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# THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, September 19, 2019

## WYOMA LITTLE LEAGUE BANQUET



The Wyoma Little League held its end of the season banquet at the Prince Restaurant in Saugus. More than 300 local youths took part in the league during the season. In the top photo The Major League champion Royals softball team, with Manager John Moloney and Coach Billy Dumas. In the bottom photo The District 16 champion Wyoma 11-year-old All-Star team that raised more than \$5,000 for the Jimmy Fund. See more photos on Pages 4-5



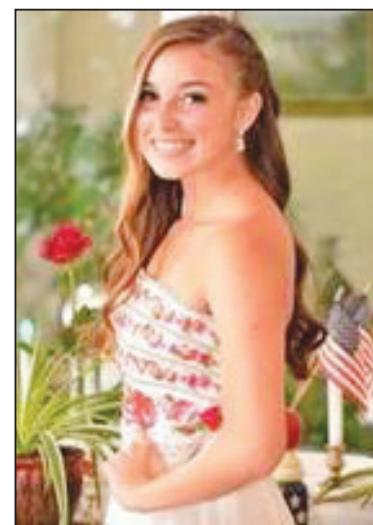
## Trahan named Triple Impact Competitor

SPECIAL TO JOURNAL

Hannah Trahan, a high school senior who is a cheerleading, swimming and diving, and track-and-field athlete at Lynn English High School named has been named a Triple-Impact Competitor by Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA)-New England. Hannah is one of 14 New England high school scholar athletes to receive this recognition, and a Finalist for a PCA-New England Triple-Impact Competitor scholarship.

Positive Coaching Alliance

Please see TRAHANT Page 3



Hannah Trahan

## Caturano takes over Blue Ox

By John Lynds

Anthony Caturano, the owner and head chef of widely successful restaurants in the North End and on the North Shore, will take over the reigns of The Blue Ox in downtown Lynn from the restaurant's founder and longtime chef Matt O'Neil this month.

O'Neil and Caturano made the joint announcement at the end of August through a press release posted on The Blue Ox's website.

Chef/Restaurateur O'Neil opened The Blue Ox in 2009 to rave reviews and the restaurant has become a staple on the North Shore for a decade.

While O'Neil is moving on he told Blue Ox's loyal fanbase that he is leaving the restaurant in 'very capable hands.' Caturano is the owner and head chef of Prezza in the North End as well as Tonno in Gloucester and

Please see BLUE OX Page 12



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# EDITORIAL

## Enjoy the fall season

Despite the exceptionally wonderful and warm early-fall weather we have been enjoying recently, the calendar does not lie -- and the fall season squarely is upon us.

For many New Englanders, autumn is our favorite time of year.

Even the warmest of days are tempered by cool nights, bringing a crispness to the air that is devoid of the stickiness of summer's languid humidity. All of us (especially those of us who are getting on in years) breathe more easily when the dew point is not in the oppressive range.

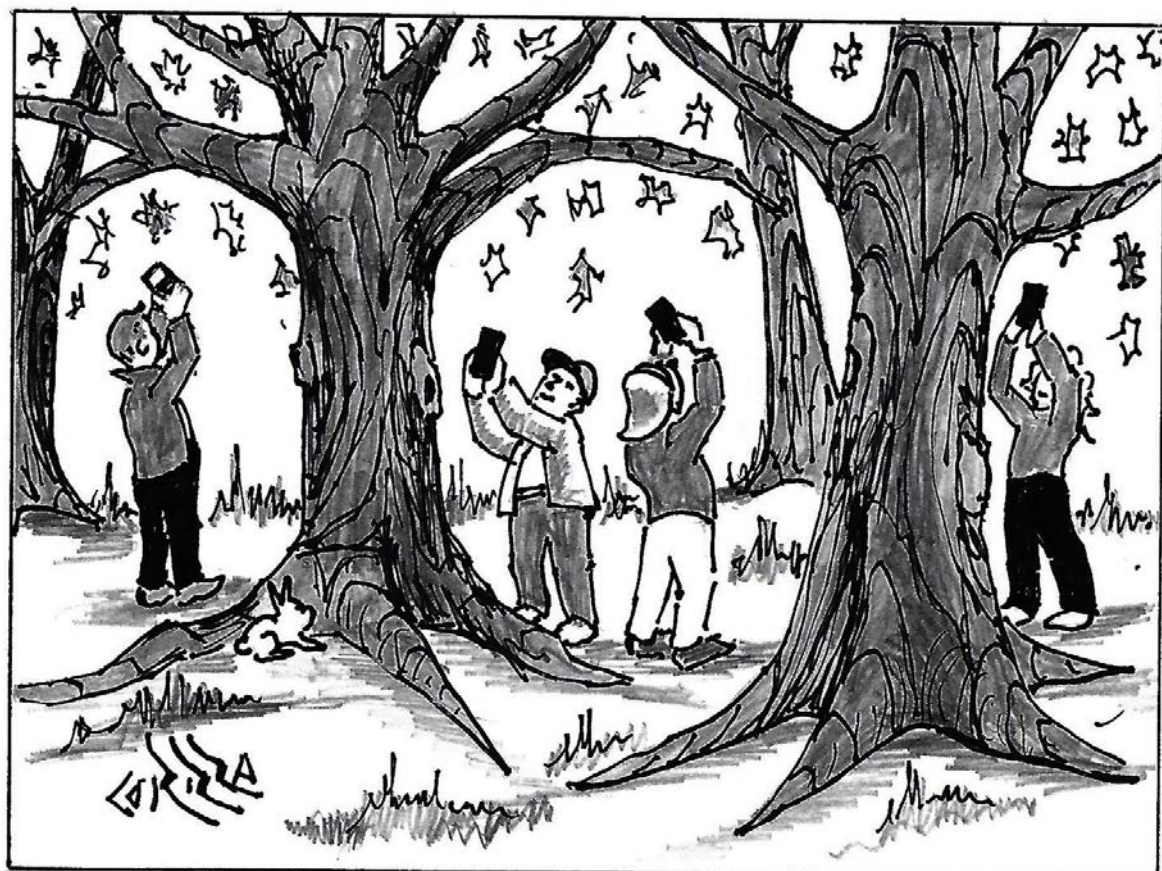
Unlike summer, when the heat and humidity confine us to our air-conditioned homes, cars, and offices, fall beckons us to get outside and be active, whether we're hard-core athletes or those who just like to take a nice walk.

