

THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, August 20, 2020



Sergeant Ashley Affonco, Officer Tom Morley, Officer Geo Lopez, Officer John Mackin, Officer Markanthony Williams, Officer Pete Alexander, Officer Taylor Haberek and Shyra Broughton from BHU comprise the team whose problem-solving approach includes much more than the traditional style of policing. The CBD team was slated to begin in late March but due to the coronavirus the bike patrols were delayed until June. The CBD Bike Patrol Team is funded by an Executive Office of Public Safety and Security staffing grant.

BIKE PATROL IN ACTION AT CBD

If you have visited the downtown area recently you may have seen our newly formed Central Business District (CBD) Bike Patrol Team in action. The team's neon green uniform makes them easily recognizable. As the population of the downtown area continues to grow, we recognized a greater need for a unit to specifically address the diverse concerns of the residents and business owners. The CBD team is designed to patrol the downtown and deal with issues,

such as anti-social behavior, that affect the quality of life for people visiting or residing in the area. The unit's primary mode of transportation is the bike, which allows them to move around quickly but still have the ability to easily interact with people. The team consists of five officers and a sergeant who utilize a variety of solutions to the problems that they encounter. The officers frequently refer people or problems to other agencies that can provide additional assistance.

The officers then have the opportunity to follow-up on the issues to make sure that they are resolved. The team is frequently accompanied by a member of our Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) who can offer a wide variety of services. Many of the individuals that the officers' encounter need help with issues such as mental health or addiction and BHU is there, meeting people where they are, to offer immediate assistance.

City Clerk announces early voting schedule for Sept. 1 primary

Special To The Journal

Lynn City Clerk and Election Chief Janet Rowe has announced the early voting schedule for the Sept. 1 Primary.

Early voting can be done in person or by mail. In-person early voting at Lynn City Hall begins on Saturday, Aug. 22 and ends on Friday, Aug. 28. The schedule is as follows:

Saturday Aug. 22: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sunday Aug. 23: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Monday Aug. 24: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please see VOTING Page 3

Vassallo coordinates new route to My Brother's Table in Lynn

By Seth Daniel

Estimates show that in Greater Boston, some 40 percent of the food produced is wasted, but not if Vinny Vassallo can help it.

Vassallo, an Everett native, is the lead trainer and coordinator for the Lovin' Spoonfuls' newest, and eighth overall, food rescue truck that is picking up and delivering on a route that includes Lynn, Everett, Chelsea, Revere, and East Boston.

The model for Lovin' Spoonfuls is to work with partners like Baldor Specialty Foods (Chelsea), Big Y, Stop & Shop, and Target, to rescue perishable and nutritious food, from fruits and vegetables to meat and dairy, to then distribute, same day, to 18 area nonprofits, including Lynn's My Brother's Table, Everett's Grace Ministries North Shore, and East Boston's Harborside Community School.



Vinny Vassallo is the coordinator and lead trainer for Lovin' Spoonfuls.

Lovin' Spoonfuls' same-day model helps to ensure that fresh and healthy perishable food isn't wasted and, instead, quickly makes its way to people who need it.

Please see VASSALLO Page 3

Lynn Youth Hockey awaits word from State, Mass Hockey officials

By Cary Shuman

Lynn Youth Hockey President Brian Boisson is awaiting the go-ahead from state and Mass. Hockey officials to begin the program's 2020-21 season.

Boisson said he has received notification that the Connery Rink in Lynn will open on Aug. 31. The Valley League, where Lynn travels teams play, is set to begin on Sept. 8.

"Normally, we would be prac-

ting two or three weeks before the games start," said Boisson, who is also an assistant coach of the Lynn Jets high school hockey team. "The rink was supposed to open Aug. 22 but they've pushed it back to Aug. 31."

Boisson said he has received from the state an extensive list of COVID-19 health guidelines which the Lynn travel teams must follow during all hockey games played in Massachusetts rinks.

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For the latest news in Lynn that you need to know, check lynnjournal.com

EDITORIAL

SAVE THE U.S. POST OFFICE

The unprecedented efforts to undermine the operations of the U.S. Postal Service by President Donald Trump and the Republicans are not even a thinly-veiled attempt to make sure that mail-in voting in the November election during this unprecedented pandemic will fail.

Trump's suggestion that mail-in voting can easily be manipulated, or "rigged," is absurd on its face. Five states, including Washington, Oregon, and Utah, have been conducting their elections for years by mailed-in ballots -- and they have been doing so without a hitch or any hint of manipulation.

However, even if we take Trump at his word that he is trying to "reform" the Post Office, why did he wait to do so until more than halfway through his fourth year in office and appoint as the Postmaster General a millionaire hack campaign donor who has absolutely zero experience in the mail delivery industry?

The U.S. Postal Service from its inception has been a national treasure that other nations have tried to emulate. We hope that the Congress is able to come together to save our Postal Service, an institution that literally is a lifeline for millions of Americans and provides a tremendous service for the entire country.

NEW STIMULUS BILL IS DESPERATELY NEEDED

As we all have learned by now, the so-called Executive Order (if any of it is even legal) recently issued by President Donald Trump two weeks ago amounts to all talk and no action.

It does not stop any evictions of tenants anywhere in the country.

The extra \$400 per week of unemployment benefits (on top of whatever an unemployed person may be receiving from the usual unemployment stipend) is subject to each state kicking in \$100 of the \$400. Given that every state already is facing huge budget deficits because of the pandemic, the Executive Order amounts to what in the private sector is referred-to as a poison pill.

As for the temporary elimination of the Social Security tax -- which is only paid by employed persons -- that sum will have to be repaid in the future by each taxpayer and business. So what good is that?

The moratorium on interest on student loans may be able to go into effect, but the Executive Order extends that benefit only to September 30.

The House passed an extended relief bill in May that included funds for states and municipalities, as well as maintaining the additional unemployment benefits of \$600 that were included in the first pandemic legislation.

The Senate refused to take up the House bill until the deadline approached -- and then asserted that the House was unwilling to compromise.

With an average of 1000 Americans dying daily from the coronavirus and the economy still in a shambles, the country cannot afford political gamesmanship. Action is needed -- and fast.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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



LETTER to the Editor

ED MARKEY HAS DELIVERED FOR MASSACHUSETTS CITIES AND TOWNS

To the Editor,

In January of 1978, Mayor George Colella appointed me as Revere's first director of the Department of Planning and Development. I assembled a young staff, like me, eager to plan a better future for our City. Come February 6-8, everything changed, as all hell broke loose and the Great Blizzard of '78 devastated our coastal community. We quickly turned for help to our freshman Congressman Ed Markey, he immediately went to work and boy did he deliver for Revere then...and ever since. Congressman Markey worked tirelessly to help Revere recover, over the next several years he secured over \$22 Million in Federal funding for repair of damaged infrastructure, for construction of seawalls and major flood protection structures and for re-sanding of washed away Revere Beach. He didn't stop there, in the ensuing years he fought to secure multi-millions of dollars in federal grants and appropriations for: major job-generating development projects; park improvements and programs; sewer system upgrades and moderate-income home improvements. And he was also responsible for passage of the Act of Congress that designated Revere Beach as a National Historic Landmark.

As United States Senator, Ed Markey continued his fight for Revere's efforts to revitalize Re-

vere Beach. He is responsible for the City being awarded nearly \$50 Million in federal appropriations and competitive grants that made possible the replacement of outmoded Wonderland Station with a new multi-modal transit facility and an open public plaza and iconic pedestrian bridge that safely link Revere Beach and the blue Line. This public investment in turn has generated nearly a billion dollars in private investment in quality housing units, hotel development, and restaurants that constitute the realization of Revere's decades long dream for rebirth of America's First Public Beach.

