

# THE LYNN JOURNAL

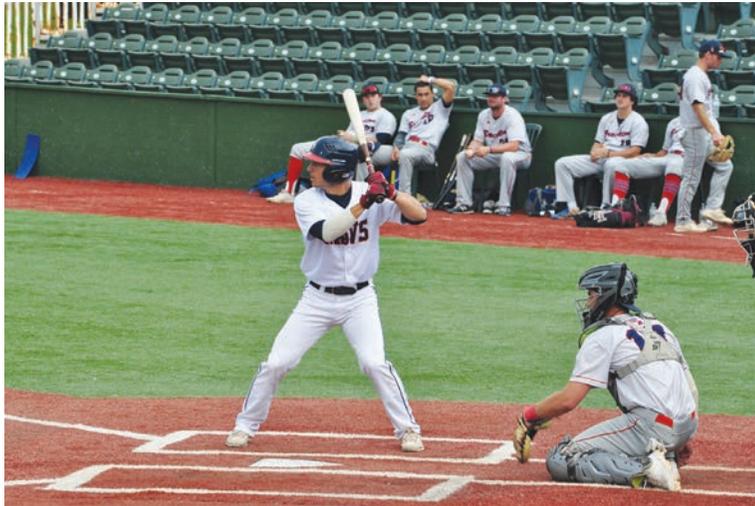
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## 'Sensational Sal' Frelick is Back

MLB prospect returns to Navs' lineup

By Cary Shuman



North Shore Navigators leadoff batter Sal Frelick of Boston College is pictured at-bat in Tuesday's 1-0 victory over the Westfield Starfires at Fraser Field. Frelick is batting .405 for the Navigators.

Sal's back. And that's very good news for the North Shore Navigators as they begin their playoff drive in the Futures Collegiate Baseball League.

Sal Frelick, the Navigators' superb leadoff batter from Lexington, returned to the lineup Tuesday and scored the only run in the team's 1-0 victory over the Westfield Starfires at Fraser Field.

Frelick, who plays for Boston College and is a potential first round pick in next year's Major League Baseball Draft, had been sidelined after sustaining a hamstring injury in a July 12 game. The Navigators (9-10) struggled during Frelick's absence and slipped out of a playoff spot.

But with Frelick back at full speed, the Navigators won a hard-fought, well-pitched game

versus the playoff-contending Starfires.

It didn't take long for Frelick to announce his presence. The 5-foot-9, 175 pound left-handed batter led off the bottom of the first with a single to right field. He advanced to second on Ben Malgeri's basehit. Frelick stole third and scored on Cam Climo's

sacrifice fly to center.

The Navs' Cam Climo pitched six scoreless innings, allowing two hits while striking out seven batters. Peter Saskellaris (Virginia Tech), Jack Wallace (Franklin Pierce), and Max Meier (Stanford) each pitched one inning in

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## Jeff Newhall meets with Gov. Baker's Council on Youth Sports to offer recommendations

By Cary Shuman

As the chair of the MIAA State Basketball Committee, St. Mary's Director of Athletics Jeff Newhall helps govern 750 boys and girls teams across Massachusetts.

This week Newhall met virtually with members of Gov. Charlie Baker's Council on Youth Sports and discuss the 2020-21 basketball season that usually begins officially with the first practices on the Monday after Thanksgiving. Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and State Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Scudders were present at the Zoom meeting.

"Gov. Baker's team is meeting with representatives of each high school sport," said Ne-

whall. "I was part of a presentation on basketball with Peter Smith and Keith Brouillard, Leominster High Principal and MIAA Basketball Committee member Steve Dubzinski, and Youth Sports Representative David Gleason."

To Gov. Baker's credit, the state's chief executive is already looking toward the high school winter sports season and meeting with experts in the field of health, epidemiology, and sports to obtain their recommendations for the 2020-21 academic year.

Newhall and his committee submitted a seven-page document to Gov. Baker, with recommendations on how to safely return to playing high school

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## HOCKEY PLAYERS HONORED



The St. Mary's Hockey players were honored outdoors at Spinelli's in Peabody. Pictured are the seniors, Luke Sargent (Forward), Alex Nazarian (Defense), Michelle Kolodziej (Hockey Mom), Captain Owen Maguire (Forward), and Captain Chris Kolodziej (Defense). See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.



St. Mary's High School Director of Athletics Jeff Newhall is pictured with his wife, Christine Kostan Newhall at the school's girls basketball awards banquet. The Spartans, coached by Newhall, claimed the 2020 state championship.

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# EDITORIAL

## MORE THAN \$1 TRILLION IS NEEDED

We're all familiar with the phrase, "A day late and a dollar short."

What brought that to mind this week was the announcement by the Republicans in Washington of their \$1 trillion economic pandemic plan that would supplement the \$3 trillion bill that Congress passed last spring.

The original bill did a number of things, most notably increasing unemployment benefits by \$600 per week for the millions of Americans who have lost their jobs because of the pandemic.

That original plan also was notable for what it did NOT include, namely, funding for state and local governments whose tax revenues have all but evaporated thanks to the pandemic.

The new GOP plan reduces the unemployment benefit from \$600 per week to \$200 per week and provides little funding for cash-strapped state and local governments that already have been laying off their employees, with more to come.

By contrast, the Democratic plan -- which was passed by the House of Representatives fully two month ago -- calls for another \$3 trillion that would continue the \$600 weekly payments for the unemployed and provide much-needed funding to state and local governments.

There are two things that are undeniably clear as the pandemic rages in the months ahead: First, the national unemployment rate will remain in the range of Great Depression levels for the foreseeable future and second, state and local governments will be required to implement massive cutbacks in the months ahead without substantial financial assistance from the federal government.

The Republican plan significantly fails to address both of these looming crises. By contrast, the Democratic plan, which the Republicans have failed to discuss for two months, will alleviate the worst of the pandemic's effects on the everyday lives of every American.

Or to put it another way, the Republicans are, "A month late and at least a trillion short," and their inaction of the past two months is threatening both the economic and social stability of the country.

## SCHOOLS MUST BE SAFE TO REOPEN

We will be the first to concede that we do not know what exactly must be done in order to reopen our state's public schools safely in the face of the pandemic.

However, what we do know is that a large study in South Korea (which, by the way, has been a world model for suppressing the pandemic) has shown that children ages 10-19 are highly-efficient at transmitting the coronavirus to others, particularly the adults with whom they have contact.

As much as we would like to see our schools reopen for many reasons, it just does not seem possible to do so in a manner that safeguards not only the children, but also school personnel and the family members of the children.

Kids bring home plenty of germs and bugs from school even in the best of circumstances. It is inconceivable that we will be able to stop them from transmitting this highly-contagious virus if they return to school as usual in the fall. Maybe the experts have it all figured out -- we can only pray that they do.