Fall also is foliage season, arguably the most-glorious time of year in our region, when splashes of color are everywhere, bringing us nature's palate that is a feast for the eyes. The French philosopher Albert Camus put it this way, "Autumn is a second spring, when every leaf is a flower."

An autumn hike in the mountains of New Hampshire, Vermont, and the Berkshires truly is a Zen-like experience.

However, as with everything in life, fall is fleeting. By this weekend, the leaves already will be turning color in far northern New England and the profusion of reds, oranges, and yellows will drift southward over the ensuing few weeks. We recall being in Portland, Maine (when our children were younger and they were at a Columbus Day weekend soccer tournament) and the leaves turned color seemingly overnight during our stay.

So enjoy the fall while it is here and take advantage of the all-too-brief window of opportunity to create memories that will last a lifetime for ourselves and our families.



IT'S LEAF PEEPING TIME - AUTUMN - SEPT. 23

## GUEST OP-ED

### Why we all need improved Medicare for all now

By Maria Termini

Plain and simple we need Improved Medicare for All now to make sure everyone has the healthcare they need. Currently many people cannot get the healthcare they need. They can't afford healthcare and they suffer and die and this is wrong. Healthcare is a matter of life and death, a human need, a human right. Every day people are denied that right because they can't afford it, even with insurance. Our profit-based healthcare system is the most expensive and complicated in the world. In order to keep their profits high for their stockholders, insurance companies are raising their premiums, and increasing deductibles, copayments and out of pocket expenses.

Many people can't afford the co-payments. My friend Melinda is a single parent with a job that pays barely above minimum wage. She has health insurance. Each time she takes her son to a doctor, she has a co-payment of \$70 which is a financial hardship. Melinda herself hasn't been to a doctor in many years because she

can't afford the co-payment even though she has some medical problems. So, she suffers.

We have about 1,600 different insurance companies in the U.S. and this results in high administrative costs, endless paper work, and a very high overhead to pay for all their advertising and ways to deny care. This drives up the costs. The insurance companies pay their executives salaries of millions of dollars. When the former CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield, Clive Killingsworth left his job a few years ago, he walked away with a golden parachute of \$11.3 million in compensation and he had only worked there six years. Because these executives are overpaid, the premiums and costs keep increasing. And more and more people can't afford to get the care they need.

Insurance companies have many complicated regulations and the fine print is often unintelligible and with horrible consequences. A woman received an emergency heart transplant at a hospital in her health plan's network. However, no one bothered to tell her that the transplant

surgeons didn't take her particular insurance. They billed her \$70,000 and sent collection agencies and lawyers after her while she was still home recuperating. She may have recovered but chances are good she has lost her home.

The cost of prescription drugs is soaring. Insulin is now so expensive some diabetics can't afford it. Some ration this most necessary drug, taking a dose every other day. Some die because the drug companies insist on making a huge profit. I was in Bolivia a few years ago and got bit by a dog and needed rabies shots. They were \$35 each there. I got my final shot in the U.S. and it was \$1,300.

Our healthcare costs have actually increased despite the complex legislation known as the Affordable Care Act (also known as Obama Care.) This legislation was written by the insurance companies and for the insurance companies. The reality is that the Affordable Care Act is not going to make healthcare af-

See OP-ED Page 3

## THE LYNN JOURNAL

**PRESIDENT:** Stephen Quigley

**EDITOR IN CHIEF:** Cary Shuman cary@lynnjournal.com

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EMAIL: EDITOR@LYNNJOURNAL.COM

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## Op-Ed/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

fordable, only more expensive as premiums, deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses get higher and higher each year, escalating beyond the current rates of inflation. The costs go higher because of our profit driven system.

We cannot let this system continue. Our health is very important. We cannot be complacent and accept the healthcare system we have as the way things are. We must do something now about changing our healthcare system for the better. We need to get corporate profits out of the healthcare equation.

The solution to our healthcare crisis is Improved Medicare for All, a system of non-profit single payer healthcare, publicly funded, privately administered. Improved Medicare for All will provide affordable healthcare for everyone, increased access to prevention and early intervention, providing dental and vision care. Preventive care is critical. I know too many women who have died because of delayed cancer diagnoses. Improved Medicare for All is a simple system. It will reduce administrative waste and can bargain for the best prices for drugs and medical services. Hospitals and physicians will no longer need huge billing departments to process complicated insurance forms. There would be no need for private health insurance. Improved Medicare for All would be funded by a small tax

and premiums, deductibles, co-payments would be eliminated. We would pay a lot less for Improved Medicare for All than the current bloated system.

Canada has single-payer healthcare. In Canada no one dies because they are uninsured or can't afford health care. Canadians live longer and are healthier than us and spend about half per capita on healthcare costs than we do in the U.S. No one loses their home because they can't pay medical bills. Diabetics get the insulin they need.

We can get Improved Medicare for All by passing legislation. There are bills in the Massachusetts Statehouse (House 1194, Senate 683) and also the U.S. Congress (HR 1384, Senate 1129) for Improved Medicare for All. I urge you to study these bills and insist your legislators pass them. Having the healthcare we need and having it be affordable is a critical issue that touches all of us. It's not a partisan issue. It's just simple justice. Let's work together for Improved Medicare for All and make healthcare a valued human right. We need to make our voices heard. It will not be easy, but together we can do it.