All told, Ed Markey has channeled nearly \$94 Million in federal resources to help the people of Revere, including a \$4 million Clean Energy Grant for the

Jack Satter House senior housing complex.

I know firsthand how Ed Markey, as both Congressman and Senator, has worked tirelessly to address the needs and achieve the dreams of many other Massachusetts communities, one such example being the Winthrop Town Pier and ferry service.

Ed Markey has proven his work ethic and his love of Massachusetts completely and consistently. Why would we want to replace him and his considerable seniority and knowledge of the federal system with a rookie... just when the Senate may well return to Democratic control? I just don't get Joe Kennedy on this one. Massachusetts needs Ed Markey now more than ever.

Paul Rupp

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Vassallo/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For Vassallo, who has been with the company since 2016, being able to help the community he grew up in – and lived in until last month – has been heart-warming.

“I grew up in Everett, but my family is from East Boston,” said Vassallo, 32. “I’ve spent a lot of time in these cities. To be able to help people there is very meaningful...We went to Lynn and Revere before. We were in East Boston and Chelsea and we only went to Everett to pick up food from Costco and Target. This new route allows us to now deliver to Grace Food Pantry and My Brother’s Table. It makes me so happy to help there, too. I’m loving it. My family had enough, and we were a big Italian family so growing up I was probably overfed. Growing up there, though, I noticed it was different for my friends. There was a difference between what I had and what they had. I could see it. Now, I can also see it during this pandemic. These were my neighbors. The need is tremendous everywhere we deliver.”

Dianne Kuzia Hills, executive director of My Brother’s Table, said Lovin’ Spoonfuls’ efforts have been instrumental in serving the needs of the food shelter’s clients during the pandemic. My Brother’s Table served 64,000 meals to individuals in July, which is four times the number of meals that MBT served in July, 2019.

“Loving’ Spoonfuls has been really helpful to us because it’s so hard to have enough volunteers to both run our operation here and do pickups and deliveries,” said Hills. “So they take that work off our shoulders and it’s been really super helpful.”

Kuzia Hills said Lovin’ Spoonfuls’ staff has also been helpful in delivering toiletries that are distributed to clients in the free medical clinic at My Brother’s Table.

She praised Vassallo and the Lovin’ Spoonfuls’ staff for their professionalism and organizational skills.

“They’re great at what they do. They’re super friendly, very organized, and really enthusiastic. It’s great having partners like Lovin’ Spoonfuls and it helps a lot,” said Kuzia Hills. “We need the products that they deliver but



Lovin’ Spoonfuls has just added a new route to its food rescue operations, and that route includes Everett where they pick up from stores, and deliver to Grace Food Pantry. The route also includes Lynn, Chelsea, Revere and East Boston. It is the eighth route for the company in Massachusetts.

we don’t always have the person-power to pick them up ourselves.”

Through a grant from the Department of Public Health (DPH), Lovin’ Spoonfuls was able to secure their eighth truck, which Vassallo coordinates while training those on all of the other trucks. They currently have six trucks in Greater Boston that serve rescue food pick-ups and deliveries, with two outside of Greater Boston.

Vassallo grew up on Baldwin Avenue in Everett, and attended the Devens School and Parlin Junior High before moving away for high school. He returned after high school and lived in Everett for many years. While there, he worked at an office job, but found that he needed something new.

“I am glad I made this move,” he said. “Sitting at a desk for eight to 10 hours a day – it wasn’t for me. I was growing restless. At the same time, I didn’t want to take a job that was active for the sake of being active. I didn’t want an excuse to just be outside and active. I wanted something more meaningful that helped people. This really filled that void for me. We are doing something great for the environment in keeping this food out of landfills, but we are also taking that rescued food and providing good food for people who need it.”

Lovin’ Spoonfuls Director Ashley Stanley said their company has become even more critical during the pandemic, serving perfectly good food to people who need it – food that

would otherwise be thrown out by groceries, wholesalers and restaurants.

“As we all have seen, these communities have been hit the hardest by COVID, said Stanley, founder and executive director. “As such, it was an obvious next step for the Spoonfuls team to increase efforts in places where our end users, who utilize area pantries, meal programs and shelters, are often disproportionately affected by crises of any kind. Over the last 10 years, Lovin’ Spoonfuls has sought to help heal our communities through food. Unfortunately, the current pandemic further amplified the disparities in access to fresh, healthy food.”

The new route has daily pickups occurring Monday through Friday, and it is expected to rescue an additional 222,000 pounds of perishable foods by the end of 2020 - the equivalent of 176,000 meals for neighbors in need.

Those are big numbers and Vassallo said when he first started working at Lovin’ Spoonfuls, he was shocked at the amounts of food that went to waste. Some of it was perfectly fine, but near its sell-by date. Some was just misshapen or not the perfect color, yet still fine to eat. All of it, otherwise, would have gone into a landfill.

“When I first started, it was staggering the types of food given to us,” he said. “Some of it is close dated, but in perfectly fine condition...Like many, I was shocked to see how much good food is being thrown away when I knew there were people who were hungry and could use it.”

Since 2010, Lovin’ Spoonfuls has rescued over 17 million pounds of fresh, healthy food, creating 14 million meals. Driven by a passion for change, Stanley established Spoonfuls after realizing hunger isn’t a problem of supply, it’s a problem of distribution. Since the start of the pandemic, Spoonfuls has rescued over 1.5 million pounds of food and onboarded 20 new beneficiary partners in response to the rising need. About 14 percent of partners rely on Lovin’ Spoonfuls’ deliveries for all of the food they serve their clients.

(Cary Shuman of the Lynn Journal contributed to this story).

Fares at Lynn Commuter Rail Station lowered to Zone 1A extended

The MBTA today announced that Zone 1A fares will be accepted at Lynn and Riverworks Commuter Rail Stations on a pilot basis through December 31. The extension of this pilot provides additional travel options for North Shore customers, eases crowding on nearby bus routes, and allows the MBTA to collect ridership data related to the effects of temporary fare changes on relieving crowding.

“We’re pleased to extend this reduced fare through the end of the year so that riders commuting between Lynn and Downtown Boston can continue to travel for the same price as a subway fare,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Poflak. “This temporary zone change pilot aims to manage passenger volume and promote physical distancing on buses, and we continue to encourage our North Shore riders to consider this Commuter Rail option.”

Zone 1A fares were temporarily accepted at Lynn from May 22 to May 31 and again offered beginning July 1 in an effort to provide additional travel options for customers and so that MBTA staff could begin to gather rid-

ership data related to temporary fare changes. The MBTA will continue to collect data throughout the extension of the temporary zone change pilot.

Customers heading inbound from Lynn or Riverworks to North Station and outbound from North Station to Lynn or Riverworks can purchase a Zone 1A ticket on mTicket, at a fare vending machine, onboard, or at a ticket window at North Station. Zone 1A monthly passes printed on CharlieTickets or CharlieCards or on mTicket will also be accepted. A one-way Zone 1A commuter rail fare is \$2.40, which is the same as a CharlieCard subway fare. Bus Routes that stop at Lynn Station include Routes 426, 429, 435, 436, 441, 442, and 455.

Riders are reminded that face coverings are required while onboard MBTA service and within stations. Customers can visit mbta.com/RideSafer for more information.

