

Substation // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing ballot question provides information to elected officials and the public of voter sentiment on a particular issue.

Despite widespread community opposition as well as opposition from over a dozen Massachusetts elected officials the state’s Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) unanimously approved Eversource’s highly controversial plan to build a new substation back in February.

The substation was originally approved to be sited at the City Yards back in 2017. The proposal voted on by the EFSB was to allow Eversource to move the proposed substation to western edge of the City Yards and further away from American Legion Playground.

In a marathon meeting on February 25 that lasted several hours and included the adoption of

several amendments to Eversource’s plan such as a safety plan, flood zone management and community mitigation the board eschewed Eastie’s already overburdened industrial infrastructure and rubber stamped the plan.

Despite state Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides saying at Monday’s hearing that the substation would be placed in a “heavily, heavily industrialized area within an environmental justice community that has historically suffered disproportionate environmental harms and a heavy burden of infrastructure” she still voted in favor of Eversource’s plans as an EFSB board member.

Acting Mayor Kim Janey recently joined the city’s Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space Reverend Maria-White-Hammond and

GreenRoots advocate Nemy Rodriguez to urge Eversource to justify or cancel its proposed electrical substation in East Boston.

Edward’s hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1st at 10:00 am and will take place virtually on Zoom. Simultaneous interpretation into Spanish will be available. Members of the public are invited to testify. Invited participants include residents who signed the petition and the Boston Elections Department.

To get the Zoom link to participate or to submit written testimony, residents can send an email to christine.odonnell@boston.gov. If you wish to watch the hearing, visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/city-council/watch-boston-city-council-tv>.

Pazza // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

an assortment of cannolis and more.”

Pazza opened in the fall of 2019 to rave reviews from Eastie residents and has been doing its share to help out frontline healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Spencer and Scalzi of the Boston Amici Group teamed up with Tenure England Vodka to feed exhausted and hungry staff at East Boston Neighbor-

hood Health Center (EBNHC) during the height of the pandemic and participated in other community relief efforts throughout the past year.

Located in the same spot as Sablone’s, and later Ecco, Pazza on Porter commemorates old Eastie with their private dining room that features the Sablone’s signature wall—something Ecco owners preserved when they took

over the restaurant. Notable signatures on the wall range from Ted Williams and Bobby Orr to Diana Ross and Steven Tyler.

In addition to their beloved dishes like the Fried Burrata and Alla Pazza pasta, the restaurant is offering a wide variety of new menu items to pair with the opening of their new patio and beer garden.

Janey // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lic-art-the-joy-agenda.

“This past year, we saw so many artists bring together communities amid social isolation and provide collective opportunities for processing grief, healing, and joy,” said Chief of Arts and Culture for the City of Boston Kara Elliott-Ortega. “This program will bring more arts opportunities to Boston, while also investing in artists and creative workers who need our support now more than ever.”

For decades Eastie senior citizens and senior groups like the Golden Age Club have been clamoring for their own space in the community.

In the fall the city released a set of artist renderings for the first time that depicts what Eastie’s first ever Senior Center will look like once construction is completed.

Construction on the future senior center began last summer at the former Bremen Street branch of the Boston Public Library across from Orient Heights MBTA station.

Construction work on the senior center will include accessibility upgrades, new HVAC systems, new elevator, window replacements, landscaping, new utilities, new bathrooms, new kitchen, sprinkler system

and roof replacement.

The renderings released by the city for the first time show the all glass, 850 square foot addition that will house the senior center’s main entrance, lobby, elevator and stairwell. The renderings also show the outdoor terrace that is part of the design.

Investments from Massport, through mitigation struck with the Logan Impact Advisory Committee (LIAG), will help support the programming and operational needs of the newly-renovated center once construction is complete.

PPSC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion.”

Piers Park Sailing Center provides after school and summer youth programs on and around Boston Harbor. Since 1998, more than 20,000 young people have learned to sail at Piers Park.

DeFronzo said the funds from this grant will help grow the Sailing After School and annual summer programs.

“Hundreds of youth from economically disadvantaged families will attend programming for free because of the Cummings grant,” Defronzo said.

The Cummings \$25 Million Grant Program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties.

“We aim to help meet the needs of people in all segments of our local community,” said Cummings Foundation Executive Director Joel Swets. “It is the incredible organizations we fund, however, that do the actual



The \$450,000 grant spread over 10 will help grow the Sailing After School and annual summer programs.

daily work to empower our neighbors, educate our children, fight for equity, and so much more.”

The Cummings Foun-

Lopes // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the South End and through our partnership in Everett and Revere we were really ready to get the vaccine out to people who needed it the most.”

Lopes said some of the challenges up front were getting all EBNHC staff vaccinated as quickly as possible.

“We knew that our employees were our most important resources and without them we couldn’t do this work,” said Lopes. “So when Moderna became available, we were the first in the country to give our employees a shot and we quickly rolled that out to the rest of the communities we serve. It was important to do this because we learn a lot from our staff. Sixty percent of our staff come from the communities we serve so they really informed us in terms of how we can get our message out or what questions residents have. But we knew we had to build capacity because we had many people who were ready to rush through

the door. So we built this capacity to handle the volume and we had to really come at this rollout with a sledgehammer.”

However, Lopes added that EBNHC staff knew in the communities they serve there is a level of mistrust of the healthcare system and many people had a lot of questions about the vaccine. “So, in addition to opening up these sites we also launched our education and outreach campaign to make sure that we were getting messages out early and often about how well the vaccine works, answering questions around the issues and concerns that people may have,” said Lopes. “So once we got through the ‘vaccine yeses’ (those who wanted the vaccine) which was quite a bit of a challenge we really began to focus on the ‘maybes’ in the neighborhoods. The ‘maybes’ are the ones who won’t go to the vaccine website, won’t stay on the phone for 30 minutes waiting for someone to answer and you have to go to them. That’s what we’ve been doing through our local vaccination sites that are well positioned.”

Lopes said through partnerships and mobile vaccine vehicles EBNHC was able to go to the heart of hard hit communities and get more and more people vaccinated.

“We made sure that vaccination sites were easily accessible,” said Lopes. “We launched, along with some of our partners, mobile pop up sites where we can go into the heart of these areas. We can go to large employers and get as

many people vaccinated as possible.”

Lopes said the most recent challenge EBNHC is facing is the ‘hard no’.


“Today we’re dealing with the ‘hard noes’, which we’ve been dealing with since the beginning of the rollout,” said Lopes. “These are individuals that need really personal attention and our strategy there is to do the vaccines in our exam rooms. Since we are the largest provider of healthcare in our service area we have high penetration rates in these communities. We felt that this is a great opportunity for us to put the vaccine in the exam rooms and hopefully give individuals an opportunity to ask some of those private questions, meet with their primary care team, and hopefully get the vaccine.”

Come fall and beyond Lopes said there will be a lot of discussion and learning over the COVID ‘booster’ vaccine. This is the one shot booster vaccinated people will receive about six months after completing their first round of vaccination shots.

“There’s a lot for us to learn around boosters and we’re waiting for the CDC guidance around that once it becomes available,” said Lopes. “But from our perspective we were doing 100,000 pre pandemic flu shots a year. So we’re going to treat the booster like any other vaccine and hope that people every year, if it is necessary, come in and get their flu shot and get that COVID-19 booster shot as well.”

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



Virtual Public Meeting

East Boston Resilient Waterfront Project

Tuesday, June 8
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/33REI4q
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 345 1781


Project Description:

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) and the City of Boston are building off of the climate vulnerability analysis and resilient strategies developed through Climate Ready Boston (2016) and Coastal Resilient Solutions for East Boston (2017) to analyze site conditions and develop implementable design options to protect the East Boston waterfront and community from future sea level rise and coastal storm events. During the most recent community workshop for this project on May 4, 2021, the project team presented climate resilient design scenarios to community members, and received feedback and guidance during the meeting, and through a survey following the meeting. At this upcoming meeting, the project team will review the feedback and guidance that has been received thus far, and will present a recommended preferred direction design for the project area. Spanish language interpretation will be provided during the meeting.

mail to: **Joe Christo**
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BostonPlans.org |  [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

PLAN: East Boston holds first meeting after 14 month hiatus

By John Lynds

Due to the COVID-19, the Boston Planning and Development Agency’s (BPDA) PLAN: East Boston initiative that seeks to rezone areas of Eastie, and create an updated Master Plan took a back seat to the city focus on pandemic relief efforts.

However, BPDA’s Kristina Ricco, Jason Rugiero, and Nick Schmidt hosted a virtual PLAN: East Boston meeting last Thursday night and plan to hold four more throughout the course of the year.

Ricco said after each meeting the BPDA’s PLAN: East Boston team will release a draft for East Boston planning on each topic discussed at the meetings.

“Tonight we’ll discuss planning for squares and corridors,” said Ricco. “Next is neighborhood residential areas and after that will be discussing waterfront and industrial areas. Then we will conclude the series with network and regional connections. I know some folks at this meeting have already taken a moment to preview the draft recommendations for the content tonight. Our game plan is to release the chapter, give folks time to read it comprehensively and then schedule time. A number of listening sessions to follow up and discuss the draft recommendations in detail with us will be scheduled.”

Ricco said after a long 14 months it’s good to get

the ball rolling again in regards to planning and holding more meetings, listening sessions and discussions.

“It’s so important to connect back and remind ourselves of the task at hand,” said Ricco. “It’s not news that East Boston, like many neighborhoods in Boston, is changing. The most recent comprehensive Neighborhood Plan was published more than 20 years ago, Neighborhood Zoning was published in 1993, the East Boston Master Plan was published in 2000, and the Transportation Action Plan was published in 2008. Certainly, much has changed since then.”

