

THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, January 28, 2021

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CENTERED ICE

Catholic education is the foundation on which Michelle Roach's success was built

By Cary Shuman

Michelle Roach would be an ideal motivational speaker for any high school in the country. She's both a pioneer and a role model for aspiring young women in the fields of sports, education, and business.

Roach is an assistant vice president at Brown Brothers Harriman and Company in Boston. She is also the head coach of the Peabody High School girls' hockey team.

A 2003 graduate of St. Mary's High School, Roach said her Catholic education at St. Pius School and St. Mary's High School set the foundation to her success in life.

"I worked really hard at St. Pius and St. Mary's and I had a lot of success there," said Michelle. "There were a lot of opportunities. I went on to Saint

Michael's College, which is a small school just like St. Pius and Saint Mary's was, so I very much felt it was an extension of that."

Michelle said she tries to instill in her hockey players the values she learned at St. Pius and St. Mary's.

"I teach my players about sportsmanship, hard work, confidence, and commitment," said Michelle.

She said she had terrific, inspiring teachers at St. Pius and St. Mary's.

"Paul and Cheryl Maestranzis made a big impact on me," said Michelle. "Cheryl is a teacher and Paul was a teacher and became principal while I there. He is still the principal at St. Pius today.

"At St. Mary's [former Vice Principal] Jim McHugh was a huge influence on me. Mr. McHugh, Mrs. [Frances] White, my mathematics teacher, and Mr.



St. Mary's hockey captain Michelle Roach (far left) at the Catholic Central League all-star game in 2003 with Jannie Patten and Colleen Clancy of St. Mary's, and Nancy Adler of Arlington Catholic.

[Doug] Lowe also – the three of them were such a positive influence on me as teachers."

The first captain of St. Mary's girls hockey
Before Michelle Roach decid-



It was a proud night for the Roach family when Michelle Roach was inducted into the St. Mary's High School Varsity Club Hall of Fame in 2016. Pictured, from left, at the induction ceremony and dinner are her mother, Diane Roach, her brother, Stephen Roach, Michelle Roach, and her father, Bob Roach.

ed to enroll at St. Mary's High School, she was on her way to becoming an ice hockey stand-out.

Michelle grew up playing in Lynn Youth Hockey after participating in the "Learn To Skate Program" on Saturday mornings

at the Connery Rink.

She competed on Lynn Youth Hockey boys' teams through her freshman year in high school before transitioning to the girls' hockey program.

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City of Lynn COVID-19 latest update

Special to the Journal

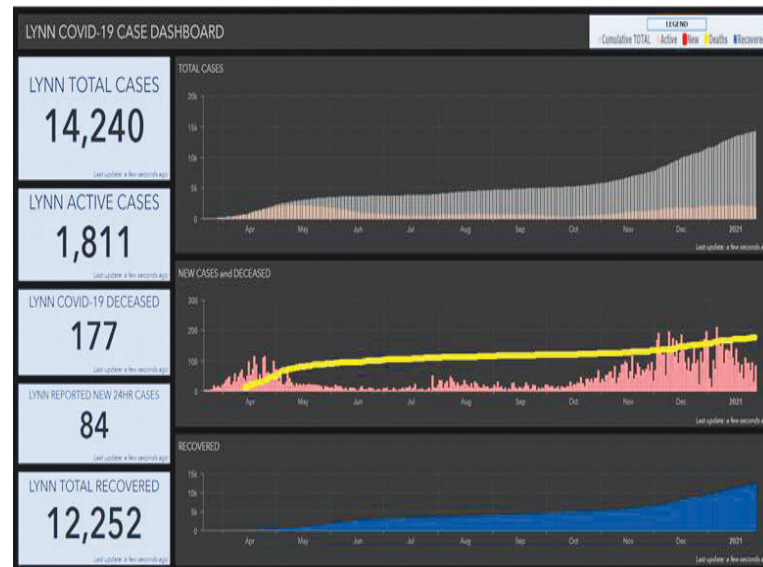
The Lynn Public Health Department has confirmed that the number of active, confirmed positive COVID-19 cases is 1,811 with 84 new cases today. 12,252 Lynn residents have recovered and 177 have died. The total number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in Lynn since March 21, 2020, including those who have died and recovered, is 14,240. Please visit the City of Lynn COVID-19 Data Dashboard which is updated daily.

Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Stage 2 Begins Monday 2/1

Phase 2 of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Plan begins on Monday, February 1st. Massachusetts residents who are age 75+ are now eligible to begin booking appointments on or after February 1st. Please visit the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Map to find a location closest to you at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-locations-for-individuals-in-eligible-groups-and-phases>

ble-groups-and-phases Please visit http://www.ci.lynn.ma.us/covid19/resources.shtml#p7GPc1_2 for the most up to date COVID-19 testing information, as well as more detailed information on the State and City of Lynn's Reopening Guidelines.

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



Celebrate Catholic Schools Week!
Special section on Pages 5-9

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

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EDITORIAL

THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER

Amidst our winter of discontent, there is some good news on the horizon (literally): The days are getting longer.

As this is being written, we will have passed the first full month of the astronomical winter (which starts on December 21 and ends on March 21) and we will have completed almost two months of the meteorological winter season, which is defined as December, January, and February.

On December 14, the sun set at 4:13 in the afternoon and on December 21 (the start of astronomical winter) the total amount of daylight was just nine hours and eight minutes. But on this Friday, January 29, the sun will be setting at 4:56 in the afternoon and we will have nine hours and 56 minutes of daylight.

The longer days, combined with the positive news on COVID-19 vaccines, signal hope for the future that sunnier days lie ahead.

LAWSUITS WILL BRING OUT THE TRUTH

The announcement this past week that Dominion Voting Systems Inc., the company that manufactures voting machines that are used widely across the United States, has filed a \$1.3 billion lawsuit against Rudy Giuliani for his deliberately defamatory statements about the company, is the perfect antidote to the disinformation campaign that was spread by Donald Trump and his minions in their attempt to subvert the results of the November election.

It was one thing for Trump, Giuliani, and others to spout their ridiculous claims, in general terms, about a stolen election, but it is quite another when their patently-false statements negatively affect the reputation and business interests of individuals and companies.