*Maria Termini is an artist and public speaker. She works with Mass Care and Healthcare Now and lives in Boston. She can be contacted at: mariatermini2013@gmail.com.*

## Trahan/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

selects Triple-Impact Competitors based on essays they submit explaining how they meet three criteria: personal mastery (making oneself better), leadership (making one's teammates better), and honoring the game (making the game better). Recipients must provide testimonials from a school administrator, a coach, and at least one other individual who is familiar with the student-athlete and able to speak to his/her embodiment of the Triple-Impact Competitor principles.

"We were impressed by Hannah's essays and references which demonstrate that she is a leader who supports her teammates and approaches her sports with 'enthusiasm, dedication, integrity, and maturity.'" said Beth O'Neill Maloney, Executive Director of PCA's New England chapter. Maloney said that PCA selected Hannah as a Triple-Impact Competitor because "as an

honor roll student, Hannah often mentors younger teammates 'with patience and grace' and knows that the success of the team is what is most important. Her commitment to the team shows through every day as she leads by example, making PCA proud to recognize her as a Triple-Impact Competitor."

Current high school juniors can apply for a Triple-Impact Competitor Scholarship between January 1 and May 31, 2020. Applications and more information can be found at [www.positivecoach.org/our-awards/triple-impact-competitor-scholarships/](http://www.positivecoach.org/our-awards/triple-impact-competitor-scholarships/).

Positive Coaching Alliance is a national non-profit working to develop Better Athletes, Better People by partnering with youth and high school athletic programs to provide young athletes with a positive, character-building youth sports experience.

## ST. MARY'S COACH JIM FOLEY EARNS 250TH WIN



St. Mary's High School girls soccer coach Jim Foley reached the 250th victory milestone in the Spartans' 6-3 win over St. Joseph Prep on Sept. 13. Foley is in his 21st year as head coach at St. Mary's. He is also an assistant coach of the St. Mary's girls basketball team. In the photo (above) Coach Foley and the St. Mary's players are pictured following the game in which he achieved the milestone.

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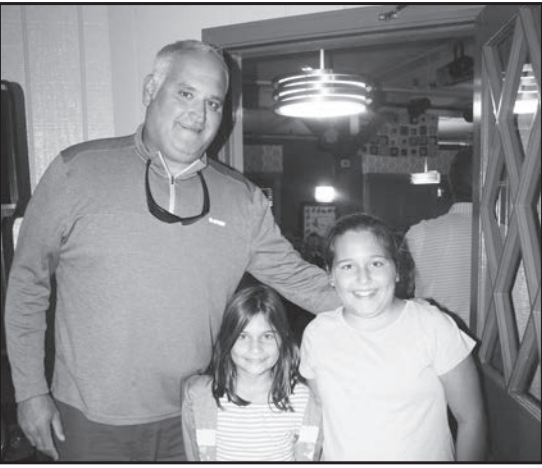


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## WYOMA LITTLE LEAGUE CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL 2019 SEASON

Wyoma Little League celebrated a successful 2019 season at its awards banquet at Prince Restaurant, Saugus.



Former Northeast Regional football star Richard Laft Jr., with his daughters, Julianna and Gianna, at the Wyoma Little League Awards Banquet.



Thomas Marino, recipient of the Unsung Hero Award, and Luke Phelan, recipient of the Wayne Kerrins Memorial Award.



Wyoma Little League Co-MVPs Shea Newhall (left) and Josh Doney (right), with last year's MVP, Alex McMillan, who presented the awards.



Shea Newhall, Co-MVP of the Wyoma Little League, with his parents, Jason and Lysa, and sisters, Adyson and Lily, who was a member of the state champion U-16 softball team that reached the Final Four of the Northeast Regionals.



Wyoma Little League Softball MVP Brooke Moloney, with last year's MVP, Riley Zukas, who presented the award.



The Mass. State Champion U-16 softball team, led by Manager Chad Wilkins, advanced to the Final Four of the Northeast Regionals.

# THE LYNN JOURNAL

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Lynn Convenience.....	109 Western Ave.	D&M.....	13 Broad St
7 Eleven.....	50 Western Ave.	Pick Up Modern.....	68 Exchange St
Metro Credit Union.....	475 Western Ave	Charles.....	65 Exchange St
CVS.....	509 Eastern Ave.	Mobile.....	512 Chestnut Street
Sunshine Convenience.....	6 Washington Ave.	Lynn Art.....	25 Exchange St
Osborne Pharmacy • Medical Supplies.....	252 Eastern Ave.	Eastern Bank.....	195 Market St
Christopher's Cafe.....	2 Lewis Street	Lynn Museum.....	590 Washington St
Tedeschi's.....	210 Lewis Street	The Lazy Dog.....	Wyoma Square
Johnny's Market.....	Lynn Shore Drive	Rollys.....	Wyoma Square
Port Hole Pub.....	98 Lynnway		
Ocean Shore Apt. Bldg.....	50 Lynnway		
Eastern Bank.....	195 Market Street		
Brothers Deli.....	41 Market Street		
Capitol Diner.....	431 Union Street		
Three Yolks.....	1103 Lynn Marsh Road		



Rising softball pitcher Kaylee DiNicola, recipient of the Wyoma Little League Softball Rookie of the Year Award.



Mike Phelps Spirit and Leadership Award recipients Ben Patrick (baseball) and Gianna Meklis (softball).

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The graduating softball players from the Wyoma Little League.



The graduating baseball players from the Wyoma Little League with coaches Abu Patirck, Jay Newhall, and Kevin Downey.



Wyoma Little League President Dan Veilleux (front row, third from right), with the officers and board members who did a great job leading Lynn's largest youth baseball and softball organization.



Most Improved Player Award recipients Vinnie Spirito (baseball) and Mallorie Baker (softball).



