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Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Essaibi George announces for Mayor of Boston

By John Lynds

At-Large City Councilor Annissa Essaibi George has always considered East Boston her second home, and said she is just as comfortable here as she is in her native Dorchester.

Before entering the political arena, Essaibi George taught Economics, Business Management and Health and Human Services to juniors and seniors at East Boston High School and served as the school's assistant softball coach for 14 years.

In 2015 Essaibi George decided to run for Boston City Council and was part of a wave of change that ushered in a new era on the council. That year Essaibi George and Andrea Campbell ousted two incumbent councilors and doubled the number of women on council with their victories.

In Eastie, Essaibi George was a familiar face to many students, former students and families and finished in the top four on the ballot here and was able to nudge out longtime City Councilor Stephen Murphy citywide.

Last Thursday morning Essaibi George officially became a candidate for the Mayor of Boston.

She made her announcement outside East Boston High School alongside a small group of family, friends and local supporters.

As a former Boston Public Schools teacher, first generation American, small business owner and proud mother, Essaibi George laid out her vision for the city she calls home.

"Boston is my home. I have deep roots here. A connection that drives me to work harder and deliver more for the city I love," said Essaibi George. "My

See MAYORAL RUN Page 2

THINKING OF





Photos residents took of recent flooding along the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway. Two sump pumps failed causing the section of the Greenway to flood.

Sump pumps fail causing MEW Greenway flooding

By John Lynds

Members of the Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch (MEW) Greenway reported that two sump pumps that were installed years ago to curb flooding on a section of the Greenway have failed. The failure of the pumps has caused recent flooding on the stretch of the MEW Greenway between the Maverick Street Bridge and Marginal Street after heavy rain.

"Both of them failed," said MEW Greenway member Karen Maddalena.

Reading from a letter city officials sent to the group, Maddalena said the Parks Department has ordered the new pumps and is working to fix the problem. Maddalena added the work should take about four to six weeks.

The sump pump failures came after the Walsh Administration appropriated \$400,000 in the city's budget last year to protect the MEW Greenway from sea level rise. A few years back the city purchased a deployable flood wall that can be used to keep storm surge waters from the Harbor from entering the low-lying greenway.

However, MEW Greenway member Patricia D'Amore said the latest flooding is not related to sea level rise concerns.

"This flooding has nothing to do with sea

level rise....it's the rain," said D'Amore. "Sea level rise is going to be a problem but this other flooding problem is much more immediate. Every time we have a heavy rainstorm we have flooding."

D'Amore said years ago the city identified silted drain pipes as the culprit for rain water flooding. The city corrected the issue and added the sump pumps as an added level of protection but D'Amore expressed her frustration.

"It's one thing after another with the city," she said. "As far as this flooding is concerned, we just can't seem to get it resolved. Every single rainstorm is a problem."

EBNHC receives Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation grant

By John Lynds

The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) was one of 64 community-based health-care providers to share in the latest round of grant money from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation.

EBNHC and the other recipients will share three million in grant funds from Blue Cross Blue Shield to promote sustainable improvements in health care access for low-income and uninsured residents.

"With this round of grant-making, we remain

NMLS# 410564 NCUA

steadfast in our multiyear commitments to expanding access to behavioral health urgent care, investing in new models to address the social determinants of health, strengthening statewide advocacy for health access, and supporting local efforts to obtain coverage for Massachusetts residents," said President of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation Audrey Shelto. "At the same time, we are pleased to have distributed funds to community-based organizations responding to the pandemic in com-

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munities that have been inequitably impacted." EBNHC received the

\$45,000 in grant money because their work is in line with Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation's four key grant-making program areas. These program areas include: connecting consumers with care, which supports community-based organizations that assist eligible consumers with securing, maintaining, and navigating health insurance coverage; expanding access to Behavioral Health Urgent Care, which builds upon the state's existing Emergency Services Program (ESP) system and expands the recipient organizations' ability to provide community-based behavioral health urgent care; going beyond health care by addressing social determinants through a cross-sector approach, which supports the coordination of ser-

See EBNHC Page 2

EBSB always available for their customers

By John Lynds

East Boston Savings Bank Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Richard Gavegnano has often said the key to EBSB's continued success is being a 'big bank with a small bank mentality'.

"People answer the phones here," said Gavegnano. "Everybody who wants to get a hold of me calls up and I answer the phone. All our lenders return phone calls. We really still provide quality interaction by getting back to people, solving problems, helping them solve problems and that's what we are here for. It's those values that we work hard on every day. All our employees are all trained to provide quality service and you can't do that overnight. It's a culture. It's embedded in our culture that we are a big bank that does things the old fashioned way. Customers can talk to people here directly and get things done."

Putting a continued emphasis on community banking EBSB just posted record Fourth Quarter numbers.

"I couldn't be more proud of the team," said Gavegnano. "What we do shows up in our numbers and those numbers show what we do for customers."

Gavegnano said EBSB reported record net income of \$18.1 million for the fourth quarter of 2020, an increase of \$1.1 million, or 6.2 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2019, and \$65.1 million for the year 2020.

While the COVID19 pandemic presented many challenges Gavegnano said the EBSB team

See SERVICE Page 2



KO Pies founder and owner Sam Jackson will make 2021 the last year for his famous Aussie meat pies in Eastie.

KO Pies to say hooroo to Eastie sometime this year

By John Lynds

After a successful 10 year run, KO Pies owner Sam Jackson is packing it in for the warmer climate of his native Australia and has put KO Pies at the

Boston Shipyard and Marina in East Boston up for sale.

Jackson has been flirting with selling KO Pies, the cozy haunt on East-

See KO PIES Page 2



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Metro Housing|Boston on pace to triple housing support with RAFT funding in FY21

In the last six months, Metro HousinglBoston provided Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) eviction prevention to 2,807 families, more than all of the families assisted in FY20.

With the recent efficiencies implemented in the RAFT process, Metro Housing expects to help three times as many families by the end of June.

Overall, Metro Housing has helped 64% more families in these six months than in all of FY20; 2,807 households compared to 1,710. Toward the end of December, Metro Housing was processing weekly check runs of nearly \$800,000. It expects to process a weekly average

of \$1 million soon. Metro Housing has prioritized reaching out to underserved communities. It is clear from this midvear data that the outreach efforts of Metro Housing have accomplished the critical goal of getting support to those households in communities most directly impacted by COVID 19. Our extensive partnerships with local organizations such as Asian Community Development Corporation, CONNECT, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, The Neighborhood Developers, Viet-AID, WATCH CDC, and Action for Boston Community

extended the availability of services available to specific communities in need.

"The Asian Community Development Corporation very much appreciates our partnership with Metro Housing on RAFT to ensure that our immigrant community members can access RAFT in their native languages," said Angie Liou, Executive Director, Asian Community Development Corporation.

"Throughout the pandemic we have seen too often communities of color and immigrants fall through the cracks in relief programs; Metro Housing's partnership with local grassroots organizations provides these communities with access to much needed housing assistance."

"Since the regional housing crisis has caused rents and property values to increase to unsustainable levels in Chelsea and Revere, RAFT has been a critical tool for our gateway communities," said Rafael Mares, Executive Director, The Neighborhood Developers. "As a result of the pandemic it has become a lifeline for many. TND is honored to be able to assist with applications for RAFT in partnership with Metro Housing Boston. RAFT is a critical resource because it serves tenants and owners regardless of immigration status."

Examples of specific community increases in-

- East Boston has seen a ten-fold increase between the two time periods: 21 families in all of FY20 and 238 families in these first six months. More than 150 more families in Boston overall (12%) have received more help in FY21 to date compared to all last year.
- Revere registers a sixfold increase, from 30 to 208 families.
- · Chelsea has seen a five-fold increase, from 62 households to 345, as has Waltham, from 21 to 101 families.

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- The number of families helped in Everett has almost tripled, from 31 to 82, as has Malden, also increasing from 31 to 82.
- Quincy families' participation in RAFT has more than doubled, from 47 to 111 families, as has those in Jamaica Plain, from 18 to 42 households.

Those wishing to apply for RAFT assistance may do so by accessing the application on the Metro HousinglBoston's website. Those without access to a computer may request an application by calling the Housing Consumer Education Center at 617.425.6700.



Former EBHS teacher and softball coach, At-Large City Councilor Annissa Essaibi George announced officially she would run for Mayor of Boston. Essaibi George made the announcement outside EBHS on White Street where she taught for 14 years before becoming a city councilor.

Mayoral run // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

name is Annissa Essaibi George and I am running for Mayor of Boston. I want to be Mayor of the city that welcomed my mother, born a child with no home, only with the hope of her parents for a better future--the city that welcomed my dad, an Arab Muslim from North Africa, who because of his experiences, could never have imagined his daughter, with a name like Annissa Essaibi, could ever be elected to anything. They worked hard and sacrificed to ensure their children could have a shot at the American Dream, and it is because of them that I am able to stand before you today as an At-Large City Councilor, a former teacher, a small business owner, a mom and now a candidate for mayor in the city they were so proud to make home."

Essaibi George said her experience as a former Boston Public Schools teacher at East Boston High School has made her a fierce advocate for access to a great education

"But it also gave me a front row seat to the challenges that our families face day in and day out," said Essaibi George. Housing and homelessness. Food insecurity. Poor access to transportation. The need to juggle multiple jobs. Language barriers. Childcare. Healthcare. The roadblocks in this city are real. The inequities persist. We have to face them head on and fast."

Essaibi George graduated from Boston Technical High School, and earned a B.A. in Political Science from Boston University and a Masters degree of **Education from University** of Massachusetts Boston. While teaching and

coaching, Essaibi George founded the Stitch House in Dorchester in 2007. This brick and mortar retail shop sells yarn and fabrics and offers classes in knitting, sewing, quilting and crochet, all hobbies Essaibi George has enjoyed since childhood.

"I am also a small business owner," said Essaibi George. "I'm so proud of what I built. It took work. Small shops and restaurants and businesses make each neighborhood special, and in turn, make Boston special. These past few months have been devastating for our small businesses. They need support to rebuild and recover."

As a City Councilor, Essaibi George said she is proud of what she has accomplished for the city over the past five years.

She said she doesn't plan on slowing down if elected Mayor.

"As I travel around the city, I see it, hear it, feel it - I feel it," said Essaibi George. "Every day. From Dorchester to Charlestown, Brighton to Mattapan, Hyde Park to here in East Boston and everywhere in between, I hear your voices, your stories, your struggles. And then I do something. I find a path forward. I work to make it better."

