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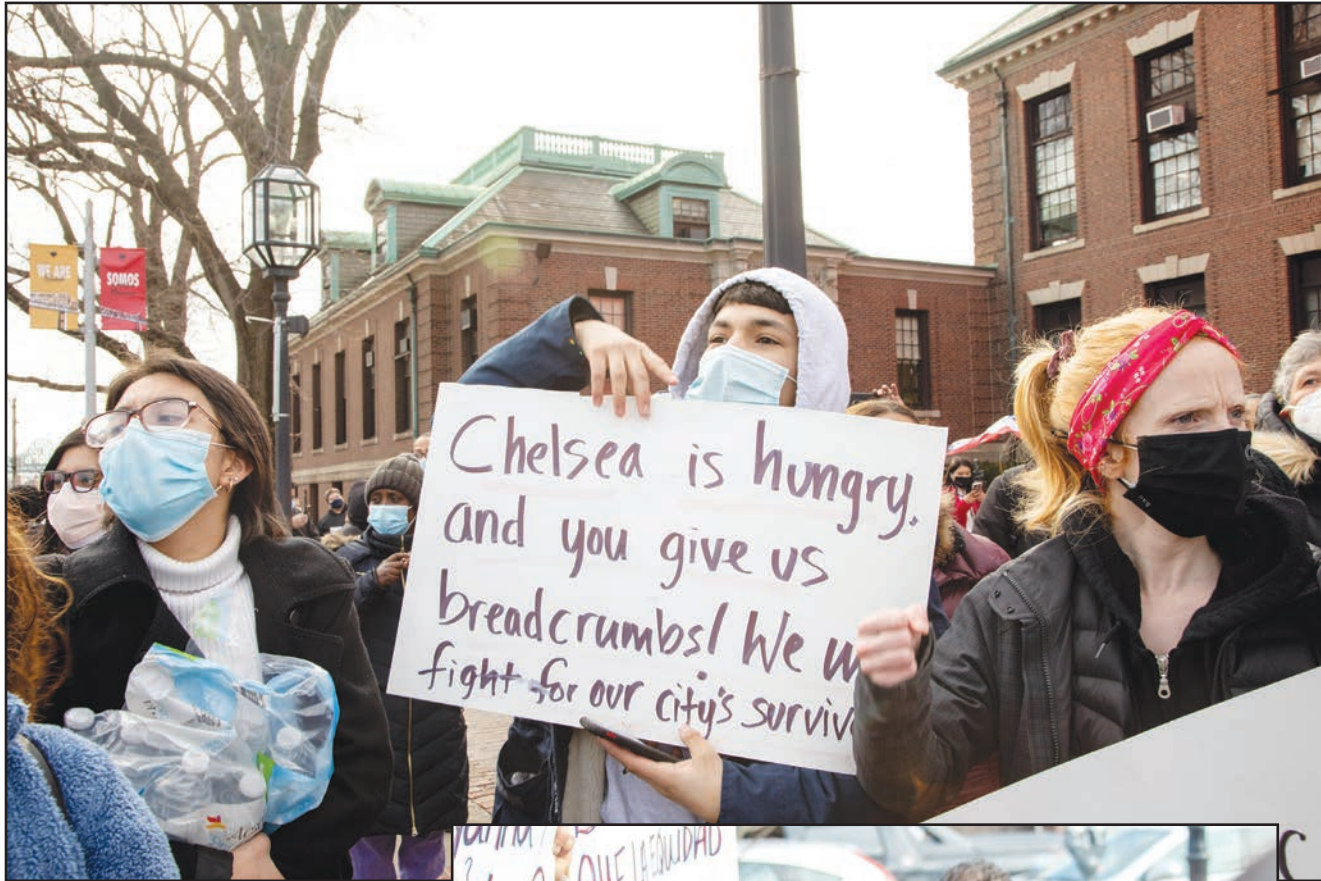
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Photos by Darlene DeVita
On Tuesday, activists and community leaders from Chelsea and Everett gathered at Chelsea City Hall to protest the huge disappointment they felt from getting “shorted” on funding in the highly-touted American Recovery Plan, while affluent communities like Newton collected millions more in funding. Here, La Colaborativa Director Gladys Vega spoke to the crowd and said the federal delegation let down the community. Meanwhile, one protestor held a sign that said ‘Chelsea is hungry and you only give us crumbs.’



American Rescue Plan misses Chelsea, Everett

By Seth Daniel

When President Joe Biden and a litany of Democratic legislators – including the Massachusetts federal delegation – took to the airwaves and online universe to praise the passage of the American Rescue Plan, they touted it as a lifeline to communities sinking from the sufferings of COVID-19.

No two communities in the state, arguably, have suffered as much as Everett and Chelsea, yet some officials locally are saying the federal delegation and the federal government has left the two communities high and dry.

Numbers from the Rescue Plan began to come out last weekend from the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA), and on first glance, many thought there was a mistake for Everett and Chelsea. The Rescue Plan was highly touted from all

corners as being able to help communities hardest hit, including local governments that have lost millions in revenues and expended millions to fund local food pantries, rental assistance and small business programs. Leaders in Everett and Chelsea were expecting to get some relief to plug holes in their City Budgets, but were stunned when their numbers became public.

For Everett, the Rescue Plan directed \$4.58 million to the City, with a supplement from county funding sources bumping it to \$13.59 million. For Chelsea, the Rescue Plan directed \$3.91 million in aid to the City, and a total of \$11.61 million with the bump up from county funding.

That was compared to affluent communities like Newton, which got \$48.14 million and a total of \$65.29 million with the county resources. Brookline got \$34.21 million, but no county money figures were available. Meanwhile, nearby Medford got \$39.25 million and a total of \$50.37 million with the county resources. Malden also got much more as well, with \$35.04 million from the Plan and \$46.76 million in total with the county bump up.

Both Chelsea and Everett’s numbers were more on par with suburban

Shrewsbury than an urban community hard-hit by COVID-19.

Officially, City leaders said they were told the funding was determined by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) formula that designates “entitlement” communities and “non-entitlement” communities – and the allocations didn’t really consider the impact of COVID. Because Chelsea and Everett are below 50,000 people officially, they are non-entitlement communities and didn’t get a lot

of funding because of that. Efforts by the federal delegation, sources said, came too late in the process to be able to make adjustments – resulting in the smaller numbers becoming official.

With those numbers, many officials said it looked like the most affected people were the least funded – with both Chelsea and Everett being in the top five most impacted cities in the Commonwealth.

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Juan Gallego responds to housing emergency in Texas

By Cary Shuman

For the residents of Chelsea and his fellow members of the Rotary Club, it will come as no surprise that Juan Gallego traveled to Texas to help South Houston-area residents with an incredible display of voluntary assistance.

Gallego, 58, has been an ambassador of goodwill for Chelsea Rotary and living symbol of the Rotary motto, “Service Above Self.” In the past while representing Chelsea Rotary in his native

Colombia, Gallego helped develop health care centers in remote areas of the country. He also organized and executed a Rotary project to assist children in need of cleft palate surgery.

Earlier this month Gallego and a team of volunteers headed to Texas to repair homes that had been devastated by a severe winter storm which caused power outages and broken water pipes in homes.

“We fixed up 18 homes that had no water because all the pipes were burst,”

Breaking Promises

Chelsea students and parents call for substantial state funding as schools reopen

By John Lynds

With the promised funding from the landmark education bill that was signed into law before the COVID pandemic hit is still up in the air, Chelsea students, parents and school committee members on Tuesday called for the state to fully fund the Student Opportunity Act Funding (SOA).

During a virtual press conference hosted by the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance on Tuesday students, parents, and school committee members from cities across Massachusetts discussed their school funding needs, their perspectives on in-person school reopening this spring, and their aspirations for education this summer and during the upcoming school year.

Chelsea School Com-

mittee member Roberto Jimenez-Rivera testified at the virtual press conference and shared their thoughts.

At the press conference, which will be held over Zoom, Jimenez-Rivera joined students, parents, and school committee members from Boston, Revere, Lawrence, Lowell and Randolph to discuss safety measures, social/emotional and educational supports, and other resources they’re looking for from their public schools as well as the need for substantial state funding to support those needs.

“We’re here today because our elected officials are once again breaking the promises that they’ve made to our students,” said Jimenez-Rivera. “Our governor in particular is continuing to neglect the

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Councillor Taylor says he’s weighing his options on ‘character assassination’

By Seth Daniel

Councillor Todd Taylor said he is weighing his options this week after what he deemed was a “character assassination” of him at the March 8 meeting – a meeting where student activists singled him out for voting against taking down the Columbus statue and giving his academic argument for doing so.

He said it’s time to stop such tactics on councillors and members of the community.

“I’ve spoken with the City Solicitor and City

Manager about this,” he said. “They’re considering their options and I’m considering my options too. This is bullying. If someone does something or says something that doesn’t agree with this ideology, then it’s open season to come in and hurl racist accusations at me when they all know better.

“This type of assassinating people’s character when you disagree with them has to stop,” he continued. “It not the first time someone has gotten

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From Chelsea To Houston



Chelsea Rotary Club member Juan Gallego (right) traveled to Texas to assist homeowners in the repair of their piping systems that were broken during the severe winter storm.

said Gallego. “We were there working for ten days. We had plumbers and we had helpers. I was a help-

er. We did a total re-piping of the homes.”

All of Gallego’s repairs

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Chelsea student killed in horrible East Boston car crash

By John Lynds and Seth Daniel

Allegedly, a daring game of street racing turned deadly last week on McClellan Highway killing a Chelsea student and injuring another teen.

Jonathan Hernandez Flores died instantly last Wednesday night when the car he was driving hit another vehicle driven by an acquaintance, spun out of control and collided with a utility pole on the southbound side of McClellan near Addison Street in East Boston.

“It seems the teen that died and his friend sped through the intersection at Boardman and McClellan and their cars touched,” said Boston Police Captain Kelly McCormack. “Once they touched both vehicles went out of control and in a split second one kid was killed and the other injured.”

The crash occurred with such intensity that it split the vehicle Flores was driving into two pieces.

Eric Danilchuk, who owns the autobody shop directly across the highway from where the accident occurred said the rate of travel had to be well over 100 mph. Danilchuk said given that newer cars have reinforced cabins and other safety measures it was his opinion that the car had to exceed the 100 mph mark in order to be split in two with ease.

This was the second deadly accident involving speed in just a few weeks and the third since 2019. All the deadly accidents involved young adults.

Last month East Boston High School graduates Isaiah Ortiz and Chelsea

resident Alexander Cabre-ra were killed when their vehicle collided with a pole on Chelsea Street just before the bridge into Chelsea. Back in 2019 a college student from Rhode Island, Amber Pelletier, was killed when the car she was a passenger in collided with several parked cars and then flipped over on Bennington Street in East Boston.

On Thursday Chelsea High students were grieving with one another outdoors at the football stadium behind the school. Students were given space today (Friday) to grieve with counseling at Chelsea Stadium.

Chelsea School Supt. Almi Abeyta said students are feeling the loss, and that Flores was a long-time student in Chelsea Public Schools (CPS) – now attending the Chelsea Opportunity Academy (COA).

“This is a very sad loss that impacts all of us,” wrote Abeyta in the letter. “Jonathan attended his whole educational career in CPS – going to the John Silber Early Learning Center, Berkowitz Elementary School, Clark Avenue Middle School, and Chelsea High School before he transferred to Chelsea Opportunity Academy. We, the Chelsea Public Schools, extend our deepest condolences and support to Jonathan’s family and friends...Our thoughts and prayers are with Jonathan’s family.”

The family of Jonathan Hernandez have started a GoFundMe page this week, and posted the following statement about Hernandez.



Chelsea student Jonathan Hernandez Flores died instantly last Wednesday night when the car he was driving collided with a utility pole on the southbound side of McClellan near Addison Street.

