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Massachusetts National Guard troops administer vaccines at EBNHC Liverpool Street site last week.

Guard helps EBNHC overcome vaccine staffing challenges

By John Lynds

Vaccinating hundreds of residents at multiple sites each day has been a huge undertaking for East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC), but luckily the Health Center has had the continued support from the Massachusetts National Guard.

As part of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, the National Guard began providing support of vaccination initiatives in Eastie earlier this month. Medically qualified Guard members

began partnering with the EBNHC to administer vaccines. Their assistance at EBNHC is expected to continue to support four vaccination sites throughout EBNHC's service area including Eastie, Chelsea, Revere and the South End through this federally funded mission.

However, the presence of the military in full uniform has made some in Eastie's immigrant community without legal status uneasy and EBNHC administrators fear this uneasiness may lead some away from getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

EBNHC Vice President of Human Resources Steven Snyder wants Eastie's immigrant community to know that the Health Center's vaccine program does not discriminate.

"We know that some members of the community can be a bit fearful when they see the troops in their army fatigue uniforms, but it is critically important for all to understand that the Guard is here for one purpose only — to vaccinate our community," said Snyder. "Patients scheduling appointments do not need to provide any documentation as to their

immigration status — we only ask ID to verify the patient at the time of appointment."

Snyder said most of the troops helping out EBNHC staff are from our community, some are bi-lingual and all very competent and friendly.

"The feedback from patients has been fantastic," said Snyder. "Currently National Guard troops are working out of our East Boston Liverpool Street Site and our newest site which just opened up at the former Wonderland

See GUARD Page 6

Sump pumps replaced by City to address MEW Greenway flooding

By John Lynds

Earlier this week the Boston Parks and Recreation Department replaced the sump pumps on the Mary Ellen Welch (MEW) Greenway near Maverick Street that had failed earlier this year during heavy rain.

These new pumps will activate after heavy rains to keep the MEW Greenway paths that are susceptible to flooding open and dry.

In February two sump pumps that were installed years ago to curb flooding on a section of the green-

way failed. The failure of the pumps caused flooding on the stretch of the MEW Greenway between the Maverick Street Bridge and Marginal Street after heavy rain.

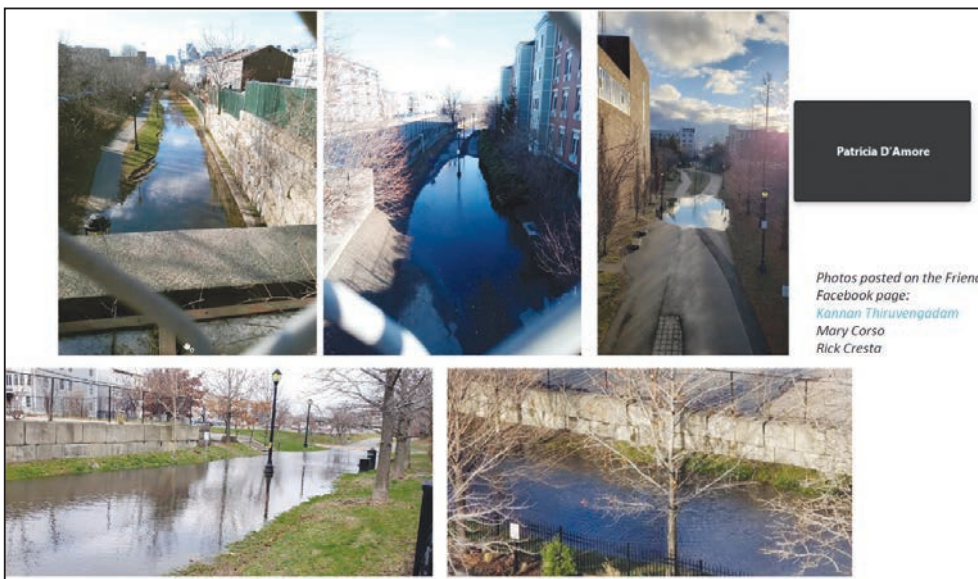
The sump pump failures came after the former Mayor Walsh Administration appropriated \$400,000 in the city's budget last year to protect the MEW Gre-

enway from sea level rise. A few years back the city purchased a flood wall that can be used to keep storm surge waters from the Harbor from entering the low-lying greenway.

However, the flooding earlier this year was not related to sea level rise, but rainwater runoff that the failed pumps couldn't drain fast enough.

Years ago the city identified silted drain pipes as the culprit for rain water flooding. The city corrected the issue and added sump pumps as an added level of protection.

Already, the new pumps seem to be working and after last Thursday night's rain there was no reported flooding on the MEW Greenway.



Two failed sump pumps have been replaced by the city to address recent MEW Greenway flooding.

A new day

Kim Janey becomes first female and the first Black Mayor of Boston

By John Lynds

On Monday District 7 City Councilor Kim Janey became the first woman and the first Black mayor in the city's history after former Boston Mayor Martin Walsh was confirmed by the Senate to become U.S. Secretary of Labor.

Janey will be officially sworn in as the 55th Mayor of Boston on Wednesday, March 24.

Janey became acting mayor at 9:01 p.m. Monday night after Walsh submitted his resignation letter. Janey thanked Walsh in a statement for his service.

"Congratulations on your confirmation, Secretary Walsh," said Janey. "You are a proud son of Dorchester who will bring our city with you to the United States Department of Labor. The working people of America will benefit greatly from your passion. Now, we look



Acting Boston Mayor Kim Janey.

ahead to a new day — a new chapter — in Boston's history."

As Walsh heads down to Washington D.C., he paused to congratulate his successor Monday.

"Congratulations on making history, Kim Janey," said Walsh. "I know you are going to continue serving our city and supporting an equitable recovery from COVID-19. I am always here for you, my friend."

See JANNEY Page 2

Patrolman Edward Lynch finally gets national recognition

By John Lynds

On Friday March 6, 1964, Boston Police Patrolman Edward Lynch, of East Boston, was killed in the line of duty after chasing a stolen vehicle from Dorchester to Quincy early that fateful morning but his name was never added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington D.C., until now.

"I have been working with the Lynch family in East Boston for a few years," said Boston Police Officer and Department Historian Robert Anthony. "With the assistance of the information they sent me a few years ago we found that Patrolman



Fifty-seven years after his death, Boston Police Patrolman Edward Lynch will finally be added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington DC.

Edward Lynch, of East Boston, was overlooked for "Killed in the Line of

See LYNCH Page 2

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eastietimes.com

Boston students and parents call for substantial state funding as schools reopen

By John Lynds

The promised funding from the landmark education bill that was signed into law before the COVID pandemic hit is still up in the air, Boston students and parents last Tuesday called for state officials to fully fund the Student Opportunity Act Funding (SOA).

During a virtual press conference hosted by the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance on Tuesday students, parents, and school committee members from cities across Massachusetts discussed their school funding needs, their perspectives on in-person school reopening this spring, and their aspirations for education this summer and during the upcoming school year.

Boston Public School parents Rafaela Polanco and Suleika Soto testified at the virtual press conference and shared their thoughts.

At the press conference, which was held over Zoom, Polanco and Soto joined students, parents, and school committee members from Revere, Chelsea, Lawrence, Lowell and Randolph to discuss safety measures,

social/emotional and educational supports, and other resources they’re looking for from their public schools as well as the need for substantial state funding to support those needs.

“I’m a parent of two Boston Public School students and a parent organizer for the Boston Education Alliance” said Soto. “We as parents, students, teachers and community members have asked to be heard about fair and high quality education. Low income communities have been disproportionately affected by COVID so we need fully funded schools that are fair and just in our budget—one where every student has access to what they need, including safe school buildings. Black and brown families continue to be disproportionately affected by COVID and a fully and equitable funded state budget can put us on the right track.”

The SOA overhauled the state’s education funding formula to ensure equity for all students, especially those in low-income areas.

Because the state has not updated its education funding formula since 1993 to reflect districts’ real health insurance and special education costs,

the amount of aid being provided to cover those costs had been too small for decades.

In January 2020 Governor Charles Baker signed S. 2412, An Act Relative to Educational Opportunity for Students, or the SOA, which would have boosted investment in public schools by \$1.5 billion annually when fully phased in over the next seven years.

However, when COVID hit in March 2019 budget shortfalls pushed SOA spending to the wayside. Boston Public Schools were expected to receive millions in SOA funding.

The state legislature’s Ways and Means Committee met last Tuesday to begin reviewing the Governor’s proposed FY22 budget.

At the press conference students and parents plan to keep pushing for a true commitment to fully fund public school and call for putting the state’s commitment to public education funding back on track.

One demand by the group Tuesday is that the state delivers at least two of the seven years of promised funding increases under the SOA in the next state budget.

STATE INCOME TAX FILING DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MAY 17

Staff Report

The Baker-Polito Administration last week announced the extension of the 2020 state individual income tax filing and payment due date from April 15 to match the recently-updated May 17 deadline for filing federal individual income taxes.

Massachusetts taxpayers do not need to file

NEWS IN BRIEF

any forms or contact the Department of Revenue directly to qualify for this automatic state tax extension.

All Massachusetts taxpayers who received more than \$8,000 in total gross income in calendar year 2020 must file a state personal income tax return electronically or send it postmarked by midnight May 17.

Taxpayers are encouraged to file their tax returns electronically for the quickest refunds. Learn more about filing options at mass.gov/dor.

The Baker-Polito Ad-

ministration is committed to providing taxpayers with safe and efficient filing options as well as addressing filing questions and concerns. Taxpayers who qualify for free tax preparation programs are encouraged to check directly with local VITA and TCE sites for remote working restrictions during the COVID-10 pandemic.

As a reminder, the Department’s website offers taxpayer and preparer resources including free E-file options, free fillable forms and information on locating tax-free help.

Janey // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Walsh said the two exchanged texts Monday with Walsh texting, ‘Think about this for a minute: A little girl from Roxbury is about to become mayor of Boston.’ Walsh said her response was, ‘Think about this for a minute: A little boy from Dorchester is about to become the ... labor secretary of the United States of America. What an amazing city we live in.’

Since Walsh was nominated as Secretary of Labor, Janey has been laser focused on transitioning into the role as Mayor of Boston. Under the city charter, Boston’s City Council President assumes the role of Mayor until an election can be held.

Janey hopes to continue to lead Boston through the COVID-19 pandemic with a citywide agenda for recovery, reopening and renewal. Janey’s pandemic recovery priorities include distributing vaccines effectively, returning children to school safely, and centering disadvantaged workers and businesses in the City’s economic recovery. Janey

is committed to ensuring the City of Boston reopens safely and equitably, with relief and renewal in every neighborhood.

