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CHELSEA RECORD

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35 CENTS

Standing in solidarity with the BLM Movement

By Seth Daniel

A few weeks ago, Councilor Melinda Vega Maldonado and School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia organized a rally in appreciation for the Chelsea Police.

This week, they find themselves – as women of color coming from a Puerto Rican background – standing in solidarity and marching with the Black Lives Matter Movement condemning police brutality and violence against black communities.

Add that their significant others are both Chelsea Police officers, and it might seem a little awkward.

But both said the situations aren’t exclusive of each other, and while it’s walking a fine line, they find the journey is possible.

“One thing we want to highlight is the great qual-

See BLM Page 5

City Manager, Police Chief ready to look at possible police reforms

By Seth Daniel

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said he and Chief Brian Kyes are ready to work with the City Council and the Chelsea Black Committee to look at reforms to the Police Department in the wake of nationwide and local protests against police brutality and policing strategies.

Chelsea is unique in that it is one of the most diverse forces in the state, routinely in the top three for diversity of officers and superior officers. It puts Chelsea in an odd position where many reforms being called for nationwide have already been instituted over the years in the Chelsea Police Department following many troubled years in the 1980s and 1990s.

Still, Ambrosino said there is great room for change, and they are ready to listen.

“We both have expressed a willingness to sit down

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INDEPENDENT

Newspaper Group

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PHOTOS BY DARLENE DEVITA

The Chelsea Black Community and other members of the community hosted a Black Lives Matter rally at City Hall on Sunday afternoon, followed by a march through the streets demanding change in policing strategies and systemic racism in Chelsea and across the nation. On City Hall Lawn, marchers staged a “die-in” to commemorate the black lives lost to police brutality. Celeste Williams raised her fist high and powerful, and a little boy stopped on a scooter as the marchers went by with a homemade sign stating, ‘I am Black – I Matter.’ See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

Hundreds of Chelsea residents attend Black Lives Matter Protest

By Cary Shuman

The turnout was enormous, far exceeding the numbers that main organizers Kyle Umemba and Jayde Umemba had expected. The speeches were extraordinary, delivered with high energy and intense emotion.

More than 800 residents attended the Black Lives Matter Protest Sunday afternoon at Chelsea City Hall. There was a peaceful march on Broadway followed by a speaking program outside City Hall.

Long-time city official Leo Robinson felt the rally met its mission of bringing unity and awareness to the issue of racism and the national events of the past two weeks. Several participants wore attire and carried signs honoring the memory of George Floyd, who was killed by police in Minneapolis on May 25.

“I thought it was great for the City of Chelsea that so many people came out,” said Robinson. “I was very impressed by the speakers and their message. I also want to say the Chelsea Police did an excellent job.”

Joan Cromwell, president of the Chelsea Black

Community, was the master of ceremonies. As it turned out, it was her son, Kyle Umemba, who delivered one of the most dynamic and inspiring speeches of the day.

“Amen, that’s my son,” said Joan Cromwell following Kyle’s message of hope.

Jayde Umemba, District Attorney Rachael Rollins (who was introduced by Leo Robinson), Councilor-at-Large Damal Vidot, and City Manager Thomas Ambrosino also delivered inspiring messages, all eliciting cheers of approval from the crowd.

Kyle Umemba spoke last and his remarks stood as tall as the 6-foot-3-inch graduate of two elite institutions of learning, Buckingham Browne and Nichols prep school and George Washington University, himself. He works in finance for Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

Kyle began his speech by thanking the Chelsea Interfaith Alliance, Chelsea Collaborative, City Manager Thomas Ambrosino, the Chelsea Police and Fire Departments, Rep. Dan Ryan, and the city councilors.

“Look around, it’s peaceful, it’s beautiful, we

respect this community and we love each other,” said Kyle, drawing applause from the assemblage. “This is a great event. We’ve all come together for different walks of life.”

Kyle related how he was told by his parents, Kenneth Umemba and Joan Cromwell, “to speak properly, look in to people’s eyes, be respectful, and treat people with a level of respect and a sense of self no matter who you are, no matter where you come from.”

He recounted an incident that he experienced with law enforcement officers when he was driving home for work attired in a business suit and his vehicle ran out of gas.

As the interaction with the officers on the scene developed, Kyle recalled thinking, ‘Whatever’s going to be is going to be. What I mean by that is, whatever it is going to be is going to be – whether I’m here or not, it is going to be and I had no control over my life and that is what it means for a Black life to matter.”

Kyle, who with Cesar Castro directs Let it Fly, the

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Stop By Leonard Florence Center for Living resumes safe, in-person visits

By Seth Daniel

Lynda King used to play with her granddaughter once a week on their frequent visits to the Leonard Florence Center for Living (LFCFL) on Admiral’s Hill.

It had become a way of life for her since moving there almost three years ago to treat her MS in the innovative home.

Then it all stopped on March 5, as nursing homes and facilities like the LFC-FL closed down completely to all visitors, and residents – who had enjoyed mostly unlimited freedom there despite their conditions – were basically confined to their rooms.

On Monday morning, more than three months away from her son and granddaughter, Brian and Alivia, came to a welcome end. Nursing home in-person visits under careful, distancing protocols were able to resume under Gov. Charlie Baker’s Phase 2 plan for re-opening. At LFCFL, they began the visits last Thursday, and it has been a very emotional and thankful time since then.

“It was unbelievable,” said King. “It was a phenomenal feeling to see my son and granddaughter. They used to visit once a week. It was really tough

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Little Alivia King, 5, finally go to visit her grandmother – at a distance – in the Leonard Florence Center for Living (LFCFL) on Monday morning after not being able to see each other since March 5. Nursing home lockdowns were lifted slightly last week, with outdoor, monitored visits now allowed.

Farewell to the King: No one will miss infamous strip club

By Seth Daniel

When some long-time businesses or buildings get torn down, it comes with some nostalgia or longing – such as with the Chelsea Clock building or the Soldiers’ Home water tower.

There was no such sentiment for the demolition

of King Arthur’s Lounge, which finally came down late last week on Beacham Street – taken down by owner Greg Antonelli to make way for a new marijuana business.

Antonelli purchases the building a few years back and evicted the men who

See KING Page 5



The old King Arthur’s Lounge is torn down to clear the path for a new business.

For the latest news in Chelsea that you need to know, check chelsearecord.com

Chelsea

R E C O R D

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

“DEFUND” THE POLICE? NOT SO FAST

Racism, from subtle to overt, has existed at every level of American society since our nation’s inception. It was embedded in our Constitution by our Founding Fathers, many of whom were slave owners, who declared that slaves should be counted as only three-fifths of a person.

Even though slavery was abolished by Abraham Lincoln with the Emancipation Proclamation, segregation and discrimination became the norm in the American way of life after the Civil War and judicially affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1896 decision, *Plessy v. Ferguson*.

Although the Supreme Court overturned the “separate but equal” doctrine in the 1954 decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*, it has become clear that despite the apparent strides toward racial equality that have been made in the past 66 years, so little actually has changed.

Tragically, it has taken the brutal death-by-suffocation of a 46 year-old African-American man, George Floyd, at the knee of a white police officer in Minneapolis to bring to the eyes of every American the gross discrepancy between the uniquely American ideal that, “All men are created equal” and the stark reality of life today for persons of color who comprise most of our country’s permanent underclass.

To be sure, the shockingly inhumane treatment by police officers of minority suspects (and even non-suspects) in the past few years has highlighted the racism that continues to exist in many police departments across the country.

There also have been instances of police brutality and over-reaction during these past two weeks against mostly-peaceful demonstrators.

But the reality is that the vast majority of police officers have acted in a completely professional manner during this trying period, as most of them always do.

Yes, there are a few who became police officers for the wrong reasons, but the vast majority of our police force is comprised of men and women who want to make a positive impact in their communities and take a great deal of pride in doing so.

The movement underway in some parts of our country to “defund” police departments is, in our view, a short-sighted effort to scapegoat the police for the shortcomings of our society as a whole, especially among the white liberal class, for whom “blaming the cops” is a convenient means for absolving themselves of personal responsibility for the glaring inequality that exists in America in 2020.

Our rank-and-file police officers are underpaid (their starting salaries are barely able to afford the rent for an apartment) and they are asked to perform a myriad of duties far beyond mere law enforcement, especially when dealing with persons who are mentally ill or who have substance abuse issues -- and let’s not even get started on domestic calls.

It also is ludicrous to cut funding for our police departments when there are 300 million guns, many of which are military-grade, in the hands of private citizens, many of whom either are members of radical groups or who individually subscribe to radical beliefs.

To be sure, there are fundamental reforms that need to be undertaken in police departments all across the country to eliminate policies that are racist in their effect. There also must be a commitment to ensure swift accountability for officers who break the rules.

But the same is true for every aspect of American life in both the private and public sectors. The racism that is systemic in many of our nation’s police departments is a reflection of the racism that pervades every nook and cranny of our society from top to bottom.

Unless our nation’s leaders and our people are committed to bringing about real change at every level of our society -- and contributing vast resources in order to alleviate police from the burdens of dealing with drug users and those with mental health issues -- we are deluding ourselves if we think that “defunding” our police will accomplish much of anything toward the goal of achieving a more just and more equal society.



GUEST OP-ED

Police brutality in 21st Century America

By Kenneth Umemba

We condemn in strong terms the police brutality on African Americans, people of color, and peaceful protesters. Police Departments in the country have turned into agents of oppression and suppression, by turning around to hunt the citizens they swore to protect.

It is a national embarrassment that the security agencies that are supposed to guide its citizenry would unleash terror on innocent people. They should not be agents of destruction and intimidation.

Citizens expect Law and Order to be complementary and reciprocal. Respect for the law of any land emanate and stream from the fountain of justice, when blind and balanced. This ideal is very distinct from present injustice where bands of trained killers terrorize and vanquish regular citizens on our streets and in the safety of our homes.

The nation-wide flagrant abuse of democratic norms of checks and balances, expected in fair law enforcement actions, do not help to maintain Order. Such disabuse lead to chaos and lawlessness in society; as evidenced from the Roman Empire to the French and Haitian revolutions, apartheid South Africa, and to

the public events being witnessed in America today.

Majority of Americans including women and mothers, and people of color are worried at the rate the nation is slowly but surely degenerating into an inhumane society. People are fearful that the center cannot hold The United States together anymore. They are afraid that the Innocence – Faith and Trust – reposed on the men-in-blue is lost, as we continue to be witnesses to everyday murder of American youths in their homes and on the streets in a civilized society.

This reign of colonial and Euro-centric spirit of oppression and enslavement that insidiously rip at the vagaries of Law and Order today, is the sworn enemy of democracy. It so because it puts Mammon, instead of God Almighty, at that center of the economic and political life of the United States. It is a center that is extremely attractive and the apex for power. It is there, that the financial and fiscal power is concentrated. Everyone wants to get there, to that imperial center at all costs. There, it is winner-take-all affair where only the ruthless and the idolatrous survive.

