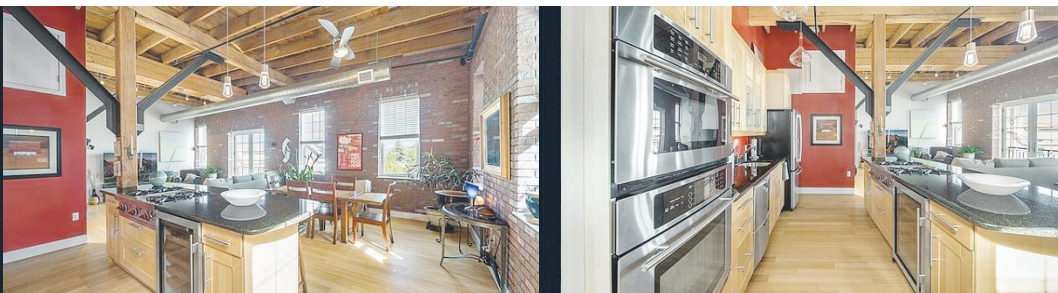


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NSMHA receives grant for 24-hour hotline, coaches

By John Lynds

Katie O’Leary, North Suffolk Mental Health Association’s (NSMHA) Director of Recovery Support, knows the crucial role peers and recovery coaches play in helping others struggling with substance abuse stay on a path of sobriety.

As NSMHA’s Project Director for the “PEERRS” (Peers Expanding Education & Recovery Resources) program and a Certified Addiction Recovery Coach, O’Leary sees the importance of having trained coaches and peers that bring their own experiences with substance abuse to the table.

“Recovery Coaches really help people navigate the complex systems of care in the recovery world and really advocate for people on their journey to recovery,” said O’Leary. “They build rapport and trust with the people that they’re working with and help them with all aspects of recovery. These coaches really hold their hands and help them walk through some of the barriers that

See NSMHA Page 2

Eastie Pride Flag Raising rescheduled to this Friday

The Annual LGBTQ Pride Flag Raising Ceremony scheduled for last Friday, June 4 was cancelled due to thunderstorms in the area.

The event will return to East Boston’s Piers Park in-person on Friday, June 11 at 6 p.m.

Organizers Celeste Hewitt and Josue Espinoza will join Massport, Eastie elected officials and members of the local LGBTQ community to raise the ceremonial flag at 6 p.m. sharp.

With June as the official LGBTQ Pride Month, local residents have been coming together since 2014 to build and strengthen a sense of community for local LGBTQ residents.



“The Rifle: Combat Stories from America’s Last WWII Veterans, Told Through an M1 Garand” is available on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Rifle-Stories-Americas-Veterans-Through/dp/1684510791>.

Andrew Biggio, veteran and founder of annual Wounded Vet Ride, pens first book

By John Lynds

Andrew Biggio’s basement has been converted into a museum-of-sorts with display cases of war memorabilia, artifacts and other keepsakes that he has collected since serving his tours of duty as a US Marine in Iraq and Afghanistan. Biggio, who founded the Boston Wounded Vet Ride that would roar through East Boston and Revere every year to raise money for wounded vets, is busy organizing a countertop stacked with autographs of the 22 World War II veterans that have been immortalized in his first ever book.

“There are people who got the book and want an autograph of one of the vets that appears,” explains Biggio.

With a book tour and book signings on the immediate horizon Biggio says this is the best way to ensure readers get an autograph of one of the vets that appears in the book.

“We just don’t know how much longer they’ll be around,” he says.

According to the US Department of Veterans Affairs statistics, 325,574 of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II are alive but around 296 die every day in the US.

In a race against time, Biggio began a quest five years ago to get as many World War II veterans on the record from across the US and from every branch of the military and tell their story.

The result was “The Rifle: Combat Stories from America’s Last WWII Veterans, Told Through an M1 Garand”, which was released on Amazon last week and quickly became the #1 best selling United States Military Veterans History book on the website.

The idea from the book stemmed from his experience returning home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“I served in Iraq and Afghanistan and I came home and I’m pretty confident I’m okay, I’m fine,” said Biggio. “What bothered me was coming to Winthrop every day and seeing that Andrew Biggio Square sign. It’s not dedicated to me, but to my

See BIGGIO Page 6

Taste of Eastie will return in July

By John Lynds

For years East Boston residents have wondered why the annual Taste of Eastie was held in the winter. With other neighborhood restaurant celebrations, like the Taste of the North End, held in the spring or summer

See TASTE Page 2



A scene from a past Taste of Eastie.

Working together

Spinelli’s teams with Shah Foundation, YMCA to provide meals to kids during summer

By John Lynds

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Last week, NSMHA received a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to boost recovery support services in East Boston and surrounding communities.

The SAMHSA’s Building Communities of Recovery (BCOR) grant program will give NSMHA \$200,000 per year for three years to establish and operate a 24/7 Recovery Support hotline to provide services to individuals in recovery or seeking to establish a recovery pathway. It will also allow NSMHA to develop a training center at its newly opened recovery support center in Eastie, Recovery on the Harbor, for Recovery Coaches, addictions and recovery professionals and community members. These efforts are also intended to expand availability of services to the Latinx community through bilingual providers, Spanish-language

See MEALS Page 2

MassDOT gives update on Sumner Tunnel project

By John Lynds

As MassDOT plans to close the Sumner Tunnel for a full four months during the summer of 2023 to complete its ‘Sumner Tunnel Centennial’ project East Boston residents are looking for mitigation in the form of a free Blue Line throughout the duration of the closure.

At Monday night’s Harbor View Neighborhood Association meeting, MassDOT’s Steve McLaughlin said the state agency is anticipating traffic impacts with shutting down a tunnel that was handling 39,000 vehicles per day pre-COVID.

While McLaughlin said MassDOT will coordinate with the MBTA to possibly increase Blue Line, Silver Line and bus service, residents feel the MBTA should be free to Eastie residents.

At Monday night’s meeting many argued that

Eastie has already borne the traffic burden of the Sumner Tunnel toll plaza reconfiguration project a few years back and should not be expected to bear another burden without proper mitigation.

“When MassDOT was doing the Tobin Bridge project Chelsea had free inbound MBTA service through the Silver Line, 111 Bus, as well as the Commuter Rail,” said one resident at Monday’s meeting. “I expect that at the very least East Boston residents would have free Blue Line service for the 16 weeks (of construction). I don’t even think that should be a question. Chelsea still had one lane open during the heaviest portions of construction (on the Tobin) and we’re gonna have nothing at the Sumner for four months. Obviously there’s the Ted Williams Tunnel option

See TUNNEL Page 5



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

The East Boston Chamber of Commerce will be placing a display of American flags to commemorate the upcoming Flag Day observed on Monday, June 14, 2021 at the Daniel H Solari Square outside the Chamber of Commerce office at 464 Bremen Street.

In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.

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 conmemora el Día de la Bandera.

La Cámara de Comercio de East Boston colocará una exhibición de banderas estadounidenses para conmemorar el próximo Día de la Bandera que se observará el lunes 14 de junio de 2021 en la plaza Daniel H Solari, frente a la oficina de la Cámara de Comercio en 464 Bremen Street.

En los Estados Unidos, el Día de la Bandera se celebra el 14 de junio. Se conmemora la adopción

de la bandera de los Estados Unidos el 14 de junio de 1777, por resolución del Segundo Congreso Continental.

Tenga en cuenta que las banderas son para fines de exhibición. Si alguien desea obtener una bandera, no dude en comunicarse con la Cámara en eastbostonchamber.com.

Puede tomarse una selfie de usted o en compañía de otras personas enfrente de las banderas y publicarla en las redes sociales con el hashtag #eastbostonchamber para participar en un sorteo de una bandera estadounidense gratuita como las que se encuentran en la pantalla.

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

Suffolk Downs will continue as a simulcast betting facility in 2022

By Cary Shuman

Revere Ward 3 Councilor Arthur Guinasso asked HYM founding partner and managing director Thomas O'Brien a question that has been on the mind of horse racing fans for quite some time.

“How long is Suffolk Downs going to be able to stay in that location so that the bettors can go to that site [and wager on simulcast races]?” Guinasso asked O'Brien at Monday's City Council meeting.

O'Brien said HYM has extended the lease “on a year-to-year basis for

at least another year for the betting operation to continue at the [Suffolk Downs] Clubhouse.”

O'Brien said that HYM has a great relationship with Sterling Suffolk “and we've enjoyed working with them.”

O'Brien continued that Sterling Suffolk may be considering other locations and ventures such as sports gaming [Massachusetts is moving forward on a bill that will legalize wagering on sports - New Hampshire and Rhode Island currently have legal sportsbooks]. “They're [Suffolk Downs simulcasting] certainly going to

be here for the next year, but it could be that sometime afterwards, some question marks get added on that.”

“They bring activity into the Clubhouse which is great and we're happy to have them,” concluded O'Brien.

So it appears based on Guinasso's inquiry and O'Brien's direct response that horse racing fans will be able to wager on next year's Triple Crown [Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and Belmont Stakes] races at Suffolk and perhaps in 2023 as well.

Meals // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

training and marketing.

