



# 932 BROADWAY

CHELSEA, MA

1 & 2 BEDROOM CONDOS  
OCCUPANCY WINTER 2021

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BROADWAY  
CAPITAL INC.

# CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020

35 CENTS



Stein Family Center for Well-Being Ribbon Cutting with LFCL Executive Director Mike McCarthy (far right), LFCL resident Steve Saling (middle) and LFCL Staff.

## Help on the way

### Council approves funding for Homeowner Stabilization Fund

By Seth Daniel

Help is on the way for homeowners that find themselves with increasing tax bills, as the City Council on Monday voted 10-0 to transfer \$750,000 to the Homeowner Stabilization Program to help some owner-occupants with tax increases.

The Homeowner Stabilization Fund had been in existence and had a \$250,000 balance this fall, but after the tax rate was set and it was discovered many people were going to get hit with tax increases – particularly two-family and three-family homeowners – it was proposed to be expanded. The program combined will have \$1 million in funding and will be available to those making under \$119,000 as a household.

Councillors were in agreement on the program, but Councillor Giovanni Recupero wanted clarification and wanted to send it to committee.

“I want homeowners to get it, but I want to know how they’ll be disbursed,” he said. “Will it be one sum of money for everyone under \$119,000? If it’s one amount for everyone, I’m for it. But if its not, then we need to talk about it.”

His motion for committee was defeated 1-9.

Council President Roy Avellaneda explained that the Council had gone over the program in detail for more than an hour before the last meeting with Planner Alex Train.

The matter was moved to a vote and approved 10-0.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said he believed the program would roll out for taxpayers in January following the issuance of the first tax bills.

•CARES ACT

The City Council approved its second CARES Act payment on Monday night of \$4.029 million –

See HELP Page 2

## Leonard Florence Center for Living adds 20 new residents

By Seth Daniel

When Barry Berman first began entertaining the idea of adding patients on ventilators to the Leonard Florence Center for Living – particularly those with ALS and other such illnesses – he recalled during a ribbon cutting ceremony last Thursday the first visit he made with a prospective resident.

Sitting on the bed with him, Berman shared that he looked around the room, realizing the man next to him couldn’t leave and was immobile. The

radiator was rusting, the floor tiles had buckled and the window seal had broken – creating a fog over the only window that would have allowed the man to experience outside.

“I sat there and I said to myself, ‘We’re in hell,’” said Berman at the outset of the ribbon cutting for the newly-opened Stein Family Center for Well-Being in the Admiral’s Hill Facility. “I was so rattled by that visit and really I am still rattled to this day by what I saw. We made ours different. Now we’ve been caring for

residents on vents for 10 years. The one thing these vent homes can offer – in addition to compassionate care and safety – is we can allow these individuals hope.”

It was a very moving story for a ceremony that celebrated the addition of 20 new residents for the Stein Family Center, which enables ventilator-dependent residents to live as independently as possible in a “real” home, where they receive exceptional skilled nursing and compassionate care, and are treated with dignity

and respect.

Operated by nonprofit Chelsea Jewish Lifecare, the Stein Family Center for Well-Being in the Leonard Florence Center is the only Green House ventilator program in the country. Offering state-of-the-art portable ventilators in a Green House model of care, specialized care residents have access to a completely new way of living. These multi-function ventilators are the first and only ones of their

See LFCL Page 7

## Councillor Recupero blasts past administration for prioritizing dogs over parks in his district

By Seth Daniel

Councillor Giovanni Recupero blasted the City’s past administrations for not investing fully in parks within his district like Quigley Park – noting that more resources were dedicated to a dog park elsewhere than to the heavily-used park in his dense neighborhood.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said the current administration would prioritize Quigley and Bosson Parks in the next round of funding.

“The previous admin-

istration had no regard for the people living in that area,” he said. “The people are just as good as anyone else. They deserve to have a park like everyone else and a dog park is worth more than them... That’s beyond comprehension – even a dog park. A dog park was worth more than a human park, Quigley Park.”

His dissatisfaction came originally at a previous meeting when he asserted that Quigley Park had been ignored for years because it was a mostly Hispanic and immigrant



Councillor Giovanni Recupero said Quigley Park was ignored by previous administrations, and had less investment than a dog park.

neighborhood. He had asked for investment figures in the parks, and on

Monday night – he elaborated on what he had

See PARKS Page 2

## Cataldo could be key for distributing COVID vaccine

By Seth Daniel

When Cataldo Ambulance company became the

first in the state last year to become licensed for a mobile integrated health unit – something they dub SmartCare – they could

have never imagined the unit would be called on for critical services during the COVID-19 surge, and now potentially to be a major distribution point for any COVID-19 vaccine.

That is just the case for the company’s units, which services Chelsea and surrounding areas, as they have received word that they will be part of the distribution network for a vaccine when it arrives – not only for the general public, but also for vulner-

able populations.

“We’re getting inquiries already from local health departments,” said Dan Hoffenberg, vice president of Cataldo. “I don’t have all the details yet, but I’m told we’re getting inquiries from local health departments asking about if we can be of service in helping to distribute the vaccine in each community. We’re going to be a way for them to help admin-

See CATALDO Page 2

## Many ways to help

### Salvation Army Red Kettles falling short, make call for fundraising

By Seth Daniel

“Every little bit helps,” called Councillor Leo Robinson in the vestibule of the Market Basket last Friday, while ringing the patented Salvation Army bell for the annual Red Kettle fundraising drive.

The Red Kettle is one of the largest fundraising activities for the Chelsea Salvation Army and it funds all of the programming they do throughout the year for children, families and those on the streets as well.

This year, however, fundraising is in dire need, and also in short supply – with Capt. Isael and Brenda Gonzalez sending

out the red alert for the Red Kettle.

“We’re seeing at least a 50 percent decline in our annual fundraising efforts and by Dec. 24 we need to raise 150 percent,” said Capt. Isael. “There are so many ways people can give. We basically need to raise \$90,000 by Dec. 24. We’ve been serving as many as 200 families each day we open.”

They said there were also 3.3 million meals served out of the Chelsea location since the pandemic started. Raising that money will ensure that those services to the most vulnerable people

See KETTLES Page 6



Capt. Isael Gonzalez, of the Chelsea Salvation Army, and Councillor Leo Robinson help to gather funds at Market Basket in the annual Red Kettle drive. This year, fundraising has been harder than ever, and the local Salvation Army is making a call to the community for help.

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## Santa Parade to go through Chelsea on Dec. 19

Staff Report

Santa’s always been mobile, but COVID-19 this year has him moving quite efficiently.

The City, Chamber of Commerce and a number of partners are coming together to have Santa Claus hosted in a parade through Chelsea on Dec. 19 from 3-5 p.m. Residents can look out their windows, from their porches/balconies or on Facebook.

Chelsea Police, Chelsea Fire, Cataldo Ambulance and several classic cars will accompany Santa through the streets.

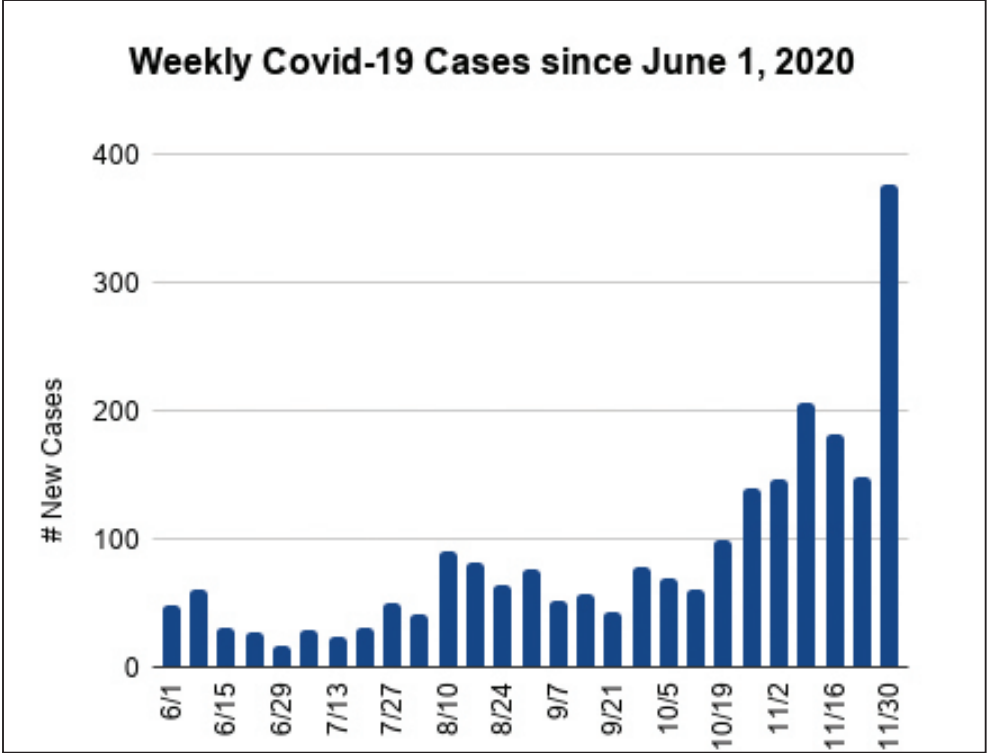
The three routes are as follows (maps are available on the City of Chelsea’s website):

- #1 – Chestnut to Medford to Beacon to Mulberry to Chestnut to Everett Avenue to Essex Street and back on Congress Avenue.
- #2 – Park Street to

Central Ave/Willow to Marlborough to Highland Street to Broadway/Stockton to Clark Avenue to Orange Street to Carter Street to Washington Avenue to Jefferson Avenue.