Just as this newspaper cannot publish false and defamatory information, neither can major media outlets nor individuals such as Rudy Giuliani. We would note that an employee of Dominion has filed a separate suit against a number of media outlets, as well as the Trump campaign, for their defamatory and injurious statements about him.

A few years ago, a web site named Gawker Media posted a video of the former wrestling star Hulk Hogan that was the basis for an invasion of privacy suit filed by Hogan that ultimately resulted in a \$140 million judgment against Gawker, which put Gawker out of business.

We predict that the lawsuits filed by Dominion (they previously sued another of Trump's lawyers) will have far-reaching consequences, particularly if Dominion names others who, similar to Giuliani, have made defamatory statements about Dominion.

Rudy Giuliani now is facing financial ruin, all of which he brought on himself because of his antics, a very fitting and appropriate ending for a man who tried to subvert a free and fair election, the most basic element of our Constitution.

HANK AARON WAS A WONDERFUL MAN

Boston baseball fans never got to experience first-hand the greatness of Hank Aaron. The Boston Braves left for Milwaukee in 1953 and Aaron joined the Braves in 1954.

With Aaron leading the way, the Braves then embarked on a run of great seasons, culminating in the 1957 World Series championship.

Although the Braves descended into mediocrity in the 1960s, Hank Aaron continued to perform at a high level, year after year, for more than two decades. When all was said and done, Aaron not only had broken Babe Ruth's career home run record, but he also set career marks for RBI and total bases (the latter by a wide margin) that still stand today.

Hank Aaron was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, but it was his achievements off the field that have earned him everlasting fame. He was a pioneer in the civil rights movement who was among a handful of Black athletes who helped to bring to an end the dark era of segregation and discrimination that existed in the 1950s and '60s.

On a personal level, Hank Aaron was admired and respected by all who knew him. He was one of those very few people who never had an unkind word to say about anybody, and vice-versa.

Hank Aaron was not the most-outspoken of persons, but he literally and figuratively epitomized the meaning of the phrase, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." He will be missed.



GUEST OP-ED

Don't live your life based on Biden or Trump

Dr. Glenn Mollette

When did life begin for President Donald Trump or President Joe Biden? Did Trump's life begin when his father loaned him millions to start investing? Did it begin when he married Melania? Or, did life begin when he was elected President? Maybe his life is beginning now that his Presidency is over?

What about Biden? Did Biden's life begin each morning when he boarded Amtrak headed for Washington? Maybe his life began when he was elected a Senator or even the Vice President? Maybe his life is just beginning now?

Trump will have options after the White House. He is a businessman. He will figure it out. Maybe NBC will seek him to do The Celebrity Apprentice once again? Yes,

NBC hates him but they love money. The Celebrity Apprentice made NBC and Trump hundreds of millions of dollars. Someone will publish Trump's memoirs. I predict he'll make about 50 to 75 million dollars off his book royalties. He has over 70 million loyal followers. If ten million people buy a book with a \$6 to \$9 prof-

it for the publisher then you can start multiplying the cash. Book publishers are all about money and sales. They know the market potential. Trump will stay busy on the speaking circuit. In about a year look for him in a city near you drawing a crowd.

Biden's life is only changing in that he finally gets to sleep in the White House. He will be in the same place where so many politicians and families have slept before. Biden is familiar with the nation's Capitol. He has practically spent his entire life there in politics. It's what he has

awakened to almost every morning of his life. Although now, he will sit in the Oval Office.

Life is changing for these two men in different ways but what about your life? When did your life begin? Did it begin at your conception? Your birth? When you turned 16 years old or 21? Maybe it began when you retired? When will your life end? The beginning of your life starts when you start living your life. The end of your life concludes when you give up and stop living

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Roach/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It's kind of cool," said Michelle. "I think I'm one of the first females who played in Lynn Youth Hockey and went on to play in college."

Michelle has benefited greatly from the lifelong support and advice of her father, Bob Roach, now the girls' hockey coach at Shawsheen Tech.

"My father coached the Lynn-Winthrop high school team when they first started and when he took a teaching position at Shawsheen Tech, they asked him to coach their newly formed girls' hockey team," said Michelle, who volunteered as a coach at Shawsheen.

"My father has taught me a lot through the years," credited Michelle. "He really got me into coaching when I got back from college. He really helped get me interested and get a passion for coaching as well."

At St. Mary's, Roach became captain of the school's first girls' varsity hockey team in the 2001-02 season.

"I had played on the boys' [JV] team for my first two years at St. Mary's and the last two years I played for the girls' team," said Michelle. "St. Mary's was building a program and Todd [Langlais] is an absolutely fantastic coach. My father was an assistant coach on Todd's staff. I still keep in contact with Todd and I pick his brain for coaching advice. We were building something that became a really great program."

College degrees from St. Michael's and Harvard

As a 5-foot-9-inch forward for the Spartans, Roach displayed superb stickhandling and a nifty scoring touch while drawing the attention of women's col-

lege hockey coaches. Michelle's All-All-Star career and outstanding leadership at St. Mary's earned her induction into the school's Varsity Club Hall of Fame in 2016.

"It was a fantastic honor," she said humbly.

She chose to attend St. Michael's College in Vermont.

"It gave me the opportunity to continue in the Catholic education as well as the opportunity to play hockey there," said Michelle.

Michelle played three years of college hockey before two concussions led to her decision to call it a career.

"It was a great experience to be a part of a college team," said Michelle. "There's a lot of camaraderie. Your teammates are always there for you and they became close friends and roommates. You have that lifelong bond with your teammates. You go through a lot – the training, the travel, and all the hours that you spend on and off the ice. We started in September and the season went through February so that's most of your college year being together."

Michelle received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Saint Michael's. She minored in Business and Human Resource Management.

She later attended graduate school at Harvard University, where she received her master's degree in Human Resources and Organizational Behavior.

She worked at Bear Stearns, a finance company in Boston where she had enjoyed a college internship while at St. Michael's. She also worked for 10 years in human resources at Harvard.

"I've been at Brown Brothers Harriman for four years and I'm an assistant vice president in human resources," said Michelle proudly. "It's a great company to work for. My boss is fantastic. I'm very appreciative of the time and flexibility that she gives me to be able to coach because it's something that I care a lot about."

Enjoying success as the Peabody head coach

Roach is continuing her association with girls high school sports as the sixth-year head coach of the Peabody High School girls hockey team.