Janey is a fourth-generation Roxbury resident and her family includes a long line of educators, entrepreneurs, artists, and advocates. She said she was raised with values that have guided her to this day: the importance of education, the power of community organizing, and the fundamental principles of equity and justice.

Janey became a mother in high school and worked hard to give her daughter everything she needed to succeed. She began her advocacy on behalf of children inspired by the interconnection of her own daughter’s experiences with those of other children.

In her role at Massachusetts Advocates for Children, Janey championed systemic policy reforms to increase equity, excellence, access, and opportunity in Boston Public Schools. She placed a special focus on eliminating

opportunity and achievement gaps for children of color, immigrant children, students who are learning English, children with special needs, and those living in poverty.

After attending the New School for Children, her parents enrolled Janey in Boston Public Schools. In middle school she had rocks and racial slurs thrown at her during the tumultuous busing era. Later, Janey attended Reading Public Schools through the METCO program, where she was one of two Black students in her graduating class. Janey went on to attend Smith College as an Ada Comstock Scholar, but withdrew to care for her grandfather.

Prior to becoming Mayor, Janey made history in 2017 when she was elected to the Boston City Council as the first woman to represent District 7, which includes Roxbury and parts of the South End, Dorchester, and the Fenway. In 2020, she was elected by her peers as President of the Boston City Council.

OHNC releases voting results from March meeting

By John Lynds

The Orient Heights Neighborhood Council (OHNC) board released the voting results from its March meeting held last Monday night.

OHNC members voted in favor of one development project and voted against two other projects at the meeting.

The project at 76 Montmorenci Ave., former City Councilor Sal LaMattina plans to change the occupancy of his single family home two a two-family dwelling and erect an addition on the existing 5,397 square foot parcel.

Members voted 17 to 7 in favor of the project. The change of occupancy would allow LaMattina

and his wife, Lisa, to remain in their home while expanding to a two family for their daughter, Liana, and her soon-to-be husband Angel Rodriguez. Liana and Angel were to be married last fall but COVID pushed back their planned nuptials to this September. The couple would occupy one of the two units proposed.

The project received support from the LaMattina’s neighbors prior to last week’s meeting.

Members then voted down the project at 90 Ashley St. 20 to 9. There the proponent, Mr. Robert DeLeo, proposed erecting a two-family dwelling on a vacant lot. Like the LaMattina proposal, DeLeo wanted to build the home

for his daughter and her family.

However, neighbors that abutt the lot said the proposed building was too close to their property line, even though a driveway would separate the proposed house from the home next door.

Finally, the group voted 28 to 16 in opposition to the proposal at 1132 Saratoga St.

There the developer wanted to erect a 6-unit residential dwelling with 7 parking spaces on a newly created 9,285 square foot lot. OHNC was against the size and scope of the project and commented that the proposal would add too much density to an already dense area of Orient Heights.

Lynch // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Duty” status and was never added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial.”

Officer Anthony, also an Eastie resident, said after careful research looking through Boston Police records and records from the Quincy Police Department of the incident the facts were clear.

Lynch died five days after sustaining critical injuries when his personal vehicle crashed head-on into a bridge abutment at a high rate of speed on the Atlantic Railroad Bridge at 165 Hancock Street in Quincy.

Lynch, who had joined the police department in

1958, had been assigned to a foot post on Dorchester Avenue in Fields Corner.

On March 1, he observed a stolen vehicle at approximately 4:00 a.m. during the last half hour of his shift. He pursued the vehicle into Quincy where he crashed while attempting to force the vehicle he was chasing off the road. The crash was witnessed by multiple people according to police records.

The driver of the stolen vehicle was never captured.

Lynch was taken to Quincy City Hospital where he was suffering from a fractured skull,

broken neck, and internal injuries. He died following emergency surgery.

Lynch was a U.S Army veteran of the Korean War. He had served with the Boston Police Department for five years and was assigned to District 11, Dorchester. He was survived by his wife, and two children.

“The information was gathered and sent to former Boston Police Commissioner William Gross who agreed with the findings,” said Anthony. “The information was then sent down to Washington D.C.’s National Law Enforcement Museum and after they reviewed the information they certified Officer Lynch as “Killed in the Line of Duty”.

Anthony said Lynch’s name will finally be added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Wall in June.

“His name will also be added to the Hero Wall at Boston Police Headquarters as well as the Massachusetts State House Memorial,” said Anthony.


Officer Lynch’s name is one of 11 eleven officers that have been overlooked and will be added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Wall this year. Some of these officers date back to the 1800’s.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Brenner, Lauren H	120 Bremen LLC	120 Bremen St #2	\$460,000
Dever, Sean	120 Bremen LLC	120 Bremen St #3	\$487,000
Soto, Felix	Dibello, Giuseppe J	190 Bremen St	\$829,000
Fromkin, Caroline	Lipper, Dirk	275 Chelsea St #1	\$299,000
Viscariello, Brian T	MT 243 Condor Street LLC	243 Condor St #2	\$712,000
Treworgy, Brock A	Legee, Michael J	24-26 Falcon St #1	\$567,000
3 4&5 Lawson Place RT	Michael A Graziano	3 Lawson Pl	\$612,500
3 4&5 Lawson Place RT	Michael A Graziano	4 Lawson Pl	\$612,500
3 4&5 Lawson Place RT	Michael A Graziano	5 Lawson Pl	\$612,500
Star Prop Holdings LLC	Michael A Graziano	219 Paris St	\$612,500
Bolduc, Timothy M	Bane, Steven E	234 Paris St #1	\$480,000
Assini, Nicolas C	Burke, Emily	1 Prescott St #304	\$475,000
30 Properties LLC	Rodriguez, Jorge	26-28 Shelby St	\$950,000
Franzese, Benjamin	Winthrop Maverick LLC	4-8 Winthrop St #103	\$300,000
Shangguan, Siyi	Winthrop Maverick LLC	4-8 Winthrop St #203	\$699,000
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Update on Plan East Boston

By John Lynds

The Boston Planning and Development Agency’s Kristina Ricco, Jason Ruggiero, Nick Schmidt have been making the rounds at East Boston’s community meetings to update residents on where the BPDA is on the PLAN: East Boston initiative.

“We are moving into an important part of the process where we will be going out into the community to present some recommendations and some suggested changes to East Boston zoning and street configurations,” said Ricco.

These changes are the result of the over 10 workshops the BPDA has held in the community since the launch of the initiative in 2018.

“We have started preparing draft recommendations on updating the entire neighborhood zoning article, urban design guidelines, and the entire transportation network,”

said Ricco. “There will be a community meeting on this sometime in April.”

This spring the BPDA will preview zoning recommendations, design guidelines and public realm scenarios for four “character” areas. These four character areas include Neighborhood Residential, Squares and Corridors, Waterfront and Economic Development Areas and Regional Connections

“We will also be encouraging smaller neighborhood groups to hold “do it yourself” workshops,” said Ricco.

In October, the BPDAteam released an interim PLAN: East Boston report for the planning study, available on the BPDA website in English and Spanish (<https://bpda.app.box.com/s/hgmqpurzvg-jnuokzilvs7kk1894hwe1>)

The interim report follows two years of community meetings, workshops, neighborhood tours

and other events that have engaged the Eastie community in the planning process to update the neighborhood’s outdated Master Plan and zoning.

The BPDA’s Director of Planning Lauren Shurtleff said the report measures the neighborhood as it exists today as a critical first step to adopting a new Master Plan for Eastie. Shurtleff said the document presents data and trends across six planning topics to establish various “baseline” conditions in the neighborhood. This, said Shurtleff, establishes important reference points for developing future PLAN: East Boston actions, including people, housing, climate and environment, transportation, jobs, and urban form.

In addition to planners, the PLAN: East Boston team includes a community engagement manager who focuses on building relationships and reaching out to new voices in the community.

In 2018, former Mayor Martin Walsh announced Eastie was chosen as one of five neighborhoods that would take part in the BPDA’s planning initiative. The initiative is part of an Imagine Boston 2030 effort to ‘preserve, enhance and grow’ the neighborhood.

The city has been working closely with Eastie community groups, community leaders and other stakeholders to ensure decisions made by the city are following the guiding principles of “preserves wisely, enhances equitably, and grows inclusively.”

As part of the initiative in Eastie comprehensive planning will include a focus on balancing contextually sensitive development alongside preservation. There will also be a focus on supporting existing residents and businesses through increased access to opportunity, affordability strategies, and anti-displacement policies.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

SEVEN EAST BOSTON RESIDENTS NAMED TO HONOR ROLL AT BC HIGH

Boston College High School is proud to announce that the following students from East Boston have been named to the school’s Second Quarter Honor Roll.

BC High successfully reopened for in-person learning this past September using a hybrid model, with two cohorts of students coming onto campus on alternating weeks. This model provided all BC High students with completely synchronous learning opportunities throughout the fall, regardless of whether the student was at school or at home. The school also implemented extensive safety protocols to help keep students, faculty, staff, and others safe and healthy during the global pandemic, and has continued to offer in-person instruction.

Second Quarter High Honors Recipients

For High Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.80 quality point average and all grades “C+” or higher. Freshmen need a 3.6 quality point average and all grades “C+” or higher.

- Iesai Galvan (Class of 2021)
- Jack Brodin (Class of 2022)
- Matthew Muneton (Class of 2023)
- Gabriel Aviles-Lemus (Class of 2024)
- Jesse Ramos (Class of 2024)

Second Quarter Honors Recipients

For Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.20 quality point average and all grades “C-” or higher. Freshmen need a 3.165 quality point average and all grades “C-” or higher.

- Maxwell Mercer (Class of 2021)
- Thomas Zirpolo (Class of 2024)

Boston College High School is a Jesuit, Catholic, college-preparatory school for young men in grades 7 to 12. Founded in 1863, the school enrolls approximately 1,500 students from more than 140 communities in eastern Massachusetts. For more information please visit bchigh.edu.

REGIS STUDENTS MAKE THE DEAN’S LIST

Regis College is pleased to announce that the following resident was among the 540 students that made the Dean’s List for academic achievement for the 2020 fall semester.

* Giancarlo Vasquez, of East Boston class of 2022.

To be eligible for the Dean’s List as a senior, junior or sophomore at Regis, a student must have a semester grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.50. For first-year students, a semester GPA of at least 3.25 must be attained.

“I am very pleased to see so many of our students excelling across the university,” said Regis College Vice President of Academic Affairs

Mary Erina Driscoll. “The Dean’s List and the diversity of academic disciplines speak to a dedicated student body and to a faculty that promotes intellectual curiosity and achievement.”

