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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 120, NO. 18

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

35 CENTS

Josh Kraft will step down from Boys and Girls Clubs

By Cary Shuman

Josh Kraft, who led the immense effort to build an \$11.2 million Boys and Girls Club facility on Willow Street and served as its founding executive director, will be stepping down as president and CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston in October.

Kraft's generous family,

along with others, paved the way for the construction of the state-of-the-art Gerald and Darlene Jordan Girls and Boys Club that has served thousands of Chelsea youths in its athletic, educational, and arts programs.

Kraft has been with the BGCB organization for close to 30 years, 15 in Chelsea, where he started

the first club in the basement of the Innes Housing Development on Central Avenue. The club also had locations at the Mary C. Burke Complex and the old Chelsea High School building on Clark Avenue.

Kraft has been lauded for putting together the current, great team at the club that includes Executive Director Gina Centrella

and Program Director John Montes. He has been the president and chief executive officer of the BGCB for the last 12 years, overseeing 11 clubs and the Youth Connect Program in a collaboration with the Boston Police Department. The BGCB organization places clinical social workers in police stations throughout the city. The Youth Connect

Program has been in operation for 24 years.

Kraft talked about his decision to leave the organization.

"This decision comes after a year of careful consideration about what the next step in my career might be. After decades with BGCB, I know that my work will



Josh Kraft.

See KRAFT Page 4

Finding Inspiration

Chelsea's Melissa Gallego, Max Pro brighten up the downtown with chalk

By Seth Daniel

Most people think of chalk as being a key ingredient of math problem reviews or homework assignments at school, but Chelsea's Melissa Gallego has seen chalk as a way this summer to beautify the downtown with colorful — albeit temporary — art.

Chelsea Prospers has unveiled Chalk Art Saturdays through the month of June and July, each with a unique theme and a local artist to do their handiwork in decorating a secret location that is unveiled later. Some have been on the side of the TD Bank, another was on the stairs to City Hall, and Gallego got to show her handiwork in the center of Bellingham Square by the clock.

Gallego is the 15-year-old daughter of Chelsea's, Juan Gallego, a builder in

the community who has spent a great deal of time helping with the City's downtown planning efforts.

While he's a builder, his daughter Melissa is on the creative side.

Melissa attends Malden Catholic School for Girls, and has lived her whole life in Chelsea.

"I have drawn and painted my whole life with inspiration from my father," she said. "I find painting relaxing, but drawing with pencil is my favorite way of making art."

In late June, she created a colorful chalk enhancement near the clock in Bellingham Square — the theme being 'Embracing New Rituals.'

Another Chelsea artist who has contributed is Max Pro, who was born and raised in Chelsea, but left to

See GALLEGO Page 4



PHOTO BY KATY ROGERS

Chelsea's Melissa Gallego lies next to her Chalk Art drawing she did in late June for Chalk Art Saturdays. She is the daughter of Chelsea's Juan Gallego, and said she enjoys drawing with pencil.

Knights of Columbus live to fight another day

Organization has not folded, as many believed

By Seth Daniel

While the Knights of Columbus in Chelsea might have vacated their building

in Chelsea Square, members this week said they have not folded and continue to actively meet and help the church community in Chelsea.

Member Frank Pegnato — a Chelsea native and long-time Knight — said the organization is still active, despite much discussion lately about the Christopher Columbus Statue and the Chelsea Knights being defunct.

It's not so, said Pegnato. "The Knights of Columbus has not folded," he said. "Unfortunately there was an issue with taxes and we found out we owed a lot

See KNIGHTS Page 4

CHELSEA COPSICLE TRUCK: TO PROTECT AND SERVE ICE CREAM



PHOTOS BY DARLENE DEVITT

One little girl waits her turn for the Copsicle Truck to get a frozen treat on a hot day last week. Here, Officer Rich Bellomo, Sgt. John Nofle, Officer Joanne O'Brien, Sharon Fosbury, Officer Sammy Mojica, Councilor Naomi Zabot, Officer Ari Rodriguez and Officer Maria Barbosa hand out ice cream last week to the neighborhood on a hot day. See more photos on Page 7.

Welcome Back: Encore re-opens its doors with no issues, steady crowd

By Seth Daniel

The sounds of Frank Sinatra music or sultry Peggy Lee tunes in the Encore Boston Harbor resort had been off since March until this past week — as employees began to return for training in the run up to last Sunday's reopening.

It was music to everyone's ears.

There had been only a handful of people in the casino for months, no restaurants, no vibe, and no fun, said President Eric Gullbrants during a tour of the resort last Thursday, prior to Sunday's opening.

"There were no flowers in here at all," said Gull-

brants. "It was very quiet and lifeless and it's coming back to life. There was no music here. We just put that back on. It was definitely quiet because there was no music and no employees and the most important thing — no people. It was just a few of us really. The resort is being brought back to life now. I feel the heart and soul of our company coming back to life."

Encore had been shuttered since late March when they voluntarily closed just ahead of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) vote to close casinos, which was only lifted this month. Some 5,000 employees at Encore were

not able to return to work in that time, though the company did continue to pay them into June. Two weeks ago, the company announced they would likely have to furlough 3,000 employees, but that has already been dialed back.

By opening on Sunday, 2,700 employees had been called back, and more could be brought back if things continue to go well.

"Our team members were elated and so happy to be back," Gullbrants said. "I would say we're more appreciative of them than they are of us. I know we paid everyone in the interim, but I'm just grateful they are coming back. They

didn't have to stay around, but they did. We have a really tremendous staff. Very few people have left...If demand is high and we can open additional areas, we will. That will only be when it's safe. I have to say the week has been like a homecoming for us."

On Sunday, there were a steady flow of guests and everyone was ready to get out and enjoy the resort again — yet another homecoming for guests who had not been able to visit the resort.

A spokesman confirmed they had a great opening without any issues.

See ENCORE Page 6



The Encore flower carousel was newly decorated with horses and Pegasus draped with sashes reading 'Welcome Back' and 'We Missed You' placed at the only entrance to the resort casino. It was the first thing most visitors saw when Encore re-opened on Sunday, July 12, after being closed since March. Here, Encore President Brian Gullbrants stands behind one of the hundreds of new Plexiglas barriers that have been installed at the gaming stations on the casino floor. He said it wasn't hard to equip the casino for COVID-19 regulations, but it was expensive and time-consuming.



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WHEN DID THE U.S. GO FROM FIRST TO WORST?

For those of us of the Baby Boom generation, it was unquestionable that the United States was "the best" country in the world.

Despite the war in Vietnam, Watergate, recessions, 9/11, and other setbacks, America continued to be a global leader in just about every aspect of world affairs.

Basically, there was the U.S. -- and then there was everybody else.

American exceptionalism was taken for granted (even if in truth we often were not all that exceptional).

However, the coronavirus has pulled back the curtain and exposed us for what we have become -- a nation that ranks among the worst by many metrics. Compared to our supposed peers in Western Europe and Asia, our response to the pandemic has been pathetic. COVID-19 death rates per capita in Western Europe are only a 10th of the death rate in the U.S. And while theirs are falling, ours is rising.

Consider these additional facts:

How can it be that we have 4% of the world's population, but we have 25% of the deaths from COVID-19?

How can it be that four months into the pandemic, we still do not have enough PPE (personal protective equipment) for our hospital and other front line workers?

How can it be that some of our states have more new cases of COVID-19 than entire countries?

How can it be that not only is the amount of our testing still woefully inadequate, but that our labs are so backed up that it is taking 5-7 days to get results -- which all but makes the testing useless because results need to be made available within 24-48 hours?

COVID-19 has revealed us to be the equivalent of a so-called Third World country.

To put it simply, we have devolved from being a global leader to that of a global laggard with the result that thousands of Americans are getting sick and dying and our economy remains in tatters -- and with no end in sight.

NAME CHANGE WAS A LONG TIME COMING

The decision this week by the Washington Redskins to change its team name was long, long, LONG overdue.

The term "redskin" is -- and always has been -- a racist reference to Native Americans.

For anyone who doubts that notion, just think about all of the western movies that have permeated our culture for almost 100 years. When the hero would say something like, "Let's kill all of those thievin' redskins," (or something similar), the use of the term "redskin" was meant to dehumanize Native Americans.

It certainly was not a complimentary term.

We should point out that the obnoxious and arrogant owner of the Washington football team for years has ridiculed any suggestion that he change the team's name.

It finally was the force of economics, not a sudden surge of altruism, that prompted the team's about-face. When various team sponsors -- who themselves became motivated to do so only in light of recent events -- threatened to remove their millions of dollars of revenue, that finally is what got the team ownership's attention.

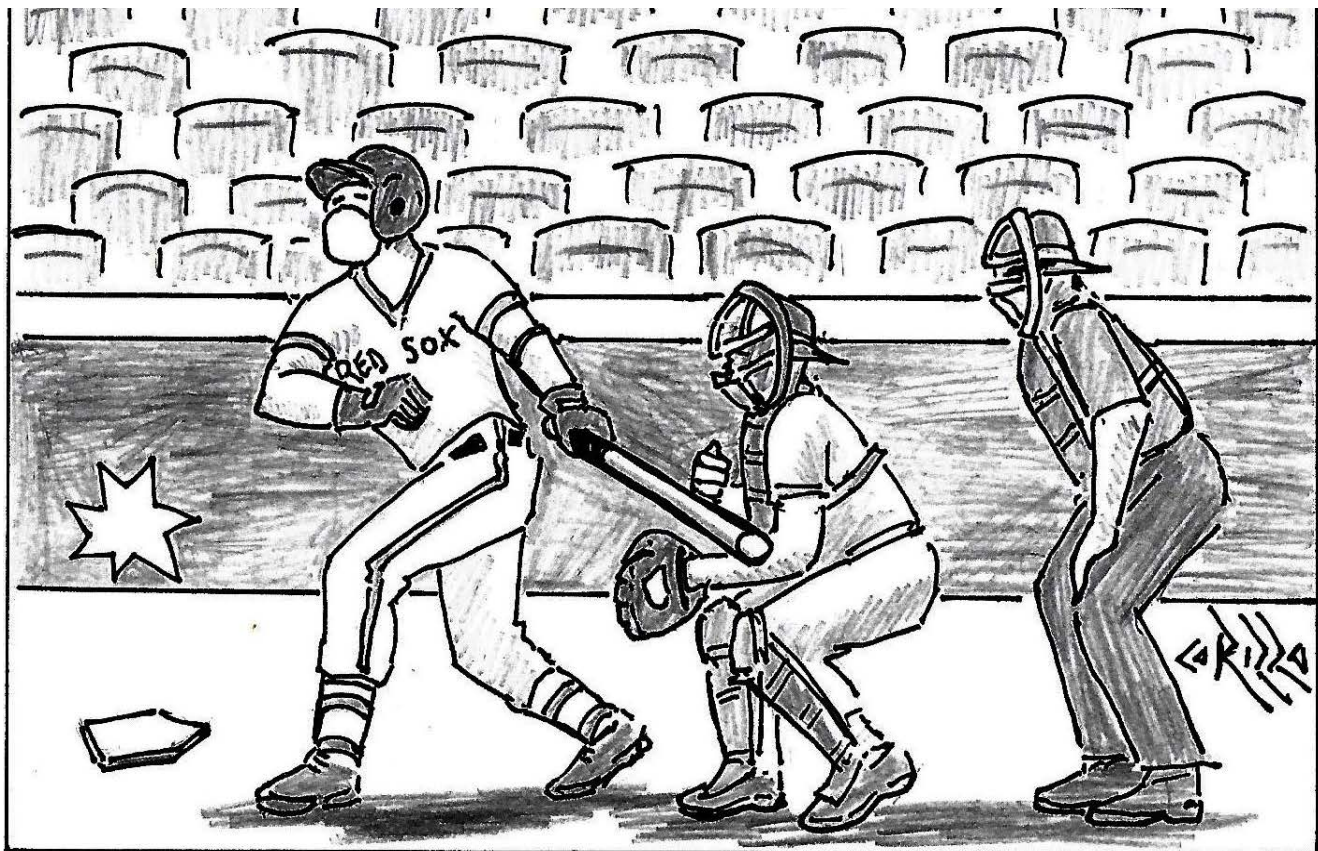
So we're happy to see that yet another vestige of America's racist past is falling. There still is a lot more to do, but changing the name of Washington's football team is yet another step in the right direction as we acknowledge and renounce our racist and genocidal past.

To quote the Sam Cooke song:

It's been a long, a long time coming

But I know a change's gonna come, oh, yes, it will

Forum



LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING BACK

GUEST OP-ED

My plan to improve transportation in Massachusetts

By Joe Gravellese, Candidate for State Representative

Transportation touches every aspect of our lives: How we get to work, how we get to school, how we buy groceries, how we seek medical care, and how we connect to recreation.