Coach's Award recipients Jacob Beyea (baseball) and Nevaeh Eth (softball).

## Ask Nicole

By Attorney Nichole M. Bluefort

I am so honored that I will be doing a monthly column to discuss critical issues in our community from a legal perspective. I am the Founder of the Law Offices of Nicole M. Bluefort. We have two office locations, one in Lynn and the other in Boston. I grew up in Lynn and I am very passionate about giving back to the surrounding community.

What made you decide to start your law firm?

At first, I wanted to be a doctor and I started in the premedical program at Boston College. I quickly learned that I didn't have a passion for sciences and math. As a result, I decided to go into the discovery phase of trying different courses. It wasn't until the last semester of my junior year, that I was invited to be treasurer of the Black Law Students Association. I quickly discovered that many of the skills necessary for a lawyer, were some my strengths.

I decided to apply to law school and went on to attend Northeastern University School of Law. While in law school, I also pursued a Masters degree in Public Health from Tufts University School of Medicine. Upon graduation, I got a prestigious clerkship, a highly sought after position for recent law school graduates. I landed a clerkship with the Mass Appeals Court working for Justice Frederick Brown who is the first African American to be appointed. Through this clerkship, I was able to refine my research and writing skills as well as first hand observation and insight into the judicial perspective.

I completed my two year judicial clerkship in August 2011 and eventually pursued the unanticipated path of entrepreneurship.

What are you most passionate about?

I am passionate about empowering and advocating for those individuals facing challenging issues. Giving guidance to those in need



Attorney Nicole M. Bluefort

to ensure a resolution to my clients every day problems. I will do everything in my power to aggressively advocate for my clients.

What trending law topics excite you the most?

I am always interested in being on the forefront of trending new topics.

At our firm, we represent individuals and businesses in many areas of law, however our major focus includes: family law, criminal, probate and estate planning, real estate, and general litigation.

What is the most exciting thing you have had happen since starting your practice?

I think the most exciting thing that has happened is the rapid growth of our firm and the development of our national reputation. When I initially started this firm, I was a solo practitioner. Over the years, we have built a firm with two locations that serves clients both locally and even nationally.

The awards that we have received and national recognition have also been wonderful. Specifically the 2019 Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Woman of the Year Award and National Bar Association's Top 40 Under 40 were both accolades that I am very proud of.

How can people get in touch with you?

You can reach us at (781) 593-1952.



# LYNN FIRE AND POLICE FAMILY FUN DAY JOINING FORCES

**F**amily Day is a simple, little thing creating healthy relationships. The Lynn Fire and Police Departments showed a positive influence by having a time for family and friends to enjoy some fun at the Lynn Woods Reservation Park. Children explored different carnival liked activities, a chance to have a hot air balloon ride, and to participate in 5K Road Race.

Firefighter Dan Dulong explained the importance of this second annual event as he stated, "This is a day for the two departments along with the Atlantic Ambulance Service to come together on a day that we are off duty. It is for all of us to have fun and to invite the community to be here. Our objective is to raise funds for charitable causes in Lynn.

Lynn Police Officer Ryan Dulong enjoys being involved in this family day as he said, "This is a wonderful event between the police and fire, especially to see each other at a more comfortable time. This is great for the families to come together and to see the children having fun".

The official RE/MAX hot air balloon named "Big Max" had its first appearance in Lynn and was a great success. Many enjoyed the thrill of experiencing a ride above the ground. Included in this fun day was also a 50/50 Golf Ball Charity Drop. Mayor McGee had the last ride of the day in "Big Max" dropping a bag of golf balls labeled with a number corresponding with names on a list. Winning closest to the pin was Rich Connick.



**Lynn Fire Fighters at Family Day – (Front): Kevin Cronin, Mookie, Marc Adrien, Marc Churchill, and Andrew Luque; (Back): Ed Whittier, Ed Power, Sean Martin, Ed Miles, Rob McIntosh, Dan Dulong, Scott Waters, Dennis Ring, and Bob Rotondo.**



**Standing in front of Big Max on family day – Al and Katie DiVirgilio of Lynn RE/MAX with daughter, Vivian.**



**Ready to run the 5K Road Race – Jean Steveson, Markot Miksis, and Kathy Miksis.**



**Enjoying Family Day – Skip and Arlene Mageary.**



**Grunckle John Heaphy with his two granddaughters, Anabelle and Gwen Dulong.**



**First Responders from Atlantic Ambulance Service on duty – Reece Dingle-Archer, Kelli Bedard, Christine Poore, Justin Lombardi, and Peter Gravel.**



# FUN DAY HOSTED BY THE LYNN POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS



PRG Photo

Family fun at the trampoline.



Lynn Police enjoying Family Day – Ryan and Tyler Dulong, Josh and Harrison Hilton, Ed and Eddy Cauley, Mike and Chase Hanlon, Mike Kenny, Al DiVirgilio, and Mike White.



Family Day with the Girl Scouts – Jessica and Quinn Murphy with Alani Rodriguez and Rosa Maldonado.



PRG Photo

Ready for a ride in the fire engine – Kathy Carritte with Giuliana Ring, Abigail Griffin and Rebecca Carritte.



PRG Photo

Supporting Fire & Police Family Day – LPD Chief Michael Mageary, RE/MAX Agent Al DiVirgilio, and Mayor Thomas McGee.



Off and running the 5K race.



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### COUNCIL PASSES PARKING BAN

CHELSEA - Developers who want to get around the City's parking requirements are going to have to put their money where their mouths are.

The City Council approved an amendment altering the off-street parking requirements in the zoning ordinance. Under the change, brought forward by Council President Damali Vidot and District 1 Councillor Robert Bishop, developers who seek parking relief for their projects will lose the right to have their tenants take part in the City's on-street parking program.

"If a developer wants to build and does not meet the minimum requirement for parking, we are asking them to enter an agreement with the people they rent to, to not participate in the residential parking program," said Vidot.