Essaibi George said Mayor Martin Walsh has fiercely dedicated himself to bettering Boston over the past seven years but there's still much work to

"And while Boston is an incredible place to call home, COVID has shone a bright light on our shortcomings and disparities," said Essaibi George. "But this is a City of scrappy, hard working people. I know there's nothing we can't accomplish together. We can and will learn from our mistakes and build a stronger, more resilient city for all. I'm running for Mayor because I believe in a Boston that sees the inequity, the everyday injustices, the wrongs and tackles them head on. I believe in a Boston that lifts up every neighborhood and embraces all who call it home. I have been doing the work on the Boston City Council engaging with all our neighborhoods, being present, responsible and responsive to the needs of our residents. And I will work to improve the everyday

lives of Bostonians." In the end, Essaibi George said a strong city government is led by a mayor that listens and learns, shows up, gets in the trenches, and isn't

afraid to work. "Real change, progress happens when we come together," said Essaibi George. "When we seek to better understand each other. Nothing is off the table, when we ensure everyone is at the table. I believe in a Boston that doesn't settle. That isn't okay with just good enough. That doesn't accept that only some are thriving. I believe in a Boston that sees growth and inclusion. Justice and safety. Wealth and equity. These things are not mutually exclusive. Boston can do this. I want to be Mayor of this Boston, this great city. A place that has lifted me up and made it possible for me, a first generation American, a daughter of immigrants, a Dorchester kid with an Arab name to run for Mayor. I want to be Mayor of this incredible city, a place where we ask more of ourselves, where we push ourselves for better. Because we can

EBNHC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vices by interdisciplinary teams to address clinical and non-clinical needs of low-income and vulnerable populations; as well as strengthening the voice for access, which supports statewide organizations working on expanding access to health care and promoting the health care interests of low-income

Development, have greatly

residents.

"We (EBNHC) are thrilled to have the ongoing support of BCBS Foundation," said EBN-HC Vice President Lili Silva. "Their funding supports our efforts to ensure our patients have access to insurance coverage. Access to coverage makes health care accessible."

Special Initiatives program continued to provide one-time grants to nonprofits and projects that predominantly serve people of color, including some with a special focus on responding to community needs caused by COVID-19.

Also, the Foundation's

Service // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

worked diligently with customers throughout the pandemic to ensure the bank was providing topnotch customer support to best help navigate through these unprecedented times.

"The quarter was a very good quarter," said Gavegnano. "It kind of reflected all the things that we were tweaking and building on from January 2020 forward that matured into wins and blossomed in the Fourth Ouarter. We started to initiate some frugality during the year because of the COVID pandemic. However, we maintain to keep

all our branches open and provide service to all our customers either through needs during this crisis.

having the branches open, using the drive thru or using all-electronic banking. We did all this with the correct protocol to protect all our employees from any exposure to the virus. I'm so very proud of all the employees--their loyalty, their performance for our customers--I just cannot say enough good things about them. I get a lot of letters and emails from customers that go out of their way and say they cannot believe how people responded to their



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That was very gratifying."

Gavegnano said despite the pandemic and subsequent economic downturn in the nation EBSB was still able to take care of their employees.

"Throughout the pandemic we're still able to pay all our employees and were even able to deliver bonuses to our employees," he said. "The year 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic have posed unprecedented challenges to the integrity of the economy and financial markets. especially the financial services industry. Management's depth in industry experience, along with strong capital and liquidity positions, have EBSB prepared to meet the challenges of 2021 and beyond. We will continue to support our customers and communities we serve through these difficult times, testing our steadfast resolve to be a true community bank."

KO Pies // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ie's waterfront that serves up authentic Aussie meat pies, sandwiches and other offerings, for two years

Jackson expected to be heading back home by the end of 2019 but extended his lease at the marina through 2020 and announced last week that 2021 would be the final year for his business in Eastie. "2020 was going to be

our swan song, as we celebrated the wonderful 10 years of KO, and to express our gratitude to all our mates," said Jackson. "The pandemic delayed the final chapter of KO, but it also demonstrated the resilience of the humble pie, during extraordinary times. With hope on the horizon, we feel that we can now begin to plan for that farewell. A year late but with greater appreciation and more gratitude than ever." Jackson said he is mak-

ing moves to "wrap it all up" sometime this year. "We have no idea when

that will be, but it will be happening in 2021," he said. "We have the full support of our awesome landlords here in the shipyard, a professional broker

to deal with the sale, and plan on opening up the patio soon to get to see more of you in the flesh to say G'day in person. Suffice to say, we have blown the door off all the wildest hopes and dreams of what KO set out to be. For that we cannot say enough thanks to every bloody one of you."

always do and be better."

Jackson said he'll have more details to share as the sale and closing of the popular neighborhood eatery develops. "Be sure to pop down to

the yard and grab a pie and beer in the meantime," he Jackson, who landed

back and made the Eastie

location the center of op-

erations that included the

restaurant and catering.

in Boston from Australia a decade ago, started KO Pies out of thin air. The success of KO Pies elevated Jackson's profile in the community and he has enjoyed the reputation of someone that gives back to local schools, nonprofits and community groups since coming here. Jackson sold the original KO Pies in Southie a few years

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News in Brief

JPNA FEBRUARY 2021 MONTHLY **MEETING**

The JPNA monthly meeting will be held on Monday, February 8, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. via Zoom Video Conference.

Everyone needs to register 24 hours in advance in order to manage the meeting. In order to qualify to vote at a voting meeting each person must be registered and join the meeting as an individual. One will not be counted as an attendee at a meeting should one participate in the Zoom call as a couple or family.

The following is the agenda for the upcoming monthly meeting.

- Greetings & Announcements
- Boston Police Update • Lina Tramelli, May-
- or's Liaison • Tall Ship Alcohol Li-
- cense VOTE • Boston Transportation Department – Vineet Gup-
- City Councilor Lydia Edwards – Legislative Update
- VOTE: 323 Maverick St - Seeking to erect a 3-family residential structure. Developer: Boston Building Company, LLC. Represented by: Jeff Drago/Jonathon Garland
- VOTE: 19 Lamson St – Gut rehab of existing structure, extend living space into basement and replace roof deck. Developer: 542 East Sixth, LLC, John Hall as Manager. Represented by Richard Lynds
- As a reminder, all questions will be handled via the Zoom chat feature. All attendees are to remain muted unless called upon to speak. Looking forward to "seeing" you all there!
- eBallot will be used to manage the voting process. Within 48 hours after the meeting, eligible voters will be emailed a link that will allow them to vote online. All votes must be cast by Friday, December 18th at 7pm. Late votes will not be accepted, no exceptions.

VIRTUAL STUDY HALL

Every Wednesday through March 2021-4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Shhh . . . we're trying to study here!

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

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

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

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HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HAP) AT THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Every Mon., Tues., Weds., & Thurs.—3:30 p.m. -5:30 p.m.

The Boston Public Library offers free online homework help, mentorship, and social time provided by trained, high-achieving high school students. The Homework Assistance Program (HAP) is available from September 21, 2020 - May 14, 2021. The program is open on a drop-in basis to students in grades K–8, no registration is required.

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

All programs are provided subject to parental supervision.

bpl.bibliocommons. com/events/5f6444d-029f06a3a00c1a28f



PROPOSED BUILDING DESIGN | EMBARC

A26

City Realty attorney, Jeff Drago, pitches his client's plans for a 28-unit development on Maverick Street near the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway.

Development pitched for Maverick Street

By John Lynds

Zoning Attorney Jeff Drago pitched his client's plans for 28 units of housing on Maverick Street along the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway.

At a Friends of the Mary Ellen Greenway Council meeting last Thursday, Drago said his client, City Realty, has purchased the parcels at 167-169 Maverick St. that once housed the Saints and Angels Ceramic Store and wants to renovate the existing three-story brick structure and erect a five-story addition for a total of 28 housing units with 11 parking spaces at the ground level.

"Those of you who are familiar with those parcels know it was the former Saints and Angels Ceramic Store and the adjacent three unit brick building to the left," said Drago. "So we're proposing to combine those parcels and raze the small one story commercial structure because it really is not in the best of shape."

Drago said his client wanted to meet with the Greenway Council because of the project's close proximity with the park.

"We've met Street Citizens Association members for an initial meeting and now the Greenway Council," said Drago. "This is going to go through the Article 80 Small Project Review process just because of the size of the proposal and we will also have to meet with the Parks Department because we're abutting the Greenway as well. This is really the early stages of the project and we wanted to talk to folks early on. We have had a pre-file meeting with the city, but we have not officially filed anything with the BPDA yet."

During his presentation Drago pointed to the recently city-approved project at 173-177 Maverick St., which he said has a similar height as City Realty's proposal.

With flooding a continuing problem on the Greenway due to rain runoff Drago said City Realty has come up with a plan to eliminate rain runoff from the proposed building onto the Greenway.

"All of the rainwater and all of the rain runoff from the building will be stored in a holding tank,"

said Drago. "Rain water would be collected from the building, go into this holding tank that is under the surface parking in the rear of the proposed building, and then the excess rainwater will be slowly distributed and reintroduced into the storm water system. Right now there isn't anything like this so all of the rainwater goes down downspouts and eventually makes its way down into the Greenway adding to the existing flooding problems. But as part of this project we'll be harvesting and mitigating all of our rainwater."

Due to the projects close proximity to the Greenway City Realty, a shadow study was conducted and concluded the worst time for shadowing is the winter with the building casting little shadow impact onto the Greenway during the other three seasons.

Council Greenway member Karen Maddelena said her major concern ly, this could evolve over was having only 11 proposed parking spaces

"If you could consider having more parking spaces that would be great," she said.

Drago said the project

hopes to take advantage of the city's Compact Living Program so the proposal is limited on how many offstreet parking spaces can be included.

"If you are part of this compact living program you are limited to how much parking you can actually have," said Drago. In order to qualify a project for this program, Drago said the proposal has to be walking distance to a train station.

"It is designed to encourage those folks moving here to use other modes of transportation," said Drago. "The developer has to make space available for bike parking--space would otherwise be used for off-street parking. So if you are going to take part in the compact living program you actually are prohibited from having more parking. Now, this is something we wanted to see what people's thoughts were. Obvioustime but if we were to add more parking we would have to remove this project from the compact living program."

GSCA overwhelmingly votes down Gove Street housing development

By John Lynds

Members of the Gove Street Citizens Association (GSCA) voted 32-12 against a housing development at 168 Gove St.

The plan is to take an existing multifamily home in need of repairs and upGove and Geneva Streets and change the occupancy from four to eight units, add a vertical addition and roof deck and completely renovate the existing building.

"These units are ranging in size and are a mix of one bedroom, two bed-

room and three bedroom units and this will continue as a rental building," said Attorney Richard Lynds of his client's plans. "There's no intention to convert these to condos and homeownership after it's concluded. This building is relatively old.

It was built in the early part of the 1900s. But again, while it is designed very well from a structural standpoint, it can certainly use upgrades."

Since previous meetings with the community and abutters, Lynds said client reduced the

size of the roof addition and dramatically reduced the size of the proposed penthouse apartment. His client also added some design elements to soften the addition.

"One of the changes that we made based upon the comments that we heard from abutters was to incorporate windows so the entire penthouse level is pretty open on all sides, which allows for the look to be a little bit more transparent," said Lynds

While some had concerns pertaining to the size, scope and scale of the building the meeting's question and answer session was dominated by members of the housing advocacy group Vida Urbana, aka City Life. Members argued that the project could displace the residents currently living



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

The East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Incorporated

Notice is hereby by 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

East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc.