Regis College is a coed, Catholic university 12 miles west of Boston in Weston, Mass. With over 3,000 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students enrolled on campus and in fully online graduate programs, Regis provides an academically rigorous education within the schools of nursing, arts and sciences, business and communication, and health sciences. The Young School of Nursing at Regis has consistently been recognized by the National League of Nursing as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education. In line with Regis’ mission of providing innovative, industry-focused learning opportunities, the university offers academic partnerships with hospitals and local employers, a clinical dental center in Waltham, Mass., and bachelor’s completion and accelerated nursing programs at its campus in Lawrence, Mass. The university’s 20 NCAA Division III athletic teams compete within the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC). Inspired by the social justice values of its founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, Regis engages with service initiatives within the local community and around the world. Visit <https://www.regiscollege.edu>.

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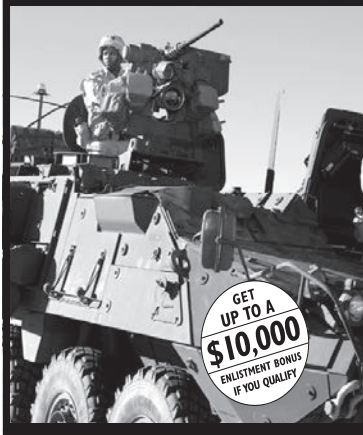
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VIOLENCE AGAINST THE AAPI COMMUNITY MUST END

Prejudice, discrimination, and violence against members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community has existed ever since immigrants from China began to arrive in America in the 1850s.

The first anti-immigration law in our nation’s history, the Chinese Exclusion Act, specifically targeted Chinese immigrants in 1882 and was still the law of the land until 1943.

The wrongful detention of Japanese-Americans in camps during WWII has become well-known to every high school student of American history.

Locally, our newspapers through the years have reported on numerous incidents of hate in the Boston area, ranging from the graffiti and vandalism that plagued a popular Japanese restaurant in Winthrop Centre in the 1980s to the arson fires in Revere in the 1980s that culminated with the blaze in December, 1990, that drove more than 150 persons, mostly from the Revere Cambodian community, from their homes.

The tragic shooting late last week in Atlanta by 21 year-old Robert Aaron Long that targeted Asian-American employees in massage parlors is just the latest example of the growing trend of violence against Asian-Americans that was encouraged by the rhetoric of certain public figures who fed the flames of racial animosity with terms such as the “China virus” and “the kung-flu” to describe the COVID-19 pandemic.

The targeting of members of the AAPI community must stop. Hopefully, with a new administration that has rejected the divisive rhetoric of the past and a renewed determination by law enforcement to prosecute every incident of racially-motivated violence, our society can put an end to this virus of hate.

THE ATLANTA SHOOTINGS: A CONFLUENCE FOR A PERFECT STORM

In addition to the obvious targeting of Asian-Americans in the tragic shootings in Atlanta, there were two other factors that created a perfect storm for this sort of tragedy to take place.

The first was the easy and immediate access for the purchase of a high-capacity weapon by the 21 year-old perpetrator of the shootings, who was able to buy the gun on Tuesday morning and kill six people that afternoon.

The idea of a waiting period -- also known as a cooling-off period -- between the purchase of a gun and the delivery into the hands of the buyer has been shown to be an effective measure in saving lives. According to a recent study, states with mandatory waiting periods — regardless of their length — had an average of 17 percent fewer murders and 10 percent fewer suicides by guns.

The second factor was the influence of the young man’s church upon his mind from an early age. This is by no means an excuse for his murderous spree, but it is to say that he clearly had been brainwashed by the extreme and confusing messages from his evangelical church about sex that led him to believe that he had an unnatural sex addiction that he could quell only by taking extreme measures.

When there are tragedies such as the shootings in Atlanta, we all want easy answers. But in reality, the truth of what drives persons to commit such heinous acts are not always easily understood, even by the perpetrators themselves.



CELEBRATE PASSOVER MARCH 27-APRIL 4

GUEST OP-ED

Do your children make you curse?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Kirk Dewayne Franklin is an American choir director, gospel musician, singer, songwriter, and author. He is best known for leading urban contemporary gospel choirs such as The Family, God’s Property, and One Nation Crew. He is a beloved and influential figure in the gospel music world.

Instagram exploded recently with an audio of the famed gospel singer Franklin berating his 32-year-old son. The son posted the audio of the verbal exchange between he and his father. The audio was a profanity laced call that included his father the elder Franklin threatening to break his son’s neck.

According to the elder Franklin there has been a 14-year rift between he and his son. Many counseling sessions and the family’s attempts at trying to resolve the conflict

have apparently remained unsuccessful. For many years according to reports his son has avoided family dinners, holidays and other gatherings. National television and various media outlets reported Franklin saying, “Recently, my son and I had an argument that he chose to record. I felt extremely disrespected in that conversation, and I lost my temper. And I said words that are not appropriate. And I’m sincerely sorry to all of you. I sincerely apologize,” Franklin said.

Good Morning America, The Washington Post and various other national media sources have reported this story which is a sad personal family drama. For many years this tension has been a difficult rift for this very famous family. It’s unfortunate that the adult son chose to play it out on social media which has now become national news.

Many families have struggles and no one is perfect, including Kirk Franklin. He proves once again that most people have a breaking point and it’s never pretty when it happens. Most of the time it’s the people who we love the most and do the most for who have a way of flipping our switch. We often can take a lot from strangers and casual acquaintances because we really don’t care that much what they think or even what they say. However, when it’s a child who you have invested your entire life into stomps on your heart then emotion and passion have a way of taking over. As Franklin proves, words may be said that are later regretted.

It’s unfortunate that even the best of people have feelings and words that can come out so ugly. Where do they come from? Ugly words often come from unresolved

hurt and pain that have become toxic. Poison is deadly. We allow poison to be bottled up deep in our hearts. In verbal altercations like the Franklin’s the bucket falls deep into the well of the heart and sadly what comes up is the pain and poison of past hurts that have been unresolved. We all have to guard our hearts and what we allow to take root. None of us need anything that might spring up to hurt us and others.

Let’s pray for the Franklins. Most families have had moments not scripted for the national spotlight.

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

LETTER to the Editor

I WILL BRING BOSTON WITH ME

To the people of Boston,
Monday, the United States Senate voted to confirm me as the next Secretary of Labor. I am deeply honored to serve my country in this way at such a critical moment in our history.

Before I depart, I want to say thank you to the City and the people who helped make me the person I am today. I have

spent my entire life in Boston. It’s the City that welcomed my immigrant parents, and it’s the City that gave me a chance to follow my dreams.

When I became Mayor in 2014, I said I would listen, I would learn, and I would lead together with you. That is what we did, every moment of my time in this office. Our City’s success is due to all of you who advocated for a better, more inclusive future for the city we all

love. This spirit of collaboration, compassion, and community has been especially clear during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Our City has come together in extraordinary ways to look out for one another. My heart is filled with pride.

I want you to know: Wherever I go, I will bring Boston with me. I will work to make the new administration in Washington, D.C., the best federal partner Boston and

America’s cities have ever had, and I will never stop fighting for the values we believe in.

I hope you and your families are staying safe and well during this uncertain time. There are better days ahead, and I have no doubt you will continue to show the world what it means to be Boston Strong.

Sincerely,

Marty Walsh

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Our fax number is 781-485-1403.

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

We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

Mayoral Candidate Michelle Wu responds to Atlanta shooting, violence against Asian Americans

By John Lynds

In East Boston, 3.5 percent of our neighbors are Asian Americans, and while they make up a small minority of our overall population they contribute greatly to the fabric of the community as business owners, parents, students, and community activists.

The recent trend of violence against Asian Americans has been shocking and the shooting in Atlanta that killed six Asian Americans at three spas last week has shaken us all to our core.

City Councilor Michelle Wu, who is vying to become Boston’s first Asian American Mayor of Boston, responded to the recent uptick in violence towards the Asian American community across the US as well as the Atlanta shooting.

“I join our Asian American community in mourning and solidarity following the senseless shootings

in the Atlanta area,” said Wu in a statement. “It’s heartbreaking and appalling to see the anti-Asian harassment, violence, and now mass murder that has accelerated over the past year — part of a long history of racism in America that we all must fight to end. And all too often, the most silenced members of our community — Asian American elders and women working in invisible industries — have borne the brunt of these attacks.”

Wu said the unconscionable blaming of Asian American communities for the devastation from the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the sense of invisibility and perpetual foreigner status that so many have known their entire lives.

“Growing up as the daughter of immigrants from Taiwan, some of my most vivid childhood memories involve racist encounters with strangers,” she continued. “People who knew nothing about me except for my appearance feeling empowered to pull eyes into slits or chant ching chong sounds. That constant feeling of needing to be aware, ready, on guard whenever out in public. Since before COVID-19 was spreading in the United States, Asian American communities have been on edge, reeling from the impacts.”

Wu said Boston has not been immune to these incidents and in every city across the country, we must build community to protect and celebrate intersectional identities.

“We will stop Asian hate and combat racism by meeting this moment, by building a city for everyone, by transforming our systems to see and value every life,” she said.

Wu also encouraged residents to support the Asian Community Emergency Relief Fund.

“Today, we’re asking for you to make a donation to support the Greater Boston area’s Asian Community Emergency Relief Fund to help provide direct financial support to Asian and Asian American Boston residents who are having trouble meeting their basic needs,” said Wu. “If you can, please chip in to the Asian Community Emergency Relief Fund. Your donation will go towards providing aid to those in our city’s Asian American community who need it most.”

The fund can be found at https://donorbox.org/covid19-relief-fund?utm_campaign=mfb&utm_medium=wu-email&utm_source=

Asian Americans account for 6 percent of all the COVID 19 cases and 8 percent of all the deaths in Boston. While countless communities are severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Asian American community

nity in Greater Boston is being hit harder than most. Many are immigrants who work in food, hospitality, home care, and child care sectors that have been closed. Consequently, these workers have lost their incomes. Because of language barriers and immigration status, not everyone can access public benefits like unemployment and the new stimulus dollars. These families are in jeopardy of not having enough money to buy basic necessities and pay for housing.

So far the fund has raised and distributed over \$350,000 and helped 327 families, totaling 946 individuals and 55.5 percent of the fund went to families with undocumented members, and the remaining fund helped families that were ineligible for other public benefits because of their immigrant status.



City Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Michelle Wu.

