

THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, December 30, 2021

SANTA VISITS LYNN



Above, Santa arrives on Boston Street in style, led by his reindeer and giving a big "Thumbs-Up" to all the good boys and girls that came out to greet him.

Right, the local Masonic Temple was part of the parade. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

Nicholson continues building his team

Special to the Journal

Lynn's Mayor-Elect Jared Nicholson has announced the addition of three staff members to his team. Danya Smith, Wendy Pena, and Sarita Ago will all join Mayor-Elect Nicholson's staff following his inauguration on January 3, 2022.

"We are so excited to be able to take office in January with a well-rounded, motivated team," said Mayor-Elect Jared Nicholson. "These three hires each bring a unique skill set and a passion for serving the city."

Danya Smith will join the Nicholson Administration as the Policy Director. Danya is a lifelong resident of Lynn and graduated from Colby College in 2020. He most recently worked as a Research Analyst with Mt. Auburn Associates in Somerville, MA where he focused on community economic development including affordable housing development, as well as workforce and small business



Jared Nicholson will be inaugurated as Mayor of Lynn at a ceremony Jan. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Lynn Auditorium. Members of the City Council and School Committee will also receive their oaths of office from City Clerk Janet Rowe.

development in communities across the country. Danya also has a strong background in housing having worked with the Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development to research and prepare grant proposals for

Please see NICHOLSON Page 3

CMCC will hold celebration to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Special to the Journal

The Community Minority Cultural Center has announced that in commemoration of the birthday of the great civil rights leader, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Center will be

hosting a virtual celebration on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022.

CMCC Executive Director Darrell Murkison and the Board of Directors invite all to join the celebration on Facebook Live beginning at 11 a.m. on Jan. 17.

"Once again, the MLK Committee and the entire Board of

CMCC are sincerely grateful for your continuous cooperation. Hopefully we will be able to see each other again at our 37th MLK 2023 Celebration," Executive Director Darrell Murkison wrote in a letter to CMCC supporters and friends.

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EDITORIAL

YES, LET'S RING OUT THE OLD AND RING IN THE NEW

We often quote a verse from Alfred Lord Tennyson's "Ring Out Wild Bells" when we write our annual New Year's editorial.

But after reading the poem in its entirety, we are printing the whole thing, because it sums up -- better than we ever could express -- our feelings about 2021 and our hopes for 2022.

Although it was published in 1850, its verses are timeless. Indeed, one could apply every stanza to something going on in the world today.

So we hope you take the time to read it and enjoy it, as we did the other day:

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out thy mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

We wish all of our readers a Happy and Healthy New Year. Here's hoping that 2022 brings health and happiness to all of us.

GUEST OP-ED

Our most difficult decision for 2022

Dr. Glenn Mollette

2022 will be over almost quicker than you can say Happy New Year! Just look how fast 2021 sped by us all. Time rarely feels as if it's standing still unless we are waiting on something to happen. Time only drags when we need something to happen like a cure for a disease, a job to open or a relative to come home. When time drags, we make the mistake of wishing it away.

We only have a little bit of time. We all have the same in a day, a week or a year. Every year that we live we are extended the same number of days and minutes. We do all kinds of things with time. We waste time, kill time, try to make up time, lose track of time or don't pay attention to time. Regardless of how we treat time it's only doing one thing moving swiftly through the hourglass one grain or second at a time.

I'm thankful for time. I'm grateful for time with my wife and each family member. I'm grateful for this moment to sit

here and type a few words out on my keyboard. I suppose one of my problems is how do I fit all I want to do into my time? I guess I enjoy doing too much. If I only enjoyed doing one or two things then my time spent might be a little easier. Each day and moment I would simply devote my full attention to one particular aspect of life. Actually, that might not be a bad idea. Could I devote 24 hours a day to my family? I could, but they really don't want me in their hair 24/7. I could devote 24 hours a day to prayer and reading the Bible or reading other good books. But then, I don't want to be an isolated religious person who never enjoys this incredible world or people. I could devote 24 hours a day to my educational work and do a lot of the work that others do. However, institutions are stronger and better when the work is spread around to others. I could spend more time simply writing books or pursuing other hobbies I enjoy.