“Hello everyone, we say this with a heavy heart,” it read. “Our family was stricken with a terrible tragedy. Our Jonathan was involved in a serious car accident and unfortunately he is no longer with us. It goes without saying that these are very tough times. We ask that if anyone is willing to donate to his services, please do. Anything helps. He was loved by many and this is very tough for everyone.”

Chelsea Opportunity Academy Principal Ron Schmidt has reached out to the family for support from the district. The family has asked the public to respect their privacy while they grieve.

Chelsea students were given space at the football stadium today, with counseling and the like. Social distancing protocols will be in place, and staff members are being provided space to grieve in online sessions.

The GoFundMe page can be found at www.gofundme.com/f/fmnb4-jonathan-hernandez?



The scene of the accident. The crash caused a widespread power outage in Eastie and snarled traffic for hours as police investigated the scene.



Students in the Chelsea REACH program gathered at the Stadium last week to host a balloon launch and grieving time for Hernandez Flores, who attended Chelsea schools since he was in the Early Learning Center.

Saenz hopes to develop new property at 856 Broadway

By Cary Shuman

Robert Ricardo Saenz is a long-time Chelsea resident who immigrated here from Colombia as a child.

Now a successful real estate investment advisor, Saenz is hoping to develop an eight-unit condominium property at 856 Broadway.

“I’m hoping to convert the single-family home into eight homes of which I’ll be owning one of them,” said Saenz, who currently resides in the Spencer Lofts.

By developing his own project, Saenz indicated that he will be able to afford to stay in Chelsea, a city he has come to love.

“Instead of looking elsewhere and making a new home in some other city, this way I can afford to stay in Chelsea and

provide housing to other people who want to live in Chelsea,” said Saenz.

He said he will raze the current home at 856 Broadway and build the brand-new condominium complex.

The new building, located across the street from the Broadway Glen Apartments, would be five stories tall with an elevator. Each unit will have a kitchen, dining room, living room, and two bedrooms.

“It will have a modern, elegant look to it, with a roof deck, one-vehicle, garage parking for each unit, and be right on the bus route,” said Saenz. “It will be energy-efficient and bring in seven new families to the city of Chelsea.”

Saenz said his next step is to present his plans be-

fore the Chelsea Planning Board at its March 23 meeting.

“I’m hoping to get a positive response in my first time trying to develop a property in Chelsea,” said Saenz. He immigrated to the United States in 1987. His parents, Ricardo and Myriam Seanz, live on Beacon Street, Chelsea.

Saenz attended Northeast Regional Vocational High School, graduating in 1998. Saenz is the father of two children.

Looking at his development plans, Saenz offered, “This is my way of being able to contribute to the housing crisis by providing market-rate properties to those who can afford it and for anyone who wants to continue to live in Chelsea.”

Youth Commissioner now calling for Councilor Recupero’s resignation

By Seth Daniel

After last week’s bombastic Council meeting regarding allegations of racism, and the launch of an official City investigation into Councillor Giovanni Recupero’s actions in the matter, Youth Commissioner Branden Garcia said he is now calling for Recupero’s resignation and he also said the entire City Council needs to re-evaluate how it operates.

“The City Council does have a problem and I hope this makes it clear it’s not a Recupero problem and they are all responsible,” he said in an interview last Friday next to the Columbus statue. “They are all in a situation where they should hold each other accountable. In a professional board like the City Council all that should matter is how people are affected. I applaud the drive I see in Recupero. I know he wants the best for the city...However, I think what matters the most is our intent because this man has said offensive things to others in the past. Can we make productive change if we have racial bias on the City Council? Without this bias, how much more could we do?”

He added that since the incident with Recupero on Feb. 23, and him standing up for himself with others on March 8, he has heard from many that the alleged behavior isn’t isolated.

“He’s allegedly done this for a while from what I understand,” Garcia said. “It’s time for people to start holding him accountable. Allegedly this isn’t the first time and if it was, then fine, it’s a correction. It’s not the first time, and I’m just the first to not tolerate it...The City Council

has to start functioning differently...I am here because it wasn’t just a racist problem, but a disrespect problem.”

Garcia, 18, is at the heart of a situation where he alleges he was accosted twice by Recupero after the Feb. 23 meeting following what was a contentious vote to remove the Christopher Columbus statue in Chelsea Square. After giving a presentation with fellow Chelsea High student, Richard Flores, he has alleged – and City Solicitor Cheryl Fisher Watson is investigating the matter – that Recupero allegedly harassed him and Flores in the Chambers and then allegedly a second time on the steps in the hallway about their opinion. That was all revisited on March 8 when Garcia returned to protest how he and Flores were treated, and to add to a growing number of people calling for an investigation.

At that meeting, Recupero apologized and said he was sorry, and he didn’t mean to scare anyone. However, he completely refuted the idea that he’s a “white supremacist” and lashed out at those that alleged he was.

Garcia said it’s completely untrue that he called Recupero a “white supremacist,” but only said the statue represented a system of white supremacy, and not taking it down would be supporting that system of supremacy in a community that has a heavy Latino majority.

“No one called them white supremacists,” he said. “I didn’t call them white supremacists. I said they would be condoning white supremacy if they didn’t vote to take it down.”

He said things went sideways when Recupe to change your name” several times.

That continued again outside the Chambers as the two teens, both very scared, tried to leave City Hall by the steps. Garcia alleges that Recupero yelled down at them from above once again about not forgetting to change their name. Garcia also alleged that Recupero made taunting comments about cancelling Thanksgiving, and he’d be happy to vote on getting rid of Thanksgiving as a holiday.

“I was very anxious and not okay,” he said. “It was very frightening for me. Richard Flores was the one who told him to stop. Richard stood up for me. I was literally trembling and freaking out...We told him we weren’t trying to erase Hispanic heritage. Richard again told him to stop...We both went out to the parking lot because I didn’t feel comfortable by myself.”

“I didn’t say I wanted him to resign, but after the last meeting, I would like to see him resign because of what happened at that meeting,” he said. “I found it appalling. I knew I had to go in even though I was scared because to be brave is to do something you’re scared of.”

In the end, Garcia said he is glad City Solicitor Cheryl Fisher Watson has started an investigation. She confirmed that to the paper this week, saying she will begin reviewing the facts and interviewing people directly involved. However, he said he think there needs to be a self-evaluation by the Council as a whole as to what it tolerates, and when it holds other members accountable.

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Funding / Continued from page 1

kids in our poorest communities like the City of Chelsea. Two years ago everybody celebrated the passage of the Student Opportunity Act but ever since he signed it into law Governor Baker has only undermined its seven year funding plan.”

Jimenez-Rivera argued that last year before COVID the Governor decided that the low income portion of the SOA didn’t need to be fully funded.

“So even before we lost the rest of the money because of COVID his budget was already inadequate,” said Jimenez-Rivera. “And then this year instead of catching up to “Year Two” of the plan he’s only proposing what the state should have given us last year. This isn’t right and that’s why today we are calling for a budget that gets us back on track. It is year two of the SOA implementation and we need a budget for year two, not for year one.”

Jimenez-Rivera said Chelsea has disproportionately suffered from this pandemic in almost every way possible but with the proposed SOA budget children are being told that their education is less important than the interest of rich people.

“Our parents have a right to communicate with their kids, teachers, but right now we don’t have enough interpreters,” said Jimenez-Rivera. “How can we expect parents to engage when they can’t speak the language and we don’t have money to pay for interpreters? Our parents deserve language justice. Our students needed more mental health support before COVID And now they need it even more seeing as they have disproportionately

lived through the trauma and death that COVID has brought us. Our students also had crowded classrooms in schools before COVID and now we need smaller class sizes, even more because of COVID. How is it that we expect small class sizes in wealthy districts, but we’re okay with having 25, 30 or even 34 students in a class in Chelsea. Our kids deserve the same access to small class sizes as kids in Brookline or Wellesley.”

Jimenez-Rivera said 94 percent of Chelsea schools are made up of students of color and they deserve access to educators of color.

“Our current funding doesn’t allow us to pay educators what they’re worth,” said Jimenez-Rivera. “So new educators of color and more experienced educators, generally go to districts that have the money to pay them what they’re worth. That lack of diversity and lack of stability hurts our students even more.”

Jimenez-Rivera said all these issues are fixable but only with the millions of dollars that the state owes Chelsea through the SOA.

“I want to be clear here, our students are owed this money, this money isn’t charity,” said Jimenez-Rivera. “Our children are legally and constitutionally entitled to those millions of dollars. They have been waiting for decades as the state underfunded their futures and they can’t wait any longer. We cannot let the burden of COVID-19 continue falling on the most marginalized and so we have to ensure that the legislature fixes Governor Baker’s broken budget. The Supreme Court declared in Brown vs. Board of Education that educa-

tion is the most important function of government. I think it’s about time that our legislators remember that. Fund our schools and fund them now.”

The SOA overhauled the state’s education funding formula to ensure equity for all students, especially those in low-income areas.

Because the state has not updated its education funding formula since 1993 to reflect districts’ real health insurance and special education costs, the amount of aid being provided to cover those costs had been too small for decades.

In January 2020 Governor Charlie Baker signed S. 2412, An Act Relative to Educational Opportunity for Students, or the SOA, which would have boosted investment in public schools by \$1.5 billion annually when fully phased in over the next seven years.

However, when COVID hit in March 2019 budget shortfalls pushed SOA spending to the wayside. Chelsea Public Schools were expected to receive millions in SOA funding.

The state legislature’s Ways and Means Committee met Tuesday to begin reviewing the Governor’s proposed FY22 budget.

At the press conference students and parents plan to keep pushing for a true commitment to fully fund public school and call for putting the state’s commitment to public education funding back on track.

One demand by the group Tuesday is that the state delivers at least two of the seven years of promised funding increases under the SOA in the next state budget.

Seniors Making a Difference at Cohen Florence Levine Estates

Staff Report

Joan Goldstein, Charlotte Moses and Ida Rudolph, residents of Cohen Florence Levine Estates Assisted Living, get together every day to knit. In truth, they do much more than knit; they talk, laugh, tell stories, discuss current events, and encourage other residents to stop by while adhering to safe social distancing guidelines. An added plus: The women donate all of their beautifully knitted scarves, hats, and headbands to such organizations as Boston Medical Center and the Soldiers’ Home in Chelsea. To date, the ladies, who are about to turn 90, but look years younger, have knit over 60 items.

“We decided we had to do something to get through the pandemic,” said Joan Goldstein. “So I upped my knitting game once I moved into the assisted living.” A few weeks later, the Cohen Florence Levine Knitting Club was born. For Charlotte, knitting is akin to therapy. “It truly saved me,” said Charlotte. Ida, who learned how to knit in fifth grade with two pencils, loves that the club gets together every day to knit.

Joan, Charlotte, and Ida have strong ties to both Chelsea and Brockton. Joan and Charlotte met when they first moved to Brockton in 1953. The two became fast friends, as did their husbands; the couples socialized often and brought their children up together. They have remained best friends since then, so it’s no surprise that they both decided to move into Cohen Florence Levine Estates. They were especially thrilled to find apartments on the same floor!

Charlotte and Ida were



Pictured L-R :Charlotte Moses, Ida Rudolph, Joan Goldstein and Kristen Donnelly, Executive Director Cohen Florence Levine Estates

born and bred in Chelsea and their love for the city is obvious all these years later. “I don’t think we appreciated Chelsea when we were growing up,” said Ida. “The city has such a rich history, with landmarks such as Chelsea Creek, the Coast Guard Station and Cary House.” The two women attended the Sherman School, Newman Junior High, and Chelsea High School. “I loved living in Chelsea,” said Ida, “To this day, I still remember every word of our high school songs.”