- #3 – Jefferson Avenue to Exeter Street to Wesley Street to Washington Avenue/Prospect to Springvale to Washington Avenue to Sagamore Avenue to Bloomingdale Street to Washington Avenue.

## NEWS Briefs BY SETH DANIEL



### COVID CASE UPDATE

Positive cases in Chelsea blew up in the days after Thanksgiving with a huge spike in cases, registering 376 positive cases of COVID-19 between Nov. 30 and Dec. 6. That was more than double the amount of cases in the previous week, which was 149. That said, the early week numbers were a bit lower, with 16 cases on Dec. 6, and 29 on Dec. 7.

upon request from 311/617-466-4209. The application period will close on December 11, 2020.

Program Details & Application: [www.chelseama.gov/Rental-Assistance](http://www.chelseama.gov/Rental-Assistance)

### CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

Chelsea Cultural Council Grant application deadline has been extended to Monday, December 14, 2020. Paper and Online Applications are available at <https://bit.ly/2GhFQQV>

GRANTS support individuals, schools, and organizations for projects in the arts, humanities, & sciences. Further information at 617 466-4090, or [culturalcouncil@chelseama.gov](mailto:culturalcouncil@chelseama.gov).

### SAVE A LIFE, WEAR A MASK

If you see businesses or workplaces not complying with safety guidelines, please report it by calling the City of Chelsea 311 (non-emergencies line) at 617-466-4209 or visiting [mass.gov/compliance](https://www.mass.gov/compliance).

### HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC

Chelsea Housing Legal Clinic is available to help low-income residents with landlord mediation, eviction proceedings, and other housing legal issues. Due to Covid-19, the office cannot accept walk-ins. Please call 617-603-1700 or 1-800-342-LAWS for initial inquiries and to

schedule an appointment. The call center pandemic hours are:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9am-noon  
Tuesday & Thursday: 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Please be patient as the CHLC expects to receive a large number of calls.

For more information, visit [www.chelseama.gov/CHLC](http://www.chelseama.gov/CHLC)

### OUTDOOR DINING EXTENDED

Outdoor Dining Permits have been extended until Dec. 31, but all licensees must seek an extension. It is not automatic. All the licensee has to do is call Naomi Libran or email her. 617.466. 4152 - [nlibran@chelseama.gov](mailto:nlibran@chelseama.gov).

### CHELSEA HERITAGE MURAL

The Chelsea Heritage Mural will be an 80-foot painted mural on aluminum panels installed on the Fifth Street side of 472 Broadway in Bellingham Square. It will be designed and painted by David Fichter. The artist is known for a distinctive, realistic style that features the people, architecture, and other details reflective of the mural location. Working with residents of all ages, he’s completed more than 200 permanent murals that have become beloved local landmarks that communicate the story of each neighborhood.

The City asking for your ideas for the content of this mural. Submit your ideas and learn more about the project here: <https://bit.ly/32TjcWA>

### DISTRICT UPDATES

- School Committee Members were recognized at last week’s meeting for their roles as Chairwoman, Vice-chair, Delegate to the City Council, and Delegate to the Shore Collaborative. Each member received a certificate and Chairwoman Kelly Garcia received a special plaque as the chair. Thank you to all members for your service during an unprecedented year.
- Last Thursday, the Elementary school hosted the 3rd session of Elementary Online Parent Academy OPA. The focus was See-Saw platform that is used by our youngest learners. There were about 25 families who attended and participated. We taught and reviewed information to help parents navigate when checking in on their students’ work and communication with teachers. The sessions will go into 2021.

## SCHOOL UPDATES

### MORRIS H. SEIGAL CLARK AVE. UPDATES

- Some of the sixth grade students at the Morris H. Seigal Clark Avenue Middle School participated in Latinx Kidlit Book Festival. Students were lucky to hear the accomplished and amazing author Elizabeth Acevedo.

### SOKOLOWSKI UPDATES

- In order to continue with a beloved tradition, the school specialist team hosted the Annual Sokolowski Turkey Trot [Virtual Edition]. On Tuesday before the Thanksgiving break, all classes got together during their scheduled specialist time for some fun Turkey/Thanksgiving related physical activities.
- In Science, Sokolowski students became engineers. Students in Ms. Braga’s Functional Aca-

demics class built gumdrop towers, and students in Ms. Lopez’s fourth grade class designed and created earthquake proof houses. Ms. Caruso was very impressed with all of their hard work and creativity. Great job engineers.

### CHELSEA OPPORTUNITY ACADEMY UPDATES

COA continued its traditional Thanksgiving celebration. Students came by school to pick up traditional meals to take home for the entire family. Students were welcomed by staff and a couple of turkeys. Some 170 meals were distributed to COA students and families and another 80 meals were donated to the Chelsea Collaborative. Special thank you to COA staff members and the business office for their support in making this event a success.

## LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

### TWO CHELSEA RESIDENTS NAMED TO HONOR ROLL AT BC HIGH

Boston College High School is proud to announce that the following students from Chelsea have been named to the school’s First Quarter Honor Roll.

BC High successfully reopened for in-person learning this past September using a hybrid model, with two cohorts of students coming onto campus on alternating weeks. This model provided all BC High students with completely synchronous learning opportunities throughout the fall, regardless of whether the student was at school or at home. The school also implemented extensive safety protocols to help keep students, faculty, staff, and others safe and healthy during the global pandemic, and plans to continue offering in-person instruction in January.

1st Quarter High Honors

For High Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.80 quality point average and all grades “C+” or higher. Freshmen need a 3.6 quality point average and all grades “C+” or higher.

- Alvaro Deras  
1st Quarter Honors  
For Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.20 quality point average and all grades “C-” or higher. Freshmen need a 3.165 quality point average and all grades “C-” or higher.
- Emmanouil Leonidou  
About Boston College High School: Boston College High School is

a Jesuit, Catholic, college-preparatory school for young men in grades 7 to 12. Founded in 1863, the school enrolls approximately 1,500 students from more than 140 communities in eastern Massachusetts. For more information please visit [bchigh.edu](http://bchigh.edu).

### REGIS STUDENTS MAKE THE DEAN’S LIST

Regis College is pleased to announce that 603 students made the Dean’s List for academic achievement for the 2020 spring semester. The following students were among those who made the dean’s list.

- \* Alexa Cuellar, of Chelsea, class of 2022.
- \* Briana Ramirez, of Chelsea, class of 2022.

To be eligible for the Dean’s List as a senior, junior or sophomore at Regis, a student must have a semester grade point aver-

age (GPA) of at least 3.50. For first-year students, a semester GPA of at least 3.25 must be attained.

“I am very pleased to see so many of our students excelling across the university,” said Regis College Vice President of Academic Affairs, Mary Erina Driscoll, PhD. “The Dean’s List and the diversity of academic disciplines speak to a dedicated student body and to a faculty that promotes intellectual curiosity and achievement.”

Regis College is a coed, Catholic university 12 miles west of Boston in Weston, Mass. With over 3,000 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students enrolled on campus and in fully online graduate programs, Regis provides an academically rigorous education within the schools of nursing, arts and sciences, business and communication, and health sciences. Visit <https://www.regiscollege.edu/> to learn more.

### ROUTE 1 HOUSING PROGRAM

In an effort to enhance and preserve the quality of the existing housing supply in the City of Chelsea, the City has premiered the Route 1 Housing Enhancements Program.