Somehow, we have to determine what is best. I heard about this farmer who hired a man to sort potatoes. The man's job was

to put the bad potatoes in one pile, the good potatoes in another pile and the best potatoes in another pile. The man agreed to the job. At the end of the day the farmer came to see how his new employee was doing and he had not done anything. He was simply standing looking back and forth at two potatoes. The farmer bewildered asked? "Why haven't you done what I asked you to do?" The hired man responded, "I just can't decide between the good and the best potatoes."

Our dilemma in 2022 may not be in deciding between good and bad but between good and best. There are a lot of good things we can do with our time in 2022. Using our time to do the best things may be our most difficult decision.

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.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

ST. JOHN'S PREP'S ACADEMIC HONORS

St. John's Prep recently announced the names of students who earned academic honors for the first quarter of the 2021-2022 school year. Students who qualified for the Headmaster's List earned grades of A- or above in all courses; students who qualified for the Principal's List earned grades of B+ or above in all courses; and students who qualified for the Honor Roll earned grades of B or above in all courses.

The following students were

named to the academic honors list for the First Quarter 2021-2022.

Lynn
Headmaster's List
William Bochnak '26
Albert Hofeldt '23
Thomas Marino '25
Anthony Smart '24
Principal's List
Willem Hofeldt '24
Nicholas Anthony Marino '23
Denzel Ovando '26
Honor Roll
Michael Roman D'Amore '25
Mickey Kuleszka '27
Caleb Marsters '22
Gabriel Mieses '23

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

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Nicholson CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Lynn's Lead Abatement and Healthy Homes programs. He also held an internship with the Central Maine Growth Council where he researched Waterville, Maine's housing market. Danya will bring this robust experience to Nicholson's team and will assist with the development and implementation of the Mayor's policy agenda and strategic goals.

"I look forward to joining Mayor-elect Nicholson's team to focus on an inclusive recovery from the pandemic as well as help position the city for long-term economic growth for all residents," said Smith. "I was inspired by the Mayor-elect's vision and focus on equity throughout the campaign, and I'm excited to bring my prior experience and work with a broad set of stakeholders to contribute to this vision."

Wendy Pena will join Nicholson's team as the Administrative Director. Wendy was born and raised in Lynn, where she attended Lynn Classical High School before graduating from Fitchburg State University. Wendy earned her certificate in Marketing and Communications from The University of Massachusetts Boston. Wendy brings over 15 years of experience in event management from one of the largest global accounting firms, Ernst & Young where she led and executed on

more than 150 annual events, both locally and nationally. Wendy also co-founded a national networking organization whose goal is aligning individuals with professional opportunities and is currently a contract Speaker Program Coordinator with The CM Group. Wendy joins the Mayor's staff following her role as the Event Manager for Nicholson's campaign. In this role, Wendy coordinated numerous events throughout Lynn which allowed Nicholson to meet residents and hear about the issues important to them. As the Administrative Director, Wendy will oversee the operations of the mayor's office including coordinating Nicholson's schedule and organizing community events.

"While working closely with Jared during the campaign trail and listening to the residents of Lynn, I was able to experience the positivity and energy that he will bring to the city of Lynn," said Wendy. "He is transparent, honest, and values collaboration. If you ask him a question and he doesn't have the answer, he'll tell you so and then go find the answer. I was also extremely impressed by the organization, openness, and participatory nature of the team he created. If something goes wrong, he's not interested in assigning blame rather he solicits ideas to solve the problem. He encourages peo-

ple to be their authentic selves while contributing to the greater good. What I'm looking forward to the most is his innovative approach to implementing new ideas and to initiate positive change."

Sarita Ago, who began working with Mayor Tom McGee in 2021 will be staying on with Nicholson as the Constituency Services Coordinator. In this role, Sarita will assist residents with resolving municipal issues and connect them to resources that may be available to them. Sarita will also attend community events on behalf of the Mayor's Office. Sarita attended Lynn Classical High School having graduated in 2009 and attended North Shore Community College studying Business Administration and Management. Sarita, a Lynn native, began working in Lynn City Hall in 2019 as a Communications Associate prior to joining Mayor McGee's office.