The proposed project on Gove Street was voted down by GSCA members.

East Boston

Times-Free Press

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MINIMUM WAGE SHOULD BE AT \$15.00

In 1971, the minimum wage across the United States, as mandated by federal law, was \$1.60.

Today, the federal minimum stands at \$7.25.

One might look at those two numbers and think that because the minimum wage has increased by more than four-fold in the past 50 years, America's lowest-paid workers are doing alright compared to their grandparents.

But the reality is far different.

In fact, had the federal minimum wage kept pace with workers' productivity in the past five decades, the inflation-adjusted minimum wage would be \$24 an hour.

The reality of the \$7.25 minimum wage, which has been at that level since 2009, is that a person working a full-time job at the minimum wage officially falls below the national poverty level, a reality that would be laughably absurd if it were not so harmful to millions of Americans.

President Joe Biden has proposed increasing the minimum wage across the country to \$15.00 by 2024, essentially bringing it into line with Massachusetts and a few other states that already are near or at that level. (The minimum wage in Massachusetts presently stands at \$13.50 and will increase incrementally here and in seven other states to \$15.00 within the next two years.)

Raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025 would raise wages of up to 27.3 million workers -- almost 20 percent of American workers -- and lift 1.3 million families out of poverty, according to a report by the Congressional Budget Office.

Some on the political spectrum speak exultingly about the dignity of work.

But they ignore the other side of the equation, which is that it is below the dignity of anyone to work for wages that amount to not much better than slave labor.

The time has come to raise the minimum wage and yes, to Make America Great Again -- for everybody.

OREGON LEADS THE WAY ON DRUGS

For more than 50 years, America has been fighting the "war on drugs," an endeavor that began under the administration of President Richard M. Nixon, who had the avowed purpose of arresting and incarcerating as many Blacks and other minorities as possible, especially for simple possession of marijuana.

The war on drugs has been a failure by any measure. Not only have we spent hundreds of billions of dollars on failed law enforcement efforts both in this country and around the globe, directly leading to the destabilization of many nations that has had profound effects both for those countries and ours, but it is fair to say that the drug war has destroyed the lives of more individuals, families, and communities than the drugs themselves.

Thanks to the war on drugs, the prison population in the United States exceeds every other nation on earth, both in terms of sheer numbers and based on population.

At long last, after 50 years of fruitless and costly failure, things are about to change.

Voters in the State of Oregon recently approved a ballot question that decriminalizes the possession of illegal drugs. Instead of throwing people in jail, the state will view drug use as a health issue, offering addicts treatment instead of prison time.

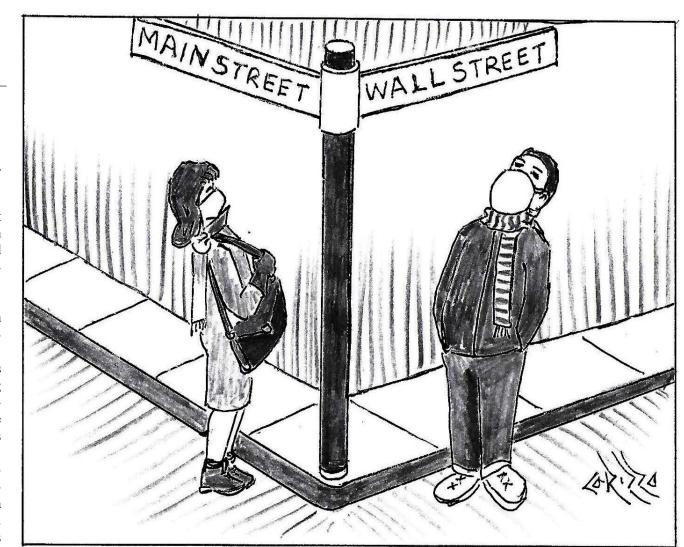
In Portugal, this approach has been used for 20 years. The result has been stunning. Drug overdose deaths and HIV and other drug-related infections have decreased dramatically. In addition, the removal of criminal penalties did NOT increase the rate of drug use.

The time has come for our society to acknowledge that the war on drugs, which was based on racism to begin with, must come to an end.

Oregon is leading the way -- and change is coming none too soon.



Forum



THE ECONOMY IS A TWO WAY STREET

SJC Chief Justice Kimberly S. Budd speaks of need for increased civil legal aid at 'Talk to the Hill' event

In remarks delivered on Jan. 27 at Talk to the Hill for Civil Legal Aid, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Kimberly S. Budd spoke of the need for increased state funding for organizations that provide civil legal aid to vulnerable low income Massachusetts residents, a need made more urgent during the pandemic. Walk to the Hill, an annual event in its 22nd year, was renamed "Talk to the Hill" this year and held virtually due to the pandemic.

"The tragic events of the past year have focused our attention on the many inequities in our society. The pandemic has created unprecedented disruptions in employment, education, childcare, and everyday life. And the resulting hardships have fallen most heavily on those who can least afford them," said Chief Justice Budd.

Organized by the Equal Justice Coalition, the event called for increased funding for the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (MLAC), the largest funding source for civil legal aid organizations in the state, by \$6 million in the Fiscal Year 2022 state budget, for a total appropriation of \$35 million.

According to MLAC, legal aid organizations in

Massachusetts turn away 56% of eligible residents seeking help. Residents whose income is at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty level (\$32,750/year for a family of four) are eligible for civil legal aid.

Chief Justice Budd said that data from the federal Legal Services Corporation (LSC) shows that over half of the clients served by state legal services organizations receiving LSC grants are people of color.

"If we are truly com-

"If we are truly committed to eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in our society, one of the simplest steps that we can take toward that goal is to make it possible for more people to receive legal aid," she said.

"We are very fortunate to live in a state where the Governor and the Legislature understand these issues," Chief Justice Budd said. "In recent years, the Legislature has provided steady increases in funding for legal services. As a result, we have seen significant improvements in the percentages of people receiving assistance."

Still, Chief Justice Budd noted, legal services organizations must turn away over half of those who ask for help. "They do not have the resources to meet everyone's needs," she said. "And as you all

know, those needs are especially great right now, with all of the problems caused by the pandemic. Employment, housing, family law, domestic violence, consumer debt, and immigration are all areas of particular concern."

"For every dollar spent on civil legal aid, MLAC tells us, we reap roughly two dollars in economic benefits for the Commonwealth and its residents. But more importantly, the additional legal assistance that dollar provides may be the difference for someone between having a home and losing it, making ends meet or going without heat, staying safe or living in fear," said Chief Justice Budd.

The program began with a tribute to the late Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Ralph D. Gants, who championed civil legal aid funding.

In addition to SJC Chief Justice Budd, speakers included: Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey; Michael Curry, Esq., President and CEO of Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers: Massachusetts Bar Association President Denise Murphy; Boston Bar Association President Martin Murphy; Lynne M. Parker, Executive Director of Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation; Jacquelynne Bowman, Executive Director of Greater Boston Legal Services; and civil legal aid clients who received assistance during the pandemic. Louis Tompros, Chair of the Equal Justice Coalition, hosted the event.

Following the speaking portion of the event, lawyers, law students, and advocates in attendance moved into virtual breakout rooms to speak directly to state legislators to encourage them to increase funding in the Fiscal Year 2022 state budget for the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation.

The Equal Justice Coalition is a collaboration of the Boston Bar Asso-Massachusetts ciation. Bar Association, and the Massachusetts Legal As-Corporation. sistance The Massachusetts Legal Corporation Assistance was established by the state legislature in 1983 to ensure that low income residents with critical, non-criminal legal matters would have access to legal information, advice and representation. Civil legal aid organizations provide support to individuals in cases related to housing, employment, family law, domestic violence, health care, education, immigration, and protection of seniors, among other civil matters.

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Same-day delivery now available at Winthrop Marketplace

By Kate Anslinger

Now offering a delivery option with same day service, the staff at the Winthrop Marketplace is making it more convenient for shoppers who prefer to stay home. One step ahead of everyone else, Store Manager, Chris Wallerce, added the option last year, prior to the pandemic and before customers were shifting the majority of their shopping to delivery only.

Since then, grocery deliveries have expanded and the store does an average of 30 a week, enhancing the convenience for customers who prefer to stay home and those who simply cannot leave their

Delivery customers call the store's main number (617-846-6880) prior to 2 p.m., and put their order in with an employee. If an item can't be found, the employee contacts the customer and stays on the phone with them until they find an acceptable substitute.

"We try to maintain a relationship with the customer, and we accommodate where we can," said Wallerce.

After the shopping items are checked off, the employee charges the cus-



Maria Tracy doing the shopping for a customer at Winthrop MarketPlace.

tomer's credit card, which includes an \$8 fee for Winthrop Taxi, who then picks up the groceries and delivers them to the front door of the residence.

"Some customers request that the driver leave the bags at the front door and others ask for them to be brought into the house."

Wallerce recommends that the customer leave a three dollar tip for the driver, taking the total delivery fee to an average of \$11. While competitors are charging a hefty fee, Wallerce is hoping to avoid adding a shopping fee onto the driving fee; however, with the rising costs of goods and minimum wage increasing, he may have to require a shopping fee but he hopes to keep it minimal. He is currently working on getting the Marketplace on Instacart so customers can order their goods online.

"With the limited capacity due to COVID, it's nice to give people another option. We try to make it as efficient as possible and we typically turn everything over in one to three hours. It works well because we have limited storage space so we need to get the items out the door and delivered as soon as possible."

Wallerce said that the start of the pandemic brought on an influx of panic buyers, making it hard to keep up with the demand of goods, but since then the store is back to its routine and he hopes they will be able to keep up with their quick turnaround time.

To request a grocery delivery, please call 617-846-6880 before 2 p.m.

The Winthrop Marketplace is located at 35 Revere St, Winthrop, MA 02152.

Pressley, Warren, Markey urge HHS to address racial disparities in national vaccination strategy Congresswoman Ayan- communities have experiment agencies—and work

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Edward J. Markey sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) urging the Department to work with the relevant federal agencies to monitor and address racial, ethnic and other demographic disparities in our national COVID-19 vaccination deployment strategy, and ensure equitable vaccine access for Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and immigrant communities.

"Free and equitable access to vaccines is essential to saving lives and slowing the spread of the coronavirus," the lawmakers wrote in their letter to Acting HHS Secretary Norris Cochran IV. "The recent distribution of approved vaccines is a sign of hope that much needed recovery from this pandemic is near. However, it is critical that the federal government's vaccine deployment campaign does not fail the communities that have been forced to shoulder the greatest burden."

