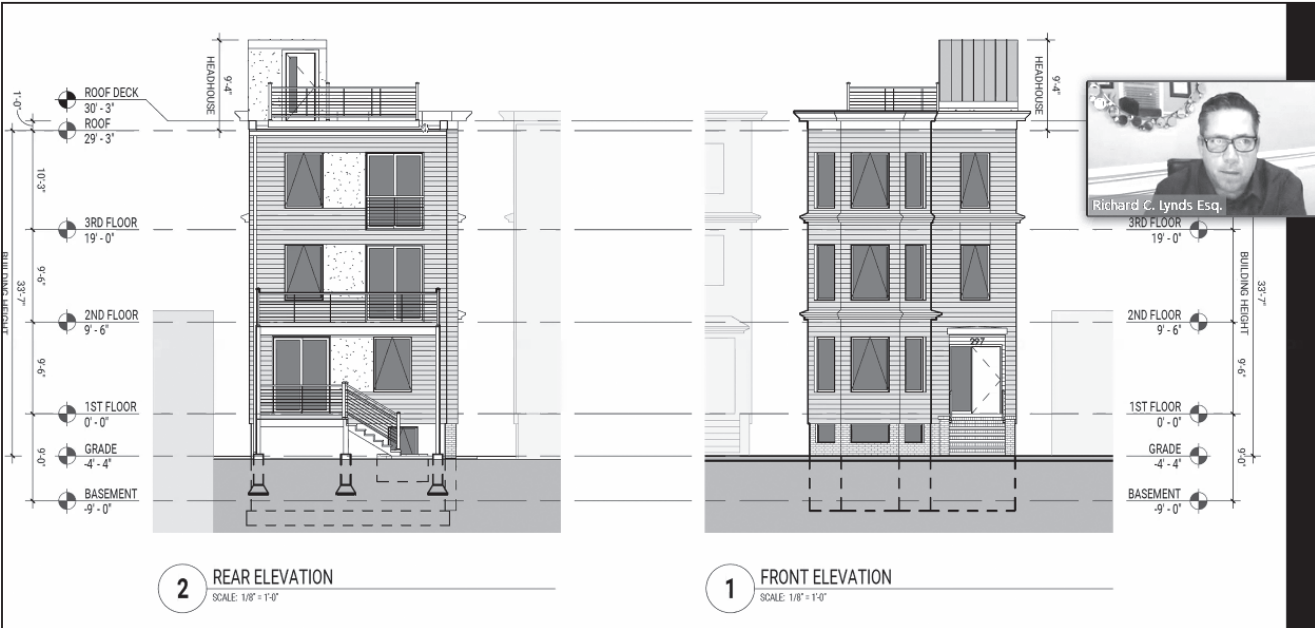
The lot is large enough to construct two, two-family homes but the Riamondi’s plan to build one three-unit building.

Lynds said the building

would be three stories and the units would be one, one-bedroom and two, three-bedroom units. They will all be homeownership.

At the meeting, HVNA gave kudos to the project’s architect Frank Delmuto and Lynds for listening to the community on the scale and design of the proposal.

“I like this project and I like that this is under 35 feet,” said one member. “Thank you, Frank (Delmuto) and Rich (Lynds) for listening to the community and coming down to 35 feet. For the first time, for me anyway, we have enough parking and a good design. I support this project. It’s everything we asked for. A family could move in the home and I love the green-space.”



Attorney Richard Lynds pitches his client’s project on Horace Street.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation
invites you to a Virtual Public Information Meetings
for the Sumner/Callahan Vent Building Upgrade Project

East Boston: Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021 at 6:00 PM
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89302028638?pwd=amtpMm5le-HEyU01TUXkrVGorLOVydZ09
Webinar ID: **893 0202 8638**
Passcode: **563022**
Call in option: 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)



North End: Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021 at 6:00 PM
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85605805265?pwd=OW4xWTVlQ-jROTDdycGExcE1HNXM2Zz09
Webinar ID: **856 0580 5265**
Passcode: **449231**
Call in option: 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)



These meetings will provide an opportunity for the public to hear an overview of the Sumner/Callahan Vent Building Upgrade Project including project overview and schedule and community and traffic impacts. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments. The project entails an upgrade to the tunnels’ dated pump stations and vent buildings to improve system reliability and safety and to minimize future maintenance while extending their service life. The project will also provide backup power by adding generators to power life-safety systems during loss of utility power. This work will require 20 overnight Sumner tunnel closures and frequent overnight lane reductions to the Sumner and Callahan Tunnels starting in 2021.

All residents, abutters, local business owners, and interested commuters are invited to attend. All attendees who sign into the meeting and provide an email address will be entered into the project’s email database to receive construction updates. Please note the presentation will be the same at both meetings. Spanish interpretation will be available at both virtual meetings and meeting materials will also be available in Spanish.

Note: This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity & Civil Rights Officer by phone at (857) 368-8580, TTD/TTY at (857) 266- 0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email to MASSDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including signlanguage, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting.

