

JEFFREY BOWEN

info@chelsearealestate.com
chelsearealestate.com

781-201-9488



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Mother's Out Front, AIR Inc., provide air purifiers to Little Folks Day Care in Eastie

By John Lynds

Last week, Air Partners installed "Austin Air" air filters as well as air quality sensors into classrooms at Little Folks Community Daycare Center on Trenton Street.

Working with the East Boston chapter of Mothers Out Front and AIR, Inc. (Airport Impact Relief Inc.) the program is to develop a creative atmosphere in which all children can thrive, emotionally, physically and intellectually through clean air.

"Air quality is of extreme importance for the teachers as well as the students," said Mothers Out Front Coordinator Sonja Tengblad. "These air sensors will help Environmental Engineer Scott Hersey and his team at Olin College quantify the reduction in exposure to particles in nine classrooms at Little Folks as well as across their three locations the Dante Alighieri School and East Boston Social Center."

Air Partners has been an advocate for clean air in East Boston since 2018 and is already running air quality monitoring pilot programs at the Dante Alighieri School and East Boston Social Center.

Professor Hersey and his team collected filter efficacy data on the air quality in those spaces after installing filters in each

See AIR Page 2



Environmental Engineer Scott Hersey and his team at Olin College installed "Austin Air" air filters as well as air quality sensors into classrooms at Little Folks Community Daycare Center on Trenton Street last week.



Above, Soup Kitchen volunteers were busy bagging meals for distribution last Tuesday during U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley's visit. Above,

Right, U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley volunteered at the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen. Pressley was on hand to see how the newly adopted American Rescue Plan is helping on a local level.



U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley pitches in at the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen

By John Lynds

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as many as 25 million adults and 10 million children may not always have access to nutritious food.

The newly adopted "American Rescue Plan" is providing millions of dollars nationwide to food distribution sites that have been on the front lines combating hunger throughout the pandemic.

One of these sites, the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen (EBCSK), was forced to shift gears, and reinvent itself in the age of COVID and social distancing.

Since the start of the pandemic, EBCSK stopped serving in-person meals on Tuesdays at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and became a busy food distribution site for the homeless and those in need of a hot meal on

Mondays and Tuesdays.

With generous support through community donations, Boston Resiliency Fund grants and now aid from the American Rescue Plan, EBCSK has been able to continue its mission in Eastie.

Last Tuesday afternoon U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley visited EBCSK to talk to volunteers and see first hand

See SOUP KITCHEN Page 7

Eastie Main Streets employees will benefit from new MBTA and Bluebike pilot program

By John Lynds

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed many inequities in our society. From the virus predominately affecting people of color to essential workers not having the luxury of working from home -- thus jeopardizing their health and safety.

Many essential workers who have been on the frontlines throughout the pandemic have relied heavily on public transportation.

Now a new pilot program in East Boston and other neighborhoods heavily impacted by the

COVID-19 crisis will make public transportation more equitable for essential workers.

Acting Boston Mayor Kim Janey announced this week that the City of Boston is piloting a new program to offer up to a \$60 credit for MBTA and Bluebikes passes for 1,000 employees who work in Eastie's Main Streets District, as well as employees in four other Main Streets Districts.

City officials have begun registering employees in Main Streets Districts in Eastie, Mission Hill, Jamaica Plain, Nubian Square, and Fields Corner

for the pilot program. The registration will end on April 19.

These five Main Street districts are all served by MBTA subway and Bluebikes stations.

"Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many essential workers have continued to utilize public transportation because they have been unable to work from home," said Janey. "I'm proud to launch this pilot program with the MBTA and Bluebikes to learn more about the impacts on commuter patterns when the cost of public transit is covered."

See MBTA Page 2

Biden Administration sends commemorative Easter eggs to EBNHC

By John Lynds

In lieu of this year's White House Easter Egg Roll, President Joseph Biden and the First Lady gifted the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) with 800 commemorative Easter Eggs.

In return, EBNHC administrators have distributed the eggs to staff and to patients receiving vaccines across its four vaccination sites in Eastie, Chelsea, Revere and the South End.

"Receiving the White House Easter Eggs from President Biden and the First Lady was a bright light against the backdrop of the past year," said EBNHC president and CEO Manny Lopes. "We distributed the eggs to our hardworking staff who have remained caring and optimistic throughout the pandemic and to our patients receiving the vaccine across our vaccination sites. We would like to thank President Biden and the First Lady for helping us to spread cheer during this spring season."

The Easter Eggs came with a special letter from Deputy Assistant to the President & Social Secretary Carlos E. Elizondo to

Lopes.

"Dear Mr. Lopes, Greetings from the White House," the letter reads. "On behalf of the President and the First Lady, it is my pleasure to notify you that East Boston Neighborhood Health Center has been selected as a recipient of the 2021 White House Commemorative Easter Eggs. As you may know, traditionally the wooden Easter Eggs are distributed to children at the annual White House Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn. Due to COVID-19, this year's Easter Egg Roll has unfortunately been canceled. Nevertheless, in the spirit of the Easter season, the President and First Lady still want to share Easter cheer with Americans across the nation. We hope your site will assist their mission and share these Easter Eggs with frontline workers, volunteers, and members of your staff."

The White House encouraged EBNHC to also give any additional eggs to community members who get vaccinated at the Health Center.

"Your organization's efforts are a testament to the hard work that needs

See EBNHC Page 6



EBNHC President and CEO Manny Lopes holds up one of the commemorative Easter Eggs sent to the Health Center from President Joseph Biden and the First Lady.



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eastietimes.com

MBTA //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

And as more workers begin in return to workplaces, making transit more accessible is critical to our equitable recovery from the pandemic.”

Janey said the goal of the program is to incentivize employees returning to work and workers who currently drive to work to use public transit. With an expected increase in post-COVID-19 traffic, the City of Boston is piloting this incentive program to help alleviate small business districts of congestion and free up curb space for local neighborhood customers. The pilot program also seeks to lessen vehicular traffic to help reduce its environmental impact.

“We are excited to partner with our local Main Street Districts to pilot free public transit options

for those working in Boston’s neighborhoods,” said Transportation Commissioner Greg Rooney. “Creating incentives to use public transit or bike to work options helps our economy, our environment and our local businesses. As more workers plan on restarting their commute, the Boston Transportation Department is committed to exploring creative ways to reduce traffic, carbon emissions and support Boston’s workers.”

The city managed pilot program is aimed at measuring how financial incentives for public transit impact commuting behavior and will be phased over the next two months.

Of the 1,000 qualified workers, some individuals will be randomly selected to get an MBTA pass with the full \$60 credit loaded,

and the remainder of the individuals will receive smaller stipends over time, which will end up totaling \$60.

Bluebikes pass-holders will be able to take unlimited trips during the two-month period. Bluebikes trips must be completed within 45 minutes to avoid usage charges. There is no obligation to continue paying for the Bluebikes pass once the two months are over.

Data from the pilot program will be used to supplement the city’s long-term transportation demand management strategy.

To learn more about the pilot or to sign up for the program, please visit: boston.gov/FREEride or text FREEride to 866-396-0122.

Pressley, Markey re-introduce legislation to fully fund fare-free public transit

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Sen. Edward J. Markey re-introduced the Freedom to Move Act, that is bold legislation to support state and local efforts to establish public transportation as a public good through fare-free services.

The lawmakers’ bill introduction comes as transit agencies across the country, including the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), consider cuts to transit service—despite receiving over \$1 billion in federal relief over the past year. Earlier this month, Congresswoman Pressley and Sen. Markey joined their colleagues in the Massachusetts congressional delegation in writing to MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak expressing concerns regarding the MBTA’s announcement that it would cut services this month.

“Public transportation is an essential public good, but for too long, we have not funded it like one. Far too many in the Massachusetts, and across the country lack reliable, safe, and affordable transit service,” Congresswoman Pressley said. “As our nation begins to turn a corner toward our ongoing recovery from this public health and economic crisis, it is critical that we center the connectivity of all communities. The Freedom to Move Act invests heavily in our public transit systems so that states and localities can offer safe, high-quality, and fare-free rides to all to ensure everyone in community can access jobs, food and essential services.”

“Affordability and accessibility must define our public transit systems to ensure that they truly promote equity, economic growth, and community development,” said Sen. Markey. “By supporting state and local efforts to implement fare-free public transit, we can provide low-income workers, families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities with improved access to jobs, education, medical care, and other critical services – all while simultaneously reducing traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. I’m proud to reintroduce the Freedom to Move Act with Congresswoman Pressley and I look forward to fighting together for a just transit future.”

Before the COVID-19

pandemic, workers and families were spending more time and money commuting to jobs, education and other critical services than ever before. Data shows that low-income families in particular bear the biggest financial burden—spending nearly 30 percent of their household income on transportation expenses. At the same time, increased traffic congestion is contributing to growing greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, exacerbating climate change and contributing to health disparities like asthma and lung cancer in communities already at the margins.

Increasing access to free, safe, reliable and accessible public transit systems will help improve community livability and mobility, increase connectivity to critical services—particularly for low-income workers and families, seniors and individuals with disabilities—and address many of our nation’s most severe inequities.

The Freedom to Move Act would help to support state and local efforts to promote public transportation as a public good for all by:

- Supporting state and local efforts to implement fare-free public transportation systems. The bill establishes a \$5 billion competitive grant program, known as Freedom to Move Grants to offset fare revenues for transit agencies.
- Investing in efforts to improve the safety and quality of public transportation service, particularly in low-income and historically underserved communities, including by:
 - o Covering operational costs, including the hiring and training of personnel, fuel costs, and maintenance.
 - o Investing in public health emergency response efforts, including personal protective equipment and administrative leave for operational personnel.
 - o Improving the safety and accessibility of bus stops, pedestrian and bike shelters.
 - o Redesigning bus routes to improve service, modernizing and improving the accessibility of signage; and
 - o Modernizing surface infrastructure such as painted bus lanes and signal priority systems to alleviate traffic congestion

and improve multi-modal accessibility.

- Requiring grantees to utilize funds with a particular focus on addressing transit equity gaps. Grantees would be required to work in partnership with community advocates and stakeholders to report on how resources will be used to improve the reliability of transit service for low-income and historically underserved communities.

The Freedom to Move Act is endorsed by the Sunrise Movement, 350 MASS, A Better Cambridge, Action 4 Equity, Allston Brighton Health Collaborative, Alternatives for Community and Environment, Bikes Not Bombs, Boston Cyclist Union, Community Labor United, Green Newton, GreenRoots, The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts, Inc., Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, LivableStreets Alliance, Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition, MASSPIRG, Massachusetts Sierra Club, Massachusetts Senior Action Council, Matapan Food and Fitness Coalition, Riders Action Council, Transit Matters, WalkBoston.

