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WINTHROP

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**THURSDAY,
July 9, 2020**

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INDEPENDENT



Newspaper Group

NEWS Briefs

COVID-19 UPDATE

The Town of Winthrop has received notification from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) of five additional residents affected by COVID-19. As of Tuesday, July 7, the total is 248 total cases confirmed; 24 deceased, 217 recovered and 7 in isolation.

The COVID-19 Tip Hotline is available on the Winthrop Public Safety website at <https://winthroppublicsafety.com/covid-19-tip-hotline/> for those self-reporting or for a concerned member of the community.

**WINTHROP
SENIOR CENTER
NEWS**

The Senior Center remains closed at this time. While lunch is not being served, Meals on Wheels continues to operate. Residents who are in need and are not currently on the list to receive meals through Meals on Wheels can call Mystic Valley Elder Services at 781-324-7705, with their name, phone number and address to be included in the program.

Exercise with Ernie Sarro: WCAT will present Exercise with Ernie Sarro Monday – Friday at 10:30am on Channel 3.

**MVES OFFERS
TIPS ON BEATING
THE HEAT**

If you recall, last summer ended up being a scorcher! And we have already seen the humidity and temperatures soar once again. During the hot summer months, Mystic Valley Elder Services recommends that it's a good idea to keep a close eye on the older adults in our lives. With more people being house bound this summer due to COVID-19, it is even more imperative we check in on them.

Older adults are much more likely to develop

See NEWS BRIEFS Page 5



Mason Aiello, Lorenzo Caraglia and Maya Chapdelaine have a water fight during a backyard BBQ on the 4th. See additional photos and story on page 5.

A 'subdued' July 4th celebration in Winthrop

By Maxim Tamarov

It was 8 p.m. on Independence Day in the midst of a pandemic. The sun was just setting, but already people were spaced out six feet apart along Winthrop Shore Drive, watching the first of the clandestine fireworks that would go on well into the night.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, however, the official fireworks that residents normally gathered to watch on the town's coastline and at its yacht clubs were cancelled. So, too, was the annual Horribles Parade on Pt. Shirley.

Large gatherings, which these two events generally garner, were strongly discouraged across the Commonwealth.

Russ Sanford, former president of the Winthrop Town Council and chairman of the Winthrop Foundation, said the celebrations this year were thus less jubilant than they have been in the past.

"It was kind of a more subdued, solemn holiday," Sanford said.

Sanford explained that Winthrop had a tradition of watching fireworks put on by local hero Louis "Lou" Camacho and that his show was "a sight to behold." Camacho, a demolition specialist in the Vietnam War, was a patriotic man who loved to blow things up and put on the annual display without profit in mind. Residents, Sanford said, always came together on July 4th for the show. Even after "Mr. Fireworks" stopped putting on displays, the town upheld the tradition with a hired company. Not so this year.

Instead, fireworks were set off illegally and seemingly at random throughout the night. Fire Chief Paul Flanagan said the amount of illicit fireworks over the July 4th weekend was "too numerous to report"

and that he had not seen so many in his years at the fire department.

Paul Levy, owner of Woodside Ace Hardware, said he could still hear fireworks being set off as late as 4:30 a.m. Others, such as Winthrop Chamber of Commerce Director Betsy Shane, said the fireworks had been going all week.

"It seemed for a while that every other house was setting off fireworks," Flanagan remarked. He added that despite this, there were no fires or injuries reported.

The Horribles Parade suffered the same fate as the official fireworks. A tradition that goes back 138 years and features residents dressing up in "crazy costumes," the parade was something Levy said he looked forward to every year.

"I thought it was very disappointing," Levy said of the missing fireworks and parade. "The Fourth of July is one of my favorite holidays."

Flanagan, on the other hand, said this was the slowest and most peaceful Independence Day for him. It was the first time in 25 years that he was not involved in celebration planning and logistics.

Town Council President Phil Boncore said he took advantage of the parade being cancelled by participating in a golf tournament and then relaxing on Yirell Beach. Boncore, Levy, Shane, and Sanford all said they hoped the tradition would be restarted next year. Flanagan said he was sure it would be.

It wasn't just that a joyous occasion was muted. There were business repercussions to the lack of full-fledged Fourth of July celebrations as well, according to Shane. The parade and the fireworks usually bring in about 10,000 out-of-towners who spend money at town establishments.

The Winthrop Marketplace and Twist & Shake are just two examples of businesses that stayed open on July 4th to cater to people's desires for hot dog rolls and ice cream, respectively. Other businesses that otherwise make a lot of money on Saturdays were closed for the holiday because of poor timing, which only compounded the problem.

But according to Shane, the circumstances this year led to some creativity from the residents. People were still out on the beaches (although according to Boncore, they were too close together). Because Winthrop is a waterfront community with four yacht clubs and marinas, some were out on their boats. In lieu of watching fireworks, many residents set up outdoor screens for children to social distance while hanging out and watching movies.

Another staple of the holiday in Winthrop, according to Sanford, is the ubiquity of barbecues. Almost every house on July 4th is open for residents to drop by, Sanford said. Woodside Ace Hardware, according to Levy, sold a lot of propane and barbecue grills this year likely for this reason.

"You could go 'July 4th-hopping'," Sanford said of previous years. This camaraderie was also absent this year. "Barbeques were still happening, but much smaller and with social distancing."

Sanford himself celebrated with a small gathering at his house on July 3rd. He invited only immediate family, a party that was "much smaller than usual."

Maxim Tamarov is a freelance reporter covering coronavirus and environmental issues for the Winthrop Sun Transcript. Send comments or story ideas to maxim.tamarov@gmail.com.

Council President announces creation of Winthrop HRC

Laura Plummer

At its meeting on July 7, Council President Phil Boncore announced Winthrop would be forming a Human Rights Commission (HRC). Town Manager Austin Faison is in the process of drafting a mission statement and is immediately seeking community members to serve on the committee.

The role of an HRC is to educate communities on inclusion and diversity, provide resources on civil and human rights, ensure that all residents have easy access to government services, and support arts and culture. It also handles complaints of discrimination and is empowered to intervene before they turn into costly lawsuits. Many local towns and cities have already established human rights commissions, including Beverly, Belmont, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Danvers, Malden, Medford, Salem, Somerville and Wakefield. Revere is also considering creating one.

The idea of an HRC in Winthrop was first discussed as early as 2018. A group of concerned residents pressed the council to create an official committee dedicated to diversity and inclusion. Despite emails, calls, op-eds and social media posts pushing for its development, it was never brought to a vote.

Residents renewed their discussions about a possible

HRC following the death of George Floyd, buoyed by the growing public support for the Black Lives Matter movement and the presence of a number of new councilors.

"The community seems to have a desire for [it]," said Town Manager Faison in an interview with the Transcript published June 22. "I think that would be a useful step, to begin learning about and embracing all of the cultures that are represented within the community and the region."

In the week prior to the council meeting, the Transcript ran two community letters in support of an HRC.

"Such a committee would help deal with any form of alleged discrimination," wrote Donna Segreti Reilly. "I trust that the council would create an HRC and appoint qualified members to oversee it."

"It is not enough to be a silent bystander in this fight for equality and inclusion; we must take action," echoed Reverend Terri Bracy. "The establishment of an [HRC] would be a good first step."

During the public comment period of the meeting, several residents called in to praise the council's decision.

The matter was moved to the Committee on Appointments, Commissions, and Committees.

Better Beach grants awarded to three local nonprofits

By John Lynds

During a virtual awards ceremony on ZOOM last week, three Winthrop nonprofits received grant money totaling \$11,500 to support free summer beach events as part of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) annual Better Beaches grant program.

In the past grant money allowed organizations like the Friends of Winthrop Beach, Winthrop Chamber of Commerce, and Friends of Belle Isle Marsh to hold larger events that drew

many to the country's first public beach during the summer months.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has put the brakes on larger gatherings.

See GRANTS Page 5



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For the latest news in Winthrop that you need to know, check

Winthroptranscript.com

WINTHROP POLICE BLOTTER

MONDAY, JUNE 22

1053: A resident came into the station to report that someone has been using her identity to file for unemployment benefits.

1446: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) at Winthrop and Atlantic Sts. for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of failing to stop for a red light. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

1509: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) on Main St. at the bridge for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of making an illegal left turn. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

1558: A resident in the area of Read St. reported that a white & black pit bull was running loose in the street and was headed toward the playground. Officers were unable to locate the dog upon their arrival.

1935: A caller reported that a person was blasting music in their motor vehicle on Shore Drive at Ocean Ave. An officer spoke to the MV operator, who said he was waiting for someone to come out of their house, and directed the operator to lower the volume.

2119: A resident reported that kids were setting off fireworks near the dumpster at Larsen Rink. They had left the area by the time the officers had arrived.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

0122: A caller reported that two male parties passing by in a pickup truck were harassing his girlfriend and him as they were walking along Shore Drive at Myrtle Ave. The officer spoke to all of the parties involved and restored the peace.

0936: An officer issued a parking ticket to a MV that was parked in the crosswalk at Summit Ave. and Revere St.

1003: A resident reported that their Paypal account was compromised in the amount of \$1500.

1415: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) at Shirley St. and Washington Ave. for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of failing to stop for a stop sign. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

1441: A resident came into the station to report that his identity had been used by someone who obtained unemployment benefits in the resident's name.

2036: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) on Tafts Ave. for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of failing to stop for a stop sign at Otis St. In addition, the operator was unlicensed. One of the passengers, who had a valid license, assumed operation of the MV.

2126: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) on Main St. for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of an inoperative plate light. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

2138: Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident (MVA) in the 900 block of Shirley St. in which one of the vehicles had flipped over. All of the parties were out of the MVs and were unhurt. The street was closed until both vehicles could be towed.

2230: A Shirley St. resident reported that her bicycle had been stolen from her back yard at some point during the past two days.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

0210: A trespass tow was reported at the Executive Apartments on Veterans Rd.

0938: An officer stopped a MV in the 300 block of Revere St. A party in the MV was transported forthwith to Chelsea District Court.

1126: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) at Winthrop St. for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of failing to stop for a stop sign. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

1505: A resident came into the station to report an attempted fraud scam by telephone from an unknown party, who demanded that she send \$500 cash cards for overdue taxes.

2054: An officer moved along seven motor vehicles that were parked on Grand View Ave. at Bay View and that were impeding traffic.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

0916: A Bartlett Rd. resident reported that a black pick-up truck had struck his parked MV, ripping off the side-view mirror, and fled the scene.

1251: Officers responded to a report of a physical altercation between two males on Siren St. The officers spoke to both parties and neither wished to press charges.

1452: An officer issued a parking ticket for a MV that was parked on the corner at Bowdoin St. and obstructing traffic. The officer had attempted to locate the owner, but to no avail.

1741: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) at Ocean View Ave. and Cottage Park Rd. for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of a marked lanes violation. The officer issued a citation to the operator., whose erratic driving almost caused a collision with the cruiser.

1804: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) at Washington Ave. and Thornton Park for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of having tinted windows in excess of the regulations. The MV, which had paper Texas plates, was being operated by a person with a suspended license. The officer issued a citation to the operator for the criminal offense of operating a MV after his right to operate had been suspended. A licensed operator was able to assume possession of the MV.

2014: A resident came into the station to report a case of identity theft.

