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# REVERE JOURNAL

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1881

## INDEPENDENT

NEWSPAPER GROUP



50 CENTS  
VOLUME 23, NO. 21

WEDNESDAY  
February 18, 2026

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## DEATHS

Mary Ann Buckley  
Marie Procopio  
Dominic Joseph Taverna II  
Robert "Bramp" Thurlow  
**Obituaries, Pg. 7**

## NEWS BRIEFS

### RMV ANNOUNCES SPECIAL MA250 LOW NUMBER PLATE LOTTERY

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is celebrating President's Day by announcing a special low number lottery featuring the state's new 250th Anniversary Plate. Residents can apply starting today, February 16, at 9:00 a.m. and have until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026. Further information is available at Mass.Gov/MA250Plate.

The "Massachusetts 250 Years of Independence" plate is emblematic red, white, and blue and is now the most popular specialty plate in the Commonwealth with more than 57,000 issued in just over seven months.

The plate features a blue background, with the year "1776" surrounded by 13 stars and the phrase "250

See NEWS BRIEF Page 3

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CONGRATS, ROBO-NERDS!



Members of the Revere JROTC Robotics team, "Robo-Nerds" competed in the Robot Drone League's 2025 New England Regional competition where they took home multiple awards: Alliance champions, Engineering Award, Team Showcase Award and Top Autonomous Award. Revere High School hosted the competition this year. Revere's team finished Second Place overall in the competition. See more photos on Page 10.

## AHTF approves application form for ADU loan program

By Journal Staff

The Board of Trustees of the city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) held its regular monthly meeting last Wednesday, February 11, in the City Council Chamber. On hand for the session were chair Joseph Gravellese, Treasurer Anayo Osueke, and fellow board members Dean Harris, Matt Wolfer, Deb Frank, and Laila Pietri.

Osueke presented the treasurer's report. He said the AHTF has a balance in its account of \$882,571.77. Osueke also noted that the trust earned \$3389.64 in interest over the past month

and expended \$10,000 for the first-time homebuyer downpayment program.

Gravellese reported that the application form for the city's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) loan program, for which the AHTF will provide the funding, has been fine-tuned and should be ready to go "live" shortly. The program aims to provide loans at a 0% interest rate for the construction of an ADU to homeowners who agree to rent their unit at 100% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for a period of five years.

The loans are forgivable at a rate of 20% per year, and ultimately entirely for-

givable after five years, as long as the owner complies with the program's guidelines.

After the members reviewed the application form, they voted unanimously to approve it. Gravellese said he anticipated it will be available on the city's website by this Wednesday.

The board next took up an application from the No. Suffolk Community Services for an award of funds for No. Suffolk's completed housing project on Hichborn St.

"No. Suffolk does wonderful work in the commu-

See AHTF Page 2

## LEANNE STAMATOPOULOS NAMED EXEC. ASSISTANT - P.2

## Council approves residential addition for Capri Bistro

By Adam Swift

The city council approved plans for an eight-unit micro-apartment project on North Shore Road at its meeting last week.

Claudia Gallego, the owner of the Capri Bistro at 1559 North Shore Road, is looking to add two floors to the existing building to allow for the construction of eight one-bedroom apartments.

Councillor-at-Large Michelle Kelley cast the lone vote against approval of the project, citing the rapid rate of the development of apartment units in the city during the zoning subcommittee

meeting before the regular council meeting.

Several other councillors spoke in favor of the project, including Ward 2 Councillor Ira Novoselsky, noting that the project would provide opportunities for a Revere resident and business owner.

"This addition would comprise of 3,000 square feet and contain eight small, transit-oriented apartments," said project attorney Nancy O'Neil. "So this addition would not alter the building footprint. The proposal is simply to (build) up, using the same base dimensions as the existing restaurant."

The restaurant will remain in operation, she added.

"The proposed building is exactly the type of building that you want to see in this neighborhood," said O'Neil. "This is a mixed-use building with a Revere resident small business on the first floor; the top two floors would contain transit-oriented apartments. The property is located about 800 feet, or a three minute walk from the MBTA Revere Beach station, so residents here will be utilizing the train and there will not be a parking impact."

See CAPRI APARTMENT Page 2

Visit our website at [reverejournal.com](http://reverejournal.com)

## City hears issues about Harris Street reconfiguration

By Adam Swift

A pilot program to ease traffic congestion on Harris Street has raised concerns and questions from numerous nearby residents.

Last week, city officials met with many of those residents at the public library to hear those concerns and begin to look at options moving forward.

Last December, the city instituted a 90-day pilot program for Harris Street aimed at taking cut-through traffic off the road.

Harris Street became a one-way road northbound from Winthrop Avenue to Sewall Street and two left turn lanes were added to Revere Beach Parkway Southbound, and one right turn was added to Revere Beach Parkway Northbound. A right turn slip lane from Route 16 to Harris Street was added.

But many residents said the changes have led to increased traffic and congestion on the surrounding streets, and frustrated drivers using private driveways and parking lots as areas to cut through traffic or turn around.

At last week's meeting, the city's planning and community development director, Tom Skwierawski provided a brief history of how the pilot program came to be, as well as data that has been collected both before and after the pilot program began.

However, Skwierawski was quick to note that the city was not putting all its eggs in the basket of the data that has been collected so far, and acknowledged the frustrations that have come with the traffic change.

Skwierawski received questions about both removing the pilot program altogether and returning Harris Street to its original two-way pattern, as well as the possibility of making all of Harris Street one-way.

"The reason not to remove the two-way traffic from that stretch is to remove a five-leg intersection and make it a four-leg intersection which theoretically should run a lot more efficient," said Skwierawski. "I understand it doesn't, I hear you all loud and clear. I understand things aren't working."

See HARRIS STREET Page 6

## REVERE POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTES TWO OFFICERS



CARY SHUMAN PHOTO  
Mayor Patrick Keefe (left) and Police Chief Maria Lavita (right) join newly promoted officers, Lt. Matthew Leslie and Sgt. Jorge Romero, in a congratulatory photo following the impressive ceremony. See more photos on Page 5.

SEE PAGE 13 FOR A STROLL THROUGH TIME 2010 EDITION



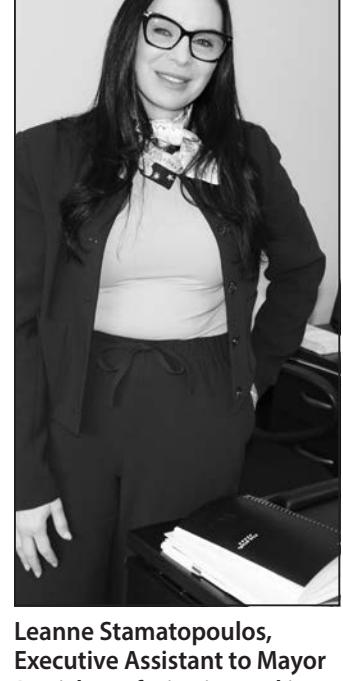
Pictured in the Mayor's Office (from left) are Aide to the Mayor Rose Burns, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Leanne Stamatopoulos, Mayor Patrick Keefe, Receptionist Sandra Porrazzo, and Communications Associate Taylor Giuffre-Catalano.

