

# THE LYNN JOURNAL

Thursday, January 13, 2022

## GRAND OPENING



PRG Photo

Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Rincon Macorisano with State Rep. Peter Capano, Ward 3 Councilor Coco Alinsug, Mayor Jared Nicholson, NSLBA President Frances Martinez, and Rincon owners, Teresa and Basilio Encarnacion. See Page 5 for more photos.

## Michelle Roach named MIAA Girls Hockey Coach of the Year

By Cary Shuman

Michelle Roach of Lynn, head coach of the Peabody High School girls hockey team, has been selected as the MIAA Coach of the Year for the 2020-21 season.

"It's quite the honor to receive," Roach humbly told the Lynn Journal this week.

Roach is an alumna of St. Mary's High School where she was the captain of the first-ever girls hockey team in the 2001-02 season. She also served as an assistant hockey coach at St. Mary's and was inducted into the St. Mary's Varsity Club Hall of Fame in 2016.

St. Mary's Director of Athletics Jeff Newhall congratulated his fellow alumnus on receiving the esteemed statewide honor.

"We in the St. Mary's community congratulate Michelle on receiving this prestigious award from the MIAA," said Newhall. "Michelle was an outstanding



Michelle Roach.

player and assistant coach in our girls hockey program and continues to be a great role model for student-athletes. We wish her continued success in her professional career and coaching endeavors."

Following her outstanding career at St. Mary's, Roach went on to play three seasons in the St. Michael's College women's

Please see ROACH Page 7

## City announces Vision Lynn Steering Committee

Special to the Journal

The City of Lynn Planning Department announces the membership of the Vision Lynn Steering Committee, which will guide the community engagement for the City's first ever comprehensive plan, Vision Lynn. The Committee's 34 members will assist the Planning Department in designing a robust, inclusive, year-long community conversation about Lynn's future and ensuring the final document is consistent with the feedback collected.

The Steering Committee is predominantly made up of community members, but will also be joined by two Councilors (to be announced) and Planning Board Chair Bob Stilian. Several representatives from City staff will also participate, including Lynn Public Schools Superintendent Patrick Tutwiler, Director of Elder Services Christopher Gomez-Farewell, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator Faustina Cuevas, and representatives

from the Mayor's Office, the Economic Development and Industrial Corporation/Lynn (EDIC/Lynn), and Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development (LHAND). A full list of Steering Committee members is available below and on the project website, [LynnInCommon.com/Vision-Lynn](http://LynnInCommon.com/Vision-Lynn).

The Steering Committee members each bring rich connections to the community and unique perspectives. As a whole, the Committee speaks 11 languages and a majority identify as people of color. There are also repre-

sentatives who are foreign-born, lifelong Lynners, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, parents, elders, youth, and residents of each ward.

Establishing the Steering Committee is the first major step in the creation of Lynn's first comprehensive plan, which was a key priority for Former Mayor Thomas McGee from the beginning of his administration. "We have been able to put together a diverse, talented Steering Committee with deep community

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The Independent Newspaper Group  
Offices will be **closed** on  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 17**  
in observance of  
**MARTIN LUTHER KING,  
JR. DAY**

The office will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 18  
**Deadlines for ads & copy is Friday, Jan. 14.**

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*Martin Luther King Jr. Day*  
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# EDITORIAL

## WE MUST NEVER FORGET THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

As we were watching the recent coverage by the media of the events of a year ago on January 6, we were struck by the contrast between the Trump Mob's violent storming of the Capitol and the many peaceful marches on Washington that have occurred during our lifetime.

Perhaps the most-famous of the non-violent protests occurred on a steamy summer day in August, 1963, when more than 250,000 Americans from all across the country gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to demand "jobs and freedom," an event that was climaxed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s immortal "I Have a Dream" speech.

The March on Washington was famous not only for Dr. King's iconic words, but also because the unprecedented mass gathering of Americans was completely calm. Pundits and others had predicted rioting, but there were no arrests, no incidents, no violence -- a stark contrast to the events perpetrated by Trump's Mob.

The March on Washington and Dr. King's many other peaceful protests of that era galvanized support for the goals of "jobs and freedom," eventually resulting in laws such as the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act that ended segregation in the South and discrimination in the North.

Even though the best efforts of a revered figure such as Dr. King could not stem the tide of violent rioting that marked the 1960s, most notably Watts in 1965, Detroit in 1967, and Chicago in 1968, it is Dr. King's legacy of peaceful protest that endures today.

For those of us old enough to remember the 1960s, it's hard to believe that it has been almost 54 years since Dr. King was assassinated while he was standing on a balcony in a motel room in Memphis, where Dr. King was marching to show his solidarity with that city's striking trash collection workers.

Every school child for the past generation knows well the story of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. But an elementary school textbook cannot truly convey the extent to which he brought about real change in our country. To anyone under the age of 50, Dr. King is just another historical figure.

But for those of us who can recall the 1960s, a time when racial segregation was lawful throughout half of our country and a stealthy racism prevailed throughout the other half, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stands out as one of the great leaders in American history, a man whose stirring words and dedication to his cause changed forever the historical trajectory of race relations in America, a subject that some historians refer to as the Original Sin of the American experience.

However, as much as things have changed for the better since 1968 in terms of racial equality in our society, the events of the past year -- from the January 6 riot to the countless voter-restriction laws aimed at minority communities in Southern states -- also have made it clear that we still have a long way to go before it can be said, as Dr. King put it in his speech at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

"What would Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. do if he were alive today?" we often ask ourselves. We can't say for sure, but we do know that although Dr. King accomplished much in his lifetime, he would be the first to understand that the work for which he gave his life still is far from done.

Dr. King advocated for non-violent protest and he practiced what he preached. That's a lesson that must be re-learned by each succeeding generation. We can only hope that his courage and perseverance will continue to inspire present and future Americans to bring about a world in which all persons are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

## GUEST OP-ED

## The way to combat the horror of Jan. 6, is to abolish the filibuster

By Assistant Speaker Katherine  
Clark (MA-5)

In 1787, upon exiting the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was approached by a group of people who asked him what kind of government the delegates had created. His answer: "A republic, if you can keep it."

On January 6, 2021, we almost lost it.

As I approached the Capitol one year ago today, rioters waving white supremacist flags were at the top of the Capitol steps. The smell of tear gas and an angry roar filled the air. For seven years, I had been coming to my Capitol Hill office, prepping for hearings, writing remarks, preparing for votes and meeting with constituents. But that day, my home away from home, our nation's democratic heart, was on fire.

