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35 CENTS

Former councillor looking at Chelsea through a new lens

By Cary Shuman

For eight years, Matt Frank was an eloquent and forceful advocate for the residents of District 3 as their city councillor. His colleagues honored his dedication and excellent leadership by electing him to one-year terms as president and vice president of the City Council.

Frank was a champion for Chelsea. He was accessible to his constituents, represented himself and the Council professionally at social events, and truly enjoyed his vital role as a councillor.

Frank, 39, is now expressing himself and his love of Chelsea through his photographs, the creativity and imagination of which have caught the eye of local residents.

A professional photographer, Frank is showcasing 12 images at an exhibit at the Chelsea City Hall Gallery titled, Chelsea Perseverance: A Year in Photos.

Frank's twelve photos capture Chelsea people and scenes during the past twelve months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Instead of a sad scene, the photos depict a happy scene – it's the people of Chelsea persevering through hard times, people basically having a good time while they're chipping in to help other people," said Frank, a 2005 graduate of Salem State University with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor in Constitutional History.

The reaction to Frank's artistry has been very positive from people who have seen his exhibit in person and those individuals who appear in his photos. One powerful photo in the exhibit features City Council Vice President Judith Garcia as the New England Patriots' truck delivers supplies to Chelsea residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I know Matt was highlighting a lot of folks in the community who were serving during a dire time and I'm so excited to be a part of the photo exhibit," said Garcia. "It's been nice to see his work and his artistic side throughout these months, so I'm incredibly proud of him and the work that he's doing. His photographs are always amazing."

GreenRoots Executive Director Roseann Bon-giovanni and Associate

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THANK YOU, EASTER BUNNY



The Easter Bunny presents Kevin Guarado with a nice Easter basket on Thursday, April 1, at La Colaborativa's Easter Distribution. The Easter Bunny set up just ahead of the food lines and children were allowed to visit him and get one Easter basket – giving kids who have been through so much a reason to smile. The event was organized by Councilor Melinda Vega Maldonado and School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia, along with many volunteers, and mirrored a similar large event from Christmas. See page 6 for more photos.

Gov. Baker announces mobile vaccination effort for Chelsea

By Seth Daniel

Gov. Charlie Baker was the most recent elected official to tour the La Colaborativa/East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) vac-

ination site last Thursday, April 1, where he held his COVID press briefing and announced a mobile vaccination program for Chelsea.

Gov. Baker toured the 6th Street Food Pantry



PHOTO BY DAR DEVITA

DREAM COME TRUE: Gov. Charlie Baker and La Colaborativa Director Gladys Vega give an elbow bump last Thursday, April 1, at La Colaborativa's Broadway offices – after the governor toured the vaccine site there and gave his weekly press briefing. Vega praised the governor for responding so quickly to funding Chelsea when the federal delegation wasn't able to deliver necessary funding to the City through last month's Rescue Plan.

with Health Secretary Marylou Sudders and other elected officials before coming to the vaccination site on Broadway to see the operations and give the weekly press briefing.

There, he announced that due to the partnership with the federal FEMA program at the Hynes Convention Center mass vaccination site – announced last week – they would be able to stand up mobile units that would come to Chelsea, Revere, Boston, Fall River and New Bedford.

"Our collaboration with the feds gives us the chance to create a hub and spoke model which means a portion of the vaccine we get from that central hub can be distributed to mobile vaccination units in nearby communities and pop-up clinics with a focus on vaccine equity," he said. "Starting next week we'll be working with local communities to launch mobile vaccination clinics in Chelsea, Revere, Boston, Fall River and New Bedford... These cities

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New Normal

Area hospitals treat virus as routine

By Seth Daniel

Every few months now it seems there is a "surge" of COVID-19 cases, and everyone worries aloud about a repeat of what happened here one year ago. In the community, it's a constant concern for people as they see case numbers go up and down and up again.

However, in the Emergency Department at CHA Everett – and at many hospitals around the area – COVID has become just another type of illness that is being woven in with treatments for other things.

With a vaccine now being deployed, a better understanding of the virus, and more adherence to precautions, the shock and awe that exists in the community doesn't exist so much in the hospital and there is more acceptance in the hospital ranks of COVID becoming another sickness to be dealt with – along the lines of in-

fluenza.

"In the last couple of weeks what has happened is that maybe we're starting to see signs of what is in fact the new normal we've all talked about," said Dr. Melisa Lai-Becker, chief of the Emergency Department at CHA Everett. "We are in the mode of when you're here and have COVID-19 related symptoms or we admitted you because you're having congestive heart failure, now it's just routine – we test you for COVID and send off the test to find out... We weave COVID-19 into all the planning we're doing for care already."

Over the past two or three weeks, she said the Emergency Department could have a dozen to 20 patients with COVID-19 at any one time. Most of them are on the medical floor and the treatment is

See VIRUS Page 2

First students return to Chelsea Public Schools in re-opening plan

By Seth Daniel

Little Rebecca Guerra Ulloa pressed her face to the school bus as it rounded the corner and pulled into the parking lot of the Mary C. Burke Complex on Monday morning just around 8:30 a.m.

Anxious teachers – many of whom had not been back to their classrooms for more than a year since school shutdown for COVID-19 in 2020 – waited for their students coming off the bus.

Ulloa had never actually

been to a Chelsea school – having transferred in last year after COVID closed the schools. Though she had about a year of Chelsea schooling under her belt, she had never been in a Chelsea school.

She had never met her teacher, either, except on Zoom.

And so as the bus stopped, the first grader recognized her teacher and when the doors opened, she sprinted as fast as she could to give her teacher a fist bump and revel in

See SCHOOL Page 5



NOT HOLDING HER BACK!: First grader Rebecca Guerra Ulloa bolted out of the school bus on Monday at the Mary C. Burke Complex as one of the first students to return to school in-person in more than a year due to COVID-19. Students in special education plans or sub-separate classrooms were the first students in the district's plan to return to the buildings in the hardest hit community in Massachusetts. Interestingly, Ulloa had never been to the school in Chelsea despite having almost a year of schooling online under her belt. She had only met her teacher online via Zoom, and was so excited when she saw her, she ran at full speed from the bus.

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Autism Awareness a personal journey for Councillor Vega Maldonado

By Seth Daniel

It was at about six months that Councillor Melinda Vega Maldonado first begin to suspect something was different about her youngest son, Akyllis, now 4.

She began to think that he might have Autism, and it soon became a very difficult situation that she said has been overcome after advocacy and understanding and a speaking out against the stigma associated with Autism – especially in the LatinX community.

“I started seeing what I would say are red flags or things that made me think, ‘Hmmm, something is up here,’” she said. “One of the biggest challenges I had was to get him diagnosed early. In all my research, it said the earlier the diagnosis and interventions, the better the outcome. Autism is not curable, but there are supports and that is the best chance for success in their lives is to get help early on.”

That said, she said she got pushback early from her pediatrician and from family members as well. When she looked for support and help, it was hard to find at first. Being an outspoken activist for years though, she was certainly up for the fight and found success. Yet, she worries those with less of a voice, or those blanketed by the stigma in LatinX cultures might not find that early help.

“The stigma that comes with it and culture in the LatinX community that is that this is something that’s shamed and looked down on,” she said. “Even in my own household, I don’t know if everyone was prepared for what this meant in terms of a lifestyle for us. There were many tears and moments of desperation.”

Akyllis, who was diagnosed at 2 with Autism, didn’t babble as a baby, wouldn’t make eye contact, had trouble with loud noises, and didn’t talk until after age 2. In fact, Vega Maldonado recalled having to ask family members to whisper the ‘Happy Birthday’ song, and not to clap or cheer around him.

On Monday night at the



Councillor Vega Maldonado introduces the resolution with her son, Akyllis, on Monday.



Councillor Melinda Vega Maldonado presents her son, Akyllis (center), with a resolution from the Council proclaiming Autism Awareness Month. She is also pictured with her husband Jonathan Maldonado and their son, Armani. Akyllis was diagnosed with Autism at age 2. Behind her are Councillors Roy Avellaneda, Leo Robinson, Todd Taylor, Giovanni Recupero and Enio Lopez.

Council meeting, Councillor Vega Maldonado made history in bringing the first resolution to mark Autism Awareness Month – signified by the color blue. She said she wanted to draw attention to those with Autism like her son, and let people out there know that it’s okay and kids with Autism no reason to despair.

Nowadays, they have learned how to manage the “meltdowns” that sometimes occur, and are very mindful of defined triggers that will set off Akyllis. However, he talks and reads voraciously. With the help of a nurse from BMC, they have a plan and they do a lot of work to help him communicate his emotions.

“As soon as he talked, it was full-blown sentences,” she said. “He’s our

baby genius now.”

Lately, his interests are in planets, and he is very good at self-educating and learning things very fast. As a councillor, she said it’s an issue that is part of her private life, but one that she wants to use her platform as an elected official to spotlight – especially for those that might be struggling and need to know there is help out there.

“It’s very personal for me, but I think it’s necessary,” she said. “I know that Chelsea is majority LatinX and knowing my culture, this is something still viewed with so much stigma. We need to undo that and break these cycles and do what’s right by our children and for these children.

Virus/ Continued from page 1

not complicated and there are far-fewer patients in the ICU – and in fact on Monday there were no patients in the ICU with COVID-19 issues. That relative calm in the hospital treating cases of COVID-19 is in stark contrast to the reports of increased case numbers right now throughout Massachusetts and the East Coast – and the constant worry from so many that the horrors of April 2020 is a threat to repeat itself at any moment in 2021. Dr. Lai-Becker said they may not have all the answers, but there is so much better understanding of the sickness by those in the hospital and those in the public.

“I don’t feel we have all the answers as much as we’ve figured out what should be done,” she said. “A year ago we were wearing head-to-toe Tyvek suits, wiping down surfaces constantly and we were having trouble with PPE. Now we have wipes from our usual distributor and not homemade wipes. We seem to have enough in stock. People are wearing their usual work clothes to the hospital – meaning they’re wearing scrubs. It’s just standard now. You see it in the patients too. They come in and wear their masks. They’re very good about it.”

So, with that “new normal” of COVID treatment and reaction, it strikes a question up about what COVID is now. Though everyone must remain diligent in taking precautions to prevent it from spreading, perhaps it should no longer be viewed by the public as the killer it was when it presented itself to America one year ago.

The discussion amongst virologists and doctors and other health care workers, Dr. Lai-Becker said, is that COVID could be another type of sickness that will be with us for some time – like influenza. Are we experiencing a fourth surge, or like influenza, has COVID just mutated in the last year as influenza has mutated as well? It could be that we never get “rid” of COVID, but that we work moving ahead with prevention and understanding of what the virus is each year.

It’s a hard reality to grasp for those outside a medical setting, as everything has

been pointed with great energy at eliminating the virus. However, it might instead have become more of a seasonal flu scenario.

“There is a lot of talk about a fourth surge,” she said. “You know we have the vaccine. Maybe what this is developing into over time is a flu scenario. Technically, it’s still a pandemic. But you now have variants and we’ll address each of them. People ask if they’ll have to have a new vaccine every year. Maybe. There are all these different variants. We are already used to getting the flu shot every year. Viruses are good at mutating.”