American Parkinson Disease Association kicks-off Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month

April is Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month and the American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA) Massachusetts Chapter and Information and Referral Center is hard at work to raise awareness of Parkinson’s disease (PD), deliver vital programs and services in the community, and help local residents get involved and support a cause that is important to them. In Massachusetts alone, more than 17,000 people over the age of 60 are diagnosed and living with PD.

The APDA Massachusetts Chapter has a full

roster of activities planned for the month (and beyond) and many ways for people to get involved. (For the safety of all involved, all events and programs will be held virtually.)

The extensive health concerns and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic have been challenging for everyone, but for people with PD and their care partners who were already tackling the daily challenges of life with PD, the impact has been significant. Now more than ever, it is critical to support, engage and inform

the PD community and raise awareness about this disease, and Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month is a great time to shine a spotlight on this issue.

Over the past year, APDA has created extensive virtual programming to make sure that people living with PD have what they need during this difficult time. From online exercise programs to help keep people moving when they can’t get to their in-person fitness classes, to educational webinars where they can ask PD experts their questions right from their own living

rooms, and even virtual group singing and art programs -- APDA has been there for them every step of the way.

For the month of April, the APDA MA Chapter Information and Referral Center will be delivering virtual support groups, information sessions and exercise guidance and program.

“Every nine minutes there is a new diagnosis of PD, which means that in April alone nearly 5,000 people in this country will learn they have PD,” states Bill Patjane, Executive Director of APDA’s Massachusetts Chapter. “Here in Massachusetts we are the boots on the ground – we are in the communities, providing the support, education, programs, and services people need to live their best lives. We’ve been able to maintain this support despite the pandemic thanks to virtual opportunities, and we look forward to seeing our PD community in person as soon as it is safe to do so.”

The support of the general public is crucial, and April is the perfect time to take action that can help the more than one million

people in the United States coping with this chronic neurological movement disorder, and also fund research that will lead us to better treatments and ultimately, a cure. Visit www.apdaparkinson.org to learn more.

For more information about APDA programs, services and support in Massachusetts, contact the APDA MA Chapter and Information & Referral Center at 617-638-8466 or apdama@apdaparkinson.org, located at 72 East Concord St., Room C3, Boston, MA 02118.

Work at Happy Valley East Boston!

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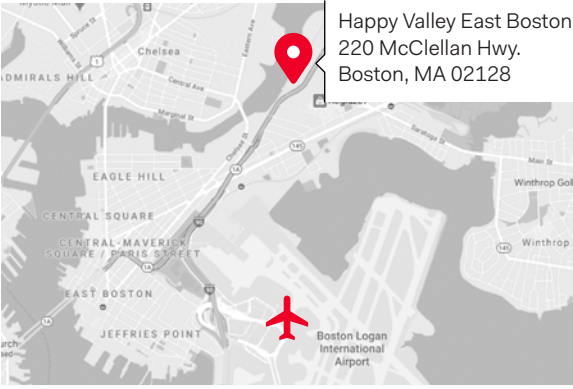
Do you want to work in the cannabis industry for one of the fastest growing companies in MA? Do you speak Spanish?

Happy Valley is hiring and hold a job fair:

Date + Time Thursday, March 25th
11am to 2pm

Location Happy Valley - East Boston
220 McClellan Hwy.
Boston, MA 02128

Apply on-site, meet the staff and learn why Happy Valley is the best cannabis company to work for in MA. We offer competitive starting hourly rates and full medical, dental and vision benefits.



Positions Available in East Boston:

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Receptionist
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Custodial
Cleaning and building maintenance.

Security Associate
ID verification, parking lot control, general security duties.

Fulfillment Associate
Inventory bag fulfillment, online ordering management.

Customer Experience Representative
Answering customer questions via phone, email and chat, provide product recommendations.

Weekly COVID positive test rate decreases in Eastie

By John Lynds

Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Eastie stayed the same while the weekly positive test rate decreased after experiencing a bit of a spike two weeks ago.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), of the 36,660 Eastie residents tested for COVID since the pandemic began, 18.9 percent overall were found to be positive for the virus. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Last week, 1,841 Eastie residents were tested for the virus and 4.3 percent were positive--a 18.6 percent decrease from the 3.5 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Citywide, 27,067 residents were tested and 3.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 5.5 decrease from the 3.6 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

In his last press briefing Friday before heading to Washington D.C. to serve as U.S. Secretary of Labor, former Mayor Martin Walsh said ICU occupancy has continued to go down and the case numbers have stayed below the city's thresholds of concern for about a month now.

"We are ready to move forward in our reopening," he said. Acting Mayor Kim Janey will now take over the reins and oversee Boston's reopening process.

On Monday the state moved to Phase 4 Step 1 of the statewide reopening plan. This means that more activities and industries will be allowed to be open, and capacity limits for event venues

and public settings will be expanded.

Boston, will move into a modified Phase 4 Step 1, consistent with the cautious approach the city has taken throughout the pandemic.

Starting on March 22, the State will allow indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas, and ballparks to open with a strict 12 percent capacity limit in place, after they submit a plan to the Department of Public Health. The City of Boston will align with this step.

"But, moving forward, we will only allow these venues to go above 12 percent capacity if the State allows it and if Boston's positivity rate stays under 2.75 percent, for two consecutive weeks, as calculated by the City," said Walsh. "We are also requiring these venues to submit their safety plan to the City's Licensing Board."

On March 22, the State will expand gathering limits for event venues and public settings to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. The City of Boston will also increase gathering limits for event venues and public settings, but they will not be as high as the State's limits. Boston will allow up to 60 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.

Under the State's guidance, outdoor gathering limit at private residences will remain at a maximum of 25 people, and limits for indoor house gatherings will remain at 10 people. The same goes for the City of Boston.

Live musical performances will be allowed at restaurants in Boston. This includes all live entertainment except singing. Singing is still not allowed indoors because of the risk of spreading respiratory droplets.

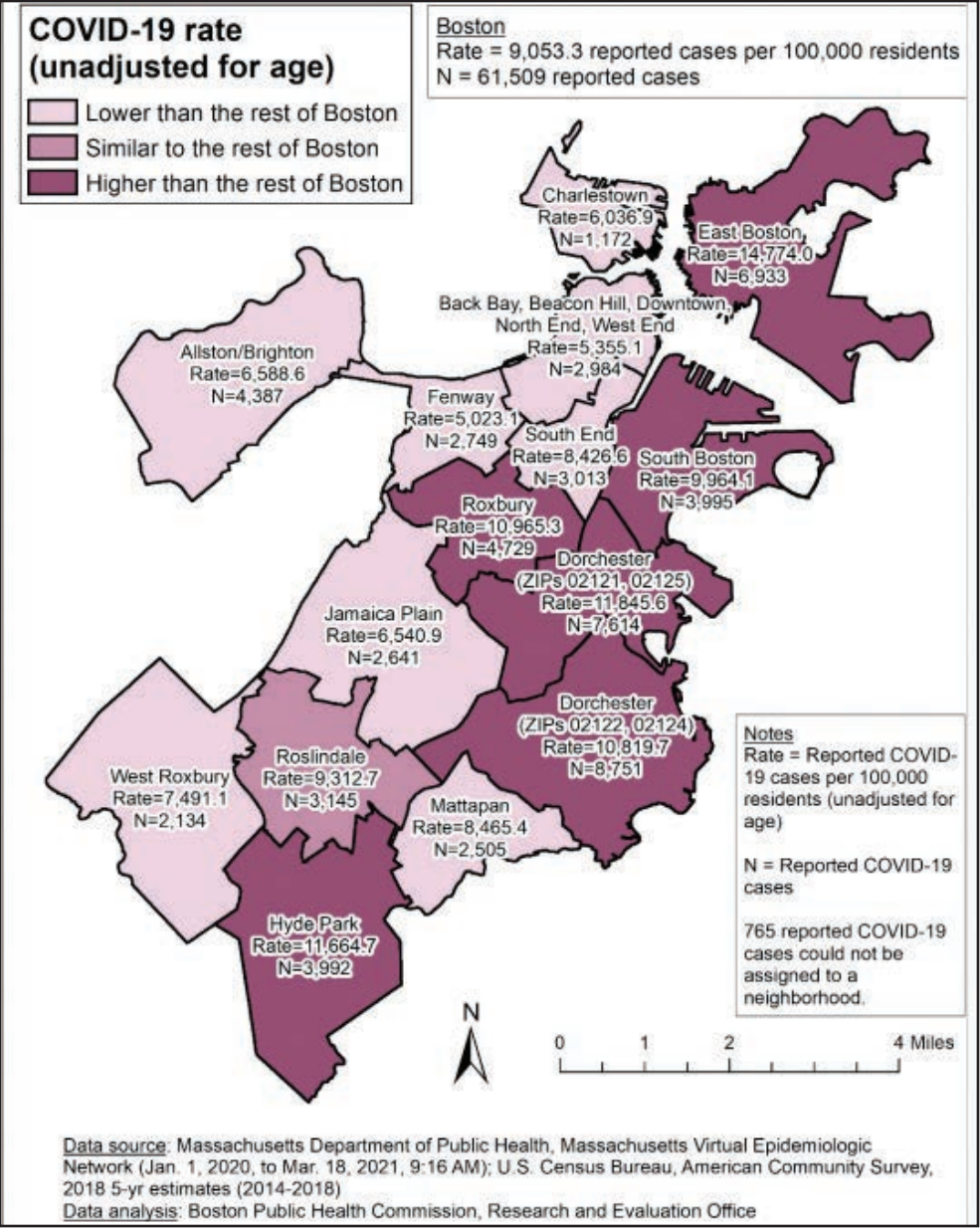
All of this information will be posted in detail at [Boston.gov/coronavirus](https://boston.gov/coronavirus).

Eastie's COVID infection rate increased by only 1 percent last week and went from 1,462.4 cases per 10,000 residents to 1,477.4 cases per 10,000 residents. The citywide average is 905.3 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 70 Eastie residents contracted the virus and there are now 6,933 confirmed cases, up from the 6,863 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 1.8 percent last week and went from 61,025 cases to 62,170 confirmed cases in a week. Fourteen additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,327 total deaths in the city from COVID.



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

February median prices for state's single-family homes and condos in continue to surge past previous years, inventory reaching new record lows

The Massachusetts Association of REALTORS (MAR) reported a steady rise in closed sales for the month of February. Closed sales on single-family homes rose a total of 8.1 percent while condominiums also increased 6.0 percent compared to February of 2020. Inventory is again hitting record lows as single-family homes are down 68.4 percent

over February 2020 and condo inventory is down 33.6 percent, a remarkable jump from January 2021's 64.0 percent and 26.1 percent, respectively.