Her record of successes is impressive. Roach's Lady Tanners are the two-time reigning league champions and have qualified for five MIAA State Tournaments in a row. She is a two-time Northeast coach of the year award recipient.

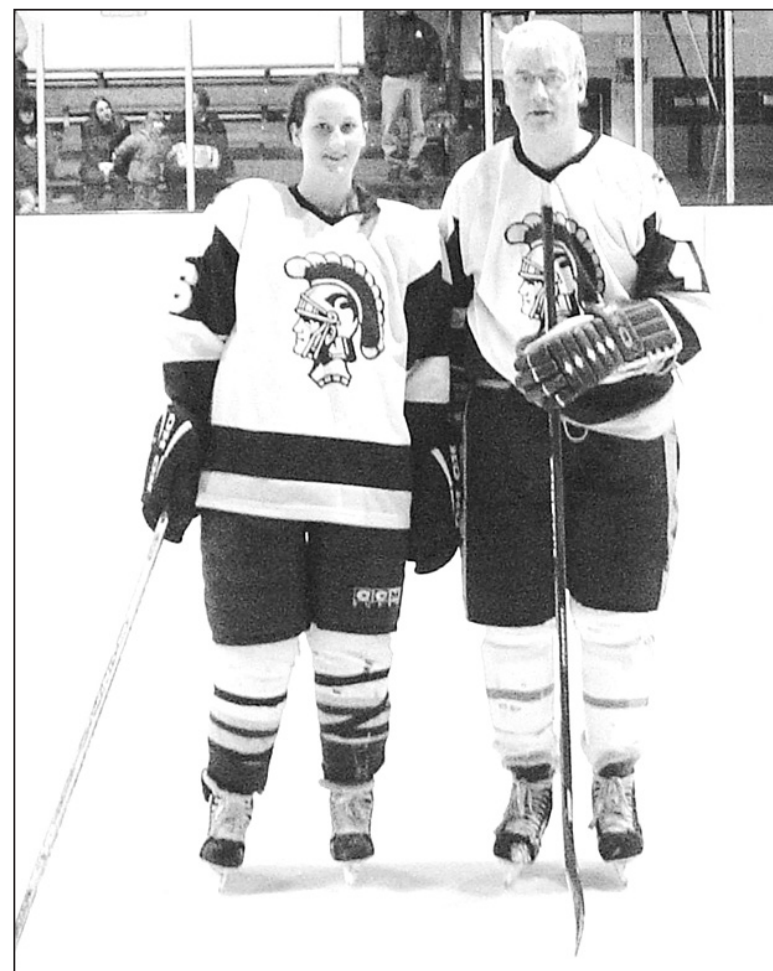
"Obviously I was at St. Mary's for a really long time and they're near and dear to my heart but I've also found a home in Peabody and I've been there for six years now. I love coaching in Peabody. The kids are great. I have players from Peabody, Lynnfield, and North Reading and I get great support from the administration from all three schools."

Asked about coaching a hockey team during the COVID-19 health crisis, Roach said, "Ultimately, we're just happy to be on the ice and be together. So it's a sense of normalcy for us and it's good to be able to have the kids together. We have five seniors this year so being able to be together, to play, and honor our seniors, we're just so grateful for that."

Prior to becoming the head coach in Peabody, she was the junior varsity coach and assistant varsity coach at St. Mary's for five years and an assistant at Masconomet Regional for one season. During her time as an assistant on Frank Pagliuca's staff at St. Mary's, the Spartans claimed three state titles and compiled an amazing undefeated streak of 101 games.

"It was so great to be a part of that run, given that I started off a player in the St. Mary's program in 2002 and being able to see that progression from the beginning to coming back as a coach and seeing the success," said Roach. "Frank taught me so much to help get ready for this coaching position in Peabody."

One of the opponents on the Peabody schedule has been her father Bob's Shawsheen Tech



Michelle Roach, with her father Bob Roach, at the St. Mary's High School alumni hockey game in 2004.

Rams.

"I think we're the first father-daughter duo that has coached against each other in an MIAA game," said Michelle. "It's a great experience to come full circle from where I started. At Sunday family dinners, we're talking about hockey, going over practices and bouncing drills and systems off of each other."

"I think we drive my mother (Diane) crazy because my brother (Stephen) is one of my assistant coaches," continued Michelle.

Stephen Roach is also a graduate of St. Mary's, having been the Class of 2012 valedictorian before attending Boston College. He is currently working in a health reinsurance company.

"Stephen was a student when I was coaching at St. Mary's and he would actually come to the rink after school and run the clock for my JV games," recalled Michelle.

Influencing the next generation

Michelle Roach said she's happy to be in a position where she has the direct ability to affect students' lives.

"What I really enjoy about coaching is that I have this unique opportunity where we're growing players but we're also growing people and helping form

these students so they can go on and they can do great things. Many of my players are competing for collegiate club and varsity teams."

One of her former players at St. Mary's, Amanda Donahoe (a 2016 Saint Michael's graduate), is currently an assistant on the Peabody High staff.

She is thankful for the academic and athletic opportunities she's had throughout her career.

"I'm grateful for the opportunities and the success that I've been afforded because I had these role models that helped me and guide me," said Michelle. "It starts with my father and my family."

She is excited about the future of women's hockey.

"It's absolutely amazing how far the sport has come," said Michelle. "When I started playing hockey, you didn't have many women in the area that were playing. Women's hockey has gained so much more visibility and exposure and I think the National Women's Hockey League playoffs that are going to be on national television is a great stage for them to be able to showcase their sport and for us to see some of the great skills they have and that we've been seeing for years in our hockey programs."

Op-Ed/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

your life.

Our lives are brief, here today and gone tomorrow. Don't base your life on who is The President. The quantity and quality of our lives typically hinge on our decisions and the transitions we adjust to. Life is filled with transitions, just look at Biden and Trump.

Change disrupts us and the climate of fear and skepticism is dominating our nation.

For you and I we must live our lives right now. Every day we wake up is a new beginning and a new life. The old life was yesterday and we can't relive, change or erase it. However, we

can learn from yesterday and education is very valuable.

When someone else's life begins is all conjecture on our part. When your life begins is your daily decision. Live your life. Maybe at this moment, your life is just really beginning.