And transportation in Massachusetts is facing a full-blown crisis.

Our public transportation system has been underfunded for too long, leaving it unsafe, unreliable, and out of reach to too many communities. This forces more and more commuters on to our crowded and crumbling roads and bridges.

No matter how you try to get home, get to work, or visit friends, you face challenges. If you take the subway, you ride a system that needs repairs, doesn't connect to enough neighborhoods, and suffers breakdowns and delays. If you ride the commuter rail, you are plagued by limited schedules and unreliable service. If you get on the roads, you deal with the worst traffic congestion in the country.

The COVID-19 crisis temporarily cleared traffic off our roads, and presented us with a chance to re-evaluate transportation policy. How do we make sure we don't return to traffic armageddon? Here's what I'll fight for if elected your next State Representative on September 1.

Public transit is a public good: Fixing transportation in Massachusetts starts with centering public transportation as a public good - an investment in making our communities healthier and more productive. Even if you never ride the bus or subway, every rider is a car off the road, meaning less traffic and less pollution.

Treating public transit as

a public good means clearing the multi-billion dollar backlog of repairs to the subway and commuter rail system.

While the Blue Line is the most reliable on the system, it still occasionally suffers catastrophic breakdowns. When that happens, the backup and congestion through East Boston is a nightmare, and a window into the traffic challenges we would face without a functioning T.

Better bus service: We need to make bus service more frequent and reliable. This means bus lane pilot programs for routes in Revere, Chelsea and East Boston that frequently face delays and overcrowding, like the 111, 116, 117, and 450. Similar programs in Everett and in Boston have shaved minutes off of people's trips and made them more reliable - increasing rider satisfaction.

We should also extend the Silver Line from downtown Chelsea into downtown Revere, specifically the Broadway area. Extending this line into Revere will help increase transit access for the part of the city that can't walk to the Blue Line, and connect residents with jobs in the Seaport and South Station areas.

Build the Blue-Red Connector: The Blue and the Red Lines on the MBTA are the only two that don't connect. This creates traffic, and cuts off residents of Revere, Chelsea and the North Shore from convenient access to jobs in Cambridge, in the Seaport, and on the South Shore.

A blue/red connector would also create jobs in our communities by connecting commercial development here to a talented workforce all over Greater Boston, and help reduce

traffic to Logan Airport, which regularly chokes Revere and East Boston.

Transforming the commuter rail into a true Regional Rail system: The Commuter Rail is outdated. The trains run only a few times a day, only connect to one part of Boston, and are unreliable.

We can reimagine this system and turn it into a regional rail network that runs frequently. Imagine what it would do to reduce traffic, increase access to jobs, and make housing more affordable if every community along the commuter rail had access to a train that ran every 20 minutes, with clean, reliable electric engines?

Imagine if the commuter rail also connected to Wonderland station - allowing riders up the North Shore to connect to the Blue Line and access the rest of the MBTA, and allowing Revere and Chelsea residents to connect to transit service up to Salem and beyond?

Imagine if we connected North and South Stations, allowing residents on the North Shore to get to jobs or recreation on the South Shore?

Every morning at the Wonderland garage, over 20% of the cars parked are from Lynn, and even more are from points north. They drive to Revere because the commuter rail isn't effectively serving them. We can take these cars off our roads and reduce traffic along the beach by making train service from Lynn reliable and affordable. We can do this by transforming our commuter rail system.

Road repairs: Our system of bridges, roads, and highways needs billions of dollars of work just to get up to a state of good repair.

Rideshare regulations:

The average resident of Massachusetts drove 30% more miles per person in 2017 than they did in 1981. Many factors led to this, including commuting patterns, underinvestment in transit, and increased traffic to Logan Airport.

Another factor is the expansion of ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft. Rideshares have not only pulled people away from public transit, they've also added to traffic and emissions from when they circle city streets without passengers in between trips.

An increase in rideshare fees to invest in public transit, and smarter regulations around where and how often these services can operate, can help ease congestion challenges.

Our transportation crisis doesn't just make our commutes worse: it drives up housing costs in places like Revere and Chelsea because so few communities have reliable access to jobs in Boston. It also exacerbates environmental challenges, as gridlock traffic is terrible for pollution.

If we don't address our transportation crisis, our economy will suffer when jobs and talent move to other, more affordable regions that don't suffer from crushing commutes. We need leadership that understands the scope and nature of the problem, and the steps we need to take to solve it.

If elected on September 1, I'll prioritize making sure our transportation system better serves Revere, Chelsea, Saugus, and the entire state.

Joe Gravellese is a candidate for State Representative in the 16th Suffolk District (Revere, Chelsea, Saugus), in the Democratic Primary Election on September 1.

CHELSEA RECORD

ESTABLISHED 1890

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Chelsea Record is published every Thursday by the Revere-based Independent Newspaper Group. Periodical postage rates paid at Boston, MA. Subscription rates are \$30 per year in Chelsea, and \$60 per year outside the city. The Chelsea Record assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements, but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error occurs. Advertisers will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur. Chelsea Record, 101-680, at 385 Broadway, the Citizens Bank Building, Suite 105, Revere, MA 02151, is a weekly publication. Periodicals postage paid at Boston, MA 02110. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Independent Newspaper Group, 385 Broadway, Suite 105, Revere, MA 02151. Subscription price in-town is \$26 and out of town is \$50. **USPS NO. 101-680**

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Northeast Metro Tech Vocational School’s Summer Enrichment program goes virtual

Staff report

Superintendent David DiBarri and Department Head of Humanities Joseph O’Brien Jr. are pleased to announce this year’s Summer Enrichment Program will be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is now underway.

Starting Monday, July 13, over 180 students will be taking part in the two-week program designed to give incoming freshmen an insight into the programs offered at Northeast Metro Tech. While this program is usually held in person, this year’s will be held virtually using Zoom and Google Classrooms due to the

COVID-19 global health pandemic.

However, the overall design of the program will mirror the way it’s been held in the past. Students will cycle through six of the eight different programs over the next two weeks: automotive technology, baking, cosmetology, culinary arts, design and visual communications, drafting and design, electrical work and STEM.

Learning will be two-fold. Teachers will create a Zoom presentation to give students insight into each program and then lead students in an interactive lesson using at-home kits created for students that were

dropped off at their homes earlier this week. For example, students trying out the electrical program demonstration will use a 9-volt battery to turn on a light, those in the drafting and design program will design a home and those in the culinary program will be given the recipe and tools needed to bake bread.

Students will also be given Google Chromebooks and a summer reading assignment as part of the program.

“The amount of students who have signed up for this year’s programs shows just how important it is in preparing them for the fall,” said O’Brien, who heads the

program. “The staff working on the Summer Enrichment Program have been doing a great job getting everything prepared and creating interactive kits so students can have a hands-on experience while partaking at home to gain more insight into the work they’re interested in.”

This is the 20th year that the Summer Enrichment Program has been held.

“Joe and the rest of the staff who put together this program for our newest students have really taken this challenge head on and created an amazing opportunity for the incoming freshmen to have this experience while we continue



COURTESY OF NORTHEAST METRO TECH

Staff put together kits to help make the virtual program more interactive for students.

remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” Superintendent DiBarri said. “We look forward to welcoming students at the start of the program next week

and hope they have an incredible experience.”

Anyone with questions about the program can contact O’Brien at jobrien@northeastmetrotech.com.

IBEW LOCAL 1505 ENDORSES GIANNINO FOR STATE REP.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 1505 endorsed Revere City Councilor At-Large Jessica Giannino for State Representative, 16th Suffolk District. Giannino has been a member of the Revere City Council since elected in 2012.

“Local 1505 recognizes Jessica’s strong community values and deep roots in public service, and proudly endorses her campaign for State Representative,” said Michael Zagami, Local 1505 Business Manager. “It’s clear that our District 16 members will benefit from having her on Beacon Hill and we look forward to her strong representation for working families.”

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 1505, located in Woburn, represents over 2,200 Raytheon employees throughout the Commonwealth. IBEW’s mission is to provide Greater Boston’s developers with the best trained, most efficient, safest electricians and telecommunications specialists, while fostering the Union’s values of economic fairness, equal opportunity and charitable giving in the communities they work, live and raise families in.

“Coming from a family full of dedicated public servants and union members, I am very appreciative to have the support of Local 1505” said Giannino. “I will ensure that the 16th Suffolk District is represented by someone who believes passionately in putting the

community first. With the help of Local 1505, we will go to all corners of the district and reach as many voters as possible before the September primary.”

Jessica began her career in politics as a City Councilor At-Large for the City of Revere in 2012. In that time, she has worked on countless issues that impact the daily lives of the citizens of Revere, as well as ordinances that will impact generations to follow. In 2013 her inclusive style and strong leadership qualities prompted her colleagues to elect her Vice President of the Council. In 2016 and 2018, Jessica had the honor of serving as City Council President. During that time, she worked to ensure the agenda maintained a balance between protecting and growing the city’s economic base, without compromising the quality of city services to residents. Jessica believes it is her responsibility to ensure that Revere’s government is accountable to the people, financially responsible and forward thinking.

STREET PAVING SCHEDULE

The following is a street paving schedule for next week. Once work begins there will be no access to the street.

•Weds., July 22 – Micro-paving: Nichols Avenue, Cook Avenue, Springvale Avenue, Prospect Avenue, Madison Avenue, Brook Street, Bloomingdale Street, and Orange Street.

•Thursday, July 23 – Micro-paving: Bloomingdale Street, Orange Street, Nichols Street, Cook Avenue, Springvale Avenue, Pros-

pect Avenue, Madison Avenue, and Brook Street.

ANNUAL SIDEWALK WORK SCHEDULE

The following is a schedule of sidewalk work coming. There is not on-street parking in these areas during these work times.

•Spencer Avenue – July 13-21

•Pearl Street – July 16-30

•Park Street – July 29-Aug. 5

PARK SQUARE CHANGES COMING

Few in Chelsea haven’t had a close call either driving or walking in Park Square – one of the City’s most confusing traffic configurations. Now that is about to change after approval from the Traffic and Parking Commission to make significant reconfigurations of the Square.

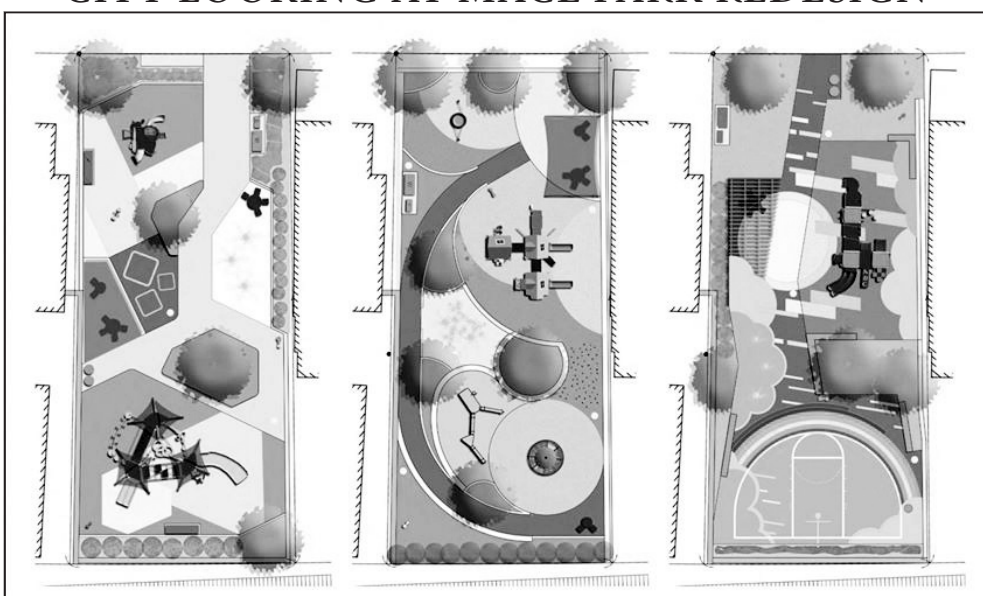
Over the next several weeks, traffic calming improvements will be added to make the intersection safer for both drivers and pedestrians. Look for new crosswalks, pavement markings, and street signs. Any necessary road closures during this work will be announced in advance.

PUBLIC MEETING: UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS,

The City of Chelsea will be starting a new capital improvements project, Broadway Water, and Sewer Improvements. The project will replace aging water and sewer infrastructure.

Replacing the water main reduces the risk of water quality issues, undersized pipe, and water loss from leaks and breaks.