The Program provides assistance to homeowners seeking to address sound attenuation, air quality improvements, and exterior repairs. Targeting properties adjacent to Route 1, the Program strives to mitigate the adverse public health effects caused by Route 1, including, but not limited to, noise pollution, degraded air quality, and property damage that occurred during recent state construction.

Learn more about this program and find the application online at [www.ChelseaMa.gov/Route-1-Enhancement](http://www.ChelseaMa.gov/Route-1-Enhancement).

### EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - ROUND 2

The second round of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program is now open for residents who have been financially impacted by COVID-19 and make under 50% of the Area Median Income. The maximum award amount is three months of housing expenses or \$5,000, whichever is less. If you have already applied for the first round of the program you are already on the waitlist and do NOT need to reapply. If you received funding from the first round you do not qualify for this round. Applications are available

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Jeyachandran, Nathaneal	Heath, Kristin S	50 Boatswains Way #106	\$461,750
Alvarez, Edwin F	Castillo, Fredy O	32 Carroll St	\$630,000
Barisano, Arthur	Bell, David	160 Commandants Way #203	\$383,500
Salzman, Stephanie	Khouri, Ralph J	34 Gillooly Rd	\$740,000
Bautista, Ullis	Martinez, Jorge A	31 Library St	\$775,000
Dolloff-Wolfe, Barbara	Zhu, Dandan	505 Washington Ave #41	\$220,000

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For children 18 and younger and their families, call: **617-568-4477**.

[www.ebnhc.org/flushot](http://www.ebnhc.org/flushot)



# Chelsea

R E C O R D

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

## HAPPY HANUKKAH

The eight-day observance of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, gets underway this Thursday, December 10, and will culminate next Friday, December 18.

In summary, Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees -- a group of fierce warriors who used guerilla tactics against an occupying army -- in 166 BCE when the Maccabees liberated the Jewish people from the Greek-based rulers who essentially had outlawed the Jewish religion.

When the triumphant Maccabees captured the city of Jerusalem, they quickly entered the Holy Temple, tossing out the images of the Greek gods that had been installed there by the occupying rulers.

When the Maccabees went to light the Menorah candles in the Temple, they thought they only had one day's worth of oil. However, the lights remained lit for eight days -- hence the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah is a joyous occasion for Jews world-wide, marked by large gatherings of friends and families and the playing of traditional games such as the dreidel and eating traditional foods such as latkes.

Although Hanukkah celebrations this year will be much more subdued than is typical because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we wish all of our Jewish friends a happy, healthy, and meaningful Hanukkah in 2020.

## THE VIRUS IS A HUNTER -- AND WE ARE ITS PREY

It now has been nine months since lockdowns went into effect in many states, including here in Massachusetts on March 16. However, despite all of our previous efforts, the COVID-19 pandemic is surging across the entire United States.

The pleas of public health and government officials can only go so far if Americans fail to heed their warnings and do not take the common-sense and easy-to-follow steps of wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and not congregating in group settings of any kind.

With the promise of a vaccine on the horizon, this is no time to let our guard down. The virus is everywhere and no one is safe from it. Each and every one of us must assume personal responsibility for the safety of ourselves, our families, and our friends.

The coronavirus is a living organism that is stalking us wherever we go and whatever we do. We are its prey -- and it requires that we must be ever-vigilant in order to avoid becoming another victim and spreading it to others.

Selfishness and failure to follow the rules simply are not options amidst this widening pandemic.

## PEARL HARBOR WAS 79 YEARS AGO

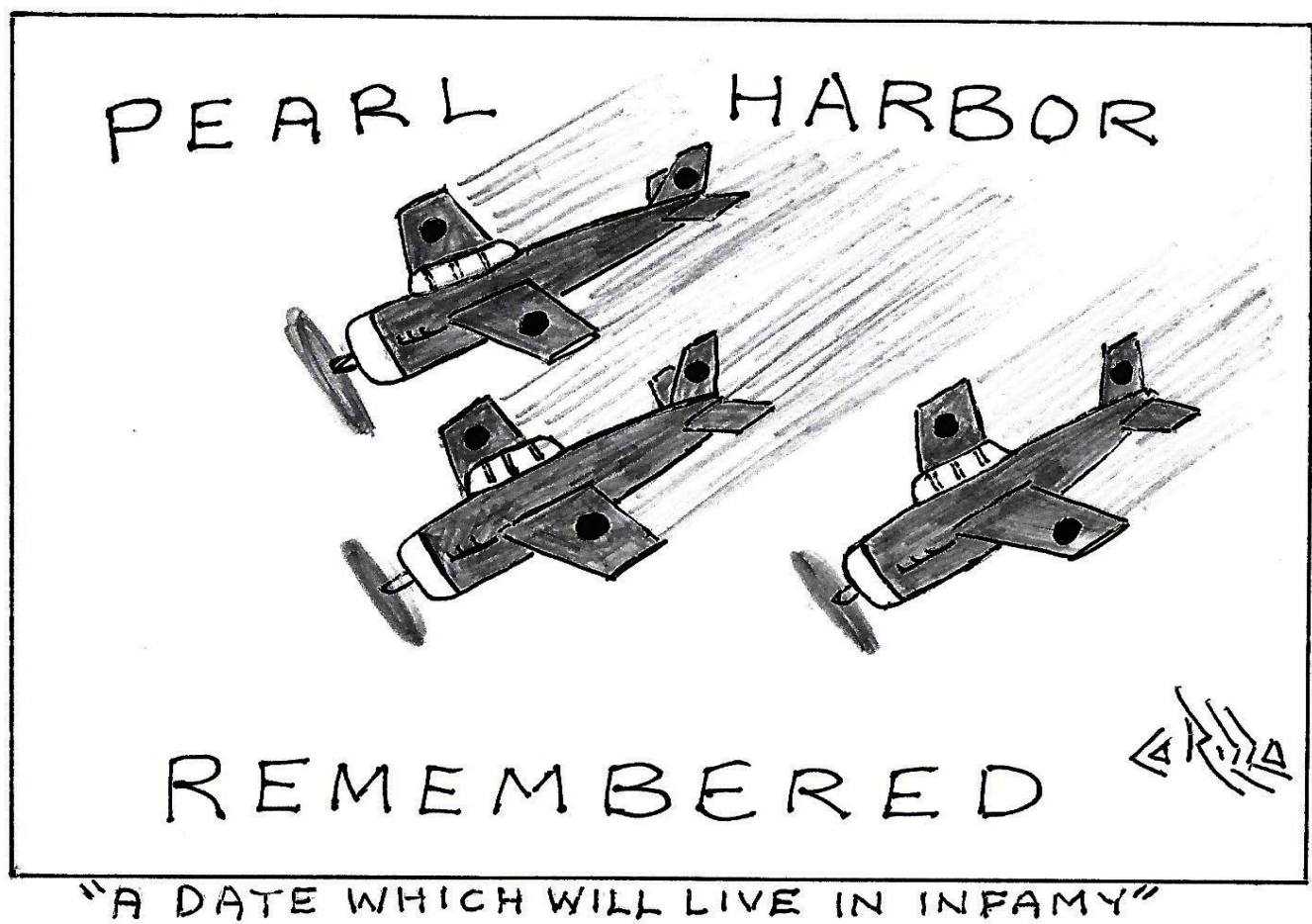
It was 79 years ago this week -- December 7 -- that the nation of Japan launched its attack on Pearl Harbor.

The very next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt convened a joint session of Congress in which he famously declared the attack as, "A day that will live in infamy," and asked Congress for a Declaration of War.

For more than two years prior to the attack, America had stayed out of the war that already had engulfed the rest of the world. By the time of the Japanese attack, Hitler's Nazis had conquered all of continental Europe and much of Africa, while the Japanese had invaded almost all of Asia, save for the U.S. outposts in the Philippines and other small islands in the Pacific.

Americans clung to the belief that our isolation, separated from the rest of the world by two oceans, would keep us out of the war. But after Pearl Harbor, we no longer could keep our heads buried in the sand.

The lessons of Pearl Harbor are many, but chief among them is that freedom isn't free -- and that we always must be vigilant to recognize the forces of evil that seek to destroy our way of life.



GUEST OP-ED

## When does Christmas begin?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Christmas has different beginning times for most everyone.

For some it's when you put up the Christmas tree and decorations.

For others it's when you wrap some presents and put them under the tree.

While for others it's about the Christmas music. When they first start hearing Christmas songs on the radio then Christmas has begun for them.

Christmas may begin for you when your family arrives home to share in your celebration. Or your Christmas celebration may really begin when your family finally leaves.