CELEBRATE THE 230TH BIRTHDAY ON AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>

## U.S. Attorney, FBI join with AARP for Tele-Town Hall on COVID senior scams

The U.S. Attorney's Office and the Boston Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have partnered with AARP to educate senior citizens in Massachusetts about COVID-19 scams and other fraud targeting the aging population.

Through AARP's Fraud Watch Network, approximately 5,600 Massachusetts seniors participated in the hour-long tele-town hall event yesterday with U.S. Attorney Andrew E. Lelling, federal prosecutors from the U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI. During the tele-town hall, federal officials discussed the types of schemes currently being reported, provided tips and tools on how to avoid becoming a victim and answered callers' questions.

"As communities undertake efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19, scammers are using the pandemic as an opportunity to prey on public fear and take advantage of vulnerable members of our communities," said United States Attorney Andrew

E. Lelling. "Over recent months, we've seen a surge of scams including counterfeit medical supplies, bogus treatments and fake vaccines, and scams attempting to gain access to personal financial information. We are committed to finding and prosecuting those who perpetrate these scams as well as educating individuals about how to protect themselves from becoming victims of crime."

"Scammers targeting seniors are a growing concern here in Massachusetts. Last year alone, more than \$11.2 million in losses were reported to us by elderly victims, and we know for a fact these crimes are grossly underreported because of shame and embarrassment," said Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Boston Division. "Fraudsters are using the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic to their advantage and that's why we need to work together to put them out of business for good. Educating ourselves, as well as our aging

family members and friends through tele-town halls like this one, is crucial to avoid becoming a victim."

Throughout the current health crisis, federal investigators and prosecutors have continued to fulfill the Justice Department's critical mission of protecting public safety. Federal authorities have prioritized the disruption, investigation and prosecution of crimes related to COVID-19, including fraud schemes, unapproved treatments and scams related to stimulus money and unemployment.

Massachusetts residents who believe they are victims of fraud or other criminal activity related to the pandemic should contact the U.S. Attorney's Office at US-AMA.VictimAssistance@usdoj.gov or call 1-888-221-6023. Members of the public can also contact the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) by visiting [Hwww.IC3.gov](http://Hwww.IC3.gov). If you or someone you know are in immediate danger, please call 911.

**Newhall/** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

basketball this winter in respect to the coronavirus.

“From the game itself, to pre-game, to halftime, to post-game, to timeouts, to referees – we touched upon every aspect for a gradual return to basketball in our report,” said Newhall. “I give credit to Gov. Baker. He and his administration are definitely doing their homework.”

Like administrators, coaches, and student-athletes across the state, Newhall is awaiting a final decision on whether Massachusetts high schools will be allowed to start their fall seasons on Sept. 14 as previously announced.

“Being part of the process that I was this week, I think the state deserves a lot of credit for being as cautious as they have

and the results speak for themselves,” said Newhall. “As much as Sec. Scudders would love to see schools sports happen again, her job is to make sure the public health and safety of all residents in the state is paramount.

“With that being said and following the lead of what New Jersey has been doing [in regard to high school sports], I do not have a good read on whether there will be all, some, or nothing,” said Newhall. “But I am optimistic that we will see high school sports being played at some time in the fall. However, I don’t think we’ll see any games until late September or early October, at best, even with the timeline we have now.”

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**PRESIDENT:** Stephen Quigley

**EDITOR IN CHIEF:** Cary Shuman [cary@lynnjournal.com](mailto:cary@lynnjournal.com)

PHONE 781-485-0588 // FAX 781-485-1403

EMAIL: [EDITOR@LYNNJOURNAL.COM](mailto:EDITOR@LYNNJOURNAL.COM)

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## CONGRATULATIONS



It was a proud day for St. Mary’s High School Football Coach and Winthrop Parks and Recreation Director Sean Driscoll, his wife Cindy Driscoll, and the Driscoll family as Class of 2020 Secretary Olivia Driscoll graduated from Winthrop High on July 24. Pictured, from left, are Sean Driscoll, Cindy Driscoll, graduate Olivia Driscoll, Cailyn Driscoll, Rita Driscoll, and Dylan Driscoll. Olivia will be attending Clemson University.

Mrs. Rita Driscoll congratulates her granddaughter, Olivia Driscoll, on her graduation from Winthrop High School, Class of 2020.

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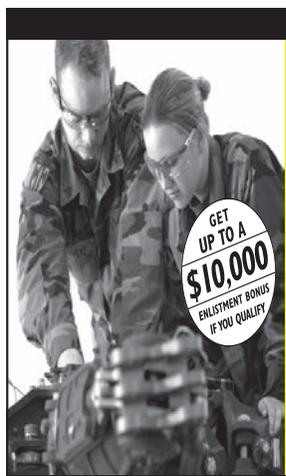
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# Pressley unveils bipartisan bill to help senior fraud victims recover financial losses

Vice Chair of the House Democratic Task Force on Aging and Families Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) and House Elder Justice Caucus Co-Chairs Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Peter King (R-NY), along with Reps. John Katko (R-NY), and Elise Stefanik (R-NY), announced bipartisan legislation to help seniors who have been victimized by financial scammers.

The bipartisan Edith Shorougian Senior Victims of Fraud

Compensation Act (Edith's Bill) will allow elderly victims of financial scams to recoup their financial losses through the Crime Victims Fund. The bill is named in honor of Edith Shorougian, who lost over \$80,000 in retirement savings after being scammed by a financial planner.

"Our seniors are among our most vulnerable, and we have a moral obligation to ensure their financial security," said Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. "As reports of scams target-

ing seniors skyrocket amid the COVID-19 crisis, it's absolutely critical we do all we can to safeguard our older neighbors from fraud and support those who have fallen victim to these schemes. That's why I'm so proud to introduce Edith's Bill, which will protect senior victims of fraud by guaranteeing states have the funding needed to reimburse them for money stolen by scammers. It's unconscionable that anyone would prey on our seniors, particularly in the midst

of this pandemic, but in light of this tragic reality, we must take bold action to keep them financially secure, and that's exactly what this bill will do."

The bill is supported by: AARP, Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's Impact Movement, Elder Justice Coalition, National Coalition against Domestic Violence (NCADV), National Network to End Domestic Violence, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV), National Children's Alliance, National

Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA), Justice in Aging, The National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL), Public Investors Advocate Bar Association (PIABA), Association of Jewish Aging Services (AJAS), North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) and Public Citizen.

As Vice-Chair of the House Democratic Task Force on Aging and Families, Congresswoman Pressley has fought to protect our vulnerable aging population.

## DOR's June revenue collections interim report

Staff Report

Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) Commissioner Geoffrey Snyder today announced in an interim report that June revenue collections total \$2.493 billion as of July 24, 2020, which is \$761 million or 23.4 percent less than benchmark, and \$691 million or 21.7 percent less than the actual collections in June 2019. Fiscal Year 2020 (FY2020) revenue is still being collected and will be revised.