Sarita said that she is thrilled to continue working under another great administration. "Mayor-Elect Nicholson has created an amazing team and I am confident that together we will carry out his vision to create a more inclusive Lynn."

Lynn's 2022 Inauguration Ceremony will take place at Lynn City Hall on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7PM. Tickets are not required and all are welcome. Masks and face coverings are required at all times. Parking is limited.

OBITUARIES

Dick Rehal

March 16, 1942 – December 27, 2021

Richard J "Dick" Rehal, 79, passed away on December 27 after a long, courageous battle with Alzheimer's. He was the beloved husband of Lina (Paciulli) Rehal with whom he shared 22 years of marriage.

Dick was born in Salem, raised in Lynn and graduated from Lynn Classical in 1960. He attended the Williams College School of Banking and the Graduate School of Banking/University of Wisconsin. He worked at Security National Bank, Bank of New England and spent the last 15 years of his career as a Vice President of Retail Banking at Eastern Bank, retiring in 2005.

Dick was known for his dedication to the greater Lynn community. He was on the Board of the Lynn Park Commission from 1976 to 1988. He was a Past President of the Greater Lynn YMCA, Community Minority Cultural Center, Lynn Lions Club and the Lynn Area Chamber of Commerce, where he was chosen as Business Person of the Year in 1991.

An avid sports fan, Dick loved the Red Sox and was a season ticket holder for his beloved New England Patriots. He played sandlot baseball and softball for Varley's Diner and could always be found at Barry Park. He enjoyed gardening and created a peaceful sanctuary on his patio where he would sit and look out at the water and the Boston skyline every day. Whether singing Karaoke, relaxing on the deck, or walking the beach with his ipod, music was always a big part of his life.

Most of all, Dick loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them. He believed this was the key to happiness. His yearly Octoberfest on the deck and Christmas Festival of Lights when he dressed up as Santa for the grandkids, created wonderful memories that he cherished. He loved traveling with his wife, Lina, to Ogunquit, Kennebunkport, North Conway, the casinos,



Las Vegas and their home away from home, Disneyworld.

He lived by one rule: Proper prior planning prevents poor performance.

He is survived by his wife, Lina (Paciulli) Rehal, daughter Michelle Clarke of Lynn, sons: Scott Rehal and his wife, Brenda of Beverly, Kevin Rehal and his wife, Angela of Peabody, Gina Martin of Danvers, Ralph Fanti of Lynn and five grandchildren: Libby, Benjamin and Cameron Rehal, Mason Clarke and Katie Martin. He also leaves his sister, Jean Howard, brother, Frank Rehal, brothers-in-law: Anthony Paciulli and his wife, Trisha, Andrew Paciulli and his wife, Samantha, Michael Paciulli, Rick Paciulli and Lori and his sister-in-law, Christina Levine and her husband, Jeff. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews, his Goddaughter, Cristy French and good friend, Charles Veradt. He was predeceased by his parents, William and Jeannette (Boisevert) Rehal and brother-in-law, David Howard.

Due to Covid, services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to [www. Alzheimers.org](http://www.Alzheimers.org). To leave a message of condolence for the family, visit guestbook at www.somimine.com.



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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS KNIGHT OF THE YEAR

Knights of Columbus 2021 Knight of the Year was proudly announced by GK John Miner at the annual Members Christmas Party. Long time member and former Valladolid Building Association (VBA) President Anthony "Nick" Mennino was selected for this honor. Nick served

as VBA President for several terms overseeing many of the building improvements through his business and construction knowledge at Mennino Construction. Later in the evening the Lynn All City High School Band entertained everyone with many Christmas songs.



The Mennino Family –(F): Debby Regan, Cheryl Mennino, Nick Mennino Sr., Gloria Santangelo, and Jill Guerriero; (B): GK John Miner, Nick Mennino, Jr., Christine Mennino, Scott Meninno, and Nick Mennino III.