## Keefe appoints Stamatopoulos as Mayor's Executive Assistant

By Cary Shuman

Revere resident Leanne Stamatopoulos has been appointed as the executive assistant to Mayor Patrick Keefe. Stamatopoulos began in the key position in the Mayor's Office on Jan. 5, 2026. She succeeded Linda DeMaio who had retired from the post.

"Mayor Keefe and Linda had approached me about my potential interest in the job," said Stamatopoulos. "I'm excited and honored to be a part of the mayor's team at City Hall and to have the opportunity to serve and contribute to my community."



Leanne Stamatopoulos, Executive Assistant to Mayor Patrick Keefe, is pictured in the Mayor's Office at City Hall Tuesday morning.

Twenty years ago, Stamatopoulos worked in the Revere school system as a speech therapist. She left that job "to raise my kids." She has worked in positions in retail at Nordstrom and Restoration Hardware (RH) for 15 years combined.

**A lifelong Revere resident**  
Stamatopoulos grew up in Revere and graduated from Revere High School in 1997. She attended Northeastern University, where she met her future husband, John Stamatopoulos. She received her degree in communication disorders from Salem State University.

"I really didn't think that I would be living in Revere after I graduated from college," said Stamatopoulos. "I had envisioned that I was going to live in New York City or Boston proper, and then John and I had our kids, and honestly, we felt that Revere was a great place to raise our family. The proximity to Boston, all of Revere's amenities, and I can't say enough about our school system. Superintendent of Schools Dr. [Dianne] Kelly was, in fact, my math teacher at Revere High. I was in one of her first classes when she came to Revere High from Savio."

John and Leanne Stamatopoulos have three chil-

dren, Bella, a 2024 Revere High graduate who is a sophomore on the pre-law track at Centre College in Kentucky, Gemma, a senior at Revere High, and Kosta, a sophomore at Revere High.

Interestingly, Bella, who is majoring in politics, was an intern last summer with Claudia Correa, chief of staff in Mayor Keefe's office.

Followers of Revere High sports will immediately recognize John and Leanne's daughter Gemma's name and her grand and scholarly portfolio. She is arguably one of the high school's most outstanding athletes of all time, breaking several RHS records in track.

She has qualified for nationals in the 600 and in the relay. Gemma's future is exceedingly bright, having received a prestigious Posse Foundation Scholarship to attend Union College, a highly regarded liberal arts school in Schenectady, New York. The reigning Greater Boston League MVP in field hockey and track, Gemma will be continuing her athletic career at Union.

"She amazes me. You tell her she can't do something, and then she goes after it," said Leanne proudly.

### Welcomed to a stellar leadership team

Leanne becomes a member of the mayor's team in the corner office that includes Chief of Staff Claudia Correa, Communications Associate Taylor Giuffre-Catalano, and Aide to the Mayor Rose Burns.

"I'm so impressed by the team Mayor Keefe has assembled," said Stamatopoulos. "I have so much to learn from them. It has been such a great experience thus far. Everyone at City Hall has been amazing."

Keefe said that Stamatopoulos has been an asset to the administration since her arrival a month ago.

"Leanne has already shown her eagerness in the role and is using her years of experience multitasking in the private sector," said Keefe. "She is customer-service driven while maintaining the core communications of the office with decorum and respect."

Stamatopoulos recalled how impressed she was upon meeting Keefe and his wife, Jennifer, during their mutual volunteer work in the Revere Pop Warner Football and Cheer organization. Keefe was elected as Ward 4 councillor and served as acting mayor for six months before being elected to a four-year term as mayor on November 7, 2023.

Looking back at the point in her life right after college when she was considering a move to a larger, metropolitan city, Stamatopoulos offered, "Staying in Revere and raising my family here

was one of the best decisions we ever made... I'm so amazed at how far our city has come through the years."

Life is about a series of decisions. Leanne Stamatopoulos believes her decision to leave the field of retail and accept a position in the mayor's office was the right call.

"I'm really pleased, happy, and reassured that I made the right decision," said Stamatopoulos.

nity and their project on Hichborn St. is terrific, but I suggest that we not vote in favor of this," said Gravallese. "I don't think we should set the precedent of providing 'back-fill funding' for projects that are completed and open and that already have received the financing they need. I understand that funding from us could help offset some of the debt they've taken out, but ultimately I would rather reserve our funding for projects that have unmet funding needs.

"This project is incredibly worthy and No. Suffolk is a great organization, but

I'm just not comfortable setting a precedent of going backwards to fund something that's already open," Gravallese added.

Both Wolfer and Harris voiced support for Gravallese's position. After Gravallese made a motion to turn down the application, the members voted unanimously to reject it. Gravallese said he will inform No Suffolk of the board's decision, but will make them aware that the AHTF would be supportive of the group's future projects.

Gravallese next discussed briefly the proposed

## Revere's Danielle Nalesnik wins Scholastic Art & Writing award

Special to the Journal

Revere Student Danielle Nalesnik '26 won a Gold Key for her Photography, "Chiaroscuro Leaves" and will now advance to the national competition in March.

Bishop Fenwick is delighted to announce that seven talented students, and eight projects, have been recognized in the 2026 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards - one of the nation's most prestigious creative competitions!

1923, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have celebrated bold, innovative thinking in young artists across the country. This

year alone, nearly 9,000 art entries were submitted from Massachusetts, making our students' achievements even more remarkable.

### Bishop Fenwick 2026 Regional Winners:

Gold Key Danielle Nalesnik '26 (Revere) - Photography, "Chiaroscuro Leaves"

Silver Key Neive Bachman '27 (Beverly) - Ceramics & Glass, "The world is your oyster" and Kailyn Grassia '28 (Beverly) - Ceramics & Glass, "Feu ph w̄un̄p̄d̄w̄āl̄" (Enjoy your meal!)

Honorable Mention Luis Araujo Mendoza '27 (Peabody) - Photography, "Um-



Danielle Nalesnik

brella Alley"; Sofia DeLuca '27 (Peabody) - Drawing, "agoraphobia"; Sofia DeLuca '27 (Peabody) - Ceramics & Glass, "Won't you come and save me?"; Violet Elizabeth-White '27 (Salem) - Drawing, "A Mercy from the Beyond" and Molli Ingersoll '28 (Lynn) - Ceramics & Glass, "The Circus of Sin".

From evocative photography to intricate ceramics and powerful drawings, our students' work showcases the breadth and depth of artistic expression flourishing at Fenwick. Their achievements across multiple disciplines reflect the comprehensive arts education and creative environment that defines the program.

A special thank you to our exceptional Visual Arts teachers, Taryn Beatrice and Ciara O'Flynn-Gillis, whose dedication, expertise, and mentorship empower our students to explore their creativity and reach new artistic heights!



"Chiaroscuro Leaves."

PHOTO BY DANIELLE NALESNIK

## AHTF // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Novoselsky noted that the site is close to his home. "I know the location very well, I know the history of the building and the height will not exceed the height of the neighborhood and the adjacent neighbors, it will be the same height," said Novoselsky. "I think it is a good fit for the neighborhood and I haven't heard anything against it."

Kelley said she understood that the project has a modest unit count, but said she couldn't support it.