“Public transit is oftentimes the lifeline for many of our residents, especially those who live in Environmental Justice communities,” said María Belén Power, Associate Executive Director, GreenRoots, Inc. “Many of our folks, the essential workers, have put their lives on the line during this pandemic, risking their lives and their families’ by continuing to go to work and keep the economy afloat. We have a moral obligation to treat them with the respect and dignity they deserve. We need robust investment into our public transit agencies for operational and capital improvements, so every single rider has access to reliable, affordable and safe public transit service. We applaud Congresswoman Pressley and Senator Markey for being leaders in the fight for transit justice!”

Congresswoman Pressley and Senator Markey originally introduced the Freedom to Move Act in June 2020. In July 2020 the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, which included a fare-free transit pilot program modeled on the lawmakers’ Freedom to Move Act.

Air //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

school.

“Through collaborations with Mothers Out Front East Boston and the East Boston Social Center, Air Partners decided to focus its next program on early childcare centers and worked to identify spaces with the most need in a variety of categories such as relation to flight paths, demographics, as well as age and mechanics of the building,” said Tengblad.

Air Partners has also collaborated with AIR Inc, and Mothers Out Front to launch a campaign focused on getting air filters into all Eastie public school classrooms. “This became even more crucial when COVID hit,” said Tengblad. “With a 360 percent increase in childhood asthma and double the COPD rates, East Boston was challenged even further with the highest rates of COVID in Boston. As a Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health study outlined, people exposed to higher levels of ultrafine particulate matter saw an 8 percent increase in COVID mortality.”



The effort to install the “Austin Air” air filters as well as air quality sensors into classrooms at Little Folks Community Daycare Center is a partnership between the East Boston chapter of Mothers Out Front and AIR, Inc. (Airport Impact Relief Inc.) and Air Partners. The program is to develop a creative atmosphere in which all children can thrive, emotionally, physically and intellectually through clean air.

Certain air filters like Austin Air remove 75-82 percent of ultrafine particulate (UFP) pollution, as well as 95 percent of COVID-19 particles. Increased exposure to UFPs is linked to behavioral problems and developmental delays in children.

“By lowering students’ exposure, studies are showing that using specific brands and models of air filters in classrooms is one of the most cost-effective ways to lower the achievement gap,” said Tengblad. “This is of particular interest in communities like East Boston which is composed of 58 percent Latinx families, as air pollution disproportionately affects people of color worldwide.”

AIR Inc. Vice President Chris Marchi said it has become clear that air filtration can protect children from the harmful pollution from Logan airport that falls out under flight paths, comes from the tailpipes of the Ubers and Lyft and passes directly into our homes, churches and schools.

“People from East Boston have been calling for Massport and the state to control Logan’s air pollution for over 50 years,” said Marchi. “And it’s now clear to us at AIR, Inc. that if we want environmental justice, we need to create it ourselves. That’s why we’re teaming up with Mother’s Out Front and Air Partners to begin distributing air filtration machines to local schools ourselves.”

Marchi said the program is a community volunteer program and the partners realize that they can’t afford to outfit every classroom with filter machines.

“So we are going to start by protecting the classrooms of the youngest children and keep buying and distributing these air filtration machines as long as we can,” said Marchi. “Our science team at Air Partners, based at Olin College of Engineering has tested these machines in BPS classrooms and we know that they can remove over 70 percent of the air pollution. The body’s inflammatory responses to pollution act very quickly when exposed to pollution- but the good news is that the reverse is also true: just minutes after we plug in these air filter machines our bodies’ defenses ramp back down. That’s where we want to keep things: so that our children can breathe clean air; so they can grow and learn -at least while they’re in the classroom.”

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

The East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Incorporated

Notice is hereby given that on **Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.** a public **MEETING** of the East Boston Project Advisory Committee, Inc., (aka **PIERPAC**) will be held via remote participation in light of the ongoing State of Emergency declared in connection with the COVID-19 Pandemic

A web link and Details on how to participate remotely shall be provided on the organization's website (in both English and Spanish) www.ebpierpac.org on or before **April 15, 2021** at which time you may register to participate

It is the intention of the Committee to discuss in open meeting the following matter(s):

REGULAR MEETING

a. Attendance 6:30 pm

b. Approval of Minutes December 12, 2020 6:45 pm

New Business

a. - 7:00 pm – Trustees of Reservations Update on Piers Park III – public comment to follow

b. - 7:20 pm – Subcommittee Updates for Membership and Operation Security and Maintenance (scheduling of meetings)

c. - 7:40 pm - Treasurer's Report (Month Ending March 31)

Old Business

a. 7:45 pm - Update - Amendment to Operations, Security and Maintenance (OSM) Agreement (continued discussion)

b. 7:55 pm - Update - Massport annual financial commitment (continued discussion)

c. 8:00 pm – Anticipated adjournment

At the conclusion of its regular business meeting and prior to adjournment, the Board, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board may hold an Executive Session pursuant to G. L. 30A.s.21 upon the conclusion of which, the Board will not resume its public meeting.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED
AND WELCOMED TO ATTEND

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

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

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Rodriguez, Gany	Tully, James	1098 Bennington St #3	\$489,000
Cohen, Steven	Vilanova, Andrea I	144 Bremen St #3	\$280,000
Santilli, Marc A	MT 243 Condor Street LLC	243 Condor St #5	\$850,000
5 Drake Place RT	Ricci, Louis A	5 Drake Pl	\$475,000
25 Everett LLC	25 Everett Street LLC	23-R Everett St	\$1,425,000
25 Everett LLC	25 Everett Street LLC	25 Everett St	\$1,425,000
Addvinola, Gerard	Dellorusso, Gina	94-96 Everett St	\$306,500
Krout, Lisa M	Dewhirst, Mattye	14 Horace St #2	\$699,000
Maciejewski, Mateusz	Haddon, Kathleen	65 Lewis St #203	\$685,000
Yan, Xinhua	27 Lexington Street RT	27 Lexington St	\$700,000
Ewing, Matthew A	Malandrino, Molly R	122 London St #5	\$392,500
Shetty, Avinita	Schneider, Michael J	150 Orleans St #605	\$550,000
Alberti, Nicholas M	Crespo Holdings LLC	119 Princeton St #1	\$495,000
Barry, Thomas T	Crespo Holdings LLC	119 Princeton St #2	\$580,000
Gurwitz, Scott D	Crespo Holdings LLC	119 Princeton St #3	\$620,000
Piazza, Rosalie	Mastromarino, Kathleen	252 Webster St #1	\$665,000
Esquenazi, Hannah R	Winthrop Maverick LLC	8 Winthrop St #102	\$675,000

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Maryann Gillespie retires after over three decades of service to BCYF

By John Lynds

More than three decades ago, Maryann Gillespie was in between careers and taking some time off to raise her three young children.

“I worked at an insurance company then I had my kids,” said Gillespie. “The funny thing is I was walking a double-wide stroller with three kids down Boardman Street when I came to the (Marty Pino, formerly Orient Heights) Community Center.”

Gillespie had passed the building many times, but was unsure what type of programs they offered. “I went inside to find out and there was an arts and crafts class going on for 3-year-olds so I put my two oldest kids in that class and became a member,” said Gillespie.

Gillespie said one day, 34 years ago, the phone was ringing in the Community Center’s office but no one was around to answer the phone.

She picked up the receiver and took a message.

When the director came back Gillespie gave her the message.

“Do you want a job?” she asked,” said Gillespie. “So I took the job and that’s how it started.”

And the rest, as they say, is history.

Over the past three decades Gillespie had become one of the most recognizable faces of Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) in East Boston and over the course of her stellar career has touched the lives of countless neighborhood kids and their families.

Last week Gillespie officially retired as Program Supervisor of the Marty Pino Community Center--a place she spent 23 of her 34 year career.

“It was the best job I ever had in so many ways,” said Gillespie. “Just dealing with the kids, dealing with the public, all the different agencies I just learned so much about the city through BCYF. I miss dealing with the community, the kids and the families on a day to day basis but I’ll still definitely have

contact with a lot of them. You have like a long lasting relationship with people that you meet in this line of work because if you don’t you are in the wrong job.”

Gillespie worked her first 20 years at the Marty Pino Community Center before spending some time at both the Harbor-side Community Center and the Paris Street Community Center.

She then retired to the Marty Pino Community Center, her home away from home, three years ago to finish out her career.

“I started here and I ended here and I have to say it was the best job I could have ever asked for and the best people to work with,” she said.

Her BCYF colleagues at both the Marty Pino Community Center and Paris Street shared Gillespie’s sentiments.

“Maryann first joined Boston Centers for Youth and Families in 1987 as a secretary and rose through the ranks and became a Program Supervisor,” said

BCYF Administrative Coordinator Joe Weddleton. “She has been steadfast in her work throughout her tenure with the Marty Pino Community Center and both staff and participants wish her well in her retirement.”

Paris Street’s maintenance supervisor, James Cali, added, “Maryann is one of the kindest and most giving people I have ever worked with. Her retirement is a great loss to the community and community centers. I am however glad that she can retire from a position she has cared about and loved for as long as I have known her.”

As for settling into retirement Gillespie said everyday feels like Sunday.

“It’s nice,” she said. “I want to do lots of traveling, visit my son in California as many times as I can. My husband and I planned a trip before COVID to Australia but had to cancel it but I’m hoping we can put that back on the list of things to do.”



After 34 years working for BCYF, Eastie’s Maryann Gillespie retired from her post as Program Supervisor from the Marty Pino Community Center.

Get more bang for your buck with these spring home improvements

The warmer weather means it’s time to start thinking about home improvement projects. Whether you’re getting your home in tip-top shape for your own enjoyment, or getting it ready to put on the market, not all home improvement projects are created equal when it comes to return on investment (ROI). Here are top areas on which to focus:

Interiors

The kitchen is the heart of the home and it’s one of the best areas to renovate in terms of ROI, according to Remodeling magazine’s annual Cost vs. Value Report, which puts the price tag of the average minor kitchen remodel at \$22,507, with 80.5 percent of the cost recouped upon resale.

To give the kitchen an updated appearance, replace the flooring, countertops, sink and faucet. A fresh coat of paint in a trendy shade, such as Living Coral, Pantone’s Color of the Year, can add a vibrant pop of color to energize any kitchen. Not looking to go that bold? Consider an accent wall, or stick to a classic palate of gray and white

in terms of cabinets and countertops. White on white is also a popular new style for kitchens and bathrooms.

Other features home buyers are paying close attention to are laundry rooms and such energy-saving elements as Energy Star appliances and windows, according to the survey “What Home Buyers Want in 2019” by the National Association of Home Builders.

