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OCCUPANCY WINTER 2021

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BROADWAY  
CAPITAL INC.

# CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 120, NO. 41

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

35 CENTS

## CHS coach Restiano launches fundraising effort for residents

By Cary Shuman

Chelsea High coach Gena Restiano was president of her class, a team captain, and scored 1,000 points in her spectacular basketball career at Revere High.

Restiano is now leading in another important way, having established a GoFundMe effort to help Chelsea residents as they deal with financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The drive is called 'City of Chelsea' and I've raised \$1,655 to-date through some local donors such as the City Council and the School Committee," said Restiano. "I want people to donate because the City of Chelsea is struggling right now."

Restiano said she did some research for the drive and determined that a large percentage of Chelsea's population is employed as essential workers. "A lot of people have lost their jobs because of COVID-19," said Restiano.

See RESTIANO Page 2



Gena Restiano.



Physician assistant Gaylen McCann (photo above), from the Dept. of Surgery, and Critical Care Nurse Carla Cerrato (below) were the first two CHA Everett employees to be vaccinated for COVID-19 on Saturday. The hospital received vaccine shipments on Thursday last week, and began their effort to vaccinate priority workers over the weekend.



## CHA Everett vaccinates first employees Saturday

By Seth Daniel

The CHA Everett hospital in Everett received the first shipments of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine on Thursday, Dec. 17, and began vaccinating workers at the hospital on Saturday.

The CHA Everett has been one of the major front-line hospitals in the fight against COVID-19 since last spring, with it

being right in the middle of three high-risk communities like Everett, Chelsea and Revere. Workers in the Emergency Department and the ICU have been caring and coordinating care for patients over the last several months with no vaccine protection, so the arrival of the first of two shots was an historic occasion.

The first two at the hospital vaccinated simulta-

neously on Saturday included Physician assistant Gaylen McCann of the Department of Surgery, and Critical Care Nurse Carla Cerrato.

CHA Everett plans to vaccinate hundreds of prioritized employees — mostly those dealing directly with COVID-19 patients — in a coordinated and organized effort over the next few months.

## Avellaneda asked to amend his Campaign Report

By Seth Daniel

City Council President Roy Avellaneda has been asked to amend his Campaign Finance Report by the state's Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) due to two infractions of the law that involved an endorsement letter from the Chelsea Homeowners Association in the 2019 City Election.

He was not fined by OCPF for the discrepancies, but asked to re-file the report with the proper accounting.

Avellaneda characterized it as an accounting error, and one he quickly fixed. Councillor Damali Vidot criticized Avellaneda for the error, saying it shows that the Homeowners Association is just a front for developers and Avellaneda, who is a real estate agent.

The letter from OCPF came on Dec. 9 and cited him for inaccurate disclosure and excess in-kind contributions. For the first infraction, the endorse-

See REPORTS Page 3

## Chelsea ICU nurse the first to get COVID-19 vaccine at MGH

By Seth Daniel

When Belza Betancur went into work last week, she had no idea she would make history as one of the first people in the country — and the first in the MGH system — to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

On Wednesday morning, as a priority health care workers in direct contact with COVID-19 patients for months, the Chelsea resident volunteered to be the first and got her first-round vaccination at the hospital during her shift. It was a moment for her that seemed long-awaited, but soon the historic nature of it began to dawn on her.

"At Mass General, they have a lot of diversity, so they wanted someone

that represented the Latino population specifically because we've had probably 70 percent of our patients that are of Latin background," she said. "I wasn't expecting it at all, but I was humbled and thrilled...It was a big moment. I don't know if I still understand the full impact yet of it being history, but I was honored because of all we've gone through. It is history. We've had pandemics before, but maybe not to this extent...I feel I now have a responsibility to make sure people do get vaccinated and give us a chance to end this. We all need to get back to a normal life. It was a historic moment, and I feel that way about it too."

See VACCINE Page 2

## SANTA, AND MRS. CLAUS, VISIT CHELSEA



A big hello from Mrs. Claus during the annual Santa visit through Chelsea. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

## Major zoning changes planned in downtown and Prattville areas

By Seth Daniel

A major zoning package with wide-ranging changes from Prattville to downtown Chelsea cleared the Planning Board last week, and will head to the City Council at the beginning of next year for consideration.

The package passed muster with the Planning

Board last Tuesday, Dec. 15, except for one piece from the Administration which sought to create a parking district downtown.

One of the more heralded changes was proposed by Council President Roy Avellaneda to the zoning in Prattville on the Parkway. That zoning change seeks to alter the existing zoning, which is a residen-

tial district in what is mostly commercial businesses on the highway (Rt. 16).

Avellaneda said he sees his proposal as tidying up something that should have been done long ago. Because every commercial use there is non-conforming due to the residential zoning, everyone has to go through a process just to

See ZONING Page 3

Wishing you & your families  
a safe and healthy Christmas

The office will be closed Thursday Dec. 24 and  
Friday, Dec. 25 & Thursday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 1.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS! & a Happy New year







Reports / Continued from page 1

ment from the Chelsea Homeowners Association came for Avellaneda and Councillors Naomi Zabot and Melinda Vega-Maldonado, as well as Candidate Mark Rossi. Avellaneda’s Committee had a letter printed up at a cost of \$1,620 and sent out to 2,000 homeowners. The other endorsees were to report their portion of the expenditure as an in-kind contribution, and Avellaneda was to report it as a full payment to the printer.

“Your Committee should not have disclosed this activity as direct expenditures to the other candidates’ Committees but, rather, as a single expenditure to Sterling Printing in the total amount paid directly to that company for the mailing,” read the OCPF letter. “The three other Committees, who were aware of the mailing, should have then reported the portion of the mailing allocable to them as in-kind contributions from your Committee. Your Committee’s year-end report included only \$500 paid to Sterling Printing for the Chelsea Homeowners Association mailing. The actual invoice for this mailing, however, was \$1 ,620.05. Your Committee under-reported this expenditure by \$1,120.05.”

The excess in-kind contribution came for the mailing benefitting Candidate Rossi, as OCPF determined the contribution amounted to \$742 for him, and Avellaneda was only allowed to make a donation of up to \$100 in-kind to him. The amount of contribution for Vega-Maldonado and Zabot was \$67.50. The remediation to fix the finance report was for Rossi to pay the Avellaneda Campaign \$642, and for the other two councillors to report the \$67.50 on their reports as in-kind contributions.

The letter indicated that there would be no fine and that the Avellaneda Committee had quickly fixed the problem, but when faced with such things in the future, it should reach out to OCPF for guidance.

“Because we expect that the appropriate remedial action has been or will be taken, and because we believe that this letter will ensure future compliance with the campaign finance law, OCPF has determined that no further action will be taken at this time,” it read. “Should your Committee wish to send a mailing in conjunction with other committees in the future, you should contact our office for guidance.”

Councillor Vidot – who has taken criticism from Avellaneda for a few of her OCPF violations – said the matter was serious and if she can be criticized, so should Avellaneda.

“The Homeowners Association has advocated against affordable housing,” she said. “Some of that group has been very classist – that if you’re a tenant you don’t have a voice in the City. Of course we want more homeownership, but we have to deal with what’s here...This proves to me the Association is a developer front organization.

“That is the type of politicization of these processes that undermine the integrity of the organizations,” she continued. “We’re playing politics and I haven’t even mentioned he’s a real estate agent. It’s about puppeteering outcomes and undermining the community.”

Avellaneda said the matter was simple house-keeping issues that involved accounting – changing one ledger item to another. He said when the Homeowner’s Association endorsed he and the

others, he asked if they could send out a letter. Instead of the organization doing it, Avellaneda and the other candidates produced it, with approval, and sent it out.

“I should not have in my report written it as an in-kind donation to these Committees,” he said. “I should have written the cost in my expenses to Sterling Printers. It was simply an accounting adjustment switching it from one line item to another on the ledger...It wasn’t like I was hiding contributions or not reporting expenses or donations. I will go on record again and say they looked at me and there was very little here. She has been fined time and again. She failed to report and entire fundraiser at the Merritt Club that had expenses and donations.”

He said in the past, Vidot has been the beneficiary of a similar letter sent out in 2015 to benefit multiple councillors and candidates. He said Vidot ought to think about re-filing her reports from back then to reflect an accurate accounting. He said there are likely similar issues with that letter, issues like the ones he just fixed.