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Happy Valentine's Day



**Auntie loves you
Alianora and Emmalia**



**Happy Valnetines day Nonna
we love you very much and can't
wait to give you a BIG HUG!
— Ava & Sophia**



**All you need is Love & Kisses!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love, Scarlett & Lia xoxo**



**Happy Valentines Day
Gabriella & Anthony!
Auntie loves you**



**Gulianna and Mario, mommy
loves her little sweeties!
Happy Valentines Day**



**Happy Valentine's Day
Love Hanna**



**Happy Valentines Day
Nani, Abuelito and Abuelita
Love your Little Luna xo**



**Happy Valentine's Day
Angelica and Nana Cheryl
Grifoni**



**Happy Valentine's Nana & papa
LOVE you, Elijah**



**Happy Valentine's Day
Grammy Louise, I love you!
Love Charlotte**



**Roses are red. These glasses are too,
Who said a cat can't have more style
than you? Happy Valentine's Day!**



**Hugs & Kisses and Sweet
Valentine wishes xoxo Olivia**

This success story began in Revere

After some setbacks, Mike Todd thrives as a business owner and motivational speaker

By Cary Shuman

Bullied as a 12-year-old honor roll student during his seventh-grade year at a Boston school, Mike Todd took that ugly incident in his life and turned into a positive. The immediate years after the incident were challenging and Mike spent a lot of time reflecting about it at home. A voracious reader during that time, he read the book, “Rich Dad Poor Dad,” and it gave birth to his entrepreneurial spirit. Todd believes that the entire experience helped set the foundation to his future. In a way, he is thankful for the struggle because it shaped who he is today and how he looks at the world.

And today Mike Todd, who grew up in East Boston with his family and attended Savio Prep, is the owner of a highly lucrative business, lives in Westchester County, N.Y., and his latest venture is motivational speaking. He specializes in helping people turn setbacks into comebacks while motivating them with actionable steps.

Todd, 36, is the owner and operator of three businesses, The Landscapers of Westchester, Handyman Westchester, and the Westchester Contractor Group.

“The business has blossomed quite a bit,” he says humbly.

A move to Revere brought a new outlook

Following the school incident, his family moved to Revere when he was in the eighth grade.

Local residents will remember Mike Todd



Mike Todd, successful business owner and highly regarded motivational speaker, delivers a keynote address.

running a landscaping company (AMA Landscaping) as a teenager in Revere helping neighbors with their lawnmowing on Haddon Street, Beach Street, Victoria Street, and Vinal Street.

After spending his freshman year at Savio Prep in East Boston, he started his Revere High School education as a sophomore.

He briefly studied business management at Bunker Hill Community College and many years later received a master’s degree in hygienic health care and sports nutrition from the University of Health.

Many Revere residents know of Mike’s sister, Cyndal Todd, for her accomplished career as a model, actress, and winner of multiple beauty pageants. He also has a younger brother, Donald,

and a sister, Elizabeth.

Their mother, Mary Jane, still lives on Victoria Street, Revere. Their father, Donald, lives in Dorchester.

“Everybody is very supportive, very helpful, and very much behind me in everything I do,” said Michael.

Entering the field of business ownership

Michael Todd did not meet with instant success as a business owner. “I started a landscaping company and it failed,” recalled Todd. “I started another one and that failed, so I would go from working a job as a waiter or bartender or restaurant manager until I had enough money to start the next business if I could.”

In 2006, Todd launched an electrical installation and IT company hanging televisions and installing point-of-sale systems.

“That company really took off and I bought out an IT company that a friend had owned and we merged the two,” said Todd. “We became one of the top installers for the entire Northeast for Toys ‘R Us, Barnes and Noble, Target, Starbucks, and Chipotle.”

The success continued when in 2010 he launched 'The Landscapers' brand, the company he owns until this day.

Todd brought that company to \$250,000 in revenues in the first year. But a disagreement with a business associate led to Todd moving to Las Vegas for one year and starting an outdoor fitness business at a public park.

He then returned to New York where he rekindled a relationship with a former girlfriend, Crystal, with whom he is now married.

Todd got a job at Equinox as a personal trainer but decided to start his own personal training company.

Two years later, he had a staff of four personal trainers and the business had gross annual sales of \$400,000.

Todd and his wife moved from New York City to Westchester County, where he relaunched a landscaping, design, and construction business.

“The company blew up the first year – doing \$250,000 in the first year, a half million in the second year, and we’ve been doubling every year,” said Todd.

“We do high-end, hardscape, patio, wall, and walkway landscape design. We don’t do any



Mike Todd and his wife, Crystal Todd.

lawncare of any sort. We also do decking, which opened up the contracting side of the business. The handyman business was something I thought of for the winter months and that took off on its own. So the ball just keeps rolling and growing.”

Becoming in demand as a public speaker

Mike Todd is being called upon to tell his remarkable story of overcoming early adversity, navigating the trials and tribulations of a new business owner before forging success.

He has delivered thought-provoking speeches to middle and high school students and appeared at National Speakers Association and private events.

“The whole essence of my learning and my speeches is not just rah-rah, motivational,” said Todd. “It’s more just about taking each one of the setbacks that you have and realizing why those setbacks happened, how to learn from them, and how to use those

to catapult forward into something better.