“NSMHA has done a really outstanding job providing the infrastructure support and opportunity for people in recovery,” said O'Leary. “But the question then became what are the next steps, and how do we grow. The next steps for us were addressing what we thought the community needs. There's still a lot of stigma surrounding substance abuse disorders so what this grant does is helps us go further into the neighborhood and allows us the ability not only to educate the community on substance abuse disorder but also the resources to train the community. It will allow us to really start to bridge that gap and truly build a community-wide recovery oriented system of care. I hope through this grant we can provide an open forum and space for knowledge and enhance

the community's awareness of what recovery is and what it looks like and how it differs from active addiction while at the same time help those in active addiction get to a place of sustained recovery.”

There are currently 16 Recovery Coaches working at Eastie's Recovery on the Harbor that O'Leary says have their own lived experience with substance use disorder.

“They are there to just make people feel comfortable with some of the stuff that they've experienced,” said O'Leary.. “It's a, “If I can do it, you can do it” type of culture that provides people in recovery with that hope and optimism that getting sober is possible.”

O'Leary said she's really excited about the 24-hour hotline for recovery support component of the grant.

“For the next three years

we will have a recovery hotline that is manned 24/7 by the trained recovery coaches,” she said. “They will not only be able to connect people to programming resources but also help loved ones that just have questions about addiction and recovery. There's a lot of depth and knowledge within our team and all of us have different strengths that we bring to the table so we're able to pull from each other and kind of collaborate and problem solve and come up with really creative ideas of what next steps should be for people.”

Founded in 1959, NSMHA has a long history of serving the communities of Eastie, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop. It also operates an outpatient behavioral health clinic in Downtown Boston and STEPProx Recovery Support Center, a neighborhood institution in Roxbury.

“We saw, through STEPProx and other programs, the significant impact that peer support has in helping people with addiction and mental health challenges achieve and maintain their recovery,” said NSMHA CEO Jackie K. Moore. “NSMHA committed to meaningfully integrate people with lived experience into our workforce more than a decade ago. Recovery coaches bring the lived experience of recovery, combined with training and supervision, to assist others in initiating and maintaining recovery, helping enhance the quality of personal and family life in long-term recovery. We are so pleased that SAMHSA has chosen to invest in our work.”

NSMHA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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Taste // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

East Boston Main Streets (EBMS) new Executive Director was looking to shake things up this year coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

EBMS Executive Director Gladys Oliveros, who took over for Max Gruner in 2019, announced the 25th Annual Taste of Eastie will take place on Thursday, July 15 from 6 to 9 pm at Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor Hotel.

The outdoor event under the Hyatt's tent on the Eastie waterfront will feature over 20 local restaurants, music, performances and libations.

Oliveros said she was excited to move the event to the summer and outdoors because EBMS and vendors will no longer have to contend with winter weather. In years past, when the event was held in January winter storms kept vendors and attendees away or cancelled the event altogether.

“So this year it will be outside and on the waterfront so it will be beautiful,” said Oliveros. “It was my idea to switch it from the winter to the summer and the board loved the idea. A lot of other food

festivals are in the spring, summer or fall. We will still plan to do something in the winter but I think this will be so much better. If the weather is good people will be outside enjoying the food, music and performances on the waterfront and if it rains we have the tent so we really don't have to deal with weather issues.”

Oliveros said EBMS has already confirmed 20 restaurants with more ready to sign up for the event.

“It'll be a lot of the same restaurants and maybe some newer ones,” she said.. “Some restaurants are still trying to figure out if they have enough staff because, honestly, they became short staffed due to the pandemic.”

All in all the Taste of Eastie's 25th anniversary will feature a wide array of food from Mexico, Peru, Italy, America and beyond.

Oliveros added that after many spent the last year and a half in isolation due to the pandemic it will be good to get out into the warm summer weather and celebrate what Eastie restaurants have to offer--a community and

industry greatly impacted by COVID.

“I think it will really be fun and I'm so happy it will be outside this year,” said Oliveros. “And if it works out we will switch to hosting the Taste of Eastie in the summer going forward. Throughout last year and a half and the health and economic crises caused by COVID-19, I have been so amazed by how the neighborhood came together to support each other. With the city lifting pandemic restrictions, we want this event - a milestone in the history of East Boston Main Streets - to be an opportunity to celebrate the strength and resiliency of the neighborhood and the incredible people that live and work here.”

Tickets are \$35.00 and can be purchased online until July 10 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/25th-anniversary-taste-of-eastie-2021-tickets-157866554113> or in

person at the EBMS office at 154 Maverick Street Suite 210. For more details or questions please contact Gladys Oliveros at ebmsgladys@gmail.com or at (617)-669-2544.

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News in Brief

JPNA JUNE 14 MEETING AGENDA
The Jefferies Point Neighborhood Association meeting will be on Monday, June 14 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm via Zoom Video Conference
REGISTRATION REQUIRED!
The Agenda is as follows:
• Greetings & Announcements
• Boston Police Update
• Presentation of Board Candidates
• Climate Ready Boston - Peyton Silver
• Boston Harbor Shipyard & Marina - Chuck & Ann Lagasse, Owners
• VOTE: Santa Fe Burrito Grill - Santa Fe burrito grill is a Mexican restau-

rant. It will be fast casual service (like Q’doba or Chipotle) where you order over the counter and make your own burrito, bowl or taco then you go and sit in a table or take it to go. Additionally hey will sell beer, margarita, sodas and different kind of beverages.
• VOTE: 64 Haynes St - Erect a 4-story, 3-unit dwelling on a currently vacant lot.
• Owner/Developer: Francesco Chieregatti Spoldi
• Represented by: Richard C Lynds, Esq
• VOTE: 46-48 Everett St - Gut rehab of two adjoining buildings including upgrade to life-safety. Change occupancy from

two 3-families to two 5-unit dwellings by erecting additions. Roof decks also to be added.
• Owner/Developer: Konstantin Novakivsky
• Represented by: Richard C Lynds
As a reminder, all questions will be handled via the Zoom chat feature. We ask all attendees to remain muted unless called upon to speak. Looking forward to “seeing” you all there!
eBallot is used to manage the voting process. Within 48 hours after the meeting, eligible voters will be emailed a link that will allow them to vote online. All votes must be cast by Friday, June 18 at 7pm. Late votes will not be accepted, no exceptions.

MS-13 member pleads guilty to 2016 Christmas Eve Eastie murder

By John Lynds
A reputed member of the notorious MS-13 street gand plead guilty this week to his involvement in a 2016 East Boston murder and another murder in Lynn two years later.
Henri Salvador Gutierrez, 22, a Salvadorian national, pleaded guilty to racketeering, also known as RICO conspiracy. U.S. Senior District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf scheduled sentencing for Oct. 8, 2021.
Gutierrez admitted he participated in the Christmas Eve slaying of Luis Fernando Orellana at East Boston Stadium in 2016. Orellana’s body was found Christmas day in the ramp that leads up to the bleachers at the stadium.
Orellana’s murder capped a bloody year of teen murders in Eastie during a period of gang violence between MS-13 and rivals.
The violence started on Labor Day weekend back in 2015 when a 15-year-old boy was killed at Constitution Beach. The body of Wilson Martinez was found by a resident walking his dog near the beach’s skating rink.
Martinez’s murder was only the tip of the iceberg and the start of a string of murders in the neighborhood that spanned over a year and shook the neighborhood to its core.
Two weeks after Martinez was killed, Irvin

Depazm, 15, was fatally stabbed on Trenton Street. Then on Jan. 10, Christopher Perez-De la Cruz became the third teenager to be murdered in Eastie after he was shot and stabbed to death near 144 Falcon St. Then a fourth muder of an Eastie teen, Blanca Lainez in June 2016 followed.
The murders culminated in the heanious Christmas Eve murder of Orellana.
According to court records Gutierrez personally stabbed Orellana numerous times and committed the murder because he believed that the victim may have belonged to a rival gang.
Gutierrez also admitted to taking part in the August 2018 Lynn murder of a teenage boy whose body was found in a park in Lynn. The injuries to the victim’s body indicated that the victim had been stabbed dozens of times.
Gutierrez is the fifth defendant in the Lynn case to plead guilty and accept responsibility for his participation in the Lynn teen’s murder.
In July 2020, Erick Lopez Flores, a/k/a “Mayimbu,” 31, of Lynn, and Marlos Reyes, a/k/a “Silencio,” 20, of Chelsea, pleaded guilty in separate proceedings before Judge Wolf for their participation in the Lynn teen’s murder. Last month, Jonathan Tercero Yanes, a/k/a “Desalmado,” 24, a national of El Salvador admitted that

on or about July 30, 2018, he participated in the Lynn murder while a member of the MS-13 gang.
MS-13 is a transnational street gang operating in Lynn and numerous other cities across the U.S. The gang’s international influence spreads to El Salvador, where it was founded, Honduras and Guatemala. MS-13 members follow certain core rules and principles, including that members attack and attempt to kill members of rival gangs, and members do not act as informants or cooperate with law enforcement.
MS-13 is organized in Massachusetts and elsewhere in the form of so-called “cliques” or smaller groups that operate under the larger mantle of MS-13. Tercero Yanes was a member of the Sykos Locos Salvatrucha clique of MS-13. Achieving promotion in MS-13 generally requires the commission of a significant act of violence.
The charge of RICO conspiracy involving murder, provides for a sentence of up to life in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. Gutierrez will also be subject to deportation upon the completion of his sentence. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