2015: An officer responded to a report of two male parties passed out in a MV that was parked in the rear of Governor's Park. The officers spoke to the two male parties and arrested a third person, Destiny Angela Santana, 30, of Dorchester, on a charge of trafficking in 18 grams, but less than 36 grams, of heroin.

2329: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) in the 300 block of Winthrop St. for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of a marked lanes violation. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

2334: An officer directed a group of 14 vehicles playing loud music at the Public Landing to turn down the volume.

2355: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) at Shirley and Underhill Sts. for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of failing to stop for a stop sign. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

0122: An officer moved along four youths who were playing basketball at the Massa Playground.

1158: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) at Main and Walden Sts. for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of making an improper turn. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

1209: An officer issued a \$300 parking ticket to a MV that was parked in the handicapped spot at a local business.

1508: An officer assisted the parties with the exchange of papers at a MVA on Thornton Park in which a dump truck struck a parked MV.

1830: An officer assisted the parties with the exchange of papers at a minor MVA at a local business.

1843: An officer stopped a MV on Main St. that was being operated by employees who were unaware that the MV was unregistered. The MV was towed at the owner's request to his business in Lynn. The owner will receive a citation for the offense.

1917: A calling party reported that a group of 3-4 men were fighting in the middle of the street at Governor's Drive. All of the parties denied that there was an altercation when the officers arrived.

1950: Officers responded again to a report of the same male parties engaging in nan altercation. They were advised to leave the area or they will be charged with disturbing the peace.

2113: An officer issued a parking ticket for a MV that was parked on Revere St. and impeding the use of a driveway.

2229: Officers dispersed a group of youths playing basketball at Massa Playground.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

0036: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) at Shirley and Underhill Sts. for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of failing to stop for a stop sign. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

0324: An officer directed two persons at the Public Landing who were fishing past the gate on the ferry pier to fish from a location where they are allowed to do so.

0643: An officer directed a groundskeeper who was using a leaf blower at the Golf Club to cease doing so at that hour of the day. This has been an ongoing issue for neighbors.

0705: Officers responded to a report of a MVA at Payson and Harvard Sts. involving damage to the vehicles. However, one of the operators, who was driving a car with New Hampshire plates, left the scene. An officer was able to make contact with that operator, who said she was now in Lowell en route back to New Hampshire and would not be returning to Winthrop. The officer will file a report and take out appropriate charges against the operator from New Hampshire.

0723: An officer responded to a call from a store clerk at a local convenience store regarding a customer who was demanding extra coffee cups. The officer restored the peace.

0850: An officer responded to a call from a local business reporting that a person had smashed a bathroom door in the business the previous night. The officer will file a report and the matter was referred to the detectives.

1245: An officer restored the peace involving a landlord-tenant issue on Nevada St.

1502: A person came into the station to report that the plates had been stolen from his MV.

1737: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) at Paine and Main Sts. for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of making an illegal turn. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

1949: An officer directed a person, who was sleeping in a hammock on the premises in the 200 block of Shirley St. and who was unknown to the homeowner, to be on his way.

2122: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) at Winthrop and Main Sts. for a civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI). The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

2255: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) at Crest and Chamberlain Aves. for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of inoperable tail lights. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator, who agreed to park his MV for the evening and walk home.

2306: Officers dispersed a group of three MVs at Hannaford Park. The officer had discovered that one of the operators had a suspended license and ensured

that all of the vehicles were being operated by persons with active licenses.

2307: An officer responded to a report of a group of kids playing soccer in the parking lot at Governor's Park and restored the peace.

2323: An officer stopped a MV with no plates on Main St. The officer spoke to the owner of the MV, who was the mother of the operator, and she admitted that she had yet to register the MV. The MV was towed.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

0007: An officer dispersed youths who were playing in the courts at Ingleaside Park.

0009: An officer directed a group engaged in a loud poker party in a garage at a Grovers Ave. residence to shut the doors for the night.

0042: An officer stopped a motor vehicle (MV) on Washington Ave. for the civil motor vehicle infraction (CMVI) of failing to stop for a stop sign. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

1333: An officer stopped a MV on Tafts Ave. in which two, six year-old children were not in booster seats. The officer directed the operator to go home and put the seats in the MV.

1751: An officer responded to a call from a resident who reported that her daughter had brought home an unwanted guest. The young man agreed to leave and the officer gave him a courtesy ride to the Orient Heights T station.

1942: Officers and the Animal Control Officer (ACO) responded to a report of a St. Bernard and a gray Lab roaming freely on Grovers Ave. and headed to the beach (no doubt for an evening swim). The Grovers Ave. resident held the dogs until the ACO arrived and took possession of them. The ACO was able to locate the dogs' owners, who reside on Summit Ave., who said that they were unaware that their dogs had escaped.

2040: An officer ordered that a MV obstructing the free passage of traffic at the intersection of Somerset Ave. and Pleasant St. be towed. The officer also issued a parking ticket.

Research finds higher levels of discrimination for Section 8 renters

Staff Report

People with Section 8 rental vouchers in Greater

Boston face higher levels of discrimination than people without vouchers according to a [new study](#) released by

the Housing Discrimination Testing Program (HDTF) at Suffolk University Law School, Analysis Group, and the Boston Foundation.

The study also revealed that many landlords and real estate brokers discriminate against Black renters, whether they have a voucher or not.

Barbara Chandler, Senior Advisor on Civil Rights and Fair Housing at Metro Housing|Boston, served as a consultant to the research teams and assisted in the design of the testing used for the study. Metro Housing is the state's largest regional administrator of housing vouchers.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program, commonly known as Section 8, is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, elders,

and people with disabilities to afford housing in the private market. With a Section 8 voucher, the tenant pays up to 30 percent of his or her income toward rent and utilities and the voucher covers the rest of the housing costs up to a set maximum rent.

Metro Housing|Boston provides rental assistance to 10,000 families, and we know that people with vouchers face many barriers when trying to rent safe, decent housing that they can afford.

"My experience has shown that discrimination against voucher holders is both widespread and difficult to identify," says Julio Marcone, Fair Housing Client Advocate at Metro Housing. "Participants often cite that property owners are unwilling to perform voucher program-mandated repairs of their units, or refuse to fill out the required paperwork. Such noncompliance is not as obvious as an ad that spells out 'No Section 8,' but presents a barrier that is just as high."

M.L. is a housing voucher holder living in Boston who is Black. He wanted to move to Revere and found an apartment he liked. He was pre-approved; however, once

the property owners learned of his voucher, M.L. began getting the run-around.

"First I was approved. Then they said I needed more income to help pay for utilities," said M.L. "I got a part-time job in Revere. After that, they started to make up reasons why I wouldn't be able to move in. They didn't make any sense. It was clear that they did not want to rent to me because I had a voucher."

"Although a voucher is a great resource to those experiencing a housing crisis, it tends to be the primary reason behind participants being denied housing opportunity," said Deyanira Gonzalez, Fair Housing Client Advocate at Metro Housing. "Even when provided with the appropriate fair housing information, certain property owners will still choose to discriminate against voucher holders."

The study confirmed what Metro Housing's clients know first-hand. Voucher holders are shown fewer apartments and given fewer options than tenants paying market rate even when rental assistance will pay the rent being requested by the owner.

When race is added to the equation, Black people get

treated worse than those who are White.

The authors of the study encourage, and Metro Housing|Boston supports asking policy makers to consider the data to develop policies to address the discrimination occurring throughout the Boston area.

Their recommendations include:

- Increase penalties and mandatory training for real estate professionals and prohibit them from charging broker's fees.

- Strengthen anti-discrimination laws and fair housing enforcement and education and increase resources for testing.

- Improve and streamline the system for using vouchers.

Both federal and state law prohibits housing discrimination based on race, and it is illegal in Massachusetts to discriminate against a person because they have a housing voucher, known as source of income.

WINTHROP MARKETPLACE

pass the time with new recipes!

SPICY THAI BASIL CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS:

½ cup chicken broth

1 tablespoon oyster sauce

1 tablespoon soy sauce, or as needed

2 teaspoons fish sauce

1 teaspoon white sugar

1 teaspoon brown sugar

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

1 pound skinless, boneless chicken thighs, coarsely chopped

¼ cup sliced shallots

4 cloves garlic, minced

2 tablespoons minced Thai chilies, Serrano, or other hot pepper

1 cup very thinly sliced fresh basil leaves

2 cups hot cooked rice

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1: Whisk chicken broth, oyster sauce, soy sauce, fish sauce, white sugar, and brown sugar together in a bowl until well blended.

STEP 2: Heat large skillet over high heat. Drizzle in oil. Add chicken and stir fry until it loses its raw color, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in shallots, garlic, and sliced chilies. Continue cooking on high heat until some of the juices start to caramelize in the bottom of the pan, about 2 or 3 more minutes. Add about a tablespoon of the sauce mixture to the skillet; cook and stir until sauce begins to caramelize, about 1 minute.

STEP 3: Pour in the rest of the sauce. Cook and stir until sauce has deglazed the bottom of the pan. Continue to cook until sauce glazes onto the meat, 1 or 2 more minutes. Remove from heat.

STEP 4: Stir in basil. Cook and stir until basil is wilted, about 20 seconds. Serve with rice.

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Multi Family Yard Sale

291 Pleasant St.
Sun. July 12 8 am-3 pm

Furniture,
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Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito tour the YMCA of Greater Boston headquarters last week.

Baker, MBTA and Community Partners highlight food security partnership with The RIDE

Governor Charles Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito last week joined MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak and officials from the City of Boston, Greater Boston YMCA and Greater Boston Food Bank to highlight an innovative partnership to help provide Boston’s most vulnerable residents with access to food by utilizing RIDE paratransit service.

“Our administration is committed to addressing food security concerns created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and this partnership between the MBTA, City of Boston, YMCA and Greater Boston Food Bank is an innovative way we can support our most vulnerable residents during these unprecedented times,” said Baker. “We are glad this initiative is making a difference, and appreciate the work of so many partners to make it happen.”

MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak added, “I want to express my sincere gratitude to the operators of our RIDE vehicles who have stepped up to help our

most vulnerable neighbors access food. This partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank, the City of Boston and the YMCA has been a tremendous success, resulting in the delivery of tens of thousands of bags of groceries to citizens in need.”

“We acknowledge the strong leadership of Governor Baker during the pandemic and relish this opportunity to partner with the MBTA, Mayor Walsh and City of Boston officials to deliver food to our most vulnerable children, families and seniors. It is a blessing to coalesce our organizational skills, infrastructures and ‘people power’ in the spirit of serving others,” said James Morton, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Boston. “We thank the MBTA and City of Boston for allowing the YMCA of Greater Boston to participate in this important partnership, as we are universally committed to mitigating hunger for all Bostonians during this crisis and beyond. We appreciate the recognition of our work from our partners, Governor Baker and Mayor Walsh.”

As ridership on the MBTA’s RIDE service has significantly declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, available RIDE vehicles are currently being utilized to pick up and deliver food items and school meals to residents. Collaborating with GBFB and the YMCA, RIDE drivers arrive at the YMCA location on Huntington Avenue daily to pick up an assortment of grocery bags and shelf stable school meals. Groceries are delivered by RIDE vehicles to designated homes, the amount based on the size of the household and whether or not the family is enrolled in the Boston Public School partnership.

