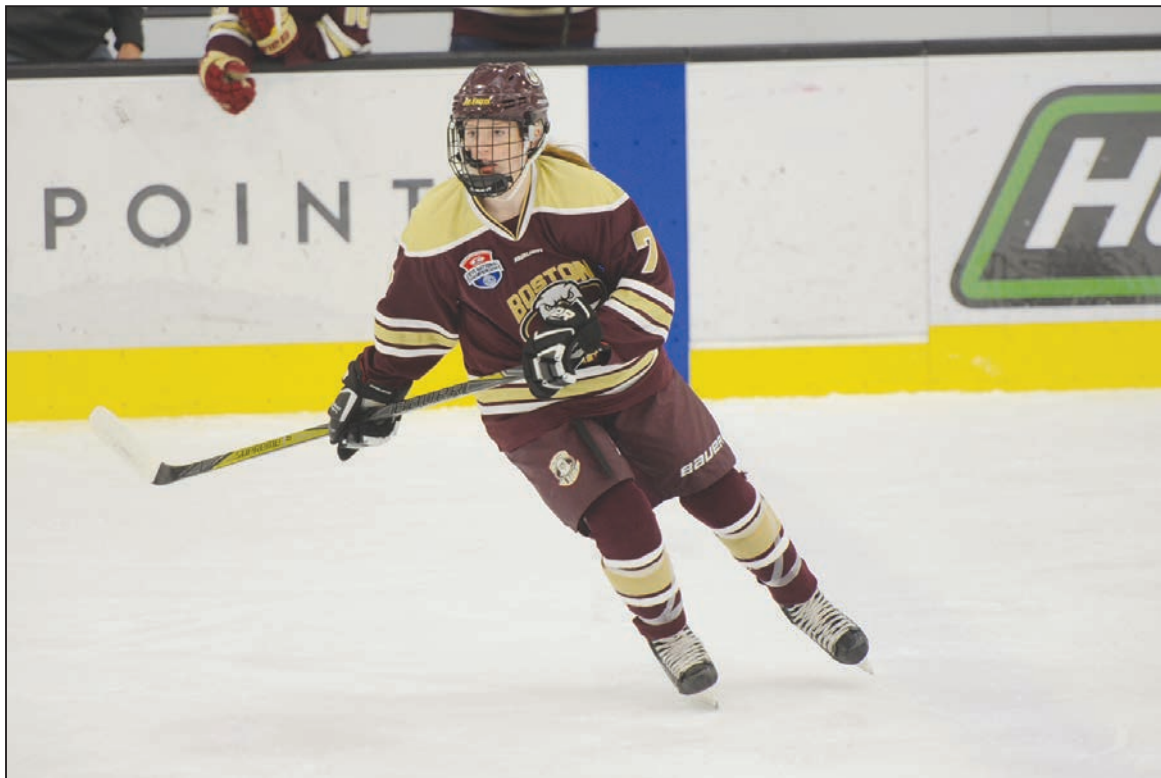


THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, January 7, 2021

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FLIGHT PATH



Lynn resident Keri Clougherty is seen in action for the Junior Eagles Tier-I team.

Clougherty the latest Lynn star to play hockey for the BC Eagles

By Cary Shuman

Keri Clougherty has been a standout at each level in her impressive ice hockey career.



Lynn hockey star and Boston College-bound Keri Clougherty, pictured with her parents, Kevin Clougherty and Kathleen Clougherty, and her brothers, Brian Clougherty (left) and Michael Clougherty (right).

From her earliest days of skating in the Lynn Youth Hockey program, to her time with the Assabet Valley and Junior Eagles Tier 1 teams, to her current status as an All-New England Prep School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) defenseman at Deerfield Academy, Clougherty has been recognized as a rising star in women's hockey.

And the next destination in her hockey career says it all about how highly regarded she is among the nation's Class of 2021 prospects. Clougherty, a 5-foot-9-inch Deerfield captain, will be continuing her hockey career at Boston College, one of the elite programs in Division 1 women's hockey and also one of the most prestigious educational institutions in the country.

"I'm really excited about going to BC," said the 17-year-old Clougherty. "I signed my let-

ter of intent in November. I had committed to BC back in December of my junior year. I talked to a few schools, but BC was the one I was really focused on, for sure."

Influenced by her talented brothers

Keri Clougherty is a member of a well-known Lynn hockey family. Her father, Kevin, has helped countless boys and girls learn how to skate in his role as the director of Lynn Youth Hockey's "Learn to Skate" Program.

Keri's older brothers, Michael, 21, and Brian, 20, have also inspired her in a big way. Both were offensive forces and linemates for the Lynn Jets high school hockey team, combining with John DiFilippo to tally a remarkable total of 150 points in the 2017-18 season. The Clough-

Please see CLOUGHERTY Page 6

McGee lauds Speaker DeLeo upon his retirement from House

By Cary Shuman

Lynn Mayor Thomas M. McGee had an up-close look at the prestige and honor associated with being the Speaker of the Mass. House of Representatives.

McGee's father, the late Thomas W. McGee, served as Speaker of the House from 1975 to 1984, rising from his seat on the Lynn City Council to be elected state representative and then elected by his House colleagues to one of the most powerful positions in state government.

"My dad was elected Speaker when I was 19 so I visited him in the Speaker's Office a lot," said the mayor. "It was an exciting time. I was thinking of the day my dad was elected speaker, how excited he was and how proud we were of him. It was a culmination of the hard work he did over the

years. I'm very proud of what he did when he was Speaker of the House. It's a position that only a small number of people over 200-plus years have served in. I was thinking of my dad and how important it was for him to be able to be in that position and make a difference in people's lives."

McGee thus had a unique perspective as Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo retired from the position last week. DeLeo is seeking a teaching position at Northeastern University, his alma mater.

McGee served eight years in the House of Representatives with Robert DeLeo. As state senator and chair of the Mass. Democratic Party, McGee continued a good working relationship with

Please see MCGEE Page 7

CMCC's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast will be a virtual celebration

Special to the Journal

The Community Minority Cultural Center's 35th Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration will be a virtual event due to the coronavirus.

CMCC leaders will host the virtual celebration on Monday, Jan. 18 at 11 a.m. Guests can join the celebration on Facebook Live.

The breakfast honoring Dr. King, the outstanding civil rights leader, attracts a tremendous

crowd each year. CMCC Secretary and community leader Darrell Murkison has been the leader of the speaking program and one of the chief organizers of the breakfast along with board members Gail Rayndles and William Lott Jr.

"We'll be having a program with a keynote speaker and musical entertainment that will begin at 11 a.m.," said Lott. "Darrell will be the master of ceremonies. Usually I do the acknowledgements of the donors such as General Electric and Eastern Bank."

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

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EDITORIAL

EMISSIONS BILL IS A BIG STEP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The approval on Monday by both houses of the Massachusetts legislature of a bill that requires the state to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 85% below 1990 levels by 2050 represents a huge step toward the goal of mitigating the effects of climate change in our state.

Although the total carbon emissions emanating from Massachusetts obviously is only a small fraction of global emissions, the legislation provides a blueprint for other states and private industry to follow.

Some say that the ultimate goal of net-zero by 2050 is unattainable, but in our view, that is understating the reality of what is happening in the world today.

Despite the best (or worst) efforts of the Trump administration to perpetuate the use of coal and other fossil fuels, renewable energy actually is cheaper than fossil fuels thanks to the advances in technology of wind and solar energy.

Most excitingly, the progress in the development of hydrogen fuel cells, which has been more than two decades in the making, finally is beginning to look like it will become a feasible source of energy within 10 years, making the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 more than just a dream.