“I speak from the perspective of entrepreneurship. Your business fail and you can either blame everything around you or you can look at the reasons why the business failed and make your next step better,” said Todd.

He does include the childhood bullying incident in his remarks as an inspirational message to his young audiences. “My message is that even something this dramatic, you can pull the good out of it and see the positive from it and you can utilize it. Everything in your life has an effect. It’s just whether you like to focus on the negative or the positive of that scenario. Every single setback is a setup for a comeback.”

Looking back on his days growing up in this city and living in the family home on Victoria Street, Mike Todd, successful business owner and motivational speaker, says, “Revere was very good to me.”

National Grid seeks approval to expand access to distributed solar

National Grid has filed a proposal to expand access to solar energy and provide annual bill discounts to 20,000 low-income customers in Massachusetts.

Solar-powered generation is a vital part of the strategy to meet Massachusetts’ clean energy goals. While many customers benefit from the savings of rooftop solar, not every customer has the means or ability to install solar panels on their home.

Community Shared Solar is a part of the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program, and it enables customers to lower their bills through local solar projects without having to install solar panels on their property.

To date, low-income customers have had limited access to the monetary benefits available from participating in solar projects. As of December 2020, less than five percent of solar capacity in the SMART program serves low-income customers. The company’s Solar Access Initiative, which is pending review from the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU), seeks to make clean energy more accessible to low-income customers.

“No matter their income level, all of our customers should share in the benefits of distributed solar,” said Marcy Reed, president of National Grid in Massachusetts. “With this proposal, we are demonstrating our commitment to offering fair and affordable solutions as we drive toward our clean energy future.”

The Solar Access Initiative aims to expand access to Community Shared Solar projects by eliminating the need for customer credit checks through a new Solar Simplified Billing program. In addition, National Grid will launch a Solar Enrollment Program exclusively available to low-income customers that will provide approximately \$240 in annual bill discounts.

•Solar Simplified Billing

The owners of many Community Shared Solar projects screen applicants using credit scores to reduce the risk of late payments. This significantly limits the pool of customers who can qualify to participate. National Grid’s Solar Simplified Billing eliminates the need for credit checks by guaranteeing on-time payments to project owners.

•Solar Enrollment Program

National Grid’s Solar Enrollment Program will simplify the process for low-income customers to sign up for Community Shared Solar projects. The program will offer a month-to-month subscription, no sign-up or cancellation fees, and an electricity bill discount of approximately \$240 per year.

National Grid will contract with and match low-income participants to Community Shared Solar projects. The contracted projects will not have to conduct their own customer billing or recruitment, reducing their costs and making more bill discounts available to the low-income participants.

National Grid is committed to being a responsible business partner, delivering sustainable energy safely, reliably and afford-

ably, ensuring no one gets left behind. If approved by the DPU, the Solar Access Initiative would go into effect in early 2022.

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Great Lakes Mozzarella Cheese..... \$4.69/lb

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CHEVEZ NAMED TO FALL 2020 DEAN'S LIST AT SAINT MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

Named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Fall 2020 semester was Tania Chavez, a freshman criminology major from East Boston and a graduate of Excel Academy Charter High School.

Saint Michael's College, founded in the great Catholic intellectual tradition, which also recognizes the principles of social justice and compassion, is a selective, fully residential Catholic college in Vermont's beautiful Green Mountains. Our closely connected community delivers internationally-respected liberal arts and graduate education near Burlington, one of the country's best college towns. To prepare for fulfilling careers and mean-

ingful lives, young adults here grow intellectually, socially, and morally, learning to be responsible for themselves, each other and their world.

LOCAL STUDENTS WHO MADE THE UMASS AMHERST DEAN'S LIST

Below is a list of local students who were named to the dean's list at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for the fall 2020 semester.

In order to qualify, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a four-point scale.

EAST BOSTON
Wenle Liang
Arlette Vanessa Ordonez
Arianna Gabriela Perry
Evelyn Dayana Rodriguez
Kai Jordan Rojo
Cameron Alexander Shepherd
Jeffrey K Zhao

LOCAL STUDENTS ACCEPTED INTO THE BOSTON UNIVERSITY UPWARD BOUND, UPWARD BOUND MATH SCIENCE PROGRAMS

Congratulations to the 14 Boston students who were recently accepted into the Boston University Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math Science programs!

Eleven of the college-aspiring students are from the target high schools of Boston Green Academy, Community Academy of Science and Health, Charlestown High School, Margarita Muniz Academy, and Snowden International School; and the remaining students live in the Boston target neighborhoods of Dorchester, East Boston, Mattapan or Roxbury.

The Upward Bound

programs are designed to prepare high school students for college success. The students will take classes, do enrichment activities, prepare for MCAS and SAT exams, and receive mentoring and tutoring throughout high school.

UB is accepting additional 9th and 10th graders to start this summer. The priority application deadline is April 15. For more information on the programs, go to www.bu.edu/ub.

TODD GRADUATES FROM THE UNH

Michaela Todd of East Boston graduated from the University of New Hampshire in December 2020. He/she earned a MS in Cybersecurity Pol & Risk Mgmt.

Students who received the honor Summa Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.85-4.0: Students who received the honor of

Magna Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.65-3.84; and students who received the honor of Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.50-3.64.