Vidot said those who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones – alleging Avellaneda has long targeted her with OCPF complaints.

“It’s karma,” she said. “He said in 25 years there was only one City Councillor that had violated these Political Finance rules. Now, I guess there are two.”

Countered Avellaneda, “If she wants to play that game and make me look like a bad guy, it falls flat and I’m amused by it all... At the end of the day, there have been 38 City Councillors that have served and she still remains the only one to be fined by the (state) OCPF.”

Zoning / Continued from page 1

locate there.

Avellaneda said that leads to vacant buildings and unreasonable expectations.

“This is the third one I’ve done and the fourth zoning change I’ve proposed in four years,” he said. “this is the third re-zone change I’ve advocated for in terms of business uses...The reasons behind this one is simple. The zoning doesn’t allow for what exists there. In a couple of corner storefronts, they are left vacant because they lost the ability to transfer a non-conforming use to another non-conforming use. By properly zoning this for what they have there – which is retail businesses – we’re allowing that to happen.”

He said the owners of the popular Tombo 22 Restaurant on the Parkway had troubles opening up because of this, and the old bottling plant cannot find a tenant and was just rejected by the Planning Board for a church.

“The zoning makes no sense,” he said. “No one down there will take down a convenience store and build and single-family home and live on Rt. 16. No one is going to knock down the rug store and build a two-family.”

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said he agrees with the change, but pointed out his administration did not suggest it.

“I think it makes sense that area, which is com-

mercial in nature, ought to have some commercial zone,” he said. “We’ve never pressed too hard in the past because of neighborhood concerns.”

Some of the other zoning changes offered by the administration are more far reaching.

•Two high-profile changes recommended by the Planning Board include allowing marijuana businesses to locate stores and delivery-only locations in more zoning areas – including the downtown business district. Delivery-only businesses would also be able to be an accessory use in any residential zone, and as a permitted use in several of the commercial zoning districts – including the Naval Hospital Residential and Commercial districts.

•In another land-use change – one that Avellaneda proposed in part several years ago – Ambrosino said they are looking to spur development on the waterfront area of the Chelsea Creek. There, they would replace the Waterfront Industrial Overlay District with a new Port District and Waterfront Upland District. The change would also create a Waterfront Improvement Trust Fund, and virtually institute a type of Master Plan for the entire area – including new landscaping requirements, new Special Permit criteria and the principal uses for those areas – which mostly lie on

the west side of Marginal Street.

•The changes would also increase density in the two largest residential districts, which many see as appropriate, both Ambrosino and Avellaneda said. These would decrease the minimum lot sizes in the Residential 1 district, and decrease the minimum lot size and the minimum useable open space requirement in the Residential 2 District (R2). The R2 district is one of the largest in the entire city, and includes the neighborhoods on Bellingham Hill, as well as the Orange/Addison areas.

•Finally, another change would include creating a new Mixed-Use Overlay District for the area at Everett Avenue, the railroad and the Everett City Line. This district allows for much taller buildings and is seen as an accommodation to allow the re-development of the Stop & Shop to file its project in Chelsea. That project was filed in Everett earlier this year and went through a tremendous amount of review there, and has now been fully approved.

The matter moves from the Planning Board to the City Council for a final vote into law, but Avellaneda said he didn’t expect a vote until early February – noting there is a great deal to discuss when it comes to some of the changes.

SCHOOL UPDATES

DISTRICT UPDATES

•The ELPAC team had a great meeting this week. EL teachers, coaches, parents, and even some kiddos joined us for a zoom meeting. It was wonderful and helpful to hear parents talk about their experiences with remote learning this year. This was a connection that is valued beyond measure.

•Supt. Abeyta and Rev. Sandra Whitley met up this week to begin planning the Martin Luther King Jr. Annual event in January. Stay tuned for event information coming soon.

•The MCB Complex Holiday Shop team put together gift card bundles to support our families during the holiday season this year. More than \$8,500 worth of gift cards has been distributed to more than 90 elementary families. We would like to extend a very special thank you to the many staff members, families, and friends, who contributed gift cards and funds, including the union members of Teamsters Local 25, for their generous contribution of Target gift cards. Holiday Shop Team: Yolanda Valles, Johnny Giraldo, Julie Forry, Jenn Dobbins, Meghan Murphy, Sharon Romeo, and Laura Hubert.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

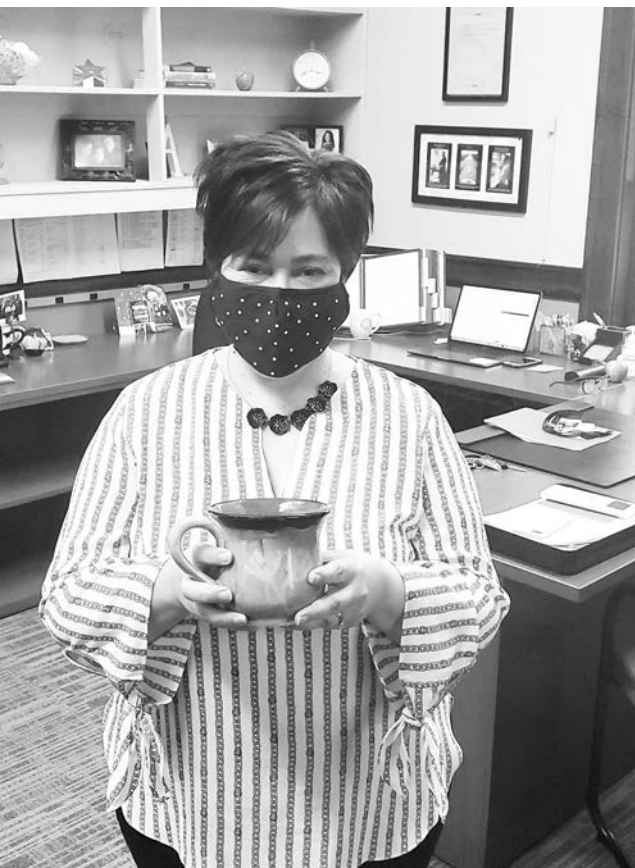
•Ms. Canniff and Ms. Sophia’s Class enjoyed pajama day and spirit week last week.

•Miss Maddie’s classroom had a guest appearance from a student’s parent and he surprised the class by singing holiday music and playing the guitar.

•Ms. Capobianco’s class had the best time during Spirit Week. Hat day, drawing with Ms. Carey, pajama day, frosty the snow man.

BERKOW-ITZ SCHOOL UPDATES

•Ms. Cabigting’s Social Communication 2nd Grade Class, with the help of parents who were able to assist, went outside with their rulers and yardsticks to measure the snow fall last week. They went out at around 9:45am to take the first measurement of how deep the snow was and to experience the first snow of this school year. Those who could not go out were watching their classmates live as they



**EMPTY BOWLS.** Supt. Abeyta shows off her artistic hand painted mugs sold by the Chelsea Empty Bowls Project that helps fund the Chelsea Hunger Network. The event has gone virtual this year, and folks can shop now for their unique, hand-painted bowls and mugs. All proceeds will directly support the Chelsea Hunger Network. All orders are for pick-up only and cannot be shipped. More can be found on the annual project at [chelsea-hunger-network.square.site](https://chelsea-hunger-network.square.site).

were measuring the snow for the whole class. The class made predictions of how much snow there was by looking from the windows. There was more snow than we predicted. Some students predicted that the snow would melt a little bit by the afternoon. Some predicted it would all melt by the afternoon. Some predicted it would remain the same. When Ryan and Ms. Mounia went out at 1:35pm, they measured again and found out that the snow was still 12inches deep, the same as it was in the morning.

HOOKS SCHOOL UPDATES

•During Mind Up on Friday, first grade teacher Ms. Paladino’s students practiced being mindful by playing close attention to detail and following the steps to a guided owl drawing. The class thought this was a great drawing for our Hooks Spirit Day.

•In Ms. Johnson’s first grade class students are learning about “Informational How To Writing.” Students were given the task to build a snowman and record themselves giving clear directions using transitional words (first, next, then, and last). Students did a wonderful job and are looking forward to teaching their family how to build a real

snowman during our next snow storm.