We applaud the action by Gov. Charlie Baker and our legislature in bringing to fruition an environmental action plan that recognizes the pressing need to address the issue of climate change.

Although the pandemic rightly is in the forefront of government leaders' attention today, that problem will seem like a stroll in the park if we do not take immediate action to avert the looming climate catastrophe that threatens our planet's very existence.

IT WAS A GREAT RUN, PATS' FANS

The 2020 season for the New England Patriots came to a merciful close this past weekend. The woeful Pats finished with a 7-9 record, their first losing season since 2000, and missed the playoffs for the first time since 2008.

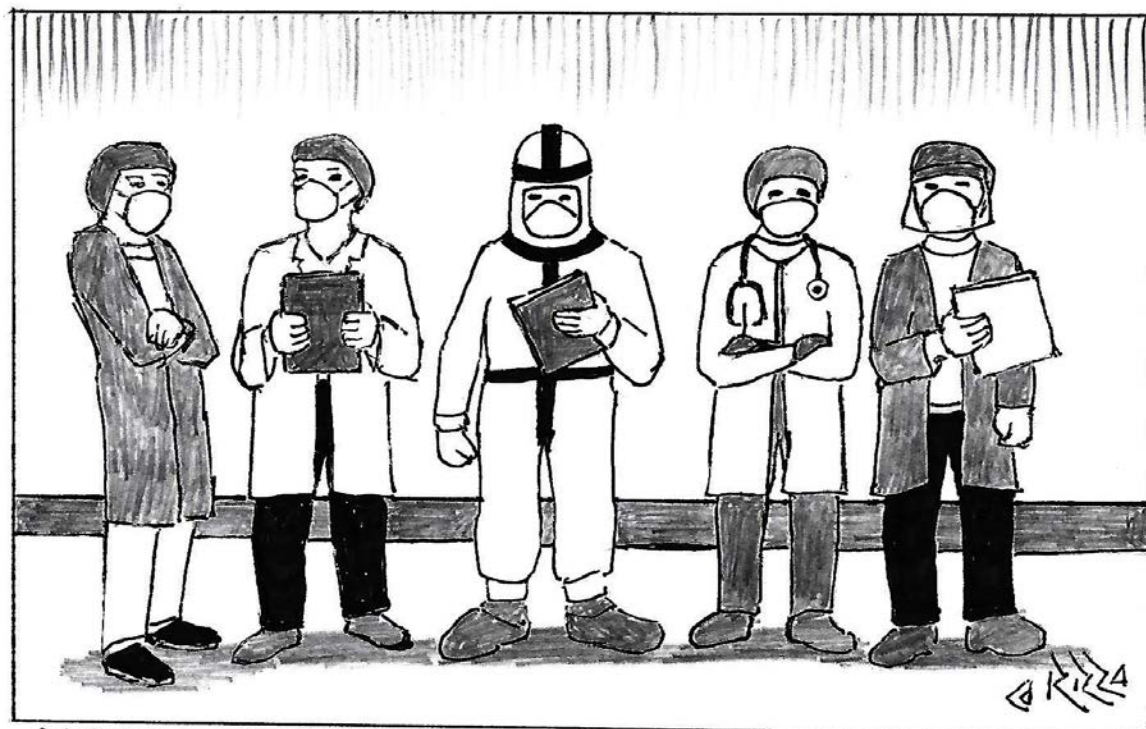
We have to admit that we feel badly for young Patriots' fans, those born after 1990, who have become accustomed to the dominance and excellence, year-after-year, by Bill Belichick's crew. This season has been the equivalent of having an ice bucket thrown over your head, a rude wake-up call to the reality of the ebb-and-flow of professional sports that the Patriots alone among all sports franchises in the modern era have managed to avoid for an unprecedented two decades.

Admittedly, even for those of us who are long-time Pats' fans who can recall all of the decades of ignominy, from Braves Field to Fenway Park to Harvard Stadium and then to Schaefer Stadium, the relegation of the Patriots to the bottom tier of the NFL this season, in which Foxboro and Gillette Stadium no longer were the epicenter of the football universe, was jarring.

So let's be grateful for the two decades of fun that Bob Kraft and his team brought our way.

But as the proverb says, all things must come to an end -- and so they have for our Patriots.

It was a nice ride -- and those championship banners always will be there to remind us of the good times.



NOTHING FINER THAN A FRONTLINER

GUEST OP-ED

What six dollars can do

Dr. Glenn Mollette

When I was sixteen years old, I was invited to speak at a little country church in rural Denver Kentucky, not far from Paintsville.

The church had all but closed its doors but one man, Harold Rice, and his family wanted to see the church stay open and do well.

A church with few to almost no people typically does not attract too many interested ministers. I had spoken in my home church a few times and was a guest speaker in a few others. Mr. Rice asked if I would consider speaking at the church on the second and fourth Sunday afternoons at 2:00. I agreed, and brought a message to maybe seven or eight people my first Sunday. The crowd consisted of Harold and his wife June Rice and their family. The church was an old building with a pump organ and a sign behind the pulpit that said, "Preach the Word."

I stayed with the little congregation called Liberty Baptist Church throughout high school. By the time I was seventeen Mr. Rice was talking to me about being the official pastor and about ordination. In time I would become the pastor and would be ordained. I was too young, too inexperienced and unskilled for such a responsibility but youth is adventurous and will try what those of us who know better would never

consider.

The church grew and we started having 20 to 30 people and often more. People literally received Christ, joined the church and were baptized. This was all amazing.

Even more amazing was Mr. Rice offered me a grand salary of \$60 a month to help buy my gasoline. The trip one way from home was over 30 miles so this was appreciated. He also presented me with paperwork for a perk. The church was going to put 10 percent or \$6 of my salary into the church denominational retirement plan, then known as The Annu-

ity Board. It's called Guidestone today. He had me to complete a form solidifying my agreement to this monthly contribution. I was about seventeen at this stage and had zero interest or thoughts about retirement. Six dollars a month kind of seemed like a joke.

I was with Liberty church a couple of years or more and about ten to twelve of those months Mr. Rice made that \$6 contribution to my retirement faithfully. Although, I never thought another day about it from the moment I signed those papers.

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Life Care Center of the North Shore begins vaccinations of residents and associates

Life Care Center of the North Shore in Lynn started the process of vaccinating their residents and associates with FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines on Wednesday, Jan. 6

Distribution of the vaccines continues in Massachusetts. They will be administered to Life Care associates and residents by Life Care's pharmacy partner CVS. Injection-certified pharmacists from CVS will administer the vaccines, like getting a flu shot at your local CVS.

Life Care Center of the North Shore is one of 15 Life Care Centers of America facilities in

Massachusetts.

"I think everyone in the skilled nursing industry is thankful that a vaccine is available and being administered, and we are thrilled that vaccinations are underway at our facility" said Carla Ciaramella, executive director of Life Care Center of the North Shore. "It's an understatement to say this has been a difficult year, but the vaccine offers hope as we move forward."

The current FDA-authorized vaccines require two doses, and it is imperative that both doses are administered in accordance with timelines provided by the

manufacturer. The vaccine is free to residents and associates, but the decision to take the vaccine will be an individual one.

"We are encouraging all residents and associates to take advantage of the FDA-authorized vaccines, but we are not requiring it," said Ciaramella. "We believe it is vital that each individual resident and/or their legal representative make informed decisions about the healthcare the resident receives, and we encourage them to consult with their primary physician for guidance."