When I was a child Christmas started for me when everything came together. The big fresh tree was hewn down from the hillside. Once it was decorated, I started watching for Santa. But it still was 't Christmas until I came up with a big pack-

age of firecrackers, cherry bombs and other noisy fireworks. I always loved putting firecrackers and cherry bombs under cans to see how far they would fly through the air.

My mother would make cookies, cakes and pies. My dad would always buy a big box of apples and oranges. It seems like they lasted a week.

Christmas really began when family came home. When we all got together that's when it seemed Christmas really started. The excitement came by us all being together. Sharing gifts was fun and provided moments of laughter. Eating my mother's delicious meal was always a stable holiday treat we always enjoyed.

The best part was everyone being together for a couple of days. With social distancing, this may be one element of Christmas that many will not get to enjoy in 2020.

So many thousands of people have died from Covid-19 and they will be missed at the Christmas table. If this is you please cling to the hope of life beyond this world and that you will see your loved one again.

I believe throughout our planet that seeing our sick friends get well would make Christmas for all of us.

Christmas is different this year. We must enter Christmas this year with hope. You have to have hope to live. Life without hope is like a car with no fuel. A vaccine for Covid-19 is coming. We are praying this will spare lives in 2021. We have hope that by next Christmas we can all get together and celebrate.

Keep in mind there has never been anything normal about Christmas. Mary and Joseph and the baby spent their first Christmas in a barn which

was like a cave for animals. The baby was laid in a cow's trough for a bed. Christmas always has the potential of being very different.

Remember Christmas is in your heart and that's where your main celebration and hope lie. May hope and Christmas be bright and rekindled anew and afresh. May you within your spirit hear the bells on Christmas day. And, may you hear the angels sing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all men on whom his favor rests."

*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.*

## LETTER to the Editor

### FINALIZE, PASS AND ENACT A COVID RELIEF PACKAGE

To the Editor:

With Election Day well behind us and most races settled, we renew our urgent request for action to help stave off further job loss on Main Street, especially as spiking coronavirus cases put economies across the country at further risk. A COVID RELIEF NOW Coalition survey of over 1,800 cities, counties and industry associations finds 80% of respondents indicating

their financial health has been impacted negatively by COVID-19.

The time to advance the next round of COVID-related economic relief is now, during the 2020 lame-duck legislative session. Our country can't wait until 2021. Ninety-one percent of respondents believe that without another stimulus, their business, organization or government's condition will worsen.

New jobless claims again exceeded 700,000. There are signs that a once-nascent jobs re-

covery has markedly cooled—especially at the lower rungs of the income ladder. Thirty-five percent of respondents to our survey say their business, organization or government has slashed its workforce due to the current economic situation. However, the worst may be yet to come: 95% of survey respondents believe their organization or industry will face growing challenges—or be forced to shutter altogether.

Revenue shortfalls are imperiling the delivery of many public services for both city and county governments. In fact, most local governments believe they will face significant challenges in providing needed services.

Though certain segments of the economy have managed to adapt and thrive during the pandemic, others are at the mercy of coronavirus-related shutdowns, and have borne the worst of the economic fallout. Travel, for instance—which encompasses segments like lodging and transportation, but also has enormous downstream impact for industries such as restaurants, retail and business events—currently accounts for more than

a third of all U.S. unemployment. Travel-supported jobs employed one in 10 Americans prior to COVID-19, but 4.5 million of those jobs are projected to be lost by year's end.

Spiking infection rates and new rounds of restrictions have profoundly diminished the outlook for an immediate economic recovery. Earlier rounds of legislative relief never anticipated the extended length of closures and protracted reopenings. Huge numbers of the most-impacted employers have already exhausted aid funds with a recovery yet to materialize—or were left unable to access the relief programs to begin with.

Although encouraging news on a vaccine offers a ray of light at the end of a long and very dark tunnel, under the best possible scenario it will not be widely available in time to prevent the permanent loss of more businesses and the communities they sustain.

A huge and diverse coalition of business and public-sector voices has been pleading with Washington for months to reach a new relief deal. Each passing

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## CHELSEA

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Temporary Closures on Route 1 Southbound and Arlington Street

During the weeks of December 7 and December 14, there will be nightly weekday closures of Route 1 Southbound Monday through Friday each week from 9PM to 5AM. The detour for those closures will be that southbound traffic will exit Route 1 at Carter Street, travel on Carter Street to Everett Avenue, turn left onto Everett Avenue, and turn right onto

the Everett Avenue on-ramp to rejoin the highway.

- December 2020 Local Street Closures

In addition, from Monday, December 7 through Friday, December 11 there will be full daytime closures of Arlington Street where it passes under the viaduct from 7AM to 3PM.

TRAVEL TIPS

Drivers should take

care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones. For additional information, please see <https://www.mass.gov/tobin-bridgechelsea-curves-rehabilitation-project>

Dedicated bus lane to start on Mystic/Tobin Bridge this Monday

Staff Report

The heavily-used 111 bus route will become the most prioritized route in the MBTA system starting on Monday when a 1.1 mile dedicated bus lane from Chelsea to Charlestown begins on the Mystic/Tobin Bridge – a pilot program brought on by the threat of a lawsuit that will also be accompanied by transit priority improvements on either side of the Bridge.

The MBTA and Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Highway Division announced the 1.1 mile dedicated bus lane for southbound travel on the Tobin Bridge will open for use by public transportation buses on Monday, December 14. This 12-month southbound bus lane pilot, along with additional transit priority initiatives and improvements on Broadway in Chelsea and North Washington Street Charlestown/North End, makes the MBTA’s Route 111 bus route one of the most prioritized bus routes in the MBTA system.

“We are piloting the idea of a preferential lane for the MBTA’s 111 route and the lane’s success will be evaluated after collecting data on bus travel times, crowding, and ridership, along with how safe the dedicated lane is for all travelers,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack. “We’ve been pleased at how receptive in general that community members have been during the pandemic to rethinking how public space is used, and we believe this is an opportune time to try a dedicated lane for buses traveling southbound over the Tobin Bridge and toward City Square Tunnel.”

State Rep. Dan Ryan has been following the study of the lane, and was pleased to see it come sooner rather than later.

“I wholeheartedly support the pilot initiative by the MBTA regarding the Tobin Bridge bus lanes and for continuing to prioritize the 111 as one of the most critical routes in the system,” he said. “I also want to acknowledge our municipal partners on both ends of the Tobin for prioritizing public transit and creating dedicated bus lanes throughout this part of the system. We are starting to transform how we look at our streets and how they work for people. This pilot program is a big step.”

The study of such a lane began last summer by DOT and the region-



al planning consortium, but it was hastened by the threat of a lawsuit by Conservation Law Foundation (CLF). That lawsuit was centered on restoring the HOV land on I-93 southbound, which was taken away as part of mitigation for the Mystic/Tobin Bridge repair project. As part of the settlement though, CFL was able to get the bus lane put into place immediately.

“Now is the time to improve transit options and avoid the gridlock that plagued our region before the pandemic,” said Staci Rubin, Senior Attorney at CLF. “Reinstating the HOV lane and committing to pilot bus lanes on both I-93 and the Tobin Bridge will drastically improve commute times and protect the health of overburdened communities like Chelsea and Somerville. By law, Massachusetts must prioritize bus riders and carpoolers on I-93 to address climate change, pollution, and congestion, and this settlement will hold our leaders accountable.”

Said Maria Belen Power of GreenRoots, “This settlement represents a significant victory for our communities. We are particularly thrilled by MassDOT’s commitment to invest in a bus lane pilot on the Tobin Bridge. We expect the pilot to last at least one year followed by a permanent lane. We know it will be successful! Coupled with other bus lanes in the region such as the one recently implemented in Chelsea, we know it will significantly improve public transit, in particular those who depend on the 111. We applaud the Conservation Law Foundation and their tireless work towards protecting our public health and quality of life.”

Supporting public health and COVID-19 recovery, the MBTA’s Rapid Response Bus Lane program has identified corridors like the areas where Route 111 operates as these routes have seen some of the highest rates of bus ridership since March and experience above-average chronic delay. As of November 2020, Route 111’s cur-

rent ridership is about 73 percent of its pre-COVID levels for the same time period, ranking Route 111 among one of the highest ridership routes in the MBTA bus system (third highest).

Extending 1.1 miles, the dedicated all-day bus lane exclusive to Bus Route 111 begins after the Everett Avenue on-ramp merge in Chelsea and extends across the Tobin Bridge, ending just before the City Square Tunnel in Charlestown. Dedicated bus lanes can reduce crowding on buses and also limit the amount of time riders spend in close proximity to others while on the bus. In some cases, bus lanes can improve service frequency to further mitigate crowded conditions.