•In Ms. Derleth’s, first grade class during Read to Grow, we read “Winter is Here” by Kevin Henkes to celebrate the first snowstorm of the season. Students took pictures of themselves on the Chromebook and dressed themselves up in winter accessories.

KELLY SCHOOL UPDATES

•Kelly School students have been having tons of holiday fun in music class by performing rhythms using everyday objects (found sounds) as percussion instruments.

CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL UPDATES

•Manegabe Buijri, a National Honor Society Member, worked with NHS Arlington group on a food drive to give food for the pantry of St. Luke’s in Chelsea. On Dec. 11, they delivered more than 20 bags of food and donations for further food purchases.

•The CHS Concert Band and Cantare are proud to present their first ever virtual winter concert. The concert will debut on YouTube on Tuesday, December 22, at 9:30 a.m., after which it can be streamed on demand.

Chelsea High winter concert online starting Dec. 22

video presentation that is now available this week.

The CHS Performing Arts Department will present their first-ever virtual winter concert, featuring the CHS Cantare and CHS Concert Band.

The 15-minute family friendly concert makes an

excellent addition to plans for the last day of school before winter break, and it will premiere on Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 9:30 a.m.

After that point, it will be viewable on demand. The link to the concert is: <https://youtu.be/t3c2LqyuhAI>.

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BROADWAY CAPITAL INC.



# Chelsea

RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

## THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season usually is the most wonderful time of the year.

But Christmas, 2020, is anything but wonderful.

We are undergoing a degree of hardship unlike any that we have experienced in our lifetime. More Americans are dying each and every day from the coronavirus than perished in any of our wars or on 9/11. As the cumulative death toll inexorably continues to climb, the total number of Americans who will have been killed by the virus likely will exceed all of the combat deaths in all of our wars against a foreign enemy.

The death count from the pandemic only tells part of the story, however. Those who have survived a bout with the virus face an uncertain future because of the serious long-term health effects on their vital organs.

The burden that has been placed upon our doctors, nurses, and other front-line workers has been enormous and continues to grow as the virus relentlessly attacks our populace and fills our hospitals to overflowing.

In addition, the economic impact of the pandemic has been profound for the millions of Americans who have lost their jobs, their businesses, and their homes. Millions of Americans, including one in five children, do not have enough to eat. The lines of cars at food banks stretch for miles.

For our nation's young people, the virus has disrupted their lives to such an extent that economists say the effects upon their education and future job prospects will linger for years to come.

The pandemic has eviscerated the usual holiday celebrations that bring together family, friends, and colleagues, adding to the mental health and anxiety issues, especially for older Americans, that are a by-product of the constant stress in our lives.

But amidst all of the chaos and danger that society is facing, this holiday season has provided us with an opportunity to discover a new-found appreciation for the things that really matter in our lives.

With the usual holiday frenzy of parties, gift-shopping, vacations, and other self-indulgent pursuits no longer viable, we have a unique opportunity to reflect on what is really important: The health and safety of ourselves and our loved ones, as well as the urgent need to assist those who find themselves in dire straits this holiday season.

We hope that all of our readers will heed the warnings of our public health officials and that those with the means to do so will help the vast numbers of our less-fortunate fellow Americans.

If we do these things, we will come to a true understanding of what the Christmas season really is all about.

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# Forum



GUEST OP-ED

## Our Christmas Spirit

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Years ago, our church group was out Christmas caroling. We weren't far from the church and our leader led us out to the back of Mr. Castle's house to sing to he and his wife. His wife came to the door and greeted us with a smile and was gracious. We sang to her when suddenly through the window we saw her husband appear in the family room with a big towel around his body. He obviously had just gotten out of the shower. He came into his family room unknowing that 20 carolers had all eyes on him. Several of the women began to chuckle. I just knew we were all about to see something we had not planned on. Sitting down on his sofa he put his feet up and was preparing to relax. The volume of laughter from a couple of his adult friends grew louder when Mr. Castle looked up and saw

us. He immediately made an "Oh no" expression while shaking his head a bit and jumped up and departed to another part of the house. We sang to his sweet wife and moved on down the street with a new visual that I still remember to this day. I'll always remember what a good spirit he and his wife had and that we all left feeling uplifted by them.

This week I walked to the back of a local nursing home to look through a window to see a friend. Ms. Southard is 99. My wife and I visited in her home recently. She was agile, mentally sharp and dancing around like she always does. Her attitude always lifts us up. She did say on that very day we were there, "I don't want to end up in a nursing home. I told my son I don't ever want to be in one," she said. Two weeks later while closing her curtains she made an awkward step, fell and broke

her leg. Surgery was required and also rehabilitation. Her insurance plan would not pay for her to go to the local rehabilitation hospital but instead put her where she never wanted to be, a nursing home.

I found out from a nurse which room she was in and how to find the right window to look through. The nurse said she would meet me at the window and let Ms. Southard know I was there. I dreaded what I might see but wanted to wish her a Merry Christmas. Knocking on the window I was delighted that she was sitting up and started laughing and waving at me. We exchanged Merry Christmas the best we could yelling through a window. While I almost wanted to cry seeing her there, I was so encouraged by her good spirit.

The spirit of Christmas is inside you. This spirit is greater than you and I and

pulls us through the awkward and the very difficult times of life.

The Christmas season we celebrate is one of hope and celebration. The story of Jesus is the story of God's hope coming to us in the little baby a long time ago. 2020 has certainly been a year we've needed hope.

2021 is going to be a better year. Vaccines for Covid-19 are coming. May your spirit be rekindled. Share your spirit with others and may the year ahead be one of the best ever for us all.

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



Pictured (left to right) Manny Lopes, President and CEO, Dr. Jackie Fantes, Chief Medical Officer and Family Medicine Doctor, Morgan Brister, Nurse for South End Community Health Center, Dr. Mothusi Chilume, Family Medicine Director, Karina Mendoza, Nurse, Testing, Dr. Jaime Gallegos- Salazar, Infectious Disease Director and Adult Medicine Doctor, and Courtney Senechal, Employee Health Nurse Manager.

## EBNHC received and administered the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

EBNHC received and administered the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to its first staff this morning just shortly after it arrived. The first three employees to receive the vaccine are

pictured here along with members of Health Center Management looking on. The Health Center will continue to vaccinate its staff beginning with those in the front lines

treating COVID-19 patients and other clinical staff most at risk and hope to proceed with other staff as they receive more vaccine. EBNHC is preparing for what it will take

to vaccinate those most at risk in the community once we enter into that phase and eventually all that they serve.



# Study shows Chelsea has slowest Internet speeds in Greater Boston

By Seth Daniel

In the digital highway, Chelsea’s stuck in the slow lane.

A new study of median downloads speeds across the state by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) showed that Chelsea has the slowest speeds in Greater Boston, just behind Everett and exponentially slower than communities like Wellesley and Weston.

Chelsea registered an average of 35.56 Megabits per second, which was only slightly higher than Everett’s 38.91. Chelsea and Everett were far below neighbors like Revere (50.38) and Malden (54.82), and exponentially slower than Wellesley (141.08) and Weston (234.46). It is, for most, confirmation of something that’s been known for quite some time, and something that COVID-19 has made more apparent as students struggle with connectivity in the all-remote schooling and workers confined to their homes frequently get kicked offline. Even expensive equipment can’t fix the issues, as it’s likely an infrastructure problem caused by years of inequitable investment in urban areas by providers, MAPC officials said, that seems to be a trend in their study.

Ryan Kelly, Josh Eichen and Matthew Zagaja of MAPC said they took on the study to find out about things that matter to people right now – such as internet speeds. The goal is to expand on the information, add more data, and help municipalities to solve these problems so good access to something as important as the Internet isn’t determined by one’s zip code.

“We very quickly identified digital access as something we wanted to study,” said Eichen. “It enables education, access to healthcare, the ability to fill out unemployment claims, access to housing support services and food security – all of this is online now. It’s very important, now more than ever,

**Speeds by Community**

A sample of some of the median download speeds by community from across Greater Boston. Speeds are measured in Megabits per second.