CITY LOOKING AT MACE PARK REDESIGN



On Tuesday, June 23, CBA Landscape Architects LLC and the City of Chelsea’s Planning & Development Department hosted a public meeting online to collect input on possible design alternatives for Mace Playground, a small neighborhood park located on Crescent Avenue in Chelsea, just east of Broadway and near the CAPIC Head Start preschool. The final design will be submitted as part of a grant application over this summer. If the grant is awarded, the preferred design is expected to be constructed in Late Summer / Fall 2021. Based on the ideas and suggestions of members of the public, City staff, and the CAPIC Head Start faculty and parents, we are refining the design to be sure the renovations proposed really meet the needs and goals of the Chelsea community as a whole and the immediate neighborhood of Mace Playground. A survey is the next step in the process, and the City will be hosting a community survey of the three alternatives above on its website.

The Broadway project will replace water and sewer mainline and services from City Hall Avenue to the City Limit at Revere.

There will be an online meeting on the matter July 21, at 4:30 p.m. Find details of this project and Webex meeting login info on our website:

<https://www.chelseama.gov/home/events/108211>.

CHELSEA FUNERAL FUND

For the dignity of loved ones who have passed, the Chelsea Funeral Fund provides up to \$1,700 in financial assistance for cremation or burial. The fund is for Chelsea residents in need, regardless of re-

ligious affiliation, and is managed by Saint Luke’s Episcopal Church. To inquire, contact Reverend Edgar Gutiérrez-Duarte at 671-884-3300 or at vicarsanlucas@aol.com.

RAFT PROGRAM RENTAL ASSISTANCE

If anyone needs help paying rent, they may be eligible for financial assistance through the Massachusetts Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program. RAFT has expanded its eligibility requirements to help people with COVID-19 related job losses or financial hardship. Some things to consider:

- Your immigration status

does not matter.

- You may be eligible for RAFT if you have not been, or will not be, able to pay rent, mortgage payments, or utilities due to COVID-19.

- You must be in contact with your landlord or property manager (RAFT funds are paid to them).

- If you are not on the lease, you can provide your landlord’s contact information to confirm that you are a tenant.

- If you need help to cover your security deposit (for first or last month’s rent), you can specify the unit you plan to move into, even if you have not yet signed the lease.

- You are not eligible if you are in an Emergency Assistance Shelter.

New study examines diversity of civic workforce in Massachusetts

Staff Report

The people who work for Massachusetts cities and towns are overwhelmingly whiter and older than the communities or region that they serve, creating a looming diversity challenge as public employees retire, according to a study released this week by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in Boston this week.

Using Census data from the American Community Survey and locally reported demographic information, MAPC analyzed municipal workforces by race, ethnicity and gender in more than 160 cities and towns across the Commonwealth. The resulting report, “Diversity Deficit: Municipal Employees in Greater Boston,” paints a dismal picture of the lack of diversity among our municipal workforce, and recommends steps we can all take to overcome and address this lack of representation.

“We all have a stake in making sure our public servants reflect the make-up of our communities and the entire region, whether that’s by race, ethnicity, age, or gender,” said Marc Draisen, Executive Director of MAPC, which helps cities and towns in Greater Boston plan for the future and collaborate on common challenges.

“A municipal workforce that doesn’t look much like the community it serves or the region as a whole may have a hard time understanding resident problems and needs,” he continued. “In an era when the racial and ethnic diversity of the region’s population is fast changing, and there’s growing attention to longstanding issues of injustice and discrimination, it is critical for any employer to have a representative and diverse workforce. This is especially true for cities and towns.”

According to the research, the municipal workforce skews older than the

civilian workforce, with a wave of retirements projected to stress the system over the next decade. More than half of current city and town employees will be past traditional retirement age – 65 years old – by 2030, creating an even greater need for new workers to staff municipal functions like libraries, animal control, municipal department heads, DPW, school nurses, receptionists, emergency dispatchers, and more.

Additionally, the lack of racial and ethnic diversity plaguing the workforce of many cities and towns is already even more pronounced among younger workers, who may not see a home for themselves in civic jobs. This is compounded by the fact that the racial and ethnic gap among managers and department heads is particularly severe.

Representation of people of color among senior management in municipalities helps to shift workplace culture, and also provides

hope of advancement to entry-level and mid-career staff of color, the study points out. If paired with equitable HR policies and practices, better representation among management-level municipal staff can positively impact policy decisions that affect the public, and foster more trust among government and marginalized communities. Jobs with fewer formal education requirements can also provide expanded opportunities to those from disadvantaged backgrounds, opening up access to the stable employment and living wages public-sector jobs can provide.

Some municipalities have made strong efforts at diversifying their workforce, while others lag behind. Overall:

- Workers born before 1970 make up 52% of all full-time local government workers, compared to 46% of the region’s overall labor force;

- People of color are under-represented among municipal employees, and

this disparity is even worse among younger workers – an extremely concerning trend as more senior workers retire;

- Current municipal workers are much more likely to be male, except for predominantly female education occupations;

- And law enforcement in particular is made up of 78% white males, a group that constitutes just 35% of the population at large.

So how can Greater Boston’s residents and policy makers go about fixing this diversity deficit? The report suggests several changes to recruitment methods and hiring practices:

- Each municipality should collect and report data around municipal workforce demographics, on an annual basis, and according to consistent statewide data standards;

- Ensure candidates of color are interviewed for senior positions;

- Re-evaluate hiring based on residency for some jobs;

- Create employee affinity groups to improve retention

through peer support;

- Withdraw police and fire departments from the state’s civil service program, replacing it instead with locally tailored criteria meant to mirror the community’s specific needs, including diversity;

- Develop internship, fellowship, and mentoring programs for young people of color, to help spur municipal hiring.

“If we are truly serious about addressing the lack of diversity in the municipal workforce, we must also begin to tackle deficiencies in how these work environments may be structured,” said Seleeke Flingai, Lead Researcher and Report author.

“Diversity recruitment efforts can only go so far if the workplace one enters is toxic or restricting for marginalized people. To see real, sustainable change, we must do the work of transforming our workplaces to become more equitable, anti-racist, anti-sexist institutions.”

To read the full report, visit metrocommon.mapc.org.

Damali Vidot endorsed for state representative by local leaders

At-Large Chelsea City Councilor and Candidate for State Representative of the Second Suffolk District, Damali Vidot, announced a wave of support from local and regional leaders in the past week as she continues to build campaign momentum towards the primary election on Tuesday, September 1.

Councilor Vidot has spent her career building relationships within her community and throughout the Commonwealth to get the job done. Within the Second Suffolk District, Councilor Vidot received endorsements from Chelsea Councilors Enio Lopez and Yamir Rodriguez, Chelsea School Committee Members Marisol Santiago and Roberto Jiménez-Rivera, and Chelsea community leaders Joan Cromwell, Roseann Bongiovanni, Maria Belen Power, Fidel Maltez, Tito Meza, Zaida Ismatul Oliva, Daniel Ocena, Christian and Danille Calvo, Minnie Cruz, and

Mswati Hanks. From neighboring Somerville, Damali earned the endorsements of School Committee Member Andre Green, as well as from City Councilors Ben Ewen-Campen, JT Scott, Jesse Clingan, and Council President Matt McLaughlin. Gerly Adrien, Jonathan Paz and Quinton Zondervan, City Councilors from Everett, Waltham, and Cambridge, respectively, also endorsed Damali Vidot in the race for the Second Suffolk seat.

In addition to local and regional support from elected officials and community endorsers, Councilor Vidot has been endorsed by a network of progressive organizations committed to building a more equitable Commonwealth, including: The Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club, Mass Alliance, Sunrise Boston, Environmental League of Massachusetts Action Fund, Progressive Massachusetts, Run En Masse, and Mass Peace Action.

The praise from regional leaders poured in last week. Somerville City Councilor Ewen-Campen noted that Councilor Vidot is “the rare combination of a dedicated community activist and an experienced elected official who knows how to get things done.”

Fellow Somerville Councilor Clingan added that Councilor Vidot’s “progressive values and policy work are right in line with residents who are fighting for housing, racial, economic, and environmental justice” while Waltham City Councilor Paz stated that Damali “has the vision and passion to affect change at the systemic level.”

Vidot noted that “In order to serve residents and uplift my community, my work requires building where there is alignment on shared values with local leaders. That’s how I was able to create coalitions with community leaders, City Councilors, and state officials throughout Greater

Boston to address housing insecurity, environmental injustice, and other key issues affecting the residents of Charlestown and Chelsea. It’s important for us to work collaboratively in the region so that we can continue to amplify communi-

ty voices to affect change.”

Reflecting on these endorsements, Vidot was energized to action: “We are in uncertain times that have highlighted inequities that we can no longer ignore. The support and the momentum that my campaign

is building with our collaborators in the region is a testament to the change we all seek and need for the 2nd Suffolk District. I’m ready to continue this critical work together.”

DiDomenico secures more funding in budget

Senator Sal DiDomenico, in collaboration with colleagues in the Massachusetts State Senate on Thursday, July 2, passed a \$1.1 billion supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2020 to support extraordinary costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic that require immediate attention.

The spending authorized in this supplemental budget will maximize federal financial support while providing critical resources for our most vulnerable populations.

This supplemental bud-

get is the result of strong advocacy by Sen. DiDomenico and the Senate’s COVID-19 Working Group, especially the food security resources included in the bill. Since the beginning of the COVID emergency, Senator DiDomenico has played a key role on the Senate’s Safety Net subgroup and has helped to shape the Senate’s response to the growing food insecurity crisis in the Commonwealth. In light of the growing food insecurity challenges during this pandemic, the supplemental budget provides an

immediate state allocation of \$15M for food security supports, including \$9M for the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program to support our overstretched food bank system during this time of incredible need.

Sen Domenico ended by saying, “I am pleased that my colleagues and I were able to include funds to meet the many needs of our Commonwealth and that our local community will have additional resources to support food distribution for our residents.”

Gallego / Continued from Page 1

pursue his dreams. However, he said he always knew he belonged in Chelsea and has returned.

His family migrated to Chelsea from Cuba many years ago, and he said he spends most of his time with his wife, daughters and siblings.

His creativity began when he was exposed to comic books – that combined with a curiosity about the theory of time travel. Those things mixed together launched his creative side when he was younger. Now, he owns a clothing design business called All Planets that also represents suicide awareness and mental health wellness.

He said he loves being involved in the community and wished he had more time in the day to be active.

“I always remain thankful for everyone’s support,

kind words and good energy,” he said. “Without it, I wouldn’t be anywhere near where I am today.”

The last week of Chalk

Art Saturdays will take place this week, July 18, with the theme, ‘Looking Forward to a Better Normal.’



PHOTO BY KATY ROGERS

Max Pro working on his chalk drawing during one of the Chalk Art Saturdays recently. He was born and raised in Chelsea, and said creativity fuels everything he does.

Kraft / Continued from Page 1

always connect back to the Clubs and my family’s efforts to support education, families, diversity, and health,” said Kraft, who will be moving on to lead the philanthropic activities as President of Kraft Family Philanthropies.

In his new role, Kraft will manage the Kraft family’s many philanthropic initiatives, including the Kraft Family Foundation, the Kraft Center for Community Health, the Foundation to Combat Anti-Semitism, the Patriots Foundation, and the Revolution Charitable Foundation, as well as assisting with the family’s participation in the REFORM Alliance.

Kraft said he hopes to stay involved with BGCB in some capacity. “Maybe to start it off, I’ll join the local board in Chelsea,” he said. “I’ll always stay involved in the organization because it means so much. So many of our staff in Chelsea are club alumni. It shows how we keep the

cycle of history, legacy, and opportunity going for so many.”

Kraft thanked the City of Chelsea, Darlene and Gerald Jordan, Richard Voke, Mark Robinson, Mark White, Chelsea Record President Stephen Quigley, the Monkiewicz family, the Mahoney family, City Managers Guy Santagate Jay Ash, and Thomas Ambrosino and others for their support throughout the years.

Kraft praised former executive director Michelle Perez and current executive Gina Centrella for their excellent leadership at the local club.

“We were able to maintain the continuity by having directors from within the Clubhouse taking over,” said Kraft. “The great thing about Michelle and Gina is that they’re both completely mission-driven and they have no ego. They just care about the kids, the families, and the community and they continue to always put

them first.”

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kraft family and the New England Patriots assisted Chelsea with the donation of 28,000 meals to local families.

Councillor-at-Large Leo Robinson, a mentor and coach himself to Chelsea youths, said Josh Kraft and his family will be forever admired and remembered for their many contributions to this city.

“Josh Kraft helped so many youths continue on the right path in life and advance diligently toward their goals such as college, the military, and positions of employment,” said Robinson. “We are fortunate in Chelsea that he came to our city 30 years ago, worked hard, and made such a tremendously positive impact on our youth. I wish him all the best in his new position and hope he will maintain his vital association with the JGBC in the future.”

Knights / Continued from Page 1

of taxes we didn’t know about. We ended up finding out though that the City had overcharged us \$80,000 and got that money back from the City. However, because of that, we ended up selling our building across the street from the statue. That said, we still meet one time a month at the Chelsea Yacht Club. We’re still very active giving money to the churches in the community.”