Each woman is accomplished in her own right. Charlotte has played the piano since early childhood, was the class prodigy and is an extremely talented musician. Joanie makes stylish jewelry, which she sold to women all over the the Palm Beach Florida area. Since she’s been at the assisted living, Joanie’s made stunning, one-of-a-kind bracelets for every member of the staff –more than 50 in total. Ida acted, produced, and starred in professional performances her entire life. “We’re all different,” admitted Charlotte, “but we complement each other really well.”

“Joanie, Charlotte and Ida bring such warmth and personality to our residence,” said Kristen Donnelly, Executive Director of Cohen Florence Levine

Estates. “Their spirit, enthusiasm, and zest for living are an inspiration to staff and residents.” Adds Donnelly, “I look forward to seeing them together every single day.”

For their part, the women enjoy the camaraderie between the residents and staff. “It’s like one big happy family,” said Joanie. “There are always people to talk to and the staff is so kind and caring.”

Ida noted, “We’re never lonely.”

When asked the secret to their longevity and good health, all three women were quick to respond. “Try new things and find something you love to do,” advises Ida. Charlotte alluded to the importance of exercise. “Daily exercise is critical,” said Charlotte. “Even walking the corridors every day makes you feel better.” Joanie shared her vision for the future. “Believe in the power of positive thinking,” said Joanie. “For me, I have a lot more to accomplish. I fully intend to live to 100!”

The women hope they inspire other seniors to make a difference in the community. “It’s important to give back,” said Charlotte, adding that if you can have fun while so doing, all the better. Seems like these three amazing women have found a way to do both.

Taylor/ Continued from page 1

up at a City Council meeting to denounce me and it isn’t even the first time people have used kids to attack me. The last time they used kids against me, it cost me the election against Bob Bishop.”

Taylor – who is the lone Republican on the Council was one of two councillors targeted by activists in the Chambers on March 8. That confrontation at the Council lasted nearly three hours and stemmed from the Feb. 23 meeting where a vote was taken on removing the statue, and Taylor was one of two councillors that voted against it and he gave his reasons, he said, which were academic and based on his studies as a graduate student in the 1990s. The other councillor, Giovanni Recupero, is alleged to have taken matters much further – supposedly being disrespectful to the two teens making a presentation that night.

Taylor said he can understand why students came up to address the issue with him. However, Taylor said he was only respectful to the students, and he believes that he was singled out from the beginning.

“Just go back and look at the video record,” he said. “I was never at all disrespectful to these kids. I respected them and gave them respect when they spoke. Even the teacher didn’t mention me in her letter. I don’t blame the kids. Everyone has been 17 or 18 before...What really bothers me is the adults in the room trying



Councillor Todd Taylor says he’s considering his options after being called a ‘racist’ and having his character assassinated at the March 8 meeting.

to use these kids as tools. That has to stop and I’ll do whatever it takes to make that stop. I don’t want revenge, but I want people to understand what’s really going on here...We live in a diverse community and most of us are neighbors and a lot of us are friends. We don’t need people dividing us.”

Taylor said at the Feb. 23 meeting, he took in the arguments of the youth that were there – including Branden Garcia of the Youth Commission – and disagreed with their academic argument. He said while in graduate school in the 1990s, he studied Columbus and said he learned there are two sides to that academic argument. He recalled learning that there is some dispute over Columbus’s exploits, and that’s not something he invented, he said.

“I did study this and I was trying to get across that there is an academic argument that Colum-

bus being responsible for genocide comes from a guy who wanted to take Columbus’s job,” said Taylor. “He wrote a letter to the king and queen of Spain...I said there are two sides to this and people have adopted one side of an academic argument here.”

Taylor said he feels like he was singled out by the students.

“When they came to speak, they singled me out for my race; and they called me a white supremacist,” he said. “When you defame a public figure you’re allowed to do that unless you do something you know is fake and you have malicious intent. I think both of these things fit in this situation. These kids that came from Boston, they know I’m not a white supremacist. There’s no way anyone can point to anything I’ve ever said or done and conclude I’m a white supremacist. It was solely meant for character assassination in my case, and it has to stop.”

Taylor concluded by saying there is a great misunderstanding by a lot of the young people involved that America is a place where you have to agree with them, or you will be attacked and destroyed.

He said he would like to see an America where opinions can be expressed without fear of reprisal – which is what he says happens to him all the time in the community and on the Council.

“This is not nothing,” he said. “It was wrong and it was out of bounds.”

Houston/ Continued from page 1

to South Houston-area homes were done free of charge. Interestingly, one of the days that Gallego was in Texas was March 10, which was the Chelsea community leader’s 58th birthday.

“It was the best birthday gift I ever had, being down there working and helping people,” said Gallego.

Kate Robinson, volunteer coordinator at Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders, expressed her gratitude to Gallego and his team in a heartfelt email.

“We are so grateful to Juan Gallego and his crew of Sam, Manny and John coming to Texas to help so many homeowners affected by the Texas winter storm,” wrote Robinson. “They did an awesome job. Now these homeowners have water and do not have to depend on bottled water or water carried into the house from buckets from their neighbors or relatives.”

Gallego was proud to represent Chelsea Rotary in his humanitarian endeavor. “Our club has totally supported me,” he said.

A few years ago, Gallego was honored as an “Unsung Hero” at a tre-



Juan Gallego (right) and his crew of volunteers work on interior piping repairs at a home in Houston, Texas.

mendous regional event that drew hundreds of Rotary members. While the pandemic has curtailed those large events for now, there’s a very good chance that Juan Gallego will be receiving some much-deserved recognition again in front of his peers.

But that’s not why Juan Gallego does what he does

for others as the “Unsung” in Unsung Hero aptly suggests.

Gallego came to the United States from Colombia 41 years ago. He has two children, Matthew, who is a student at Suffolk University, and Melissa, who is a high school student.

Chelsea

RECORD

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley
EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

THE FILIBUSTER MUST END

The pros and cons of maintaining the filibuster in the U.S. Senate have reached the forefront of political discussion as never before -- and with good reason. Whether one believes that the filibuster protects the minority from the so-called tyranny of the majority or provides a means for the minority to obstruct the majority, the filibuster clearly is anti-democratic.

The filibuster is not part of our Constitution. It simply is a Senate rule upon which the Senate has carved out exceptions over the years, most notably for Presidential nominations and budget matters. The latter is referred to as reconciliation, which is how President Biden's \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief bill was enacted by a simple majority, as was the Republicans' \$2 trillion tax cut for the ultra-rich in 2017.

The rule allowing a filibuster may have made sense in the early 1800s when the U.S. was not divided between two parties. Political coalitions were much more fluid in the early days of our nation and compromise was common among senators.

However, after the Civil War, the battle lines were drawn between Democrats and the newly-formed Republican party (which only had come into existence in 1854), principally on the issue of race -- with the Democrats from the Solid South coalescing around the issue of segregation.

The so-called Dixiecrats -- embodied by Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina -- used the filibuster from the 1940s through the 1960s in an attempt to stymie Civil Rights legislation, especially the Voting Rights Act.

Though the racist efforts of Thurmond and others ultimately failed (only because the Senate obtained a 2/3 majority to end filibusters on those issues), the filibuster likely will be employed by Senate Republicans to obstruct voting reform measures that are necessary today.

The national Republican playbook to limit voting among non-white citizens once again is surging. Republican state legislators have filed more than 200 bills that would restrict voting in the coming elections in their states.

The very foundation of our democracy rests on the right of every citizen to vote. Legislation presently before Congress would ensure that voting rights are not abridged in any state. However, thanks to the arcane filibuster rule, the passage of a new Voting Rights Act faces little chance of success in the Senate.

The truth is this: The anti-democratic state efforts to limit voting rights most likely will be allowed to proceed because of the anti-democratic filibuster rule in the U.S. Senate -- and unless the Democratic majority in the Senate takes steps to abolish the filibuster rule, the United States will have a democracy in name only.

MARVELOUS MARVIN WAS A GREAT FIGHTER AND A GREAT PERSON

The boxing world lost one of its all-time greats with the sudden passing of Marvelous Marvin Hagler this past week.

Hagler, a native of Newark who moved to Brockton as a teenager, reigned as the undisputed middleweight boxing champion of the world for seven years in the 1980s and is acknowledged as one of the greatest fighters of all time. His bout with Thomas Hearns, which lasted about eight minutes, is regarded as the greatest three rounds in boxing history.

We were fortunate to see one of Hagler's title fights when we covered his title defense for The Chelsea Record against Vito "The Mosquito" Antuofermo in the old Boston Garden in June, 1981 (we were stunned when we realized how long ago that fight was!).

We also had the pleasure of running into the champ after he had retired in an elevator in Boston at One Devonshire Place in the late 1980s. We only exchanged pleasantries, but Hagler's innate humility, graciousness, and sense of humor were apparent in our brief encounter.

Marvelous Marvin Hagler overcame his hard-scrabble background with an unparalleled sense of determination and hard work to become a world champion. His attainment of the pinnacle of his profession serves as a model for success in life in any endeavor.

Marvelous Marvin Hagler was a great fighter and a great person.

He will be missed.

CHELSEA

RECORD

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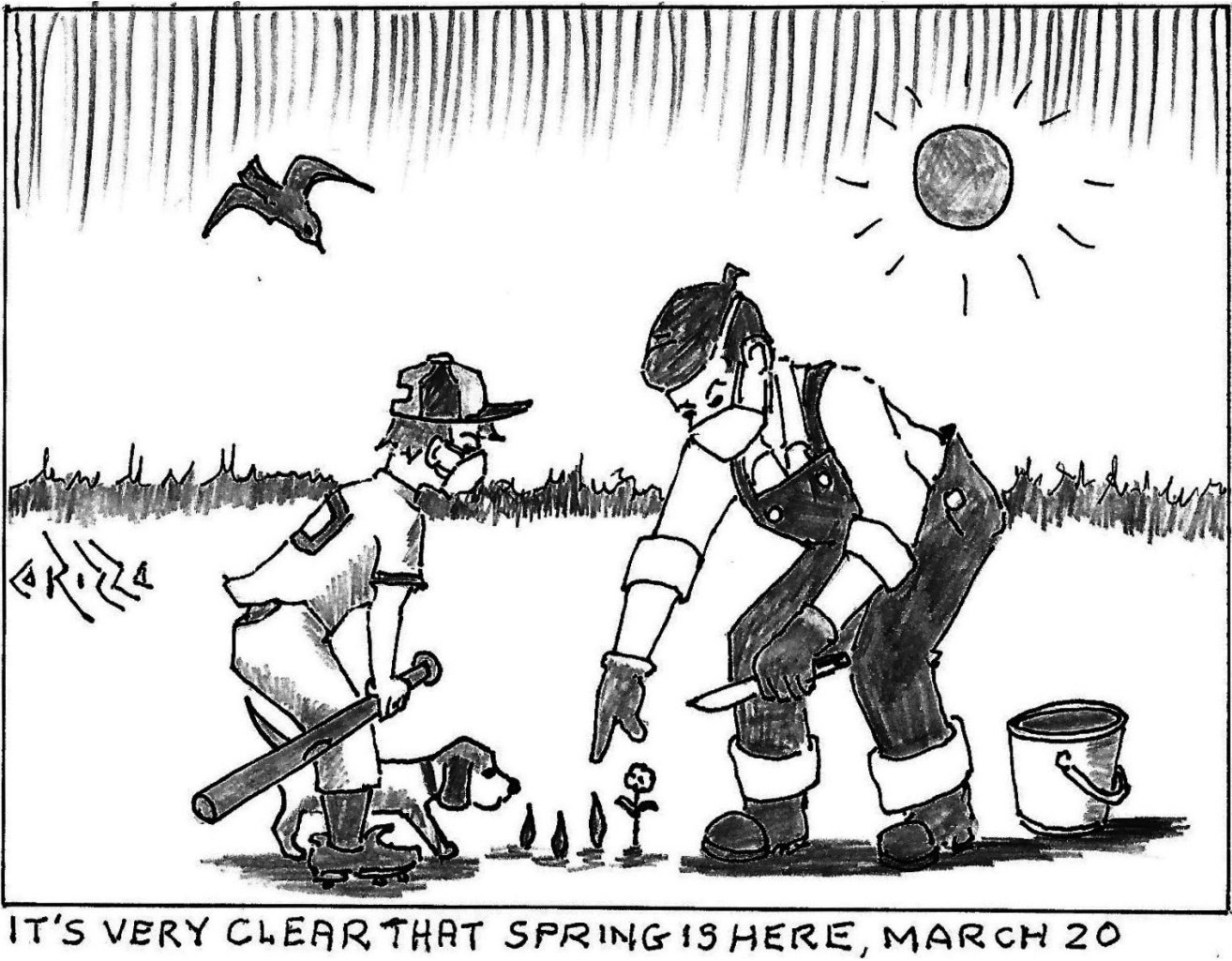
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Forum