- Chelsea – 35.56
- Everett – 38.91
- Somerville – 44.26
- Cambridge – 46.23
- Revere – 50.38
- Malden – 54.82
- Quincy – 58.26
- Medford – 65.21
- Arlington – 66.22
- Newton – 80.02
- Wellesley – 141.08
- Weston – 234.46

to get access. The speed tests were accessed via an open data set from Measurement Lab, said Zagaja. While many haven’t heard of Measurement Lab, it is the standard speed test used by Google. So, there is a ton of data and they analyzed those speed tests, isolated them to each zip code and ran through data from January to late November. In analyzing the data, they were able to tell if the speed test was done due to a problem with the internet that was fixed later. So, repair situations weren’t included in the overall averages.

“It gives us a baseline of the numbers of individuals having an issue,” he said.

Kelly added they not only want to help municipalities fix their digital issues, but also they want to help them gather information to know exactly what their problems are. He said many of the software companies and platforms used by municipalities have all kinds of connectivity data, and that can be asked for in contracts or agreements with those companies. Having that data, he said, will only help identify issues.

“We’re also trying to empower municipalities to get their own data and improve the lives of their residents,” he said. They are also looking for all kinds of partners in addition to City government, including commu-

nity based organizations, school districts, health care providers and community development corporations to name a few.

Eichen said one of the lenses of the study focuses on equity, and in many low-income urban areas, there isn’t enough investment in digital access by providers. That is a trend by Internet providers to offer better service in wealthier suburban communities, a trend borne out by the MAPC data.

“MAPC as an organization has a major focus on equity,” he said. “We want to encourage development and ensure that individuals don’t have their economic mobility become stunted because of lack of access that is a central issue.”

Supt. Almi Abeyta said she and City Manager Tom Ambrosino have been working on the issue of internet speeds for several months. She said they have had conversations with providers like Comcast and Verizon. Meanwhile, they have also been able to corral some engineers from MIT to learn how to improve connectivity and speeds.

“The City Manager has organized several conversations with Comcast, Verizon, and engineers from MIT so we can learn more about improving connectivity for our families,” she said. “We have also met with other districts such as South Bend Community School Corporation in Indiana to learn from their creativity in providing internet services to students. They are actually the district that was on CNN for using Wi-Fi connections on buses. I recognize that I cannot improve connectivity for my students without working together with the City on solutions. We are grappling with this and looking for short and long-term solutions.

“...Regarding the slow speed in Chelsea, there are differences in regards to community demographics that may be a contributing factor for those numbers,” she continued. “One of them is the type of service

that our residents in Chelsea can afford; thus, this could be bringing down the average speed.”

Ambrosino said most of it has to do with the levels of service, and the basic services are very limited in Chelsea.

“Most of the slow speed issues here have to do with the level of service that residents have,” he said. “If you have Comcast Essentials, then the speed can be quite limited. We are thinking about some long-term solutions for this issue, but we don’t have any great ideas for short-term fixes beyond purchasing more and better ‘hot spots.’”

Eichen said the MAPC study touches on so many things now that COVID has changed the way the world works, learns and conducts business.

“There are so many ways to share this,” he said. “There is going to be more and more demand for high-speed, reliable internet. Businesses will be increasingly looking at this when they make decisions on where to locate. There may be companies that no longer need 15,000 sq. ft. downtown for an office, but may be able to use 5,000 sq. ft. in an inner suburb. But they might not get the same infrastructure there as they got in downtown Boston. Municipalities may see this as an opportunity to cash in under this scenario.”

## POLICE Briefs BY SETH DANIEL

### VOLVO TRUCK OVERTURNS ON TOBIN

A 2001 Volvo V70 wagon, crashed and rolled onto its side north of the Beacon Street ramp, 9:09 a.m., on Fri-

day. The driver was a 33-year-old Chelsea man. EMS responded for non-life threatening injuries, but his condition was not immediately available after transport.

### \$700k ‘Accelerating Climate Resiliency’ grants to fund 11 local projects

Eleven cities and towns across Greater Boston will soon be putting more than \$1 million to work addressing climate change through local projects, thanks to a new round of grant funding announced this week.

The program, “Accelerating Climate Resiliency,” gave more than \$700,000 in the latest round of funding, part of a partnership between The Barr Foundation and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in Boston.

Locally grants awards will go to the Chelsea ‘Neighborhood Grid’ Energy Resilience effort; and the Malden River Works project for Waterfront Equity and Resilience.

Grants range in size from \$50,000 to \$150,000 per municipality and are designed to drive long-term transformative change by investing in impactful, short-term local projects. “We are so pleased to be partnering with these communities and their local teams to be promoting climate resilience with an eye toward social equity, and can’t wait to see how these come together to

shape a regional strategy,” said Rebecca Davis, Deputy Director of MAPC.

“The City of Chelsea is excited to participate in the MAPC’s Accelerating Climate Resilience Program. Through this program the City will be able to design and install a battery storage system at our Police Station, one of our most critical buildings. We will also work on energy efficiency programs in several affordable housing buildings in the City. This will bring significant short term and long-term benefits to our community,” said Chelsea City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino.

Every grant recipient will also become part of a new “community of practice,” which will convene grantees as a group every other month to discuss challenges or barriers to implementation that they may be encountering, and will also offer a companion public lecture series. Speakers from across the country will come to the Boston region to talk about advancing innovative solutions to climate change, eventually in person, but beginning virtually in 2021.

# Leaders endorse Michelle Wu’s 2021 Boston mayoral bid

A dozen municipal leaders from across Greater Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts announced their support for Boston City Councilor At-Large Michelle Wu’s mayoral campaign, including Chelsea Councilor Judith Garcia.

The leaders listed below have endorsed Michelle Wu’s mayoral bid in support of Boston’s potential to be a catalyst for systemic change across the state and the country.

- Watertown Town Councilor Caroline Bays
- Quincy City Councilor Ian Cain
- Somerville City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen
- Chelsea City Councilor Judith Garcia
- Brookline Select Board Member Raul Fernandez
- Everett City Councilor Stephanie Martins
- Pittsfield City Councilor Helen Moon
- Lowell City Councilor Vesna Nuon

- Malden City Councilor Ryan O’Malley
- Newton City Councilor Holly Ryan
- Cambridge City Councilor Ivan Sobrinho-Wheeler
- Cambridge City Councilor Quinton Zondervan

On Tuesday, December 15, these elected officials joined Wu for a virtual event to discuss the power of local government and the need for a regional vision and partnership to solve our deepest challenges, such as housing, transportation, climate, and closing the racial wealth gap.

“I’m grateful and proud to stand with these friends and trailblazers who share a fierce belief in the power of cities to lead,” said Michelle Wu. “From housing, to transportation, climate change, and closing the racial wealth gap—we need regional vision and partnership to solve the inequities our communities are facing.”

Said Councillor Garcia, “I am thrilled to endorse Michelle Wu for Mayor of Boston,” said City Councilor Judith Garcia. “Michelle has proven to be a relentless advocate for those who have been unseen and unheard for too long. She understands the urgency of this time and I cannot think of a better person to lead Boston forward.”

In September, Michelle Wu launched her mayoral campaign for bold, urgent leadership to build a Boston for everyone. Michelle is a mom of two young kids, a daughter of immigrants, and a fierce believer that we can solve our deepest challenges through building community. As a Boston City Councilor, Michelle has worked in coalition to deliver bold, systemic change and redefine what is possible through activist city leadership.

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## HERE COMES SANTA, FOR HIS ANNUAL VISIT THROUGH CHELSEA, WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.

Last Saturday afternoon, Santa visited the many children of all ages of Chelsea, courtesy of the combined efforts of the Chelsea Fire and Police Departments. Public safety being the upmost concern this year in many ways, Santa and Mrs. Claus made their way through the streets of Chelsea on top of their favorite ride, Rescue 1, escorted by the Chelsea Police.

Thanks to the dedication of the Fire and Police Departments, their crews and officers, elected officials, the Chamber of Commerce and other volunteers this event is made possible every year for the children to get into the holiday spirit.

Chelsea Fire Chief Mike Mascucci and Councillor Leo Robinson.

Santa and Mrs Claus with their friends from the Chelsea Fire and Police Departments, Cataldo Ambulance Services, Councillor Leo Robinson, and other volunteers that made the annual visit a success.