Students are only graduated after the Registrar's Office has certified that all degree requirements have been successfully completed. Participating in the commencement ceremony is the act of honoring

and celebrating academic achievement.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea, and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 13,000 undergraduate and 2,500 graduate students.

Edwards files hearing order on inclusionary development policy

After having recently filed an expanded condo conversion ordinance and an update to the city's linkage policy as the beginning of an anti-displacement package, Councilor Lydia Edwards has filed a hearing order to discuss the city's inclusionary development policy (IDP). The filing comes weeks after Governor Baker signed a home rule petition that combined proposals by Councilor Edwards and Mayor Walsh which gives Boston the ability to codify and update the IDP and linkage.

"The IDP is an important tool that can help us create affordable housing in Boston," said Councilor Edwards. "I'm excited to have this hearing and hear from the advocates that are working on the ground about how they think the policy can be improved."

Currently, the IDP requires developers to set aside 13% of units in projects greater than 10 units and make them available to residents making an aver-

age of 70% of the area median income (AMI), which is just under \$70,000 for a household of two.

"We know we need to do better when it comes to defining what is affordable and holding developers accountable," added Councilor Edwards. "With the new fair housing zoning amendment we're recognizing that developers have a role to play in affirmatively integrating our communities. The IDP is a part of that role but the current policy needs to be refreshed and revamped so that it centers the needs of real Bostonians like single parents, the underemployed, working and middle class families and so many people who have felt completely built out of the city they love."

The hearing order will be introduced at Wednesday's council meeting and assigned to a committee. A public hearing will then be scheduled where members of the public will be able to testify.

FTC received 34,028 fraud reports from MA consumers

The Federal Trade Commission received 34,028 fraud reports from consumers in Massachusetts in 2020, according to newly released data.

Massachusetts consumers reported losing a total of \$40,944,783 to fraud, with a median loss of \$275.

The FTC's Consumer Sentinel Network is a database that receives reports directly from consumers, as well as from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, the Better Business Bureau, industry members, and non-profit organizations. This year, the FTC welcomed the data contributions of the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection. Twenty-five states now contribute to Sentinel. Reports from around the country about consumer protection issues—including identity theft, fraud, and other categories—are a key resource for FTC investigations that stop illegal activities and, when possible, provide refunds to consumers.

Across all types of reports, the FTC received a total of 53,111 reports from consumers in Massachusetts in 2020. The top category of reports received from consumers in Massachusetts was Identity Theft, followed by Imposter Scams; Online Shopping and Negative Reviews; Credit Bureaus, Information Furnishers and Report Users; and Banks and Lenders.

•Fraud Losses Up Nationwide
Nationally, consumers reported losing more than \$3.3 billion to fraud in 2020, up from \$1.8 billion in 2019. Nearly \$1.2 billion of losses reported last year were due

to imposter scams, while online shopping accounted for about \$246 million in reported losses from consumers.

The FTC received 2.2 million fraud reports from consumers in 2020, with imposter scams remaining the most common type of fraud reported to the agency. Online shopping was the second-most common fraud category reported by consumers, elevated by a surge of reports in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Internet services; prizes, sweepstakes, and lotteries; and telephone and mobile services rounded out the top five fraud categories nationally.

Sentinel received more than 4.7 million reports overall in 2020. Of these, nearly 1.4 million were identity theft reports received through the FTC's IdentityTheft.gov website.

In 2020, the FTC introduced ReportFraud.ftc.gov, an updated platform for filing reports with the agency. The FTC uses the reports it receives through the Sentinel network as the starting point for many of its law enforcement investigations, and the agency also shares these reports with more than 2,800 law enforcement users around the country. While the FTC does not intervene in individual complaints, Sentinel reports are a vital part of the agency's law enforcement mission.

A full breakdown of reports received in 2020 is now available on the FTC's data analysis site at <https://ftc.gov/exploredata>. The data dashboards there breakdown the reports across a numbers of categories, including by state and metropolitan area, as well as exploring a number of subcategories of fraud reports.

OBITUARIES

Richard Carbone

Past Exalted Ruler and Honorary Life Member of the Winthrop Lodge of Elks and longtime treasurer of Jeffries Yacht Club in East Boston

Richard C. Carbone of Winthrop, formerly of East Boston, passed away at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston on January 31. He was 80 years old.

Born in Boston, the beloved son of the late Jennie (Todisco) and Ralph Carbone, he resided in East Boston before moving to Winthrop over 17 years ago.

Prior to his retirement, he worked as a manager at Logan Airport in the janitorial department. He was also the long-time treasurer at Jeffries Yacht Club in East Boston and a Past Exalted Ruler and Honorary Life Member at the Winthrop Lodge of Elks.

He was the devoted husband of Patricia (Frazier), the dear brother of Connie Carbone of East Boston and Carol Cooper and her late husband, Edwin of Saugus; cherished uncle of Robert, Michele C., Joe Jr., Denise, Michele F., Vincent, Monica, Brian and the late Michael; beloved brother-in-law of Billy and Diane Frazier,



Lorraine and Steven Tear, the late Joseph and Helen Frazier and Paul and Barbara Frazier.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the the Caggiano-O'Maley-Frazier Funeral Home, Winthrop. Interment was in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

Memorial donations may be made to the Frazier Family Scholarship Fund c/o Winthrop Lodge of Elks 191 Washington Ave., Winthrop MA 02152.