BTU elects most diverse board in its history

The Boston Teachers Union (BTU) made history when the membership elected the most diverse board in the union’s 76-year history. Nearly 3,000 members of the union mailed in ballots and voted in-person for this year’s election, a 15% increase in votes since the last election in 2019.
Lea Serena is the first Black person and Black woman to be elected as a field representative. Serena, who is Cape Verdean, won 51.93% of the vote in the race for Elementary Field Rep. Rosalinda Midence is the first Latina to be elected to the Executive Board. Casandra Samuel, A. Vanessa LaRocque – both black women – and Midence are also three new paraprofessionals who are joining the Board as well. The Executive Board is now both over 50% women and people of color. (The union membership is 76% women and 48% people of color.)
“As educators in the

city of Boston, we serve predominantly Black, Latinx, and AAPI students. The board that leads our union should reflect both the educators we represent and the community we teach, and the results of this election show that our membership agrees,” said BTU President Jessica Tang, who made history in 2017 when she was elected President as the first person of color to hold the position. “We are excited for this new chapter in our union history as we welcome our most diverse board yet.”
“As a union, we will continue to build trust and build communities by breaking down walls of inequities for our students, families and members,” said Midence.
“The Boston Teachers Union has a complex history on how we have handled racial issues,” echoed Serena. “This win is not just a win for me; it’s a win for all, and was made possible by dedicated members who have paved

the way through their own leadership in and out the classroom.”
The full results of the election are available on BTU’s website.
About the Boston Teachers Union:
The Boston Teachers Union proudly represents more than 10,000 teachers and other professionals, including school nurses, psychologists, guidance counselors, paraprofessionals, and substitute teachers. Together, we advocate for the interests of students, parents, and education professionals throughout the Boston Public Schools. We support investment in public education to ensure a stronger future for our students and our city. As a union of educators, we are part of a movement that seeks to improve all working people’s quality of life. We are united against all forms of prejudice and bigotry that would seek to devalue our students, families, or colleagues’ lives or liberties.



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Sadhu, Sandeep	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #112	\$1,061,550
Salem, Karim	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #312	\$1,146,200
Duan, Yutong	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #319	\$865,000
Nakajima, Eric T	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #403	\$675,000
Emmett, Richard J	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #409	\$1,575,000
Testaverde, Anthony	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #417	\$800,000
Fallon, Matthew	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #418	\$965,500
Bu, Linjun	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #505	\$675,000
Overstreet, Cecil C	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #506	\$835,000
Bu, Linjun	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #508	\$550,000
PT By The Sea LLC	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #PH11	\$1,250,000
Pond, Daniel	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #PH12	\$1,226,200
T Matthew Mullard T	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #PH14	\$1,164,200
Zheng, Chen J	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #PH4	\$795,000
Qu, Michael N	Slip 45 Owner LLC	45 Lewis St #PH7	\$925,000
Xu, Xiangbin	Mainkar, Anjali P	65 Lewis St #310	\$1,030,000
Beltz, Bruce P	Quimby, Troy	150 Orleans St #503	\$628,500
Vladeck, Abigail S	Mccarthy, Sean M	112 Putnam St	\$779,000
Livitz, Sonya	CB Equities Saratoga St	946 Saratoga St #204	\$642,900
Kassis, Elias	Picatoste, Leticia	353 Sumner St #1	\$657,000



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East Boston

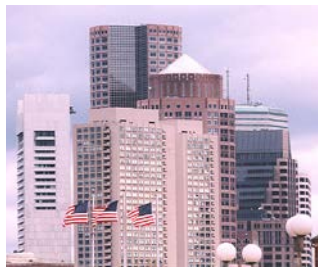
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EDITOR:: Cary Shuman

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Forum

GUEST OP-ED

Do you need Social Security?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

In 2020 over 64 million Americans were collecting Social Security.

The National Institute for Retirement Security (NIRS) has reported that Social Security is the only income source for 40 percent of retirees over the age of 60.” (Forbes.com) The study also claimed that only 6.8 percent of retirees receive income from the three-legged stool of Social Security, a defined benefit pension and a defined contribution plan.

Another study conducted by researchers at the Social Security Administration, found that only 19.6 of Americans 65 and over received at least 90% of their total incomes from Social Security. That’s a big difference from the stat provided by the NIRS.

Nevertheless, the point is that for millions of Americans Social Security is either all they have or

mostly all they have. Also, there are some government employees who have their own pension system and do not pay into Social Security.

Social Security taxes take a bite of our income from every check. Employers and employees each pay 6.2 percent of wages up to the taxable maximum of \$142,800 for 2021. The self-employed pay 12.4 percent. Some self-employed struggle with paying the 12.4 percent and look for creative ways to only report a small salary. This may enable you to have more cash now but your Social Security check will be much smaller when you become retirement age.

Religious objectors can often be exempted from paying the tax. I knew a minister who in his younger days did the paperwork to exempt out of Social Security. It was the one of the biggest mistakes of

his life. When he became 65, he couldn’t quit working. He had also drawn out most of his other pension savings for emergencies.

With meager retirement dollars he was also faced with having to buy Medicare insurance. To make matters worse he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. At a relatively young senior adult age he had nothing with which to fight. He was tired from his long years of work. He had nothing financially saved. He couldn’t stop working. Medical insurance became a dilemma and within two years he was dead.

Social Security is not a perfect world. It won’t make you rich but you’ll be glad you have the check and the medical insurance.

Keep this in mind the average monthly Social Security payment for 2021 is \$1,543, and the maximum you can re-

ceive at full retirement age is \$3,113 a month. If you have waited until you are 70 the amount is \$3,895.00. These figures change all the time depending on cost of living adjustments and how long you work and how much you pay into the system. Keep in mind the longer you work and the more you pay into Social Security, the more you collect at retirement.

So, go to work and be glad for every dollar withheld from your check for Social 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

Boston needs more affordable, affordable housing

By Councilor
Annisssa Essaibi George

Right now, Boston’s residents are struggling to pay rent, our families can’t find or afford stable housing, and too many individuals are experiencing chronic homelessness. The past year has only emphasized these realities and the effects will last long after the pandemic.

Affordability and accessibility of both rental units and homes for sale is key for a thriving city. We need to ensure that everyone who wants to call Boston home has the opportunity, option and a pathway to ownership to do so. We can start by building more housing and ensuring what we build is actually affordable for Boston’s residents.

Our housing stock must also be a reflection of the needs of those who call this city home. That’s why I’ve called for a hearing on our City’s existing residential unit diversity, so we can understand what units we have and what units we need to equitably house our residents and more proactively shape an

inclusive and thriving city. We need to see what’s out there and then act accordingly. We need to plan, then build for the realities of our residents.

Much of our focus should be on creating housing for the many residents and families that don’t qualify for subsidized housing, but still cannot afford to pay market rate. This large gap is causing low to middle income families to fall through the cracks. We need affordable, multi-bedroom housing for our families and we need to push developers to build it. We must also look into amending and updating HUD’s Area Median Income (AMI) standard for the city. The formula does not reflect the income of the many residents who need more affordable housing.

For those who do qualify for subsidized housing, the housing voucher allocation processes are not consistent and the number of available vouchers varies dramatically year to year. As Mayor, I will push for dedicated investments in public housing and ex-

tremely low-income housing and improve measures to prevent race-based and income-based voucher discriminatory behavior.

Housing production should also provide our residents more opportunities for home ownership. In order to address the affordable housing crisis and the racial wealth gap, we need to make sure our investments in affordable rental units and homeownership units are aligned. Many of the residents in our City-funded rental units are paying about 70% of AMI, which equates to \$1,400 a month for a one bedroom unit. If they are able to pay that much in rent, they can also afford and sustain a monthly mortgage of the same amount—we just have to make home ownership accessible!

The City also has to invest more in our first time homebuyers program, which not only prepares first time home buyers looking to purchase their first homes, but also offers residents, many of whom would not be able to otherwise, the opportunity to purchase a home by qual-

ifying to make a below average down payment upon purchase and lower monthly mortgage rates.

Finally, more must be done to encourage the creation of more senior-specific housing and ensure that those who have made Boston their home can stay here. We must support our seniors to age in the community they call home by creating more secure and accessible affordable housing options, including housing for older residents who identify as LGBTQIA+ or older residents with disabilities.

I was born and raised in Boston. I feel so fortunate that my parents were able to settle here and make this city my family’s home. I’m proud to raise my children here. I want that for all of Boston’s families and anyone else that loves Boston enough to choose it over any place else in this world. As Mayor, I’ll work relentlessly to make this happen.

Annisssa Essaibi George, is a City Councilor, At-Large and a candidate for mayor.

Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is **781-485-1403**. Letters may also be e-mailed to **editor@easttietimes.com**. Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

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SST THREATENS EAST BOSTON, WINTHROP, REVERE, CHELSEA, ET AL AGAIN!