As of the end of June, the RIDE has completed over 8,000 deliveries, totaling more than 12,000 grocery bags and nearly 60,000 school meals to over 1,200 Boston Public School children.

Assistance (VITA) program is for taxpayers with an annual income of \$56,000 or less, those with disabilities, as well as taxpayers with limited or no English language proficiency. The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program provides free tax help to taxpayers who are 60 and older. TCE sites are often operated in partnership with AARP Tax-Aide. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, only some in-person services are available. Taxpayers who qualify for tax-free preparation program should check directly with local VITA and TCE sites.

State tax filing for residents is July 15

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) this week reminded Massachusetts taxpayers that the deadline to file both federal and state income tax returns is Wednesday, July 15, 2020. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the tax filing deadlines were extended 90 days from the original April 15, 2020 deadline.

Taxpayers should keep in mind that a range of free electronic options are available for eligible taxpayers, including free [fillable forms](#).

“The Department encourages all Massachusetts taxpayers to utilize the DOR website and review options for filing their state

income taxes,” said DOR Commissioner Geoffrey E. Snyder. “To date, more than 90 percent of Massachusetts taxpayers who have filed their 2019 income taxes have done so electronically. Given social distancing requirements and remote working conditions, electronic filing remains a safe and secure option for refund processing.”

•Assistance for Massachusetts Taxpayers
Volunteers certified by the Internal Revenue Service will provide free tax help for lower-income taxpayers, as well as senior citizens, with both federal and state tax returns. The Volunteer Income Tax

Assistance (VITA) program is for taxpayers with an annual income of \$56,000 or less, those with disabilities, as well as taxpayers with limited or no English language proficiency. The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program provides free tax help to taxpayers who are 60 and older. TCE sites are often operated in partnership with AARP Tax-Aide. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, only some in-person services are available. Taxpayers who qualify for tax-free preparation program should check directly with local VITA and TCE sites.

•Earned Income Tax Credit Increased this Year

State doubles rent relief and foreclosure prevention funding

Staff Report

Metro Housing Boston and other regional housing organizations have partnered with the Department of Housing and Community Development to almost double the assistance available to families impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis by providing assistance that will help households who fall behind in their rent or mortgage payments that may lead to eviction or foreclosure.

The need for rental assistance for residents in Greater Boston is illustrated by the fact that Metro Housing distributed more than \$1 million dollars in RAFT assistance during the month of June alone, more than any other month in the history of the program.

The Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) program builds upon the popular and effective [Residential Assistance for Families in Transition \(RAFT\)](#) program that Metro Housing administers in 29 greater Boston communities. Funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development,

ERMA is a homelessness prevention program for families experiencing housing crises and expands eligibility to households with income of 80 percent of the area median, which for a family of three is \$86,650.

ERMA allows eligible households to apply for up to \$4,000 in assistance that can be used flexibly to meet the expenses often associated with housing instability, eviction, foreclosure, and homelessness. The program has allocated \$20 million statewide for rental relief through June 2021, which when added to the funding available for RAFT in the last fiscal year doubles available resources.

“The impact of this relief for property owners cannot be understated,” said Chris Norris, Executive Director of Metro Housing. “Not only do these property owners provide housing for thousands of renters in our region, but their own housing stability is at risk. It is in everyone’s interest that renters and owners alike get this help.”

A recent survey of 1,500 people by MassINC Polling Group, found that 29

percent of renters missed all or part of a housing payment in April, May, or June. The report says that if the current health and economic crisis continues for another six months, that only 40 percent of people expect to be able to keep up with their housing payments. While 12 percent of property owners reported that they had missed all or part of a mortgage payment through June, 61 percent of home-owning poll respondents stated that they were likely to keep up with payments through six months.

“There have been so many families faced with a loss of income during this health crisis,” said Felisha Marshall, Director of Housing Supports at Metro Housing. “The demand for rental and mortgage assistance has surged over the past three months. This increase in funding and expansion of eligibility will help meet a great community need in metropolitan Boston and across the state.”

For information on ERMA, visit <https://bit.ly/Rentrelief>

Updates on the CBD project

The following is a summary of the work completed last week and the work P. Gioioso & Sons, Inc. (contractor) has scheduled for the next two weeks for the Center Business District (CBD). Please note, the anticipated schedule may vary due to unforeseen site conditions, weather conditions, or other factors out of the contractor’s control.

Construction Updates and Schedule:

Work completed last week (6/29/20 to 7/2/20):

1. Continued construction of the new sewer main on Woodside Ave., between Bartlett Rd. and Adams St.
2. Continued construction of the new water main on Woodside Ave., between Pauline St. and Somerset Ave.
3. Installed permanent sewer service connections.
4. Excavated test pit on Woodside Ave. to locate existing utilities.
5. Installed temporary trench pavement over all trenches on Woodside Ave. and Somerset Ave.

Two-week Anticipated Schedule (7/6/20 to 7/17/20):

July 6 to July 10, 2020

Continue construction of the new sewer main on Woodside Ave., between

Bartlett Rd. and Adams St.

Continue construction of the new water main on Woodside Ave., between Pauline St. and Somerset Ave.

Begin construction of the new water main on Somerset Ave., between Woodside Ave. and Cottage Park Rd.

Install temporary trench pavement for trenches excavated on Woodside Ave. and Somerset Ave.

July 13 to July 17, 2020

Continue construction of the new sewer main on Woodside Ave., between Bartlett Rd. and Adams St.

Continue construction of the new water main on Pauline St., between Woodside Ave. and Walden St.

Install temporary trench pavement for trenches excavated on Woodside Ave. and Pauline St.

NOTICES:

Residents and businesses with temporary water service connections (blue hoses) are requested not to move these hoses or shut off the outside faucet the hoses are connected to. The hoses provide your property with water service during construction. If the outside faucet is closed, it will interrupt your water service. If the hose is moved it can create a trip hazard where

the temporary water service crosses the sidewalk. Please do not move these hoses to perform yard work. If you have landscaping services at your property, please inform your landscaper not to move these hoses or shut off the outside faucet. Running over these hoses with a lawn mower cut the hoses and interrupt water service until the hose can be replaced. If you see a trip hazard, please contact Frank Fruci (P. Gioioso & Sons, Inc.) at (617) 592-3784 immediately to report the hazard.

Occasionally, residents and businesses may experience discolored tap water because of construction activities. Construction may disrupt sediment in water pipes and cause it to become suspended in the water. Discolored water is not a health threat and is the result of low levels of naturally occurring iron in water. If you are experiencing water discoloration, flush your water from a faucet that does not have a screen (like the bathtub or outside spigot) until you get clear water. If your water is still discolored after several minutes of flushing, you may need to wait a few hours for the sediment to settle and the water in the main to clear.

State officials announce updated travel guidelines

Staff Report

The Baker-Polito Administration last week announced new COVID-19 public health [guidelines](#) on travel and transportation.

Effective Wednesday, July 1, all travelers arriving to Massachusetts, including residents returning home, are to self-quarantine for 14-days. This guidance does not apply to travelers

from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York or New Jersey. Additionally, workers designated by the federal government as essential critical infrastructure workers are also exempt from this directive.

Travelers who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 are instructed to not travel to Massachusetts.

All visitors and residents of Massachusetts are also reminded that the use of masks or face coverings in public places where individuals cannot socially distance from others remains [required](#).

These new guidelines replace [previously announced](#) Massachusetts travel guidance. For national travel information, please visit www.travel.state.gov.

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OBITUARIES

Dorothy Grace Polito

Of Melrose

Dorothy Grace Polito, 33, of Melrose MA, formerly of East Boston, died on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at Melrose Wakefield Hospital due to complications from staph and sepsis infection.

Born in Boston, MA on October 20, 1986, she was the cherished daughter of Ronalee (Small) Polito of East Boston and the late Richard Polito.

Dorothy was a graduate of East Boston High School Class of 2005, attended Bunker Hill Community College, Gibbs College, and later earned her Practical Nursing Certificate in 2013 at the Medical Professional Institute in Malden, MA.

She was the devoted mother of three-year-old Ilyana Polito and the fiancé of Michael Murray of Mel-



rose, MA.

Dorothy was the adored sister of Everett Fraser of East Boston and Richard Polito of Winthrop.

She was the loving niece of Catherine Clapp of Rosedale, Maryland, Lillian Nesbit and Samuel Small of East Boston, Suzanne Small of Everett, and the late Carol Kilbreth, Louise Shepherd, Marion Cheffro, Patricia Brown, Charles Small, William Small and Barbara McCormack.

She is also survived by many loving family members and friends.

Family and friends will honor Dorothy's life by gathering at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home, 971 Saratoga Street, East Boston, MA on Wednesday, July 8th, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

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DeLeo, Boncore join effort to expand voter access

Speaker Robert DeLeo and Senator Joseph Boncore joined their colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature last week to pass a bill that expands voter access and ensures voters have safe voting options for all remaining 2020 elections, including the September 1, 2020 state primary and November 3, 2020 general election, in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The legislation, for the first time in state history, would establish a vote-by-mail option and early voting period for the upcoming fall elections. In addition to those options, the bill also addresses polling place safety for those who choose to cast their ballots in person.

“The pandemic has changed many aspects of our lives, but a person’s ability to exercise their fundamental right to vote and chose their government should not be one of them,” stated Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). “While we continue to grapple with the ongoing pandemic, the elections bill we passed takes a historic step by allowing voters to cast their ballots by mail, vote early or to safely do so in person on election day. I am proud of the path we have charted with this bill as the Senate has always championed greater participation in our democracy. I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to our clerks, election officials and poll workers across our state for ensuring the integrity of our elections and their commitment to democracy. I would also like to thank all who have collaborated on this urgent matter including my colleagues, Senators Finegold, Creem and Rodrigues as well as House Speaker DeLeo and his members for their hard work in advancing this bill.”

“Voting and public health don’t need to conflict. The bill passed by the Legislature gives voters concerned about COVID-19 a number of choices on how they want to perform their civic duty of voting,” said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo (D-Winthrop). “I thank the Senate President, Leader Moran, Chairs Michlewitz and Lawn, Senator Finegold and my colleagues in the Legislature in passing this bill.”

“Ballot access is key to upholding our democ-

racy. This legislation will empower voters with the confidence to safely participate in the fall elections,” said Senator Joe Boncore (D-Winthrop). “Our elections should not be jeopardized by a public health crisis. Vote by mail measures are a necessary step to ensure election security and accessibility. I am grateful to our Senate and House colleagues for collaborating swiftly on this bipartisan legislation.”

“I want to thank Speaker DeLeo and Chairman Lawn for their leadership in bringing this responsible legislation before the House,” said Representative RoseLee Vincent (D-Revere). «Given that we are in the midst of a volatile pandemic, it is good to have a plan in place to ensure our elections are protected, especially if we see a second surge in the Fall.”

“I’d like to thank my fellow conferees, my House co-Chair Representative Lawn, Senate President Spilka and Chairman Rodrigues for their dedication to upholding safe and accessible elections in the Commonwealth. We started this process with the goal to make voting easier during COVID-19 and this bill does just that by providing voters with options,” said Senate Election Laws Committee Chair Barry Finnegold (D-Andover). “For the first time ever in Massachusetts, voters can vote by mail and vote early in both the 2020 primary and general elections. In-person voting on election day remains an option and is made safer in this legislation. The bill equips clerks with the tools they need to count ballots expeditiously and adapt to these election advancements.”