Ciaramella emphasized that

the availability of a vaccine is not the end of the fight against COVID-19, which has attacked the most vulnerable members of society across the country for the past 10 months. Life Care facilities will maintain stringent safety measures and will continue to follow all guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and state and local public health agencies.

"Our associates at Life Care will enter the new year as diligent as ever to protect our residents and associates," said Ciaramella. "The safety measures

we have put in place, combined with the vaccine, will allow our facilities to continue to provide a high level of service in a safe environment that provides peace of mind to our residents and their families."

Founded in 1976, Life Care is a nationwide health care company headquarters in Cleveland, Tennessee. Life Care manages more than 200 nursing, post-acute and Alzheimer's centers in 28 states. For more information about Life Care, visit lcca.com.

Mayor McGee will be watching NBC-TV premiere of "Mr. Mayor"

By Cary Shuman

Lynn Mayor Thomas McGee said he will be viewing the new comedy series, "Mr. Mayor," when it premieres on NBC-TV Thursday at 8 p.m.

The show stars Ted Danson in the role of Neil Bremer, who runs for mayor of Los Angeles and is elected. Danson, of course, is best known for his role as owner and bartender Sam Malone in the long-running television show, "Cheers," which was based on the Beacon Hill bar, Bull and Finch Pub.

"I've been seeing the roll-up to the show and it seems kind of interesting so my wife [Maria]

and I will take a look and see what the show is all about," said McGee, leader of one of the ten largest cities in Massachusetts. "Ted Danson has been fun to watch over the years on TV, so we'll be taking a look at it."

McGee was a member of the State Legislature when the show "Cheers" ended its highly successful run of 11 seasons in 1993. Sam "Mayday" Malone (Danson) was a former Red Sox relief pitcher who becomes the owner of Cheers, a Boston bar "where everybody knows your name."

"The cast of Cheers came to the House Chambers and there was a big celebration at the setting for the show for the final episode," recalled McGee.

Op-Ed/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

describe how I felt. I almost had to pick myself off the floor. If Mr. Rice had made as many as 12 contributions the total invested would have been \$72. Now, years later I was looking at over \$31,000. Since that day of first inquiring that little \$6 account now has over \$46,000 and still growing.

The point of all this is save some money when you can. Start as young as possible but even if you are old put something away every month. If you can save hundreds every month that is wonderful, please do. However, don't ever underestimate the growth potential of saving a little bit of mon-

ey every month, even if it's just \$6. And yes, every time I look at that account, I remember Mr. Rice and the good people of Liberty Baptist Church who not only encouraged me then but are still encouraging me today with just \$6.

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.



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Administration awards \$67.4 million in second-round grants to 1,366 businesses

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the funding of another \$67.4 million in awards to 1,366 additional small businesses in a second round of grants through the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC).

Additionally, the new Sector-Specific Small Business Relief Grant Program, also administered by MGCC, is now accepting applications from businesses from sectors most impacted by the COVID-19. Both grant programs are part of a new

\$668 million relief package announced in December.

The businesses being notified now of their successful grant application include many that are owned by minorities (50 percent) and women (48 percent). Restaurants and bars, beauty and personal services, health care and retail are among the top sectors receiving relief in this second round of awards. The first round of grants announced in late December totaled nearly \$49 million in support of 1,158 Massachusetts small businesses.

MGCC is continuing to review existing applications and

will make awards over the coming weeks to companies that meet demographic and industry preferences. Businesses that have already applied to MGCC's Small Business Grant Program do not need to reapply to the new program.

NEW GRANT PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

In addition to providing grants to businesses within the existing pool of applications for the Small Business Grant Program, applications are now being accepted for a new Sector-Specific Small Business Relief Grant Program that targets industries

experiencing the most significant economic hardship and a loss of revenue. Industries given preference in this new program include:

- Restaurants, bars, caterers, and food trucks
 - Indoor recreation and entertainment establishments
 - Gyms and fitness centers
 - Event-support companies (photographers, videographers, etc.)
 - Personal services (nail salons, barbershops, independent pharmacies, etc.)
 - Independent retailers
- This new business relief pro-

gram will offer grants up to \$75,000, but not more than three months' operating expenses, to be used for payroll and employee benefit costs, mortgage interest, rent, utilities and interest on other debt obligations.

The online application portal for the new program will close on Friday, Jan. 15. Awards are expected to be announced in February.

Program details, application instructions, eligibility and documentation requirements, and more are available at www.empoweringsmallbusiness.org.

MBTA partners with New England Patriots to distribute masks and hand sanitizer

The MBTA is pleased to announce that the New England Patriots, New England Revolution, and Patriot Place recently donated 2,500 facemasks and 5,000 bottles of hand sanitizer to distribute to MBTA riders in support of the T's Ride Safer campaign.

"The health and safety of our

riders and employees continue to be our top priorities during these challenging times," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "The MBTA greatly appreciates this contribution from the Patriots, Revolution, and Patriot Place as we strive to provide safe, essential transit services to those who rely on buses and

trains."

"We are proud to support the MBTA's Ride Safer program to help meet the ongoing needs for masks and hand sanitizer in our surrounding communities," said Brian Earley, Vice President and General Manager of Patriot Place. "We are thankful to continue our strong partnership with

the MBTA by teaming up on this great initiative to keep members of our communities safe and healthy."

The MBTA's Ride Safer campaign consists of three components: providing face coverings to riders in need at key stations during peak travel times; signage and messaging to promote the

importance of keeping a safe distance and wearing face coverings while on the T; and the Ride Safer webpage at mbta.com/RideSafer that provides travel tips and a behind-the-scenes look at the MBTA's expanded efforts to clean and disinfect stations and vehicles.

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RMV to continue designated service hours for customers 75 years of age or older

The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has announced it will continue to offer dedicated weekly Wednesday service hours for customers who are 75 years of age or older into the month of January at 17 locations including Revere. Individuals in this age group are required by state law to renew their Massachusetts driver's license in person.

The designated service hours began on Sept. 2 to offer an option to senior citizens to facilitate proper "social-distancing" protocols to keep customers and staff safe and healthy. The following centers will continue exclusively serving these customers on Wednesdays who make renewal appointments: Brockton, Danvers, Fall River, Greenfield, Lawrence, Leominster, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Revere, South Yarmouth, Springfield, Watertown and Worcester.

Below are the options for seniors to renew by appointment:

- If you are a AAA member, you may make a reservation now to renew your driver's license/ID at a AAA location. Visit aaa.com/appointments to schedule your visit.

- If you are not a AAA member, visit Mass.Gov/RMV to make a reservation to renew at an RMV

Service Center. Select the Seniors License Renewal option on the Make/Cancel a Reservation transaction tab.

- Email the RMV for assistance to renew: MassDOTRMVSeniors@dot.state.ma.us

- Call the RMV at 857-368-8005.

The RMV would like to remind customers of the additional information below, including the status of several initiatives launched due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

Non-Commercial Licenses, IDs, and Learner's Permit Credentials

- Most non-commercial RMV credential extensions granted for customers in 2020, including learner's permits, will expire by Dec. 31 and customers may need to act soon to renew a license or ID online. Driver's licenses and ID cards that have expired this year may still be renewed online. Permit applicants must retake the exam if they have expired. With the main exception for customers 75 and older being accommodated through the above dedicated service offerings, most licenses and ID's can be renewed online at Mass.Gov/RMV and do not require a visit to a Service Center.