These figures are preliminary and FY2020 revenue is still being collected due to section 12 of chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, which extended the April 15 personal income tax filing and payment deadline to July 15. In addition, DOR invoked its administrative authority to move the April and June quarterly estimated income tax payment deadlines to July 15. Section 3 of chapter 78 of the Acts of 2020, requires the Comptroller to record as FY2020 revenue income tax payments originally due in FY2020 but received between July 1 and Aug. 31, 2020. Such payments include those made with final income tax returns, extension payments and estimated payments originally due in FY2020.

[1] The original consensus tax revenue estimate benchmark for fiscal year 2020 is \$30.099 billion, excluding tax-related

settlements exceeding \$10 million each. On January 13, 2020, the Secretary of Administration and Finance certified a revised fiscal 2020 tax revenue estimate of \$30.289 billion, including an estimated \$132.5 million from marijuana sales and excise taxes. The revision is reflected beginning with the January report.

Because DOR will be receiving revenue in July and August that will be treated as FY2020 revenue, DOR will be unable to complete the full processing of FY2020 tax revenues until after Aug. 31. Therefore, DOR anticipates submitting the final FY2020 revenue report after that date.

DOR is not required by statute to publish revenue collections for June on the third business day following the end of the month, as is required for all other months. DOR historically releases preliminary revenue collection figures for June at the end of July.

For the fiscal year-to-date through today's interim report, partial revenue collections totaled \$27.276 billion, \$2.417 billion or 8.1 percent less than the same fiscal year-to-date period in 2019, and \$3.014 billion or 9.9 percent less than the year-to-date benchmark. This figure is expected to be updated.

"Approximately 81 percent of the year-to-date shortfall is in non-withheld income tax, which is due in large part to the deferral of the deadlines for personal

income tax returns and payments and the first two estimated payment installments to July 15, 2020," said Commissioner Snyder. "DOR will be releasing a full FY2020 revenue report in September because recently enacted legislation requires the Comptroller to record income tax payments received between July 1 and August 31 as FY20 revenue. We will continue to closely monitor these delayed FY20 revenue collections."

Historically, June is a significant month for revenues, because both individual and business taxpayers make estimated payments during the month. In most years, the month of June has ranked #2 (behind only April) in the proportion of annual revenue received during the month.

As was the case with the prior two months (April and May), tax collections in June 2020 have so far differed from historical June collections due to measures enacted to mitigate the impact and breadth of COVID-19, including, without limitation, the extension of the income tax filing and payment deadline to July 15, 2020, the extension of the first and second estimated payment installments for 2020 to July 15, 2020, penalty waivers, safer-at-home advisories and gradual reopening of Massachusetts, as well as the impact COVID-19 has had on consumer and corporate behavior, the economy and the stock market.

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## Sal/ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

relief, with Meier earning the save for a perfect ninth inning.

Frelick talked about his return to the Navigators, who are without in two games of the second and final playoff spot in the FCBL standings.

"I am obviously super excited to be back after missing a couple of games," said Frelick. "It felt great getting back in the lineup and I was happy we could get the win. Hopefully we can keep this momentum going into the next couple of weeks down the final stretch."

Scouts from Major League Baseball teams have been attending Navs' games and evaluating the skills of Frelick and many of his teammates as they relate to the 2021 MLB Draft.

"Seeing all the scouts at the

games is definitely exciting, but my main focus this summer is to have fun and develop as a baseball player," said Frelick. "Whether we are playing in an empty stadium or in front of fans and scouts, I'm just grateful for the opportunity to play baseball this summer."

Navigators fans, who are not allowed to attend home games due to state regulations for the coronavirus pandemic, will have an opportunity to see Manager Bob Macaluso's exciting team on live television in August. Joshua Kummins, director of media relations for the Navigators, said the North Shore Navigators-Nashua Silver Knights game in Nashua on Saturday, Aug. 15 at 1 p.m., will be televised live on NESN.

## U.S. House approves Great American Outdoors Act

Staff Report

On Wednesday, July 22, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 310-107 to approve the Great American Outdoors Act, which would fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and make critical investments in our national park system and other public lands. The bill, which passed the U.S. Senate last month, now goes to the president for his promised signature.

"During this tumultuous time, many of us have turned to outdoor spaces and local parks for our physical and mental wellbeing. I am grateful that the U.S. House of Representatives expressed their thanks by supporting this historic investment in the future of our outdoor spaces," said Deb Markowitz, state director for The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts.

Fully and permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) will bring critical funding for conservation and recreation across the Commonwealth. Important lands and waters, like Barrett's Farm at Minute Man National Historical Park, climate resilient wildlife habitat at the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, the forests around the Quabbin Reservoir that filter water for 2.5 million people, and countless local parks and playgrounds, have already been funded through LWCF.

"These places also form the

foundation of our strong outdoor recreation economy. Fully funding this program is a game-changer for nature and for those of us who love and depend on it," says Markowitz.

The Great American Outdoors Act combines two conservation proposals that each have strong, bipartisan support. The first would provide full and permanent funding of \$900 million each year for LWCF, an amount derived from offshore oil and gas revenues—not tax dollars. A recent economic analysis shows that every \$1 million invested in LWCF could support up to 30 jobs. Additionally, research on the impact of the LWCF shows that \$1 spent generates \$4 in economic value from natural resource goods and services alone.

The second part of the bill would invest \$1.9 billion annually for the next five years toward maintenance in national parks, other public lands and at the Bureau of Indian Education. In Massachusetts, this backlog has been estimated at over \$244 million at National Park Service (NPS) sites, alone. For example, Minute Man National Historical Park sees a million annual visitors and generates \$87 million in economic output; however, it has over \$12 million in deferred maintenance needs related to buildings, trails, wastewater systems and roads. Across the country, maintenance investments at NPS sites could generate nearly 110,000 additional infrastructure-related jobs.

## East Boston Savings Bank opens three new branches in the area

East Boston Savings Bank (EBSB) has opened new branches in Salem and Woburn and is targeting a late summer opening of EBSB's third branch in Brookline.

"We are very excited to be expanding our footprint within these communities. All these locations coincide with our strategy to penetrate lucrative high-density markets and expand the EBSB franchise that has a strong community banking history" said Richard Gavegnano, Chairman, President and CEO of East Boston Savings Bank. "We are proud to be part of these great communities and look forward to establishing new relationships and enhancing existing ones."

The opening of the Salem branch, located on the corner of New Derby and Washington Streets, marks a continuation of EBSB's expansion to the North Shore. Located on Route 114,

the location is ideal as it provides great visibility and is accessible to public transportation (buses and commuter rail.) With \$32 million in deposits and more than \$76 million in loans, the bank already conducts a substantial amount of business in Salem and see's great potential to expand its customer base due to the many nearby small businesses.