Since the onset of the pandemic, Black, Latinx, Indigenous and immigrant

enced a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 cases and deaths, and these communities continue to be at increased risk of hospitalization, face greater barriers to testing, and in many areas, make up the majority of frontline workers who are at risk for increased exposure to the virus. Despite the clear vulnerability of people of color in this public health emergency, comprehensive data on the racial, ethnic, and other demographic characteristics of people who have been treated or vaccinated for COVID-19 does not exist. This lack of information will exacerbate existing health disparities and result in the loss of lives in our most vulnerable com-

To ensure that policy-makers can effectively combat these health disparities and direct resources to the communities hardest hit, the lawmakers asked HHS to work with states, localities, and private labs to collect and publish demographic data of vaccine recipients—in a way that protects personal identifiable information from law enforce-

munities.

ment agencies - and work with tribal governments and urban Indian health programs to avoid any shortages of vaccine doses. The lawmakers also urged the CDC to improve the collection and public reporting of racial, ethnic, and other demographic data for COVID-19 cases and build out reporting to ensure that our most vulnerable communities are not left behind in our national vaccination plans.

'Without robust demographic data, policymakers and researchers cannot fully address the disparate impact COVID-19 continues to have on communities of color or address vaccine hesitancy among communities that have had their trust broken by the medical system," the lawmakers continued. "As you take the helm of HHS amidst continued COVID-19 surges across the country and a slow vaccination rollout, we urge you not to delay collecting this vital information, and to take any additional necessary steps to ensure that all Americans have the access they need to COVID-19 treatment and vaccination."

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Buckley, Derek G	Racca, Paul	73 Homer St #1	\$380,000
Headrick, Samuel P	Sardelli, Ryan R	2 Lamson St #B	\$850,000
249 Marion Street LLC	Martinez, Maria	249 Marion St	\$749,000
Weissman, Katie A	Percoco, Thomas	276 Princeton St #2	\$492,500
Payne, Tyler H	Stage LLC	106 Saratoga St #1	\$685,000
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Commissioner Gross retires from BPD

By Seth Daniel

Boston Police Department Commissioner William Gross, who started his law enforcement career as a beat cop at East Boston's District A-7 station, retired from the Boston Police last Friday after 37 years on the force – perhaps signaling an interest in running for mayor of Boston.

Gross has previously said he was going to explore a possible run for mayor given the interest of many in the community, but he has yet to make an announcement.

Mayor Martin Walsh last Thursday (Jan. 28) announced the appointment of Dennis White as the 43rd Commissioner of the Boston Police Department (BPD), and the second African American to hold the role of Police Commissioner. White, who is currently a Superintendent in the department and Chief of Staff to the Commissioner, will assume the duties and responsibilities of Commissioner Gross.

"I want to thank Commissioner Gross from the bottom of my heart for his 37 years of service to the **Boston Police Department** and for his two and a half years leading the department as Commissioner. Throughout his decorated career, he's always embodied the spirit of community policing that is so important to building trust with the people we serve," said Mayor Walsh. "Anyone who knows Willie can instantly feel his love for the job and his passion for keeping communities safe. No matter the situation, his warm smile, dedication, and love for meeting people made him uniquely capable of taking on the toughest challenges."

"As Boston's first Black Police Commissioner, Willie reflects the great diversity of our city," added Mayor Walsh. "We can all be proud of the legacy he'll leave behind, from reducing major crime to helping undertake the most ambitious set of police reforms in the department's history."

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Police Commissioner, leading a department of hardworking men and women who serve this city day-in and day-out, and put the safety and well-being of our community first," said Commissioner Gross. "They have shown time and again their unwavering commitment to our residents, rising to the occasion during moments of crisis, reaching out



Recently retired Boston Police Cheif, William Gross.

a helping hand to those in need, and running towards danger in the name of public safety for all. I am immensely proud of their performance under tremendous pressure. It is only after long and careful consideration that I have made the decision to retire from my role. My heart will always remain alongside my brothers and sisters of the BPD, who over the course of my 37year career have become my village. I will continue to be one of their biggest champions as I move forward with my next chap-

As of Friday, January 29, 2021, Superintendent White will serve as Acting Commissioner until he is formally sworn in as Commissioner. A swearing in ceremony will be announced in the coming days.

"Superintendent White is a proven leader who is trusted and respected in the community and by his colleagues in the Boston Police Department," said Mayor Walsh. "I'm confident that Dennis will continue to advance the progress made by Commissioner Gross, including implementing community-led recommendations for police reform, while drawing on his own extensive career experience to bring fresh ideas and innovative thinking to the department."

"The women and men

of the Boston Police Department have become my extended family over the course of my three decades of service," said White. "I want to thank Mayor Walsh for entrusting me with this incredible opportunity and the responsibility of leading our historic department. To the community and all the members of the Boston Police Department, I pledge to uphold our mission of community policing each and every day. Serving as Commissioner is the honor of a lifetime, and I will never take this sacred duty for granted."

A member of Mayor Walsh's Boston Police Reform Task Force, Superintendent White is a seasoned veteran of the police force, having served the community for 32 years. Prior to being promoted to Chief of Staff to Commissioner Gross and to the rank of Superintendent, White was a Deputy Superintendent in the Office of the Superintendent-in-Chief and in the Bureau of Field Services Night Command.

As Boston's first Black police commissioner who rose through the ranks of the department, having joined as a cadet in 1983, Commissioner Gross appointed and oversaw the most qualified and diverse command staff in the department's history. Throughout his career, he has cultivated and maintained a strong connection with the community, and has prioritized community engagement as part of his community policing model. As Commissioner, he established the first-ever Bureau of Community Engagement at BPD, which is charged with overseeing a citywide effort focused on building relationships and trust between law enforcement and residents, creating new and innovative partnerships, and promoting inclusion and diversity within the department. During Commissioner Gross' tenure, part one crime, which

offenses, declined. As Police Commissioner, Gross worked to ensure that BPD lived up to the ideals of community policing. He took steps to further accountability and transparency at the department, including completing a review of Boston Police's policies against the recommended use of force policies outlined in the "8 Can't Wait" effort, resulting in clarified rules and the implementation of several reforms. Under his leadership, BPD has issued body-worn cameras to more than half of the department, and the program continues to expand

includes the most serious

Previous Police Commissioners Gross and Evans started as police cadets. After the cadet program was suspended in 2009 for financial reasons, Mayor Walsh reinstated the program in 2015 as a way to diversify the force and create a pipeline for Boston residents seeking a career in law enforcement. The cadet program is a two-year apprenticeship designed for Boston residents between the ages of 18-24 interested in joining the ranks of one of the most storied and professional police departments in the county.

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Unions and industry partners to formally elevate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day through contracts and project labor agreements

An industry that rarely takes a day off announced sweeping agreement between unions and major general contractors to work jointly and officially to formally elevate the status of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in upcoming labor contracts and accords, ensuring workers will have the day off or will have access to overtime pay on the holiday, setting a standard that goes above and beyond federal and state law.

The agreement between the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions and the region's three leading general contractors -- John Moriarty and Associates, Suffolk, and Turner Construction -- has also received the backing of major contractors, subcontractors, and contractor associations.

Announced on the first day of Black History Month, the change is part of a series of actions and initiatives being promoted by the union construction industry to continue underscoring and increasing its commitment and advancement vof diversity, inclusion, and equity within the construction field.

Due to collective bargaining agreements, also known as union contracts, construction workers in unions are contractually guaranteed equitable pay and benefits regardless of race or gender through standards established in those pacts.

In advocating for the elevation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to a special status across the region, unions cited Martin Luther King, Jr.'s role not only as the preeminent civil rights leader of the last century, but also as a great labor leader who was a staunch advocate of labor unions, labor organizing, and collective bargaining rights.

Under federal law, holidays, including Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, do not have a special designation for overtime pay and are viewed as another business day.

"It is critical that we continue to lift up and affirm the importance of civil rights, civil rights leaders both past and present, and a message of inclusion and equity across our industry," said Brian Doherty, General Agent of the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions. "As has been said, statements are absolutely not enough, we must also continue taking proactive, structural steps to advance civil rights and workers' rights – we know they are one in the same. This is just one reform of many and we need to ensure everyone in the industry is aware of it so that there is full cooperation. You will not see the same level of labor and activity on area construction sites on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day moving forward - and that is an important and good thing."

The new designation that was advocated for by the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions was

Bob Bolognese

Owner

supported by the Boston area's largest general contractors, John Moriarty and Associates, Suffolk, and Turner Construction, who, in partnership with union subcontractors, coordinate a significant portion of construction activity in the Boston area.

"I applaud the agreement reached by the Greater Boston Building Trades and our region's leading general contractors to elevate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to its rightful place by giving it special status as a holiday," said City of Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh. "This is a fitting tribute to America's preeminent civil rights leader, especially given his deep ties to the City of Boston. As we continue the work to advance racial equity and social justice, it's more important than ever to lead through actions, and not simply words. This is a small but meaningful step on the path towards progress and healing the wounds of racism as a community."

"I commend this accord established between construction industry leaders and the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions to designate an elevated status to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. It is important that we all work to lift up the extraordinary contributions to our communities made by Dr. King," said City of Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui. "The unions and the general contractors are sending a message that this day is one where racial equity and workers' rights two intertwined causes that Dr. King fought and gave his life for - must have a special place not just in our minds and words, but in our actions. The elevation of Dr. King's day to an even more prominent place in the agreements that govern and impact thousands of working-class residents in Cambridge and the surrounding area is an important tribute to Dr. King's legacy of advocating for the rights and interests of Black workers and of the entire working

class." "Ensuring Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is not business as usual is the minimum we can do to elevate and continue promoting those values in our sector and across our region, said Mark Fortune, President of the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions. "We hope other employers and industry players will follow suit. Our members appreciate the level of support we have received for this initiative from Suffolk, JMA, Turner, and others."

"We share the belief of Martin Luther King, Jr. with regard to opportunity and equity. We share his belief in the importance of the labor movement making sure that equity is reflected not just in the law, but that it is furthered and contractually guaranteed for working people through the labor movement and the realization that workers' rights are civil rights,"

said Billy McLaughlin, Business Manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 4 and Vice President of the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions.

"At John Moriarty and Associates, we believe the construction industry in partnership and collaboration with our union trade partners has always been a leader in providing access and opportunity to all. That goal and message has become even more critical and important in our current society. We need to continue to be the leader in expanding, fostering and strengthening diversity and inclusion initiatives within our industry," said Chris Brown, CEO of John Moriarty and Associates. "Dr. King was a leader and advocate for equity and opportunity for all people. Recognizing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in a way that goes beyond even a state and federal holiday is long overdue and an important step to continue, in more than just words, to promote civility, civil rights and in-

clusion in our industry." "When our actions are driven by empathy, caring and love, the dream of equality for all will be attainable. Our actions today will echo for future generations. We must lead by example and come together as one American family to defeat racism and discrimination once and for all. The special designation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is yet another important step toward demonstrating our commitment to civil rights and equality for our industry, our nation and for all the world," said John Fish, Chairman and CEO of Suf-

The move comes amidst increasing joint efforts by stakeholders to continue ensuring the industry does more to promote civil rights, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The announcement follows an industry-wide "stand down" that occurred on Juneteenth to affirm Black Lives Matter. That stand down, which froze all work on union construction sites across the Boston region, was supported by the stakeholders who announced the plans to modify contracts in order to designate heightened status within the union construction industry for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holi-

Over the last decade, construction unions in Massachusetts have developed a sweeping range of programs that have helped to increase the diversity and inclusivity of their Locals and apprenticeship programs, including the Building Pathways Program, Build a Life that Works, Tradeswomen Tuesdays, the Build a Bright Futureinitiative, and more.