- Eligible customers who may need a REAL ID in the future can take advantage of the current REAL ID promotion and renew their Standard Massachusetts driv-

er's license or Massachusetts ID card online now at Mass.Gov/RMV and upgrade to REAL ID credential at no cost in 2021. Qualifying customers who complete their renewal online and wish to upgrade to a REAL ID for free will have to wait until at least six (6) months after Massachusetts' State of Emergency is lifted to visit an RMV Service Center. Customers currently do not need a federally compliant REAL ID for the purposes of boarding domestic flights prior to Oct. 1, 2021, as the federal government delayed the compliance effective date by one year.

- License and ID renewal appointments are available at open RMV Service Centers that offer general appointments to the public. Select Renew My Driver's License or Mass ID option on the Make/Cancel a Reservation at Mass.Gov/RMV to view availability and make a reservation at one of these locations for any day of the week, Monday-Friday.

Commercial Credentials (CDLs/CLPs)

- The federal government has extended eligible Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL) and Commercial Learner's Permits (CLP) until Feb. 28, 2021.

- Extensions were applied to customer records beginning the eve-

ning of Tuesday, Dec. 29. Commercial customers should visit Mass.Gov/RMV or log into their myRMV account for further information and to verify their status.

Road Tests

- Road Tests continue at most Service Centers and can be scheduled online.

- State vehicles are being used to conduct road tests to ensure the health and safety of employees and customers. Vehicles are cleaned and disinfected between tests.

- During a road test, only the examiner and the student are permitted inside the vehicle.

- Driving schools continue to be permitted to perform remote or online instruction under existing public health protocols.

Junior Operators

- An Executive Order signed by Gov. Charlie Baker on June 12 for Junior Operators remains in effect.

- A Junior Operator is permitted to do 46 hours of supervised driving hours with a parent, guardian or other adult over 21 with a valid license for over a year.

- The Executive Order overrules the statute that requires Junior Operators with a learner's permit to complete six hours observing another student driver, and 40 supervised driving hours with a parent, guardian or other adult over 21 with

a valid license for over one year.

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

Registration Transfers After Vehicle Purchase Grace Period

- From June 12 until the date of when the State of Emergency ends, an Executive Order issued by Gov. Baker temporary extends this grace period requirement to 21 calendar days from the date you dispose of your previous vehicle to register your new one.

Suspension Hearings

- Suspension Hearings continue to be conducted by phone, however, customers must report to a designated RMV Service Center in person to begin the process.

- Hearing locations include: Boston/Haymarket, Brockton, Fall River, Lawrence, *Pittsfield (Wednesdays only), Springfield, and Worcester.

- Customers are limited to one hearing on a particular suspension or revocation.

National Safety Council Classes

- With limited exceptions and accommodations, anyone needing to take National Safety Council classes may continue to take them online through March 1, 2021. An online course completion counts as a customer's in-person class requirement.

Baker-Polito administration announces First Week Hikes at all state parks

For the 30th year in a row, the State will offer residents and visitors the opportunity to explore the great outdoors through the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) First Week Hikes program in celebration of the start of the New Year.

An alternative to the traditional First Day Hikes, First Week Hikes encourage visitors to enjoy outdoor activities on their own throughout the first week of the New Year, until Friday, Jan. 8. This year, DCR celebrates 30 years of this tradition in the Commonwealth. Additionally, it marks 10 years that all 50 states have adopted this happy, healthy New Years' tradition.

"First Day Hikes are a time honored tradition for many people across the Commonwealth, with thousands of visitors ringing in the New Year with a hike in a state park," said Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. "It is with pleasure that the tradition continues and we are pleased to offer safe, healthy, recreational opportunities through these First Week Hikes."

Historically, First Day Hikes are popular adventures guided by

DCR staff. In an effort to provide residents and visitors with outdoor recreation opportunities for the New Year in a safe manner during the COVID-19 pandemic, DCR will implement the following changes for this year:

- Extending the traditional one-day hike to any day or multiple visits during First Week 2021 to prevent crowds forming at parks;

- Introducing self-guided adventures to encourage social distancing in place of guided offerings, for a list of recommendations visit the DCR website.

"Taking a stroll in your local park for First Week Hikes is a great way to kick-off the new year, build tradition, and discover the stunning natural and recreational resources that Massachusetts has to offer," said DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery. "For the 30th year, the state parks system has provided hiking opportunities on January 1, and while this year may look a little different, DCR still encourages people to get outdoors safely."

Ahead of an adventure outdoors, watch the DCR First Week Hike video and see the following guidance:

- Pick a local park near you, not necessarily a state park;

- Print or download a trail map;

- Check the weather forecast and dress appropriately;

- Keep your hike short and safe;

- Be flexible – if a park is busy, visit another park or return at a later time; and,

- Return to your car by 4:30 p.m. before the sun sets;

DCR asks visitors to park in designated areas only, if a parking lot is full come back another

time. Many visitor centers remain closed. However, restrooms or porta-johns within many DCR parks remain open. Dogs are to be on leash in state parks unless signage designates otherwise. Dogs are not permitted on DCR Water Supply Protection areas. To find a dog-friendly park, visit the DCR website.

First Day Hikes were started at the Blue Hills Reservation in the Town of Milton in 1992 in an effort to promote year-round out-

door recreation, and to motivate the public to explore the Commonwealth's awe-inspiring natural resources. A growing collection of participating states culminated in 2012 when all 50 state park systems joined together to sponsor America's State Parks First Day Hikes Initiative, which has since become the signature nationwide program for the National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD).

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Clougherty/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

erty brothers went on to play junior hockey. Michael is currently a freshman at Boston College and coaches a junior team. Brian is a freshman at Worcester State University waiting to make his collegiate hockey debut for the Lancers.

“My brothers have been a big part of me playing hockey,” credited Keri. “I definitely look up to them a lot, seeing all that they did at Lynn breaking all the records. It was really cool to see them playing hockey together. I honestly wasn’t supposed to be skating, let alone playing. My mom [Kathleen] wanted me to be like a dancer or something like that.”

Making her mark in prep school hockey

After participating in the LYH “Learn to Skate” program at the age of five, Keri began playing competitively for the Lynn Comets boys’ teams. Her father was a constant source of coaching expertise and support.

“My dad has always been around – he definitely was on the bench when I played hockey at Lynn,” recalled Keri. “He was always coaching my brothers. Once I switched over to girls hockey teams, he wasn’t like a coach, but he and my mom were always driving me around and being at my games.”

At nine years old, Keri moved on to the Assabet Valley girls’ program which is based in Concord. There she began to further develop her noteworthy talents while winning state championships and competing in national tournaments.

She is currently skating with the Boston Junior Eagles, one of the most competitive AAA girls’ hockey programs in New En-

gland. She earned a spot on the Eagles’ Tier 1 teams competing with and against the top players in the region including some future BC teammates.

A graduate of St. Pius School in Lynn, Keri attended the Winchendon School for two years and played hockey, volleyball, and softball there.

In the middle of her sophomore year, Keri made a decision to transfer to Deerfield Academy. As a first-unit defenseman at Deerfield, Keri helped lead the Big Green to a 14-win season, falling just shy of a berth in the New England Prep School playoffs.

“We had a really competitive season compared to the previous years,” related Keri. “The team camaraderie was awesome and the coaching was really good – that’s what drew me to Deerfield.”

She received All-New England Prep School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) Honorable Mention honors following her junior season.

What does Keri see as the strengths of her impressive end-to-end game?

“I feel I see the game pretty well,” she replied. “I’m working on getting up into the offensive zone. But for me, I feel I move the puck a lot – I’m not a big puck carrier or stickhandler, I’m more a move-it-and-go type. I also think my shot from the point has always been a big part of my game.”