"Still, the biggest concern I hear from residents is no more apartments, they don't want anymore apartments in the city, they feel like we have enough," said Kelley. "For me, this is a cumulative impact on the city and that neighborhood in particular with congestion."

Kelley noted that in the past several months alone, the zoning board has ap-

federal guidelines that will make it more difficult for families to receive supportive housing support in the event they become homeless.

Both Wolfer and Harris voiced support for Gravallese's position. After Gravallese made a motion to turn down the application, the members voted unanimously to reject it.

Gravallese said he will inform No Suffolk of the board's decision, but will make them aware that the AHTF would be supportive of the group's future projects.

Gravallese next discussed briefly the proposed

look into in the coming months.

Frank reported that there will be a fair for prospective first-time home-buyers on Saturday, February 28, from 10-2 at the Clark Middle School in Chelsea. She said officials from Chelsea, Revere, and various state agencies, as well as local real estate agents and other vendors, will be on hand to offer information to new home-buyers.

The board then adjourned until its next meeting in March.

## Capri Apartment // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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Kelley noted that in the past several months alone, the zoning board has ap-

proved over 260 units in the city.

"For me, it's just about being at a point where

enough is enough in terms of apartments," said Kelley. "I'm for reasonable development – townhouses, sin-

gle families put people on a path to home ownership and therefore on a path to building wealth."

### MONDAY

5:15AM - FULL BODY STRENGTH - MIKIE (45 MIN.)  
6:00AM - BOOTCAMP - MIKIE (45 MIN.) 283  
6:00AM - MAT PILATES - NIKKI (55 MIN.) 283  
9:30AM - SPIN - CHERYL (45 MIN.) 2  
10:30AM - STRENGTH & STRETCH - CHERYL (60 MIN.) 2  
4:30PM - SLOW VINYASA - CORINNE (45 MIN.) 2  
5:30PM - BARRE - NIKKI (55 MIN.) 2&3  
6:30PM - XTREME HIP HOP W/ BANDS - MIKIE (50 MIN.) 3  
7:30PM - GUIDED STRETCH - JOVANI\*

### WEDNESDAY

5:15AM - LEGS & GLUTES - APRIL (45 MIN.) 283  
6:00AM - 30 MIN. HIIT - MIKIE\*  
6:00AM - SPIN - NIKKI (45 MIN.) 283  
9:30AM - SPIN - CHERYL (45 MIN.) 2  
10:30AM - STRENGTH & STRETCH - CHERYL (60 MIN.) 2  
5:30PM - BOOTCAMP - JOHNNY (45 MIN.)\*  
6:15PM - GENTLE YOGA - CORINNE (45 MIN.)\*  
7:00PM - BOOTCAMP - MIKIE (60 MIN.) 2&3

### FRIDAY

5:15AM - BOOTCAMP - APRIL (45 MIN.) 283  
6:00AM - SPIN - NIKKI (55 MIN.) 2&3  
9:30AM - SPIN - CHERYL (45 MIN.) 2  
10:30AM - STRENGTH & STRETCH - CHERYL (60 MIN.) 2  
12:00PM - GUIDED STRETCH - JOVANI (45 MIN.)\*  
5:30PM - FULL BODY BOOTCAMP - MIKE A. (50 MIN.) NEW CLASS  
6:00PM - SALSA - JUAN (60 MIN.)\*

### SUNDAY

## FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

### TUESDAY

5:05AM - STRENGTH & CONDITIONING - MIKIE (50 MIN.) 2  
5:15AM - SPIN W/ WEIGHTS - APRIL (45 MIN.) 283  
6:00AM - STRENGTH & CORE - NIKKI (55 MIN.) 2  
NEW CLASS 9:30AM - SPIN - VANESSA (55 MIN.) 2  
5:30PM - SPIN - NIKKI (45 MIN.) 2&3  
5:30PM - BOOTCAMP - JOHNNY (45 MIN.)\*  
6:30PM - GENTLE YOGA - CORINNE (50 MIN.)  
7:30PM - STRENGTH - APRIL (50 MIN.) 2

### THURSDAY

5:15AM - SPIN W/ WEIGHTS - APRIL (45 MIN.) 2&3  
6:00AM - CLASSIC STEP - NIKKI (45 MIN.)\*  
6:00AM - CORE - MIKIE (45 MIN.)\*  
9:00AM - GUIDED STRETCH - JOVANI (45 MIN.)\*  
5:25PM - MAT PILATES - NIKKI (55 MIN.) 2&3  
6:30PM - BUTTS & GUTS - VANESSA (55 MIN.)  
6:30PM - BARRE - JACKIE (50 MIN.) 2  
7:30PM - SALSA - JUAN (60 MIN.)\*

### SATURDAY

6:30AM - BARRE - JACKIE (50 MIN.) 2  
6:30AM - FITCLUB - MIKIE (50 MIN.)\*  
7:45AM - HYROX - MANNY + MARCELO (65 MIN.)\*  
10:00AM - SPIN - CHERYL (45 MIN.) 2&3  
NEW CLASS 11:00AM - FULL BODY BOOTCAMP - MIKE A. (50 MIN.)

### SUNDAY

9:00AM - SPIN - NIKKI (45 MIN.) 2&3  
10:00AM - BARRE - NIKKI (55 MIN.) 2&3  
11:00AM - SPIN W/ WEIGHTS - APRIL (45 MIN.) 2&3  
12:00PM - GUIDED STRETCH - JOVANI (45 MIN.)\*

### SUNDAY

9:00AM - SPIN - NIKKI (45 MIN.) 2&3  
10:00AM - BARRE - NIKKI (55 MIN.) 2&3  
11:00AM - SPIN W/ WEIGHTS - APRIL (45 MIN.) 2&3  
12:00PM - GUIDED STRETCH - JOVANI (45 MIN.)\*

### SUNDAY

9:00AM - SPIN - NIKKI (45 MIN.) 2&3  
10:00AM - BARRE - NIKKI (55 MIN.) 2&3  
11:00AM - SPIN W/ WEIGHTS - APRIL (45 MIN.) 2&3  
12:00PM - GUIDED STRETCH - JOVANI (45 MIN.)\*

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City of Revere

Mayor Patrick M. Keefe Jr.

## Disabilities Comm. hears of the services provided by the MGH community care van

By Journal Staff

The Revere Commission on Disabilities (COD) held its regular monthly meeting last Tuesday, February 10, via Zoom. On hand for the session were chair Ralph DeCicco, vice-chair Pauline Perno, Annmarie Fiore, Jason Barone-Cichocki, Mario Grimanis, and Ellie Vargas.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Jared Craig, the Mobile Operations Manager for the Mass. General Hospital's (MGH) Community Care Van.

Craig said he oversees the community care van for the MGH, which is one of three vans operated under the auspices of the MGH, the Brigham and Women's Hospital, and the Salem Hospital, providing coverage in Boston and the South and North Shores. He said the vans are clinically-equipped, DPH-licensed, and fully-staffed.

"Our main goal is to help people bridge the gap from not having primary care and not being engaged with a doctor on a regular basis, to having primary care," said Craig, who noted that the vans are available to individuals regardless of insurance status. "It's a walk-in model and all are welcome."

He said that the idea behind the care vans is to "move the front door of the hospital into the community, offering services such as blood pressure screenings, diabetes education and assessment, substance abuse disorder outreach and care, early cancer detection, and screening for social determinants of health and connection to resources."