Ricco reminded attendees that PLAN: East Boston will update neigh-

borhood zoning, establish neighborhood design guidelines and propose new capital improvements to public spaces—including near and long term improvements to the neighborhood’s transportation network to predictably shape the future of the neighborhood.

“We are so excited to reinstate engagement at this important moment in the planning process,” said Ricco. “Starting tonight and spreading over the next several months we will preview draft recommendations that present an ambitious and exciting vision for the future of East Boston. The next phase will further refine these recommendations and then translate them into specific actions to be

implemented over time. So, the draft recommendations report is specifically not an implementation plan. Recommendations build on community feedback and respond to trends identified in the existing conditions analysis. Planning trends help summarize what observable data says today about East Boston.”

So with that, following two years of engagement with the Eastie community the BPDA has prepared draft recommendations for squares and corridors, including Maverick Square, Day Square, Orient Heights Square, and Suffolk Downs Square as well as recommendations for major corridors including Meridian Street and Bennington Street.

These draft recommendations have been published on the project website in English and in Spanish and can be viewed at <http://www.boston-plans.org/getattachment/55d4ee5f-49dc-4157-9bd5-e9e0c0d4396e>.

Some of the recommendations include adding density, more retail and transit-orientated projects where appropriate while adding more public transportation options in places like Day Square and adding more traffic calming initiatives on busy thoroughfares in the neighborhood.

Residents are encouraged to check out the draft recommendations and comment.

Eastie man arrested for carjacking taxi

By John Lynds

Transit Police arrested an East Boston man Monday in Braintree for allegedly trying to carjack a taxi driver and beating him up.

Zaccaria Adan, 28, of East Boston was arrested by Transit Police Headquarters for booking after he was positively identified by the victim as well as a witness.

The incident occurred just before 1 a.m. Monday when Transit Police received a call to the MBTA’s Braintree station for

a report of an assault.

When officers arrived they were met by the 57-year-old victim who works as a cab driver. The cabbie told police he was waiting to pick up a customer in the taxi stand at the Braintree MBTA station when he was approached by a male, later identified as Adan.

Adan requested a ride and the victim explained he already had a fare he was waiting for. Adan responded by punching the taxi’s window and yelling obscenities. The victim exited his taxi and was

then physically assaulted by Adan.

Adan, with a close fist, began punching the victim about his face and head, eventually knocking him to the ground. Adan then began kicking the victim in the head. Adan then entered into the victim’s taxi and attempted to drive away but was unsuccessful. Adan then stole the victim’s cell phone and US Currency from the taxi and attempted to leave the area.

He was arrested shortly after being identified.

City gives traffic calming measure a try on Ashley and Border Streets

By John Lynds

Anyone who lives in Orient Heights knows that the area near the Marty Pino Community Center where Ashley Street dumps out onto Boardman can be a dangerous area for pedestrians and motorists.

With a community center and neighboring Noyes Park hosting hundreds of children each week once the weather gets warm the city has heard enough complaints about the intersection to begin trying something different.

At the Orient Heights Neighborhood Council meeting earlier this month Jacob Wessel from the city’s Transportation Department (BTD) briefed residents on a new traffic calming measure being tried at the intersection.

“For those of you that have been by the Ashley and Boardman Streets intersection you may have noticed a lot of our lovely orange cones that have been deployed to the intersection and thought to yourself, “What’s going on?”, said Wessel. “So I am here to explain our trial which we’ve done sort of on purpose to demon-

strate to folks in real time what our plans are for the future of that intersection. I understand that there was a proposal for this a couple of years ago as part of mitigation with a project elsewhere in the neighborhood.”

Wessel said as part of that mitigation BTDD deployed the traffic cones to demonstrate the city’s plan to transform the triangular intersection into a more user friendly area for motorists and pedestrians.

“There have been complaints of speeding coming off of Ashley Street and also the fact that cars try a lot of different ways to turn left from Ashley onto Boardman or merge with traffic going on Boardman towards McClellan Highway,” Wessel explained. “So what the cones are doing is creating two things. One is a narrowing of the roadway at the end of Ashley as you merge onto Boardman in order to make sure that cars aren’t speeding. It’s quite simple when the lanes are narrower it creates a bit of discomfort for a driver that might feel like they may hit something if they don’t slow down.”

The second thing the cones are creating according to Wessel is creating a three-point intersection for vehicles turning left onto Boardman.

“The gap between the two triangles created by the cones is now a three-point intersection so that folks can then turn left more safely onto Boardman Street,” said Wessel.

After studying the intersection BTDD realized the stop sign that is currently by the crosswalk on Ashley Street doesn’t get followed very often so the stop sign will also be moved much further down Ashley Street so motorists have plenty of time to break before the crosswalk.

“Our goal is to eventually replace the temporary cones and install flex posts,” said Wessel. “That will delineate this area from the asphalt roadway space with the hope that it’s really known as a place where cars shouldn’t be driving. Over time, as we study the intersection and how folks respond to it, we can think about whether there should be more permanent enhancements.”

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Deangelo, Lucas	71 Border LLC	71 Border St #1	\$300,000
Corr, Jessica	71 Border LLC	71 Border St #2	\$379,000
Chen, Anderson	71 Border LLC	71 Border St #5	\$450,000
Brandon, Lauren J	71 Border LLC	71 Border St #6	\$453,000
Bridge, William R	71 Border LLC	71 Border St #8	\$835,000
Paul, Denzil D	FBC Eagle Hill LLC	135 Eutaw St #2	\$437,000
Andrew Cheiftez RET	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #211	\$1,222,200
Shi, Diou	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #306	\$715,000
Coughlin, Matthew	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #401	\$770,000
Padir, Halil	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #410	\$1,715,000
Ruben, Richard	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #501	\$870,000
Wang, Hai Y	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #503	\$640,000
Gao, Chen	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #504	\$685,000
Grondin, Daniel M	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #510	\$1,700,000
Tiku, Deepak	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #513	\$1,171,200
Fu, Chenying	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #PH6	\$855,000
Feinberg, Gary	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #PH9	\$1,750,000
Jung, Carrie E	Hodges-Leclaire, Esther	267 Lexington St #4	\$385,000
Chen, Ivan	Guadagnin, Eleonora	67 Lubec St #1	\$409,000
Mitko, Kristo	Regalado, Dayton R	276 Maverick St	\$940,000
110 Morris Realty LLC	158 Putnam St RT	101 Morris St	\$545,000
Marchese, Nicholas	Mckinley Inv Group LLC	221 Paris St #3	\$595,000
Lobell, Marshall	Francke, Matthew	156 Porter St #338	\$615,000
Deitch, Adam W	Campanelli, Joseph	156 Porter St #340	\$665,000
421 Saratoga St LLC	Petruzzelli RT	421 Saratoga St	\$1,000,000
821 Saratoga LLC	Summa, Robert P	821 Saratoga St	\$775,000
Mercurio, Lisa M	CB Equities Saratoga St	946 Saratoga St #304	\$725,000
Shakedown Sumner St LLC	Makridis, Chrysostomos	362 Sumner St	\$600,000
DelRio-Solorzano, Tania	Lokken, Michael C	26 Teragram St	\$900,000

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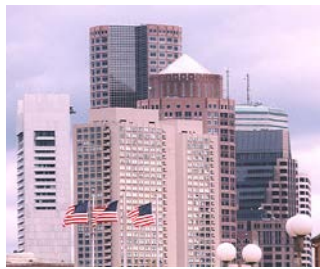
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Forum

GUEST OP-ED

Your house and building financial security

Dr. Glenn Mollette

As we approach Memorial Day, give thanks for our soldiers who gave and are giving sacrificially for our freedom.

One of the freedoms we enjoy is the freedom to own a house. The greatest asset of most people is the roof over their heads. Your house may be worth more than all of your cash, savings accounts and in some cases retirement funds combined.

If your house is paid for then congratulations to you. You have achieved a beautiful piece of the American dream. When I was 26 years old, I bought a house on a land contract. The house cost \$80,000. Interest rates were 17% back then and a man sold it to me for no money down and 10% interest rate. The rate then was

good and it was good for him. He was using the sale to fund his retirement for 20 years at about \$800 per month. It was great for me because I didn't have a nickel to put down on the house. If you can buy a house this way then more power to you and the seller. Talk to an attorney and make sure the title is clear and the contract is solid before you enter into the agreement. A couple of years later I moved and sold the house and cleared \$10,000. It worked out okay for me. The man got his balance owed plus interest.

You may not find a land contract deal and will have to go through a bank or other lender. The idea of entering into a 15, 20- or 30-year loan agreement is overwhelming. If you can handle a 15-year loan you will save tens of thou-

sands of dollars. When you purchase a house on a 30-year loan the cost of the house depending on interest rates will almost double.

When you pay a few years on your house you develop equity. You could borrow against the house in case of an emergency. Once you have paid for your house it's yours and you have a place to live. In your golden years if you decide you don't want the hassle of taking care of property you can sell it and utilize the cash to rent or buy something more economical. However, carefully assess if you really want to give up your space and be subjected to a land lord or rental association. You'll always be more independent in your own place if you can maintain what you have.

There are tax benefits to

buying and owning property that you won't get when renting.

You will also come out better financially if you are planning on living at least five years in your house.

A man or woman's house is his or her castle. Invest in a place to live if and when you can and give thanks for a country where we have the freedom to build financial security.