I spent the next six hours alone in my office checking in on colleagues and staff. I was in disbelief that this was happening in our country and praying no one would be harmed.

Even now, I can't comprehend the violence, destruction, and mayhem of that afternoon.

But finally, in the late hours of January 6, with broken glass and blood on the floors, we certified the election of Joe Biden. A few weeks later, I attended President Biden's inauguration on the very platform the rioters had scaled. As I listened to the familiar question of the national anthem—"does that star-spangled banner yet wave?"—it took on a new poignancy and answer: for now.

The Capitol building has been repaired. But the threats we face are as real now as they were a year ago. Despite a seditious coup attempt meant to overthrow the election, not a single piece of federal voting protection legislation has been signed into law.

In fact, Republicans continue to lead a coordinated effort to push misinformation and erode voting rights. Encouraged by Republican party leaders and lawmakers, 68 percent of Republican voters believe the No-

vember 2020 election was fraudulent—even though there is zero evidence to support this false claim. In 2021 alone, 33 voter suppression laws have been passed in 19 states across America, and more than 425 bills with provisions that restrict voting have been introduced.

Democracy cannot survive voter suppression laws that substitute the will of the people for the will of a few.

In response, House Democrats passed H.R. 1, the For the People Act, in March, a package of pro-democracy and anti-corruption reforms that will reduce the influence of money in politics, strengthen ethics laws, ensure accurate elections, and protect voting rights. In July, we passed H.R. 4, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, to restore key protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, modernize it, and protect voters from discrimination. And in December, we passed the Protecting Our Democracy Act to strengthen America's democratic institutions and protect them against future presidents who seek to abuse the power of their office.

But as of this writing, they are all languishing in the Senate.

The vast majority of Republicans in the House and Senate simply won't put democracy ahead of their own desperate pursuit of power. Every day, they

attack our democracy by promoting the Big Lie, refusing to participate in the January 6 investigation, and supporting voter suppression laws. They have proven time and again that their political goal is undermining our democracy instead of standing up for its survival.

So, we must go it alone. And to do that, we must abolish the filibuster.

In the past year, it has become clear that the Senate filibuster has been weaponized against voting rights. The filibuster was designed to give the minority party in the Senate a counter to simple majority rule. In practice, a Senator could speak on the floor to stall a vote and attempt to sway their colleagues to join them in opposition by prolonging debate. In the decades since, the filibuster rule has been modified four times, changing from a rare practice that required standing on the Senate floor for hours at a time into its current form: a routine, 60-vote supermajority requirement for almost every piece of legislation.

Our country's future depends on our ability to be honest about the prospects of bipartisanship, the state of the Republican Party, and what we all witnessed on January 6. President Biden, too, has acknowledged that we can't

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## THE LYNN JOURNAL

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# Baker-Polito administration launches tool for residents to access COVID-19 digital vaccine card

The Baker-Polito Administration today announced a tool that gives residents a new way to access their COVID-19 digital vaccine card and vaccination history. The new tool, called My Vax Records, allows people who received their vaccination in Massachusetts to access their own vaccination history and generate a COVID-19 digital vaccine card, which would contain similar vaccination information to a paper CDC card. The COVID-19 digital vaccine cards produced by the system utilize the SMART Health Card platform and generate a QR code that can be used to verify vaccination. The Administration is not requiring residents to show proof of vaccination to

enter any venue, but this tool will help residents who would like to access and produce a digital copy of their record.

Access the new tool at MyVaxRecords.Mass.Gov.

How It Works: The new tool is easy to use: a person enters their name, date of birth, and mobile phone number or email associated with their vaccine record. After creating a 4-digit PIN, the user receives a link to their vaccine record that will open upon re-entry of the PIN.

The electronic record shows the same information as a paper CDC vaccine card: name, date of birth, date of vaccinations, and vaccine manufacturer. It also includes a QR code that makes

these same details readable by a QR scanner, including smartphone apps. Once the SMART Health Card is received, users are able to save the QR code to their phone, such as the Apple Wallet, screenshot the information and save it to their phone's photos, or print out a copy for a paper record. The system follows national standards for security and privacy.

This system provides an optional way that residents can access their vaccination information and a COVID-19 digital vaccine card. This will provide residents with another tool to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, should it be requested by businesses, local govern-

ments, or other entities.

The system leverages the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS), the official database used by health care providers across the state to record vaccination information. The system relies on hundreds of providers inputting demographic and health information. Some users may not be able to immediately find their record, or may find an incomplete record. Residents whose record cannot be found or is incomplete can either contact their health care provider or contact the MIIS team to update their records. Learn more about the tool and view frequently-asked-questions at [www.mass.gov/myvaxrecord](http://www.mass.gov/myvaxrecord).

Massachusetts has worked with VCI,<sup>TM</sup> a voluntary coalition of public and private organizations which developed the open-source SMART Health Card Framework in use by other states. The VCI coalition is dedicated to improving privacy and security of patient information making medical records portable and reducing healthcare fraud.

My Vax Records is just one way residents can obtain their COVID vaccination record. Pharmacies that administered the COVID vaccine and many health care providers also are making SMART Health Cards available, or are providing additional options. Learn more.

## Committee/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ties," said McGee, "but we will need to remain focused to create a transparent and inclusive process that is open to all corners of the Lynn community."

The Steering Committee will review progress on the creation of the plan and assist the Planning Department in maximizing community participation in the development of the plan. The Committee will not, however, be writing the plan; members will be invited to participate in the process along with the rest of the community.

"Throughout our campaign, we heard from thousands of residents about their hopes and concerns for the future of Lynn," said Mayor Jared Nicholson. "Vision Lynn will be an important way to turn these sentiments into policy and action and ensure that City Hall is doing the work that matters most to Lynners." Already, over 450 people have filled out the Vision Lynn kick off survey

to share what they love about Lynn—natural resources and diversity were two top-cited assets—as well as what they wanted to change.

"In terms of concerns, respondents were pretty clear about what they wanted from the City: improvements to key infrastructure like streets and stormwater systems, investments in our school buildings and staff, and a government that is fiscally responsible, transparent, and reflective of the community," said Principal Planning Director Aaron Clausen. "We hope Vision Lynn can play a role in moving key priorities like these forward."

The survey is still open and accepting responses in eight different languages at [LynnInCommon.com/Vision-Lynn](http://LynnInCommon.com/Vision-Lynn). The Planning Department will be working to hire a consultant team and host a first meeting with the selected Steering Committee in

January 2022; residents are encouraged to visit [LynnInCommon.com](http://LynnInCommon.com) for updates.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Principal Planning Director Aaron Clausen at [AClausen@LynnMA.gov](mailto:AClausen@LynnMA.gov) or 781-586-6853.