Labor unions and union construction companies who were involved with the talks to enshrine Martin

Luther King, Jr. Day with special designation in contracts across the region and industry weighed in on the changes.

"Implementation of an initiative like this at scale will take everyone working together, but there is no more important cause than ensuring that happens right away and that the union difference continues to also mean a difference in how we proactively approach matters of equity, civil rights, and inclusion,' said Joe Bonfiglio, Business Manager of the Massachusetts and Northern New England Laborers'

District Council. "I'm proud to be a part of Laborers Local 223, and I'm proud to celebrate the incredible work of Dr. King. Our industry, our labor movement, our communities, and our world are better because of Dr. King's work to advance civil rights and labor rights. Dr. King believed in the trade union movement, and the power it has in lifting standards for people. The work we do every day builds on his legacy, and commemorating his day is part of that work, and from there the work continues," said Donnell Gray, an Executive Board member of Laborers Local Union

223.

"This is just one key step of many that IBEW 103 and our fellow unions of the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions are taking to ensure that we make structural reforms to promote diversity and inclusion – and to stand against racism in our industry and beyond," said IBEW Local 103 Business Manager and Financial Secretary Lou Antonellis.

"This is much more than a symbolic action. It is one that has real weight and meaning and is an example of the kinds of structural, policy, and economic changes that must be made to ensure our industry is truly advancing not just the conversation but also the causes for which Dr. King stood," said Kenell Broomstein, Business Agent of IBEW Local 103.

The industry partners and unions successfully began phasing the reforms in this most recent Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at key projects and will be taking steps to ensure industry-wide adoption at union construction sites by next Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022.

"Turner Construction Company strongly supports honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a union holiday. Members of the construction industry clearly recognize Dr. King's extraordinary contributions to this country, civil rights and to racial justice. We are proud to join forces with the Building Trades to increase diversity, equity and inclusion in our industry and in the communities we serve," said Turner Construction in a statement.



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Weekly COVID positive test rate decreases again in Eastie

By John Lynds

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

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), of the 33,461 Eastie residents tested for COVID since the pandemic began, 18.7 percent overall were found to be positive for the virus, a 1.6 percent increase from the 18.4 percent reported two Fridays ago.

However, 2,501 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 9.4 percent were positive--a three percent decrease from the 9.7 that tested positive two Fridays ago.

Citywide, 34,780 residents were tested and 6.8 percent were COVID positive--a 5.5 percent decrease from the 7.2 percent testing positive two weeks ago.

At a press briefing Tuesday afternoon, Mayor Martin Walsh said an average of 5,351 people were tested each day. This number is down compared to the week before and does not include college testing.

The Mayor said that positive test rates have gone down in every neighborhood, which is a good sign, but reported the numbers with caution.

"While there has been some improvement in recent weeks, it's still vital that everyone remains vigilant," said Walsh. "We should all continue to wear our masks, avoid gatherings, and wash our hands and disinfect surfaces. We should think about the simple steps we can take on a daily basis to protect ourselves and our loved ones."

The Mayor also gave an update on Boston's reopening plans. In mid-December, he announced that Boston would temporarily pause our reopening, and move back into a modified Phase 2, Step 2. He said city officials anticipated an increase in cases around the holidays, so they took action to slow the spread, protect hospital capacity, and avoid a more severe shutdown later on.

"This pause was set to expire tomorrow, January this pause through the end of this month," said Walsh. "On Monday, February 1, Boston will move forward into Phase 3, Step 1. At that point, all businesses and activities that are allowed to operate in Phase 3, Step 1 can reopen, with capacity limits in place. Most businesses will still be subject to the 25% capacity limits the State extended through February 8. In addition, all gatherings and events remain subject to capacity

27, and we are extending

For a list of sectors subject to the extended capacity restrictions, visit Mass. gov/Reopening.

limits of 10 people indoor

and 25 people outdoors,

which applies to public

and private spaces.'

Eastie's infection rate rose by 4 percent according to the data released by the BPHC last Friday. Eastie's COVID infection rate went from 1,294.3 cases per 10,000 residents to 1,346.5 cases per 10,000 residents. The citywide average is 772.3 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 245 Eastie residents contracted the virus and there are now COVID-19 rate Rate = 7,723.4 reported cases per 100,000 residents (unadjusted for age) N = 52,474 reported cases Lower than the rest of Boston Similar to the rest of Boston Higher than the rest of Boston North End, West E Allston/Brighton Rate=5.534.3 N=3,685 Rate=5,768.1 N=2.329 Rate = Reported COVID-Rate=7.888.4 19 cases per 100,000 Rate=6,476.6 residents (unadjusted for Mattapa N=1.845 N = Reported COVID-19 609 reported COVID-19 cases could not be assigned to a neighborhood 4 Miles Data source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic

Data analysis: Boston Public Health Commission, Research and Evaluation Office On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

Network (Jan. 1, 2020, to Jan. 28, 2021, 8:45 AM); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey,

6,319 confirmed cases, up from the 6,074 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 hood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race. Citywide positive cases

of coronavirus increased 2.3 percent percent last week and went

51,506 cases to 52,704 rates in each neighborconfirmed cases in a week Twenty additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,153 total deaths in the city from COVID.

HUD renews funding for 212 local Massachusetts homeless programs

Special to the Times

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded more than \$96.8 million to renew support 212 Massachusetts homeless assistance programs. This funding is part of \$2.5 billion in HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) funding being awarded nationally to provide critically needed support to 6,597 local programs on the frontlines of serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness. See local impact of funding below.

Due to the pandemic, the funding announced today renews grants for existing programs. This process was dramatically streamlined because communities have been and will continue to be consumed with COVID-19 response and have limited capacity to participate in the traditional CoC competition. "HUD wants to ensure

that thousands of local homeless assistance providers continue to receive federal funds needed to provide stable housing for people experiencing homelessness during these trying times," said Acting HUD Secretary Matt Ammon. "Renewing these grants not only offers relief to our local partners, but it allows Continuums of Care to continue their work to end homelessness and help keep our most vulnerable neighbors off the streets."

"We are excited about the opportunity to provide funding without diverting the attention of communities from the vital work of preventing, preparing for, and responding to the pandemic," said James Arthur Jemison, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

HUD's Continuum of Care grant funding supports a broad array of designed interventions to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness, particularly those living in places not meant for habitation, located in sheltering programs, or at imminent risk of experiencing homeless. Each year, HUD serves more than a million people through emergency shelter, transitional, and

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Robert Roberto

Loving husband, wonderful father and grandfather who cherished his whole family.

Robert "Bob" Roberto of Revere died on January

30 at the age of 80. He was the loving husband of the late Angela (Diecidue) Roberto; beloved son of the late Angelo H. Roberto and his wife, Mildred F. (Salamone); devoted father of AnnMarie Lepore of Revere, Robert Roberto and his wife, Cheryl of Saugus, Lisa Rusconi and Michael Roberto and his wife, Lori, all of Revere; cherished brother of Gerard Roberto of Wakefield, Richard Roberto and his wife, Maureen of Florida, John Roberto and his wife, Joann of Wilmington, James Roberto of Dedham; cherished grandfather (Pa) of Angela, Tiffany, Nicole, Michael, Robert, Jennifer, Christopher, Mikey, and Leah. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Bob was a loving husband, a wonderful father and grandfather who cherished his whole family.

His Funeral will be held



from the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St, Revere Saturday February 6 at 10 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Anthony's Church at 11 a.m. Names and temperatures will be taken upon entrance with capacity limits (masks and social distancing are required). Relatives and friends are kindly invited. A visitation will be held on Friday from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery. For guest book, please visit www. buonfiglio.com.

Tina Talluto

Of Revere

Tina Talluto of Revere passed away on Saturday, January 30 at the age of

The dear sister of Michael Talluto and his wife, Josephine, of Peabody and Salvatore Talluto and his wife, Anna, of Revere and the late Charlie Talluto and Josephine Fiandaca, she is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will honor Tina's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston on Friday, February 5 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to Saint Anthony of Padua Church, Revere, for an 11 a.m. Funeral Mass.

ST. JUDE **NOVENA**

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.

My prayers have been answered. S.D. M.D.

• e+&e+ e+&e+ e+&e+ e+&e+ e+&e+ e+&e+ e+&e+ e+&e+ •



Services will conclude with Tina being laid to rest ruary 4 from 10 to 11:30 at Holy Cross Mausoleum, Malden. All services be enforced and masks will be held in accordance and social distancing are with Phase-2 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts phased reopening plan due to COVID-19. Capacity will be limited. Face coverings are required to be worn and social distancing measures are encouraged. To leave an online condolence please visit www. ruggieromh.com.

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

To Loving Memory of Carol E. Emmett

December 25 1936
February 1, 2019

Your life was a gift —

A growing and loving gift

You left with us.

You still live in our hearts —

In the happiness we all knew, & in the dreams we all shared...

She will always be remembered...forever in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers

Love,

Your Husband & Sons

OBITUARIES

Gregory Lightfoot

Of East Boston, formerly of Cambridge

Gregory S. Lightfoot of East Boston, formerly of Cambridge, passed away on Sunday, January 31 at the age of 59.

The beloved husband of Rose Lineberger, he was the devoted father of Amber Snyder and Monica Carpenter; dear brother of Dennis and Cheryl Lightfoot; cherished grandfather of Jayden, Leianna, Jaylah and Javiahn and is also survived by loving uncles and cousins.

Family and friends will honor Gregory's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston, on Saturday, February 6, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Services will conclude with a prayer service in our Serenity Chapel at 2 p.m. All services will be held in accordance with Phase-2 of the Commonwealth of Massachu-



setts phased reopening plan due to COVID-19. Capacity will be limited. Face coverings are required to be worn and social distancing measures are encouraged.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home to offset funeral expenses. Please visit www.ruggieromh.com to leave a donation on the "Donations" page or a condolence on the "Tribute Wall."

Orient Heights Yacht Club Life Member

David Anthony Yannetty

David "Big Dave" Anthony Yannetty, born November 6, 1956 in Winthrop, passed on January 6, 2021.

Big Dave loved boating and fishing and was a life member of the Orient Heights Yacht Club in East Boston. People seemed to like him wherever he went and he was a skilled and resourceful cook.

He was the cherished son of Rosemarie (Cioffi) Yannetty and the late Edward Yannetty; loving father of Theresa Yannetty and her husband, Morgan Reynolds, Davina Yannetty, David Yannetty and his wife, Rachel Baum; dear brother of Edward Yannetty and his wife, Kim, Theresa Yannetty and Joseph Yannetty and his wife, Emer Mezzetti.