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

GUEST OP-ED

As our city reopens and the weather gets warmer, I encourage everyone who can to support our small business

By: Mayor Kim Janey

Warmer weather has brought good news in Boston's fight against the pandemic. Across our city, COVID-19 cases have dropped to their lowest levels in more than a year. And, from Roxbury to Roslindale, East Boston to West Roxbury, Boston residents are getting vaccinated at rates that outpace the rest of the country.

As a result of this progress, I recently announced that the City of Boston will align with the Commonwealth and COVID-19 restrictions starting May 29. Our battle against COVID-19 is not over. Reopening our city will only work if we all continue to do our part to fight the pandemic.

We know what works in Boston. We have created a culture of wearing our masks, washing our hands, and keeping our distance that keeps us safe. Let's keep it up, as we enjoy the recovery, reopening, and renewal of

our city.

The pandemic has disproportionately impacted small businesses and businesses of color across the city. As Boston reopens, I encourage all of us to support these businesses and help our city make an equitable recovery.

Small businesses are what make Boston the city we know and love, and my administration is working tirelessly to make sure they are front and center in our economic recovery. This includes the All Inclusive Boston Campaign to showcase stores, restaurants, and cultural assets all across the city. We've also launched the B-Local app that gives shoppers reward points at neighborhood businesses.

Small businesses assistance from our Office of Economic Development also includes weekly Small Business Calls, small business COVID surveys, and more than \$16.6 million in grants to over 4,500 businesses through five COVID-19 relief funds for small

businesses. We have also expanded public space for business extensions through this year's Outdoor Dining Program, Food Truck Lottery, Outdoor Fitness Classes, and more.

As mayor, I take regular neighborhood business walks throughout our city, including in Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Chinatown, Upham's Corner, and more. Talking with business owners generates new ideas and deepens my appreciation of the pivotal role businesses can play in Boston's equitable recovery. From restaurants, to bookstores, to clothing stores, our city is a powerhouse in its diversity of services, cultures, and ideas.

This summer, I urge you to do your part in supporting our city and helping neighborhood businesses recover from unprecedented challenges. Here is how you can help:

- Download the B-Local app and earn rewards automatically when you shop at hundreds of par-

ticipating local businesses across the City when you make a purchase with a credit or debit card. Then, redeem those rewards like cash at local businesses!

- Visit the All Inclusive Boston website and discover new and diverse businesses to explore.

- Post your visits to local businesses on social media using #AllInclusiveBos and spread the word to your family and friends about where you go!

Boston's recovery, reopening, and renewal takes all of us. Thank you for doing your part by getting vaccinated and safely enjoying all that Boston has to offer. Let's make this a happy, healthy summer.

For more information on Mayor Janey's efforts to support small businesses, visit: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/small-business-development>.

Kim Janey is the Acting Mayor of Boston.

Your opinions, please

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Cada dosis de la vacuna contra el COVID-19 nos acerca más. Para seguir adelante, la mayoría de la población debe ser vacunada en contra del virus. Cuando sea tu turno, vacúnate, así nos acercamos un paso más a las cosas que amamos. Únete a nosotros. Vacúnate. Ten esperanza. Para más información, llama al **311** o visita boston.gov/covid19-vaccine



Building a Healthy Boston





MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR OUR COUNTRY

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce commemorates the observance of Memorial Day

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce will be placing a display of American flags to commemorate the upcoming Memorial Day observed on Monday at the Daniel H Solari Square outside the Chamber of Commerce office at 464 Bremen Street.

Memorial Day commemorates honoring those who serve in the military including those that per-

ished in all American wars. It was originally called Decoration Day. It is customary to decorate the graves of all those that served in the military remembering their service.

Please note that the flags are for display purposes. If anyone wishes to obtain a flag, please feel free to contact the Chamber at eastbostonchamber.com. You can take a selfie

of yourself or others with the flag display and post it on social media with the hashtag #eastbostonchamber to enter in a raffle for a free US flag like those found in the display.

We will announce the winner on the East Boston Chamber of Commerce Facebook Page.

La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston conmemo-

ra el Día de los Caídos colocando una exhibición de banderas estadounidenses.

La exhibición se llevará a cabo el lunes 31 de mayo en el Daniel H Solari Square, frente a la oficina de la Cámara de Comercio en 464 Bremen Street.

El Día de los Caídos conmemora el homenaje a quienes sirven en el ejército, incluidos los que murieron en todas las guerras

estadounidenses. Originalmente se llamó Día de la Decoración. Es costumbre decorar las tumbas de todos los que sirvieron en el ejército recordando su servicio.

Las banderas son para fines de exhibición. Si alguien desea obtener una bandera, no dude en comunicarse con la Cámara por medio de la página de internet eastbostonchamber.

com. Para participar en un sorteo y recibir una bandera estadounidense gratuita usted puede tomarse una selfie solo o con otras personas con las banderas y publicarla en las redes sociales con el hashtag #eastbostonchamber

Anunciaremos al ganador en la página de Facebook de la Cámara de Comercio de East Boston.



VFW NORTH END POST 144 NEWS AND NOTES

CELEBRATING 100TH YEAR

Post 144 is celebrating its centennial year as part of the U.S. Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 1921, North End WWI Veterans formed Post 144. Ever since then, the Post has continued to honor and remember North End Veterans from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the more recent conflicts.

The Post 144 members conduct a remembrance ceremony in the “Paul Revere Mall” to honor North End

Veterans, and all Veterans, on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

As part of the North End and Boston community, Post 144 gives support to “Local Veterans Services,” and provides charitable contributions to “North End Community Organizations.”

The current Post Commander is Mr. Leo Egan.

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

The VFW North End Post 144 will hold an obser-

vance of Memorial Day, on Monday, May 31 starting at 11:00 a.m. at Paul Revere Mall, Hanover Street, North End.

The order of events are as follows:

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) North End Post 144 will conduct its annual memorial services to honor and remember the fallen heroes of the North End who served in World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and more recent wars.

Ceremony:

Prayers, wreath laying, and remembrances will take place near the Paul Revere Statue, and at the “Afghanistan/Iraq/ISIS Memorial Garden” behind the Old North Church.


Following the ceremonies, the Veterans will attend mass at

Saint Leonard Church on Hanover Street at noon.


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Weekly COVID positive test rate increases slightly

By John Lynds

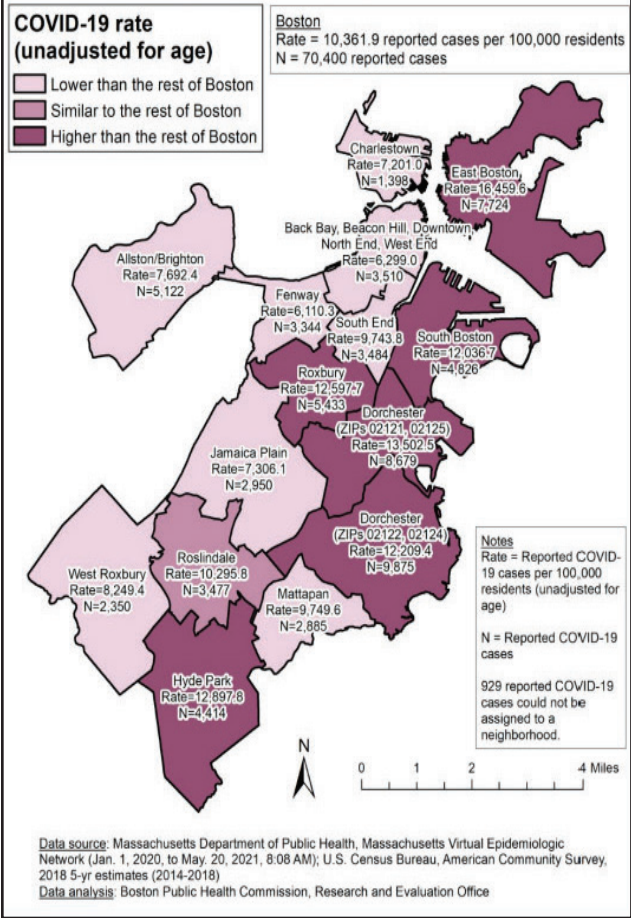
After dropping for several weeks in a row, East Boston’s weekly COVID cases increased slightly according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

Last week, 1,497 Eastie residents were tested for the virus last week and 2.3 percent were positive--a 15 percent increase from the two percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago

Of the 41,404 Eastie residents tested for COVID since the pandemic began, 18.7 percent overall were found to be positive for the virus. This was a decrease of a half a percentage point from the 18.8 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate continues to decrease. According to the BPHC 17,329 residents were tested and 1.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 24 percent decrease from the 2.1 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration announced plans to close the Commonwealth’s



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

vaccine pre registration system by the end of May. The COVID-19 Vaccine Finder at vaxfinder.mass.gov will remain available, with over 900 locations listed across the state.

The Administration also announced the expansion of the state’s Homebound Vaccination Program to support in-home vaccinations for all eligible residents who are

unable to get to a vaccine site.

The pre registration form at vaccinesignup.mass.gov closed to new submissions on Tuesday. According to the administration all remaining people still in the system will be contacted with an opportunity to book appointments before closing out the system on May 31. All remaining people who pre registered will be given an opportunity to book before the system closes.

The state’s Homebound Vaccination Program began on Monday, May 24 and the Administration plans to expand this program to support in-home vaccinations for all eligible residents who are unable to get to a vaccine site. The Administration launched the Homebound Vaccination on March 29 for individuals who met specific federal criteria, such as requiring significant support to leave the home for a medical appointment. Any individual who has trouble getting to a vaccine site is eligible for the homebound program.