Home prices have been on a steady rise in recent months, with February's data staying on trend. The median price for single-family homes was \$462,500, an increase of 17.1 percent and condo-

minium prices rose by 5.1 percent to \$425,750, when compared to February 2020. Prices are being driven again by high demand, low supply, and interest rates continuing to hit record lows.

"While interest rates did increase in February compared to January, they remain lower than previous years' and this is contributing to the strong buyer

demand. This is not something I believe will majorly impact home sales, though it is important to take this shift into consideration when thinking about buying or selling a home as interest rates contribute to the overall affordability index," says Steve Medeiors, 2021 President of MAR and Realtor at Keller Williams Realty.

Guard // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ballroom in Revere – now called Oceanside."

The Guard will continue to make qualified personnel available to the Executive Office of Health and Human Services for deployment to facilities requesting assistance.


"Staffing for our vacci-

nation sites is a big challenge," said Snyder. "We have opened multiple sites in a variety of our service areas and will be giving out thousands of vaccines every week. In addition to redeploying our own staff and hiring others, we are greatly appreciative to

have been sent medically trained troops from the National Guard to assist in giving out vaccinations."

The National Guard has personnel with a range of applicable expertise within its ranks, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assis-

ants, nurses, emergency medical technicians, and medics. These individuals have already administered the vaccine to 1,000 eligible Massachusetts soldiers and airmen, and now shift their focus to assisting in clinical settings for eligible members of the public.



Call Carolina

Eight Affordable Condominiums Located at
139 Carolina Ave and 71-79 Call Street in Jamaica Plain

Six condos for households at or below 80% AMI
One 2-bedroom, 1 bathroom unit at **\$221,900**
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Two condos for households at or below 100% AMI
One 2-bedroom, 1 bathroom unit at **\$288,700**
One 4-bedroom, 2 bathroom unit at **\$366,900**

The 80% AMI 2 bedroom unit is built-out for persons with mobility impairments.

Units range from single story to three stories and some feature an unfinished basement and patio.

All condominiums have hardwood floors, central air, and washer and dryer hookups.


To qualify for the 80% AMI units, your annual income must be equal to or less than:						
1 persons	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons	
\$66,650	\$76,200	\$85,700	\$95,200	\$102,850	\$110,450	

To qualify for the 100% AMI units, your annual income must be equal to or less than:						
1 persons	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons	
\$83,300	\$95,200	\$107,100	\$119,000	\$128,550	\$138,050	



Homes are sold by lottery. Only qualified applicants may enter. The property is deed-restricted; owner-occupancy requirements apply. Income and asset limitations apply. **Requirements:** First time homebuyer. Homebuyer will need to complete an approved homebuyer education course prior to closing. **Preferences:** Boston Residency preference. Preference for households with a mobility impairment for accessible unit. Preference for households who meet or exceed the number of bedrooms. Income limits for qualified buyers are based on 80% and 100% Area Median Income Limits as defined by HUD. Information is subject to change. We are not responsible for errors or omissions. **Please note:** Persons with disabilities and those with limited English language proficiency are entitled to request a reasonable accommodation.

Buyer will be selected by lottery.
DEADLINE FOR LOTTERY APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 23, 2021.

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT:
HOMECENTER.BOSTON.GOV
617.635.4663



City of Boston
Mayor Martin J. Walsh



NEIGHBORHOOD
DEVELOPMENT






Members of the Massachusetts National Guard pose with EBNHC CMO Dr. Jackie Fantès (left), EBNHC CEO Manny Lopes (right) and EBNHC staff at the Health Center's Liverpool Street Vaccine site.

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Mayor Martin J. Walsh



#BOSCanHelp



BOS:311

U.S. Rep. Pressley delivers remarks on the Dream and Promise Act on House floor

By John Lynds

Former President Donald Trump tried to end it, the Supreme Court overruled him and now legislation is afoot to create a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders. The Obama-era programs have helped many East Boston residents fulfill their life goals--goals that may have otherwise been unfulfilled if they didn't have protective status in the US. However, one of President Donald Trump's first orders of business after assuming office was to

end TPS, DED and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, programs that allow some individuals with unlawful presence to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation. On June 18, 2020, SCOTUS ruled that the way the Trump administration ended these programs was arbitrary and not justified, and therefore violated the Administrative Procedure Act. Now, there is legislation being considered to create a pathway for citizenship for thousands in the programs. Last week, U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna

Pressley, who represents Eastie, delivered remarks on the House floor about the legislation. "There is more work to be done, but this bill moves us in the right direction of a more just America -- one which values the lives of immigrants and not just their labor," said Pressley about H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act. "The tragic events of this week underscore both our responsibility and the urgency we must move to legislate our values and to stand on the side of justice. I represent the Massachusetts 7th District, which is 40 percent immigrants. I rise today in solidarity with them. H.R.

6 is a critical step towards citizenship for Dreamers, TPS and DED holders." Over at the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council, Executive Director Frank Ramirez applauded Pressley as well as the bill's sponsors, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-NY) for taking the lead. "I also want to thank Speaker Nancy Pelosi who for a long time considered essential the passage of this bill to provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers as well as permanent legal protections for TPS (Temporary Protected Status) recipients," said Ramirez.

"Since President Obama first signed DACA the EBECC has been involved in a national campaign for the passage of the Dream Act." For years EBECC, who helps immigrant families in Eastie with a whole host of issues, has actively targeted the "Dreamers" age group by holding informational sessions, screenings and applications preparations to benefit all eligible youths. "We also conducted an open house, doing on the spot screening process in which attorneys, and staff and other trained volunteers were available to review documents and individual cases to determine

eligibility for deferred action," said Ramirez. "We feel heartened and reassured that members of the House will support this sound and prudent, long-overdue answer so that these American families can no longer feel in a limbo suffering uncertainty and obstacles to their dreams." Ramirez added, "I agree with Representative Pressley that there is more work to be done and that the bill moves in the right direction in enacting true immigration solutions as it offers critical protections for TPS recipients."

RMV expanding designated senior Wednesday appointment hours to customers 65 or older

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has announced expanded, designated Wednesday in-person appointment hours for seniors from those 75 years of age or older to those 65 years of age or older. Beginning March 24, customers who are 65 years of age or older will be able to book in-person transaction appointments in April during designated Wednesday senior hours online at Mass.Gov/RMV. Services that are available for customers during designated senior hours include driver's license and ID renewals and registration and title transactions. Designated senior service hours began on Sept. 2, 2020, to offer customers 75 and older dedicated times and flexibility to conduct their required in-person license or ID renewals while facilitating "social-distancing" protocols to keep customers and staff safe and healthy. Senior appointment hours for license or ID

renewals, and registration and title services appointments are offered on Wednesdays at the following 17 RMV Service Center locations (hours vary by location): Brockton, Danvers, Fall River, Greenfield, Lawrence, Leominster, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Revere, South Yarmouth, Springfield, Watertown, and Worcester. Below are the options for anyone 65 years of age or older to schedule in-person appointments during designated service hours: •If you are a AAA member, you may make a reservation now to renew your driver's license/ID or conduct certain other transactions at a AAA location. Visit aaa.com/appointments to schedule your visit. •If you are not a AAA member, visit Mass.Gov/RMV to make a reservation to renew or conduct most other transactions at an RMV Service Center. Visit the Make/Cancel a

Reservation transaction tab in the myRMV Service Center and select "Senior Transaction" for all available RMV transactions. Reservations can be booked two weeks in advance. •Email the RMV for assistance: MassDO-TRMVSeniors@dot.state.ma.us. •Call the RMV at 857-368-8005. General appointments for license and ID renewals or registration and title transactions, as well as other essential in-person needs including drop-off registration and title services, are available to all customers at select locations throughout the business week. Additional information on RMV service offerings and appointments can be found at www.Mass.Gov/RMV, including more than 40 transactions that can be conducted online, by mail, or by phone. The RMV recommends that all customers get ready online before their appointment. Anyone conducting in-person business at

an RMV customer service location must wear a face-covering and will continue to be served by

appointment only. Appointments for many RMV transactions can also be made at AAA

customer locations if the customer is a member of AAA.

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Weekend Specials Friday, March 26th to Sunday March 28th "while supplies last"

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Homelessness decreased in prior to COVID-19 pandemic

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released its 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report Part 1 to Congress. The report found that 17,975 people experienced homelessness in Massachusetts on a single night in 2020, a decrease of 2.7 percent from 2019.

The 2020 MA PIT Count includes a number of key findings:

- Overall homelessness is down. There was a 2.7% (496 people) decrease in overall homelessness since 2019. The total number of people experiencing homelessness counted in the 2020 PIT: 17,975.
- Unsheltered homelessness is up. Unsheltered homelessness in-

creased 56% (465 people) since 2019. The total number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness counted in the 2020 PIT: 1,294.

- Family homelessness is down. Homelessness among families with children decreased, down 3.8% (470 families) since 2019. The total number of families experiencing homelessness counted in the 2020 PIT: 11,742.
- Veteran homelessness is down. Veteran homelessness decreased, down 8.8% (81 veterans) since 2019. The total number of Veterans experiencing homelessness counted in 2020 PIT: 836.
- Chronic homelessness is down. Chronic homelessness among individuals decreased 38.4%

(911 individuals) since 2019. The total number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness counted in the 2020 PIT: 1,459.

- Youth homelessness is unchanged. The number of youth experiencing homelessness is relatively unchanged up .2 percent compared with 2019. The total number homeless youth counted in the 2020 PIT: 481.

The report found that between 2019 and 2020, homelessness increased nationally among unsheltered populations and people experiencing chronic homelessness. Veteran homelessness did not decrease compared with 2019, and homelessness among family households did not decrease for

the first time since 2010. The report also found that people of color are significantly over-represented among people experiencing homelessness.

“The findings of the 2020 AHAR Part 1 Report are very troubling, even before you consider what COVID-19 has done to make the homelessness crisis worse,” said Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Marcia L. Fudge. “Thanks to President Biden’s leadership, we are once again putting Housing First to end this crisis and build strong, healthy communities, as reflected in the American Rescue Plan. I look forward to working with President Biden to implement this historic package to deliver robust, equita-

ble relief to those experiencing homelessness. Housing should be a right, not a privilege, and ensuring that every American has a safe, stable home is a national imperative.”

HUD releases the Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR) in two parts. Part 1 provides Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates, offering a snapshot of homelessness—both sheltered and unsheltered—on a single night. The one-night counts are conducted during the last 10 days of January each year. The PIT counts also provide an estimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness within particular homeless populations such as individuals with chronic patterns of

homelessness and veterans experiencing homelessness.

