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Council doubles down on Sanctuary City status

By Adam Swift

The City Council reaffirmed Chelsea's status as a Sanctuary City Monday night, but not without some dissent and heated moments.

The Council ultimately voted 9-2 to reaffirm its 2007 designation of Chelsea as a Sanctuary City, with District 1 Councillor Todd Taylor and District 8 Councillor Calvin Brown voting against the measure.

For the supporters of the order, it was seen as an opportunity to double down on Chelsea being a city open to immigrants and people of all backgrounds during trying political times.

"I've always been very proud that we are a Sanctuary City ... and this is an opportunity to reaffirm those values," said Councillor-At-Large Damali Vidot. "The fact is that the national rhetoric is trickling down to our city."

Taylor probably knew he was in for some bumps in the road as the lone Republican on the Council. But on Monday night, Taylor fought back at what he said were bullying efforts to silence a conservative and dissenting voice on the Council. Earlier in the evening, Taylor also came under fire from School Committeewoman Marisol Santiago for his political views on immigration regarding his selection as a representative to the Charter Review Committee.

"Two weeks ago, I made some comments about this Council when it brought up undocumented drivers, which was completely irrelevant to this body," said Taylor. "I was wrong, it wasn't virtue signaling. This, tonight, is really a sneak attack on conservative voices in this community and anyone who does take a different opinion."

Taylor said it is important for everyone on the Council and in the city to have their ideas be heard and respected.

"I can guarantee, if the shoe was on the other foot, it would be a different story."

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CULTURAL CELEBRATION



PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROMI

Anna (9) and Dyana Quinom (7) at the Kelly Elementary School Cultural Celebration on Thursday night, March 5, in the Burke Complex cafeteria. Hundreds of students, family and faculty gathered to celebrate the diverse cultures in the Kelly School. See Page 7 for more photos.

Charter Committee picks raise some complaints

By Adam Swift

The City's new Charter Review Committee is in place, although some questioned the representative makeup of that committee at Monday night's City Council meeting.

Once every 10 years, the City Council establishes a special committee to review the charter and to make a report, with recommendations, to the City Council concerning any proposed amendments which the committee may deem necessary. The review committee, appointed by City Council President

Roy Avellaneda, includes five City Councillors, three School Committee members, and five members from the community at large.

Tensions were high before the committee's names were even read into the record on Monday night, and things got no better afterward either.

During the public speaking portion of the Council meeting, School Committeewoman Marisol Santiago questioned how representative the review committee is of the community. She also took exception to District 1 Councillor Todd

Taylor's appointment to the review committee. Taylor is the lone Republican on the 11-member Council, and was recently elected Chelsea's Republican State Committeeman.

"This is a once in a decade opportunity where the city is able to look at what is called our City's constitution," said Santiago.

On diversity of the commission, Santiago said she found that the appointments willfully excluded the diverse living experiences of people living in the city, specifically point-

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A Successful Debut

Robinson-Griggs leads Vassar to the brink of an NCAA Tourney bid

By Cary Shuman

While their last game surely stings right now, first-year coach Lucia Robinson-Griggs and her Vassar College women's basketball team will soon look back at their season with great pride and a full sense of achievement.

Robinson-Griggs took her No. 2-seeded Lady Brewers to the Liberty League championship game where they fell to No. 1-seeded Ithaca, 73-71, with the hosts scoring the winning hoop with just 0.3 seconds left on the clock.

Ithaca (22-5) received the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament while Vassar finished its season with a 19-8 record.

"I think it was a great, competitive season," said Robinson-Griggs, daughter of Councillor-at-Large Leo Robinson and Linda Alioto-Robinson. "We fell short of where we wanted to be, but we had some really great moments. It was



Lucia Robinson-Griggs has completed her first season as head coach of the Vassar College women's basketball team.

the first time we swept a Senior Weekend (wins over Union and William Smith College on Senior Day) in

six years."

Robinson-Griggs' contingent did well with the league's post-season awards. One of her athletes, senior Sophie Nick, was selected the Liberty League Player of the Year.

"Sophie also holds the NCAA record for shooting percentage (97.7 percent), noted Robinson-Griggs.

Another Vassar player, senior Jackie Cenani, was selected All-League Second Team.

Robinson-Griggs has begun looking ahead to next season.

"I'm excited to get on the road and recruit and continue to build up the program and really put us on the national stage," said Robinson, who intends to recruit high school players in the greater Boston area.

She said an immediate goal at Vassar is winning the league championship. "I think there are so many

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Clark Avenue School closed Wednesday on COVID-19 precautions

School re-opened after deep cleaning

By Seth Daniel

Acting with an abundance of caution, Supt. Almi Abeyta closed the Clark Avenue School on Wednesday, March 11, over concerns about an adult staff member who had traveled to Italy and wasn't feeling well.

After a deep-cleaning of the school all day, and further investigation of the staff member, everything was determined to be fine. The school re-opened for classes today, March 12.

"I had asked staff for information if they had traveled to Italy and we could assess if they were a high-risk or a low-risk," she said. "I was made aware late on Tuesday night about a staff member who had been feeling ill and had traveled to Italy. Out of an abundance of caution and care for our students and staff, I made the decision with the information I had to close school

and do a deep cleaning. At the same time, we got more information from the person in question. Today (Wednesday), we've been getting more information and are working with the Health Department."

Abeyta said after further investigation, they decided to re-open today.

"The Clark Avenue School will be open March 12 at the regular time," she wrote in a statement. "There is no report that any individual at the Clark Avenue Middle School has the COVID-19 virus. In addition, to the best of our knowledge, there is currently no resident in Chelsea with the virus."

Supt. Abeyta said the Clark Avenue was the only school with such precautions, and there currently are no plans to take the same precautions at any other school right now.

MBTA hears concerns in Chelsea

By Adam Swift

The MBTA held a public meeting last week at City Hall seeking input on its public engagement plan that at times became an opportunity for T customers to speak up on the variety of issues they see with transit service.

The meeting on Thursday, March 5, was part of the public input period for the MBTA Public Engagement Plan.

"The Public Engagement Plan is an opportunity for riders to influence what happens at the MBTA by delivering better services to customers," said MBTA Assistant General Manager for Policy Laurel Paget-Seekins.

Paget-Seekins said the engagement plan will help the MBTA make better decisions and strengthen projects by getting input from the public earlier in the process.

Public input for the draft of the public engagement plan is still being accepted through March 20. Those

who were unable to attend one of the five public meetings (including the one in Chelsea) can provide feedback online at mbta.com/public-engagement or email engagement@mbta.com. Paget-Seekins said the online comments will be cataloged and carry just as much weight as any input from the public meetings.

Paget-Seekins pointed to several recent examples of public outreach to highlight what the MBTA is trying to accomplish, including the Green Line extension from Lechmere to Union Square in Somerville and the Better Bus network redesign project.

Outreach efforts for both projects have included community meetings, website and email updates, door-to-door canvassing, and automated phone calls.

"Our public engagement plan is meant to guide future engagements," Paget-Seekins said.

She said there are five suggested principles that

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY ROAST



PHOTOS BY KATY ROGERS

Sen. Sal DiDomenico welcomed Senate President Karen Spilka to the podium during his annual DiDomenico Foundation St. Patrick's Day Roast on Friday night, March 6, in the Charlestown Knights of Columbus Hall. The night featured a feisty lineup and quite a few residents and public officials ready to celebrate with a little of the blarney. See Page 6 for more photos.

EBNHC, Greater Boston preparing for coronavirus

By John Lynds

It was only a matter of time before the coronavirus, or COVID-19, that spread across China landed in Boston. The Boston Public Health Commission announced that as of Monday, there was one confirmed case of coronavirus in Boston and eight cases that are presumed positive. The presumptive positive cases did not require hospitalization and are self-isolating at home. The CDC is currently testing to confirm these eight cases.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that includes MERS and SARS. The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.

According to the BPHC, there is no evidence of community transmission in Boston right now. The risk remains low, but this situation is evolving rapidly and changes day to day.

“BPHC is engaging in daily communications with the CDC, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), City of Boston departments and other community partners to make sure we have the latest information on guidance, best practices and recommendations,” said the BPHC in a statement. “BPHC will provide updated information on this website and on our social media channels as it becomes

available. We are confident the City of Boston will be ready for a safe and effective response as the situation develops.”

Over at East Boston Neighborhood Health Center U.S. Congressman and Senate candidate Joseph Kennedy III participated in a roundtable at the Health Center to discuss the status, needs and preparedness for COVID-19. The goal of the meeting was to provide assistance to Kennedy in disseminating appropriate and timely information regarding the virus. The discussion consisted of best practices and recommendations on how to respond to COVID-19.

Of particular interest was the potential impact on Eastie’s senior population, the role of our emergency department and the partnership with Massport and the City’s Public Health Department.

“The coronavirus outbreak is the number one priority for the Health Center and the communities we serve. Like other healthcare organizations, we have enacted our Emergency Operations Planning and put protocols into place to ensure the safety of our staff, patients and members of our Neighborhood PACE program,” said EBNHC President and CEO Manny Lopes. “We are fortunate that we have had no active cases of the coronavirus present here at EBNHC, but regardless we must remain vigilant. East Boston Neighborhood Health Center has been providing

quality care to the residents of East Boston and our surrounding communities for the last 50 years and we remain steadfastly committed to caring for all in our community during this crisis. We will continue to work closely with the Department of Public Health, the Boston Department of Public Health and both State and Federal Government as every day brings forth new information and recommended guidelines.”

When the outbreak in Wuhan, China, began, many patients reported links to a large seafood and animal market. This suggested that it was spread from animal to people. However, it is now clear that COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person. It is spread through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land on people who are nearby (within six feet). It may also be possible for a person to get COVID-19 by touching a contaminated surface or object and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.

“To ensure the safety of staff and patients and to contain the spread of the coronavirus as much as possible, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center has instituted a very thorough screening process in our Call Centers and in our various clinical departments,” said EBNHC Chief Medical Officer Jackie Fantes. “Patients are screened for symptoms if they have had any exposure or have

traveled outside of the area recently. If testing is deemed necessary, the State Lab will process the results. We’re hoping to have access to private labs as well. Thankfully, flu season is subsiding and that should help eliminate a lot confusion over symptoms in the coming weeks. Given that the elderly population is at the highest risk, we are focused on our Neighborhood PACE Program and are taking every step possible to continue giving high-quality care both at our PACE Centers and in their homes without compromising their risks further. Throughout this crisis, we must still care for all of the health issues our community faces and it is important that people don’t avoid necessary care because of this crisis. We are grateful for our skilled and determined staff for the work they are doing every day.”

