

# THE LYNN JOURNAL

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

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## A Thanksgiving tradition continues At Brothers Deli

By Cary Shuman

Restaurant owner George Markos will be continuing his annual tradition of giving away free turkey dinners on Thanksgiving at Brothers Deli, 41 Market St.

Markos and his staff will be distributing the dinners to guests outside the front doors of the restaurant due to COVID-19 restrictions. In the past 26 years of the event, guests were able to enjoy their meals at booths and tables inside the restaurant.

"We'll be hosting it as we do every year but people will not be able to come inside the restaurant and sit down," said Markos. "We're going to be giving out the dinners at the door. We're doing



George Markos, owner of Brother's Deli, will be giving away free Thanksgiving dinners at his popular restaurant. It is the 27th year that Markos has hosted the event.

it this way for the safety of our guests and our staff. We're taking these precautions because of the coronavirus."

Markos said residents can stop by for their free dinners from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. "If people come early, we'll be ready," said Markos.

The traditional Thanksgiving dinner will include turkey,

mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, and cranberry sauce. "I haven't figured out what the dessert will be, but we'll have something good for the people."

Markos said he's happy to be able to bring joy to residents on the holiday.

"The people are golden," said

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## Public Servant Award

Crighton honored for dedication to people experiencing homelessness during COVID-19

The Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance (MHSA) today announced that it will honor Senator Brendan P. Crighton (D - Third Essex District) for his commitment to providing comprehensive housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Senator Crighton will receive the "Canon Brian S. Kelley Public Servant Award" at the 2020 MHSA Annual Meeting, which will be held virtually on December 10, at 9 a.m.

The award is named in honor of Canon Brian S. Kelley, a longtime advocate committed to ending homelessness through his tireless work at Boston's Cathedral Church of St. Paul.

"While Senator Crighton has always been a leader in addressing the issue of homelessness,



Senator Brendan P. Crighton.

he stepped up in a big way from the outset of the pandemic," said MHSA President & Executive Director Joe Finn. "Senator Crighton recognized the impact

Please see CRIGHTON Page 3

## Whitten Family is all-in with Lynn Youth Hockey

By Cary Shuman

Michael Whitten didn't begin skating regularly until he was 32. His sons, 12-year-old Tyler and 7-year-old Ryan, have stepped on the ice a lot earlier in their lives.

Whitten was at the Connery Rink Sunday for a Lynn Youth Hockey open-ice session that welcomes players of all ages. Tyler and Ryan were having a great time working on their ice skating and stickhandling skills with their father, while their mother, Jocelyn Whitten was watching and providing encouragement from her seat in the Connery bleachers.

"I live on Sluice Pond and I

started skating about a dozen years ago," said Michael Whitten. "I'm originally from Lynn and moved back to the city when I got married."

Whitten has been involved in Lynn Youth Hockey for six years. He was one of his son Tyler's

coaches on the 2019-20 Lynn Jets Pee Wee I team. The Pee Wees had a strong season before it was cut short by COVID-19. Younger son Ryan is a skater in the LYH Mites program.

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**The Independent Newspaper Offices will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>**



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# EDITORIAL

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday, tracing its roots back almost 400 years to the Pilgrims, long before there was even a thought of a United States of America.

Thanksgiving is the ultimate family-centered holiday. It has no religious meaning, no national-celebration connotations, and no required gift-giving. It lacks the commercialism, religiosity, solemnity, and political overtones of all of our other national observances.

It is the only day on the calendar when we have no obligation other than to spend the day with those who mean the most to us. It asks nothing more from each of us (other than for the person who is doing all the cooking!) beyond just showing up and enjoying the company of our family and friends and then having a great meal.

Even amidst this time of a raging pandemic in our country, we all can agree that Thanksgiving makes us aware of what we have to be thankful for. Despite our present trials and tribulations, Americans are remarkably fortunate to be where we are. Thanksgiving is a national celebration that serves to remind us how blessed we are at a time when circumstances are so cruel for so many others in a world in which there are more refugees than at any time since the end of World War II.

Thanksgiving serves as a rare day for relaxation, reflection, and inevitably -- at least for some of us -- a post-dinner nap or early night of sleep. In a time when so many of us are connected 24/7 to some instrument of communication, it truly is a relief to have a day when we can just shut it all off.

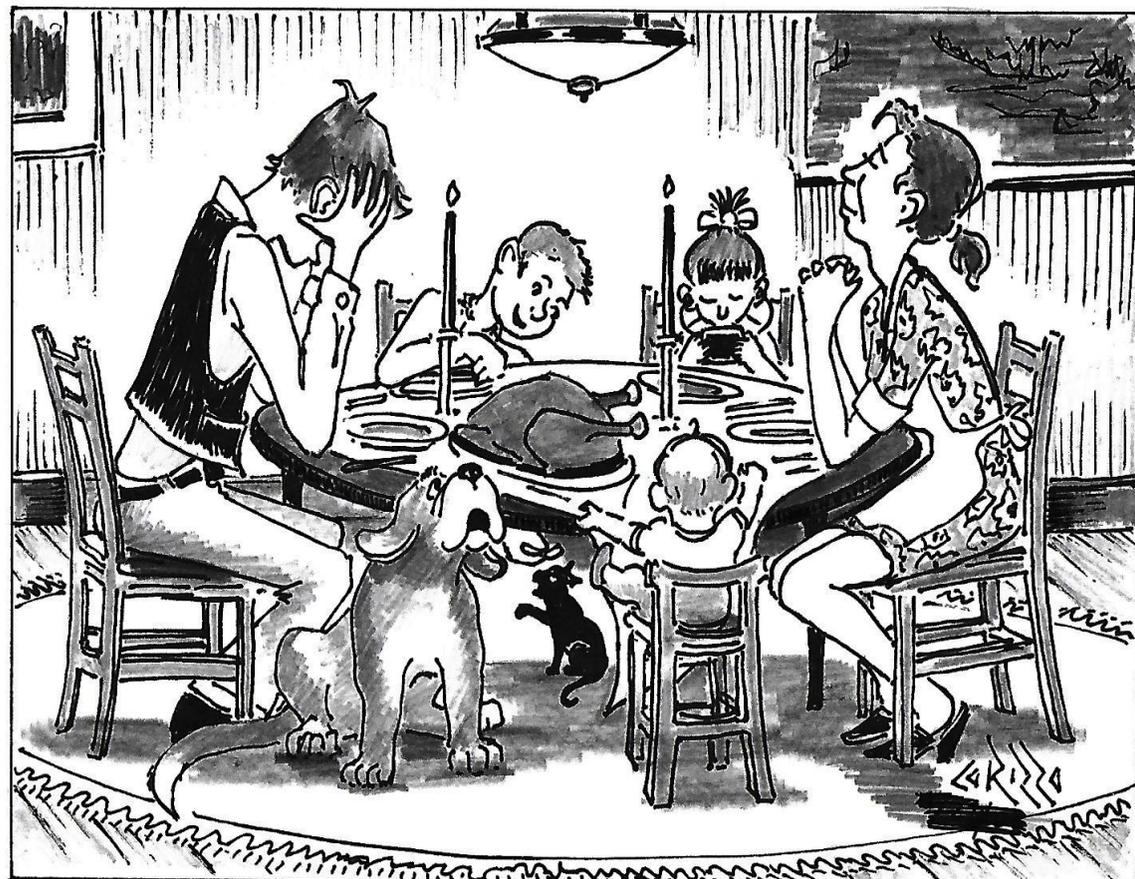
We wish all of our readers a happy -- and restful -- Thanksgiving.

## ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SAFELY

We would be remiss if we did not remind our readers to enjoy the holiday weekend, but to do so safely.

The pandemic is spreading like wildfire across our nation, shattering previous records of infection on a daily basis and requiring all of us to take every precaution to ensure that we do not spread the coronavirus among our friends and family members.

The virus does not take a holiday -- and each of us must act accordingly.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

## GUEST OP-ED

### Thanksgiving 2020; home, but not alone

By Karen Lee Sobol

Has your sense of time shifted lately? Does avoiding people feel bizarre, and has Purell become your new best friend? Do you spot beauty in surprising places, and feel the rhythm of your breath inside your mask?

I've lived through this before. Then, I was solo. Now, I'm one of seven billion, living through it again, with you. Both times, with little advance notice, a deadly disease became a dire threat. Then, in 2005, I was diagnosed with a non-Hodgkin's lymphoma defined as rare and incurable. Now, in 2020, we all risk infection by COVID-19, a wildly contagious novel coronavirus with no known cure. My blood cancer was so rare it's called an orphan disease. COVID-19 is so universal it's called a pandemic.

Thinking about the Thanksgiving holiday usually energizes us. Plans often include travel, time with family and friends, and meals shared. This year, the dangers of spreading or contracting COVID-19 trigger anxiety and dread. What to do?

In 2005, I faced a similar dilemma. I was in the midst of a

clinical trial with a monoclonal antibody. Because the drug had annihilated my immune system, every germ and virus, whether it came from another person or naturally lived inside my body or on my skin, could pose a lethal threat. I washed and sanitized my hands obsessively and never touched my face. Social isolation was self-protection, so I left home only to go to the hospital or take solitary walks, a scarf wrapped over my nose and mouth. Holding a vision of myself as cancer-free and healthy, as though I already were, I felt that a brighter future was just a matter of time.

In a normal year, my family's Thanksgiving tradition might start by serving a mid-day meal to guests at a local shelter, then welcoming family and friends to dinner in our home. But for us 2005 was no normal year and exposing me to other people wasn't an option. Instead, we ordered in dinner for three—my husband, our teen-aged daughter, and me—and felt grateful. We connected with people by phone, and their intangible energy helped sustain my nuclear family through our crisis.

For us all, 2020 is no normal year. Together we face the potentially deadly risk of COVID-19. And we're tired of social isolation. But what opportunities we have, including the opportunity to keep ourselves, our families, and our friends, safe, and to share our resources more widely.

Remember what they say before an airplane takes off? "If the oxygen masks drop down, put your own mask on before assisting others."

This Thanksgiving, if you're lucky enough to have a home, please stay there. Being alone doesn't have to mean being lonely. Consider safe, helpful ways to support and connect with people. Perhaps order your dinner from a local restaurant to help keep cooks and staff employed. Perhaps donate to a local food bank or shelter so those less fortunate have meals

to nourish them. Perhaps, in recognition of the historic roots of the day, contribute to an organization like the Indigenous Environmental Network which provides desperately needed food

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## GUEST OP-ED

## Thank you to our elected officials

By Senator Brendan Crighton

The foundation of our democracy depends on our ability to conduct free and fair elections. This year's election was faced with a wide range of challenges that were both unprecedented and daunting. Despite these obstacles, we were able to live up to the highest standards of elections because of an engaged electorate and the many people who make elections work on the ground level.

Thank you to the clerks of the Third Essex District, including: Lynn City Clerk Janet Rowe, Lynnfield Town Clerk Linda Emerson, Marblehead Town Clerk Robin Michaud, Nahant Town Clerk Diane Dunfee, Saugus Town Clerk Ellen Schena, and Swampscott Town Clerk Susan Duplin. The record-breaking voter turnout this election across our district and state could not have been possible without your efforts. I would also like to sincerely thank the election officials, poll workers, postal workers, first responders, and law enforcement officers who responded quickly and decisively to many pandemic-related obstacles to ensure that all voters could safely cast their ballots.

In this historic election, NBC projected that over 159.8 million Americans voted, constituting a voter turnout rate of 66.8%—the highest in over a century. After 6 long days of counting millions of mailed-in ballots and those ballots cast during the early voting period, President-elect Joe Biden made history, securing nearly 79 million votes—more than anyone to ever run for the U.S. presidency. The success of this election, in the middle of a global pandemic, would not have been possible without the efforts of countless advocates fighting for urgently needed election policy changes. While many states were making it harder for people to vote, we in the Massachusetts Legislature took action and passed a law in July that guaranteed all registered voters in the state the right to vote early and by mail. The impact of this new law was felt across the Commonwealth as Secretary of State Bill Galvin reported that of the record-breaking 3.6 million votes cast in the 2020 general election, 2.3 million were cast by mail or at an early voting location.

Despite the many baseless claims made by President Trump, one thing is very clear:

the election was not stolen from him. In fact, his own DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency stated that the 2020 election “was the most secure in history” and that “there is no evidence” that voting systems were compromised. The President’s calls to stop the counting of votes, unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud, and groundless lawsuits are un-American. Legislatures will continue to ignore Trump’s pleas to flip state electors and the courts will continue to throw his lawsuits out, but the President’s actions nonetheless threaten democracy worldwide.

If there is anything history has taught us, it is that in order for democracy to function, we need to have free and fair elections. We accomplished that here in Massachusetts and nationwide in 2020, thanks to so many Americans who made their voices heard at the ballot box and the election officials who helped protect our democracy. Once again, thank you all for your selfless and crucial work.

*Brendan Crighton is a Massachusetts State Senator.*

## Crighton/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that COVID-19 would have on people experiencing homelessness and, in his role as Chair of the Joint Committee on Housing, ensured that the needs of those living in permanent supportive housing did not go unnoticed.”