Vision Lynn Steering Committee

Bill Bochnak (Project Coordinator, EDIC/Lynn)

Bob Stilian (Chair, Planning Board)

Bruno Eusebio

Christina Luca

Christopher Gomez-Farewell (Director, Elder Services)

Cleo Hereford

Debbie Parris

Diana Cherubin

Dylan Cashman

Elizabeth Figueroa

Elizabeth Rosario (Outreach Coordinator, LHAND)

Faustina Cuevas (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator)

Gildardo Alzate  
Gordon R Hall  
Hugo A Carvajal  
Joe Scianatico  
Jonathon Feinberg  
Jordan T Avery  
Joseph Furnari  
Josilane Santos  
Kurt Lange  
Lauren Hogan  
Layheab Ly  
Ludia Modi  
Magalie Rowe  
Natasha Soolkin  
Patrick Tutwiler (Superinten-

dent, Lynn Public Schools)  
Sylvia Odiana  
Tanveer Malik  
Teri Krawitz  
Tia Cole  
City Councilors (To be announced)  
Representative from Mayor Nicholson's Team (To be announced)

## Op-Ed CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

allow the filibuster to stand in the way of passing voting rights legislation.

We must abolish the current

filibuster to protect the vote and fair elections. The future of the republic depends on it.

Katherine Marlea Clark is a

United States representative for Massachusetts's 5th congressional district, and as the assistant House Democratic leader.

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# Baker-Polito administration secures contract for 26 million rapid antigen tests

The Baker-Polito Administration announced an order was placed with iHealth to supply the state with 26 million rapid antigen tests over the next three months. The tests will be prioritized to support K-12 schools and childcare settings. The agreement allows for shipments of tests to arrive on a rolling basis in the Commonwealth, but the Administration warns that the timing and shipment amounts will vary depending on international shipping and production variables.

The Baker-Polito Administration also released a public health advisory this week to advise all residents on when to seek tests

for COVID-19. The advisory advises all residents to seek COVID-19 tests when exhibiting COVID symptoms, or five days following a known close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID pursuant to MA DPH quarantine and isolation protocols, updated as of December 29 in accordance with the new CDC guidance.

The new isolation protocols do not require a COVID-19 test to exit isolation after having COVID. This general rule also applies to childcare and K-12.

The new quarantine protocols recommend, but do not require, all exposed individuals get a test five days after exposure. Ex-

posed individuals do not need to quarantine in the following circumstances:

- If fully vaccinated and not yet eligible to receive a booster OR
- If fully vaccinated and have received their booster OR
- If they had COVID and it is less than 90 days since they were diagnosed.

DPH advises that a positive COVID-19 rapid antigen does not need to be confirmed with a PCR test.

DPH recommends individuals that have COVID symptoms and test negative with a rapid antigen test should isolate and either repeat an antigen test or get a

PCR test in 24-48 hours if they continue to exhibit symptoms. Additionally, DPH does not advise employers, or schools and childcare, to require a test as a condition of returning to work or school.

Vaccination and getting a booster remain the best possible protection against COVID. There are almost 1,000 locations in the Commonwealth for residents to receive a COVID-19 vaccine or booster. Visit [VaxFinder.mass.gov](https://VaxFinder.mass.gov) to book an appointment.

Massachusetts National Guard Governor Baker also today activated 500 additional members of the Massachusetts National Guard to support the state's

health care system. This order expands the National Guard activation of 500 members announced on December 21 to support non-clinical functions in the Commonwealth's hospitals. Prioritized uses for the newly activated 500 members will be to provide additional non-clinical staffing at community hospitals and high-volume emergency departments, public hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and dialysis centers. These guard personnel will be deployed beginning the week of January 17.

## Centerboard launches Empowerment Scholarship

To help college students in the upcoming 2022-23 school year, Centerboard is pleased to announce our new Empowerment Scholarship.

The Empowerment Scholarship is now open to students who are at least 18 years of age, are attending a two- or four-year degree program at an in-person or online college or university and are in need of financial assistance to realize their educational goals. The scholarship is not dependent on immigration status.

"At Centerboard, our mission is to empower our communities by investing in people and places. This new scholarship will invest in our local students and their futures, which is something we are so proud and excited to

do," said CEO Mark DeJoie.

The brain-child for the scholarship is our Mentor Coordinator, Dany Acosta.

"As a social worker and a DACA recipient, I am committed to creating opportunities for students who are ineligible for government aid, most scholarships and grants due to their immigration status," said Acosta. "Every driven student who takes on the challenges of higher education, despite their immigration status, should not be hindered by inequitable financial assistance or debt."

Applications are due Sunday, May 1st, 2022 by 11:59PM with awards being announced in July 2022. For 2022, we plan to give out three scholarships of \$500

each. We hope each year we can continue awarding more students with more money.

The application can be found on our website.

Centerboard is a community-based organization that supports families and young people through housing, access to employment, education and financial empowerment. We work with local residents, businesses, and elected officials to increase economic opportunity in the community. In addition, Centerboard is invested in Lynn's creative economy by spearheading public art projects and running the non-profit gallery Visionspace. Through these efforts, we serve over 4,000 people each year.

## COVID 19 test result – what to do if you test positive

Most people have mild COVID-19 illness and can recover at home without medical care.

If you used a COVID home test kit and your result is POSITIVE

- You have COVID and do NOT need to confirm result with another test.

If you have NO symptoms

- Stay at home for 5 days.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days.

If you have mild cold like symptoms

- Stay at home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are improving after 5 days, you can leave your house.
- If you have a fever, continue to stay at home until your fever resolves.

- Continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days.
- If your symptoms are concerning, please call your primary

care provider for a telehealth visit.

If you have severe symptoms or shortness of breath

- Please seek immediate care at the closest emergency department.

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## RINCON MACORISANO RESTAURANT HOLDS GRAND OPENING

A large following of epicureans who enjoy good food and comfort came to the Grand Opening of Rincon Macorisano Restaurant. Rincon was established in 1993 in downtown Lynn and has a good following. Recently, restaurateur Basilio Encarnacion relocated his fine dining eatery to 45 Lewis Street in the heart of Ward 3 neighborhoods. The menu will specialize in wholesome quality Dominican and Spanish cuisine dishes.

"This was a great opportunity to relocate with the help from the North Shore Latino Business Association and city officials. I am very happy and excited as well as my staff. I want our customers to enjoy the experience and the wonderful feeling when dining at the restaurant", said Basilio Encarnacion.

