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# East Boston

## TIMES - FREE PRESS

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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



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 or-

dered 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

steadfast in our multi-year 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-

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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**eastietimes.com**







## 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, Mayor’s Liaison
- Tall Ship Alcohol License – VOTE
- Boston Transportation Department – Vineet Gupta
- 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.

<https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5fedf5c3ea426ca20d647427>

### 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](http://www.bpl.org/homework).

All programs are provided subject to parental supervision.

[bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5f6444d-029f06a3a00c1a28f](http://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5f6444d-029f06a3a00c1a28f)



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 Gove 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.

Greenway Council member Karen Maddeleena said her major concern 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 off-street 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. Obviously, this could evolve over time 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 updating on the corner of

Gove 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 his 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 there.



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

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

The East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Incorporated

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

CANCELED

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

A copy of this notice has also been posted on the organization’s website at:  
[www.EBPierPAC.org](http://www.EBPierPAC.org)  
and has also been placed on file with the Regulations Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth by mailing same via first class mail at least 5 days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting.

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



# 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.

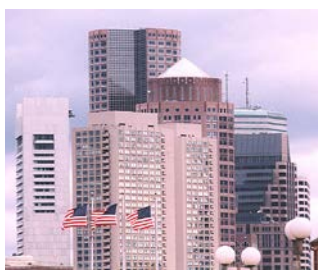
At long last, after 50 years of fruitless and costly failure, things are about to change.

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



## 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 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 Association, Massachusetts Bar Association, and the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation. The Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation 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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[deb@reverejournal.com](mailto:deb@reverejournal.com)



# 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 Wallerice, 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 houses.

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 Wallerice.

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



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

tomers 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.”

Wallerice 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, Wallerice 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.”

Wallerice 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 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

communities have experienced 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 communities.

To ensure that policymakers 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-

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.”

# 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 Chief, 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 37-year career have become my village. I will continue to be one of their biggest champions as I move forward with my next chapter.”

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 includes the most serious 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 to cover more officers.

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.

## Keep Your Name in the News!

As the cold winter months bear down and the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, let us get your message out to our thousands of readers of **The Revere Journal, The Winthrop Sun Transcript, The East Boston Times Free Press, Chelsea Record, Everett Independent, and Lynn Journal** in our January editions.

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170 Chelsea E Boston Rlty	Resnicow, Benjamin	170 Chelsea St	\$1,405,000
40 West Eagle Street LLC	Jacobson, Daniel	20 Frankfort St	\$1,200,000
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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## 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 a 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 of 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 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 inclusion 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 Suffolk.

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 holiday.

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 Future initiative, 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.

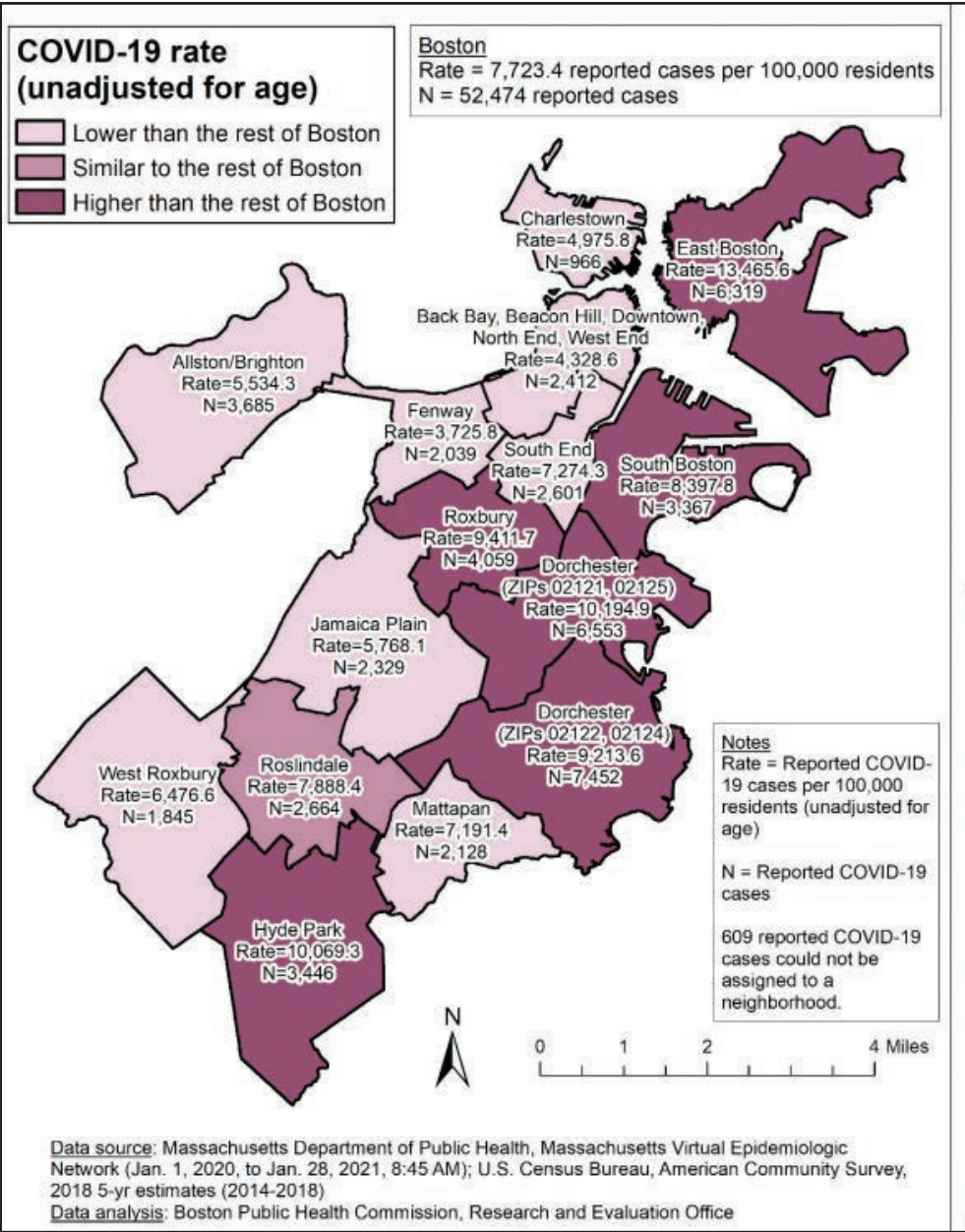
“This pause was set to expire tomorrow, January