Chelsea's Resuce 1 has the task of driving Santa and Mrs. Claus across Chelsea, bringing the holiday spirit to all, with the Chelsea Police escort paving the way.

## We want to see you.... at home!

Telemedicine allows health care professionals to evaluate, diagnose, and treat patients at a distance using telecommunications technology, such as a smart phone or computer. Telemedicine allows us to continue to provide high-quality care to our patients during the COVID-19 pandemic while minimizing exposures.

Telemedicine appointments are being scheduled in Pediatrics, Adult Medicine, Family Medicine, Women's Health (OB/GYN), Behavioral Health, Neighborhood PACE, and other departments. We use certified medical interpreters during telemedicine appointments for languages other than English.

Do you need to schedule a telemedicine appointment with your primary care provider? Did you miss an appointment that needs to be rescheduled? If so, call 617-569-5800 to schedule a telemedicine appointment. This is especially important if you have a chronic or a behavioral health condition. You should be treated if needed, especially during this public health crisis. We're here to keep you healthy!

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**50** Years

## Malden Catholic on track for unprecedented growth in 2021

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Malden Catholic High School has successfully provided live and remote interactive curriculum taught in a Hybrid model throughout the fall and the school has hosted over 400 potential Class of 2025 families in-person for socially distanced small group presentations and tours. As a result, Malden Catholic has received an increased number of applications to date for the 2021/2022 school year and is anticipating double-digit growth in enrollment. MC is currently over

660 students and is expected to reach over 730 students in 2021.

"Malden Catholic is committed to educating the whole person and we were able to rise to the occasion during the pandemic. At MC, we have created an experience that has been as close to a traditional school year as possible," stated Headmaster John K. Thornburg. "Throughout these challenging months, our entire community has maintained a strict Culture of Health, we successfully executed a Hybrid Model

with best-in-class technology for optimal classroom instruction and provided active programming for our students over the past few months with 15 virtual clubs and events." Thornburg added, "As a highly responsive educational institution, and we believe that our quick adaptation to exceptional live and virtual academic learning formats has sparked our admissions growth."

"Our son is a Junior and he has had an amazing year with strong academics, and he has had no interruption in his education. He is at

school two days per week in his cohort and is fully engaged. He is working even harder this year than in years before," stated Kevin and Missy Barrett. "The school has done a fantastic job navigating COVID!"

Malden Catholic admissions applications will be accepted throughout December 2020 and Malden Catholic encourages students to apply from the surrounding communities. The list of accepted students will be announced on February 1, 2021.



HERE COMES SANTA, FOR HIS ANNUAL VISIT THROUGH CHELSEA, WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.



Santa and Mrs Claus wave to the many boys and girls along their route last Saturday afternoon.



CPD Officer JoAnne O'Brien with the guests of honor, Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Mrs. Claus is shown with Natalie Pardo, and from Cataldo Ambulance Service, Ariana Sarro and Lindsay Yost.



Santa and his friends, Jim Perisie, Fire Chief Mike Masucci, Councillor Leo Robinson and Fire Captain Mike Gurska.



Myles Mojica with Santa and Mrs. Claus and his dad, CPD Officer Sammy Mojica.

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**CITY MANAGER**  
**THOMAS G. AMBROSINO**

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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### EXELON DONATES COATS TO EPS

EVERETT - As part of its continued support of the Everett Public Schools, Exelon Generation has graciously donated 300 winter coats to our students through a collaboration with Operation Warm. This is the third consecutive year Exelon has made this generous gesture to provide warmth to hundreds of children. The coats will be distributed to students throughout the district, under the direction of principals and assistant principals, over the rest of the holiday season.

“We’re pleased to help Everett Public School students dress warmly for our cold New England winters,” said Archie Gleason, General Manager, Northeast Region, Exelon Generation. “On behalf of our district, my sincerest thanks to Mr. Gleason and the employees of Exelon Generation for this thoughtful and timely donation,” said Superintendent of Schools Priya Tahiliani. “These are very challenging times, and we are grateful for Exelon helping us endure them. These coats will certainly brighten the holidays for our students.”

Operation Warm is a national nonprofit that creates brand new, high-quality coats for children in need. Every child, regardless of their economic situation, deserves a brand-new coat. They partner with compassionate individuals and organizations across North America to give the gift of warmth, confidence and hope to millions of children in need. Operation Warm believes a brand-new coat is more than a coat, promoting self-esteem, school attendance and outdoor play. To learn more about Operation Warm, visit [OperationWarm.org](http://OperationWarm.org).

Exelon Generation is a FORTUNE 100 company that works in every stage of the energy business: power generation, competitive energy sales, transmission and delivery.

### EVERETT HIGH WINTER SPORTS SEASON ON HOLD

EVERETT - The start of the Everett High School winter sports season is being delayed hold due to the increased number of coronavirus cases in the city.

The School Committee voted 8-0 last week to allow EHS winter sports teams to begin practices as early as Dec. 15, but the Board of Health recommended against proceeding this week. School officials are hoping that the coronavirus case numbers will stabilize and the season can get underway sometime in January.

Everett High Director of Athletics Tammy Turner was set to participate in a GBL athletic directors’ meeting Wednesday to discuss the winter sports season and other related topics.

### PIERS PARK LOOKS TO FUTURE

East Boston - In his masterpiece “The Great Gatsby,” F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote “So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past”. The last lines of the novel were a metaphor of a burning desire to row against the flow of a current --even when it seems pointless.

In this era of COVID we can relate to the ending of Gatsby as many are trying to row against a negative current even when it seems useless to do so.

Some have had success while others have not, but nonprofits like Piers Park Sailing Center (PPSC) are weathering the storm and continue to row against the current--hopeful that the pandemic will be over and the world will return to normal soon.

“We have been a strong community through highs and lows,” said PPSC Executive Director Alex DeFronzo reflecting on this past sailing season and looking forward to next year. “Masked up, our students socialized, learned together, had fun together, and grew together.”

However, pulling off the program was a big challenge this year and it seemed the entire program was operating in those last lines of Gatsby.

“We went from a 1:6 staff to student ratio to 1:2 and many of our usual routines went out the window,” said DeFronzo. “Our staff did it all with grace because one thing you’ll find in every Piers Park Sailor is the ability to adapt and persevere.”

The Sailing Center had 45 instructors on staff this summer with 26 teen instructor trainees.

“We had 180 Harbor Explorers and 140 Science of Sailing students this past summer as well,” said DeFronzo. “That’s a community of 391, where in a normal year we would have more than 2,000.”

Now into the cold season PPSC is getting ready to run an in-person learning pod for high need students in partnership with Maverick Landing Community Services. This will allow students who are at home learning remotely to get the extra help they may need through the learning pod.

However, all this comes with a cost, and DeFronzo is hoping for additional community support as the pandemic continues to rage in Boston.

“Even though that’s less than 20 percent of the enrollment of a normal year, our youth program cost more to operate in 2020 than it did in 2019,” said DeFronzo. “We plan to come back strong again in 2021. An inclusive harbor isn’t going to happen by itself – we need your help. Please join in and support what we are doing at Piers Park with a charitable gift today. Your past support was essential in the recovery and strengthening of our programs over the last four years. Building an inclusive community on and around the harbor is a team effort and we are asking for your help.”

Donations to the Sailing Center can be made at <https://piersparksailing.org/donate>.

“The 2020 CARES Act allows you to deduct up to \$300 in charitable contributions even if you don’t itemize your taxes,” explained DeFronzo. “If you do itemize, the CARES Act also increases limits on charitable deductions.”

A generous matching gift made by the Piers Park Sailing Center Board of Directors and by Elizabeth and David Basile means that the first \$5,000 raised through this campaign will be doubled.

### STATE AID TO FIGHT COVID 19

East Boston - Last week Senator Joseph

Boncore and Representative Adrian Madaro joined their colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature to pass the state’s \$46.2 billion Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) budget.

Within the state budget is direct aid to an East Boston agency that has been helping the community during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic by addressing food insecurity among residents.

At a time of widespread food insecurity in the neighborhood due to the COVID, Boncore and Madaro announced \$50,000 in funding for the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen. The earmark will allow the soup kitchen to continue their work providing essential food and nutritional aid to East Boston residents.

“Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen has been on the front lines serving those in need,” said Boncore. “The \$50,000 secured for the Soup Kitchen will allow them to continue these critical efforts and remain a welcoming, inclusive presence in our community.”

Boncore added that as the state continues towards recovery from the COVID pandemic, the FY21 budget provides critical funding: including relief for those most impacted by the public health crisis.

“Despite the fiscal difficulties caused by the COVID-19 emergency, I am pleased that the legislature has passed a budget which has avoided any major cuts and preserves funding for critical programs across Massachusetts, including those right here in East Boston,” said Madaro. “As many in East Boston continue to suffer from food insecurity, funding for the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen ensures that it will be able to continue the necessary work providing food to local families.”

In addition to COVID support the state legislature approved funding to support students and families at East Boston High School.

The budget calls for full funding for Mass Insight. This will allow Mass Insight to continue supporting Advanced Placement and STEM Programming at the High School. Last month, these programs earned East Boston High School the Josh Boger Innovative School of the Year Award from the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation.

“In addition, students at East Boston High School affected by virtual learning will continue to be fully supported in their AP and STEM programming as a result of the Mass Insight earmark,” said Madaro. “I was proud to vote in favor of this budget and I look forward to seeing it signed into law.”

The budget now goes to Governor Baker’s desk for his signature.

### CAL’S NEWS CONTINUE WINNING STREAK

LYNN - The answer to the mystery of who won the \$1 million prize in the Ultimate Millions Instant Ticket Game that was sold at Cal’s News is: Michael Chol Ater.

Ater received his first of 20 annual checks from the Mass State Lottery, opting



PHOTOS COURTESY BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER

The BMC supply team walking the first shipment of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID19 vaccine to the pharmacy on Monday morning. The first deliveries of vaccine will be administered to front-line medical workers on Wednesday morning.

for a yearly payout over one lump sum.

“We’re very excited,” said Barry Calvani of Cal’s News after learning of the winner’s name from the Lynn Journal. “I know Michael well and I’m very happy for him. I want to see him step out from behind the curtain. Everybody has been asking me, ‘Who was it? Who was it?’”

Calvani said the Lynn Journal was the store’s “good luck charm,” having published a recent, front-page story in the newspaper that Cal’s News hadn’t sold a \$1 million ticket since the Instant Ticket Games began in 1974.

“Had I known that all it would have taken was an interview with the Lynn Journal, I would have done it many years ago,” joked Calvani.

The winning ticket at Cal’s was the seventh prize of \$1 million or more in the city this year (see accompanying chart). One store, the 7 Eleven, 50 Western Ave., sold a \$4 million Instant ticket and a \$1 million Instant ticket this year.

“I love to see the Lottery players win, that’s what drives sales,” said Calvani. “In my own store, I have people who are regulars and some who haven’t been in the store for awhile. And now the search is on for \$1 million winner No. 2 at Cal’s. Lottery players are superstitious by nature and now there’s a large percentage of people who think Cal’s is now a quote, unquote, “lucky store.”

Mass Lottery Assistant Executive Director and Communications Director Christian Teja said each store that sells a \$1 million ticket gets a one percent bonus, meaning that Cal’s News will receive a \$10,000 bonus.

“It’s always exciting when a store sells a million-dollar ticket, especially when it’s their first,” said Teja. “And even more exciting when they’ve been in business for such a long, long time like Cal’s.”

Teja said a new set of Instant Ticket Games will be launched in January. There are currently five ongoing Holiday Instant Ticket Games.

“Holiday tickets always make great gifts,” said Teja, noting that all recipients must be 18 years of age or older.

Teja noted that the Lottery’s Lucky For Life twice-weekly (Monday and Thursday) game will become a daily game beginning in July.

### KEEFE FRUSTRATED OVER ONLINE LEARNING

REVERE - In a pow-

erful statement that reverberated in the educational community into the weekend and on to this week, City Council President Patrick Keefe expressed frustration with students still being unable to attend classes in person at Revere schools.

Keefe’s remarks, made at a joint meeting of the Revere City Council and Revere School Committee Friday, were apparently not well received by some Revere teachers, two of whom expressed their discontent during the meeting broadcast live on Revere TV.

During the meeting two parents did seem to concur with Keefe that the overall remote learning experience did not meet the exceptionally high standards for which the highly acclaimed Revere school system is known. The parents cited a lack of information and updates being presented to parents by school administrators during the remote-learning process. Mayor Brian Arrigo, Supt. of Schools Dr. Dianne Kelly, Public Health Director Lauren Buck and Mayor Arrigo’s Chief of Staff Kim Hanton participated in the meeting.

Keefe said the issues was personal to him in that he [and his wife, Jennifer] have two children enrolled in the Revere schools. He prefaced his remarks by stating that “I know for 100 per cent certainty that everyone on the School Committee, especially the superintendent [Dr. Dianne Kelly], and all of the faculty and the teachers have done an unbelievable job thus far. They have worked unbelievably hard.”

But then Keefe lowered the boom.

“I believe education is essential to our children, but as a parent I’m frustrated where we currently stand for eight months and I feel helpless, a person watching my children deteriorate” said Keefe. “Just imagine how the other 8,000 families in Revere feel.

“This is why I believe it’s imperative that we make some corrective action in how we are attempting to get children back into our schools,” he continued.

Keefe called the curriculum and school system “the city’s gold standard” for years, especially so under the direction of Supt. Kelley.

“On March 12, that all went away. It changed when we closed the doors to everyone. And I agree that at the time it was the right decision to step back and reflect and plan a path forward.

“But fast forward eight-plus months and to continue to even be unable to consider the concept of going back in to these former safe havens, it’s not acceptable and it goes against everything these schools have stood for,” said Keefe.

Keefe inferred that the blame rested on the teachers when he said, “I don’t create a suggestion that there is one group to cause for this great resistance for getting back into at least partial in-person learning, although it’s quite clear by many closely involved that this is the answer.”

Mayor Brian Arrigo, who is the ex-officio chair of the School Committee, was the first to respond to Keefe’s “perspective and frustration.”

“The level of anxiety and the challenges that come along with remote learning certainly come through the screen and I just appreciate the fact that you would take the time to express those feelings as a parent, first. Your perspective is one that I value and I certainly understand the frustration that you have,” said Arrigo.

The mayor said the frustration Keefe was experiencing was also being experienced by the School Committee and the superintendent of schools.

Kelly said, “I feel also, Patrick, for what you’re saying and I will say that I have had a number of parents reach out who feel the same way that you do, and a number of teachers who have reached out and are really desperate to get back to the classroom and have some in-person instruction with their students.

“I think the most responsible thing that we can do and the School Committee has been in agreement with is follow the guidelines from our medical professionals and from the Department of Education, the CDC, the Department of Public Health. Although I learned a lot more about this infection, about vaccines, about ventilations systems – I am not an expert in any of them and so we all need to rely on the people who are.”

Kelly said Revere has consistently been among the communities with the highest COVID-19 positivity rates in Massachusetts.

The superintendent said the school system conducted a recent survey in which 3,100 families responded – which is a fantastic return. Kelly indicated that 85 percent of the parents indicated that they were very pleased







# Baker announces \$49 million in grants for over 1,000 small businesses

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker announced on Monday that 1,158 small businesses will be receiving a total of \$49 million in first-round grants as part of the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program, operated by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation.

Baker said that in October, he announced a “\$774 million comprehensive economic recovery plan with a \$50.8 million Small Business Grant Program to be administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation.”

The state did not immediately provide a list of those receiving grants in the first round.

These grants “prioritize businesses owned by underrepresented entrepreneurs and those that were unable to access the federal protection program or other federal or state aid,” Baker said.

Additionally, “100 per-

cent of the recipients are minority-owned, women owned, veteran owned, LGBTQ owned, or owned by individuals with disabilities,” Baker said.

He said that overall, there were over 10,000 applicants who requested more than \$500 million in relief, so “the funds for the first round clearly didn’t cover the ground associated with those who applied.”

Baker also announced that the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation received “an additional \$17.5 million in small business relief for this year’s budget that we just signed,” and about \$9 million for small business technical assistance and grants. He also said that the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation will take another look at the “existing pool of applicants” to award a second round of funding, and no new businesses can apply.