•ANTI-BODY STUDIES REVEALED

Last June, about 8 percent of the hospital staff at CHA participated in a COVID-19 anti-body testing study – a study that potentially revealed who had been exposed to or infected with COVID whether they knew it or not. The body is known to develop anti-bodies for COVID-19 if a person has been exposed to or infected with the virus. So it was that within that small testing group, about 12 percent tested positive for anti-bodies. The meaning of that is still a little uncertain, but it shows that certainly more people in the hospital had COVID than was known in the early days of the virus in Greater Boston.

“When you extrapolate that backward and forward, though there were only 8 percent tested, it probably means that overall there were about 20 percent of us in June 2020 that had been exposed to or developed anti-bodies for COVID,” said Dr. Lai-Becker.

She said there are probably a lot of reasons, mostly though that testing wasn’t as prevalent and the understanding of the virus wasn’t as advanced yet.

“From a medical standpoint, it’s probably we were treating a lot of COVID patients and there was a lot of chance for exposure,” she said. “It probably also has something to do with PPE, which we hadn’t figured out that well yet. My own thought is there is no way we’ve had 20 percent of our staff with symptoms out from work. That probably also shows in all likelihood there’s been a lot of asymp-

tomatic people walking around.”

•SEASONAL ALLERGIES

The coming of seasonal allergies has presented a problem for patients coming to the Emergency Room and also for staff – as the symptoms cross over very closely to those of COVID-19. So it is that a lot more testing is going on for those that end up just having the usual seasonal allergies.

“We’ve have a lot of employees that need to get tested because of seasonal allergies that create symptoms,” she said.

•A BETTER FLU SHOT?

The advent of the COVID-19 vaccine has brought on the less-heralded perfection of using mRNA based methods for vaccination. The COVID vaccines are in fact the first mRNA-based vaccinations to be used on humans in large scale, though testing on that method of vaccine treatment has been ongoing for several years.

Now, with that process perfected, Dr. Lai-Becker said many in the medical and virology communities are wondering if it can be used to better predict how to best make the flu shot.

She said right now a lot of the annual flu shot is based on predictions that don’t always come true – at times the strain of the flu infecting the public is not the one that was contained in the flu shot. That’s because so often, providers have to have their flu shots by October and that means manufacturers have to begin making them in the summer. That leaves a lot of guess-work that many are wondering could be eliminated using the new techniques that gave the world COVID vaccines.

“Technically the flu is a pandemic,” she said. “For many years it’s something we’ve had a vaccine for. We went through the Swine Flu of 2009-2010. We created a new vaccine then. That’s where we are now. But now we have mRNA vaccines and DNA vaccines. It’s brought many to wonder if we can use the mRNA technology to make the flu vaccine more accurate.”

Frank/ Continued from page 1

Executive Director Marie Belen Power appear in a silhouetted photo that is featured on the exhibit poster. It was taken at sunset during the organization’s socially distanced community mural painting event last September.

Bongiovanni, who served on the Council with Frank, said concisely, “Matt’s fabulous. His photography is just stellar. It’s spectacular and it continues to get better and better over time. One of his photographs [of Chelsea Creek] was just featured in Newsweek so he’s making a name for himself.”

Bongiovanni also admires Frank’s generous spirit toward Chelsea.

“Matt is at all of the community events snapping pictures and he does this out of the goodness of his heart,” said Bongiovanni. “So much of his work is donated and given back to the community. I use his photographs quite a lot when I make presentations. He just has so many good photographs from different community events and meetings.”

While he’s becom-



Chelsea photographer Matt Frank is showcasing his photos in an art exhibit: Chelsea Perseverance – A Year In Photos – at the City Hall Gallery.

ing well known for his own unique perspectives through his camera, Frank greatly admires the work of other distinguished professionals in the field such as Chelsea photographer Darlene DeVita.

“She’s amazing,” said Frank. “She works on a completely different level from me. So if we’re talking professionalism, she’s on a completely different platform. She and her husband are the most amazing people. She’s

been so supportive of my work. She’s wonderful.”

Frank is currently working at the Chelsea Housing Authority as supportive services manager.

“I enjoy doing my bureaucratic work,” said Frank, adding that he will not be returning to the political arena as a candidate for office.

But his eye will still be on the city.

Frank began more seriously focusing on his previous hobby of photography three years ago.

“I had always been interested in photography but I always kind of the producer at events setting the scene and suggesting to people what photos were needed,” said Frank. “A couple of years ago I decided I needed something to relieve stress. I had some extra money and bought a more expensive camera – and people liked my photos and began buying them.”

Frank also licenses his images for business websites, billboards, and real estate firms. His company is called Matt Frank Photography.



Family members pose with Akyllis and Councillor Vega Maldonado during after the reading of the resolution on Monday.

Real Estate Transfers

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Nguyen, Hung P	66 Chester LLC	932 Broadway #209	\$459,900
Abrishami, Seyed M	66 Chester LLC	932 Broadway #213	\$315,000
Kennedy, Peter J	66 Chester LLC	932 Broadway #308	\$455,000
Calix, Aldo	66 Chester LLC	932 Broadway #401	\$575,000
Beacon Realty Group LLC	Grove Street RT	83 Grove St	\$585,000
Song, Jason	Garrity, Kerry A	56 Library St #3	\$260,000



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Council President blasts colleagues, activists for turning away zoning changes

By Seth Daniel

Council President Roy Avellaneda blasted his colleagues on Monday night at the City Council meeting for voting against Councillor Leo Robinson’s motion to reconsider zoning amendments that were voted down in the last month – saying many of them weren’t controversial and he had hoped to have a vigorous discussion on all of them in the March 22 meeting, but was instead blocked on false procedure.

Chief among his concerns were amendments in the residential neighborhood – proposed by the City Manager Tom Ambrosino – that would have allowed more density for increased housing production. Those amendments were controversial and drew the ire of housing and open space activists like Roseann Bongiovanni of GreenRoots – voices that helped to defeat the proposals in early March. Under the reconsideration on March 22, Avellaneda said he planned to introduce critical information showing many homes historically – more than 1,000, he said – had been built on much smaller lot sizes. However, he said he was blocked by improper use of procedure regarding the handout that contained the information – and then the reconsideration matter was quickly voted down.

“When my former colleague (Bongiovanni) comes up here and says she has a single family home and has a yard and isn’t it great her kids can play in the back – yea that’s great,” he said. “What she’s not talking about is when I helped her buy that house 12 years ago.. That single-family

home with a yard is now unattainable for 90 percent of the people living in Chelsea. You are creating an economic injustice. Single-family homes are going for \$550,000 and by saying ‘no’ to density, you think you’re helping? You’re not helping. You’re being irresponsible to our residents that want to live here. The density they approved 50 years ago is what is affordable to our families today...(What happened March 22) was a mistake. It was a mistake what happened here.”

Beyond the change in zoning density, Avellaneda and Robinson were advocating for the Mixed-Use Overlay District in the industrial areas west of Chelsea High School – particularly at the Stop & Shop. That district was voted down due to it being lumped together with all the other changes, and its reconsideration was blocked March 22. On Monday, Ambrosino re-introduced it and it now goes through the long journey once again at the Planning Board and public hearings.

The chief concern is that the Stop & Shop is being demolished and a large mixed-use development is being built there in its place – a project already approved in Everett. On the Everett side of the property, the zoning is more favorable to the developer, and the object of the Overlay District was to try to salvage lost tax dollars as the buildings shifted more to the Everett side and less to the Chelsea side. When the store was built in 1999, former City Manager Jay Ash was able to convince the company to build on the Chelsea side and keep the parking lot on the Everett side – allowing Chelsea to

reap lucrative tax dollars. Avellaneda said by turning down reconsideration of that, Chelsea might have lost 145 affordable housing units and large amounts of property taxes.

“I tried to stress this, but this Council voted ‘no’ to affordable housing and ‘no’ to all these tax dollars,” he said. “When they go forward, they’re going to tear down the Stop & Shop and build everything on the Everett side. I don’t know if there’s time to salvage it, but developers do what they want...When I get a packet from the City Manager for all these expenditures for beautification, for scholarships and for senior citizens...and you say ‘no’ to a mixed-use overlay, you have to come back and connect the dots. If you say ‘no’ to that, then don’t come back here asking for money.”

Finally, he said he was upset by not being able to share information with the Council – as it was a simple handout that the body ruled out of order and a ‘Late Communication.’

“What I expected is we would have a debate and a discussion about all these items under reconsideration,” he said. “I had information and I wanted my colleague to have information – a handout. When we have meetings we get handouts all the time and they’re not considered communications.”

The zoning density for housing matters have not been proposed again by Ambrosino, as he said he was not “tone deaf” to the outcry against them. However, he has re-proposed the zoning changes for the mixed-use overlay and another commercial zoning change in Park Square.

PEOPLE OF CHELSEA

Sonny Lepore

(The following is one in a series of sneak peeks at the upcoming People of Chelsea additions by Photographer Darlene DeVita. The new work will ultimately appear on the fence of the Chelsea Public Library (CPL) this fall in a collaboration between the People of Chelsea project and the CPL.)

By Darlene DeVita

We spent close to two hours talking with Sonny. My husband gets his hair cut in his home barbershop and comes home with his stories every time. I have many but can’t begin to write them all down, we’d have the whole Record!

Sonny was born and raised in Chelsea and lived in the house he’s in now, for 65 years, on Webster, across from our building. His mother Louise was born here and is Sicilian, she lived on Winnisimmet St. And his father Melinto lived in the back of the barbershop on Broadway. It’s still a barbershop. And Sonny’s father’s father, was a barber.

Sonny’s grandfather Serafino came over from Italy, and he built the shop. It was called the Modern. He remembers as a kid the front window, with the name in porcelain lettering, “Modern Barbershop.”



Sonny Lepore at his barber shop.

Here’s just one of the many stories he shared. “My grandfather on my mother’s side, Giuseppe born in Sicily had a pushcart, sold tomatoes, etc. He used to go into town where the freight cars used to come in with the produce. He’d grab the tomatoes that were green, which you probably could get for next to nothing. Down in his basement he used to have racks on the wall. I’m surprised that the place never burned down, he had a stove, and I think he’d make it 200 degrees. He had the green tomatoes all on the shelf. And the green tomatoes would turn red. Then he would sell them.

All the Italians had

wine cellars. And that was a big thing with them, who made the best wine? I’m probably in my teens. And when I’d go visit my grandfather, we’d go down to the cellar and taste the wine.

And then we used to go to; his name was Paul, they called him the King of the bananas and had a wine cellar, which was always an argument. His wine, my wine, your wine. And they used to come out of there sometimes pickled!

My grandfather had a farm in the backyard. He raised chickens. He had pigs. It was a two-family house with a store in front.”

NEWS Briefs BY SETH DANIEL

STATE TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE SILVER LINE EXTENSION ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

The MBTA and MassDOT project team will present an overview of the Silver Line Extension (SLX) Alternatives Analysis, share the findings so far, and gather input from the community at a virtual public meeting being held at 6 PM on Tuesday, April 27.