This was the first official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for May-

or Jared Nicholson and Ward 3 Councilor Coco Alinsug. Mayor Nicholson said, "This means a lot for Rincon Macorisano; they have a huge presence in the community, and I feel they will thrive here." Mayor Nicholson continued to say, "This restaurant is an institution since being here in Lynn for over 27 years; this is a Lynn family who contributes so much to the city."

Councilor Coco Alinsug welcomed the Encarnacion family to Ward 3 as he said, "I am very honored for this moment being my first official presentation as Councilor of Ward 3. This is so important to have this restaurant here as our local restaurant. It is family orientated providing a charming laid-back atmosphere for people's dining pleasure and gives customers a sense of enjoyment."



Ward 3 Councilor Coco Alinsug presents the City Council Citation to Teresa and Basilio Encarnacion with Mayor Nicholson, Ward 2 Rick Starbard, NSLBA Frances Martinez, Ward 6 Fred Hogan, and Salem Councilor Domingo Dominguez.



: NSLBA member Director David Zeller with Rincon Macorisano owner Basilio Encarnacion at Grand Opening celebration.



Mayor Jared Nicholson presents the City Citation to Teresa and Basilio Encarnacion with NSLBA Frances Martinez.



The Encarnacion Family with NSLBA President Frances Martinez and Esther Summersett of Devine Design congratulates Teresa, Basilio, Betsy, Zoe, and Basilio Jr.

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## LYNN ENGLISH BULLDOGS IN BASKETBALL ACTION AGAINST EVERETT

The Lynn English basketball team emerged from the Greater Boston League's two-week Covid-related break Tuesday night in Everett but maybe wished they stayed home: the 13th-ranked Bulldogs were submerged under a relentless Crimson Tide and fell 64-38 in a battle of the GBL's premier basketball powers. Lynn English fell behind 20-5 from the opening tap and never got things going after that. The loss dropped the Bulldogs to second place in the GBL with a 3-1 record as Everett remained atop the league at 4-0.



**PLAYING THE PICK:** Lynn English's Tyrese Melo Garcia makes a break for the basket off a pick by teammate Gloire Kabongo.



**AIR FORCE:** Lynn English Captain Tyrese Melo Garcia takes to the air to keep a ball in play during the Bulldogs' 64-38 loss to Everett Tuesday night at Everett High School.



**GOOD HUSTLE:** Lynn English guard Cristian Clarke fights for control of a loose ball with an Everett player.



**OFFENSIVE EFFORT:** Lynn English Captain Tyrese Melo Garcia drives on Everett's Steven Cordero.



**BASELINE SAVE:** Lynn English junior Nelson Obarisiagbon gains possession at the baseline in front of Everett's Jaysaun Coggins (22) and David DeSouza.



**HAND TO HAND COMBAT:** Lynn English's Cristian Clarke fend off Everett's Jaysaun Coggins (22).



## USPS delivers 13.2 billion mailpieces and packages this holiday season

The United States Postal Service reported preliminary performance metrics for the 2021 holiday season showing the organization saw volume increase when compared to the same time last year. Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, it took on average 2.7 days to deliver a mailpiece or package across the Postal Service network. During the same timeframe, the network accepted more than 13.2 billion letters, cards, flats and packages for delivery, exceeding 12.7 billion accepted for delivery during the same timeframe in 2020.

The Postal Service began preparing for the 2021 peak holiday season at the start of last year. Those preparations, which not only corresponded to challenges faced last year but aligned to the Postal Service's 10-year Delivering for America plan, helped mitigate delays even as mail and package volume surged to its highest peak-season level: 2.8 billion mailpieces and packages the week after Thanksgiving (Saturday, Nov. 27 to Friday, Dec. 3).

"Under our 10-year plan, we made major operational improvements and strategic investments across the organization throughout 2021. It has made a significant dif-

ference and contributed to our success this holiday season, but our work isn't done. Every day is an opportunity to fulfill our commitment of service excellence to the American people—and on that, we intend to deliver," continued DeJoy.

The Postal Service's peak season preparations included:

- **Stabilizing the Workforce and Preparing for Pandemic-related Challenges:** The conversion of 63,000 pre-career employees into career positions and the onboarding of more than 185,000 employees since the beginning of last fiscal year, including the backfilling of the 63,000 pre-career employees and the national drive to hire an additional 40,000 seasonal employees.

- **Expanded Facility Footprint to Resolve Bottlenecks and Improve the Flow of Mail and Packages:** The leasing of 13 million square feet of additional space across more than 100 locations to accommodate mail and packages, including over 50 annexes with multiyear leases to address year-round space constraints due to parcel growth.

- **New Package Sorting Equipment to Expedite Handling and Sortation of Increased Package**

**Volumes:** The installation of 112 new package sorting machines and more than 50 package systems capable of sorting large packages. As a result of an organization-wide focus on improving operations and strategic investments, the Postal Service boosted daily processing capacity by 13 million packages. Package sortation capacity enables efficient movement of mail over the integrated USPS delivery network as mail and packages travel together. These machines also reduce the physical toll on our workforce.

- **Diversified, Reliable Transportation Options:** The leasing of nearly 3,300 trailers just for peak season and the diversification of volume traveling across the air network among additional air carriers. The Postal Service also expanded the surface transfer center network by adding 1.6 million additional square feet and over 300 dock doors to, among other things, increase long-haul transportation utilization and mitigate driver shortage issues.

The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

## Roach/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hockey program. She received her degree in Political Science from St. Michael's and holds a master's degree in Business and Human Resource Management from Harvard University.

Roach has enjoyed tremendous success at Peabody High School where her teams have been perennial state tournament participants. This year's team is ranked in the Top 10 in Massachusetts.

Michelle is the daughter of Bob and Diane Roach. Her brother, Stephen was the St. Mary's High School Class of 2012 valedictorian and is a graduate of Boston College.

Following is the official announcement from the MIAA:

----- **Congratulations** -----

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is pleased to announce the twenty-one coaches from MIAA member schools who were selected this year by a subcommittee of MIAA Coaches' Education Instructors.

The award seeks to recognize and honor "teacher coaches" who have had an impact on the lives of student-athletes, by encour-


aging them to succeed and by helping them develop self-confidence, ambition, a sound work ethic, and other skills or values necessary or helpful for success in their later lives. Award candidates should have a record of encouraging student-athletes to be well-rounded (i.e. displaying excellence in areas of scholarship, citizenship, fine arts, etc.), as well as a reputation, among their peers and the athletic community, for fair play, good sportsmanship, and the development of these attributes in their student-athletes.