This is the source and sustainer of the culture of impunity and lawlessness,

which pervades all levels of governance. Where people inspire to summarily execute their fellow citizens under the disguise of Law and Order, and deride in their latent but misguided intents to maintain supremacy in purifying the flock. It is at this apex, that evil doers and mechanistic characters find unbound freedom to masquerade in police uniform and in marching orders, to divide and conquer. In utter disregard to the rule of lay they professed to, they forcibly act in unison and as mercenaries to promote their mundane interest geared towards the preservation and enslavement of the general citizenry.

It behooves us to ask how much injustice is enough to arouse the populace out of their quiet, out of their fascination with settling for status quo? Just like the drama of a swarm of bees sting a furiously quite beast. American citizenry are here, the beast. Will this beast come to terms with its fury and go at the rampaging insects? Or will it remain in that pose of philosophical helplessness? How long will the bees bite, while the beast pines, grunts, and grovels?

Is it the case that America have long reverted to the wild, wild West? They

are stung but not angry, or they are not showing it. Are protests unfolding acts of providence that, at last, jolts the new generation to the past glory of collective indignation, of the triumphal rabble?

Shall the general populace take heart and continue to put all before the Throne of Grace, hopeful that these bad actors – our tormentors, are just but passing storm in a God-baiting and God-taunting teacup? Is it reasonable to ask Where Thou Are our Leaders – Governors, Mayors, City and Town managers, Elected Officials, and people who believe in the common good who still have a store moral decency?

Regrettably, the Jews in Germany of yore, like law-abiding citizens of today, were too deeply engrossed in commerce that they hardly remembered politics. What happened?

They paid dearly for their indifference to politics because it took one ‘mad’ man called Hitler to change their history and wipe out their business empires. It is a very big lesson for our youths who have been indifferent to the public discourse, and oblivious to local and national politics.

It is understandable that

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LETTERS to the Editor

BOSTON BUILDING TRADES UNIONS: WE FIGHT FOR BLACK LIVES, BECAUSE BLACK LIVES MATTER

To the Editor:

The recent heinous murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery are unconscionable and unacceptable, and demonstrate, again, the

brutal, institutionalized racism within our country that originates from many sources, including from the scourge of slavery.

We in the Labor Movement -- a movement comprised of our multi-racial working class -- are committed to destroying racism in all of its forms. We must look inward to acknowledge how our own biases and prejudices inform our actions, and how those ac-

tions affect those around us. And we must look outward, shoulder to shoulder with our sisters and brothers, and commit to working together to dismantle the systems of racism and oppression that have led to the deaths of so many black and brown people, that have kept working class people, here and around the world, from sharing in America’s economic prosperity, and that have glorified an unequal financial system that protects corporate greed and the super-wealthy above everyone and everything else.

We cannot fall prey to the hatred and divisiveness of President Trump, or any other white supremacist, or to anyone who will use this moment to confuse right from wrong. We must call out their attempts to play politics of division as they seek to retain power and protect a system that is disastrously broken.

Protecting this broken system will not help our working families, protest-

ers or law enforcement, and it assures the perpetuation of conditions that lead to events like the murder of George Floyd. White supremacy and white nationalism must be called out and defeated in all its forms, whether on our own streets or at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

We in the Labor Movement know that we cannot achieve economic equality and true justice until we fully recognize that workers’ rights and civil rights are one and the same. We have inherited a history of hard-fought victories that have provided respect and dignity on and off the job for many, but we still have work to do.

Today and every day we commit to building the world that we know is possible, and to get there, we fight for black lives, because Black Lives Matter.

**Boston Building
Trades Unions**

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stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com

Advertising and Marketing

Legal Advertising
Ellen Bertino

Editorial

*Reporters,
Regular Contributors*
Seth Daniel
(seth@reverejournal.com)
Cary Shuman
(Cary@lynnjournal.com)

Copy Editing, Layout
Scott Yates

Assistant Marketing Directors

Maureen DiBella

Senior Sales Associates

Peter Sacco
Kathleen Bright

Business Accounts

Executive
Judy Russi
Printer
GateHouse Media

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not to see them. My granddaughter was so excited, but it was hard for her too...This was the longest three months ever. I was so used to being able to go to Market Basket if I wanted to. I would call The Ride and go to Home Depot. None of that was available. It was tough, but you had to believe it was going to end and you would see your family again and so it was going with the flow. You just had to keep a positive attitude.”

Residents and visitors aren’t allowed any contact, so no hugs or kisses like grandmothers are known for worldwide. Though Alivia followed the rules, it was confusing.

“She wanted to know if she could hug me and if I could kiss her if we both had on the mask,” said Lynda. “She’s 5 and didn’t get it. It’s sad in a way, but it was just great to see them again – at long last.”

Executive Director Mike McCarthy said it has been good to welcome back family for visits, even though it is kept to one visit every two weeks, and it has to be outside with no contact. While most have been able to use Zoom or Facetime with relatives, being able to see them in person has no match.

Before a visitor can proceed to the patio visiting area, they have to have their temperature checked and answer a questionnaire about their health. Visits are loosely supervised, and gifts can be brought but have to be handled by staff. Most of it has been dictated by the Department of Public Health (DPH).

“It’s been an amazing welcome back,” he said. “To see the tears flow is unbelievable. To be able to open that up to them has made them so happy and



Brian King and Alivia King enjoyed their first visit in months with Lynda King on Monday.



Rose Puglisi, of East Boston, visits with long-time friend, Madeline Siracusa, of Winthrop, on Monday for the first time since March.

shows there is light at the end of the tunnel. It’s given the staff, residents and families a boost in a very hard time.”

LFCFL, which houses a very vulnerable population of those with MS and ALS, was ahead of the curve in testing for COVID-19, and they have had no cases in four weeks.

“We had a little outbreak in the beginning and that’s it,” he said. “Every Friday, we test staff and residents. I’m a big believer in testing. Testing really helped us. A lot of facilities weren’t able to do that. We started ear-

lier than most facilities too. We’ve been testing since the beginning of March.”

For Lynda King, she said it’s great to be able to get outside, and see family again. She celebrated her birthday in April, but couldn’t have the normal celebration with other LFCFL residents and her family.

Now, however, she said she hopes to make up for all that was lost.

“You just had to deal with it,” she said. “There was nothing else you could do.”

the law. Thus, each one of us, individuals and groups, who are citizens, must never, never have any prohibitions to navigate the streets of America, nor live freely in the safety of our homes.

Our liberty is enshrined in the covenant of the common good, not in the hands of any select people. It is the freedom to live ascribed in that belief that justice is blind for all and in God We Trust.

(This is dedicated to my sons, Kyle and Kingsley, and to mothers and parents who have lost their kids through police brutality.)

City announces “Chalk Art Saturdays” in June and July

Chalk Art Saturdays is a public art initiative in response to the COVID-19 pandemic presented by Chelsea Prospers, the City of Chelsea’s downtown initiative for neighborhood vitality. Inspired by Chalk Art Saturdays in Salem MA, the City of Chelsea engaged Claudia Parasciv of Studioful Design, a practice for Architecture, Community Art, and Participatory Design, to tailor the program for the City of Chelsea.

Kicking off on Saturday, June 13, Chalk Art Saturdays will happen over six Saturdays in June and July. Community members

across the city of Chelsea are invited to make chalk art in public spaces safely near their homes. A calendar of Art Prompts will provide a different theme each weekend. To provide inspiration and a showpiece, local artists will create a larger Chalk Art Mural in a prominent location each Saturday morning. Find the artist Chalk Art Murals online at StudiofulDesign.com, on the Chelsea Prospers Instagram page, or on a daily walk. Participating artists will each receive a cash stipend and hundreds of chalk sets will be shared with residents across the city so everyone can take

part. Through Chalk Art Saturdays we come together each week for community art by making art near home. In case of rain activity will be the following day, for Rain Day Sundays.

Our first art prompt for Chalk Art Saturday on June 13 is “Imagine Racial Justice.” With this theme the first commissioned chalk mural will be completed by local artist and Chelsea high school student Sinai Galicia in support of Black Lives Matter protests for Justice and Equality. Learn about his work at https://www.instagram.com/sinaistudio_0/

DiDomenico leads the fight to end deep poverty

Sen. Sal DiDomenico has once again partnered with the Lift Our Kids Coalition to sponsor legislation to help the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable children and families. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, DiDomenico filed alongside his House partner Representative Marjorie Decker bill H.4622, An Act to provide short-term relief for families in deep poverty.

This legislation would provide one-time supplemental assistance to 30,000 Massachusetts families with children who receive Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) benefits and 19,000 elders and persons with disabilities who receive benefits under the Emergency Aid to Elders, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) program.

TAFDC and EAEDC assistance is already very low-- the maximum TAFDC benefit for a family of three with no countable income is \$593 a month. The maximum EAEDC benefit for an elder or disabled person with no countable income is \$303 a month. These families and seniors were already struggling to pay for basic necessities like toilet paper, food, and medicine before the COVID-19 pandemic, and this crisis has only exacerbated their financial struggle.

“During my years the Senate, I have been working to lift families out of poverty, and this legislative session those efforts have centered around lifting families out of deep poverty, meaning helping those living below half the federal poverty line,” said Senator DiDomenico. “In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, I once again partnered with the Lift Our Kids Coalition to provide families living in deep poverty with additional assistance. While everyone is under additional stress during these unprecedented times, without question, this pandemic has hit our Commonwealth’s low-income families and individuals the hardest. While many people have needed additional help and assistance during these trying times, it is critical we do not overlook our most vulnerable families and elders.”

Op-Ed/ Continued from Page 2

while we engage in our wild chase for money, career, and family the others are after that political power – the center. With their political power, they decide what use we put our money to vis-à-vis, our destiny. Who is “fired” or not. Who lives or dies. With one policy or the other, they decree out our existence.

The truth is that if we continue to pray, and remain silent, like the Jews in Germany of yesteryears, our children (as Bob Marley captured in one of his lyrics about the metaphorical Sheriff) are bound for extinction. Therefore, is there any lesson for us in the prevailing situation, as

we wrestle to find ways to embrace group consciousness and coherence in dealing with police brutality on our streets in the 21st Century America.

We desire a society that has ample room for all of us. A society that deals even-handedly and fairly, with all of us no matter the physical size of our person or the purported numerical strength of our origins. That ephemeral and utopic society where the color of our skin should be the determinant of who amongst us lives to see tomorrow in this purity test.

Equal representation and participation for all of us shall be the whole of

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Encore Boston Harbor could re-open on June 29; Las Vegas property opened doors last Thursday

By Seth Daniel

The re-opening of Encore Boston Harbor could come as soon as the end of the month – with a potential date of June 29 now targeted by Gov. Charlie Baker for opening.