To the Editor,

Many years after the Concorde SST was mothballed due to insurmountable extreme environmental, safety and financial issues it appears that Logan Airport’s densely populated surrounding communities (East Boston, Winthrop, Revere, Chelsea, South Boston, et al) are once again threatened by the emergence of

another SST project sponsored by Boom Technology and under purchase agreement to United Airlines. Boom Technology’s objective is to complete a full-size, 88 passenger version SST by 2029 according to a report by the Wall Street Journal.

I well remember experiencing the Concorde’s flights at Logan Airport in the 1970’s, 1999 and 2003. The thunderous, ear-splitting takeoff noise was caused by the Concorde’s military-like afterburning engines which were required to accelerate it to its abnormally

high takeoff speed of 250 mph, compared to 185 mph for a 747. The SST’s high takeoff speed necessitated very long runway lengths.

The SST was notorious for its sonic booms which were so disruptive to normal activities that the SSTs were prohibited from overland supersonic flight. It should be noted that even the Concorde’s overwater flights were not without consequences. For example, it was standard procedure for SST pilots flying at 60,000 feet to warn other aircraft at lower altitudes of the ap-

proaching sonic boom. The SSTs were also notorious for their contribution to ozone layer depletion.

While the current Massport Noise Rules include a provision that prohibits SST operations at Logan Airport, thanks to the leadership of former Senator Mario Umana who spearheaded the legislation, it is imperative that every effort be made to eliminate all federal funding for SST development.

**John Vitagliano
Member, Winthrop
Airport Hazards
Committee**

Weekly COVID positive test rate is now below 1 percent

By John Lynds

For a second week in a row East Boston’s weekly COVID positive test has been one percent or below according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commis-sion (BPHC).

This is good news for a community that had the highest positive test rate in all of Boston throughout the height of the pandem-ic.

Last week, 1,126 Eastie

residents were tested for the virus last week and only 0.06 percent were positive--a 94 percent decrease from the 1 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago

Of the 42,146 East-ie residents tested for COVID since the pan-demic began, 18.4 percent overall were found to be positive for the virus. This was a decrease of 0.5 per-cent from the 18.5 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate contin-ues to decrease. Accord-ing to the BPHC 13,064 residents were tested and 1 percent were COVID positive--this was a 9 per-cent decrease from the 1 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

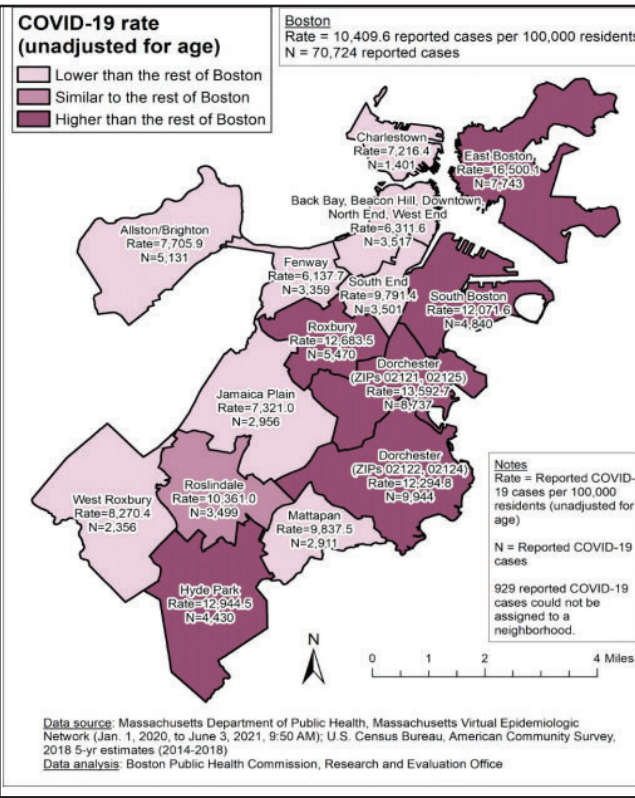
Eastie’s COVID infec-tion rate increased by only 0.06 percent last week and went from 1,648.9 cases per 10,000 residents to 1,650 cases per 10,000

residents.

An additional 5 Eastie residents contracted the virus and there are now 7,743 confirmed cases, up from the 7,738 reported two weeks ago.

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 0.25 percent last week and went from 70,628 cases to 70,810 confirmed cases in a week. Three addition-al Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,386 total deaths in the city from COVID.



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

Six tips to keep pets safe during storm season

While no one is im-mune from the devasta-tion of a natural disaster, preparing before a storm hits is key to keeping ev-eryone in your family—including your pets—safe.

“What’s good for us is good for our pets,” said Kris Kiser, President of The TurfMutt Foundation, an environment education and stewardship program, and President and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equip-ment Institute (OPEI), an international trade associ-ation representing manu-facturers and suppliers of outdoor power equipment, small engines, battery power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars.

“My dog is a member of the family, so we have a plan for keep-ing her safe in the event of an emergency, and we encourage all pet parents to do the same.”

Here are six ideas from the TurfMutt Foundation to include pets safety when mapping out a di-saster preparedness plan.

- Have pets micro-chipped. In the event of an emergency—natural or otherwise—you want to ensure your pet can get back to you if you’re separated. Collars and ID tags, though important, can break or detach. Mi-crochips—computerized and scannable implants

about the size of a grain of rice—are more fool-proof since they’re inserted un-der your pet’s skin.

- Bring pets inside at the first sign of danger. Disas-ters can be disorienting for pets, and they could run away or hurt themselves reacting to loud noises and strange changes to their landscape. Also, rain, fly-ing debris and high winds pose a danger.
- If you have to leave, keep pets with you. Leav-ing your pets behind during a natural disaster is never a good idea be-cause they could escape or become exposed to a number of life-threatening hazards. Keep them on a leash or in a pet carrier so they don’t escape, even if you are in a “familiar” neighborhood.
- Determine where you’ll go. You need a Plan B if you are advised by government officials to leave your home. Make a plan and develop a list of pet-friendly hotels open for business and outside your immediate area that you might evacuate to.
- Create a pet-friendly resource list. Research a list of veterinarians in the area should your pet need medical care (your reg-ular vet may have some recommendations). Also, figure out which board-ing facilities are nearby in case you need to separate

from your pet for a time.

- Pack an emergency bag. Pack emergency pro-visions for pets well in advance of a catastrophe so you can evacuate your home quickly if needed. Choose an easy-to-car-ry bag, label it and keep it where everyone in the family can find it quickly. The bag should include a pet first aid kit; enough food and bottled water for a week (rotate this every couple of months to keep it from going bad); medi-cations (check periodical-ly to ensure medicines in your emergency bag don’t expire); cleanup supplies; food and water dishes; bags (or litter for cats) for collecting waste; an extra collar and leash; photo-copies of medical records; towels; recent photos of your pets; and a favorite toy or chewy for com-fort. It’s also a good idea to have a sturdy carrier or crate for each pet.

By keeping in mind these ideas, pet prepared-ness plans can be put into action ahead of a storm in-stead of spending valuable time trying to determine what needs to be done to best protect pets.

Learn More

For facts, tips and fun activities for families from the TurfMutt environment education and steward-ship program, visit [www. TurfMutt.com](http://www.TurfMutt.com).

EAST BOSTON CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Please join us on
Monday, June 21st

*Eastie on the Links
Golf Tournament*

Scan the QR Code to Register



Tunnel // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

but I truly believe at the very least that East Boston residents have free MBTA service during that con-struction period.”

McLaughlin said Mass-DOT is currently working on a comprehensive traffic plan by casting a wide net in the area to let every-body know about the project and 4-month closure.

“When we shut down the tunnel for those four months, we’ve made forecasts to where those 39,000 vehicles will go,” said McLaughlin. “Traf-fic will be diverted to the Ted Williams and we think about 45% of the traffic will go to the Ted Williams, about 34% will go over to the Tobin and about 19 % will go along Route 60, then down to-wards Rutherford Ave. or over toward Route 93.”

However, McLaugh-lin said about 2% of the 39,000 vehicles during the morning commute will ‘get lost in the mix’ and go elsewhere. This could translate into around 800 vehicles per day ending up on Eastie streets and adding to the congestion residents have come to ex-pect each morning before the pandemic.

McLaughlin pledged that MassDOT wasn’t



The tunnel will undergo a complete overhaul that in-cludes a four-month closure.

going to just put up de-tour signs and leave it at that. “We will have a real time traffic management system,” he said. “These will include “time to des-tination” signs well north of the city on 93 and 95 and on 128. We’ll have decision signs and mes-sage boards so people can choose their routes well before they get even close to East Boston and the city. These will be porta-ble changeable message signs.”

McLaughlin said Mass-DOT will try to do their best to deal with traffic issues in real time during the duration of the closure and make necessary ad-justments on a daily and hourly basis.