The Woburn location at 331 Montvale Avenue is ideal as it provides great visibility and is accessible to the heavily traveled commuter Route 93. Located just off exit 3 south, the branch is equipped with a drive-up window and drive-up ATM. "In Woburn and we see great potential to expand our customer base due to the many residential neighborhoods and businesses in the area," says Gavegnano.

The Bank's third Brookline branch is located at 473 Harvard Street. The site of a former

Starbucks, it's only a 6-minute walk from the MBTA's Green Line "B-branch" Harvard Avenue stop. "With a significant deposit base from our two other Brookline branches at 1050 and 1441 Beacon Street, the Harvard Street location allows us to service a more densely populated area of the community," says Gavegnano. This branch is targeted to open in mid-September.

Founded in 1848, East Boston Savings Bank operates 40 full-service branches including a Mobile Banking Unit in the greater Boston metropolitan area. EBSB offers a variety of deposit and loan products to individuals and businesses located in its primary market, which consists of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk and Suffolk counties. As a member of both the FDIC and Depositors Insurance Fund (DIF) all deposits are insured in full.

## New travel order takes effect August 1, Baker says

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker on July 24 signed an executive order implementing new travel guidelines for people traveling into Massachusetts.

Effective August 1, all travelers into Massachusetts, including residents and those traveling from out of state, will be required to fill out a "Massachusetts Travel Form" and have to quarantine for 14 days upon entering the state, unless coming from one of eight states deemed to be "lower risk:" New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Hawaii. People can also choose to prove a negative COVID-19 test result

given no more than 72 hours before coming to the state.

Anyone who is tested must remain in quarantine until a negative test result is provided. "Those who do not comply with the new travel order are subject to a \$500 a day fine," Baker said. There are also "narrow exemptions for workers in certain critical industries," he said.

"At this time of year, many people are traveling to and from Massachusetts for vacation," Baker said, adding that there has already been "an uptick in activity at Logan Airport."

The executive order is man-

datory for all travelers, including students returning to campus and apartments for the fall semester.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito added that Massachusetts employers are "discouraged from sending employees on business travel."

"Every traveler coming to Massachusetts has a responsibility to help keep COVID-19 out of the Commonwealth," Baker said. Whether people are coming back to the state for school, a new job, or anything else, "the rule applies to everyone," he said.

"There are no shortcuts when it comes to containing COVID-19," Baker continued. "If you're visiting us from another state, take a moment to learn about the rules." He reminded residents that use of face coverings, social distancing, and good hygiene are all still things that are required and should be done by everyone.

Baker also talked about the crowding at beaches that has been reported by many people in South Boston. He said this behavior "simply can't continue."

He said if people are not able to space themselves out appropriately, he will have to limit the number of people on beaches. "That's not something we want to do," he said. "We want people to simply use their heads and be responsible."

For more information about

the new travel executive order, visit [mass.gov/traveler](https://mass.gov/traveler), or text MATraveler to 888-777. The website explains which test results are acceptable, what the exemptions are, and provides information about how the rule applies to different scenarios.

On July 27, Baker gave a brief update on the testing data and announced that eight new communities will be added to the Stop the Spread testing initiative, which began in eight initial communities on July 10.

Communities chosen for this program are ones that continue to have higher positive test rates than the statewide average, and have seen a decline in testing since the end of April, Baker said.

Baker said that since July 10, 19,000 people have been tested at the new locations, and 17,000 of the 19,000 results are in, showing that the average positive test rate was 1.8 percent, which is around what the state average has been.

The eight new communities, which include Revere, will join the initial eight in offering free testing to residents, even if they are asymptomatic.

"As we prepare for the fall and ramp up stricter travel restrictions, more testing will be a pillar of the state's COVID-19 prevention strategy," Baker said.

# ST. MARY'S HOCKEY BANQUET HELD AT SPINELLI'S FUNCTION FACILITY

The St. Mary's Hockey players were honored outdoors at Spinelli's in Peabody. Players were awarded for their hard work during the season by the coaches and supporters. Each player was recognized for their contributions to the program.

Coach Mark Lee said, "This was a great season with this team. Players stepped up at every position. The question now is next season. No one knows what will happen. Our summer league was cancelled and the MIAA is not sure about the upcoming season as of now. What will be important for this team is for the players to self-motivate and begin a personal program. Whenever the season will begin, the team needs to be prepared. These players have a lot of integrity and character to meet this challenge; they proved it with effort and dedication in this past season".

There will be many challenges ahead for returning players. With enthusiasm and the desire to learn St. Mary's Hockey will continue on a path of success.



The St. Mary's Hockey Players.



Proud father, Ray Desmarais, congratulates his son, Jake Desmarais as the Defensive Player of the Year.



Captain Chris Kolodziej won the Martha Ferrari Award presented by Kirsten Ferrari and Tim Ferrari.



Coach Mark Lee with Freshman varsity player, Jake Carpenter, and his Dad, John Carpenter.

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# ST. MARY'S HOCKEY BANQUET HELD AT SPINELLI'S FUNCTION FACILITY



St. Mary's Coaching Staff – (L-R) Matt Smith, Devin Anno, Head Coach Mark Lee, Doug Surette, and Brendan Mageary.



St. Mary's Junior Varsity Coaches – Jerry Markham and Brendan Mageary.



Most Valuable Player, Davis Kinne (Defense) holds the MVP trophy with his Dad, Scott Kinne.



Father Kevin Maguire with his son, Captain Owen Maguire who received the Patrick Reddy Award from Michael Reddy.

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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### CITY ENACTS CHANGES TO CURB RACISM

CHELSEA - City Manager Tom Ambrosino agreed to sweeping changes immediately within City government to help stem systemic racism within City Hall during a meeting on the subject called for by Councillors Leo Robinson and Calvin Brown, amongst others.

The meeting on Tuesday night was a follow-up put in during the last meeting in June by Robinson and Brown and other councillors after the Black Lives Matter rally organized by what has now become known as the Chelsea Young Adult Alliance and the Chelsea Black Community.

The meeting was bolstered by a letter sent from the Young Adult Alliance, led by Kyle and Jayda Umemba. That letter went to Ambrosino within the last week and contained upwards of 50 demands on how to change City government to prevent systemic racism.

The call by Councillors Robinson and Brown, and the young people, were answered in a sweeping set of initial changes laid out by Ambrosino at the meeting.

That started with an ask of Ambrosino to acknowledge publicly that systemic racism is built into government at all levels, even Chelsea City Hall.

He said he had no problem doing that.