At the same time, Wynn Resorts opened its two Las Vegas properties to the public on Thursday, June 4, and so far they have had good foot traffic and positive safety reviews.

In Everett, Spokesman Eric Kraus said they are fine-tuning their new operations and safety precautions so they will be ready.

“For Encore Boston Harbor, our focus right now is fine-tuning our health and disinfection program; preparing to welcome back our employees and train them on new health and disinfection protocols; and making

the necessary enhancements to ensure a safe, quality and enjoyable experience for our guests when we re-open,” he said. “While there is no firm date for our re-opening, there is the potential that the date could be June 29.”

Encore has relied heavily on the experiences with COVID-19 by other Wynn properties in China, and now in Las Vegas. The company has used their experiences to craft a plan for Encore Boston Harbor as well that will combine the experiences from both locations.

Encore Boston Harbor closed in late March after trying to keep things going as long as possible, but realizing the situation had become too dire to keep the doors open. However, the company agreed to continue paying employees through the end of May – including tipped employees.

In Nevada, the Wynn casino properties opened under Phase II of that state’s plan. Things that opened on June 4 included:

- Both Wynn and Encore hotel towers
- Two 24-hour casinos with a variety of table games and slots as well as the Race & Sports Book
- The resort’s full portfolio of fine-dining restaurants, lounges, and casual eateries, several with outdoor seating on open verandas and patios
- Expansive resort pools with private cabanas
- Wynn’s 18-hole championship golf course
- Nightly entertainment at the Lake of Dream
- Three retail esplanades
- Full-service beauty salons, barber shop, spa treatments and fitness centers.



Wynn Resorts CEO Matt Maddox gives a tour of the Wynn properties in Las Vegas to Nevada officials on June 4 as their casino resorts there opened for the first time since being closed for COVID-19. In Everett, a date of June 29 is being targeted for the re-opening.

BLM / Continued from Page 1

ities of Chelsea and the Chelsea Police Department, but not take away from the Black Lives Matter movement,” said Vega Maldonado. “This goes beyond Chelsea and is a systemic issue and racism is real and exists. As community leaders and elected officials, we walk that fine line because I am married to a police officer and Kelly is engaged to a police officer. Our partners are also in solidarity with Black Lives Matter. My husband has his own experiences growing up as a teen-ager in Camden, NJ with law enforcement and discrimination. One reason he became a police officer was to change the perception of police officers and change the system from within.”

Garcia said she wants to see reforms in Police Departments around the country, and things can always be better.

“We as four people – elected officials and police officers – we do stand in solidarity with our black and brown communities,” she said. “It’s the higher-ups that hold our bad

officers accountable. When there is evidence and video and court evidence of ill treatment and they get away with it, that is what angers the community.”

Both said, as women of color, they see that the Chelsea Police has come a long way in being representative of the community, and building relationships with the community. In the discussion of police reform, they said that shouldn’t be lost as well. Chelsea ranks in the top three regularly as the most diverse police force in the state, and that has improved year over year with new hires – many of whom are from Chelsea. Community relations, they said, have been bolstered by the walking beats in the downtown meant to build relationships with business owners, young people and community members.

“It is about building relationships with community members,” said Garcia. “It is about having regular conversations and meeting people on the street. That’s a very important thing to highlight about our police department and why it can

be a model for others – as it has been in the past around the country.”

Vega Maldonado, the daughter of Chelsea Collaborative director Gladys Vega, recalls watching her mother fight for better policing years ago, and also telling her about how Chelsea Police were not always friendly to the people. Vega Maldonado said she watched as the department improved.

“I’ve grown up and been able to see the growth in the police department,” she said.

In the next steps, as the City begins to consider changes to its policing strategies at the Council and in the School Department, both Garcia and Vega Maldonado said they feel a unique responsibility in seeing the world of the police, and also having the perspective of living as women of color.

“It’s our job as elected officials and people of color to make sure our voices are heard and residents of color have a seat at the table,” said Vega Maldonado.

King / Continued from Page 1

were planning to revive the strip club. After holding on to it for awhile, he pivoted and made a deal with Greenstar Herbals, a recreational marijuana dispensary.

Antonelli has permitted the project fully, and is the developer of the sleek new building. Greenstar will be the operator of the business, with Tom Morey as the president of that company.

It is being viewed in most every circle as a very positive end to a past most in Chelsea did not want to be associated with, including the shady strip club, many criminal assaults and even a murder.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said it’s a positive step.

“I think it is a step in the right direction for the City,” he said. “The plan for that site is a good one and we look forward to it.”

The development at King Arthur’s comes at the same time that the City begins to go out to bid for its \$12.5 million project to create a new roadway, pedestrian paths and bicycle tracks. That is primarily a safety precaution because it hasn’t been very safe to walk or bike on Beacham Street – and it is the only way for bicyclists to get into Boston from Chelsea, Eastie or Revere. That proj-

ect goes out to bid this summer, and could start in the early fall.

Ambrosino said he doesn’t expect the uses there to change, but new development and infrastructure could improve the looks of the district.

“It’s still going to be a food distribution area,” he said. “That an important aspect of the City, state and regional economy. There are a lot of good paying jobs there. We don’t want to transform it into anything different. Hopefully, this will all result in improved aesthetics.”

Police / Continued from Page 1

with community groups and listen to ideas to police our city in a better way,” he said. “I expect that to start in the next week or two. I believe there will be Council action and the Chief and I have expressed an interest in sitting down with the Chelsea Black Community. I expect that shortly to happen.”

Ambrosino said over the past 10 years – particularly the last five years – the police, fire, DPW and City Hall workforces have striven to be more diverse and representative of the community – which is predominantly Spanish-speaking.

“The Police Department has built in my years an extremely good rapport with our community,” he said. “Since the Trump Administration came into office, it has been difficult to quell the fear and our police have worked hard to do that. I’m hoping good will will pay dividends in time. I’m not saying they are perfect, and there is room to improve. I also don’t know many Police Departments that have a better community relationship that the Chelsea Police.

“It is an extremely diverse force,” he continued. “I believe if we’re not first

or second in the state, we are in the top four in terms of diversity in the ranks.”

He said the goal even before the unrest nationally was to make all facets of City government – whether police, fire, DPW or City Hall – more diverse and reflective of the community.

“We have to allay a lot of fears about trusting local government here and if that government looks like them, there is less fear to allay,” he said. “We have a long way to go there. We’ve definitely improved, but we have to want and do better in terms of diversity in our workforce.”



Councilor Melinda Vega Maldonado and her husband, Chelsea Police Officer Jonathan Maldonado; along with School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia and her fiancée, Chelsea Police Officer Mustafa Mirza.

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Protest / Continued from Page 1

PHOTOS BY DARLENE DEVITA

area’s most well-attended summer basketball tournament, concluded, saying, “I want to thank you all for coming out here today. I appreciate you. I love you. We hope to turn this momentum into actionable steps and really implement some change in this community. Across this state, across the country – they are protesting peacefully, respectfully. We are here. We did it. We’re lovely. The police force can tell we’re good.”

Jayde Umemba, a 24-year-old graduate of Boston University, said public speaking wasn’t her forte, but those who attended the rally would dispute that notion.

“There’s a conversation that needs to be heard,” said. “Thank you all or coming here today and standing in solidarity with us. We heard about George Floyd’s murderers, Ahmaud Arbery’s murderers, they’ve all been taken into custody, but that’s not enough. We want more. Too many times have we been here. Too many times have we gotten the charge, but no conviction. Too many times have we had to lock things up and let things go, lock up our anger and pain and sadness and disappointment after they refuse to lock up a racist murderer. Too many times we’re no longer locking those feelings up because we want more, we need more, we deserve more and we should have had more.

“So now you’re going to hear it until we get it – you’re going to feel it until we get it,” said Jayde. “We want charges. We want convictions. We want to stop being murdered, disrespected, racially profiled.”

Joan Cromwell introduced Damali Vidot as “an influential member of our community.”

“She walks the walk, she talks the talk, in solidarity and truth and she’s real, 24/7,” said Cromwell.

“No justice, no peace,” Vidot said in unison with her constituents. “We’re a community and a world in mourning right now. The murder of George Floyd was a complete disregard for Black life, in the middle of the street in broad daylight.”

Vidot said she was “inspired by the unity throughout the world to adjust these unjust systems. I’m also inspired because of the young people that are leading these ef-

forts, like Kyle and Jayde, and saying ‘no more’ to systemic injustice and allowing older people like me to follow their lead and honoring my voice.”

Vidot said the death of George Floyd “sparked something in all of us.”

“We are at a pivotal point, my friends, to be having tough conversations about reimagining what serving and protecting looks like,” said Vidot, who related some of her experiences with police brutality. “It’s up to us to foster a world where the knee is off our neck.”

“I just wanted to come and support you in this really powerful showing,” said DA Rollins. “I can hear the anger and the hurt in your voices but this is how protests happen. I’m proud to see that people are compliant and I’m really proud to see members of law enforcement here in a helpful way.”

City Manager Thomas Ambrosino said, “I watched with horror those events in Minnesota. As a human, it just appalled me that that can still take place in this country that I love. But the fact that kind of brutality can still exist – it’s just horrific in my mind. But as a city official who has spent 30-plus years of my life in local government trying just to help people, and to feel that I’m part of a system that still has that kind of pervasive racism in it, that can allow such a thing to happen – it leads me to recognize that I still have so much more work to do as a local official.

“I don’t have the answers and I don’t know exactly what’s the next step to take, but I’m going to tell you I’m here to listen and try my best to understand to take the right steps forward,” said Ambrosino. “We can come together to find solutions in a way that is tolerant, that is civil, and that is peaceful, but most important is hopeful for the future.”

The Chelsea Police had a large contingent on hand and Joan Cromwell gave “a shutout to Chelsea PD Chief Brian Kyes – who worked with us. We were in grade school together so he’s one of us, for real.”

The Rev. Dr. Sandra Whitley closed the program with a prayer of hope and an expression of gratitude for the Chelsea Black Community and “the leadership that we have in this community.”



The Chelsea Public Schools stood in solidarity with the march at the Clark Avenue Middle School.



Rev. Sandra Whitley and Father Hilario Sanez, of St. Rose Church, march in solidarity.



Police Chief Brian Kyes joined the rally as a supporter, even taking a knee with them at one point.



DA Rachael Rollins was the featured speaker at the rally.



Lauryn Jacobs and Aileen Pena.



City Manager Tom Ambrosino led a moment of silence.



Councilor Damali Vidot was invited to speak about her experiences.



Supt. Almi Abeyta (front) and Councilor Naomi Zabot (back) march through the streets.



CBC President Joan Cromwell held up a shirt with the name of Tamir Rice on it. Rice was a 12-year-old black boy in Cleveland who was shot by police when he pointed an Airsoft replica gun at officers.