Craig said a new program that the vans have undertaken recently is screening for colorectal cancer by using the Cologuard test, at no cost to the individual, with follow-ups for colonoscopies if deemed necessary.

He said that in addition to a nurse practitioner, a community health worker also is on-board the van to assist persons with obtaining

primary care and follow-up services.

He said the staff is bilingual in English and Spanish and that the MGH language line is available for other languages.

Craig said the average age of patients is 57, of whom 66% are female. Craig noted that the vans are much more efficient than a typical doctor's office in that the vans are able to provide services to more patients per hour than a typical doctor's office.

Lynn (17.1%) and Chelsea (13.2%) provided the highest-percentage of patients who used the vans' services. Revere residents accounted for only 1.6% of patient visits.

In response to a question from DeCicco, Craig said that the services of the vans are accessible to persons with disabilities in both the summer months, when the vans set up tents, and in the winter, when the vans pull into areas near buildings where lobby areas are available for them to provide services off-the-van.

DeCicco suggested that the vans could visit the public housing projects in communities such as Revere in order to provide services to persons with disabilities who live in those buildings.

Craig said the MGH van will be at Revere High School on Tuesday, February 24, from 3-6, and on the fourth Tuesday of each month thereafter.

DeCicco summarized the February 4 meeting of the Commissions on Disabilities Alliance (CODA) that he attended. He said that the commissions in other communities are having difficulty finding members.

He also mentioned that snow removal was another topic of concern among the members.

DeCicco reported that he has submitted an application for a grant to Save The Harbor/ Save the Bay for funding for the third annual All Abilities Day at Revere Beach. The COD

has received grants in each

of the past two years from the Save the Harbor group that have helped pay for the events of the day that have proven to be hugely-popular.

The members then held a discussion on reaching out to the Revere Public Library regarding financial assistance that the COD might provide with purchasing books or in-house equipment specifically tailored for people with disabilities.

DeCicco said that the commission could use funds from the money it receives for handicapped parking fines pursuant to the state law. He said he spoke to a library staff member who will be getting back to him with suggestions.

Fiore voiced her support for providing funds to the library for those purposes.

Prior to adjournment, DeCicco reminded residents and businesses that they are responsible pursuant to the city ordinance for removing the snow from the sidewalks in front of their homes and businesses.

Perno read the COD's monthly reminder to conclude the meeting:

"The Commission on Disabilities office number is 781-286-8267. Residents can also call Revere 311 directly and speak to their staff Monday through Friday. They will answer most questions, but if they are unable to assist you or if you prefer to talk with the Commission directly, please ask to be transferred to the Commission on Disability Direct number. Please leave a detailed message, and we will respond to you shortly."

"As always, please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss or add something to our monthly meeting agenda. You can also let us know if you want to discuss any concerns. The Commission is here to help and assist all residents with disabilities and their families in Revere."

The commission's next meeting (via Zoom) will be on Tuesday, March 10, at 6:00.

## RHS SPEECH AND DEBATERS QUALIFY FOR GRAND NATIONALS



The RHS Speech and Debate team competed at the 2026 NCFL Mass. Qualifier for a chance to represent the Boston Diocese at the 2026 Grand National Tournament in Washington D.C. Afomiya Wondemagegnhu, a novice, qualified in Declamation for the Boston Diocese while Dina Oufessa is 2nd Alternate in Original Oratory. This will be the fourth year in a row an RHS student has qualified for Grand Nationals. Stay tuned for fundraising opportunities to support the team.

## News Brief //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Years of Independence" at the bottom. There are 1000 plates available through the lottery, numbered from 1-999 and including the symbolic 1776.

"Massachusetts is a state of many firsts, and it is only appropriate that we celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary honoring our shared history with the opportunity to celebrate civic pride with a commemorative low number license plate through a lottery. This is a fun but meaningful and visible tribute to the historic occasion, allowing residents to participate in this once in a lifetime event," said Interim MassDOT Secretary and MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng.

"Since last May, the RMV has offered the patriotic-themed higher number plates (online) as part of the Massachusetts 250 festivities. We are so excited to continue this celebration of American and state history by enabling all qualified Massachusetts residents a chance to win a coveted low number on the popular commemorative plate. The RMV is thrilled to partner with the Massachusetts State Lottery and benefit from their lottery expertise. And thank you to the RMV team for their incredible efforts in planning this event," shared Registry of Motor Vehicles Registrar Colleen Ogilvie.

"This event represents a unique opportunity to combine historical recognition with public engagement in a way that aligns with the Lottery's mission. A commemorative low lottery plate is likely to generate strong interest from residents across the state while honoring an extraordinary milestone in our state's history," said Massachusetts State Lottery Executive Director Mark William Bracken.

Applications for the special 250th Anniversary Plate low number lottery will be available at myRMV Online Service Center (located under the Plates button) beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 16, 2026. To be eligible for the low number lottery applicants must apply by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026. Requests for specific plate numbers will not be honored. Plates will be awarded using an electronic random number generator system.

Applicants should note that there is no fee to apply for the lottery. All specialty plates have a biennial \$40.00 special plate fee, along with a registration fee of \$60.00. The initial registration fee may vary depending upon the applicant's current plate expiration date and the expiration date of the winning plate number.

gible to participate:

- Companies and corporations
- Commercial vehicles and motorcycles
- Any employee of MassDOT, including but not limited to executive level employees, RMV, Highway, MBTA, Rail and Transit, Aeronautics, all shared services within MassDOT, and contract employees

- Any employee of Mass Lottery, including but not limited to executive level employees and contract employees

- Immediate family members of any MassDOT employees (as described above) and Mass Lottery. This includes parents, spouses, children, and siblings.

- An applicant whose Massachusetts registration is not in an active status (i.e., in a non-renewal, suspended, or revoked status) at the time of entry, at the time of the lottery, or at the time of the plate swap.

- An applicant with outstanding violations or obligations reported to the RMV

- Requests for specific plate numbers will not be honored. Plates will be awarded using an electronic random number generator system.

- Submission deadline: Online entries will be accepted beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 16, 2026, and must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026.

- Lottery results, such as winner's name, place of residence, and winning plate number, will be available on the RMV website (Mass.Gov/RMV) within 5 business days of the lottery event, which will occur in May.

- All winners will be notified by mail with instructions on how to transfer their current registration to their new lottery plate. Winners will have until Friday, August 28, 2026, to pay for and swap their plates.

- Unclaimed plates by the deadline are considered forfeited by the initial winners, and those plates will be awarded to the pre-selected alternate winners after Friday, August 28, 2026.

- Plates will be registered only to the winning applicant specifically named on the application and cannot be transferred to anyone else.

- All plates remain the property of the RMV, including after registration.

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593 Revere Beach Blvd Rt  
Orantes, Eneida C

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Pettiglio, Richard  
Nowlan, James R  
Poole, Steven M  
Guarino Aldo Est  
Calo Sr Robert A Est  
Frank X Rosano Jr Nt  
Devereux, Denise

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# Forum

## SOCIAL MEDIA MUST BE OFF-LIMITS FOR CHILDREN

After about 20 years of social media platforms operating without any legal or moral constraints, the evidence is overwhelmingly clear that social media is toxic for our children.