In 2020, the PIT estimates of people experiencing homelessness in sheltered and unsheltered locations, as well as the number of beds available to serve them, were reported by 396 Continuums of Care (CoC) nationwide. These 396 CoCs covered virtually the entire United States.

The Point-in-Time counts of homelessness and the housing inventory information are based on data from January 2020 and thus do not reflect the health or economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for levels of homelessness or characteristic of people experiencing homelessness.

Supreme Judicial Court appoints Duncan Chief Information Officer

Staff Report

The Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court have announced the appointment of Steven Duncan as the Judiciary’s new Chief Information Officer effective April 1. In this role, Duncan, a technology professional with more than 20 years of experience, will oversee technology planning and implementation for the Massachusetts Appellate and Trial Courts. Most recently, he served as the Director of Information Technology for Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government.

“Technology is a critical component to ensuring access to justice for court users,” said Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Kimberly Budd. “The state’s courts will benefit greatly from Steve Duncan’s experience across the range of IT functions needed to modernize and enhance court system operations.”

“During the pandemic, the innovative use of technology has improved the court’s ability to respond to the needs of court users,” said Trial Court Administrator John Bello. “As we seek capital re-

sources to modernize our infrastructure and practices, we welcome Steve’s knowledge and skills as a manager who has implemented new technology with a focus on collaboration and continuous improvement.”

As Harvard Kennedy School’s Director of Information Technology, Duncan helped shape the institution’s technology and capital investment strategies, while leading a transformation across critical digital infrastructure areas, including: enhanced information security programs, migra-

tion to cloud-based server infrastructure, and the expansion of internal and external digital communication channels.

“I’m incredibly honored to join the Judiciary in the role of CIO at such an important and critical time,” said Duncan. “Enhancing the court’s delivery of services and simplifying access to justice for residents across the state through emerging technology is a challenging, compelling goal for the Judicial Information Services Department.”

Duncan directed a team of 30 IT professionals and

served on a number of university committees, including the Enterprise Architecture Steering Committee and Cloud Steering Committee. He previously spent four years as the Application Development Manager for the Kennedy School. From 1998 to 2008 he was a partner at the Software Consulting Alliance, which provided custom software solutions across a variety of industries and sectors.

The Judiciary Information Services Department is focused on transitioning to an eCourt system, while overseeing a network that

serves 6,300 judges and staff and 97 courthouses across the state. The current case management system handles approximately one million transactions daily. An IT Bond Bill filed for the courts would enable much-needed investment in systems, security and infrastructure.

Duncan received a Bachelor of Science degree and a master’s degree in business administration from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He assumes the role of Judiciary CIO following the retirement of Craig Burlingame.

PIERS PARK III
PUBLIC MEETING
THE TRUSTEES
BOSTON WATERFRONT INITIATIVE

Monday, March 29
6-7:30pm (ET)

Join The Trustees Boston Waterfront Initiative for the second Piers Park III public meeting. A first draft of the future park design will be shared during this event and attendees will be encouraged to give input, and ask questions.



TO REGISTER:
onewaterfront.thetrustees.org/community-events

The Trustees has received official site developer designation from Massport to transform the pier adjacent to Piers Park and Piers Park II into a signature public waterfront destination, Piers Park III. Landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. will lead the park design process, working with the community and The Trustees to gather and incorporate public input. Meetings with neighborhood associations and community groups began this fall, with outreach continuing throughout the project.

REUNIÓN PÚBLICA
PIERS PARK III
LAS TRUSTEES
BOSTON WATERFRONT INITIATIVE

Martes, el 30 de marzo
6-7:30pm (ET)

Participe en la segunda reunión pública de Piers Park III con The Trustees Boston Waterfront Initiative. Durante este evento, se presentará el primer borrador del diseño del parque futuro. Se sugiere a los participantes que expresen sus opiniones sobre este primer borrador y están invitados a hacer preguntas.



REGISTRARSE:
onewaterfront.thetrustees.org/community-events

Los Trustees of Reservations recibieron la designación oficial como desarrollador del sitio de Massport para transformar el muelle adyacente a Piers Park y Piers Park II en un importante destino público en la costanera, Piers Park III. El arquitecto especialista en paisajismo Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. liderará el proceso del diseño del parque, trabajando con la comunidad y los Trustees para obtener e incorporar la opinión del público. Las reuniones con asociaciones del vecindario y grupos comunitarios comenzaron este otoño, y las actividades de extensión continuarán durante el proyecto.



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OBITUARIES

Elaine DiSerio

Lifelong advocate for children

Elaine V. DiSerio of Revere passed away on March 20.

Elaine had a career in Child Protection with DCF and was a lifelong advocate for children. She was a graduate of Revere High School, Class of 1970 and Tufts University. She loved spending time with family and friends and in her spare time she enjoyed traveling, dancing, and Karaoke.

The devoted mother of Adriana DiSerio of Revere, she was the beloved sister of Joanne McLean and her late husband, John of Revere, Jacqueline "Jackie" Hanson of New Jersey, Catherine "Kiki" Catizone of Lynn, Mary Martin of Chelsea and the late Barbara Weatherly and her husband, Robert of North Carolina; dear lifelong friend of Linda Ciampa of East Boston. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Visitation from the Paul



Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St, Revere will be on Wednesday, March 24 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass in the Immaculate Conception Church, Revere at 12 Noon. Relatives and friends are kindly invited. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Elaine's memory to Care Dimensions, 75 Sylvan St, unit B-102 Danvers MA, 01923 or Pancreatic Cancer Action Network at www.pancan.org For guest book, please visit www.Buonfiglio.com

Corinne Nastasia

Of East Boston

Corinne M. (Roc-cia) Nastasia died in East Boston on March 17 in her 95th year.

She was the beloved mother of Lewis "Buzzy" Nastasia and his wife, Peggy of Woburn, Martin Nastasia of New Hampshire and Florida, Carol Vitale and her husband, Ronald of Winthrop, Richard "Rick" Nastasia and his late wife, Nancy of Plymouth, Corinne Nastasia of East Boston and the late Robert Nastasia; sister of William Roccia of Florida, David Roccia and his wife, Maureen of Hamilton and the late Eleanor Turner, Barbara Onchick and Robert Roccia and grandmother of Ronald Jr., Martin Jr., Lewis, Cher, Gara, Amanda and Jenna. She is also survived by 10 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews.



Funeral Services were held on Monday, March 22 in the Magrath Funeral Home, East Boston. Interment followed in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Corinne's memory to the Tufts Medical Renal Center, 35 Kneeland St., Boston, MA 02111 would be appreciated. Please leave messages of condolence for the family on her Tribute Page at Magrath-FuneralHome.com

Philip LaGrassa

Retired Sheet Metal Worker

Philip F. LaGrassa, 89, of East Boston, passed away on March 17.

Philip was a member of the OTIS Social Club of East Boston.

He also participated in the Bowling League with OTIS. He was also a member of the Stadium Softball League. Philip found great joy and fun in playing sports and going to the Casino. He was a sheet metal worker throughout his life. Philip was a US Army veteran of the Korean Conflict.

The beloved husband of over sixty-six years to Mary C. LaGrassa (Mem-molo), he was the devoted father of Joanne Bottaro and her husband, John, of Londonderry, NH, Jimmy LaGrassa and his late wife, Leonora "Lee" of East Boston, John LaGrassa and his wife, Dawn, of Danvers, Joyce Bedell and her husband, Jonathan of North Reading and Joseph LaGrassa and his wife, Darlene of Revere; dear



brother of Marion Burwell of New Hampshire and the late Beatrice, Grace and Frank; cherished grandfather of fourteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren and is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements were by the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home (Orient Heights) East Boston. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Philip's name to Saint Jude's Children Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105. For more information, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Rose DeRafina

A fixture in the East Boston PACE Community, she will be missed by all

Rose M. DeRafina, 89, of East Boston passed away with family by her side due to complications from a long illness on Thursday March 18. At her request, there will be no viewing though the family will hold a memorial service at a place and time to be determined for friends who want to share in her life and memories.

In her lifetime, Rose was driven to be the best she could be, finishing her GED later in life, then achieving an Associate's Degree from Bunker Hill Community College. She wore many hats, as a mother, sister, and friend. She achieved successes as a Beautician, a Legal Secretary, and a Notary Public and worked in the business end of hotels and travel.

Rose was at times a free spirit, it was not unusual to see her walking all over her beloved East Boston neighborhood. She had a quick wit, strong opinions and a personality that grew on you. With Rose, you always knew where you stood, she never held back for better or worse, but she was always fiercely loyal

to those she considered her friends. She was an avid reader, enjoyed music and the outdoors.

Later in life she was active in the PACE center in East Boston, where she had many friends. She was a fixture at the front door where she could watch the changes in the people in the neighborhood, when she needed something dif-



ferent, she would shift to "poolside" with a select few of her inner circle of loyal friends. Rose has become a fixture in the PACE community, she leaves her friends and family to join her son and brothers and sisters, mother and father, but she will be missed by all.

She is survived by nieces: Debra A (DeMonte) Concannon and her husband, Kevin of Saugus and Joanne

Rapallo of Wildomar, Ca; nephews: Ralph Dell and his wife, Geri of Wildomar Ca and Diana (DeMonte) Pirone and her husband, Patrick of Saugus and many great nieces and nephews.

Rose was preceded in death by her son, Vincent Demonte. She was the youngest of seven and was also preceded in death by brothers: Ralph DeMonte, Matteo DeMonte, Michael DeMonte, Domenic Demonte and

Sisters: Marie Concetta Dell'Ofano and Anna Rapallo. Rose was a longtime companion to Rinaldo Mantini until his passing in 1995.

Rosanne Anzuoni

Of East Boston

Rosanne (Sirignano) Anzuoni of East Boston passed away peacefully on March 19.

The loving daughter of Frances (Vitale) and the late Arthur Sirignano of East Boston, she was the beloved sister of Marie Palumbo and her husband, Nicholas, of Stoneham and Joseph and Richard Sirignano, both of East Boston; adored aunt of Elena Martinez and her husband, Wilfredo, of Revere and Anne Grant and her husband, Keith of Georgetown. She is also survived by nine great nieces, nephews and cousins and by her uncle, Carmen and aunt, Terry Sirignano.