“This bill is essential to the operation and integrity of democracy in the Commonwealth during this public health crisis. I’d like to thank Speaker DeLeo, my co-Chair Senator Finegold, as well as my fellow conferees, Leader Moran, Chairman Michlewitz, and membership for their commitment to safeguarding the health and rights of our citizens during the upcoming 2020 elections,” said Representative John Lawn, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Election Laws (D-Watertown). “I am truly proud of the team effort that has led us to the finish line to pass this comprehen-

sive legislation, which will provide many fair, safe and accessible options to voters and ensure that all voices are heard.”

“Strong voter participation is central to our democracy and we cannot allow the Covid-19 pandemic to prevent people from exercising this fundamental right,” said Senate Majority Leader Cindy Creem (D-Newton). “The provisions of this bill will ensure that voters can exercise that right in a manner that is safe, secure and accessible.

“This election reform package will ensure that the voters of the Commonwealth have safe and easy access to the ballot box throughout the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means (D-Boston). “By expanding mail in ballot and early voting options, these measures will safeguard our elections and will guarantee that our democratic process will not be hampered by this public health crisis.”

“Our electoral process must have the resiliency to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic without pitting voter participation against public health,” asserted Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester). “This bill responds to that need with important tools to meet the task at hand, choosing our elected officials.”

“Given the continued uncertainty surrounding the novel coronavirus, it’s important that Massachusetts residents be given multiple options to safely exercise their right to vote and make sure their voice is heard,” said House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr. (R-North Reading). “This legislation allows individuals to choose the voting method they feel most comfortable with so they can take steps to ensure their personal health and safety is not compromised.”

The components of the bill are as follows:

Implements an early vote-by-mail system: An application to receive an early voting ballot for the primary will be mailed to all registered voters by July 15, 2020. The Secretary will then mail another application for the general election by September 14, 2020. Both applications and ballots will have postage costs already paid for.

Ballots postmarked on or before November 3, 2020 will be counted until Friday November 6, 2020 at 5.PM. Applications for early voting and absentee voting must be received 4 business days before the election, by Wednesday August 26 2020 (for the primary) and Wednesday Oct. 28 2020.

Creates early voting for the primary and expands early voting periods: For the first time in Massachusetts, early voting will be available for the state primary and will take place from Saturday, August 22, 2020 through Friday, August 28, 2020. Early voting for the general election is scheduled to take place from Tuesday, October 17, 2020 to Friday, October 30, 2020. Makes in-person voting safer and more efficient: The bill allows municipalities, with proper notice, to consolidate polling places and eliminate the check-out table at these locations, allowing for a more efficient process and fewer poll workers. It also expands who is eligible to serve as a poll worker, knowing that many current volunteers are seniors who may feel less comfortable working in public during COVID-19.

Provides tools to assist clerks: Acknowledging the increased burden these options may place on municipalities and clerks, the bill also provides for several accommodations to make the logistics of processing votes easier. The legislation allows for tabulating ballots prior to election day, and it offers pre-addressed envelopes to voters, so their applications go directly to their clerk’s office.

Tasks the Secretary of State with creating an online portal and promoting voting options: To make it as easy as possible for people to apply for general election early voting, the bill requires Secretary Galvin’s office to create an online portal not later than October 1, 2020. Electronic applications for early voting will be available for the general election, and if feasible, for the primary election.

The bill also requires the Secretary of State to conduct a public awareness campaign to inform and notify voters of the many options available to cast a vote in upcoming 2020 elections.

State officials announce GIC deferring premium payments

Staff Report

Governor Charles Baker announced that the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) would defer \$190 million in premium payments during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) from local cities and towns, regional school districts, and other entities that became members of the GIC through the Municipal Partnership Act.

This measure will provide important cash-flow relief to GIC municipal members across Massachusetts without compromising the GIC’s ability to pay all member claims without any impact on total

FY21 revenue.

“By deferring these monthly GIC premium payments, we are providing relief to local municipalities that are facing budget challenges and cash-flow constraints due to COVID-19,” said Baker. “We are pleased to implement this payment deferral and will continue working to support municipal budgets and government services that are important to the people of Massachusetts.”

All FY21 revenues will be billed and collected later during the fiscal year. The total cash-flow relief anticipated as a result of the FY21 first quarter deferral is

approximately \$63 million per month or approximately \$190 million total.

This announcement builds upon additional measures put in place by the Administration to provide cash flow relief and budgetary support to municipalities. This includes making up to \$502 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund available to cities and towns for COVID-19 response efforts, as well as making up to \$200 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund available for costs related to reopening public schools, \$194 million in federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief

Fund grants, and \$25 million in matching funds for remote learning technology grants.

The Group Insurance Commission is a quasi-independent state agency governed by a 17-member Commission. It provides and administers health insurance and other benefits to 460,000 members including the Commonwealth’s employees and retirees, and their dependents and survivors, as well as participating municipalities, Housing and Redevelopment Authorities’ personnel, retired municipal employees, and teachers in certain governmental units.

Ferry service returns to Spectacle Island for summer

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, National Park Service, Boston Harbor Now, and Boston Harbor Cruises announced that a public ferry service to Spectacle Island, one of the 34 islands and peninsulas in Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park, began for the season.

Public ferry service to other islands remains closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Spectacle Island boasts some of the most magnificent vistas of the Boston skyline and is only a 20-minute ferry ride away from downtown Boston. With ferry services beginning for the summer season from Long Wharf, the island will be open and accessible to visitors. Safety measures including enhanced cleaning protocols on island and onboard the public ferry vessels have been instituted. Reduced ferry capacity, re-

vised boarding procedures, touchless ticketing and instructional signage supporting physical distancing – will be in place in compliance with Governor Baker’s reopening plan. Facial coverings will be required while onboard the ferry and visitors are strongly encouraged to continue to wear their facial coverings while exploring the Island.

Although the visitor center will remain closed, restrooms, hiking trails, the swimming beach, moor-

ings, and the marina will be available for public use. Physical distancing and COVID-19 guidelines will remain in place while on the island and onboard the ferries.

Ferry service to Spectacle Island is provided by Boston Harbor Cruises. For more information on ferry schedules, pricing, and amenities, visit<https://www.bostonharborislands.org/> or <https://www.bostonharborcruises.com/harbor-islands/>

Winthrop

SUN TRANSCRIPT

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OUR Opinions

THE STOCK MARKET DOES NOT REPRESENT THE U.S. ECONOMY

We don't pretend to be experts either in the stock market or the economy in general.

However, as Bob Dylan put it, "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows," and similarly, the average American doesn't need a Ph.D. in economics to understand that the recent record height of the stock market indices -- the S&P 500, the Dow Jones 30 Industrials, and the Nasdaq -- does not reflect the health of the U.S. economy.

Increasing economic inequality -- what has become known as the disconnect between Wall St. and Main St. -- has been the broad trend of American life for the past 40 years.

Ever since Ronald Reagan (aided and abetted by the Democrats, by the way) deregulated the banking and other industries, gutted the labor unions, reduced tax rates for the rich, and abrogated the antitrust laws, America's immense wealth has become concentrated in the hands of the very few to an extent never before seen in the modern world.

Consider that the top 1% of American households now control more than half of the equity in U.S. public and private companies, according to data from the Federal Reserve. In relative terms, the top 1% now has more wealth than the entire middle class and as much wealth as 90% of all Americans.

The ratio of the salary of a CEO vs. the salary of the typical worker of a publicly-traded company in 1965 was about 20-1. That ratio today is about 350-1.

This is only part of the story, however. The real reason for the increase in the disparity between the top 1% and everyone else is that middle-class jobs in America have disappeared at an alarming rate to the benefit of the top 1%.

According to a Brookings Institution report, the two most highly-valued companies in the country in 1962 -- AT&T and General Motors -- employed nearly 1.2 million people combined.

Last year, the two largest companies in the S&P 500 -- Microsoft and Apple -- employed just 280,000 persons. Apple puts together almost all of its products in China, using third-party manufacturing companies that operate the modern-day equivalent of sweatshops.

Further, consider that the wealthiest top 10 percent of Americans own about 84 percent of U.S. stocks, with the top 1 percent owning 40 percent.

So put those two trends together -- fewer middle class jobs and stock ownership of American companies concentrated in the hands of a few -- and the result simply is this: Income that formerly went to the American middle-class has shifted to countries with low-wage workers, with the wealthy netting the difference.

There also is another factor at play. The health of the U.S. stock market not only does not represent the U.S. economy, it also does not even represent the stock market itself.

The five largest listed companies -- Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Alphabet (Google), and Facebook -- have continued to climb this year. Through the end of April, these companies were up roughly 10 percent, while the 495 other companies in the S&P were down 13 percent. These highly valued firms -- Microsoft, Amazon and Apple are each worth more than \$1 trillion -- now account for about one-fifth of the market value of the entire index, the highest level in 30 years.

The coronavirus pandemic is exacerbating the trend of the past 40 years: The rich are getting richer, while everybody else is getting poorer and deeper into debt.

Without government policies -- higher tax rates on the wealthy, vigorous antitrust enforcement, and support of labor unions -- that will bring back into alignment the economic forces that created the great American middle-class of the 1950s and 60s, America is destined to become an oligarchy, otherwise known as a banana republic, with grave consequences for our democracy.

A phrase attributed to Louis Brandeis succinctly put it this way, "We must make our choice. We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."