For more information, please visit mbta.com or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA.

Voting/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tuesday Aug. 25: 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wednesday. Aug. 26: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday Aug. 27: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 28: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Registered voters have the option to request an early voting ballot through the mail. Voters may complete an Early Voting Application and mail it to:

Election Commission, Lynn City Hall, 3 City Hall Square, Room 203, Lynn, MA 01901.

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USA DEFEATED EUROPE IN RYDER CUP PLAY AT GANNON GOLF COURSE

The Lynn Gannon Golf Course 22 Club held its first annual two days Ryder Cup Tournament with a USA team against a Europe team. Competition involved a Four Ball match at Gannon Golf Course on day one while the second day was played at Kelley's Green in Nahant with an Individual format.

There was a lot of fine play from both sides on day one. John Lombard won his match giving the Europe team a two point lead. American teammates, Frank Haskell and Jim McDonald, came from behind to overtake Fred Campatelli and Rick Comfort to win the match.

Other matches on day one included Jim Dill and 89 year old Ray Vanasse as they held onto a one up victory over Ken Grady and Bart Conlon. Match four had Frank Pietrini carding two birdies and his partner, Bert Conlon, edging out Jim Dakin and Dave Lenihan on the last hole to capture the match. Rick Bickford and Earl Cook of the USA team had a resounding win over Paul Toner and Jay Richards. In the final match, Patrick Gecoya and Norm Erlich, breezed past Tom Dill and Ron Bergeron to give the USA team a lead of a 4 1/2 to 1 1/2 spread.

Day two was played at Kelley's Green in Nahant - a tough

course with hardly any room for error. The first match involved Tom Fabrizio and Fred Campatelli; they halved their match. USA player, Jim McDonald, scored a 37 to defeat Gary Conn. John Lombard birdied the last hole to sneak by USA Doug Anderson. Frank Haskell came from one down after six holes to win the last three holes defeating Europe's player, Rick Comfort. European player, Ken Grady, defeated Jim Dill for a one up rally. Frank Pietrini topped Jim Dakin pushing the USA team up with an 8-4 lead. Other matches involved Ray Vanasse of the USA team who skirted past Dave Lenihan while Bert Conlon defeated Bart Conlon. Europe's Tom Dill and Jay Richards tried to make it interesting by winning their respective matches over Rick Bickford and Patrick Gecoya while USA Team members, Earl Cook and Norm Erlich, defeated Paul Toner and Ron Bergeron.

The American team won by a 12-6 margin against the European Team. Organizing this tournament was Rick Comfort, Bert Conlon, and John Lombard. Terrific competition and great sportsmanship was enjoyed by the Gannon Golf Course 22 Club.



Team USA 22 Club Ryder Cup Champions – (L-R): Frank Pietrini, Jim Dill, Ray Vanasse, Doug Anderson, Norm Erlich, Rick Bickford, Frank Haskell, Earl Cook, Bert Conlon, Tom Fabrizio, Jim McDonald & Patrick Gecoya.



Gannon Golf Course 22 Club Ryder Cup Golfers – (L-R: Kneeling): Jim McDonald, Patrick Gecoya, Norm Erlich, Frank Pietrini, Bart Conlon & Frank Haskell; (L-R: Standing): Rick Bickford, Bert Conlon, Ray Vanasse, Fred Campatelli, Tom Fabrizio, Ken Grady, Jim Dill, Dave Linehan, Jim Dakin, Tom Dill, Doug Anderson, Earl Cook, Rick Comfort, John Lombard, Jay Richards, Paul Toner & Ron Bergeron (Absent: Gary Conn).



Team Europe 22 Club Ryder Cup – Paul Toner, John Lombard, Jim Dakin, Ken Grady, Rick Comfort, David Lenihan, Tom Dill, Fred Campatelli, Bart Conlon, Ron Bergeron & Jay Richards (Absent: Gary Conn).

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First Come - First Served

House provides an update on ongoing productive 2019-2020 session

During the ongoing Massachusetts 191st General Court's 2019-2020 session – which has been extended through legislative action – the House has passed emergency legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as major legislation relating to education, transportation, and climate change.

Following a decisive vote in July to extend the formal legislative session, the House remains at work on bills vital to the Commonwealth. This action followed the passage of major legislation relating to the COVID-19 State of Emergency that included provisions to extend unemployment benefits, protect public health, and institute landmark provisions for remote voting in the House and mail-in voting for local, state and federal elections held in 2020. The emergency legislation also included one of the strongest moratoriums in the country protecting tenants and homeowners from eviction and foreclosure and creating opportunities for restaurants to serve alcohol, beer and wine for carry out service.

“As the global COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten public health and challenge our economy, I’m proud of all we have accomplished in the House so far this session to address the effects of the pandemic as well as to pass meaningful legislation relating to climate change, transportation and education,” said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo (D-Winthrop). “I’m grateful to my colleagues for working so diligently to help solve the Commonwealth’s most pressing issues during this unprecedented time, and, thanks to the extension of our legislative session, our work continues.”

“The 2019-2020 legislative session has been unlike any in recent memory, and the 191st General Court will always hold a special place in my life personally and professionally because it has become my final session as the State Representative for the Sixteenth Suffolk District,” said Representative RoseLee Vincent (D-Revere). “I am proud that under the leadership of Speaker DeLeo, we have been able to make significant strides this session on issues like climate change, environmental justice and education – just to name a few significant issues we have tackled, and in the face of COVID-19, the Massachusetts House of Representatives continues to rise to the challenges we face to enact emergency legislation to help the

Commonwealth’s residents and businesses in the age of this pandemic.”

For the first time in the history of the Commonwealth, the House voted on emergency rules to establish procedures for remote voting. These temporary changes enabled the House to vote on items requiring formal votes (such as a measure facilitating the postponement of the tax deadline) while reinforcing public health and safety.

Amid a difficult fiscal climate, the House also voted to keep Chapter 90 level-funded at \$200 million for key repairs for the maintenance and upkeep of municipal roads and bridges in Massachusetts. As part of a sweeping economic development bill, the House passed legislation to legalize sports betting, provide supports to small businesses and at-risk populations and make investments in affordable housing. In recognition of the House’s commitment to a safe, accessible, and reliable transportation system, the House also approved an \$18 billion investment in the Commonwealth’s transportation infrastructure.

In keeping with the House’s ongoing commitment to protecting public health and safety, the House passed health care legislation to facilitate the use of telemedicine as well as strengthen community hospitals. The House also passed legislation aimed at eliminating racial inequities in maternal health that have resulted in women of color dying of pregnancy-related causes at more than double the rate of white women. Under a policing reform bill, the House voted to establish a certification process for police, creating an independent and empowered oversight board, and codifying restrictions on use of force measures. The House also voted to protect public sector employee rights and to approve campaign finance reform.

In building on the House’s history of leadership in climate change policy, the House passed legislation setting a statewide 2050 net zero greenhouse gas emissions limit, establishing environmental justice population criteria, increasing statewide renewable energy requirements, and bolstering green programs for underserved populations.

In keeping with the House’s commitment to the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable and at-risk children and families, in May, the House announced the formation of its Early Education and Care (EEC) Recov-

ery Advisory Group. The group is tasked with helping address the challenges facing childcare in this new and changing landscape, and established the EEC Public-Private Trust Fund, creating an infrastructure to foster public-private and philanthropic efforts for childcare providers, including providing \$500,000 for technical and small business support during the recovery process. In July, in response to growing concerns about the significant drop in reports of child abuse and neglect during the COVID-19 crisis, the House also passed legislation to strengthen oversight policies and operations at the Department of Children and Families.