The project team is seeking the public’s input on the project’s needs, goals, and objectives; the findings so far; and what alignments should be considered in connecting Chelsea with Everett, Somerville, Cambridge, and/or downtown Boston.

Feedback can be provided via online polls during the meeting. An online feedback form will also be available closer to the meeting date and for the weeks following the meeting.

The virtual meeting will be held via Zoom. Participants are asked to pre-register. The meeting will be recorded and posted online for those who cannot attend.

DOWNING RAISES \$227,712 IN EIGHT WEEKS

Former state senator, clean energy business leader, and gubernatorial candidate Ben Downing marked the end of the first quarter today by announcing that his campaign has raised \$227,712 since he entered the race on February 8. The campaign highlighted over 1,100 individual donors, with 80% of all donations coming from Massachusetts and nearly three-quarters coming in under \$100. Ben is not accepting any donations from lobbyists or corporate PACs.

“We’re really excited by the number of people signing up to support our fight for a fairer, stronger Massachusetts,” said Ben. “These early contributions help fortify our long-term campaign plan, allowing us to invest in the digital infrastructure, relational organizing strategies, and dynamic team that we need to win. We’re excited to put this support to work in the coming months as we share policy plans, activate a volunteer network and continue to

build a 351-community campaign.”

As a state senator, Ben represented the largest district in the state, comprising 52 cities and towns. Over a decade in office he led legislative efforts to accelerate our clean energy development and respond to climate change, rebuild our urban and rural economies, reduce poverty and hunger, strengthen our state ethics laws, and expand protections for transgender individuals.

Since 2017 he has served in a leadership role at Nexamp, a leading renewable energy company in Massachusetts. In that role, he led efforts to improve accessibility within the green economy, expand to new markets outside of the northeast, and deploy cutting-edge energy storage solutions here at home. He served on the board of the Environmental League of Massachusetts and is a leading advocate for climate action in the Commonwealth.

Ben, 39, lives in East Boston with his wife, Micaeliah Morrill, and their two young sons Malcolm (3) and Eamon (11 months).



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Chelsea
RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley
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GET THE VACCINE

For the vast majority of people, getting a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they are eligible is a no-brainer. COVID-19 not only has a high death rate for older persons and those with underlying health conditions, but it also has been shown to have serious after-effects for young, healthy people who experienced only mild symptoms when they contracted the disease. The ramifications of the health consequences for the so-called COVID long-haulers promises to adversely impact the lives of millions of Americans, as well as burden our society and health care system, for years to come. However, despite the obvious health risks posed by COVID-19, many of our fellow citizens say they will refuse to get the vaccine. No doubt many of those who tell a pollster that they will not get a vaccine are doing so just to be contrarian. In the end, they will get a vaccine. But unquestionably there are segments of society on all sides of the political spectrum who are opposed to the idea of vaccinations. In our view, vaccine-hesitancy in the face of a world-wide pandemic is both inexplicable and sad. It is inexplicable because the benefits of vaccination are so clear. There is every reason to get it and absolutely no reason to oppose it. But it also is sad because the vaccine-hesitancy movement shows that so many of our fellow Americans are susceptible these days to rumors, misinformation, and conspiracy theories to the detriment of their own health and that of their loved ones. The COVID-19 vaccines are a modern scientific miracle. They represent the best avenue of protection for individuals, as well as the only chance for society to overcome the pandemic in order to return our economy to normal. In addition, with early trials showing that the vaccines are 100 percent safe and effective for older children, a vaccination program for children will assure that our schools can reopen safely. In our view, a COVID-19 vaccine should be required for all children as a condition for returning to school, similar to the requirement that children be vaccinated against other diseases. We urge all of our readers to get the vaccine as soon as they are eligible under state guidelines. And to those who have some degree of vaccine-hesitancy for themselves or their children -- please stop listening to those wacky and ill-informed opinions on social media.

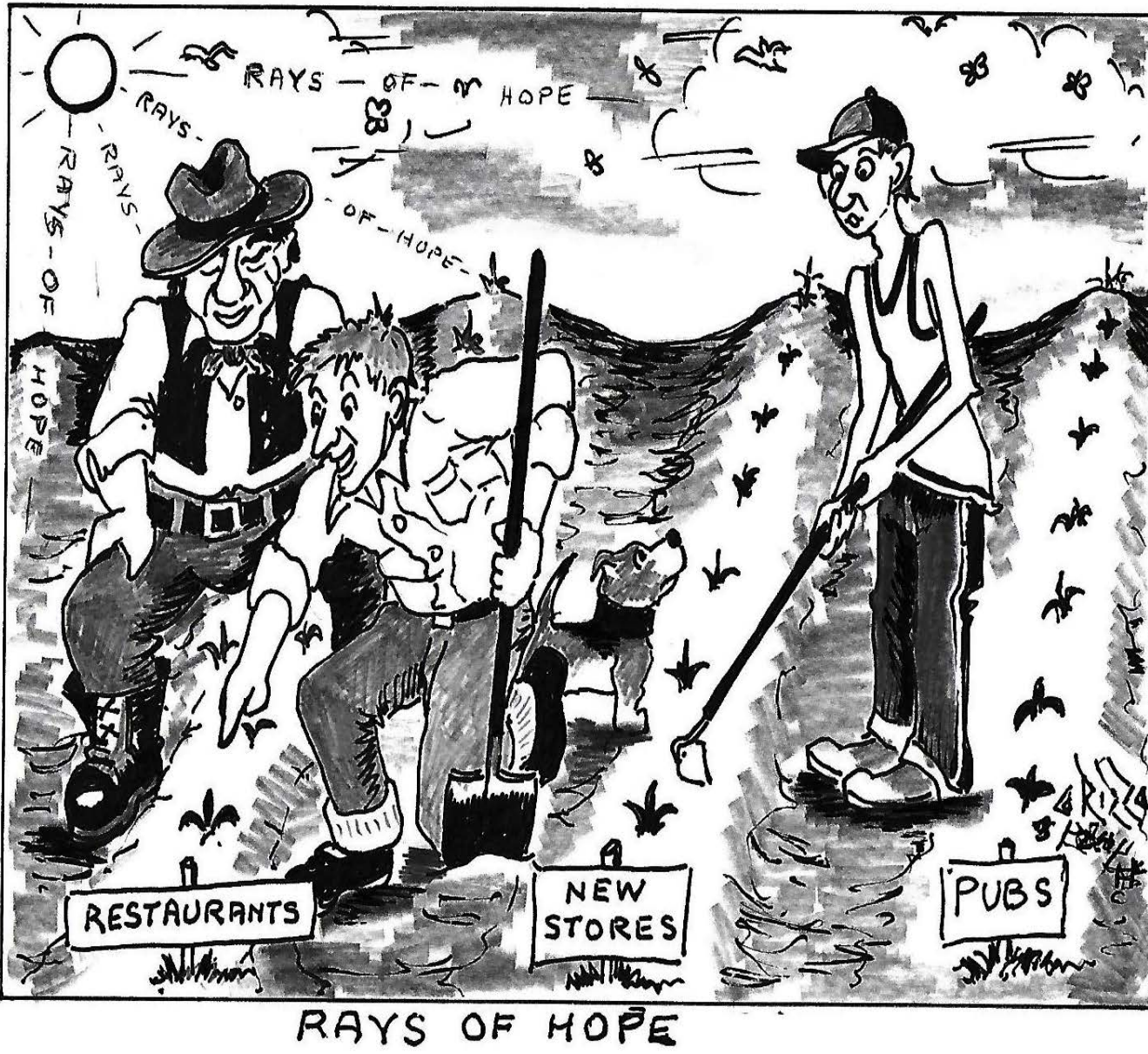
HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY,
JOE BEVERE!

The term “living legend” often gets overused, but in the case of Joe Bevere, who served for more than 30 years in the Chelsea school system as an educator and baseball coach, that phrase is, if anything, an understatement. Joe’s life is indeed the stuff that legends are made of: He was a star athlete at Chelsea High in the late 1940s, who then went on to play football at the collegiate level at Drake University (and in those days, Drake was a nationally-recognized football team), where he was the quarterback and an All-American punter. He interrupted his collegiate career to serve in the military during the Korean War and then returned to Drake to obtain his degree. After a short period in the Everett school system, he came to the Chelsea schools in 1961. However, Joe Bevere’s biographical information -- the headlines, if you will, of his life’s journey -- only tell part of the story of this wonderful man who devoted his life to his family, his students, and his hometown, the City of Chelsea. Joe Bevere may have had a reputation as a no-nonsense coach and teacher, but all who came to know him discovered that underneath his sometimes-stern exterior, he was a warm-hearted and humble man who sought to bring out the best in his students and athletes. We were thrilled to see the photo of Joe with his children, his lovely daughters Jackie and Jolene and handsome son Joe Jr. -- and have to say that Joe himself looked great at 90 years young. And we know that uppermost in Joe’s mind on this happy occasion was the memory of his wife for 44 years and the Bevere family matriarch, Kay, who passed away in 2005. We know we join with all of our fellow long-time members of the Chelsea community in wishing Joe Bevere a Happy 90th Birthday -- and trust that there will be many more to come.

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Forum



GUEST OP-ED

Cardinal Sean O'Malley's Easter message

By Cardinal Sean O'Malley

Easter is the center and core of Christian faith. Christian faith is Resurrection faith; the Risen Christ, having conquered sin and death, remains with us across the ages. When we celebrate “the Triduum” — the great feasts of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday — we recall and present again through words and worship the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord. The Lord’s Easter gift to the Church and the world is the gift of hope. Because the Risen Christ remains with us personally and collectively, we never face the challenges of life alone. Christian hope teaches us that we are destined for eternal life, and hope also is meant to sustain us in the concrete realities we face each day. As we celebrate this Easter, no truth is more relevant than hope built on Christian faith. The past year, lived in the shadow of the