EBNHC Vice President of Human Resources Steven Snyder added, “The safety of our staff is always a priority for us. Balancing the need to care for the community during this crisis with the concerns of our own staff is no easy task, but we are fortunate to have an incredibly committed team here at the Health Center who always rises to the occasion. We will continue to take every step we can to see that our staff is utilizing best practices in infection control in the care of our patients, in their normal work day and in their personal lives.”

There is currently no vac-



EBNHC President and CEO Manny Lopes and U.S. Congressman Joseph Kennedy III address the crowd during the roundtable discussion concerning COVID-19.



EBNHC Chief Medical Officer Jackie Fantes and BPHC Executive Director Rita Nieves.

cine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. BPHC recommends standard precautions to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, like those that cause the flu or a cold:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% al-

- cohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Avoid spitting in public.
- Get a flu shot.

Charter/Continued from Page 1

ing out a dearth of single mothers, tenants, and people who work in immigrant services.

“Upon looking at the Council members selected, diversity is not just race and ethnicity, diversity is voice and representation,” said Santiago.

In addition to Taylor, the Council members appointed to the review committee were Judith Garcia, who will be the chairperson; Leo Robinson, Calvin Brown, and Melinda-Vega Maldonado. The School Committee members are Rosemarie Carlisle, Yesenia Alfaro, and Henry Wilson; and the Chelsea residents are Alex Balcarcel, Jason Stocker, Mary Bourque, Mimi Rancatore, and Sharlene McLean. The School Committee representatives were selected by School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia.

“Per the charter, the City Council President is responsible for the decision for what the process was,”

said Santiago. “It was in your authority and your discretion, but it is the responsibility of the City Council to make sure (the committee) is inclusive and representative of the City population.”

Taylor was singled out by Santiago for his inclusion on the review committee as she cited his recent Republican State Committee campaign literature which she said advocated against illegal immigration and sanctuary city status.

She said these views were not in line with the City’s ideals and asked Avellaneda to consider either replacing Taylor on the review committee, or looking at its overall composition.

“I’m concerned about that rhetoric and concerned about someone trying to represent the City in a charter review that will determine what the city is going to look like for the next 10 years,” said Santiago.

Avellaneda gave Taylor the opportunity to respond to Santiago, since she brought him up by name during the public speaking portion of the Council meeting.

“I have never brought national politics to this body, but they are being brought here tonight, but that is being brought here tonight where it seems I am being asked to step down for my views,” said Taylor.

Taylor said there is a diversity of not just race, but also opinion in Chelsea, and he said he supported people’s right to be critical. He added that immigration and sanctuary city status are complicated issues he would be happy to discuss with anyone who wants to.

“If someone called me to discuss it, I’d be happy to do it, rather than coming to give public speeches to condemn me,” said Taylor. “It is a dialogue that I am happy to have, but I don’t appreciate people coming

up and attacking me for something I had not brought to the Council. I have never brought national problems to this board; I was elected to solve the problems of Chelsea and that is what I am going to do.”

Later in the meeting, Councillor-At-Large Damali Vidot also criticized the representative make-up of the Charter Review Commission. Both Santiago and Vidot had applied to be on the Committee, but were not chosen.

“I’m extremely disappointed with this Charter Review Committee,” said Vidot, adding she felt the commission was one-sided in terms of the Council members selected, and that it lacked adequate representation of the City’s Latino population, tenants, single mothers, and mothers of school-aged children.

“We have the opportunity to reflect the charter as being more reflective of our new community,” said

Vidot. “It needs to be more multi-dimensional, and not just perpetuating the same crap that always happens.”

District 4 Councillor Enio Lopez also said that he did not believe he saw enough Latino representation on the Charter Review Committee.

Robinson said he took offense at Vidot’s characterization of the committee, stating that all those named would be fair and above reproach.

Avellaneda also defended the process of appointing the committee, pointing out that it is both a majority-minority committee and a majority female committee.

“There was a question about the diversity and the makeup, if someone was to look at this and see there are seven women on this committee, six men; seven (of the committee) are majority minority,” said Avellaneda. “On the resident side we have a business back-

ground, health and service, and as we just saw, a range of ideology and opinions and parties on the issue.”

The Council President said he did his best to make the committee as diverse as possible.

“Of course, any time you have a committee like this, of course there is going to be some public comments and criticism, but I did my best based on the submissions that were from the residents themselves,” said Avellaneda. “I hope the people will be a little more satisfied once they see the process.”

Avellaneda also stated that any member of the Council, School Committee, or the public can attend meetings and make suggestions to the Charter Review Committee as the process gets underway.

Lucia/Continued from Page 1

great things to build on. The team is so driven and our league is so competitive – I know the players want to win a league championship and add more years to those banners in our gymnasium. There’s no doubt in mind that this is a place where it’s possible and we’ll get there. I’m excited for the future.”

Robinson-Griggs, who

excelled in basketball, softball, and soccer at Pope John High School and later played college basketball at Bentley, was previously an associate head coach at MIT. She has also played women’s professional football and coached high school football.

Leo Robinson coached his daughter in the Pope John basketball program.

“It was a great opportunity and she was a fundamentally sound player,” said Robinson. “I’m not surprised how successful she has been as a basketball coach. She has all the ingredients to be a great basketball coach.”

Former Chelsea High director of athletics Frank DePatto saw Lucia play high school basketball for Pope John on numerous occasions.

“Lucia was a tremendous player and an especially accurate free throw shooter – I think she shot 90 percent from the line,” said DePatto. “I was always impressed by the knowledge Lucia had of the game of basketball. I think it’s great that she took a coaching opportunity out of state. She is an up and coming star in the coaching profession and I’m sure we’re going to be hearing a lot about her as she continues in her career.”

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MBTA / Continued from Page 1

will help guide that process, including developing strong community partners; strategic outreach to voices that have not always been traditionally heard; building inclusive, diverse, and accessible environments; having respectful and solutions-based dialogue; and being transparent with the process.

During the question and answer session, Paget-Seekins was asked why only one of the five public hearings on the plan were held in Boston. A number of those who attended the Chelsea meeting last week traveled to Chelsea after being unable to make it to the Boston hearing.

“We serve 175 towns, but the most ridership is in Boston,” said Paget-Seekins. “The question is how we reach as many people outside of meetings, as well.”

Several members of the Boston-based Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE), a transportation justice community

organization, raised their concerns about how the MBTA has handled past engagement efforts.

Some of those concerns included a lack of using existing MBTA resources, such as advertising and video messaging, to spread the word about upcoming projects. Several riders also said that the messaging of the Better Bus project did not clearly state that the project would include the rerouting of bus stops, and that there has sometimes been less community engagement for projects that impact more minority-based communities.

Paget-Seekins said the MBTA is taking into consideration ways it can reach out to people and neighborhoods that are impacted by MBTA projects, including going directly to housing complexes or community centers. She was also asked about the possibility of the MBTA holding affinity-group based meetings for people of different backgrounds, pointing out

that there is one group already for people with disabilities.

Chelsea resident Susan Backstrom said the disability group meetings are effective, but could go further.

“The only issue is that it is in English,” said Backstrom. “Chelsea has more than 50 percent of its population that is Spanish speaking, that is a difference.”

While there was a focus on ways to improve the engagement of the MBTA, there were also several questions raised about other service issues and fare increases during the meeting.

While not directly related to the goal of the meeting, Paget-Seekins and several other MBTA officials did take time to answer as many questions as they could.

Paget-Seekins also said it was a great point raised by several residents that the MBTA could increase its transparency by more effectively communicating its financial data to the public.

Chelsea landlord agrees to settle false claims act allegations

Staff Report

The U.S. Attorney’s Office announced on March 6 a \$7,000 settlement with 44 Hawthorne, LLC and its owner, Alek Vienneau, to resolve allegations that they submitted false claims to the federal government after receiving impermissible excess rent payments from a low-income tenant while participating in a federal housing subsidy program.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides federal funding through the Federal Housing Choice Voucher program, commonly referred to as “Section 8,” to assist low-income individuals in securing safe housing. The funding is provided through vouchers that are administered by local public housing agencies. The housing subsidy, which may cover

all or a portion of a tenant’s monthly rent, is paid directly to the landlord. As a condition for receiving the housing subsidy, the landlord contractually agrees not to charge the Section 8 tenant rent in excess of the amount set by the public housing agency.

Despite this restriction, 44 Hawthorne, LLC and its owner, Alek Vienneau, allegedly collected excess rent from a Section 8 tenant for five months between June and November 2017. Denise Komnenus, the Section 8 tenant, first raised this allegation in a lawsuit filed against the defendants under the qui tam, or whistleblower, provisions of the False Claims Act.

“The Section 8 program provides crucial funding for low income individuals to afford safe housing,” said United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling. “We will

hold accountable landlords who benefit from the program and then take advantage of their tenants.”

“This settlement is the latest example of our continued commitment to hold landlords accountable for actions that seek to enrich themselves at the expense of our poorest neighbors,” said Special Agent in Charge Christina Scaringi, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General.

The False Claims Act allows private citizens with knowledge of fraud to bring civil actions on behalf of the government and to share in any recovery. The settlement agreement requires the defendants to pay \$7,000 to the United States. Ms. Komnenus will receive approximately \$1,540 of the recovery in this case.

Sanctuary / Continued from Page 1

ry,” he said.

Taylor, the Republican State Committeeman representing Chelsea, said he separates his City-elected work from his work as a Republican elected official at the state level.

“If people want to have a legitimate debate (on sanctuary cities), I’m not afraid to debate it,” he said. “It’s a complicated issue ... but the debate needs to be respectful and it does not need to be hateful. As a Republican official representing the city of Chelsea, I have felt extra hatred, even having people sending death threats to my phone.”

Taylor also noted that reaffirming Chelsea as a Sanctuary City would do nothing to change the 2007 vote. He added that he would continue to vote against any partisan issue

brought before the Council, whether he agreed with it or not.

Brown took a different approach in voting against the order, noting that he supported Chelsea being a Sanctuary City, but that reaffirming that would not be necessary when the measure is already on the books. Brown said word about Chelsea’s Sanctuary City status is still effectively communicated and enforced.

“I’m not voting for this because 13 years ago those in office voted for it because they wanted it to be the law of the land,” said Brown. “There is no need to reaffirm it, we have it here.”

Councillor-At-Large Leo Robinson also noted that there was no need to vote to reaffirm the status,

although he ultimately did vote in favor of it, noting during roll call that he voted for Sanctuary City status during the original vote in 2007.

District 4 Councillor Enio Lopez countered that reaffirming Sanctuary City status is important to help protect Chelsea’s most vulnerable residents.

Council President Roy Avellaneda said he could understand there were some questions about why Sanctuary City status was being broached again.

“When you bring attention to it is when you feel like your residents are being attacked; that’s when you double down,” he said. “We need to double down and say we have the same values we had back then.”