Eastie’s COVID infection rate increased by only 0.42 percent last week and went from

1,638.7 cases per 10,000 residents to 1,645.6 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 34 Eastie residents contracted the virus and there are now 7,724 confirmed cases, up from the 7,690 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 neighbor-

hood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased less than a half percent last week and went from 70,297 cases to 70,529 confirmed cases in a week. Nine additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,373 total deaths in the city from COVID.

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Justice Index ranks Massachusetts third in Nation

Court leaders have announced results of the latest Justice Index, an online, data-intensive ranking survey published this week by the National Center for Access to Justice, which measures the extent to which states have adopted best practices for ensuring access to justice for all. Massachusetts ranks third overall behind Mary-

land and Washington D.C., and first in the Northeast.

Since the release of the previous Justice Index in 2016, Massachusetts has focused on several efforts to expand access to justice. Recent efforts include:

- Expanding self-help information available on mass.gov/courts and organizing information in a user-friend-

ly format;

- Offering Lawyer for the Day Programs through which lawyers offer basic legal advice and assistance with court matters to self-represented litigants;
- Establishing Zoom Room stations within select courthouses where litigants can use a computer to participate in hearings through

videoconference;

- Revising and simplifying court forms using plain language, and posting dozens of translated forms online;
- Establishing seven physical Court Service Centers and one virtual Court Service Center accessible statewide to provide legal information to self-represented litigants.



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Baker files legislation to extend certain COVID-19 emergency measures

Staff Report

Governor Charlie Baker will file legislation to extend certain emergency measures currently in place via executive orders that are set to expire on June 15 when the State of Emergency will be rescinded, he reported on Tuesday.

Most restrictions, including limitations placed on businesses, will be rescinded effective May 29 as Massachusetts nears the goal of vaccinating four million residents.

This legislation proposes to extend measures providing for a temporary suspension of certain open meeting law requirements, special permits for expanded outside dining

at restaurants, and billing protections for COVID-19 patients. When the State of Emergency ends, these orders will expire, and temporarily extending these measures will allow for time to transition. Extending these measures, which were instituted by executive order, requires legislation.

To allow public bodies to safely meet during the pandemic and ensure public access to meetings, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order in March 2020 allowing these bodies to meet quorum requirements even if meetings were held remotely through electronic means as long as measures were taken to ensure the public with electronic access to

the proceedings. The bill filed by Governor Baker Tuesday will extend these provisions related to the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law until September 1, 2021, which will allow additional time to consider possible permanent changes to the open meeting law to provide for greater flexibility in conducting open meetings through reliance on electronic streaming and similar measures.

The bill will also grant municipalities authority to extend special permits for restaurants offering outdoor dining issued under the State of Emergency through November 29, 2021. Under an Executive Order issued in 2020, municipalities were permit-

ted to use an expedited process to approve temporary permits for new or expanded outdoor dining and alcohol service. Without a legislative extension, special permits granted under the Governor's Order will expire 60 days after the end of the State of Emergency.

The legislation will also extend a protection adopted in an executive order that prohibits medical providers from billing patients who have received COVID-related emergency and inpatient services for charges in excess of costs paid by their insurers. As filed, the protection would extend until January 1, 2022, at which time recently passed federal legislation

that included protections for both emergency and non-emergency cases will become effective. Earlier this year, Governor Baker signed legislation establishing surprise billing protections for patients for non-emergency services.

"Massachusetts is leading the nation in the vaccination effort and that progress is enabling the Commonwealth to return to normal," said Governor Charlie Baker. "These temporary measures will help businesses and residents in this transition period, and I look forward to working on these and other issues in the week ahead with our partners in the Legislature."

Last week, Governor Baker announced that on

May 29, all industries will be permitted to open.

With the exception of remaining face-covering requirements for masks in public and private transportation systems, hospitals and other facilities housing vulnerable populations, all industry restrictions will be lifted at that time, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries. The gathering limit will be rescinded.

Before June 15, the administration plans to take additional steps that will permit the continuation of targeted public health measures beyond the end of the State of Emergency, including the mask requirements announced last week.

OBITUARIES

Arthur "Archie" Mellace

Outstanding Educator, administrator, athlete and citizen

Arthur "Archie" W. Mellace, 85, of Peabody, loving father, grandfather, and devoted husband and high school sweetheart of the late Susan F. Mellace, passed away on March 29.

Born in Revere, the son of the late Francesco and Antoinetta Mellace and the brother of predeceased sisters and brothers: Angela Alessi, Adelaide DelloRusso, Angela Kiss, Anthony Mellace, John Mellace, Louis Attenasio, and Vincent Attenasio, Archie was a graduate of Revere High School where he played football, basketball and baseball and was awarded Outstanding Player in the Boston League. Later, he coached the basketball team and was the assistant coach of the football team at Revere High.

At Suffolk University, he graduated with a Bachelor of Education Degree and was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame as a talented basketball player. Archie earned a Masters Degree in Education at Boston State College. He attended Framingham State University and earned a Masters Degree in Computer Science and a Certificate in Art.

Dedicated to a career in education, Archie taught social studies, art, and physical education at Revere High School. He coordinated a High School Work Study Program, placing students in various jobs, while the students earned their diplomas. He was Vice Principal at the Garfield Elementary School, President of the School Administrators' Union and retired as Vice Principal of Revere High School.

Archie's love of basketball led him to become an accomplished Basketball Referee in the Eastern College Athletic Conference and in the Division One, National College Athletic Association. Archie was President of the Collegiate Basketball Officials' Association (CBOA). The Board of Directors named Archie the recipient of the



Russ Beisswanger CBOA Leadership Award, among the most prestigious honors bestowed on a referee in America. He was a Life Member of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials and was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Annual Converse North Shore Basketball Coaches Banquet.

Caring about the community, Archie became President of Kiwanis, participating in his favorite event, the Special Olympics. He was a faithful donor to the Food Pantry at St. Adelaide's Church and The Vietnam Veterans Association.

Archie is survived by two daughters and sons-in-laws Gina Gagnon-Carter and Richard Carter of Midlothian, VA, and Michele and Richard Morelli of Yarmouth Port, MA, and a grandson and his wife, David Arthur Mellace Gagnon and Lucy Seyfarth of Fairfax, VA, and companion, Paulette Autori of West Newbury, MA.

A Memorial Visitation will be held at the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St, Revere on Saturday June 5 from 9 to 11 a.m., followed by a Graveside Prayer Service at Puritan Lawn Memorial Park in Peabody at Noon. Masks and social distancing are required at all times. A private gathering will be held for the family following Prayer Service.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Arthur Mellace's name to: Special Olympics Massachusetts, 512 Forest St., Marlborough, MA 01752. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

Sandra Santarpio

A dedicated mother, first and foremost

Sandra (Arrigo) Santarpio, 77, passed away in Boston after a brief illness surrounded by family on May 17.

Sandra grew up in East Boston where she went on to raise her family. She graduated from Girl's High School in 1961 and married her husband, George Santarpio on June 27, 1980.

Sandra was a dedicated mother first and foremost. In her free time, she enjoyed spending time with her best friends of 70+ years, traveling and putting an embarrassing amount of ice cubes in her Pinot Noir. Known particularly for her famous chicken wings, Sandra was also a phenomenal cook and you always knew you would eat well at her table and were welcome in her home.

She especially loved her role as "Nana" later in life and enjoyed spending countless hours with her grandson. She was a fierce friend who was always there for you, putting your needs above her own without question and she will truly be missed by

so many people.

Sandra was predeceased by her husband of 39 years, who she lost in 2020, and her father, George Arrigo. She is survived by her mother, Laura (Pagano) Arrigo; her beloved daughter, Alicia, her fiancé Joe Ayoub and grandson, Keegan of North Andover; her stepson Marc, his wife, Elizabeth, their children, Nicholas and Emily of Boxford; her stepdaughter, Julie, her husband, James, their children: Jessica, Kimberly and Christina of Chambersburg, PA; her brother, George Arrigo and family; her sister, Doreen Shanahan and family; and countless nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends who were like family to her.

There will be no formal services at this time. A private celebration of life for close friends and family will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Sandra's name to the American Cancer Society. To leave an online condolence please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Joseph Ricciardi

Of Saugus

Joseph Ricciardi of Saugus passed away on Monday, May 17.

A US Army Airforce Veteran who served in the Korean Conflict, he was

the beloved husband for 68 years of Joan (Musto) Ricciardi, the devoted father of Lisa Marie Cecere and her husband, Michael of Peabody and Gail Danilchuk and Joseph Flammia of Middleton and Saugus; cherished grandfather of Erica, E, and Brooke. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

In accordance with the family's wishes, all services will be private.



You may make a donation in Joseph's name to the Paralyzed Veterans of America donation link: <https://secure.pva.org/pva/covid19-emergency?mc=waystogive>. For more information or to leave an online condolence please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Anthony Ruggiero

Member of Local 3 Bricklayers & Allied Craftsmen Union

Anthony Ruggiero of Revere passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on May 22 at the age of 43.

Born in Boston on May 30, 1977 to Egidia (Preziosi) and the late Nicola Ruggiero, Anthony was a member of Local 3 Bricklayers & Allied Craftsmen Union.

He is survived and was adored by his sisters: Maria Ruggiero-Pace and her husband, Vincent of Connecticut, Nicole Marotta and her husband, Joe of Lynnfield and Sabrina Vramis and her husband, Niko of Danvers. He was the cherished uncle of Salvatore, Nikolas, Ava and Gia Marotta, Steven and Alexis Vramis and Peter



and Nicole Pace; loving nephew of Luigi Ruggiero of Revere and Richard and Anne Marie Ruggiero of Peabody.