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

ST. MARY'S GIRLS HOCKEY BLANKS ARCHBISHOP WILLIAMS 9-0 AT CONNERY RINK LAST WEEK

The Lady Spartans of St. Mary's Hockey Team were unstoppable last week in their home rink. Outscoring their opponents from Archbishop Williams 9-0 in a total dominating game on both offense and defense. Sophomore Goalie, Rylee Smith posted a shut-out on her resume.



Senior Captain Felicia D'Alessandro with another scoring opportunity for the Spartans.



Head Coach Pagliuca with Spartans Captains, Samantha Porazinski, Felicia D'Alessandro and Marina DiBiasio.



Jenna Chaplin makes a play at center ice.



Sophomore Goalie Rylee Smith posted a shut-out against Archbishop Williams.



Senior Captain Samantha Porazanski skates in for a scoring bid.



Head Coach Frank Pagliuca talks strategy with Forward Cara Donato before the game.

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Forward Kelly Lovett puts one in the net for St. Mary's, the Spartans would on to score 8 more before the game ended.

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Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2021

January 31 -February 6 #CSW21

This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, love God and neighbor and enrich society with the leaven of the gospel and by example of faith. As communities of faith, Catholic schools instill in students their destiny to become saints. Academic excellence is the hallmark of Catholic education intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Finally, service is fundamental to Catholic education and the core of Catholic discipleship. Service is intended to help form people who are not only witnesses to Catholic social teaching, but also active participants through social learning.

St. Mary's High School sports teams succeed through the challenges caused by the pandemic

By Cary Shuman

The St. Mary's High School boys and girls basketball and hockey teams are winning a lot of games this winter. That is no surprise for a program that produces state champions and title contenders every year.

But this season and the fall season that preceded it have been impacted greatly by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Many high schools canceled their fall and winter sports seasons.

St. Mary's officials decided to go forward, with its teams adhering to strict guidelines for social distancing and some new in-game rules established by the MIAA.

St. Mary's Director of Athletics Jeff Newhall said that more than 270 student-athletes participated in the fall sports season. This winter St. Mary's has 275 student-athletes competing in sports. There are nine basketball teams from the middle school through varsity levels, four hockey teams at the varsity and JV levels, along with a varsity swimming team.

"The fall season went off without a hitch," said Newhall. "During the winter we've had some issues but thankfully they were minor, though it did require a brief shutdown. But the athletes continue to do what they're supposed to do, and we were able to get up and running in 14 days."

Newhall said all athletes and coaches must wear masks at all times – at practices and games, during halftime strategy sessions, and on the buses to and from games. Spectators also have to wear masks at the games.

St. Mary's students must wear masks in all classrooms, in the school corridors, and during school activities.

"Our Care For All reopening plan allowed us to offer in-per-

son learning on campus for all of our students every day," said Newhall. The only time students take off their masks is when they

eat lunch. They know what they need to do to be able to go to school and play sports. And the students have been great at really

following the rules."

Newhall, who coaches the girls basketball team, has the Lady Spartans rolling along with

a 9-1 record, the lone setback to reigning Division 1 South cham-

Please see ST. MARY'S Page 9

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Sacred Heart School happy to be back

When Gov. Charlie Baker ordered all schools closed in March, Sacred Heart School Principal Kristina Relihan had a remote-learning plan in operation within two weeks and the well-administered academic process continued successfully through the end of the school year.

Sacred Heart returned to full, in-classroom learning in September.

"We're happy to be back in person everyday with our scholars," said Relihan, who is in her third year as principal at the well-known Catholic school in Lynn. "We do have some families who have chosen to keep their scholars remote, but we just updated technology to ensure that scholars can Zoom in to the classroom or be in person in the classroom."

The health of the Sacred Heart community is supreme, aided by the installation of hand-washing stations in every classroom and multiple hand-sanitizing stations throughout the school, along with updated cleaning protocols.

Sacred Heart, a sister school of St. Mary's Middle and High School, has students ranging from its youngest class at 2 years, 9 months, to pre-K and Kindergarten, and all the way up to grade five.

"Even the little ones keep their masks on," said Relihan.

During lunchtime, scholars are socially distanced six feet apart at tables in the large school gymnasium. Students in the early childhood program have lunch in a socially distanced arrangement in



Kristina Relihan
Sacred Heart Principal

their classrooms.

Sacred Heart School has an excellent teacher-to-student ratio that has been lauded by parents. There are 23 members of the faculty educating the school's 190 students.

"Our enrollment has stayed about the same," said Relihan. "I think COVID-19 definitely limited our capacity in classrooms because of socially distancing and making sure that we're adhering to the six-foot rule between desks and between children and that there's enough space for everyone to safely to be in the classroom."

"But looking to the future, we hope to see the expansion of early childhood and expansion of grades 1-5 - just continuing to offer a great education at Sacred Heart," added Relihan.

Relihan, a dynamic, hands-on

administrator who holds undergraduate and master's degrees from Wheelock College, is excited about Sacred Heart's educational partnership with St. Mary's of Lynn, which is led by St. Mary's Head of School Dr. John Dolan.

"It's going really well - we are a 2.9 (years) to grade 12 continuum, which is something that is not seen in many Catholic schools today, so it's exciting to be a part of it," said Relihan.

The principal said the transition to the new learning environment at Sacred Heart has been made possible by a professional and cooperative faculty.

"Our teachers are truly rock stars," said Relihan. "They come to school every day and have passion to do this work. Everyone here is amazing. We all work together and make it through each day."

Relihan commended George Sonia and his staff at Lancelot for their diligent efforts in keeping the school clean.

Addressing the trying times in elementary school education caused by the coronavirus, Relihan said, "I'm very positive in a not-so-known time. I think what we're offering here at Sacred Heart is positivity and reinforcement that we can be in school and learn every day in person."

If you're interested in enrolling at Sacred Heart for the 2021-2022 school year please visit our website <https://www.sacredheart-schoollynn.org> and schedule a Tour Tuesday today.

Malden Catholic HS girls winter sports program off to a terrific start

By Cary Shuman

The Malden Catholic High School girls basketball team, under the direction of head coach Jay Keane, is in its third year of existence, and its second at the varsity level.