BC always on her radar

As young as eight years old, Keri Clougherty knew a bit about the prestige and glory of BC women’s hockey.

“I remember telling my mom, ‘I want to go to Boston College

when I’m older to play hockey,’ and that’s just kind of where it came from. It’s always been my dream school. I’m going to be honest – I didn’t think I was going to be able to do it, but things happened. I think I just worked really hard and I’m still working hard to improve. But I’ve always wanted to go to Boston College to play hockey and I’m really lucky to have this opportunity.”

Keri’s entrance into the BC hockey program continues Lynn’s homegrown channel to the Heights, following BC’s former record-setting goaltender Katie Burt and BC’s current junior forward Savannah Norcross, one of the Eagles’ leading scorers this season.

“I’ve known Savannah since I was little,” said Keri. “We were teammates when Lynn had its first girls’ team. I was 7-8 years old playing with the U-12 team and Savannah was on that team. I’ve always stayed in touch with her. Our families are really good friends.”

Training in Lynn

Keri Clougherty will return to Deerfield Academy in western Massachusetts this weekend and resume in-person classes, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, her final prep school hockey season has been canceled. She hopes to play varsity softball for the Big Green this spring.

This summer Keri will be preparing for collegiate hockey with strength and conditioning sessions at the Lynn Fitness Center under the direction of personal trainer Kenny Green Jr., a 1995 Lynn Classical graduate.

And then it’s on to Chestnut Hill and the realization of a dream come true.

Deerfield hockey coach Brooke Fernandez praises Clougherty’s work ethic, leadership

The Lynn Journal spoke with Deerfield Academy girls hockey coach Brooke Fernandez about team captain Keri Clougherty’s career at Deerfield and her future plans to attend Boston College. Following are coach Fernandez’s observations:

As a former prep school [Loomis Chaffee] and college hockey standout yourself at St. Lawrence University, what talents and leadership qualities do you see in Keri Clougherty as she prepares to enter Boston College and play Division 1 hockey?

I think the most important quality of any successful player, especially a Division 1 player, is grit, and that’s a quality Keri has in abundance. She works hard for everything, in every drill and every moment, and takes nothing for granted, which will serve her well at this level and the next. She leads through example and pushes her teammates to be better through her love of the game and desire to put forth her best effort.

What are Keri’s strengths as a

defenseman?

Keri is a steady player who contributes on both ends of the ice. She’s one of our best defensive D, in regards to her positioning, gap control, and IQ, but can also be an offensive threat, and has scored many goals from the blue line for us.

Were you looking forward to coaching Keri and the 2020-21 Deerfield Academy team and making a run at the New England Prep School championship?

Obviously, I am very disappointed that the pandemic has affected our season, as this year we put together all of the pieces we needed to have a successful season, which Keri would have been a huge part of. However, the goal for this season is to make the most of every opportunity we’re given and take the forward strides we need to in terms of development of individual skills and team goals. I know Keri will dive headlong into this opportunity to grow and will push her teammates to as well.



Keri Clougherty, who began her hockey career for the Lynn Youth Hockey Comets, is pictured with her brothers and teammates, Michael Clougherty and Brian Clougherty, at the Connery Rink.

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LEHS drama club creating work despite COVID

Having worked for weeks, individually recording their scenes under the safest of guidelines, the students of the LEHS drama club have created three short works to premiere virtually on January 8 2021. Each student recorded all their scenes following a guide audio recording in their ears so that the individual scenes would sync up to create whole scenes with as many as ten actors. Some were recorded in spaces in the school building while others were done in front of a green screen. The scenes are now being put together, edited and digitally manipulated to create a whole work. The show is called "Three for One (341)" and consists of three short plays.

The Lost Girl, or First Chair by Lauren Yee: When the first chair violinist at a performing arts high school disappears, the competition is on to find her replacement. As the girls who occupy the second to fifth chairs vie for the prime spot, the mystery of what exactly happened to Katie, the first chair, unfolds.

Old Folks by Max Posner: What separates the teen years from the seventies, eighties and

nineties? Not as much as you might think. As these old folks reminisce about each other and their pasts, their younger selves come forward to give a glimpse of their youth before they move on.

The Astonishing and Dangerous History of MazeField the Frog by Jen Silverman: What do you get when you mix jealous sisters, the meanest kids on the planet, skateboarders, internet dating, foreign spies and a homicidal vigilante frog? The best school dance ever!

Three for One is a collection of three short plays all created specifically by professional contemporary playwrights to be performed by teen actors. This play is free for any student who wishes to see it. Adults may purchase tickets on a "pay what you can" scale, and we are also asking for donations from anyone who can afford it to help keep our group going. To see the show visit showtix4u.com and search for LEHS Drama Club. The show will be available for viewing from January 8-14 but you can get your ticket now!

THREE FOR ONE
Directed by Michael López-Sáenz
The show will be available **ONLINE** from **January 8-14, 2021**
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McGee/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DeLeo, who represented Revere and Winthrop in the House.

"I got a chance to know him really well and I really enjoyed serving with him," said McGee. "I also had the opportunity to work with him as senator over the years and also as mayor of Lynn. He's always been a great supporter of the city on issues of importance that we've needed help on. He topped off a great 30-year career by serving as Speaker of the House and he had a lot of major accomplishments. He was always available by phone on things of importance to Lynn and he'll definitely be missed. I wish him the best."

Interestingly, five candidates are running in the special election on March 2 for the state representative seat held by DeLeo. The Democratic candidates are Marc Silvestri and Juan Pablo Jaramillo of Revere and Jeffrey Turco, Valentino Capobianco, and Alicia DelVento of Winthrop. As of Wednesday, there was no Republican candidate running for the seat.

"It's been 30 years so when there's an open seat, there is an

opportunity and it's good to see a lot of candidates coming out and putting their names out to run," said McGee. "Public service is tough during these pretty challenging times and it's important that good people continue to be involved and serve in the Legislature. So that should be an interesting race with a good field of candidates."

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Baker signs police reform legislation; identifies the circumstances police officers can use physical force

Gov. Charles Baker signed “An Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth,” a controversial piece of legislation that creates a mandatory certification process for police officers, increases accountability and transparency in law enforcement and gives police departments a greater ability to hire or promote only qualified applicants.

“This bill is the product of bipartisan cooperation and thanks to the Black and Latino Caucus’ leadership on the hugely important issue of law enforcement accountability, Massachusetts will have one of the best laws in the

nation,” said Baker. “Police officers have enormously difficult jobs and we are grateful they put their lives on the line every time they go to work. Thanks to final negotiations on this bill, police officers will have a system they can trust and our communities will be safer for it.”

Former Speaker Bob DeLeo added, “I am proud that the House lived up to its vow of listening to folks with lived experience in enacting one of the most comprehensive approaches to police reform in the United States since the tragic murder of George Floyd. My unyielding gratitude to Speaker Mariano and Chairs Cronin, Michlewitz and

González for their persistent effort to improve our law enforcement system. I am confident that the House of Representatives will build on this achievement in the time ahead and am humbled that legislation which promotes fairness and equality are part of the House’s legacy.”

“I am grateful to the Governor and key leaders in the House and Senate for their wisdom in coming together to carry this bill across the finish line,” said Sen. William N. Brownsberger (D – Belmont). “I believe that within five years, the Commonwealth will be a significantly better place as a result of this legislation.”