The proposed project

consists of resurfacing the tunnel roadway includ-ing pavement and lane markings; rehabilitating the overhead arch and ceiling, including deteri-orating suspended ceiling supports; restoring the historic portal facades and addressing the function-al system deficiencies of the Sumner Tunnel. Once the project has been com-pleted, the Sumner Tunnel will meet modern fire and life safety codes with fire-proofing, fire standpipe, fire alarm and CCTV up-grades. The tunnel will feature new LED lighting and security systems; new utility conduits and cables under the roadway deck which will improve cell phone, GPS, and radio service inside the tunnel.



18 years old or younger? ¿Tienes 18 años o menos?

Grab a free breakfast + lunch at Spinelli’s in East Boston!

¡Recoja un desayuno y almuerzo gratis de Spinelli’s en East Boston!

Where: Spinelli’s East Boston
Dónde: 282 Bennington St, Boston, MA 02128

What: Breakfast & lunch prepared and served fresh daily
Qué: Desayuno y almuerzo preparado y servido diariamente

When: 7 days a week, 11:00am–5:00pm
Cuándo: Todos los días de la semana, 11.00am–5.00pm

How: Ask for the Local Lunchbox Special! No identification required.
Cómo: ¡Pide el plato del día de Local Lunchbox! No se requiere identificación.



Biggio // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

grandfather’s brother, who was killed in World War II and I’m named after him. So to see a sign that says Andrew Biggio Memorial Square just made me feel really bad for that Andrew Biggio. So I began to ask, what happened to him that didn’t happen to me. I really started asking questions about this poor 19 year old kid from Winthrop who was killed in Italy in 1944.”

Biggio remembered his grandmother saying she had saved letters from her

late brother-in-law that he wrote home before he was killed.

“So I went into a shoe box at their bedside and began reading the letters,” said Biggio. “One of the first letters he talked about how much he enjoyed the M1 Garand rifle. So I immediately ran out and bought one because I wanted to hold it. I want to connect to this long lost relative and feel what he felt holding that rifle.”

While showing friends and relatives his new pur-

chase Biggio said they didn’t seem that impressed with the World War II relic so he had an idea.

“I figured I’d do one better and bring it to a Marine I knew who lived in West Roxbury,” said Biggio.

Biggio headed over to Eastie with the rifle to visit 91-year-old Joe Drago.

“So I knocked on his door and I noticed he had gotten really skinny, his legs were atrophied and he was bound to a recliner, like most men in their



US Marine veteran and founder of the Boston Wounded Vet Run Andrew Biggio with the M1 Garand that was singed by dozens of WWII vets and is the subject of his first book, “The Rifle: Combat Stories from America’s Last WWII Veterans, Told Through an M1 Garand”.

90s,” he said. “But when I put the rifle into his hands to show him what I got, I got a totally different reaction than everyone else. He puts it to his shoulder, he’s waving it around, he’s aiming and he’s talking endlessly about the rifle. So that’s what I knew I was on to something because I just saw this 91 year old man become a 19 year old kid again.”

So Biggio had Drago sign the rifle’s stock because he didn’t want to ever forget the moment.

“We talked about his participation in the Battle of Okinawa for about two hours and after I left his house I looked down at the rifle and I was hooked,” said Biggio. “I decided right there and then I wanted to get as many signatures on this rifle as possible. If Joe Drago was a little taste of the Pacific I wanted to get a guy who fought in Europe next and then Italy.”

For the next five years, with the rifle in tow, Big-

gio visited every corner of the US seeking WWII vets willing to talk about their experiences in the war and sign the one thing that bound them all together.

“I was very careful to let them know this wasn’t going to be a book that glorifies war,” said Biggio. “Some of the guys signed the rifle but wouldn’t hold it because they vowed they’d never hold a gun again after the war and those are some of the stories I wanted to hear. I wanted to hear the reasons why they felt that way because the younger generation of vets coming home can really learn a lot from this generation that is getting smaller and smaller by the day.”

So now that his research and work is complete and the book published after years of work, Biggio said he was really surprised by the reaction as it shot to #1 in its category on Amazon.

“Before it was released

there was a lot of anticipation and anxiety,” said Biggio. “I knew I was doing good by bringing a lot of light to WWII veterans but to put a physical book out there that’s going to be looked at by other historians and authors who’ve already written multiple books about WWII was a little nerve wracking. But what makes my book a little different is that it’s really just a bond between a young veteran and the veterans of WWII. And for us, the young veterans, it’s really a way for us to learn from the older generation about the costs of war and life after war. Many in the book definitely hit bumps in the road but they bounced back, raised families and went on to live long, successful lives after war. Ultimately, it is proof that if they can go through the hell and carnage that they went through and live as long as they did--we all can.”

Car Heat Dangers

Elapsed Time (minutes)	Outside Air Temperature (°F)					
	70	75	80	85	90	95
0	70	75	80	85	90	95
10	89	94	99	104	109	114
20	99	104	109	114	119	124
30	104	109	114	119	124	129
40	108	113	118	123	128	133
50	111	116	121	126	131	136
60	113	118	123	128	133	138
More than 1 hour	115	120	125	130	135	140

Jon Neill, CDCM, Department of Geosciences, San Francisco State University

Don't Let Me Overheat!
Call for Help

PIERS PARK III

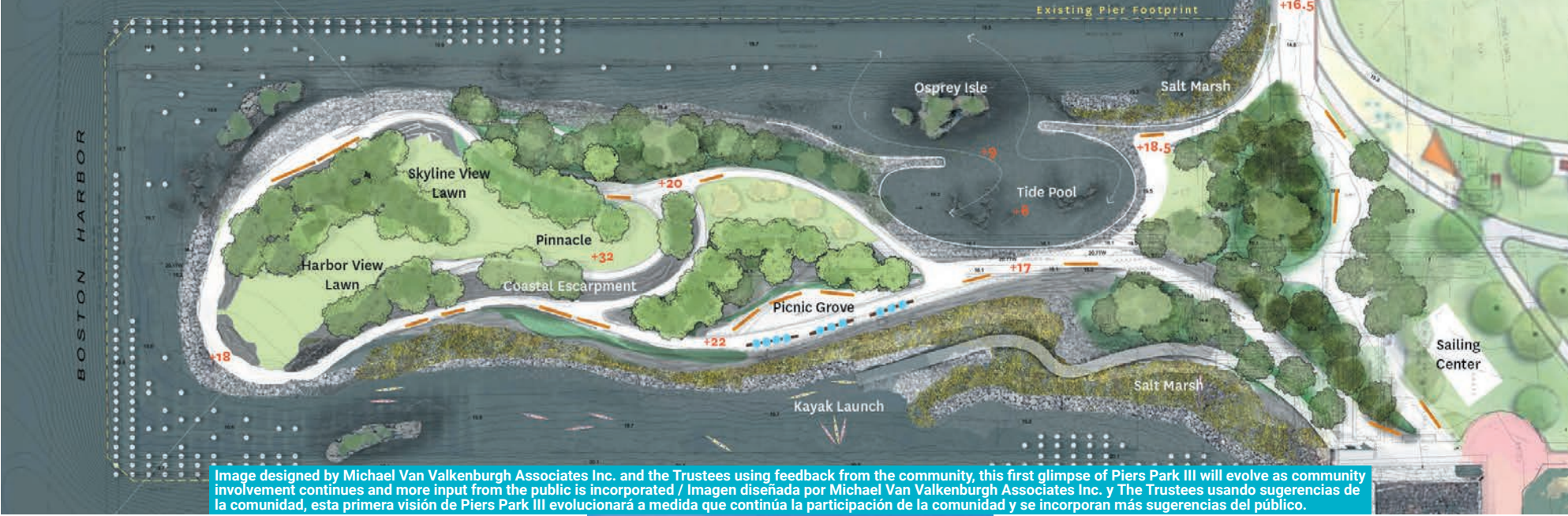
PUBLIC MEETINGS

THE TRUSTEES
BOSTON WATERFRONT INITIATIVE

REUNIONES PÚBLICAS

PIERS PARK III

THE TRUSTEES
BOSTON WATERFRONT INITIATIVE



June 17, 23 & 30 (at 5:30 pm)

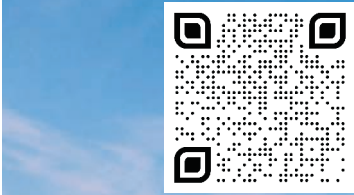
Join The Trustees Boston Waterfront Initiative, the Veronica Robles Cultural Center, Piers Park Sailing Center, East Boston YMCA, and the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, Inc. (NOAH) for three upcoming Piers Park III public meetings. These sessions will be virtual and will focus on gathering ideas for programming and activities at the future park site, specifically arts and culture programming, recreation, education, and climate programming.

These events are free and prior registration is required. Registrants will receive information from Zoom in their registration confirmation email. Attendees are asked to come prepared to suggest programming for the future waterfront park and / or to provide input on ideas.

Spanish translation will be provided.

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

The Trustees has official site developer designation from Massport to transform the pier adjacent to Piers Park and Piers Park II into a signature public waterfront destination, Piers Park III. Landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. will lead the park design process, working with the community and The Trustees to gather and incorporate public input.