All services will be held privately for the immediate family. Entombment at Holy Cross Cemetery. For guest book, please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

Eleanor Todisco

Past employee of Ramada Inn and member of ITAM Post

Eleanor Todisco of East Boston passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family, on Thursday, May 20 at 74 years of age.

Eleanor is a past employee of Ramada Inn. She was a member of the ITAM Post. Eleanor also loved Eddie C's Pub in East Boston. May she rest in peace.

She was the dear sister of Patricia St. Andre, Mildred LeBaron, Carol Gaeta and Alice Waters, longtime friend of Linda Gillis, cherished aunt of long-time care giver Nicole DaSilva and is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews.

Family and friends honored Eleanor's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home,



971 Saratoga Street, (Orient Heights) East Boston, on Monday morning, May 24 followed by a prayer service in our Serenity Chapel. Services concluded with Eleanor being laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. May she rest in peace. For more information or to leave an online condolence, please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

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



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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

ELECTRIC VEHICLE COMPANY LOCATES IN CHELSEA

CHELSEA - A California company has purchased a property at 25 Griffin Way for the purpose of repairing and preparing Electric Vehicles (EV) for customers in the Boston area, said a spokeswoman for Rivian EVs that appeared at the City Council.

Angie Krauss, of San Francisco, told the Council Rivian makes electric adventure vehicles and currently has three vehicles on the market, including an RPV, a pick-up truck and an SUV. Their mission is to promote healthy living and sustainability through exploring the world responsibly.

The company wishes to locate a service location and delivery prep location for Rivian customer, and is looking to inhabit about 27,000 sq. ft. of space on 25 Griffin Way.

“These are not hybrid vehicles,” she said. “This is all-electric so there are no combustion engines. The services provided at the location would be windshield wiper repair, windshields, door handles, taillight repair and other services, but not painting.”

She said there would also be space for pre-delivery quality control inspection prior to new vehicle delivery to customers.

The building owner, Mila Farahani, rose in support of the measure, and WECO Group, which makes electric motors at the location, requested that the Council look at changing the zoning ordinance to allow the activity there. Those changes would define the use of EV prep and repair in the zoning code and also insert it as allowed by Special Permit only in the Industrial District.

This would be Rivian’s first location on the East Coast, with the closest location to Chelsea now being in Normal, IL.

According to the website, Rivian is “a network of offices, test labs, experience centers, service cen-

ters, charging stations and manufacturing sites, all interconnected by thousands of employees. Our 2028 net-zero commitment requires us to fully understand the carbon intensity of our suppliers and service providers as well as our own operations. This accurate carbon accounting is being used to drive our decisions and actions – from working on more sustainable raw material supply to aggressively managing our waste generation. Achieving carbon neutrality requires us to examine every aspect of our business.”

The company indicated it would have its first full year of manufacturing in 2022.

“The scale of the challenge is enormous, but we’re lucky to be a part of this — to be able to help solve how we shift our planet’s energy and transportation systems entirely away from fossil fuel,” said Rivian Founder and CEO RJ Scaringe on the company website.

The Council moved the matter to a Committee on Conference.

•EMINENT DOMAIN TAKING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said after a legal analysis, the City believes that taking property at several locations in Chelsea for the creation of affordable housing would be appropriate.

“Based upon a legal analysis of taking property by eminent domain for affordable housing development, the City believes it would be an appropriate purpose for a public taking,” he wrote in a letter.

Council President Roy Avellaneda proposed the idea last month at a Council meeting, saying despite great efforts, he still didn’t think enough was being done for affordable housing. He proposed to take underutilized private property by Eminent Domain in order for the City’s new Affordable Housing Trust Fund effort to make new housing.

Ambrosino said he would support starting the effort by bringing in an official appraiser to get a

good fair market value of the properties for taking, and a consultant to advise the Council on whether the costs would allow for such development of affordable housing.

He proposed a \$75,000 expenditure from Free Cash and also indicated he would be ready to put out an RFP for the appraiser and consultant.

However, he did advise against taking property on Shawmut Avenue, as it’s already owned by affordable housing developer TND, and he said a property on Congress is owned by an entity that intends to develop 22 Willow St. in the near future.

•DEFENDING THE NEW DI&E DIRECTOR

On Monday night, Chelsea Black Community President Joan Cromwell appeared before the Council to defend the decision of the forthcoming Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Director’s choice to live in Revere Beach, and not Chelsea.

The new director, who starts in July, was roundly criticized by several councilors earlier this month when City Manager Tom Ambrosino notified the body of a residency waiver he granted the director to allow her to live outside of Chelsea.

Cromwell, who served on the hiring committee, said the criticism wasn’t fair.

“I felt like I needed to comment on questioning her commitment to our community because she moved 10 to 15 minutes up the street,” she said. “She didn’t move to Nahant or Newburyport or New Hampshire, but Revere. It’s a City we have a Memorandum of Understanding with and one that faces similar, if not worse, equity disparities as Chelsea. How is she going to be removed from our community when she is across the street?”

She said she is glad the Council did not have the ability to reject the waiver.

“I am so glad this was not your waiver to reject because if it were, you would have to scrutinize where more than half of this municipality lives,

GATHER HEAR CONCERT IN CHELSEA SQUARE A HIT



COURTESY PHOTOS AND DARLENE DEVITA PHOTOS

With accomplished pianist Miki Sawada playing in the background, Carol Resnek lies down listening to the music in Chelsea Square last Thursday, May 13. Sawada’s stop in Chelsea, part of the Gather Hear Massachusetts Tour, attracted those who intended to come, and a fair amount of people that just happened upon the festivities. Many said it made them feel normal for the first time in more than a year.



starting with Human Resources, Treasury, City Clerk, 9-1-1, Police, Fire, ISD, and DPW...Chelsea was not a requirement in the job description and I believe we got the best person for the job. Let her do her job and don’t attack her integrity...before the woman even gets here. Let’s face it, One North and Admiral’s Hill are not the day-to-day Chelsea either.”

CANDIDATES PULL NOMINATION PAPERS

EVERETT - All three candidates for mayor have pulled Nomination Papers – as Papers officially became available on Monday morning – and some surprises have already emerged, such as Councilor Michael McLaughlin announcing he won’t run for re-election to the Ward 6 seat and is currently keeping his options open.

Other immediate surprises – as of Tuesday at noon – were School Committeeman Allen Panarese filing for Councilor at-Large; At-Large Councilor Wayne Matewsky filing for Ward 1 Councilor; Council Clerk Mike Mangan filing for Ward 4 School Committee; and Bernie D’Onofrio re-entering public life in running for Ward 6 School Committee.

“Monday was a very busy day,” said City Clerk Sergio Cornelio. “It was a steady flow all day of candidates and incumbents coming in to get their Papers. I’d rather have them in and get their Papers if they are running so we have time to go through the certification process.”

One key change is the emergence of ward-only voting for Council Ward seats and School Committee ward seats. No longer will a ward councilor or School Committee member have to run citywide. That Charter Change was signed into law by Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito at 11:47 a.m. on Saturday, thus changing the course of this election in a big way.

The biggest race, of course, has been solidified with the three candidates for mayor pulling Nomination Papers on Monday afternoon.

After pulling papers, each mayoral candidate issued a statement about their campaign, which are

listed below in alphabetical order by last name.

Said Councilor Gerly Adrien, “On Monday morning, I was the first mayoral candidate to pick up my Nomination Papers at Everett City Hall. For the past few months, I have been out in our neighborhoods, knocking on doors and talking to residents everyday about our campaign’s bold vision for a better Everett. I am looking forward to continuing to engage with our neighbors throughout the next few weeks to gather signatures, so we can get on the ballot and continue to fight for the changes our residents deserve.”

Said Councilor Fred Capone, “My family and I are prepared for a busy summer of campaigning. We have already started door knocking and are overwhelmed by the support. This campaign is not about me; it’s about the residents of Everett. We are running so that every voice gets heard and every opinion matters. I’m excited about speaking with our residents and working to earn their support in September.”

Said Mayor DeMaria, “I have officially pulled papers and will be seeking re-election as Mayor of the City of Everett. When I became Mayor, I made a promise to continue to better our community. I am not finished, my job is not done. I look forward to knocking on each and every door to make sure my message and goals for our city are clear. As always, on behalf of my family and I, we appreciate the continuous love and support. #EverettforEveryone.”

Mayoral candidates have to get 500 signatures, and a long-standing requirement already in place is that at least 25 signatures have to come from each ward. Once those signatures are certified, it guarantees a place on the ballot. If all three qualify for the ballot, that would trigger a Mayoral Preliminary Election in September.

One of the bigger surprises Monday was someone that didn’t show up on the Nomination Paper list, and that is Councilor McLaughlin.

In a statement on Monday morning, he said he would not be seeking

re-election to the Ward 6 seat – which led to it becoming another open seat on the Council. He said it wasn’t the end of his political road, and he will be running for another office.

“As nomination papers are now available, I am in the process of still considering how I can be most beneficial to the entire Everett community,” he said. “While I plan to continue serving as an elected official in some capacity, I’m still talking to family, friends and constituents regarding their needs in hopes to make the best informed decision as to where I can best serve my hometown. I look forward to the coming weeks and months and discussing how I can help continue moving Everett forward for all that call Everett home.”