At the start of this session, in 2019, the House passed several pieces of landmark legislation including an historic \$1.5 billion statewide investment in public schools – known as the Student Opportunity Act. Given the long-term importance of the transportation infrastructure to the region, the House also passed the \$600 million investment in new transportation funding – known as the An Act Relative to Transportation Finance.

The House also passed nation-leading legislation to modernize tobacco control and ban all flavored tobacco and legislation to reduce distracted driving. In addition, the House passed legislation to protect college students by ensuring higher education financial stability and oversight. The House also banned conversion therapy for minors, ensured no student in-need would go hungry by requiring breakfast after the school bell, and provided supplemental funding for women’s reproductive health organizations as a result of federal cuts the Title X program, which was included as part of a supplemental state budget.

Helping to protect the most vulnerable children and families in the Commonwealth prior to the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the House voted to lift a decades-old family welfare cap to extend cash benefits to the 8,700 Massachusetts children and their families who had previously been excluded. The House also passed legislation creating a care registry to protect persons with intellectual or developmental disability from abuse. To address the complex health and wellness needs of the Commonwealth’s 1.4 million children, the House led efforts this session passing comprehensive legislation to en-

sure increased access to services and a more holistic approach to children’s health and wellness supports.

The House acted to address climate resiliency by advancing a \$1 billion investment – known as GreenWorks – over the next 10 years to help communities across Massachusetts adopt technologies that cut greenhouse gas emissions, fortify infrastructure, and reduce municipal costs.

The House passed following legislation over the General Court’s two-year session from on January 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020. Due to the public health emergency, the House and Senate have extended the legislative session through December 31, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

An Act to Facilitate the Delay of the Income Tax Filing Deadline (H.4677)

An Act Providing Additional Support to Those Affected by the Novel Coronavirus Through the Unemployment Insurance System (H.4648)

An Act Addressing COVID-19 Data Collection and Disparities in Treatment (H.4672)

An Act Relative to Voting Options in Response to COVID-19 (H.4820)

An Act Making \$15 million in Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2020 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations Relating to the Coronavirus (H.4561)

An Act to Further Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities, School Districts and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19 (H.4616)

An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19 (H.4598)

An Act Providing for a Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures During the COVID-19 Emergency (H. 4647)

An Act Granting Authority to Postpone 2020 Municipal Elections in the Commonwealth and Increase Voting Options in Response to the Declaration of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19 (S.2608)

An Act Authorizing Waiver of the One Week Waiting Period for Unemployment Benefits (S.2599)

An Act to Expand Take-Out/Delivery Options in Response to COVID-19 (H.4856)

COVID-19 Legislation Awaiting Final Passage

An Act Relative to Long Term Care Facility and Elder Housing

COVID-19 Reporting (H.4667)

An Act Addressing Challenges Faced by Food and Beverage Establishments Resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic (H.4774)

Other Enacted Laws

An Act Financing the General Governmental Infrastructure of the Commonwealth (H.4932)

An Act Relative to Collective Bargaining Dues (H.3854)

An Act to Mitigate Arbovirus in the Commonwealth (H.4851)

An Act Regarding Breakfast After the Bell (H.4218)

An Act Relative to Educational Opportunity for Students (S.2412)

An Act to Lift the Cap on Kids (H.3594)

An Act to Support Improved Financial Stability in Higher Education (H.4099)

An Act Requiring the Hands-Free Use of Mobile Telephones While Driving (H.4203)

An Act Modernizing Tobacco Control (H.4196)

An Act Relative to Abusive Practices to Change Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Minors (H.140)

An Act Relative to Children’s Health and Wellness (H.4210)

An Act Relative to Campaign Finance (H.4223)

An Act Relative to Strengthening the Local and Regional Public Health System (H.4503)

An Act to Protect Persons with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities from Abuse (S.2367)

Other Legislation Awaiting Final Passage

An Act to Reduce Racial Inequities in Maternal Health (H.4818)

An Act to Reform Police Standards and Shift Resources to Build a More Equitable, Fair and Just

Commonwealth that Values Black Lives and Communities of Color (H.4886)

An Act Enabling Partnerships for Growth (H.4887)

An Act Authorizing and Accelerating Transportation Investment (H.4547)

An Act Financing Improvements to Municipal Roads and Bridges (H.4803)

An Act Creating a 2050 Roadmap to a Clean and Thriving Commonwealth (H.4933)

An Act Relative to Transportation Finance (H.4530)

An Act Relative to the Host Community Agreements (H.4367)

An Act Relative to GreenWorks (H.3997)

LYNN POST OFFICE RALLY



PRG Photo

State Senator Crighton stated how the postal workers have been on the front lines during this pandemic and one of the crucial services in the country.

Preserve our Democracy! Preserve our Postal Service! These words were heard among supporters for the postal workers. It is clear the Postal System needs to be saved as well as our democracy as one supporter said. This rally was to make sure people know what is happening.

alert the public what is going on in Washington. Our union is here all the way to support our postal workers.

This is a time for everyone to stand with the dedicated postal worker who shows up every day doing their job. Unfortunately, the US Postal Service is facing a lack of leadership in the White House according to many at the rally. This rally cry is spreading throughout the north shore to support the US Postal Service.

Former President of Local 201 Kevin Mahar stated, "We want President Trump to keep his hands off our mail so we can vote by mail. It is about time to



PRG Photo

Congressman Seth Moulton explained the importance in a Democracy is the right to vote.

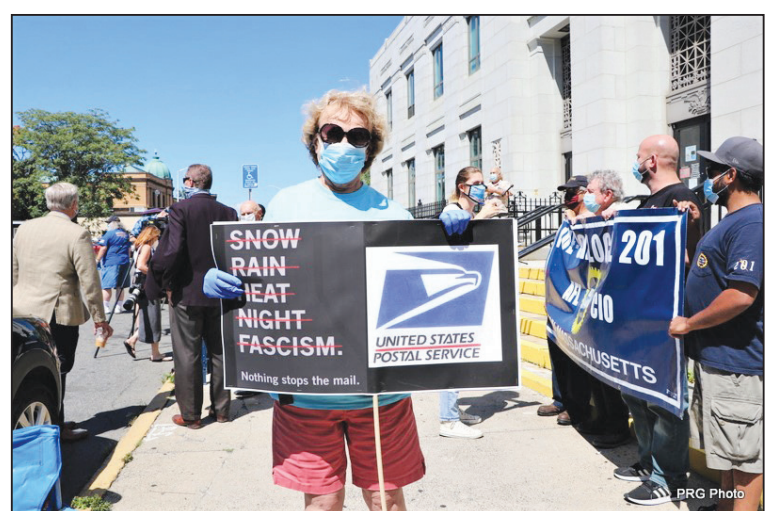


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Carolyn and Gordon Corzine display strong support the US Postal Service.



Navy Veteran Jon Lazar shows support for Congressman Seth Moulton.



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State Democratic Committee member Julie Curtin displays her support for mail delivery.

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A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

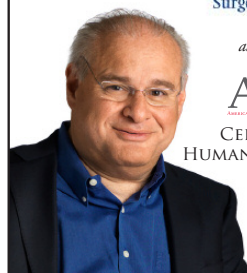
But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.

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Local officials with US Representative Moulton – State Representatives Paul Tucker and Peter Capano, State Senator Brendon Crighton, Former Lynn Mayor Thomas Costin, and Lynn Mayor Thomas McGee.