Nick Mennino received the 2021 Knight of the Year award from GK John Miner along with PGK David Solimine.



Lynn All City High School Band musicians performed at the Knights of Columbus.

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“It is hard to find the perfect words to express my gratitude for the opportunity you have given me to serve the City we love these last 27 years. I may be leaving public office, but not public service, and look forward to continuing to help our City flourish and thrive. Thank you for your support and friendship through the years. It has been an honor of a lifetime.” -Mayor Thomas M. McGee



SANTA COMES TO TOWN, VISITING LYNN IN THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE PARADE



Whoville was well represented.

On Christmas Eve, Santa Claus and all his friends from around the city took part in the annual Santa Parade across the entire City of Lynn.



The Grinch hitched a ride to be in the parade.



Everyone enjoys a parade.



John's Oil was part of the festivities.



Mike Zaccaria of Action Emergency Services led the way for Santa and his friends.



It's pretty cold for a 3 hour tour.



Boston Street was lined with Lynn residents for the parade Christmas Eve.

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The Grinch hams it up for the camera.

SANTA COMES TO TOWN, VISITING LYNN IN THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE PARADE



Boston Board up Services took part in the parade.



Santa being taken around the City of Lynn by his favorite ride the Lynn Fire Department. Everyone along the parade route wants a picture of the man of the hour, Santa Claus.



Lots of toys for all the kids



The Gingerbread Man led the way for Santa.



Lots of king size smiles at a Santa parade.



A big hello from Paul Orfano on Boston Street.



The hostess with the mostess, Jenn Cotto (left) welcomed her friends and family to her home on Christmas Eve, after a terrific dinner they all headed out to Boston Street to greet Santa. The Orfano, Lacey, Tully, Pucillo, Pellegrino families wish everyone a Merry Christmas.



Local children tossed candy to all the spectators along the route.

ST. MARY'S SPARTANS VERSUS LYNN ENGLISH BULLDOGS IN BASKETBALL ACTION

BOB MARRA PHOTOS

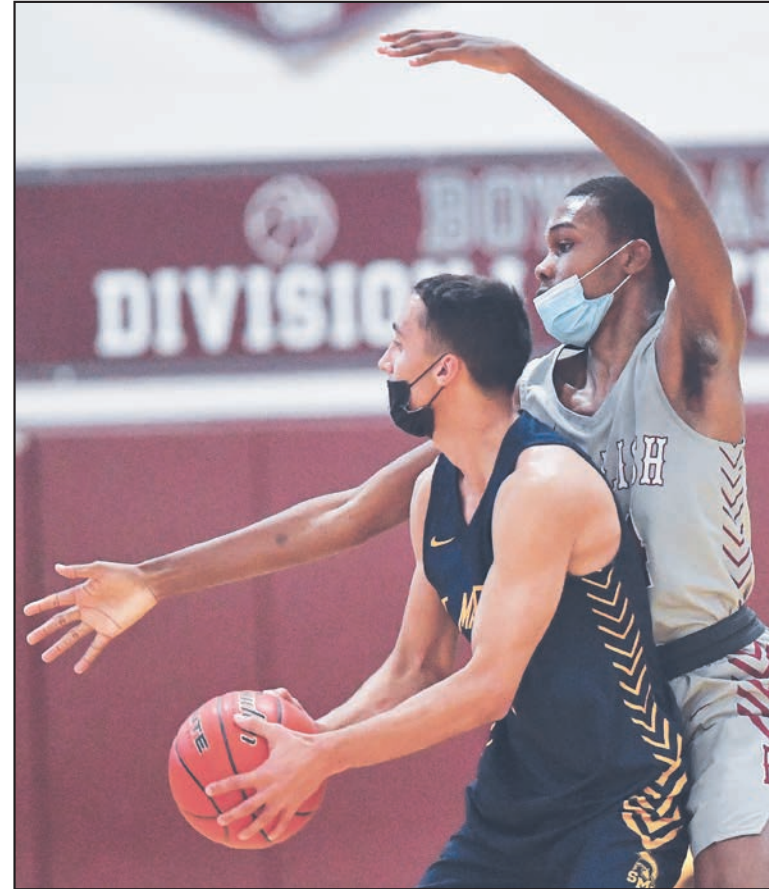


TWO ON TWO: Lynn English junior Lionel Rivera is fronted by his numeric counterpart St. Mary's David Brown.