This dedicated lane on the Tobin Bridge joins other recent transit priority initiatives directly benefitting Route 111, including:

- Recent transit priority infrastructure improvements on Washington Avenue and Broadway in Chelsea as part of the Rapid Response Bus Lane program,

- A bus-bicycle lane on North Washington from Causeway Street to Valenti Way implemented in September 2019 that provides bus priority from the North Washington Street Bridge to Haymarket Station,

- Advancing plans to include an outbound bus lane on North Washington Street through the Rapid Response Bus Lane program and the City of Boston’s Healthy Streets initiative, and

- An inbound bus lane included in the final design of MassDOT’s project to reconstruct the North Washington Street Bridge between Charlestown and the North End, which is anticipated to be complete in 2023.

The pilot will be in place for one year with the bus lane’s performance analyzed for metrics that include travel time, operations, crowding, and ridership. Roadway and vehicle data analysis will also take place with roadway operations being monitored for vehicle volumes, travel time, and safety.

DiDomenico announces strong Fiscal Year 2021 budget

Sen. Sal DiDomenico recently joined with his colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature in passing a Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) budget to invest in programs and services across the Commonwealth. Funded at \$46.2 billion, the budget aims to address the sweeping effects of the global pandemic and makes targeted investments in Senator DiDomenico’s top priorities, including housing, food security, early education, children and families, and public health.

“Despite these unprecedented times, I am confident that the Fiscal Year 2021 budget we put forth is a strong and compassionate one; one that meets many of our most pressing needs, centers our most vulnerable populations, and moves our entire Commonwealth towards an equitable recovery,” said Senator Sal DiDomenico. It makes critical investments in sectors most severely impacted by COVID-19 and focuses on many of the areas that have been my greatest concern throughout the course of this pandemic, including food security, housing supports, childcare, and public health. I know that in the Senate, each Senator had a voice in crafting our budget, and I am truly grateful to Senate President Karen Spilka and Senate Ways & Means Chair Michael Rodriguez for ensuring that many of our community’s most urgent needs were included in this final FY21 budget.”

Continuing the Legislature’s support of targeted investments in education, this budget provides \$5.283 billion in Chapter 70 education funding, an increase of \$107.6 million over Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20). The education budget allocations include:

- \$53 million in COVID-related student supports;
- \$345.2 million for Circuit Breaker Special Education reimbursement;
- \$117 million for Charter School Reimbursement; and
- \$82 million for Regional School Transportation reimbursement.

Due to the pandemic, access to safe and affordable housing for many families across the Commonwealth has taken on new urgency. This budget makes targeted investments into rental and housing assistance to support families, tenants and property owners during this time of crisis:

- \$180 million for Emergency Assistance Family Shelters;
- \$135 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP);
- \$50 million for Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT), as well as emergency changes to the RAFT program to increase the maximum amount of rental assistance that a household can receive from \$4,000 to \$10,000 and allow eligible households facing a housing crisis to access both RAFT and HomeBASE;
- \$80 million for public housing subsidies;
- \$56 million for homeless individual shelters;
- \$13 million for homeless student transportation;

- \$12.5 million for the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP), which provides rental assistance to people with disabilities;
- \$11 million for Department of Mental Health Rental Subsidy Program; and
- \$8 million for unaccompanied homeless youth.

Throughout the pandemic, Senator DiDomenico has worked on legislation to provide additional protections for renters and struggling homeowners to help stave off an eviction crisis. This budget includes many of reforms that Senator DiDomenico advocated for, including a new requirement ensuring tenants facing eviction better understand their rights.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the many housing challenges our Commonwealth and our district have long experienced, but now we face an eviction crisis we have never before seen,” said DiDomenico. “I’m pleased this budget includes investments in key housing security programs, but I am especially encouraged by the language regarding “Notice to Quit” incorporated into the budget, which would require landlords to provide a form with information related to the eviction process and resources for tenants. I have been advocating for this Notice to Quit policy since the start of the pandemic to ensure that renters know their rights if and when facing eviction, and I am very pleased it has been included in our budget.”

Food insecurity has become one of the most prevalent consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, affecting children, adults and seniors alike. To that end, the conference report prioritizes access to food resources across the Commonwealth. Food insecurity investments include:

- \$30 million for the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program;
- \$13 million in Healthy Incentives Programs to ensure vulnerable households have continued access to food options during the pandemic; and
- \$1.2 million for Project Bread to support the Child Nutrition Outreach Program and the Food Source Hotline.

The budget also includes Senator DiDomenico’s amendment requiring the Baker Administration to move forward with the creation of a SNAP Common Application program to connect eligible MassHealth/Medicare recipients with federal nutritional benefits. This amendment was modeled off of legislation the Senator sponsors to close the “SNAP Gap” in Massachusetts.

The budget builds on the Legislature’s commitment to ensuring all children have access to high-quality early education and care (EEC) during this pandemic. As a longtime champion of early education in the Commonwealth, Senator DiDomenico spoke during the Senate chamber’s debate about the major investments the budget makes in the childcare industry, and the long-term

impact these investments will have for both providers and families. The budget includes \$25 million for a new Early Education and Care Workforce and COVID-19 Supports Reserve to provide classroom stabilization grants, incentive pay for providers, and support for increased operational costs due to COVID-19. In addition, the budget invests in those who work with children by increasing rates for early education providers by \$20 million and provides \$40 million for a new reserve to cover parent fees for families receiving subsidized childcare for the remainder of FY21. The budget also includes the following EEC investments and initiatives:

- \$15 million for Head Start grants;
- \$10 million for EEC Workforce Higher Education Opportunities;
- \$2.5 million in early childhood mental health grants;
- \$11 million for childcare resource and referral agencies; and
- Establishes the Early Education and care Economic review commission to review childcare funding and make recommendations on policy changes to expand access.

Highlighting the urgent need to strengthen public health infrastructure at the local, state and regional level to combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the budget includes targeted investments aimed at redoubling our efforts and pushing forward with a proactive public health response to defeat this virus and its many consequences. The budget includes:

- \$10 million for grants to support local boards of health to combat COVID-19;
- \$1 million for a COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan program, focused on equitable vaccine distribution;
- \$50M for domestic violence prevention services; and
- \$169M for Bureau of Substance Addiction Services to provide assistance to those who are battling substance addiction.

Additional programs and services prioritized by Senator DiDomenico include:

- \$ 46 million for Adult Basic Education Services;
- \$20 million for summer jobs for at-risk youth;
- \$29M for civil legal aid;
- \$35.4M for early intervention services, and Senator DiDomenico’s amendment providing \$4.1M to mitigate fluctuations in services and costs caused by COVID-19 pandemic;
- \$6.5M for pediatric palliative care;
- \$350/child for the TAFDC clothing allowance;
- \$510K for Safe and Supportive Schools;
- \$1.8M for Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs and the Alliance of YMCAs;
- \$250K for Operation A.B.L.E., employment training services for workers over the age of 45; and
- \$250K for housing relief to the cities of Everett and Chelsea.

This legislation is now before Governor Baker for his signature.



# Kettles/

Continued from page 1

and families continues in 2021.

“It’s the time to give back,” said Robinson. “I think it’s our duty to step up and help those less fortunate than we might be.

If everyone gave a dollar or two, think of how much that would equal. We can forgo a coffee or a pack of cigarettes to donate this year to a worthy cause.”

The Red Kettle fund-

raisers will be at Market Basket through the holiday season, but donations can also be made online at [www.salvationarmy-wpa.org/RescueChristmas](http://www.salvationarmy-wpa.org/RescueChristmas).



Councillor Leo Robinson, Capt. Isael Gonzalez and City Manager Tom Ambrosino.



Capt. Isael Gonzalez, Capt. Sally Warren, Capt. Steve Warren (both of Canton), and Capt. Brenda Gonzalez.



Former City Councillor Joe Perlatonda makes his donation while Councilor Leo Robinson rings the bell.



Capt. Isael Gonzalez, Councillor Leo Robinson, Capt. Brenda Gonzalez, Former Councillor Joe Perlatonda, and Officer Sammy Mojica.



Edith Zavala, Capt. Brenda Gonzalez, Todd Kulakowski of Market Basket, Officer Sammy Mojica, Aracely Gamboa and Dennis Gonzalez of Market Basket.



Aracely Gamboa shook a tambourine to grab attention at the Market Basket last Friday to help raise money for the local site on Chestnut Street.

Jolly Old Saint Nick won't be making any appearances for photos this year

But the Holiday Spirit is alive and well!

Join Us in sharing old photos with Santa Claus!