Additionally, a \$107.4

million supplemental budget bill was recently filed by the Baker-Polito administration, calling for \$49.4 million “to fully fund the economic recovery and small business relief plan included in the Administration’s revised FY21 budget proposal and support the unique needs of small and minority- and women-owned businesses across the Commonwealth,” according to the state, and a bill currently before the Legislature would add additional substantial investments in small businesses,” the state said.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito said that “our small businesses have had a challenging, tough, complicated, and hard year, but through it all, they have demonstrated resilience and patience.”

She said these grants will cover expenses related to “payroll and benefit costs, mortgage interest, rent, and utilities.”

Polito said that of the recipients, 94 percent of the businesses are minority owned and 76 percent are women-owned, and “more than one third operate in gateway cities” that have been hit especially hard, both economically and by the pandemic.

“We’re so pleased to be able to notify more than 1100 Massachusetts small businesses that they will be getting needed support to help them cover expenses, support their workers, keep their doors open, or, finally, help them reopen,” said Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy.

“As we’ve said before, those who are already at a disadvantage before the pandemic have suffered disproportionately as a result of this crisis,” he continued. “Accordingly, today’s awards are going to business owners that have faced higher barriers to accessing help from previous programs.”

He said that 262 of the grant recipients are personal care providers, 217 are restaurants, and nearly 100 are retailers.

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Baker said that as of Sunday, there were 4,162 new cases of COVID-19 in the state, 1919 people are in the hospital with the virus, and 287 are in the ICU.

He said that the “up-tick in cases and hospitalizations that started after Thanksgiving has slowed slightly, but not enough by any means.”

He said that another surge could follow the upcoming Christmas and New Year’s holidays if the guidelines are not followed, and “...we’ll be in serious danger of overwhelming our healthcare system,” he added.

He said that his administration is “currently reviewing additional steps that we can take to try to minimize the impact of


all of this. We continue to need everyone to think really hard about the consequences of the actions that they take throughout the rest of this holiday season.”

He said that “we simply can’t afford to have another spike” following the holidays “when we’re still dealing with the spike that came from Thanksgiving,” and said that “it’s gratifying and a bit of a relief that Congress is currently in the process of finalizing a deal for another COVID relief package,” which is expected to include funding for things like more unemployment relief and more testing, tracing, and vaccination resources, Baker said.

“And while we’re certainly doing all we can to fight the virus and keep our economy humming, there’s no question that we’re absolutely in need of support from our colleagues in Washington,” Baker said.


## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Case No. 2003-09  
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Zoning Board of Appeals will be held via Webex video conferencing on:  
Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
6:00 p.m.  
With reference to the application of:  
The Development and Marketing Group Chelsea I, LLC  
The Development and Marketing Group Chelsea II, LLC  
The Development and Marketing Group Chelsea III, LLC  
The Development and Marketing Group Chelsea IV, LLC  
And  
The City of Chelsea (“City”) owner only with respect to certain off-site public improvements  
For request for modification to parking requirement previously approved by Special Permit for Planned Development at the premises known as:  
359 Beacham Street  
All interested parties wishing to provide a public comment or to join the meeting must communicate with John DePriest at: jdepriest@chelseama.gov. Name and address must be included in order to be read during the Public Speaking section of the meeting and email address in order to join the meeting.  
A copy of the application and petition is available for review at:  
<https://www.chelseama.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/zba-cases-2021>  
12/23/20, 12/30/20 C


<https://www.chelseama.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/zba-cases-2021>  
12/23/20, 12/30/20 C

**LEGAL NOTICE**

  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Case No. 2020-20  
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Zoning Board of Appeals will be held via Webex video conferencing on:  
Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
6:00 p.m.  
With reference to the application of:  
Arthur Carbone  
For Special Permit and Variance for the conversion of an existing residential structure from a one (1) family to a two (2) family structure which does not meet current minimum zoning requirements for lot area, open space and number of off-street parking spaces at the premises known as:  
33 Beacon Street  
All interested parties wishing to provide a public comment or to join the meeting must communicate with John DePriest at: jdepriest@chelseama.gov. Name and address must be included in order to be read during the Public Speaking section of the meeting and email address in order to join the meeting.  
A copy of the application and petition is available for review at:  
<https://www.chelseama.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/zba-cases-2020>  
12/23/20, 12/30/20 C

es-2020  
12/23/20, 12/30/20 C

**LEGAL NOTICE**

  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Case No. 2020-19  
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Zoning Board of Appeals will be held via Webex video conferencing on:  
Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
6:00 p.m.  
With reference to the application of:  
Scott Coen  
For Special Permit and Variance seeking approval for the construction of a 2nd floor deck at the premises known as:  
57 Broadway #2  
All interested parties wishing to provide a public comment or to join the meeting must communicate with John DePriest at: jdepriest@chelseama.gov. Name and address must be included in order to be read during the Public Speaking section of the meeting and email address in order to join the meeting.  
A copy of the application and petition is available for review at:  
<https://www.chelseama.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/zba-cases-2020>  
12/23/20, 12/30/20 C

**LEGAL NOTICE**

  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Case No. 2020-21  
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the Chelsea Zoning Board of Appeals will be held via Webex video conferencing on:  
Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
6:00 p.m.  
With reference to the application of:  
Gonzalo Artigas, Trustee  
Webster Street Realty Trust  
For Special Permit for a driveway opening which does not meet current minimum zoning requirements for front yard setback at the premises known as:  
132 Webster Avenue  
All interested parties wishing to provide a public comment or to join the meeting must communicate with John DePriest at: jdepriest@chelseama.gov. Name and address must be included in order to be read during the Public Speaking section of the meeting and email address in order to join the meeting.  
A copy of the application and petition is available for review at:  
<https://www.chelseama.gov/zoning-board-appeals/pages/zba-cases-2020>  
12/23/20, 12/30/20 C

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**  
By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jesus Barahona to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for Fremont Investment & Loan,

dated August 25, 2005 and recorded in Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 37927, Page 74 (the “Mortgage”), as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated June 18, 2010, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 46609, Page 92 of which mortgage HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Trustee for Fremont Home Loan Trust 2005-D, Mortgage-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-D is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS), as nominee for Fremont Investment & Loan, its successors and assigns to HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Trustee for Fremont Home Loan Trust 2005-D, Mortgage-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-D dated June 29, 2012 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 50193, Page 240, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 109 Library Street, Chelsea, MA 02150 will be sold at a Public Auction at 2:00 PM on January 8, 2021, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:  
The land in said Chelsea with the buildings thereon now numbered 109 Library Street, formerly called Matthews Street, being shown as lot B on plan drawn by Joseph R. Carr & Sons, C.E., dated March 10, 1910, recorded with Suffolk Deeds, Book 3435, Page 141, bounded and described as follows:  
NORTHEASTERLY by Library Street, fifty and 33/100 (50.33) feet;

SOUTHEASTERLY by lot 48 Matthews Street indicated on said plan sixty-seven and 5/10 (67.5) feet; SOUTHWESTERLY by lot A fifty and 35/100 (50.35) feet; NORTHWESTERLY by lot 44 Matthews Street indicated on said plan sixty-seven and 5/10 (67.5) feet.  
For mortgagor’s title see deed recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 35480, Page 043.  
The property will be sold subject to the redemption rights in favor of the Internal Revenue Service by virtue of the tax lien(s) recorded in Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 61778, Page 8.  
The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.  
Terms of the Sale: Cashier’s or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee’s attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C.,

900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. Other terms to be announced at the sale.  
HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Trustee for Fremont Home Loan Trust 2005-D, Mortgage-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-D  
Korde & Associates, P.C.  
900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102  
Lowell, MA 01851  
(978) 256-1500  
Barahona, Jesus, 15-023450  
12/17/20, 12/24/20, 12/31/20 C

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT**  
Suffolk Probate And Family Court  
24 New Chardon St.  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617)788-8300  
**ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING**  
Docket No. SU20W0310WD  
Cecilia E. Martinez vs. Oscar A. Mendez Canelas  
Membrano Martinez  
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 Custody/Support/Parenting Time filed on February 24, 2021.