Curb Appeal

The popularity of outdoor projects remains strong and it’s for a good reason. According to the Cost vs. Value Report, the biggest bang for your buck in 2019 will come from replacing a garage door. The report says the average price is \$3,611, and 97.5 percent of it is recouped when the house is sold.

Other outdoor projects with high ROI include adding manufactured stone veneer to the exterior (94.9 percent), adding a wood deck (75.6 percent) and replacing siding (75.6 percent). Looking for a simpler way to make an impact? Sprucing up the landscape by planting flow-

ers or bushes or even just clearing the yard of debris will make a big statement.

No matter what updates you end up making, it’s always a good idea to notify your insurance agent. “Certain upgrades may change the value of a house, so homeowners need to make sure they’re properly covered,” says Bob Buckel, vice president of product management, Erie Insurance. “There are a few things to look for. Ask your agent about guaranteed replacement cost policies that can cover the cost to rebuild a home in today’s dollars following a covered loss.”

Some upgrades may also make you eligible for discounts, Buckel adds, especially if they make the home more secure. “For example, Erie Insurance offers certain safety discounts such as for installing smoke alarms or an automatic sprinkler system.”

Now you have a checklist of DIY projects to focus on this spring. But before you start, take a moment to assess which ones are worth your time and money.

(StatePoint)



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Downing raises \$227,712 in eight weeks

Former state senator, clean energy business leader, and gubernatorial candidate Ben Downing marked the end of the first quarter today by announcing that his campaign has raised \$227,712 since he entered the race on February 8. The campaign highlighted over 1,100 individual donors, with 80% of all donations coming from Massachusetts and nearly three-quarters coming in under \$100. Ben is not accepting any donations from lobbyists or corporate PACs.

“We’re really excited by the number of people signing up to support our fight for a fairer, stronger Massachusetts,” said Ben. “These early contributions help fortify our long-term

campaign plan, allowing us to invest in the digital infrastructure, relational organizing strategies, and dynamic team that we need to win. We’re excited to put this support to work in the coming months as we share policy plans, activate a volunteer network and continue to build a 351-community campaign.”

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

tions for transgender individuals.


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

Ben, 39, lives in East Boston with his wife, Micaelah Morrill, and their two young sons Malcolm (3) and Eamon (11 months).


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GET THE VACCINE

For the vast majority of people, getting a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they are eligible is a no-brainer.

COVID-19 not only has a high death rate for older persons and those with underlying health conditions, but it also has been shown to have serious after-effects for young, healthy people who experienced only mild symptoms when they contracted the disease.

The ramifications of the health consequences for the so-called COVID long-haulers promises to adversely impact the lives of millions of Americans, as well as burden our society and health care system, for years to come.

However, despite the obvious health risks posed by COVID-19, many of our fellow citizens say they will refuse to get the vaccine. No doubt many of those who tell a pollster that they will not get a vaccine are doing so just to be contrarian. In the end, they will get a vaccine.

But unquestionably there are segments of society on all sides of the political spectrum who are opposed to the idea of vaccinations.

In our view, vaccine-hesitancy in the face of a world-wide pandemic is both inexplicable and sad.

It is inexplicable because the benefits of vaccination are so clear. There is every reason to get it and absolutely no reason to oppose it.

But it also is sad because the vaccine-hesitancy movement shows that so many of our fellow Americans are susceptible these days to rumors, misinformation, and conspiracy theories to the detriment of their own health and that of their loved ones.

The COVID-19 vaccines are a modern scientific miracle. They represent the best avenue of protection for individuals, as well as the only chance for society to overcome the pandemic in order to return our economy to normal.

In addition, with early trials showing that the vaccines are 100 percent safe and effective for older children, a vaccination program for children will assure that our schools can reopen safely. In our view, a COVID-19 vaccine should be required for all children as a condition for returning to school, similar to the requirement that children be vaccinated against other diseases.

We urge all of our readers to get the vaccine as soon as they are eligible under state guidelines.

And to those who have some degree of vaccine-hesitancy for themselves or their children -- please stop listening to those wacky and ill-informed opinions on social media.

ROYAL FAMILY, COMMON PROBLEMS

On a certain level, it is easy to dismiss the recent interview of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle as frivolous and irrelevant to the lives of the rest of us. To most Americans, the concept of a royal family is a joke to begin with, an anachronism of history.

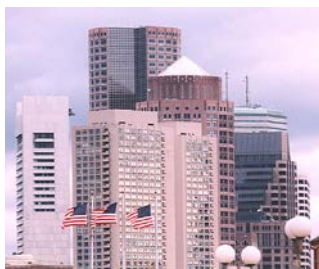
On the other hand, there were certain aspects of the interview that made the travails faced by Harry and Meghan all too real -- and extremely relevant to the 21st century.

The revelation that Meghan contemplated suicide, but received no mental health support among the royal family because it would make them "look bad," was shocking, but it is something to which ordinary families can relate.

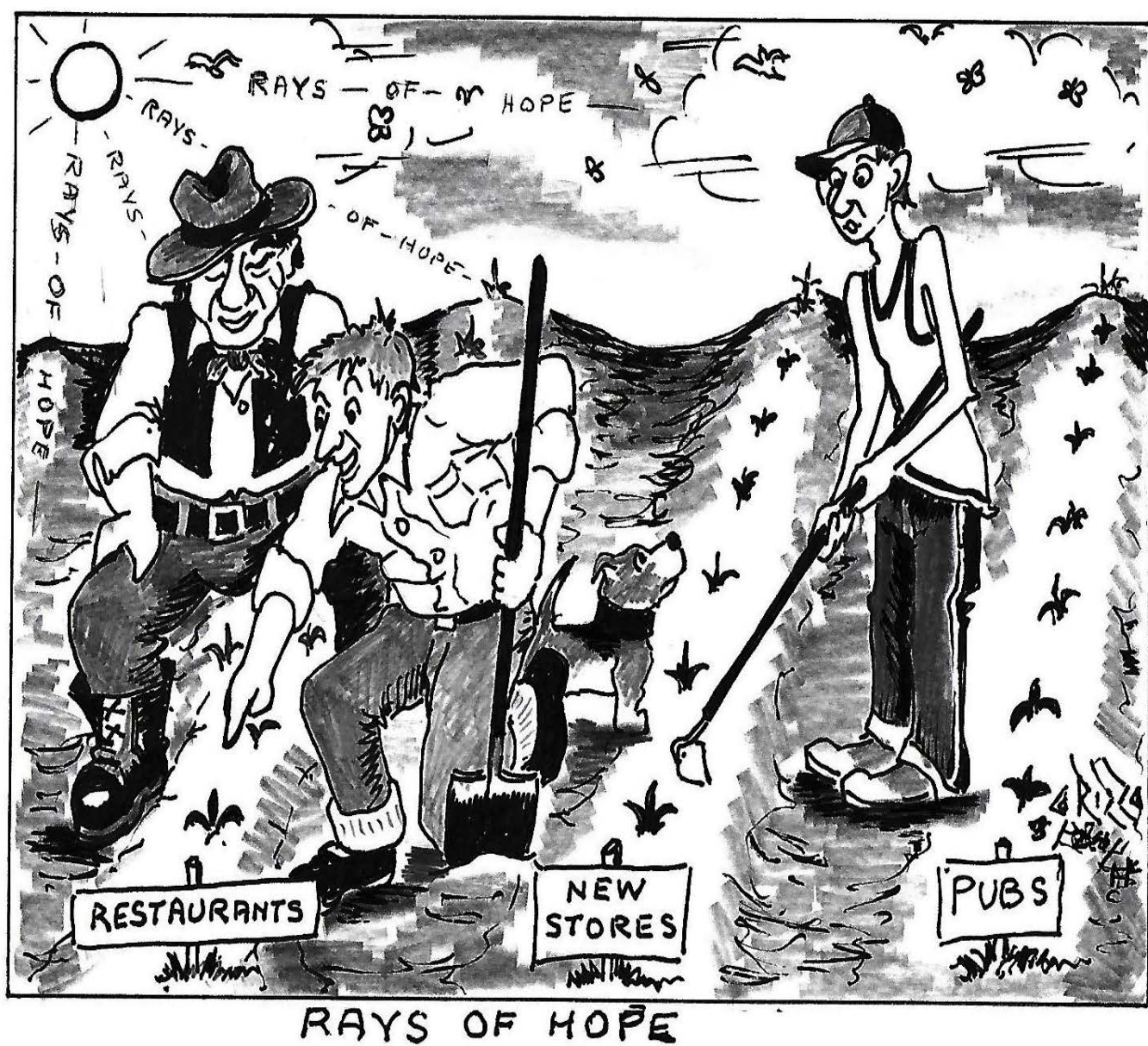
Mental health problems still carry a stigma in society at-large. If nothing else, Meghan Markle's willingness to discuss her issues hopefully will serve as an inspiration both to those suffering from depression (among other mental health illnesses) and their families to seek help in the same way that we do for physical health issues before it is too late.

Then of course, there was the discussion of race, which demonstrated just how deeply embedded racism remains in every strata of society across the globe in 2021.

The concept of royalty may be a bunch of nonsense, but the issues of mental health and racism are not and we are grateful that Harry and Meghan were willing to share their personal and painful experiences to shed light on these matters that bear relevance to everybody, regardless of social status.



Forum



GUEST OP-ED

Cardinal Sean O'Malley's Easter message

By Cardinal Sean O'Malley

Easter is the center and core of Christian faith. Christian faith is Resurrection faith; the Risen Christ, having conquered sin and death, remains with us across the ages. When we celebrate "the Triduum" — the great feasts of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday — we recall and present again through words and worship the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord.

The Lord's Easter gift to the Church and the world is the gift of hope. Because the Risen Christ remains with us personally and collectively, we never face the challenges of life alone. Christian hope teaches us that we are destined for eternal life, and hope also is meant to sustain us in the concrete realities we face each day. As we celebrate this Easter, no truth is more relevant than hope built on Christian faith.

The past year, lived in the shadow of the

COVID-19 pandemic, has tried our sense of hope personally, socially, and as a country. The process of recovery and rebuilding our society will test us again in new ways. In some form, we have all been impacted by this silent and elusive but deadly virus. No community has been spared, and some communities have been devastated. Recovery will require a spirit of collaboration, cooperation and compassion. Easter tells us we will not be alone in this effort; the Risen Christ calls us to be very good neighbors to each other.

Throughout the past year, there have been multiple examples of what being a good neighbor means. We have seen health care workers risk their lives to save lives; we have seen front-line workers in stores, delivery agencies and police and fire departments show up every day, even at personal risk, so basic needs could be met and life could be sustained. These examples inspire

hope in human terms; we will need this kind of generosity on an even wider scale in the days and months ahead.