Chelsea Night Market to return in another power-packed summer

By Seth Daniel

The Chelsea Night Market is scheduled to return this summer and highlight a packed schedule of events in the downtown area, according to Mimi Graney of Chelsea Prospers.

“The Night Market is coming back again,” she said. “We’re going to do the first one at the end of May, and we’ll go into September. Last year we did one in October but it was a little too chilly.”

The hours of the market are also scaled back a little bit, ending at 9 p.m. and beginning at 6 p.m.

“The Market was very popular with young families so we’re going to end at 9 p.m. this year,” she said. “Many people were leaving



before 10 p.m. last year.”

The Night Market premiered last summer and was a very popular attraction in the downtown on Luther Place – a City parking lot that has been known in the past more for trouble and hijinks than for fun and games.

The Night Market runs one time a month, and features entertainment, special performances, local food and local vendors.


Other events include:

- The annual Paw-Raid Dog Parade will take place on May 16, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- The Fiesta Verano will take place on June 13 with either a carnival or drumming theme.

- there will be a community dining experience on the law activity on July 1, but before that, every Wednesday in June, from 5-8 p.m., there will be preparations for the big event. They will collect old outdoor furniture and paint it during the Wednesday work nights, then place it all on the green space in Chelsea Square. On July 1, they’ll have a huge community potluck at the Community Dining Room.

- Creative Crosswalks will be coming to Division Street in the next few months. Graney said they are pursuing grant funding to put up the artistic crosswalks, but would use City funds if they don’t get state money.




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Chelsea

RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley
EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

OUR UNDERPREPARED HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

The coronavirus pandemic that is sweeping across the world has highlighted how ill-prepared the U.S. health-care system has become for dealing with a national health emergency of this potential magnitude.

The U.S. has lagged far behind other nations in terms of testing our citizens to determine whether they have contracted Covid-19. Not only did our government not have anywhere near the number of test kits available to meet the demand for testing, but those that we did have were defective.

As a result, we have lost precious time in identifying how many of our citizens have the disease and the extent of the outbreak in specific parts of the country.

Cutbacks in the budgets of the federal agencies responsible for ensuring our nation’s health have reduced the ability of the federal government to respond to such threats speedily and competently.

However, there is a much-deeper problem that has been looming for years.

The closing of community hospitals throughout the nation in the past few decades has created a crisis that already has placed our healthcare system at the breaking point -- a situation that will only get worse as the Baby Boomers begin to reach their late 70s and 80s.

Anybody who has been to a hospital emergency room recently knows all too well that our healthcare system is woefully inadequate even in the best of times.

The 46,500 beds in intensive care in the United States are occupied virtually 24/7/365 by mostly elderly persons with a wide range of health issues. Covid-19, if uncontrolled, might lead to up to 1.9 million ICU admissions, according to projections presented to the American Hospital Association -- a situation for which we have nowhere near the capacity or capability.

Even without a pandemic or similar national health emergency, our health care system is a disaster waiting to happen in the years ahead.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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Forum



GUEST OP-ED

Have a hippity-hoppity holiday

By Melissa Martin, Ph.D.

This year, Easter falls on Sunday, April 12. So, make your menu, sew your outfit, and decorate your dwelling while there’s still time.

Easter has become a commercial event catered toward children with baskets full of chocolate rabbits, dyed eggs, jelly beans, and other sweet treats. Easter is the second best-selling candy holiday in America after Halloween. Keep that a secret from your kid’s dentist.

How interesting that a dog is in the running to be the next Cadbury bunny—that will be one funny bunny. And I voted for the two-legged dog from New Richmond, Ohio, to be the 2020 candy canine. Bark for the bunny! Lt. Dan is named after the “Forrest Gump” character who lost his legs overseas in combat. What animal lover can resist a disabled dog wearing long ears and a fluffy tail. Cadbury issued a casting call for all pets to enter the contest to become the next Cadbury Bunny. Lt. Dan the dog is competing against a mini-horse, llama, pig, hamster, duck and two cats. The winner of the con-

test will star in Cadbury’s new TV commercial and receive \$5,000. The Cadbury Bunny Tryouts Contest is sponsored by The Hershey Company in Hershey, Pa. Vote at www.bunnytryouts.cadburyusa.com.

How interesting that a giant bunny carries a huge basket and hops down the bunny trail to deliver colored eggs to children. Aren’t the hens steamed? It’s hard work laying eggs, only to give the credit to a happy hare. Plastic lookalike eggs have replaced boiled eggs in the annual Easter egg hunts. The chickens don’t have to work as long during the season, but please give the poor cluckers a raise and retirement benefits. But no billionaire bunnies allowed according to Bernie.

The White House Easter Egg Roll is an annual tradition. Since 1878, when Rutherford B. Hayes was in office, American presidents have hosted the party on the lawn according to the White House Historical Association website. The liberals probably want to roll Trump down Capitol Hill—then he will have a bad ‘hare’ day. Sorry, I couldn’t resist a hair joke. Womp womp.

The following corny

jokes were found at www.southernliving.com. Q: Therapist: What’s been up lately? A: Chocolate bunny: I don’t know, I just feel so hollow inside. Q: How can you tell which rabbits are oldest in a group? A: Just look for the gray hares. Q: Where does the Easter Bunny go when he needs a new tail? A: To a re-tail store.

What’s for Easter Dinner?

“In early Jewish history, lambs were sacrificed as offerings to God and served regularly as part of the Passover feast. Then, when Jesus died during Passover, he represented the ultimate sacrifice for sin, the “lamb of God,” and the animal evolved into a potent symbol for Christians, especially at Easter. Many Orthodox Christians still follow the Jewish Orthodox customs of not eating any pork, so lamb takes center stage at their Easter meal. Others, however, wouldn’t imagine Easter without ham. Symbolizing “good luck” for many cultures around the world, it made a fitting meal at all sorts of feasts and celebrations, according to the Encyclopedia of Religion. Some historians believe Easter’s spring tim-

ing also factored into the choice: Farmers typically slaughtered pigs in the fall and then took several months to smoke the pork, making a ham ready just in time for Easter dinner.” www.goodhousekeeping.com.

The Real Deal of Easter

“The Bible makes no mention of a long-eared, short-tailed creature who delivers decorated eggs to well-behaved children on Easter Sunday; nevertheless, the Easter bunny has become a prominent symbol of Christianity’s most important holiday,” according to an article at www.history.com.

Easter is a deeply religious holiday for many, packed with significance in the resurrection story of Christ. Good Friday marks Jesus’s crucifixion and Easter Sunday celebrates his resurrection. The crucifixion of Jesus is recorded in the New Testament books, known as the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Blessings to all my peeps at Easter!

Melissa Martin, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in Ohio.

LETTER to the Editor

SCHOOL COMMITTEEWOMAN OPPOSES CHOICE OF COUNCILOR FOR CHARTER REVIEW

Dear Editor,

Every 10 years, the City of Chelsea gets to re-evaluate its City Charter, ultimately proposing and making changes to our City’s constitution. Over the past decade, Chelsea has continued to be the welcoming gateway that it has been for well over a century, receiving immigrants from across the globe with open arms as they begin a new life in our city, our Commonwealth, and our country. I was disappointed with the composition of this year’s Charter Review Commission because it lacks the diversity that has made Chelsea what it is today, but one member in particular stood out as antithetical to the values of our community: Councilor Todd Taylor.

Earlier this week, I saw a postcard that Councilor

Taylor used for his recent re-election to the Massachusetts Republican State Committee along with his wife, Regina. In it, he proudly vocalized his support for Donald Trump and used xenophobic language in order to draw support from the type of voters that create fear and restlessness in immigrant communities like Chelsea. He said they would fight to prevent Massachusetts from becoming a sanctuary state and to “defend President Trump.”

At Monday night’s City Council meeting I spoke out against Councilor Taylor’s inclusion as a member of the City Charter Review Commission because I believe that he is someone who stands in stark contrast to the values of our community. If the purpose of this commission is to gather feedback from our community and present recommendations, how can we trust that he will have the best interests of our community at heart, instead of the interests of his anti-immigrant right-wing ideology? Giv-

en that the 2020 Census is also underway, will people feel empowered and trust in their government to make sure they are counted when these statements and positions are on public display?

After I spoke, Councilor Taylor defended himself by saying that he does not bring national politics into Chelsea. However, as former U.S. House Speaker Tip O’Neill said, “all politics are local,” and this could not be more true right now. The federal government is attacking our immigrant communities in a manner never seen before. Our residents feel threatened by the Trump administration, and Councilor Taylor stands in support of this, generating fear within our community.

Regarding my asking for him to step down from the Charter Review Commission, he said that I would also love for him to step down from his seat on the City Council. However, he was duly elected to this office, and thus it is his right to be a City Councilor for

the duration of his term. Being on the Charter Review Commission, however, is not his right. It is a privilege that can be afforded to him by the City Council President. I believe that his membership in this Commission will create an atmosphere of fear that will taint the democratic process of the Charter Review Commission, and for that reason ask that he step down from his position, or that the City Council reconsider affording him this privilege by whichever process they deem proper.

As a member of the Chelsea School Committee, I support our immigrant students and families, and we need to speak up for them and the rest of our community. We are a welcoming city and we need to live up to those ideals as we continue to work towards an inclusive and just society where no one lives in fear.

**Marisol Santiago
Chelsea School
Committee District 3**

POLICE *Briefs*

BY SETH DANIEL AND PAUL KOOLLOIAN

BARTENDER
BRAWL

On Feb. 16, officers were dispatched to 9 -11 Wil- liams St. (El Carriel Bar) for a report of a fight within the bar. Officers were told by patrons that two bar- tenders argued over serving the victim any more alco- hol. As the male party tried to intervene, one of the bar- tenders hit the victim over the head with a glass, caus- ing a laceration.

The CPD licensing unit is investigating and will re- port to the Licensing Com- mission its follow-up inves- tigation findings.

Evelyn Carmona, 38, of Revere was charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (drink- ing glass).

STABBING IN
WAKEFIELD

Wakefield Chief Ste- ven A. Skory reports that a Chelsea man was arrested Tuesday morning following a stabbing at a workplace.

Elvin Gutierrez, 34, of Chelsea was arrested and charged with:

- Assault to Murder
- Assault and Battery With a Dangerous Weapon

(Knife)

At 8:25 a.m., Wakefield Police were dispatched to Produce Connection, 96 Audubon Road, for a report of an employee who had been stabbed. Upon arrival, officers provided aid to the victim and initiated an on- scene investigation through which they determined the victim was stabbed by a co-worker, identified as Gutierrez.