“This law represents a

mile-marker, not an end,” said Sen. Sonia Chang-Díaz (D – Boston). “Among the 50 states, it will create the first civilian-led police oversight board with subpoena power and decertification authority; it will ban chokeholds and limit no-knock warrants; it will create a duty-to-intervene for police officers and a duty to de-escalate; it will ban racial profiling and put enforcement powers behind that ban; it will end the requirement of police officers in schools. But no one bill will dismantle structural racism—in policing, or in all the other places it exists. As much as we celebrate these hard-won steps forward today, we must equally resolve to keep walking the road of racial justice in 2021.”

“The members of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association are eager to turn the page on what has been an unprecedented and incredibly difficult and enduring year on so many different levels,” said Chief Edward A. Dunne, President of the Massachusetts Chief of Police Association. “We are extremely confident that this comprehensive legislation signed into law by the Governor today will serve to renew an elevated sense of faith, confidence, and trust that the residents of the Commonwealth will have in their law enforcement agencies across the state. The MCOPA fully realizes and wholeheartedly agrees that the general public deserves nothing less than the highest level of professionalism, accountability and transparency in their respective police departments and this legislation will assist in enhancing our long-standing position as what are viewed by many national experts as model police departments across the entire country.”

This legislation will, for the first time, create a mandatory certification process for police officers through the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST). The Commission, through a majority civilian board, will certify officers and create processes for decertification, suspension of certification, or reprimand in the event of certain misconduct. The nine-member commission will include six individuals from outside of law enforcement, and will also be responsible for investigating and adjudicating claims of misconduct, maintaining databases of training, certification, employment, and internal affairs records for all officers, and certifying law enforcement agencies. By creating a central entity to oversee officer certification,

the Commission will ensure that those officers’ training and misconduct records are available both to the Commission and to those officers’ current and future employers, improving accountability.

Gov. Baker amended the bill to strengthen its due process protections for law enforcement, added police labor representation on the commission, and strengthened the bill’s facial recognition provisions ensuring law enforcement agencies can continue to access these potentially lifesaving tools responsibly.

The new law identifies the general circumstances under which police officers can use physical force, and specifically bans the use of chokeholds and prohibits firing into a fleeing vehicle unless doing so is both necessary to prevent imminent harm and proportionate to that risk of harm. The bill also generally precludes officers from using rubber pellets, chemical weapons, or canine units against a crowd. Violations of any of these provisions may provide grounds for an officer to have their certification suspended or revoked.

The bill places strict limits on the use of so-called “no-knock” warrants, requiring such warrants to be issued by a judge and only in situations where an officer’s safety would be at risk if they announced their presence and only where there are no children or adults over the age of 65 in the home. The legislation provides for an exception when those children or older adults are themselves at risk of harm. In addition, the bill requires law enforcement to seek a court order when conducting a facial recognition search except in emergency situations.

The legislation includes key provisions of the State Police reform legislation the Administration filed in January that provide new tools to improve accountability and discipline within the Department and to enhance diversity in the Department’s recruitment and promotional practices. Those key provisions include establishing a State Police cadet program, enhancing the Colonel’s ability to address and correct misconduct, updating rules governing promotions of uniformed members to officer positions, removing the requirement that the Governor look exclusively within the State Police when appointing a colonel, and creating a new criminal offense for police officers who knowingly receive payment for a fraudulent claim of hours worked.

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Baker signs comprehensive health care legislation on January 1

Gov. Charles Baker has signed a comprehensive healthcare legislation that promotes key priorities initially included in the Administration's healthcare legislation filed in 2019.

The new law increases insurance coverage for telehealth services, expands the scope of practice for nurse practitioners, other specialized nurses, and optometrists, and takes steps to protect consumers from surprise medical bills. Recognizing the continuing impacts of COVID-19, the law also extends requirements for all insurance carriers in Massachusetts to cover COVID-19 testing and treatment.

The legislation signed contains several priorities initially included in the Baker-Polito Administration's healthcare legislation, which was introduced in the fall of 2019, including requiring coverage of telehealth services and expanding the scope of practice for Advanced Practice Nurses. The legislation also extends, and in some instances codifies, critical measures taken through executive action throughout the pandemic to ensure timely access and coverage for COVID-19 treatment and services.

In addition to the provisions enacted, the recently signed Fiscal Year 2021 budget includes several provisions that correspond to proposals initially introduced in the Administration's healthcare legislation. These proposals require all Massachusetts insurers to use a standard credentialing form, and prohibit additional costs for same-day billing for multiple primary care and behavioral health visits.

The key provisions of the new law include:

- Requiring coverage of telehealth services including behavioral healthcare

- Expanding Scope of Practice for Advanced Practice Nurses and Optometrists

- Increasing disclosures around provider costs and network status to protect consumers from surprise medical bills.

- Removing barriers to urgent care centers for MassHealth members.

- Extending insurance coverage and access to COVID-19 testing and treatment.

- Directing a study and report of the impacts of COVID-19 on the health care system.

"Massachusetts has long been a leader in ensuring health care quality and access and with this new law, we are making further progress in building a strong,

accessible and affordable health-care system, a goal that is more important now than ever," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "I am proud to sign this legislation which promotes telehealth services that have become vital during this pandemic, expands access to high-quality, affordable care, takes steps to protect consumers from surprise medical bills, and preserves access to COVID-19 testing and treatment. We look forward to working with our partners in the Legislature and the health care community to build on these reforms in the future."

Key provisions of the law signed today include:

- Strengthening Telehealth Coverage: At the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Baker-Polito Administration, through emergency order, required insurers to immediately cover telehealth to ensure the continuity of services remotely when it was not safe to do so in person. This led to a rapid shift to remote delivery and significant uptake in telehealth services. The legislation builds on these emergency flexibilities, and requires coverage parity for telehealth services and implements permanent telehealth rate parity for behavioral health services. Additionally, it requires rate parity for telehealth coverage for primary care and chronic disease management services for two years, and rate parity for all services for 90 days past the state of emergency.

- Expanding Scope of Practice: During the public health emergency, the Administration implemented emergency orders to increase health care system capacity, including temporarily expanding the scope of practice for several types of practitioners, and streamlining licensure requirements before independent practice. The new law makes permanent certain measures to expand scope of practice for nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, psychiatric nurse mental health specialists and optometrists.

- Taking Steps to Address Surprise Billing: The new legislation takes steps to protect consumers from surprise bills, including a provision that requires providers to notify patients in advance as to whether a procedure is in or out of network. Additionally, it directs the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to work with the Health Policy Commission, Center for Health Information and Analytics, and Division of Insurance to recommend a default rate for out

of network billing by September of 2021.

- Increasing Access to Urgent Care for MassHealth Members: Retail clinics and urgent care centers provide important access points to healthcare beyond the traditional hours and sites of physician offices, community health centers, and hospitals. This legislation takes several steps to increase MassHealth member access to urgent care sites, including eliminating referral requirements before urgent care visits and requirements for

care coordination with the member's primary care physician.

- COVID-19 Related Provisions: The bill extends requirements for insurers in Massachusetts to cover COVID-19 testing and treatment. Under this legislation, insurers, including MassHealth, are required to cover all COVID-19 related emergency, inpatient, and cognitive rehab services. Additionally, coverage is required for medically necessary outpatient COVID-19 testing, including for asymptomatic individuals under specific

circumstances outlined by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The legislation also directs the Health Policy Commission and Center for Health Information and Analytics to analyze and report on the effect of COVID-19 on healthcare accessibility, quality and fiscal sustainability in both the short and long term, as well as those effects on long-term policy considerations, including an examination of existing healthcare disparities due to economic, geographic, racial or other factors.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

AVELLANEDA REMAINS COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CHELSEA - Council President Roy Avellaneda received a unanimous, 6-0, vote to likely serve a second term as Council President, that coming during an organizational meeting of the Council on Dec. 21.