Nationally and locally, the pandemic illustrated again that, even when broad structural issues like a pandemic affect us all, they impact some in catastrophic fashion. African American and Hispanic communities suffered dramatically greater losses — of life and welfare — than the general population. Often, these communities have been where many front-line workers live; they kept faithfully serving others even as they suffered disproportionately themselves. National recovery should reward this service appropriately in gratitude and in public policies focused on these communities.

Any assessment of how we have responded to the pandemic will need to address two realities. There have been countless acts of charity and compassion offered

quietly and effectively each day to those in need. And, by contrast, there have been intensified expressions of racism in our public life; historic patterns aimed at Asian Americans, African Americans, and immigrants. Children and youth perceived as different are often the object of bullying that can push young people into depression, risky behaviors or suicide. There will not be lasting healing and recovery unless we are committed as a society to expand the circle of compassion and charity manifested by many and resist, by word and deed, by law and policy, the forces in our society which refuse to acknowledge the dignity of every person. Easter offers hope: it also calls us to be signs of hope, not hatred, on the road to recovery. This Easter is time to make clear choices to renew our common life."

Cardinal Sean O'Malley is the Archbishop of Boston.

Mass vote by mail extended through June

By John Lynds

Both the Massachusetts House and Senate passed

legislation to extend mail-in voting and early voting options for elections held through the end of June

2021. The vote-by-mail provision was previously set to expire at the end of March 2021.

"I was proud to join the House in voting in favor of this comprehensive package that will support workers and small businesses across Massachusetts," said Representative Adrian Madaro. "This bill will strengthen our unemployment system and give small businesses suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic much-needed relief. Critically, the passage of emergency paid sick leave is a major victory for workers in our community, many of whom have been unable to take time off when sick or exposed to COVID-19.

This will help reduce the risk of spread in the workplace and protect employees and their families."

The bill also allows municipalities to provide residents with the option to vote early in-person in these elections. Additionally, the legislation requires local election officials to make reasonable efforts to grant accommodations for voters with disabilities who might have difficulty accessing a paper mail-in ballot and request an accommodation.

Cities and towns can postpone municipal elections and caucuses scheduled before June 30, 2021 until August 1, 2021.

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Weekly COVID positive test rate increases in Eastie

By John Lynds

It appears as though Boston is heading into another wave of COVID 19 infections as the weekly positive test rate in East Boston spiked another 20 percent last week.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), last week, 1,776 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 6 percent were positive--a 20 percent increase from the 5 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago. The latest spike comes after a 16 percent spike the week prior.

Of the 37,548 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.

Positive test rates continue to rise citywide. According to the BPHC 28,007 residents were tested and 5.2 percent were COVID positive--this was a 23.8 percent increase from the 4.2 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago. This was the first time in weeks the city went above its 5 percent threshold used to plan Boston's phased reopening strategies.

On Monday the Baker-Polito Administration announced that residents 55 and over and residents with one certain medical condition will be eligible for the COVID vaccine beginning on April 5.

In addition, the Administration announced that Massachusetts will adopt the CDC's updated list of

medical conditions. This week, the CDC added more medical conditions that are linked to an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Massachusetts will adopt this guidance and make individuals eligible starting April 5th if they have one of these medical conditions. As a result of adopting the CDC's list, more residents will be eligible starting April 5th.

The full list of conditions can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html and the full timeline of the state's vaccine rollout is available at mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases.

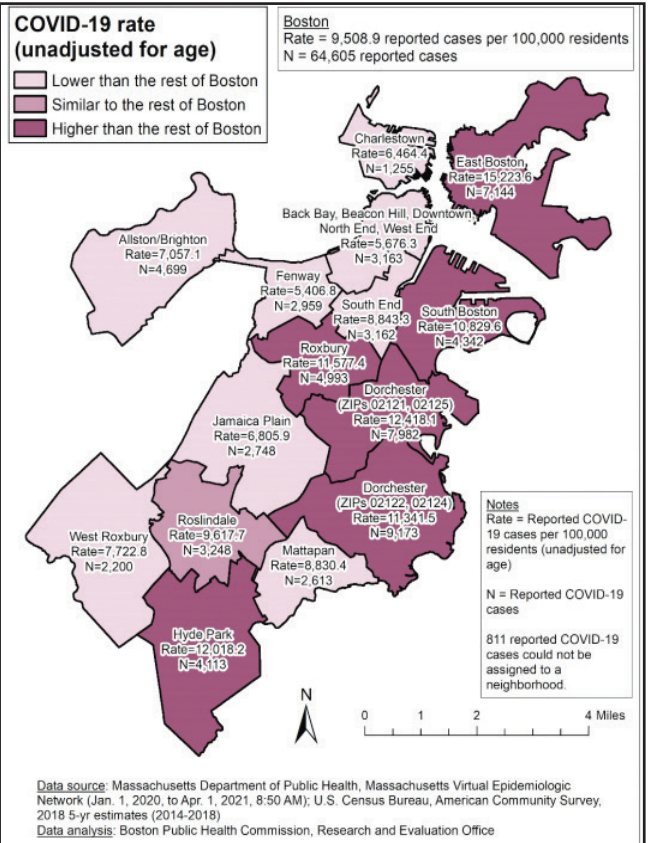
Eastie's COVID infection rate increased by only 1.6 percent last week and went from 1,498.6 cases

per 10,000 residents to 1,522.3 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 116 Eastie residents contracted the virus and there are now 7,144 confirmed cases, up from the 7,028 reported two weeks ago.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 2.7 percent percent last week and went from 63,748 cases to 65,474 confirmed cases in a week. Twelve additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,353 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.

EBNHC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to occur in order for our country to reopen safely," the letter continued. "The health and wellbeing of Americans remain an utmost priority to the President and First Lady, and

your efforts and dedication are truly appreciated. On behalf of the President and First Lady, we wish you and your family a safe and Happy Easter."



(Above and right) EBNHC patients receive their COVID-19 vaccine and commemorative White House Easter Egg courtesy of President Joseph Biden and the First Lady.



An EBNHC vaccine patient poses with an EBNHC staff member. The White House asked the Health Center to hand out the 800 Easter Eggs to staff and patients.



EBNHC's Dr. Beatriz Valencia hands a commemorative White House Easter Egg to a patient.

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Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC)

980 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02119

WATER MAIN FLUSHING NOTICE

Boston Water and Sewer Commission will commence Water Main Flushing (Sector 1) in parts of the East Boston area starting:

April 11, 2021 through April 21, 2021

The boundaries for the areas being flushed: Revere City line to the north, Logan Airport to the south, Belle Isle Marsh to the east and Chelsea Creek to the west.

The purpose of the Water Main Flushing Program is to improve drinking water quality for residents and businesses.

Water Main flushing will take place between the hours of **10:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M.**

The flushing process may cause discolored water and a reduction in pressure. The discoloration of the water will be temporary and is not harmful. If the condition persists, please contact BWSC's 24 Hour Service at (617) 989-7000.

BWSC appreciates your patience as we work to improve the quality of drinking water we will provide to the residents and businesses of Boston.

If you have any questions, contact BWSC's Night Operations Manager at (617) 989-7000 or visit our website @ www.bwsc.org.

Soup Kitchen // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the impact the American Rescue Plan is having on a local level.

Pressley spent the afternoon not only talking with volunteers but being a volunteer herself. Pressley rolled up her sleeves and got to work helping EBCSK package meals for distribution as well as loading prepared meals that would be deprived around Eastie.

“It was great to spend time in East Boston and see firsthand how the community has stepped up to meet the needs of the community during this challenging time,” said Pressley. “Pastor John (Searles), Sandra (Nijjar), and all the staff and volunteers at the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen have been doing incredible work to address hunger and food insecurity across Eastie, and I’m glad the American Rescue Plan will support their work by providing critical resources to help the one in six Massachusetts households—including one in three Black and Latinx households with children—who are struggling to afford food.”

“Monday and Tuesday were such fulfilling days,” said EBCSK Sandra Nijjar. “On Tuesday we had our Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley visit us and she helped distribute bags of groceries. This is how our Eastie’s community comes together in difficult times to support each other and to do all it takes to help our neighbors. Words cannot describe the immense gratitude we, our Soup Kitchen’s board of directors and our leadership team members.”

Nijjar said during Pressley’s visit EBCSK delivered bags of groceries, reserved bags of groceries for pick up, and distributed bags of groceries and boxes of food and distributed meal vouchers to folks who don’t have a place to cook.

“We are incredibly grateful to be able to help our neighbors,” said Nijjar. “Once again we had a bountiful day filled with such an amazing outpouring of food donations. We are out of words to describe our immense gratitude for so much goodness, kindness and generosity directed to us. Thank you so much for all you do to keep our Soup Kitchen alive and thriving.”



U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley talks with Soup Kitchen founder and board member Sandra Nijjar.



U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley helps load prepared meals for distribution to Eastie residents in need of food.



U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley thanks the Soup Kitchen’s staff, board and volunteers for the work they have been doing in Eastie throughout the pandemic.



U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley poses with Soup Kitchen founder and board member Sandra Nijjar.

RECYCLE YOUR YARD WASTE!

Check the Trash day app for your collection schedule, upcoming holiday delays or cancellations, and to search for items you can and can't recycle. Learn more at boston.gov/yard-waste

- ☐ Leaf and yard waste curbside collection
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- ☐ Yard Waste drop off | 500 American Legion Hwy, Boston, MA 02131

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Should you buy or sell a home in 2021? Here’s what to know

While the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine has left a lot of question marks about the future of the U.S. economy at-large, analysts expect the housing market to remain strong and stable in the coming year.

“Despite the uncertainties of the pandemic, the housing market performed well in the second half of 2020,” says Sam Khater, Freddie Mac’s chief economist. “Low mortgage rates and the ability to work remotely continued to propel demand for housing, which is reflected in home sales reaching levels not seen in 15 years.”

Whether you’re a potential homebuyer, a current homeowner or considering selling, here are some of the biggest take-aways of Freddie Mac’s Quarterly Forecast:

- Interest rates are likely to remain low. The average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage (FRM) hit a record low over a dozen times in 2020. The low interest rate environment is projected to continue through 2021, with the 30-year FRM expected to average below 3 percent. Low rates are good news for buyers looking to purchase a home, and homeowners looking to reduce their mortgage payment through refinancing.
- Home sales to remain high. The demand for housing is expected to remain strong in 2021, creating a favorable market for sellers. Last year, low mortgage rates and the ability to work remotely drove up home sales (the measure of the number of homes sold every month). This year, home sales are expected to ride that wave, averaging 6.5 million for the year.
- House prices to grow moderately. In the second half of 2020, the high volume of home sales and low supply of housing drove up house prices. In 2021, house price growth is expected to moderate for the full year.
- Refinances to start declining. Low mortgage rates spurred refinance activity in 2020, boosting mortgage originations (the process in which borrowers apply for a home loan) to historic highs. As mortgage rates rise modestly in 2021, refinance activity should start to slow. “While many homeowners took advantage of these low rates in last year, evidence suggests that many lower income homeowners still have the opportunity to strengthen their financial position by refinancing,” says Khater.