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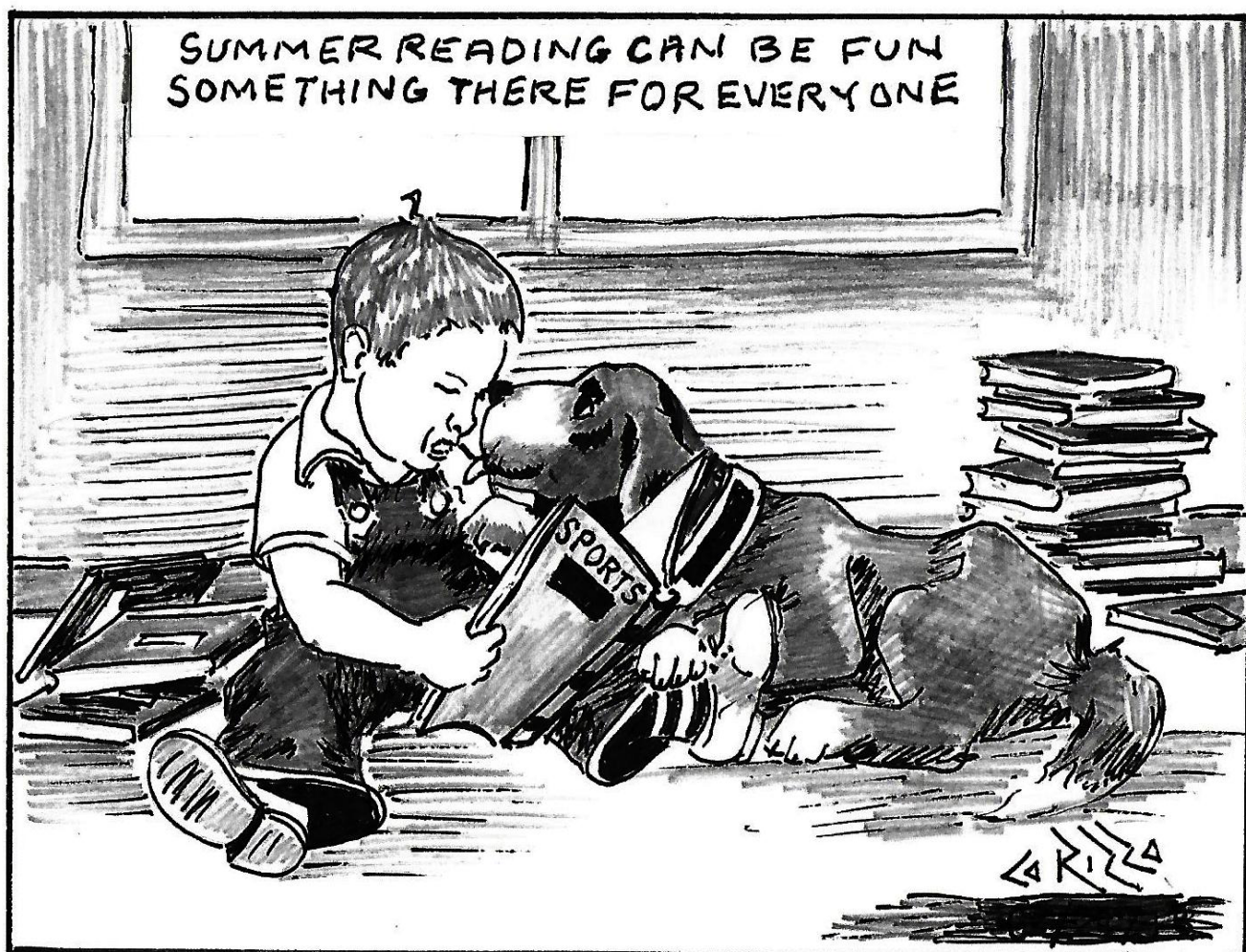
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THE BEST THING NEXT TO A YOUNG READER IS A GOOD LISTENER

GUEST OP-ED

Life is a puzzle

willing to try?

Most people need a little more money. How will you obtain it? Chances are it won't just appear. Utilize what you know and your skills to work for you. Everyone has gifts and abilities that can be useful if channeled properly. Often it may be what you know or what you can do that will work for you to develop more income. Keep in mind that this may take some time. What you are thinking about today could take weeks or months to see results. Therefore, start now.

We often give up. We try and work hard and seldom see much results and then stop. Often, we get close to being where we want to be and then quit. We lose 20 pounds but put it right back on. We give up a habit but go back to it. We start a project and then quit. So

often, a great idea is like a puzzle with so many pieces that have to fall into place. Once you find all the pieces the puzzle is a beautiful picture that you put together with patience and trying and trying again to fit the right pieces where they belong.

Our lives are like puzzles. We must have a picture in our minds of what we would like to look like if we are going to put that kind of life together. We try different pieces and often they don't fit. Too often we try to make the pieces fit where they don't belong and that never works for a picture. So, you have to keep trying. I've seen people with puzzles out on a table for weeks trying to figure out which piece goes where. This is where most of our lives are much of the time. Trying to find the

right piece of the puzzle.

Making the picture of our lives the way we want it to be is often changing. What we may want today has probably changed from what we wanted even ten years ago. The dynamics are still the same though. Whatever you are working on still requires patience, effort, faith and most importantly a clear picture in your mind of what you are trying to put together.

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

LETTER to the Editor

PLEASE WEAR A MASK

Dear Editor:

COVID-19 unexpectedly rendered people in their 60s and older a vulnerable demographic: physically, emotionally, and financially. Most retirees are poignantly aware of this disturbing truth. For those who, like me, decided to retire recently, COVID-19 did not enter the calculus. Many people plan to reinvent themselves upon retiring, but wearing a mask and living with a global pandemic, was not anyone's aspiration. The

coveted new life-chapter retirees are supposed to start includes traveling and spending more time with loved ones, but not being in isolation.

The staggering number of deaths from COVID-19 makes everyone feel defenseless and compels us to think about our mortality. This unsettling time has confirmed what we knew: humans are not meant to live without close contact with others or die alone. At virtual get-togethers with family and friends, someone always declares that we need to adjust to the new normal. I can't help

thinking to myself that this virus is novel, but there is nothing normal about living during a pandemic. Villains like COVID-19 usually divide and conquer to achieve their plans to wreak havoc and devastate lives. COVID-19 dictated social distancing, destroyed livelihoods, canceled trips, and disrupted education. It took lives and eliminated funerals, leaving families to mourn loved ones alone.

Hopefully, not only older citizens but people of all ages will stay determined to prevent contracting this dreadful virus. To avoid this extremely infectious

disease, everyone must continue to wear a mask when interacting with other people and practice safety measures recommended by the CDC. Many find wearing a mask inconvenient,

I like to see it as a necessary nuisance. In a world that has been upended, it behooves us to consider that, for now, wearing a mask is the ticket we all need to reclaim what the pandemic stole from us. The theft includes writing that new life-chapter, discovering new places, hugging grandchildren, and ... not wearing a mask.

Iolanda Volpe

The Winthrop Sun Transcript reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Transcript publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Transcript. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

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WINTHROP Then and Now

Winthrop Improvement and Historical Association

By G. David Hubbard, Town Historian • Photos courtesy of Stephen F. Moran

ARTICLE-927 - FOOTPATH ACCESS TO NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD STATIONS



As our peninsula developed from a few farms into an active seaside resort community, roads were laid out and the Narrow Gauge Railroad was established to provide transportation for the residents and visiting vacationers. It was in 1875 that the Ocean Spray area, along what is now Shore Drive, began to have summer cottages constructed. This was followed in 1883 by the Highlands and Cottage Hill subdivision activities and in the early 1890’s Court Park joined in the development of new home sites. As the above named subdivisions were laid out, public pathways/steps were included in the plot plans for three purposes. The first of such pathways were constructed to enable people to more easily walk from their homes to the nearest Train Station. The second group was designed to insure that residents in the area would always have free access to the water/beaches. The third group evolved as short cuts between streets so neighbors could drop by and visit one another. In almost all cases, the pathways were laid out and deeded to the Town as part of the initial subdivision plot plans prepared by the various developers or landowners. This is supported by the many town maps from 1876 to date that continue to show these public pathways. In addition to providing ready access to the trains and beaches, children used them as “secret trails” to school and residents, who liked to walk to the local stores found them to be a scenic diversion as they strolled out to patronize the Winthrop merchants. One or two of these trails, all owned by the town, have been encroached upon by abutters resulting in neighbors taking action to retain access rights to the water. If you know of any such paths, consider reporting them to the local authorities so they can be reopened for public use. This article will address the first group of 6 pathways that reduced the walk to our various Train Stations. The rest will be the subject of future articles.

Quincy Path/Steps - (built 1887 on Prospect Hill - see picture 1) Runs from 66 Quincy Avenue down to Revere Street and then one could proceed on to the Highland Station.

Summit Avenue Path – (built 1887 on Floyd Hill – see picture 2) Runs from 74 Summit Avenue down to 67 Sagamore Avenue, then to 47 Hutchinson Avenue and finally opens out at 49 Crest Avenue across from the site of the Highland Station.

Buckthorn Path – (built ~ 1920 – see picture 3) Runs from Buckthorn Terrace to 59 Buchanan Street. This path gave easy access to the Center Station for the residents of the Beacon



Villa Sanatorium/Rooming House and the neighboring homes.

Short Street Path – (built 1887 - see picture 4) Runs from 134 Hermon Street down steps and via Short Street to the Ingalls Station site on Walden Street.

Loring Path - (built 1891) Runs from 162 Court Road up 32 steps to 75 Loring Road where it intersects with Lowell Road for an easy walk to Pauline street and the Center Station.

Green Hill Path - (laid out in 1883 to provide Cottage Hill residents access to the “Short Beach” station at what is now the Northern end of Yirell Beach). This station only lasted until 1887 when the line around Water Tower Hill was shut

down. It was then that the Narrow Gauge Railroad began operation and its new Beach Station at Delbys Corner was opened to serve those living on Cottage Hill. This path runs from 36 Cottage Avenue up to 52 Prospect Avenue, then on to 66 Harbor View Avenue and finally down to 102 Terrace Avenue.

All of these pathways are still useable but a few could use some realignment of their stone steps. Hopefully some of our readers will take the time to walk one or more of these charming pathways a number of which are being considered for inclusion into the “walking trails” being proposed for public use under a grant.



10 years ago
July 1, 2010

There is a sign in the window of Publix Shoe that Winthrop hasn’t been seen in 63 years: “Retirement Sale.” After more than six decades of running his popular shoe store in Winthrop Center, Anthony “Tony” Rossetti is calling it a career and closing his business. He and his brother, Louis, who passed away in 1999, first opened the store on November 18, 1947, a few doors away from its current location. Together the brothers made the early transition from shoe repair to shoe sale business and became the go-to gentlemen for shoes for Winthrop residents for the next five decades.

Thanks to a \$50,000 donation from the Viking Pride Foundation, the Winthrop School Committee voted unanimously to reduce the student user fee at Winthrop High for sports and other extracurricular activities from the present \$425 to \$250. However, a price tag for this reduction was that the sports program at the Middle School would be eliminated and replaced with an intramural program. The cost savings for this move was estimated to be \$40,000.

The town of Winthrop’s annual Independence Day celebrations is scheduled to take place this Sunday, July 4. The Annual Horribles Parade, led by organizer Pete Gobel and his Point Shirley volunteers, is set to step off from the Public Landing at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning. Veteran fireworks organizer Lou Camacho and his band of merry pyrotechnics aficionados are ready to light up the night sky beginning at sunset on Sunday evening.

The Last Air Bender, Despicable Me, and Predator are playing at the Revere Showcase Cinemas.

20 years ago
June 29, 2000

Winthrop residents will celebrate the Fourth of July with the annual Horribles Parade and field events on Pt. Shirley and fireworks at Coughlin Park that promise to be the best ever starting at 9:30 at night.

A consulting firm has determined that a commuter ferry from Winthrop to downtown Boston is feasible, with sufficient ridership projected, but that numerous hurdles still need to be overcome.

The selectmen approved a request by Town Meeting that \$100,000 from MWRA mitigation funds be given to the School Department. The selectmen and the School Committee also have begun planning for a Prop. 2 and 1/2 tax override.

Winthrop resident Rick DiPietro has been chosen the number one draft pick in the NHL entry draft by the New York Islanders. He is the first goalkeeper ever chosen number one since the inception of the entry draft in 1969. DiPietro enjoyed a stellar freshman season as the goaltender for Boston University this past season.

The Perfect Storm, The Patriot, and Me, Myself, and Irene are playing at the Revere Showcase Cinemas.

30 years ago
July 3, 1990

This year’s Fourth of July fireworks display to be shot off from Snake Island promises to be the biggest and best ever. Citizens Fireworks Committee Chairman John Lyons said that the committee is still a bit short of its goal of raising \$6000. Residents also will

take part in the traditional Horribles Parade on Pt. Shirley on the Fourth.