Because the girls division (Malden Catholic School for Girls) began three years ago, Keane's first-year team was made up entirely of ninth graders competing at the sub-varsity level.

Last season, the Keane Contingent, consisting of freshmen and sophomores, jumped up to varsity and qualified for the MIAA Tournament with a 15-5 record. The Lady Lancers defeated Snowden in their first tournament game before falling to eventual champion Matignon in the Division 4 North Sectional semifinals.

Can you say instant success story?

Aided by a strong freshman class this season in addition to seven juniors and two sophomores, Malden Catholic has a 2-1 record and is ranked among the top teams in the division by the Boston newspapers.

Malden Catholic is continuing as an independent team with no league affiliation for the 2020-21 season.

"We were hoping to join a league this year, but with COVID-19, it just didn't materialize with anybody," said Keane. "We were able to schedule 11 games with schools that were in the same boat as we are."

MC has games scheduled with Catholic Conference schools Notre Dame Academy (Hingham), Fontbonne Academy (Milton), and Ursuline Academy (Dedham), along with Catholic Central League powerhouse St. Mary's (Lynn). There are also plans for a season-ending Catholic schools' tournament.

Not many coaches get to build a varsity program from the ground floor, but Jay Keane was given that opportunity when MC became a co-divisional school (Boys and girls do not attend academic classes together at the school and are situated in a separate half of the same school building).

"My original plan when I applied for the job was that in Year 3 we'd be varsity," said Keane. "But we had a really good freshman class with a lot of good pieces, and I knew since we were independent, I'd make my own



Jay Keane is the head coach of the Malden Catholic High School girls varsity basketball team.

schedule and we were very lucky - a 15-5 record is pretty respectable for a first-year program with only sophomores and freshmen."

Athletes from several nearby communities are playing varsity basketball, including freshmen Luna Murray and Marcella Bonfardeci of Revere and Mary Turco of Winthrop.

Malden Catholic has added junior varsity and freshman teams. Jess Popken is the junior varsity coach while Mike Gioia is the freshman coach. There are 38 players participating in the program.

A retired Somerville district fire chief, Keane formerly served as the head girls basketball coach at Wilmington High School for eight seasons (2005-13). He played high school basketball at St. Mary's, Cambridge.

"My senior year, we were undefeated and played Cathedral in the (Division 3) North finals at the old Boston Garden," recalled Keane. "Cambridge Rindge and Latin was undefeated and played Don Bosco right after us, so all the Cambridge fans were rooting for us. We had a pretty good rooting section."

Keane is happy that his Malden Catholic team is competing in a season amidst the concerns and challenges of the coronavirus. Coaches and players must wear masks during games and practices.

"We're just lucky to be playing basketball," he said. "We talked about it with the kids how fortunate we are to be in the gym. It's been a challenging year but it's just good to get them in the gym and have some sense of normalcy."

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In-person learning at St. John School in the North End a success

By John Lynds

In its 126 year history St. John School arguably has never faced a crisis quite like the COVID-19 pandemic that has turned the world upside down.

However, the staff and students at St. John School have successfully returned to 'in-person' learning for the 2020-2021 school year.

Principal of the parochial school, Claire Cassidy, said since September 9 St. John School has been open for in person learning five days a week. The school has also been offering an eLearning program for students whose families do not wish to have them attend school in person.

Cassidy said so far the school year has been a success and teachers have worked extremely hard to seamlessly integrate eLearners into the classroom daily and to redesign lessons to ensure they are successful in a socially distant classroom and digital environment.

"It has really been phenomenal," said Cassidy. "It's been such a privilege to witness the way in which our students came back to school. They seamlessly came the door in September and have been washing their hands, wearing



A young student at St. John School in the North End during an in-person lesson. The school successfully reopened in-person learning in September.

their mask, sanitizing, and social distancing--as is the norm now. Our teachers have done the most amazing job of making the integration of our in-person learners and our eLearners just look so easy. They've really worked hard to shift lesson plans and activities so that classroom discussions are between a student who is in-person and a student who is an eLearner and you see the way in which it continues to bring that beautiful sense of community that St John's School is known for."

Cassidy said St. John School has been very fortunate that the school building

lends itself to staff and students being able to do in-person learning successfully.

"The spaciousness of our classrooms has meant we are able to allow 6 feet or more of space between students," said Cassidy. "We have also limited class size to give students additional space. We do have enormous windows in our building, all of which are open and have between 800 to 1,000 square feet for most of our classrooms. We were able to purchase air purifiers for our classrooms too. We also had plumbing work done over the summer to add additional sinks to our buildings so our



The St. John School building layout has lent itself to the school being able to successfully return to in-person learning this year. The classrooms are between 800 and 1,000 sq. ft. which allows for proper social distancing.

students had more places to wash their hands. With all of those things in place we've

Please see ST. JOHN'S Page 9

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East Boston Central Catholic School's hybrid learning model a success

By John Lynds

While the 2020-2021 school year has looked a lot different for students and staff at East Boston Central Catholic School (EBCCS) due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Principal Robert Casaletto said the reopening plan at Eastie's remaining Parochial School has been smooth as can be.

EBCCS kicked off the school year in September with 'in-person' learning for some students and 'remote' learning for others but recently switched to 'hybrid' learning.

"Everything has been going really well at EBCCS," said Casaletto. "We have had our PreSchool and Kindergarten students in five days per

week since September and we just transitioned grades 1-8 to hybrid learning when we returned from Christmas break. That is going very well so far."

Casaletto said EBCCS's hybrid schedule offers two days per week of in-person learning and three days of remote learning for all students.

"Group A has in-person learning on Monday-Tuesday, all students are remote on Wednesday, and then Group B has in-person learning on Thursday-Friday," said Casaletto. "Our students have been fully engaged on their remote learning days and times, and we are not noticing any learning loss or feelings of isolation. In fact, when given the option to return to in-person learning, many of our families

elected to remain fully remote because they are happy with both the teaching and learning that has occurred so far this year during our fully remote days."

EBCCS has added some additional safety precautions for the 2020-2021 school year like staggering arrival and dismissal times to limit the gathering size outside the school.

"We also added sinks and air purifiers to every classroom," said Casaletto. "Each student has their own individual desk sneeze guard, individual sanitizer provided by East Boston Savings Bank, the use of a Chromebook, and over six feet of space separating them from the next student."