Gutierrez fled on foot into a marsh area at the end of Audubon Road, where he was subsequently locat- ed by Wakefield Police and a Massachusetts State Po- lice K-9. He was taken into custody from deep within the marsh without incident.

The victim was trans- ported to an area hospital for treatment, and the ex- tent of his injuries is un- known at this time.

Wakefield Police are actively investigating the circumstances surrounding the stabbing.

BAD CHECKS

On Feb. 10, at 5:15 p.m., a CPD officer re- sponded to the TD Bank on Broadway after being alert- ed by the CPD officer on detail inside the bank that a woman just attempted to

pass a bad check to the tel- ler. The officers were able to confirm with the rightful owner of the account that the check was not legiti- mate. The female as placed under arrest on the scene.

Shelly Robinson, 60, of Bronx, NY, was charged with attempted larceny, ut- tering a false document and two counts of forgery of a document.

STOPPED ON
BROADWAY

On Feb. 15, at 1:51 a.m., a CPD officer observed a suspicious auto with the hazard lights on and with the driver slumped over in the steering wheel in the area of 427 Broadway. The vehicle was running and was approximately four feet away from the curb. This officer also observed ample empty parking spac- es in the vicinity. The offi- cer conducted a roadside assessment and determined that the operator was under the influence of alcohol. He was placed under arrest.

Francisco Ponce, 41, of 68 Murray St., was charged with operating under the influence of liquor (second offense) and failing to stop for police.

OPENING VISIT



Richard Settipane (left) is shown with Councillor Leo Robinson at the opening of Settipane Insurance on Squire Road in Revere recently.

CONSTRUCTION *UPDATE*

Tobin Bridge/Chelsea Curves Rehabilitation Project

Construction Look- Ahead: March 8 – 21

ROUTE 1 TRAFFIC IMPACTS

- ROUTE 1 SOUTH- BOUND: Approaching the Chelsea Curves from the North Shore, the workzone begins in the left lane be- fore the Carter Street off- ramp. 2 of 3 travel lanes will be open during daytime hours (5 a.m.–10 p.m.).

LOCAL STREET CLO- SURES

- A R L I N G T O N STREET: Arlington Street under Route 1 will be closed during the daytime (7 a.m.–7 p.m.) on Sat- urday, March 14. Signed detours and police details will guide drivers around the work zone via Spruce Street and Everett Ave.

WORK HOURS

- Most work will occur in during daytime working hours (6 a.m.–2 p.m.) on

weekdays. Some work will take place during afternoon (2 p.m.–7 p.m) and over- night hours (7 p.m.–6 a.m.) and on Saturdays (7 a.m.–7 p.m).

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

- ROUTE 1 NORTH- BOUND: Bridge deck and gutter repairs continue in the left lane over the To- bin Bridge. We will con- tinue to remove bridge deck and install new bridge deck through the Chelsea Curves.
- ROUTE 1 SOUTH- BOUND: Removal of existing bridge deck and installation of new bridge deck will continue through the Chelsea Curves.
- U N D E R N E A T H ROUTE 1: Crews will re- place and paint steel; pow- er wash and paint columns and support beams; exca- vate, drill, and grout around support columns; erect steel; place new concrete columns; install ground


anchors; and deliver steel beams from the new bridge deck.

TRAVEL TIPS

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all sig- nage and move carefully through the work zone. Po- lice 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 po- lice to provide awareness and manage traffic during events. For your awareness, the following events are scheduled during this look- ahead period:

- Bruins: 3/14 at 7 p.m., 3/16 at 7 p.m.
- Celtics: 3/13 at 7:30 p.m., 3/18 at 7:30 p.m.
- Events: 3/19 at 7 p.m., 3/20 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., 3/21 at 7 p.m.



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The 2020 Census will count every person living in the United States, regardless of citizenship, immigration status, language, or age.

The number of people counted in Chelsea helps determine how much funding we get for schools, healthcare, housing, seniors, parks and more.

Look for your census invitation in the mail in March



www.ChelseaCensus2020.com




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SEN. SAL DIDOMENICO HOSTS ANNUAL ST. PATRICK’S DAY ROAST

Sen. Sal DiDomenico held his annual St. Patrick’s Day Roast in Charlestown on Friday evening, March 6, welcoming hundreds of friends and supporters. This year, the Golden Shamrock award was awarded to Lisa McGoff Collins of Charlestown. Politicians joked at one another’s expense and all enjoyed a traditional Irish corned beef dinner.



Bagpipers entertained the crowd at Sen. Sal DiDomenico’s St. Patrick’s Day event.



Sen. Sal DiDomenico welcomed Councillor Lydia Edwards, State Rep. Dan Ryan, and Attorney General Maura Healy.



Sen. Sal DiDomenico welcomed Attorney General Maura Healy.



Marie Monziona and Ruth Giannasoli dressed in festive green attire for St. Patrick’s Day.



Senate President Karen Spilka and State Treasurer Deb Goldberg enjoyed traditional Irish food.



Congressman Joe Kennedy and State Sen. Joe Boncore saluted the flag.



Sen. Sal DiDomenico welcomed Everett Supt. Priya Tahiliani and Senate President Karen Spilka.



Congressman Joe Kennedy received assistance with his floral pin from Christie Getto Young.



Chelsea State Rep. Dan Ryan and Everett State Rep. Joe McGonagle joined the fun at the St. Patrick’s Day celebration.

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THE ANNUAL KELLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CULTURAL CELEBRATION

PHOTOS BY KEIKO HIROMI

The annual Kelly Elementary School Cultural Celebration took place at the Burke Complex cafeteria on March 5. A beloved tradition at Kelly Elementary School, the Cultural Celebration is a parent-driven school event where students and family share their backgrounds, enjoy foods and learn about each other's backgrounds.



Joanne Gallagher holding her homemade baked ziti at the Kelly Elementary School Cultural Celebration.



Manny Crespo, Ashley Houston-King, Katie Mitchell, Meghan Murphy and Julie Gilmartin



Marcela Guevara and Yolanda Valles, of Chelsea Public Schools.



Houda Mobarak and Adnane Benyounes celebrate their Moroccan heritage.



Wendy Tenelema and Maria Romero.



Soraya Melgar, Roxana Coreas and Kathia Melgar.



Ada Berros, Vivian Quiles and Cynthia Lopez.



Genesis (right) and Morses Ulloa (left) holding a Honduras flag.



Kelly Elementary School Principal Lisa Lineweaver, Sobrina Guerra (7), Heavend Rodriguez and Estela Amaya.



The Kelly Elementary School Cultural Celebration.

Chelsea, Massachusetts
NPDES Permit No. MA0101877
Annual Combined Sewer Overflow Press Release, March 2020

Combined sewers are sewers that are designed to collect both wastewater and stormwater runoff in the same pipe. Approximately 70% of Chelsea is serviced by combined sewers. Most of the time, Chelsea's combined sewers transport all of the wastewater and stormwater to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA's) Deer Island Treatment Plant, where it is treated and then discharged to the Atlantic Ocean. However, during large rain storms, the capacity of the combined sewer pipes can be exceeded. For this reason, combined sewer systems such as Chelsea's are designed with special overflow structures that can release the excess wet-weather flow to a nearby water body to prevent it from backing up into buildings or out of manholes. These overflows, called Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), contain not only stormwater but also untreated wastewater and debris. CSO discharges are a public health and water pollution concern for Chelsea, as well as the approximately 770 other U.S. cities with combined sewer systems. Chelsea has a permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), MA0101877, which authorizes the City to discharge from its three remaining CSOs as follows:

- CHE003 - Located on Winnisimmet Street and discharges to Chelsea River
- CHE004 - Located on Pearl Street and discharges to Chelsea River
- CHE008 - Located on Eastern Avenue and discharges to Chelsea River

Calendar Year 2019 CSO Update

As required by the CSO permit, Chelsea is publishing this Annual Press Release to inform the public about CSO discharges. In 2019, CHE003 discharged during one storm event, CHE004 discharged during nine storm events and CHE008 discharged during 16 storm events. Detailed information regarding Chelsea's CSOs, and all 2019 discharges, may be found in the CSO Annual Report posted on the City's website after April 30, 2020 (www.ci.chelsea.ma.us).

Ongoing CSO Elimination Efforts

Chelsea is aggressively pursuing sewer separation and other infrastructure improvement projects that will reduce the quantity of stormwater discharged to its combined sewer system and, therefore, CSO activation frequency and volume. During 2019, the city began developing a master plan for sewer separation, including creation of hydraulic models for the sewer and drain systems. The city also began construction on sewer separation and other utility improvements in the following areas of Chelsea:

- Essex Street between Pearl Street and Highland Street
- Highland Street between Maverick Street and Marginal Street

Also in 2019, design of utility improvements was on-going for the following areas of Chelsea:

- Broadway between City Hall and the Revere city line
- Broadway between City Hall and Williams Street
- Beacham Street between the Everett city line and Williams Street
- Williams Street between Beacham Street and Spruce Street

These projects are being funded through the City's Capital Improvement Plan, as well as various grant and loan programs.

Additional information regarding Chelsea's CSOs is available on the City's website at www.ci.chelsea.ma.us, as well as from the EPA or Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

PARIS ST. POOL TO BE RENOVATED

EAST BOSTON - Mayor Martin Walsh announced that renovations to BCYF Paris Street Pool will start this month. Walsh earmarked \$8.9 million for the rehab and construction of the Paris Street Pool across from the Paris Street Gym. The Gym underwent a \$12 million overhaul and the pool’s rehab will complement the new state-of-the-art gym and community center.

The Walsh Administration’s investment in the pool will include a new pool filter room, mechanical and electrical upgrades, modified main entrance and lobby area, renovating interior and exterior repairs and other upgrades necessary to make it a more inviting and user-friendly space. The pool will close on Friday, March 13, and is expected to be closed for 14 months.

“This well-loved and well-used pool will be a beautiful, welcoming and open space offering more aquatic programming than ever once this project is complete,” said Mayor Walsh. “With the renovated BCYF Paris Street Community Center across the street and the renovated Paris Street Playground next door, I’m proud of the investments we will continue to make in the East Boston community.”

During the closure, swimmers will have access to the Umana Academy Pool on Border Street, thanks to a partnership with the East Boston YMCA which manages the Umana Academy pool. BCYF Paris Street Pool staff will transition to the Umana Academy pool and will offer programming on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. On other days of the week, swimmers will be able to participate in programming offered by the YMCA. This partnership will give BCYF Paris Street pool members access to seven days a week of swimming opportunities. The full schedule can be found at boston.gov/bcyf-paris-street.

“The East Boston YMCA is proud to partner with

Mayor Walsh and the City of Boston to bring swim and water safety programs to the East Boston Community,” said Executive Director of the East Boston YMCA Joseph J Gaeta Jr. “We welcome BCYF Paris Street members to the Umana Academy to swim in a safe and supervised pool during the Paris Street renovation. We are excited about this collaboration.”