Photos of Christmases Past and Photos of your Holiday Spirit from the comforts of home


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DEADLINE TO SUBMIT FRI. DEC. 18th

PHOTOS TO BE PUBLISHED WEDS. DEC. 23rd






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LFCL / Continued from page 1

kind on the market. They provide a unified respiratory system that makes it easy to switch and customize therapies, creating a simple system to use and manage. Most importantly, these ventilators offer greater mobility, enhancing the quality of life for residents.

The extreme isolation typically affecting people on vents is eliminated at the Center. Instead, residents actively socialize and interact with other residents, staff, and visitors.

Beyond that, residents on vents have gone camping, attended Disney World and even produced a full, award-winning film using only eye movement technology.

The situation came about when the Commonwealth of Massachusetts reached out to Chelsea Jewish to see if they had any room for expansion, and if they could make it happen.

“The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has always had a great deal of respect for the work we do at the Leonard Florence Center for Living,” said Berman. “When they reached out to us, we were very happy to accommodate them and open up 20 beds for individuals living on ventilators.”

Berman explained that Bill Stein and his family

were instrumental in creating the McDonald House – a home that treats New York residents with ALS in Chelsea. He has been a benefactor of that effort, and others, for years with only a gentleman’s agreement, Berman said. Though the Stein family did not ask for it, it was precisely why Berman said the new vent house had to carry their name.

“In this line of work, so many who give are quick to want to know where their name will be etched and what the size of the letters will be and how often it will be cleaned,” said Berman. “What made Bill happy and Sharon happy was to see the philanthropy in motion and see the lives changed by their gifts. That’s why we are naming this the Stein Family Center for Well-Being and that’s because we feel the residents will have a sense of well-being and there is no reason I could think of that’s better than that.”

Bill Stein spoke via Zoom at the online ceremony last Thursday and said they have enjoyed seeing the Leonard Florence go from a 10-bed pioneering treatment center to the pre-eminent skilled nursing care facility in the country.

“When you see the residents living a full and productive life despite the



Barry Berman of Chelsea Jewish Life Care spoke about the first patients on ventilators 10 years ago and the amazing journeys they have taken since arriving.

circumstances they face, it really puts it into perspective,” said Stein.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino joined in from his office via Zoom, and he said he was very happy to welcome the new residents in the Stein Family Center to Chelsea, where they will get great care.

“I want to welcome you to our vibrant and culturally diverse community, and I want to welcome you to a skilled-nursing facility that is like no other in America and where you will be able to live your life to the fullest,” he said.

The ceremony concluded with a countdown and an online ribbon cutting where a few were at the facility and everyone else watched.



Executive Director Michael McCarthy.



Adam Berman, president of Chelsea Jewish Life Care.



City Manager Tom Ambrosino welcomed the new residents to Chelsea and to the Stein Family Center.




COO Betsy Mullen recalled the first resident on Feb. 23, 2010.




Bill Stein said he and his family were honored to help make lives more fulfilling.



State Health Secretary Marylou Sudders praised the work and the expansion at the Leonard Florence.




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Amy Meisner was diagnosed with MS in 1997. For someone who has always danced, MS would seem like the end. But for Amy, it means the start of a new chapter. She'll never leave the floor, still dances from her wheelchair, and is a great choreographer. Embracing Amy's ending passion, the National MS Society teamed up with LaTonya Swann to create an entirely new and inspired dance experience through virtual reality. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at [WeAreStrongerThanMS.org](https://www.nationalmssociety.org/WeAreStrongerThanMS).

Together We Are Stronger.



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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

PLANS FOR PIERS PARK PHASE III DISCUSSED

East Boston - Two years ago, the Massachusetts Trustees of Reservation (MTR) submitted the only bid to Massport’s call for a private/public partner to come forward and help fund the design and construction of Piers Park Phase III.

The dilapidated pier adjacent to Massport’s award-winning Piers Park and the future Piers Park Phase II is being eyed by Massport as the future site of a third waterfront park.

Last week, MTR’s Nick Black and Amy Eynatian briefed residents on where Massport and the MTR are in the process.

“We’re going around talking to a number of neighborhood associations about our plans,” said Black. “The reason why we’re here tonight is an effort that we’ve been working on for about three or four years now

to do something different and create something new within the City of Boston. What we’re really trying to do is create a network of green public open space that is an iconic world class type of destination--a park that really supports the community’s needs and provides access to the waterfront in a public way. We’re also trying to really bring some value to Boston’s climate resiliency goals and the issues we face in terms of storm surge and sea level rise. We’re all trying to do this in a financially feasible manner which would be great.”

MTR operates 120 miles of protected coastline, which includes over 60 miles of trails, and a bunch of beaches and all sorts of other natural habitats in the state.

Black said Massport has been working with the community and other stakeholders over the last two to three years to build out Piers Park Phase

II. It was around this time Black said the MTR started having conversations with Massport about their waterfront initiative.

“A number of years ago we talked about the possibility of what would happen with Phase III, which is this rotted-out pier that sticks off the end of Piers Park. For us it’s a really amazing location. It’s centrally located right in the heart of the harbor and we think it could provide a really great connection point between East Boston and the city as a whole. It also has a fantastic history.”

Black said MTR spent a lot of 2019 working with Massport and others to really investigate the site and understand what the conditions were so MTR could start to piece together what the possibilities would be for a waterfront park that is active and engaging.

“So one of the places that we turn to for inspiration is Brooklyn Bridge Park,” said Black. “For

those of you who may not have been there this is a series of five piers along the Brooklyn waterfront that overlooks the skyline in Manhattan. There’s a lot of similarities between what you see in this old industrial waterfront (in Eastie) and Brooklyn. Unfortunately we only have one pier to work with, not five.”

Black said as a result MTR really started to focus on what New Yorkers call Pier One in Brooklyn Bridge Park.

“This park is actually built into the footprints of the old pier that offers a wide variety of experiences for people and is a really close comparison to what we have opportunity wise at Piers Park Phase III,” said Black. “So this is really where we started our thinking in terms of what we would like to see happen at this location in East Boston.”

Black said MTR is looking to build a park that’s both robust and resilient in Eastie.

“And what that means to us is that it can stand up to the elements,” said Black. “We’ve seen a lot of issues with not only storm surges in increasing frequency but also tidal flooding that’s happening on a regular basis, both in East Boston and across the city. The situation is probably just going to get worse. So we have to build a place, mindful of all of those challenges and also a place that can redevelop some of the ecology along the coast.”

Black said MTR will start a community process to bring the community together to build this park.

“We have a few ideas in terms of the direction that we want to go but

we’re very excited about the community process to really start and have conversations with people in terms of what they would want to see there,” he said. “You’ll probably start to see a lot of us over the coming weeks. We’re going to try to be a presence here as much as possible, because we want to really hear from folks who would use this park.”

Eynatian, who is a Project Manager for the Waterfront Initiatives at MTR and an Eagle Hill resident, said the design phase for the future park will take the better part of the next year.

“We want to make sure we really have a chance to hear from the community about what you’d like to see happen there so if the design can reflect that,” said Eynatian. “So things like, what type of programming you’d be interested in, what kind of concerns you might have about the project as well as increasing access to the water so there’s a way for residents to come down and really engage with the harbor at the park.”

Eynatian said MTR will be hosting a series of larger community meetings where MTR will invite residents to hear a little bit more about the project in more detail.

“This will give us the opportunity to really give folks a chance to engage in conversation about what you’d like to see at a new, free, open public park in East Boston,” she said.

The first in a series of meetings MTR is planning to host will be in January.

“So as the year goes on, I’m hoping that in the summer we can do some more creative in-person

programs,” said Eynatian. “We’re hopeful to be able to get out and engage with you in person but in the meantime we’ll be doing a lot of different virtual opportunities and putting together some different ways to give us feedback. This is so folks can either join us live in meetings or give us feedback to make sure we can gather input from as many folks as we can.”

BOARD MEMBERS SOUGHT

East Boston - Since 2017, the City of Boston has been creating neighborhood solutions to coastal flooding from sea level rise and storms in East Boston. This Climate Ready East Boston initiative focuses on locations that face risks from coastal flooding and sea level rise and have identified short- and long-term solutions to protect the neighborhood.

In the latest study, the city worked in partnership with local residents, businesses, and regional partners to find coastal resilience solutions for Jeffries Point, Maverick, Central Square, and Lower Eagle Hill.

Now, the city’s Climate Ready East Boston is switching focus to other areas in the neighborhood that are threatened by climate change and are looking for residents interested in joining the Community Advisory Board.