Family and friends will honor Rosanne's life by gathering today, Wednesday, March 24 at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street (Orient Heights)



East Boston from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. before leaving in procession to Sacred Heart Church, Brooks Street, for a Funeral Mass celebrating Rosanne's life at 11 a.m. Services will conclude with Rosanne being laid to rest in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. All services will be held in accordance to the Commonwealth of MA COVID-19 reopening regulations. For more information please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Richard A. Odoardi

Formerly of East Boston

Richard A. Odoardi, of Peabody, formerly of Revere and East Boston, passed away on Friday, March 12, 2021 at the age of 90 surrounded by family. Richard was the son of the late Vincent and Rose (DiBenedetto) Odoardi. Beloved husband of Joyce (Manning) Odoardi of Peabody. Loving father of Dennis Odoardi and his wife Cheryl of Revere, Stephen Odoardi and his wife Virginia of FL, Angela Mickunas of CA, Michael Odoardi and his wife Magally of East Boston, Cristina Odoardi of Peabody, Diana Odoardi of Haverhill, and the late Richard D. Odoardi, Anthony Odoardi and his surviving wife Linda of FL, Robert Odoardi and his late wife Janet, and Richie A. Odoardi. Dear brother of the late James and Robert Odoardi, Antonetta DeRosa, Anna Fulchino, Florence Mercurio, Emma Tritto, and survived by his sister in-laws Louise Odoardi and Joan Linatopi. Adored grandfather of Ricky, Katrina, Jennifer, Robert, Anthony, Bryan, Stephani, Bianca, Giana, Skyler, Otto, Christopher, Joseph, Michael, Tanya, Christopher, Bryce, Brady and 13



cherished great grandchildren. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins. Family and friends will honor Richard's life by gathering at Vazza's "Beechwood" Funeral Home, 262 Beach Street, Revere on Wednesday, March 17, from 2 to 6 p.m. and again on Thursday morning at 10 a.m. for services to be held in the Funeral Home at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden. Richard was a proud Union member of the Bricklayers & Allied Craftsmen Local #3 for 69 Years.

In accordance with state and federal guidelines masks must be worn at all times and social distancing must be practiced. Please make your visit brief so that others guests have a chance to pay their respects.

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

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

SEEKING FULL FUNDING FOR SOA

CHELSEA - With the promised funding from the landmark education bill that was signed into law before the COVID pandemic hit is still up in the air, Chelsea students, parents and school committee members called for the state to fully fund the Student Opportunity Act Funding (SOA).

During a virtual press conference hosted by the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance on Tuesday students, parents, and school committee members from cities across Massachusetts discussed their school funding needs, their perspectives on in-person school reopening this spring, and their aspirations for education this summer and during the upcoming school year.

Chelsea School Committee member Roberto Jimenez-Rivera testified at the virtual press conference and shared their thoughts.

At the press conference, which will be held over Zoom, Jimenez-Rivera joined students, parents, and school committee members from Boston, Revere, Lawrence, Lowell and Randolph to discuss safety measures, social/emotional and educational supports, and other resources they're looking for from their public schools as well as the need for substantial state funding to support those needs.

"We're here today because our elected officials are once again breaking the promises that they've made to our students," said Jimenez-Rivera. "Our governor in particular is continuing to neglect the kids in our poorest communities like the City of Chelsea. Two years ago everybody celebrated the passage of the Student Opportunity Act but ever since he signed it into law Governor Baker has only undermined its seven year funding plan."

Jimenez-Rivera argued that last year before COVID the Governor decided that the low income portion of the SOA didn't need to be fully funded.

"So even before we lost the rest of the money because of COVID his budget was already inadequate," said Jimenez-Rivera. "And then this year instead of catching up to "Year Two" of the plan he's only proposing what the state should have given us last year. This isn't right and that's why today we are calling for a

budget that gets us back on track. It is year two of the SOA implementation and we need a budget for year two, not for year one."

Jimenez-Rivera said Chelsea has disproportionately suffered from this pandemic in almost every way possible but with the proposed SOA budget children are being told that their education is less important than the interest of rich people.

"Our parents have a right to communicate with their kids, teachers, but right now we don't have enough interpreters," said Jimenez-Rivera. "How can we expect parents to engage when they can't speak the language and we don't have money to pay for interpreters? Our parents deserve language justice. Our students needed more mental health support before COVID And now they need it even more seeing as they have disproportionately lived through the trauma and death that COVID has brought us. Our students also had crowded classrooms in schools before COVID and now we need smaller class sizes, even more because of COVID. How is it that we expect small class sizes in wealthy districts, but we're okay with having 25, 30 or even 34 students in a class in Chelsea. Our kids deserve the same access to small class sizes as kids in Brookline or Wellesley."

Jimenez-Rivera said 94 percent of Chelsea schools are made up of students of color and they deserve access to educators of color.

"Our current funding doesn't allow us to pay educators what they're worth," said Jimenez-Rivera. "So new educators of color and more experienced educators, generally go to districts that have the money to pay them what they're worth. That lack of diversity and lack of stability hurts our students even more."

Jimenez-Rivera said all these issues are fixable but only with the millions of dollars that the state owes Chelsea through the SOA.

"I want to be clear here, our students are owed this money, this money isn't charity," said Jimenez-Rivera. "Our children are legally and constitutionally entitled to those millions of dollars. They have been waiting for decades as the state underfunded their futures and they can't wait any longer. We cannot let the burden of COVID-19 continue fall-

ing on the most marginalized and so we have to ensure that the legislature fixes Governor Baker's broken budget. The Supreme Court declared in Brown vs. Board of Education that education is the most important function of government. I think it's about time that our legislators remember that. Fund our schools and fund them now."

The SOA overhauled the state's education funding formula to ensure equity for all students, especially those in low-income areas.

Because the state has not updated its education funding formula since 1993 to reflect districts' real health insurance and special education costs, the amount of aid being provided to cover those costs had been too small for decades.

In January 2020 Governor Charlie Baker signed S. 2412, An Act Relative to Educational Opportunity for Students, or the SOA, which would have boosted investment in public schools by \$1.5 billion annually when fully phased in over the next seven years.

However, when COVID hit in March 2019 budget shortfalls pushed SOA spending to the wayside. Chelsea Public Schools were expected to receive millions in SOA funding.

The state legislature's Ways and Means Committee met Tuesday to begin reviewing the Governor's proposed FY22 budget.

At the press conference students and parents plan to keep pushing for a true commitment to fully fund public school and call for putting the state's commitment to public education funding back on track.

One demand by the group Tuesday is that the state delivers at least two of the seven years of promised funding increases under the SOA in the next state budget.

JUAN GALLEGO TRAVELS TO TEXAS TO HELP

CHELSEA - For the residents of Chelsea and his fellow members of the Rotary Club, it will come as no surprise that Juan Gallego traveled to Texas to help South Houston-area residents with an incredible display of voluntary assistance.

Gallego, 58, has been an ambassador of goodwill for Chelsea Rotary and living symbol of the Rotary motto, "Service

FROM CHELSEA TO HOUSTON



Chelsea Rotary Club member Juan Gallego (right) traveled to Texas to assist homeowners in the repair of their piping systems that were broken during the severe winter storm.

Above Self." In the past while representing Chelsea Rotary in his native Colombia, Gallego helped develop health care centers in remote areas of the country. He also organized and executed a Rotary project to assist children in need of cleft palate surgery.

Earlier this month Gallego and a team of volunteers headed to Texas to repair homes that had been devastated by a severe winter storm which caused power outages and broken water pipes in homes.

"We fixed up 18 homes that had no water because all the pipes were burst," said Gallego. "We were there working for ten days. We had plumbers and we had helpers. I was a helper. We did a total re-piping of the homes."

All of Gallego's repairs to South Houston-area homes were done free of charge. Interestingly, one of the days that Gallego was in Texas was March 10, which was the Chelsea community leader's 58th birthday.

"It was the best birthday gift I ever had, being down there working and helping people," said Gallego.

Kate Robinson, volunteer coordinator at Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders, expressed her gratitude to Gallego and his team in a heartfelt email.

"We are so grateful to Juan Gallego and his crew of Sam, Manny and John coming to Texas to help so many homeowners affected by the Texas winter storm," wrote Robinson. "They did an awesome job. Now these homeowners have water and do not have to depend on bottled water or water carried into the house from buckets from their neighbors or relatives."

Gallego was proud to represent Chelsea Rotary in his humanitarian endeavor. "Our club has totally supported me," he said.

A few years ago, Gallego was honored as an "Unsung Hero" at a tremendous regional event that drew hundreds of Rotary members. While the pandemic has curtailed those large events for now, there's a very good chance that Juan Gallego will be receiving some much-deserved recognition again in front of his peers.

But that's not why Juan Gallego does what he does for others as the "Unsung" in Unsung Hero aptly suggests.

Gallego came to the

United States from Colombia 41 years ago. He has two children, Matthew, who is a student at Suffolk University, and Melissa, who is a high school student.

AMERICAN RESCUE ACT MISSES EVERETT

EVERETT - When President Joe Biden and a litany of Democratic legislators - including the Massachusetts federal delegation - took to the airwaves and online universe to praise the passage of the American Rescue Act, they touted it as a lifeline to communities sinking from the sufferings of COVID-19.

No two communities in the state, arguably, have suffered as much as Everett and Chelsea, yet some officials locally are saying the federal delegation and the federal government has left the two communities high and dry.

Numbers from the Rescue Act began to come out last weekend from the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA), and on first glance, many thought there was a mistake for Everett and Chelsea. The Rescue Act was highly touted from all corners as being able to help communities hardest hit, including local governments that have lost millions in revenues and expended millions to fund local food pantries, rental assistance and small business programs. Leaders in Everett and Chelsea were expecting to get some relief, but were stunned when their numbers became public.

For Everett, the Rescue Act directed \$4.58 million to the City, with a supplement from county funding sources bumping it to \$13.59 million. For Chelsea, the Rescue Act directed \$3.91 million in aid to the City, and a total of \$11.61 million with the bump up from county funding.

That was compared to affluent communities like Newton, which got \$48.14 million and a total of \$65.29 million with the county resources. Brookline got \$34.21 million, but no county money figures were available. Meanwhile, nearby Medford got \$39.25 million and a total of \$50.37 million with the county resources. Malden also got much more as well, with \$35.04 million from the Act and \$46.76 million in total with the county

bump up.

Both Chelsea and Everett's numbers were more on par with Shrewsbury.

Officially, City leaders said they were told the funding was determined by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) formula that designates "entitlement" communities and "non-entitlement" communities - and the allocations didn't really consider the impact of COVID. Because Chelsea and Everett are below 50,000 people officially, they are non-entitlement communities and didn't get a lot of funding because of that. Efforts by the federal delegation, sources said, came too late in the process to be able to make adjustments - resulting in the smaller numbers becoming official.