In Ward 6’s new open seat, Candidate Al Lattanzi has pulled papers to run for the seat – after having lost to McLaughlin last time around. He will likely face Ross Pietrantonio of Alfred Street.

McLaughlin has already lent his support to Lattanzi this week.

•In Ward 1, long-time at-Large Councilor Wayne Matewsky – who is recovering from a medical emergency earlier this year – has pulled papers to succeed mayoral candidate Fred Capone. A long-time resident of Lewis Street, Matewsky was rumored for a while to be interested in the Ward 1 seat if Capone ran for mayor.

•The five at-large seats on the Council are fairly open with Matewsky departing and Adrien running for mayor. Incumbents Michael Marchese and Rich Dell Isola have pulled Papers, but Council Dean John Hanlon has not pulled his Paper yet. A major surprise in the race is long-time School Committeeman Allen Panarese making the jump to run for at-Large Council. Two years ago, he was rumored to be interested, but didn’t make the call. This time around, he’s in.

Those who have also pulled Papers for a potential run for the seat include Angelmarie DiNunzio, James Mastrocola, Stephanie Smith, James LaVecchio, and Kenny Gianneli.

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Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

•In Ward 2 City Council, incumbent Stephanie Martins has decided to stay put in the Ward seat, but she’ll face long-time political veteran Jason Marcus of Dartmouth Street. It will be an interesting race in particular now that ward-only voting is in place.

•In Ward 4 Council, incumbent Jimmy Tri Le could face James Mastrocola, who also pulled papers for the at-Large race. Le won with no competition two years ago when long-time former Councilor Leo McKinnon decided not to run just before the cutoff date.

•Unopposed so far are Ward 3 Councilor Anthony DiPierro and Ward 5 Councilor Rosa DiFlorio.

•In the School Committee, there is no shortage of drama as well, which has not historically been the case in Everett. One of the most interesting races so far is in Ward 1, where Joanne Parris, Millie Cardello and Margaret Cornelio have all pulled papers. Parris is a long-time resident who has been very active in the community for a number of years, while Cornelio is a former School Department employee who is also the mother of Clerk Sergio Cornelio. Cardello is currently an at-Large member, and also pulled papers for that office too. It is the same situation for Cornelio, who has also pulled papers for at-Large.

In Ward 4, incumbent Dana Murray has pulled Papers, but quickly had some competition from Council Clerk (and former councilor) Mike Mangan, of Walnut Street. Murray won election in a surprise two years ago, but emerged as a leader on the Committee as she is an educator in East Boston and has a firm grip on the issues. Mangan, however, has quite a political following in Everett and was involved for years in youth activities.

Ward 6 is interesting in that former School Committee Chair Bernie D’Onofrio has pulled Papers to run once again for a seat. Two years ago, in a challenge by former Candidate David Lindsey, D’Onofrio’s signatures were determined to be invalid, and he did not qualify for the ballot. Now, he’s back, and incumbent Tom Abruzzese has yet to pull Papers, but is expected to do so.

In Ward 2, with Panarese out, an open seat exists and so far Jason Marcus is the only candidate. Marcus has also pulled Papers for Ward 2 Council. It will be interesting to see which directions he veers towards.

In the at-Large race, incumbent Cynthia Sarnie has pulled Papers again, and Cardello and Corne-

lio – as mentioned above – have pulled papers for at-Large and Ward 1.

Ward 3 School Committeeman Frank Parker and Ward 5 School Committeeman Marcony Almeida Barros have no one against them at this point.

REDDY NAMED NEW LYNN POLICE CHIEF

LYNN - Mayor Thomas McGee is pleased to announced the hiring of Christopher P. Reddy as the new Chief of Police for the City of Lynn. Chris was selected from a list of several highly-qualified candidates who completed the required Civil Service Assessment Center in March of this year and applied for the position.

“Chris is a lifelong Lynner who clearly demonstrated throughout the entire hiring process that he has the necessary skills to lead the Lynn Police Department with the highest standards our City deserves,” said Mayor Thomas M. McGee. “He has a deep understanding of the Lynn community and the importance of racial equity in modern policing by having built strong relationships with many diverse groups and organizations during his time as a Lynn Police Officer. Chris is ready to meet the moment and lead the hardworking women and men of the Lynn Police Department through the current crossroads we are facing to bring the community together and approach this position with a commitment to equity and transparency. I want to thank each of the three exceptional candidates who applied for the promotion to be the Chief of Police. Your dedication and commitment to the City of Lynn was clearly evident throughout the entire process. My sincere appreciation to Deputy Chief Desmarais for stepping up to lead the Department over the last 10 months during an incredibly challenging time for our City, State and Country.”

“I want to offer my sincere appreciation to Mayor McGee for giving me the opportunity to serve this community, and the members of the Lynn Police Department, as the next Chief of Police,” said Christopher Reddy. “It has been my privilege to serve as a police officer in this community for the past 36 years and I am humbled and honored to have been selected for this important role. I’m excited to work with my brother and sister officers, as well as the Mayor, the City Council, and community stakeholders to move the Department forward in our common goal of promot-

ing public safety for all.”

Chris Reddy has been a Lynn Police Officer since 1985 and has most recently served as the Captain of Patrol since 2010. Among his main responsibilities he has served as the supervisor of a number of policing units including for patrol operations, E-911 and dispatch center, traffic enforcement and the community policing unit. His role also included being the Police Department liaison for coordination with outside agencies, organizations and community groups coordinating for special events as well as the liaison to the City of Lynn Emergency Management Committee. He received his Bachelor’s degree in business administration-management from UMASS Lowell and a Master’s degree in Criminal Justice from Anna Maria College.

COUNCILLORS UPSET OVER McMackin Park CONDITIONS

REVERE - For more than 60 years, Revere Little League baseball players sprayed line drives all over McMackin Park, the beloved ballfield known as “Little Fenway.”

Now the only spraying being planned is for mosquitoes at the “eyesore” of a park that first opened for youth baseball in the early 1950s.

Monday night the Council unanimously approved a motion by Ward 1 Councillor Joanne McKenna to have Mayor Brian Arrigo request Northeast Mosquito Patrol to spray McMackin field for mosquitoes.

“With the recent rain, floodwaters are accumulating in this field which has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and directly affecting abutting neighbors,” stated McKenna in her motion.

McKenna herself then led off the torrent of criticism directed at the group that oversees the field. It was inferred at the meeting that the overseers of the park are the board members of the now-defunct Revere Little League, who were given “ownership” of the park by the city for the price of \$1.00 (one dollar).

“Councilor [Patrick] Keefe and I have been inundated with calls about this field and I would just like to tell the residents out there that Revere does not own this property,” said McKenna. “It is owned by a private entity. Revere is doing everything to try to acquire it. The park is privately owned and is responsible for the condition it’s in. All we can do is find the owners and make sure the field is cleaned.”

Keefe, one of the most

recognizable leaders of youth sports in Revere as the former Pop Warner president and an active youth baseball coach, said he wanted to clarify for the record that, “There isn’t a league [Revere Little League]. There hasn’t been a league for a number of years. There hasn’t been a fruitful league for probably closer to 10 years. This is an issue that may have been exacerbated by some of the flooding issues, but the park has been neglected by the board.

“We’ve asked them to come in front of the City Council. We’ve offered to help. We’ve offered to work together. A few different administrations have offered some form of support, but it’s going to be up to the people who oversee that field to come out and say that they want to turn over the field to the city if the city is going to pay to repair it and make it into some sort of playable shape,” said Keefe.

Councillor-at-Large Gerry Visconti, who actually played at McMackin as a 12-year-old fireballing pitcher on the East Boston Little League All-Star team, agreed with his colleagues’ remarks. “My question is: Do we know if the private owner is being cited for leaving the property in complete disarray?”

McKenna responded, “We have cited them – I just put a fine in last week with a condition and I fine them all the time,” she added. “It’s up to them to care about the kids, care about the field. It’s an eyesore for the city. And you know what, give the field back to the city because we gave it to them for a dollar.”

Visconti said he would like to have the overseers of the field be continually issued fines for their inaction until there is a resolution of the matter.

Councilor-at-Large Steven Morabito said he played baseball in Re-

vere Little League at McMackin Park.

“It is known as Little Fenway and it has a special spot in my heart because I used to hang out there even when we weren’t playing [baseball] games,” said Morabito. “But it’s not the park I used to know. It’s dilapidated. It’s a complete eyesore. I had a friend of mine who hasn’t lived in Revere for a while but grew up in Revere and they happened to drive by McMackin Park and they were just astonished by what became of McMackin Park. It was just embarrassing because it looks like a field of weeds. That’s what it is.”

Morabito added that “the field sets a negative image of our city and it makes us look like we as elected officials don’t care about the city because people don’t know the park is not owned by the city.”

“We need to correct this situation immediately. We need to get them to the table,” concluded Morabito.

Councillor George Rotondo offered an ultimatum to the owners of the field: “Either you meet with the city and you work with the city and we help you repair it and bring it back to its best use or we take it by eminent domain, it’s that simple.”

Rotondo said the former Dan Rizzo Mayoral Administration and current Brian Arrigo Mayoral Administration “have all tried to work with this group and where are we getting? No place. Where are our kids going? No place.”

Rotondo invoked the name of the late Guy Meli, a long-time RLL officer and team manager, into the discussion. The baseball diamond at McMackin was named for Guy Meli, but the sign has been taken down during the park’s closure.

“Guy Meli would never tolerate this baloney,” said

Rotondo.