Councilor Damali Vidot voted 'present,' as did Avellaneda - which is customary in Chelsea for the candidate not to vote for themselves. Absent were Councilors Giovanni Recupero, Melinda Vega-Maldonado and Enio Lopez. Still, Avellaneda received the required six votes, which propelled him to a likely second term. The official vote will take place on Jan. 4 at the first Council meeting of the year.

"I know all of us when we pulled papers last year back in May 2019, and we had what we thought was an agenda and a platform and were elected in Nov. 2019 - none of us expected to experience what this community, this country and this world went through," he said. "Of course, all of those plans, ideas and agenda got shifted aside and COVID-19 response was front and center. All of that, this City had to adapt and struggle with the community that, more than many, got hit hard."

He also praised the City Manager, public safety officials, Council staffers and many other City employees for keeping things together and serving in one of the most difficult times in the City's modern history. He also praised the City's IT Department and Chelsea Cable for being able to pivot and, nearly seamlessly, hold hybrid online meetings that allowed the City Council to move forward in a normal fashion.

"At the City Council we had to adopt to meeting in a much different way," he said. "The ability to Facetime has been available for a while but until this year I never used it. I never warmed up to it, but I used it this year and I know many of my other colleagues have done it...I read with satisfaction how other cities have struggled to accommodate their colleagues so they could safely meet from their homes. They didn't have the infrastructure and technology. I know it wasn't easy and I remember that beginning where we had to figure it out. You MacGyver-ed it with Ricky of Chelsea Cable and it was to our benefit and our constituents' benefit..."

Councillor Calvin Brown said

Avellaneda stood up when the chips were down last year, and he is glad that he will be president again.

"I want to thank the president of this City Council for really standing up in 2020," said Brown. "I'm sure when he was elected president, he didn't realize we were going to get hit with a pandemic that would last his entire term. Roy Avellaneda has dedicated himself to being on the front lines...He helped us and supported us and at times he was the only one here. I know it took a lot of his personal time. I'm glad we re-elected him as Council President in 2021 as well."

Councillor Vidot, who did not vote for Avellaneda, still gave him accolades for keeping the meetings going and keeping everyone in the loop.

"As the immediate past president...I feel spoiled to have had Paul Casino by my side and we were able to meet in person," she said. "It was just a lot smoother and I recognize how much work it took for you to be able to chair these meetings remotely, reading your orders when Paul couldn't come in. I think it's absolutely commendable. I have an autoimmune disorder and cannot come in because I am vulnerable. I want to thank everyone for making sure I could still attend these meetings and kept me in the loop as much as possible...It has not been an easy year."

In other election news, Councillor Judith Garcia was elected to a second vice president term as well, getting a unanimous 7-0 vote.

The School Committee representative was not voted, but it will be taken up on Jan. 4 and filled at that time.

The new voting order drawn - as tradition dictates - for 2021 will be:

Vidot, Avellaneda, Recupero, Garcia, Vega-Maldonado, Leo Robinson, Yamir Rodriguez, Todd Taylor, Lopez, Brown and Naomi Zobot.

The new order of seating for 2021 - chosen as tradition dictates on Dec. 21 - is the following:

(Left side) Vega-Maldonado, Rodriguez, Robinson, Zobot and Garcia.

(Right side) Recupero, Vidot, Brown, Lopez and Taylor.

RENOVATIONS CONTINUE AT GARDEN CEMETERY

CHELSEA - The historic renovation program for the Garden

Cemetery in Chelsea continues on this winter with restoration crews now working on restoring and setting the old tombstones in the cemetery - a key part of Phase 3.

The Garden Cemetery is an historic property, designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, but has fallen on tough times over the last decade or more. About one year ago, the City's Planning Department unveiled a multi-phase project to fully restore the cemetery, and now Phase 3 is underway. The current phase includes restoring some of the older stones, and also building a retaining wall.

"We're planning to fully fund this and we have at least three more years of work there to do," said City Manager Tom Ambrosino.

The project has been headed up by Planner Karl Allen.

Recently, preservationists restored the stone of Capt. Olsen, who was lost at sea in 1862.

Meanwhile, the hard work in this part of the project is finding all of the broken pieces for many of the stones, and then getting them re-assembled. Most are broken, and many of the pieces are scattered about the cemetery. The contractor uses a previously completed inventory of the monuments and grave markers to locate, sort, and assess each one, before beginning the careful restoration of each feature.

Right now, the contractor is seeking to continue monument restoration throughout the winter.

DINNER PROGRAM IS A SUCCESS

EAST BOSTON - Back in February before COVID, the Shah Family Foundation (SFF) partnered with the Salesian Boys & Girls Club to revamp the club's kitchen.

The SFF outfitted the Boys & Girls Club's kitchen on Byron Street with Welbilt ovens that can not only reheat, but cook and steam fresh foods. At the time, the Boys & Girls Club served more than 130 meals at the club each day the new kitchen allowed the Salesian to prepare hot, freshly cooked meals.

An added bonus was the meals were being prepared daily by Cunard's Executive Chef and former Boys & Girls member Anthony Pino.

However, the pandemic cut down the Salesian afterschool and annual summer camp enrollment numbers in order to safely

HELPING THE NEEDY



PHOTO BY DARLENE DEVITA

Volunteer Edith Sabala helped organize toys and gifts for families at the Chelsea Salvation Army Center on Chestnut Street last Tuesday, Dec. 22. The Center had a huge toy drive this year and was able to help 2,600 children and families have a merrier Christmas.

practice social distancing.

While the Boys & Girls Club may not be serving 130 meals in house as the pandemic continues, they are still able to feed all club members thanks to a recent Boston Resiliency Fund grant.

The Boys & Girls Club received the grant from the Boston Resiliency Fund to run a ten-week dinner program for club members and their families to enjoy at home.

A hot nutritious delicious meal is prepared by Pino on Wednesday evening to help families prevent food insecurity.

"Since the Club was closed for the holidays, bags of food were provided so families would not be without a meal last Wednesday evening along with extras to help families prepare for their holiday meal," said Salesian Executive Director Michael Triant. "The food packages were made available with funds provided from the Boston Resiliency Grant. We are sincerely grateful to the Boston Resiliency fund for their hard work and generosity in providing needed resources for the children and families in our community during this very challenging time."

Triant said Pino was a Club kid and staff member while attending Savio Prep and Johnson & Wales University.

"He's brought his amazing talent back home and our kids are the winners," he said.

Pino said he will go to the club each Wednesday before heading to his regular shop at the Cunard at 4 p.m. Pino will prepare all the food for the day and Sale-

sian staff will simply use the new kitchen equipment provided by the SFF to reheat and distribute the meals to Club members so they can enjoy the food at home.

"I grew up going to and working at the Salesian in high school and college," said Pino. "It's pretty cool being back in the building a few hours a week and seeing the smiles on the kids faces again."

COVID RATE SHOWS DECREASE

EAST BOSTON - Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Eastie as well as the weekly positive test rate decreased for the first time in weeks.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), Eastie residents testing positive for COVID last week decreased 43.5 and the weekly positive test rate dropped 19.5 percent.

Of the 29,855 Eastie residents tested for COVID, 16.7 percent overall were found to be positive for the virus, a 43.5 percent increase from the 29.6 percent reported two Fridays ago.