As a lack of parking becomes a bigger and bigger issue in Chelsea, Vidot said developers continue to come forward seeking relief from parking regulations which typically require two parking spots per residential unit. Often, she said, those developers will tout the fact that more people are using public transportation or ride-sharing services and do not own as many cars. But, Vidot said, the numbers show that car registrations are heading up in Chelsea, and it becomes harder every day for residents to find a place to park on the city's streets.

"It's important that we try to figure out how to resolve this issue, and we definitely have an issue in our community," Vidot said.

Bishop said the issue extends beyond developers building multi-unit apartment complexes.

"People are going to the Board of Appeals and they want to convert a two-family house to a three-family house, or a one-family to a two-family," Bishop said.

Often, he said, those conversion requests come with a request to seek relief from the parking requirements.

"Something has to be done, it's crazy out there," said Bishop.

While the change will go into effect on Jan. 1 of next year, Councillor-At-Large Roy Avellaneda took a shot at backdating the ordinance change to Jan. 1 2015. Effectively, developers who were granted parking relief since that date could have seen their tenants no longer eligible for on-street parking stickers.

Several councillors raised ob-

jections that the City could be in legal jeopardy if the ordinance change was back-dated. However, Avellaneda maintained that participating in the parking program is not a right, so that taking it away wouldn't be a legal issue.

City Solicitor Cheryl Watson Fisher was not as comfortable denying that parking relief granted by the ZBA is a right.

"If someone sought relief, then they have relief," she said, adding that if the Council went forward with Avellaneda's suggested change, the whole ordinance change would be unenforceable.

Avellaneda withdrew his amendment, and voted for the change as proposed by Vidot and Bishop.

Councillors Joe Perlatonda and Leo Robinson cast the two votes against the ordinance change.

"Who are we to say that someone comes into Chelsea and buys a \$500,000 condo or an \$800,000 house and we say they can't park here?" asked Perlatonda. "There are people parking in Chelsea who do not live in Chelsea."

Perlatonda said there is a parking issue in the city, but has vocally championed a more holistic overhaul of the city's parking regulations to address the issue.

### RESIDENTS MAY BE ABLE TO KEEP CHICKENS

CHELSEA - The chickens haven't come home to roost quite yet in Chelsea.

Before heading out on summer break, District 6 Councillor Giovanni Recupero requested that City Manager Thomas Ambrosino explore the possibility of residents being able to keep chickens at their homes without a permit.

In a letter the Council received from the City Manager at Monday night's meeting, the answer was a qualified 'maybe.'

"My review of the City Ordinances leads me to conclude that this is a matter that rests exclusively with the City Council," Ambrosino stated.

The current city ordinance pertaining to domestic farm animals, including chickens, prohibits any resident from "owning or harboring" a domestic farm animal without the permission of the Board of Health.

The City Council could eliminate the requirement for the Board of Health approval, if it so desires, through an ordinance change.

But, Ambrosino did caution the Council that before making an ordinance changes that would allow chickens to run free down Broadway, to review ordinances in other municipalities and inquire about their domestic chicken experiences.

"I am aware that, in some communities, allowing residents to raise chickens, particularly in dense neighborhoods, has generated complaints from abutters," Ambrosino wrote. "And, in at least the neighboring municipality of Revere, a previous ordinance allowing chickens was rescinded, and now the ownership of chickens is expressly prohibited."

Ambrosino also suggested that before any further chicken plans are hatched, that there should be some discussion with the Board of Health as to how many requests are made for the permission to raise chickens and how often such requests are denied.

"It may be that the current regulatory structure of requiring Board of Health permission is working just fine and is not in need of revision," Ambrosino stated.

### COUNCIL CALLS FOR CRACKDOWN ON AIRBNBS, SHORT-TERM RENTALS

EVERETT - At their first meeting of the fall, City Councillors called for immediate action on the issue of short-term rentals in the city limits after reports of nightmare scenarios in which "absentee landlords" are flagrantly skirting the law while allowing their properties to become dens of debauchery.

Earlier this year, a short-term rental ordinance went into effect in Everett. The ordinance requires that all short-term rental properties managed through booking sites like Airbnb and Vrbo be licensed just like any other business. Rental operators must apply for a license with the City, pay for said license, and have the license approved by the City Clerk in order to operate legally.

However, according to City Clerk Sergio Cornelio, he has yet to receive a single application, despite his office mailing out dozens of notices to known rental operators. The result is an unregulated market of mini-hotels cropping up all over the city, and it's causing real problems for some residents.

Victoria Sinnickson and her

### BOSSON PARK BLOCK PARTY



PHOTO BY MARIANNE SALZA

Roberto Barrientos, Cynthia and Jennifer Forman, and Alexavier Barrientos at the annual Bosson Park Block Party organized by TND and the City of Chelsea. Numerous families and friends enjoyed the pleasant afternoon – which had earlier been threatened by a potential hurricane. See Page 7 for more photos.

husband, Paul Spring, of 193 Nichols St. recited a letter before Council in which they describe what it has been like to live in the same building as the (now illegally operated) Airbnb at 191 Nichols St.

"Living next to an Airbnb since March of 2019 has caused much stress and disruption to our lives," the letter began.

It went on to describe how the Airbnb is regularly the site of loud house parties consisting of 20 to 30 people, mostly men, playing loud music and congregating in shared hallways at all hours of the day and night. These partygoers use drugs and alcohol and their vehicles constantly come and go, sometimes parking on the couple's property, their letter stated.

Sinnickson takes care of her 96-year-old mother, who one time spotted a houseguest relieving himself on the lawn just outside her glass entranceway. Sinnickson has also seen guests urinating off of the top-floor porch onto her driveway.

The couple has found cigarette butts and beer cans strewn around the property, and woke up one morning to find that smoke detectors in the common areas had been deactivated, creating a safety issue.