For more insights on housing, visit freddie-mac.com/research. For homebuying and homeownership resources, visit My Home by Freddie Mac.

Many of the trends that shaped the market last year, especially historically low mortgage rates, will continue to drive housing activity in 2021. As you embark on your journey towards your home goals, be sure to have a firm understanding of today’s market conditions.

(StatePoint)

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR BOSTON PARKS SUMMER SPORTS CENTERS

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce that registration is now open for summer Sports Centers at White Stadium in Franklin Park, Almont Park in Mattapan, East Boston Memorial Stadium, Garvey Park in Dorchester, and M Street Park in South Boston.

Each location offers instruction in several popular sports from July 6 through August 20. All Sports Centers are offered free of charge to Boston residents and open to boys and girls ages 7 to 14. Parents may register their children for just one week or the entire summer.

Please note that lunch will be provided, but participants must provide their own transportation. Pre-registration is required for both groups and individuals. For more information or to register online please visit boston.gov/recreation.

For more information about the White Stadium Sports Center and/or the Almont Sports Center, please call (617) 961-3084 or email woodley.auguste@boston.gov. For more information about the East Boston Sports Center, please call (617) 961-3083 or email damien.margardo@boston.gov. For more information about the South Boston Sports Center, please call

NEWS IN BRIEF

(617) 961-3039 or email mavrick.afonso@boston.gov. For more information about the Garvey Park Sports Center, please call (617) 961-3093 or email charles.conners@boston.gov.

The Sports Centers are operated in accordance with current public health guidelines. Children and staff must wear face coverings and maintain six feet of social distance at all times, activities are organized in groups of ten or fewer, and programs are held completely outdoors. For current social distancing guidelines in City of Boston parks please visit boston.gov/coronavirus.

JPNA APRIL 11 MEETING AGENDA

The Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association (JPNA) will meet Monday, April 12 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. via Zoom Video Conference

REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

In order to speak aloud as an abutter, you must register for this meeting by Sunday, April 11 at 7 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE

In order to qualify to vote at a voting meeting each person must be registered and join the meeting as an individual. You will not be counted as an attendee at a meeting should you participate in the Zoom call as a couple or family.

The following is the agenda for our upcoming monthly meeting:

AGENDA (subject to change):

- Greetings & Announcements
- Boston Police Update
- Nouria Corporation - Airport Starbucks
- Legislative Update - State Representative Adrian Madaro
- Legislative Update - State Senator Joe Boncore
- VOTE: 289 Sumner St - Renovate, erect addition with rear and roof decks and change occupancy to four residential units.

Property Owner: 289 Sumner, LLC

Represented by: Richard C. Lynds, Esq

As a reminder, all questions will be handled via the Zoom chat feature. We ask all attendees to remain muted unless called upon to speak. Looking forward to “seeing” you all there!

We are using eBallot to manage the voting process. Within 48 hours after the meeting, eligible vot-

ers will be emailed a link that will allow them to vote online. All votes must be cast by Friday, April 16 at 7 p.m. Late votes will not be accepted, no exceptions.

We hope you and your loved ones are well. We are all in this together as neighbors and friends. Please don’t be afraid to reach out.

2021 meeting dates are posted at jeffriespoint.org

CITY GOLF COURSES OPEN FOR 2021 SEASON

Mayor Kim Janey has announced that the City of Boston’s two municipal golf courses are open for the 2021 season.

The City owns and operates the William J. Devine Golf Course in Dorchester and the George Wright Golf Course in Hyde Park designed by Donald Ross. Both have received national accolades as must-play courses when golfing in the Boston area.

Golfers can go to cityofbostongolf.com for tee times and rates. For updates, the City’s golf courses can be followed on Twitter @FranklinParkGC and @GeorgeWrightGC.

Founded in 1938, the 18-hole par 70 Donald Ross-designed George Wright Golf Course is a hidden gem in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston open seven days a week through November. Contact PGA Professional Scott Allen at 617-364-2300 for more information.

The second-oldest public golf course in America and part of the historic Emerald Necklace, the William J. Devine Golf Course at Franklin Park in Dorchester offers a pleasant golf experience only minutes from downtown Boston and is open year-round, weather permitting. The outdoor patio features chairs, tables, and umbrellas with seating for up to 100 people. Contact PGA Professional Kevin Frawley at 617-265-4084 for more information.

Under current public health guidelines the pro shop, restaurant, and bathrooms are all open, tee times are required in advance, masks are required unless you are seated at a table eating, all guests must observe distancing guidelines of six feet, and sanitation stations are provided throughout the clubhouse building.

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

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State officials award \$2.3 million in grants

The Baker-Polito Administration announced approximately \$2.3 million in awards for 51 additional businesses in the latest round of COVID-19 relief grants administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC). As in prior rounds, each grant recipient meets sector or demographic priorities set for the grant programs administered by MGCC.

With the addition of this round of grants, the Administration has awarded more than \$650 million in direct financial support to 14,402 businesses across the Commonwealth. Grants for this round were awarded to 13

minority-owned, and 21 woman-owned, businesses; 17 recipients are located in Gateway Cities, and 21 businesses have not received any prior aid.

MGCC also recently announced the availability of funding to support non-profits that offer technical assistance designed to help existing small businesses recover and thrive post COVID-19, as well as community development financial institutions that will back the recovery, resiliency and growth of small businesses in underserved communities through matching capital.

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March revenue collections in Massachusetts total \$3.061 billion

Staff Report

Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) Commissioner Geoffrey Snyder announced that preliminary revenue collections for March totaled \$3.061 billion, which is \$402 million or 15.1 percent more than the actual collections in March 2020, and \$648 million or 26.8 percent more than benchmark.

FY2021 year-to-date collections totaled approximately \$22.588 billion, which is \$1.524 billion or 7.2 percent more than collections in the same period of FY2020.

“March revenue included increases in withholding and non-withheld income taxes, corporate and

business taxes, “all other tax”, and sales and use taxes,” said Commissioner Snyder. “Although C corporation returns are not due until April 15, some corporate return payments were received in March, resulting in an increase in that category relative to the benchmark and prior year collections. The increase in “all other tax” is primarily attributable to estate taxes, a category that tends to fluctuate. Income tax refunds are below benchmark due to the late start of the tax filing season and recent tax law changes, including the extensions of the state and federal individual income tax filing deadlines from April 15 to May 17. However, those tax refunds

may catch up as the filing season progresses,” said Commissioner Snyder.

The original benchmark for fiscal year 2021 was \$28.390 billion. On Jan. 15, as part of the fiscal year 2022 Consensus Revenue process, the fiscal year 2021 benchmark was adjusted to \$29.090 billion. The adjustment is reflected in DOR’s revenue releases beginning in January.

Historically, March is a mid-size month for revenue collections, ranking sixth of the twelve months in eight of the last 10 years. Many corporate and business taxpayers are required to make estimated payments during the month. The tax-filing season is underway, and

March is typically a significant month for refund payments (outflows), which reduce total net revenue.

Details:

Preliminary March Revenue Collections

- Income tax collections for March were \$1.260 billion, \$178 million or 16.5% above benchmark, and \$173 million or 16.0% more than March 2020.
- Withholding tax collections for March totaled \$1.482 billion, \$91 million or 6.6% above benchmark, and \$154 million or 11.6% more than March 2020.
- Income tax estimated payments totaled \$25 million for March, \$5 million or 22.1% more than benchmark, and \$5 million or 22.6% more

than March 2020.

- Income tax returns and bills totaled \$152 million for March, \$63 million or 71.4% more than benchmark, and \$46 million or 43.0% more than March 2020.
- Income tax cash refunds in March totaled \$399 million in outflows, \$19 million or 4.6% less than benchmark, but \$31 million or 8.5% more than March 2020. The decline in refunds relative to the benchmark is due to the late start of this year’s income tax filing season and recent federal tax law changes, including the extension of the individual income tax filing deadline from April 15 to May 17.
- Sales and use tax collections for March totaled

\$562 million, \$95 million or 20.4% above benchmark, and \$39 million or 7.5% more than March 2020.

- Meals tax collections, a sub-set of sales and use tax, totaled \$66 million, \$13 million or 23.9% above benchmark, but \$2 million or 2.8% less than March 2020.
- Corporate and business tax collections for the month totaled \$1.024 billion, \$274 million or 36.5% above benchmark and \$147 million or 16.8% more than March 2020.
- Other tax collections for March totaled \$215 million, \$101 million or 87.8% above benchmark, and \$42 million or 24.3% more than March 2020.

State officials announce federal funding through Eviction Diversion Initiative

State officials have announced that more than \$400 million in new federal funding from the Consolidated Appropriations Act is now available through the Administration’s Eviction Diversion Initiative (EDI).

First launched in October 2020, EDI consists of a comprehensive set of resources that serves individuals, families and landlords in crisis with financial aid, free and low-cost legal aid and community mediation to keep people in their homes. With a focus on preserving housing stability, the Baker-Polito Administration has distributed approximately \$80 million in state rental assistance to more than 18,000 households since the beginning of the State of Emergency.

As a result of extensive coordination detailed below, these efforts have contributed to the mitigation of the anticipated crisis in evictions. Information tracked by the Massachusetts Trial Court shows a total of 626 executions issued in residential eviction cases from October 18, 2020 through March 28, 2021 for cases filed after the state moratorium. This represents a reduction of nearly 85 percent compared to the number of executions issued in residential eviction cases during the same span of time one year prior (3,807).

The infusion of more than \$400 million in federal resources, which is expected to be supplemented by hundreds of millions in additional dollars through the American Rescue Plan Act, allows the Commonwealth to provide longer-term relief to low-income renters and landlords in crisis, while implementing system efficiencies and processes for the future. This additional funding, and the flexibility created by federal regulations, enables the Commonwealth to expand aid to more households, provide deeper and longer-term assistance to households, and help households with

utility payments. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has been investing heavily in and working closely with regional administering agencies (RAAs) and the Rental Assistance Processing (RAP) Center to incorporate the new Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funding into existing delivery service models for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) and Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) programs.

“The ongoing public health crisis and the economic consequences created by COVID-19 have made the importance of stable, affordable housing a clear and vital component of our strategy to keep households safe and healthy,” said Gov. Charlie Baker. “This major infusion of resources enables us to extend and strengthen our Eviction Diversion Initiative, which supports both tenants and landlords in crisis to keep more families safely housed. With more than \$400 million available, we are pleased this funding will enable us to respond to the immense need for support right now, and make long-term investments in our homelessness prevention programs.”