Councillor-at-Large Jessica Giannino agreed with Rotondo, stating, “We’re past the point of fines, we’re past the point of working with them. I’ve been on this Council for ten years and that park has been in disrepair for at least eight of those ten years. And it’s a disgrace. If a property is abandoned, a city has the ability to take it by eminent domain and now we’re at a point where we need to put some teeth into it, step up, and take the property back and fix it.”

Ward 2 Councillor Ira Novoselsky, who ironically had the real Fenway Park (in Boston) pictured behind him on his Zoom feed, said he spoke with Mayor Arrigo about McMackin Park several weeks ago. “It’s very upsetting to drive by there and see the condition of that park. It used to be an honorable park and was the best field in the state, and like it was mentioned before, it was called Little Fenway.”


Novoselsky suggested the installation of a cover over the fence “so people driving by can’t see the condition down below.”

Council President Anthony Zambuto called the condition of McMackin Park “a health issue” and suggested that the Board of Health should be acting on the matter.

While the issue of McMackin Park has been discussed on several previous occasions, it appears this time the Council means business.


COUNCIL DISCUSSES SEVERAL ISSUES

WINTHROP - The Winthrop Town Council held a remote meeting on May 18, where it discussed updates on issues impacting the community. Approximately seventeen members of the public attended.




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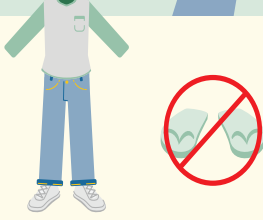
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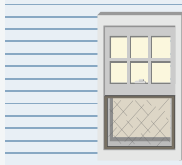
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Pressley named Vice Chair of House of Financial Services

Congresswoman Ayan- na Pressley (MA-07), a member of the House Financial Services Committee, will serve as Vice Chair for the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions for the 117th Congress. Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-43), Chairwoman of the full committee, made this announcement Monday.

“With communities in the Massachusetts 7th and across the country still reeling from the economic fallout of this pandemic, it is critical, now more than ever, that we have strong consumer protection and robust oversight of our financial institutions,” said Rep. Pressley. “I am grateful to Chairwoman Waters for naming me to this role and I look forward to continuing my work on the

Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions Subcommittee to end abusive debt collection practices, hold predatory student debt and mortgage lenders accountable, reform consumer credit reporting, and more.”

Chairwoman Waters also announced Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL) as the Vice Chair for the Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship, and Capital Markets; Rep. Cindy Axne (D-IA) as the Vice Chair for the Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance; Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) as the Vice Chair for the Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy; Rep. Nikema Williams (D-GA) as the Vice Chair for the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations; Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D-TX) as the Vice Chair for the Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion; and Representative Jake Auchincloss (D-MA) as the full Committee Vice Chair for the 117th Congress.

Congresswoman Pressley has been a tireless advocate for consumers throughout her time in Congress. As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, she has worked to end abusive debt collection practices, hold predatory student debt and mortgage lenders accountable, reform consumer credit reporting, explored solutions to close the racial wealth gap, advocated for a Federal Job Guarantee, and more.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a virtual public hearing will be held on June 9, 2021, at 9:15 A.M., in connection with a petition for approval of Text Amendment Application No. 732 filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency. Said text amendment would harmonize zoning language with Boston Water and Sewer Commission's practice, to increase the "no harm" elevation from BCB 7' to elevation 8'. Said map amendment would add the areas of Audubon Circle Neighborhood District, Lower Roxbury, Central Waterfront area and portions of East Boston Neighborhood District to the area where Article 32 would be applicable. This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. You can participate in this meeting by going to <https://bit.ly/3iGY80y>. Copies of the petitions and a map of the area involved may be obtained from the Zoning Commission electronically, and you may also submit written comments or questions to jeffrey.hampton@boston.gov. For the Commission Jeffrey M. Hampton Executive Secretary

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LEGAL NOTICE
AUDIENCIA DE ZONIFICACION

Por la presente, la Comisión de Zonificación de la Ciudad de Boston anuncia, de acuerdo al Capítulo 665 de las Leyes de 1956, como enmienda, una audiencia pública virtual a realizarse el día 9 de junio de 2021 a las 9:15 a.m., con relación a la solicitud para aprobar la Aplicación 497 del Texto Enmendado y la Aplicación 732 del Mapa Enmendado archivado por la Autoridad de Reurbanización de Boston d / b / a / de La Agencia de Planificación y Desarrollo de Boston. Dicho texto enmendado podría armonizar el lenguaje de zonificación con las prácticas de La Comisión de Agua y Alcantarillado de Boston y así aumentar los "no daños"

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de la elevación desde BCB 7 'a elevación 8. Dicho mapa enmendado podría incluir áreas del Distrito Vecinal de Audubon Circle, Lower Roxbury, el área de Central Waterfront y partes del Distrito Vecinal del Este de Boston. Este encuentro solo será virtual, no presencial. Pueden participar del encuentro ingresando a <https://bit.ly/3iGY80y>. Las copias de las solicitudes y mapas del área involucrada se obtendrán electrónicamente a través de la Comisión de Zonificación, también podrán enviar comentarios escritos y consultas a jeffrey.hampton@boston.gov. Desde la Comisión, Jeffrey M. Hampton Secretario General.

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Safety guidance issued to parishes of the Archdiocese

Given the new State of Massachusetts protocols that go into place on May 29, the following guidance is issued for the parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston

General guidelines

As of May 29, vaccinated people are no longer required to wear masks or socially distance in our parishes.

This statement applies to worship and other parish activities, but not to schools and not to the office space. Further guidelines will be issued for those two areas.

Parishes and pastors will not be policing the population. Every parishioner and every family will be expected to make a sound, reasonable decision about when they are ready to take off their masks and be near other people. No pastor and no parish will be expected to ask people whether or not they have been vaccinated.

The pastor has a high degree of discretion in the implementation of all of these changes. Some pastors may make changes quickly, and others may make them slowly. Pastors are encouraged to engage parish leadership in a conversation about how best to make the changes in their respective parishes.

There is no longer a distinct set of protocols for parishes in red zones.

Regarding communication

All parishes must publish something like the following statement: “As of May 29, masks are no longer required for vaccinated people in the State of Massachusetts. The State does advise that non-vaccinated people continue to wear masks.” The statement should be published in bul-

letins and on web sites, and announced at Mass.

All parishes should strongly consider communicating the following points clearly to their parishioners:

The dispensation from the obligation for coming to Sunday Mass has not yet been lifted, and even when it is, if a parishioner is feeling ill they should remain at home.

It is understood that different people will be ready to take off their masks and sit near one another at different times.

Parishes should communicate that they are prepared to accommodate those who are ready to take off their masks and sit near others, and those who are not.

Some people who are comfortable dropping social distancing may not yet be comfortable taking off their masks. It should be communicated to people that they are free to continue to wear masks as long as they like, and that they will be respected if they choose to do so.

When a parish becomes aware that a COVID positive person has attended Mass, there should be some kind of general announcement at least on the parish’s website. Parishioners should be advised to keep an eye on the website, as that will be where such an announcement will be made.

Regarding the setup of churches

Parishes should continue to make provisions for people who are not vaccinated and/or who are not yet ready come to sit near other people.

Perhaps this can be done by offering or continuing

to offer outdoor Masses.

Perhaps this can be done by offering Masses at particular times for those who want to maintain social distancing.

Perhaps this can be done by cordoning off portions of the church, in a respectful way, for socially distanced seating. If this is the option chosen, every pew can be used in the non-distanced section of the church, and markings adjusted accordingly.

Respectful signs in the church should make clear how different sections of the church are being used.

It is no longer necessary to regularly disinfect surfaces. Some pastors may decide to continue to do so for a time, but it is not required.

Missalettes and hymnals may be used, and kept in the pews. Parishes may want to engage in significant conversation about whether and how they want to do this. The Office of Worship will make some recommendations and resources available on their website.

Regarding the celebration of the Mass

Pastors should strongly consider continuing to stream their Masses.

Registration for Masses is no longer required, although pastors may desire it to continue for a period while they adjust the seating in their churches.

Congregational singing is allowed, as are choirs. Pastors may use their discretion with regard to masks for their choirs.

Deacons can play their full liturgical roles: reading the gospel, preaching when appropriate, preparing the altar, the elevation of the chalice, and assisting in the

distribution of Holy Communion.

Altar servers may be used.

In scheduling children as altar servers, a pastor may want to schedule members of the same family for a given Mass.

It should be clearly communicated to parents that children may wear masks while altar serving.

It is likely that a retraining of altar servers, both children and adults, will be necessary.

Liturgical ministers, such as Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist can be used.

A retraining of these volunteers may be necessary.

Parishes may wish to use this as an opportunity to reach out to new volunteers to fill these roles.

A collection may be taken up by using a basket, preferably with a pole, since some people may still feel uncomfortable touching a basket that many other people have just touched, and may feel that they have no option if the basket is handed to them. This reluctance may end up hurting the parish offertory.

Pastors are encouraged to slow play a return to a shaking of hands at the Sign of Peace. It may well be that not everyone is ready for that, even if they are unmasked and sitting near one another. Other forms for the Sign of Peace could be used.

The deacon should be allowed to receive the Precious Blood, but the pastor may exercise his discretion in the matter of the deacon using a separate chalice, or intinction, or sharing the celebrant’s chalice. Consideration should be given

to the health and vaccination status of both priest and deacon in that decision.

Priests, deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist should still disinfect their hands before distributing Holy Communion.

Priests, deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are strongly encouraged to continue to wear masks during the distribution of Holy Communion.

The bottle of hand sanitizer should be kept close at hand in case someone receives communion on the tongue. Pastors may exercise their discretion in this matter.