GUEST OP-ED

American Rescue Plan ‘appalling and outrageous’ for Chelsea

By State Senator Sal DiDomenico

When these numbers (from the American Rescue Act) were brought to our attention about two weeks ago I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I immediately contacted our Federal Delegation and our city leaders to try and find a solution. The American Rescue Plan was promised to be the relief that

we had been waiting for, especially for our hardest hit communities like Chelsea and Everett. It is both appalling and outrageous that two of the hardest hit communities, and Chelsea being ground zero during the Covid crisis, are getting a fraction of the federal funds that neighboring communities are getting - and many being much more affluent. Covid rav-

aged Chelsea and Everett, and our residents dealt with so much pain, suffering, heartache during the past year. These funds were supposed to go to disproportionately affected communities and help cities like ours, but this obviously did not happen. I have spoken to Governor Charlie Baker and his team to push for some of the other federal funds to be allo-

cated to Chelsea and Everett, and I will be working with the Governor and our elected leaders to bring in the needed funds that these cities rightfully deserve. I am extremely upset that my communities did not get the help they needed. The high hopes we had for the American Rescue Plan did not come to fruition for Chelsea and Everett.

LETTER to the Editor

their own political gain.

In his role, Councilor Recupero has stood for everything we in district 6 could possibly hope our elected official would stand for: equity, inclusion, and steadfast leadership that couldn't care less for personal image.

It is no secret why Councilor Recupero continues to get reelected to represent one of the most diverse districts in the city -- because he cares about all, regardless of race, color, and creed.

And again, I reiterate, I feel as I do because Councilor Recupero hasn't only talked the talk but he's made sure he's walked the walk in his role as a leader in Chelsea.

As a white man with mixed race children, like Councilor Recupero, I've always been proud to be surrounded by people of all kinds, embracing all colors, just as I've seen Councilor Recupero do throughout his time as an elected official. During his time as councilor, my neighborhood went from neglected and underrepresented to cared for and prioritized. We've had our streets fixed, sidewalks made, parks renovated, and the overall quality of life improved due largely to councilor Recupero's relentless fight for the residents of his heavily Latino district.

Furthermore, I'm writing today to call on all residents to condemn the actions of some of our city councilors, most visibly those of Judith Garcia, who insisted on calling for an investigation into one of the city's most caring and colorful residents with no real cause.

As a resident that follows the actions of our governing bodies very closely, I openly asked myself why?

Why would the city council look to stoke flames of divisiveness and hatred, especially towards one of the best councilors the city has to offer its people?

Why, I asked myself, as one of the most diverse and accepting cities in the country are we opening the doors to hatred and false claims of racism?

Why does Chelsea need

to be painted as a bad place?

Councilor Garcia's insistence to force the council to allocate time to investigate Councilor Recupero for publicly discussing his point of view of history is noninclusive and shameful at the least.

My hope is the people of Chelsea are paying attention to see through these antics and decipher for themselves who really cares for our community and those who want to make a happening where nothing has happened.

I'm proud of my home. I'm proud of the diversity here. I'm proud of whom we have chosen to represent us in District 6. And I'm damn sure racism and white supremacy are not things hampering our council.

John and Christopher Winam

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Record encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com

GUEST OP-ED

March madness – would you like to coach?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Have you ever thought changing jobs? Have you ever aspired to be a college basketball coach? Now is a great time to get your resume together.

John Calipari is the University of Kentucky men’s basketball coach. His pay this year is over \$8 million. He has a lifetime contract worth 86 million dollars. In the eyes of the basketball world the UK basketball coaching job has been one of the most desired jobs in college sports. However, big pay doesn’t come easy Calipari has led Kentucky to one NCAA Championship, four final fours and he has had 26 twenty-win game seasons throughout his career. Although this year his 9 wins and 16 losses hasn’t gone over too well with many of Kentucky’s fans

Calipari is the highest paid college basketball coach there are others who do very well. Mike Krzyzewski of Duke will earn \$7 million this season. Jay Wright of Villanova will earn \$6 million. Chris Beard of Texas Tech is scheduled to earn \$5,050.00. Rick Barnes of Tennessee will earn

\$4,950.00. Roy Williams of North Carolina will earn up to \$4 million. Tom Izzo of Michigan State will earn \$3,984.00. And, the list goes on. Chris Mack, Louisville, \$4 million. Brad Underwood, Illinois, \$4 million. Larry Krystkowiak, Utah, \$3,961.519. Bob Huggins, West Virginia \$4,050.000. UCLA coach Mike Cronin \$3,600.00. Scott Drew of Baylor \$3,350,000. There are 50-60 college coaches making \$2 million a year but it does drop for many others. Kyle Smith of Washington State makes \$1.4 million. Steve Alford for Nevada is making \$500,000. Johnny Jones of Texas Southern will be paid \$250,000.

Rick Pitino who came back from coaching professional basketball in Greece will earn just over \$1 million dollars at Iona. This is a far cry from the \$70 million-dollar contract he had with the Boston Celtics. His package had also reached over \$5 million per year before he left Louisville.

The list of coaches is too long to name them all with many more making between \$1 million to over \$2 million per year. There are many, many

coaches making much smaller salaries.

The point is if you are looking for a career change you might consider college basketball coaching. Brad Stevens wanted to be a coach. He went to Butler in Indiana to be a volunteer in the Bulldog’s program. He became the assistant coach and then a very successful head coach. Butler moved him from free to over \$1 million per year by the time he left. Today he now makes over \$3.6 million per year as the head coach of the Boston Celtics. Not bad for starting out as a volunteer. So, find a job waiting tables to feed yourself. Volunteer for a good basketball program. Work very hard. Earn yourself an assistant’s job and you might end up coaching a great basketball program and making several million a year.

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

NEWS Briefs BY SETH DANIEL

OUTDOOR SPRING EASTER EGG HUNT

Bring your own basket and hop on over to our annual Egg Hunt on March 27. Children search for brightly decorated eggs. Public health guidelines will be strictly followed. Free.

AGES 2-6 from 10-10:30am

AGES 7-10 from 11-11:30am

Location: Mary C. Burke Complex, 300 Crescent Avenue
Registration is required and the deadline is Wednesday, March 24.

STREET SWEEPING

Street Sweeping begins this month. Please pay close attention to posted street signs detailing the scheduled sweeping days on each street. Failure to comply will result in a parking fine.

We strongly encourage residents to move their cars on street sweeping days to allow for cleaning. It is impossible to keep our streets clean if cars are not moved. Failure to move your car will result in a \$25.00 ticket.

Find out when the sweeping occurs on your street on www.chelseamaa.gov/StreetSweeping

SCHEDULE A VACCINE APPOINTMENT

COVID-19 Vaccination Update: Adults 75 and over can receive the COVID-19 vaccine starting on February 1 using the statewide website. Find more details on the vaccination eligibility, vaccination locations and information for booking appointments at mass.gov/covidvaccine

FOOD DELIVERY PROGRAM FOR COVID-POSITIVE

Did you recently test



SAVE THE DATE

CLASS OF 2021 GRADUATION

SATURDAY JUNE 12 & SUNDAY JUNE 13
(4PM - 7:30PM) (10AM - 1:30PM)

CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM
299 EVERETT AVE., CHELSEA

IN-PERSON GRADUATION SET FOR CHS
The Chelsea Public Schools announced this week that they are going to begin planning for a full, in-person graduation ceremony for Chelsea High School on Saturday, June 12, and Sunday, June 13. It will be held in Chelsea Stadium and will have social-distancing guidelines in place.

positive for COVID-19 and have to quarantine? If so, you are eligible to receive food delivered right to your home. The City of Chelsea will deliver a box of assorted veggies, fruit and other healthy groceries.

To sign up, Chelsea residents can dial 3-1-1 and request information regarding the City of Chelsea’s Emergency Food program. (And thank you for staying home and taking precautions to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 to others!)

RESIDENTIAL PARKING STICKER EXTENDED

The residential parking sticker has been extended until February 2022 in order to stop the spread of COVID-19. The current sticker expiring on February 28, 2021 will be valid until February 28, 2022.

All other permits/stickers will expire on February 28, 2021.

HOMEOWNERS STABILIZATION PROGRAM

•Phase 2

The City will soon be accepting applications for Phase 2 of the program. Phase 2 was funded with

\$750.00 from the Chelsea City Council. Phase 2 eligibility is broader than Phase 1. You may apply if you make up to 100% of AMI. Information about Phase 2 will be coming soon.

COVID-19 FREE TESTING

The Stop the Spread testing site has moved and is now offering free, indoor COVID-19 testing at 35 Fourth St. It is available to everyone through March 31. There is no longer any testing going on at City Hall or Chelsea Square.

The hours are:

- Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday – 2-6 p.m.
- Wednesday and Friday – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pre-register online and save time.

MGH OFFERS FREE COVID TESTING VAN

The MGH COVID-19 testing van will be available to Chelsea residents every Tuesday from 2-6 p.m. in the parking lot at the La Colaborativa warehouse, 25 Sixth St. Walk-in testing is available for individuals who primarily live, work and go to school in Chelsea.

A Benchmark for Coach Joe

Family, friends, set to celebrate Bevere’s 90th birthday

By Cary Shuman

He is a Chelsea legend in every sense of the word: coaching, teaching, parenting – and of course, competing in high school and collegiate sports.

And the last person who would describe himself in that way would be Joseph Bevere Sr. himself, who will celebrate his 90th birthday next week.

He is above all modest about his incredible athletic career that earned him a scholarship to Drake University in Iowa where he became a Collier’s Magazine Division 1 All-American punter. Yes, Joe Bevere was the best punter in the land in 1951, even eclipsing BU’s Harry Agganis on that esteemed list. While a tryout with the National Football League was an option, Joe Bevere went on to fight for his country in the Korean War before returning to Drake to receive his degree.

The Joe Bevere story begins in Chelsea

Joseph Bevere Sr. grew up in Chelsea and attended Our Lady of Grace School through eighth grade. He went to Carter Junior High School for ninth grade and graduated from Chelsea High in 1949.

He was a multi-talented athlete while wearing the Chelsea High Red Devils uniform. He was captain of the football team and baseball team his senior year and named the most outstanding athlete in his class.

Playing before packed stadiums in Chelsea and Everett, Bevere was twice named the MVP of the famous Chelsea-Everett Thanksgiving Game.

Raising a family in Chelsea

Joe Bevere Sr. met the love of his life, Kay Francis Cameron Bevere and they married in 1961.

Together at their home on Lawrence Street close to the high school where Joe Bevere first made a name for himself in sports, Joe and Kay Bevere raised three beautiful and personable children, Jackie, Jolene, and Joe Jr.

Jackie and Jolene were each crowned Miss Chelsea in local pageants and later captained Chelsea High cheerleading teams. Jackie is currently the principal of the John Silber Learning Center in Chelsea. Jolene is also a success in her career. Joe Jr. is nobly protecting and serving the people of Chelsea as a sergeant in the Chelsea Police Department.