Sinnickson reported that the homeowners that purchased the unit in December of 2019, and who don't live on the premises, refuse to speak to her after she exposed that they were also op-

erating an illegal basement apartment in the building.

"They previously said it was their property and they could do whatever they wanted to," she told Council.

The distraught couple called on Council to support stricter ordinances on short-term rentals. They suggested that this could include limiting them to business districts where they will not disturb residents or requiring that the operators live on the property.

Councillors sided with the pair, promising to crack down not just on the owners of the Nichols Street rental, but on short-term rentals citywide.

Councillors Michael McLaughlin and Wayne Matewsky proposed that the short-term rental ordinance be reviewed at the next Legislative Affairs Committee meeting in order to make the necessary changes.

"The homeowners need to live at the property," said Councilor McLaughlin. "If they're going back to Winchester or Somerville, they don't care about 191 Nichols St. They're not being disturbed."

"This is what absentee landlords are going to do," said Councilor Matewsky, who compared the Nichols Street Airbnb to the fraternity in the film 'Animal House.' "It's unacceptable."

"The ordinance needs to be tweaked," said Councilwoman Rosa DiFlorio. "You absolutely



# Metro News // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

have to live on the property. We will get it done.”

Councilor John McKinnon suggested adding a measure that every time emergency services is called to the site of an Airbnb, that the homeowner be billed for the visit.

The City Clerk admitted that he has received complaints about short-term rentals at other locations, but none as egregious as the aforementioned case.

“Even one is enough,” said Councilman Stephen Simonelli.

Councilor Peter Napolitano suggested learning from neighboring towns that have had success in gaining control over their short-term rental markets, such as Malden.

“Malden has shut a lot of these down, created new ordinances and created zoning,” he said. “Most of the [Airbnbs] listed back in June are now closed.”

Councilor McLaughlin isn’t opposed to Airbnbs operating legally and safely in Everett, but said guidelines must be more rigid.

“It’s a great business to have, but they need to have restrictions,” he said.

Airbnb did not return a request for comment prior to the deadline for this article.

## TASK FORCE ON SCHOOL FINANCE PRESENTS FINDINGS

EVERETT - The mayoral-appointed Blue Ribbon Task Force on school finances presented its findings and recommendations to a joint meeting of the City Council and School Committee on Weds., Sept. 4, at City Hall, and it was a moment whereby many bad practices of the past were brought into the light – and given a path out of the woods.

The Task Force was made up of four members who had no connection to Everett, led by Sam Tyler, the former director of the Boston Municipal Finance Bureau. Following the school budget crisis of 2018, Tyler and his colleagues were charged by Mayor Carlo DeMaria in February 2018 with taking a deep dive into what had happened, and how the City and School Department could do a better job with school finance.

Tyler said they met first on Feb. 15, 2018, and had nine meetings, with the last coming on June 13 of this year – all organized by former City Hall worker Omar Easy. While the report and recommendations were expect-

ed one year ago, Tyler said they quickly decided to expand their report to take an all-encompassing look at Everett’s finances and its characteristics.

“A good part of the time was spent dealing and working with former Supt. Foresteire and his team, and later with Interim Supt. Janice Gauthier and her team,” he said. “We had interviews with some School Committee members and we decided to take a harder and longer look, and a more comprehensive look, at the entirety of the City’s finances for five years.”

He also said they worked independently and were not interfered with at all.

“The Task Force worked wholly independent,” he said. “We determined the scope and had access to information about revenues and to City and School officials and employees. The mayor was hands-off...These four members were chosen because they had no prior involvement with Everett so they could produce a thorough and objective report.”

That report produced nine recommendations, with two of them not related to the School Department. As previously reported in the Independent, the key issue for the 2018 budget meltdown was that the School Department hired 97 employees after the budget had been set and without a funding source identified to pay for them.

Part of the problem was that historically the schools did not participate in the internal controls set up by the City’s finance office. Those controls do not allow for anyone to be hired and added to the payroll without identifying a funding source. The schools did not have those controls, but the first and most critical recommendation by the Task Force was to make sure the schools participated in the City’s systems.

Another recommendations dealt with hiring someone to interface between the City and the School Department on Budget issues, also serving as an expert on education funding initiatives at the state level.

“It just makes up too big a portion of the City’s finances to not have someone there dealing with this in an expert way all the time,” said Tyler.

Said Councilor Anthony DiPierro, “I would say we move ahead quite briskly on this and I think we should call a meeting

of the School Finance Review Committee as soon as possible. I have always said the School Department and City Hall shouldn’t operate as separate entities. I’m happy to see that is one area this report addresses in trying to bring them together.”

Many of the other recommendations had to do with the School Committee.

Member David Ela said he was very upset in reading the report because it was hard to believe that so many people were hired outside of the knowledge of the School Committee.

“That’s probably what upset me the most about this report – being unaware of the 65 and 32 employees hired after we approved the budget,” he said. “I will take responsibility, but I didn’t have the information or knowledge. It’s important we are moving in the right direction. We’ve had great meetings with the mayor and CFO Eric Demas. We will have ongoing collaboration with them...Things don’t happen overnight. We’ll review these and see where we are in one year. That’s a good goal for us.”

He also said the only information they had was the “burn rate,” which is a calculation of how fast the school budget is being spent. He said they were about two weeks away from learning of the new hires from September via the December burn rate.

“We need better tools,” he added.

School Committeeman Frank Parker said they will be moving to start working on the recommendations as soon as the Sept. 16 meeting, where one of the recommendations will be implemented. That one deals with making sure the entire School Committee is participating in the budgeting process, rather than just three members on the Finance Committee.

“In the past, most members attended one or more meetings, but I will propose at the Sept. 16 meeting to create a new committee – the Committee on Budget – that will be made up of the whole School Committee,” he said. “That’s in the works.”