Communion under both species is still not allowed at this time. A clear communication will go out to parishes when this practice may resume.

Regarding Pastoral Care

Communion calls may resume normally, though it may be necessary or wise to retrain the ministers of Holy Communion in how to be effective and respectful of people’s concerns in this ministry.

Nursing home visits and Masses may resume, although it remains necessary to be completely respectful of the protocols of the facility being visited, or hosting the Mass.

Services in funeral homes, conducted by priests, deacons, and pastoral associates may resume, at the discretion of the pastor.

The use of confessionals may resume.

Regarding other parish activities

Not every parish is going to be able to restart everything at once. A priority

should be given to the liturgy, and then to pastoral care, and then to other activities such as faith formation and youth ministry, and finally to parish social activities.

Food and drink may be served at parish activities.

Pastors continue to have discretion over the use of the parish facilities by outside groups. Pastors continue to have responsibility to be sure the parish space is being used safely.

Since masking and social distancing are still required in public schools in Massachusetts even after May 29, we are not yet certain about what faith formation programs for children will need to look like in the fall. The programs will certainly be allowed and in person, but we do not know yet about masking and distancing requirements. We will keep you advised.

Out of state and international parish service trips should still be treated with an abundance of caution, as every state has their own policies and COVID continues to rage in many parts of the world.

Final Points

There are many heroes among our volunteers that have kept our parishes going during these difficult times. They should be acknowledged and thanked, collectively and personally.

This document is not intended to be comprehensive. There will be many questions that arise, that will be addressed in the coming weeks.

There will be a webinar for parishes and staff on Wednesday, May 26 to discuss these questions.

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Building a Healthy Boston



ERIN MURPHY ENDORSED FRIDAY BY THE BOSTON FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 718

Erin Murphy, a Dorchester Democrat running for at-large city council, was endorsed Friday by the Boston Firefighters Local 718, becoming the first candidate in the city to receive their endorsement. The firefighters are supporting Erin because of her unwavering commitment to public safety, her fierce devotion to front-line workers and first responders, and her longtime record of standing in support of collective bargaining rights. During a time of deepening economic inequality in our country and our city, Erin has been a public school teacher who raised her family here and has demonstrated her commitment to ensuring that Boston is a safe, affordable, and equitable place to live for every family, in every neighborhood.

Boston firefighters unanimously endorse Essaibi George

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 718 unanimously endorsed At-Large City Councilor Annissa Essaibi George in her candidacy for Mayor of Boston citing her unwavering support for Boston’s first responders.

“Boston’s firefighters are proud to endorse Annissa Essaibi George for Mayor of Boston,” said John Soares, IAFF Local 718 President. “Since her early days on the Boston City Council, she has demonstrated her unwavering commitment and support for Boston’s first responders. From showing up at our firehouses with coffee, to picking up the phone to check in on our brave men and women, to advocating for investments in our health and safety, she has our backs and we have unanimously voted to have hers in this race.”

“Our firefighters are a constant source of inspiration and pride to our city,” said Essaibi George. “As a little girl, my family home caught on fire, but we all made it out safely thanks to Boston’s brave firefighters. It’s no surprise that I hold a special place in my heart for them. Their sacrifices and bravery keep our city and its residents safe. I’m honored to have their support.”

MTF releases landmark analysis on racial divide

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation (MTF), the state’s premier public policy organization dealing with state and local fiscal, tax, and economic policies, last week released a major new report, “Closing the Racial Divide in the U.S. and Massachusetts: A Baseline Analysis.”

Marking the foundation’s first exploration of racial disparities in the Commonwealth, the 29-page report statistically documents inequities in wealth, income and employment, education, criminal justice, health care, as well as the potential economic and fiscal gains that could be realized by closing the racial gap. The report is intended to become a baseline framework, expanded and strengthened over time, for evaluating the impact of efforts to address racial inequities moving forward.

MTF President Eileen McAnneny said, “The Foundation has always been committed to fiscal stability, economic growth, and opportunity for all, and this new report represents our effort to ensure we are adding a racial-equity lens to our research on policy impacts. This report does not assign blame—it gathers facts, puts them in context, and makes clear the economic as well as moral and justice-based reasons for closing the economic divide.”

In addition to compiling data on disparities from authoritative sources, “Closing the Racial Divide” includes new original Foundation analysis showing that Massachusetts’ gross state product (GSP)

would increase by \$25 billion over five years were the Commonwealth to close the racial divide in wages, housing, investments, and wealth. If Blacks and Hispanics graduated from college at the same rate as white peers, MTF calculates, Massachusetts would realize \$20 billion over a decade in increased tax revenues and reduced public-assistance expenditures.

Keith Mahoney of The Boston Foundation said: “When it comes to high-quality research and non-partisan analysis, no one has more credibility on Beacon Hill and across the Commonwealth than the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. In this time when a national reckoning on issues of race is long-overdue, the Foundation’s ‘Closing the Racial Divide’ report makes an exemplary contribution to this critically important discussion. The Boston Foundation is proud to partner with MTF for the next phase of its work, which entails collaborating with all interested stakeholders to improve the metrics by which we will measure our collective progress.”

Among many findings in the report:

- In Massachusetts and the U.S., Black families have markedly lower levels of household wealth and home ownership.
- Median income for Blacks lags far behind that of whites, and in the most recent figures income of Blacks in Boston averaged just 45 percent that of whites.
- High-school dropout rates for Hispanics in Massachusetts are four times as

high as those for whites and more than double those of Blacks

- Blacks and Hispanics are incarcerated in Massachusetts at rates 8 times and 4.9 times, respectively, as whites.
- Lack of health insurance, infant mortality, and negative experiences with healthcare providers are all disproportionately higher for Blacks and Hispanics than whites.
- As documented by a 2017 survey, Boston continues to carry a national reputation for racism and is seen as the least welcoming of eight major U.S. cities to people of color.

“We recognize and acknowledge that this report is not as comprehensive as it could and must be, and many indices of disparity and inequity that the Foundation wanted to be able to calculate and present we found do not exist,” McAnneny said. “For that reason, we are convening an advisory committee to work with and guide the Foundation in how we will expand future editions of the ‘Closing the Racial Divide’ report to provide the most comprehensive and authoritative analysis possible.”

Jane Steinmetz, Chairwoman of MTF, said: “This report lays bare the disparities that exist across virtually every measure of economic and social conditions in our society. We are committed and motivated to work with a wide range of groups and voices to continue to measure progress in efforts to close these disparities and make Massachusetts a more united, diverse, and equal Commonwealth.”

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Legislation introduced to ban greyhound racing

Animal Wellness Action and GREY2K USA Worldwide applauded Reps. Tony Cárdenas, D-Calif., Mike Waltz, R-Fla., Steve Cohen, D-Tenn., Elvira Salazar, R-Fla., Stephanie Murphy, D-Fla., and Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Penn., for introducing legislation to phase out commercial greyhound racing and simulcasting of dog racing. The Greyhound Protection Act also bans the use of live animals for training of greyhounds.

“Greyhound racing has become exceedingly unpopular with Americans and is in a death spiral,” said Wayne Pacelle, president of Animal Wellness Action and the Center for a Humane Economy. “This bill allows for a managed phase-out of the activity to enable planning to provide homes for the dogs and certainty for the small group of remaining owners, workers, and breeders in the industry.”

Cardenas’ bill comes in the wake of a 2020 investigation by GREY2K USA that exposed live lure training in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas,

with “farms” training dogs by allowing them to tear apart rabbits. During the course of an investigation that spanned nearly a year, GREY2K USA documented illegal greyhound training at breeding farms in three states, including at a property that is only two miles from the National Greyhound Association headquarters in Abilene, Kansas. The details of this investigation and relevant footage have been provided to law enforcement officials and regulators in Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and West Virginia.

The bill also comes after a series of track closure announcements in the United States. In June of 2020, Texas’s last track became the most recent one to announce an end to live racing. Alabama’s lone track announced an end to live racing effective in April 2020. And just months before, Arkansas’s Southland track announced it would phase out operations over the next two years.

Now, only four tracks operate, and the only two without a definite timeline to end live racing are in West Virginia. The tracks, based in Charleston and Wheeling, are owned by Delaware North, a privately held company based in Buffalo and built around gambling and food service. A generation ago, there were 60 tracks in the United States, so the decline of racing has been precipitous.

Dogs used for racing are kept confined in stacked metal cages for up to 23 hours a day. When let out to race, they suffer serious

injuries including broken legs and backs, crushed skulls, and paralysis. State records also show greyhounds testing positive for serious drugs, including cocaine and anabolic steroids. Greyhound racing survived for as long as it has only because of state subsidies that enabled them to operate. At the few tracks that remain, the dogs perform in front of nearly empty bleachers. With so few states operating tracks, animal welfare concerns will become even more pressing because of threadbare operations that will have even less ability to care for the dogs.

The federal government has authority on this subject because dogs are bred and transported across state lines for racing and races are broadcast to numerous states for simulcast gambling. The bill amends the Wire Act to achieve its purposes of ending greyhound racing and live-lure training.

The Greyhound Protection Act has been endorsed by more than a hundred animal protection groups and community leaders, including 70 local animal shelters from 31 states. Lead endorsers are Animal Wellness Action, GREY2K USA and the Center for a Humane Economy, and other notable endorsers include Stop Predatory Gambling, the Federation of Humane Organizations of West Virginia, Eastwood Ranch Rescue, the National Greyhound Adoption Program, the National Humane Education Society, Dumb Friends League, Alaqua Animal Refuge and Best Friends Animal Society.

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