To sign the online guestbook, go to www.caggianofuneralhome.com.

John Gigliello, Jr.

MBTA retiree

John B. Gigliello, Jr. of East Boston passed away on Wednesday, February 3.

John was an employee of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

He was also a member of the Painter's Union District Council 35 and a US Army veteran of the Korean Conflict.

The beloved husband of Sophie (Saviano) Gigliello, he was the devoted father of John Gigliello III and his wife, Mary of Peabody, Steven Gigliello of East Boston and Cheryl Yebba and her husband, Nicholas of Everett; dear brother of Michael of Naples, FL, Ronald of Ormand, FL, Josephine of Saugus, Dorothy Cheek of Seabrook, NH, Rosemarie Maio of Peabody, Nancy Clanton of Saugus, Theresa Salvati of Douglas, Annette Chiaradonna of Seabrook, NH, and the



late Phyllis Cicchetti and James Gigliello and cherished grandfather of Marina, Bianca, Katrina, Ryan, Casey, and Nicholas. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends honored John's life by gathering at Saint Anthony of Padua Church, Revere, on Tuesday, February 9 for Funeral Mass. Services concluded with John being laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. For more information, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

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

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Docket No. SU19P2537EA
Estate of: Angelina C. Miller
Also known as: Ann Miller, Ann C. Miller, Ann C. D'Amore Miller, Angelina C. D'Amore
Date of Death: 02/15/2001
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: Annette M. Cagliani of Chelsea, MA requesting that the Court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 03/04/2021.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 21, 2021

Felix D. Arroyo,
Register of Probate

2/10/21
EB

Register of Probate

2/10/21
EB

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Docket No. SU19P1748EA
Estate of: Anthony L. D'Amore
Date of Death: 05/16/2000
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Annette M. Cagliani of Chelsea, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 03/04/2021.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 21, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo,
Register of Probate

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Docket No. SU19P1749EA
Estate of: George J. D'Amore
Date of Death: 03/03/2008
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Annette M. Cagliani of Chelsea, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 03/04/2021.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 21, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo,
Register of Probate

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Estate of: Joseph D'Amore
Docket No. SU19P1747EA
Date of Death: 02/09/2010
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Annette M. Cagliani of Chelsea, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 03/04/2021.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 21, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo,
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Hartford, CT 06106-1561
860-541-3400

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
51 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
207-624-6050

MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
One Ashburton Place, Room 601
Boston, MA 02108-1599
617-994-6000

RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
180 Westminster Street, 3rd floor
Providence, RI 02903-3768
401-222-2661/62

VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
135 State Street, Drawer 33
Montpelier, VT 05633-6301
802-828-2480

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
2 Chenell Drive
Concord, NH 03301-9053
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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

O’FLAHERTY RETURNS TO CHELSEA

CHELSEA - When his friend and colleague in the House of Representatives, Martin Walsh, the newly elected mayor of Boston, asked him to be corporation counsel for the city of Boston, then-State Rep. Eugene O’Flaherty accepted the new job and the considerable challenge of the position.

And now after seven years of commendable and widely acclaimed service in the key role in the Walsh Administration, O’Flaherty is leaving and will be returning to Chelsea.

“It was an incredible opportunity to serve the City of Boston and to continue my public service,” said O’Flaherty. “When I got there, it felt like an overwhelming task. We have to manage over 60 attorneys, paralegals, and staff. It’s a very diverse law practice, with many qualified attorneys working on schools, on the Boston Police and Boston Fire, and all the different departments and commissions, as well as the Boston City Council,” said O’Flaherty.

If it sounds like a gargantuan operation, it is. All of the legal representation for New England’s largest city was under O’Flaherty’s jurisdiction, including more than 1,200 litigation cases per year.

There are close to 20,000 employees working for the city “so it was a very large law practice difficult to manage, but I quickly, with the help of some very public servants, figured out what the role of the job was,” said O’Flaherty.

“Being with the Mayor, my legislative colleague and friend, throughout all of that, it was a great honor working to fulfill a lot of what he wanted to accomplish as Mayor,” said O’Flaherty. “I’ve been by his side almost since Day 1, and we’ll be leaving around the same time.”

Walsh has been nominated by President Joe Biden for the Cabinet position of U.S. Labor Secretary. O’Flaherty was asked by the Mayor to serve with him in Washington, D.C. in the Office of the Secretary of Labor.

“Maybe if I were 20 years younger, I would have taken advantage of that opportunity, but at this point in my life, it will be too disruptive to both myself, my wife (Patricia), and my in-laws,” said O’Flaherty.

“While I was very honored to be asked to serve in the Office of the Secretary of Labor and continue working with Mayor Walsh in his new role, I had to very emotionally decline the offer.

“I’m very proud of what he has accomplished as Mayor and now to be in President Biden’s Cabinet - but it would be too disruptive personally to me, my family, my friends, and our network that we have here, to leave here and go down to Washington,” said O’Flaherty.