“I am humbled to receive the Canon Brian S. Kelley Public Servant Award,” said Senator Crighton. “It has been an absolute honor to work with Joe Finn and the outstanding staff at the Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance. Their decades of commitment and dedicated service assisting people who are experiencing homelessness are truly remarkable. COVID-19 has had devastating effects on housing-insecure families and individuals throughout the Commonwealth. MHSA works to meet people where they are, to maintain and recognize their dignity and to help them get back on

their feet. I am proud to call them a partner and I am deeply moved and greatly appreciate this recognition.”

Elected to the State Senate in 2018, Senator Crighton represents the Third Essex District, serving the City of Lynn and Towns of Lynnfield, Marblehead, Nahant, Saugus and Swampscott. As Chair of the Joint Committee on Housing, Senator Crighton advocates for legislation and programs that prevent homelessness, promote housing affordability, incentivize transit-oriented development, and help build diverse housing stock.

More information about the MHSA Annual Meeting is available at <https://www.mhsa.net/AM2020> or by contacting Meg Hoffman Calleja at [mcalleja@mhsa.net](mailto:mcalleja@mhsa.net).

The Massachusetts Housing

& Shelter Alliance (MHSA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending homelessness in Massachusetts. Through advocacy, collaboration, education, and innovative program development, MHSA focuses on evidence-based solutions that reduce public reliance on emergency resources and prioritize access to stable housing and individualized support services. MHSA draws on the on-the-ground experience of its 89 member agencies from across Massachusetts to inform its advocacy and program development. MHSA’s unique position as an intermediary between public agencies and homeless service providers enables it to create solutions to homelessness that have the greatest impact. For more information, please visit [www.mhsa.net](http://www.mhsa.net).

## Rep. Moulton’s CHANCE in Tech Act passes house

Special to the Journal

The House of Representatives passed legislation to create the tech sector apprenticeships Rep. Seth Moulton designed in his CHANCE in Tech Act. The key parts of Moulton’s bill were included in The National Apprenticeship Act, a larger package of apprenticeship bills.

“Apprenticeships aren’t vestiges of a bygone era, they’re the future. Our country is stronger when people have the skills to find fulfilling jobs and companies have people who can explore and innovate on the job,” Moulton said. “Even during a period of record unemployment, thousands of good jobs in the tech sector are unfilled simply because Americans lack the skills to land the job. By passing my bill, Congress will help close the gap.”

Tommy Ross, Senior Director, Policy at BSA | The Software Alliance said: “New pathways to dynamic tech jobs are key to broaden and diversify the workforce. Software jobs are growing in every state across the country, and everyone should be able to take advantage of these opportunities. The apprenticeships created by the CHANCE in Tech Act will help equip Americans with the skills they need for 21st-century jobs. We’re pleased the CHANCE in Tech Act was included in the National Apprenticeship Act. We applaud Representative Moulton for his leadership and thank the House for passing this important legislation.”

Moulton introduced The Chance in Tech Act in 2017 as a way to create pathways for people looking to obtain tech jobs but who had no prior experience. After meeting with EBSCO Information Services of Ipswich and similar tech employers in his community, Rep. Moulton realized the gap between the many tech jobs available and the relatively small pool of workers able to fill them was something Congress could help close. If the bill is passed by the Senate and signed into law by the president, the government will be able to contract with industry intermediaries, matchmakers who connect apprenticeship programs and employers, to promote apprenticeship programs in the tech sector. Moulton returned to EBSCO to

introduce the bill in a ceremony.

The CHANCE in Tech Act is part of a broader push by Rep. Moulton to modernize how America does business. In the past few months, Moulton has focused on updating archaic government systems.

In July, the House passed H.R. 2, a major transportation bill which included the key parts of Moulton’s SAFE DRIVERS Act, which will allow Departments and Registries of Motor Vehicles to share data across state lines. Moulton introduced the bill in September following a fatal June 21, 2019 crash in New Hampshire where a commercially-licensed truck driver who should not have had a license plowed into a group of motorcyclists, many of whom were Marine veterans as they traveled to a charity event. Investigators discovered incidents in Texas and Connecticut that should have prevented the driver of the truck that hit the motorcyclists from keeping a license. Almost a year after the bill’s introduction, the Boston Globe cited it in an investigative series as something that could prevent one of the many failures that allowed the truck driver to say on the road despite several incidents that should have caused Massachusetts to revoke his license.

A 2019 study from Georgetown University on government modernization used Moulton’s office as a case study for how to integrate technology into public service. Moulton and his team earned an award this year for providing the best constituent services in Congress, in part because his team partnered with Code For Boston to build an app that helps civil servants accurately calculate their retirement. The team recognized the issue after several teachers and other public servants came to the office for help. People were using a Social Security Administration calculator that did not account for a policy called the Windfall Elimination Provision, which limited the amount of public benefits public workers can receive when they retire. As a result, the calculator showed people they would retire with significantly more money than they actually ended up with, and many of the constituents did not get the real number until after they retired.

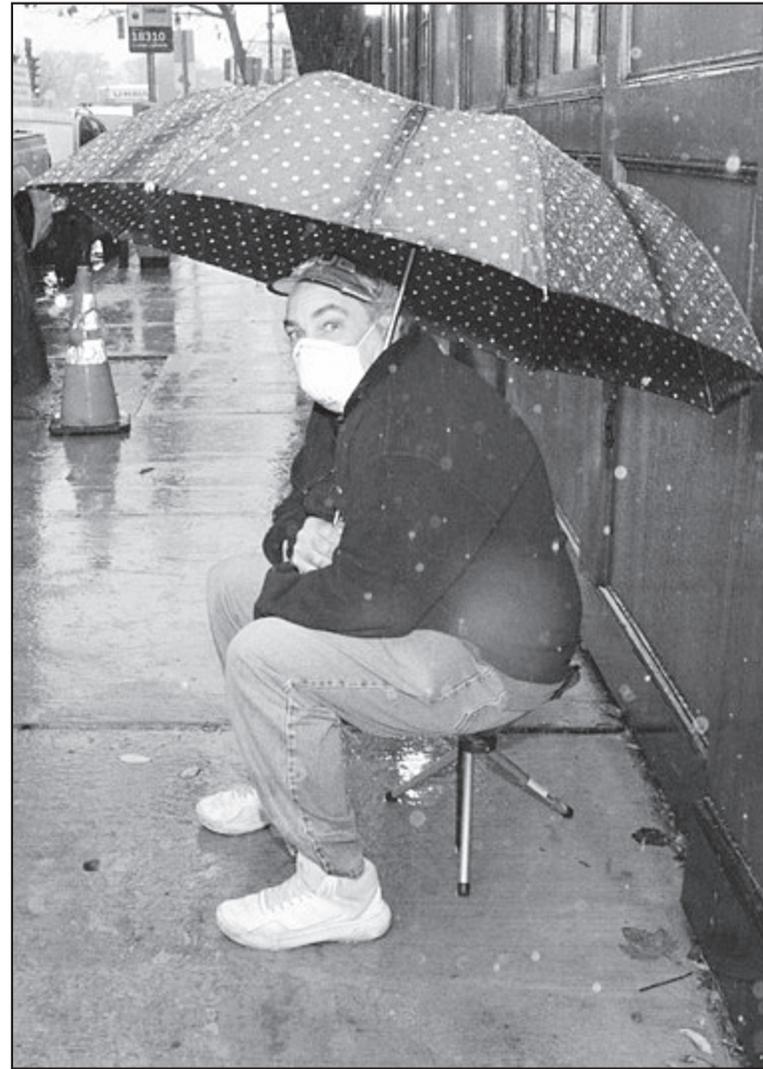
### RF O’SULLIVAN AND SONS DISTRIBUTES TURKEYS