Beverly Martin Ross shouted the details of Breonna Taylor’s shooting last month by police into the megaphone.



Deborah Washington, State Rep. Dan Ryan, Congressman Joe Kennedy III, and Councilor Judith Garcia carried the Chelsea Black Community banner.

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HUNDREDS OF CHELSEA RESIDENTS ATTEND BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTEST



Kyle Umemba helped to organize the protest with his sister, Jayda, and their mother, Joan Cromwell.



Marchers carried signs with all variety of messages aimed at ending racism.



City Solicitor Cheryl Fisher Watson carried her message.



Fire Chief Leonard Albanese, Congressman Joe Kennedy III, District 8 Councillor Calvin Brown, District 5 Councillor Judith Garcia, Police Chief Brian Kyes, and Council President Roy Avellaneda.



Jayda Umemba also helped organize the rally on Sunday.



Marchers occupied the street and paraded downtown as Chelsea Police kept traffic at bay.



Former CAPIC Executive Director Robert Repucci, District 1 Councillor Todd Taylor, Councillor-at-Large Leo Robinson, Paul Smith, and Latimer Society Co-Director Ronald Robinson.



Roseann Bongiovanni and the ECOYouth brought their message to the rally.



Marianne Ramos joins the rally.



Council President Roy Avellaneda, Tito Avellaneda, Congressman Joe Kennedy III and Antonio Hernandez joined friends in protest.



Councilor Melinda Vega Maldonado with her husband, Chelsea Police Officer Jonathan Maldonado, and their two boys, Armani and Akylis.



District 8 Councillor Calvin Brown and Council President Roy Avellaneda.



Elizabeth Abeyta, Supt. of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta, and School Committee member Rosemarie Carlisle.



Reia Briggs-Conor (far right) joins friends at the Black Lives Matter Protest Sunday at City Hall.

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

An illustration showing a doctor on a video call with a patient. The doctor is on a smartphone screen, wearing a white lab coat and a stethoscope. The patient is in a living room, sitting on a red sofa, with a laptop on a table in front of them. There is a clock on the wall and a potted plant.

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

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

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

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

ICA NOT TO HAVE SUMMER SEASON

EAST BOSTON. - Since opening in July 2018, the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) Watershed on East Boston’s waterfront has hosted a resident artists and their work for the summer season.

While the ICA named artist and sculptor Firelei Baez as its resident artist for the Watershed’s 2020 season back in October those plans have been scrapped.

Instead the ICA’s Watershed will remain a food distribution site through September 3, 2020 in response to the ingoing COVID-19 pandemic. .

Jill Medvedow, the Ellen Matilda Poss Director of the Boston (ICA), made the announcement last week and said the ICA will continue to use the Watershed as a In partnership with community organizations in Eastie.

With help from the ICA’s caterer, The Catered Affair, over 2,000 boxes of much-needed fresh produce and dairy will be delivered to East Boston families by the end of the summer.

Báez’s art installation, which was to feature the artist’s largest sculpture to date, will be postponed until 2021.

“With the cooperation of Firelei Báez, our East Boston partners, ICA staff and generous donors, we are redirecting resources of the ICA and the Watershed in particular to address a direct need within the community,” said Medvedow. “Art projects are included in each box of food to provide families with new and creative activities to do at home during this challenging time. While disappointing that we will not open the Watershed this summer as planned, this is the safest way for the museum to stay connected and serve our audiences at this time.”

According to Medvedow the food donation initiative is a collaboration between the ICA and several East Boston organizations: East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC); East Boston Social Centers; Maverick Landing Community Services; Eastie Farm; Orient Heights Housing Development; and Crossroads Family Center.

The original intent of the food distribution site, which was launched in mid-March, was to feed Eastie residents for one month.

However, because Eastie has experienced one of the highest rates of COVID-19 in the city of Boston, the ICA decided to extend the program--seeing an continued urgent need for fresh food.

“The ICA was alerted to the need for fresh produce and healthy food through conversations with its community partners in East Boston,” said Medvedow. “The museum reached out to its caterer, The Catered Affair, who offered to donate their labor in creating fresh food boxes for distribution.”

As of the cancelled art installation, Medvedow said Baez’s work, which re-imagines ancient ruins as though the sea had receded from the Watershed floor to reveal the archeology of human history in the Caribbean, is planned for the 2021 season.

The Watershed opened to the public on July 4, 2018 inside a former copper pipe factory at Boston Shipyard and Marina on Marginal Street The 15,000-square-foot, raw, industrial space is unlike anything in Boston and has expanded the ICA’s artistic and educational programming on both sides of the Boston Harbor.

The ICA’s Seaport location and the new Watershed

in Eastie has connected the two historically isolated neighborhoods through ferry services provided by Boston Harbor Cruises.The ferry service has allowed visitors to the both the ICA and Watershed travel six minutes via water between both museums during the summer. The ferry is free to ICA members, included with regular museum admission, and free to visitors ages 17 and under.

WALSH PUSHES 2020 CENSUS

EAST BOSTON - Last week Mayor Martin Walsh chose the East Boston Library on Bremen Street to kick off the year-long outreach campaign to ensure a fair and complete count in the 2020 U.S. Census.

At the time Walsh was joined by a group of non-profit leaders and advocates at the library to start the decennial count that determines everything from representation in Congress, to federal funds for schools, affordable housing, infrastructure and health care programs.

Last week, Walsh reminded Boston residents to take the 2020 Census during this time of physical distancing.

“To date, only 49.8 percent of households have responded, which is lower than the statewide average response rate of 64.4 percent,” said Walsh. “We need to increase the rate of response.”

Walsh said much of the funding that comes from the Census count helps the most vulnerable among us.

“It can provides health care, Medicare and Medicaid, public education grants for special education and Boston Public Schools, food and nutrition programs like SNAP and free school breakfast/lunch programs, affordable housing and Section 8 vouchers, and child care Head Start for low-income families.”

Walsh said the 2020 Census is a way to directly increase community power in Eastie.

“It will impact our daily lives for the next 10 years,” he said. “Many of Boston’s communities are at risk of an undercount. We need a complete and accurate count because all of Boston deserves to be seen, heard, and invested in.”

Walsh said the Census has never been more accessible and residents can respond to the 2020 Census online at my2020census.gov, over the phone, or by mail. You can respond to the 2020 Census online or over the phone in 13 different languages.

The 2010 census counted 617,000 people in the City of Boston. Since that time it is estimated the city is currently at 700,000 or over 700,000 residents. During the last three censuses the city has lost a Congressperson all three times.

“We had 12 congressional districts at one point, then 11 and then 10 and now we have nine,” said Walsh. “The point is we have fewer people representing us in Congress. It’s so important to be counted. We need to make sure we are all counted because it determines our representation in Congress and I can’t underscore that enough. We need accurate census counts to protect our voices in Congress.” In Eastie the investments that were made from the 2010 census were free lunches at public schools, funds for affordable housing, senior services, and job training for residents for the future.

The city has contributed \$100,000 to support Boston’s outreach efforts by providing grants to com-

munity-based organizations and more support to City departments.

Walsh pointed out every person not counted in the upcoming census equals \$2,400 in lost federal money every year for the next ten years.

“Think of it? If 100,000 people are not counted that translates into \$2.4 billion that we will lose in federal aid over the next decade,” said Walsh.

SENIOR CITIZEN BUILDINGS HAVE LITTLE TO NO COVID-19

EVERETT - Results from major COVID-19 testing initiatives at senior citizen buildings in Everett have shown virtually no cases in those buildings – with only a small amount of cases reported at the 66 Main St. building.

In the past two weeks, major testing efforts with mobile units have taken place at 66 Main St., Glendale Towers, Whittier Drive and Golden Age Circle – all of which are senior citizen buildings. While more testing is still needed there of more residents, Public Health Nurse Sabrina Firicano said the results were stunning.

She said 66 Main St. had two positive cases reported, and the three Everett Housing Authority (EHA) senior locations had no cases out of about 70 people tested.

“Cases that came out of that were very, very low, which was shocking to me,” she said. “Not everyone was tested because you have to sign up. But we did not have any cases for the testing at the three EHA buildings. That was amazing and shocking to me.”

The only cases that came out of the testing were the two at 66 Main St.

“You would think it would be a lot higher and I previously thought it would be a little higher,” she said. “I thought there could have been a lot of asymptomatic individuals that would test positive. I was shocked.”

Those results parallel the findings at senior citizen buildings in Chelsea too, where mobile testing was done in late April and early May – with results coming back very, very low. In that testing, out of 384 tests in senior buildings, there were only 11 confirmed cases. That also shocked City leaders there as they expected the buildings to be a hotbed for activity.

Both testing efforts were championed by Sen. Sal DiDomenico, who said he has been in close contact with Gov. Charlie Baker and Health Secretary Marylou Sudders regarding more testing resources for senior buildings in his district – particularly in Everett and Chelsea.

“In talking with Secretary Sudders, we were able to work with Cataldo Ambulance and Cambridge Health Alliance to get test kits for the senior buildings and 66 Main St.,” said DiDomenico. “We’ve tested all our senior buildings in the city. That was done through our office. There was a long-term care facility that was hesitant to participate in testing. I knew there had been at least 20 cases there. We were able to get Secretary Sudders to call them personally and they decided to participate. Now all of the patients and staff there have also been tested.”

Meanwhile, Firicano said they want to do more testing and will return with the mobile units soon, but this time will make sure everyone who wants to be tested has an appointment and registration before the unit arrives.

EHS CLASS OF 2020



Drive Through Graduation was an absolute success as families cruised through the parking lots on Lower Broadway watching students walk across the stage, gather gifts, and take a family picture – all in a safe manner with social distancing.



State Sen. Sal DiDomenico, State Rep. Joe McGonagle, Teacher Julie Tran, Mayor Carlo DeMaria, and Teacher Mike Messina.

Sisters Rosemary (front) and Michelle Bonilla sat on top of their cars as they passed by the stations in Saturday’s drive-through graduation ceremonies. The innovative COVID-19 approach to graduation was a hit with students, families and the community.

HOSPITAL TREATING LESS COVID -19 CASES

EVERETT - Over the past several weeks, the Emergency Department – and much of the CHA Everett hospital - has seemed like a facility devoted entirely to the incredibly stressing task of treating COVID-19 patients, but over the last two weeks the hospital has slowly transformed in many ways back to its pre-virus flows.

For Dr. Melisa Lai-Becker, chief of the Emergency Department at CHA Everett, and her staff in the ER, that has been measured in the number of conference calls per day focused on finding space and beds for those who are sick. At the height, that was a conference call that happened three times a day as the health system tried to find places to take care of the surging patient loads.