With those numbers, many officials said it looked like the most affected people were the least funded - with both Chelsea and Everett being in the top five most impacted cities in the Commonwealth.

"When these numbers were brought to our attention about two weeks ago I couldn't believe what I was seeing," said State Sen. Sal DiDomenico. "I immediately contacted our Federal Delegation and our city leaders to try and find a solution. The American Rescue Plan was promised to be the relief that we had been waiting for, especially for our hardest hit communities like Chelsea and Everett. It is both appalling and outrageous that two of the hardest hit communities, and Chelsea being ground zero during the COVID crisis, are getting a fraction of the federal funds that neighboring communities are getting - and many being much more affluent... I am extremely upset that my communities did not get the help they needed. The high hopes we had for the American Rescue Plan did not come to fruition for Chelsea and Everett."

Mayor Carlo DeMaria said he and other leaders have been working with the state and federal delegation to try to fix the shortfall, and hopes that something can be done in the coming days to make sure the plan helps communities like Everett that were the hardest hit.

"I recognize that the American Rescue Bill is the first time during the pandemic that our fed-

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Region

// CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

eral delegation was able to secure direct funding for cities and towns,” he said. “However, the bill relies upon a commonly used federal funding formula that does not adequately consider the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 has had on cities such as Everett and Chelsea, which have some of the highest number of cases per capita in Massachusetts. I will continue to work with our federal delegation and the Baker-Polito Administration to achieve an equitable allocation of federal funding for Everett and Chelsea to ensure our fiscal recovery from this public health crisis.”

Chelsea City Manager Tom Ambrosino said the funding doled out to the two communities – and also to Randolph and Methuen, the other two of the four that got “shorted,” – was unconscionable.

“Wealthy communities get windfalls and a lot of other communities like Everett and Chelsea got screwed,” he said. “Of the 20 most impacted communities, there are four that really got adversely impacted by the funding – Chelsea, Everett, Randolph and Methuen. We’re hoping the state will step in and deal with those four... It’s unconscionable and incredibly inequitable. We hope the state will step in to right the situation. We were trying to quietly work behind the scenes (with the federal delegation) to fix this, but it didn’t happen. We are not happy about it. We’re still trying to fix it, but at this point, Gov. Baker is our ally and sole hope.”

Everett Councilor Michael McLaughlin said he was disappointed that the money they expected to come, never did.

“It is extremely disappointing and frustrating to see one of the hardest-hit communities get significantly less in fed-

eral funding,” he said. “Two of the hardest hit communities like Everett and Chelsea were not treated equitably. Everett has been designated as majority minority community and should be treated as such by our federal delegation. This situation must be rectified. I hope and have full faith that Mayor DeMaria and Senator DiDomenico will be able to work with the Baker Administration to help off-set as much of this lack in funding by our federal government. Our community needs and deserves these important resources to assist us in recovering as one of the hardest-hit communities in the Commonwealth.”

Everett CFO Eric Demas was one of the first to identify the shortfall in early March, and he and Mayor DeMaria quickly reached out to the federal delegation and other decision-makers. At the same time, Chelsea was also identifying the issue and the two communities rapidly began cooperating in their messaging with Sen. DiDomenico.

“I noticed this back on March 4 before the U.S. Senate even voted on it,” he said. “I was shocked and I notified the mayor and said we need to figure this out and see what we can do before they vote. We immediately reached out to our federal delegation and unfortunately we weren’t able to get anything accomplished before the vote. We are now in the process of seeing what we can do to address the disparity for Everett... We’re not going to stop until we get the situation corrected.”

Said DiDomenico, “COVID ravaged Chelsea and Everett, and our residents dealt with so much pain, suffering, heartache during the past year. These funds were supposed to go to disproportionately affected

communities and help cities like ours, but this obviously did not happen. I have spoken to Governor Baker and his team to push for some of the other federal funds to be allocated to Chelsea and Everett, and I will be working with the Governor and our elected leaders to bring in the needed funds that these cities rightfully deserve.”

A lot of the blame is now falling on the federal delegation, including Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (who represents three out of four of the aggrieved communities), and U.S. Senators Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren.

The newspaper contacted all three federal officials, and none responded to a request for comment on the situation in Chelsea and Everett.

Two sources close to the situation said the matter went all the way to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen – who indicated it was too late by the time the request came and no changes could be made.

More than three sources close to the situation said none of the federal delegation was aware of the issue until local officials reached out, and when they did, very little happened.

Congresswoman Pressley did put out a statement after the Rescue Act was signed into law and touted it as a great victory for Massachusetts. While she said she was disappointed that the bill did not include a \$15 federal minimum wage and paid family leave, she did not mention the lower funding for communities like Everett and Chelsea.

“I proudly supported the American Rescue Plan on the floor of the House of Representatives..., and our work is unfinished,” read her statement. “We must keep fighting for policies that meet the scale and

scope of this crisis and set us on a pathway to a just and equitable long-term recovery. I look forward to partnering with the Biden Administration and my colleagues in Congress to do just that.”

In Chelsea, La Colaborativa Director Gladys Vega has been very vocal in the last few days about the lack of funding. On Tuesday afternoon, she held a multi-community rally with representatives from Chelsea and Everett. She said she was deeply hurt by Senator Warren and Congresswoman Pressley, in particular, because both had visited La Colabo-

rativa’s vaccination site in Chelsea in the last few weeks and said nothing about this situation.

She said none are welcome to come back until they make things right.

“Bring a check for \$40 million and they can come in and take some more pictures,” she said, extremely upset. “It makes me so mad because I feel like we continue to be used and abused. Ayanna Pressley and all the others came here to our office. She told me the stories I send to her are stories that she tells everyone in the halls of Congress. She said that just the other day when she was

here. Where are all those stories because the cash didn’t get here?...It felt to me like Sal DiDomenico gave them the news that we were only getting \$3.9 million.

“I can’t even buy enough toilet paper to wipe the tears of my community members when they’re being evicted and going hungry with \$3.9 million,” she continued. “It’s a disgrace. Where were they when this decision was made? They didn’t try enough. If they didn’t have the guts to fight, I would have. Reach out to me and I’ll make sure it happens...It’s beyond upsetting.”

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Upcoming virtual public meetings concerning fare transformation

Staff Report

Three virtual public meetings are being held this month regarding the MBTA's Fare Transformation program and upgrades to its sales network.

In the future, riders will be able to purchase MBTA fares and passes online, via their smartphones, and with contactless credit/debit cards. Though customers will no longer be able to use cash to pay onboard vehicles once the new fare collection system is implemented by 2023, the MBTA is currently introducing more places to load cash onto Char-

lieCards than were previously available. Aimed at serving cash-dependent riders, this expansion will result in a larger, more robust, and more diverse sales network of retailers, in-station fare vending machines, and new street-scape fare vending machines at bus stops, Commuter Rail, Green Line, and Mattapan Line stations across the network. The public is encouraged to view this interactive map of the proposed sales network or use the T's sales location finder.

The Fare Transformation team now requests the help and input of the

public on the recently completed Point of Sale Distribution and Equity Analysis, which identifies where new sales locations should be added. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the following virtual public meetings to hear more about the methodology for determining proposed locations and to share feedback that helps the T make sure the network being created works for everyone:

- Thursday, March 25, 2021, at 6 PM
- Tuesday, March 30, at 6 PM

For help registering for

these virtual public meetings, please call the MBTA Community Engagement team at 617-448-4374.

Any questions can be emailed to publicengagement@mbta.com. Members of the public are also encouraged to provide feedback to the Fare Transformation team online by visiting the Sales Network Public Input Survey. Local community-based organizations are also encouraged to email the MBTA's Community Engagement team at publicengagement@mbta.com to schedule supplemental community meetings with the MBTA

to learn more about Fare Transformation and the Point of Sale Distribution and Equity Analysis. The public can learn more about getting involved by visiting Fare Transformation information online.

Accommodations

These meetings are accessible to people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency. Accessibility accommodations and language services will be provided free of charge, upon request, as available. Such services include documents in alternate formats, translated materials, assistive listening devices,

and interpreters (including American Sign Language).

For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone at 857-368-8580, fax at 857-368-0602, TTD/TTY at 857-368-0603, or by email at MASSDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us.

For more information, visit mbta.com/fares-fare-transformation or connect with the T on Twitter@MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA.

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State announces \$30 million grant program to support early education and care critical infrastructure

The Baker-Polito Administration announced last week that it would allocate more than \$30 million in grants to support early education and care providers in the Commonwealth. These investments announced at the March 9 Board of Early Education and Care meeting will be distributed by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and will be instrumental in addressing the challenges child care programs face in sustaining services.

EEC's investment in both center-based programs and family child-care programs will be available through two grant opportunities. Child-care services are a critical part of the Commonwealth's infrastructure and a vital component in the economic recovery to help families fully return to work. The funding announced today will support the following initiatives:

- \$15 million grants for Center-Based programs: Workforce grants will support center-based providers serving state-subsidized families to maintain and expand operations by addressing the challenge of recruiting and retaining qualified staff members during the COVID-19 crisis.
- \$15 million grants for Family Child Care providers: Capital grants for family child care programs will support these small businesses to make health, safety, and quality improvements to their program space and ensure they can remain open to the families that need them.

In addition, EEC announced proposed plans for distributing \$110 million in federal stimulus funds, which will be distributed, pending legislative appropriation, through monthly operational grants available to EEC licensed providers

to help maintain current child care capacity during the COVID-19 economic recovery. When these flexible funds become available they can be used to support continued child-care operations, health and safety requirements and enable quality improvements.

In order to address the changing landscape of child care programs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, when families have been slow to return to full-time care and the cost of running programs has increased to meet health and safety requirements, moving from a per-child funding model to an operational support model is necessary to ensure the viability of the field despite fluctuations in enrollment. The per-child funding models has not sufficed to stabilize the industry and ensure educators remain in the workforce to care for children. Without consistent revenue from

enrollment, the child care infrastructure is vulnerable to further decreases in capacity. This investment will sustain capacity and lay the groundwork for the future.

"By investing in programs to sustain capacity now and laying the groundwork for innovation needed in the future, we will build a stronger, more resilient, and responsive child care field for families," said Education Secretary James Peyser.

The COVID-19 health crisis and its widespread impacts have demonstrated the importance of early education and care to support the economic well-being of the Commonwealth and its residents. This new funding availability will invest in the state's child-care infrastructure and the healthy development of children and youth that results from quality early education programs.

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2	\$76,200	\$95,200
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4	\$95,200	\$119,000
5	\$102,850	\$128,550
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After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at 781-992-5304, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any guidance you might need to complete the application.



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