Although local residents will see a six percent increase in their water and sewer bills, that still is less than half of what had been the projected rate increase earlier in the year.

Animal Control Officer Jack Van Buskirk said he is trying to revamp his office to bring about better enforcement of the town’s leash, pooper-scooper, and licensing by-laws.

The Cottage Park Y.C. will host the Atlantic Coast Snipe Regatta this coming weekend. The CPYC’s own Henry Filter won the regatta last year, earning his yacht club the right to host the event this year.

The Winthrop Hospital has been notified that it has received its three-year accreditation.

The Jungle Book, Ghost, and The Adventures of Ford Fairlane are playing at the Revere Showcase Cinemas.

40 years ago
June 25, 1980

A new administrative position aimed at controlling student discipline was created on a one-year trial basis by a 4-1 vote of the School Committee. Chairman Richard Gill was the lone dissenter, questioning why teachers could not take on more of that responsibility.

Nils V. “Swede” Nelson has been named honorary chairman of the Winthrop Community Hospital fundraising campaign, campaign chairman John T. Conway has announced.

The local Jaycees “arrested” more than 250 persons and raised more than \$1000 in its first annual Jail Day last Saturday.

50 years ago
July 2, 1970

Redistricting looms for students in the first and fourth grades at the E.B. Newton and Centre schools because of overcrowding. Asst. Supt. of Schools Charles Nugent said that he has conferred with Building Inspector Richard Ferrara and Fire Prevention Inspector John Donovan to consider alternate space that could be used for classrooms.

Boat thieves struck again in Winthrop, making off with at least three small power boats and breaking into four others.

A vicious telephone extortion racket struck Winthrop last week and one woman who was frightened by the mysterious caller lost \$50.00 before local police were notified. She had been told to place \$50 at a certain location or her husband, who was at work, would be killed, according to Police Sgt. Paul Abely.

The local Emblem Club received a trophy for Best Youth Activities at the annual state convention that was held in Chicopee.

Clint Eastwood stars in Kelly’s Heroes, held over by popular demand, at the Winthrop Cinema.

60 years ago
June 30, 1960

Winthrop will blow the works over the weekend in celebration of the Fourth of July with a huge Pt. Shirley celebration and two mammoth bonfires at Winthrop Beach that will highlight three days of picnics and parties. Rare will be the blocks where several individual cookouts and parties are not held from Saturday through Monday. A great many residents are planning family trips to mountains and seashore to mark the occasion of Independence Day.

Oliver Green, Chairman

of the Board of Appeals, was injured in a freak accident as he was crossing Shirley St. after leaving Towne Liquor Mart. A fishing hook, belonging to a 15 year-old boy who was passing by Green on his bike with three fishing poles, caught Green on his finger. Authorities were unable to remove the hook from the finger until Mr. Green reached the offices of Dr. Arthur Murray, who removed the fishing hook.

Doug McGregor of the Cottage Park Y.C. took the first big step toward a possible berth on the U.S. Olympic Sailing team when he won the Finn monotype class sailing competition last weekend in Marblehead.

Paul Oakes, Winthrop Golf Club champ the past two years, was upset by Ernie York in the first round of play, 3 to 2.

Winthrop High head football coach Ed MacFarland addressed the issue of whether the high school interscholastic athletic program is worth the time and money in the speech before the Square and Compass Club last week.

Subway in the Sky is playing at the Winthrop Theatre.

70 years ago
June 29, 1950

Another inning of “Who’s the Fire Chief?” was played out over the weekend and there was no score. Alfred Fearing, holder of the vital third vote in the controversial issue, affixed his signature to the payroll, naming fellow colleague on the Board of Fire Engineers Thomas B. Smith as Chief, entitling Smith to \$145.83 for the month of May.

The 174th observance of Independence Day will begin here Saturday afternoon with the opening of the 29th annual carnival of the Winthrop Post No. 146, American Legion, at Ingle-side Park.

The Pt. Shirley Square, known as Church Square, will be named Pvt. John T. Mooney Square in honor of the local soldier who was killed at the Battle of the Bulge in January, 1945. Dedication ceremonies will take place on July 4.

Cary Grant and John Garfield star in Destination Tokyo at the Winthrop and State Theatres.

80 years ago
July 27, 1940

The 21st annual Independence Day celebration of Winthrop Post No. 146, American Legion, will include the entire holiday week. June 30-July 6 has been declared “Legion Week” by the Board of Selectmen. A monster bonfire, two fireworks displays, and the annual Independence Day carnival will highlight the week of festivities.

George A. Cashman, Commander of Winthrop American Legion Post No. 146, received an official notice from Gov. Leverett Saltonstall that he has been appointed to organize a Home Defense Committee in Winthrop and to take steps to prepare a defense against any subversive action in the Commonwealth.

Plans for having the crack clipper ships, which span the Atlantic on flights between New York and Portugal, call at Boston on their summer run, will materialize this week if a few remaining technicalities can be ironed out. Arrangements have been made for the 64 passenger flying boats to stop in the waters of Shirley Gut off Deer Island for a final refueling before the long hop across the Atlantic.

Sports



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SUMMER PARKS PROGRAM OFF TO A FINE START

The weather has been summer-like and the participants in the Winthrop Summer Parks Program are having a great first week of fun-filled activities.

Parks and Recreation Director Sean Driscoll has many years of experience as an outstanding football coach, so he understood that pre-planning and strategy would be essential elements in running a successful program this summer.

Having to contend with the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic that delayed the start of the program, Driscoll and his staff of enthusiastic instructors are working hard to make sure that participants are adhering to social distancing guidelines at the In-

gleside Park and Coughlin Park sites.

And the leaders are maximizing the available, outdoor-activity experience to the delight of the youths.

“Everything has been going smoothly at both locations,” said Driscoll. “It’s a lot different, that’s for sure, but we’re getting through it and we’re learning as we go. Hopefully, things will go as smoothly as they’re going now.”

One installation that has proven to be popular has been the “teams-structure” of the program, with youths on each team wearing varying jersey colors and sporting different team names while creating some real unity with their summertime teammates.



Program Coordinator James Carroll displays his attire on “Crazy Hat Day” in the Summer Parks Program.

Driscoll said he hopes to feature each team in upcoming editions of the Transcript.



Summer Parks Program instructors lead the group in a fun activity at Ingleside Park.



Winthrop youths and program instructors are pictured at the playground in Coughlin Park.



Winthrop youths enjoy their arts activities in the Summer Parks Program at Coughlin Park under the leadership of a program instructor.

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California Fresh Celery Hearts	2/¢5.00
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Unemployment claims rise for public administration, education

Staff Report

From June 21 to June 27, Massachusetts had 29,072 individuals file an initial claim for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI), a small decrease of 469 over the previous week, the third consecutive week of decline, but there were big movements for municipal workers and those in education as budget cuts played out statewide.

However, as the school systems closed for the summer, over-the-week increases in filings were seen in public administration and education. With layoffs and budget cuts in most school districts and in most municipal governments, claims increased tremendously in

both sectors. Public Administration claims were up 47 percent statewide, while Education was up almost seven percent statewide.

Increases in initial claims filed were, also, posted in other sectors with the highest in manufacturing, at 22 percent.

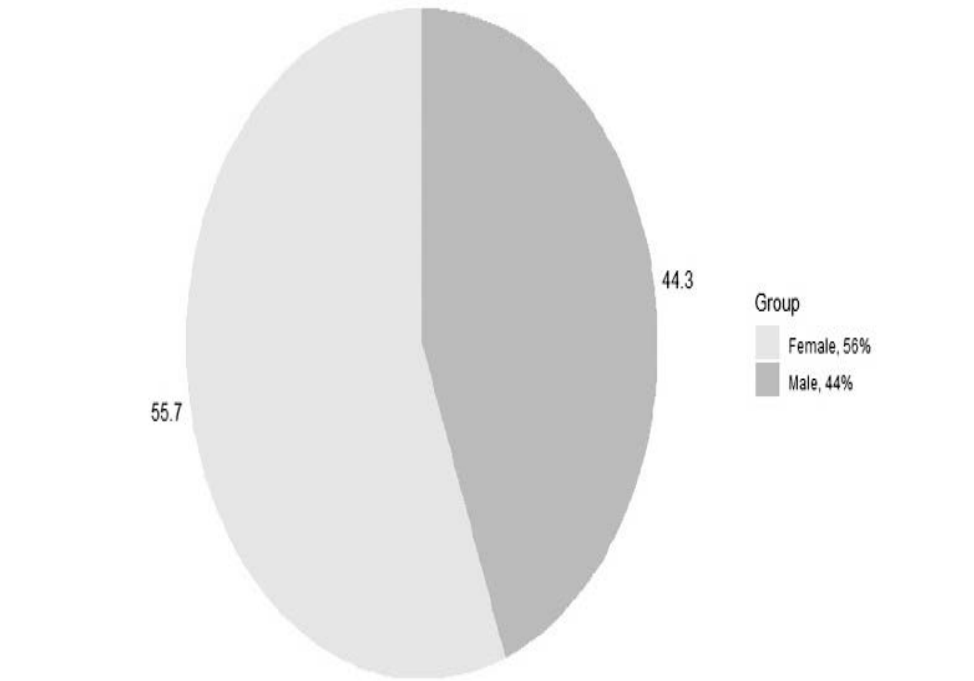
From March 15 to June 27, a total of 1,057,496 have filed for regular UI. For the second week in a row, continued UI claims at 548,441 were down 9,828 or 1.8 percent over the previous week.

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) initial claims filed for the week ending June 27, at 14,154, were just slightly more than the pre-

vious week. Since April 20, some 638,245 claimants have filed an initial claim for the PUA.

The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which provided up to 13 weeks of extended benefits was implemented on May 21. For the week ending June 20, some 4,503 PEUC initial claims were filed bringing the total of PEUC filings to 59,144 since implementation.

Since March, the customer service staff at the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has grown from around 50 employees to nearly 2,000. The remote customer service operation is now making over 35,000



The charts are relative to standard UI only.

individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host unemployment town halls – which have been held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese - and have been attended by more than 350,000 constituents.

Going on a vacation? Pack your bags, set the GPS...and get a COVID test

By Seth Daniel

Traveling this summer will be awkward at best, but a breath of fresh air is on a much-needed getaway for residents who have been under long quarantines. However, vacationers may have to supply proof of a negative COVID-19 test in many locations.

As people begin to travel regionally – mostly in cars or trains due to the continued risk of air travel – many states are requiring that visitors to Massachusetts either quarantine at their destination for 14 days (which likely isn’t happening on a vacation from quarantine), or bring proof they have received a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of arriving. That is exactly the case for Maine, which released its new travel guidance on June 26 – opening up with some restrictions the vacation playground once again to those from Boston.

For Maine officials, the guidance about testing is

about protecting the residents there as much as it is about protecting those who are coming up to vacation – and being tested before arriving is something tourism officials there are giving a big thumbs up to.

“We feel really strongly about it and feel it’s a great solution,” said Heather Johnson, commissioner of the Maine Dept. of Economic and Community Development. “When you think about tourism in Maine, you grow from 1.3 million people to 22 million in the summer months. That’s a very large swing in population. This is one of the options to keep residents and tourists safe. We feel strongly about keeping residents and people coming to Maine safe.”