Much like the tobacco companies 75 years ago (Big Tobacco was fully aware of the health dangers of their products, but concealed their findings for decades), today's tech conglomerates have hidden the truth of the addictive nature of their algorithms upon our children.

The recent release of internal emails and studies from these social media companies has revealed that they were well-aware of the danger that their algorithms pose to young people, whose developing brains are susceptible to the non-stop messaging that spews from their platforms.

However, as far as these rapacious social media companies are concerned, our children serve merely as profit centers for them. Their business model is simple and predatory: the longer a child remains tethered to the screen, the more data is harvested and the more revenue is generated.

It is clear that the social media companies lack any sense of morality and they never will self-regulate -- there's simply too much money at stake to ever prioritize child safety over shareholder returns.

The global community has finally begun to fight back. Australia recently enacted a law that prohibits children under 16 from holding social media accounts on major platforms. Other nations, including Spain, France, and Portugal, have followed suit with similar bans.

Even China has recognized the danger that social media platforms pose to children and has implemented a 40-minute daily limit for children under the age of 14.

The time has come for Congress to take similar action by modifying Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act. For too long, this law has protected online platforms, websites, and internet service providers from liability for content posted by third-party users.

While Section 230 was intended to foster internet growth, it was never meant to provide a legal shield to companies that knowingly design products to be addictive and harmful.

One generation of American children already has been scarred by the ill-effects of social media. We have seen the spikes in depression, anxiety, and self-harm that track perfectly with the rise of the smartphone. Congress needs to take action now -- not just to regulate content, but to mandate a minimum digital age of consent -- for the benefit of future generations.

Our children's mental health is not a commodity. It is time that our laws remove our children's fingers and eyeballs as profit centers for Big Tech.

## RAMADAN BEGINS THIS WEEK

Ramadan, which will begin this week following the sighting of the crescent moon, is the holiest month of the year for members of the Muslim faith. For 2026, Ramadan is projected to start as early as Tuesday, February 17, and extend through Thursday, March 19, or Friday, March 20, upon the sighting of the next crescent moon.

Muslims believe this is the month in which the Quran's first verses were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Ramadan is observed worldwide as a month of fasting (sawm), daily prayer (salah), reflection, and community. Fasting from dawn to sunset each day is obligatory (fard) for all healthy adults and involves abstaining from all food and drink, including water.

This practice is intended to cultivate taqwa (God-consciousness), self-discipline, and empathy for the less fortunate. The day begins with a pre-dawn meal known as suhur, and the fast is broken at sunset with a meal called iftar, often shared with family and neighbors.

The conclusion of Ramadan is celebrated with Eid al-Fitr, the "Festival of Breaking the Fast," a three-day celebration of gratitude, community, and charity.

We wish all of our friends and neighbors of the Muslim community a happy and holy Ramadan.

**The Revere Journal welcomes Letters to the Editor. Letters should be e-mailed to [editor@reverejournal.com](mailto:editor@reverejournal.com). Letters must be signed. Anonymous letters will not be accepted.**

*The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group.*

*Text or attachments emailed to [editor@reverejournal.com](mailto:editor@reverejournal.com) are preferred.*

### HARRIS STREET, REVERE MEETING STATEMENT

Dear Editor,

I attended the meeting last night, and I left feeling fired up.

The turnout alone was proof that residents of this city are deeply upset. With more notice and time to prepare, I believe even more people would have attended.

I also want to acknowledge that Tom Skwierawski did a good job facilitating the meeting. Managing a room full of frustrated and emotional residents is not easy, and that effort should be recognized.

That said, after reflecting on the discussion and its outcome, I am left feeling unheard and somewhat misled.

Throughout the meeting,

### LETTER to the Editor

much of the responsibility was attributed to MassDOT and other outside agencies, with the suggestion that they are preventing the city from taking action. However, what was overwhelmingly clear in that room was simple: residents want Harris Street restored to the way it was. I use the word "simple" intentionally, because from our perspective, it truly is that straightforward.

We were essentially told that restoring the street to its original configuration is not going to happen.

Instead, the proposed solutions involve adjusting additional routes and surrounding streets to compensate for the problems created by the Harris Street change. This creates a domino effect — layering fix upon fix rather than addressing the root issue. It feels like a temporary patch rather than

a meaningful solution. If we continue down this path, we will keep chasing secondary problems without ever resolving the original one.

Harris Street is a city-owned road. That means someone in this city has the authority to make changes. Residents are not looking for extended pilot programs, layered traffic experiments, or minor adjustments such as additional signage and speed bumps. We are asking for immediate, decisive action to correct what has clearly become a serious quality-of-life issue for this neighborhood.

When residents asked what could be done right now, we were told "better signage and some speed bumps." That response does not reflect the urgency or the scale of the problem. This situation is affecting daily life, safety, traffic

flow, and overall well-being in this area.

How long is this going to take? The community is asking for immediate relief. Restoring the street to its original configuration would eliminate the chain reaction of adjustments being proposed elsewhere.

This should not be as complicated or convoluted as it is being made to seem.

The residents of this city — and especially those in this neighborhood — do not deserve to feel dismissed or pushed aside. It is frustrating to feel as though citizens are being forced to do the investigative work and advocacy themselves when responsibility ultimately lies with city leadership.

We are asking for accountability, clarity, and action.

**Molly O'Hara**

## REVERE Through the Years

**10 years ago**

**February 17, 2016**

Revere Police Chief Joseph Cafarelli and a group of other Greater Boston officials, including Suffolk County D.A. Dan Conley and Sheriff Steve Tompkins, recently went to Israel, through an invitation-only program with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of Boston, to observe both the Israeli and Palestinian Authority sides of police operations. Cafarelli said one thing that stuck with him was how police in Israel deal with the idea of constantly being under a major threat and are able to live a normal life with the stress of constant vigilance hanging over their heads.

Residents have been complaining about the Revere Adult Day Health Care Center for a long time, mostly regarding parking, but also about the inability to walk in front of the property on the sidewalk, which was apparently paved over and is being used for parking. Ward 1 Councillor Joanne McKenna took the reigns to make sure the company adheres to the stipulations placed on it when they received a special permit several years ago. The biggest issue McKenna had was that the sidewalk was paved over and now being used for parking, forcing people to walk in the street to get around.

**20 years ago**

**February 22, 2006**

Despite the rebuilding of the seawall at Beachmont and Roughan's Pt. by the Army Corps of Engineers six years ago, homeowners in the area still are paying exorbitant rates for flood insurance.

The city has released a final Request for Proposal to the four companies that were chosen as the final bidders for the development of several acres of property in front of the Wonderland station along Ocean Ave.

Police officers from Revere and other departments concluded a long-time investigative sting with the arrests of four persons in the city who were charged with the distribution of oxycontin.

Two teenage girls were arrested by police on charges of assault & battery

after they had engaged in a fight in the middle of Central Ave. and Broadway after their release from school Thursday afternoon.

**30 years ago**

**February 21, 1996**

Some members of the School Committee and Mayor Robert Haas disagreed over where to seek a replacement for a new School Superintendent, with Haas suggesting the committee seek a new superintendent from within the system and School Committee member Gerry D'Ambrosio speaking in favor of a nationwide search.