On Monday, that transitioned to a once-a-day call – which Lai-Becker said was a big example of how things are moving towards pre-COVID

“For these last two and a half months, we have been talking two times a day and sometimes three times a day the director level staff...in order to figure out how to get patients where they should be for care and transfers. As of Monday, we decided we can now take our foot off the gas pedal and not meet two time a day. Now we’ll meet one time a day and see that that goes. It’s big for us and a turning point in terms of how we’ve now configured our work flows.”

The story of CHA Everett looking back is one of getting ready for the pandemic – wondering if it would be as bad as expected, treating what was a horrendous surge of sick people who struggled to get better or died, a flattening of the curve of sickness, and now a return to some normal patterns while also still treating COVID-19 patients.

“Everything put into place in March and early April, it is nice to see as all

the big changes operationally have made a difference because we can let the system handle the flow, especially since having a lull now the volumes are climbing back up quite nicely, but with a medium level of mix,” she said. Now it seems like it’s a more even mixture of patients.”

One clear example of that was a patient who came in last weekend with pneumonia – a nearly 100 percent sign of COVID-19 over the past two months. Lai-Becker said they did all the testing and were perplexed as to why there was no COVID showing up. After some further testing, they realized it was just standard pneumonia and not related to COVID.

“We were like, ‘Wow, it’s just regular pneumonia,’” she said. “So welcome back to just plain old community-acquired pneumonia.”

The hospital has closed down some of the specialty spaces created on the fly for COVID-19 over the past several weeks, and they are looking at returning to elective, but necessary, surgeries. They are also bringing back routine tests like colonoscopies.

“The hospital operations are slowly re-opening,” she said. “As of Monday, they were looking at bringing back certain elective scheduled procedures. We want to keep up with the elective surgeries – maybe they can be done later, but need to be done. It’s also colonoscopies and mammography. These are important and it’s been three months without doing them now. These are having a very slow start-up.”

Likewise, the respiratory clinic has been full-speed for so long now, but they are beginning to add outpatient hours.

At the same time, they are planning on how to return some of the clinical departments. That comes with a lot of planning, she said, about how to handle such visits with providers and how to handle the waiting rooms.

“It’s now a slow unwinding of these processes to see if any outpatient sites

can re-open and how does it change the setup,” she said. “It’s similar to what dental offices in the Commonwealth are facing. Everyone wants to eliminate the waiting rooms. That’s going to take careful planning.”

One thing that they are also seeing as they re-open so many things are the new innovations done on the fly for COVID-19 that they hope to keep as part of traditional medical treatments.

Tele-medicine visits have become the norm, and there are a lot of patients that Lai-Becker said will likely continue with those appointments on a screen – particularly as many in the older adult population in large part has become adept at using Zoom and other face-to-face platforms online.

Many chronically ill patients have found the visits to be better for them, as it can be strenuous to get a ride to the hospital for an appointment that can be done over a screen.

Likewise, CHA Everett has rolled out over the last week a new program called MobileHome in association with Cataldo Ambulance. That is a program they have dreamed of and worked on for a long time, she said. With the pandemic, they were able to roll it out fast. That program allows EMTs at Cataldo to do more advanced visits while in connection online with a physician. They can do more than a visiting nurse and can gauge whether a patient needs to be brought into the hospital or not. Using tele-medicine check-ups, and then MobileHome, many unnecessary trips to the hospital can be avoided to make patients more comfortable and medical delivery more efficient. The crux has always been about who was going to pay for it and how would they pay for it, Lai Becker said.

That year’s-long battle was resolved in a matter of weeks.

“I think people will recognize a lot of operational challenges in having these programs with tele-health

Region / Continued from Page 8

and para-medicine...were hampered by who was going to pay for it,” she said. “Remarkably, the tele-health visits can be paid. Apparently it is possible to have them both paid for now. That is the opportunity of this crisis. I think they are an enormous positive and they will stay even after...we see so many other things settle out. They are positive changes.”

•TYLENOL ANTI-DOTE NOW GOES TO TRIAL

One of the innovations at CHA Everett during the COVID-19 crisis was using the antidote for Tylenol poisoning to treat patients with several sickness related to COVID-19. It particularly helped the immune response in the lungs, and now CHA Everett is going to be moving that treatment to a clinical trial to see if it is an effective treatment for the virus.

They will be going to trial with Clintrials.gov. “We’re happy that CHA-wide our respiratory clinic is starting to prescribe it in the same manner as the Emergency Department has,” she said. “We will embark on the randomized trial of patients and then share the results. It seem to help...It would be great because it is off-patent, doesn’t cost much and has been around more than 50 years...It’s not very sexy for that reason, but if it works, great.”

She said they would need three months at a minimum, but likely six months to get enough treatment information. Already, they have some information in using the treatment over the last two months, but need more solid study.”

•LARGE GATHERINGS A CONCERN

As the weather lightens up and gatherings seem to increase – in addition to the large-scale protests that have happened in Boston – Dr. Lai-Becker said those in the hospital have had a concern.

That also goes for the gradual re-opening of businesses and services.

“It is a concern and it’s something in the hospital we’ve been paying attention to over the last week,” she said.

She said they will watch over the next two or three weeks to see if new cases arise, and if they can be traced to large gatherings like the protests. She said being that they were outside, there could be some saving grace in that.

QUARANTINE HOTEL CLOSES FOR PATIENTS

REVERE - Revere Fire Capt. Robert Fortuna, the city’s liaison for the Quality Inn Quarantine Hotel for COVID-19 patients, has announce that the hotel closed on June 10 at which point the facility will be returned to hotel management.

The last patient must either be medically released or transferred to the EnVision Hotel, a state-run facility for COVID-19 isolation in Everett.

The hotel partnership agreement developed between Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo and Chelsea City Manager Thomas Ambrosino will also end on June 10, according to Fortuna.

Fortuna said that Adrienne Maguire, RN, and a Revere school nurse, “was charged with the challenging task of vetting, qualifying and referring Revere people to be patients at the Quality Inn.

“Adrienne told me that initially there was some hesitancy by family members to stay at the facility,” related Fortuna. “But once there, noting the level of MGH staff and care on site, combined with not having to worry about meals, their comfort level overwhelm-

ingly changed.”

Fortuna said that most importantly the underlying premise and motivation for opening a quarantine site locally was realized and deemed a success by the medical community.

“Patients at the Quality Inn were able to avoid passing the disease to family members, their young children, and those living with them who were immune compromised,” said Fortuna. “The plan most certainly helped to control the spread of the virus for these families.”

During the course of the hotel being used for COVID-19 patients, Revere referred 32 people to the Quality Inn, while 147 patients from all cities found refuge and isolation there.

Fortuna, who is also the director of emergency management and planning, said that emergency management preparation is the key to mitigating a situation before it has overwhelmed your ability to react and control it.

“The facility at the Quality Inn was a bold step in addressing the growing number of COVID-19 positive cases and one of the many taken toward the success of limiting the spread of the virus,” said Fortuna.

REVERE YOUTH STAND WITH BLM

REVERE - With the ongoing Black Lives Matter demonstrations taking place nationwide, young Revere residents have begun vocalizing a demand for public figures, community members, and city officials to address the crisis. Collectively, they have released a sign-on letter, calling attention to racial injustice and demanding action be taken locally.

“Black Lives Matter (BLM) is a movement that fights for the injustice of my people,” says Seba Ismail, a Revere High School alum and member of the class of 2019. “To me, it is action. It is equality. It is a voice against white silence.”

Led by a different member of the class of 2019, Somaya Laroussi, youth of all ages and backgrounds managed to connect virtually to express their concerns to one another and translate their feelings into words and actions.

“Acknowledging social injustices is not political, which too often is forgotten,” clarifies Soleil Yuong, a current RHS student aged 17. “ Asking community leaders to speak out about the current situation often gets confused with pushing an agenda on them. If you claim you support minority groups in the past, that should hold true, now, more than ever.”

An estimated 69% of enrolled Revere Public School (RPS) students are of color (and identify as members of ethnic minority groups).

But, both current and previous Revere High students feel that the ethnic diversity is often exploited.

Stephanie Carvalho, RHS class of 2019, explains that, “it seems to me that Revere High loves to tout its diversity when they get awards or grant money out of it, but when it comes to acknowledging the trauma that affects that diversity ... they’re resilient.”

Faith Nwafor, RHS class of 2021, echoes her sentiments in explaining that in her seventeen years living in Revere, “I have yet to see people of color in office. As a young Black girl in Revere, it’s already hard enough as it is, but feeling like there’s no one to represent people of color in our community is disheartening.”

“There is a clear and ap-

parent disconnect between the people and authority in our community and that needs to be addressed now,” proclaims Somaya Laroussi, local community organizer and RHS alum.

She goes on to explain that “continued indifference by people responsible for protecting Revere youth will only make us more unsafe.”

Laroussi is the primary organizer of this project and has led a number of social justice campaigns on behalf of Revere youth for years. The group of youth promoting this are not affiliated by any organization in particular and hope to simply ensure the safety and protection of their community members. This sign-on letter project is also not affiliated in any way with the now-cancelled peaceful demonstration that was meant to take place June 5 in Revere. The timing of the two projects was coincidental.

The letter urges local leaders to immediately take steps to address the ongoing crisis, including:

- Urge your constituents not to affiliate with other racist platforms, organizations, and public figures that have attempted to profit off of the ongoing struggles of Revere youth.
 - Commit to working to dedicate spaces for youth, especially Black Revere youth, to vocalize their feelings and organize. Commit time to listening to youth voices at these spaces.
 - Continue to support upcoming initiatives that Revere youth of color will be pushing for in the coming weeks.
 - The sentiments going out to the Black community on behalf of the youth are summarized by Minnah Sheikh, RHS class of 2021, as she explains, “As allies of the Black community, it is our responsibility to continue to elevate the voices of those who have been silenced with years of systemic racial injustice. To our Black peers, you are heard and you are valued. You matter.”
- The letter has just been released and submitted to local public officials including city council members, school committee members, Superintendent Dr. Diane Kelly, Mayor Brian Arrigo. As of this press release, the sign-on letter has 622 signatures.

REMEMBERING ANTHONY LEO

LYNN - There is no higher honor in candlepin bowling than being inducted into the International Candlepin Bowling Association (ICBA) Hall of Fame.

Anthony “Tony” Leo received that prestigious award in 1999 with his proud family in attendance at the induction dinner in Haverhill.

Tony earned his seat in the Hall of Fame’s “Competitive Ability” category for an extraordinary bowling career that included 28 appearances on Don Gillis’ “Candlepin Bowling” Show and an All-State Bowling title in 1964.

But Tony and his family, including his brothers, Bob Leo and John Leo, and their father, John Leo, could have easily entered the Hall in the “Contributors” category as well, for no family in the history of bowling on the North Shore has given more to the game and brought more joy to bowlers of all ages than the Leos.