Funding Highlights include:

- Income eligibility – households making up to 80 percent of Area Median Income (AMI) will be eligible for funding (RAFT has an eligibility threshold of 50 percent of AMI).
- Longer-term assistance – households may be eligible for up to 12 months of rental arrears (plus an extra three months of stipends for future rent if funding allows and need is demonstrated), as well as overdue utilities arrears up to \$1,500. All rent and utility arrears must have been accrued after March 13, 2020. Currently, RAFT and ERMA can provide up to \$10,000 per household for rental arrearages

or stipends.

- Prioritization of funds for those most at risk, including those making less than 50 percent AMI and those unemployed for 90 days or more.

In addition, DHCD, in partnership with MassHousing and the Massachusetts Housing Partnership (MHP), will launch a new program to allow qualified owners of income-restricted units, as well as Local Housing Authorities, to apply for help directly on behalf of all of their income-eligible residents with past-due rent. The Subsidized Housing Emergency Rental Assistance (SHERA) program will expedite relief for possibly tens of thousands of eligible tenants in need, while also allowing administering agencies to concentrate on applications from non-subsidized tenants in need of assistance.

Federal resources will also be made available to families who are eligible for Emergency Assistance (EA) Shelter, by coupling ERAP rental assistance benefits with the existing HomeBASE benefit and housing services. This will help those who owe arrears and are at risk of becoming unhoused, and also those who are exiting EA shelter and transitioning into permanent housing. The Administration is also pursuing two pilot initiatives: the first will allow municipalities to provide targeted outreach and hands-on ERAP application support to communities with demonstrated need and hard-to-reach populations, and the second provides targeted outreach strategies to small landlords about the availability of ERAP and other state financial assistance programs.

Over the last nine months, DHCD and partners have worked to reduce paperwork, streamline the application process, implement technology upgrades, and provide better language access. To increase capacity, DHCD and regional agencies hired more than

200 new staff and created the new Rental Assistance Processing (RAP) Center to lend added support with increased applications across the state. DHCD is also working to expand access and awareness with a public information campaign and targeted outreach to vulnerable communities.

To address this immense increase in demand due to COVID-19, DHCD worked with administering agencies to transform the RAFT program from a narrow, homelessness prevention program into a comprehensive disaster relief program to stabilize renters and landlords. The RAFT program was more targeted in its aid, requiring a court summons or other evidence that a household was facing an unstable situation, and was limited to \$4,000 to address a short-term crisis. In past years, with an annual budget of roughly \$20 million, RAFT served between five and six thousand households. During this crisis, the state has already distributed about \$80 million to more than 18,000 households, more than tripling its annual output.

In February 2021 alone, the state served a record 5,463 households, spending \$21.1 million through the RAFT program to keep them in their homes.

By comparison, in February 2020, the month before the start of the public health emergency, the state issued \$1.5 million in RAFT funds. February of 2021 represents approximately a 1,300-percent increase in assistance over February of 2020. During the first three weeks of March, the state distributed \$23.6 million in RAFT payments to 7,445 households, putting the Commonwealth on track for another record month. Payments from those three weeks alone represent more than the entire annual RAFT budget in any fiscal year before the current fiscal year.

In addition, DHCD continues to see fewer families enter and stay in the family shelter system compared to the previous year. Family shelter caseload in February 2021 was down approximately 20 percent compared to February 2020. Similar trends can be seen in the HomeBASE program, with new participants since October down between 30 and 60 percent each month compared to the preceding year. Moreover, while there was an initial increase in post-moratorium eviction filings in November and December, new weekly eviction filings for non-payment of rent have declined and have remained consistently be-

low pre-pandemic levels in Calendar Year 2021. Additionally, this week, the Centers for Disease Control extended its eviction moratorium through June 30.

The EDI effort combines financial assistance with resources for renters and landlords to avoid an eviction. The COVID Eviction Legal Help Project (CELHP), a partnership with the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, and the Volunteers Lawyers Project, provides free legal assistance to low-income households facing an eviction, and free or low-cost assistance for low-income homeowners who live in a home with rental units. Agencies have hired nearly 130 direct service staff to increase capacity, and more than 200 lawyers have been recruited to volunteer their time and expertise. To date, more than 1,000 cases have been opened at legal aid organizations under this partnership. Additionally, with the Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration, professional, confidential mediation services are available across the Commonwealth for tenants and landlords to solve lease or other housing issues outside of the court process.

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OBITUARIES

Emily Mazzarella

Operated Mazzarella Funeral Home in Orient Heights with her late husband

Emily (Bergamasco) Mazzarella, a lifelong resident of East Boston, passed away Saturday evening, April 3, at home surrounded by her loving family after brief illness.

She along with her late husband operated the Mazzarella Funeral Home in Orient Heights since 1952.

After Vincent's untimely passing in 1982, Emily operated the Funeral Home on a temporary license granted by the Board of Registration for Funeral Directing and Embalming. Her permanent license, which culminated after three years of intensive study at the New England Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences, was received in June of 1985. She was also an active and vital member of the East Boston Chamber of Commerce and associated with the St. Lazarus Holy Name Society.

She was the devoted wife of the late Vincent J. Mazzarella, Sr., beloved mother of Barbara Petrillo and her husband Louis, Vincent J. Mazzarella, Jr., Susan Smith and her husband, Michael, Karen Mazzarella and Michael Mazzarella; daughter of the late Angelo and Mary (Cardillo) Bergamasco; cherished grandmother of Nicole Panzini, Jennifer Hrdy, Ryan Smith, Vinnie



Foster, Matthew Smith and Michael Mazzarella, Jr. and is also lovingly survived by her great grandchildren, Emily Rose and Sophia Hrdy and Raleigh Smith.

Family and friends are kindly invited to attend a Funeral from the Smith Funeral Home, 125 Washington Avenue, Chelsea on Friday, April 9 at 8:30 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass to be celebrated in St. Joseph-St. Lazarus Church, 59 Ashley Street, East Boston at 10 o'clock. Visiting Hours in the Smith Funeral Home will be on Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. Services will conclude with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. Those attending are asked to follow Covid-19 protocols regarding face covering and social distancing and are asked to enter the funeral home, respectfully pay their condolences and exit to allow others to enter.

George Aceto III Of Alabama

George J. Aceto III of Alabama passed away on Saturday, March 20.

The loving son of George Jr. and Carol (Sullivan) Aceto, he was the dear brother of Ashley Aceto, cherished grandson of Lucy Aceto and the late George Sr., Sandra Sullivan and the late James; treasured uncle of Hunter and Wyatt and is also survived many loving aunts, uncles and cousins.

Family and friends will honor George's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston,



on Saturday, April 10 from 1 to 3 p.m. for a memorial gathering.

All services will be held in accordance with the Commonwealth of MA COVID-19 reopening regulations.

James Richards

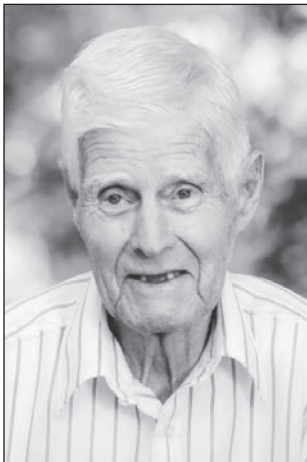
Retired Lieutenant Suffolk County House of Corrections (Deer Island)

James M. Richards of East Boston passed away surrounded by his loving family on Easter Sunday morning at the age of 89.

A US Navy Veteran of the Korean Conflict, He was a retired Lieutenant of the Suffolk County House of Corrections (Deer Island) and a longtime member of the Elks. He will be missed by all.

The beloved husband for over 70 years of Marion (Olivieri) Richards, he was the devoted father of Beverly Buckley and her husband, Michael of Peabody and James Richards and his wife, Colleen of Lynn; cherished grandfather of James Buckley and his wife, Katie of Wilmington and Jarrod Richards of Peabody and the adored great-grandfather of Emma Buckley and Joseph and Kristine Richards.

Family and friends will honor James' life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga St., East Boston today, Wednesday, April 7 from 4 to 7



p.m. and again on Thursday morning at 8 a.m. before leaving in funeral procession to St. Mary's of the Sacred Heart Church, 8 S. Common St., Lynn. Services will conclude with Full Military Honors. All services will be held in accordance with the Commonwealth of MA COVID-19 reopening regulations.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in James' name to Care Dimensions, 75 Sylvan Street, Danvers, MA 01923 or to Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 10 Brookline Place, W. 6th floor, Brookline, MA 02445.

To leave an online condolence please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

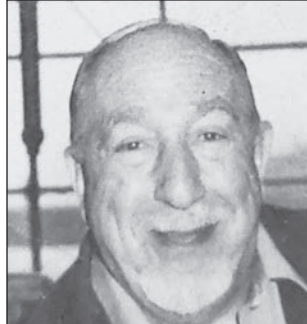
Paul DiCiccio Massport Police Dept. Retiree

Paul W. DiCiccio died in East Boston on March 13.

The beloved husband of Marie P. (DeSciscio) DiCiccio, he was the father of David DiCiccio and Anny DiCiccio, both of Winthrop and the late Victor DiCiccio.

Paul was born and raised in East Boston and attended East Boston schools. He served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict and later re-enlisted in the US Air Force and served for six years before he returned to civilian life. Paul retired from Massport Police Dept.

He previously was a baker at Boston Children's Hospital and worked for



many years in several other Boston restaurants. Paul was a great baker and cook and enjoyed sharing a good meal with family and friends, he will be sorely missed.

At the family's request Memorial Services will be held at a later date due to the COVID pandemic. Please leave messages of condolence for the family on Paul's Tribute Page at MagrathFuneralHome.com.

Joan Martone

Retired legal secretary

Joan F. Martone of East Boston died on March 22.

Joan was born and raised in East Boston and worked for many years as a legal secretary until her retirement.

The beloved daughter of the late Mary (Sarnacchiaro) and Joseph A. Martone, Sr., she was the loving sister of Dorothy Daddario and her husband, Rudy of Saugus, Frank B. Martone of East Boston and the late Joseph A. Jr. and his late wife, Paula, Anthony J., and Louis R. and his wife, Annette Martone. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Due to the COVID



pandemic, private Grave-side Services were held for the immediate family in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

Please leave messages of condolence for the family on her Tribute Page at MagrathFuneralHome.com.

Eric Leach Of Winthrop

Eric M. (Zona) Leach of Winthrop passed away on March 26.

The cherished son of Marie Zona and the late Michael and Eugene Leach and the late Kathy Hughes, he was the beloved father of Ella and Amelia Leach, loving fiancé of Jillian Passaro, dear brother of Rhonda Areniello and her husband, Tizziano, Mario Zona and his wife, Tara, Vanessa D'Amelio and her husband, David, Joseph Leach, Katelyn Pumphret-Leach, Amy Hughes, Trinity Hughes and the late Kristy Hughes. He is also survived by many loving aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends as well as his best friend and beloved dog, Rocco.