The school also created a "Care Room" in the event a



EBCCS teacher Lauryn Rozzi in her classroom. EBCCS began a hybrid learning model after the Christmas break.

student or faculty member becomes sick while in the building with disposable gowns, safety glasses, gloves, and KN-95 masks.

EBCCS also purchased webcams, live streaming cameras, microphones, speakers, a ZOOM licence, and privacy walls for the teachers to keep the staff safe and allow them

to teach to both in-person and remote students at the same time.

"We just opened re-enrollment and new enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year," said Casaletto. "Families can visit ebccs.org for more information. We will have virtual tour videos up on the website next week."

St. Anthony's of Everett keeps in-person learning at forefront this year

By Seth Daniel

Counting one's blessings is a daily exercise at St. Anthony's School of Everett, but never did the school community think one of those counted blessings would be actually going to school in person.

However, that has been the case as the Pre-School to Grade 8 Catholic School in Everett has stayed in person most every week since September using some re-configured routines and strict COVID-19 protocols. It has been a great and wonderful thing for the children, and the families, said Principal Maria Giggie.

"We've been in school since Sept. 16," said Giggie, now in her 15th year at St. Anthony's. "We recently did a partial re-opening after Christmas in phases of 1, 2 and 3 because the cases in Everett were so high. Now everyone is back this week...Everybody is back physically in the building this week. Remote is okay, but over a long period of time, it becomes impossible for students and parents."

St. Anthony's is participating in Catholic Schools Week throughout next week and will have special, COVID-19 conscious, celebrations – such as a Pajama Day. Meanwhile, prospective students and parents are encouraged to come in-person to their Open Houses from Feb. 1-3 after mak-

ing an appointment. The Open Houses are generally between 9-11 a.m. on those days, but Giggie said they are flexible.

Keeping away from all-remote has been very helpful to students and families, Giggie said, and has been a highlight of the year for them while their counterparts in the public schools have remained online this entire year.

"Remote is hard," she said. "If people have to go to work, especially with younger children, you have to worry about getting them up on the screen. Nobody needs this kind of stress. Getting everyone back in school is best and of course, keeping necessary precautions in place when they are here is essential."

Giggie said they have moved desks six feet apart in all classrooms, and now have four lunch sessions per day with two children at each table. There are a lot of other guidelines they've picked up from the best practices, such as having teachers come to the older students, instead of having students switch classrooms each period. That keeps them at the same desk all day and keeps them from having to move about the school and having contact with others.

"We've been blessed in this," she said. "The teachers are a treasure and have gone above and beyond during school and after school. It is beyond what a teacher's job description would be. They are always on. It's been an

amazing effort."

The school has also been smart about utilizing the new technology as well. Some students have chosen to be at home, and teachers have quickly adapted to teaching in person and remotely at the same time – carrying around a technology cart to each classroom that doubles as the remote computer link for students at home. Likewise, on a few occasions, they have chosen to go all remote when the percent positive case numbers in Everett have soared far beyond 8 percent. In addition, some of their special occasions, have been moved online – like this year's Christmas Play that was put together in a video celebration that was widely proclaimed as one of the best in years.

Needless to say, it is the in-person learning that has retained students this year, and increased the numbers of students in the older grades, Giggie said.

The student population has remained at around 200 this year, but that comes with fewer students in the pre-school and kindergarten, while more in the older grades.

"We did see an uptick in the older grades, quite a lot actually," she said. "Because we provide on-site in school sessions, we have seen an increase in the numbers because we're open."

She said the younger children have also impressed her with their ability to adhere to the COVID-19 guidelines after teachers stressed

them as part of the education plan this year.

"Honestly, I am impressed," she said. "It's unbelievable to see the 3 and 4-year-olds keeping their masks on and following the instructions. They have been so well-behaved."

However, Principal Giggie said it has been an effort of every administrator, student and teacher in the building to keep school going in-person and to avoid any pitfalls brought on by COVID-19. It has simply been a blessing to be

counted, she said.

"We're blessed with our teachers, to see what they do every day," she said. "Everybody is in it together because the most important thing is that we keep everyone in the school and provide an opportunity for parents to send their kids to school in person. We have been continually blessed by that."

To schedule an appointment for the Open House next week, call the office of the school at (617) 389-2448.

Malden / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Malden Catholic Director of Athletic Bill Raycraft is being lauded by coaches, players, and parents for being so supportive of the program and giving it resources it needs to be competitive.

"He's really done a great job, especially this year with all the changes and craziness that's been surrounding schools and sports," said Keane. "He's been great at expanding the entire girls' athletic program."

The future is certainly bright for the MC girls' basketball program.

"No. 1, the school has out-

standing academics and our athletes love being at the school," said Keane. "Girls' sports are starting to take off. We were the first girls' team [at MC] to go varsity last year. The school really rallied around us and now this year the other programs are scheduling varsity games."

Perhaps as early as next season when the MIAA Tournament hopefully returns, the MC girls basketball players might realize the incredible experience that their coach Jay Keane enjoyed many years ago: playing a championship game on the famed parquet floor of the Boston Garden.

St. Mary's / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

pion Bridgewater Raynam. Many observers believe that Newhall's powerful St. Mary's contingent would have been the favorite to repeat as the Division 3 state champion, but the MIAA has canceled the State Tournament due to concerns about the coronavirus.

The boys basketball team, coached by David Brown Sr., is also excelling. Coach Brown's son, sophomore guard David Brown Jr., has emerged as a star with 32 and 33-point individual performances to-date.

The boys hockey team, led by Hall of Fame Coach Mark Lee, is once again one of the top-tier teams in the Catholic Central League.

The girls hockey team, coached by Frank Pagliuca, has a 4-2-1 record, and is the No. 3-ranked team in Massachusetts.

With no state tournaments being played in the winter of 2021, Catholic Central League teams will compete for the CCL Cup in a single-elimination, intra-league tournaments following the regular season.

St. John's / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

and remain open since September."

Cassidy said extra precautions include a cleaner who is present throughout the day to clean all high touch surfaces. The school also expanded its nursing program hours to ensure nurses were available throughout the day as well as staggered arrival and dismissal times to promote student safety.

"I do think that having the privilege of being able to open for in-person learning and to be able to continue is really important," said Cassidy. "Our students are very grateful and they tell us how excited they are to be at school each day. Our families are as well and they see the joy that their children get from coming to school."