Tony Leo, one of the all-time candlepin greats who with his family built a candlepin empire that included ownership of Post Office Lanes in Lynn, Metro Bowl in Peabody, and Leo’s Super Bowl in Amesbury, died on May 29. He was 90 years old.

The Leo children - Su-

san, Linda, and Michael - had a front row seat for their father’s greatness as a bowler. Just how cool was it for the Leo kids to have their dad bowling on television when the show was drawing tens of thousands of viewers across New England each week. Tony Leo was a candlepin bowling celebrity and a respected ambassador for the popular sport.

Tony was admired for his sportsmanship during competition. He never became flustered by a Half Worcester, Spread Eagle, or the last of the Four Horsemen not toppling. He pressed on and many say his calm demeanor made him a master at picking single pins in clutch situations.

Tony didn’t throw the ball as fast as some of his fellow competitors, but no one was more precise in his accuracy or textbook in his delivery.

Beginnings in Lynn

Susan Leo Black said her father, Tony, and his brothers, John and Bob, took over the ownership of Post Office Lanes, a 10-alley facility downstairs from the old Lynn Post Office building on Western Avenue, from their father, John.

In 1976, the family purchased Metro Bowl, a popular, well-run establishment now under the stewardship of Bob Leo. Tony Leo and his son, Michael, later owned and operated Leo’s Super Bowl in Amesbury.

“I was a young kid when he bowled on Channel 5 for the first time in the early 60s,” recalled Susan. “He won the state tournament in 1964 at Fairway Sports-world in Natick.”

Susan’s mother, the late Ruth Leo, was also an outstanding candlepin bowler and won a major tournament in 1961. She also appeared on the Channel 5 TV bowling show.

“Her biggest accomplishment was beating Stasia Czernicki, who was quite a bowler,” said Susan. “My mother was very excited about winning that match.”

Susan remembers traveling to Sammy White’s Brighton Bowl to watch in person her father’s many appearances on the TV show.

“As I kid, you just knew he was a great bowler and you would be in the audience on television and that was really cool,” said Susan. “I remember in 1966 I was having my appendix taken out and my father was bowling on the show the next day. Jim Britt was the announcer and he said on TV, ‘a special hello to Tony’s daughter, who was in the hospital.’”

Susan Black said she’s immensely proud of her father’s many accomplishments and the Leo family’s incredible legacy. Tony was a 1947 graduate of Lynn Classical, served in the United States Army, and worked at General Electric for 34 years before his retirement.

“He was the nicest guy in the world,” said Susan. “He was always a gentleman, just an unbelievable guy. I remember one time we were watching my father bowl and his opponent missed a shot and my sister said, ‘yay,’ – my father came right over to her and said, ‘Don’t you ever do that again – you can root for me, but don’t ever root against anybody.’”

Michael Leo remembers his father

As one would expect, Michael Leo ran a great house at Leo’s Super Bowl in Amesbury, an establishment that was previously owned by the Baldinelli family.

Michael Leo said he first began working at Post Office Lanes as a kid. “I used to help out when I was at the Sacred Heart Grammar School and then all through my years at St. Mary’s High School,” recalled Michael. “The family bought Metro Bowl while I was in high

school. My uncle, John, ran the place, but my father was one of the owners. My father and my uncle, Bobby, also worked at GE. My uncle, Bobby, continues to run Metro with his children, son, Bobby Jr. and daughter, Lisa (Leo) Ferrari.”

Michael Leo, 58, was a very good bowler himself. “I wasn’t as good as my father, though,” he said. “I never made it on to television. I bowled in some TV rollofs but then the Don Gillis show went off the air and that was it. I bowled with a bunch of great guys like Tom Cennami and Jimmy Barber, who was a good friend of my father – all good bowlers from Lynn. I used to bowl in the Red Hoffman Charity Rolloff.”

Michael said his father was part of the first wave of Lynn bowling stars such as George Raymond, Tom Cennami, Frank Obey, and Jimmy Barber. They opened the door and other TV-caliber bowlers emerged, an illustrious list that includes Mike Morgan, Tom Morgan, Joe Tavernese, Al Lacey, Mike Shadoff, Paul Doherty, and so many others. Even younger stars like Dave Barber, Shawn Baker, and Jonathan Boudreau can tip their hat to gentlemanly proprietors like Tony Leo and Jimmy Barber and Sean Crowley for making Lynn the bowling capital of Massachusetts for so many years.

Michael Leo recalled how his father’s style differed from today’s cast of fireballers.

“They’re throwing the ball faster today – my father had a really nice delivery but he wasn’t throwing hard fastballs,” said Michael. “But he was accurate. I remember going to Sammy White’s Brighton Bowl many times and watching him on television and rooting for him. The entourage from Lynn would be there. It was really cool. I remember all of that.”

Michael Leo added respectfully, “The best thing my father ever gave to me when it came to bowling was just being calm, cool, and collective. My father was always that way no matter what happened when he was bowling.”

Like his father, Michael Leo brought that class and decorum to the lanes. “I remember bowling in a youth tournament at Post Office and I got the award for Best Sportsmanship. I wondered why they picked me for that award and the reason was another coach from another team said, ‘you were running down back fixing the machines and I couldn’t believe how you would come and bowl and be so composed no matter what.’ I think back on that and I got that from bowling with my father. He was a classy guy.”

Tavernese has a strong connection to the Leo family

Joe Tavernese is an inductee in the ICBA Hall of Fame. He has known Tony Leo for many years, having worked at Post Office Lanes and Metro Bowl, where he is still employed.

“It’s sad that Tony’s gone,” said Tavernese. “He lived a great life. He was an awesome person, a gentleman, all of that. He was more than just my boss, he was family and he made us feel like family.”

Tavernese competed against Tony Leo on occasion, but Tavernese was more a part of the next generation of Lynn bowling greats.

“I bowled in some of the TV rollofs with Tony,” recalled Tavernese. “He was a great bowler and competed against other guys like Fran Onorato, Joe Donovan, Joe Comeau, and Charlie Jutras.”

Tavernese said when he appeared on television, Tony Leo and his wife, Ruth, would attend the taping sessions. “I have a lot of good memories of Tony and his family. I was so grateful

for their support. They are great people.”

Tavernese excelled while representing the Leo family’s Post Office Lanes, an MBA-sanctioned establishment, and later Metro Bowl. Joe teamed with Tom Cennami on the TV doubles show. Joe and his wife, Sharon Tavernese, competed as a team on the mixed doubles TV show, before Channel 5 took all of their bowling shows off the air.

“After Sharon and I became champions, they ended the show, so we’re the reigning champions,” said Tavernese.

And Joe Tavernese’s lifelong connection to bowling was inspired by the grace and goodness of men like Tony Leo.

“Tony was an amazing person,” said Tavernese. “He was a terrific bowler and was on Channel 5 many times. Back in the day when Tony bowled, the pins fell harder. The pins didn’t fall as easy as they do today. But we had great times at Post Office, it was a fun place to be. Tony was a true gentleman and a sportsman. He will be missed.”

WINTHROP FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW ROUND OF GRANTS

WINTHROP - The Winthrop Foundation has awarded a grant of \$26,250 to continue its support of local nonprofits and programs serving some of the town’s most vulnerable residents and most pressing needs.

The \$26,250 will be distributed to local nonprofit organizations and groups that provide food to the elderly, single and struggling families, and recovering addicts in Winthrop. These organizations will utilize the funds to distribute gifts cards, purchased from 35 local small businesses, to folks who have visited and are in need of resources from local food pantries, food banks, and like-minded groups throughout the town.

In March 2020, Chairman Russ Sanford, and the Board of Trustees acted quickly to initiate a rapid-response emergency grant program that has awarded a total of nearly \$50,000 to local nonprof-its. Recent grant recipients include Mi-Amore, the Winthrop food bank, Community Action for Safe Alternatives (CASA) which is providing increased mental health services for local youth, WHS for alternative and remote graduation activities for the Class of 2020, and others.

According to Chairman Sanford, this newest \$26,250 in grant funding will continue in that vein. “Our town, like nearly every town and city, has seen increased food insecurity and other essential needs arise for many of our residents. At the same time, we’ve seen a huge economic downturn for many of our small businesses. The \$26,250 grant we’re awarding today will ensure that local food banks and other groups serving needy families and individuals in our Town can continue to help those coming through their doors, while also supporting our local small businesses where residents spend their dollars.”

The Winthrop Foundation, founded in May 2019 with support from Speaker of the House Robert A. DeLeo, has received \$500,000 from Massport thus far. The Board of Trustees is working hard to serve the Winthrop community in the most effective way possible and hopes to launch its Regular Grant Application in the coming weeks. Thank you Speaker DeLeo and Massport.

DiDomenico and Ryan announce new law to preserve municipal governance

Senator Sal DiDomenico and Representative Daniel Ryan announced that the Massachusetts State Senate and House of Representatives passed legislation to provide governance and fiscal flexibility for municipalities grappling with public health challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. This legislation has now been signed by Governor Baker.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for our local communities, and delivering for our cities and towns has remained a top

priority for all of us in the Legislature,” said Senator DiDomenico. “I am proud that my colleagues and I in the Senate and House have taken action to pass this bipartisan bill and give our municipalities additional flexibility to ensure they can continue serving the immediate need of our residents.”

“This public health, and economic crisis, has also effected the way our cities and towns function,” said Representative Ryan. “By giving structural flexibility to our city officials, we are allowing the people closest

to our constituents the ability to provide the services needed without worrying about immediate bureaucratic deadlines.”

Building off of other legislation that gave municipalities operating flexibility during the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis, the bill further protects public health and preserves the town meeting structure from continued disruptions caused by the state of emergency.

The bill includes the following provisions:

- Permits representative meetings to take place vir-

tually;

- Permits quorum reduction for open meetings to no less than 10% and extends the quorum reduction to representative town meeting;
- Allows meetings to be held outside the geographic limits of the municipality; and
- Permits a municipal election scheduled through June 31 to be extended to

August 1 at the latest.

By providing our municipalities with this much-needed flexibility, the bill preserves public access to the proceedings of town governance and protects the public from the continued health risks associated with the COVID-19 outbreak.

The bill also provides our city governments with fiscal relief by allowing mayors to delay their normal

budget submission deadline for FY 2021 in light of the state of emergency.

Finally, among other provisions, the bill strengthens the prohibition on terminating essential services for residents during the COVID-19 emergency and provides municipalities and regional school districts flexibility in paying school bus and other vendor contracts.

Speed patterns on Tobin begin to change from April to May

By Seth Daniel

Speed patterns on the Mystic/Tobin Bridge have been universally flipped since the COVID-19 pandemic hit and commuter congestion dried up, with lower speeds during the day and higher speeds during the afternoons and nights.

Speeding has been a problem statewide on roads that are emptier than normal, causing a great deal of accidents on the roads. The Mystic/Tobin has been no different as speeds have increased due to the lack of what was normal bumper to bumper congestion. Even so, those increased speeds are beginning to ease up as more people head to work and the Bridge becomes more utilized by commuters.