“That’s an easy one for me because I do acknowledge that inherently all government entities, unfortunately, are infused with systemic racism,” he said. “It is inherent bias. I accept that and I have publicly acknowledged that...The City declared racism as a public health emergency. That is a recognition that there is systemic bias in institutions and they need to be addressed.”

Beyond that, the Councillors and the youth had unilaterally called for a new Office of Diversity and Inclusion – and Am-

broso committed to that, and to providing a budget for the office this fiscal year.

“I am in full support of that and it will be a positive step forward to have that office here at City Hall,” he said.

He proposed that the new office directly report to him and the City Solicitor, though it had been called for as a department within Human Resources by the youth. He said he would likely be able to hire the director by November, and would ask the Council to approve \$200,000 from Free Cash at the next meeting to start the work.

“I envision this office will initially be for Fiscal Year 21 one person,” he said. “We will have a director of Diversity and Inclusion. It’s not a low-wage job. It’s a highly skilled job with a highly skilled person and will be like any other high-level department head.”

Over time, he said there could likely be more staff to help the director.

Some of the other calls in the letter and by the Council included inherent bias training for all City employees, and also an assessment of where City government is at right now in regards to diversity.

Councillor Damali Vidot said that would be a good starting point.

“I would like someone to come in and give us some perspective from outside on how these systems perpetuate in way we don’t see ourselves,” she said.

Ambrosino said that would likely be the first task of any director of the new office.

He said within the package he will send to the Council in September for consideration will be a budget that includes money for a director, for procuring an assessment of City Hall and City government, and for the beginnings of inherent bias trainings.

He said there would have to be a “robust” number going forward for the office to conduct train-

### COGLIANO LEADS CCC CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION EFFORT



Chelsea Community Connections (CCC) distributed clothing on Saturday to local families. From left, are Irma Mazzoni, CCC Director Cara Cogliano, Adele Gonzalez, Susana Carella, and Steicy Martins.

ings – as he doesn’t expect this to be an initiative that fizzles, but one that continues on and grows.

Councillor Robinson said that is exactly what he is looking for, something that perseveres. He and the Council called for a Task Force that would be “organic” and coming from the community rather than City Hall. He said the Task Force would be called on to make sure these initiatives stick around for the long run.

“That’s important to me that we put things in place now,” he said. “We need to have a Task Force to make sure it’s around and working for several years and not just put in place and goes away in a year.”

There was agreement that the Task Force on Racism be established, and that it would not be appointed by City Hall or anyone in the current power structure. The details of that will continue to be defined as time goes on.

Vidot said she hoped it would be made up of black, indigenous and people of color, and would act similarly to an Independent Civilian Review Board.

Ambrosino also said he would be looking to also address a call from the Young Adults implement racial equity in City Budgeting, and to promote better engagement in the community on the City Budget and expenditures.

The first is something that would be done internally, making sure all expenditures by de-

partment heads are seen through an equity lens. The second piece he said would be on him, and he committed to having budget teaching sessions in January to help the general public to first understand how municipal budgeting works – what can and cannot be done. It’s something he does already for new members of the City Council every two years. He said if the Council approves his request in September, the new Office could be running by November.

“If the Council adopts this appropriation in September, we could probably have a director on board in early November,” he said.

The Young Adult demands are numerous, and Tuesday was just a start, but Kyle Umemba said it was a good start. He said it meant a great deal to hear the proposal for the director, and also a budget allocation with it. That, he said, means it has been taken seriously and is real.

Meanwhile, he said in the next two weeks he will be scheduling a Town Hall for residents to tell their stories and be heard.

“We will be setting up Town Hall meeting because we have heard there is a request to get community voices out there,” he said. “There will be an agenda and we will document these stories and narratives.”

### CITY CLERK EXPRESSES

### CONFIDENCE IN ‘VOTE BY MAIL’

CHELSEA - Chelsea City Clerk Jeannette Cintron White is confident that the ‘Vote By Mail’ option for the Sept. 1 State Primary will go smoothly in the city.

Cintron White explained the different phases of the process that will allow Chelsea voters to cast their ballots by mail, meaning they would not have to go to the polls to vote on Sept. 1, the day of the Primary Election.

“The state has mailed to every registered voter in Chelsea a card that says, ‘Official 2020 Vote By Mail Application,’” said Cintron White. “Residents can return the application by mail (The state is paying the costs of postage via Business Reply Mail) or drop it off at our office. As soon as we get the ballots in our office, we would send them a ballot.”

The deadline for submitting Vote By Mail applications is Aug. 26 at 5 p.m. “Early ballots for the State Primary must be returned by 8 p.m. on Sept 1, 2020, to be counted,” added Cintron White. “The mail-in ballots may be returned in person, by mail, or by dropping them off in the green mailbox outside of the Washington Avenue City Hall Entrance.”

Some have suggested that the new Vote by Mail option could lead to voter fraud, but Cintron White discounts those opinions.

“I think people in Chelsea trust



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## Region / CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

the process here," said Cintron White. "I think people feel safe voting by mail and we encourage them to do so. I don't see why people would be opposed to it."

Due to the coronavirus, it is expected that many residents will choose to vote by mail in the Sept 1 Election. That option will also be available for the Nov. 3 Election.

The State Primary election season is heating up in Chelsea. Councillor-at-Large Damali Vidot is running against State Rep. Dan Ryan in the Democratic Primary. The U.S. Senate race, featuring U.S. Sen. Edward Markey and Congressman Joe Kennedy III in the Democratic Primary, is generating significant interest in Massachusetts and nationwide.

All the election-related activity and the new Vote by Mail process has made it a busy time for the City Clerk's Office at City Hall that is led by Cintron White, a popular 1999 graduate of Chelsea High School, who will be celebrating a milestone birthday this week.

### FOOD TRUCKS KICK OFF

**EAST BOSTON** - With the list of culinary mainstays in Boston closing due to the economic fallout created by the COVID-19 pandemic growing weekly, it's obvious that restaurants are some of the hardest hit businesses during these uncertain times.

Many restaurants were forced to close or change to take out and delivery services during the height of the pandemic, only to reopen with limited capacity.

Each week, more and more popular eateries are closing simply because they can no longer make their margins through phased re-openings and limited capacities.

Last week, Mayor Martin Walsh kicked off a new pilot program in Eastie aimed at helping struggling restaurant owners reach more customers during the ongoing COVID crisis.

According to Walsh, the summer pilot program announced Friday for the City of Boston's Food Truck Program will support valuable small businesses that have been greatly impacted by COVID-19. The program will also provide residents throughout the City's neighborhoods with additional accessible and safe food options.

"Small businesses and restaurants employ our neighbors and add to the vibrancy of our community, but have suffered greatly

due to our COVID-19 response," said Walsh. "This summer Food Truck pilot will provide additional dining options for residents and visitors across our City, while also adhering to public health guidelines in order to slow the spread of COVID-19."