Due to YMCA procedures, BCYF Paris Street Pool members who use the Umana Academy pool during YMCA operation time will need to present a photo ID on the first visit to be run through their Hall Pass data system and will need to sign a YMCA liability waiver. Existing BCYF Paris Street Pool members (who joined prior to the March 13 closure) will be able to continue to pay BCYF Paris Street pool programming prices for East Boston YMCA-run programs at Umana Academy pool. New members will join through the YMCA. Swimmers must be members and enrolled in programs to participate.

“I know how much being a part of the pool community has changed my life,” said East Boston resident Mohamed El Haddad, age 18. “It has helped me stay focused in school and provided me with a safe, enjoyable environment. Being a part of Paris Street is more than just being a part of a community center or swim team. It is like being a part of a family and I believe I am a better person because of it. I am very excited about the pool renovation because they will allow so many more children and families to have similar experiences for many more years to come.”

When the pool was first built, it featured a glass roof, and sliding doors that looked out onto the Paris Street playground, as well as a veranda so residents could enjoy a swim and then sit outside during the hot summer months. The pool underwent an overhaul under then-Mayor Kevin White due to constant vandalism of the glass roof and glass doors. The pool was

encased in cement blocks and now looks more like a bomb shelter than a community pool.

At a community meeting in September, a presentation by the architect included detailed information about what upgrades will occur and what the pool will look like. The pictures showed that the exterior of the pool will be fitted with new siding panels. An addition of the pool’s foyer will allow for more room and make the entrance more modern and inviting. There will also be an addition to the back of the building to make room for a family changing room--a feature that is absent from the current pool’s layout.

The side of the building that houses the pool that abuts the Paris Street Playground will be changed from a wall to windows. This will allow more light into the pool and better connect the facility to the playground. The building’s roof will also be transformed and will include skylights to bring even more natural light into the pool and make it feel more ‘open’.

EAST BOSTON’S FIRST RETAIL MARIJUANA STORE TO OPEN

EAST BOSTON - East Boston’s first adult-use retail marijuana facility planned for Meridian Street will open as early as April.

Berkshire Roots, Inc. plans to open the marijuana dispensary at 253 Meridian St. and received community support from the Eagle Hill Civic Association and later granted a Conditional Use Permit by the Boston Zoning Board of Appeals last year.

Berkshire Roots is the largest grower of cannabis in Western Massachusetts, and was the first medical marijuana dispensary to open in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Berkshire Roots’s attorney Andrea Nucifero said that his client is intending to use and redevelop the retail space at 253 Meridian St. into a retail marijuana dispensary. The proposal for the Meridian Street pot

ANNUAL BOSTON BRUINS ALUMNI VS. THE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL ALL STARS



A check for \$15,000 was presented by Bruins Alumni Captains, Ray Bourque and Rick Middleton to Captain Kevin Chiles during the annual Boston Bruins Alumni vs. Children's Hospital All Stars game held March 9 at Larsen Rink in Winthrop. This annual event is in its 30th year of raising money for Children's Hospital, through advanced ticket sales and book advertisements as well as private donations. Also in photo, US Navy Veteran Tom Miller, School Committee member Tino Capobianco, Revere Councillor Ira Novoselsky and State Rep. Donald Wong.

shop includes transforming the 1,400 sq. ft. retail space on the first floor of the building into a sleek and stylish dispensary with façade improvements and subtle and understated signage.

Nucifero said there would be no cultivation, processing, or packaging on site. There would also be no product consumption on site and the product would not be visible from the street.

There will be a security guard at the front door. When a potential customer enters he or she must present either a valid Massachusetts Medical Marijuana Card or a valid state license or identification card proving the customer is over 21 years of age. Between the front door and the actual dispensary is a locked door. The front door and internal ‘locked’ door are never open at the same time. Once the customer is approved by the security guard, an employee inside the dispensary would have to activate a buzzer for the internal door to allow the customer inside.

“It’s a very strict and rigorous process,” said Nucifero.

Aside from paying the city 3 percent of its sales per quarter, Berkshire Roots also agreed to install security cameras in and around the business, and to participate in public safety and beautification initiatives in and around the business.

According to the agreement with the city, there will be no benches or social gathering areas in or around the business and Berkshire Roots agrees to prohibit smoking, vaping or any other form of consumption of marijuana onsite. The company also agrees to share data and reports to the Boston Public Health Commission, as well as assist in the dissemination of materials related to public health, public safety and prevention efforts.

GAUTHIER RESIGNS POSITION

EVERETT - Just as School Committee officials and new Supt. Priya Tahiliani thought that former Interim Supt. Janice Gauthier would stay on as a senior advisor – Gauthier pulled the rug out from that plan last week with a sudden and striking resignation.

“I regret having to take this posture, but I cannot, in good conscience, continue further in serving the needs of the Institution I have served faithfully for 49 years, given the predicament I have been forced to contend with,” read her letter of resignation.

“Please understand that I feel that I have been constructively eliminated from my former post as Curriculum Director, that I have been denied equal consideration for the position of Superintendent of Schools after having faithfully served in that post for a period now in excess of 15 months, and it is my feeling that I have been discriminated against and denied an equal opportunity to continue, notwithstanding my many years of good service.”

It was signed with the parting word, “Regretfully.”

School Committee Chair Tom Abruzzese said the Committee and the new leadership was surprised when they received the resignation letter, a letter that detailed many frustrations and aggravations felt by Gauthier.

Abruzzese said he had been in constant discussion with Gauthier and Tahiliani about the new roles and clarifying everything before Tahiliani started on Monday, March 2.

“It was a total surprise,” he said. “I had met with the new superintendent and the interim superintendent last week to go over what roles everyone would have so there was no confusion...I wanted to make sure everyone knew who was what. There were rumors going around that we would have co-superintendents.”

He said there had been a meeting on Friday between Gauthier, himself and Tahiliani that ended with Gauthier accepting a new role, he said.

“Mrs. Gauthier’s contract indicates she was to go back as Curriculum Director when any new superintendent started work, but she had hired someone else to do that job already,” said Abruzzese. “Supt. Tahiliani offered her the opportunity to stay on as senior advisor to the superintendent. As of Friday, she accepted that. I put that in the email I sent out on Saturday to everyone and then on Monday we received her letter of resignation. Those are the facts from my perspective.”

He said he thought the roles were very clear on Friday, and was shocked – as were his colleagues – to hear the news on Monday.

“It was pretty clear and there was no misunderstanding on my part,” he said. “Was I shocked? Yes, but based on the events of the last 14 months, nothing should shock me.”

Gauthier wasn’t immediately available, but her attorney, David Fulmer of Wakefield, did speak to the Independent about his client.

“It’s certainly our position Mrs. Gauthier has

been treated totally unprofessionally by the City of Everett, the School Committee and the new superintendent – a new superintendent who released a statement that wasn’t authorized to be released,” he said. “I think there’s some pretty crazy things going on down there, I guess. Mrs. Gauthier was not given the latitude of other applicants (for superintendent). She is abundantly qualified. My personal opinion is being stymied and being placed in the same light as the former superintendent – who had problems – and Mrs. Gauthier is being discriminated against both in terms of her age and her posture of the 49 years of service she gave to Everett.”

Abruzzese said Gauthier took a personal day on Monday, and did not attend the School Committee meeting – where the resignation was discussed publicly to the surprise of many. Gauthier’s resignation indicated she will use 12 days of vacation through March 18, and resign on March 19. So, effectively, she will not return to the Everett Public Schools.

Abruzzese and the School Committee had said previously they believed she would retire at the end of the school year, on June 30, but she had never confirmed that. It was hoped she would stay on and serve as a mentor to guide Tahiliani in her first few months.

Gauthier had taken over as interim superintendent in January 2018 following the abrupt resignation of former Supt. Fred Forestiere due to allegations of misconduct reported to the School Committee and the Everett Police. Since that time, he has been charged with several felony counts of misconduct and that case is pending in Malden District Court.

“She stepped into an impossible situation and handled it with class and dignity,” said Abruzzese. “I hope she enjoys her retirement after a tremendous career in the Everett Public Schools.”

JACK McGRATH DEAD AT 87

EVERETT - If there was an Everett High game, awards banquet, letter-of-intent signing ceremony, or ‘E’ Club Dinner Jack McGrath was most likely in attendance.

And his warm and gracious presence would be received heartily by the athletes, coaches, school officials and parents. Jack McGrath always had the students’ best interests in mind and they sincerely

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Metro News //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

appreciated his support and enjoyed his broadcasting of their games on the local cable television station.

One of the proudest days for Jack McGrath and his family was the dedication ceremony of the press box at Everett Veterans Memorial Stadium in his honor.

John “Jack” McGrath Jr., a beloved resident of this city and a former baseball star at Boston College, died on Feb. 25. He was 87.

Like so many in the city, Jack McGrath closely followed the successes of the vaunted Everett High football program, notably during the current era led by former Hall of Fame coach John DiBiao and current head coach Theluxon Pierre.

“You’re talking about a legend in Everett, a selfless person that would give anything in the world to help people,” said Pierre. “He was all about Everett kids. He was one of the first persons to call and congratulate me when I became head coach. He was always there for our team. Words can’t describe this great person that we have lost. He was truly a great man.”

Maureen DiBiao, EHS cheerleading coach and wife of the legendary football coach, said her family’s relationship with Mr. McGrath goes many years, recalling how her father, the late William Shields, would often converse with Mr. McGrath at Everett games.

Maureen and John DiBiao and their son, former All-Scholastic quarterback Jonathan DiBiao, attended the memorial observances for Jack McGrath.

“My husband has known Jack since the days of the Everett Rats [youth basketball team],” said Mrs. DiBiao. “When I met my husband, I met Jack and Jack is the most wonderful person, kind, generous – everybody loved him. He made everybody feel so good. He was a great, great guy and a great supporter for Everett sports. He supported all the kids of Everett. He was the best of the best. He will be missed. The games will never be same without Jack here.”

Director of Athletics Tammy Turner conducted moments of silence for Mr. McGrath before the tapoffs of the EHS girls and boys state tournament games at the high school.

“I go back all 19 of my years in Everett with Jack, ever since my career started at Everett High,” said Turner, who has also coached the girls basketball team. “He was my No. 1 fan – he knew more coaching stats about me that I knew about me. He always encouraged me even in my toughest seasons. I feel like Jack was the heart and soul of Everett sports. He was just such a great man.”

Frank DePatto, administrator for the EHS Department of Athletics, said, “Jack McGrath is a legend in the city of Everett. He was an institution here, so very knowledgeable about Everett sports and always so helpful to kids with scholarships and awards. He is surely going to be missed.”