LYNN POST OFFICE RALLY



PRG Photo

Mayor McGee addresses the rally about the importance for mail delivery and ballot voting for the Greater Lynn Community.



PRG Photo



PRG Photo

State Representative Paul Tucker with former Lynn Mayor and Lynn Post Master Thomas P. Costin, Jr.

Social Distance on the steps of the Lynn US Postal Building – State Senator Brendon Crighton, US Congressman Seth Mouton, State Rep. Paul Tucker, Former Lynn Mayor Thomas Costin, Mayor Thomas McGee, and State Rep. Peter Capano.

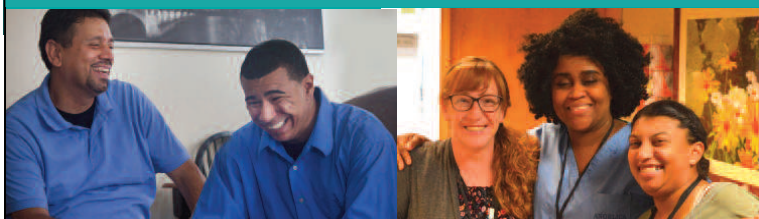


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IUE-CWA Local 201 support Postal workers – Thomas O’Shea, Former 201 President Kevin Mahar, Bobby Eldridge, and Nefty Alvarez.

In this corner

Boxer Greg Vendetti will fight for world title

By Cary Shuman

In the quiet environs of the new Broadway Boxing Club at the old Everett high school building, two men are preparing for the biggest night of their respective careers.

One is Greg Vendetti, a rising 30-year-old fighter, who will step into the ring on Aug. 29 in Los Angeles to battle Erislandy Lara for the WBA Super Middleweight Championship. The other is his well-known and highly respected trainer Joe Ricciardi, who is working on strategy and technique with Vendetti, who is nicknamed "The Villain."

Vendetti's fight will be televised live as the main event on Fox TV's Premier Boxing Champions card.

If this were normal circumstances, family and friends from Vendetti's hometown of Stoneham would be flocking to Everett to watch his workouts. But because of the coronavirus, Vendetti and Ricciardi are working out alone at the gym. There will be no spectators allowed at the world title fight in Los Angeles.

Main event, world title, and national television are magical terms in the sport of boxing. A potential TV audience of millions will likely be watching the fight worldwide.

"What else can you say? I'm excited," said Vendetti, a 2008 graduate of Northeast Regional High School in Wakefield where he was a star linebacker and specialized in the plumbing program. "I feel that we're ready and have done everything we can to get ready for the fight. I'm in a position to do my best. Is my best good enough to win? I really feel like it is. But we'll find out on the 29th."



Greg Vendetti is pictured in the ring at the Broadway Boxing Club in Everett. Vendetti will be fighting for the world championship in a nationally televised main event on Fox.

Vendetti last fought in the main event of a July, 2019 show at Encore Boston Harbor, winning the IBA title in impressive fashion before a large crowd of his supporters.

"I was supposed to have another fight in April, but it got canceled because of COVID-19," he said.

Vendetti (22-3-1, 12 knockouts) has watched video of Lara (26-3-3 with 15 knockouts) in his past fights.

"Let's face it, pound for pound, he's one of the best fighters of the last decade," said Vendetti. "But his last three performances weren't great and he's getting up there in age (37). And his style has problems with my style. He doesn't really like a lot of pressure."

"I think they picked me because I'm entertaining enough to be profitable, but I'm not considered dangerous enough to be a threat," said Vendetti. "But



Greg Vendetti works with his trainer, Joey Ricciardi, in preparation for his Aug. 29 world championship fight.

I think they messed up. They don't know about me. I think it's a good opportunity to show the world that I'm the real deal."

Vendetti said his fans are excited about the bout.

"Everyone is pumped for me. Everybody is excited," he said. "They've been following me since my amateur career. People think I have a real shot against him. It's my time. I'm really confident."

Vendetti, who is managed by Artie DePina, likes the atmosphere at the new boxing club in Everett. "The gym is awesome. It has everything you need. There is a lot of potential having a boxing gym in this city. There are a lot of kids who might take up boxing and I think they'll find out this is exactly the outlet they need."

Vendetti said he and Ricciardi have been a team since Day 1 of his boxing career.

"I walked into the gym in Saugus and Joe said, 'come back tomorrow and we'll get started,' and I never went away," said Vendetti. "He saw something in me and put in the time and effort and made me the fighter I am today."

"He's ready for this title shot," said Ricciardi. "He's beaten some good fighters with good records. We've been training hard and Greg has been getting better with each and every fight. This has been a 15-year journey,



Dennis Willcox, co-director of the Broadway Boxing Club, is pictured outside the old Everett High School building where the boxing club is located.



Title contender Greg Vendetti is pictured with his trainer, Joey Ricciardi, at the Broadway Boxing Club in Everett. Vendetti is training for his WBA/IBO world championship fight on Aug. 29 in Los Angeles.

but it's been worth it. This fight couldn't happen at a better time. We're not going to LA to just be there. We're going there to win."

Vendetti's parents, George and Deborah Vendetti, his sister, Alex, and his girlfriend, Midori, will be traveling to Los Angeles for the title fight, but will have to view it on television at a separate location.

Dennis Willcox, co-director of the Broadway Boxing Club, said the club is honored to have a world title contender training in

Everett.

"It's perfect for the young kids to see," said Willcox. "Greg sets a great example. He trains hard and there a lot more people rooting for him than he knows."

Willcox said he is grateful to Mayor Carlo DeMaria for opening up the building for a boxing club.

"I think this club will be a positive development for the youth of Everett and we're thankful to Mayor DeMaria for the opportunity," said Willcox.



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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

LYNN STUDENTS ON NSCC DEAN'S LIST

North Shore Community College Interim President Nate Bryant is pleased to announce that the students listed below were Dean's List students for the Spring 2020 semester.

Dean's List Honors are awarded to students who have earned six or more semester hours of academic credit with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.30 or higher.

Tabitha Adams, Yahya Adan, Victoria Adebajji, Peace Adesoye, Charity Ailemen, Jessie Alas, Vanessa Alborno Garcia, John Alcantara, Kenda Aldeek, Carlos Alicea, Elijah Alouidor, Adaeze Amadi, Rodney Amadi, Jocelin Amaya Rodriguez, Melissa Andruskiewicz, Jaelyn Angelo, Linda Arcchia, Lilian Argueta, Bryan Arias, Elizabeth Arias Alfaro, Carlos Arias Reyes, Deanna Armenio, Stephanie Astrella, Kayleigh Atkinson, Lindsey Ayala, Santa Aybar, Osama Ayela-Uwangue, Mariama Ba, Brittany Bachewski, Seyni Wesley Bamba, Jane Barton, Joel Baswa, Amanda Bavaro, Haveina Beech, Michael-James Beeks, Jennifer Benavides-Amaya, Jasmine Bendeck, Jennifer Benedict, Janissa Best-Foster, Kiara Betancourt, Sara Bishop, Galina Bondarenko, Chenna Bonilla Mercedes, Marlen Brito, Rachel Calnan, Gabriella Cannata, Timothy Carnevale, Yadira Carvajal, David Castillo, Marlin Castillo, Johanny Castillo, Siol Castillo Santana, Raquel Castro, Yerania Castro Javier, Josephone Chandimani Khun, Wilmine Charles, Yajaira Chavez, Marie Cherville, Derek Chigas, Jillian Clapp, Diane Colby, Sarah Cole, Dallis Colella, Nerma Colic, Ketty Collado Rojas, Carmin Comas, Alexandra Copans, Roselys Cordero-Guerrero, Naobi Cordova, Rogerio Costa, Frank Cruthird, Evely Cruz, Maria Cruz Arroyave, Marco Cuelar, Terence Culbreath Goodrum, Jefna Dadaïlle, Hieu Danh, Thu Dao, Alexandra De La Rosa Ventura, Yuri De Leon, Jonathan De Leon Jackson, Presley Delacruz, Jeannelle Delgado, Jalen Delgado, Cassandra Demille, George Dimis, Jillian Dion, Tyjei Dirico Vanloan, Darion Dodge, Erin Doherty, Gensly Dominguez, Nadia Donator, Sean Yves Dorsainvil, Sandy Dorvilus, Abbey Down, Micah Dublin, Dan Duong, Molly Durgin, Chelsea Edo, Dorrene Ellison, Kacey Emery, Anna Espinal, Amose