The organization started in Chelsea in 1898 and was founded to help the Catholic church community in the city. Pegnato said just recently Our Lady of Grace was being threatened with closure if they didn’t rebuild a critical retaining wall. The Knights were able to provide \$110,000 to replace the wall and keep the church open.

The statue of Christopher Columbus has come un-

der fire recently in Chelsea Square – across the street from where the Knights building used to be. Several City Councilors asked that the statue be removed and a tribute to the indigenous people that once populated Chelsea be erected in that location. That request has been sent to a Committee on Conference for further discussion.

The statue in Chelsea was put up not to honor Columbus, but to designate the Knights of Columbus location. It was funded by more than a half-dozen organizations in the City in the 1930s, and out of a response, the Knights said, to defend those without a voice in those times. The Knights were founded in America to help people without a voice who were being persecuted in the early 1900s, many of them being Italian immigrants or

Roman Catholics suspected of espionage, treason or anarchist beliefs.

Statues of Columbus were put up all over America to denote the presence of a club in that town. The one in Chelsea was put up after significant fund-raising to denote the Knights location across the street.

Still today, Pegnato said they may no longer have a building, but they certainly have a presence – unlike what many have recently said in the statue debate.

“The Knights of Columbus is still active and still very much alive in Chelsea,” he said. “We don’t have a building now, so we’re not as visible as we were, but we’re still active and our meetings are held every month – like they have been for more than 130 years in Chelsea.”

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Division
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
617-788-8300
ORDER FOR SERVICE
BY PUBLICATION
AND MAILING
Docket No.
SU20D0374DR
Jessica Keefe

vs.
Rachid Bennou
Upon motion of plaintiff(s) for an order directing the defendant(s), to appear, plead, or answer, in accordance with Mass.R. Civ.P./Mass.R.Dom. Rel.P. Rule 4, it appearing to the court that this is an action for Divorce 1B.
Pursuant to Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411, an Automatic Restraining Order has

been entered against the above named parties. Defendant cannot be found within the Commonwealth and his/her present whereabouts are unknown. Personal service on defendant is therefore not practicable, and defendant has not voluntarily appeared in this action.
It is Ordered that defendant is directed to appear, plead, answer, or otherwise move

with respect to the complaint herein on or before the return day of August 10, 2020. If you fail to do so this Court will proceed to a hearing and adjudication of this matter.
Date: June 15, 2020
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate Court

7/16/20

C



LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF CHELSEA
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS
PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF FOUR (4) SOLAR RADAR SPEED SIGNS

The City of Chelsea Massachusetts through its Chief Procurement Officer is seeking bids for “Purchase and Installation of Four

(4) Solar Radar Speed Signs”. Invitation for Bids will be available on or after July 15, 2020 by contacting Dylan Cook, Chief Procurement Officer at divanis@chelseama.gov or by visiting the City’s website at <http://www.chelseama.gov/purchasing/pages/current-bids-solicitations>. Bids must be sealed and clearly marked “Purchase and Instal-

lation of Four (4) Solar Radar Speed Signs” and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, City Hall, Room 204, Chelsea, Massachusetts no later than 10:00AM, Thursday, July 30, 2020. Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, issued by a responsible bank or trust company. Or a bid bond duly executed by the bidder as

principal and having as surety thereon a surety company approved by the City, all in the amount of 5% of the bid payable to the “City of Chelsea.” The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any bid, to reject and/or all bids and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City. In accordance with our Minority Business

Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond.
The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
This invitation for bid is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30, 39M.
Dragica Ivanis
Chief Procurement Officer

7/16/20

STUDENTS ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

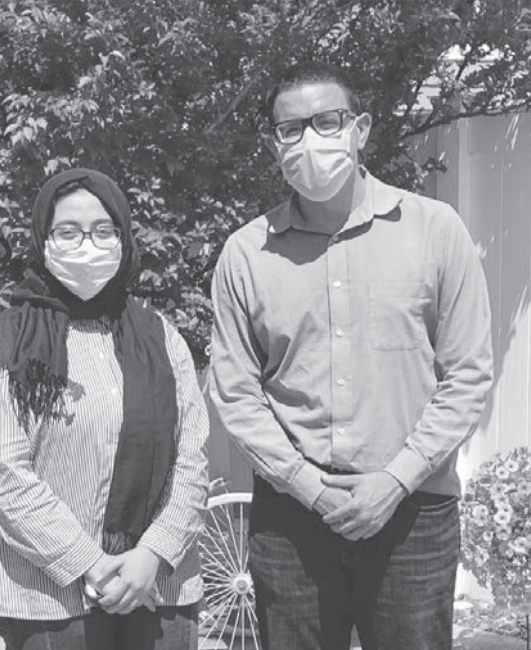
Courtesy photos

A group of high school and college students have come out in support of candi-

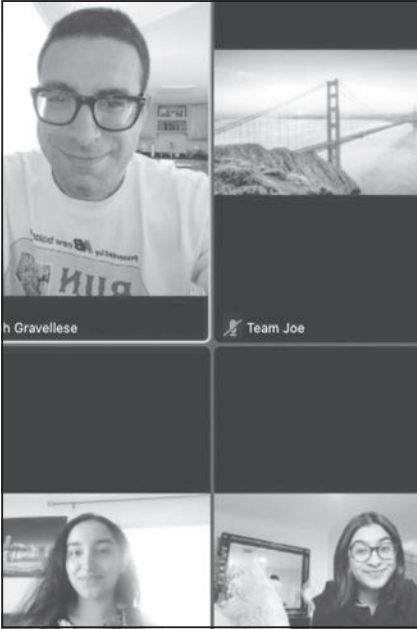
date for State Rep. Joe Gravellese on the campaign trail. They have volunteered their time and efforts to traveling with him and helping along the campaign trail.



Volunteers from Sunrise Movement Boston host a phonebank for Joe's campaign



Dania Hallak, Revere High School '20 grad and incoming freshman at Amherst College, joins Joe for a literature drop.



Joe is joined on a Zoom meeting by Maria Moujahid, a Revere resident and student at Emmanuel College; and Minnah Sheikh, a member of the Revere High School Class of '21

Ward 4 Democratic Committee endorses Markey

Staff Report

The Chelsea Ward 4 Democratic Committee on Monday announced its endorsement of Ed Markey for re-election to the United States Senate.

The Chelsea Ward 4 Committee endorsement comes as several other officials and groups in the region have also announced their support, including: State Representatives Daniel Ryan, RoseLee Vincent, and Joseph McGonagle, State Senator Sal DiDomenico, District Attorneys Rachael Rollins and Marian Ryan, Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo, and Speaker Robert DeLeo.

“The residents of Chelsea are often overlooked by policymakers. Yet, there is one politician who has never forgotten about Chelsea - Ed Markey,” says Attorney Olivia Anne Walsh, Chair of Chelsea Ward 4 Democratic Town Committee. “Ed Markey has been on the ground, distributing meals to our food-insecure neighbors. He hosted a bilingual benefit concert to collect donations for Chelsea residents impact-

ed by COVID-19. And he demanded the release of demographic COVID-19 information, so that we can better understand the stark racial disparities in health outcomes.”

The Chelsea Ward 4 Committee works on grassroots organizing in the Chelsea community, in addition to issues like economic development, affordable housing, elder services, equity, and environmental justice. Chelsea has been at the epicenter of the COVID-19 crisis in Massachusetts.

“COVID-19 highlights the longstanding inequities that communities such as Chelsea face on a day-to-day basis,” said Senator Markey. “To move forward, we need innovative policies and dedicated local organizations like the Chelsea Ward 4 Democratic Town Committee to fight for them. I am honored to have their support in this election.”

Since 1998, Senator Markey has helped secure nearly \$3 million to provide telecommunications services to schools and libraries in Chelsea and recently

helped secure hundreds of thousands of dollars for affordable housing. In April, he successfully fought for immediate oversight of the Chelsea Soldiers Home after disturbing reports of COVID-19-related deaths. Senator Markey also hosted a livestream with local leaders to discuss environmental justice and the impact that air pollution has had on COVID-19 infection and mortality rates in Chelsea.

Senator Markey has served in the United States Senate since winning the special election in 2013 and has amassed a deep record on environmental, climate, gun safety, and consumer protection issues. He co-authored the Green New Deal, supports Medicare For All, and his leadership has led to legislation to address the humanitarian crisis on the southern border, protect LGBTQ+ rights, and ensure that Donald Trump cannot launch a nuclear first strike without Congressional approval. Raised in Malden, Ed Markey has always stood up for the priorities of Massachusetts.

UPDATE ON ADMIRAL'S HILL STABBING

Shortly after 8 p.m. Wednesday night, July 8, Chelsea Police and State Police detectives developed information that the suspect in the July 6 stabbing at Mary O'Malley Park was hiding in an apartment at 18 Washington St. in the city. Investigators had previously identified the suspect as Walther Alexander Portillo-Alfaro, who goes by the street name “Chino.”

A short time later members of the State Police Detective Unit for Suffolk County, Chelsea Police officers, and a Trooper from the State Police-Revere Barracks went to the apartment and were let in by a tenant. As investigators entered an empty room, they observed Portillo-Alfaro lying on the floor. The suspect immediately tried to get up but was taken into custody without incident.

Evidence suggests the suspect had recently shaved his head completely bald and shaved his facial hair in an attempt to alter his appearance. A search of the apartment for officer safety purposes revealed what appeared to fresh cut black hair on the bathroom floor and in a wastebasket. Portillo-Alfaro was transported to State Police-Revere, where he was booked and held. He was expected to be arraigned today through the Chelsea District Court.

The male victim of the stabbing is recovering.

POLICE Log

STATE POLICE, ARL INVESTIGATING DOG DEATH AT REVERE BEACH

Shortly after noon Sunday, Troopers from the State Police-Revere Barracks responded to Revere Beach, in the area of the Shirley Avenue Bathhouse, for a report of an injured dog.

Responding Troopers found DCR lifeguards and Revere firefighters attempting to resuscitate a small Chihuahua mix who was in severe medical distress. Efforts to save the dog, sadly, were unsuccessful.

Troopers interviewed the dog's co-owner, a 57-year-old Saugus woman, who said she had taken the dog into the water when he suddenly became stricken and apparently drowned.

After the woman was allowed to leave with the dog's body, several beach-goers approached the Troopers and stated they had witnessed the woman abuse the dog before the dog died.

Based on that information Troopers are summoning the woman for various animal cruelty charges. The woman was not arrested because she left the scene before the Troopers learned witnesses had seen her allegedly abuse the dog.

Troopers, working with the law enforcement division of the Animal Rescue League, this morning were able to retrieve the dog's body from the co-owner, a Chelsea man.

The investigation into

the dog's death is ongoing at this time.

DRUNK DRIVER IN FAY SQUARE

On June 30, at 1:50 a.m., a CPD officer in the area of Fay Square observed a vehicle travelling on Washington Avenue towards Bellingham Square with no headlights on. The officer continued to follow the motor vehicle and activated the emergency lights at the intersection of Fourth and Pearl Streets where the Toyota Highlander pulled over. The officer approached the driver side of the vehicle to speak to the operator. The operator appeared to be delayed and had glassy eyes and responded to questions with slurred speech. The operator was later identified by a Maryland Driver's license. The officer formed the opinion that the driver was operating under the influence of alcohol and was placed into custody.

ARRESTED FOR OUI

On July 2, at 9:04 p.m., officers while on patrol observed a vehicle driving in the wrong lane against traffic in the vicinity of 121 Webster Ave. The vehicle caused the officers to pull off the road to avoid a collision. The officers later stopped the vehicle and after conducting a roadside assessment formed the opinion the operator was driving while intoxicated and placed him under arrest.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Chelsea Curves construction look-ahead through July 25

Staff report

This is a brief overview of construction operations and traffic impacts for the Tobin Bridge/Chelsea Curves Rehabilitation Project. MassDOT will provide additional notices as needed for high-impact work, temporary ramp and street closures, and changes to traffic configurations beyond those described below.

ROUTE 1 TRAFFIC IMPACTS

- ROUTE 1 NORTHBOUND:** Approaching the Tobin Bridge from Boston, the work zone begins in the left lane. 2 of 3 travel lanes will be open during daytime hours (5 a.m. – 10 p.m.)
- ROUTE 1 SOUTHBOUND:** Approaching the Chelsea Curves from the North Shore, the work zone begins in the left lane before the Carter Street off-ramp. 2 of 3 travel lanes will be open during daytime hours (5 a.m.–10 p.m.)

CARTER STREET RAMP WEEKEND CLOSURES

- The Carter Street off-ramp will be closed on Friday, July 17 at 7 a.m.

until Sunday at July 19 at 10 p.m.

- Traffic will be detoured to the Route 16 West exit towards Everett to take Revere Beach Parkway to Everett Avenue.