According to the city’s Climate Resilience Program Coordinator Peyton Siler Jones residents interested can fill out the online application at <https://tinyurl.com/ClimateReadyEastieApplication> through Dec. 7.

See REGION Page 9

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# SANTA VISITS ON A FIRE TRUCK

VISITA DE SANTA EN UN CARRO DE BOMBEROS

Made possible thanks to the Chelsea Fire Department, Chelsea Prospers, Chelsea Recreation & Cultural Affairs Division, Chelsea Chamber of Commerce and Mass Health Connector

# SANTA VISITS ON A FIRE TRUCK

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Region / Continued from Page 8

Jones said this planning process will expand the city’s analysis to additional areas not covered in the prior phase.

“Basically, this is a really similar process to the process covered back in 2017,” said Jones. “We’re basically just looking at a different part of the neighborhood’s geography, but it’s really similar in that we’re looking at the location of flooding and going through a community engagement process to identify design solutions for mitigating the impacts of sea level rise and climate change.”

Jones said the new geographic area that the city is looking at now is the Chelsea Creek, the Belle Isle Marsh, Constitution Beach and Wood Island.

“These are the parts of East Boston that kind of wrap around the neighborhood,” said Jones. “So we want to work with the community, and Massport, along this area of the neighborhood that kind of wraps around back to where the Jeffries Point study happened in the first phase.”

Jones said the climate team wants to create the advisory board to include more opportunity for neighborhood input and feedback.

“We heard feedback after the first study that residents wanted to see even more opportunity for community engagement and a more community driven process,” said Jones. “And we took that to heart and adapted our scope of work. So now we have this Community Advisory Board, which will be part of the project team to really help us identify the best engagement solution with a particular focus on racial equity in the context of COVID-19.”

Jones said any member of the community can apply to be an advisory board member.

“We encourage anyone and everyone who’s interested to apply,” she said. “We are estimating about 10 folks would be picked, although there’s some flexibility there. We may have up to 12 or 13 members.”

Jones said the role of the advisory board will be to help city planners drive the agenda and engage the community on coastal resiliency.

“The advisory board will be an important voice in the conversation,” said Jones. “We really want to have the members be the leaders on how we think

about community engagement around design scenarios and design alternatives when it comes to sea level rise and coastal flooding in this geographic area. Should we have a landscape berm? Should we create a seawall? The board will be working through those different alternatives with the underlying objective of really increasing transparency in city planning and how residents can be involved.”

However, once the board is in place the process may look a lot different than it did in 2017 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“So after the advisory board is in place it’s will look a lot different than the initial meetings in 2017-2018 where there was a real hands on approach of walking the Greenway with groups of activists and environmentalists in the neighborhood,” said Jones. “I think one thing we’re exploring is how we create as many educational opportunities that were so valuable to the community a few years back when we started the process.”

Jones said this may include uploaded video walking tours of the areas in focus, photos, history of the areas and other tools that can be interactive while remaining virtual.

COUNCILOR NAPOLITANO RESIGNS SEAT

EVERETT - Councilor Peter Napolitano confirmed late Tuesday that he has submitted his letter of resignation from the City Council, and will apply for the recently-opened Assistant City Clerk position.

“I have submitted my resignation and plan on issuing a statement in my own words addressing the situation this week,” he said. “I’m confident where I stand with the City and I’m more than ready to do the job and have a great working relationship with (City Clerk) Sergio Cornelio. I’ve lived in Everett 63 years and I’m not ready to go away. I’m anxious to continue to be of service.”

Napolitano said it was time to take a new direction, and that was particularly made clear after he and his entire family became ill with COVID-19 in October. He said that was a deciding moment, and after 20 years on the Council he was ready to make a change.

As of the close of business on Tuesday, he was no

longer a councilor, which he said was tough to grasp after so many years. Napolitano was often controversial on the Council and was the one that made the biggest push to change the City Charter and get away from the bi-cameral system. He said he had to announce the resignation at this time in order to be out of office 30 days, which is required before applying for a City job.

OWENS MOVERS SELLS BUILDING

EVERETT - The longtime Owens Movers company has sold its building in the Commercial Triangle area of the city recently to Boston commercial real estate company Oliver Street Capital.

The transaction for 44-48 Garden St. came in at \$15 million for the property, which has been in the Owens family for years and leases to the scene shop for the Huntington Theatre Company – among others.

Eddie Owens Jr., chief financial officer of the company, did not return a phone call from the Independent for comment.

Oliver Street Capital was founded in downtown Boston in 2014 by Jonathan Hyde and Jonathan O’Donnell. Their company strategy is “a value based real estate investment manager focused on acquiring and managing high quality commercial and residential real estate investments.”

Neither Hyde nor O’Donnell returned e-mails seeking comment on the purchase of the Owens Business Center.

The property has ongoing leases and it could be possible Oliver Street only intends to take an income investing approach to managing and operating the existing tenants. However, the area is rapidly changing and has seen several long-time industrial and/or commercial uses flip to residential or office. Research and Development is also a target for City Planners in the area, while the old industrial uses are now being discouraged under the 2019 Commercial Triangle Redevelopment Plan.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria said he was encouraged by the sale and others that share his enthusiasm for the area.

“I am excited to see developers sharing my enthusiasm for the future development of the Commercial Triangle Area,” he said. “I appreciate the commitment that long standing businesses such as Owens

Movers have made to Everett and certainly hope that these deals are mutually beneficial to all parties. The changes that will be taking place in this part of our City will present new and different opportunities for economic growth. I look forward to these new development opportunities and appreciate the increasing recognition of Everett as a place where residents and businesses can grow and thrive.”

In February, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) honored the Owens family at their regular meeting in a spotlight on vendors who had benefitted from the casino introduction to the state.

Eddie Owens Jr. and Ed Owens both appeared and told the story of their company, which includes Henry Owens Jr. making the rare move in 1927 as a black man to open his own major moving company. Soon, they had become one of the top companies in the Boston area, and Ed Owens expanded the company when he took over to include more commercial accounts such as Raytheon and others.

The company had been located in Everett for decades and recently had found success in working for Encore Boston Harbor, and also in leasing out portions of their facility to organizations like the Huntington Theatre Company.

Letters / Continued from page 4

moment guarantees more job losses and a hamstrung recovery.

We urge you to finalize, pass and enact a COVID relief package into law this year. The time for federal relief and leadership is now.

**Asian American Hotel Owners Association**  
**Cecil Staton,**  
**President & CEO**

**American Apparel & Footwear Association**  
**Stephen Lamar,**  
**President & CEO**

**American Gaming Association**  
**Bill Miller,**  
**President & CEO**

**American Hotel & Lodging Association**  
**Chip Rogers,**  
**President & CEO**

**American Society of Association Executives**  
**Susan Robertson,**  
**President & CEO**

**Go LIVE Together Coalition**  
**Sue Sung, Director**

**International Council of Shopping Centers**  
**Tom McGee,**  
**President & CEO**

**International Franchise Association**  
**Robert Cresanti,**  
**President & CEO**

**National Association of Counties**  
**Matthew D. Chase,**  
**CEO/Executive Director**

**National Conference of State Legislatures**

**National Governors Association**  
**Bill McBride,**  
**Executive Director**

**National League of Cities**  
**Clarence E. Anthony,**  
**CEO & Executive Director**

**National Restaurant Association**  
**Tom Bené,**  
**President & CEO**

**National Retail Federation**  
**Matthew R. Shay,**  
**President & CEO**

**Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council**  
**Karen Kerrigan,**  
**President & CEO**

**Society of Independent Show Organizers**  
**David Audrain,**  
**Executive Director**

**The United States Conference of Mayors**  
**Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director**

**U.S. Travel Association**  
**Roger Dow,**  
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# Administration awards over \$4.7 million to support food security

The Baker-Polito Administration announced over \$4.7 million in grants to address urgent food insecurity for residents across the Commonwealth as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is being awarded as part of the fifth round of the new \$36 million Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program, created following recommendations from the Administration’s COVID-19 Command Center’s Food Security Task Force, which promotes ongoing efforts to ensure that individuals and families throughout the Commonwealth have access to healthy, local food.

“As Massachusetts residents celebrate Thanksgiving this week, we recognize that food insecurity remains a significant challenge for many families throughout the Commonwealth, making

our efforts to secure a resilient, diverse local food supply chain even more critical,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Through a \$56 million investment through our Food Security Task Force, our Administration is committed to investing in our local food infrastructure and ensuring a secure supply of food, which will enable us to ensure that families throughout Massachusetts can access local, nutritious food as they continue to meet the challenges created by the pandemic.”