“The largest change in speeds occurred during what are traditionally considered the Peak Commuting times (AM Peak= 6-9am; PM Peak = 3-7pm),” read a report from MassDOT that came out this week. “During these times the peak difference in average speeds experienced were 40% for the afternoon

Peak in May and 23 percent for the morning in April. During the off peak afternoon and evening non peak times the average increase in speeds were around 6-10 percent greater than last year.

“The largest change in speed is seen in the average speed simply because this is the area where the largest increase can occur,” it continued. “During the peak hours vehicle speeds are significantly lower than free flow speeds and due to the decrease in volumes, free flow speeds are able to be achieved during more times throughout the day.”

According to that data, on the Tobin, speeds in April increased the most in the afternoons, with speeds up by more than 200 percent between 3-6 p.m. on average. The highest was at 5 p.m. on the northbound, with a 264 percent increase in speeds. The morning speeds in April were relatively small gains in comparison on the Northbound side. However, on the southbound side, speeds inbound in April were up significantly between 5 a.m. and 2 p.m. The largest increases were between 7

a.m. to 10 a.m. At 8 a.m., speeds were up 88 percent in April.

In May, northbound speeds in the afternoon had increased even more from noon to 8 p.m. The largest increases were at 4 p.m. when speeds in May were up 277 percent over last year at the same time. In general, speeds northbound in May were up more than 200 percent between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. over last year.

That was a little different in the mornings, though. Speeds southbound in the mornings began to slow down from April, a little bit, though 8 a.m. still had an 87 percent increase in speed over last year. However, compared to April, May’s numbers are consolidated southbound in the mornings, with increased speeds just within a three-hour window rather than many hours.

MassDOT used the RITIS platform to gather the speed data while also collecting data on traffic volumes, which also remain down significantly. They will continue to monitor and publish the data as things continue.

Young Democrats of Massachusetts hold annual convention

The Young Democrats of Massachusetts held its Annual Convention virtually to organize, elect officers, and hear from prominent guest speakers and elected officials.

“It was energizing and motivating to see so many people participating in chapter and caucus elections yesterday,” said Lezlie Braxton Campbell, the newly elected President of the Young Democrats of Massachusetts, who also makes history as the first African American President of the organization. “as we take the time to celebrate, we must recognize that now is not a time that we can afford to be idle -- we must get to work right away. I am looking forward to working with and supporting everyone from Western Mass all the way down to the Cape & Islands and from the Women’s Caucus to the AAPI caucus to ensure every voice is

heard” he continued.

In concluding his speech, Campbell said “As we move forward, I ask that each of you do your part in holding the board and myself accountable and always bring your passion when it comes to our work. Thank you all so much, I cannot wait to see what this year brings for us.”

During the conventions programming on Sunday, members had an opportunity to hear from a panel of community and elected leaders on the topic of “Race and Policing” as well as an hear from candidates for office and elected leaders including Congressman Jim McGovern, Senator Elizabeth Warren, and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley who also received the “Young Democrat at Heart of the Year Award.”

In addition to the election of Campbell as President, members also elected the following officers:

President: Lezlie Braxton Campbell, Springfield
Vice President: Lisa Stevens-Goodnight, Boston
Secretary: Terry Altherr, Newton
Treasurer: Chris Mirabella, Marblehead
Membership & Outreach Director: Cory Bisbee, Worcester
YDA Representative: Sharon Solomon, Somerville
YDA Representative: Robert Cohen, Boston
Political Director: Ryan Freed, Sagamore Beach (Bourne)
Policy Director: Vernon K. Walker, Boston
Communications Director: Jay Manuel Rivera, Lawrence
Fundraising Director: James Leo Bedard, Worcester
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Director: Roberto A. Jiménez Rivera, Chelsea
Technical Director: Vivian Nguyen, Everett

Northeast Voke holds socially distanced graduation last week

Superintendent David DiBarri and Principal Carla Scuzzarella are pleased to announce the graduation of 286 students from Northeast Metro Tech.

“We could not be more proud to celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of the Class of 2020,” Superintendent DiBarri said. “During the COVID-19 pandemic, they have shown perseverance and determination. Congratulations to each and every one of you, and we wish you all the best as you take your next steps.”

Northeast Metro Tech held 16 socially distanced, in-person commencement events over the course of four days last week, beginning on Monday, June 1, and ending Thursday,

June 4. Graduations were spaced two hours apart, and students and their families were allowed to stand together during the ceremony while staying at least six feet from other families. Students were given personalized Class of 2020 face masks and family members were encouraged to wear their own face masks or coverings as well.

“I’m sure most of you don’t know that my very first day as principal here was your first day at Northeast,” Principal Scuzzarella said. “We walked into this school together. Here you are today, 720 days of high school are behind you. You made it. You learned that you are resilient, you are able to withstand and recover from difficult con-

ditions. These past two months have been challenging, but I could not be any prouder of each and every one of you than I am right now.”

The 2020 Craftsmanship Awards were given to the following students in the following programs:

- Automotive Collision Repair Technology - Luis Barillas, of Chelsea.
- Business Technology - Alex Vasquez, of Chelsea.
- Plumbing - Riquelmi Ramirez Romero, of Chelsea.

Videos taken from each ceremony will be compiled into one video and will be shared with students and their families within the next week.

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OBITUARIES

John Quatieri

Longtime president and former coach of the Chelsea Youth Hockey League

John Quatieri, 76, of Middleton, formerly of Chelsea and Everett, beloved husband of Patricia (Donovan) Quatieri, died Sunday, June 7 at home surrounded by his family following a brief illness.

Born in Somerville, the son of the late John B. and Mary (Cimildoro) Quatieri, he was raised in Everett and graduated from Everett High School, Class of 1962.

Mr. Quatieri had been employed for twenty-seven years as a supervisor for General Motors in Framingham and Tarrytown, NY until the time of his retirement.

John had a great love for hockey and served as president and former coach of the Chelsea Youth Hockey League for many years.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend who will be missed by all who knew him.

In addition to his wife with whom he shared 56 years of marriage, he is survived by three sons and their wives: John and Wendy Quatieri of Peabody, Kevin and Joanna Quatieri of Saugus and Patrick and Kelly Quatieri of Salem, NH; ten grandchildren:



Nicholas, Alexandra, Michael, Anthony, Crystal, Joseph, Derek, Brendan, Ryan and Summer; two sisters, Angela Gallant of Peabody and Rosanne Iwanicki of Medford, one brother, James Quatieri of Nashua, NH and several nieces and nephews. He was also the father of the late Brian Quatieri and brother of the late Karen Rogers.

His funeral services will be held privately at the Puritan Lawn Memorial Park in Peabody. Arrangements are by the Conway Cahill Brodeur Funeral Home, 82 Lynn St., Peabody. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to Pediatric Oncology, c/o Massachusetts General Hospital, Development Office, 125 Nashua Street, Suite 540, Boston, MA 02114. For online guest-book please visit www.ccb-funeral.com.

Mark A. Parsons

Of Florida, formerly of Chelsea

Mark A. Parsons, 63, of Lauderdale Lakes, FL, formerly of Marblehead and Chelsea, died May 18 at Holy Cross Hospital in Ft. Lauderdale, FL after a long illness.

He was the husband of Priscilla (Pierce) Parsons with whom he shared 42 years of marriage.

Born in Everett, the son of the late Austin E. and Wilma (Doody) Parsons, he attended Marblehead Schools and graduated from Marblehead High School, Class of 1975. He married his wife Priscilla in 1978 and was baptized a Jehovah's Witness in 1988.

Mark earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business at Eastern Maine College,

Class of 1990. He enjoyed camping, fishing, bowling and woodworking.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Aleaha Flood (Keena Flood) of Tamarac, FL and Leslie Parsons of Fort Lauderdale, FL, one grandchild, Isaiah Flood, two brothers, Scott A. Parsons of Shelbyville, TN and William H. Parsons of Salem, MA and one sister, Wendy Walker of Loris, SC, as well as their loving spouses. He also leaves behind nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Arrangements are by Parker Funeral Home, 35 Franklin St., Lynn, MA.

Joseph Conlon

Will be sorely missed for his gentle spirit and unflinching good nature



Joseph V. Conlon of Tewksbury, formerly of Chelsea and Boca Ra-

ton, Florida, passed away peacefully at home on June 3 at the age of 87 after a brief illness surrounded by his loving family.

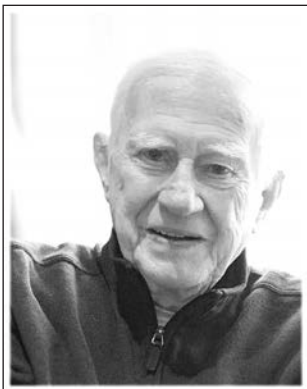
The son of the late Anna (Clifford) and Joseph G. Conlon, Joe was raised in Worcester and Charlestown. He settled in Chelsea after his marriage to Alice (Kelly), where they made a life and raised their six children. He was an active parishioner at Saint Rose Church for many years, and later, a weekly communicant at Saint Michael's Chapel.

Joe was a long-time member of the Saint Rose Holy Name Society and the Merritt Club. He was an avid reader, devoted Boston sports fan, horse racing enthusiast and fierce Scrabble competitor. He was known for his ability to answer Jeopardy questions before the contestants. Joe will be sorely missed for his gentle spirit and unflinching good nature.

After graduating Christopher Columbus High School, Joe joined the US Army and served as a radio operator during the Korean Conflict. Upon his discharge, he went to work at Sears & Roebuck in Porter Square, Cambridge. He spent 38 successful years with the company culminating with his retirement from the chain's Saugus location in 1993.

During their retirement years, Joe and Alice enjoyed splitting their time between their Massachusetts and Boca Raton residences.

He is survived by his



wife, Alice, the love of his life and his best friend of 62 years. He was the devoted father of Patricia Cooper and her husband, the late Dennis Cooper, of Andover, Mary Leverone and her husband, Andrew of Tewksbury, Janet (J.) Conlon and her wife, Nancy Azar of Roslindale, Kathy Ruggieri and her husband, John of Chelsea, Joe and his wife, Tracy of North Reading and Bill and his wife, Christine of Medway. He was the beloved Papa of Joshua Richard and his wife, Marisa, Ali, Jillian, Brian and Jack Conlon, Joseph, Daniel, Samantha and Nicholas Leverone. He was the adored Papa Joe of Matthew and J.J. Leverone.

He is also survived by his cherished sister, Mary (Conlon) Farren of Norwood and his nieces and nephews: Mary Ann Farren Tobin, Dan Farren and Kevin Farren, Anne Kelly Byerly, Ed Kelly and Joan Kelly McNeill. In addition, Joe leaves behind his close cousins Eileen Donahue and Barbara Castle as well as many dear friends.