SILVER LINE ALTERNATING SINGLE LANE BUS TRAFFIC

- The Silver Line Busway will continue to have single lane bus traffic where the Line passes through the Silver Line Gateway underneath the Chelsea Viaduct. This single lane bus traffic will help to facilitate safe bridge construction.
- Silver Line service will be maintained without interruption or delay using alternating direction bus traffic. The alternation of direction will be controlled by MBTA police and flaggers.
- The single, alternating lane condition has now been extended through Friday, July 24.

LOCAL STREET CLOSURES

- ORANGE STREET** will be temporarily closed on Friday, July 17 at 7 a.m. until Saturday July 18 at 3 p.m.
- ARLINGTON STREET** will be tempo-

rarily closed on July 22 during the day (7 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

WORK HOURS

- Most work will occur during daytime working hours (7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) on weekdays. Some work will take place on a 2nd shift (2 p.m. - 1 a.m.) and overnight hours (9 p.m. - 5 a.m.) and on Saturdays (7 a.m. - 7 p.m.)

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

- ROUTE 1 NORTHBOUND:** Bridge deck and gutter repairs continue in the left lane over the Tobin Bridge. We will continue to remove bridge deck and install new bridge deck through the Chelsea Curves.
- ROUTE 1 SOUTHBOUND:** Removal of existing bridge deck and installation of new bridge deck will continue through the Chelsea Curves.
- UNDERNEATH ROUTE 1:** Crews will replace and paint steel; power wash and paint columns and support beams; excavate, erect steel; place new concrete columns; and deliver steel beams from the new bridge deck.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Viveiros, Meghan	Vanegas, Johnny M	165 Cottage St #303	\$357,000
Armstrong, Swaze R	Zabot, Naomi	60 Dudley St #316	\$416,000
Sullivan, Megan	Urban Renewal 11 LLC	28 Hawthorne St #2	\$455,000



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12,000 COPIES 4-COLOR \$900	4-COLOR STICKIES CAN BE A COMBINATION OF COLORS. 2-COLOR STICKIES CAN BE MADE WITH ANY 2 COLORS	

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Encore // continued from page 1

“Other than telling a handful of people to push their mask up to cover their nose, there really weren’t any issues,” said Spokesman Eric Kraus. “People enjoyed the experience. Some guests actually enjoyed the Plexiglas barrier being up better than the way it used to be. People were great and they enjoyed themselves.”

That was the object of the preparations for the opening all last week, with Encore taking several pages from their sister resorts in Macau and Las Vegas – which have already reopened. They submitted a very detailed opening plan with the help of consultants from Johns Hopkins and Georgetown in May, but it has been refined over and

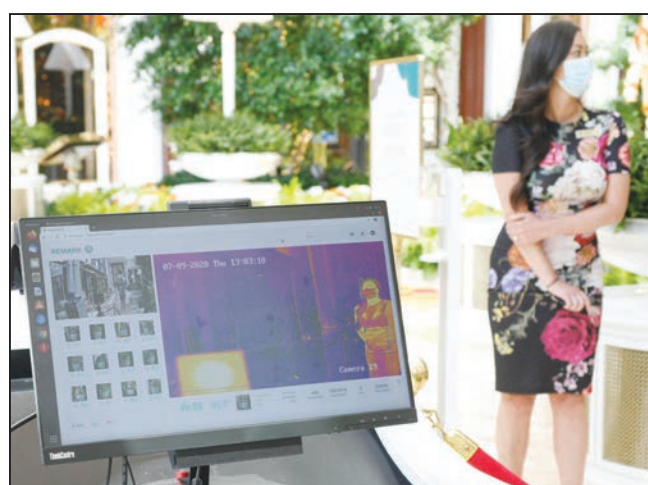


Servers and wait staff have sanitizer stations all over the restaurants and have protocols for sanitizing numerous times during the dining experience.

over again in the weeks since.

Things are certainly different, and it’s not the Encore of last summer, but it’s slowly returning.

They have lost nearly 50 percent of their gaming stations, going from 4,540 stations to 2,449 at opening. There are no Craps, Roulette or poker games, and of the lost gaming stations, that includes 1,000 slot machines closed due to social distancing. All of the card game tables have extensive Plexiglas barriers between



A new thermal camera detects body temperature as people walk through the entrance of Encore. Anyone with an elevated temperature will be further screened at the door.



Ready to open the resort were Doormen Rafik Chaib of East Boston, and Robert Traynham of Boston. The resort opened at 9 a.m. on Sunday, July 12.

Independent's 20th Annual Beach Baby Pages

Join us in putting your Beach Baby in our 20TH ANNUAL BEACH BABY PAGES!

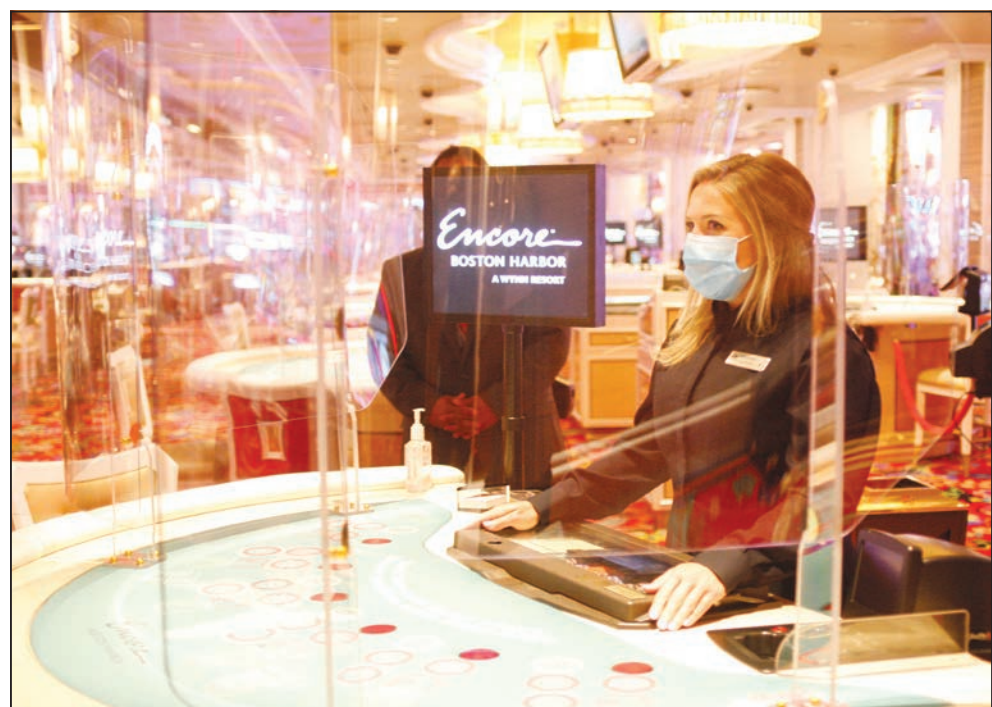
Photos should be at a beach or swimming pool setting. Please include your child's name and the paper you wish to be published in.

SEND YOUR BEACH BABY TO: promo@reverejournal.com by

Thursday, August 13th

Photos will be published in our Aug. 25 and 26 issues of The Revere Journal, Winthrop Sun Transcript, Lynn Journal, The Everett Independent, Chelsea Record & East Boston Times.

Not responsible for lost or unpublished Photos.



Michelle McMahon, a table dealer, demonstrates how they will deal Blackjack under the new regulations.

the dealer and the players, and players are no longer allowed to touch the cards.

“We flip the cards for them now and that’s for the safety of the guest and our employees,” said Gullbrants. “We followed the regulations to a ‘T’ with the barriers. It wasn’t hard, but it was expensive. We did it in house, but it cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and some blood, sweat and tears.”

Gullbrants said the cards are disposed of immediately if a guest touches them, and they are disposed of every night as part of their plan anyhow.

The Poker Room has been repurposed to have more Blackjack, Video Poker and Dynasty Games. Additionally, Gullbrants said they are working on a prototype with a plastics maker to help them be able to maybe get Poker safely up and running, if the MGC approves of it.

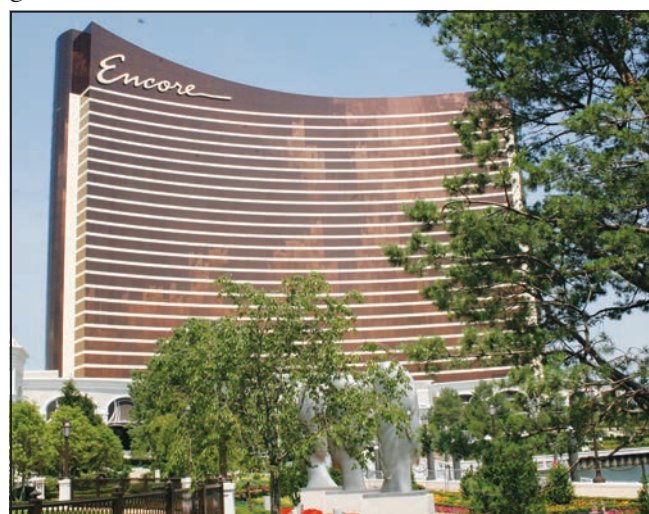
“We hope they will approve it in the next couple of weeks as we prove we can safely deal the current games,” he said.



Though the HarborWalk never officially closed, the grounds crew has been hard at work restoring all of the plantings and flowers on the grounds to what has been expected at Encore.

There is now only one entrance – at the waterfront side of the building, and only one exit as well. Anyone walking in the entrance will be scanned with a thermal imaging camera, which detects an elevated body temperature – or fever. Anyone showing an elevated temperature will be further screened. Masks are required at all times, and the hotel is actually only being used minimally.

The hotel tower is only open to guests Thursday to Sunday, and closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.



Though the casino opened only one year ago, on June 23, 2019, it has now had two grand openings in a year’s time.



Villory Rijker was happy to be back working at the front desk of the hotel this week, albeit behind Plexiglas barriers.



President Brian Gullbrants explains the precautions that are being taken for indoor dining at restaurants like Rare Steakhouse. Innovations include a new “mask coaster” for guests to put their masks on when eating.

day. That is simply because demand isn’t yet back.

“That type of demand is gone in the short term,” he said. “When it returns, we’ll introduce the 24/7 operations. However, there isn’t enough demand to fill the hotel Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday here.”

Restaurants are perhaps the trickiest situation as they strive to institute greater and greater protections, while still giving everyone a top-notch experience. At this point, those open include Rare Steakhouse, Red 8, Fratelli, Mystique, On Deck Burger Bar, Encore Cantina, Lucky Dogs (new hot dog cart), Garden Cocktail Lounge, Bru, and Dunkin’ Donuts.

Gullbrants said a great deal of thought has been put into the dining experience, and detailed the protocols. Diners who prefer not to have a menu can call up the offerings with their cell phone using a QR Code. Then, when they enter the restaurant, they will sanitize, and everything will be cleaned and disinfected before they sit down. The silverware is rolled up and the glass is brought straight from the kitchen to ensure it’s sanitized. There is even a “mask coaster” that people can place their masks on while dining – a tweak developed in Macau after they opened in March.

There is also no bar seating, but they are taking advantage of the ample outdoor patio spaces.

“We spread out every restaurant, but we’re probably a little over 50 percent of capacity,” he said. “That varies, but every restaurant has eliminated seats for safety. If it’s busy, this will be as busy as it will ever be ... We feel the long-term implications of health and safety are paramount and supersede everything. If we’re not safe, we have no business.”

Gullbrants said after spending months at home with his family – like most everyone else – he believes people are ready to come out and have fun in a safe environment.

“The last thing I want to do is open a casino with no amenities,” he said. “It might be fun to play at the casino a little bit, but you want to have drinks and a Chinese Restaurant, Rare and a great dining experience ... I think the customers are starving for that experience. I can tell you sitting in my home with my family for weeks and months on end; it was time to get back. We developed a plan that allows us to deliver that experience in a safe manner. I think we’ve achieved that.”

CHELSEA COPSICLE TRUCK PROVIDES FROZEN TREATS IN THE HOT SUMMER MONTHS

Photos by Darlene DeVita

It’s been hot outside and humid too. That’s a fact of July in Chelsea. However,



These three young ladies were more than ready to eat their ice cream.



some relief has been had with the Copsicle Truck hitting the neighborhoods. The truck is run by police officers from Chelsea Police, and gives out ice cream treats to children and adults on hot days in the city. The program has been running for several years and is a way to create positive interactions between the police and the community.



Shown above, officers, kids and community members enjoyed the ice cream on a hot day last week. Shown left, councilor Naomi Zabot takes her turn at the wheel.