Linda Maloney, administrative assistant in the Everett schools, also paid tribute to Jack McGrath this week. “Jack McGrath was such a gentleman,” said Maloney. “I was so happy to be considered a friend of his. He was always concerned about the kids. He loved Everett sports and had such a passion. We’ll certainly miss him. Rest in peace, Jack.”

Vinnie Panzini, past president of the ‘E’ Club, said, “Jack is the all-time legend with sports and students at Everett High. He’s been working with these

programs and these kids for many years. There was no kinder, no better gentleman than Jack. He was an ambassador for the school system, the kids – you can’t give enough accolades to what he meant to Everett for generations of families. And they all loved him.”

Larry Denish summed up the majesty of Jack McGrath: “He was one of the greatest guys I knew around Everett sports. He was a great personality and a great guy. He had a great temperament and was a real gentleman. We’re going to miss you, Jack.”

LOOKING AT THE GRADUATION RATE

LYNN - At a recent School Committee meeting, Superintendent Patrick Tutwiler, reported on the 2019 graduation rate for the four high schools in the district. While the report had shown fairly steady results in the past six years, there has been an increase in the graduation rate by nearly a full percentage point, as peer districts (Brockton, Lawrence, Boston, and Springfield) had a slight decrease.

Tutwiler broke down the pros and cons of the current graduation status. Lynn Vocational Technical Institute showed noteworthy progress, with a graduation rate of 89.5 percent, a 30 percent upswing since 2006. This is the highest graduation rate that the school has had in 13 years.

Lynn Classical showed a 7 percent increase, leaping from 75.3 percent in 2018 to 82.5 percent in 2019.

While Lynn English was steady over the past three years, it dipped from 72.7 percent in 2018 to 70 percent in 2019. The drop is a concern for the district, considering it is now closer to “turnaround status.” When a school drops to a graduation rate of 66.7 percent, they are automatically placed in turnaround status, which will require the school to adhere to a specific set of activities gauged at improvement. The Department of Education establishes a threshold that a school must stay above before requiring assistance.

Fecteau-Leary had the most dramatic drop in graduation rate, dipping from 34.1 percent in 2018 to 19.4 percent in 2019.

“This outcome is not reflected in the hard work that this school does,” said Tutwiler, who believes there is a reason for the decline. “I want to be transparent about why there is such a precipitous increase at Lynn Classical and such a decline at Fecteau.”

According to Tutwiler, four years ago, there was an influx of ELL (English Language Learners) students and due to space issues, several of these students were placed at Fecteau-Leary when they should’ve been at Lynn Classical. Several of those students didn’t graduate, which greatly affected the data reflected.

The most prominent risk factors associated with students dropping out of school are:

- Fail a core subject course (particularly in Grade 9)
- Are chronically absent or tardy
- Fail to be promoted to the next grade
- Are disengaged in the classroom
- Have frequent infractions of the school code of discipline
- Are identified as low socioeconomic status
- Have extraordinary work/family economic needs
- Abuse substances
- Are older than the average student in their grade

“Part of the problem is that we can’t continue to do things the same and expect a different outcome,” said Tutwiler, who presented the same four-pronged approach slide five years ago when he was deputy superintendent. The four-pronged approach states that the four actions need to take place to prevent increasing dropout rates are: Education, Monitor/Identify, Support/Intervene, Suggest Alternatives. “You have to entertain a radical shift if you expect people to be different. I don’t want to come back here in five years and show a decline. That would be a failure on my part.”

According to Tutwiler, new thinking is already starting to occur. Part of this involves a redesign in the high school day, to accommodate students who have to work due to their family’s economic status. If a student is enrolled at Lynn Public Schools and they leave to go to work, they are counted as a dropout, and a more accessible day that allows for work hours, is currently being strategized, which will alleviate some of the declining graduation rates.

The district as a whole has a 74.8 percent graduation rate for 2019, a slight increase from 74.3 percent in 2018. Tutwiler believes that with planning and a more accessible school day, the district is capable of being in the low-80s in the future.

“The data tells a story and it tells where the needs are,” said School Committee member, Brian Castellanos. “I appreciate you setting the expectation, and to achieve equity takes cooperation, consistency and diligence. To hit those targets, we have to have an aim instead of being stuck in a position where we lose time. When we lose that, we lose children.”

COUNCILLORS ENDORSE KENNEDY

REVERE - Revere City Councillors Patrick Keefe and Steven Morabito announced their endorsements for Congressman Joe Kennedy III in the race for U.S. Senate during a reception Sunday at Dryft Restaurant.

Keefe, president of the City Council, and Morabito, councillor-at-large, each delivered introductory remarks in support of Kennedy at the event that drew a sizable crowd to the new restaurant on Revere Beach Boulevard.

Morabito spoke first and said he first met Kennedy during his run for Congress. “His platform was one that resonated with me. Since he’s been in Washington, he has worked diligently and prioritized issues such as health care, mental health, substance use disorder, and human rights.

“It goes without saying that Joe Kennedy is a guy that stands behind the people,” said Morabito. “You can guarantee that our next senator will tackle the everyday issues that occur in every city throughout the Commonwealth. Joe Kennedy is someone who will stand and defend the rights of the LGBTQ community, and stand for every woman and their rights, every person regardless of their skin color. Joe Kennedy is that leader that we want for our next U.S. senator.”

Keefe said a lot of Revere residents asked him (and Morabito) why they were supporting Joe Kennedy.

“This isn’t a race against anyone – this is a race for what Joe can do for the state of Massachusetts and what Joe can do for the

United States of America,” said Keefe.

The leader of the 11-member City Council compared his run for office against an incumbent to Kennedy’s race in the Senate Democratic Primary. Keefe defeated an incumbent in his successful bid for the Ward 4 seat.

“People asked me, ‘why are you running against him?’”, recalled Keefe. “It was quite simple – I felt I could do a stronger and better job and that’s why Steve and I felt so strongly and passionate about supporting Joe Kennedy.

“I feel like Joe Kennedy is the man for the job,” continued Keefe. “I feel his character and integrity make him the person we need in that position of power.

“We are grateful to welcome Joe to the city of Revere and we’re just so grateful to announce that we’re here to support Joe Kennedy,” concluded Keefe.

Kennedy, son of former Congressman Joe Kennedy II and grandson of former U.S. Attorney General, the late Robert Kennedy, thanked the two Revere councillors for their support during his brief remarks.

BROADWAY BUILDING COULD BE RAZED

REVERE - Marilucia Alves Fonseca, owner of the Quick Mart at 225 Broadway, sought permission from the City Council last week to raze the structure and replace it with a two-story building.

Attorney Lawrence Simeone Jr. spoke before the Council representing the owner. He noted that there was a special permit issued in March 2018 that is set to expire in March, 2020. He was asking for an extension of the special permit, saying that the delay has been caused in trying to find a suitable contractor to construct the new building that will be 25 feet in height. He also said that the second floor will be used as storage for the grocery store.

Residents from Cheever Street expressed concerns over both the lack of parking and the building only having a three-foot setback instead of the five-foot setback that the abutters are requesting. The building was built in 1920 and presently does not have any setbacks and goes from lot line to lot line

Councillor at-Large George Rotondo said that he is in favor of the project.

Ward 3 Councillor Arthur Guinasso said that he toured the building two years ago and noted that it was in tough shape at that time.

Ward 5 Councillor John Powers would like to see a floor plan.

Simeone said that he will make a presentation at the March 16 Zoning Sub-Committee meeting that shows what was approved in 2018 and what is being proposed now.

Councillor at-Large Jessica Giannino said that this is a great small family business and she looks forward to seeing what the changes are at the Zoning Subcommittee meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN HANDBOOK CAUSES CONCERNS

WINTHROP - A one-paragraph proposed change appearing in the new Town handbook, that was being reviewed by the Winthrop Town Council Subcommittee on Appointments and Committees, caused a major discussion at their meeting on Tuesday night at the Harvey Room in Town Hall. The proposed change in the handbook would allow the Town Council President to nominate the chairperson of each board and committee in the Town, then the council as a whole would vote on the Council President’s nomination with a simple majority determining the outcome.

The current process under the Town Handbook written in 2017 is to have members of each individual board and committee select their respective chairperson.

Speaking at the public hearing was Board of License Chairperson Marc Chapdelaine, who expressed the opinion that this change would be altering the existing Town Charter. He said that the time to look at this change would be in August 2020 when there would be a review of the charter. “The charter sets forth what powers the Council President has and the proposed change is an amendment to the charter,” he said.

Also in attendance was Council President Philip Boncore who said that in his opinion, “the charter is (silent) on this point.” He added that every mayor can appoint a chairperson for a city or town board. “Chairpersons should be changed or we start having a fiefdom,” he added. “All members of a board should be capable of being a chairperson,” he said.

Councilor at-Large Tracey Honan wondered who changed the language in the new handbook and said “it should remain as is since this is a substantive change.”

Subcommittee member Precinct 4 Councilor Barbara Flockart said, “This change was slipped in on us. This should go to the charter review.”

Precinct 6 Councilor Stephen Ruggiero offered a motion not to change the procedure on how a board chairperson is appointed, but insert language saying every member should rotate their board’s chairmanship. Ruggiero also noted that the proposed change should go to the Charter Review Commission for a vote.

Ruggiero’s motion was accepted 2 - 1 with Chair of the Subcommittee Councillor Rob DeMarco voting against it.

Another change in the handbook also discussed at the meeting was whether the Councillors could participate in their meetings remotely. This was rejected unanimously.

The new handbook with the changes will be on the agenda for the March 24 meeting of the Town Council.

A Charter Review Committee who will look at the current charter and or-

finances will start their process in June 2020 and continue for 18 months. Any changes that they recommend will then be put on the ballot for the voters to decide. The members of the committee will be appointed by Council President Philip Boncore.

CAPOBIANCO RE-ELECTED TO STATE COMMITTEE

WINTHROP -Valentino Capobianco was re-elected last week to the Democratic State Committee in the First Suffolk and Middlesex Senate District that includes the town of Winthrop.

Capobianco, 31, was first elected to the Democratic State Committee in 2008 at the age of 18, the youngest person ever elected to the position.

Capobianco, who was re-elected to a four-year term, is a member of the Winthrop School Committee. He is the chief of staff to State Sen. Paul Feeney.

Capobianco claimed a convincing victory over Brian Gannon with 70 percent of the vote across the district and 85 percent in Winthrop. He said he was grateful to voters for their strong show of support.

“I want to thank the voters for their support and my friends and family for all their help, especially those in the labor community,” said Capobianco. “I’m excited to get to work again on the State Committee and look forward to a successful November election, including supporting our nominee for President of the United States.”