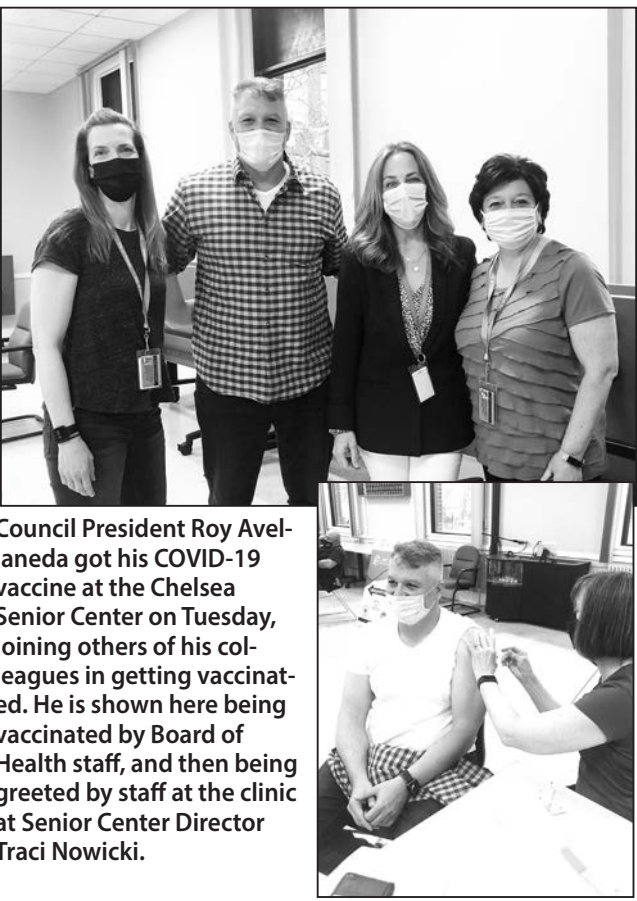
COVID-19 pandemic, has tried our sense of hope personally, socially, and as a country. The process of recovery and rebuilding our society will test us again in new ways. In some form, we have all been impacted by this silent and elusive but deadly virus. No community has been spared, and some communities have been devastated. Recovery will require a spirit of collaboration, cooperation and compassion. Easter tells us we will not be alone in this effort; the Risen Christ calls us to be very good neighbors to each other. Throughout the past year, there have been multiple examples of what being a good neighbor means. We have seen health care workers risk their lives to save lives; we have seen front-line workers in stores, delivery agencies and police and fire departments show up every day, even at personal risk, so basic needs could be met and life could be sustained. These examples inspire

hope in human terms; we will need this kind of generosity on an even wider scale in the days and months ahead. Nationally and locally, the pandemic illustrated again that, even when broad structural issues like a pandemic affect us all, they impact some in catastrophic fashion. African American and Hispanic communities suffered dramatically greater losses — of life and welfare — than the general population. Often, these communities have been where many front-line workers live; they kept faithfully serving others even as they suffered disproportionately themselves. National recovery should reward this service appropriately in gratitude and in public policies focused on these communities. Any assessment of how we have responded to the pandemic will need to address two realities. There have been countless acts of charity and compassion offered

quietly and effectively each day to those in need. And, by contrast, there have been intensified expressions of racism in our public life, historic patterns aimed at Asian Americans, African Americans, and immigrants. Children and youth perceived as different are often the object of bullying that can push young people into depression, risky behaviors or suicide. There will not be lasting healing and recovery unless we are committed as a society to expand the circle of compassion and charity manifested by many and resist, by word and deed, by law and policy, the forces in our society which refuse to acknowledge the dignity of every person. Easter offers hope: it also calls us to be signs of hope, not hatred, on the road to recovery. This Easter is time to make clear choices to renew our common life.”

Cardinal Sean O'Malley is the Archbishop of Boston.

I GOT MINE



Council President Roy Avelanada got his COVID-19 vaccine at the Chelsea Senior Center on Tuesday, joining others of his colleagues in getting vaccinated. He is shown here being vaccinated by Board of Health staff, and then being greeted by staff at the clinic at Senior Center Director Traci Nowicki.

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School / Continued from page 1

the excitement of really meeting and really going to school.

Monday signified the first day that students in special education classes or sub-separate classrooms, who amounted to the first students to return to the schools since last year, came back to school.

They will be going five days a week, with all the protocols and testing procedures in place.

Barring any major setbacks, on April 12, in-person learning will expand to Grades 1-4 at the ELC, Berkowitz, Hooks, Kelly and Sokolowski Schools – plus the grades 5-6 Caminos a the Kelly. It amount to the rollout of a re-opening plan that no one thought would ever happen this year, even as recently as late January.

Last week, the School Committee approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Teacher’s Union

and the Superintendent.

Supt. Almi Abeyta was at the Berkowitz School Monday morning, and welcomed back students and teachers coming in for their first day.

“Welcome back to in-person teaching to many of our educators,” she wrote in a letter later in the day. “It has been just over a year since we have delivered instruction in-person to our students in the Chelsea Public

Schools. It was so nice to see so many teachers and students face-to-face this morning. We saw many smiles underneath the masks, toe bumps, and beautiful teacher-student first moments in-person.”



Teachers and leaders, including Principal Nate Meyers, from the Sokolowski School prepare to enter the building. Some had been in the building often to teach, but many had not been in their classrooms for more than one year.



Jayden Jorge exits the bus on Monday for the first time in a long time.



Students Brandon Iraheta, Kaitlynne Molina, Justin Kenssourji and Joelle Perez were happy to reunite with teachers Kerrin Brown, Kerry Swanson and Jackie Kelleher on Monday.



With tons of stuff in tow, First Grade teacher Margaret Blake returned to the classroom for the first time in a year on Monday, April 5, at the Berkowitz School. She is shown with Asst. Principal Monica Caporale and Supt. Almi Abeyta.



CHELSEA SCHOOL NURSES AND HEALTH STAFF
WANT YOU TO BE SAFE

Symptoms	Coronavirus [†] (COVID-19) Symptoms rang from mild to severs	Cold General onset of symptoms	Flu Abrupt onset of symptoms	Seasonal Allergies Abrupt onset of symptoms	Asthma Gradual or abrupt onset of symptoms
Length of Symptoms	7-25 days	Less than 14 days	7-14 days	Several weeks	Can start quickly or last for hours or longer
Cough	Common (usually dry)	Common (mild)	Common (usually dry)	Rare (usually dry unless it triggers asthma)	Common (can be dry or wet/productive)
Wheezing	No	No**	No**	No**	Common
Shortness of Breath	Sometimes	No**	No**	No**	Common
Chest Tightness/pain	Sometimes	No**	No**	No**	Common
Rapid breathing	Sometimes	No**	No**	No**	Common
Sneezing	No	Common	No	Common	No***
Runny or stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common	No***
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	Sometimes (usually mild)	No***
Fever	Common	Short fever period	Common	No	No
Feeling tired and weak	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	Sometimes
Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common	Sometimes (related to sinus pain)	Rare
Body aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common	No	No
Diarrhea, nausea and vomiting	Sometimes	Rare	Sometimes	No	No
Chills	Sometimes	No	Sometimes	No	No
Loss of taste or smell	Sometimes	Rare	Rare	Rare	No

Your symptoms may vary. †Information is still evolving. Many people may not have symptoms. *If your quick-relief medicine is not helping your asthma symptoms, or if you are in the Red Zone on your Asthma Action Plan, call your health care provider or seek medical attention immediately. **Allergies, colds and flus can all trigger asthma which can lead to shortness of breath, chest tightness/pain and rapid breathing. COVID-19 is the only one associated with shortness of breath in its own. ***If you have allergic asthma, you may have symptoms of both asthma and allergies at the same time.

Sources: Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. edited 8/25/20 • aafa.org/covid19

Síntomas	Coronavirus [†] (COVID-19) Los síntomas varían de leves a graves.	Resfriado Inicio gradual de los síntomas	Gripe Inicio abrupto de los síntomas	Alergias temporadas Inicio abrupto de los síntomas	Asma Inicio gradual o abrupto de los síntomas
Duración de los síntomas	7-25 días	Menos de 14 días	7-14 días	Varias semanas	Los síntomas pueden aparecer rápidamente o durar horas o más.*
Tos	Frecuente (normalmente seca)	Frecuente (leve)	Frecuente (normalmente seca)	Raro (normalmente seca a menos que desencadene asma)	Común (puede ser una tos seca o productiva)
Sibilancia	No	No**	No**	No**	Común
Falta de aire	A veces	No**	No**	No**	Común
Dolor/presión en el pecho	A veces	No**	No**	No**	Común
Respiración rápida	A veces	No**	No**	No**	Común
Estornudos	No	Frecuente	No	Frecuente	No***
Congestión o goteo nasal	Raro	Frecuente	A veces	Frecuente	No***
Dolor de garganta	A veces	Frecuente	A veces	A veces (normalmente leve)	No***
Fiebre	Frecuente	Corto período de fiebre	Frecuente	No	No
Fatiga o debilidad	A veces	A veces	Frecuente	A veces	A veces
Dolor de cabeza	A veces	Raro	Frecuente	A veces (relacionado con dolor sinusal)	Raro
Dolor corporal	A veces	Frecuente	Frecuente	No	No
Diarrea, náusea y vómitos	A veces	Raro	A veces	No	No
Escalofríos	A veces	No	A veces	No	No
Pérdida del sentido del gusto u olfato	A veces	Raro	Raro	Raro	No

Sus síntomas pueden variar. †La información sigue evolucionando. Muchas personas pueden contagiarse sin mostrar síntomas. *Si su medicamento de alivio rápido no mejora sus síntomas de asma, o si Ud. está en la Zona Roja en su Plan de Acción para el Asma, llame a su proveedor de atención médica o busque atención médica de inmediato. **Las alergias, los resfriados y la gripe pueden desencadenar asma, lo cual puede provocar falta de aire, dolor o presión en el pecho y respiración rápida. El COVID-19 es la única enfermedad en esta lista que por sí sola puede provocar la falta de aire. ***Si Ud. tiene asma alérgica, puede tener síntomas de asma y alergias a la misma vez.

Fuentes: Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America, World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. edited 8/25/20 • aafa.org/covid19

LA COLABORATIVA EASTER DISTRIBUTION EVENT

Councilor Melinda Vega Maldonado and School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia joined with Tenaïra Garcia and other family members and volunteers to provide Easter baskets to young people at the La Colaborativa Food Pantry on Thursday, April 1. The effort was in combination with La Colaborativa, who had a special ham, pork or chicken distribution to celebrate Easter at the pantry.

“The goal of this event was to continue to sprinkle joy in our communi-

ty,” said Garcia. “When we did this for Christmas we did 3,000 gifts and now we have 600 baskets for Easter...We want to mobilize and uplift the young people. School is about to re-open and the weather is getting nicer and we’re happy to bring in colorful gifts and treats for the children, who have gone through so much and continue to go through so much.”

The all-woman led effort included great volunteerism from Denise Weaver, the Excel Acade-

my school nurse, Christine from Human Resources and contributions from many teachers.

The baskets included candy, puzzles, coloring books, games, bubbles, Easter Eggs, toys and books.

Garcia added that there was no Easter last year in terms of a celebration, and they thought it very important to have a visit from the Easter Bunny to coincide with La Colaborativa’s Easter distribution.



Michael Medina contemplated what to do first – draw, color, read, or eat candy. Guess what he chose?



Vilma Mejia was all smiles under her mask as she got ready for Easter.



Darwin Fuentes got an up-close visit with the Easter Bunny at the Pantry on Thursday.



Fernanda Bustillo was extremely happy to wave hello to her family while visiting with the Easter Bunny.



Cesibel Vedaes and little Leah meet the Easter Bunny on Thursday.



Chelsea Police Officer Sammy Mojica kept all the kids safe from vehicles and traffic as they waited for the Easter bunny.



Councilor Melinda Vega Maldonado, Tenaïra Garcia and School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia get ready to push out a load of Easter baskets for the Easter Bunny to distribute to children at the Pantry.



Tenaïra Garcia and La Colaborativa Director Gladys Vega show off the special Easter distribution with the Easter Bunny.



Waiting in line, Kenneth Mejia broke out in a happy dance while he anticipated all the candy coming his way in the Easter basket.