Since he loved to feed people, please make a contribution to Mutual Aid Eastie (https://eastiefarm.



com/ongoingevents/mutualaideastiefund Ω) in lieu of flowers.

Big Dave never wanted a funeral, so we invite you all to celebrate him privately. Turn on someclassic rock. Shake up a Jack Daniels Manhattan (and save that shaking ice in a glass on the side.) Turn up the oven as high as it will go, pop in your pizza, and leave it in there for as longas it takes to smoke a cigarette. Have a good cry, punctuated with wheezing laughter. He loved you. For online guest book please visit www.vazzafunerals.com.

Susanne Goodrich

Of Revere

(DiMat-Susanne tio) Goodrich of Revere passed away on January 29 at the age of 70.

Born in Winthrop on November 15, 1950 to the late Edward DiMattio Jr. and Angelina (Lombardi), she was the cherished wife of Albert Goodrich and is also survived by many loving family members.

A Visitation will be held at the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St. Revere on Thursday, Feba.m. Capacity limits will



required. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Anthony's Church in Revere at 12 noon (names and temperatures will be taken upon entrance.) Relatives and friends are kindly invited. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery. For guest book, please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

7th Anniversary

Rich Ford

2-9-2014 2-9-2021

They say there is a reason,

They say time will heal,

But neither time or reason,

Will change the way we feel,

For no one knows the heartache,

That lies behind our smiles,

No one knows how many times,

We have broken down and cried,

We want to tell you something,

So there won't be any doubt,

You're so wonderful to think of,

But so hard to be without.

We love you and miss you so much!

Dad, Mom, and Jennifer

Lawrence P. "Lardied In East Boston January 26.

Lawrence Bibber

US Army career veteran

Larry was a career veteran of the U.S. Army. He enlisted during the Vietnam Era and retired as a Staff Sergeant.

The beloved husband of Juanita (Miano) Bibber, he was the father of Georgette, Jahral and Rydyl Bibber, all of East Boston; brother of Janis Bibber Conti and Ken Bibber.

Visiting hours in the Magrath Funeral Home, 336 Chelsea St. [at Day Sq] East Boston will be today, Wednesday, February 3 from 2 to 4 p.mIn-



terment in the Massachusetts Veterans Cemetery, Winchendon will be on Thursday, February 4 at 1

PLEASE NOTE: All COVID 19 protocols will be in effect. Masks must be worn in the funeral home and at the cemetery. Contact tracing information will be taken and social distancing is required

Frank Favale, Jr.

Worked as MBTA Bus Driver



Frank A. Favale, Jr., 69, of Winthrop passed away at home January on

23. Born in Boston, the beloved son of the late Jacqueline (Skinner) and Frank A. Favale, Sr., he grew up in East Boston before moving to Winthrop over 43 years ago.

He enlisted in the US Army during the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged reaching the rank of SP4. After his discharge, he went on to work as a bus driver for the MBTA.

He was the devoted husband of Rosemarie (Femino) and the loving father of Frank S. Favale and Renee L. Taylor, both of Winthrop; dear brother of Michael Favale of



Florida; cherished grandfather of Damon, Takyra, Nasja, Devin and Devani and great grandfather of Natalie.

Services were private. Arrangements under the direction of the Caggiano-O'Maley-Frazier Funeral Home, Winthrop.

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

OBITUARIES

Effective Jan. 1, 2021

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336 Chelsea St., East Boston 617-567-0910 | www.magrathfuneralhome.com Special to the Times

Metro HousinglBoston will receive \$1 million over three years from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) to explore the inequality of calculating rent for working families with rental vouchers.

Nearly \$700,000 from the grant will be dispensed directly to participants in the form of monthly reimbursements to their housing voucher rent share. Metro Housing will survey working voucher families to see how they spend money that they receive, and to determine if there is any impact on what is known as "cliff effects."

As household income rises, a corresponding reduction in benefits makes salary increases result in static or decreased total household income. For families working to escape poverty, the specter

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of working harder to generate the same or less income has a discouraging effect on labor market participation. This phenomenon is known as "cliff effects."

Metro Housing will partner with the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Harvard Business School, and the Upjohn Institute on this initiative.

"Working families are impacted disproportionally to those that subsist off benefits alone," said Susan Nohl, Deputy Director of Metro Housing. "This cruel cycle traps low-income residents on a plateau of subsistence, actively penalizing them for attempting to thrive. Our hope is that the data returned by this project will provide a solid foundation to advocate for meaningful change with policy-makers across all

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levels."

The grant was one of 17 given to local organizations by BIDMC in support of impactful initiatives in the areas of housing affordability, jobs and financial security, and behavioral health.

"BIDMC has a proud history of supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities," said Pete Healy, President of the medical center in a BIDMC press release. "This important milestone reflects our commitment to all the populations that we serve. We look forward to working with these impactful organizations to support programs and initiatives that lead to more equitable and healthy communities."

"Congratulations Metro Housing on the award and thank you to BIDMC on making the funding available seventeen

REAL ESTATE

the region in support of working and vulnerable households," said Brendan Goodwin, Director Rental Assistance, DHCD. "Stable housing is vital for healthy and safe families. We will continue investing in innovative programming, and we look forward to learning more from Metro Housing's pilot to inform our own work." "Working families who

receive government assistance to help afford the high cost of rent often see those benefits phase out quickly when their income increases," said Evan Mast of Upjohn Institute and Ray Kluender of Harvard Business School. "We are excited to partner with Metro Housing Boston to study how allowing families to keep more of their wages can help them achieve financial stability and security."

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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 gradepoint average or better on a four-point scale. **EAST BOSTON**

Wenle Liang Arlette Vanessa

Arianna Gabriela Perry Evelyn Dayana Rodri-

Kai Jordan Rojo Alexander Cameron Shepherd

Jeffrey K Zhao



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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH

OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND **FAMILY COURT** Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION Docket No. SU20P2295EA

Estate of: Thomas Anthony Serra, Jr.

September 2, 2020 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Nadeen Moretti of Medford A Will has been admitted to

Date of Death:

informal probate. Nadeen Moretti of Medford, MA has been intormally appointed as the Personal Representatives of the estate to serve without surety on the hand The estate is being admin-

Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estaté, including distribution of assets and expenses of

istered under informal

procedure by the Personal

parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

administration. Interested

2/03/21

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to make the trip happen,

and he said he is excited to

see Everett play a part in

lifetime opportunity for

our students, and it was

a month's long process

to bring us to this point,"

he said. "I am so excit-

ed to see our students be

a part of history as they

play at Pearl Harbor. Gene

O'Brien's relationships

with organizers and the

reputation of our band has

put our school at the top of

the list and given our kids

a chance to show people

around the country how

amazing and talented our

students are. Our kids de-

serve this, and I am happy

to be a small part of this

journey. I can't wait to be

there, as we were in Wash-

ington, D.C., to see them

perform for our veterans,

their families, and dig-

nitaries from around the

O'Brien said the plan

would be to take 100 kids

this coming December to

Hawaii for the occasion.

He would take the entire

Crimson Tide Marching

Band, some of the choral

students and some of the

string students. The cere-

mony would take place on

Dec. 7, and O'Brien plans

to begin practicing out-

side in June for the event

hoping that things would

be safe enough by then to

begin rehearsals such as

history of accolades, go-

ing to Washington, D.C.,

parades seven times and,

20 years ago, playing at

the Orange Bowl with a

large group at the halftime

of the College Football

National Championship

game. So, saying this is

the biggest thing they've

ever done gives quite a

perspective as to what this

The School Committee

was enthusiastically in

favor of the request to ap-

prove the trip, and threw

their full support behind it.

behind this," said School

Committeeman Marcony

Almeida Barros. "This is

going to be amazing. I'm

glad it's in December and

hopefully the pandemic, if

not gone, will have sub-

said he would do every-

thing in his power to help

raise the money it will take

to transport and provide

dents from Everett to go to

Honolulu and represent us

there, that's amazing," he

"For public school stu-

for the band in Hawaii.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria

sided by then."

"I throw my full support

event will be.

The Band has a long

were done last summer.

world."

"This is a once in a

an historic occasion.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

CHA STAFF NEARLY FULLY VACCINATED

CHELSEA - The good news on the hospitalization front from CHA Everett is that not much has changed in either direction, but the hospital is handling the load according to plan and well on their way to having the staff fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

The numbers of those testing positive in the hospital's catchment area seems to be on the decline, and the hospital is reporting that there are cases in large numbers, but nothing has gotten out of con-

"The good news is there isn't too much different from two weeks ago, but that also might be the bad news," said Dr. Melisa Lai-Becker, chief of the Emergency Department at CHA Everett. "We're getting back into the rhythm of care and coordination. Overall, in the last two weeks, while we may have fewer overall admitted patients and more available room to get patients into the hospital, it's also been a time of figuring out the care of patients who are beyond the acute phase and still need eyes on them."

That has meant some patients are now being sent to field hospitals in Lowell and Worcester for the longer recovery times, but at the same time there isn't a panic going on.

"There's nothing about it that is frantic,' she said. "Everything has been good, calm and measured...Rather than complacency, the hospital has enforced our plan. All that planning from last summer and fall that's we see in action here now... We're happy to press on and there is light at the end of the tunnel.'

Statistics show that in the catchment area of the hospital (Malden, Chelsea, Revere, Everett, Winthrop, Cambridge and Somerville), there was a peak of cases in the week of Jan. 11, with 3,100 cases. Now, however, the

4-COLOR

same area is reporting 2,500 positive cases. At CHA, since March, they have tested 100,000 people, and about 8,000 have been positive.

Now, a new precaution has been implemented on the testing front to make sure the hospital if monitored for COVID-19. Now, every four days one is in the hospital or Emergency Department, they are tested for their COVID

VACCINATIONS FOR STAFF MOVING WELL

Though there have been glitches and line-jumping at some institutions, that is not the case at CHA Everett when it comes to vaccinating the staff. Dr. Lai-Becker reported that about 75 percent of the CHA staff has received the first dose of the vaccine and 25 percent have received both doses. By the end of the month, they expect to be able to vaccinate everyone who wants to be vaccinated on the

PLANNING FOR VACCINATIONS OF THE PUBLIC

The hospital and its networks are now in the planning stages for figuring out how to vaccinate all of their patients when the time comes for that.

"CHA as a whole is working on how we can vaccinate all 140,000 of our patients, those who come to CHA for their Primary Care. We are prepping now. It's a very intentional rollout due to the face we're in the phase where the two part vaccine is being used...A lot of it is that every shot you get today is a shot you'll need to get in three weeks. incredible That's an amount of logistics, and calculations and back to the old conversation about the supply chain."

At CHA Everett, the vaccine rollout will be through the primary care doctors, with major assists from all others like the Emergency Department. and follow-ups to book, many primary care doctors will need a tremendous amount of help. She

said they will likely be using visits to the hospital, the health care centers, pop-up vaccination sites and maybe a larger site that isn't Fenw ay Park.