Among those congratulating Capobianco on his victory was Democratic State Committeewoman Alicia DelVento of Winthrop.

“I’d like to congratulate Tino Capobianco, my State Committee colleague, on a hard-fought victory,” said DelVento. “I am excited by the passion and enthusiasm to elect Democrats on display this primary season not only in the Commonwealth but across the nation, and I look forward to working hard to ensure it leads to wins up and down the ballot in November.”

The Republican State Committee winners in the district were Paul Ronukaitus of Winthrop and Joyce Kelly of Revere.

The unofficial results of the Presidential Primary in Winthrop follows:

Former Vice President Joe Biden was the top vote-getter in the Democratic Presidential Primary in Winthrop Tuesday.

Biden received 1,370 votes, 34.9 percent of the total votes cast.

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders was second with 1,039 votes, followed by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (664) and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg (512).

Biden was the overall victor in the Massachusetts Democratic Presidential Primary.

In the Republican Presidential Primary voting in Winthrop, President Donald Trump received 600 votes, 91 percent of all votes cast. Former Mass. Gov. William Weld was a distant second with 46 votes.

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CHELSEA, EVERETT, MALDEN, REVERE

BRIEFS

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OF CHELSEA &
NORTH SHORE
SCHOLARSHIP
DONATIONS

Members of the Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore recently delivered scholarship checks to local High Schools in Everett, Winthrop, Revere, Saugus and Chelsea. They are so pleased to continue awarding these scholarships to deserving young woman excelling in mathematics and science studies who are graduating from local High Schools.

MYSTIC VALLEY
ELDER SERVICES’
SPRING FOR
INDEPENDENCE

Mystic Valley Elder Services’ Spring For Independence theater event for 2020 will be a special performance of The Cast of ‘Beatlemania,’ to be held Saturday April 4 at 6:30

p.m. at the Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham.

Experience The Beatles - LIVE - as the cast of Beatlemania channels John, Paul, George and Ringo in note-for-note performance that has thrilled audiences of all ages across the country and around the world. This show traces the musical journey of the Fab Four from their humble beginnings at The Cavern Club to The British Invasion and the Ed Sullivan Show, through the iconic music of Sgt. Pepper Era to Abbey Road.

Sponsorships and tickets are now available. Tickets cost \$75 each and sponsorships levels range from \$100 to \$20,000. Please contact Robert Guthrie at 781-388-4822 or rguthrie@mves.org, or visit www.mves.org for more information. Proceeds benefit Mystic Valley Elder Services’ programs that keep older adults independent and living in their homes.

About Mystic Valley Elder Services

Celebrating 45 Years of giving older adults their independence, Mystic Valley Elder Services is a non-profit agency located in Malden, Mass., that provides essential home- and community-based care and resources to older adults, adults living with disabilities, and caregivers who reside in Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, North Reading, Reading, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield and Winthrop, regardless of their income level. Agency services include coordination of home care, transportation, Meals on Wheels, and information and referrals. For more information, please call (781) 324-7705 or visit www.mves.org.

BOSTON COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL
HONOR ROLL

The following students have been named to the Second Quarter Honor Roll at Boston College High

School:
High Honors
o Alvaro Deras
Below is the criteria for High Honors and Honors.
For High Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.80 quality point average and all grades “C+” or higher. Freshmen need a 3.6 quality point average and all grades “C+” or higher.

For Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.20 quality point average and all grades “C-” or higher. Freshmen need a 3.165 quality point average and all grades “C-” or higher.

About Boston College High School: Boston College High School is a Jesuit, Catholic, college-preparatory school for young men in grades 7 to 12. Founded in 1863, the school enrolls approximately 1,500 students from more than 140 communities in eastern Massachusetts. For more information please visit bchigh.edu.



School Committee member Rosemarie Carlisle (center) greets Congressman Joe Kenendy III (left) and Attorney General Maura Healey at Sen. Sal DiDomenico’s Annual St. Patrick’s Day Dinner held March 6 at the Knights of Columbus in Charlestown.

BHCC among recipients of
Skills Capital Grant award

Commonwealth Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito visited the Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute on February 25, 2020, to announce \$14.6 million in Skills Capital Grant awards to 54 educational institutions to update equipment and expand student enrollment in programs that provide career education.

Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) was awarded \$222,012 to support the College’s growing associate degree program in biological sciences, which has three options – biotechnology, biology transfer, and medical professions. The College will use grant funding to create and equip a new biotechnology laboratory designed for this major, as well as upgrade an existing laboratory so that it can offer upper-level chemistry courses for STEM majors.

The Biological Sciences program of study affords a viable pathway to a four-year college or a career in the biological science field. The biological sciences program provides the technical coursework and laboratory experiences that enable students to successfully transfer and pursue a career in the medical professions including medical, veterinary, pharmacy, physical therapy, and physician’s assistant programs. BHCC has articulation agreements with UMass Boston, UMass Amherst and UMass Lowell, enabling Medical Professions graduates to enroll in any one of these universities as juniors, without losing credits.

“We are grateful to receive this funding to help address the growing demand for more lab space,” said Dr. Laurie McCorry, BHCC Dean of Science, Engineering and Math. “It is important to have this affordable pathway for the students to start here at BHCC and further their studies at a four year institution especially the wonderful partnerships we have established.”

The competitive Skills Capital grants are awarded to educational institutions that demonstrate partnerships with local businesses, as well as align curriculum and credentials with industry demand to maximize hiring opportunities in each region of the State.

OBITUARIES

Rosalie A. O’Callaghan

Aug. 3, 1939 – March 4, 2020

Rosalie A. O’Callaghan of Peabody, formerly of Chelsea, died unexpectedly on March 4,

The beloved wife of Daniel V. O’Callaghan, she was the devoted mother of Daniel V. O’Callaghan and his wife, Pat of Xenia, OH, Diane M. Douglas and her husband, Paul of McDonough, GA, Jean A. Monahan and her husband, Brian of Londonderry, NH, Karen P. Houghton and her husband, Robert of West Peabody, Joseph P. O’Callaghan and his wife, Donna of Malden, Kevin J. O’Callaghan and his wife, Julie of Fremont, NH and Kathy A. Piotte of No. Andover; dear sister of Maureen Downey of Revere, Marilyn Nolan of Tewksbury and the late Edward Adams and Joseph Adams. She is also sur-



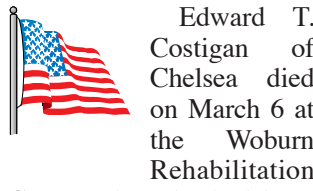
vived by 21 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were by the Anthony Memorial - Welsh Funeral Home, Chelsea. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Should friends desire, contributions in her memory may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Attn: Memorial Giving, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Edward Costigan

World War II veteran and retired Boston Police Officer

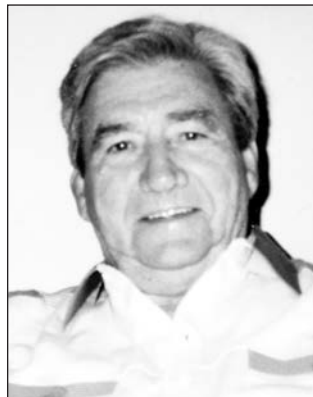


Edward T. Costigan of Chelsea died on March 6 at the Woburn Rehabilitation

Center where he had been receiving supportive care. Born in Boston 93 years ago, Edward was raised and educated in East Boston. He was inducted into the United States Army in January of 1945 and received the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, as well as the World War II Victory Medal.

After serving his country, he returned to East Boston, where he met his future wife, Marie. After marriage, the couple settled in Chelsea.

For over 25 years, Edward was a Boston Police Officer, mainly serving in the South End and Dudley stations. After retirement, he enjoyed wintering in Florida, walking the beaches both there and locally. A fan of the horses, he could always be found at Suffolk Downs.



He was the devoted husband of the late Marie E. (Proctor), brother of Mary Coombs of Wilmington and the late Helen, William, John and George Costigan and is also lovingly survived by his sister-in-law, Theresa Grimaldi and her late husband, Guy of Chelsea, as well as by many nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements were by the Smith Funeral Home, 125 Washington Avenue, Chelsea. A Funeral Mass celebrated at St. Stanislaus Church, Chelsea was followed by interment at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Anthony Golfieri

Lifelong Revere resident

Anthony “Tony” Golfieri, a lifelong resident of Revere, died on March 9 at the age of 90.

Born in Revere on April 25, 1929, to the late Anthony and Adeline (Buonopane), he was the dear brother of Eleanor Cerabone and her late husband, Tony of Revere, Caroline Norman of Revere, Roberta Beatrice and her husband, Joe of Lynnfield and the late Louis Golfieri. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Anthony’s Church today, Thursday, at 10 a.m. (Everyone meet directly at the Church.)



Interment will be in Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Anthony’s name to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959. For guest book please visit www.Buonfiglio.com.

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Gould

10 Year Anniversary



God saw you getting tired
and a cure was not to be,
so he put his arms around you,
and whispered come to me.
With tearful eyes we watched
you, and saw you pass away.
Although we loved you dearly,
we could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
hard working hands at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us
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Forever Loved & Missed,
Joe, Debbie, Bill Jr.
Tommy & Derek

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CHELSEA HIGH HONORS ITS WINTER SPORTS TEAMS

Photos by Cary Shuman

Chelsea High School Director of Athletics Amanda Alpert held an Awards Night to recognize the student-athletes who participated in the winter sports programs.

Alpert, a multi-year Super Bowl-winning women’s professional football player, presented awards to members of the school’s basketball teams, track teams, and cheerleading team. The seniors received

special recognition.

The CHS boys basketball team was honored for its undefeated Commonwealth Athletic Conference championship season.

Alpert also honored the middle school basketball teams who played their first seasons this winter.

The CHS athletic program is preparing to return to the Greater Boston League after more than 30 years as a member of the Commonwealth Athletic Conference.



The undefeated Commonwealth Athletic Conference champions, the CHS boys basketball team, is pictured with varsity head coach Judah Jackson, varsity assistant coach Matt Grassa, JV coach Marcus Carvalho, and freshman coach Cesar Castro.



Chelsea High School track star Stephanie Simon, who will be attending Youngstown State University on a Division 1 scholarship, is pictured with CHS track coach Cesar Hernandez, at the Awards Night.



The Chelsea High School cheerleading team is pictured with head coach Brittany Ochoa and assistant coaches Leanna Martinez, Brandy Rordiguez, and Yasmin Garmenida.



The Chelsea High School boys indoor track team is pictured at the Awards Night Monday at the school.



Chelsea schools' cross country and track athletes, from left, Gizelle Rodriguez, Dhalia Christmas, Jasmin Jovel, Stephanie Simon, Ana Chang, Percy Melgar, Gabriela Rivas, Sade Rosales, and Angeline Nguyen.