The local awardees for the fifth round of the Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program include:

- Everett Community Growers, \$319, Funding will enable the organization to expand the availability of its products to low income individuals and families within the community by investing in equipment (a receipt printer) that enables SNAP/EBT payments to be directly made.
- Chelsea Public Schools, \$80,743, The Chelsea Public Schools will utilize program funding to enable the purchasing of new equipment and point of sale tablet technology, which will assist in food distribution through its grab and go meals program.
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, \$142,770, The funding will enable the organization to implement a Facility Adaption Project, which includes updates and adaptations to BGCB Clubs to prepare for the reopening and/or to safely conduct programming in order to provide services to youth during the 2020-21 program year.
- YMCA of Greater Boston, \$183,847, The funding will enable the YMCA of Greater Boston to establish mobile food

pantries to deliver food to underserved neighborhoods in Boston. The mobile food pantry will provide full-service food pantry operations and it will rotate on a weekly basis to deliver to as many neighborhoods as possible.

The goal of the Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program is to ensure that individuals and families throughout the Commonwealth have equitable access to food, especially local food. The program also seeks to ensure that farmers, fishermen and other local food producers are better connected to a strong, resilient food system to help mitigate future food supply and distribution disruption.

The fifth round of the grant program includes 54 awards for a total of \$4,742,293 to fund critical investments in technology, equipment, capac-

ity, and other assistance to help local food producers, especially in the distribution of food insecure communities. When evaluating the applications, considerations included equity, economic impact and need, sustainability and scalability of efforts, and ability to support producer readiness to accept SNAP and HIP benefits. In the program’s first four rounds, the Administration awarded over \$17.7 million to more than 137 recipients.

The Administration also announced the COVID-19 Command Center’s new food program for isolating and quarantining individuals in collaboration with local boards of health and the Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC), which invests nearly \$1.2 million to support residents in isolation. Communities across the Common-

wealth have developed innovative, local solutions to support families who are dealing with the direct impacts of COVID-19, for which access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food is crucial. For a portion of low-income households, and in certain geographic areas, food security remains a top concern while isolating. This new program will be coordinated with local health departments, the CTC, food pantries, municipalities, and other local partners to assess needs and gaps in service at the individual and community level, and develop and deploy local solutions to ensure the foods security needs of those isolating and quarantining can be met.

## OBITUARIES

### Brandy Bouche

Her lifelong physical challenges did not weaken her spirit or her zest for life

Brandy M. Bouche, 46, a lifelong Chelsea resident, passed away on Sunday, December 6 at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Brandy lived courageously with cerebral palsy for her entire life. Her lifelong physical challenges did not weaken her spirit or her zest for life. She enjoyed many simple pleasures in life, a car ride, listening to country music, mingling and socializing with family and friends or stopping by a fire station visiting with the local firefighters.

The beloved daughter of the late Mary E. (Frost) Bouche, she was the loving niece to her devoted aunt and guardian Sharon Frost of Chelsea, dear sister of Mark Bouche and his wife, Joyce of Saugus and the late William W. Bouche II; adored aunt of Marc, Jordan and Samantha Bouche and William IV and Dylan Bouche. She is also lovingly survived by many cousins, friends and extended family members.

Relatives and friends are most kindly invited to attend visiting hours at the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea today, Thursday,



December 10 from 4 to 7 p.m. A prayer service will be held during the visitation at 6 p.m. Services will then conclude in the funeral home.

All attendees are required to wear face coverings, practice physical distancing when greeting the family, pay their respects and exit the funeral home to allow other guests to enter.

We encourage family and friends who wish, to offer condolences at this time by means of the online guest book or to send a personalized sympathy card visit: [www.WelshFH.com](http://www.WelshFH.com)

Should friends desire, contributions in Brandy’s Name should be directed to United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Boston, 71 Arsenal St., Watertown, MA 02742.

Or visit <http://www.ucpboston.org/>

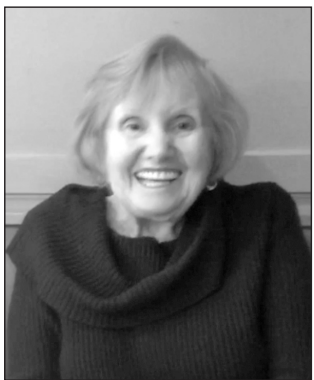
### Barbara Foresta

Of Chelsea, formerly of Florida

Barbara (Lavers Glennon) Foresta, 81, of Chelsea and formerly of Deerfield Beach, FL, passed from this life into the next on the 18th of November, 2020.

Barbara was the eldest daughter of Laura R. (Woodlock) Lavers and Leslie A. Lavers. A loving and devoted wife, Barbara was twice widowed and was predeceased by her husbands, Dennis F. Glennon and Robert M. Foresta. A beloved mother, Barbara is survived by her children, Laura Glennon of Chelsea, Judith Frazier and her partner, Scott Menowske of Winchester and (her favorite) son, John Glennon of Chelsea. Barbara was the loving grandmother of Jessica Vasquez, Alyssa Vozzella, Adrienne Morales and Cecilia Frazier and was predeceased by grandson, Jordan Robinson, with whom she shared a special bond. Barbara was an active and affectionate GG (Great-Grandmother) and will be greatly missed by her seven great-grandchildren. She was the dear sister of Estella

England and the late Joan Gallagher and cousin and best friend of Brenda K. Woodlock. Also remembering Barbara are her step-children: Robyn Foresta of New York and Christopher Foresta of Texas and their spouses



and children, her many brothers and sisters-in-law, Glennon and Foresta, and many, many nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, December 11 at 10 a.m. at St. Rose of Lima Church, 601 Broadway, Chelsea. Relatives and close friends are respectfully invited to attend the mass. Interment will be conducted at a later date. Please follow social distancing guidelines while attending this service. Please note that church capacity will be limited in accordance with these guidelines.

Barbara’s family is thankful for your condolences and wishes that you remain safe and avoid gatherings which may promote Covid transmission; consequently, a memorial service and celebration of Barbara’s life is planned post Covid.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Barbara’s name to an Alzheimer’s research charity of your choice.

## Chelsea man pleads guilty to 11 armed robberies

A Chelsea man pleaded guilty in federal court in Boston to robbing 11 convenience and variety stores in 2017 and 2018. At the time of the offenses the defendant was on federal supervised release after having had his federal sentence reduced following a Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) decision.

Rigoberto Ramirez, 47, pleaded guilty on Nov. 19, 2020 to 11 counts of armed robbery, one count of conspiracy to commit armed robbery, and one count of using and carrying a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence. U.S. Senior District Court Judge Douglas P. Woodlock scheduled sentencing for March 22, 2021. Ramirez was arrested on March 28, 2019.

Between Dec. 9, 2017 and Jan. 24, 2018, a group of at least four individuals, including Ramirez, conspired to rob, and did rob, 10 convenience and variety stores in the greater Boston area, and attempted to rob another store. During a Jan. 8,

2018 robbery, a firearm was discharged.

Ramirez was sentenced to 12 years in prison following a conviction for distribution of cocaine base and conspiracy in in 2011, although that sentence was subsequently reduced to time served in 2016 based on a 2015 Supreme Court decision.

Each count of armed robbery and conspiracy to commit armed robbery carries a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charge of using a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence carries a minimum mandatory sentence of five years and up to life in prison, which must run consecutively to any other sentence imposed, up to five years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

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PEARL HARBOR REMEMBERED DURING CEREMONY IN CHARLESTOWN

It was a busy week in the Navy Yard for the USS Constitution and the USS Cassin Young with sailors decorating Old Ironsides with holiday decorations, and then also being on the Cassin Young Dec. 7 to commemorate the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. On Dec. 7, they commemorated the 79th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, recognizing a tragic day in the nation's and U.S. Navy's history. Guest speaker was Michael Creasey, National Park Service of Boston Superintendent, and Religious Program Specialist Chief Select Jesse Kiepper.



Religious Program Specialist Chief Select Jesse Kiepper.



Guest Speaker Michael Creasey, National Park Service of Boston Superintendent.



Taps was played by a member of the Charlestown ROTC.



The memorial wreath is tossed overboard into the ocean.



Ship Commander John Benda, NPS of Boston Supt. Michael Creasey and Constitution Museum Director Ann Grimes Rand pose before the wreath to commemorate Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7. The ceremony was held on the USS Cassin Young.



One of the sailors on the USS Constitution decorates the historic ship this week for the holidays.

COVID-19 has changed everything.

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Jolly Old Saint Nick won't be making any appearances for photos this year

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DEADLINE TO SUBMIT FRI. DEC. 18th

PHOTOS TO BE PUBLISHED WEDS. DEC. 23rd