Chelsea’s former state representative

Gene O’Flaherty was elected state representative for Chelsea and Charlestown in November, 1996, and took office in January, 1997. O’Flaherty and Walsh, who represented Dorchester, both started together as freshman legislators.

“Both of our districts had Boston, so we had mutual legislative interests at first and we quickly became friends because, like me, both his parents were from Ireland and both my parents were both from Ireland as well, so we had a lot in common and we hit it off,” said O’Flaherty.

They served in the House of Representatives together for 17 years. When Walsh was elected Mayor of Boston in 2013 and took office in 2014, he met for dinner with O’Flaherty and asked him to join his administration as corporation counsel.

O’Flaherty accepted the offer. He stepped down from his state representative seat and gave up his private law practice.

Many accomplishments that bettered the city

Over the course of Walsh and O’Flaherty’s seven years together in Boston city government, there were many accomplishments.

Until COVID-19 arrived, the economy for the City of Boston was booming. The innovative Seaport District, now a national model, was developed during the administration.

New fire stations, police stations, and libraries were built in the city. There was new infrastructure and huge economic growth.

Returning to law practice

A graduate of Suffolk University and the Massachusetts School of Law, Gene O’Flaherty will be returning to private law practice, including government relations. He has been practicing law since 1994.

As he comes back to the city where residents overwhelmingly supported him in elections, O’Flaherty says he’s excited to back in Chelsea.

“It’s good to be home,” he said.

Said Councilor-at-Large Leo Robinson, “It’s great to have Gene returning to our city and being a big part of our community. He was an excellent, hard-working state representative who did so much for our city when he served in that position. I know he was also a tremendous asset to the Walsh Administration in an important role. I look forward to seeing

FUNDING FOR CAMP FIRE NORTH SHORE

Camp Fire North Shore received a donation from Camp Lions and the Lynn Lions Club for \$50,000.00 for capital improvements. Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation also donated \$25,000.00 as well as the Gerondelis Foundation who will donate a \$100,000.00 over a three year period. This total donation amounts to \$175,000.00 for the initial improvements. Camp Fire Executive Director Laurie Hamill was so excited to begin the overdue renovations to the camp located on Cain Road. She continued to explain, “Thank you to these amazing benefactors; we can move forward on the first phase of the project to allow us to serve more North Shore youth and allows us to offer year round programs.” The future improvement program will provide a safe and inclusive curriculum helping young people to become “caring and confident leaders”. Pictured, the \$50,000 check presented to Camp Fire North Shore – (L-R) Richard Alfonsi, John Baker, Sean Crowley, Camp Fire Executive Director Laurie Hamill and Camp Fire Board Members Steve Antonakes, Lynn Councilor-at-Large Brian Field, and Matthew Lamothe.

Gene at Chelsea events and I wish him well in his law practice.”

SCHOOLS’ OUTREACH PROGRAM THRIVES

CHELSEA - On one day last summer, Supt. Almi Abeyta, members of the School Committee and her staff hit a pivot point.

After emergency schooling had wrapped up, video graduation had transpired, racial issues in the district had surfaced and many were simply coming up from survival mode after months treading water – it was time to think about school again.

The first thing to figure out was how in the world would the Chelsea Public Schools (CPS) engage with parents and students in a pandemic. With engagement historically challenging in Chelsea, adding a pandemic to the mix made seem insurmountable.

But incrementally, and with building a foundation, the district not only figured out how to engage, but also ended up launching a long-term plan for co-design of the district with parents, students, community members and business leaders.

Last Thursday, The Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy highlighted the district for one of three key pillars of success in state school districts – that being shared voices and shared leadership.

“The one silver lining in all of COVID, it’s the family and community engagement we’ve been able to do during this time,” said Supt. Almi Abeyta during a panel discussion last Thursday.

Center Director Chad d’Entremont said they are pushing the idea of shared leadership in school districts, going a step beyond just collaborating. He said it could come with elevating student voices, having student-led conferences, School Committee seats for students with full voting privileges, or changing other formal structures.

He said the Harvard School of Education’s Design Lab has innovated in creating Children’s Cabinets, which Chelsea Public Schools has adopted this year in the midst of its ambitious co-design plan. The Cabinets create a table for those working with youth – including departments, agencies, businesses, civic leaders and non-profits.

“They come together to develop a collective vision and system of supports for youth development and growth,” he said. “CPS has taken such an approach to this. Along with establishing the Children’s Cabinet, they have also launched

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Region

// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

the co-design pilot to include families in every step of the district’s plan to improve learning.”

In doing so, they’ve established nine teams to look at everything from discipline practices to remote learning to improving School Site Councils to changing the demographics of the teaching staff.

“Chelsea is a largely immigrant with a high LatinX population and a predominately white teaching staff,” he said. “One goal is to shift racial power dynamics in the community.”

In the panel discussion, Abeyta said you have to lay a foundation before attempting such a move. As a new superintendent last year, her entry plan called for new and better engagement with families.

“That kind of led me to say one pillar will be family and community engagement as I start a new superintendency,” she said. “Building on that, the community and the teachers were so hungry to engage families. We hadn’t made the effort because we were so busy with everything else.