Family and friends honored Eric's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home 971 Sara-



toga St., East Boston on Tuesday, April 6 and again today, Wednesday morning, April 7 at St. John's the Evangelist Church, Winthrop Street, Winthrop at 11:30 a.m. for a Funeral Mass in celebration of Eric's life. Services will conclude with Eric being laid to rest at Winthrop Cemetery (Belle Isle Section) Winthrop. All services will be held in accordance with the Commonwealth of MA COVID-19 reopening regulations. For more information, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Angela Tracey

Will be missed by all who knew her

Angela T. Tracey, 71, formerly of East Boston and Revere passed away at her home in Saco, Maine on March 25. Angela was born in 1948 to Rose DeStefano and Douglas Tracey and is survived by many family members and friends

A graduate of East Boston High School, she had a great heart, a wonderful sense of humor, the ability to make people laugh, and



would do anything to support those she cared for. She will be missed.



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Prayer To The Holy Spirit

Holy spirit, you who gives meaning to and shines the light on my path so that I may reach my goals. You who gives me the divine grace to forgive and forget the evil done unto me and which is with me at every moment in my life. I want in this short dialogue to reassure you one more time I do not ever want to be separated from you, no matter how grand the worldly possessions may be, my desire to be with you and my brothers in perpetual glory will not be lessened. (One should say this prayer 3 days the divine shall be granted no matter how unattainable it may be.) Publications must be promised.

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G.E.

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RMV announces April 30 conclusion of opportunity to qualify for free REAL ID upgrade

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is announcing that Friday, April 30, will be the last day to qualify for the Free REAL ID Upgrade Promotion. Customers may still qualify prior to April 30 by renewing their Standard Massachusetts driver’s license or ID card online at Mass.Gov/RMV.

Customers who already qualified by renewing online since June 12, 2020, will be able to begin booking in-person upgrade appointments for their no cost REAL ID online starting Thursday, April 1, and will have ample time to take advantage of their free REAL ID upgrade. Those customers with a U.S. Passport are already in compliance with federal REAL ID requirements that begin on Oct. 1, and should not need a REAL ID for the purposes of boarding domestic flights or entering certain federal buildings at that time.

“The RMV appreciates the public’s overwhelmingly positive response to this promotion and welcomes additional qualifying participation prior to April 30 for those who renew their license or ID online and defer their visit to a Service Center for a REAL ID to a later date,” said Acting RMV Registrar Colleen Ogilvie. “While federal REAL ID travel requirements won’t take effect until October 1, 2021, and customers with a valid U.S. Passport may never need a REAL ID, the RMV and our partners at AAA stand ready to accommodate and provide plenty of time for customers to take advantage of their free REAL ID upgrade.”

Customers are eligible to renew online up to one year in advance of the expiration date printed on their license or ID, and up to two years after the expiration date. This means customers expiring now through April 30, 2022, can renew online for a standard license / ID prior to the conclusion of the promotion, and still take

advantage of the free future upgrade.

Beginning Thursday, April 1, eligible customers who have already renewed their driver’s license/ID online since June 12, 2020, will now be able to book in-person appointments to upgrade their credentials at no cost at an RMV Service Center or a AAA location (if members). Appointments can be scheduled by RMV customers at Mass.Gov/RMV or by AAA members at northeast.aaa.com.

Customers will not need a federally compliant REAL ID for the purposes of boarding domestic flights or entering certain federal buildings prior to Oct. 1, 2021, especially if they already possess a valid U.S. Passport which is already a federally complaint REAL ID document. The fee for renewing a non-commercial standard or REAL ID license is \$50, while the fee for upgrading to a standard or REAL ID card is \$25. The typical \$25 upgrade / amendment fee will be waived under the above qualifying circumstances.

The Free REAL ID Upgrade Promotion began by Executive Order on June 12, 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, offering customers the flexibility and time to renew their license / ID online and wait to get their REAL ID, which requires an in-person visit and document verification at a Service Center or AAA. This promotion supported the RMV’s pandemic-related efforts to implement social distancing protocols, reduce in-person Service Center traffic, prioritize critical in-person transaction and appointment capacity and ultimately keep customers and staff safe.

Customers should take the following steps to determine their online renewal eligibility and qualify for this offer prior to the April 30, 2021, conclusion:

- Visit Mass.Gov/RMV, login to their “myRMV” account, and find out if they are permitted to renew online.

- Renew online – their new standard license or ID card will be sent via U.S. mail.

- The cost for renewing a driver’s license is \$50. The cost for renewing an ID card is \$25. These costs are the same for both a Standard or REAL ID license or ID card. The cost for upgrading or amending a license or ID card outside of their renewal cycle is \$25 – this fee will be waived for participating, eligible RMV customers upgrading to a REAL ID license/ID.

- Eligible customers who have renewed online will be able to make an appointment for a REAL ID at an RMV Service Center or AAA office (for members) beginning on Thursday, April 1, and have their \$25 upgrade / amendment fee waived.

- Customers can visit Mass.Gov/ID to find detailed information on REAL ID including a helpful checklist that conveniently outlines the documentation needed to secure a REAL credential.

- Customers are encouraged to begin their transaction online by visiting Mass.Gov/RMV, clicking on “Online Service Center,” selecting “Apply for a REAL ID,” and then following the prompts to verify their identity and start their transaction. Customers will be prompted to answer a series of questions to complete a summary document, which should be presented along with required REAL ID documentation during their in-person visit. REAL ID credentials are mailed customers within seven–10 days of a visit to RMV Service Center and/or AAA location.

- Anyone who holds a valid U.S. passport or other federally compliant form of identification may never need an RMV-issued REAL ID.

- As a service to its members, AAA continues to issue REAL ID credentials and will be offering free REAL ID upgrades to eligible members. Members should make an appointment before visiting a AAA location.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

LOCAL STUDENTS MAKE THE DEAN’S LIST AT CCU

A total of 2,329 undergraduate students at Coastal Carolina University were named to the Dean’s List for the Fall 2020 semester. That’s nearly a quarter of the student body with a grade point average between 3.5-3.99 for the fall semester. An additional 930 students were named to the President’s List for achieving a 4.0 GPA during the fall semester.

Among the students earning recognition on the Dean’s List:

William Marchi a Recreation and Sport Management major from East Boston.

Coastal Carolina University is a dynamic, public comprehensive liberal arts institution located in Conway, just minutes from the resort area of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Coastal Carolina University offers baccalaureate degrees in 94 major fields of study. Among CCU’s graduate-level programs are 27 master’s degrees, two educational specialist degrees, and the doctorates in education and in marine science: coastal and marine systems science. The most popular undergraduate majors are marine science, management, exercise and sport science, communication and psychology.

CCU boasts a growing array of internship, research and international opportunities for students, as well as numerous online programs through Coastal Online.

More than 10,000 students from across the country and around the world interact with a world-class faculty, and enjoy a nationally competitive NCAA I athletic program, an inspiring cultural calendar, and a tradition of community interaction that is fueled by more than 120 student clubs and organizations.

Coastal Carolina University was founded in 1954 as Coastal Carolina Junior College and became an independent state university in 1993.

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO THE DEAN’S LIST AT MCPHS UNIVERSITY

MCPHS University is pleased to announce the students who have been named to the Dean’s List for the Fall 2020 semester:

* Olivia DeGuglielmo is a native of East Boston, and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Olivia will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2022.

* Anderson Yepes Alvarez is a native of East

Boston, and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Medical and Molecular Biology. Anderson will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2024.

* Said Al Attar is a native of East Boston, and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Predental-Dental Hygiene. Said will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2022.

The Dean’s List recognizes those students with a full-time course load who have achieved outstanding scholarship with a 3.5 GPA or higher for the academic term.

The mission of MCPHS University is to prepare graduates to advance health and serve communities worldwide through excellence, innovation, and collaboration in teaching, practice, scholarship, and research. Founded in 1823, MCPHS University is the oldest institution of higher education in the City of Boston. In addition to the original Boston campus, the University has campuses in Worcester, Massachusetts, and Manchester, New Hampshire, as well as robust online learning options. The University currently offers more than 100 unique baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degree programs and certificates covering a variety of health-related fields and professions.

Two Eastie restaurants featured in new digital cookbook

By John Lynds

Two restaurants that have made a name for themselves outside the borders of East Boston are now featured in The Food Lens’ first digital cookbook “Dining in Boston”.

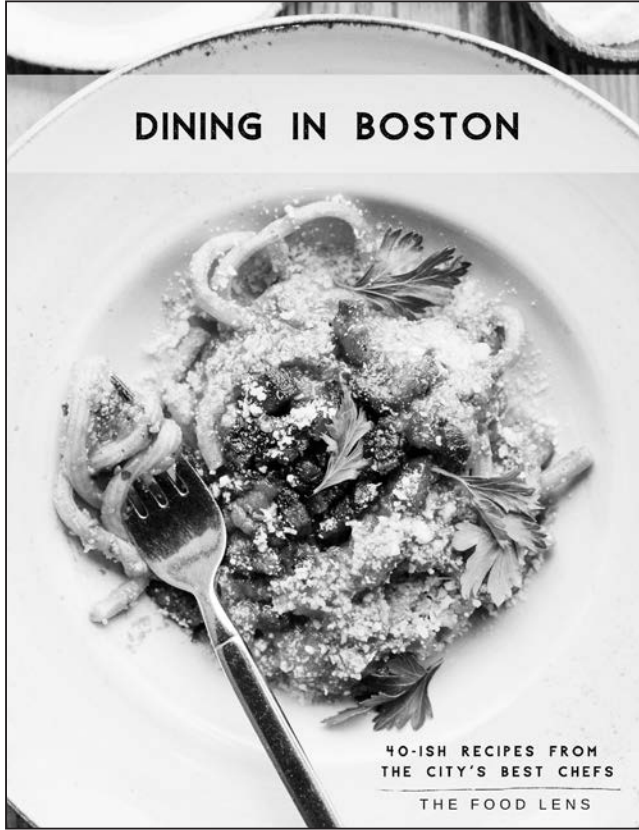
The Food Lens, an online dining resource that helps readers discover the best food, drink, and happenings in Boston, has included a recipe each from Angela’s Cafe and Tawakal Halal Cafe in Eastie.

The Food Lens’ founders Molly Ford and Sarah Jesup also compiled more than 38 other recipes from the area’s best chefs and restaurants in an effort to bring their readers a new way to experience local dining at home during Covid-19.

A portion of proceeds from Dining in Boston will benefit Massachusetts Restaurants United (MRU) to help strengthen and support the industry after a challenging year.