Exantus, Leonard Ezeudu, Kanil Fabian, Ayoub Fangar, Joseph Fannon, Tina Farulla, Priscilla Ferreras, Ariana Flores, Emely Florian, Adeline Fosung, Brianna Fox, Dalitssa Frias, Sarah Garang, Gabriela Garcia, Abraham Garcia, Clarisa Garcia, Josilyn Gaudet, James Gaylord, Miguellina German, Destiny Gerrish, Jakelin Gomez, Nachary Gomez, Athena Gomez Matsubara, Denise Gomez-Chavez, Milvio Gonzalez, Anne Grandoit Val, Curtis Gray, Dona Guerrero, Priscilla Guillen, Maria Guillen, Lavanya Gunentherathas, Princess Guwor, Anabel Guzman, Consuala Harrison, Michelle Harrison, Alexandra Henry, Anyelyn Hernandez, Carol Hernandez, Julio Hernandez, Josue Hernandez, Ellis Hobby, Kyle Hobby, Olivia Hctor, Anthony Hul, Savannah Hul, Richard Hutchings, Anna Irizarry, Thai Iv, Ivan Jimenez, Sigfrido Jorge, Marie-Junie Joseph, Charles-Yvena Jules, Laura Kaizer, Alfina Karagulova, Mia Kennedy, Vivian Khalaf, Jillan Khalaf, Ananaya Khan, Alex Khun, Dorkas Kim, Liana Kim, Cynthia Kim-Castro, Chelsey King, Jerry Koch, Soyanna Kouch, Elizabeth Krische Deleon, Stella Kumcho, Amanda Labonte, Jamaiah Lane, Jennifer Langlais, Tien Le, Eileen Leavey, Meghan Leavitt, Anthony Lewin, Aedan Leydon, Franciny Lichtenberg, Haydee Lind, Christina Littlefield, Yuleika Lluveres, Dillon Locke, Dyaysia Long, Samira Lopes, Alexander Lopez, Amanda Lopez, Yalexis Lopez, Nancy Lopez Mendez, Jennifer Lopez Orozco, Alyah Lopez Pena, Yuleidys Lopez Perez, Sandy Lopez-Martin, Robert Lopilato, Jonathan Lorenz-Galdamez, Lorraine Lozada, Michael Lugo, Jorge Macario, Odalis Macario, Ashley Macdonald, Yania Machado, Sandra Machado, Evelyn Mack-Council, Janet Magana Martinez, Bryanna Mahoney, Tammy Mai, Dennis Maina, Magaly Maldonado, Alla Manukyan, Paige Marcinko, Lester Marengo Zeledon, Catherine Marmolejos King, Alicia Martin, Christalis Mateo, Edgar Matias, Celeste Matos Beltre, John Matul Chun, Josephine Mayard, Belgis Mejia, Miguellina Lara, Tarsi Melenciano Lara, Laure Meleu Talla, Irma Mencia Guzman, Brenda Mendez, Elisa Mendez, Ylonka Mendez Cardenas, Jennifer Merejo Mena, Ange Merlin, Carolin Mieses Reyes, Jillian Miles, Maken-

son Millien, Carol Mills, Jared Mitchell, Shantell Mitchell, Tabassum Mithila, Aya Mohamed, Khadijo Mohamed, Gamal Mohamed, Edgardo Montoya, Brenda Morales, Jessica Morrow, Joanolivia Mott, Angkearath Moun, Boniface Mungai, Vasthy Munguia, Robin Munoz, Cherubin Musangu, Daniel Neary, Kimmoanh Nguyen, Mai Nguyen, Phong Nguyen, Thomas Nguyen, Mireille Ngwelebe, Marc Nickerson, Madeline Nieves, David Noonan, Linda Nor, Jessica Nova, Kelly Noyes-Sarmento, Emely Nunez, Ivanna Nunez, Saphanna Ny, Emmanuel Nzekwue, Stephen O'Brien, Temitope Odumuyiwa, Abiola Odusanya, Kafilat Oladosu, Peter Olson, Hope Omorogbe, Dustin Oneill, Olabayo Onile-Ere, Escarlys Ortiz Amparo, Carlos Osorio, John Otarvar, Freda Otaru, Destinee Ovalles, Yeny Owens, Pacifique Owiringimana, Konstandina Pappageorgiou, Jefferlina Paris Ortiz, Justin Parker, Kaylee Pasuy, Mia Pasuy, Jenine Patten, Indhira Patterson, Jennifer Paulino, Zulybel Paulino, Ashley Peach, Yadira Peguero, Evenesal Pena Batista, Geovamphry Perez, Keisha Perez, Madians Perez, Yosamery Perez, Berenice Perez Bonilla, Frank Perry, Perla Piantini, Destiny Pierce, Kelly Pierre, Akeem Pierre, Marie Pierre Louis, Marissa Pike, Ariani Pimentel, Joel Pimentel, Joseph Plessas, Joselyn Pojoy, Ib Polanco, Juanita Portillo, Roger Powell, Leakhana Prom, Marianna Promousas, Coralys Quintana, Stacy Randall, Lizabeth Resto Rivera, Bryan Reyes, Dominique Reynolds, Dahvonte Richards, Taliya Rivera-Barker, Christopher Robert, Nashia Robinson, Belinda Robles, Beverly Robles, Keisly Robles-Macario, Anna Rodrigues, Alexandra Rodriguez, Delmy Rodriguez, Yaritza Rodriguez, Leydi Rodriguez Pena, Julissa Rojas, Michelle Rollin-Sutton, Djane Romelus Douyon, Keren Romero, Lina Romero, Johnray Rosa, Walter Rosado, Steven Ross, Adriana Ruiz, Sabir Sakib, Flavia Sanabia Liranzo, Leandra Sanchez, Yancy Sanchez, Maria Sanchez, Nancy Sanchez, Oscar Sanchez, Chantal Sanchez-Gil, Bryan Sanderson, Maricella Sandoval, Wendy Sandoval, Ashley Santana, Nahomy Santana, Briana Santiago Fernandez, Dayhana Santos, Kakda Sarik, Courtney Scali, Aminata Sesay, Marc Shuman, Oneita Sim, Laurent Simard, Brandon Small, Kimberly Smart,

Jianna Smith, Alexa Solano Guzman, Sandrene Soley, Mackenzie Spates, Courtney Sprague, Kristen Sullivan, Robert Tamilio, Maria Tavez Holguin, Emmanuel Taveras, Kelsey Taylor, Elizabeth Tea, Sameer Thompson-Massoom, Eric Thy, Aleah Tillotson, Sarah Tobin, Emely Tolentino, Maura Tomaz, Melissa Tombeno, Marina Tonkonogaya, Titiana Toussaint, Lai Tran, Nathan Uhunser, Alexandria

Valdez, Evelyse Valentin, Javier Valle, Yamilet Vallejo Hinojosa, Marciel Vasquez, Kimberly Vasquez Tineo, Jeishaly Vega Lopez, Harold Velazquez, Oladapo Vera-Cruz, Melina Veras Quinones, Melissa Viger, Tracie Vindel, Joanny Vittini, Courtney Wallick, Adriana Wallis, Patricia Wheeler, Kate Wheeler, Derek White, Melanie Williams, Celica Yun, Hector Zuniga-Larreynaga

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

SCHOOLS TO GO ONLINE

CHELSEA - The Chelsea Public Schools switched gears from its initial school re-opening plan, and presented a fully remote online plan to start the school year in September – a plan the School Committee adopted enthusiastically with an 8-0 vote.