Larry Notkin is among many in Chelsea who knows of the athletic accomplishments of both Joe Bevere Sr. and Joe



Joe Bevere Sr., pictured during his career as a teacher in the Chelsea school system.



Joe Bevere Sr., pictured during his career as the head coach of the Chelsea High School baseball team.

Bevere Jr.

“Joe Bevere was a tremendous athlete and highly respected school-teacher,” said Notkin. “He and his wife, Kay, were so supportive and proud of their three children. You’d never know that Joe Bevere was an All-American football player by talking to him. He never spoke of his own achievements in sports. He was very humble.”

Notkin said he also had the honor of coaching Joe Bevere Jr. in the Chelsea Youth Baseball League. As a former umpire in the Chelsea Little League, he recognized early on the towering talents and incredible potential of Joe Bevere Jr.

“I drafted Joe Jr. with our No. 1 pick,” recalled Notkin. “He lived up to all the expectations. We (the Royals) won multiple championships. He was an amazing pitcher and short-stop, but I put him in the outfield when he wasn’t pitching so I could rest his arm. He was the MVP, one of the best players I ever coached.”

Joe Jr., no doubt inheriting his father’s prowess, was also the No. 1 draft pick in the Chelsea Youth Baseball League. Considering basketball was probably his fourth best sport, it speaks to the widely held belief that Joe Bevere Jr. may be the best all-around in the city’s history –though he took his mountain of talents to Malden Catholic (and later San Diego City College).

Coaching at Chelsea High School

After starting his career as a substitute teacher in Everett, Joe Bevere Sr. became a full-time teacher at Williams Junior High School in 1961. In 1962, he started his head coaching career as the head coach of the Chelsea High baseball team.

His teams representing Chelsea High, the smallest school in the Greater Boston League, were always the most fundamentally sound and sportsman-like. Joe Bevere Sr. was a teacher first and coach second, instilling in his players lessons about life that they would carry with them for a lifetime.

First Case of the P.1 COVID-19 variant reported

The Department of Public Health (DPH) announced Tuesday that the first case of the P.1 COVID-19 variant of concern, which originated in Brazil, has been detected in Massachusetts. The individual is a woman in her 30s who resides in Barnstable County on Cape Cod.

DPH was notified of her test results from genetic sequencing conducted through the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s national surveillance sys-

tem. Currently, there is no information available on the woman’s illness or whether she has recently traveled. She tested positive for COVID-19 in late February.

As of Tuesday, there have been 213 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant, originally found in the United Kingdom, and 6 cases of the B.1.351, which originated in South Africa, reported in Massachusetts. The B.1.1.7 variant is known to spread more easily and has caused a rapid surge of cases in

the UK, several other countries, and parts of the United States.

The best defense against variants of concern is to prevent the spread of COVID.

This includes wearing a mask, social distancing, avoiding groups, staying home when you are sick, getting tested if you have symptoms or are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID, and getting vaccinated when it is your turn.

SCHOOL UPDATES

DISTRICT UPDATES

•As we come up on one year from when the District closed down due to the pandemic. We celebrate our Chelsea Community and their resilience during this unprecedented year. Below is a message from a CPS parent that reminds us all that our work does not go unnoticed. **TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER!**

“As a parent for the past 10 years of three Chelsea Public Schools students I just want to give a special thanks to some AWE-SOME teachers that have gone above and beyond. Also that gratitude that I feel with the resources that have been provided for us as parents. Today marks a year that our children have been home. At that moment I do not believe that any of us were prepared for what was to come. As many probably were expecting is that schools would be open in 2 weeks, then probably in a few months but never in my mind would I have thought that this pandemic will change our lives as it has. Communication from the schools was always and is so GREAT, I’ve received emails, texts, messages in Class Dojo, phone calls. There definitely has not been a time that I’ve felt clueless or

TESTING READY



The District health department has been working hard preparing and training for the upcoming COVID Pooled Testing program. Officials said they are so grateful for all of the behind the scenes work preparing for this initiative and getting ready to scale. This has truly been a team effort, and it has been a lot of work.

without guidance of what happening with my children’s education. I feel optimistic as we are getting more info regarding school openings.

We are coming to the end and seeing that light at the end of the tunnel. Has it been easy? Not at all but what I’m certain of

and overly pleased is of the CPS System. My kids and myself were provided with all the tools needed to make Remote Learning manageable and almost stress free. Thank you to all that made these events and items possible for our CPS students and parents: Chromebooks, Internet

access, Supplies, school breakfast & lunch, Information Sessions for Parents (Seesaw, Class Dojo, Internet Safety, Reopening Schools, Supporting My Child, Coffee Hour) and even the distribution of Pajamas & Backpacks also by having Spirit Days and many Virtual activities.

Thank you to ALL the CPS Teachers & Staff but these teachers are one of a KIND (Patient, Loving, Helpful, Respectful, Positive etc.)

BERKOWITZ SCHOOL UPDATES

•At the 100th day of School celebration on Monday March 8,

Berkowitz School first grader Hichem showed off his 100th Day celebration artwork.

HOOKS SCHOOL UPDATES

•The Hooks School hosted over 30 guest readers this week for our celebration of Read Across America. Readers included CPS administrators, community members, Dr. Abeyta, Assistant Principal Dore, Principal Clark, Assistant Principal Mr. Machado and former Hooks principal Mrs. Lubarsky. Dr. Abeyta read ‘The Dot’ and students sent her drawings of dots

to thank her.

•On Monday, March 8, students celebrated the 100th day of school in math. In Ms. O’Neill’s fourth grade class, parents were invited to come into our Zooms and participate in a 100th day math activity with their child. Students had so much fun getting to work with the parents and showing them fraction and bar graph making skills.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER UPDATES

•Miss Ashley and Miss Annie’s class are getting ready for St. Patrick’s Day and drew some leprechauns.

•Ms. Frometa was a special guest reader in Ms. Jamie’s Kindergarten class last Friday. The class read a story then drew pictures of things they practiced to learn how to do. The class came up with many great ideas such as learning how to ride a bike or a scooter, catch butterflies, and even how to ride on a zipline.

•Mrs. Fowler’s class read books this week about What is in the Sky!

Students had fun drawing their own star constellations.

SOKOLOWSKI SCHOOL UPDATES

•Mr. F’s third grade class was honored to

have School Committee Chairwoman Kelly Garcia Mirza as a special guest this past Monday, March 8. She talked to us about growing up in Chelsea and about her work as the Chairwoman of the Chelsea School Committee. She also read a great biography of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for us as part of our celebration of Women’s History Month. After that, we had a great discussion about ways to make the world better and the importance of having our students’ voices be heard. It was inspiring to hear from someone like her who is dedicated to making a positive impact in her community.

MORRIS H. SEIGAL CLARK AVE. UPDATES

•Students in the Clark Avenue Middle School online learning center completed technology education projects while in school. We are proud of our students efforts and perseverance.

WRIGHT SCIENCE & TECH. ACADEMY UPDATES

•Congratulations to 8th Grader, Shania Alarcon Portillo from the WSTA for having her artwork chosen for the Annual Budget Cover.

Chelsea Schools propose to skip hybrid, move to five-days in-person

By Seth Daniel

The Chelsea Public Schools (CPS) has made a quick change of plans in the last week, going from a conservative plan to stay all-remote, to now moving towards a full, in-person school schedule five days a week – and hopefully getting this done by April 5.

Supt. Almi Abeyta said considering the lower case

numbers and metrics for COVID-19 in Chelsea, and the state’s guidance to return elementary school students by early April, and middle school by late April, they have reversed course and are pursuing a full return to school. That said, any family that wants to opt-out and remain remote the rest of the year still can do so without penalty. That said, there seems to be a growing

number of families surveyed that want their kids to get back into school full time, said Abeyta.

“We have decided we’re going to skip hybrid altogether and go to full in-person,” she said. “We are at 60 percent of K-4 families that want their kids back and 40 percent that want to stay home. We can bring them back in at a 3-foot distance. The question that’s still out there is

can we do it by April 5?”

There were 1,200 responses from families in grades K-4, which would be the first group to return to school under the plan, and of those, 58 percent wanted to have their kids go back to school five days a week. That was a dramatic shift from a survey taken in January, which showed most parents being more comfortable with remote schooling and happy with the remote curriculum. It seems that momentum alongside lower COVID rates have reversed attitudes about school.

“Some chose remote and they say now they want in-person,” she said. “We need to identify who

want to change and then make the shift. We can do it but it’s a matter of making sure all the pieces fall into place and quickly. It’s been expedited.”

She said they are currently in negotiations with the Chelsea Teachers Association on the specifics of coming back. However, she said, one of the sticking points has been teacher vaccinations. Already, one teacher vaccine clinic sponsored by the City and East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) has taken place last Saturday. Another is scheduled for March 20, and a third is in the works.

That is being combined with vigorous testing using the binx test system.

Last week, they had 25 volunteers submit to testing under the auspices of a new health team that is coordinating the effort. The tests were taken, analyzed, and all 25 came out negative.

The overall effort is being coordinated by Adam Deleidi and Denise Ferrari DiResta. However, they have hired this week three band level testing coordinators – one for the ELC/Elementary, one for Middle School and one for high school.

“There is a lot of coordination and it takes time to distribute tests and schedule everything,” she said. “You have to have people to focus on the work. We’re learning from schools that went ahead of us in these uncharted territories.”

Have an Eggstra Special Easter Season

Send us Your Eggstra Special Person or Pet this Easter season

Photos will be published on March 31st and April 1st

Revere Journal | East Boston Times
Chelsea Record | Everett Independent
Winthrop Transcript | Lynn Journal

Please send your photo to
PROMO@REVEREJOURNAL.COM
with the following information:
Name (first only), phone number and Publication(s) of choice

HOP TO IT....

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

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

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

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

www.ebnhc.org

www.ebnhc.org •

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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Northeast Voke carpentry students build a dugout

Staff Report

Superintendent David DiBarri is pleased to share that Northeast Metro Tech carpentry students recently started building a baseball dugout at North Reading High School.

“This is the type of project that really fits in well with our mission and culture here at Northeast Metro Tech,” Superintendent DiBarri said. “Our students are gaining experience in the field, on a fun project that gives directly

back to their community.” “The great thing about career technical education and vocational education is the hands-on learning aspect,” said Northeast Metro Tech’s Vocational Dean Dave Fabrizio. “The opportunity for our students to build a structure like this not only benefits them, it also benefits the town of North Reading and North Reading High School for years to come. The skills that our students are learning on a daily basis will enhance their ca-

reer opportunities in the future.” The collaborative project between Northeast Metro Tech and North Reading High School has been in the works for several years. The dugouts were designed in 2019 by Connor Andrews, an alumni of Northeast Metro Tech’s Drafting and Design program currently studying at the Wentworth Institute of Technology. “As a member of the Northeast School Committee it makes me proud to be part of helping our communities with projects needed in their cities and towns,” said Northeast

Metro Tech School Committee Member Judith Dymnt. “I know our staff and students take pride when they are part of doing this as well and love to see their work completed and enjoyed by many. I enjoy watching our students completing the project at North Reading High school as I pass by knowing the joy it will bring to the high school students for many years!” Initially, construction for the project was slated to begin in March 2020, but was ultimately postponed until this March due to the pandemic. Approximately 35



From left: Instructor Armen Khodaverdian; Emmanuel Gil, a senior of Revere; Esaw Solis, a senior, of Saugus; and Christopher Quinom, a senior, of Chelsea.



David Romero, a senior, of Chelsea moves a pallet.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NORTHEAST METRO TECH

Keyly Cruz, a senior, of Chelsea is one of approximately 35 Northeast Metro Tech students working to build the dugout.

juniors and seniors in Northeast Metro Tech’s carpentry program began working on the project on March 2. Students are being overseen by their instructors Armen Khodaverdian, the site manager, and Bob Calla, carpentry instructor, and are working on the project five days a week. Students and staff hope to complete the project this spring. “During the pandemic, it is important that I get hands-on training,” said Gloria Lanzi, a senior and Malden resident. “It is important to get out and learn different skills. I especial-

ly like this project because it is a structure that will be used and enjoyed by others.” Students participating in the project have the opportunity to practice hands-on skills including measuring, layout work, cutting, leveling, drilling, fastening, assembling, framing, exterior trim, erecting scaffolding and roofing. Northeast Metro Tech’s carpentry program has participated in similar projects previously with area baseball fields as well.