The Chelsea High School girls basketball team is pictured above at the Awards Night held Monday in the school auditorium.



Chelsea High School boys basketball players, shown left, after being awarded their new jackets. From left, Armani Cheek, D'Angelo Mojica, Jose Alvarado, Colin Powers, Anthony Maradiaga, and Manegabe Bujiriri.

Artists from several communities to organize in Chelsea this month

By Seth Daniel

When Karyn Alzayer of Integral Arts Everett and Mimi Graney of Chelsea Prosper began reaching out to their artist communities in Everett and Chelsea – they soon found that there was a need in the region to connect artists in those two cities and also in neighboring areas like Revere, Malden, East Boston and Winthrop.

Many artists felt isolated, and weren’t connected to fellow artists, with some of them having been displaced from areas like Cambridge, Somerville and Boston in recent years. When Alzayer and Graney began to talk with one another, they said they sensed a clear call to organize regionally.

“When I was putting together the Everett Art Walk last fall, the sentiment among the artists was they needed a network to meet other artists,” Alzayer said. “Then when I was in Malden, I heard the same sentiment. I realized there was a theme there. Then when I met with Mimi to work on some collaboration in Chelsea, she said artists she met were asking for a network. So, we decided this needed to be done.”

Added Graney, “We were looking for artists in Chelsea to do murals for our downtown initiatives. We found quite a few new artists here, but then found out none of them knew each other. They expressed a desire to have a more formal way to meet regularly. I met Karyn while doing the Chelsea Night Market last summer and she is a powerbroker. We were think of it for Chelsea, but found there was the same sentiment in Everett and surrounding communities. We felt this first schmoozing could bring about a spark...Gathering everyone together could maybe get some synergy.”

This month, on March 24, they will kick off an effort called Creative Mystic that looks to align and spark connections between artists in Chelsea, Revere, Everett, Malden, Winthrop and East Boston. The event will take place in the Apollinaire Theatre in Chelsea (189 Winnisimmet St.) from 7-9 p.m.

Already they’ve had a great response from the communities, with 35 people signing up within 24 hours of going public with the effort. They hope to continue to get more artists from the region, and that includes all sorts of artists – from performance artists to musicians to the traditional visual arts media.

Alzayer said there is plenty of structure for artists in Boston, Cambridge and Somerville. She said the North Shore also has a great existing network. However, the middle areas such as they represent, aren’t as connected.

“There are a lot of creatives in the middle here,” she said. “We don’t match up with Boston and we can’t go so far as the North Shore. There were enough of us here that it was a good idea to make these connections.”

Graney said one of the reasons people aren’t connected is there are a good many artists who are relatively new to the community.

“I have been meeting more and more people who have been displaced from East Cambridge or Somerville,” she said. “They lost their workspace and are moving to these areas. They’re bringing their organizational energy and know-how and hopefully it will help unite these cities.”

Alzayer said as a working artist, making those connections is critical. She said she hopes that by introducing artists from all over the area, it can lead to people contacting one another outside of the group.

If they hit a creative roadblock, they can text any number of fellow artists for some ideas. That can lead to new ideas or new directions, she said.

“We’re sparking ideas and we’ll see what happens,” she said.

While the first event will be in Chelsea on March 24, Graney said they hope to have a second event on May 1 in Everett.

To register for the event, go to the Chelsea Prosper Facebook page or go online to Eventbrite under ‘Creative Mystic Meet Up.’

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Gravellese announces State Representative bid

Joe Gravellese (D-Revere) announced his candidacy for State Representative in the 16th Suffolk District on Monday, joining the race to replace outgoing representative RoseLee Vincent.

He will launch his campaign with a Virtual Town Hall on Facebook on Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m., taking questions from residents on social media or via email at info@joegrav.com.

“Massachusetts is facing serious challenges that require bold leadership,” said Gravellese. “Our transportation system is in a full-blown crisis, with commuters all over the region experiencing delays and gridlock. Housing in the Boston area is becoming increasingly unaffordable for working families. Climate change is already causing flooding in coastal communities like ours, and will impact us for the rest of my lifetime.”

“To tackle these challenges, we need ambitious leadership that pushes to change the status quo and leave behind a better Commonwealth.”

Gravellese is well-known to residents in Revere, having served in the administration of Mayor Brian Arrigo, as Chairman of the Revere Scholarship Committee, and as a member of the Revere Democratic City Committee. Gravellese also spent time working at the State House as legislative director to Rep. Lori Ehrlich

(D-Marblehead), where he worked on legislation to protect workers from predatory workplace practices, repair natural gas leaks, and promote clean energy.

He is a Revere native, having grown up in the Beachmont neighborhood before moving to West Revere. Gravellese is a 2006 graduate of Revere High School and a 2010 graduate of Boston College.

His father, James, is a Revere High graduate union operating engineer in IUOE Local 4. His mother Susan is a lifelong Revere resident and now serves on the Revere School Committee. His sister Kristina is a graduate of Revere High School’s class of 2009 and still lives in the city with her husband, Renato Paolini.

Gravellese said his top priorities will include further investing in public transportation, including connecting the MBTA blue and red lines, expanding service on the commuter rail, improving the bus system, and making the system safer and more reliable. He will also push for legislation to make housing more accessible and affordable for working families in the Boston area; increase access to higher education, including technical and vocational programs; and transition Massachusetts to 100 percent clean, renewable energy.

Gravellese will formally pull papers to run for office this week.

Residents can learn more

about Joe and his campaign at www.joegrav.com.

GRAVELLESE TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN WITH ‘VIRTUAL TOWN HALL’ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Joe Gravellese will formally launch his campaign for State Representative in Revere, Chelsea and Saugus with a “Virtual Town Hall” on Facebook on Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m., in lieu of holding a rally, mindful of concerns about public gatherings in an attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19.

“I’m excited to begin meeting residents all over the district and schedule an in-person event as soon as it’s prudent to do so,” said Gravellese.

“But in the interest of public health, especially for seniors, it makes sense to start by introducing myself and my plans to voters online. I’ll host a video conference on Facebook next Wednesday night, talk about my agenda for a better Massachusetts, and answer questions submitted by residents virtually.”

Residents can email questions in advance to info@joegrav.com. The campaign’s Facebook page, where the Virtual Town Hall will be streamed live, can be accessed at www.facebook.com/joegrav.

Speaking on the coronavirus, Gravellese added that “residents should not panic, but should continue to take note of reliable sources on



Joe Gravellese.

public health and take proper precautions.”

“From working closely with the state’s Department of Public Health during my career, I know that we are fortunate to have some of the world’s foremost experts on public health working right here in the Commonwealth. We should take their guidance seriously as it becomes available.

The goal in the coming weeks is to make sure that the virus spreads less quickly, so that our hospitals and clinics aren’t overwhelmed. If we do that, people who get sick will be able to recover more quickly.”

Residents interested in learning more about Gravellese’s campaign for State Representative can visit www.joegrav.com. Gravellese, a Revere native and graduate of Revere High School, entered the race for State Representative this week, running a campaign focused on fixing Massachusetts’ transportation system, addressing the state’s affordability concerns, and promoting clean energy.

Encore Boston Harbor working with state, MGC on Coronavirus

By Seth Daniel

Few companies in Massachusetts have the experience of dealing with the Coronavirus in the way that Encore Boston Harbor’s parent company, Wynn Resorts, has over the last two months.

Last month, the company’s resorts in Macau, China had to close for 15 days when the virus hit China during the first wave of infections. That cost them

more than \$2 million per day and the company also went to great lengths to protect their guests and employees.

This week, Encore reported they have been in close contact with the state Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) – as well as Boston and Everett officials.

“Safeguarding the health of our guests and employees is of the highest importance,” read a statement is-

sued by Encore. “We are in close contact with the Massachusetts Department of Health, as it is monitoring the situation along with the CDC and the Boston Public Health Commission. We will implement any health directive or protocols these agencies issue.”

As a precaution, Encore said it had proactively instituted the following measures:

- Provided hand sanitizers in public areas and back-of-house for guests

and team members;

- Underscored the importance of proper hand washing and remaining vigilant about personal hygiene, following CDC recommendations;
- Increased cleaning protocols that include more frequent sanitizing of touch points such as door handles, elevator buttons, handrails, etc; and
- Encouraged a stay-at-home policy for any employee who feels unwell.

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TAMBO 22, CHELSEA’S LATEST ADDITION TO CULTURAL RESTAURANTS

City Manager Tom Ambrosino and members of the Chelsea City Council welcomed the owners and staff of Tambo 22 to the community. This Peruvian restaurant is located on 22 Adams Street off of Route 16. The hours of operation at 7 days a week, from 4-11 p.m. The establishment has a beer and wine license, and offers Peruvian-style food, organically grown and imported from lodges in Peru. Hanging on the walls of the restaurant are the faces of the growers as part of the longtime commitment of the owners. Brian Corcoran and his wife Taylor, a Chelsea-raised businesswoman and Jose Duarte are the

owners and the executive crew is rounded out with Chef Chris Titus. This is not Jose Duarte first venture in the restaurant business, he also owns a similar and popular Peruvian/Italiano facility in the North End of Boston.

During the official opening remarks by Jose Duarte, the business will be giving back to the community, in any means available to help bring out the best in their employees and local students. This promises to be a good fit for the Chelsea community, run by local and caring owners, with a vested interest in Chelsea’s future.



Taylor and Brian Corcoran relaxing at the bar, with a beer and wine selection that will satisfy anyone’s palate.



City Manager Tom Ambrosino is introduces to owner Brian Concoran.



Diego Duarte, was on his lap top at the restaurant and having a conversation with Chelsea City Councillor Leo Robinson.



Shannon Malloy is part of the crew, she serves “Causa de Mariscos” and Peruvian appetizer, some made with crab, or octopus or shrimp, and all very delicious.



Brian Corcoran bring some appetizers over to Chelsea Councillor Naomi Zabot and Director of Chelsea DPW Fidel Maltez.



Chelsea City Manager Tom Ambrosino is greeted at the door by Jose Duarte, welcoming him to Tambo 22.



The Executive Staff, Owners, Brian Corcoran, Jose Duarte, Taylor Corcoran and Chef, Chris Titus.



Jose Duarte welcomes everyone to Tambo 22, and proudly explains how the business intends to operate and what it can do to help the citizens of Chelsea and bring more culture to the city.



Tambo 22 had a great turnout of local officials to welcome the establishment to the community, led by City Manager Tom Ambrosino, Councillors, Judith Garcia, Linda Vega, Leo Robinson, Todd Taylor, Naomi Zabot, Roy Avellaneda, Giovanni Recupero and Director of Chelsea DPW Fidel Maltez.