School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia thanked Excel Academy School Nurse Denise Weaver for volunteering to create so many of the Easter baskets given away.



Our mission is to provide high quality services to those who face life-long challenges of mental illness, drug and alcohol dependencies and developmental disabilities.



Prior to the distribution, several volunteers and officials gathered, including Carolyn Vega, Yessenia Alfaro, Supt. Almi Abeyta, State Rep. Dan Ryan, Councilor Melinda Vega Maldonado, State Sen. Sal DiDomenico, Tenaïra Garcia, School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia and Norieliz DeJesus.



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JOE BEVERE CELEBRATES HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY AMONG FRIENDS

By Cary Shuman

Joe Bevere Jr. had the words to fit the happy occasion at his father, Joe Bevere Sr.'s 90th surprise birthday party in Florida. "He's the man of the hour, our father, your friend," Joe Jr. began his remarks. "You've lived a good life, Dad. You led by example. You practiced what you preached. You taught us the right way. You're a good man and we love you very much."

Also enjoying the party and their brother's remarks on behalf of the family were Mr. Bevere's daughters, Jackie and Jolene. Joe Jr. recalled the magical Chelsea High baseball season of 1975 when his father coached Chelsea to the Eastern Massachusetts championship. Joe Jr. was the batboy during that unforgettable season. Joe Jr. said he's still learning new things about his father's life of accomplishment. "You think you know somebody after all these years – 90 years, it's my father, I know everything about him," said Joe Jr. "I get a phone call from Richie Voto and he says, 'Do you know your father plays the piano?' I said to Richie, 'You learn something new every day.'" Joe Jr. noted the attendance at the party by his father's lifelong friend, Gene Macomber, with whom Joe Bevere Sr. attended high school and college (Drake University) and served in the military during the Korean War. "They're still friends today and that's pretty re-

markable," said Joe Jr. Joe Bevere Sr., the guest of honor, thanked each guest personally during his speech. "I just can't believe a guy from Chelsea can come down to Naples on Fifth Avenue and have his 90th birthday among friends," said Bevere. "I thank you very much for all of you coming here today."

Joe Bevere Sr. paid a special tribute to his wife, Kay Bevere, who passed away in 2005. "To the person who is not here, my wife – she made everything happen, she did everything and I came along for a ride," said Bevere. "She was a wonderful woman and I miss her very much."

Conley's HR blast was 'mammoth'

During the course of the 90th birthday celebration, Coach Bevere reflected on some of the most prodigious achievements of his former CHS baseball players. According to Bevere, it was current Chelsea Police Detective Scott Conley who hit the longest home run in the history of the CHS program, belting a fastball well beyond the fence at spacious Merritt Park. Conley's mammoth blast surpassed a long home run hit by Mike Lush years earlier. Conley was a phenomenal Chelsea Little League player for the dynastic Indians and brought his potent bat and superior glove into the CHS baseball program. "That baseball that Conley hit hasn't landed yet," said Bevere.



Sharing their memories of Chelsea baseball history with Joe Bevere Sr. were Eric Shuman, Larry Notkin (who coached league MVP Joe Bevere Jr. in the CYBL), Joe Bevere Sr., and Charlie Zerola, former CHS three-sport athlete.



Joe Bevere Sr. is pictured with his lifelong friend Gene Macomber (left) and his wife, Anita Macomber, at the 90th birthday celebration.



Eric Shuman, a former standout third baseman for the Red Devils and CHS basketball captain, with legendary Chelsea High School baseball coach Joe Bevere Sr. at his 90th birthday celebration.



Joe Bevere Jr. reads a City of Chelsea Citation that congratulated his father, Joe Bevere Sr., for his outstanding teaching and coaching career and his All-American exploits at Drake University and lauded Mr. Bevere for the positive impact he had on the lives of his teammates, students, players, and colleagues during his extraordinary life in Chelsea.



Guest of honor Joe Bevere Sr. is pictured with his three children, son Joe Jr., and daughters Jackie and Jolene, at the surprise 90th birthday party held in Naples, Florida.



From left, Larry Notkin, Joe Bevere Sr., Charlie Zerola, former Chelsea Police officer Richie Voto, and Patty Voto.



From left, former Chelsea High and Saint Leo University basketball great Harry Zawacki, former Chelsea High star catcher and goaltender Mike Sullivan, guest of honor Joe Bevere Sr., former Chelsea Director of Human Resources Tina Sullivan, and outstanding athlete and golfer Alison Zawacki.



The Bevere family turned out to fete patriarch Joe Bevere Sr. on the occasion of his 90th birthday. From left, are daughter-in-law Loreen Bevere, son Joe Bevere Jr., grandson Joe Bevere III, honoree Joe Bevere Sr., granddaughter, Rachel Kay Bevere, and daughters Jackie Bevere and Jolene Bevere.

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ACE Mentor Program of Greater Boston awards \$168,000 in scholarships

ACE Mentor Program of Greater Boston, the free after-school program run by award-winning design and construction professionals with the goal of encouraging high school students to pursue careers in the architecture, construction and engineering industries, awarded a record-high \$168,000 in scholarships to 27 deserving seniors enrolled in ACE's 2020-2021 program, held virtually this year.

Chelsea residents Nebyou Abraham (Community Charter School of Cambridge) and Luis Barrientos (Excel Academy Charter High School) have both received scholarships for their hard work.

With more support from donors, sponsors, and partners than ever before, the fundraised

money helps provide financial assistance to a select number of graduating seniors as they continue to pursue their education at the collegiate level. The scholarships vary in amount from \$1,000 – \$13,000 each. This year, the program was grateful to have continued support from their sponsors, all of which contributed to a scholarship for a student. The sponsored scholarship donors include Consigli Construction, Prellwitz Chilinski Associates, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Superior Plumbing, ARUP, PIDC Construction and D.A. Bosworth Company.

“In what has been such a challenging year for so many students and families, the exponential growth of the ACE program is nothing short of

spectacular,” said Casey Williams, president of the ACE Mentor Program of Greater Boston. “We are beyond thankful for all our donors, sponsors, and partners for supporting us throughout the pandemic. This year, we were able to not only help more students on a financial level, but we have been able to connect with more students than ever before and teach them about these evolving industries.”

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the annual showcase, as well as the entire program, looked a bit different this year as it was held completely virtual. Although shifting to a remote format came with its challenges, the program was able to expand their outreach footprint as regions beyond the Greater Boston area

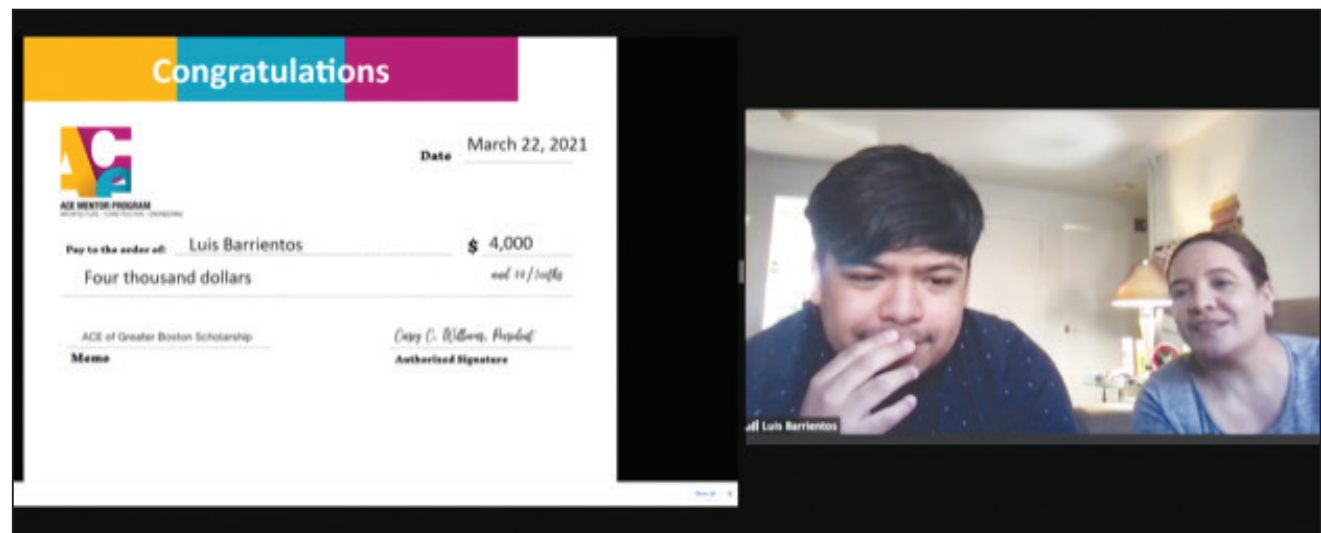
had accessibility to the unique mentoring from industry professionals.

As a result of the knowledge and experience received during their tenure in ACE Mentor of Greater Boston program, many graduating seniors have plans to continue their education by attending college and majoring in architecture, mechanical engineering, business management, civil engineering and mathematics – to name a few.

For more information on the ACE after-school program and ways to sign up for information sessions leading up to the launch of the 2021 – 2022 program, please visit the ACE of Greater Boston website.



Nebyou Abraham of Community Charter School of Cambridge.



Luis Barrientos of Excel Academy Charter High School.

A new Latinx play festival starts Aprcil 9

Staff Report

Teatro Chelsea set out to find plays by Latinx playwrights that capture Latinx narratives on the edge of the spotlight, those stories not often told. From 46 submissions, Teatro Chelsea chose six “a-típico” plays—four full-length and two one-acts—that will leave audiences with jaws dropped, hearts full, and feeling artistically refreshed. The lineup features plays that are in English, Spanish, and bi-lingual.

The stories all vary greatly in subject, theme, setting, and their exploration of human nature: a relationship counselor whose marriage is on the brink, the struggles of a recently released inmate, an openly gay man living unashamed in Ecuador, a support group for alien abduction survivors, the relationship between an autistic astrophysicist and her estranged niece, and a transgender teen coming out to their immigrant family as Hurricane Harvey rages outside.

“Getting the chance to produce work where Latinx people are simply living their day to day lives feels revolutionary,” says Festival Director Carla Mirabal. “This festival means a lot to me as a Puerto Rican theatre artist. During the selection process, these works made me, and a group of other Latinx readers, feel seen. Working on this project has also enabled us to connect with Latinx people living all around the United States and Latin America. If there is a silver lining to theatre going virtual, it’s getting the chance to work with incredible people we otherwise might not have met.”

The playwrights are based in New York, Florida, and Boston, including playwright Alicia Margarita Olivo who is a part of Company One’s C1 PlayLab Circuit Volt Lab. The plays will be read by professional actors, joining from across the U.S., and then the company and audience will have the chance to share feedback with the playwrights to help them in the development of their work.

For more information, and to register to join the

online festival running, April 9, 10, and 15-17, visit www.teatrochelsea.com

All readings are free, with a \$10 suggested donation.