CHELSEA SCHOOL NURSES AND HEALTH STAFF WANT YOU TO BE SAFE

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

Your symptoms may vary. 'Information is still evolving. Many people may not have symptoms. *If your quick-relief medicine is not helping your asthma symptoms, or if you are in the Red Zone on your Asthma Action Plan, call your health care provider or seek medical attention immediately. **Allergies, colds and flus can all trigger asthma which can lead to shortness of breath, chest tightness/pain and rapid breathing. COVID-19 is the only one associated with shortness of breath in its own. ***If you have allergic asthma, you may have symptoms of both asthma and allergies at the same time. Sources: Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. edited 8/25/20 • aafa.org/covid19

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

Sus síntomas pueden variar. *La información sigue evolucionando. Muchas personas pueden contagiarse sin mostrar síntomas. *Si su medicamento de alivio rápido no mejora sus síntomas de asma, o si Ud. está en la Zona Roja en su Plan de Acción para el Asma, llame a su proveedor de atención médica o busque atención médica de inmediato. **Las alergias, los resfriados y la gripe pueden desencadenar asma, lo cual puede provocar falta de aire, dolor o presión en el pecho y respiración rápida. El COVID-19 es la única enfermedad en esta lista que por sí sola puede provocar la falta de aire. ***Si Ud. tiene asma alérgica, puede tener síntomas de asma y alergias a la misma vez. Fuentes: Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America, World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention edited 8/25/20 • aafa.org/covid19

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

HEARING HELD ON TENANT DISPLACEMENT

East Boston - City Councilor Lydia Edwards held a hearing with the Boston City Council’s Committee on Government Operations to recommend passage of her ordinance extending and enhancing protections for tenants facing displacement by condominium or cooperative conversion.

As Chair of the Boston City Council’s Committee on Government Operations, Edwards ordinance will strengthen existing protections afforded by the current ordinance in light of the rapid increase of small apartment buildings being converted to condominiums in East Boston and throughout the city.

Since 1983, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has afforded municipalities the option to enact protections for tenants residing in properties subject to condominium conversion. Boston’s condominium conversion ordinance, updated in 2014, affords residents of covered properties a notice period, right of first refusal to purchase their unit, relocation assistance, just cause eviction, and relocation benefits if the unit is converted to a condominium.

Edwards explained the ordinance increases relocation benefits for residents facing displacement, provides additional notice requirements, and establishes a condo conversion permit and notification system within the City of Boston’s Office of Housing Stability and Inspectional Services Department. In addition, the ordinance establishes a look back period of 12 months which will assist in determining whether the tenants are provided all of their rights and benefits in cases of a building clear out.

“The proposed language strengthens the current ordinance, closes loopholes, and further protects tenants from displacement during this citywide rental housing emergency,” says Councilor Edwards. “I’d like to thank my Boston City Council colleagues, especially City Councilor Ed Flynn, Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon and Tim Davis at the Department of Neighborhood Services, and all administration officials who worked diligently to make this happen”.

Last year, Councilors and administration officials held a hearing and working session on July 27, 2020 and October 15, 2020 examining issues of building clearouts that occurred prior to a building owner starting the formal process to convert a building.

The aim of hearing and working sessions was to increase the relocation assistance provided in order to better reflect the economic realities of the current rental market, and expand the groups covered by the ordinance beyond protected classes to include families with children and tenants that have lived in a unit for longer than five years.

“I support this proposal,” said Councilor Ed Flynn. “I want to strengthen the ordinance like we all do, and look forward to seeing what we can do to provide more protections for our seniors, persons with disabilities and our immigrant neighbors to make sure Boston is a city

for, for all.”

Councilor Michael Flaherty thanked Edwards for her advocacy on this issue.

“I look forward to working on this and to continue to improve the quality of life for folks that have been faced with eviction,” said Flaherty. “We have a responsibility as a government to try to protect our residents and neighbors and keep them in their homes, particularly those that are born and raised in neighborhoods. Through no fault of their own, through speculation and investment, they’re being squeezed out of their property. Rents continue to creep up so anything we can do to keep people in their homes and to give them whatever support they can as tenants being evicted I say, ‘sign me up.’ So I appreciate the work Councilor Edwards is doing.”

District 9 City Councilor Liz Breadon also thanked Edwards for her leadership and added, “I really want to echo the sentiments of my colleagues that this is critically critically important in protecting folks who are vulnerable to eviction and displacement by condo conversions.”

Chief Dillon said the previous ordinance had too many loopholes.

“We all are here to extend the condo conversion ordinance that wasn’t strong enough,” said Dillon. “It had too many loopholes and it needed to be strengthened. What we’re discussing here today is really going to make a difference for tenants and it’s going to be harder for them to be displaced so (developers) can achieve a condo conversion.”

MICHELEWITZ BACKS SANTIAGO FOR MAYOR

East Boston - Just over a week after Jon Santiago launched his campaign, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz from the North End has endorsed Jon Santiago for Mayor of Boston.

“I am proud to endorse Jon Santiago for Mayor of Boston. Our city stands on the precipice of a new era of leadership and I know Jon’s experience as a doctor, a veteran, a Peace Corps volunteer, and as a state representative make him the most qualified to lead us into that new era,” said Representative Michlewitz. “He will help us recover as a city and region.”

Michlewitz represents the Third Suffolk District, which comprises the neighborhoods of the North End, Waterfront, Chinatown, South End, Downtown, Leather District, Bay Village, and portions of the West End, Beacon Hill and the Back Bay. In 2019, he was named Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee and continues to hold that post. Born and raised in the North End, Rep. Michlewitz and Santiago have delivered for Boston neighborhoods on a variety of legislative initiatives including COVID-19 relief, landmark education reform, transportation investments, and the expansion of affordable housing.

“Having worked with Chairman Michlewitz on Beacon Hill to deliver urgently needed results for our city and state, I’ve seen firsthand how much he cares about our city and expanding opportunity for all,” Santiago said. “I am humbled to receive

his endorsement and look forward to working with him and community leaders throughout Boston to bring our city back stronger than ever.”

Jon Santiago is currently serving his second term as the State Representative for the 9th Suffolk District representing the South End, Roxbury, Back Bay, and Fenway neighborhoods of Boston. He is an emergency room physician employed at Boston Medical Center, the city’s safety net hospital. He serves as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve and has deployed overseas. Prior to these experiences, Santiago served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic. He lives in the South End with his wife, Alexandra.

TEACHERS QUICKLY MOVE TO GET VACCINATED

EVERETT - A lot of noise has been heard over the past two months on the outside in the whole teacher vaccination debate in Everett, but on the inside many teachers had been struggling internally with the idea of serving their students or preserving their health.

It was a tough intersection for the district’s many hundreds of teachers, but one that has been resolved this week as President Joe Biden and Gov. Charlie Baker cleared the way for teachers to get vaccinated last week, and many now have already received their first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

It couldn’t have come at a better time either, as Everett Public Schools educators have a tentative agreement to return to school buildings this month.

“I got my first dose at Gillette over the weekend and it was smooth as silk,” said Everett Teachers Association President Kim Auger. “I was very, very pleased at how it went... It really makes us look at going back in a far different way. We will keep our social distancing and protocols...I do feel like it is a relief. It’s in your arm and you’re like, ‘Oh my it’s been a year.’ It felt a little bit of relief, but we are still social distancing and wearing masks in our home.”

Teacher Jennifer Cuthbert said she felt the same way. As a 42-year-old fifth-grade teacher at the Webster School, she wasn’t likely to be vaccinated under the old system any time soon. So, going back without the protection of a vaccine was nerve-racking, she said.

As a veteran, and with the teaching vaccination debate being settled last week, she was able to get an appointment and will be vaccinated before school starts, she said.

“It’s huge for me,” she said. “It’s a huge sense of relief. Being in a class with 20-plus kids in a small room with mask off to eat lunch – that’s the plan I heard – it was nerve wracking. It’s a tough situation and I get it. A lot of parents have children at home and might have to go to work. However, my mom just had a brain tumor and had surgery so that was a main concern for me.”

Middle School teacher Keith Spencer echoed that sentiment, saying he was able to get his first vaccine about 30 minutes from his home. While he went through the wringer last

CITY OF REVERE, EBNHC ADMINISTER VACCINES TO REVERE PUBLIC SCHOOLS EMPLOYEES



Shown above, Dr. Lourenco Garcia get his vaccination from Kathleen Savage.

Thursday, March 4, to get his appointment, he said finally getting it change everything.

“Personally, getting vaccinated before going back was at the top of my list,” he said. “I’m from a family that has issues with immunity. I don’t have immunity issues myself, but I was concerned with that. I understand transmission rates and stuff but I know we also haven’t crowded 30 to 35 kids in a room at the school. I wanted to get kids back here, but I was also hoping we would get the priority as essential people. I was quite disappointed when the governor didn’t make us a priority when school opening was a priority.

“For me, it was an essential thing,” he continued. “I wasn’t going to apply for medical paperwork. I would have gone back to the classroom without a vaccination, but it was tough. I’m glad I didn’t have to make that decision.”

That decision has been weighing on Spencer and other teachers in the district. Many in the administration have been pushing for vaccination, but in absence of that, they have also been pushing to get in-person learning available to students and families. That’s in large part because a majority of families are ready to send their children back to school. Everett tried to initiate a pilot program to vaccinate teachers in February, but that was squelched by Gov. Baker before it could happen – pitting teachers against some students and families on the return discussion.

“It just didn’t feel right,” said Spencer. “I felt like things that went on in our state over the last few weeks put us in that situation to where we had to choose between our students and our own personal safety. I was thinking about what happened if I got sick. I love my job and my students and what I do, but I was nervous about going back. I don’t think anyone should have to be put in a situation where they have to choose between their health and their job.”

Spencer said he is to receive his second dose of

the vaccine in early April, just before he is scheduled to return. With that confidence, he said he is ready to be back – not that he wasn’t before – but that he can do his job without the nagging concern of being unprotected at work.

“If you’re a teacher and truly love what you do, you know the best way to teach your students is in-person learning,” he said. “I’m ready to go back.”

Teachers across the school system are to report back to the classroom on March 22 as part of a tentative agreement with the district.

FIRE DEPT. CALLS ARE DOWN IN 2020

EVERETT - The Everett Fire Department is left scratching their heads as to the large drop in calls for service throughout 2020, just as medical aid calls continued to increase and dominate their activities on the fire service.

According to Chief Tony Carli, there were 1,000 fewer calls in 2020 compared to 2019 – coming in at 5,560 total calls for service and 5,632 calls logged. That was the biggest story in the numbers that the chief has annually crunched since he began to notice the fire service transforming to more of a medical aid response and less of a fire response several years ago. However, with a pandemic raging and so many families stuck at home for a large part of 2020, the chief said he had thought calls would be up – not down.

“We’re down about 1,000 calls from the previous year and those numbers do tell a story,” he said. “One year ago today, I would have said we were going to have so many more calls – food on the stove calls, small fire calls. We had those calls, but we just expected to have had 1,000 more calls and not 1,000 less. We’re looking for answers. With everyone at home, that’s a lot less people not commuting into the city and the casino was closed a lot of the time. I go back and forth on it. Everett is a working-class city and a lot of residents continued to go to work. Overall, I think a lot of people were

not travelling through the city and a lot of our businesses were closed.”

Everett Fire Union President Craig Hardy said once the pandemic hit, one of the issues with lower calls was the “fear factor.” He said the Fire Department was busy, but the public was scared to call for help many times.