So far Teri-Yummy, Northeast of the Border and Bibim Box will all be in Eastie on a weekly basis serving up unique foods at neighborhood parks.

Teri-Yummy will be at Bremen Street Park on Tuesdays and Fridays while Bibim Box will be at the park on Saturdays.

Over at Prescott Street Park Teri-Yummy will be on hand Monday and Thursdays while Northeast of the Border will be at the park on Tuesdays.

The food trucks in Eastie will be open from noon to 7 p.m.

Walsh said while food trucks have been able to operate as "food take-out businesses" throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, Streets Cabinet, and the Inspectional Services Department collaborated to create new spaces in local commercial districts and adapt to changing commuter and workplace conditions.

"The City of Boston has waived all site permit fees for this summer pilot," said Walsh.

However, all food trucks must be approved to operate, have up-to-date certifications and permits, and are required to continue following all public health guidance by properly marking six feet spacing between customers and maintaining social distancing. All food trucks that have not signed up yet but are interested in participating in the pilot are encouraged to fill out an eligibility form.

Walsh said earlier this year, an interdepartmental effort created a new online application portal which allows food truck owners seeking to vend in the city an option to submit all approved licenses, certifications, and required documents digitally.

This new online method, provided in addition to in person, email, and by mail application options, provides food truck owners with a more transparent and streamlined permitting process.

The City of Boston has also created a number of useful guides and resources for small businesses impacted by COVID-19, including a new platform to advertise and purchase PPE and cleaning sup-

plies, Open Businesses in Boston and Support Boston Restaurants, platforms which helped businesses to publicly share that they are open and direct residents to support local establishments.

To assist businesses in industries impacted most by COVID-19, the City of Boston launched the Small Business Relief Fund, which to date has distributed \$6.1 million in debt-free grants to 1,685 small businesses in every neighborhood in order to address rent, fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, lost sales, lost opportunities, and other working capital expenses.

### ORGANIZATION GETS GRANT FOR CENSUS WORK

**EAST BOSTON** - An Eastie organization has been awarded Rapid Response Grants to support the 2020 Census by the Massachusetts Census Equity Fund (MCEF).

Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE) will use the grant money for outreach and education.

The grants by the MCEF went to some of the hardest to count communities in Massachusetts, as well as communities that were among those hit the hardest by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are living through an unprecedented time. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic at the starting moment of the 2020 census we know now more than ever that a full and accurate cen-

sus count is facing serious challenges," said Chair of MCEF Alexie Torres. "MCEF has joined with our national funding partners in seeing a need for additional resources to our hardest to count communities."

Founded in 2008, NUBE is an organization that mentors community leaders who support social transformation and shifting political power. NUBE's leaders organize and advocate for inclusive democratic processes and just public policies to create a vibrant economy and environment for all East Boston.

NUBE's work is guided by a commitment to developing a more just, understanding, and sustainable neighborhood. NUBE believes that leaders, who live its values and intentionally engage in social, economic, and political life, will help create alternative systems and structures that promote social transformation.

Since being created, NUBE has increased voter turnout 10-15 percent in recent elections in precincts with a high density of people of color.

Having an accurate 2020 Census count fits right into NUBE's mission to transform the lives and amplify the voices of Eastie residents who have been excluded from prosperity by an inequitable economic system.

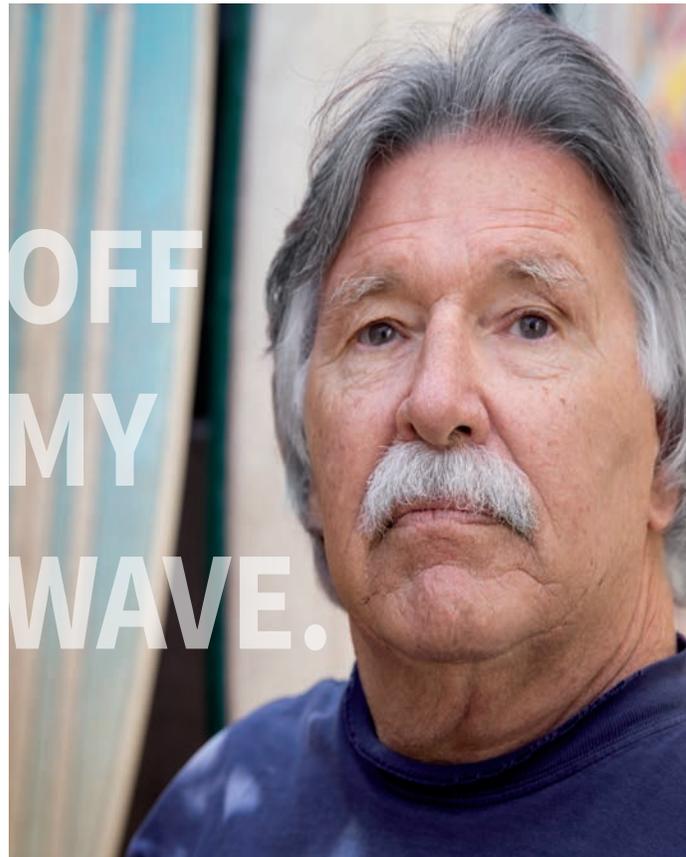
This year the United States will conduct its decennial census. In Boston there's been a huge push to ensure a fair and complete count in the 2020 U.S.

Census because it determines everything from representation in Congress, to federal funds for schools, affordable housing, infrastructure and health care programs.

MCEF used real-time census response rate data and knowledge of the impacts of the pandemic to make rapid-response grants between \$500 to \$5,000 for additional outreach activities. Organizations in these regions, who work with hard-to-count populations including communities of color, are struggling to increase Census response rates while simultaneously responding to communities' needs, which have been increasing in the wake of COVID-19.

Historically, certain populations are "hard-to-count" in the census. Urban and rural areas with large low-income populations, people of color, immigrants, non-English speakers, migrant workers, ex-offenders, young children, the elderly, those who are disabled, renters, the homeless, and those living in mobile homes or multi-unit residences are historically hard-to-count.

To date, MCEF has awarded \$1 million in grants targeting support for grassroots organizations coordinating education and outreach initiatives in "hard-to-count" communities across the Commonwealth. MCEF plans to release another round of grants later this month.



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](https://www.nationalmssociety.org).

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# NSCC wins Deval Patrick Prize for CC Machining Training Program

North Shore Community College has been awarded the Boston Foundation's 6th Annual Deval Patrick Prize for Community Colleges. NSCC received the \$50,000 prize in recognition of the Machining Training Program, a collaborative partnership between NSCC, technical training institutions and local employers to prepare unemployed or underemployed workers for advanced manufacturing jobs.