Supt. Almi Abeyta told the Committee in a Special Meeting on Tuesday night that the plan that had been previously presented – which included the option of the fully remote Online Learning Academy (OLA) or a hybrid, in-person and remote learning option – was now going to be changed. That was because the COVID-19 numbers for the city have inched up, with her particularly watching the percent positive metric.

“Why are we suggesting this new approach?” she asked. “On Aug. 5 our date from the (state) was released. The City at that time had 4.93 percent positive rate. This is an increase in what we had in previous weeks... The 5 percent rate was a metric we use internally because we did look at that metric. At that point, when we looked at that positive rate, we decided it was too high to return to school. I said it over and over, if we get to 5 percent

I will not open up schools... Therefore, our new recommendation is to return in the fall fully remote and return in-person when conditions allow.”

That decision was promulgated on Friday after the numbers came out, but the announcement on Tuesday by Gov. Charlie Baker that Chelsea was a “high-risk” community – one of only four statewide – only bolstered that decision.

School would start on Sept. 16 in the all-remote format, but there would be a pre-opening professional development period for teachers to learn more about remote instruction.

The fully remote section would last through roughly Oct. 4, and there would be a full, in-person option for eligible students such as those in special education separate programs. There would also be Centers for Online Learning open that provide internet and would potentially have a monitor. On Oct. 5, there could be a potential “easing in” period would with more in-person learning opportunities. There wouldn’t be a fully hybrid, in-person for all grades until potentially Nov. 2 and any hybrid, in-person options would start at the lower grades and work up to the higher grades. Through it all, the OLA would be available and

cohesive for parents that do not want their students to return at all. All of the potential dates for in-person school, however, could change and would be dictated by the rates of the virus in Chelsea.

A great concern, Abeyta said, with the remote learning is students in Special Education, English Learners and those with Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Another challenge is to improve the remote learning program from what it was during the emergency learning situation in the spring.

“The challenge for us is we have to improve remote learning and we know this,” she said. “What we heard and what we know is we need more structure and organization and accountability for families, students and teachers.”

The decision was bolstered by scores of teachers, and Chelsea Teacher’s Union officers, who spoke live about the issue and who submitted written testimony. All of the teachers and Union officers supported a fully remote option for the sake of safety.

Many of them referred to what has been a successful summer, online learning program where many of the hiccups in remote learning from the spring were worked out quite well.

One student, George W. McK-

innon, wrote in on behalf of the student council in one of the middle schools. He and other students advocated for a return to school in person, noting that parents needed to go to work and couldn’t leave kids unsupervised. Meanwhile, he also said many sports camps and summer programs in Chelsea and beyond have operated very safely this summer. If they can, he reasoned, why can’t the schools?

Parent Michelle Nadeau said it is important that kids get to go back in person.

“The isolation from being at school and having peer interactions has been nothing short of devastating,” she said.

School Committeewoman Rosemarie Carlisle said her vote in favor of remote was for the children’s safety, but she indicated that she wanted teachers to work out the issues and concerns they have before there is an in-person model deployed.

That was echoed by members Jeannette Velez and Henry Wilson.

“School is our community and we need to bring that community back to our community as quickly as possible,” said Wilson.

Member Marisol Santiago, however, said she would push to keep remote learning in place as long as possible – and she said

that was coming from someone who has a child with an IEP. She said safety has to be paramount.

“Schools are equipped to rush kids back to school,” she said. “I’m going to be an advocate for remote learning as long as possible.”

Chair Kelly Garcia commented that she is a teacher as well and going back to the classroom in person scares her personally.

There was little hesitancy in the vote, and it was a quick 8-0 vote for a Committee that has been divided this year on some key issues. There was a great amount of pressure from teachers and parents on both sides of the matter.

Abeyta clarified that families will still be asked to choose whether they want a full remote plan all year, or if they are up for going hybrid when the time comes. Having that decision will allow the schedules for remote and in-person to mesh seamlessly later when it is safe for students to return.

DOWNTOWN NEEDS MORE HOUSING UNITS

CHELSEA - City Manager Tom Ambrosino said he believes

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Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

that if Chelsea's downtown is going to survive COVID-19, it has to become a more dense area with more living units and businesses to serve those new residents.

To accommodate that, he is asking for a new parking program for residents of the downtown area, a plan detailed in a Council Committee on Conference late last month.

"I'm trying to get relief for developers in the downtown from parking," he said. "I guess my philosophy is the downtown has been impacted by COVID-19 and I feel strong we have to build density in the downtown if we're going to survive the COVID-19 era. I'm in favor of creating more density and making it easier for developers to develop in the downtown. Our barrier to that is this parking ordinance."

That ordinance was one that was voted in and ordained in 2019, and took effect in January. It calls for any new development that needs a variance for parking to not be eligible for the City parking sticker program. Now, that is becoming a potential hurdle for developing in the tight downtown area.

Ambrosino said he is proposing a special downtown parking sticker that would allow residents to park in a special downtown lot from midnight to 5 a.m., perhaps in the new lots being constructed by the state under the Mystic/Tobin Bridge. That sticker would be different and would not allow those residents to park in the neighborhoods, but only in the designated downtown parking areas.

"I'm trying to create pedestrian activity downtown and I need to create residential parking downtown to get that," he said. "One of these developments will be our own Salvation Army building."

The petition will likely go before the Council in the fall.

WALSH URGES RESIDENTS TO FILL OUT CENSUS FORMS

EAST BOSTON - For months East Boston organizations like Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE) and the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council (EBECC) and others have been helping the City of Boston get an accurate 2020 Census count for a part of the population that has been historically hard to count.

Having an accurate Census count translates into more feder-

al dollars for education, housing, food programs as well as proper Congressional representation for the population.

However, the Trump Administration last week directed the Census Bureau to cut short the 2020 Census Count by a whole month prompting Mayor Martin Walsh to make a plea to all Boston residents to fill out their census forms.

Walsh said so far only 53.5 percent of Boston's households have responded to the Census to date, with some neighborhoods lagging behind.

"The Census Bureau has abruptly decided to cut their national counting operations a month short," said Mayor Walsh. "The last day to participate in the U.S. 2020 Federal Census is now September 30, formerly October 31. This announcement further jeopardizes Congressional representation, redistricting, and critical federal funding for things like education, housing, food programs, and more in Boston's communities during the next 10 years. It could lead to a significant undercount, especially for renters, people of color, and immigrants."