He said time will be of the essence, and most members of the School Committee had positive reactions to the report.

“We’re going to move quickly on this,” he said. “There have already been conversations. I think most of the recommendations are seen as reasonable and attainable

in a short period of time. The one recommendation about a finance position at City Hall is out of our hands. Personally, I’d rather see a consultant in that position rather than a full-time employee though.”

Tyler said he and the Task Force believe that the recommendations should be seriously considered and should be implemented within a year.

“We hope these are given a chance,” he said. “We think the nine recommendations of the

Task Force should be reviewed by the School Finance Review Committee a year from now to determine whether the recommendations have been implemented or not,” he said. “If not, why not, and if implemented, have they made a difference.”

City Councilor Wayne Matewsky said he felt like the report contained things he’d been hoping to hear for many years.

“This is a breath of fresh air,”

See METRO NEWS Page 10

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# Metro News // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

he said. "I've been here many years and this is so refreshing."

## COMMUNITY SAYS FAREWELL TO MAX GRUNER

EAST BOSTON - When Max Gruner took over the reigns of East Boston Main Streets in 2013 he hit the ground running. For the past six years under Gruner's leadership Main Streets partnered with numerous businesses in the neighborhood to increase the quality of life for residents while creating a vibrant and prosperous business district that has benefited all who live, work, and visit Eastie.

While Main Streets signature events like Taste of Eastie and the annual Kindergarten Parade grew under Gruner's tenure, his work helping to transform and improve Eastie's business district will be his lasting mark on the community.

Sadly, Gruner announced over the summer he was leaving Main Streets for a job in New Mexico and departed for a new chapter in his life over the weekend.

Last Thursday the Main Streets board held a special farewell party for Gruner with dozens of Eastie residents, business leaders and friends paying tribute to the man that has had a positive impact on Eastie's future.

"It's hard to believe you were only here for six years," said East Boston Chamber President Jim Kearney. "It feels like a lot longer because of the mark you have left on this community and all you have done for us. Your reach went beyond the Main Streets District and your work had a tremendous impact on the business owners, residents, homeowners and children that live and work in East Boston."

Since coming to Eastie Gruner dedicated his work at Main Streets to providing an opportunity to showcase the rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and vibrant business opportunities of a community that is ideally situated to truly becoming the Gateway to Boston.

"The testament to your work are the people who are here tonight," said Rep. Adrian Madaro at the farewell party last week. "I remember when we first met over a cup of coffee at Angela's Cafe and being so impressed with your vision for this community. You immediately became a fixture in the East Boston Community and provided a breath of fresh air and

vitality to Main Streets. While this has been an organization that has had a positive impact on the community for years you were able to expand its reach and impact so many through your work. We are so grateful for what you have done for East Boston and you will be missed."

Before arriving at Main Streets Gruner's resume includes over 15 years of non-profit management experience. He has served as a leader in the arena of Health and Human Services, particularly Developmental Disability, Education, Community Development, and Transportation. Gruner holds a Master's Degree as well as numerous certifications in nonprofit management. Prior to this appointment he was a founding partner in a strategic consulting group, was executive director of a statewide trail organization, and served as a senior manager of a human service organization. He has also founded several non-profits, has served on numerous boards, as well as having founded a language immersion charter school.

"It's been an absolute pleasure to work in East Boston and to collaborate with all of you," said Gruner. "I just want to thank you all for your friendship, your wisdom, your guidance and support over these past six years."

EBMS started as a novel idea—to take a stretch of Eastie's business district along Meridian Street decimated in the 1970s by poor design, steel grates and unsightly signage and transform it into an attractive commercial area with a uniformed look.

Throughout the 1990s EBMS exploded onto the scene handing out grants to business owners on board with Main Streets's vision of storefront improvements and a more welcoming business.

Gruner will be replaced by Gladys Oliveros as the new executive director. Before her appointment she worked as a program supervisor for BCYF.

## HVNA VOTES AGAINST PROJECT

EAST BOSTON -In a close vote Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA) members voted 31 to 28 against a project on Horace Street at the group's September meeting at the Edward Brooke's Charter School.

This was the third presentation given to HVNA members concerning the project at 37 Horace St.

There, owner Joseph Trichillo

is looking to demolish an existing three-family home and combine it with two vacant lots and build a nine-unit structure with nine parking spaces on this new 8,000 square-foot lot.

The units would be sold as condos and consist of four one-bedroom, two two-bedroom and three three-bedroom units.

Variances needed for this project are Use, Floor Area Ratio, Height, and Parking.

Members at the meeting asked if the project was an 'as of right' project, how many units could the developer build. Trichillo's attorney, Richard Lynds, said If you combine the lots you could build eight units as of right.

The corner lot has undergone several design changes since first presented to the group earlier this year. Some of the changes made were a reduction in height of the building and the total number of units.

While some of these changes swayed a good amount of HVNA members to vote in favor of the project, others still felt it was too big with not enough parking.

"I'd be happy with six (units), I know you want nine, but I'd like to see six," said one HVNA member at Monday night's meeting.

Attorney for Trichillo, Richard Lynds, said a lot has gone into designing a project that tried to balance the needs of the community with the needs of the developer. Lynds said his client heard loud and clear that the project was too tall and reduced the height, as well as offering the nine units as homeownership opportunities rather than rental units.

## POLICE INVESTIGATING VANDALISM AT ST. GEORGE CHURCH

LYNN - The Lynn Police Department is conducting an ongoing investigation of an incident of vandalism at the St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 54 South Common St.

Lt. Mike Kmiec, LPD public information officer, said the incident was first reported by the church president to the police on Sunday, Sept. 8.

Kmiec said as part of the investigation Lynn Police officers viewed three areas of the church building where graffiti had been spray painted.

"Three different locations had been spraypainted, one was one

of the icons on the outside, along with two other spots on the exterior of the building," said Kmiec.