El 17, 23 y 30 de junio (a las 5:30 pm)

Únase a The Trustees Boston Waterfront Initiative, al Veronica Robles Cultural Center, Piers Park Sailing Center, East Boston YMCA, y Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, Inc. (NOAH) para las próximas reuniones públicas de Piers Park III. Estas sesiones serán virtuales y se enfocará en recopilar ideas para la programación y actividades en el futuro sitio del parque, específicamente programación de arte y cultura, recreativas, educativas y la programación climática.

Estos eventos son gratuito y se requiere inscripción previa. Los inscritos recibirán información de Zoom en su correo electrónico de confirmación de inscripción. Se pide a los asistentes que vengan preparados para sugerir actividades para el futuro parque frente al mar y / o para dar su opinión sobre ideas.

Se proporcionará traducción al español.

REGISTRARSE:
onewaterfront.thetrustees.org/community-events

The Trustees of Reservations recibieron la designación oficial como desarrollador del sitio de Massport para transformar el muelle adyacente a Piers Park (Parque Azul) y Piers Park II en un importante destino público frente al mar, Piers Park III. El arquitecto especialista en paisajismo Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. liderará el proceso del diseño del parque, trabajando con la comunidad y los Trustees para obtener e incorporar la opinión del público.

WINTHROP MARKETPLACE

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Great grocery specials

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Gatorade 32 oz	10/¢10.00
Kraft Single Box Macaroni & Cheese	10/¢10.00
Idahoan Mashed Potatoes	10/¢10.00
Kelloggs Frosted Flakes 13.5 oz	2/¢6.00
Motts Apple Juice 64 oz	2/¢5.00
Wishbone Salad Dressing 16 oz	2/¢4.00
Barilla Pasta	4/¢5.00
(ex gluten free-protein-tortellini-pasta ready)	
Dynamo Laundry Detergent 60 oz	2/¢5.00
Kelloggs Eggo Waffles (ex thick & fluffy)	2/¢4.00
McCains French Fries	2/¢5.00
Pepperidge Farm Layer Cake	2/¢6.00
Best Yet Sour Cream 16 oz	4/¢5.00
Best Yet Bar Cream Cheese 8oz	4/¢5.00
Silk Oat Yeah Milk 64 oz	2/¢7.00

Bakery

Ciabatta Bread	¢2.99
Lemon or Chocolate Bundt Cake	¢4.49
Red Raspberry Pie	¢3.99

Deli

Kretschmar Rotisserie Chicken Breast ...	¢6.99/lb
Krakus Imported Polish Ham	¢6.99/lb
Butterball Oven Roasted Turkey Breast...	¢5.99/lb
Margherita Boneless Prosciutto	¢8.99/lb
Best Yet Provolone Cheese	¢3.99/lb

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Fresh Plump Pint Blueberries	¢2.99
Fresh Tender Green Asparagus	¢2.69/lb
Plum Roma Tomatoes	¢1.49/lb
Northeast Grown Fresh Cello Cauliflower.....	2/¢5.00
Sweet & Delicious Tropical Mangoes	4/¢5.00

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"Meat Cut Fresh Every Day"