“We find purpose in our work to showcase the area’s many talented chefs every day, but this effort feels particularly meaningful as we look back on a year of Covid-19 and the devastating toll it has taken on the city’s hospitality industry,” said The Food Lens Co-Founder, Molly Ford. “Our hope is to not only offer our readers with another fun and dynamic way to experience their favorite spots, but also to give back to the restaurant community that we love so deeply,” added Co-Founder Sarah Jesup.

Owned by Yahya Noor, Tawakal Halal Cafe on the corner of Maverick and Jeffries Streets, has received nothing but accolades since opening.



The front cover of The Food Lens's new digital cookbook that features recipes from two popular Eastie restaurants.

Bon Appetit named the small cafe that serves up home cooked Somalia cuisine on the corner of Maverick and Jeffries Streets in East Boston to its annual “Hot 10” list saying Noor’s restaurant, “Should be your first stop off the plane” when coming to Boston.

The popular Somali cafe was also featured in an ad campaign by UberEats that paired acclaimed gold medal gymnast, Simone Biles, and ‘Queer Eye’ star Jonathan Van Ness.

Angela’s Cafe, with two locations in Eastie (one in Eagle Hill and another in Orient Heights) opened over 15 years ago with the late Angela Atenco Lopez’s recipes from her native Puebla, Mexico wowing residents, food critics and celebrity chefs alike.

Angela’s tacos and other traditional Puebla recipes consistently made

“Best of Boston” lists in numerous magazines and the restaurant’s traditional guacamole received numerous awards over the years.

In 2013, Mrs. Lopez’s recipes gained national fame when the Food Network’s popular show, Diners, Drive Ins and Dives (Triple Ds), debuted its segment on Angela’s Cafe.

Host and celebrity chef Guy Fieri was beyond impressed by the Puebla/ Mexican cuisine being served at Mrs. Lopez’s small Eastie restaurant.

The Food Lens’ digital cookbook, Dining in Boston is available for purchase at thefoodlens.com/shop for \$14.00, with 10% of every sale contributing to MRU’s mission to not only help local restaurants survive the pandemic, but to keep them open and thriving long after the spread of Covid-19.



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LEGAL NOTICE

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THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
DEPARTMENT
ESSEX DIVISION DOCKET NO.
ES21P0968GD
In the Matter of:
PAULD.PARI
ORDER

on Petition for Guardianship filed 4/2/2021
This matter came before the Court sitting as the Emergency Judge on Petitioners’ Ex Parte Motion for Emergency Guardianship filed 4/2/2021 (#5) (hereinafter referred to as “Motion”). After review of the Motion and supporting affidavit pursuant to Rule 78, the Court issues the following Order:
1. The motion shall be heard by video or Telephone Conferencing on APRIL 8, 2021 AT
8: 15 A.M. Said hearing shall be by video or telephone

conferencing through the zoom.us/ platform. DO NOT COME TO THE COURTHOUSE.
To access your video or telephone conference, please use the following information:
MEETING ID: PASSWORD: 160 227 9221 714440
Telephone number to call into the hearing if you are unable to access the hearing by video: 1-669-254-5252 or 1-646-828-7666.
2. The petitioner shall serve the respondent and the interested parties the following:
A. The above referenced Motion
B. The affidavit in support of the Motion
B. The within Order
C The above referenced Petition
D. Citation on the above referenced Petition
3. Service shall be made on or before April 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. on the interested

parties whose whereabouts are known, as follows:
[] By facsimile;
[X] By email of scanned copies pursuant to Standing Order 4-20.
For any of the above methods of delivery, the moving party shall also notify the interested parties of the delivery by telephone (either in person or by voice mail).
[X] By first-class mail
[] By in hand delivery by a constable or sheriff
[] By leaving at their address and mailing by 1st class mail by a constable or sheriff
[] By in hand delivery OR by leaving and mailing at their address and mailing by 1st class mail. Said service to be done by constable or sheriff
[x] In hand delivery by constable, sheriff, or disinterested person on the Respondent.
4. A return of service showing compliance with this

Order shall be filed with the Court prior to the hearing.
5. Prior to the hearing, the respondent has two children who are listed as parts unknown on the petition.
Service on those individuals shall be by publication as directed on the citation. In addition, the petitioner shall file an affidavit with the Court detailing what efforts have been made to locate their whereabouts.
6. Prior to the hearing, the petitioner shall file a proposed treatment plan, proposed review order and proposed findings with the Court.
7. Counsel shall be appointed for the respondent.
Date: April 2, 2021
ELIZABETH TEIXEIRA
Essex Probate and Family Court

4/7/2021
EB

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East Boston Branch of the Boston Public Library celebrates 150 years

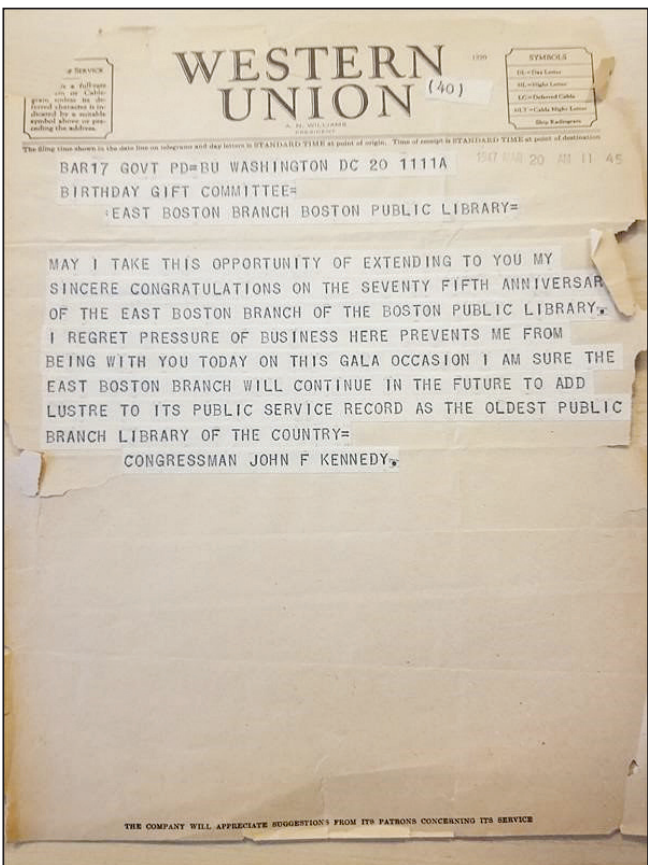
By John Lynds

In 1848 the Boston Public Library (BPL) was established as a pioneer of public library service in America. It was the first large, free municipal library in the United States, the first public library to lend books, the first to have a branch library and the first to have a children's room.

Few may know that first branch library opened 23 years after the Copley Branch on March 22, 1871 was right here on Paris and Meridian Streets.

At the end of last month, BPL officials celebrated the historic first BPL branch's 150th Anniversary. To celebrate the history of the East Boston Branch, Branch Librarian Margaret Kelly hosted a lecture on Zoom about the library's history as well as special trivia games throughout the last week of March.

"The opening of the East Boston Branch Library was a pivotal moment in the history of the BPL, the City of Boston, and municipal libraries across the country," said BPL President David Leonard. "Not only did the branch library provide access to other neighborhoods of Boston, the East



Telegram from John F. Kennedy congratulating the East Boston Branch on its 75th anniversary.

Boston Branch has historically served a population that has included significant numbers of new Bostonians. Having served such a diverse population for 150 years, the branch is a testament to the BPL's mission to be truly 'free to all,' and a celebration of local community and civic engagement."

This first branch in the U.S. was formally dedi-

cated on March 22, 1871 after a soft opening as a reading room on November 28, 1870. The original 1871 East Boston Branch location was in the old Lyman School building located on Paris and Meridian Streets, sharing space with the East Boston Courthouse.

Seeing the community's need for a larger space, the branch temporarily relocated to the Austin School on Paris Street in 1912 while a new branch library was constructed at 276 Meridian Street. A second Eastie branch was later located in Orient Heights on Barnes Avenue.

This new Meridian Street location opened on April 21, 1914, and the East Boston Branch remained there until its most recent relocation to Bremen Street Park in 2013. The consolidated Bremen Street location served as a replacement for the former Meridian Street and Orient Heights Branches.

According to BPS the most notable figure to support the East Boston Branch was President John F. Kennedy, whose father and grandfather grew up in Eastie.



The Lyman School, the East Boston Branch's first location.



Current East Boston Branch at 365 Bremen Street.

Kennedy anonymously gifted the East Boston Branch Library a record player, amplifier, and loudspeaker, which led to the creation of the first music listening room within the BPL.

One relic of JFK's connection to the branch remains and is a 1946 telegram in which then-Congressman Kennedy congratulates the East Boston Branch on its 75th anniversary.

"The richness of diversity in East Boston has been and continues to be reflected in the branch as a vital hub and gathering spot for community engagement, reading, learning new skills, meeting

neighbors, and simply having fun," said Margaret Kelly. "We are so excited to be celebrating 150 years of library service, and we look forward to many more years of engaging with the East Boston community."

The East Boston community has long been a constantly changing portrait of the people of Boston. Since its opening, the branch has proudly served a vibrant and diverse community starting with waves of Italian, Irish, and Jewish immigrants in its earliest days, and more recently welcoming many patrons from countries in Central and South America and North Africa.

At its current location, the 15,000-square-foot branch includes a reading porch, the first library teen zone in Eastie, and the BPL's first dedicated early literacy nook. With views of Bremen Park and the Boston skyline, the building includes eco-friendly features such as storm water management to conserve water, sustainably harvested and certified wood, floor-fed ventilations and conditioning, high-performance glass, and a reflective roof. In 2016, the East Boston Branch won a Best of Boston Award for "Best Neighborhood Division."

The Battle of Chelsea Creek: A Zoom Lecture

Monday, April 12 at 7 p. m.



Did you know that on May 27, 1775, British Marines and American militia troops fought in what is today's East Boston? Find out more about the Battle of Chelsea Creek—it began with an attempt to drive off the island's livestock, and ended with the capture of a British schooner. Join for this fascinating look at the Battle of Chelsea Creek presented by local resident, Robert J. Allison.

Robert J. Allison is a professor of history at Suffolk University, and the chair of Revolution 250, a consortium of 70 organizations in New England planning commemorations of the American Revolution's 250th anniversaries. He hosts its popular weekly podcast on the Revolution. He is the author of several books on Boston history and on the American Revolution.

Registration is required. This event will be held online through Zoom. Email mkelly@bpl.org to register. A link will be emailed to those registered by 3pm on the afternoon of the event. Please contact mkelly@bpl.org if you don't receive the link.



Sponsored by the Friends of the East Boston Branch Library

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