It might have been just a semi-final game in a local mid-winter tournament, but Tuesday's semi-final match in the Walter Boverini Basketball Tournament matched two of the state's basketball powerhouses. In a game that lived up to anyone's expectations, the 11th-ranked St. Mary's Spartans outlasted the 7th ranked defending Division One champion Lynn English Bulldogs 57-49 to advance to the Tournament finals against Lynn Classical (played Wednesday Dec. 29).



LYNN ENGLISH'S LIONEL RIVERA (20) gets a step on St. Mary's defender Marlon Estrella.



SURROUNDED: St. Mary's Derek Coulanges is hemmed in by Lynn English defender Cristain Clarke.



FINGERTIP CONTROL: St. Mary's Marlon Estrella gets a shot away over the defensive effort of Lynn English forward Josh Anderson.



BATTLE UNDER THE BOARDS: It's a free-for-all as, left to right, St. Mary's Marvins Rosirus, Lynn English's Josh Anderson (5), St. Mary's David Brown (squeezed in the middle) and Lynn English Nelson Obarisiagbon all battle for a rebound.



ARMED FORCES: St. Mary's Chibuikem Onwuogu (5) and Derick Coulanges (20) fight for a rebound with Lynn English forward Jesse Maggs (5).

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

COUNCIL FINISHES UP YEAR

CHELSEA - The City Council quickly took care of business during its last meeting of the year, approving funding for several community preservation projects as well as a cost of living raise for City Manager Thomas Ambrosino.

The council unanimously approved a 3 percent cost of living raise for Ambrosino that back-dates to July 1 of this year. He is due for another 3 percent cost of living raise effective July 1, 2022.

The raises come as a result of the recent City Manager evaluation process by the council.

A special subcommittee gave Ambrosino high marks for his job performance.

The city manager signed his most recent five-year contract with the city in 2019 at a salary of just under \$190,000 annually.

“In summary, the final rating by the committee was that the city manager did an incredible job managing city business and the covid response during one of the most stressful and difficult times in recent memory,” said Council President Roy Avellaneda. “The evaluation committee is aware that this is most likely the last two years that the city manager is working, and expects that the same professional effort shown previously will continue.”

The council also unanimously approved three community preservation expenditures recommended by the Community Preservation Committee.

Those grant proposals from the Community Preservation Fund include \$25,000 for Temple Emmanuel for a historic building exterior conditions assessment, \$252,000 for the rehabilitation of the Mace Basketball Court, and \$400,000 for pre-development funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

In the 2016 general election, Chelsea voters voted to adopt the Community Preservation Act and impose a 1.5 percent surcharge on residential and commercial properties with exemptions for low- and moderate-income homeowners.

Temple Emmanuel is seeking support for an on-site assessment during which historic preservation consultants will examine, investigate, and analyze all areas of the building’s exterior envelope and document the existing conditions. The consultant will then recommend next steps for

stabilization, rehabilitation, preservation, and maintenance of the historic building.

The basketball court rehabilitation project seeks to repair and bring back into use a court that has severely deteriorated over the past years so that it can once again be used as a neighborhood asset.

Chelsea’s Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board is seeking a \$400,000 grant to help fund the pre-development aspects of its recent investment in affordable housing development.

COMMITTEE DOES NOT CHANGE CONTRACT

EVERETT - Superintendent Priya Tahiliani made it very clear in her remarks at the School Committee meeting last week that she “has no intention of leaving this district.”

Tahiliani’s comments came before the committee took a vote on whether to extend her contract from February 28, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

She went on to say, “I am not looking for another job, I am proud of what I have accomplished and becoming part of a larger education community. There is still much work to be done.”

Tahiliani took over the reins of the Everett school system in the midst of the pandemic.