The festival schedule is:

April 9, 7pm: Before We Focus on Others by Diego Lanao (Bilingual)

April 10, 7pm: Malas Mañías by Alejandra Ramos Riera (Spanish language)

April 15, 7pm: Anorales by Fernando Vieira (Spanish language) and SAA (not that one) by Luis Roberto Herrera (English language)

April 16, 7pm: Binary Star by Guadalupe Flores (English language)

April 17, 7pm: Flood by Alicia Margarita Olivo (Bilingual)

Up next for Teatro Chelsea: El Camino II over Memorial Day Weekend. Teatro Chelsea produced their first El Camino (or “The Walk”), over Halloween weekend. Original bi-lingual Halloween-themed vignettes were performed in storefront windows in downtown Chelsea allowing for spectators to enjoy theatre in a Covid-safe way. The surprise and enjoyment of watching window performances has proven to be more than just a Covid-era substitute for traditional theatre, but an exciting way in its own right to share the art form.

The upcoming El Camino II will revolve around the theme of celebration and connection, sharing stories about the cultural bridges that are built when an immigrant makes Chelsea their home.

Teatro Chelsea celebrates Latin cultures, showcases and fosters local talent, builds community in Chelsea through arts engagement and collaboration, and is establishing a hub for Latin artists in the Boston metropolitan area. Teatro Chelsea creates theatre at the crossroads of languages, cultures, and histories that make up the Latin experience, and seeks to amplify and honor the voices that speak to these unique experiences.

Teatro Chelsea is supported by MassDevelopment’s TDI Creative Catalyst Grant.

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Mobile health initiative brings information and resources to local communities

Staff Report

Mass General Brigham has launched a mobile health initiative to leverage the knowledge of its world class providers and researchers to help answer people’s questions and boost confidence in the COVID-19 vaccines.

“With the information about COVID-19, the vaccines, and public health measures changing day to day, it’s understandable that people feel conflicted about how to keep up with the information and where they should go for trusted answers,” says Tom Sequist, MD, MPH. Dr. Sequist is the Chief Patient Experience and Equity Officer at Mass General Brigham. “The lightning fast speed of social media

can be invaluable to get a message out quickly, but can also enable the spread of inaccurate information.”

Nearly 120 physicians, nurses, researchers, and other experts from across Mass General Brigham have come together to volunteer their expertise in a variety of ways. These “Community Messengers” are reaching people in the community—both in-person and digitally—by making informational videos in a variety of languages; hosting “live” social media sessions to answer patient questions; and offering their time at public speaking engagements or on other media like podcasts and radio.

The goal is to connect with communities hard hit by the pandemic—which

are overwhelmingly communities of color with a historical mistrust of the health care industry. The Mass General Brigham community messengers are multi-lingual and multi-cultural, with many having shared life experience with the people in the communities we serve.

“When I’m with my patients I can answer their questions face to face,” says Cheryl R. Clark MD, ScD, who recently volunteered as a community messenger at the Reggie Lewis Center. Dr. Clark is a Hospitalist and researcher in Brigham and Women’s Hospital Division of General Medicine and Primary Care, and Director of Health Equity Research & Intervention in the Center for Community Health and Health Equity

at Brigham.

Dr. Clark explains, “We’re taking that trusted relationship and amplifying it to a larger scale to reach more people who have questions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine.”

Additionally, these community messengers have played a crucial role in our Community Care Van initiative. While there is a van dedicated solely to information sharing, many volunteers accompany vans handing out resources like food or care kits, or our mobile testing vans.

The vans will be located alongside other community resources such as food pantries.

While partnering with community organizations has helped reach more people, it hasn’t opened

every barrier to community access. One hurdle that medical staff have had to grapple with is the mistrust of the communities they are trying to reach.

“It’s no surprise that people of color and those in marginalized communities want and need information that they can understand, in their language, from caregivers who look like them,” says Joseph Betancourt, MD, MPH, Senior Vice President of Equity and Community Health at Massachusetts General Hospital.

He explains that the health care system has a difficult history that providers are working to counteract. The Tuskegee study and Henrietta Lacks are just two historical examples. And while this lack of confidence is real

and well-earned, communities of color aren’t the only ones who are hesitant about the vaccine.

“Many really want it, and we need to make sure vaccines are available to them in their communities, and easily accessible, as we answer their questions and gain their trust,” he says.

The vans have been stationed in communities hardest hit by COVID such as Chelsea, Revere, Everett, Charlestown, Lynn, Roxbury and Dorchester, with other communities as needed. The hope is that these vans will become a valuable health care resource for local communities during the pandemic and beyond.

OBITUARIES

Cristian de Jesus Ruiz

July 12, 1991 – March 24, 2021

Cristian de Jesus Ruiz, 29, died suddenly and tragically on March 24. Born and raised in Apastepéque, El Salvador, he was one of six children of the late Marta Ruiz.

He settled in Chelsea five years ago and worked as a line cook at several restaurants most recently with Basho Japanese Brasserie in Boston.

He is lovingly survived by sisters, Silvia and Evelin Ruiz, both of Everett, Sulma Ruiz of El Salvador and brothers Nelson and Eriberto Ruiz, both of El Salvador. He is also survived by several aunts and uncles, both locally and in el Salvador and many cousins, friends and extended family members.

Visiting hours were from the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea on Thursday, April 1 and Funeral Services were held in the funeral home on “Good Friday” April 2 followed by interment at Pine Grove Cemetery, 145 Boston St., Lynn.

All services were held in accordance to the Commonwealth of MA Covid-19 Phase-IV regulations.

We continue to 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 please visit: www.WelshFH.com

A los 29 años cristian murió repentina y trágicamente el 24 de marzo. Nacido y criado en Apastepéque, El Salvador fue uno de los 6 hijos de la fallecida Marta Ruiz. Se estableció en Chelsea hace 5 años y trabajó como co-



cinero de línea en varios restaurantes más recientemente con Basho Japanese Brasserie en Boston.

Le sobreviven con cariño las hermanas Silvia y Evelin Ruiz, ambas de Everett, Sulma Ruiz de El Salvador y los hermanos Nelson y Eriberto Ruiz. También le sobreviven varias tías y tíos tanto locales como en El Salvador y muchos primos amigos y familiares extendidos.

El horario de visita se llevará a cabo desde la Funeraria Galesa, 718 Broadway, Chelsea el jueves 1 de abril, de 4:00 a 7:00 P.M. Familiares y amigos están más amablemente invitados a asistir. Los servicios funerarios se llevarán a cabo en la funeraria el “Viernes Santo” el 2 de abril a las 10:00 A.M. Los servicios concluirán con el entierro en pine grove cemetery 145 Boston St., Lynn.

Todos los servicios se llevarán a cabo de conformidad con la normativa ma covid-19 Fase-IV de la Mancomunidad de Ma Covid-19. Seguimos animando a la familia y amigos que lo deseen, a ofrecer condolencias en este momento a través del libro de visitas en línea o a enviar una tarjeta de condolencia personalizada por favor utilice uno de los enlaces a continuación.

Marie Etienne

Former clinical nursing assistant at the Chelsea Jewish Nursing Center, now known as the Katzman Family Center for Living.

Marie Etienne of Revere passed away on Wednesday, March 31 at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston surrounded by her loving family. She was 75 years old.

Marie was a former Chelsea resident before settling in Revere. She and her family have lived in the two communities for the past 35 years. She was a former clinical nursing assistant at the Chelsea Jewish Nursing Center, now known as the Katzman Family Center for Living and an active member of the Haitian Community Church. She will be greatly missed by her large family, her Church family and many close friends from her community.

Born in Bassin Bleu, Haiti, she was the daughter of the late Vernella Xavier Norvil and Valliere Norvil and the beloved wife of the late Faublas Etienne. She is survived by her siblings: Jean Joseph Norvil, Marie Carme Xavier Blémur and Ernst Charlemagne. Marie is the beloved mother of 16 children: Kenny Etienne, Kennel Etienne and his wife, Joane Etienne, Jeff Etienne, Nicolas Carvil and his wife, Josie Carvil, Nicolette Carvil Fontaine and her husband, Pierre Gardy Fontaine, Nasson Carvil, Mirline Carvil, Anne Nicole Carvil, Marjorie Carvil, Jean Michel Thomas, his wife Imelda Thomas, Denise Dauphin, Walker Dauphin and his wife, Marie-Claire



Helene Dauphin, Evans Joseph, Ophny Carvil, his wife, Martine Carvil, Edith Carvil, Marie Nicole Carvil Edma and her husband. Adler Edma. She is also lovingly survived by 45 grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Marie’s visiting hour at the Haitian Missionary Church of Somerville, 100 Temple St., Somerville on Saturday, April 10 from 9 to 10 a.m. Her Funeral Services will follow the visitation but are by invitation and reservation only. Services will conclude with Interment at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett. All attendees are required to wear face coverings and practice social distancing when greeting the family.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to the Carafa Family Funeral Home in Chelsea. We encourage family and friends to visit www.carafafuneralhome.com to offer condolences by means of the online guest book or to send a personalized sympathy card.

Elena “Helen” DeFeo

Of Chelsea, formerly of East Boston

Elena “Helen” (Todesco) DeFeo, 92, of Chelsea, formerly of East Boston, passed away on March 30.

The cherished daughter of the late Domenic and Constance (Luongo) Todesco, she was the beloved wife of the late Anthony “Tony” DeFeo, loving mother of Constance Bertolino and her husband, Anthony of Revere, Patrick DeFeo of Chelsea and the late Anthony DeFeo Jr.; adored grandmother of Toni-ann Merlina and her husband, Mark and their son, Anthony “AJ” and daughter, Julianna; dear sister of the late: Mae Silva, Margaret Martucci, Louise Frongillo, Jay “Jenny” Chisari and Charles Todesco and caring sister in law of Pasquale DeFeo and Theresa Loubier. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends honored Elena’s life by gathering in Vazza’s “Beechwood” Funeral Home, 262 Beach Street, Revere on Tuesday, morn-



ing, April 6 before leaving in procession to St. Anthony’s Church, Revere for a Funeral Mass celebrated in her honor followed by interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. All services were held in accordance with the Commonwealth of MA COVID-19 reopening regulations.

The DeFeo Family would like to thank the entire staff at Hallmark VNA, Right at Home & Mystic Vally Elder Service for their attentive care and compassion during this difficult time. For memory wall please go to www.vazzafunerals.com.

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

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

SCHOOL BUDGET LOOKS AHEAD

EVERETT - Supt. Priya Tahiliani and her finance team announced a School Budget to the School Committee that was unlike any that Everett Public Schools (EPS) has seen – one that looked toward long-term investments in a proposed three-year plan.

This year's School Budget plan has a lot of elements at play - including federal CARES Act funding for schools, the first year of Student Opportunity Act (SOA) funding, and now a calculated long-term plan to return more money to students and school building leaders.

The overall School Budget ask is \$129.395 million – but the ask is coming in a way never seen before in the School Department. Supt. Tahiliani said the Budget is a break from the past ways of formulating it, planning it and presenting it. In creating the Budget, all of the principals, school leaders, directors and teachers have been part of the crafting of it – so there are no presentations or “asks” from each school. Instead, that has all been rolled into the Budget presentation, which is more of a blueprint for overall strategy than a line-by-line negotiation for spending on things such as paper towels or lab equipment.