The Haas administration is seeking a \$450,000 bond from the City Council for architect's fees for a proposed new police and fire department public safety facility on the site of the former Surf Lounge on Ocean Ave.

Even veteran police officers have been shaken by a bizarre incident that took place Sunday night at 520 Beach St. A 39 year-old man who was a tenant in an apartment was boiling rats on his stove and then set fire to a pile of money before attacking his landlord and the landlord's wife, who are both 79 years old, with a meat cleaver. The man then slashed his own throat in an unsuccessful suicide attempt before police arrived at the blood-spattered apartment.

**40 years ago**

**February 19, 1986**

Although the city will be receiving \$1.8 million more in local aid from the state than last year, Mayor George V. Colella is unhappy with the local aid formula put forward by Gov. Michael Dukakis, saying that the city is being shortchanged. The local aid formula has been revised to take into account the loss of federal revenue sharing funds, but Revere will receive only \$410,000, representing just 70 percent of what has been lost. Colella said that all communities had been promised that the state would make up 100 percent of what they previously had received from the federal government.

A large crowd attended funeral services for Joseph "Pip" Guia, 59, the treasurer of the Revere Housing Au-

thority, who died suddenly Friday. He was a 1944 grad of Revere High who had served in the Navy in WWII in what would have been his senior year of high school.

The School Committee has directed that repairs at the Roland Merullo Field House at the high school be undertaken immediately after hearing complaints of the shoddy conditions from the parents of RHS basketball players.

Car fires have declined in number from 70 to 18 over a comparable three-month period from last year, according to Fire Chief James Connery, who has attributed the decline to the creation of an Auto Arson Investigative Unit under the direction of Capt. Frederick Rappa.

**50 years ago**

**February 18, 1976**

Architect Harold Turi-

ello told the City Council that the responsibility for the problems and the poor condition of the new Revere High School lies with the city, not him. Turiello also cited the lack of communication between the mayor and the council for their poor understanding of the issues. Councillors grilled Turiello in a four-hour session concerning the various issues at the problem-plagued school. City Council member Rita Singer made a motion that the attorney general and state and local agencies conduct a thorough inspection of the school. Mayor William G. Reinsteiner said he was incensed that he was not invited to attend the meeting to present his administration's views on the issues.

See YEARS Page 6

## REVERE JOURNAL



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## MATT LESLIE, JORGE ROMERO RECEIVE PROMOTIONS IN REVERE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cary Shuman Photos

Matt Leslie was promoted to Revere Police lieutenant and Jorge Romero was promoted to Revere Police sergeant during an impressive ceremony Feb. 13 in the City Council Chambers.

City Clerk Ashley Mel-

nik administered the oaths of office to the two outstanding officers before an audience of RPD officers, city and state officials, family, friends, and members of the community.

Mayor Patrick Keefe delivered the opening remarks, leading the group in

the Pledge of Allegiance. He offered his personal congratulations to the newly promoted officers and their families.

"We've seen a real dynamic shift in our leadership at the Police Department," noted Keefe. "It has always been a very, very solid or-

ganization. I can tell you that I'm very proud of what we've seen just in the short two-and-a-half years that I've been able to help lead the city. I'm very proud to be able to lead side by side with people like Chief Callahan and now Chief Lavita, who have done an exceptional

job. Crime is down, confidence is up, and the level of professionalism with integrity that our police department bestows upon our entire city is through the roof. It has not gone unnoticed."

Chief Maria Lavita said in her remarks she was "extremely proud of the Revere

Police Department, not just, of course the two men who are being honored and promoted today, but in general, the pride, integrity, and commitment that I've seen throughout the ranks."



Ward 5 Councillor Angela Guarino-Sawaya congratulates Jorge Romero (left) on his promotion to Revere Police sergeant and Matthew Leslie (right) on his promotion to Revere Police lieutenant following the swearing-in ceremony.



City Clerk Ashley Melnik administers the oath of office to Revere Police Sgt. Jorge Romero at the swearing-in ceremony Feb. 13 in the City Council Chambers.



City Clerk Ashley Melnik administers the oath of office to Revere Police Lt. Matthew Leslie at the swearing-in ceremony Feb. 13 in the City Council Chambers.



Professional colleagues in public safety and law enforcement from the Revere Police Department were in attendance as Matthew Leslie was promoted to lieutenant and Jorge Romero was promoted to sergeant at the Feb. 13 swearing-in ceremony in the City Council Chambers.



Ward 4 Councillor Paul Argenzio, Ward 3 Councillor Anthony Cogliandro, Lt. Matthew Leslie, Sgt. Jorge Romero, Chief Maria Lavita, Rep. Jeff Turco, and Ward 5 Councillor Angela Guarino-Sawaya.



Revere Police Sgt. Jorge Romero, with his mother, Dora Romero, girlfriend, Amy Hennessey, son, Marcelo Romero, and father, Jorge Romero Sr.



Revere Police Lt. Matthew Leslie, with his wife, Lainey Leslie (center) their children, Connor Leslie, Charlie Leslie, and Gemma Leslie, his mother, Bernadette Leslie (far left), sister, Amanda Leslie (second from left) and father, Tim Leslie (far right).



Shown above, Revere Police Capt. Charles Callahan, Lt. Brian Chapman, Lt. Matthew Leslie, Sgt. Jorge Romero, Chief Maria Lavita, Executive Officer, Lt. Glenn Malley, and Capt. Tom Malone.

Shown to the right, Revere Police Lt. Matthew Leslie, with his wife, Lainey Leslie, and their children, Connor Leslie (5), Charlie Leslie (7), and Gemma Leslie (1), at the swearing-in ceremony.



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## LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

### ON DEAN'S LIST AT URI

More than 7,500 University of Rhode Island students named to Fall 2025 Dean's List The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Fall 2025 Dean's List. Among them are:

Dillan Day of Revere  
Jackie Gallarelli of Revere

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Students named to the Dean's List represent nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island's flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes sig-

nificantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: [uri.edu](http://uri.edu).

### DONIS RODRIGUEZ RUMALDO OF REVERE EARNS DEAN'S LIST HONOR AT MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

Millersville University is pleased to announce that Donis Rodriguez Rumaldo of Revere has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester.

Students are eligible for the Dean's List if they earn a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher.

Rodriguez Rumaldo is a Class of 2028 Applied Engineering and Technology Management major.

Millersville University of Pennsylvania is a top-ranked public university located in picturesque Lancaster County, in the northeast region of the United States. It is committed to offering students a high-quality, comprehensive university experience of exceptional value.

Dedicated to providing nationally recognized programs that embrace the liberal arts, Millersville offers academic opportunities that are supported by outstanding faculty who are accomplished scholars and practitioners. Founded in 1855 as the first Normal School in Pennsylvania, Millersville University is one of 14 universities within Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

### ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES FALL 2025 DEAN'S LIST

Select students have been

named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

Amira Aboudou of Revere,  
Camila Wendland of Revere

### FALL 2025 DEAN'S LIST ANNOUNCED

Stonehill College is pleased to recognize the students named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List. To qualify for this honor, undergraduate students must have achieved a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher with a minimum of 12 credits from courses graded with standard letter grades.