27, and we are extending 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 limits of 10 people indoor and 25 people outdoors, which applies to public and private spaces.”

For a list of sectors subject to the extended capacity restrictions, visit [Mass.gov/Reopening](https://mass.gov/Reopening).

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 city-wide average is 772.3 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 245 Eastie residents contracted the virus and there are now



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

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

rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 2.3 percent last week and went from

51,506 cases to 52,704 confirmed 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 to 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 interventions designed 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 permanent housing programs.

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## DON'T BE A VICTIM!

You have been given this notification as a cautionary reminder. Boston Police Officers are reminding you of the following:

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Bottom Round Roast .....	¢3.49/lb
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Perdue Breaded Chicken Cutlets....	2/¢4.00

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## OBITUARIES

### 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 tempera- tures will be taken upon entrance with capacity limits (masks and social distancing are required). Relatives and friends are kindly invited. A visita- tion will be held on Friday from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery. For guest book, please visit [www. buonfiglio.com](http://www.buonfiglio.com).

### Tina Talluto

Of Revere

Tina Talluto of Revere passed away on Saturday, January 30 at the age of 94.

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, (Ori- ent Heights) East Boston on Friday, February 5 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. before leaving in proces- sion to Saint Anthony of Padua Church, Revere, for an 11 a.m. Funeral Mass.



Services will conclude with Tina being laid to rest at Holy Cross Mausole- um, Malden. All services will be held in accordance with Phase-2 of the Com- monwealth of Massachu- setts phased reopening plan due to COVID-19. Capacity will be limit- ed. Face coverings are required to be worn and social distancing mea- sures are encouraged. To leave an online condo- lence please visit [www. ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com).

### 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. MD.

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### 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 grandfa- ther 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, (Ori- ent 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 Common- wealth of Massachu-



setts phased reopening plan due to COVID-19. Capacity will be limited. Face coverings are re- quired to be worn and so- cial distancing measures are encouraged.

In lieu of flowers, me- morial donations may be made to the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home to offset funeral expenses. Please visit [www.ruggieromh.com](http://www.ruggieromh.com) to leave a do- nation on the “Donations” page or a condolence on the “Tribute Wall.”

### Susanne Goodrich

Of Revere

Susanne (DiMat- 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 Funer- al Home, 128 Revere St, Revere on Thursday, Feb- ruary 4 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Capacity limits will be enforced and masks and social distancing are



required. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Anthony’s Church in Re- vere at 12 noon (names and temperatures will be taken upon entrance.) Relatives and friends are kindly in- vited. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery. For guest book, please vis- it [www. buonfiglio.com](http://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

### David Anthony Yannetty

Orient Heights Yacht Club Life Member

David “Big Dave” An- thony Yannetty, born No- vember 6, 1956 in Win- throp, passed on January 6, 2021.

Big Dave loved boat- ing 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 ( Ciofi) Yannetty and the late Edward Yannetty; loving father of Theresa Yannetty and her husband, Morgan Reynolds, Davina Yannet- ty, David Yannetty and his wife, Rachel Baum; dear brother of Edward Yannet- ty and his wife, Kim, The- resa Yannetty and Joseph Yannetty and his wife, Emer Mezzetti.

Since he loved to feed people, please make a con- tribution to Mutual Aid Eastie ([https://eastiefarm. com/ongoingevents/mutu- alaideastiefund](https://eastiefarm.com/ongoingevents/mutualaideastiefund)) in lieu of flowers.



Big Dave never wanted a funeral, so we invite you all to celebrate him pri- vately. Turn on someclas- sic 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.vazzafu- nerals.com](http://www.vazzafunerals.com).