The 2020-21 honorees are the eleventh class of MIAA Coach of the Year Award recipients. Congratulations to the 2020-2021 MIAA Coach of the Year Recipients!

**ICE HOCKEY (Girls)**

**MICHELLE ROACH**, Peabody Veterans Memorial High School: "Progress is a result of consistency, discipline and the relentless ability to adapt. The best way to teach adaptability is by emphasizing versatility both in playing style and in individual players who are trained to play multiple positions and fill dif-

ferent roles as team needs shift. Most importantly, I demand hard work without which progress would be stalled. We all have to be willing to work hard both off, and on the ice, every practice, every shift, every game."



# Celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2022

**January 30 - February 5**  
**#CSW22**

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

## Publishing January 26 & 27

**3x5 or 2x8 Color \$200.00 Per Paper**  
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The Revere Journal • The Winthrop Sun Transcript • Chelsea Record  
Everett Independent • East Boston Times Free Press • Lynn Journal  
Charlestown Patriot Bridge • North End Regional Review

**Deadline: Thursday, January 20th**

Email your rep. or call 781-485-0588  
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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### MALTEZ NAMED TOWN MANAGER OF READING

CHELSEA - Fidel Maltez, who has served commendably as Chelsea's commissioner of public works since 2019, has accepted a position as the new town manager of Reading.

Maltez, who was previously Chelsea's assistant DPW director, will begin in his new leadership role Feb. 14. He will leave his position in Chelsea Feb. 11.

Maltez, 38, signed his contract in Reading Monday, with his wife, Maria Belen Power, and their two daughters, Maya and Ana Victoria, proudly viewing the ceremony in the presence of the Reading Select Board.

Maltez said he was excited about his new position.

"It's a great opportunity for my family and my professional career," said Maltez. "It's a very prestigious position and Reading is a very, well-managed town. It's a town that's known for having great finances and great staff. It's definitely a good position to step into. It's a little different from Chelsea, but what I've learned in Chelsea will definitely help me succeed in that position - which is to be resident-oriented, to be out in the community, not to lead from a desk but lead from the residents, and really try to do right by the residents."

He made a huge impact in Chelsea

Maltez is universally respected in Chelsea for being a brilliant administrator who brought daily passion and energy to his position as the head of the Department of Public Works. Working in coordination with City Manager Thomas Ambrosino, Maltez led large infrastructure projects on Essex Street, Maverick Street, and upper Broadway.

The well-maintained streets and parks in Chelsea, from Voke Park to Quigley Park, are a credit to the diligence and hard work of Maltez and his department.

During his tenure in Chelsea, Maltez has also overseen the development of the city's annual capital improvement plan. Last year, Maltez became involved in the overall city overall budget process.

"I've been going above and beyond my normal duties in public works and really learning from Tom [Ambrosino] on what it takes to go to the next step," said Maltez. "Tom is the reason why I was able to get this new position. Tom is a great mentor. He's been

in the public service sector for 30 years, and he knows everything about municipal management, and there is not one question that I've asked Tom where he doesn't know the answer. He's seen it all. He's also a very supportive boss.

"I'm very thankful to everyone in Chelsea for all the support I've gotten over the years," he concluded.

A success story begins in Nicaragua

Fidel Maltez grew up in Managua, Nicaragua, where he met his future wife, Maria Belen Power, while they were students in the same high school.

Fidel attended Lafayette College (Penn.) where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. He also holds a master's degree in Public Policy from Tufts University and was recently accepted as a Senior Fellow at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Executive Education.

Following his graduation from Lafayette, Maltez joined Cintas Corporation and worked there for 13 years. "I absolutely loved the experience," said Maltez. "Maria and I were able to live in China for three years through Cintas."

Fidel Maltez and Maria Belen Power were married in 2011 and live in Chelsea with their two children. Maria is the associate executive director of GreenRoots and an appointee to President Joseph Biden's Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

Praise from city officials

Town Manager Tom Ambrosino and Councillor-at-Large Leo Robinson praised Maltez for his outstanding work in the city and wished him well in his new endeavor.

"Fidel is a fabulous employee, a great manager, and I'm going to miss him a great deal here," said Ambrosino. "But I also think this is a tremendous opportunity for him. I'm really excited for him, and I think he's going to make a great town manager in Reading."

"This is an excellent opportunity for Fidel," said Robinson. "We in the city of Chelsea hate to lose good people, but I wish him nothing but the best. Fidel did a great job in Chelsea. We will miss the energy that he brings to City Hall."

### EVERETT OFFICIALS INAUGURATED

EVERETT - Despite the COVID-19 Omicron surge, Everett's elected officials were able to take the oath of office in a live

venue during the City's Inauguration Ceremonies that were held on Monday night at the Performing Arts Center at Everett High School.

Assistant City Clerk Peter Napolitano administered the oath of office to Mayor Carlo DeMaria and the members of the City Council and School Committee.

The elected officials were preceded on the stage by the Firefighters and Police Honor Guard, while the Everett High School Band played the anthems of the United States Military Services before a much-smaller than usual audience.

Caroline DeMaria, daughter of Mayor DeMaria, led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Father Joseph Chacha Marwa of the Immaculate Conception Parish delivered the invocation.

With the oaths administered to the elected officials, Napolitano announced that because of the COVID surge, DeMaria will deliver his inaugural address at a later date. The speech will be able to be viewed on social media, ECTV, and the City of Everett's website. (The full text of the speech appears on page 5 of this week's Independent.)

Bishop Robert Brown of Zion Church Ministries delivered the closing Benediction.

The reception that usually follows this event also was canceled in compliance with COVID protocols.

However, despite the shortened ceremonies, the program adhered to one of the official duties of the mayor to dismiss both the School Committee and the City Council to organize and elect the President of the Council and the Chairman of the School Committee for the coming year.

HANLON ELECTED PRESIDENT

City Councillor at Large John Hanlon was elected president by his colleagues to lead the new council in 2022. Hanlon is viewed by his colleagues and residents as one of the most-experienced members of elected government, having served for more than four decades in various capacities, including 22 years as a member of the old Board of Aldermen and present City Council, 18 years as the City Clerk, and two years as mayor. Hanlon also served on the Charter Commission.

CRISTIANO LEADS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Newly-elected Ward 3 School Committee member Jeanne

### PERCHING IN THE PINES



**AULD LANG SYNE** : A female snowy owl spent New Year's Eve day perched the roof at 229 Rice Avenue, an eye on the Point of Pines neighborhood.