Under sheets of rain, many people waited outside at RF O’Sullivan to receive a Thanksgiving Day turkey. RF O’Sullivan & Sons wanted to give back to the City of Lynn.

Owner, Richard O’Sullivan, was inspired to distribute 100 Turkeys to Lynn families as he said, “It is good to give back once in a while; we are very excited to be established in Lynn. Richard continued to say, “Lynn has helped us to open a business here. Due to Covid-19, the liquor license was suspended, and we used our extra income to give Thanksgiving turkeys to families who would be unable to have one. We believe in making people happy and this is what RF O’Sullivan is all about.”



Early morning arrivals, Shannon and Andrea, in line for a Turkey.



Peter waits to receive a Turkey for Thanksgiving.



Surrounded by bags of Turkeys for Lynn families- Richard II, Demjade, Linda, Sinead, and Richard I.

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**Tradition/** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Markos. "I can't ask for anything better than to have the support of my customers in the community. I don't think anybody can have it as good as I have it with the people I have around me."

Markos said business has been down during the pandemic. His restaurant, a well-known breakfast hub for Lynn luminaries gathering to discuss the issues of the day, is abiding by the six-foot guidelines with roughly half the tables closed to provide for social distancing.

"Business is picking up but it's not 100 percent," said Markos. "A lot of people are ordering takeout."

Markos, 61, came to the United States from Greece in 1975 and could not speak any English. Five years later, he opened a restaurant and has been in business for 40 years. He is a true immigrant success story.

George Markos and his wife,

Eva Markos, have two children, George and Alexandra and two grandchildren, George and Philippos (Phillip).

Because of COVID-19, George hasn't been able to visit his grandson Philip, who was born seven months ago. "I see him on Facetime. I hope to see him soon. I feel so sad that I haven't been able to see my second grandson."

Markos said he is looking forward to seeing many of his Lynn friends at Brothers on Thanksgiving. "In these difficult times, we need to stand together and get through this together," said Markos.

Markos offered his personal Thanksgiving greetings to Lynners.

"I just want to wish everybody a happy Thanksgiving and for everybody to be safe," he said.

**Op-Ed/** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

and emergency COVID-19 relief funds to Native Americans.

With challenge comes opportunity. We have the chance to stem COVID-19's spread, and we have the chance to spread compassion. Compassion nurtures healing and hope. Its intangible energy creates real results.

When the twelve weeks of my clinical trial ended, I was frail and exhausted, but signs of cancer had decreased dramatically, and five months later, the disease was gone. It took two years and four months for my immune system to rebuild and I was able to resume normal life. With the welcome news that a vaccine will likely be available within the next few months, I feel optimistic that our collective timeline will be much shorter.

I believe in medical science and I believe in the power of holding a vision of good health. Now, as then, I think of my favorite equation ever: Hope = Be-

lieve + Expectation. I believe, and I fully expect, we can and we will stop COVID-19.

Imagine a world free of COVID-19 as if it already exists, and hold this vision with me. Imagine a world in which we care for ourselves and each other as one family.

Now expand the vision to embrace the planet. If we actively protect and preserve biodiversity—earth's wondrously varied habitats and the countless species who thrive in them—we take a giant step to keeping hundreds of thousands of viruses in the plant and animal kingdoms where they belong, and where they won't leap to us.

Now we know. Good health is global health.

*Karen Lee Sobol lives in Boston MA and is Artist and Author of Twelve Weeks: An Artist's Story of Cancer, Healing, and Hope.*

**Elijah Alouidor named NSCC Student Trustee**

Elijah Alouidor of Lynn has been elected by the student body of North Shore Community College (NSCC) to serve as its representative on the college's Board of Trustees. As student trustee, Alouidor will be the liaison between NSCC's student population and the college's governance body. He shares student issues and concerns with the Board, and lends a student perspective to Board decision-making.

A high achieving Business Administration student, Alouidor has been actively involved with NSCC's M.A.L.E.S. (Men Achieving Leadership, Excellence and Success) program, a program designed to increase access, achievement and graduation rates for underserved students who are first-generation, low-income, minority males and males of color, particularly young Latino and African Amer-



Elijah Alouidor.

ican men, so their prospects for success in college and career are more attainable.

Having a strong sense of community and being passionate about the development of his

peers led Alouidor to play an integral role in helping create the student M.A.L.E.S. club, ensuring that students could build a brotherhood, have their voices heard, and feel a sense of belonging on campus. He continues his involvement by helping create and schedule events, recruiting potential new members and was recently named the acting president of the club.

"His commitment to personal growth, along with his outgoing personality, easily inspires those around him to reflect on how they, too, can work to achieve their own goals," said Michele Cubelli Harris, coordinator of the M.A.L.E.S. program and Alouidor's work study supervisor.

A 2019 graduate of Lynn Classical High School, Alouidor plans to continue his education at a four-year school after graduating from NSCC.

**Postal worker charged with stealing mail**

A U.S. Postal employee was arrested and charged in connection with stealing mail on at least 21 occasions.

Angela Gomez, 40, of Lynn, was charged in a criminal complaint with theft of mail by an employee. Gomez made an initial appearance in federal court in Boston this afternoon.

According to charging documents, postal inspectors received information that customers in Lynn reported missing mail. For example, one USPS customer reported that an expected Lilly Pulitzer gift card never arrived in the mail. Further investigation revealed that USPS City Carrier Assistant Angela Gomez handled that particular customer's route. Records indicated that the expected gift card was used in January 2020 for purchases delivered to Gomez's then-home address and that the corresponding email address belonged to Gomez. Subsequent surveillance of Gomez during the performance of her duties revealed that she rifled through and stole mail on 21 separate occasions.