In Maine, the choices are to quarantine or to test, and it’s about protecting the work that has been done on containing COVID-19, while still being able to enjoy a getaway.

“States where numbers are under control need to

protect that,” Johnson said. “The best available options to do that are to quarantine or to test. We decided to let visitors make that decision...For the people who want to go downtown or enjoy areas that are populated, they can go to get the test and be confident they are safe and healthy.”

That is exactly what David Belton, a health administrator in Boston, plans to do with his family before they travel to Maine later this month.

Having already had to cancel trips to Italy, Slovenia and Los Angeles in the last three months, he said he’s vacation-deprived, and looks forward to some respite in Maine. However, he also wants to follow their rules and have confidence that he isn’t bringing COVID-19 north.

“We’re planning to go to Maine on July 11 and rent a house there for two weeks,” he said. “My plan is for us to be tested at Boston’s South End Community Health Center site in

advance and then head up that way. We’ll get the test on Wednesday, and then leave on Saturday. I’ll have my letter or certificate with my result from the health center. I’ll carry it with me so they know I’m safe and so I can present it if I get stopped or questioned with my Massachusetts license plates.”

He said if that’s what has to be done, he could understand the logic.

“Our plan is for everyone going to be tested,” he said. “I want to be active and out up there. I don’t want to self-quarantine for two weeks up there. We’ve all had enough of that.”

Belton said it’s probably a response from Maine to help the vacation destination industry – which is really hurting – and to also reassure Maine residents that outsiders aren’t bringing in the virus.

At the Bayside Inn Bed & Breakfast in Booth Bay Harbor, former Boston residents and Inn proprietors Peter and Kathryn Sulli-

van said the lodging industry was down 80 percent in April and likely just as much in May. They were only allowed to welcome guests from Massachusetts as of June 26.

Right now, in such uncertain times, they are trying to adjust to COVID-19 restrictions, new sanitary procedures and other ways of doing business. Maine issued its executive order last week allowing Massachusetts residents to come up and visit. With proof of a negative result, visitors can move about freely without any worry – especially since the Booth Bay area only had 23 cases during the entire COVID-19 outbreak, so it’s relatively free of the virus. With the certificate, Sullivan said visitors could take boat tours, hit the hiking trails and get tickets to the world-famous Booth Bay Botanical Gardens. The hope is that Boston residents will take the chance to come up north – even as many have said they will defer summer va-

cations this year.

“Up until last Friday, we were only allowed to have Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont residents without certification of being virus free,” she said. “As of June 26, anyone who travels here has to sign a certificate of compliance. We’d love to have more Boston people come up. It’s much quicker to get here than to the Cape now, I believe. There are some great opportunities here to get outside and enjoy nature.”

Johnson said the state of Maine also is encouraging Massachusetts residents to come up north this summer, but they do want to make sure everyone is safe in doing so.

“We just don’t want the back and forth of opening up and closing down,” she said. “We’re looking forward to serving them. We are anxious to see them and hope they come and hope they feel safe here. We will do everything we can to protect them.”

WINTHROP’S NAVIGATORS



Two college baseball pitchers for the North Shore Navigators have well-known Winthrop family connections. Former Swampscott High star Gavin Sullivan (left), a junior at Stetson University, is the son of Chucky Sullivan and Pamela Hubley Sullivan. Former Winthrop High star Jack Wallace (right), a senior at Franklin Pierce University, is the son of Mark Wallace and Beth Tallent and was featured in the July 2 edition of the Sun-Transcript. The two teammates are pictured before the Navigators’ home opener Tuesday night at Fraser Field in Lynn. The team is off to a 3-0 start in the Futures Collegiate Baseball League.

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Metro News //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

allowed at any time inside the market and you may have to wait to enter the market.

Before shopping the EBNHC would like customers to sanitize or wash your hands at one of our hand-washing stations when you enter the market. Shoppers must follow the one-way traffic flow of the market with no backtracking. Shoppers can go through the shopper’s loop in the main market area again if they want to make another round.

Shoppers must also remain six feet away from other shoppers and vendors are not allowed to touch reusable bags.

There will also be no eating allowed inside the market.

In order to avoid personal contact the Farmers Market staff is urging shoppers to refrain from using cash whenever they can and instead pay with debit, credit cards, and apps if possible. Other acceptable forms of payment include WIC coupons, Senior coupons, SNAP/food stamps/EBT, and P-EBT.

SNAP/EBT customers receive a 100 percent incentive (a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$40-\$80, depending on household size) for each SNAP dollar spent on targeted fruits and vegetables purchased at the Farmers Market.

WIC supports farmers as well as good nutrition through the Farmers Market Nutrition Program. WIC Farmers Market coupons may be used at the East Boston Farmers Market on fresh, uncut fruits and vegetables.

Also eligible seniors can contact the senior agency that serves their town to find out when and where Senior Farmers Market Coupons will be distributed. Senior Farmers Market coupons may be used on fresh, uncut fruits and vegetables and honey.

The 2020 list of local farmers and vendors for this year’s market can be seen on our website by visiting: <http://eastietimes.com/?p=15561>

ZUMIX TO HOLD VIRTUAL WALK

EAST BOSTON - For nearly 20 years, Zumix has participated in Boston’s annual Walk for Music fundraiser, which brings music organizations from all over the city together to help raise money for local arts programs.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has put the breaks on large outdoor events in the city for the remainder of the summer.

As a nonprofit that has continually adapted throughout the pandemic, Zumix has decided to hold the annual Walk for Music virtually.

“For almost 20 years, we have come together to celebrate the Zumix community through the Walk for Music,” said Zumix Co-founder and Director Madeleine Steczynski. “Over the years we have faced a number of challenges, but nothing has stopped us from walking together. This year, COVID-19 presents a unique challenge because we cannot walk together in person. However, that will not stop us from holding the Walk for Music as a virtual walk-a-thon.”

The virtual Walk for Music will take place on Sunday, July 12, and has already raised \$29,310 towards Zumix’s \$50,000 goal.

Donations for the Walk for Music can be made to <https://www.firstgiving.com/event/zumix/Walk-for-Music-2020>. For more information on how to participate contact Zumix’s Director of Development

Kimberly Dawson at kdawson@zumix.org.

“We can’t walk together, but we can still sing, laugh, learn, create and band together,” said Steczynski. “Our young people are the hope for a better future and we are bolstering the next generation to thrive.”

The Walk for Music is one of Zumix’s largest fundraisers each year. The money raised through this event makes it possible for Zumix to provide high-quality private lessons and group programs to over 1,000 young people each year.

“Since the pandemic hit, we haven’t skipped a beat as all of our programs are continuing remotely,” said Steczynski.

Zumix was created to empower youth to use music to make strong, positive change in their lives, their communities, and the world. Since its founding in 1991, the program has grown to serve more than 400 young people every year in programs in instrumental instruction, songwriting and performance, community radio, and creative technology. They serve an additional 400 young people per year through in-school partnerships with East Boston High School and the Uma-na Middle School Academy. The powerful impact of the program is illustrated by the fact that in the past 4 years, percent of its graduates enrolled in college.

MCGEE SEEKS TO ELIMINATE RACISM

LYNN - Mayor Thomas M. McGee announced initial steps to strengthen efforts to eliminate systemic racism within the City of Lynn through policy creation, systemic change, and increased community conversations.

“Systemic racism adversely affects the Black Community and Communities of Color every day, said Mayor Thomas M. McGee. “Absolutely no one should live in fear of the act of simply living because of the color of their skin. We must listen and learn from those who have endured far too much, and take concrete action to update and reform our policies. I look forward to continuing the dialogue with members of our community to rid our City of hatred and inequity that has permeated throughout our society for too long. That starts by acknowledging that racism is a public health emergency and acting accordingly.”

Mayor McGee, along with Lynn Public Health Director Michele Desmarais, have submitted to the Board of Health a “Joint Order Declaring Racism an Emergency and a Public Health Crisis in the City of Lynn.” The Order is on the agenda for the Board of Health’s next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 30th.

“The City of Lynn is committed to reviewing our policies and working to enact the necessary changes to address the public health disparities and the barriers to healthcare that the Black Community and Communities of Color experience,” said Director Desmarais.

Additionally, Mayor McGee has signed on to the “Mayor’s Pledge” issued by the Obama Foundation’s My Brother’s Keeper Alliance. The pledge asks mayors from across the country to commit to the following actions: “review our police use of force policies; engage our communities by including a diverse range of input, experiences, and stories in our review; Report the findings of our review to the community and seek feedback; Reform our com-

munity’s police use of force policies.”

“While these are steps that will move our City in the right direction, there is still a long way to go. Addressing structural racism requires a long term focus and continued efforts from my office and through all levels of city government. I look forward to engaging with my fellow Lynners in this critical work.” McGee said.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPROVE PROJECTS FOR SHIRLEY AVE.

REVERE - The Revere Zoning Board of Appeals approved three separate projects for Shirley Avenue, all of which required several variances last week.

The projects will comprise a total of 95 residential micro-units among three buildings and three commercial spaces in two of the buildings. The city’s coffers will realize more than \$450,000 in permit and other fees and will bring in another \$200,000 for the Community Improvement Trust Fund for infrastructure improvement projects within the vicinity of the new development.

A unique aspect of the project is that there is no provision for off-street parking for the 95 residential units. The leases will specify that each tenant who rents a micro-unit cannot own a motor vehicle, which the developer, Jamie Russo, and the proponents assert obviates the need for off-street parking. With the MBTA’s bus stop on Beach St. within easy walking-distance, the project is deemed a “transit-oriented development.”

For all three of the projects, Russo’s three companies (Eastern Equity Partners LLC for the Bagel Bin site at 207-209 Shirley Ave., Shirley Ventures LLC for the former St. Jean’s Credit Union site at 180-184-186 Shirley Ave., and EB VENTURES LLC for the corner block at Shirley Ave. and Thornton St.) came before the board seeking variances involving some degree of relief from the zoning ordinances regarding minimum lot size; frontage; side yard, rear yard, and front yard setback; floor area ratio; parking; maximum building height; and buffer zone screening.

The first project to come up for discussion was for 207-209 Shirley Avenue, the site of the Bagel Bin Restaurant that was destroyed by a fire in 2018. The height of the project will be four-stories with one commercial space and 32 studio apartments consisting of 456 square feet each.

There will be 11 parking spaces in the back for commercial parking, but there will be no off-street parking for tenants since they cannot own a motor vehicle according to the lease that they must sign.

Robert O’Brien, the city’s Economic Development Director, spoke in favor of the project. “The developer made a commitment to lease no units to tenants who own cars for this building, as well as the tenants for the other two projects that the zoning board also is reviewing during this meeting,” said O’Brien.

Hansi Villadesi, the owner of the Bagel Bin, spoke in favor of the project, noting that this will be an opportunity for his restaurant to return to Shirley Ave.

Ronald Hogan, who has owned a laundromat across the street on Shirley Ave. for 10 years, supported the project, noting that he was pleased to see the investment in the area.

Both Councillor-at-Large

Tony Zambuto and Ward 2 Councillor Ira Novoselsky voiced their support for the project. “This project is transit-oriented and no developer has done more for the neighborhoods than Jamie Russo, who has a track record,” said Zambuto, who concluded his remarks by adding, “We all want the Bagel Bin back on Shirley Ave.”