North Shore established the Machining Training Program in its current form in 2017, building upon established machining training efforts. The six-month, full-time certificate program combines foundational skills coursework at the college with hands-on technical training at local technical schools with career

readiness components provided by the MassHire-North Shore Career Center. Local employers provide input into the curriculum and best practices, ensuring that students completing the program are well-matched for local advanced manufacturing jobs. The program boasts a nearly 100% employment rate.

About 40 students complete the program annually. The Machining Training Program is also being used as the model for a regional workforce development program - the Advanced Manufacturing Expansion Program (AMTEP), funded by a grant from the GE Foundation, which will greatly expand the Advanced Manufacturing pipeline with the goal to train more than 900 participants by 2024, including un-

employed and underemployed adults and underrepresented populations such as veterans, people of color, women, those without high school credentials, and non-native speakers of English.

"Our region's community colleges are playing a critical role in developing our future workforce and programs like the Machining Training Program can serve as a model for educators and employers to work together and prepare young people for family-sustaining jobs with living wages," said Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation.

"The Machining Training program has been the product of the effort of a number of partners, and we are pleased to share the award with them. Together with employers, technical training providers, NAMC (the Northeast Advanced Manufacturing program) and the dedicated work of the people at the heart of this program - the students who exhibit their dedication, hard work and tenacity every day - we are able to create opportunities for men and women to explore new careers," said Dr. Nate Bryant, NSCC Interim President.

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# Massachusetts Teachers Association endorses Ed Markey for U.S. Senate

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) last weekend endorsed Ed Markey for re-election to the United States Senate.

The major labor support comes at a key moment in the primary race and builds on Sen. Markey's overwhelming existing support among unions, including: the American Federation of Teachers, the American Postal Workers Union of Massachusetts, Postal Workers Local #4553, UNITE Local 26, AFSCME, SEIU 888, SEIU 32BJ, CWA 1400, AFGE, National Association of Social Workers - PACE, and the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA.

Founded in 1845, the Massachusetts Teachers Association

represents 110,000 members in close to 400 local associations throughout Massachusetts. It is dedicated to securing a better workplace for education employees and advocates for quality public education that will help students flourish.

"Senator Ed Markey is a true champion of public education and working families," said Massachusetts Teachers Association President Merrie Najimy. "He is doing everything possible to win the resources our public schools and colleges need to help create a stronger and more just Commonwealth – and we know that he will never let up. Now more than ever, we must elect leaders who will stand with us. Ed Markey has an incredible record

of advocating for policies that help students, educators and our communities, and Massachusetts needs him in the U.S. Senate to keep up that fight."

"Senator Ed Markey has been a champion for Massachusetts's students and public schools, which is why we are proud to endorse his re-election campaign," said National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen García. "He understands just how important it is to ensure all Bay State students have access to a quality public school education no matter what ZIP-code they are from or the color of their skin. Markey is committed to paying educators like the professionals they are so communities are able to attract and retain the quality

educators that our students deserve."

Sen. Ed Markey has consistently supported public schools in Massachusetts and across the nation. He created the E-Rate program as part of the 1996 Telecommunications Act to ensure that schools and libraries across the country are able to provide internet access that is critical to student success.

"School employees and educators have always been heroes. In the midst of a pandemic, our teachers have gone above and beyond to ensure that students are able to achieve academic success at home," Sen. Ed Markey said. "Educators are essential workers. It is our educators who are molding the next generation of leaders

for our state, our city, our nation, and we must provide them with the health care, wages, and protections they deserve. I'm proud to have the Massachusetts Teachers Association's support, and will continue to fight for them, for public education, and for all union workers in the United States Senate."

The son of a union leader, Sen. Markey has also stood with workers demanding basic rights. In June, Ed Markey spoke at a Massachusetts Teachers' Association car rally in Malden to call for additional federal funding for Massachusetts and our schools.

Markey has served in the United States Senate since winning the special election in 2013.

## ADA 30th anniversary: MBTA highlights progress and upcoming accessibility projects

On the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the nation's most significant legislation regarding the civil rights of people with disabilities, the MBTA reaffirms its commitment to being a leader in accessible public transportation.

"Thanks to the ADA and our riders who have advocated and partnered with us, the MBTA is more reliable and accessible than ever before," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "We're proud of the accessibility accomplishments we've made so far, but we're committed to continuing to make improvements, which are fundamental to allowing our neighbors, friends, colleagues, and family members with disabilities to use the MBTA safely and confidently. With that in mind, we celebrate this important anniversary and look forward to continuing our path forward."

This week's GM Video Update features additional discussion regarding the history of accessibility at the MBTA and the progress toward a fully accessible T.

By the 1970s, the MBTA had already begun projects and programs with a focus on accessibility, including the T's first elevator going into service at Quincy Center Station in 1971 and offering door-to-door paratransit service through the use of two lift-equipped vans in and around Brookline in 1977. Early Federal laws and state oversight through the Massachusetts Architectural Board helped to expand a focus

on accessibility at the T and, by 1990 when the ADA was signed, around twenty-five MBTA stations were accessible. At that time, some buses were also accessible, though customers were required to call ahead to request these lift-equipped buses be assigned to a particular route.

The signing of the ADA in 1990 aimed to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities, including in public transportation. Expectations for public transit providers like the MBTA were clarified and called for all parts of service to be accessible, including reliable stop announcements, improved employee trainings, and accessible key stations and vehicles.

The existence of the ADA has also given riders a mechanism for holding organizations accountable for providing accessible service. While the T had made some progress since the signing of the ADA in 1990, a group of riders with disabilities along with the Boston Center for Independent Living filed a class-action lawsuit against the T in 2002 that cited many ADA violations, including broken elevators, inaccessible buses, and employees not equipped to assist customers as needed.

Following a comprehensive settlement agreement of this lawsuit in 2006, the MBTA has fundamentally shifted its approach, initiating accessibility projects and programs with the goal of becoming a global leader in accessible transit. In the fifteen years since the settlement agree-

ment, tremendous progress has been made – to name a few:

- The MBTA now has over 232 accessible stations – including 200 elevators system-wide with elevator "up time" averaging 99.4 percent or better consistently over the last decade through new elevator maintenance contracts.

- The T's bus fleet is 100 percent accessible with the newest fleet designed with feedback from riders with disabilities that has resulted in a layout that will provide more space and options for all customers, including wheelchair users and families with strollers.

- All front-line employees receive improved training in providing accessible and inclusive service to all customers, including one-of-a-kind training in assisting customers with disabilities during emergency situations.

- Recognizing that first-hand experiences help shape a more usable system, the MBTA continues to reinforce its efforts to include riders with disabilities in its decision-making processes by hiring talented staff who also

have disabilities and improving rider engagement through groups like the T's Riders' Transportation Access Group (R-TAG).