### Lawrence Bibber

US Army career veteran



Lawrence P. “Lar- ry” Bibber died in East Boston on January 26.

Larry was a career vet- eran of the U.S. Army. He enlisted during the Viet- nam Era and retired as a Staff Sergeant.

The beloved husband of Juanita (Miano) Bib- ber, 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, Febru- ary 3 from 2 to 4 p.m.In-



terment in the Massachu- setts Veterans Cemetery. Winchendon will be on Thursday, February 4 at 1 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: All COVID 19 protocols will be in effect. Masks must be worn in the funeral home and at the cemetery. Contact tracing informa- tion will be taken and so- cial distancing is required

### Frank Favale, Jr.

Worked as MBTA Bus Driver

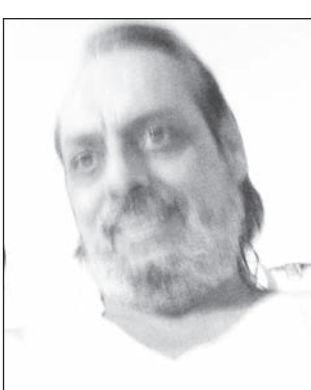


Frank A. Favale, Jr., 69, of Win- throp passed away at home on January

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 Win- throp 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 broth- er of Michael Favale of



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

Services were private. Arrangements were under the direction of the Caggiano-O’Maley-Fra- zier Funeral Home, Win- throp.

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

## OBITUARIES

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# Metro Housing|Boston receives \$1million from BIDMC

Special to the Times

Metro Housing|Boston 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

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 disproportionately 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

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 to Metro Housing on the award and thank you to BIDMC on making the funding available for seventeen projects in

the region in support of working and vulnerable households,” said Brendan Goodwin, Director of 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.”

## LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

### LOCAL STUDENTS WHO MADE THE UMASS AMHERST DEAN’S LIST

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

In order to qualify, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.5 grade-

point average or better on a four-point scale.  
EAST BOSTON  
Wenle Liang  
Arlette Vanessa Ordonez  
Arianna Gabriela Perry  
Evelyn Dayana Rodriguez  
Kai Jordan Rojo  
Cameron Alexander Shepherd  
Jeffrey K Zhao

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Cambridge, MA 02139-1732  
617-349-4396

**CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON HUMAN  
RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES**  
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Hartford, CT 06106-1561  
860-541-3400

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

**MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION**  
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Boston, MA 02108-1599  
617-994-6000

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

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

**NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**  
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Nadeen Moretti of Medford, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representatives of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.  
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istered under informal procedure by the Personal 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 estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of

administration. Interested 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.

2/03/21  
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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 long-term 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 Boston.

“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 corridors.

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 led 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 MassDOT. 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 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 Arthur Guinasso said the 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 in 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 proj-

ect,” 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 motion.

WIN2030 PRESENTATION VIEWED

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

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: improve traffic flow on Terrace Ave., create a four-way 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’

Staff report

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 Foundation.

“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

modern American identities. Previous exhibitions include “Collecting Stories: A Mid-Century Ex-

periment and Collecting Stories: Native American Art.”

# 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 commitments to the environment,

employees, 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 partici-

pants 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?



Who does Grammy love?!  
**CHARLIE**  
XOXOX

## Let Everyone know who your Valentine is with a photo and message...

**Published Feb. 10 & 11**

ALL VALENTINES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE EAST BOSTON TIMES FREE PRESS, REVERE JOURNAL, EVERETT INDEPENDENT, CHELSEA RECORD, WINTHROP SUN TRANSCRIPT, LYNN JOURNAL, CHARLESTOWN & NORTH END REGIONAL REVIEW



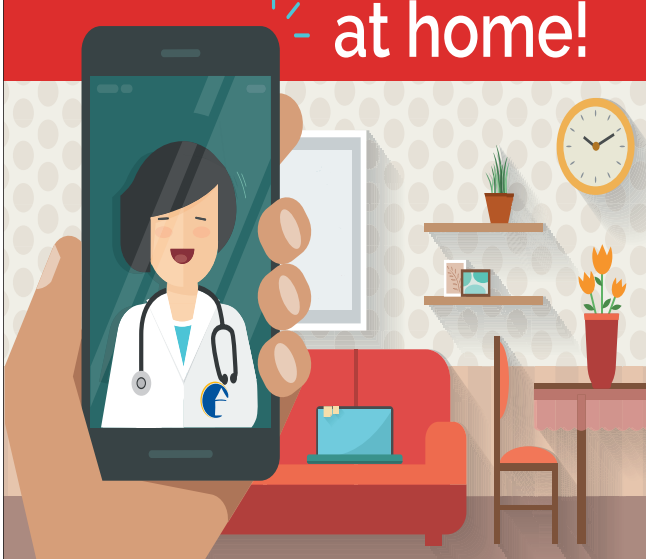
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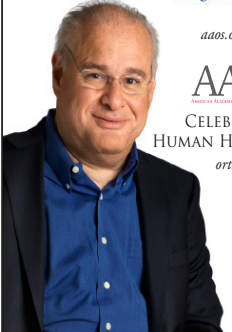
A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

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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