Chelsea reopens more businesses this week, Planet Fitness among businesses that can resume

By John Lynds

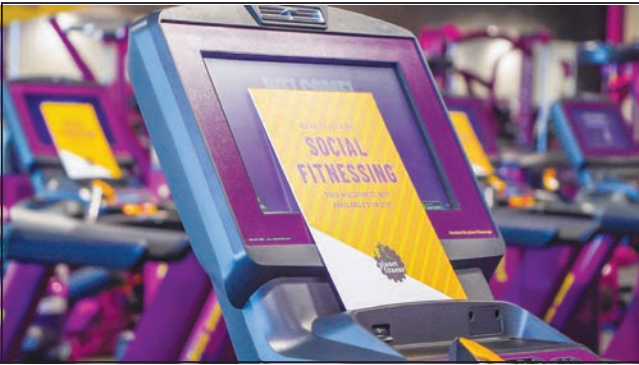
As part of Governor Charlie Baker’s Phase III of Massachusetts’s phased COVID-19 reopening strategy more businesses were eligible to reopen earlier this month.

According to Baker, as part of Step One of Phase III businesses that were subject to industry-specific rules concerning capacity and operations included movie theaters and outdoor performance venues; museums, cultural and historical sites; fitness centers and health clubs limited to 40 percent occupancy; as well as certain indoor recreational activities with low potential for contact. . Chelsea residents were

excited that Planet Fitness on the Revere Beach Parkway in Chelsea had finally reopened. Many stuck at home have complained about the so-called “COVID-15” a play on the virus’s name and the 15 lbs many claim they gained during quarantine. According to Planet Fitnesses Danielle D’Amelio members can return to the Chelsea location and get back in shape. “As an industry leader, the health and safety of Planet Fitness’ members and team members is a top priority,” said D’Amelio. “In preparation for reopening clubs and welcoming members back to the Judgement Free Zone in a

safe and responsible way, Planet Fitness has taken several steps to strengthen existing cleanliness policies and procedures, in an effort to protect the health and well-being of members, team members and the local community.” D’Amelio said some changes include all team members having completed extensive training related to enhanced cleanliness and sanitation policies and procedures Planet Fitness team members will receive daily temperature checks when they arrive to work each day. There will be increased thorough cleaning using disinfectant on the EPA list effective against COVID-19,

including 20-minute walk arounds by our team to continually clean and sanitize high-touch areas. Planet Fitness in Chelsea has also implemented; Increased sanitization stations will be available throughout the gym floor and members will continue to be asked to wipe down equipment before and after use Touchless check-in is available via the free Planet Fitness app. Simply download the app in advance and scan in at the front desk New signage will be placed throughout the club that highlights sanitization and Social Fitnessing guidelines Some pieces of cardio equipment will be tempo-



An elliptical machine cleaned and socially distant.

rarily marked out of use to enable Social Fitnessing and create additional distance between members Clubs will be open under 40% capacity; members can contact their home club for details Masks or face coverings will be required for members at all times, except when partaking in strenuous cardio exercise and positioned at a distance of 14 feet from others Lockers will be limited to allow for safe distancing and all showers will be closed

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Two health insurance cards are shown. The top card is a Medicare Health Insurance card for John L. Smith, with Medicare Number 1EG4-TE5-MK72. The bottom card is a MassHealth card for Jane Doe, with MassHealth Number 000000000000. The MassHealth card also features the word "health!" in large letters.

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OBITUARIES

Harriette Louise Feldman

Lifelong Chelsea resident

Harriette Louise (Blackman) Feldman, a lifelong resident of Chelsea, died on Thursday, July 9 of complications of Pneumonia.

The beloved wife of the late Israel Max Feldman, she was the devoted mother of Rhonda Deparolesa and her husband, Edward of Chelsea, Mark Feldman and his wife, Lynne of Marshfield and Michael Feldman and his partner, Francesca of Saugus; loving daughter of the late Michael Blackman and Goldie (Goldberg) Blackman, dear sister of the late Pauline Stone, cherished grandmother of David Deparolesa, Michelle Filipiak and her husband, Brian, Julia

Feldman, Noah Feldman and Brianna Feldman and loving great-grandmother of Olivia Filipiak. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held at Sharon Memorial Park Cemetery, Sharon. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital-PO Box 3704, Memphis, TN 38101-2132 or to the Chelsea Jewish Foundation-201 Captains Row, Chelsea, MA 02150. Arrangements were under the care of Torf Funeral Service, Chelsea, MA. Visit www.torffuneralservice.com for guestbook.

Patricia Beck

Dec. 5, 1942 – July 8, 2020

Patricia M. Beck, a longtime Medford resident, passed peacefully into the arms of her Lord on Wednesday, July 8.

Patricia was born in Chelsea on December 5, 1942, one of seven children of the late Joseph C. Glennon Sr. and Mabel R. Glennon.

Raised in Chelsea, she attended Williams School and Chelsea High School. Patricia worked at Digital Equipment for 20 years before retiring. She also drove a bus for North Reading Transportation for several years, driving special needs people.

A member of the Sports Car Club of America during a brief time in her life, Patricia enjoyed home crafts, knitting, crocheting and challenging herself completing crossword and word search puzzles. She also enjoyed traveling.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her former husband Charles L. Beck, Sr. She was the devoted mother of Paul C. Beck of Virginia and Charles L. Beck Jr. and his wife, Lora J. (Baril) Beck of Medford; cherished grandmother of Mason Abel Beck of Virginia and Cassandra I. Beck; loving daughter of the late Joseph C. Glennon Sr. and Mabel



R. Glennon; dear sister of Joseph C. Glennon Jr. of Arkansas, James H. Glennon of New Hampshire, Arthur A. Glennon of North Carolina, Cora E. Madrid of Massachusetts, Martha P. Sommers of Florida, Ruth A. Donnay and her brother-in-law, Robert Donnay of Virginia. She is also survived by many friends from around the world.

Visiting hours were held at the Welsh Funeral Home, Chelsea on Tuesday and private committal services were at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Should friends desire and in lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, PO Box 127, Waban, MA 02468

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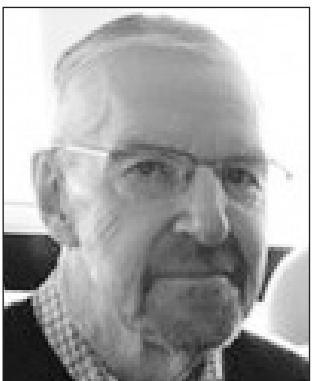
James Furlong

Gillette retiree

James (Jim) P. Furlong passed away in peace on July 7.

Born in Medford on June 10, 1939, Jim attended St. Joseph's Parochial Grammar School and Matignon High School in Medford. After graduating high school, Jim attended Northeastern University earning a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in accounting and economics. After college, Jim enlisted in the military serving for two years in the Army Signal Corp. During his military service, Jim served in Seoul, S. Korea, and in Arizona.

After an honorable discharge from the service, Jim had the good fortune to work for The Gillette Company where he worked for 37 years in various capacities. Jim joined the company as an internal auditor, then advanced to positions within the finance, employee benefit, human resource, and community affairs departments. Jim enjoyed his time at Gillette and devel-



oped close ties to a number of terrific people. Jim loved the theatre and was an avid movie buff, particularly film noir. He was also a voracious and lifelong reader.

He was a devoted uncle to his nephew, James Alberetti and his wife, Maria and a beloved great uncle to his great nieces, Ava and Tess Alberetti. He is also survived by many loving cousins and friends.

At Jim's request, all services will be privately held. Jim will be buried alongside his sister, Ann Elizabeth (Furlong) Alberetti and his parents, Irene (Gillespie) and James Furlong in the family plot at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden. For guest book, please visit www.buonfiglio.com

Ann Marie Menard

Loved life and time spent with family and friends

Merrimack, NH -- Ann Marie Menard, 73, passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday, July 9.

The beloved wife of Philias Menard with whom she shared 52 years of marriage, she was born in Chelsea on September 13, 1946, the daughter of the late Alfred and Theresa (Holland) Gisetto.

Ann Marie was raised in Chelsea and was a graduate of Chelsea High School, Class of 1964. She worked at Sky Chef in East Boston, Schrafft's Chocolate Factory in Charlestown and more recently at Market Basket in Chelsea.

She loved life and cherished time with her family and friends.

In addition to her loving husband, Philias, she leaves her children: Michael Menard and his wife, Heather of Wells, ME, Lisa Luke and her Husband, Paul of Hudson, NH, her grandchildren: Janessa, Jaycie, Jocelyn and her partner, Varian Ricard, and Mikey, her brother, Luigi Gisetto of Townsend, her sister, Karen Kehoe and her husband, Richard of Chelsea, her brothers-in-laws: Anthony Menard and his wife, Heather of Piermont, NH, Charles Menard of Poughkeepsie, NY, Joseph Menard and his wife, Tamara of Glendale, AZ and Peter Menard and his wife, Valerie of Watertown,



NY; her sisters-in-law: Ella Dean of Pittsfield, Bernadette Menard and her husband, Francis Romero of Pittsfield, Barbara Hickle of Merrillville, IN and Florence Menard of Pittsfield.

She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews. Ann Marie was predeceased by her sisters-in-law, Kathleen Wilson and Marguerite Menard and also by Derek Massucco, the fiancé of Janessa Luke.

Funeral services and interment were held privately. Memorial donations may be made in Ann Marie's name to Mass General Hospital Pancreatic Cancer Research, 165 Cambridge St. Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114 or www.massgeneral.org

Arrangements entrusted to the care of the Blake Lake Chelmsford Funeral Home, 24 Worthen St., Chelmsford. For directions and online guestbook, visit CHELMSFORDFUNERALHOME.COM or find us on Facebook.

Ryan urged MBTA to increase crowding mitigation to Chelsea

In a letter to MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak earlier this month, State Rep. Dan Ryan urged the agency to include the 111 bus among the routes utilizing the real-time crowding application rolled out in June.

In the letter, Ryan asked for clarity between the MBTA's announcement of the 111 being included in the flexible deployment program, but not actually included in the real-time app program. He further urged, "I would also ask that the Route 111 be included in future additions of routes to the real-time crowding app."

That wish was granted this week, according to the MBTA. Real-time bus crowding data is now available on routes 1, 8, 10, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 31, 32, 44, 66, 70, 71, 73, 77, 86, 104, 108, 109, 110 and 111. The data used to determine how crowded a bus is comes from automated passenger counters (APC's) installed at the front and rear of the buses. The data is displayed on the MBTA website or the available Transit app. This

data, along with traditional bus schedule programs, will enable riders to better plan for safe transit in the COVID-19 era.

"The MBTA assured me that the 111 was not left out of the equation. But, rather, the agency was testing the new technology in a limited number of routes before expanding. I'm glad to see the MBTA made good on their promise," said Ryan. "We'll have to see how it goes before giving it an 'A' grade."

The 111 is historically one of the most utilized and over-crowded routes in the MBTA system. Traversing the Mystic River by way of the Tobin Bridge, the 111 takes many essential workers to downtown Boston. During the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown, the 111 has received even more media attention than usual. The flexible deployment program, which included the 111 from the outset, will give the MBTA the ability to keep thirty percent of buses from other routes in reserve to be deployed when necessary to more crowded routes.

Ryan bolsters commitment to children and families

State Rep. Dan Ryan joined Speaker Bob DeLeo and colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in passing An Act relative to accountability for vulnerable children and families, which strengthens the laws ensuring the safety and well-being of the Commonwealth's youngest and most at-risk residents.

Building on the House of Representative's commitment to those served by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), this legislation addresses the needs of vulnerable children and families that have been amplified by the COVID-19 public health crisis and further illuminated through the lens of racial equity. Specifically, this legislation strengthens DCF policies and operations, develops a tool to retain and recruit foster families, holds DCF accountable for timely, accurate and relevant reports, and clarifies communication by the Child Advocate to the Legislature and state officeholders. The legislation compels data to analyze the impacts of remote learning on all children during the COVID-19 crisis with a focus on understanding the disparate educational impacts on children served by DCF. Additionally, the bill calls for a public service campaign to increase awareness of child abuse and neglect.

"This legislation further reforms the Department of Children & Families. The House has prioritized the needs of our most at-risk children, some of whom may be more at-risk as programming and other safety nets have been impacted by COVID," said Ryan, who represents Chelsea and Charlestown. "These reforms will allow the Department to better handle the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on these vulnerable populations. I commend our COVID leadership team on recognizing a need and addressing it."

Said State Rep. Paul Donato, "As the Chair of the Foster Care Caucus and as a former foster care child, issues regarding the protection of children and the services provided by state agencies including DCF have always been central to me as a state representative."