The RIDE is also a leader in service quality, efficiency, and innovation among peer paratransit operations. Since the launch of this service on a smaller scale in 1977, the MBTA's ADA door-to-door paratransit RIDE program currently provides service for eligible customers in fifty-eight surrounding towns and communities, including Boston. Of the 1.6 million trips provided last year on the traditional RIDE service, over 245,000 trips were taken as part of the innovative pilot partnership with Uber and Lyft, which provides customers with flexible options that best meet their needs and additional similar pilot service offerings to come soon. The upcoming software and technology transition to Routematch will also continue to improve the customer experience, enhance reliability, and increase efficiencies by providing customers with a new web-based trip booking platform, a compatible smart phone app, and inter-

active voice response prompts to assist customers in managing their own trips. The MBTA continues to explore better, more integrated ways to offer trips to its RIDE customers using both paratransit and fixed route service.

While the MBTA is proud of this progress so far, the T is committed to continuous improvement with more projects focused on accessibility in the pipeline. As part of the MBTA's Plan for Accessible Transportation Infrastructure (PATI) that aims to make the system entirely accessible, major upgrades within the next five years include:

- The renovation of Symphony and Hynes Stations on the Green Line to improve accessibility;

- Improvements to nine street-level Green Line stops that make these stations fully accessible;

- Over 50 new elevators in design; and

- Many innovative technology pilot programs, including indoor navigation for blind/low vision customers.

### 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](mailto:Cary@lynnjournal.com)

# Department of Agriculture declares August as 'Tree Check Month'

Staff Report

August is the peak time of year to spot the Asian long-horned beetle (ALB) as adults emerge from trees. That's why the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is declaring August as "Tree Check Month." Checking trees for the beetle and the damage it causes is one way residents can protect their own trees and help USDA's efforts to eliminate this beetle from the United States.

Signs of this invasive pest continue to be found in Massachusetts, so residents need to be on watch. A portion of Worcester County remains under a federal quarantine for the ALB, and the movement of wood out of the area is not allowed. The most recent infested tree was removed in March in the town of Auburn.

"Just this past June, we confirmed a new infestation in South Carolina after a homeowner re-

ported that they found a dead Asian long-horned beetle on their property," said Josie Ryan, USDA APHIS' National Operations Manager for the ALB Eradication Program. "We need the public's help to find new areas where the beetle has spread, because finding it sooner means fewer trees will become infested."

ALB is an invasive wood-boring beetle that attacks 12 types of hardwood trees in North America, such as maples, elms, horse chestnuts, birches and willows. In its larval stage, the insect feeds inside tree trunks and branches during the colder months. The beetle creates tunnels as it feeds, then chews its way out as an adult in the warmer months. Infested trees do not recover and eventually die. Infested trees can become safety hazards since branches can drop and trees can fall over, especially during storms.

The beetle has distinctive markings that are easy to recognize:

- Black and white antennae that are longer than the insect's body.

- A shiny black body with white spots that is about 1 inch to 1½ inches long.

- Six legs and feet that can appear bluish-colored.

Signs that a tree might be infested include:

- Round exit holes in tree trunks and branches about the size of a dime or smaller.

- Shallow oval or round scars in the bark where the adult beetle chewed an egg site.

- Sawdust-like material called frass, laying on the ground around the tree or in the branches.

- Dead branches or limbs falling from an otherwise healthy-looking tree.

ALB is not harmful to peo-

ple or pets. If possible, residents should take pictures and capture suspicious insects in a durable container and freeze them, which helps preserve the insect for identification. Residents can report the insect or tree damage by calling the ALB hotline at 1-866-702-9938 or reporting online at [www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com](http://www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com).

"As people use firewood this summer, we are also asking them to buy heat-treated and certified wood rather than move untreated firewood long distances, which can potentially spread ALB," warned Ryan. "You can also responsibly gather firewood where you will burn it or buy it in the area where you will use it."

Firewood cannot move out of areas that are quarantined for ALB without a permit. It is important that people follow state and federal laws, which restrict the movement of woody material, to keep the tree-killing pest

from spreading outside of known infested areas.

It is possible to eradicate the pest. In May 2014, an infestation area in Boston was declared ALB-free. The insect has also been eradicated from areas in Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio and New York.

For more information about the Asian long-horned beetle, other ways to keep it from spreading and eradication program activities, visit [www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com](http://www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com). For local inquiries or to speak to your State Plant Health Director, call 1-866-702-9938.

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2020 the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). Please join USDA APHIS to help protect the world's crops, forests, gardens and landscapes against invasive pests. Learn more by visiting [www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/2020](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/2020).

## Independent's 20th Annual Beach Baby Pages



**Join us in putting your Beach Baby in our 20TH ANNUAL BEACH BABY PAGES!**

Photos should be at a beach or swimming pool setting. Please include your child's name and the paper you wish to be published in.

SEND YOUR BEACH BABY TO: [promo@reverejournal.com](mailto:promo@reverejournal.com) by **Thursday, August 13th**

Photos will be published in our Aug. 25 and 26 issues of The Revere Journal, Winthrop Sun Transcript, Lynn Journal, The Everett Independent, Chelsea Record & East Boston Times.

Not responsible for lost or unpublished Photos.

## Earn credit for life experience through NERPLAC

Has the coronavirus pandemic caused you to consider returning to college to change careers or add new skills? If you are looking to save time and money in doing so, consider if you may be eligible for earning credit for prior learning.

A new initiative, led by North Shore Community College, the Northeast Regional Prior Learning Assessment Consortium (NERPLAC) is a partnership between Essex and Middlesex County community colleges, state colleges and universities, private colleges, workforce boards, employers and community-based organizations. It promotes and increases the use of Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) as a strategy to boost college completion, strengthen professional skills for higher paying jobs in regional growth indus-

tries, and engender engagement in lifelong learning.

PLA is an assessment given to an individual to determine if they already know the information that would be taught in a college course. If they do in fact have prior knowledge, they are awarded the credit without having to register and take the entire course, making the prospect of receiving a degree much less daunting.

"Given the impacts of the coronavirus, the timing may be good for this initiative given the number of folks who are out of work, who have realized that they need to change jobs to make more money, or find themselves with the time to build on their education foundation," said NSCC Interim President Dr. Nate Bryant.

The consortium is funded by Essex County Community Foundation and is being led by North Shore Community College in collaboration with participating institutions of higher education including, Endicott College, Gordon College, Middlesex Community College, Northern Essex Community College, Salem State University, and University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

Partners marketing PLA and engaging employers include NSWIB/CC, Merrimack Valley WIB/Valley Works CC and Greater Lowell WDB/CC. Employers and community-based organizations include Advances Learning Center, Wellspring, Inc., LEO, Inc., and Action, Inc.

For more information about this program or NERPLAC, contact Heather Mayer at [hmayer02@northshore.edu](mailto:hmayer02@northshore.edu).



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