Cristiano was voted by her colleagues as chairperson of the Everett School Committee. Cristiano is no stranger to Everett political office, having served on the Common Council for Ward 2 more than 30 years ago.

Calling her "a true friend," DeMaria credited Cristiano for giving him his start in politics when she stepped down from her council seat.

In accepting the position, Cristiano, the city's Veterans Services Director, thanked "the voters for electing me and my colleagues for the additional honor of being chair." She stressed that transparency and working together will be the hallmarks of her chairmanship.

In her remarks, Cristiano noted five areas in the schools that she believes should be the focus of attention:

- Security issues at the local schools

- Academic performance for the students

- Looking at the growth of administration staff

- Budgeting to make sure every taxpayer dollar is spent wisely

- Cleanliness of the schools ("It sends a bad message when the schools are dirty," she said.)

In closing, Cristiano added, "We will keep kids the top priority and failure is not an option."

Members also chose new-

ly-elected Ward 6 School Committee member Michael McLaughlin as vice chairman.

"We need to make Everett children shine," McLaughlin said in accepting the position adding, "We will be working together as one team."

### PATRON NAMED WU'S PRESS SECRETARY

EAST BOSTON - East Boston resident and City Councillor Lydia Edward's Chief of Staff Ricardo Patron has been appointed by Mayor Michelle Wu to serve as press secretary. Patron will take over duties as Wu's press secretary on Monday.

Patron first joined Councillor Edwards' staff shortly after her inauguration in 2018 as her Eastie community liaison and took over as Director of Communications in 2020.

Patron then replaced Gabriela Coletta as chief of staff after Coletta left Edward's office to work for the New England Aquarium last summer.

"Working for Lydia Edwards the last four years has been a life changing experience," said Patron Tuesday. "I can't thank her and the rest of the team enough for everything they've taught me. I've loved being a part of this team that worked so hard to repre-



## Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

sent the residents of East Boston, Charlestown, and the North End and helped bring so much change to Boston. I'm incredibly excited and humbled by this opportunity to join Mayor Michelle Wu's administration and can't wait to get started."

Edwards had nothing but praise for her chief of staff and wished him well in his new endeavor.

"Congratulations to my dear friend Ricardo Patron," said Edwards. "I am filled with joy and amazement at his growth, intelligence and immense potential. He started as a part time liaison then became Chief of Staff and now he is the voice for the Mayor of Boston. Along with being bilingual, he is loyal, an advocate, professional and kind. Naturally he is suited to be the voice of our Mayor. He knows so much about being new to our country and city and exemplifies the dreams and experience of so many immigrants. Ricardo really makes us all proud. Speak now, for the Mayor, to all of us. We are listening and so excited that you made history. It's rare that you bond so much with staff that they become friends. It's even more rare that they are like family. Ricardo, on behalf of District 1, job well done."

In addition to his job on Edwards' staff, Patrón serves on the board of directors of the East Boston YMCA, Maverick Landing Community Services, the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH), and the North Suffolk Mental Health Association. He lives in East Boston with his wife Kathleen and their dog Mau.

### PARKING PERMITS NOW AVAILABLE

WINTHROP - Applications for 2022 Resident Parking Permits are now being accepted. Motorists are reminded that a valid resident parking permit or visitor placard is required to park on all town streets and lots between 1:00 AM and 5:00 AM every day.

Due to fulfillment delays caused by a supply chain issue at the printer, 2021 permits will remain valid through January 18, 2022 to allow 30 days of fulfillment prior to enforcement. Mail-

ing of 2022 resident permits and visitor placards began on December 15, 2021 and continues at this time. Please remember, if you pay for your order by e-check, the order will not be mailed until that check clears.

There is a \$5.00 fee for a parking permit and a fee of \$10.00 for a visitor's placard whether you apply online or by mail. These fees are waived for senior citizens, or residents with a valid handicapped parking placard or plate issued by the RMV. Permit applications are fulfilled by mail.

In-Person applications are no longer accepted except under special circumstances by appointment. All applications are only accepted online or by mail.

To apply for your parking permit or visitor placard online, to download an application to apply by mail, or to determine permit eligibility, please click here.

Motorists must remove expired stickers prior to affixing the new 2022 sticker.

### VISCONTI TO LEAD CITY COUNCIL

REVERE - Members of the 2022-23 Revere City Council and Revere School Committee received their oaths of offices at the city's Inauguration Ceremonies Monday night at City Hall.

City Clerk Ashley Melnik administered the oaths to Councilors-at-Large Gerry Visconti, George Rotondo, and Marc Silvestri, and Ward Councilors Joanne McKenna, Anthony Cogliandro, Patrick Keefe, Al Fiore, and Richard Serino. Councilors-at-Large Steven Morabito and Dan Rizzo and Ward 2 Councilor Ira Novoskesky were unable to attend the ceremony.

Also receiving their oaths in the City Council Chambers were School Committee members Carol Tye, Donna Bronsdon-Rizzo, Susan Gravellese, Aisha Milbury Ellis, and John Kingston. School Committee member Michael Ferrante was unable to attend the ceremony. Mayor Brian Arrigo is the ex-officio chair of the School Committee.

Melnik began the ceremony, which had limited attendance due to COVID-19, by introduc-

ing the honored guests in attendance, Mayor Brian Arrigo, Supt. of Schools Dr. Dianne Kelly, State Rep. Jeffrey Turco, and Revere Election Commissioner Paul Fahey.

Melnik, who did a superb job presiding over the brief but elegant ceremony, offered her personal congratulations to the new Council and School Committee at the end of the program that was broadcast live on Revere TV.

Visconti, Serino elected Council leaders for 2022

The Council unanimously elected Gerry Visconti as Council president and Richard Serino as Council vice president during an organizational meeting following the inauguration ceremony.

Both councillors, who are beginning their second terms in office, delivered, brief acceptance speeches.

"I would like to first thank my colleagues on the Council for electing me to this position," said Visconti. "I'm humbled and I'm honored to lead this Council in 2022, and I look forward to working with all of you, along with Mayor Arrigo and his administration to continue to move this city forward. Thank you very much."

"I just want to thank my colleagues for this incredible opportunity to serve as vice president this year," said Serino. "I'm looking forward to serving with Council President Visconti and working with Mayor Arrigo and all of you guys to continue to advance the city forward. So, thank you, and let's get to work, guys."

Bronsdon-Rizzo elected SC vice chair;

Gravellese elected SC secretary

Mayor Arrigo, in his capacity as chair of the School Committee, led an organizational meeting following the inauguration ceremony.

In unanimous votes, Stacey Bronsdon-Rizzo was elected vice-chair while Susan Gravellese was elected secretary.