The legislation addresses the needs of at-risk children and families through five major initiatives:

- Measuring the Impact of COVID-19.
- In order to best understand the effects of the state of emergency related to COVID-19, this legislation requires DCF to report on various aspects of the child welfare and education system during the state of emergency. Specifically, the bill requires: DCF to report monthly to the Legislature on changes in child abuse and neglect cases; DCF to implement a public information campaign to improve awareness of child abuse and neglect during the public health crisis; DCF to report on efforts to support the foster care system; DCF to analyze the effect on virtual and video technology on services during COVID-19; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to work with DCF to provide an analysis of active remote learning participation rates during the COVID-19 crisis, including participation rates of children with open DCF cases; and DESE to coordinate with DCF to develop a statewide plan to ensure effective and ongoing engagement relative to remote learning, including guidance and best practices for engaging the most vulnerable and at-risk students and families.
- Quality Improvement.
- Foster Parents' Bill of Rights.
- Strengthening the Integrity of the Office of the Child Advocate.
- Data Reporting Initiative. In response to serious events and concerns about children in DCF care, the Legislature has historically directed DCF to complete various reporting requirements; however, the agency has been unable to fulfill its statutory requirements to complete all reports. This bill updates and streamlines DCF reporting requirements to ensure the delivery of timely and relevant data in both a comprehensive annual report and robust quarterly reports. In addition, DCF is required to detail actions it has taken to provide culturally competent services to children and families and report on transition planning, fair hearings, reports made to the Ombudsman, and a detailed accounting of services provided through contracted agencies.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

BREAD OF LIFE KEEPS HELPING

EVERETT - As the COVID-19 pandemic continues into the summer months, it can be taken for granted that the need for many families to access food continues just as strongly as it did in April or May.

Lines at the Food Pantries in Everett have not let up as the months have gone on, and that's why Bread of Life introduced their pop-up food pantry at the Lafayette School in late May.

The pantry has a walk-up option, but it also has a very smooth drive-thru option as well – which involves much less contact and time than the pantries with lines for service.

Tainara Candido runs the pop-up, which takes place from 3-5 p.m. every Thursday at the Lafayette front door. She said there are no requirements, and the pop-up – which has operated out of City Hall for years – simply wants to get food into the hands of needy people.

“There are no requirements and no one has to prove anything to get help,” she said. “There definitely is still a huge need in Everett. I really think this one can be easier for a lot of people. The need is there and I don't think everyone is aware of all the places giving out food, like ours.”

Last week the traffic at the pantry was steady, and Candida said they serve about 200 families per week that drive thru or walk up on a Thursday.

The first week, on May 28, they had 240 families come through.

Patty Kelly of Bread of Life said they have served 555 households in June, and a total of 795 households since they opened in May.

“We've been in City Hall for quite some time,” said Kelly. “City Hall is closed for now and the need in Everett continues to grow. There are other food resources in Everett, which is wonderful, but there is need for more. That's why we decided to add a day on Thursdays.”

Candida said the site is really smooth, and almost made for such a system.

“I do like the site because it's visible and for us it's a quick and easy set-up,” she said. “For those coming, you just drive down the street, get the food and leave.”

Last Thursday, cars came in one after another in the afternoon. Volunteers asked where they were from, just for record keeping purposes, and then they proceeded to the distribution point, where volunteers loaded their food in the trunk or back seat.

Margaret Mato, her son Samuel Costa and his friend, Vinicius Terra, have been volunteering at the Lafayette for several weeks. Mato said there is so much need, and it's something she can do to help.

“I always like to do volunteer work and I do volunteer at my church too,” she said. “It's our way to help others who need it. There are a lot of people who are in need. Some don't know or aren't aware this is here. So, I always tell everyone about it too. My son and his friend didn't want to come the first time. Now, they have a lot of fun and they like to help. It's good to know when times are tough whom you can count on.”

Other volunteers are needed to help load up the truck at Bread of Life in Malden and unload it at the Lafayette. Volunteers are also needed to break down the pantry and take supplies back to Malden. Likewise, many volunteers there come from Encore Boston Harbor and with

them going back to work, there could be a shortfall of hands to help. Anyone who would like to participate can contact Bread of Life's Candido at tcandidobol@gmail.com, 781-281-8302.

She said they would at least be at the Lafayette through the summer.

“We know we'll be here every Thursday at least through the end of the summer,” she said.

GRANT WILL STUDY INDUSTRIAL WATERFRONT ZONING

EVERETT - The industrial waterfront on Lower Broadway has always been something accepted by Everett residents as no-go territory – a place with a lot of potential, but one that has been blocked off from the community for two generations, if not more.

On that waterfront, there are nearly 300 acres of land in the state's Designated Port Area (DPA) zone – a zone that requires all uses inside of the boundaries to be for maritime industrial purposes. That has been a limiting factor for Everett for more than 50 years on its waterfront, as nothing else but those uses can take place there. To date, it has stopped strong businesses like Schnitzer Steel and Mystic Generating Station – among others, but it has not allowed any access to one of the more beautiful sections of waterfront in the city.

That could all change as the City has received a \$100,000 grant and the support of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) to study the DPA on Everett's waterfront – which is adjacent to the Encore Boston Harbor casino – and perhaps change some of the restrictions on those uses there.

“It's the first time we're taking a focused look on uses in the DPA,” said City Planner Tony Sousa. “The study is going to look at the potential of what it could be. We are very thankful to the MGC for getting it started. They agree with us that this is the next frontier.”

DPAs – prior to COVID-19 – have been under fire over the last five years as construction of housing has fired up, and most want to live near downtown and on the waterfront. Few places fit the bill like the Lower Mystic River in Everett, Chelsea and Charlestown. Already, last year, neighborhood leaders in Charlestown threatened to take another look at the DPA in Charlestown to unlock some parcels for recreation. That was dropped when several amenities were included in a new lease agreement with MassPort. In Chelsea, a full review of their DPA with the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) agency in 2018 bore mixed results. Some parts Chelsea wanted out of its DPA on the Chelsea Creek were kept in, and other places they weren't excited about particularly were taken out. It is a process that is full up to CZM and to the maritime businesses that inhabit the DPA. That said, including the MGC, believe the Everett DPA could be a different story given that a \$2.1 billion resort casino lies but 200 yards from the boundary of the DPA. This has also been a fact that Mayor Carlo DeMaria has touted for many years, most recently when Encore opened last summer.

Tom Philbin, waterfront and resiliency director for Everett, said there are plenty of examples of DPAs throughout Massachusetts being altered for different uses, including hotels and HarborWalks.

Sousa said he could envision some sort of cruise

ship terminal to complement Black Falcon in the Seaport and to serve Encore. Meanwhile, he said a helicopter heliport that is needed in Greater Boston could be located in the DPA as well. He said it will also be important to work with the strong businesses that are there, and also to complement the plans being made for Lower Broadway in the future by Encore and others.

“I'm super-excited because this is what starts it all – the Lower Broadway Master Plan we've been talking about for years,” he said. “There will be transformative. It's hard to believe we have the ability and it can open up a lot of opportunities to build off the strong businesses that are there. We were really excited as a City to get that grant. It's always been, ‘Hey, it's the DPA. We can't do anything.’ This will be looking at it with an open mind.”

Philbin said the first step will be procuring the grant money from the MGC, and then getting a consultant on board sometime in July or August. That will lead to a one-year study which will solicit community and business input, and will update the existing Municipal Harbor Plan done several years ago ahead of Encore's construction. That study will then be submitted in 2021, likely, to CZM, who will analyze it and look to see if there is any room for altering the DPA in Everett.

There are about 100 additional acres of land in the DPA that is over the City Line in Chelsea, and they will likely become a partner eventually in the study.

LDCC TO HOLD VIRTUAL GATHERING

LYNN - The continued response to COVID-19 has compelled the Lynn Democratic City Committee (LDCC) to cancel its annual, in-person cookout held at the Lynn Museum. Instead, the LDCC will host a virtual gathering via the Zoom platform.

“United We Win: The LDCC Cook-IN”, a virtual event where attendees will hear from Democratic candidates running in September's primary, our local Democratic officials, and entertainment from Democratic friends in our community will be held on Monday, July 20 from 7-9PM.

“Though current circumstances prevent us from being together in person this year, we hope that this virtual event will be the kickoff to a strong, coordinated effort that will lead to the election of Vice President Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States this November, as well as victories in the US Senate, US House, and our state legislature,” said Lynn Democratic City Committee chair Agnes Ricko.

Senator Ed Markey and Congressman Joe Kennedy, both running for the US Senate, have confirmed that they'll be participating, as will Congressman Seth Moulton, Jamie Zahlaw Belsito, and Angus McQuilken running in the Sixth Congressional District, and Governor's Councilor Terry Kennedy and Helina Fontes running in the Sixth Governor's Council District.

Senator Brendan Crighton, Representatives Lori Ehrlich, Dan Cahill, and Peter Capano, Register of Deeds John O'Brien, Essex County Sheriff Kevin Copping, and Register of Probate Pamela Casey O'Brien have also confirmed that they will be joining the July 20th event.

The program will also include a keynote address

from Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards focused on how Democrats respond to and combat racial and social injustice. Councilor Edwards is a member of the Democratic State Committee from the First Suffolk and Middlesex District and was first elected to the Boston City Council representing East Boston and Charlestown in 2017.

The committee is very pleased that LDCC Outreach Co-Chair Julio Bare, Carolyn Cole, Sunil Gulab, Ana Masacote, and Ebony White will be sharing music, dance, and poetry promoting justice throughout the event.

All interested Democrats and friends are invited to join, and if so inclined, are asked to consider a donation to My Brother's Table as we have done in past years. Contributions can be made online or via US Mail. If mailed, please make the check payable to “My Brother's Table” and send to Gerry McCaul, LDCC Treasurer, 723 Boston St, Lynn, MA 01905. If online, please note “LDCC” in the additional comments box.

You can RSVP to Agnes Ricko by calling 781-599-9347 or by visiting the “United We Win: Lynn Democratic City Committee Cook-IN” Facebook page.

EHCA HOLDS MEETING ON PROJECTS

EAST BOSTON - At the end of June the Eagle Hill Civic Association (EHCA) board held its first ‘virtual’ meeting on ZOOM in order to once again begin informing the community of development projects and other issues happening in the neighborhood.

At the virtual monthly meeting, EHCA members received information on four development projects from Attorneys Jeff Drago and Richard Lynds.

The first project at 231 Saratoga St., Drago proposed a renovation project to change the occupancy of the existing residential dwelling from three to four rental units.

Drago explained to the group that the fourth unit will be a garden level apartment and the height of the building would remain unchanged.

The existing tenants in the three units would remain during renovation and the new garden level would be available to a potential new tenant.

Drago said prior to the COVID pandemic he and the owner met with abutters and the only concerns expressed were over the lack of parking and the disruption that current tenants may experience during construction.

Drago said the next project at 226-228 Princeton St. calls for renovating the existing 5 unit residential home and adding three units with five parking spaces. The plan calls for building an additional story to the three story home while keeping the mansard roof.

Drago explained there would be no change to the building's footprint and the side and rear yard will remain the same.

The proposal also called for additional landscaping in the backyard.

Some at the meeting expressed disapproval of the extensive renovations. Others argued if EHCA members voted in favor of changing a three story home into a four story home it would open a Pandora's Box and future developers might want to do the same thus changing the character of Eagle Hill.

EHCA member Charlie Lograsso said the renovations were not historical-

ly appropriate and would destroy the character of the Victorian building. He urged the developer to change the design and come back to the group.

The next project at 141 Falcon St. was pitched by Lynds and called for renovating the existing home in order to maintain and preserve the existing structure while changing the occupancy from two to three residential condo units.

The project also called for building a rear addition and dormers to create a mix of one, two and three-bedroom units that would range in size from 1,025 - 1,100 square feet.

EHCA members approved the proposal because it does not destroy the elegant Victorian home. However, Lograsso, who advocates for historic preservation on Eagle Hill, wanted to see the developer add a little more original detail to the design.

The final project, again proposed by Lynds, was at an old industrial warehouse at 98-100 Condor St.

There, Lynds's client plans to renovate the building in order to maintain and preserve the existing historical structure while changing occupancy from a commercial warehouse and manufacturing plant to 39 residential rental units with parking for 15 vehicles.

Lynds said there would also be onsite bike storage as well as other building amenities like a fitness center and common room.

Lynds said units are intended to accommodate the city's compact living policy and five of the 39 units would be set aside as affordable housing units under the BPDA's inclusionary policy.

Lynds said the property has an area for open space but no waterfront access because his client does not own the lot behind the proposal that runs along the Chelsea Creek.

EHCA members liked the plans, especially the proposed green roof but made a request for more affordable housing units and pick-up spots for Uber/Lyft.

EDWARDS CALLS FOR THE COUNCIL TO HAVE MORE BUDGETARY POWERS

EAST BOSTON - Historically Boston has followed a ‘Strong-Mayor’ form of government as opposed to a ‘Weak Mayor’ system practiced by small or mid-sized cities and towns across the country.

In the Strong Mayor system Mayor Martin Walsh is given almost total administrative authority and a clear, wide range of political independence, with the power to appoint and dismiss department heads without council approval and little or no public input.