Family Pack Specials

T-Bone or Porterhouse Steaks	¢9.99/lb
Boneless Pork Loin Chops	¢1.99/lb
Bone-In Chicken Thighs	¢1.19/lb
Chicken Leg Quarters	99¢/lb
~~~~~	
Tyson Bacon 16 oz .....	2/¢12.00
Oscar Meyer Meat Franks 16 oz .....	2/¢5.00

## Weekend Specials

Friday, June 11th to Sunday June 13th

"while supplies last"

### BAKERY

Banana Nut Bread .....	¢3.99
------------------------	-------

### DELI

Great Lakes American Cheese .....	¢2.99/lb
Best Yet Roast Beef .....	¢9.99/lb
Hans Kisse Seafood Salad .....	¢5.99/lb

### PRODUCE

Fresh & Sweet Seedless Green Grapes .....	¢2.29/lb
Super Select Cucumbers .....	2/¢1.00
Nature's Finest Russet	
Potatoes 5lb bag .....	¢2.99

### MEAT

London Broil Shoulder Steaks .....	¢4.29/lb
"Great for the Grill"	
Best Yet Raw Shrimp 31-40ct .....	¢5.99

### GROCERY

Maxwell House Canned Coffe .....	2/¢4.00 limit 2
Land O'Lakes Butter Quarters 16oz. ....	2/¢6.00
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New Store Hours starting June 22: Mon-Sat 7:30 am-8pm;

Sun: 7:30am-7pm

Not responsible for typographical errors.

We have the right to limit quantities.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

WALK-IN GRADUATION PLANNED

CHELSEA - Chelsea High School will have an in-person graduation this June, but it will mimic the unique walk-in graduation the school had last year in August for the Class of 2020.

Supt. Almi Abeyta said they had already been planning for another walk-in graduation earlier this year before the state decided to lift COVID-19 restrictions last weekend, and students and families in the Class of 2021 indicated they would prefer another walk-in event rather than the traditional pomp and circumstance ceremony.

Abeyta said they polled the class and found that more than 60 percent wanted another walk-in graduation.

“Everything was already in motion for us to do a walk-in graduation like last year,” she said. “That was what our families opted for, but when the announcement came on May 29 about lifting all restrictions, everyone agreed to continue with what we had planned. It was too late to shift gears.”

Graduation will take place on Saturday, June 12, in the evening, and then all day on Sunday, June 13. The graduation will not feature any speakers or any type of ceremony. Families will make an appointment to appear at the Chelsea Stadium at a certain time on either day. When they show up they will register, and then have their name called by Principal Mark Martineau. After an official photo is

taken, they will proceed to the photo booths and other fun activities before leaving.

EVERETT PROJECT RECEIVES STATE BOND

EVERETT - MassDevelopment has issued a \$9,143,000 tax-exempt bond on behalf of St. Therese 4% LLC, an affiliate of The Neighborhood Developers, Inc. (TND), which is using bond proceeds to buy, clear, and prepare a site located at the intersection of Broadway and Gledhill Avenue in Everett on which it will build a 33-unit affordable rental housing facility for seniors.

Located at the site of the former St. Therese Parish, the proposed facility, also named St. Therese, will include 30 one-bedroom units and three two-bedroom units; 19 units will be rented to households earning no more than 60% of the area median income and 14 units will be rented to households earning no more than 30% of the area median income. St. Therese Parish closed its doors in 2004 and the property was cleared in late 2020. Boston Private Bank purchased the bond.

“Preserving and expanding affordable housing in Massachusetts is one of the Baker-Polito Administration’s top economic priorities,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy, who serves as chair of MassDevelopment’s Board of Directors. “For our aging population in particular, access to stable housing is

essential to ensuring residents’ health and well-being. We are pleased to see MassDevelopment’s tax-exempt financing, coupled with Department of Housing and Community Development tax credits and subsidy funds, bring St. Therese over the finish line.”

“At a time when the need for new housing production is critical, MassDevelopment is proud to help The Neighborhood Developers build 33 new affordable homes for seniors in Everett,” said MassDevelopment President and CEO Dan Rivera. “St. Therese will be a welcome addition to Greater Boston’s housing stock by offering an affordable, safe, and vibrant community for many seniors to call home.”

St. Therese will include a community room, fitness room, common laundry, central air conditioning, and 58 surface parking spaces. The facility will be part of a larger mixed-use project that will include an additional 44 affordable rental units, six three-bedroom homeownership units, and a senior-focused health care center operated by East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. A pocket park on the property will be redeveloped to recognize the history of St. Therese Parish and will include remnants from the former church building.

In addition to the tax-exempt bond, MassDevelopment assisted the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) with the approval of federal low-income housing tax credits, which will provide

2021 MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES



After a year in 2020 where Memorial Day Exercises were moved to an online format, City officials and several residents came together in person for the 2021 Memorial Day Exercises – one of the first in-person official City events that has taken place since March 2020. In a welcome retreat from the world of Zoom, several dozen residents showed up to embark on the most traditional of activities that had been taken away by COVID-19 – remembering those Chelsea men and woman who gave their lives for freedom. Keynote speaker Ret. Army Col. Bob Notch, director of veteran’s programs at Brighton Marine, challenged everyone to bring someone with them to next year’s exercises. Outside, Ana Victoria Power-Maltez danced happily while placing American flags at the City Hall Memorials. Finally, Soldiers Home Supt. Eric Johnson and School Supt. Almi Abeyta placed the ceremonial wreaths by the Spanish-American War Memorial.

approximately \$5.5 million in equity for the project. DHCD also awarded subsidy funds in support of both this 33-unit project, as well as the adjacent 44-unit rental development.

“Older adults make up a growing portion of our Commonwealth, and we need to increase the supply of affordable, quality senior housing with services in every region,” said Housing and Community Development Undersecretary Jennifer Maddox. “Since 2015, we have invested more than \$1.4 billion in the production and preservation of affordable housing in support of projects. Stable housing for working families, seniors, and vulnerable populations is vital for resilient communities. We are proud to support the St. Therese development which will create new, affordable homes for seniors with support services to help them thrive in Everett.”

Said Mayor Carlo DeMaria, “The addition of the St. Therese project will bring much needed affordable housing opportunities to Everett. Altogether, this project will provide 77 senior citizen affordable units with a local preference of up to 70% for Everett residents. The affordability of these units will range from 30% Area Median Income to 60% Area Median Income. This would translate to a typical one-bedroom having a monthly rent as low as \$1,296 with some rents as low as \$0 depending on tenant income. In addition to the 77 rental units, the project will also construct six new three-bedroom townhouse condominiums, which will be for sale below market rates, marketed for first-time homeowners with a shared income from \$85,000 to \$154,000 a year. I look forward to being able to welcome residents to their new homes upon completion.”

The Neighborhood Developers, Inc. (TND) is a nonprofit community development corporation headquartered in Chelsea. The organization’s mission is to create strong neighborhoods that enable community members to secure a stable home, achieve economic mobility, and determine their own future. TND owns 488 affordable housing units in Chelsea and Revere.

“In 2020, COVID-19 painfully highlighted the connection between health and housing; at St. Therese people will have access to healthy, affordable housing and convenient medical services and wellness programs at the same time,” said TND Executive Director Rafael Mares. “The PACE model to be offered at St. Therese will provide seniors the support and resources to safely continue living in the communities they are rooted in.”

CASTINETTI’S SPORTSWORLD SHOP SEEKS A NEW HOME

LYNN - Phil Castinetti’s Sportsworld, New England’s largest memorabilia shop, is seeking a new home.

Castinetti said that “circumstances” have forced him to move and begin the search for another location. “Hopefully, we’ll still be in Saugus, though we’re not sure yet,” said Castinetti. “We should know for certain in a week or so.”

Sportsworld has been at its current location at 87 Broadway, Route 1 South, Saugus, for the past six years.

“It’s gone very well here,” said Castinetti, a resident of Lynnfield. “The business is booming but we have to look for another place.”

Castinetti’s shop is a treasure trove of Boston and national sports memorabilia. Castinetti is con-

sidered the king in an industry that is enjoying a resurgence.

“It’s crazy, it’s through the roof on cards,” he said. “I’ve never seen it hotter in the 35 years that I’ve been doing this.”

Who’s the most sought-after athlete among collectors of sports memorabilia?

“Tom Brady, of course,” replied Castinetti instantly.

And who among rookies in sports has emerged as a must-have autograph?

“[Patriots’ No. 1 draft pick] Mac Jones is already a hot commodity,” said Castinetti. “He’s doing an autograph-signing and getting \$150 an autograph.”

Sportsworld first opened in 1986 in Everett Square. It has had a few other locations before making Saugus its home in 2015.

ZBA MOVING TO IN-PERSON MEETINGS

REVERE - With COVID-19 restrictions now lifted across the state, Zoom meetings for the Zoning Board of Appeals may become a thing of the past. Commissioners unanimously voted at their May 26 meeting to hold their June 23 meeting in the City Council Chambers.

In other matters before the commissioners:

A new fire station at the Point of Pines may have cleared its last obstacle. The commission unanimously voted to approve several variances to allow the project to move forward.

Dana Weeder, the architect for the project, noted that in addition to housing a full fire station, the building also will offer about 800 square feet for the community that would include a community room with a capacity of 40 to 50 people, three bath-

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## Region // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

rooms, and a public lobby. Commission chairman Michael Tucker said the motion speaks for itself and noted that Ward 5 Councilor John Powers sent an email in support of the project.

The full motion that the ZBA approved is as follows:

The City of Revere, Massachusetts, 281 Broadway, is requesting the following variances of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Revere to enable the appellant to raze the existing fire station and construct a new fire station at 140 Lynnway, Revere, MA 02151:

Section 17.24.010 with respect to minimum front yard setback requirement of 20 feet within the RA District;

Section 17.24.010 with respect to minimum rear yard setback requirement of 30 feet within the RA District;

Section 17.24.010 with respect to minimum side yard setback requirement of 10 feet within the RA District;

Section 17.24.010 with respect to minimum usable open space requirement of 35% within the RA District;

Section 17.28.220 with respect to minimum setback of 10 feet for dumpsters;

Section 17.28.020 with respect to minimum parking of 1 space/4 seats for meeting hall.

The commissioners also unanimously approved a request from Bouchra Saouab to add a second floor to his house at 20 Hasey St. Saouab noted that his family has five members and he needs to add more bedrooms to his house.

In another matter before the board, minor changes to an already-approved project at 191 Shirley Ave. unanimously were approved. Some of the new modifications include adding more than four feet in height to the building to accommodate keeping a significant architectural detail of a brick wall of the building on North Shore Road.

“The owner needs the additional height to keep part of the old building,” said Ward 2 Councilor Ira Novoselsky.

Other changes to the original plan approved by the board included reducing the number of parking spaces for trash and transformer use, as well as a handicapped use. Atty. Kari Ann Greene, who represented the owner, Craig Halijian, said that the modifications would not include any additional rental units in the project.

The commissioners unanimously approved the requests, but also reaffirmed the restrictions in the existing site plan findings, including the provision that since this is a transit-oriented project, no on-street parking permits may be granted to tenants living at this address.

In the final matter before the board, after a lengthy hearing that took up more than half of the meeting, the commissioners voted to continue the hearing on the appeal by JEK Enterprises, 7 Franklin Street, from the decision of the Building Inspector regarding the determination as to the current use of 7 Franklin Street, as set forth in the Order to Correct issued by the Building Inspector on January 19, 2021.

The order states in pertinent part: “Neither the NB (Neighborhood Business)

zone nor any asserted grandfathered-use of the property supports any of the structures or premises being utilized for a 24/7 business operation, particularly with the movement of, and noise generated from, large vehicles and construction material.”

During the hearing, it was noted that JEK has been operating at this address for more than three years.

Council President Anthony Zambuto spoke in favor of continuing the hearing because of the arrival of numerous documents that the board recently had received. He urged the board “to let the process finish out.”

Ward 6 Councilor Richard Serino wanted a vote “tonight,” noting that this issue has been on-going for three months.

Chairman Tucker acknowledged that a lot of new evidence has been received by the board in the last 32 hours and that one commissioner had yet to receive all of the material.

“I hope things can be ironed-out between the lawyers and the city before the next meeting.” Tucker said in support of the motion to continue the hearing.

### TOWN BUILDINGS OFFERING FULL SERVICE TO PUBLIC

WINTHROP - Interim Town Manager Terence Delehanty and Health Director Meredith Hurley are pleased to announce that Winthrop’s town buildings will provide full service to the public.

On June 1, Winthrop Town Hall was open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Town Hall will be closed on Fridays.