Funeral Services and interment are private.

Donations in Joe's memory can be made to the Oblate Residence, 486 Chandler Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876.

Funeral Arrangements were under the direction of the Smith Funeral Home.

Geraldine Sacco

Graduate of RHS, Class of 1979

Geraldine "Geri" Sacco of Chelsea, formerly of Revere, passed away unexpectedly on June 5 at the age of 58.

Geri graduated with honors from Revere High School, class of 1979. She attended Northeastern University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

Born in Revere on Dec. 22, 1961 to Rose (D'Ambrosio) Sacco and the late Nicola Sacco, she was the devoted mother of Thomas Faigle of Virginia, dear sister of Lois Sacco and her husband, Joseph L. Pedoto of Saugus and cherished



aunt of Joseph Pedoto II.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Anthony's Church, 250 Revere St, Revere on Tuesday June 9. Entombment was in Holy Cross Mausoleum. For guest book, please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

George Tirro

Decorated veteran, served with the US Army 30th Infantry WW II D-Day Normandy Landing



George Tirro of Revere passed away on June 8 at the age of 101.

George proudly served his country in the United States Army in the 30th Infantry that landed in Normandy and advanced into France during WWII. He received the Purple Heart, American Defense Service Medal, European African Middle Eastern campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, 3 Bronze Service Stars, American Campaign Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. George was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the N.E. chapter of the 30th Infantry Division.

Born in Revere on June 5, 1919 to the late Frank and Anna (Tampano), he was the beloved husband of 57 years to the late Mary (Fala); devoted father of Ann Marie Costa-Ferullo and her husband, Ronald of Revere and Rosalie Hobbs and her late husband, William of Swampscott; dear brother of the late Ralph and Angelo Tirro; cherished grandfather of Rachel Simone and her husband, James Chilton of Hollis NH, Wil-



liam Hobbs II of Swampscott and Marisa Hobbs of Arlington; adored great grandfather of Isabella Simone of Hollis, NH. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the Chelsea Soldiers Home for the compassion and exceptional care they gave to George during his time there.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Anthony's Church, 250 Revere St, Revere today, Thursday, June 11 at 10 a.m. Private Interment. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project, 4899 Belfort Rd, Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256 or to a charity of one's choice. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

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Kiwanis Club is helping out with Chelsea Coronavirus Response

By Cary Shuman

The Chelsea Kiwanis Club may be small in numbers, but it is always big in its efforts in helping out Chelsea, especially now.

The organization, led by President Sylvia Ramirez, has been donating \$1,000 per month to the Chelsea Coronavirus Response. To-date the club's donations have gone to the Chelsea One Fund, St. Luke's Church food pantry, and to local families in need. This month's donations will be going to the Salvation Army and the Jordan Boys and Girls Club.

Ramirez, who will finish her second term as president in September and become the District 12 Kiwanis Lieutenant Governor-Elect, said with the club's community service projects on hold due to the pandemic, the members decided they still wanted to help out Chelsea during these difficult times.

"The donation is a collaboration of all members

that we were trying to find a way to give back to the city during these challenging times and we have the funds, so why not?" said Ramirez.

Ramirez added that typically the Kiwanis Club would be holding such community events as its popular Youth Track and Field Day at Chelsea Stadium. But the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the cancellation of that event that features running events and prizes for the top finishers.

"We also had to cancel our Daddy and Daughter Dance that was going to be held May 21," said Ramirez. "We had done a lot of preparations for that dance and we're very excited about it. We had been collaborating with the Chelsea Police Department and the local Girls Scouts, but holding the dance is not possible at this time."

Ramirez said back in February the club had formulated plans to conduct once-a-month service community service projects, but those projects were put on

hold due to the state guidelines that were implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It has been a huge challenge, because like everybody else, we're not able to gather in groups," said Ramirez.

The Kiwanis Club has continued its scholarship program for Chelsea High students going on to college. The club donated four scholarships to the CHS Class of 2020.

The Kiwanis Club has been meeting virtually on Zoom on a bi-weekly (every two weeks) basis. The club's last in-person meeting was held on March 5.

Ramirez, 48, came to Chelsea from Puerto Rico when she was 16 years old. "I definitely feel like I've always been a Chelsea girl, though," she said.

With her high energy and excellent organizational skills, Ramirez has been one of Chelsea's most valuable contributors through the years, including a successful tenure as president of the Chelsea Pop Warner



Members of the Kiwanis Club of Chelsea, from left, Joe Carreiro (El Potro), Gerry McCue (Chelsea Schools), Tricia Williams (Kayem Foods), Tom Sperolopoulos, President Sylvia Ramirez (Chelsea Collaborative), Renee Caso Griffin (Dunkin'), Rich Cuthie (Chamber of Commerce), Amy Carafa Almas (Carafa Funeral Home), Maria Malloy (Golden Cannoli), and Joe Chirichiello (Bunker Hill Community College).

youth football and cheerleading organization. She is also well known for her outstanding work at the Chelsea Collaborative led by Executive Director Gladys Vega.

Though Ramirez will be taking office as District Lt. Governor in 2021, she will be continuing her active membership in the Chelsea Kiwanis Club. Rich Cuthie, a Kiwanis Club stalwart

and executive director of the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce, will be the next president of the club.

"Rich Cuthie will be a great leader of our club," predicts Ramirez.

HarborCOV awarded Cummings Foundation Grant for Chelsea nonprofit

HarborCOV is one of 130 local nonprofits to receive grants of \$100,000 to \$500,000 each through Cummings Foundation's \$20 Million Grant Program. The Chelsea-based organization was chosen from a total of 738 applicants during a competitive review process.

HarborCOV provides free emergency and longer-term supports, low-income supportive transitional and permanent housing, and specialized immigration, legal and children's support services that promote long-term stability for individuals and families.

"On behalf of individuals and families affected by domestic violence, HarborCOV would like to take the opportunity to share its utmost appreciation to the Cummings Foundation for recognizing the importance of the critical services we provide especially during this very difficult and uncertain time", said Kourou Pich, HarborCOV's executive director. "Receiving a grant award from the Cummings Foundation will en-

hance our efforts to support immigrant survivors and their children to live free from violence and increase their family and economic stability."

HarborCOV plans to use the Cummings grant to hire a new Case Manager who will work with and focus on immigrant survivors who are at high risk for domestic violence homicide and to increase the accessibility of all immigration services to low-income survivors. Adding this new position to the HarborCOV team will also enable us to re-launch an internal High Risk team: to hold specialized trainings on working with immigrant survivors who are at high risk for homicide, and to formally re-engage with external community partners.

The Cummings \$20 Million Grant Program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties. Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the area where it owns

commercial buildings, all of which are managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. Founded in 1970 by Bill Cummings, the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 10 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

"We have been impressed, but not surprised, by the myriad ways in which these 130 grant winners are serving their communities, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19," said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation's executive director. "Their ability to adapt and work with their constituents in new and meaningful ways has an enormous impact in the communities where our colleagues and leasing clients live and work."

Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$280 million to greater Boston nonprofits.

Social distancing requirements will prevent

Foundation and grant winner representatives from convening for a reception at Trade Center 128 in Woburn, as planned, to celebrate the \$20 million infusion into greater Boston's nonprofit sector. Instead, Cummings Foundation expects hundreds of individuals to gather virtually for a modified celebration in mid-June.

The Cummings \$20 Million Grant Program resulted from a merger of the Foundation's two flagship grant programs, \$100K for 100 and Sustaining Grants.

The Foundation and its volunteers first identified 130 organizations to receive grants of at least \$100,000 each. Among the winners are first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that have previously received Cummings Foundation grants. A limited number of this latter group of repeat recipients will be invited to make in-person presentations in the fall, when public health related circumstances allow, proposing that their grants be elevated to long-term awards. Thirty such

requests will be granted in the form of 10-year awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$500,000 each.

This year's diverse group of grant recipients represents a wide variety of causes, including homelessness prevention, affordable housing, education, violence prevention, and food insecurity. The nonprofits are spread across 40 different cities and towns, and most will receive their grants over two to five years.

The complete list of 130 grant winners is available at [www.Cummings Foundation.org](http://www.CummingsFoundation.org).

A great deal more information about Cummings Foundation is detailed in Bill Cummings' self-written business book, "Starting Small and Making It Big: Hands-On Lessons in Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy." The brand-new, and significantly updated, 6th edition is available on Amazon or cummings.com/book.

HarborCOV is a nonprofit organization that provides targeted communi-

ty-based support services to the harbor communities of Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, Charlestown and East Boston, and other specialized statewide and national supports for domestic violence survivors. Founded in 1998, HarborCOV's mission is to provide linguistically and culturally appropriate, high-quality emergency and support services to, safe affordable transitional and permanent low-income housing for, advocate on behalf of, victims and survivors of domestic violence by working to educate the public about its causes and consequences.

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities in Marlborough and Woburn, and Veterinary School at Tufts, LLC in North Grafton. Additional information is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

**Congratulations to our son,
Dr. Anthony V. Norman, who
graduated from Tufts University
School of Medicine on May 17, 2020.**



**He is a lifelong Chelsea resident and
alumnus of the Jordan Boys and Girls
Club. We are so proud!
Love, mom and dad**

**Congrats
on your
achievement!**



**Caitlin
Maldonado**

**You're beautiful,
smart, & ambitious.
Daddy and Uncle
Dom are shining
down on you.**

**We are all
so proud of you!**

**CONGRATS
CHRISTOPHER
RODRIGUEZ**



**We are so
proud of you!
You've worked
so hard and
we're excited
to see what the
future holds for
you.**

**We love you!
Mom, Dad & Emily**

♥♥♥

New unemployment claims fall by more than 10,000

Massachusetts had 27,034 individuals file an initial claim for standard Unemployment Insurance (UI) from May 24 to May 30, a decrease of 10,584 over the previous week. Since March 15, a total of 924,239 initial claims have been filed for UI. For the same week, there were 575,862 continued UI claims filed, a decrease of 12,187 or 2.1% over the previous week. This marks the first decrease in continued UI weeks claimed since the beginning of the pandemic related unemployment surge.

At 54,281, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) initial claims filed for the week ending May 30 were 93,313 less than the previous week. Since April 20, 2020, 573,077 claimants have filed for PUA.

The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Com-

pensation (PEUC), which provided up to 13 weeks of extended benefits to individuals who have exhausted or expired their regular unemployment compensation since July 2019 was implemented on May 21. For the week ending May 23, 39,011 PEUC claims were filed followed by 4,242 PEUC filings for the week of May 24 to May 30.

Since March, the customer service staff at the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has grown from around 50 employees to nearly 2000. The remote customer service operation is now making over 35,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host daily unemployment town halls – which have been held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese - and have been attended by nearly 300,000 constituents.

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