The charging statute provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Matthew

Modafferi, Special Agent in Charge, North East Area Field Office, United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General; and William Kalb, Special Agent in Charge of the North East Field Division, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) made the announcement today. Assistant

U.S. Attorney Eugenia M Carris of Lelling's Public Corruption & Special Prosecutions Unit is prosecuting the case.

The details contained in the complaint are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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# City of Lynn COVID-19 update

The Lynn Public Health Department has confirmed that as of today, the number of active, confirmed positive COVID-19 cases is 1,056 with 54 new cases today. 5,750 Lynn residents have recovered and 129 have died. The total number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Lynn since March 21, 2020, including those who have died and recovered, is 6,935. Please visit the City of Lynn COVID-19 Data Dashboard which is updated daily.

The City of Lynn is hosting a Tele Town Hall on COVID-19 on Monday, November 23rd at 6:00PM. Mayor Thomas McGee and Public Health Director Michele Desmarais will be joined by several medical experts from Lynn Community Health Center, North Shore Medical Center and North Shore Physicians Group.

Residents will receive a phone call from the City of Lynn at 6:00PM on Monday evening and should remain on the line to join the town hall. There will be two simultaneous events offered, one in English and one in Span-

ish. For those residents who want to join the Spanish Town Hall, they will be offered the option to do so throughout the call. You can join the town halls at the following links:

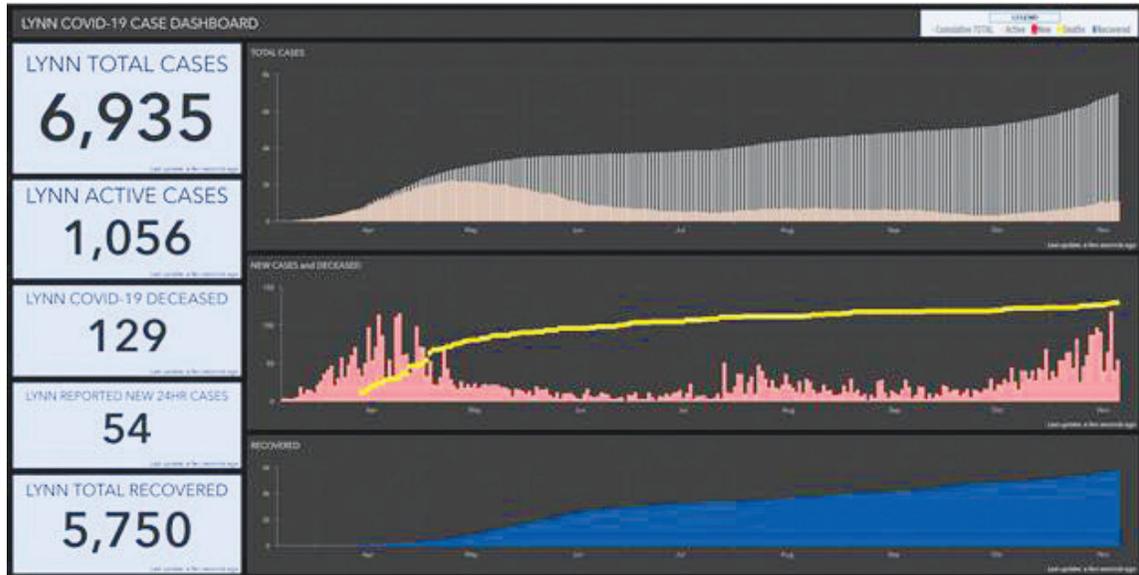
Join English Town Hall: <https://video.teleforumonline.com/video/streaming.php?client=20106>

Join Spanish Town Hall: <https://video.teleforumonline.com/video/streaming.php?client=20350>

Stop the Spread Initiative Testing have been extended until December 31st

Please visit [http://www.ci.lynn.ma.us/covid19/resources.shtml#p7GPe1\\_2](http://www.ci.lynn.ma.us/covid19/resources.shtml#p7GPe1_2) for more information on how you can get a free COVID-19 test in the City of Lynn until December 31st.

We will continue to provide regular updates on COVID-19 through the City website ([www.lynnma.gov](http://www.lynnma.gov)), social media, and the Smart 911 emergency notification system (sign up at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com)).



## Whitten/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Michael Whitten is pictured with his sons, Tyler Whitten (center) and Ryan Whitten (right) and their Lynn Youth Hockey companion, Nick DeNino (left) at an LYH open-ice session Sunday at Connery Rink.

Whitten, who works for MIT Lincoln Laboratory at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, said he couldn't be happier with Lynn Youth Hockey and the positive experience the program is giving his two sons as they progress their hockey careers and further their enthusiasm for the sport.

"Lynn Youth Hockey is a fan-

tastic program," said Whitten. [LYH President] Brian Boisson is a great guy and he's done a lot with this program. He's grown this program by leaps and bounds since he stepped in. It's been great. This is our sixth year and we look forward to being a part of it every year."

Whitter said both Tyler and

Ryan hope to play high school hockey. Tyler should be ready to take the next step into varsity hockey soon.

"Tyler plays defense. Ryan's not sure yet, but he says he wants to be a winger," reported the proud dad after spending a fun Sunday with his family at the hometown hockey rink.

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Friday's Lunch/Dinner- Diamond's famous prime rib, pick 2 sides. Fresh off the boat, Fried Seafood platter (baked if you like). Haddock/Scallops/Shrimp/full belly Essex clams/rings, fries and slaw

Thursday's Lunch/Dinner- Buy any Entrée, get second one 1/2 off. Black and Blue burger with ground pepper, ditch the bun add the egg.

Saturday's Lunch/Dinner- Diamond's famous prime rib, pick 2 sides. Lighter side but same great taste, Prime rib French dip sandwich

Sunday's Lunch/Dinner- Nachos/Wings/Pizza specials all day

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# ST. MARY'S VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY TEAM WINS 3-2 OVER AUSTIN PREP

The Spartans of St. Mary's of Lynn's Varsity Field Hockey Team Take Down the Cougars of Austin Prep, 3-2 in Quarter Finals. Head Coach Victoria Ault and her team took the first game in the championship series against Austin Prep at "The Prep" 3-2. They will meet Crusaders of Bishop Fenwick in the next game of the series.



Maggie Pierce raises her stick high as she celebrates putting her team ahead 1-0.



Yirsi Queliz makes a pass to a team mate.



Captain Shannon Lovett had a great game assisting her goalie on key saves.



Goalie Ann Romelus made several great saves during the game, including a penalty shot early in the first period.



Captain Pejae Parent makes it 2-0 Spartans.



Gianna Korisianos heads into the game from the sidelines



Makayla McGrath heads down field to make a play.



Captain Achan Wol is doubled teamed at midfield.