As a result, many of the goals for the local schools that Tahiliani had outlined to the search committee were delayed as she focused on COVID-related issues, including remote learning for students.

At the last meeting of the School Committee on December 6, the issue of making changes to the superintendent’s current contract was objected to by the incoming new members of the School Committee who will take office on January 3.

They made clear in no uncertain terms their view that the present School Committee should leave the matter of extending Tahiliani’s contract to the new committee.

Although the committee approved some technical changes to the superintendent’s contract two weeks ago, they postponed taking action on the contract extension until their meeting on Monday night.

Several members of the School Committee expressed the view that because of COVID and the basic upending of the school

learning process, Tahiliani essentially had lost a year and that the extension of the contract end date would give her the opportunity to try to meet the goals that she had proposed during her interview.

In addition, members pointed out that the end date in the original contract of February 28, 2024, could be disruptive to the entire school system since it would mean a possible departure in the middle of the school year.

Before the vote on extending the date, Ward 6 School Committee member Tom Abruzzese said, “I could not agree more with the superintendent. We have found the top candidate in the state and perhaps the country.”

“The extension would allow (Tahiliani’s) full vision to come to fruition,” said committee member Samantha Lambert.

School Committee member Dana Murray, commenting on the February 28 end date, said, “It’s not a good idea to have kids with an interim superintendent.”

However, School Committee member Millie Cardillo noted that in the contract, the end date could be extended to June 2024 and “would not leave students high and dry.”

The committee then voted on the motion to extend the contract and it failed on a 5-5 vote. A vote was then taken on reconsideration and it lost again, 5-5.

ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE GRANTS

EAST BOSTON- To support the needs of our immigrant residents, Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) announced the awarding of \$8,000 in mini-grants each to three East Boston organizations that serve the neighborhood’s immigrant population.

The mini-grants to the Veronica Robles Cultural Center (VRCC), the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council (EBECC) and Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE) are funded through corporate sponsorships for We Are Boston, an annual reception that honors the contributions immigrants make to our City.

The three Eastie organizations will use the \$8,000 grant for operational support and capacity-building to serve immigrants impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will be used for a wide range of services including basic needs assistance,

COVID TEST KITS NOW AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS



Members of the Martinez family receive their rapid test kits from Julie Thistle (left) and Antoinette Blanchard at Everett City Hall.

mental health support, child and youth development, legal services, and digital equity.

“One third of Boston residents are immigrants,” said Mayor Wu. “The health and wellbeing of our immigrant communities is central to our City’s recovery and community. By making these investments now, we lay the foundation for generational change.”

The VRCC will use the funds to uplift the cultural identities of Latinx immigrant communities in East Boston.

EBECC will use its mini-grant for technology equipment, access, and training for immigrant youth and families for the Digital Inclusion Program.

Finally, NUBE will use the funds for wellness and health spaces facilitated by community leaders for low-income immigrants.

“We work very closely with immigrant-serving nonprofits, and they told us what their communities need right now,” said Director of the Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement Yusufi Vali. “As we recover from this pandemic, we should seize the moment to identify disparities and close the gaps in innovative ways.”

Vali said these mini-grants are made possible through the generous contributions from We Are Boston 2020 sponsors including State Street Corporation, Arbella Insurance Foundation, Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, and Eastern Bank Foundation.

The “We Are Boston 2022: From Dreams to Action” will be held on February 3, 2022. During the reception, the city will recognize community honorees and address how government, corporate, and nonprofit sectors can work together to support the fight for equity.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE GRANTS

REVERE - Mayor Arrigo and representatives from both Amazon and United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley presented three grant awards to community-based organizations who continue to go above and beyond for Revere residents. The Raise Up Revere fund, which was established in April of 2020, is focused on meeting the immediate needs of Revere families and small businesses that have been most severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as longer-term strategies and innovative ideas that will continue to move Revere forward as a community. Recipients this year include HarborCOV, CAPIC, and the First Congregational Church Food Pantry.

“The three organizations chosen today continue to step up to the plate when our residents need them the most,” said Mayor Brian Arrigo. “We started the Raise

Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Up Revere fund at the beginning of the pandemic to support community-driven organizations that work to give back to our residents. I'm proud of how we've utilized these connections so far and am excited to see the fund continue to build capacity over the coming years."