Then COVID presented this silver lining and you can’t let the crisis go to waste. We were thinking that we were in remote learning and we didn’t know how long we would be there. We had to engage our families somehow. They aren’t coming to the schools and we have to engage students and make sure attendance rates are good.”

That’s when they decided to do trust visits last summer.

Though simple, they were effective in creating a personal bond. Teachers and administrators scoured the community and had visits or conferences on sidewalks and porches of the homes around the city. Some parents actually came to the school for the upper grades and talked with teachers in large tents outside.

That activity was built into the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Chelsea Teachers Association. The understanding was in the 10 days of professional development training, some of those days would be reserved for outreach and trust visits.

“We thought about having parent/teacher conferences out front, but we don’t really call those parent/teacher conferences,” she said. “Instead we called them trust visits. The trust visits happened on the sidewalk. We also bought big tents and put them outside so teachers could meet with families before school and have a physical connection even with masks and social distancing.”

After having the visits and giving away books, art supplies, discussing wi-fi issues and providing hot spots if necessary, students, families and teachers felt ready for school – and empowered to reach out to school leaders if there were issues.

That ended up being the foundation and pre-cursor for the evolution of co-design, which was a long-term

goal for the district that many didn’t think would happen in the midst of COVID. However, it did and it has accelerated.

“We set the foundation and there was just this eagerness and thirst,” said Abeyta. “Then we started to co-design. It evolved. That’s what I love about this is it evolved and there is so much ownership across the district. The educators doing this with our families have created such a beautiful partnership.”

COVID-19 CASES DECLINING

EVERETT - The numbers of COVID-19 cases in Everett backed off again last week from a major surge coming after the holidays, going down from the 600 range two weeks ago to the 200 range this week and last week.

The percent positive rate is also on the decline this week, at just over 10 percent.

The numbers of COVID-19 cases has dropped steadily over the last three weeks, signaling that the holiday surge of cases has come and gone now. There were 272 cases reported last week, and that has now dropped to 225 this week.

The most recent numbers are as follows:

- Tuesday, Feb. 2 - 23
- Monday, Feb. 1 - 20
- Sunday, Jan. 31 - 31
- Saturday, Jan. 30 - 49
- Friday, Jan. 29 - 16
- Thursday, Jan. 28 - 33
- Wednesday, Jan. 27 - 40
- Tuesday, Jan. 26 - 13

On Monday, Jan. 4, Everett moved its testing full-time indoors at the Samuel Gentile Recreation Center on Elm Street. Testing is done Monday to Thursday, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., and then 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. On Friday and Saturdays, testing is done noon to 6 p.m.

RAGUCCI RETIRES AFTER 38 YEARS

EVERETT - Mayor Carlo DeMaria and a small group of City leaders joined former mayor – and retiring Assistant City Clerk – David Ragucci for last-day ceremony on Jan. 28 in the Council Chambers.

“The moment was bittersweet as I was honored to wish former Mayor David Ragucci a happy retirement after 38-plus years of public service,” said Mayor DeMaria. “David is a true son of Everett and his love for this city knows no bounds.”

Ragucci has had many titles besides being the former Mayor of Everett. He was also an Everett Alderman, City Councilor, Assistant Clerk of Everett, Member of the Everett Redevelopment Authority, State Investigator for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and he was the Stoneham Town Manager.

“That is an amazing list of accomplishments and titles but I must say the title I am most proud to address him as is friend,” said DeMaria. “I wish him the best of everything as he takes time to enjoy life after such a dedicated career in public service.”

EVICCTIONS LESS THAN ANTICIPATED

REVERE - As a result of the efforts of Mayor Brian Arrigo and well-executed rental assistance and mortgage programs through a partnership with the Metro Housing agency, Revere had fewer evictions than other communities in the state during the COVID-19 health crisis in 2020.

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 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 the process has frozen until last fall when Housing Court opened back up for evictions in October.

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. Lynn had 286. All were well above Revere’s numbers (154). Chelsea had 129.

Mayor Brian Arrigo attributed the lower number of eviction filings to “a rental assistance program and a mortgage assistance program that’s been really helpful.”

Arrigo has coordinated the administration’s efforts on rental assistance with Valentina Moreno, the city’s housing stability officer.

“She has done amazing work in terms of getting residents and tenants connected with our program,” lauded Arrigo. “That rental assistance program was done as a partnership with Metro Housing and we’ve worked with them to be able to provide assistance to residents. The way that assistance works is that the rent goes directly to the landlord.

“Essentially, the landlord is forgiving the rent because we’re paying it on the tenants’ behalf, and the deal is that if the landlord takes that, they cannot evict that tenant,” explained Arrigo.

Arrigo said people on all sides of the issue appear to be pleased with the results.

“It’s worked out really well,” added Arrigo. “The landlords are happy because they’re getting rent. People who are paying rent are happy because their rent is getting paid. And we’re happy because people aren’t getting evicted.”

ZBA APPROVES CHANGES FOR AVIS LOT

REVERE - The Revere Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) granted a variance at its January 27 meeting to R&S Realty Trust, the owner of a single lot at 14 Charger Street, to reduce the minimum frontage requirement from 150 feet to 75 feet that will create two new lots.