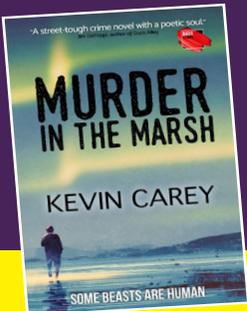
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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### FORMER MAYOR BRENNAN DIES

CHELSEA - John J. 'Butch' Brennan Jr., who served as the last mayor of Chelsea for two terms in 1988 to 1991 before the city went into receivership, died Monday after a lengthy illness. He was 76.

Mr. Brennan symbolized that anything is possible in the arena of politics with the right mix of hard work, integrity, honor, and a belief in oneself that can you help improve the lives of residents with your decisive actions and deeds.

Mr. Brennan was a bartender at Ryan's Tavern on Fifth Street when he decided to enter Chelsea politics. Friends and bar patrons urged him to run for public office, convinced that the tall, personable, straight-talking common man could help Chelsea become a better city.

Voters responded in record numbers to Mr. Brennan's candidacy. He topped the ticket twice in alderman-at-large races and then decided to run against incumbent mayor Thomas Nolan in 1987. He won that election and took office in January, 1988, for the first of his two terms in office.

Michael Patrick Brennan, son of John "Butch" Brennan and

Kathleen Brennan, was seven years old when his father decided to run for mayor.

"I definitely have some memories of the mayoral campaigns," said Michael. "His stickers had a black background and Brennan was written in Kelly green."

Mr. Brennan ran a high-voltage, high-visibility campaign. The people responded enthusiastically to the towering, 6-foot-4-inch candidate who could relate well to the everyday plight and basic needs of Chelsea residents.

"I remember every Saturday morning holding signs across from the Central Fire Station," said Michael. "Every day my father would come home from work, eat dinner early and we'd go door to door, knocking on everyone's door just so he could introduce himself and say that he's there for the common person. He wanted to listen to what people wanted from a mayor."

Brennan was answerable and accessible to residents who rallied around him, admiring this new type of politician who was one of them.

"My father would take me to the park to play catch and someone would drive by and get out of their car and say, 'Mayor Brennan, I'm having a problem with this' and the next day, my father would try and address it, wheth-

er it was calling the city workers to fix a pothole in front of someone's house or something else. He just listened and he cared about people and that's why he was so beloved."

No matter was too big or too small for Mayor Brennan.

"There was one elderly woman who couldn't get the newspaper anymore - I remember my father dropping the paper off at her house. He would go out of his way to deliver the newspaper on his way home from work," said Michael. "That meant the world to her."

Michael Patrick recalled that his stepbrother, Robert Small, also helped out immensely with their father's campaigns and during his service as mayor. "He used to go with my dad down to the projects and help residents with their repairs. He'd tell Robert to bring his camera and he'd follow him, take pictures, and document everything."

Kathleen Brennan, a strikingly elegant first lady of Chelsea, would assist in beautification projects throughout the city. "My mother and dad would drive around town watering the plants at nights," recalled Michael. "My mother took a lot of pride in that."

With the city facing difficult financial times, Mayor Brennan tried to convince residents to vote in favor of an override of Proposition 2 1/2.

"My father would walk around door to door with this can of coffee," remembered Michael. "My father's point was that the cost of the can of coffee is what you'd be paying once a month in taxes and that it would help the school system and he wouldn't have to lay off firefighters and police officers. But Proposition 2 1/2 lost big time. The residents turned it down. They didn't want to do it. That's when he reached out to the state to help Chelsea. My father thought that was the way to put the city he loved back on track to recovery after all those years of difficult financial circumstances. He pretty much gave away his job as mayor for the city he loved."

Michael Patrick graduated from Saint Rose School, Malden Catholic High School, and Stonehill College. He played in the Chelsea Little League and for Jimmy Manzo's Knickerbockers in the CYBL.

Tall (6-feet, 3 inches) like his father, Michael and his wife, Meghan, have two daughters.

"People still ask me if I'm related to Butch Brennan," said

### PROPERTY TRANSFORMATION



The City of Everett is soliciting for proposals to redevelop the former Pope John XXIII High School site as affordable senior and veterans housing, and RFP released late last week. Request for Proposals for the disposition and redevelopment of the former Pope John XXIII High School located at 888 Broadway in Everett, Massachusetts as Affordable Housing will be received at the Office of the Purchasing Department, Room 14, City Hall, 484 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149, until the time specified: BID: Disposition and Redevelopment of 888 Broadway due December 7, 2020 at 12 p.m. EST.

Michael. "So many people call him a hero. It just makes me so proud. He did a lot for a lot of people. He was respected. It's different when your son loves you, but when people that aren't related to you care about you, it just makes you proud."

A loving younger brother William "Biff" Brennan William "Biff" Brennan, Chelsea High Class of 1971, was nine years the junior to his only brother, John "Butch" Brennan, Chelsea High Class of 1962. He said this past Monday was a difficult day in the Brennan house.

"I really had a bad day when Michael Patrick called me with the news," said Biff. "But I have a lot of personal friends in life and they've been calling and texting me and getting me through it. I appreciate their condolences, but this is a big loss for me."

Biff recalled that Butch was the best man at his wedding when he married Claudia Nowicki, a popular member of the Chelsea High School Class of 1976. Biff and Claudia have been married for 30 years.

Biff said his brother suffered a heart attack in September, 2019. He recovered and was doing well this summer but his condition deteriorated in the past few months.

"He was a great brother," said Biff. "He was always there for me. I tried to be the same for him through the politics and the other things in life."

The sons of the late John J. Brennan Sr. and Eileen (Ryan) Brennan, Biff Brennan and John J. Brennan Jr. grew up on Walnut

Street across from the Williams School.

Biff Brennan took an active role in his brother's campaigns. "I wrote some of the political advertisements," said Biff. "My brother never lost an election. He topped the ticket in 1983 and 1985 and won for mayor in 1987 and 1989. Being mayor is a tough job. He tried to do a good job and I think he did."

Mayor John J. "Butch" Brennan Jr. will always occupy a place of royalty and respect in the annals of Chelsea. He made a tough decision at a pivotal point in the city's history and the city is now better for it.

Biff Brennan said the family will hold a memorial observance for his brother in the spring of 2021.

### SEEKING TO HELP HOMEOWNERS

CHELSEA - The City will use almost \$5 million in Rainy Day Funds to shore up a budget deficit, and City Manager Tom Ambrosino is still requesting the Council use another \$750,000 to help homeowners about to be hit with large property tax increases in the midst of the COVID-19 public health and economic crisis.