Last week 2,406 Eastie residents were tested and 10.3 percent were positive--a 19.5 percent decrease from the 12.8 that tested positive two Fridays ago.

Citywide 34,463 residents were tested and 7 percent were COVID positive--a 4 percent decrease from the 7.3 percent testing positive two weeks ago.

Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

At his daily press briefing last week, Mayor Martin Walsh noted that on Tuesday, December 29, the City of Boston surpassed 1,000 deaths from COVID. He said that every number represents a person, with family and friends who are grieving their loss and missing them every day.

"My prayers are with everyone who has lost a loved one or continues to suffer from this terrible virus," said Walsh.

He acknowledged residents are all tired of living with the virus, and that it's tempting to let one's guard down but the virus is still with us, and will be in 2021.

"In Boston, we remain concerned about an increase in COVID activity following the holidays," said Walsh. "Our hospital numbers are higher than we'd like them to be. We have more people hospitalized right now due to COVID than we've had since early June. We all have a role to play in protecting each other, especially our most vulnerable, and helping to prevent further loss. That means staying vigilant -- and continuing to follow the public health guidance."

Walsh said the city and public health officials continue to encourage everyone to get tested -- especially if you were traveling during the holidays.

"There are more than 30 testing sites in the City of Boston, including mobile testing sites which are free and open to all, regardless of symptoms," said Walsh. "To learn more about these, or any of our testing sites, go to boston.gov/coronavirus or call 3-1-1."

Walsh added that the city continues to be in communication with healthcare partners as the federal and state governments work on distribution of the COVID vaccine.

"This week, Boston EMT's began getting vaccinated," said Walsh. "Since day one of this crisis, they have been on the front-

lines, risking their own health for the health and wellbeing of all Boston residents. Our EMS providers have encountered more than 3,500 COVID-positive patients in Boston."

He also said that vaccine distribution to long term care facilities across Boston, like the Don Orione Nursing Home, began this week and this will help protect Boston's most vulnerable people, in the city's most vulnerable settings.

You can visit the State's website at Mass.gov to see the full schedule of when vaccines will be available.

"I encourage everyone to get the vaccine, when your time comes," said Walsh. "It's safe, it's free, and it's the best way you can protect yourself and those around you. It's how we can help get life back to normal sooner -- and get back to doing all the things and seeing the people we love."

Eastie's infection rate rose by 6.1 percent according to the data released by the BPHC last Friday. Eastie's COVID infection rate went from 1,040.5 cases per 10,000 residents to 1,104.9 cases per 10,000 residents. The city-wide average is 593.5 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 302 Eastie residents contracted the virus and there are now 5,185 confirmed cases, up from the 4,883 reported two weeks ago.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 11.9 percent percent last week and went from 37,366 cases to 41,847 confirmed cases in a week. Thirty-two more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 1,020 total deaths in the city

from COVID.

DEMARIA DISTRIBUTES MASKS TO RESIDENTS

EVERETT - Mayor Carlo DeMaria announced that last week the City mailed masks to Everett residents to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Each resident will be receiving a reusable mask with the City of Everett "E" printed on it

"It is important that we are all being safe during these uncertain times," said Mayor Carlo DeMaria. "I am truly grateful for all the sacrifices our community has made throughout the year and these masks are a small token of my gratitude. We need to continue to fight this virus and stay safe. I hope residents will wear these masks with pride."

The mask includes a QRC code printed on the inside that can be scanned by using a smartphone camera. Once this code is scanned, residents will be brought to the COVID-19 resources section of the City of Everett's website.

For residents who did not receive a mask or for residents who would like additional masks, please email your name, address, and phone number to mask@ci.everett.ma.us.

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Mayor McGee urges caution as Lynn has its highest one-day total of COVID-19 cases

Special To The Journal

With the City of Lynn experiencing 210 new COVID-19 positive cases in a single day on Jan. 5 – the highest one-day number of cases in Lynn during the pandemic - Mayor Thomas McGee is urging residents to stay at home to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

Two weeks ago the city joined Boston and other communities in scaling back to Phase 2, Step 2, which reduces capacity at many indoor activities and businesses.

“We’re working with Health Director Michelle Desmarais on an extension of that order to Phase 2, Step 2,” McGee said Wednesday.

McGee said health experts and epidemiologists had predicted that people attending holiday gatherings would result in an increased number of positive

COVID-19 cases.

“It’s important over the course of the next few weeks to stay inside and exercise caution,” said McGee. “We need to work together to help limit the spread as we go through this surge and understand that the impact of the vaccine is still several months away. We can’t lose sight of the actions we need to take today to continue to save lives and really limit the spread.”

McGee said his office will be sending out a strongly worded letter to residents identifying what needs to be done in limiting the spread of the coronavirus.

“Hopefully the cases will stabilize,” said McGee. “But people traveled and got together during the holidays and were in close indoor settings and that’s why the spread of this terrible virus is continuing to happen and cases are increasing.”



State announces availability of \$4 million to fund electric-vehicle charging infrastructure

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that an additional \$4 million has been made available to support new and enhanced electric-vehicle charging infrastructure programs across the state, as part of the Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (MassEV-IP). These programs, funded by the 2017 settlement of the Volkswagen (VW) diesel emissions court case, will provide \$1.5 million in funding for fast-charging stations, \$1.5 million for public-access charging stations, and \$1 million for workplace and fleets charging station infrastructure.

“Shifting a zero-emission transportation system is essential as we seek to cut greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The electric vehicle charging programs announced today will also provide economic development opportunities across Massachusetts and support the growth of innovative clean energy jobs,” said Gov. Charles Baker. “This announcement builds on our recent commitment to launching the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program to reduce transportation emissions and invest in cleaner, more affordable transportation options for Massachusetts residents.”

The Massachusetts Volkswagen Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan announced last December committed the Commonwealth

to designating 15 percent of the VW funding to electric vehicle charging infrastructure, totaling approximately \$11.25 million. The Administration has previously made \$5 million in VW funds available for various MassEVIP programs, and today adds \$1.5 million in funding for a new competitive Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) program, \$1.5 million for a new rolling-enrollment Public Access Charging (PAC) program, and an additional \$1 million for a revamped Workplace and Fleets (WPF) charging program.

Administered through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), MassEVIP is making these funds available to private, public and non-profit employers, and educational and multi-unit residential property owners in the Commonwealth in order to install standard Level 1 (120-volt) and Level 2 (240-volt) EV charging stations, as well as Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) stations.

“Adding more charging stations to our current network will accelerate and increase market demand for electric vehicles,” said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg.

Under this new and enhanced funding under the VW settlement, MassEVIP will fund electric vehicle charging equipment and installation costs through the following

programs:

- A new \$1.5 million for a competitive Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) program, with an application deadline of March 19, 2021.

- An additional \$1.5 million for a rolling-enrollment Public Access Charging (PAC) program, extending a prior fully subscribed \$2 million competitive version of this program. Improvements over the prior PAC program include accepting applications on a rolling basis and adding Level 1 charging stations as eligible equipment.

- An additional \$1 million for a rolling-enrollment Workplace and Fleets (WPF) charging program, extending the existing \$1.5 million program, for a total of \$2.5 million. Improvements over the prior Workplace Charging and Fleets programs include allowing private and non-profit fleet owners to apply, adding Level 1 stations as eligible equipment for fleets, and adding coverage of installation costs for workplaces.

- An existing \$1.5 million for a rolling-enrollment Multi-Unit Dwelling and Educational Campus charging program. Improvements over the prior program include reducing the minimum number of residential units from 10 to five, allowing educational campuses to apply, and adding coverage of installation costs.

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