“It really is meant to reflect the scope of investment in our students and schools,” said Tahiliani.

At Monday night's special School Committee meeting, Supt. Tahiliani and School CFO Anu Jayanth introduced a budget for the coming Fiscal Year 2022 that looks to invest federal COVID funds into social-emotional programs and academic recovery programs that will likely hit Everett students with gusto when they return to a traditional in-person learning environment. It is estimated that EPS could receive around \$5 to \$10 million in COVID federal funds (Elementary and Secondary Ed-

ucation Emergency Resources funding), and much of that short-term funding will be directed to helping students recover in many different ways from the experiences of COVID.

However, beyond that, the Administrative team has called for a \$35 million, three-year plan to invest in the long-term educational needs for all students in the district.

The three-year plan looks to make permanent some of the programming that will be added using federal COVID money, things like tutoring, enrichment programs and mentoring.

“In this budget we are asking for a commitment for a \$35 million investment to students over three years,” she said. “These are for the supports and stabilization they need when they come to school...The pandemic also shined a light on issues that have long been with us and aren't going away...With the federal money, when it expires, we could fall off a cliff with our programming if not thoughtful. While COVID-19 money is going to be used for one time investments – like learning loss recovery, technology, PPE and testing. When that money expires, we want to expand these investments for the long-term and that's where our three-year plan comes in.”

In the first year of the plan – the coming Fiscal Year 2022 – the plan would call for diverting staff directly to schools, providing social-emotional COVID-19 supports, providing academic recovery supports/staff, and building up school libraries with an emphasis on bi-lingual books reflective of the student population.

In the following year, FY 2023, the investments would focus on expanding the CTE offerings, staffing libraries, expanding electives for middle school, and building up supplemental services such as summer programs. In the third year of the plan, the fo-

cus would be to add supplemental services for credit recovery, build out a robust after-school program and ensure strong elective offerings in every school.

Investments in the near-term, for the coming year's budget would be in four categories: rich instruction, safe environment, supplemental services and tailored supports for families.

For rich instruction, that includes \$3.75 million dedicated to starting to build up libraries, hiring Academic Response Advisors, implementing tutoring/mentoring, new ESL teaching positions, a K-8 STEM and Literacy manager and starting a new speaker series.

In health and safety, they have proposed \$1.48 million for Cataldo EMTs to do pool testing, COVID response safety liaison positions, and a new Social Emotional Team. The Integrated Supports features \$3 million for summer programs, a new City Year Fellows program, a new Supplemental Services Manager, and a new Re-Engagement Manager. The Positive Relationship category – or Tailored Supports – includes \$355,658 for Learning Access for families, the Tech Goes Home program, and a Family Engagement Manager.

Jayanth said some of that will lay a foundation using temporary COVID dollars for the more long-term three-year investment plan.

“This is a fundamental and strategic departure from the historic way of doing the School Budget,” said Jayanth.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria gave positive reviews of the new approach, and said he looks forward to talking more about the details of the plan.

“I love it,” he said. “We're all feeling it as parents. I especially like the three-year plan and not to have to take money mid-year and have to take money from Free Cash...It's good to have a complete budget.”

School Committee Chair Frank Parker said

CITY OF EVERETT RAISES THE FRENCH FLAG



Mayor Carlo DeMaria hosted a French flag raising ceremony in collaboration with the French Consulate of Boston, the Haitian Consulate of Boston, the Everett Haitian Community Center, and other Francophonie constituents of the City of Everett to celebrate the Month of the Francophonie on Wednesday, March 24, at 11:30 a.m. Pictured are City Councilor Fred Capone, State Rep. Joe McGonagle, Haitian General Consul Hans Charles, French General Consul Arnaud Mentre, Rev. Myrlande DesRosiers, Mayor Carlo DeMaria, City Councilor Gerly Adrien, City Councilor John Hanlon, Adeleine Celestin of the Everett School Department.

he was glad to see a new approach to the School Budget in what would be Supt. Tahiliani's first real budget effort – given that last year she had only been in office a few months and COVID-19 had ravaged all normal budget cycles.

“We're going to budget every school,” he said. “You'll see actually what the budget is for in every school – how much the Webster School has and what the Devens School has allocated. We've not had that granularity in the past and we'll see that now going forward.”

School Committee-woman Dana Murray said she liked the idea as well.

“As a taxpayer and a parent with kids in the system, I support the idea that they took the time to plan ahead and no go year to year...I'm grateful to be part of a City and school system that is taking the long view and not trying to patch things up short-term.”

School Committee-woman Samantha Lambert also applauded the new approach, but was especially happy to see that there was an effort to end opportunity gaps in the schools. As a long-time critic of different opportunities – such as field trips – in different schools, she said the Budget moved to end those inequities between schools with an active Parent Teacher Organization and those without such a structure.

“Just making the field trips equitable across schools and not putting it on PTOs – that's huge,” she said.

The presentation on Monday was a macro view of the School Budget and the first venture into the waters of Budget season. It will now be presented to the City Administration to negotiate the spending and agree upon a final number. Then it will come back to the School Committee for a deeper dive into the numbers and the programming investments, most of that being done in Lambert's Finance and Negotiations Committee. If approved by the School Committee, it would then go to the City Council for discussion and deliberation within their overall City Budget process in May or June.

EDWARDS ON MOST IMPACTFUL LIST

EAST BOSTON - Get Connected!, a local business networking organization, released its first ever list of Boston's Most Impactful Black Women, and District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards was on the list.

Get Connected! CEO Colette Phillips said the honors included two subgroups, the 25 Most Impactful Black Women in Health Care and Sciences, as well as the 25 Most Impactful Black Women Pioneers.

Edwards joined a distinguished list of female Black leaders that included City Councilor Andrea Campbell, WBUR's Paris Alston, and Boston Public Schools Superintendent Brenda Cassellius.

“Black women rule right now,” said Phillips. “These women have forged trails as powerful and impactful as early Boston activists from abolitionist Elizabeth Riley to civil-rights leader and icon Melnea Cass.” It's part of the mission at Get Connected! to showcase the contributions of people of color in the state, and the list is a logical next step to promote those achievements. To see the full list, take a look at the video below.

Edwards, who was elected as District 1's first African American woman to serve the district, which includes East Boston, Charlestown and the North End, said that she was honored by being included on the impressive list.

“Obviously, I am humbled because I assumed I would need to be a little bit more older and have some more victories under my belt,” said Edwards. “I just felt very much congratulated that people feel like I'm doing a good job and that makes me feel wonderful.”

Being part of a really impressive group of women, Edwards said that she was honored just to be nominated.

“To be in that group was really the honor because many of these women included busted down doors and barriers,” said Edwards. “This list has a lot of incredible women who have done some incredible so I took the nomination as an incredible compliment and now being listed among

them is amazing.”

Edwards said the honor has inspired her to keep going, keep fighting, keep thinking and keep challenging.

“I hope I'm making a difference but sometimes you don't see that,” said Edwards. “When you're in the middle of some many different things sometimes you don't know your true impact but I hope I'm making people's lives better.”

Edwards's work on ensuring equitable development at Suffolk Downs, increasing community affordability through proposed development projects and her initiatives to overhaul the ZBA and address housing issues and displacement has made her a champion of her working-class constituents.

“I think those are the little victories sometimes but I don't forget that a lot of these decisions are permanent and impacting our community,” said Edwards. “I'm hopeful people understand how hard I work to get to those decisions. I'm just so honored to represent my community and I'm so grateful, especially to East Boston residents who put me on the map and I hope to continue to make my entire District proud.”

Edwards has spent her entire career as an advocate, activist, and as a voice on behalf of society's most vulnerable. She served as the deputy director within the Mayor's Office of Housing Stability where she was responsible for developing and delivering innovative solutions to fight displacement and brought together all stakeholders: landlords, management companies, housing authorities, and tenants.

Before becoming elected Edwards worked as a public interest attorney with Greater Boston Legal Services focusing on labor issues such as fighting for access to unemployment insurance, back wages, fair treatment for domestic workers, and combating human trafficking. She served as the statewide campaign coordinator for the Massachusetts Coalition for Domestic Workers, which advocated for the passage of the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. In 2015, she was named Bostonian of the Year by the Boston Globe.

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Vaccine / Continued from page 1

were selected based on the CDC’s special mobility index and their proximity to the Hynes. The effort will ramp up but we’ll be able to do 500 vaccines per day in these communities.”

As part of that program, which began this week in Chelsea, the mobile units would pick up the vaccine at the Hynes and then come to Chelsea and set up in a park or parking lot for easy access.

That program is expected to last about eight weeks.

Sec. Sudders announced that Chelsea would get \$150,000 as part of the BEST Value grant program that is awarding \$4.7 million statewide. That money will be used however Chelsea deems it necessary, though it must be used for programming that would further the vaccination efforts.

Meanwhile, she also announced that the 20 COVID equity communities – including Chelsea – will see more than 200 grass-roots organizers hitting the streets to spread awareness and information about vaccination.

“Starting next week more than 200 bi-lingual, locally-hired community organizers will hold 83 outreach events in all 20 of out equity communities,” said Sudders. “There will be door-to-door outreach and business walks. It’s

like a political campaign that’s vaccine canvassing. We’ll also support phone banking efforts to help with vaccine registrations.”

EBNHC CEO Manny Lopes indicated that the Chelsea vaccination site would now be able to open seven days a week, and some of the sites operated by EBNHC would also be open 12 hours a day – all furthering the mission of helping people on their vaccine journey.

“Today I’m happy to announce we will expand our efforts at this Chelsea location and at all our locations,” he said. “We will begin operating seven days a week and at some locations 12 hours a day. Although we’re acting as fast as we can, I’d like to take this opportunity to preach patience. Everyone has their own vaccine journey. For some, it will take time and especially in communities like Chelsea where distrust is widespread. Vaccinations in Chelsea isn’t just about ‘yes’ and ‘no,’ it’s about facts, feelings, frustration, family, finances and of course, about fair. Addressing these barriers is what we have in front of us.”

La Colaborativa Director Gladys Vega used the opportunity to call for young people in Chelsea and the Latino community to get vaccinated and pro-

tect loved ones.

“I ask those between the ages of 20 and 35 to please make a decision on vaccinating,” she said. “We’ve been doing door knocking and that’s been our biggest challenge – convincing individuals that are 35 and under. They don’t believe in the vaccination, but they believe in parties and having gatherings. I urge you to make that choice and if you’re not able to make that choice, make it for the family member – the grandmother that wants to give you a hug. Do it for the sake of others. This is not a joke. You’ve seen the numbers. You’ve seen how many families have lost loved ones...Don’t be afraid of the vaccination; be afraid of COVID-19 that has taken so many lives away from us.”

•CHELSEA GETTING SHORTED BY THE FEDS

Gov. Baker and others also touched on the news over the last three weeks with Chelsea getting much less than expected in the federal Rescue Plan last month – much less than more affluent communities, in fact.

He thanked Sen. Sal DiDomenico for his advocacy on the matter, and reiterated they had directed \$100 million to Chelsea and three other communities to try to make up for the shortfall that got past

the federal delegation.