Ambrosino gave his annual report to the Council on the potential tax rate setting process, which also reveals the City's standing on the tax bill and just how much residents can look

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# Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

forward (or maybe not so forward) to paying in the coming year. The tax rate for all properties is slated to be voted on by the Council Nov. 30.

“There is a large increase in values for two- and three-family homes,” said Ambrosino. “We will try to ameliorate it somewhat...but there will be significant tax increases on these two classes of property owners. There is a small increase for single-families and condo owners will get a decrease in tax bills. It is the two-family and three-family homeowners that will be impacted the most.”

Under the proposed rates, the average tax bill for a two-family will be \$4,629, which is an increase of \$442 over last year. Three-family homes would have an average tax bill of \$6,315, which is an increase of \$767 over last year.

Single-family homes would see an increase of \$63 over last year, with an average bill of \$2,705, while condo owners would see a reduction of \$237 from last year with an average bill of \$1,935.

That is happening because property values have skyrocketed in Chelsea and the surrounding communities – with the values used reflected the 2019 calendar year when sales of homes were on fire.

The average value of a three-family home increased by 12.9 percent in the time assessed, and two-families increased by 11.2 percent. Single-families increased by 8.9 percent, and condos by 6.6 percent. Meanwhile, larger apartment buildings – which had increased in the double digits last year – were up only 4.1 percent. While such increases in values are wonderful if one is selling or borrowing money on their equity, they aren’t such good news when one is staying put and trying to pay increasing bills in a COVID-19 pandemic.

To combat those values and increases, Ambrosino suggested the Council approve the full 35 percent of the owner-occupant residential exemption that is available. Up to now, the City has been slowly increasing the percentage from 25 percent over a five-year period. It wasn’t to hit 35 percent until next year. However, Ambrosino said now is the time to unleash all available help to taxpayers.

“This year, given COVID-19, we should take the maximum exemption and that means taking the remaining 4 percent that

is left and using it all this year,” he said.

Typically, tax increases have been approached with sympathy, but an understanding that taxes have been going up for a long time. However, with the economic distress put on the City by COVID-19 – from job loss to tenants not paying rent – Ambrosino said there had to be a different approach.

Ambrosino recommended the Council use more Rainy Day Funds to help all homeowners dispel the increase in taxes through the new Homeowner Stabilization Fund. He said that Fund has \$250,000 in it, but an addition of \$750,000 would put it at \$1 million and would allow a great amount of help.

Other forms of help, he said, would end up helping absentee landlords and industrial property owners, and spread thin the help for those most affected. With the Fund, they can target the help.

“The other ways are not the most effective way in my opinion to assist the two- and three-family homeowners who will suffer from these large tax increases in COVID-19 times,” he said. “What I suggest is we add funds to the existing Homeowner Stabilization Fund.”

On Tuesday, the City announced the Homeowner Stabilization Program application period had been extended to November 30.

The City’s finances which had been strong for some time, have suffered greatly under COVID-19. First, excise taxes that are mostly paid in Chelsea by Enterprise Car Rental for its airport activities has plummeted. Last year, the City collected \$12 million in excise tax, but that has been reduced to \$5.4 million as airport activity has decreased by 90 percent, Ambrosino said.

Hotel/Motel Room Taxes also decreased significantly, going

from \$1.95 million to \$700,000 this year. In all, receipts across the board were down, and previously they had been growing steadily each year.

Councilor Giovanni Recupero said he felt there was a problem with valuations, and with some changes in the Assessor’s Office, he asked for a meeting to talk about the values with them.

“Apartment buildings didn’t go up substantially,” he said. “The last couple of years they didn’t increase as significantly as the two- and three-families. It doesn’t make sense. They’re the ones making all the money and they didn’t raise as significantly.”

Council President Roy Avellana agreed that there seemed to be some issues with the values, and he echoed that he wanted to speak with the Assessors.

“I want to echo some of the concerns that my colleague has,” he said.

“There are a number of incon-

sistencies in the property values I saw,” he said. “I don’t think enough work was done to update the values from a couple of years ago to now. Values in certain spots went up, but not in the larger buildings. I don’t see the larger building values going up and I think they should...The best thing we can do is make sure the values are fair to everyone and I want to say the values I saw posted weren’t fair.”

Todd Taylor asked about the Fund and how people would qualify for it, as many people with high incomes on documents have lost their jobs or significant parts of their income. He said a lot of people who have recently been hit with economic pain might be missed with traditional documentation.

Ambrosino said for most of the COVID programs, they have allowed people to self-certify, and they have had no problems.

“Our experience is people

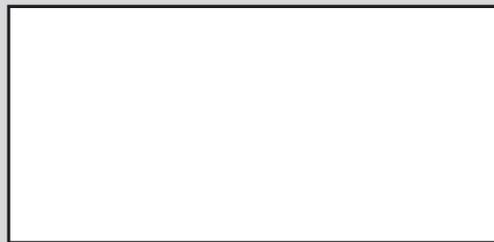
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# Ozone monitoring season ends with lowest number of unhealthy air days since monitoring began

With the conclusion of the 2020 Ozone Monitoring Season, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) announced that Massachusetts recorded three unhealthy ozone days, the fewest since ozone monitoring began in the 1970s. Also known as “exceedance days,” all three unhealthy air days occurred in late July and affected areas along the SouthCoast, Cape Cod and the Islands. The rest of the state experienced no unhealthy air days during the ozone monitoring season, which runs from March through September. One of the monitoring stations is in Lynn.

“While we still have work to do, the continual decline in ozone levels and unhealthy days is welcome news, providing health benefits to citizens across the Commonwealth,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen

Theoharides. “The Baker-Polito Administration remains committed to building on this progress and continuing our efforts to reduce emissions to combat climate change while improving air quality and public health.”

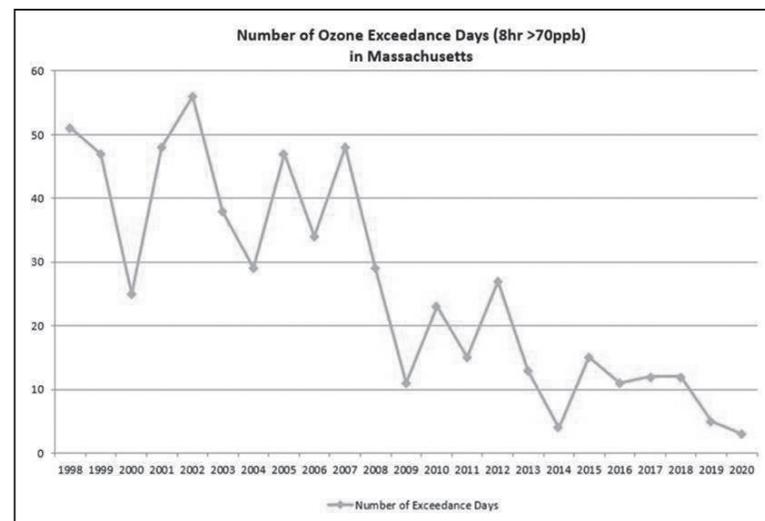
“Massachusetts remains committed to improving our air quality because it helps those who are most sensitive to air pollution, including children, older adults, and those with respiratory ailments,” said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg. “Fewer emissions from vehicles, power plants and other emitters, as well as the implementation of cleaner and greener renewable energy sources, provide increasing environmental and health benefits to citizens across the state.”