She said many are at the point where there's a lot of familiarity with the plan and they simply want to let it loose.

"We know where the bottlenecks are," she said. "Let's just get everybody vaccinated. We're at a point where we could get everyone vaccinated within a timeframe and thinking less about trying to prioritize the elderly or essential workers."

She said she believes the area is near an inflection point where it will simply be about anyone getting vaccinated can get vaccinated.

"I would think we'll hit this inflection point in the next two to four weeks where they start giving the vaccine to every person no matter who they are - get vaccinated if you want it because that's just one more and it gets us closer to herd immunity."

NO NEED TO HORD PPE

About one week ago, a momentous occasion took place at the hospital.

Everyone had enough N95 mask.

Dr. Lai-Becker said for the first time since the pandemic broke out, they do not need to recycle or use the viral decay system they have been doing so long to preserve their mask supply.

Instead, they can go to the supply area and get five masks to use for five shifts. Before, they used every mask five to eight times and then got rid of it. Now, they can use one mask per shift, and then get rid of it, while still having confidence they will have more waiting for them the next shift.

"I never thought that would ever happen," she said with a laugh. "When that news came out, you can imagine people began With testing to administer to ask if it was wrong to hoard masks. And did they even need to?"

UPPER BROADWAY BUILDING **CONTINUES**

CHELSEA - The massive re-building of Upper Broadway continues to progress through Phase 1, with crews now at Cary Avenue and one-third of the way done on their trek to the Revere City Line.

The DPW's Fidel Maltez said the water and sewer replacement work that started in September is divided up into three zones, and crews are now 100 percent done with the zone from City Hall to Cary Avenue.

"Now we're doing Cary Avenue to Webster," he said. "We did break it up in zones and we're 100 percent done in that first section now."

Work began in front of City Hall in August 2020 and has steadily progressed northward. As typical in construction, the deeper utilities are installed first, with each subsequent utility installed becoming shallower; for this project, that has meant that sewer main has been installed first, followed by sewer service transfer, water main installation, water service transfer, and then, for areas that are part of the first phase of sewer/stormwater separation, drainage.

Work on water main installation is wrapping up between Cary Ave and Eleanor Street, which means over the next several weeks, residents in this area will have their water services transferred to the new water main. Chelsea Police and the Department of Public Works have been working with the contractor and the MBTA to keep bus stops open and to try to limit the impact this project has on the community.

The project is on schedule and is slated to be complete by its October 31, 2021 deadline.

The second part of the project will be the improved streetscape sidewalks.

Alex Train, director of Housing and Community Development, said they are in the process of designing the streetscape improvements, which will begin in the spring of 2022.

"In parallel with utility construction, the City, through the Dept. of Housing & Community Development and Dept. of Public Works, has been finishing up the design of comprehensive streetimprovements,' he said. "Slated to break ground in April of 2022, the streetscape project is fully financed by a federal grant from the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization. The project calls for the reconstruction of the roadway, sidewalks, and drainage system, as well as the installation of course of 2021, the City on the new design."

new bus stops, bike lanes, and street trees. Over the will host public meetings The Capital Improvement projects are designed to replace aging water, sewer and drain infrastructure. Aging sewers can allow sewage into the groundwater and infiltrate groundwater into the sewer; both are detrimental to

the environment, and increase the cost to the water and sewer system. Separating stormwater from the sewer system reduces the amount of State Sen. Sal DiDo-

water sent to the MWRA,

resulting in reduced costs

to residents. Replacing

the water main eliminates

FIRST IN LINE



Chelsea Village Elderly held one of the very first COVID Vaccine Clinics for Peabody Properties on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Staff and over 100 residents were vaccinated. Pictured here is Katherine Stec, 98 years old. As the oldest resident of Chelsea Village, she was given the honor of being the first resident to be vaccinated by CVS Pharmacy, who collaborated with the Resident Services Department. What a great day and such a team effort!

problems with water quality and leaking pipes. At the completion of this project, nearly a mile of both water main and sewer main will have been replaced from City Hall to the Revere city line. Additionally, all homes in the corridor will receive a new 1-inch copper water service and all sewer services will be replaced or cement lined at no cost to the property owners.

Finally, any lead water service lines encountered in the project will be replaced.

"It's an incredible project and an exciting project," said Maltez. "It's Broadway, so it's our main artery and this will change that entire corridor."

CRIMSON HIGH BAND GETS INVITE

EVERETT - Everett High Band Director Gene Committee.

the 85th anniversary.

"This started way back about two years ago and has become an invitation for us to represent Massachusetts at the 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor," said O'Brien on Jan. 19 at the School Committee meeting. "At first, that is like 'What?' Well, the folks that run the Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C., saw how good the Everett band was when we went there and said we had to get an invite to represent the state of Massachusetts at the 2021 Pearl Harbor commemoration...This is going to be the last time they do it. There are only two survivors left from the Arizona. It's going to be an extraordinary occurrence...It's historic. It's the biggest thing we've ever done. For us to represent Everett and Massachusetts and be part of this event - it will

"You and your young people never cease to Cardillo.

The Committee approved the project by a 9-0 vote.

See REGION Page 11

O'Brien couldn't say "unbelievable" and "improbable" enough when he appeared before the School And by all rights, he

wasn't wrong to stress the unbelievable nature of the invitation extended recently to the Everett High Crimson Tide music program asking them to represent Massachusetts on Dec. 7 at the 80th Pearl Harbor commemoration event in Hawaii. It's a solemn and honorable event that, along with the band, will feature dignitaries and, likely, President Joe Biden and a number of military leaders. It will also be the last commemoration held, as the only two Pearl Harbor survivors living will be present and it has been agreed there will not be another official commemoration at

be with us forever."

been working for several

months to figure out how

amaze me," said School Committeewoman Millie menico and O'Brien have



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Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

"Aloha!" quipped O'Brien before signing off from the meeting.

CITY OFFICIALS RECALL WORKING WITH POLLACK

EVERETT - If former MassDOT Director Stephanie Pollack needed a guinea pig for exciting transportation experiments, Everett was willing to be the test subject, and Mayor Carlo DeMaria and Pollack forged a partnership over the last six years that brought about such exciting pilot programs that have now spread across the region.

Pollack, who focused in on Everett early six years ago due to the City's willingness to lead and pay for initiatives, announced last week that she was leaving MassDOT to become Deputy Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration under new President Joe Biden. Leaving a state Republican Administration for a federal Democratic Administration, Pollack left her job in Massachusetts on Tuesday, but was not forgotten in Everett.

"It has been a privilege to lead MassDOT's exceptional team these last six years and to work with the MBTA's senior leadership and the Fiscal and Management Control Board," said Pollack. "The Governor and Lt. Governor have my deepest gratitude for entrusting me with the stewardship of MassDOT and their leadership as transportation champions. Massachusetts has become a leader in delivering a transportation system that puts people first and provides them with safer and better choices for walking, biking, using transit, or driving and I am confident that Jamey will be able to continue that good work."

Mayor Carlo DeMaria was perhaps one of the first local officials to grab the attention of Pollack when she assumed a leadership role at MassDOT. He proposed working together on a remake of Everett's transit offerings, conducting a study that would change bus service through innovation, efficiency and trying fun things.

Pollack was more than willing, particularly because the revenue-starved MBTA didn't have the money to do such things, and Mayor DeMaria proposed that Everett pay for the study and some of the innovations themselves.

It was a winning partnership that developed into the Everett Transit Action Plan, which led to the region's first real dedicated bus lane on Broadway five years ago and other Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) innovations. Later, it also spawned the Lower Mystic Regional Transportation Working Group which Pollack chaired and helped to solve longterm mobility issues created in the area of Encore Boston Harbor.

City Transportation Director Jay Monty, who worked with the mayor to go forward on so many of the initiatives, said there was an investment in building relationships that was a new approach Pollack brought. That approach first showed up in Everett and then took off in other areas of Greater Boston later.

"Our plan recommended the first bus lane, but there was no one at the T who knew how to approach this or implement

it," he said. "I think it was

because of our successes and also her administrative skills to see the bus lanes expand to many other communities now. Doing the bus lane last year on Sweetser Circle was a breeze compared to six years ago when we started. So much has gone on under the radar to make MassDOT stronger and the work they do with communities stronger. That investment she made will pay off for a long time."

Monty said the approach that began in Everett has changed the way everyone does business with MassDOT, including

"It really has put more accountability on cities and towns," he said. "Five years ago it was put you hand out and scream really loud and hopefully the T will hear and help. With Stephanie Pollack, we had skin in the game and they were ready to work alongside us. We're sad to see her leave and whoever fills her shoes will hopefully continue this relationship with Everett."

Pollack was most recently in Everett last October to kick off the Re-Imagining Broadway BRT, multi-faceted, approach to changing transportation in the City's cor-

Late last week, Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announced the departure of Pollack, and appointed Jamey L. Tesler as Acting Secretary of Transportation. Secretary Pollack was announced Thursday as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration for the Biden-Harris Administration. Secretary Pollack will also be acting Administrator until the confirmation by the United States Senate of a permanent Highway Administrator.

'Stephanie has

MassDOT through many difficult challenges over the past six years; from the historic blizzards that exposed the problems of the MBTA, through saving the GLX project, instituting a data-driven Capital Improvement Plan, and guiding the RMV through a crisis last summer," said Governor Baker. "She has provided MassDOT with stability and leadership through the last six years, serving longer than her three predecessors combined. She has allowed the agency to focus on long term efforts developing the FMCB and upgrading the MBTA's infrastructure, service and customer relations and much more. We are so grateful for Stephanie's service to the Commonwealth and congratulate her on her new appointment. I am confident that Jamey will step into this important role ready to lead on day one."

Jamey Tesler, currently Registrar of Motor Vehicles, has years of experience across the Department of Transportation, previously serving as Chief Operating Officer, Chief of Staff and Assistant Secretary for Procurement for Mass-DOT. Jamey also worked for the MBTA, Governor Jane Swift's legal office and the Office of the State Treasurer.

"I am honored by the trust the Governor and Lt. Governor are placing in me," said incoming Secretary Jamey Tesler. "Working with Secretary Pollack for most of the last five years has been a master thur Guinasso said the

class in transportation pol-

icy, and I am happy to be able to use that knowledge to continuing advancing the programs and policies we have been working on together for so long."

Colleen Ogilvie, currently deputy Registrar and Chief Operating Officer, will serve as Acting Registrar.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS TO BE CHANGED

REVERE -One of the busiest intersections in Revere - located at Cushman Avenue and School Street, and centered by Broadway - is about to get a compete makeover. And when all is said and done, the traffic flow on frequently clogged Broadway should improve drastically.

The City Council approved a request by Chief Finance Officer Richard Viscay that the Council supplement the \$1.5 million state grant for the overhaul of the traffic signals and repaving of the crosswalks on Broadway with a city appropriation of \$216,103. The money will come out of the city's Community Investment Trust Fund.