Cassidy added that with appropriate adjustments St. John School has been able to continue with its Tower Gar-

den program and to date has grown over 60 pounds of food that is donated to the Arch Street Shrine. The school has even been able to hold private socially distanced school mass each week since school started in the fall.

In the end Cassidy said St. John School has also been very blessed that school parents have been tremendously supportive since school started.

"They have done a great job of reinforcing the routines that we have here with their children," said Cassidy. "They've also kept their kids home when they are sick, which I know is a strain for a family, and tested and quarantined their kids as needed. All the parents have been extremely supportive of our school policies and worked with us to ensure our school community remains healthy throughout the year."



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Middle Schoolers at St. John School in the North. Principal Claire Cassidy said students are very grateful to be back in school and tell staff how excited they are each day.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

CONCERNS OVER EVICTION MORATORIUM EXPIRING

CHELSEA - A key concern in Chelsea and surrounding communities since last November has been the lifting of the eviction moratorium and how that might affect thousands of residents and their housing situations, but initial statistics through Jan. 1 from the state Housing Court show Chelsea seems to be in a good position so far with a lower number of filed evictions for non-payment of rent.

It's a piece of good news in what has been a huge worry for elected officials and advocates over the past several months, with many worrying that joblessness as a result of the pandemic could lead to massive numbers of people without homes. So far, that hasn't come true in the official stats, to the relief of everyone.

In Housing Court, to begin an

eviction process one must file a Summary Process Eviction for non-payment of rent. It is a standard process for most landlords and tenants, but it had been frozen during COVID-19 until last fall – when Housing Court opened back up for evictions in October.

While other locales have been swamped with such filings, Chelsea has had just 129 Summary Process Evictions filed for all of 2020. That was a little more than 10 per month and showed that the City has staved off the onslaught of filings that many expected. It's not the case in other places like Worcester, Fall River and New Bedford.

Worcester led the state with 874 filings as of Jan. 1 for all of 2020. Springfield had 711, Fall River had 604, and Brockton had 315. All were well above Chelsea's numbers.

Chelsea did have a lot in common with Everett and Revere, which also expected a lot of filings but so far have not had so

many. Everett had 87 filings and Revere had 154 – all well-below what was expected and, like Chelsea, places where substantial resources were directed to stemming the tide.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said he felt really good about the numbers and the resources the City has marshaled to keep evictions from happening in large numbers.

"It's good news and I don't have a specific explanation, but we have put a lot of resources and money to assist people," he said. "We have helped residents fill out RAFT applications and our own rental assistance applications and program. We have the Chelsea Legal Aid Clinic and the Eviction Task force that intervene quickly. I'm hopeful all of these things are helping the situation. These statistics seem to be a positive trend."

At the same time, he said statistics only tell the official story, and he has heard from advocates that many illegal evictions are happening that don't show up on paper.

"I have no doubt that does occur and that's why we set up the Chelsea Legal Aid Clinic – a place to call and get advice," he said. "I agree that is a reality in these communities."

City Solicitor Cheryl Fisher Watson chairs the effort at the Chelsea Legal Services Housing Clinic – as it is officially known – and said it has helped avoid evictions before they happen in court.

"Chelsea has a unique approach to combating evictions and have armed our residents with different options," she said. "The Chelsea Legal Services Housing Clinic is not only representing residents of all incomes in evictions, but also it is making sure they are connected with services within our community."

For example, she said tenants are referred to the City and other agencies for rent help through the state RAFT program and also referrals are made to housing agencies. The Clinic members right now are meeting residents twice a week at La Colaborativa to discuss their options. Meanwhile, Greater Boston Legal Services and the Volunteer Lawyers Project are also helping and representing residents that make it to court.

"There is a referral network in place," she said. "Our Landlords are also doing their part by not pursuing evictions and working with the Clinic and the City."

said keeping up the effort will be critical in the next few months, but he is encouraged to see that it appears the current efforts are succeeding in Everett and Chelsea.

"We have to continue working to ensure that we don't have any evictions," said Senator DiDomenico. "But, we can see that the work being done in our community through state and local partnerships has had positive outcomes for many residents. There is still much more work to be done and we will keep pushing to get resources to address our housing crisis."

On the streets of Chelsea though – similar to Everett – there is another story and that's the one that doesn't appear on paper, as Ambrosino said.

La Colaborativa Director Gladys Vega said the two things that keep her up at night during the pandemic have been food insecurity and housing. Food has an easy answer she said; Getting resources and distributing them. Housing is much different in Chelsea, as there are so many unofficial and complex living situations. They aren't the kind of situations that would show up on official court statistics.

"The numbers may show something, but the reality is totally different," she said.

The organization has four staff members dedicated to housing, including Norieliz DeJesus. She said much of the problem is there are tenant subleases, and extended family situations, and other non-traditional living arrangements that disintegrate in the stress of COVID-19.

"There are a lot of people that sublease in the community and who out of fear abandon their homes before they get to court," she said. "They often leave because they're getting harassed by the landlord at times...Other tenants may be paying their rent, but they're doing it because they're borrowing money or they aren't paying their bills and letting them skyrocket for heat and electricity. We've seen where landlords are using utilities to push tenants out. They control the switches and they turn off the lights or heat until they leave."

"It's really hard to categorize the situations we see because there are so many dynamics, and they don't show up on paper," she continued.

She retold the story of a teen mother who was kicked out of her home by her mother, an eviction that wouldn't show up on any statistics, but one that creates

an emergency situation, nonetheless.

"Some family tenant situations aren't showing up on paper because they're coming from family members evicting other family members," she said. "I have a young mother who is 18 with a baby and her mother told her to leave because she couldn't find a job. She was on the street. We had to try to find her housing and a hotel for a few nights. That didn't show up on court stats because it was within the family – in fact her mother."

Many expect the numbers of filed evictions to increase in the coming months, but a nationwide rebound in the economy is also predicted for the second half of 2021 – leading many to believe at the City and state level that getting through the last two months and the next four could be enough to avert a housing disaster – at least on paper.