“Just this month we worked with local leaders to make sure Chelsea got the funds it deserved from the federal relief package,” said the governor. “As many know, the federal bill passed had restrictions that severely limited dollars that would have gone to some communities hardest hit by COVID, including Chelsea and Everett – both of which are in Sen. Sal DiDomenico’s district.

“So it probably shouldn’t come as a surprise that the first person I heard from at the state level after having conversations with folks at the federal level was Sen. DiDomenico,” he continued. “We very much appreciate the relationship and also the head’s up on that issue.”

Vega said the governor visiting was a dream come true, and thanked him for his quick action on the federal shorting of the City.

“It’s a dream come true to have the governor here; it’s incredible we have his whole team here,” she said. “It’s also incredible he responded to the call for funding. For me I was extremely appalled we didn’t get much funding two weeks ago and when we called the governor’s office and organized – he responded to our call... People kept saying we

wouldn’t hear from the governor’s office for about a month, but you responded in days...It’s an incredible day for Chelsea. It’s hopeful because we now have resources to work with.”



Councilor Todd Taylor greets the governor at the Food Pantry tour.



Gov. Charlie Baker gave his press briefing in Chelsea on April 1 and announced a mobile vaccination program for the city.



City Manager Tom Ambrosino said the state administration has been there each time they’ve asked for help.



La Colaborativa Director Gladys Vega, Gov. Charlie Baker and EBNHC CEO Manny Lopes.



Richelle Cromwell, director of CAPIC, addressed the governor about her organization’s work on COVID-19.



Chief Brian Kyes, State Rep. Dan Ryan, State Sen. Sal DiDomenico, Gov. Charlie Baker, La Colaborativa Director Gladys Vega, City Manager Tom Ambrosino, and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito.



GreenRoots Director Roseann Bongiovanni speaks with the governor’s team during the tour.



Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, Gov. Charlie Baker, Excel Academy Nurse Denise Weaver and Health Sec. Marylou Sudders with Easter baskets given out at La Colaborativa.

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UMass Boston's CWPPP) announces new Distinguished Public Service Fellows

The Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy (CWPPP) at UMass Boston has announced the selection of its third cohort of Distinguished Public Service Fellows whose mission for the next two years will be to help bridge the gap between generations of women leaders and prepare the next generation of leaders, with a particular emphasis on advancing the leadership of women of color.

The four new fellows are Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins; former Executive Director of the North American Indian Center of Boston Joanne Dunn; Executive Director of the Chelsea Collaborative Gladys Vega; and Winchester Town Manager and former Mayor of Fitchburg Lisa Wong.

The fellows will give public lectures, mentor students in CWPPP's Gender, Leadership, and Public Policy Program (GLPP), and share their papers and leadership narratives and lessons, which will be contributed to the Women's Public Leadership Archive, based in

UMass Boston's Healy Library. This cohort of fellows has selected the theme, "Bold, Brave, and Beautiful: Women of Color Leading Together" to describe their collective vision for their tenure. District Attorney Rollins has been designated as the Betty Taymor Distinguished Public Service Fellow, in honor of the founder of CWPPP's graduate program whose 100th birthday was recently celebrated by CWPPP and a host of Massachusetts luminaries.

Dr. Laurie-Nsiah Jefferson, director of CWPPP and the GLPP graduate program emphasized that, "We are more than delighted to announce the selection of this new cohort of fellows, which for the first time are all women of color. Each has made tremendous contributions to our Commonwealth and beyond. In their role as fellows, they will have a formal way to transmit knowledge gained through their experiences, not only to students in our graduate program, but also to the wider community through their public lectures and forums, and

by donating their papers to the Women's Public Leadership Archive."

Former Betty Taymor Distinguished Public Service Fellow and current Interim Chair of CWPPP's External Advisory Board, Charlotte Golar Richie, described the fellows program as a unique opportunity to analyze one's community work and professional experiences in an academic setting: "This fellowship has been a great experience — and I'm grateful to have had the chance to work with an extraordinary group of accomplished women, and to join them in confronting and exploring the pressing social issues of our day."

David Cash, dean of the McCormack Graduate School for Policy and Global Studies, CWPPP's base at UMass Boston, says that, "The new cohort of fellows follow in the impressive footsteps of CWPPP's first two cohorts of fellows which included Charlotte Golar Richie, Alice Wolf, Lydia Lowe, Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, Jackie Jenkins-Scott, Patricia McGovern, Dolores

Mitchell, and Maria Elena Letona. Their contributions to public life and nonprofit leadership in Massachusetts and beyond are unparalleled".

The first public event for the third cohort of fellows will be a virtual welcome featuring a lively panel discussion highlighting their perspectives on their chosen theme of "Bold, Brave, and Beautiful: Women of Color Leading Together." The event will be held on April 13 at 6 p.m. ET and is open to the public (register here).

Biographical Details of the Fellows

Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins is the chief law enforcement official for Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, Massachusetts, and oversees an office of approximately 300 people handling approximately 35,000 new cases each year. She took office on Jan. 2, 2019 as Suffolk County's 16th district attorney, the first woman to be elected to that position in Suffolk County history, and the first woman of color ever to serve as a Massachusetts district attorney.

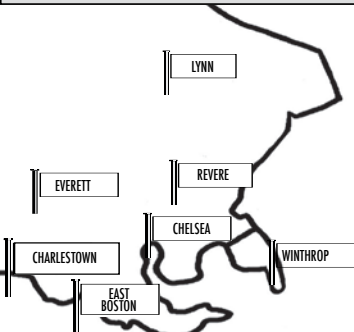
Joanne Dunn retired as executive director for the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB) in August 2016. The NAICOB is the successor to the Boston Indian Council (BIC), the first and oldest urban Indian Center in the northeast. Dunn enjoyed a career that spanned more than 40 years serving Boston's urban Indian Community from all over the United States and Canada. She recently retired from her seat with the Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs (MCIA) in February, 2021 following more than 20 years of service. Dunn is Mi'kmaq and an enrolled member of the Wagmatcook First Nation Indian Reserve in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

Gladys Vega has dedicated 30 years of service to the City of Chelsea and the Chelsea Collaborative, which she joined in 1990 - just two years after its founding. Vega has worked as an organizer and an advocate to ensure that the Latino community has a role in determining the ways its needs and concerns are addressed. She is the architect of

most of the collaborative's community coalitions and has played leadership roles in organizing for immigrants' rights, welfare rights, tenants' rights, open space and the environment, multicultural and anti-racism programs and in numerous grassroots campaigns.

Lisa Wong became the town manager of Winchester in November 2018. Wong served four terms as mayor of Fitchburg and received recognition for her work on issues including conservation, urban education, public health, and anti-poverty initiatives. She was the executive director of the Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority, and the executive director of the Women's Institute of Housing and Economic Development. She served as a senior fellow at Governing, taught at Clark University and the University of Wyoming, and worked in human rights. Wong serves on the Board of Overseers at Boston University and on the Boards of the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance, MassINC, ACLU of Massachusetts, and Ivy Child International. She was appointed in 2018 by Governor Charlie Baker to serve on the state's Commonwealth Corporation board.

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Application Deadline: April 15, 2021


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Biden Administration sends Easter Eggs to EBNHC

By John Lynds

In lieu of this year's White House Easter Egg Roll, President Joseph Biden and the First Lady gifted the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) with 800 commemorative Easter Eggs.

In return EBNHC administrators have distributed the eggs to staff and to patients receiving vaccines across its four vaccination sites in Eastie, Chelsea, Revere and the South End.

"Receiving the White House Easter Eggs from President Biden and the First Lady was a bright light against the backdrop of the past year," said EB-

NHC president and CEO Manny Lopes. "We distributed the eggs to our hardworking staff who have remained caring and optimistic throughout the pandemic and to our patients receiving the vaccine across our vaccination sites. We would like to thank President Biden and the First Lady for helping us to spread cheer during this spring season."

The Easter Eggs came with a special letter from Deputy Assistant to the President & Social Secretary Carlos E. Elizondo to Lopes.

"Dear Mr. Lopes, Greetings from the White House," the letter reads. "On behalf of the President and the First Lady,

it is my pleasure to notify you that East Boston Neighborhood Health Center has been selected as a recipient of the 2021 White House Commemorative Easter Eggs. As you may know, traditionally the wooden Easter Eggs are distributed to children at the annual White House Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn. Due to COVID-19, this year's Easter Egg Roll has unfortunately been canceled. Nevertheless, in the spirit of the Easter season, the President and First Lady still want to share Easter cheer with Americans across the nation. We hope your site will assist their mission and share these Easter Eggs with frontline

workers, volunteers, and members of your staff."

The White House encouraged EBNHC to also give any additional eggs to community members who get vaccinated at the Health Center.

"Your organization's efforts are a testament to the hard work that needs to occur in order for our country to reopen safely," the letter continued. "The health and wellbeing of Americans remain an utmost priority to the President and First Lady, and your efforts and dedication are truly appreciated. On behalf of the President and First Lady, we wish you and your family a safe and Happy Easter."



EBNHC President and CEO Manny Lopes holds up one of the commemorative Easter Eggs sent to the Health Center from President Joseph Biden and the First Lady.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Chelsea Curves construction look-ahead through April 17

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

ROUTE 1 TRAFFIC IMPACTS

•ROUTE 1 NORTH-BOUND: Approaching the Tobin Bridge from Boston, the work zone begins in the right lane. 2 of 3 travel lanes will be open during daytime hours (5 a.m.–10 p.m.).

•ROUTE 1 SOUTH-BOUND: Approaching the Chelsea Curves from the North Shore, the work zone is in the median. All 3 travel lanes are open during the daytime hours (5 a.m.–10 p.m.).

*From Monday, 4/5 to Friday 4/9, Route 1 South-bound will be reduced to 2 lanes. The lane reductions will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 2 p.m.

LOCAL STREET CLOSURES

•There are no street closures scheduled during this look-ahead period.

WORK HOURS

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

– 5 a.m.) and on Saturdays (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.).

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

•ROUTE 1 NORTH-BOUND: Placement of bridge barrier and installation of final highway lighting will continue through the Chelsea Curves.

•ROUTE 1 SOUTH-BOUND: The installation of barrier cover plates, remove asphalt, waterproofing roads, and installing fiber optic through the Chelsea Curves.

•PROJECT-WIDE: Under deck draining, installing fire standpipe, and preparation for anti-graffiti coating.

COMPLETED WORK

•All remaining work is within the Chelsea Viaduct portion of the job. Work continues on the reconstruction of parking lots underneath the Chelsea Viaduct.

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.

The contractors are coordinating with local event organizers and police to provide awareness and manage traffic during events. For your awareness, there will be no events at the TD Garden during this look ahead schedule.



EBNHC's Dr. Beatriz Valencia hands a commemorative White House Easter Egg to a patient.



(Above and below) EBNHC patients receive their COVID-19 vaccine and commemorative White House Easter Egg courtesy of President Joseph Biden and the First Lady.



An EBNHC vaccine patient poses with an EBNHC staff member. The White House asked the Health Center to hand out the 800 Easter Eggs to staff and patients.

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