"This is a great project where we can leverage \$200,000 against a \$1.5 million bond and really try to improve the traffic flow and traffic light signals on Broadway," said Viscay, adding that the actual project is being managed by the Planning Department.

Julie DeMauro, transportation manager for the city, said the additional appropriation would go toward traffic signalization "and to bring all of the crosswalks and pedestrian signals up to ADA compliance."

Ward 4 Councilor Patrick Keefe asked about the timeline for the project.

"The project has already gone out for bid and we have received three bids and we have not yet awarded the bid to the lowest bidder," said DeMauro. "We would like to start the project in April so we can get everything done by September, weather permitting."

DeMauro said the project would begin at the intersection of Beach Street and Fenno Street and encompass all intersections (that have traffic lights) through Revere Street and Malden Street.

"What about the smaller streets like Prospect Avenue and Mountain Ave that don't have traffic lights?" asked Ward 2 Councilor Ira Novoselsky.

DeMauro said those streets would not be addressed under the project. "There would be no work done to those intersections because they have no crossing signal or pedestrian traffic lights at all," replied DeMauro.

Ralph DeCicco, chair of the Revere Disabilities Commission, said the project will benefit disabled residents and Revere seniors. "It's long overdue," said DeCicco, adding that one of the greatest needs is the redesign of the Cushman-School-Broadway intersection. "That intersection is

probably going to be the most significant in terms of changes and in terms of the way the intersection functions," said DeMauro. "There's going to be a lot of work and rework for

that intersection. You have 6-7 crosswalks all in that one intersection." Ward 3 Councilor Ar-

foot traffic is significant at

that intersection "based on the fact that it's a feeding source for three schools, the high school, the Whalen School, and the Lincoln School."

"An upgrade in that particular case is much needed and we've been looking forward to this for years," said Guinasso. "So it's welcomed. We're thankful it's coming and I think this is money well spent."

SOUND BARRIER SOUGHT FOR ROUTE 1

REVERE - Councillors Richard Serino and Patrick Keefe are asking the Gov. Charlie Baker Administration to prioritize the building of a sound barrier along Route 1, from Copeland Circle to Route 16 in Revere, to decrease noise in the neighborhood from vehicles traveling on the busy highway.

"We were very excited to see that the Transportation Bond Bill was passed and one of the expenditures was to assist in sound barriers for Route 1 that surround Revere," said Keefe.

The Ward 4 councilor asked that residents reach out to state legislators to urge Gov. Baker to build the sound barrier soon "because it's something that Revere needs."

"This is not a done deal by any stretch of the imagination," cautioned Serino, who represents Ward 6. "This is a Bond Bill authorization that was authorized by the House and the Senate in which the Governor signed. The Governor can choose which projects he and his administration would like to fund that are included this laundry list of items that are in the bill.'

Serino said Ward 6 residents "have been complaining for years about the sound and it is a serious quality-of-life issue."

"Now is the time for us to really step it up with the Governor and request that he authorize these funds."

Ward 2 Councillor Ira Novoselsky praised the two councilors for sponsoring the motion.

"Back in 2008, we were promised these barriers when they supposed to widen Route 1 because of the Roseland property at Overlook Ridge project," said Novoselsky. "I know that Gov. Patrick refused to give it to us when it was in the Bond Bill back in the teens (the 2010s). I just hope that Gov. Baker appreciates all the help we've been giving him. We have to get to the other representatives to help push this through. I just hope this thing goes through this time. It's not my ward but it affects everybody."

The City Council unanimously approved the mo-

WIN2030 **PRESENTATION** VIEWED

WINTHROP - During its Jan. 19 meeting, the Winthrop Town Council viewed a presentation by Win2030 and received updates from town depart-

Council Pres. Phil Boncore opened the meeting with a moment of silence for resident Richard Dimes, who passed away on Jan. 13 at the age of 94. Dimes was a lifelong public servant in Winthrop, serving as both a selectman and Planning Board member.

Win2030 Presentation The Metropolitan Area

Planning Council delivered a presentation on a future vision for Winthrop. The presentation can be viewed on the WCAT YouTube channel.

"This is a big thing. I've been talking about it since I came to Winthrop," said Town Manager Austin Faison. "I hope people take the time to [review] it. It's something the community should be proud of."

COVID-19

As of Jan. 13, Winthrop had seen 1,641 total cases of COVID-19, with 34 deceased and 162 in isolation. Winthrop continues to be a High Risk community, with a 6.2 percent positive rate. Indoor testing will be available by appointment only at the old middle school beginning Jan. 29. Winthrop, Chelsea and Revere have begun vaccinating first responders.

The Winthrop Public Schools are continuing with their hybrid learning model and all buildings have been equipped with rapid test kits. So far there has been no school-based or athletics spreading of

the virus. Council Pres. Boncore praised students and athletes for following protocols.

Council Committees

At its last meeting, the Finance Committee discussed the FY21 budget. Councilor Jim Letterie reported that all the departments are "doing a great job" staying within their budgets. The committee is looking for ways to offset the cost of the town's trash contract, which increased by \$300,000 in just one year. It is also exploring a water and sewer study to "help us understand why our bills are higher than in other communities.' Finally, the committee is looking into reimbursement for the costs associated with the upcoming special elections for state representatives - around \$40,000.

The Rules & Ordinances Committee made three recommendations: prove traffic flow on Terrace Ave., create a fourway stop at Grovers St. and Highland Ave., and add two parking spaces on Beach Rd. The changes were approved by council. General Updates

The council president presented a citation to Susan Maguire, who is resigning from the Winthrop Board of Health after a long and dedicated career. Pres. Boncore wished her all the best in her future endeavours.

Councilor Tracey Honan delivered a statement on behalf of herself and Councilors Peter Christopher and Stephen Ruggiero condemning the violence in the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. (See separate article in this publication.)

The town is making progress on its solid waste management program and composting options. It received a grant from the Shared Streets program and will start installing parklets once locations are decided. The easily moveable structures will increase outdoor seating in the Center Business

District. There are immediate openings on the following committees: the Airport Hazards Committee; the Commission for Diversity, **Inclusion and Community** Relations; and the Winthrop Planning Board.



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'Collecting Stories: The Invention of Folk Art'

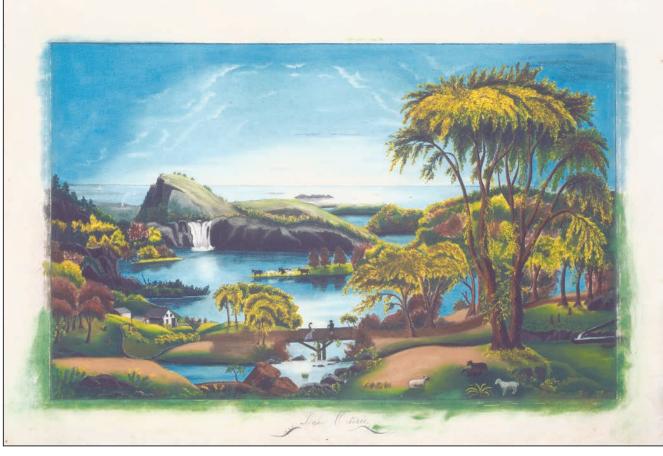
Organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), "Collecting Stories: The Invention of Folk Art" reflects on benefactor and donor Maxim Karolik's quest to champion the "art of the people." The exhibition examines the creation of folk art as a collecting category in the early 20th century.

It will run from February 6 to Jan. 9, 2022.

Throughout the 1940s and '50s, Karolik championed the then-radical notion of incorporating American "folk art" into the Museum's collection and disrupting long-held standards and definitions of so-called "fine art." Through Karolik's enthusiasm and generosity, the MFA became one of the first encyclopedic museums in the country

to actively collect works by artisans, craftspeople, women, schoolchildren, sailors and other artists who were free from the strict rules of traditional Western academic training. Karolik's expansive vision of American art proved to be ahead of his time-while MFA curators ultimately accepted its value, the reluctance to display folk art alongside fine art remained for decades to come. The exhibition features 59 works on paper shown in two successive rotations and 20 sculptural objects drawn primarily from the MFA's Karolik Collection of American Folk Art, generously supported by the Henry Luce Founda-

"Collecting Stories: The Invention of Folk Art" is the third in a series



Lake Ontario, N.Y., pastel and graphite on sandpaper, unidentified artist.

of three Collecting Stories exhibitions funded by the Henry Luce Foundation that presents understud-

ied works from the MFA's collection to address critical themes in American art and the formation of ries: A Mid-Century Ex-

modern American identities. Previous exhibitions include "Collecting Sto-

periment and Collecting Stories: Native American

National Grid launches 'Grid for Good' initiative to help disadvantaged youth

National Grid recently launched Grid for Good, a new initiative designed to increase the social mobility and employment opportunities for disadvantaged young people in the communities it serves in the U.S. and UK. This program is part of their Responsible Business Charter, which lays out the Company's commit-

ments to the environment,

customers. and communities.

Through the Grid for Good program, National Grid employee volunteers work with young people ages 16-24 and teach them basic business skills and energy industry-specific skills needed in today's competitive job market. The program provides team building workshops to build participants' con-

fidence and collaboration skills with problem solving exercises; along with activities to focus on resume writing, interview techniques, and workplace conflict resolution.

National Grid employees in the U.S. have committed to providing over 100 paid, two-week job shadowing experiences for participants. National Grid will connect participants with job opportunities in the energy industry, driven by charity partners MissionSAFE and YOU Boston.

"Grid for Good gives young people the opportunities they deserve to succeed," said Badar Khan, President of National Grid, U.S. "We hope the program will transform the lives of those who live and work in the communities we serve, and build a more diverse workforce of the future. As a business committed to acting responsibly, this is the kind of positive impact we want to have across our region."

"Grid for Good has been a fantastic way for me to give back by mentoring talented young professionals from underserved communities," said Clara Giustino, VP of Project Development and Commercial Services Capital Delivery. "For many, this program is one of the few windows into the corporate world. I'm proud to be a part of Grid for Good!"

Through the Grid for Good program, National Grid plans to help 4,000 young people via 12,000 hours of volunteering in 2021. Grid for Good will also help bring diversity into the energy sector with qualified talent to help achieve the net zero ambition. Unemployment amongst young people is an existing issue, that has doubled since the Covid-19 pandemic. Now more than ever, National Grid wants to support its communities with Grid for Good.

Whos Your Valentine?



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Published Feb. 10 & 11



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Telemedicine appointments are being scheduled in Pediatrics, Adult Medicine, Family Medicine, Women's Health (OB/GYN), Behavioral Health, Neighborhood PACE, and other departments. We use certified medical interpreters during telemedicine appointments for languages other than English.

Do you need to schedule a telemedicine appointment with your primary care provider? Did you miss an appointment that needs to be rescheduled? If so, call 617-569-5800 to schedule a telemedicine appointment. This is especially important if you have

a chronic or a behavioral health condition. You should be treated if needed, especially during this public health crisis. We're here to keep you healthy!





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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