The Committee voted to continue the policy of holding regular meetings on the third Tuesday of each month.

## LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

### LOCAL STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AT BC HIGH

The following students have been inducted into the Robert J. Fulton, SJ Chapter of the National Honor Society at Boston College High School:

- Lynn
- Alpha Barry (Class of 2023)

The National Honor Society (NHS) was created by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to recognize high school students who have distinguished themselves in their school and community.

Each year eligible juniors and seniors are invited to apply for membership in NHS. Applications are reviewed by a committee of BC High teachers to confirm that each student has attained a high standard of each of these characteristics: scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

At BC High, NHS members are committed to service in the school and in the broader community. All students applying for membership must be current with the completion of required community services hours for their grade level at BC High. After induction into NHS, all members are expected to offer significant service to the school community as tutors in the Academic Resource Center, as ambassadors at Open House and Admissions events, and in other capacities.

### STUDENTS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY

376 students have been named to the Plymouth State University Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must achieve a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.69 during the Fall 2021 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester. Local residents who achieved the honor are:

- Angel Galiotzakos of Lynn
- Hailey Spelta of Lynn

Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices

where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

### RUSSELL NAMED TO LASELL UNIVERSITY DEAN'S LIST

Kelly Russell of Lynn, a Lasell University student, was named to the dean's list for their academic performance in the fall 2021 semester.

Students who receive this honor have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

### O'HAIRE NAMED TO FALL 2021 DEAN'S LIST

Ashleigh O'Haire, of Lynn a member of the Class of 2025, has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List at Stonehill College.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 384-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

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## News in Brief

### CHA RENAMES OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY CENTERS

Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) Women's Health Centers have a new name. All three centers in Cambridge, Somerville and Revere are now called CHA Obstetrics and Gynecology Centers.

CHA Obstetrics and Gynecology Centers focus on providing safe and equitable gynecological, reproductive health as well as prenatal and postnatal care. "We care about all of our patients, every day," said Kate Harney, MD, CHA's chief of obstetrics and gynecology.

In 2021, CHA's Labor, Delivery and Postpartum services were named among the top 100 in the country by Newsweek magazine. This recognition, along with a Leapfrog A grade and distinguished awards from the Lown Institute for Value of Care, Health Equity, Cost Efficiency, Inclusivity and more, demonstrate the high quality Obstetrics & Gynecology care patients receive at CHA.

"One of the important reasons we were added to the list of best maternity services in the country is our commitment to equity," said Dr. Harney. "The department prioritizes removing barriers to care and by changing our name, we're making our centers more inclusive, especially for transgender and gender diverse patients."

### MVES OFFERS VIRTUAL HEALTHY AGING WORKSHOP

Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) will present a FREE Virtual Healthy Aging workshop series called My Life; My Health: Healthy Eating for Successful Living, offered on Mondays, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm from January 24 to March 7, (no class February 21). Throughout the series, you'll learn more about how nutrition, physical activity and lifestyle changes can promote better health. This virtual workshop series focuses on heart- and bone-healthy nutrition strategies to help maintain or improve wellness and prevent chronic disease development or progression in older adults. Healthy Eating uses the USDA's MyPlate as a framework.

Mystic Valley Elder Services works with our neighbors in Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, North Reading, Reading, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield, and Winthrop.

Learn how to connect virtually thru a Zoom platform and take the classes from the comfort of your home. Class size is limited so reserve your spot today. To register, or if you have any questions about the program, contact Donna Covelle at [dcovelle@mv.es.org](mailto:dcovelle@mv.es.org) or call 781-388-4867.

About Mystic Valley Elder Services

Celebrating 45 Years of helping older adults keep their independence, Mystic Valley Elder Services is a non-profit agency located in Malden, Mass., that provides essential home- and

community-based care and resources to older adults, adults living with disabilities, and caregivers who reside in Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, North Reading, Reading, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield and Winthrop, regardless of their income level. Agency services include coordination of home care, transportation, Meals on Wheels, and information and referrals. For more information, please call (781) 324-7705 or visit [www.mves.org](http://www.mves.org).

### WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY: CHECK CO ALARMS AND KEEP VENTS CLEAR OF SNOW

With the season's first significant snow, State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey reminded residents to test their carbon monoxide (CO) alarms and keep dryer, furnace, and other exhaust vents clear of snow.

"Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of fatal poisoning, and home heating equipment is the primary source of carbon monoxide in the home," State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. "As part of your storm planning, check your CO alarms to be sure they're working properly, and if an alarm is more than five to seven years old, replace it."

Residents should also be sure to keep outside vents clear of falling, drifting, or shoveled snow. In January 2005, 7-year-old Nicole Garofalo died when a heating vent was blocked by

snow drifts outside, allowing carbon monoxide to accumulate inside her Plymouth home. This tragedy led to Nicole's Law, which requires CO alarms on every habitable level of a Massachusetts residence.

"Fuel-fired heating appliances like dryers, furnaces, boilers, and fireplaces are all sources of carbon monoxide," State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. "If the vent or flue is blocked, this poisonous gas can reach deadly levels inside the home. Know where the vents on your home are, be sure to clear them when shoveling, and be careful not to blow snow onto them if using a snowblower."

Massachusetts fire departments reported nearly 18,000 CO incidents in 2020, officials said, and 92% were in residential settings. The poison gas can cause headache, fatigue, dizziness, and/or nausea at lower concentrations and death at higher concentrations. Exposure while asleep is particularly dangerous.

"We can't see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide, but we can detect it with working CO alarms," State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. "If your alarm sounds, get outside and call 9-1-1."

For more information on carbon monoxide and CO alarms, visit the DFS website.

### SHOVELING TODAY? REMEMBER THE MAILBOX

It takes more than a few flakes to deter letter carriers from making their appointed rounds

throughout New England. "But, if they cannot reach your mailbox, they cannot deliver your mail," said David Guiney, Postmaster of Boston.

"The Postal Service treats safety and service with equal priority," Guiney said, "That's why we remind you to include that mailbox in your snow removal routine."

Letter carriers are on the front line of severe weather conditions. Doorstep deliveries, painted porches and steps quickly grow hazardous. "While salting and rubber-backed mats help, we rely on you to clear the snow," Guiney said. "If there's a warm spell, and the melting snow puddles, a quick freeze can make a sidewalk slick again."

Residents who receive delivery to roadside mailboxes also must keep the approach to, and exit from, the mailbox clear of snow or any other obstacles, like trash cans and other vehicles. "The carrier needs to get in, and then out, without leaving the vehicle or backing up," said Guiney. "The area near the mailbox should be cleared in a half-moon shape to give the carrier full visibility."