“This project is privately-funded, so there are no affordable units offered,” said Novoselsky, who also noted the various issues raised by area residents. “I am pro-development, but a lot of the opponents have concerns about height and parking.”

Ralph DeCiccio, the Chairman of the Revere Disabilities Commission, also spoke, pointing out, “None of the tenants can get either a resident parking permit or visitor stickers.”

Area resident Kristen Janjar of Campbell Ave. supported the return of the Bagel Bin, but echoed the concerns of the other opponents, saying, “Do we need four stories above them? We don’t need people who are not invested in the neighborhood.”

The second project, located at the corner of Shirley Avenue and Thornton Street, calls for the present building to be razed and for the construction of a three-story structure with 18 micro-units. Similar to the other project, there will be no off-street parking provided by the developer, but each unit will be leased only to tenants who do not own cars.

Anne Steinman of 45 Thornton St. noted that there is no sticker required to park overnight on Thornton St. She added, “I do not have the warm and fuzzies with no low-income housing units.”

Lor Holmes, another resident of the area, added, “Put this on hold and do not rush into this. Neighborhood input is needed.”

The third project, formerly the site of the St. Jean’s Credit Union at 180-184-186 Shirley Ave., entails 45 micro-units with two commercial spaces on the street level in a five-story building.

O’Brien, speaking in fa-

vor of the project, noted, “The developer will get the right commercial tenants.”

Dr. Jeff Coen, whose business personally has been on Shirley Ave. for 30 years and whose family has been there for 60 years, said, “This is a long time coming. The last 10 years have been an improvement for the neighborhood.”

Hogan, speaking again, noted, “Street-level development will need housing density to succeed.”

Novoselsky added, “I am still a proponent of this project, but have some reservations on the parking and the way it is built. We did not have a community meeting because of Covid-Virus in order to answer some of the concerns from opponents.”

The opponents again reiterated that they thought the process was rushed and that the community had been left out. They noted that all three projects lacked off-street parking for the tenants.

Chairman of the Appeals Board Michael Tucker told the opponents that the issues of who rents the units and whether there has been a lack of community involvement do not fall within the purview of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The projects received the unanimous approval of the ZBA members who were present (Tucker, Alfred Buccilli, John Lopes, and Arthur Pelton; member Nick D’Angelo was absent), but with the following restrictions: All of the residential micro-units will be leased only to tenants who do not own cars and that this restriction will be a permanent one applicable to any future owner of the properties.

COUNCIL APPROVES BUDGET

REVERE - The Revere City unanimously approved Mayor Brian Arrigo’s Fiscal Year ’21 city budget of \$209.6 million at a Council meeting last week.

But councilors rejected a proposal by Mayor Arrigo to promote certain personnel who would have additional responsibilities in a newly structured city gov-

ernment, comparable to the Mayor heading a cabinet of top-level administrators to oversee the various city departments.

As a result of the additional roles that those officials would have, Arrigo felt that they should receive pay adjustments of various amounts to correspond with the increased responsibilities.

Councillors-at-Large Anthony Zambuto, Jessica Giannino, George Rotondo and Gerry Visconti, Ward 1 Councillor Joanne McKenna and Ward 6 Councillor Richard Serino voted against the promotions.

Zambuto, who was voting on his 21st city budget, said, “I felt that I couldn’t in good conscience have people get laid off and ask people to retire early and then give out raises in a pandemic. I agree with the Mayor wanting to have his own structure and his cabinet, and he can do next year. But whether you call them raises or promotions, it just didn’t look good. It came down to a vote of conscience and six of us councillors felt that way.”

Council President Patrick Keefe said he fully respected his colleagues for wanting to be conservative with spending for the promotions.

“I feel very strongly, though, that some of these positions come with a lot more responsibilities that the city will need,” said Keefe, citing the examples of two officials, Donald Ciaramella (Superintendent of Water and Sewer) and Tech Lang (City Planner), who would be adding responsibilities to their workload.

“Donny is overseeing two very large departments and he epitomizes what we want in a person that is willing to do the work and to not pay him for that is pretty short sighted,” said Keefe. “Tech Leng is highly sought after as an administrator and city planner and she could go outside of the city of Revere and make 20-30 percent more – we could lose some very talented, highly competent personnel like Donny and Tech and others because of some of the decisions we made.”

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5 of the Town of Win-
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SECHC officially becomes part of East Boston Neighborhood Health Center

By Seth Daniel

Calling it a great merger of two historic and value-aligned organizations, Manny Lopes, President and CEO of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC), announced the official merger of his organization with the nearby South End Community Health Center (SECHC) in Boston on July 1.

SECHC sites will operate as locations of EBNHC and staff will become EBNHC employees, thus unifying the two health centers in providing comprehensive healthcare services to diverse Boston-area communities. SECHC

patients will continue to see the same, nationally recognized team of providers and the name of the SECHC will not change.

“The SECHC has such a great history and has done such great work in the community,” said Lopes. “It’s an amazing opportunity to be able to bring these two organizations together. We’ve been doing great work in East Boston and serving the community in East Boston, and we’re excited to bring the two together to continue this work. It’s a chance to merge both of our great histories together.”

EBNHC’s Steven Snyder said the first few days

were about working out the kinks, but things are now going smoothly.

“The first couple of days of the merger last week were challenging for sure”, said Snyder, Vice President of Human Resources, Marketing and Development for East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. “I’m really proud of the staff both in South End and back in East Boston, Revere and Winthrop. This took immense effort and teamwork by many staff. Now that many of the technical issues are running smoothly we will turn our attention to bringing our corporate culture and in particular our core values to the forefront

for all staff as well as starting to market services to all of our communities. We have taken great effort to make our facilities safe for patients who cannot rely on TeleHealth to start coming in for care again – particularly those in high-risk categories. This is the case both at the South End location and back in East Boston – where for over 50 years patients have counted on us to be there for them.”

The health centers have similar roots, both founded during the Civil Rights Movement, and share a common mission of providing high-quality care to all without regard to age, race/ethnicity, insurance

status, or ability to pay. The move by EBNHC to merge SECHC into its organization goes back to 2017, and had previously been announced in 2018 as the SECHC faced major financial difficulties. The details of the merger were being worked out all last year, and with the new fiscal year on July 1, it was the time to make it official.

Lopes said it is a great opportunity for scaling up SECHC and for strategic growth in EBNHC too.

“When South End approached us, they were looking for a partner that had the ability to scale and who had experience serving a similar population and who had shared values,” said Lopes. “I’m happy they selected us. For us, it fits into our strategic planning purposes...This fits nicely into our plans for growth. We’re excited about that.”

He reiterated there would be no change in the name, and there would be no staff reductions.

“That’s very important,” he said. “Having no staff reductions was our commitment that we made. That’s huge. I think the staff will agree coming into our organization. This is the scalability. There is more opportunity for mobility and growth with us. The quality of care will not change either. We have no plans to change any of that. We only hope to enhance it.”

The Board members of the SECHC said they are excited about the merger, and have spoken highly of the plan over the last year as well.

“EBNHC has shown time and again that they can thrive in today’s challenging health care environment. In 2017, our Board foresaw a looming financial cliff and, in 2018, approved EBNHC’s visionary proposal to merge. Since then, their leadership team and Board have been exemplary collaborators,” said David Gleason, SECHC Board Chair. “We are delighted to join together as one company in service to our patients.”

EBNHC Board Chair Rita Sorrento said, “It is a privilege to welcome SECHC’s staff and patients, as well as members of the South End community, into the EBNHC family.”

Some of the only differences will be on the patient electronic record system, which will switched over to the EBNHC system, though that will only be administrative.


Lopes said there will be further discussions about adding a shuttle service to the SECHC that would connect the other sites in East Boston and beyond – giving patients and employees better access to the new network of providers and opportunities.

Beyond that, EBNHC is very involved in their communities and pride themselves on being an award-winning workplace, Lopes said.

“I’m very excited to get out into the community and to begin learning about the South End,” said Lopes, who is also chair of the Boston Board of Health. “We’re looking forward to sharing what we know, learning from them and learning from the community... We want to be a great place to work for the staff. We’ve been recognized for that. We do that because the staff is big part of what we do... We want people to feel great about where they work.”

EBNHC provides comprehensive medical and behavioral health services, along with support services to address non-medical needs and promote healthy living. SECHC operations will continue without change in hours of operation or provider options. Additionally, SECHC patients will gain access to unique EBNHC services such as Neighborhood PACE, which serves older adults, and CATCH, which provides coordinated care for children with complex medical needs. EBNHC and SECHC will continue to coordinate COVID-19 response activities, including testing and tracing initiatives.

With an operating budget of approximately \$180 million, EBNHC will remain one of the largest health centers in the nation, now serving more than 110,000 patients and employing nearly 1,300 staff members. Lopes will continue to oversee all EBNHC locations and services across the Greater Boston Area.



TOWN OF WINTHROP BOARD OF HEALTH

100 Kennedy Drive, Winthrop, MA 02152 Telephone 617-846-1740 Fax 617-539-5826

Safety Rules for Use of Municipal Beaches

(applies to Yirrell Beach, Pico Beach, Donovan’s Beach and Halford’s Beach)

Face Coverings and Masks

All beach visitors shall comply with *COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible*. The order requires any person over the age of 2, whether indoors or outdoors, to **wear a face covering or mask when they cannot maintain 6 feet of distance between themselves and others**, unless they have a medical condition preventing them from doing so (see further guidance here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency>). Masks are not required to be worn while swimming.

Group Size

No groups larger than 10 are allowed to gather. (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/march-31-2020-assemblage-guidance/download>)

Safety Rules

- Beach visitors are required to maintain **social distancing of at least 6 feet or more** at all times and visitors should maintain at least 12 ft minimum distance between toveling/beach blanket areas.
- Organized ball games are not allowed.
- A minimum distance of 6 feet shall be maintained between lifeguards and between the public and lifeguard stands unless in the case of an emergency.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently.
- If you are feeling sick, stay home!

Trash Disposal

While lidless no-touch trash disposal receptacles at beaches may be available at the discretion of the Town of Winthrop, visitors should adhere to a “carry in, carry out” policy and take waste with them whenever possible.



Are you leaving home?

Face covering is required to be worn when you cannot maintain six feet of social distance to another person who does not live in your household. A person who cannot wear a face covering for medical reasons is not required to provide documentation. [Face covering requirement for public, Order 31](#)

Are you outdoors less than 6 feet away from someone who doesn't live with you?

Face covering is required to be worn. [Face covering requirement for public, Order 31](#)

Are you an employee or customer of grocery, pharmacy, retail, or shared transit, even if you will be more than 6 feet away from others?

Face covering is required to be worn. A business may deny service to a person who refuses to wear a mask for nonmedical reasons. [Face covering requirement for public, Order 31](#)

Are you at any indoor business or organization, less than 6 feet away from someone who doesn't live with you?

Face covering is required to be worn. [Massachusetts Workplace Safety Standards, Order 33](#)

Minimize the use of confined spaces, elevators, control rooms, and vehicles, by more than one individual at a time.

All workers in such spaces at that same time are required to wear face coverings. [Massachusetts Workplace Safety Standards, Order 33](#)

Are you alone in an elevator, inside an indoor shared common area, or other indoor enclosed area?

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July 2, 2020