The variance allows the owner to have one lot comprising six acres and a second lot comprising 2.6 acres. Both lots will be used by Avis car rentals to house more than 900 cars for car storage only, with no on-site repairs or maintenance to be allowed.

The hours of operation for the lots will be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to transport cars to the Avis lot at Logan Airport. The storage of the cars in Revere will mean more than \$750,000 in excise taxes for city coffers.

“This is a good project,” Ward 6 Councilor Richard Serino said. “There will be minimal use on the lot, as well as an improvement to what is there.”

City Council President Anthony Zambuto added his support for the variance, which was approved unanimously by the ZBA.

In other matters, a request to re-subdivide a lot on Dedham Street was brought before the Board.

At present there are two lots at 25 Dedham St., consisting of 5,300 sq. feet, and a second lot at 29 Dedham Street, consisting of 2,687 square feet, according to a 1936 plot plan. The house that had been located at 25 Dedham Street was destroyed by a fire in 2017.

David and Margaret Mellon, the owners of the property, came before the board seeking variances for two lots, one for a new address of 27 Dedham St., for a two-family house, and the second at 29 Dedham St. for another two-family house. Both of the reconfigured lots would consist of 4,000 square feet and required variances pertaining to minimum lot size, lot frontage, minimum side yard setback, minimum height, and minimum landscaping in the front yard.

The owners, after meeting with neighbors prior to appearing before the ZBA, had changed

the location of the two structures to increase the distance from the abutters from five feet to 11 feet.

“I spoke to the neighbors and they are excited about the project,” said Ward 4 Councilor Patrick Keefe. “Both the developer and property owners have worked it out with the neighbors.”

Board member Arthur Pelton spoke of a concern that had been expressed by one of the abutters, but her concerns were addressed.

The ZBA unanimously granted the variances.

Anthony Cacciola sought a variance to be able to park in the front yard and construct a single-family home at 191 Endicott St. The lot consists of approximately 5,000 square feet and would include two parking spaces in the front that would measure 18-by-18 feet for two cars.

Robert Salvo, an engineer for the project, noted that many houses on Endicott Ave. have front-yard parking because the homes are on a hill and are set back. He also noted that locating the parking spaces in front of the proposed new home would be less disruptive to the neighborhood because placing a driveway on the side of the proposed new home would require much more excavation.

Michael Tucker, the ZBA chairman, requested that the depth of the parking spaces be increased to 20 feet to allow a larger car to park without overhanging the sidewalk.

Ward 1 Councilor Joanne McKenna supported the projects and the variance was granted unanimously. It now heads to state plan reviews.

Two inches can make all the difference. That is what contractor Pasquale Guarracino found out when he applied for a variance to exceed the maximum grade requirement for outdoor parking

at 279 and 287 Suffolk Ave.

Guarracino said that being built on a hill, the siting for the house on the lots was off and this resulted in the driveway not meeting code for maximum allowable grade.

Council President Zambuto spoke on the matter, saying, “I visited the site and would never have known that the driveways were off. I would be more disruptive to the neighborhood to tear up the driveways and start over again.”

Ward 4 Councilor Keefe echoed Zambuto’s thoughts, adding, “There will be goodwill from the contractor with the neighborhood for his other projects on Suffolk Avenue.”

The variance was granted unanimously.

In the last matter before the board, Najeeb Badar and Sundus Najeeb Badar were seeking variances for minimum front and rear yard setbacks in order to build a 498 square-foot, one-level addition and back and front porches at 38 Grover Street.

The Badars, who have lived there for 13 years, were seeking the enlargement of their single-family home to accommodate their growing family as well as their parents. They had spoken to all of the neighbors who supported their request.

“I am excited to speak for this and I am truly most supportive of their request,” said Councilor Serino.

The variance was unanimously granted.

Three other matters were continued until the board’s February meeting: The variances for 951 Revere Beach Parkway, seeking to construct an addition over a city easement; variances for 33 Cambridge Street to change a single-family dwelling into a two-family; and a request to approve making one lot into two lots at 149 Breeders Lane.

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EAST BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER HOLDS COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC FOR PATIENTS AT NEIGHBORHOOD PACE LOCATION

COURTESY PHOTOS.

Last Thursday area residents took advantage of the vaccination clinic hosted by EBNHC at the Revere PACE site on Garofalo Street. Residents who meet the state criteria can currently be vaccinated. All are encouraged to make appointments and come down and receive the vaccine.



Rita Krassnoff receives her first dose of the vaccine.



Volunteers administering were (left to right) John Benecchi, DMD, Adrienne Maguire RN and School Nurse in Revere, Lauren Buck, Public Health Director for the City of Revere, and Revere resident Kathy Savage, NP for Element Care SCO program.



Revere's Louis Krassnoff receives his vaccine.



Revere's Paul Saintil receives the first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.



Alice Haskell, Chair of the Winthrop Senior Center moments before receiving her vaccine.



Mariela Cardona receives her first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine with her son.



Revere School Committee member Michael was on hand during the event.

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