NEW CLOTHING DROP OFF BOX

EAST BOSTON - It's hard to believe that more than 85 percent of clothes wind up in the trash. While it's the norm to recycle plastics, glass, metal and paper-clothes, shoes, and accessories have long been ignored. Studies show that about 10 percent of the nation's landfills are full of discarded clothes and textiles.

Boston Public Works (BPW) announced recently that it now has fourteen drop-off locations around the city for recycling clothing and textiles--this includes East Boston.

The location in Eastie at the city's municipal lot located at 166 London St. accepts everything from pants, shorts, curtains, pajamas, t-shirts, jerseys, sweat-shirts, sweaters, jeans, dresses, coats, suits, shoes, blankets, and backpacks.

"Locations were started in municipal lots since they are managed by the City and space is there," said BPW's Brian Coughlin. "We're now working with neighborhood groups to help identify private land that we can use. Also we are working with BPL, BPS and BFD facilities personnel as we look to expand this service."

Coughlin said in Boston, about seven percent, or 14,000 tons of all city trash annually are clothes and other textiles.


The city has partnered with HELPSY to offer this new service to Eastie and Boston residents.

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Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

“Our goal is to support recycling, responsible handling of overstock and returns and changing the way the fashion industry thinks of the clothing life cycle,” said the company in a statement. “Ninety-five percent of all clothing, shoes and other textiles can be given a second life--50 percent are reusable, 45 percent are recyclable. Local thrift stores play a necessary role in the resale economy, however they can only handle 10-20 percent of what they receive.”

HELPSY said all collected materials from the bins are sold to national and international retailers, wholesalers and recyclers. This works the same way as any other recycled materials collected from the public.

“Seventy percent of the world buys used clothing,” the company said. “Our buyers sell to countries who pay for the clothes. If banned, the primary economic alternative would be more fast fashion. Reselling used clothes is the best way to give clothes a second life, mitigating their environmental impact.”

LOCAL RESTAURANTS STILL HURTING

EAST BOSTON - East Boston restaurants and bars have been some of the hardest hit small businesses by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resulting economic downturn that has swept the nation.

While there’s been some temporary relief through extended outdoor seating capacity programs as well as local bars able to offer liquor-to-go, some smaller operations are still finding it hard to pay for the necessary components to make outdoor dining a reality.

Luckily, the new partnership between East Boston Main Streets (EBMS) and local real estate developers is providing much needed financial support to local restaurants as they reopened and found their footing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eastie Strong, the grant program hatched by EBMS and local real estate developers, announced its second round of awardees as part of the ‘Adopt a Patio’ program. The Adopt a Patio provides capital to fund reopening costs related to complying with COVID-19 restrictions. The funds are used to purchase items such as outdoor furniture, umbrellas, and space heaters for the winter.

“We are excited to release our first round of funding and know

it will be a lifeline to many of these small and locally owned businesses,” said EBMS Executive Director Gladys Oliveros.

The second round of awardees include: Maverick’s (\$1,500); La Hacienda Restaurant and Bar (\$1,000); La Gran Manzana (\$1,000); La Fonda Colombiana (\$1,000); Toasted Flats (\$1,000); and Tawakal Halal Cafe (\$1,000).

The first round of awards was announced in November and included: Mexicali Sushi Bar (\$1,000); Taco Mex (\$1,000); Rincon Limeno Restaurant (\$1,000); La Casa del Pan Debono (\$1,000); Dirty Water Dough (\$1,000); Pazza on Porter (\$1,500); Mi Pueblito (\$1,000); Pueblo Viejo Pupuseria & Mexican Grill (\$1,000); and Luna’s Italian and Latin Cuisine Restaurant (\$1,000).

Restaurateurs like Fernando Rosas, who owns La Casa del Pan Debono, said the Eastie Strong grant program has been a lifesaver.

“I appreciate all the help provided by East Boston Main Street throughout the whole past year, especially in the past month,” said Rosas. “La Casa del Pan Debono has been affected tremendously by this pandemic. We are barely making rent or payroll and last month we were having a very tough time making ends meet. I was one of the many lucky restaurants to receive the grant for \$1,000 and it helped us more than we could’ve ever imagined. We were able to give some bonuses to our employees, pay for our electricity bill and use some for our biweekly payroll.”

Stephen Davis of The Davis Companies said his company wanted to find a way to help our tenants as well as contribute to the local restaurant economy which has suffered greatly during the pandemic.

David Grossman of the Grossman Companies, who is spearheading the fundraising component of the program with The Davis Companies, said, “Thanks to East Boston Main Streets we can help our tenants afford a night out while providing a financial lifeline to restaurants and support the overall health of the East Boston economy.”

Other sponsors of the program include: Roseland, MG2; Seyfarth Shaw LLP; Trinity Financial; Volnay Capital; LendLease; Winn Residential; Norfolk Kitchen and Bath; Cranshaw Construction; East Boston Savings Bank; and The Trustees of Reservations.

The program is managed by local consulting firm, the Novus Group.

According to Oliveros the new initiative also has a second component. While the first is the Adopt a Patio program the other is the “Gift Card Program”. Local real estate developers and sponsors will distribute gift cards directly to tenants for use only at participating local restaurants.

“Over the course of the pandemic, we have discovered many unique challenges that local restaurants face: lack of access to government Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, decreased revenue from customers, and the need for capital to help cover the cost of creating new outdoor seating,” said Oliveros. “This partnership will help address these problems while encouraging East Boston residents to dine at the many wonderful restaurants operating locally.”

Rep. Adrian Madaro called the new program ‘awesome’ and will be a big boost to the local economy.

“This is a great example of nonprofits and the private sector coming together as a community to help each other out during a very difficult time,” said Madaro.

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SPARTANS OF ST. MARY'S OF LYNN FALL TO THE BISHOPS OF ARCHBISHOP WILLIAMS 70-61

The boy's basketball team of St. Mary's took a loss last week against Archbishop Williams. It was a tight game all the way, but at the final buzzer the Spartans fell short by nine points.



Anthony D'Itria from the corner for three.



Head Coach David Brown gives directions from the sidelines.



In for two on a layup is Senior Sammy Batista.



Sophomore Guard, David Brown is a driving force on both ends of the court.



Double-teamed at mid-court, Jackson Field looks to make a play for the Spartans.



Senior Forward Zach Barden fights for a shot under the basket.



Omri Merryman hit a three-pointer.

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Published Feb. 10 & 11

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