Walsh said this is why he is once again asking everyone to fill out the Census as soon as possible.

"If you haven't already you can self-respond online (my2020census.gov), or by phone 844-330-2020, and these services are available in 13 different languages," said Walsh.

Walsh said a full list of language access hotlines can be found online. There's also a resourceful FAQ page for any questions you may have. In the event you misplaced or never received your census ID, this guide will explain how you can still respond without that piece of information.

"As a reminder, the Census Bureau will send staff to your house and attempt to assist your household in-person if you have not yet responded," said Walsh. "The best way to avoid this visit is to self-respond immediately. It takes just a few minutes and, please remember, your responses are safe and confidential. You will not be asked about immigration status, and your answers will not affect any public benefits you receive."

Last month NUBE received a grant for Census outreach and education from the Massachusetts Census Equity Fund (MCEF).

The grants by the MCEF went to some of the hardest to count

communities in Massachusetts, as well as communities that were among those hit the hardest by the global COVID-19 pandemic like Eastie.

Having an accurate 2020 Census count fits right into NUBE's mission to transform the lives and amplify the voices of Eastie residents who have been excluded from prosperity by an inequitable economic system.

Historically, certain populations are "hard-to-count" in the census. Urban and rural areas with large low-income populations, people of color, immigrants, non-English speakers, migrant workers, ex-offenders, young children, the elderly, those who are disabled, renters, the homeless, and those living in mobile homes or multi-unit residences are historically hard-to-count.

"We want to make sure that everyone gets counted, because in Boston, everyone counts," said Walsh. "This is a time to make your voices heard, own your power, fight for your city, and help keep Boston strong for years to come."

EDWARDS SEEKS REFORMS AT ZBA

EAST BOSTON - In the wake of the scandal that rocked the Boston Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) last year, District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards has called for an overhaul of the city's zoning board.

The John Lynch bribing scandal trickled down to the ZBA and led Mayor Martin Walsh to call for an investigation into the board.

Lynch, the city's Director of Real Estate, pleaded guilty in federal court to accepting \$50,000 from a developer to sway members of the ZBA on a vote.

As the scandal unfolded Edwards filed legislation to modernize and reform ZBA.

Last week the City Council approved Edwards' call to reform the ZBA.

According to Edwards the changes include adding environmental and urban planning experts to the board, setting term limits for board members, requiring board members to recuse themselves from projects they've been involved with in the past five years (currently two), and requiring quarterly reports on the variances and conditional use permits given out by the board in each neighborhood.

Edwards' legislation would

also require that at least one renter and homeowner sit on the board and creates a new position to provide neutral advice to applicants and neighbors about the ZBA process.

"This is a huge win for us in terms of transparency," said Councilor Edwards. "These changes will help bring the ZBA into the 21st century and bring us towards a more equitable and fair ZBA process."

In late February, a number of changes to the ZBA were implemented through executive order by Mayor Martin Walsh that were included in Edwards' original proposal.

These changes include expanding interpreting services during board hearings and making both applications and records available online for review by the public.

Additionally, notices will be posted and delivered electronically.

ZBA board members must provide financial disclosures and get regular zoning law training. Finally, applicants for variances must disclose their ownership interests.

"The ZBA plays a critical role for our city, but to be effective in this role and maintain public confidence, the board must operate at the highest standards of professionalism, ethics, and accessibility," said Walsh at the time of signing the executive order. "The changes we are making today will go further than state ethics laws that currently govern the board and its members, modernize the function of the board to make it more accessible and transparent to the public, and

I will file legislation to change the membership of the board to ensure that it is reflective of our neighborhoods and their concerns. I want to assure the residents of Boston that they can have confidence in the ZBA and that we will continue to protect what we love about our neighborhoods as we grow and evolve as a city."

The additional changes approved by the Council last week were also proposed by Edwards but required legislative approval.

State Representative Adrian Madaro spoke in support of the legislation while State Representative Dan Ryan of Charlestown said he would sponsor Edwards' home rule petition at the State House.

"As the role of the ZBA has evolved into one that often has final say over the changing fabric of our communities, it is critical that the board itself become more transparent, accountable, and reflective of the city it oversees. This home rule petition is the first step toward achieving those goals," said Madaro. "I'm proud to support this legislation, and to stand with the many East Boston residents who have called for change at the ZBA. I thank Councilor Edwards for her hard work and leadership on this issue."

Councilor Edwards first introduced her proposal in the fall of 2019 and re-filed the legislation in January 2020. Hearings were held in February and July before the council approved the reforms during last week's council meeting.

OFF MY WAVE.

Together We Are Stronger.

MS
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Ocean Beach native and local surf legend Steve Bettis was diagnosed with MS in 2006. Although surfing is still central to his life, he hasn't been able to get out on the water in 10 years. For a man whose daily routine always included a few waves, more than a decade out of the surf is just too long. This is why the National MS Society teamed up with his buddy Robert "Wingnut" Weaver and used virtual reality to get Steve back on his wave. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at WeAreStrongerThanMS.org.

MassDOT develops new Mobility Dashboard

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the release of the new MassDOT Mobility Dashboard. This dashboard is another resource for members of the public to visualize, analyze, and monitor data collected by MassDOT to better understand the effects of COVID-19 on the Commonwealth's transportation network.

MassDOT is continually monitoring the impacts of COVID-19 on roadways, transit services, and Registry transactions. The dashboard is an interactive roundup of key indicators that primarily reflect how much people are traveling, how they are getting around, and where they are going throughout the Commonwealth. This data is updated weekly, with the date of the last update displayed prominently at

the top of the page.

"This dashboard is just one of the ways that MassDOT is compiling and monitoring transportation data," said MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack. "Having one central location to access and analyze the impacts of COVID-19 increases public accessibility."

While MassDOT is not the only state transportation agency in the U.S. that has developed COVID-19 related mobility dashboards (see Vermont, Utah, Washington State), the MassDOT Mobility Dashboard succinctly organizes a variety of multimodal data about movement in the Commonwealth that covers a wide range of topics all in one place. Topics include traffic volumes, transit revenue, safety and more. The dashboard is a valuable resource for all stakeholders and enthusiasts of Massachusetts' transportation network.



Final Farewell to Shoe City League golfer, Patrick J. Ryan.

PAYING FINAL TRIBUTE TO PATRICK RYAN

Members of the Gannon Golf Club Shoe City League paid a final tribute as Honor Guards to Patrick J. Ryan, who was a long-time member with the league. Patrick was a very well-liked individual as David Solimine summed it up, "Pat was one of the beloved players in the league and everyone felt the same way about him. We all feel this was

an appropriate way to say goodbye by giving him this honor as he takes his last trip into St. Mary's Church then upward into Heaven to play a few rounds of golf".

League President Frank Pietrini said, "This is sad moment when we lose a player. We all became upset learning about the accident and then his passing.

We will miss him; the league came together to show respect and to support the family".

The Shoe City Golf League came into existence during the late 1960s. It is the oldest running league at Gannon and continues to be one of the best enjoyable leagues at the golf course.

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Shoe City Golf League Honor Guard for Patrick J. Ryan – (Front): David Lenihan, Bart Conlon, Jack Kennedy, John Monaco, Donald Ahearn, Paul Allen, Rick Comfort, & Patrick Gecoya; (Back): John Mullen, Michael McHugh, Leo Sullivan, Skip Mageary, Frank Pietrini, Kenneth Grady, David Solimine, Bert Conlon, and Greg Ambrose.