An exceedance day is when any one of the Commonwealth’s 17 ozone monitoring locations record a maximum 8-hour average ozone concentration above

70 parts per billion (ppb), a level that was made more stringent in 2015. Exceedance days were recorded on July 27 at monitoring stations in Fall River (73), Fairhaven (76), Truro (73) and Aquinnah, Martha’s Vineyard (78); on July 28 at Fairhaven (72) and Truro (71); and on July 30 at Fall River (71).

This ozone season, Massachusetts did not experience its first exceedance day until July 27, the furthest into the ozone season without an exceedance since 2014. The Commonwealth also recorded 14 fewer exceedances days than neighboring Connecticut, five fewer than New York and one less than Rhode Island.

Overall, Massachusetts continues to see a downward trend in ozone exceedance days (see chart below) after recording five in 2019 and well-below the all-time high of 56 in 2002, based on an 8-hour average, which began



to be used as a standard in 1998. Ozone is produced when heat and sunlight react with air pollutants. Numerous scientific studies have linked ozone exposure to coughing and throat irritation; increased sensitivity to allergens; uncomfortable sensations in the chest; lung-lining inflammation; and reduced lung function. When

ground-level ozone reaches unhealthy levels, children are at highest risk because they tend to spend a lot of time playing outdoors in warmer weather and are more likely to have asthma. People with respiratory diseases are also vulnerable, even at lower ozone levels.

MassDEP measures outdoor air quality at more than 20 monitoring stations across the state and measures ozone at 16 – Boston, Brockton, Chelmsford (two sites), Chicopee, East Milton-Blue Hills, Fairhaven, Fall River, Greenfield, Haverhill, Lynn, Pittsfield, Truro, Uxbridge, Ware, and Worcester. The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head also measures ozone at a station in Aquinnah on Martha’s Vineyard. To get daily air quality updates and forecasts or learn more about the statewide air monitoring network, visit MassDEP’s air monitoring website MassAir-Live here.

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

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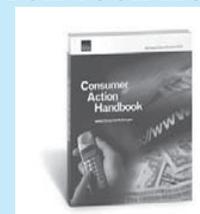
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# Town of Nahant designated as medium risk community for COVID-19

The Board of Health reports that the Town of Nahant has seen a rise in positive COVID-19 cases recently, resulting in an increased risk designation from the Commonwealth.

According to the public health data released on Thursday, Nov. 19, the town's designation is now "yellow" indicating medium risk in the community. Residents are urged to continue to practice social distancing, wear face coverings in public and limit their interactions with anyone who lives outside of their household, especially as Thanksgiving approaches next week.

The Town of Nahant had previously been in the high risk category last month, and was elevated to medium from low risk with today's report.

According to today's data, there have been 17 new confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Nahant over the past two weeks. Nahant's average daily incidence rate, which

the state uses to calculate risk determinations, has risen to 37.6 per 100,000 residents.

Under state guidelines, Nahant will remain in its current phase of reopening unless it is elevated into the high risk category and remains there for three consecutive weeks.

**Get Tested**  
Massachusetts' Stop the Spread testing initiative remains ongoing, and Nahant residents are encouraged to get tested regardless of symptoms in order to better know their COVID-19 status. The closest Stop the Spread testing sites are located in Lynn. For information about testing availability nearby through the Stop the Spread initiative, click here.

Free drive-through COVID-19 testing is available for Nahant residents at the St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 248 Nahant Road, in Nahant on Nov. 24-25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and, beginning Dec. 2, on Wednesdays and Fri-

days from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Testing is also available available Monday through Friday from 2:30-6:30 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. to noon at the First Congregational Church, 40 Monument Ave, in Swampscott.

Thanksgiving Travel Strongly Discouraged

The CDC and Mass Department of Public Health strongly urge against traveling for Thanksgiving next week.

The Commonwealth's travel restrictions remain in effect and require that all visitors from states other than Vermont and Hawaii quarantine for 14 days upon arrival or produce a negative test result from a sample taken within 72 hours of arrival. Travelers arriving after 12:01 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, from New Hampshire and Maine will be subject to those restrictions as well. For complete information on the travel order, click here.

Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

COVID-19 prevention tips from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health include:

- Remember that an infected individual can spread COVID-19 before they have symptoms, which is why social distancing, maintaining a minimum of 6 feet from others, is critical.

- Those who must go out are urged to:

- Avoid gathering in groups
- Maintain 6 feet from people outside your household

- Do not shake hands or hug
- Wash your hands often

- Those who are at a high risk for COVID-19, including those over the age of 65 and with underlying health conditions, are advised to stay home and avoid non-essential tasks and errands

- Wear a mask in indoor and outdoor spaces where social distancing from people outside your household is not possible. This does not apply to those under the age of two and with underlying health conditions.

- Face coverings should: Cover the nose and mouth

- Fit snugly and comfortably against the side of the face

- Be secured with either ties or ear loops

- Permit breathing without difficulty

- Be able to be washed and machine dried without damage. Face masks should be washed regularly depending on the amount of use.

For more information about COVID-19 prevention and symptoms, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website here and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health website here.

Additional information regarding the Town of Nahant's response to COVID-19 can be found online at Nahant-COVID19.com.

Nahant residents with questions may additionally contact the Nahant Board of Health at 781-581-0088.

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# A Memorable Moment

## St. Mary's Eliza Brown scores a goal on senior day



Eliza Brown, a captain and goalkeeper for the St. Mary's High School girls soccer team, provided one of the memorable moments of the 2020 sports season when she scored a goal in the Spartans' 7-0 victory over Saint Joseph Prep of Brighton on Senior Day. It was the first time in the program's history that a player recorded a shutout and also scored a goal in a game. St. Mary's student-photographer Julianna Fama took these photos of Eliza Brown as she advanced to the middle of the field (photo left) and later celebrated her historic goal with her teammates (above). Eliza is the daughter of St. Mary's boys basketball head coach David Brown and Helen Brown, and the sister of St. Mary's varsity basketball player David Brown Jr. Her grandfather, the late Peter Pedro Sr., was an inductee in the Lynn Tech and West Texas State University Halls of Fame.



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