In 2020, four nonprofits and organizations were awarded grants through the fund. This year, due to a generous \$35,000 donation from Amazon and supplemented funds through an anonymous donor, the fund is able to award each organization with a \$20,000 grant – totaling \$60,000 that will be reflected through community-based work. Existing partners who have received the award in the past include The Neighborhood Developers (TND), Union Capital Boston, Moroccan American Connections in Revere (MACIR), Women Encouraging Empowerment (WEE) Revere,

and The First Congressional Church of Revere Food Pantry. The Raise Up Revere Fund also funded five \$10,000 "Shot at a Healthy Future" scholarships – awarded to fully-vaccinated residents to boost incentive around the vaccine.

"The Raise Up Revere Fund has been instrumental in helping our community weather the pandemic and its ensuing economic hardship," said Jerome Smith, Amazon's Sr. Manager of External Affairs. "As a company, we're thrilled to partner with them and ensure their funding can go even further in assisting our most vulnerable neighbors."

One recipient of the grant this year is HarborCOV, a non-profit organization that provides free safety and support services, along with housing and economic opportunities for those affected by domestic violence and abuse. Executive Director Kourou Pich

plans to use the \$20,000 grant for emergency housing – one of the most visible and critical needs experienced by survivors of domestic violence.

"Partnerships like the Raise Up Revere fund are key to ensuring our communities emerge from this crisis stronger and more resilient than before," said Bob Giannino, President and Chief Executive Officer at United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. "Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we have seen the power of municipal, business and community leaders coming together to raise up the needs of their residents and catalyze the resources needed to address them. We're grateful to Mayor Arrigo for his continued partnership and to Amazon for the generosity they have demonstrated throughout our region."

The First Congregational Church Food Pantry is another 2021 recipient – the \$20,000 grant will be used to further efforts at the weekly Food Pantry by assisting in IT and computer relief. Throughout the course of the pandemic, the First Congregational Church Food Pantry operation grew exponentially. Now the Food Pantry is combined with the City of Revere "Food Hub" team and operates out of the Food Hub at 200 Winthrop Ave (the previous League for Special Needs building). The pantry continues to see a record number of families during their weekly food events.

CAPIC (Community Action Programs Inter-City, Inc), is the third and final recipient of this year's award. Through the utilization of \$20,000 in Raise Up Revere funding, CAPIC will provide comprehensive emergency support services to at-risk Revere individuals and families who are in crisis mode; specifically, temporary emergency placements, such as hotel placements. CAPIC's Emergency Assistance Program will also provide support to individuals and families once they obtain permanent housing, such as gift cards to purchase food, furniture, and basic household items.

Donations to the fund can be made online or via your Donor Advised Fund by including "The Raise Up Revere Fund" in your recommendation details. Our

tax ID number is 04-2382233. You can also send a check to the following address: United Way of Massachusetts Bay, PO Box 51381, Boston, MA 02205-1381. Please make checks out to "United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley" and include "The Raise Up Revere Fund" in the memo of your check.

OUTGOING MEMBERS HONORED

WINTHROP - The Winthrop School Committee met on Dec. 20 in the Harvey Hearing Room of Town Hall, where it honored outgoing Chairman Brian Perrin and outgoing member Phil Boncore.

The committee presented distinguished service awards to outgoing Chairman Brian Perrin and outgoing member Phil Boncore. Perrin sat on the School Committee for the past 12 years, and Boncore for the past two.

The men were praised for their "strong positive impact" on education in the town of Winthrop, and for their "genuine concern for young people."

"We're lucky to have these guys," said Committee Member Gus Martucci. "I feel fortunate to have worked with them. We're going to miss them."

"I've learned a lot from them," said Supt. Lisa Howard. "They've never given up on this town."

Perrin, who has served on numerous boards and committees over the past 33 years, said his tenure on the School Committee was one of the most challenging.

"I want to recognize Supt. Howard and her faculty for all they do everyday to make Winthrop the best school system it can be," he said.