Under this system Walsh, like Boston mayor's before him, prepares and administers the city budget, although the council often must approve that budget, and has veto power over council votes.

This differs from a weak-mayor system where the mayor has no formal authority outside the council, cannot directly appoint or remove officials, and lacks veto power over council votes.

This week, City Councilor Lydia Edwards filed a proposed amendment to Boston's city charter that would give the Boston City Council budgetary powers equal to those of the Mayors.

The historic proposal was filed under a provision in state law that allows local elected officials to pro-

pose amendments to city charters which have never been used before.

“I've spent a lot of time over the past few weeks thinking about how to answer the calls for systemic change and investment in our future,” said Edwards. “An annual up or down vote alone on the mayor's budget cannot bring about the long term change that is needed and that people are calling for. That change will not come from any one vote or annual budget. It's time to break the wheel of Boston's budget making process. This will take time, research, negotiations, and sustained conversations about what we want to invest in as a city. Until we change the budget process, we don't have an opportunity to have those conversations in a meaningful way.”

According to Edwards the proposed amendment specifically targets the budgetary powers of the City and is separate from the complete charter reform the councilor proposed earlier this year. “Boston can move forward on specific reforms to our budgetary process even as we pursue a democratic process to examine the entire charter,” said Edwards. “That process will require much more organizing and eventually candidates will have to run for an opportunity to write the charter. I am still committed to writing a clear, accessible, complete charter but right now people are asking for direct impact and influence on our budget. We can give them that power by modernizing and democratizing the budgetary process and expanding participatory budgeting, which would give residents greater control over portions of the budget.”

Under Massachusetts General Laws, a member of the city council may suggest a charter amendment. After a hearing and final vote by the city council the Attorney General must approve the question's constitutionality and then it will be put to the voters to decide in November 2021. This proposal would be the first known charter amendment to be implemented using this process.

If Boston voters approve this amendment next fall, the Boston City Council and the Mayor would share power over the city's budget. This includes the ability to create proposals for the city's capital and operating budgets, change line items within the proposals, allocate parts of the budget for a participatory budget process (voter direct allocation), and amend the budget for Boston Public Schools.

Additionally, this change would also give the city council tools to more quickly respond to the need for budget cuts in times of fiscal austerity and allow for public deliberation on what services could or should be reduced without lasting harm. This change also allows for earlier budgetary deliberation should either the Mayor or Council desire to do so.

COUNCIL TO RETURN TO CHAMBERS

REVERE - City Council President Patrick Keefe said the 11-member Council will return to the Joseph A. DeGrosso Chambers at City Hall for its next meeting on July 27.

The Council has been participating remotely in meetings for the past few months during the COVID-19 health crisis.

“We're working out the details and our intention is to hold our meetings in the Chambers with restric-

Region / Continued from Page 10

tions,” said Keefe. “It’s a good sign that’s we’ll be back at City Hall and I feel it’s a better format for our meetings to be held in our historic Chambers. And the meetings will still be broadcast live on Revere TV.”

Keefe said the Zoom remote meetings went well and the technical aspects of having the 10 other councilors participating from 10 different locations improved with each meeting.

“I think we were effective in having our discussions heard and making sure that people weren’t speaking over each other,” said Keefe, whose responsibility as president is to recognize each councilor when he/she requests to speak. “Overall it went well considering we were conducting meetings for the first-time in this manner.”

Keefe said there were a few attempts by residents to interrupt meetings on Zoom, including a prolonged, 30-minute stretch during the last sub-committee meeting on June 29, but he and City Clerk Ashley Melnik were able to keep “the disrupters” from voicing “vulgar language” on the Zoom broadcasts.

Keefe said Melnik’s efforts were very professional and very helpful during the Zoom meetings.

“There is a reason that Ashley has been granted lifetime tenure,” said Keefe. “She’s a consummate professional, she’s highly effective at her job and she supports the entire city, not just the City Council. And her whole department represents us well.”

NORTHEASTERN NURSING STUDENTS HELPING AT CITY HALL

REVERE - Revere City Hall resumed in-person operations on June 29 with the help of nursing students from Northeastern University. Revere’s Public Health Nurse, Carol Donovan, works with Northeastern each year to bring nursing students into Revere schools to help those students earn more public health experience. With closures due to COVID-19, Carol enlisted the help of those students to safely reopen various municipal services.

The students are stationed at City Hall, the American Legion building and the Recreation Center. They greet residents as they enter the building, complete a symptom check and ask about potential exposures within the past two weeks. Residents are asked to provide their names and phone numbers for the purpose of contact tracing.

“I knew I needed their help and that they wanted public health experience, so this was the perfect opportunity. They are a fantastic group of students, and we are so grateful for their flexibility and for their willingness to go above and beyond to help Revere,” Carol Donovan said. Beyond basic screening procedures, the student nurses created posters in English, Portuguese, and Spanish to better spread awareness about safety precautions.

Nursing student Jessica Marroquin added: “Our role is to educate residents and city employees to do their part in protecting themselves and the people around them. We do this by making sure we get the message out to as many visitors and employees as we can.”

As for the Parks and Recreation Department, the nursing students have provided the youth summer employees with training and tips for maintaining social distancing and best

practices. They are working diligently to inform as many Revere residents as possible in order to slow then spread.

“Revere needs assistance in opening up safely, and we are here to do that. Carol Donovan has been instrumental in getting this done. It has been great for the nursing students to get out into the public and to hear firsthand the concerns that many residents currently have,” said Kathleen Tracy, RNC, DNP, clinical instructor for Northeastern.

SEEKING TO FORM A HRC

WINTHROP - At a meeting on July 7, Council President Phil Boncore announced Winthrop would be forming a Human Rights Commission (HRC).

Town Manager Austin Faison is in the process of drafting a mission statement and is immediately seeking community members to serve on the committee.

The role of an HRC is to educate communities on inclusion and diversity, provide resources on civil and human rights, ensure that all residents have easy access to government services, and support arts and culture. It also handles complaints of discrimination and is empowered to intervene before they turn into costly lawsuits.

Many local towns and cities have already established human rights commissions, including Beverly, Belmont, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Danvers, Malden, Medford, Salem, Somerville and Wakefield. Revere is also considering creating one.

The idea of an HRC in Winthrop was first discussed as early as 2018. A group of concerned residents pressed the council to create an official committee dedicated to diversity and inclusion. Despite emails, calls, op-eds and social media posts pushing for its development, it was never brought to a vote.

Residents renewed their discussions about a possible HRC following the death of George Floyd, buoyed by the growing public support for the Black Lives Matter movement and the presence of a number of new councilors.

“The community seems to have a desire for [it],” said Town Manager Faison in an interview with the Transcript published June 22. “I think that would be a useful step, to begin learning about and embracing all of the cultures that are represented within the community and the region.”

In the week prior to the council meeting, the Transcript ran two community letters in support of an HRC.

“Such a committee would help deal with any form of alleged discrimination,” wrote Donna Segreti Reilly. “I trust that the council would create an HRC and appoint qualified members to oversee it.”

“It is not enough to be a silent bystander in this fight for equality and inclusion; we must take action,” echoed Reverend Terri Bracy. “The establishment of an [HRC] would be a good first step.”

During the public comment period of the meeting, several residents called in to praise the council’s decision.

The matter was moved to the Committee on Appointments, Commissions, and Committees.

3 ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE GRANTS

WINTHROP - During a virtual awards ceremony on ZOOM, three Winthrop nonprofits received grant money totaling \$11,500 to support free summer beach events as part of



Numerous law enforcement officials attended the swearing-in of new Revere Police Chief David Callahan last week at City Hall, including Saugus Police Chief Michael Ricciardelli (top left), Massachusetts State Police Troop A Commander Matthew Gravini and Executive Officer Captain Nunzio Orlando (top right), and Troopers Joseph MacFarlane and Carlo Mastromattei (left).

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) annual Better Beaches grant program

In the past grant money allowed organizations like theFriends of Winthrop Beach, Winthrop Chamber of Commerce, and Friends of Belle Isle Marsh to hold larger events that drew many to the country’s first public beach during the summer months.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has put the brakes on larger gatherings as people continue to practice social distancing.

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay’s Executive Director Chris Mancini said this year’s grants will support efforts to keep the region’s public beaches safe and open this summer.

The Friends of Winthrop Beach and Friends of Belle Isle Marsh both received \$5,000.00 while the Winthrop Chamber of Commerce received \$1,500.00 in grant money. The funds will go towards supporting free, re-imagined, beach events and programs when the Covid-19 pandemic has passed and public programming can safely resume.

“As the nation continues to wrestle with the challenges of both the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequences of systemic racism, safe and accessible

blue and green spaces like the region’s public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket are more important than ever” said Mancini. “In these uncertain times, you can be sure that Save the Harbor/Save the Bay will continue to support our partners in the region’s waterfront neighborhoods and beachfront communities, as we work together to keep these spectacular urban natural resources safe, open and welcoming to all.”

According to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay’s

Director of Strategy & Communications Bruce Berman, in the coming weeks his group will host a “virtual charette” to begin to “re-imagine beach programs” in light of the public health crises we are all facing together.

Each year Save the Harbor/Save the Bay’s Better Beaches grant program funds a host of activities along Winthrop’s shoreline during the summer months.

In total, more than \$200,000 was awarded in Better Beaches Program

grants. These grants will allow 39 organizations in nine communities to fund free events on the region’s public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket in 2020.

DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery took part in the ZOOM ceremony and applauded the power of the Better Beaches Program partnership with DCR, which has invested more than \$1 million dollars in free beach programs since it began in 2007.

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Chelsea Community Connections plan clothing drive for children on Saturday

By Cary Shuman

Chelsea Community Connections held a clothing drive for local children Saturday at Luther Place behind the Chelsea Walk off Broadway.

The agency, known for his outstanding work in assisting children and families in several capacities, will return to the same location this Saturday (July 18), from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for the distribution of clothes to those in need.

“Residents from Chelsea and surrounding communities are being generous with the donations of clothing items that we will be distributing on July 18,” said CCC Director Cara Cogliano.

CCC regularly distributes clothing at its office headquarters, located at 113 Hawthorne St., Chelsea, throughout the year.

“But because our office is closed to the public right now due to space and not being able to socially distance from one another, we have made alternative arrangements to make sure so we can get clothes out to the kids and families in the area,” said Cogliano.

CCC has been an integral contributor to the Chelsea community for more than 25 years. Cogliano has been the CCC director for eight years.

“Not only do we help with clothing for families, we help support families by getting them connected to information and resources in the community – and we provide parenting support groups,” said Cogliano.

The coronavirus health crisis forced the agency to cancel its summer field trip program.



Chelsea Community Connections held a clothing drive July 11 for local children. Pictured, from left, are CCC Director Cara Cogliano, and volunteers Grace Muwina, Irma Mazzoni, Ana Sierra (front) Steicy Martins, Sofia Hernandez, Stacy Amaral, and Mike Sandoval, representing the City of Chelsea.

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CHA restarts clinic appointments, elective procedures and surgeries

Staff Report

Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA), an academic community health system serving Cambridge, Somerville, and Boston’s metro-north region, has resumed non-urgent “elective” surgeries, procedures and clinic visits following the state’s lifting of restrictions due to COVID-19.

Since the pandemic started, CHA has seen thousands of patients for all kinds of care, in person and through telehealth visits. With CHA now able to reopen services, it is prioritizing preventive care, pediatric visits, immunizations and urgent procedures that

may have been previously delayed.

When patients make an in-person visit, it might be at a different site than their normal care center. Patients are asked to double-check before they come in.

CHA Telehealth (phone and video visits) are another way patients can get safe and timely access to care. Patients can schedule a Telehealth visit through their CHA Care Center or specialty clinic. CHA has a [user guide for patients](#) on how to access video visits using MyChart, the CHA patient portal.

“As the area returns to the new normal, everyone at CHA is committed to

keeping our patients, staff, visitors and communities safe,” said CHA CEO Asaad Sayah, MD. “CHA implemented a robust set of new policies, procedures and facility enhancements to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while continuing to care for patients.”

Patients and visitors will see new plexiglass dividers, hand sanitizer stations, social distancing markers on the floors and fewer chairs in waiting areas. New signage is also in place which include ‘please do not sit here’ cards on chairs, and ‘keep right’ signs directing foot traffic.

Everyone entering a CHA site is screened for

COVID-19 symptoms and must wear a mask. Their temperature will be taken and must be under 100° F to enter for an appointment. Everyone is also asked if they have a sore throat, shortness of breath, cough, diarrhea, muscle aches or a loss of smell.

CHA is urging all patients to not delay their health care, especially if they have chronic illness like heart disease, diabetes, mental health needs or other conditions. Call your CHA doctor’s office and set up a visit. In an emergency, dial 911 or visit your closest emergency department. We are here to help.

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