“This year with the pandemic I believe our call volume was down because many people were scared to call and didn’t want us coming in the home,” he said. “The fear factor was there. It was an anxious time and we changed a lot of how we do things with Chief Carli in order to protect the public and the firefighters as well.”

The overall calls show a vast amount of medical calls, and an alarming rate of false alarms/good intent calls – those calls resulting in a response that eventually was determined not to be necessary. Actual fire suppression calls were at 2 percent of the total calls for service, with 130 – a number that continues to go down, he said. The calls were as follows:

- Fire – 130 (2 percent)
- Ruptured Line – 0
- Medical Aid – 3,711 (66 percent)
- Hazardous Conditions – 215 (4 percent)
- Service Calls – 271 (5 percent)
- Good Intent Calls – 510 (9 percent)
- False Alarm – 760 (13 percent)
- Severe Weather/Natural Disaster – 2 (less than 1 percent)
- Special Incident Type – 33 (1 percent)

More than anything, the numbers are further proof for Chief Carli that an in-house ambulance/med service is critical to the survival of the Fire Department. Already, Mayor Carlo DeMaria and Chief Carli have begun a pilot to bring on 20 new fire personnel that would start by getting EMT certification and riding an ambulance while preparing to enter the Fire Academy. In the end, they would be full firefighter personnel, but also be specialized to staff and respond with an ambulance service. It’s a transformation the chief said is coming and long overdue.

MassDevelopment with MAPC award grant to dispatch taxis to help communities

Staff Report

MassDevelopment, in partnership with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), has awarded \$2,543,883 in funding to 47 cities and towns, municipal agencies, regional transit authorities, nonprofits, and health and human service providers through the Taxi, Livery, and Hackney Transportation Partnerships Grant Program, an operational subsidy program aimed at expanding transportation service capacity through contracts with licensed taxi or livery businesses. Administered by MAPC, these grants will help communities supplement existing transportation options, create new programs to transport individuals to work, grocery stores, non-emergency medical appointments, and other destinations, and facilitate delivery of essential supplies such as food and medicine to residents in need. The Taxi, Livery, and Hackney Transpor-

tation Partnerships Grant Program is funded by MassDevelopment's allocation from the Commonwealth's Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund.

"The Baker-Polito Administration commends MassDevelopment and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council for utilizing the state's Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund to help communities augment local transit with taxi and livery services to get residents where they need to go," said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. "These awards will provide a boost to an industry in need while filling gaps in the state's transportation network."

The Commonwealth's Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund was created by *An Act Regulating Transportation Network Companies*, which Governor Baker signed into law in August 2016 and is sup-

ported by a 20-cent assessment on every transportation network company ride in Massachusetts. One-quarter of the Fund is being designated to MassDevelopment to provide financial assistance to small businesses operating in the taxicab, livery, or hackney industries.

MassDevelopment is using one-third of its allotment from the Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund to support the Taxi, Livery, and Hackney Transportation Partnerships Grant Program. In response to COVID-19, in April 2020 MAPC launched an early version of this program, the Urgent COVID-19 Taxicab, Livery, and Hackney Transportation Partnerships Grant Program, to facilitate urgent transportation and delivery needs for vulnerable populations during the pandemic; in November 2020, MassDevelopment and MAPC awarded \$1,003,978 through the program to 25 cities and

towns, municipal agencies, regional transit authorities, and health and human services transportation providers.

MassDevelopment is using the remaining two-thirds of its allotment from the Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund to support the Taxi & Livery Business Support Grant Program, which offers taxi and livery operators financial assistance to secure products or services that will aid in improving their competitiveness and enhancing safety capabilities in the rapidly evolving market of for-hire transportation. In December 2020, the agency awarded 85 grants totaling \$4,465,619 through the first round of the program to support 104 small businesses operating in the taxi and livery industries and two taxi and livery industry associations.

The following cities, towns, and organizations received funding from Taxi, Livery, and Hackney Transportation Partner-

ships Grant Program:

•Boston Public Health Commission – \$177,000

The organization is using this award to contract with 63 taxi companies to facilitate transportation for individuals experiencing homelessness and living in shelters, transportation for frontline emergency shelter staff, non-emergency medical transportation for individuals who cannot travel via public transit, and deliveries of food and medicine for individuals unable or not advised to travel.

•City of Chelsea – \$130,000

The city is using this award to contract with E-Z Transportation LLC, Teambuild Inc., Soughtafter Transportation, and HBSS Connect Corp to expand an existing emergency food distribution system to serve vulnerable families afflicted with COVID-19.

•Cambridge Health Alliance – \$150,000

The organization is using this award to contract

with Green Cab Company, Inc. to facilitate transportation to medical appointments and food pantries for vulnerable, high-risk, and underserved patients in the organization's primary service area.

•Mystic Valley Elder Service – \$50,000

The organization is using this award to contract with Malden Taxi and Suburban Taxi to facilitate transportation to medical appointments and grocery stores for seniors and adults living with disabilities who are isolated in their communities.

•City of Revere – \$46,800

The city is using this award to contract with Patriots Taxi Company to facilitate non-emergency medical transportation, transportation to stores, polling locations, and workforce development training programs, and food pantry deliveries for seniors, veterans, individuals with disabilities, and homebound residents.

OBITUARIES

Raymond Louis Neri, Sr.

Will be fondly remembered for being generous with his time, having a great sense of humor in the face of adversity and hiding snacks for later

Affectionately known as "Pa," Raymond Louis Neri, Sr., 88, entered into eternal life on March 9.

Born and raised in Chelsea, Raymond led a full life and leaves behind an adoring family; his wife of 66 years, Phyllis (Gosciniak) of Chelsea; sons Raymond Neri, Jr. and his wife, Rosemarie of Saugus, Edward Neri and his wife, Nancy of Chelsea; grandchildren Michelle Caron and her husband, Jason, Brian Neri and Christopher Neri, all of Saugus; great grandchildren: Kailee, Madison, Emma, Mackenzie, Jason Jr. and Lily Caron; great-great-grandchildren, Liam and Knox McLellan; and many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

The youngest of nine and last surviving sibling, Raymond was predeceased by his parents, Agostino and Nellie (Cushing) Neri, and his sisters: Alice Deleidi, Prima Wheeler, Seconda Neri, Wanda Pezzuto, Lores Keating, Rose Ryan, Elise Bizzocchi and Rita Yannetti.

Always a loving provider, Raymond worked hard throughout his life, first delivering bread by horse and buggy for his family bakery and later holding positions with Stride Rite, Airlift International, Boston Garden's "Bull Gang," and Tucker Construction. His most important job, however, was showing love to his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and



great-great-grandchildren, making each one of them feel special and cared for.

At the request of family, services were held privately on Friday, March 12. The family would like to express gratitude and heartfelt thanks to family, friends, Care Dimensions of Danvers, and The Dexter House of Malden for all their care and support.

Raymond will be fondly remembered for being generous with his time, having a great sense of humor in the face of adversity, and hiding snacks for later. Memorial contributions in his name may be made to the charity of your choice or "donated" at a casino as he often did. In closing, his family kindly asks that you always remember to say "please" and "thank you," and hug your loved ones.

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

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Kim Buttiri

She will be truly missed by all who knew her

Kim M. (Mottola) Buttiri of Groveland passed away unexpectedly on March 12, at the age of 52.

Kim had such a big heart and would do anything for her family and friends. She will truly be missed by all who knew her.

Born in Brighton on June 8, 1968 to the late Ronald Francis Mottola Sr. and Anna May (Jiamattei), she was the beloved wife of Joseph "Joe" Buttiri, devoted mother of Joseph and Joshua Buttiri, adored sister of Ronald Mottola Jr. and his wife, Doreen of Groveland and Gregg Mottola and his wife, Janha of Illinois and is also survived by many loving aunts, uncles, niece and nephews.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, March 18, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Paul Buonfiglio & Sons-Bruno Funeral Home, 128 Revere St., Revere. Due to



capacity limits, we ask that you keep your visit brief to allow others to pay their respects to the family. Masks and social distancing are required when entering the funeral home. Relatives and friends are kindly invited. A Funeral service on Friday at the Buonfiglio Funeral Home at 10 a.m. will be followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Anthony's Church at 11 a.m. (names and temperatures will be taken upon entrance). Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

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Mary Bullock

N.E. Tel & Tel retiree, proud member of the I.B.E.W. and Telephone Pioneers of America and devoted caregiver to family and friends

Mary A. (Godfrey) Bullock passed away following a brief decline in health on Tuesday, March 16 at the Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers. She was 85 years old.

Born and raised in Chelsea, a beloved daughter of the late James R.

and Mary S. (Butler) Godfrey, Mary attended St. Rose Parochial School and graduated from Chelsea High School, Class of 1953.

In 1953, she married to Thomas E. Bullock. She was widowed in 2013 after the couple shared 60 years of love and devotion, residing in Chelsea where they raised their son and two daughters.

A devoted housewife and mother, she also worked outside of her home for 25 years as a telephone operator with NE Tel & Tel at Bowdoin Square in Boston. She was a proud member of the I.B.E.W. Local 2222 and the Telephone Pioneers of America.

Mary was a devoted caregiver to family and friends in need, no one



ever needed to ask for her aide, she was always there lending her helping hand.

Mary made her home at Chelsea Village Apartments for many years and could always be relied on to chauffeur friends and neighbors on many errands or accompany her to a favorite bingo game.

In addition to her parents and beloved husband, Mary was also predeceased by a daughter, Mary Ellen Rivera, granddaughter, Jennifer Bauer Travassos, her siblings, Ellen D. Galatis and John Godfrey and cousin, Lillian Laffey.

She is survived by her loving son, Thomas Bullock of Chelsea, dear daughter, Loreen Bauer of Quincy and son-in-law, Paul Bauer and his wife, Barbara of New Hampshire. She was the cherished grandmother of P.J. Bauer and his wife, Jennifer, Heather Martin and her husband, Brett, Jonathan Bauer, Joseph Rivera, Thomas Martinez and Kristina Martinez and several adoring great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her dear cousin, Velvet Walsh Smith and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members and friends.

All services are strictly private. Should friends desire, contributions in Mary's name may be made to Rosie's Place, 889 Harrison Ave., Boston MA, 02118.

Arrangements were given to the care and direction of the Anthony Memorial - Frank A. Welsh & Sons Chelsea.

For online guest book or to send expressions of sympathy, please visit: www.WelshFuneral-Home.com

Happy Birthday
In Loving Memory of
Dorothy J. Gould
11 Year Anniversary

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

BRUINS Beat by Bob Morello

Bruins back on the ‘Win’ track

Backed by the stellar goaltending of Bruins rookie Dan Vladar making his first career start on Tuesday night versus the streaking Pittsburgh Penguins – winners of six in a row - Boston got back on the winning trail. Even though one victory doesn’t necessarily mean a win streak is in the making, Vladar’s victory gave the team a boost that the locals hope will carry over as they remain on the road to face the Buffalo Sabres who at press time are mired in the very bottom of the Eastern Division. On the strength of goals from David Pastrnak (13) and the 2-1 winner from Trent Frederic in the third period, the Czech-born goalie provided the standout game the Bruins badly needed...and put the team’s recent abysmal streak of 5-7-2 in the rear-view mirror.