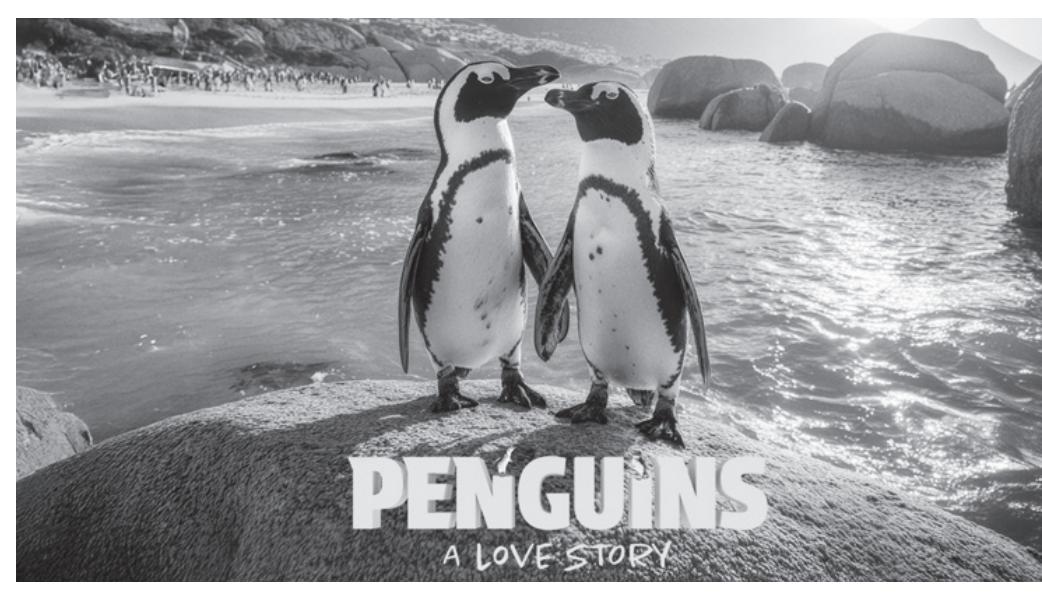
Francesca Forcellati of Revere  
Brayden Shanley of Revere

About Stonehill College

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.

The film then takes au-



## New England Aquarium to screen new documentary exploring penguin love and conservation

Special to the Journal

Penguins may be some of nature's most devoted partners. Many species form lifelong bonds, while others find their mate for a season. *Penguins: A Love Story*, a new documentary recounting remarkable stories of penguin courtship, connection, and resiliency from South Africa to Australia, debuted at the New England Aquarium on the Simons Theatre's giant screen Friday, Feb. 13.

The film introduces audiences to critically endangered African penguins from South Africa and fairy penguins, the smallest penguin in the world, from New Zealand and Australia. Shot in Cape Town, South Africa, the story follows Lenny, an African penguin searching for his lifelong mate. On the other side of the beach, Fluffball, an orphaned penguin chick, is lovingly cared for by humans at a penguin hospital. His surrogate mom feeds him sardines and teaches him to swim, nurturing Fluffball until he is fully grown.

The film then takes au-

diences to coastal Australia where a group of fairy penguins, terrorized by foxes, finds respite and care from an unexpected source. As part of an innovative conservation strategy, a patrol of Maremma dogs serve as protectors of the fairy penguins' nests and eggs, keeping danger at bay and providing hope for the species.

The New England Aquarium is home to 51 penguins, including African penguins and southern rockhopper penguins. African penguins are an endangered species that inhabit the coasts of South Africa and Namibia and are threatened by the depletion of food from overfishing, climate change, and pollution. The Aquarium is part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) SAFE African Penguin program, an international effort to protect and restore wild African penguin populations.

As a member of the program, the Aquarium participates in educational and conservation initiatives for African penguins, including field conservation work with the Southern African Foundation for the Con-

servation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB).

*Penguins: A Love Story* will be shown at the Aquarium's Simons Theatre starting Feb. 13 as part of its global release.

Tickets and show times are available by calling 617-973-5206 or by visiting [neaq.org](http://neaq.org).

The New England Aquarium is a nonprofit research and conservation organization that has protected and cared for our ocean and marine animals for more than 55 years. We provide science-based solutions and help shape policies that create measurable change to address threats the ocean faces. We inspire action through discovery and help create engaged, resilient communities.



Scan QR Code to visit website and buy tickets.

## Harris Street //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing the way they should."

The data that has been collected shows that there should be improvements across the board at every intersection, Skwierawski said.

"It obviously is not, I'm not trying to tell you all that, I'm just trying to say that this is how it is supposed to be," he said. "There are some tweaks that might improve it; if it doesn't, we are going to fix it and I can commit to all of that."

Skwierawski said the situation is also made more

difficult because MassDOT is involved with some of the roads involved.

Some of the short-term fixes he said are on the table include working with MassDOT to tweak the traffic signal model based on updated data, targeted snow removal, and exploring long-term design tweaks such as neck-downs at Harris Street, a bus lane relocation at Beach Street, and further directional changes.

In addition, the city and state are working to expedite a Bell Circle slip lane

that is part of the larger Bell Circle redesign project. Skwierawski said that the slip lane could help ease traffic and be in place by the fall.

Councillor-at-Large Joanne McKenna suggested that the city create a working group to look at the Harris Street traffic issues that includes some of the residents who have concerns.

"I want to remind everybody what happened when we changed Sigourney and Derby, we changed the directions of those streets, they experienced relief, but

it was a nightmare for the surrounding streets," said Ward 3 Councillor Anthony Cogliandro. "Now, we are experiencing that nightmare times three. Beach Street on both sides of Butler, Eustis, Sewall, Elm, Bixby, all of it, and then you go up the other way ... everyone is trying to fight through and use all of those streets as a cut-through now."

Cogliandro asked if the city was making the changes because MassDOT was already changing the intersection or if it was collabora-

tive with the city.

"It's been talked about for 13 years now in Revere, mitigation work related to Suffolk Downs," said Skwierawski. "So this predates (Suffolk Downs developer) HYM's involvement. This was taken as an opportunity to fix intersections that ... understood, it's worse today, I get that ... but it was bad before."

"There was an effort to improve the efficiency of that intersection," he continued. "It's not working right now, but that's why

they talked about it in 2013, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2023; it's been discussed for a long time, not in response to HYM, but because it is an intersection that needed to be fixed."

Skwierawski said he wasn't in Revere at the time the discussions began, but said it was likely that MassDOT played a role.

"In the permitting process, I'm sure they inserted themselves and wanted to fix this intersection, as well," he said.

## Years //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

### 60 years ago

February 24, 1966

The Revere Housing Au-

thority held a luncheon at the General Edwards Inn for the purpose of

bringing about harmony and cooperation between the RHA and the city. How-

ever, pointed questions from City Council members only served to show the differences between the two groups.

The Blue Bird and Camp Fire Girls groups are collecting soap for our service-

men in Vietnam.

The annual report of police Lieut. Gerald A. Guyer, head of the Police Dept.'s Traffic Division, states that there were 1861 accidents on city streets and seven deaths in 1965, both record highs.

A 65 year-old resident, Mrs. Mary Volante, burned to death in a fire at her residence at 46 Revere Beach Parkway Monday night. Her 32-year old daughter was rescued over ladders.