"Please watch for slow-moving postal vehicles, carriers on foot, and children that play near mailboxes or snow banks," he said. "And don't zip by neighbors who are clearing mailboxes or collecting their mail. Let's all stay safe."

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

## Urgent need for kitchen volunteers at community servings

Kitchen volunteers are urgently needed at Community Servings to help the nonprofit's professional kitchen staff prepare and package 18,000 medically tailored meals that are delivered weekly to critically and chronically ill individuals across the region.

While Community Servings operates one of Boston's largest volunteer programs, the current COVID-19 surge has pushed January volunteer numbers to low levels. Demand for the nonprofit's nutritious, life-saving meals has increased by over 80% since the pandemic began.

"Volunteers have been at the

heart of our mission since we began, essential to ensuring that we can feed our neighbors in need and help maintain their health," said David B. Waters, CEO of Community Servings. "Given the effects of this pandemic surge, we are making a plea for anyone with a few hours to lend a helping hand in our kitchen."

Volunteers help peel and chop vegetables; portion soups, stews and salads; and pack weekly meal bags for clients living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes and heart disease, among other illnesses.

For health and safety reasons, all volunteers are required to be

fully vaccinated, have their temperature taken, and wear a surgical or KN95 face mask (provided) at Community Servings' Food Campus in Jamaica Plain, which is on the T's Orange Line. The kitchen is equipped with hospital-grade air ventilation and filtration systems.

Anyone interested in volunteering can visit [www.servings.org/volunteer](http://www.servings.org/volunteer) to sign up for three-hour shifts Monday through Friday (9 a.m. to noon, 1 to 4 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.).

Founded in 1990, Community Servings' mission is to actively engage the community to provide medically tailored,

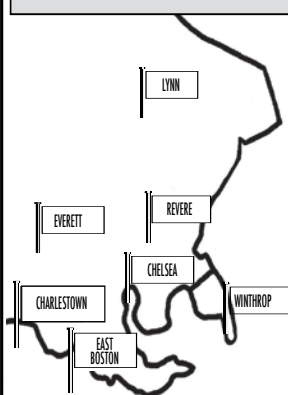
nutritious, scratch-made meals to chronically and critically ill individuals and their families. To help clients maintain their health and dignity, we provide culturally appropriate meals, nutrition education and counseling, and other community programs. Our kitchen team, with support from thousands of volunteers, prepares over 800,000 medically tailored meals that are served to more than 3,200 clients annually. For more information about programs and opportunities to volunteer or donate, please visit [www.servings.org](http://www.servings.org).



Volunteers preparing meals that will be delivered to critically and chronically ill individuals across the region.



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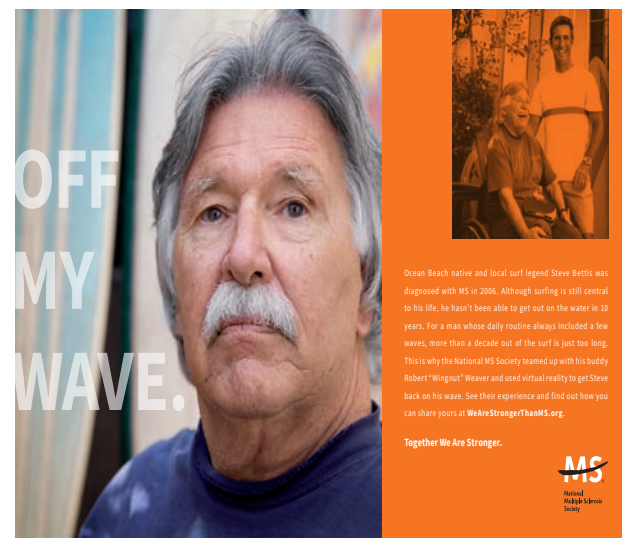
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Ocean Beach native and local surf legend Steve Bettis was diagnosed with MS in 2006. Although surfing is still central to his life, he hasn't been able to get out on the water in 10 years. For a man whose daily routine always included a few waves,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

Together We Are Stronger.



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# MFA celebrating 20 years, dreaming a future together

On Monday, January 17, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), and Citizens Bank will invite the community to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at a free open house. This year's event marks the 20th anniversary of the MFA's partnership with Citizens on this annual celebration, which has welcomed more than 120,000 attendees over two decades. The event offers free admission—including access to special exhibitions—to Massachusetts residents, and tickets will be available in person on a first-come, first-served basis. Upon entry, visitors will be asked to validate their Massachusetts zip code to enjoy free admission.

The open house runs from 10 am to 5 pm, welcoming visitors to experience over a dozen exhibitions on view, including Paper Stories, Layered Dreams: The Art of Ekua Holmes. Also sponsored by Citizens, the exhibition features more than 40 vibrant illustrations by the Roxbury native that reflect her commitment to Black imagery and representation. Visitors will also have their final chance to experience Black Histories, Black Futures, the teen-curated exhibition focusing on works by 20th-century artists of color, which ends its success-

ful run on MLK Day—the same day its opening was celebrated in 2020. Programming offerings connected to both exhibitions will be announced in January.

"Thank you to the MFA for their continued partnership in this effort to honor and celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," said Lisa Murray, Massachusetts State President, Citizens. "This annual event is an opportunity for families and friends to come together and enjoy the incredible artwork on display, and we encourage everyone to take advantage of it this January."

Effective Monday, January 3, 2022, the Museum will be open for visitors Thursday through Monday and remain closed to the public on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

About Citizens Financial Group, Inc.

Citizens Financial Group, Inc. is one of the nation's oldest and largest financial institutions, with \$187.0 billion in assets as of September 30, 2021. Headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island, Citizens offers a broad range of retail and commercial banking products and services to individuals, small businesses, middle-market companies, large corporations and institutions.



Visitors to the Museum of Fine Arts take a selfie in front of one of the exhibits.

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About the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Founded on February 4, 1870, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), stands on the historic homelands of the Massachusetts people, a site which has long served as a place of meeting and exchange among different nations. The Museum opened its doors to the public on July 4, 1876—the nation's centennial—at its original location in Copley Square. Over the next several decades, the MFA's collection and visitation grew exponentially, and in 1909, the Museum moved to its current home on Huntington Avenue. Today, the MFA houses a global collection encompassing nearly 500,000 works of art, from ancient to contemporary.

The Museum is located at 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115. For more information, call 617.267.9300, visit [mfa.org](http://mfa.org) or follow the MFA on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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