With visions of devouring two victories versus

the lowly Sabres, who just this Wednesday fired their coach Ralph Krueger who was in his second season, following a dozen straight losses (0-10-2), the Bruins know the importance of not looking past this pair of game. Games are scheduled for Thursday (tonight, 7pm), and Saturday in a 2pm matinee. Following their pair of road games with Buffalo, the Bruins will return to the friendly confines of the Boston Garden, and the beginning of fans in the seats. Albeit the crowd will just be a small percentage of the usual sellout, it will be a welcome sound to hear the fans cheering (and booing if necessary). The team’s stay at home will be an extended one with eight games jammed into less than two weeks. The jam packed home



schedule includes visits that begin with the high-flying New York Islanders (19-7-4) on Tuesday 7pm and Thursday 7pm, with a single game to take on the Sabres in a Saturday 1pm matinee. The extended homestand continues with the struggling New Jersey Devils being hosted by the Bruins on Sunday in a rare 5:30pm faceoff, and a Tuesday 7pm drop. Beginning Thursday April 1st, the remaining teams checking in at the Garden are, the revenge-seeking Penguins on Thursday, April first (and that is no joke) – at 7pm, and a rematch on Saturday for a 1pm matinee. The final game of this homestand will have a single-game visit from the Philadelphia Flyers on Monday, April 5th at 7pm. The Bruins

have been victorious in their previous five games with the Flyers.

Boston’s roster continues to deal with an injury list that continues to grow with each passing game, on Tuesday it was defenseman Jarred Tinordi who received a check while in a somewhat vulnerable position, from Pittsburgh’s Brandon Tanev who received a five-minute major penalty for boarding, which also included a game misconduct. Currently, the Boston injury report includes: goaltender Tuukka Rask, players on injured reserve have defensemen Kevan Miller (return soon is likely), and fellow blue-liners Brandon Carlo who remains out following the vicious check from Washington Capitals’ Tom Wilson, and Jeremy Lauzon, plus Zack Senyshyn, and Ondrej Kase with no return date in the near future for the latter.

State highlights expanded access to housing for vulnerable communities

Staff Report

Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito joined Housing and Community Development Undersecretary Jennifer Maddox to highlight expanded access to housing for vulnerable communities across the Commonwealth.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2021, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has expanded the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) and the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) to make more rental vouchers available to more households in need. An additional 767 MRVP vouchers and 157 AHVP vouchers have been made available and targeted to specific, vulnerable populations.

“Our administration has long recognized the need for more affordable housing in Massachusetts, and the challenges created by the pandemic have made this need even more clear,” said Gov. Charlie Baker. “Since entering office, we have been proud to invest more than \$1.4 billion in the development and preservation of affordable housing, and we look forward to this expansion of our state voucher program providing safe, affordable housing to more households across the Commonwealth.”

The Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program provides deep rental subsidies to low-income individuals and households. Currently, vouchers support nearly 8,900 households across the Commonwealth. More than 5,000 of these vouchers are mobile vouchers, meaning they can be used by families in search of

housing available on the private market. The remaining vouchers, known as project-based vouchers, are used to support long-term affordability in specific housing developments. The expansion highlighted today will help households living in family, individual and domestic violence shelters move into permanent housing. Additionally, 100 vouchers will support the development of new permanent supportive housing for individuals.

The expansion of AHVP vouchers, which are available to non-elderly individuals with disabilities, will help meet strong demand for this program. DHCD is also working with the agencies that manage AHVP vouchers to increase utilization rates by increasing the value of these vouchers, and providing greater flexibility for agencies to deploy this resource.

In October, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the Eviction Diversion Initiative, a multi-pronged strategy to prevent evictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Since last spring, the administration has delivered more than \$50 million in emergency rental and mortgage assistance to roughly 13,000 unique households. This initiative combines substantial emergency financial assistance, along with new, free or low-cost legal aid for low-income tenants and low-income homeowners who live in a home with rental units, and new, free mediation through the Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration to help tenants and landlords solve lease problems together.

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DEADLINE: March 25, 2021

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personnel@chelseaschools.com applications sent to any other email address will not be accepted.

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Rescue Plan / Continued from page 1

La Colaborativa Director Gladys Vega has been very vocal in the last few days about the lack of funding. On Tuesday afternoon, she held a multi-community rally with representatives from Chelsea and Everett. She said she was deeply hurt by Senator Warren and Congresswoman Pressley, in particular, because both had visited La Colaborativa's vaccination site in Chelsea in the last few weeks and said nothing about this situation.

She felt betrayed, and she said none are welcome to come back until they make things right.

"Bring a check for \$40 million and they can come in and take some more pictures," she said, extremely upset. "It makes me so made because I feel like we continue to be used and abused. Ayanna Pressley and all the others came here to our office. She told me the stories I send to her are stories that she tells everyone in the halls of Congress. She said that just the other day when she was here. Where are all those stories because the cash didn't get here?... It felt to me like Sal DiDomenico gave them the news that we were only getting \$3.9 million.

"I can't even buy enough toilet paper to wipe the tears of my community members when they're being evicted and going hungry with \$3.9 million," she continued. "It's a disgrace. Where were they when this decision was made? They didn't try enough. If they didn't have the guts to fight, I would have. Reach out to me and I'll make sure it happens...It's beyond upsetting."

At the rally, about 100 to 150 residents showed up to protest the funding and the lack of effort by the federal delegation, who they said let them down.

"What do we want?" they yelled in the bullhorn. "\$70 million," yelled the crowd.

"When do we want it?" they yelled in the bullhorn. "Ahora! (Now!)," yelled the crowd.

Senator Sal DiDomenico said he thought it was a mistake on first glance, and said the Rescue Plan didn't deliver for Chelsea and Everett.

"When these numbers were brought to our attention about two weeks ago I couldn't believe what I

was seeing," said DiDomenico. "I immediately contacted our Federal Delegation and our city leaders to try and find a solution. The American Rescue Plan was promised to be the relief that we had been waiting for, especially for our hardest hit communities like Chelsea and Everett. It is both appalling and outrageous that two of the hardest hit communities, and Chelsea being ground zero during the COVID crisis, are getting a fraction of the federal funds that neighboring communities are getting - and many being much more affluent... I am extremely upset that my communities did not get the help they needed. The high hopes we had for the American Rescue Plan did not come to fruition for Chelsea and Everett."

Chelsea City Manager Tom Ambrosino said the funding doled out to the two communities - and also to Randolph and Methuen, the other two of the four that got "shorted," - was unconscionable.

"Wealthy communities got windfalls and a lot of other communities like Everett and Chelsea got screwed," he said. "Of the 20 most impacted communities, there are four that really got adversely impacted by the funding - Chelsea, Everett, Randolph and Methuen. We're hoping the state will step in and deal with those four...It's unconscionable and incredibly inequitable. We hope the state will step in to right the situation. We were trying to quietly work behind the scenes (with the federal delegation) to fix this, but it didn't happen. We are not happy about it. We're still trying to fix it, but at this point, Gov. Baker is our ally and sole hope."

State Rep. Dan Ryan said he has been working with DiDomenico and others to try to fix the slight from the federal delegation.

"I've been on the phone with State Senator DiDomenico and State Rep. Jessica Giannino since last week, when we first heard of this federal budget shortfall affecting Chelsea," he said. "We are working with our colleagues on Beacon Hill and the Governor's office to find a State fix to this federal slight."

In Everett, Mayor Carlo DeMaria said he and other leaders have been working

with the state and federal delegation to try to fix the shortfall, and hopes that something can be done in the coming days to make sure the plan helps communities like Everett that were the hardest hit.

"I recognize that the American Rescue Bill is the first time during the pandemic that our federal delegation was able to secure direct funding for cities and towns," he said. "However, the bill relies upon a commonly used federal funding formula that does not adequately consider the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 has had on cities such as Everett and Chelsea, which have some of the highest number of cases per capita in Massachusetts. I will continue to work with our federal delegation and the Baker-Polito Administration to achieve an equitable allocation of federal funding for Everett and Chelsea to ensure our fiscal recovery from this public health crisis."

Everett Councilor Michael McLaughlin said he was disappointed that the money they expected to come, never did, and that is why he said he decided to attend the rally in Chelsea on Tuesday.

"It is extremely disappointing and frustrating to see one of the hardest-hit communities get significantly less in federal funding," he said. "Two of the hardest hit communities like Everett and Chelsea were not treated equitably. Everett has been designated as majority minority community and should be treated as such by our federal delegation. This situation must be rectified. I hope and have full faith that Mayor DeMaria and Senator DiDomenico will be able to work with the Baker Administration to help off-set as much of this lack in funding by our federal government. Our community needs and deserves these important resources to assist us in recovering as one of the hardest-hit communities in the Commonwealth."

Everett CFO Eric Demas was one of the first to identify the shortfall in early March, and he and Mayor DeMaria quickly reached out to the federal delegation and other decision-makers. At the same time, Chelsea was also identifying the issue and the two communities rapidly began cooperating in their messaging with Sen. DiDomenico.

"I noticed this back on March 4 before the U.S. Senate even voted on it," he said. "I was shocked and I notified the mayor and said we need to figure this out and see what we can do before they vote. We immediately reached out to our federal delegation and unfortunately we weren't able to get anything accomplished before the vote. We are now in the process of seeing what we can do to address the



Jessica Armijo - who has volunteered at the food pantry for months on end to help feed the hungry - demanded accountability.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING FOR CITIES AND TOWNS IN MASSACHUSETTS:

Everett -	\$4.58 million	\$13.59 million *
Chelsea -	\$3.91 million	\$11.61 million *
Newton -	\$48.14 million	\$65.29 million*
Revere	\$20.24 million	\$30.54 million*
Boston -	\$434.68 million	\$569 million*
Shrewsbury	\$3.8 million	\$11.27 million*
Woburn	\$3.96 million	\$11.77 million*
Somerville	\$63.28 million	\$79.06 million*
Medford	\$39.25 million	\$50.37 million*
Malden	\$35.04 million	\$46.76 million*
Amherst	\$3.93 million	\$11.68 million*
Brookline	\$34.21 million	Not available*

(*with county allocations added in)

disparity for Everett... We're not going to stop until we get the situation corrected."

Said DiDomenico, "COVID ravaged Chelsea and Everett, and our residents dealt with so much pain, suffering, heartache during the past year. These funds were supposed to go to disproportionately affected communities and help cities like ours, but this obviously did not happen. I have spoken to Governor Baker and his team to push for some of the other federal funds to be allocated to Chelsea and Everett, and I will be working with the Governor and our elected leaders to bring in the needed funds that these cities rightfully deserve."

A lot of the blame is now falling on the federal delegation, including Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (who represents three out of four of the aggrieved communities), and U.S. Senators Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren.

The newspaper contacted all three federal officials, and for some time none responded to a request for comment on

the situation in Chelsea and Everett, but they did respond late on Tuesday evening.

Two sources close to the situation said the matter went all the way to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen - who indicated it was too late by the time the request came and no changes could be made.

More than three sources close to the situation said none of the federal delegation was aware of the issue until local officials reached out, and when they did, very little happened.

A spokesperson for Sen. Warren put out a statement for Warren, Senator Markey and Congresswoman Pressley that said the funding formula was flawed, and essentially threw responsibility to Gov. Baker to make the fix.

"Cities and towns in the Commonwealth and across the country are on the frontlines of our fight against this pandemic, and they need our support," read the statement. "While the American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides millions in desperately needed relief, we know that our small

to midsize municipalities need more assistance, especially our communities of color who continue to be disproportionately impacted by this pandemic, like Chelsea and Everett. We must make our federal funding formulas more reflective of the impact felt by our most vulnerable communities, and as we look ahead to recovery, we will continue to work with state, local and federal partners help our mayors and local governments mitigate the impact of this crisis on our families so that no community is left behind. That includes urging the Baker Administration to equitably distribute the Commonwealth's 4.5 billion dollars of relief funding to municipalities that have been disproportionately impacted."

They did not identify any actions they would take, however, to rectify the situation.



State Sen. Sal DiDomenico said the American Rescue Plan did not deliver for Chelsea and Everett.



Protestors carrying flags from all over the world demanding \$70 million in federal funding, not \$3.9 million.



One protestor demanded dignity in the funding from the Rescue Plan, which was deemed a failure by the federal government for hard-hit Chelsea and Everett.



City Manager Tom Ambrosino said the funding for Chelsea as compared to more affluent suburbs was "unconscionable."

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