Perrin also congratulated the incoming members of the School Committee, and encouraged them to collaborate with respect and to listen to their constituents.

School Committee Vacancy

A joint meeting of the School Committee and the Town Council will be held in the new year, which will allow for newly elected members of both boards to vote on the empty School Committee seat.

Boncore originally scheduled the meeting for Dec. 21, but this meeting failed to reach a quorum. He argued that the new councilors haven't had the opportunity to hear from constituents as far as who they should vote for to fill the seat, and that the decision should fall to outgoing councilors. However, School Committee members pushed back.

"It's unreasonable to expect outgoing members to vote on incoming members," said Julie Barry, and claimed that Boncore scheduled the meeting after the School Committee made it clear it couldn't convene on that date.

Committee Vice-Chair Jennifer Powell agreed, adding that committee members should have the chance to vote for the people they will be serving alongside.

COVID
In an unexpected spike, seven school staff tested positive for COVID-19. Supt. Howard reported that the district is "trying to be as creative as possible" to manage teacher absences, with principals taking over classes and staff being shared across schools. The district is working closely with the Dept. of Public Health on contact tracing and updating parents on potential exposure.

Supt. Howard urged families to "stay as safe as possible" during the upcoming holiday break, so as not to delay a return to full-time school.

"The goal is for students to come back and not lose learning time," she said. "As much as families can help, we would appreciate that."

Supt. Howard also reminded parents to submit their children's vaccinations records to the district as soon as possible.

General Updates
There is an immediate opening for an Extra Support Person (ESP) at the elementary school due to an illness unrelated to COVID-19.

The Shore Collaborative received a clean audit, showing a budget surplus of over \$200,000. The school remains more affordable than other collaboratives. It is currently working on crafting its mission statement, to be reported at its next meeting. Six Winthrop students currently attend the Shore Collaborative.

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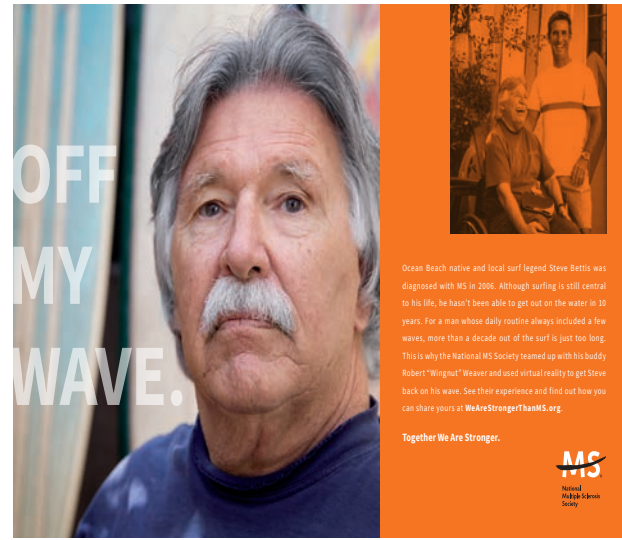
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LYNN CLASSICAL GIRLS 52-23 OVER REVERE

BOB MARRA PHOTOS



SPLITTING THE DEFENSE: Lauren Wilson (35) keeps her focus on the basket despite the defensive efforts of Revere's Elaysia Lung (2) and Haley Belleise.

Revere hit a scoring drought in the second quarter and fell into a deficit that Lynn Classical never relinquished en route to a 52-23 victory Tuesday, Dec. 21 at Lynn Classical High School. Both teams had won their first two games of the season and the win boosted the Rams to 3-0 as they entered the Christmas break while Revere fell to 2-1.



BALL CONTROL: Ava Thurman (10) keeps control of the ball as she makes a move on Revere's Skyla DeSimone.



MAKING THE PLAY: Akylah Brown (15) rips down a rebound in front of Revere's Belma Vic.



JUMP BALL: Revere's Carolina Carvalho-Bettero (left) and Lynn Classical's Ava Thurman (middle) and Molly Mannion (right) tie up the ball as they fight for a rebound.



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