Defendant(s)/Respondent(s) cannot be found within the Commonwealth and defendant(s)/respondent(s) present whereabouts are unknown. Personal service on defendant is therefore not practicable, and defendant(s)/respondent(s) has/have not voluntarily appeared in this action.  
It is Ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) is directed to appear, plead, answer, or otherwise move with April 24, 2021. If you fail to do so this Court will proceed to a hearing and adjudication of this matter.  
Date: 3/5/2020  
Hon. Brian J. Dunn  
Justice of Probate and Family Court  
12/23/20 C

**LEGAL NOTICE**

  
Request for Proposals  
Redevelopment Opportunity  
For the Lease of Commonwealth-Owned Real Estate  
City of Chelsea  
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through its Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) on behalf of the Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS), pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 7C s.36 and a vote of the Asset Management Board dated January 14, 2020, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 7B, presents a redevelopment opportunity to lease a portion of the Soldiers’ Home in Chelsea, with an address at 91 Crest Avenue in the City of Chelsea. The project contemplates leasing up

to 8.7 acres of land with the buildings thereon known as the Domiciliary Campus with frontage on Summit Avenue, Hillside Avenue, and Crest Avenue, for a term of up to 99 years for the phased development of Veterans preference housing and services. The Commonwealth is soliciting proposals from parties interested in redevelopment of the Domiciliary Campus at the Soldiers’ Home in Chelsea. The terms and requirements of this opportunity to lease and redevelop the property are set forth in the Request for Proposals (RFP).  
To access a copy of the RFP, refer to the following website link: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/soldiers-home-in-chelsea-domiciliary-campus-redevelopment> or email shcdomiciliary.dcammm@mass.gov.  
Complete instructions for the submission of proposals are set forth in the RFP. The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals it receives for any reason whatsoever.  
Deadline: Proposals must be received no later than 3:00 PM on March 5, 2021 at the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, One Ashburton Place, 15th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts and will be opened at DCAMM after 3:00 PM on March 5, 2021.  
Carol W. Gladstone, Commissioner  
Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance  
12/3/20, 12/10/20, 12/17/20, 12/24/20 C

# Chelsea's Professional Service Directory

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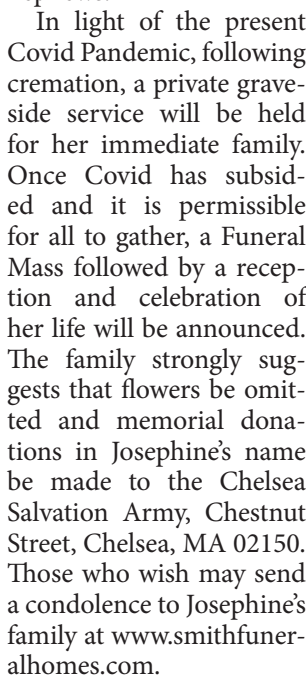
PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER





Former member of the Chelsea Senior  
Center and Salvation Army Volunteer

The devoted wife of the late Robert Vitale, she was the beloved mother of RoseAnna V. McMackin and her husband, Paul of Wrentham and Roberta Vitale-Nolen and her husband, Troy of Windham, NH; daughter of the late Cologero and Carmella (Lazzaro) Fulco; loving sister of Grace Navarro of Chelsea and the late Jennie Fulco, Michael Fulco, Frank Fulco, Dominica Medige, Lena Stec, Charles Fulco and Salvatore Fulco; sister-in-law of Margaret Fulco and cherished



She will be truly missed by all who knew her

Born in Chelsea on April 19, 1931 to the late Anthony and Lena (Belmonte), she was the devoted mother of Joseph DeSantis of Revere, Janice DeSantis and her longtime companion, Rob McPherson of Chelsea and James DeSantis of Revere; cherished grandmother of Joseph DeSantis Jr. and his wife, Erin, John, Jenae and Rachael DeSantis and adored great grandmother of Lola Bartlett. She is also lovingly survived by many



Due to the current spike in COVID-19, the guidelines issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and local officials, Funeral Services will be privately held for the immediate family under the direction of Paul Buonfiglio & Sons - Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere Street, Revere, MA 02151. Interment in Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601 or at [alz.org](http://alz.org). For guestbook please visit [www.buonfiglio.com](http://www.buonfiglio.com).

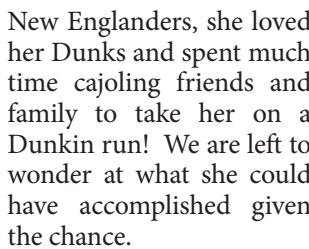
**TORF FUNERAL  
SERVICE**

(617) 889-2900  
(800)428-7161

[www.torffuneralservice.com](http://www.torffuneralservice.com)

She rests well now finally safe in His arms

A graduate of Marshfield High School, she was skilled at math and a prolific writer, filling dozens of journals with her unique perspective and creative word play. Like so many



We never suspected that the bright towheaded little girl with the sparkling smile would be robbed of all her potential at such a young age, but mental illness did just that.

Serious mental illness and the accompanying addictions are terminal illnesses, no less insidious than cancer. In her adult life, Stephanie suffered greatly, and there is not a single family member who did not do everything they could to save her. But that is not our role. Saving her was not in our power.

As Christians our faith tells us that there is only one Savior and we are comforted now that her mind is whole again and that she rests well now, finally safe in His arms.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Stephanie's name to the National Alliance on Mental Illness ("NAMI"), donate.nami.org

With eternal thanks for  
your love and support, The  
Family of Stephanie E.  
Cormier.

To send a message of  
condolence to Stephanie's  
family, please visit [www.  
smithfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfuneralhomes.com).

To place a memoriam in the  
Chelsea Record, please call  
781-485-0588

or call 781-485-0588

## Ambrosino, 50-plus leaders ask State House for small biz relief

Ambrosino said any further restrictions for COVID have to be accompanied with relief for businesses, and said there is strength in numbers on that request.

“I think most City leaders agree that if we are seeking further restrictions to combat COVID, that must be accompanied by more economic relief for these businesses that we are requiring to scale back operations,” he said. “We think the two must be done together, and we are hoping the Legislature will expedite the economic relief portion.”

Added Boston Mayor Walsh, “Boston along with other cities and towns across the state continue to find new and creative ways to support our small businesses, which have faced unprecedented challenges this year, but we need our state and federal partners to leverage all the tools at their disposal to further our local efforts. As municipal leaders, we’re united in our message to the state: please pass the economic development bond bill now and provide relief to small business, restaurants, and their employees at this critically urgent time.”

The Massachusetts House and Senate currently have several economic relief options under consideration: an economic development bond bill which includes funding for small business grants and loans, and a supplemental budget filed by Gov. Baker which requests an additional \$49 million in small business support.

Municipal leaders are calling on the Legislature to pass these measures, and to also consider other creative funding mechanisms that would support small businesses, employees and restaurants. Of the 16,000 restaurants in Massachusetts, 3,400 never re-opened after mandatory closures in the spring, and more of them close every day as the pandemic wears on.

Small business relief funding and programs provided by the state, unlike those that might come in a federal stimulus package, could be deployed immediately.

“Small businesses and their employees are facing extreme financial distress, especially restaurants, which are facing a mass extinction, and there is every reason to believe this will get worse over the winter,” said Metropolitan Area Planning Council Executive Director Marc Draisen. “Additional resources from both the federal and state government are urgently needed.”

The City of Chelsea has been proactive in helping business with their own City money. Over the summer, Ambrosino and the City Council put together a program to help small businesses, including the Restaurant Relief Fund and the Small Business Relief Fund. That has been supplemented by two rounds of Rental Relief Assistance, many months of City-sponsored food pantries, and the new Chelsea Eats food debit card. All of those have been paid for by the City's local and federal dollars. Now, they are looking for the state to kick in more relief for the business community in Chelsea and beyond.

*Seth Daniel contributed to this story.*

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Please visit [www.chelsearecord.com](http://www.chelsearecord.com)



# Merry Christmas & Holiday Spirits from Home!



**Almas family**



**Rosie Camille**



**Mandy and Miranda**



**Eva and Bruno**



**Christmas 2019  
the way it should be**



**Steele and Shay**



**Connor**



**Gianluca and Bianca**



**Santa John and Elf Jerry**



**Buster and Santa**



**Autumn**



**Loki and Delilah**



**Sookie**



**Henry**



**Ralphie**