He added there was no other damage in the area to other parts of the building or the property. Kmiec said that the removal of the graffiti has taken place.

The police lieutenant said the incident at St. George is believed to be an isolated one. "We are not aware of any other incidents of this nature at other locations in the city," said Kmiec.

## GIANNINO TOPS AT-LARGE FIELD IN PRIMARY

REVERE - Councilor-at-Large Jessica Giannino again showed strength at the ballot box across the entire city on her way to an impressive first-place in the Preliminary Election Tuesday.

Giannino topped the ticket in the 13-candidate field with 2,012 votes.

Nine other candidates, including the three other incumbent councillors-at-large - Steven Morabito, George Rotondo, and Anthony Zambuto - joined Giannino as nominees for the general election in November. The incumbents fared very well in the election, finishing in the three successive spots behind the pace-setting Giannino.

Morabito was second with 1,556 votes, Rotondo was third with 1,446 votes, while Zambuto took fourth with 1,354 votes.

School Committee member Gerry Visconti had an excellent showing, taking fifth overall with 1,333 votes.

The other five qualifiers for the November election taking spots 6-10 in the race were John Correggio (984) Brian Vesce (970), Dimple Rana (955), Wayne Rose (778), and Robert Capoccia (722).

Candidates Philip Russo (522), Kevin Sanchez (423), and Richard Ireton (419) were eliminated in the election.

Giannino, 28, who has been a force in each of her past elections, said she was grateful for the citywide display of support she received in Tuesday's election.

"I'm incredibly grateful to the residents of Revere," said Giannino. "I attribute it to the hard work of my family and all of my supporters, because at the end of the day, I couldn't do it without the people that support me, my grandmother, my father, and my committee that's there for me day

in and day out."

Despite being a consistent ticket-topper in her political career, Giannino did not rest on her past triumphs, waging a highly visible campaign and meeting frequently with voters.

"We have been going all out," said Giannino. "We don't take anything for granted and we work really, really hard every election. I'm so looking forward to the general election and I hope we get a really strong turnout and get a lot of involvement because it's a great opportunity for the people of the city to get out there and be part of the community."

Giannino is seeking her fifth term on the City Council after winning her first election while she was still a student at Salem State University.

## CANDIDATES START FOR ELECTION BIDS

REVERE - It's on to Tuesday, November 5 for the candidates whose names did not appear on the ballot in Tuesday's preliminary election.

Mayor Brian Arrigo and Councilor-at-Large Dan Rizzo move on to the Nov. 5 mayoral election in a rematch of their hard-fought 2015 contest. The two candidates have been campaigning hard throughout the summer and the enthusiasm and interest in this exciting race will intensify in the next six weeks leading up to Election Day.

There will be three contested races for ward councillor seats. Incumbent Ward 2 Ira Novoselsky is being challenged by Robert E. Bent for the seat. In Ward 5, incumbent John Powers is being challenged by Eric Lampedecchio. (Ricky Serino and Nicholas Moulaison Sr. will square off for the Ward 6 seat).

Ward 1 Councillor Joanne McKenna, Ward 3 Councillor and current City Council President Arthur Guinasso, and Ward 4 Councillor Patrick Keefe Jr. will be unopposed in the general election.

There was no preliminary election for the School Committee race Tuesday. Those seeking one of the six seats on the School Committee (the mayor is an ex-officio member and serves as chair) in November are incumbents Stacey Bronsdon-Rizzo, Michael Ferrante, Susan Gravelle, Frederick Sannella, and Carol Tye, along with candidates Anthony D'Ambrosio, John Kingston, Albert Terminiello Jr., and Michael Toto Jr.



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## 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REVERE BEACH VIGIL



Lynne Baker contemplates those that have been lost due to the addiction crisis.



PHOTOS BY KEIKO HIROMI

Shown above, families, friends and community members gather at 13th Annual Revere Beach Memorial.



Jacob Baril reflects during the Memorial.



Melanie Falagan and Patty Walz comfort one another.

Photos by Keiko Hiromi

The 13th Annual Revere Beach Memorial took place in the Reinstein Bandstand at Revere Beach on Sunday, Sept. 15. Families, friends and community members gathered at the

Bandstand for the annual candle-light vigil to remember those lost to drugs and alcohol. More than 300 names of the victim were read this year, and Revere Fire sounded a bell for each person announced.



Revere Police Capt. Amy O'Hara reading names of those who lost their lives to addiction during the 13th Annual Revere Beach Memorial.



Derek Burns putting a photograph of his brother, Allen Burns, on the Memorial wall before the 13th Annual Revere Beach Memorial.

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## Blue Ox //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wakefield “The Blue Ox is incredibly meaningful to me,” said O’Neil in a statement. “For the last 10 years, we have been lucky to be a part of this community. The team at The Blue Ox is my family, and it’s with trust and pride that I pass the torch to Chef Anthony Caturano to lead them into this next chapter. I know that he will continue to be successful and to honor what my team has built here.”

O’Neil said part of the deal hashed out with Caturano is that all Blue Ox staff will remain, as will The Blue Ox’s menu, including the award-winning Sin Burgers, Tuna Tartare, and more.

In a statement Caturano said he looks forward to leading The Blue Ox into the next decade, promising to continue the spot’s

tradition as a neighborhood gathering place. The Blue Ox will officially transfer owners this month.

“Matt and I became fast friends when he took a job as a line cook at Prezza a number of years ago; it was during that time that I noticed his outstanding talent and character,” said Caturano. “I can only hope to maintain the level of excellence he’s achieved with food and drinks, but more so with the community that The Blue Ox has built over the years. The restaurant is similar to Prezza and Tonno in that it is both a neighborhood place, but also a destination. We have big shoes to fill, but with this team in tow, I’ll be learning from the best; we could not be more excited to be part of The Blue Ox brand.”