Residents are still encouraged to visit the town’s website to conduct online transactions such as pay taxes, parking tickets or apply for resident parking stickers. Payments and applications can also be dropped in the drop box located at the Town Hall front door. If residents wish to request bulk permit trash stickers from the Department of Public Works, they can call 617-846-1341 Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Residents should be mindful of the following guidelines when visiting Town Hall:

- Face masks are recommended in the building for non-vaccinated individuals.

- One resident at a time will be permitted in each of the department offices.

- Residents will be expected to adhere to social distancing whenever possible and maintain a 6’ distance from others in the event a line forms outside any of our offices.

- Hand sanitizer dispensers are located throughout the building and their use is strongly encouraged.

- Individuals seeking to obtain documents such as a building permit, birth certificate, applications etc. are encouraged to call the office responsible for the document in advance of arriving at Town Hall or any of our other buildings. This will enable personnel to have the document available upon arrival.

These changes came after the Baker-Polito Administration’s announcement Monday, May 17 that the Commonwealth is on track to meet the goal of vaccinating 4.1 million residents by the first week of June, and nearly all remaining COVID-19 restrictions were lifted effective May 29.

Most Pandemic Restrictions lifted State-wide May 29

Effective May 29, all industries were permitted to open. With the exception of remaining face-covering requirements for public and private transportation systems and facilities housing vulnerable populations, all industry restrictions will be lifted, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries. The gathering limit will be rescinded.

All industries were encouraged to follow CDC guidance for cleaning and hygiene protocols.

On May 18, 2020, the Administration published the reopening phases, which called for ending restrictions when vaccines became widely available. Today, there are over 975 locations for Massachusetts residents to access vaccines without delay.

Getting Vaccinated Those who are eligible but have not yet been vaccinated are strongly urged to do so. Vaccines have been thoroughly reviewed by federal regulators and have been determined to be both safe and highly effective. To find out where to obtain a vaccine, click here.

All individuals over the age of 12 are eligible to be vaccinated in Massachusetts. There is no cost to be vaccinated.

Face Covering Guidance

### Community Planting Day



**Come join us to help plant the Mary Ellen Welch Memorial Garden**

The Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway (FoMEWG) are creating a memorial garden to remember and honor Mary Ellen Welch’s legacy because she was instrumental to the creation of the greenway.

We hope that the new garden will be a landmark for the community and provide space for contemplation while observing the beautiful and colorful flowers year round.

**Saturday, June 12th**  
Shift 1: 10am - 12pm  
Shift 2: 1pm - 4pm

Location: Blue Caboose on the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway - near Marginal Street

Sign up to help at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/MEWGplant>

**Thank you for your help**

## LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

### SNHU ANNOUNCES WINTER 2021 DEAN’S LIST

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Winter 2021 Dean’s List. The winter term runs from January to May.

Full-time students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits; undergraduate day students must earn 12 credits in fall or spring semester, and online students must earn 12 credits in either EW1 & EW2, EW3 & EW4, or EW5 & EW6.

Fatima Ramirez of East Boston

Lauriana Crespo of East Boston

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with an 88-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serv-

ing more than 150,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the “Most Innovative” regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at [www.snhu.edu](http://www.snhu.edu).

### ROJAS RAMIREZ RECEIVES DEGREE FROM GEORGIA TECH

Carol Rojas Ramirez of East Boston, has earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Rojas Ramirez was among approximately 4,435 undergraduate and graduate students

who earned their degrees during the Spring 2021 semester and were recognized during the Institute’s 260th Commencement exercises May 7-8, 2021, at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

The Georgia Institute of Technology, or Georgia Tech, is a top 10 public research university developing leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition.

The Institute offers business, computing, design, engineering, liberal arts, and sciences degrees. Its nearly 40,000 students, representing 50 states and 149 countries, study at the main campus in Atlanta, at campuses in France and China, and through distance and online learning.

As a leading technological university, Georgia Tech is an engine of economic development for Georgia, the Southeast, and the nation, conducting more than \$1 billion in research annually for government, industry, and society.

For more information, visit [www.gatech.edu](http://www.gatech.edu).

In line with updated CDC face covering guidance, the Baker-Polito Administration rescinded the current face covering order and issue a new face covering advisory effective May 29.

Non-vaccinated individuals are advised to continue wearing face masks and to continue distancing in most settings. The advisory will also recommend fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear a face covering or social distance indoors or outdoors except for in certain situations.

Face coverings are still required for all individuals on public and private

transportation (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA buses and rapid transit, Commuter Rail trains and inside transportation stations and on station platforms), healthcare facilities and providers, congregate care settings and health and rehabilitative day services.


Face coverings are required indoors for staff and students of K-12 schools and early education providers.

State of Emergency Order

Governor Charlie Baker will end the State of Emergency June 15, and the administration will

work with legislative and municipal partners during this period in order to manage an orderly transition from emergency measures adopted by executive order and special legislation during the period of the State of Emergency.

There is currently proposed legislation at the state level to extend certain changes that were adopted during the pandemic, such as expanded outdoor dining. More information about those provisions will be announced when more information becomes available.



# It’s a Graduation!

**On June 11, the East Boston High School Class of 2021 will walk the stage at East Boston Stadium from 12 - 2pm.**

**Join the East Boston Times in celebrating this accomplishment and milestone for the graduates and for the City.**

**Coverage of the event will be published June 16 and include the graduate list, photos, scholarship awards, and speeches**

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To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Kathleen A. Murphy of Woburn, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/16/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
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FRESH AND LOCAL

Clams are sustainable

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Do you think of clams as summer food? Do thoughts of clam shack visits, and clam boils with friends come to mind when someone mentions this bivalve? There’s more to the clam story than happy memories and tasty meals.

Clams are a sustainable, inexpensive, healthy, and tasty protein choice. Sustainable seafood expert Barton Seaver reminds us that today many of the clams we buy are farm-raised. He lauds this aquaculture saying, “Their presence is great for the environment as they filter the water and help restore wild populations of clams.”

You can buy relatively inexpensive fresh, live clams from great fishmongers. Some of the more exotic options, like Manilla

clams or cockles, can be a bit pricey. Think of these for a garnish or a treat.

There are excellent frozen and canned clams available in the supermarket. Food writer Dori Greenspan advises, “If all you can find are canned minced clams, use them. As for the juice, buy it in bottles or cans, and look for a brand that contains only clam juice or broth and salt.”

Even more good news is that local clams can be free or simply the cost of a license to dig them yourself. The Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association explains, “A shellfish permit is required for the catch or removal of any shellfish.

Permits are available at the city or town hall which allow for the harvest of shellfish.” We would add, you should always check with

that same department for any closures or restrictions in the place where you plan to harvest clams on the day you intend to do it.

Pork and Clams

If you scan menus and cookbooks or google pork and clams, you’ll find that this combination pops up around the food world. Consider the very traditional Portuguese Porco Alentejana, a stew of marinated pork shoulder and clams with white wine and Piri Piri pepper sauce. Taiwanese-style clams with pork belly is one of many Asian takes on this theme.

We follow the wisdom of the local Portuguese community and add chopped chorizo to our stuffed clams. This dish is perfect for your outdoor gatherings this summer since each guest has their portion in

its shell. As long as you have an oven or outdoor grill to roast the calms, you can make them ahead and freeze them. Excellent stuffed clams are widely available at fish shops.

Clams, Pasta, and Rice

Another favorite way to turn a few clams into a meal is by combining them with pasta, rice, or crusty bread. Italian-inspired Linguine with Clams or Spaghetti alle Vongole is not difficult to make. You can have it on the table quickly once you know the method. As your pasta cooks, you sauté garlic and red pepper flakes in olive oil. Add some white wine, sauté to reduce it, and then add the clams, cover, and steam until they open. Next, add the very al dente pasta and a bit of the hot, starchy pasta water to your skillet. Stir and toss until



This dish of clams steamed with chorizo sausage with crusty bread is one example of a combination of pork and clams found in recipes from around the world.

the sauce emulsifies and the pasta is to your liking.

Spanish paella is perhaps the most famous of the rice dishes that include clams. This one does take more time and skill. It is traditionally cooked outside on an open fire. Perhaps you can think of this as a joint cooking project with friends. If that’s not your style, we recommend gath-

ering at a comfortable table with some trusty dining companions and ordering one of the excellent versions available on menus in your area.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

Massachusetts May revenue collections total \$4.002 billion

Staff Report

Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) Commissioner Geoffrey Snyder last week announced that preliminary revenue collections for May totaled \$4.002 billion, which is \$2.264 billion or 130.3 percent more than the actual collections in May 2020, and \$2.109 billion or 111.4 percent more than benchmark.

FY2021 year-to-date collections totaled approximately \$30.451 billion, which is \$5.689 billion or 23.0 percent more than collections in the same period of FY2020, however, historical comparisons should consider the impact of COVID-related

tax filing timing changes. Year-to-date collections are also \$3.938 billion or 14.9 percent more than the year-to-date benchmark and exceed the full year benchmark by \$1.360 billion.

“May revenue included increases in most major categories, particularly personal income tax return payments,” said Commissioner Snyder. “However, historical comparisons to last year and previous years should be viewed with caution due to COVID-related timing changes to the 2020 and 2021 tax filing season as well as responsive measures undertaken to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.”

Examples of COVID-19 response measures include, but are not limited to:

- The extension of last year’s income tax filing and payment deadline from April 15, 2020, to July 15, 2020.
  - The extension of the April 15, 2020 income tax estimated payment installment to July 15, 2020.
  - Penalty waivers for certain corporate excise returns and payments due in 2020.
  - The extension of this year’s income tax filing and payment deadline from April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021.
  - The extension of the payment deadline for certain regular sales tax, meals tax and room occupancy excise payments.
- Preliminary May Revenue Collections
- Income tax collec-

tions for May were \$3.020 billion, \$1.986 billion or 192.1% above benchmark, and \$1.897 billion or 169.0% more than May 2020. Due to extensions of filing and payment deadlines in both this year and last year, income tax collections in May 2021 and May 2020 are not comparable.

- Withholding tax collections for May totaled \$1.167 billion, \$206 million or 21.4% above benchmark, and \$46 million or 4.1% more than May 2020.
- Income tax estimated payments totaled \$58 million for May, \$36 million or 161.4 percent more than benchmark, and \$32 million or 127.3 percent more than May 2020.
- Income tax returns and bills totaled \$2.141

billion for May, \$1.993 billion more than benchmark, and \$2.067 billion more than May 2020. Due to extensions of filing and payment deadlines in both this year and last year, income tax returns and bills in May 2021 and those in May 2020 are not comparable.

- Income tax cash refunds in May totaled \$345 million in outflows, \$248 million or 255.8 percent more than benchmark, and \$248 million or 255.1 percent more than May 2020. Due to the late start of this year’s tax filing season and recent tax law changes, including the extension of the income tax filing deadline from April 15 to May 17, income tax cash refunds in May 2021 and those

in May 2020 are not comparable.

- Sales and use tax collections for May totaled \$689 million, \$52 million or 8.2% above benchmark, and \$251 million or 57.2 percent more than May 2020.
- Corporate and business tax collections for the month totaled \$71 million, \$10 million or 12.6 percent below benchmark, and \$34 million or 92.7 percent more than May 2020.

Other tax collections for May totaled \$222 million, \$81 million or 57.6 percent above benchmark, and \$82 million or 58.7 percent more than May 2020.

Over the last year, life has changed, but cancer hasn’t.



Early detection saves lives. You can make cancer screening part of your routine. Call your health care provider and schedule your screening or visit [bphc.org/cancer](https://bphc.org/cancer) for more information on how to get screened. Don’t delay. Cancer doesn’t wait.