State Rep. Joseph C. DiCarlo has voted in favor of the three percent sales tax bill that has been filed by Gov. John A. Volpe. However, the city's other State Rep., Raymond Carey, voted against the measure. Volpe has pledged that the funds raised by the sales tax will be given to the state's

financially-ailing cities and towns.

### 70 years ago

February 23, 1956

The City Council voted to freeze the sale of city-owned land in Ward 4 in the vicinity of the new Northeast Expressway and will not sell any lots until all present residents whose property is being taken by the state to make way for the highway are able to bid on the city-owned lots.

Area residents flocked to local car dealers to view the 1956 automobiles during the traditional Washington's Birthday open houses.

Temple B'nai Israel will sponsor Revere Day at the Boston Celtics-St. Louis Hawks basketball game at Boston Garden on March 11.

Two plaque memorials to Richard D'Eramo and Everett Jenkins Jr., two Revere High students who drowned in a tragic accident when their small fishing boat overturned off the Pt. of Pines last spring, were unveiled

in the main corridor of the high school this week. Both boys were three-letter athletes and were teammates on the RHS baseball team. D'Eramo was a senior and Jenkins a junior.

### 80 years ago

February 21 1946

City Council members were visibly upset by the "jive music" and dancing emanating from the room next door where a dance was being held while the council conducted a budget meeting with city department heads.

Brotherhood Week is being observed by the local branch of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Plans have been finalized for the grand Parish Reunion of St. Anthony's Church to be held next week at the Ocean View Ballroom. The event will be highlighted by the burning of the church mortgage by pastor Rev. Guido L. Pallotta.

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## JROTC PATRIOT BATTALION JOINS THE HI-TECH WORLD OF ROBOTICS



Team Robo-Nerds from the RHS Patriot Battalion. MAJ (R) D. Bowker, CDT Giselle Alarcon, CDT Victoria Ackles, CDT Berganza, Keyrin, CDT Garcia, Meyson, CDT De Leon, Brittany, CDT Santos, Izabelly, CDT Morales, Katherine, CDT Sorto Cruz, Helen, CDT Mendoza, Lesly, CDT Almeida, Larissa, CDT Alfaro, Nelzon, CDT Leal, Diego, CDT Flores, David, CDT Fetuga, Adekanmi, CDT Martinez, Douglas.

Earlier this month, the Revere High School JROTC program made an impressive debut at the Robot Drone League (RDL) New England Regional competition. Competing for the first time ever, this dedicated group of cadets—proudly calling themselves the “Robo Nerds”—spent over 100 hours mastering complex programming and precision piloting to prepare for the event.

Their hard work paid off in a big way. Hosting the competition on February 7, the RHS team showcased elite engineering skills and a collaborative spirit that caught the judges' attention. The Robo Nerds walked away with several prestigious honors, including:

The Engineering Award (Team #3000)

The Team Showcase



Revere took home Second Place in the overall competition.

Award (Team #3000)

The Alliance Award (Team #4101), won in partnership with James Hillhouse JROTC.

The team also secured a 2nd Place finish for top overall scores, proving that these rookies are already major contenders in the re-

gional STEM circuit. Congratulations to the cadets and coaches on a stellar first flight!

## BBBSEM raises nearly \$1.8 million at 27th annual Big Night to support youth mentorship

Special to the Journal

On Feb. 7, nearly 700 guests gathered at House of Blues Boston to celebrate the power of youth mentoring during Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts' (BBBSEM) 27th annual Big Night. This year's celebration, with its electric Totally Tubular theme, honored the agency's mission to transform children's lives through meaningful, one-to-one mentoring relationships.

Guests danced the night away to performances by headliners Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo, and Boston's own French Lick. Big Night raised nearly \$1.8 million to support the organization's year-round community, site-based and campus-based programs.

During the event, Mark O'Donnell, President and CEO of BBBSEM, spoke about how meaningful connections empower young people to thrive in school, in life and beyond. The event also honored Wyc Grousbeck, two-time NBA champion owner, investor and philanthropist, with the James J. Pallotta Award for his generous support to help youth reach their fullest potential.

Big Night is BBBSEM's signature fundraiser. Since 1998, the cocktail party and concert has raised more than \$43 million, resulting in the creation of more than 19,000 new mentoring

matches between young people and adult mentors across the region.

“Every child deserves to feel seen, heard and cared for,” says O'Donnell. “The funds raised through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts help us provide more young people with mentors who believe in their potential. We are thankful for the community's ongoing commitment to our mission.”

BBBSEM is the state's leading one-to-one mentoring program for youth. Over the past seven decades, the organization has supported more than 25,000 young people. By 2028, BBBSEM aims to expand its reach to serve 10,000 youth in 150 communities across Eastern Massachusetts.

For more information, to become a volunteer or to register your children, visit: [www.emassbigs.org](http://www.emassbigs.org).

BBBSEM is an innovative, energetic organization that is making a real difference in the lives of over 4,000 youth annually by providing them with an invested, caring adult mentor in long-term, professionally supported relationships. With research and proven outcomes at its core, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts is working to defend the potential of children facing adversity and ensure every child has the support from caring adults that they need for healthy development and success in life.

**Honoring the values of compassion and community this Ramadan.**



**Patrick Keefe**  
Mayor of Revere

**Together in spirit, reflection, and service. Ramadan Kareem.**



**Lydia Edwards**  
State Senator

**From our family to yours  
Wishing you a peaceful and joyous Ramadan.**



**State Rep.  
Jeffrey R. Turco  
& Family**

**Peace.  
Reflection.  
Community.  
Ramadan Mubarak.**



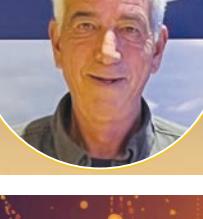
**Angela  
Guarino-Sawaya**  
Ward 5 Councillor  
& Council Vice President

**May the spirit of  
Ramadan illuminate  
your heart and your  
home.**



**John Kingston**  
School Committee-at-Large

**Ramadan Mubarak!  
May this holy month  
bring you peace  
and prosperity.**



**Chris Giannino**  
Ward 6 Councillor

**Warmest wishes  
for a meaningful  
and holy month.**



**Paul Argenzio**  
Ward 4 City Councillor

**Wishing you  
and your family  
a peaceful and  
blessed Ramadan**



**Anthony Caggiano**  
Ward 3 Revere School &  
NE Vocational School Comm.

**Ramadan Mubarak!  
Wishing you and your loved  
ones a blessed and peaceful  
Ramadan filled with reflection,  
gratitude and joy.**



**Alexander Rhalimi**  
Ward 2 School Committee

*Wishing Muslims in the United States and around the world  
a peaceful and blessed Ramadan.*

*May this month bring you and your loved ones health,  
hope, and renewed faith. Ramadan is a time for reflection,  
generosity, and community, and I hope its spirit  
inspires all of us to look out for our neighbors and  
strengthen the bonds that bring us together.*

**Ramadan Mubarak.**



**May the spirit of Ramadan  
illuminate your heart and  
your home.**



**Ira Novoselsky**  
Ward 2 City Councillor

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# Sports

## RHS GIRLS INDOOR TRACK & FIELD SENIOR NIGHT



Basma Sahibi and family.



Bianca Rincon and family.



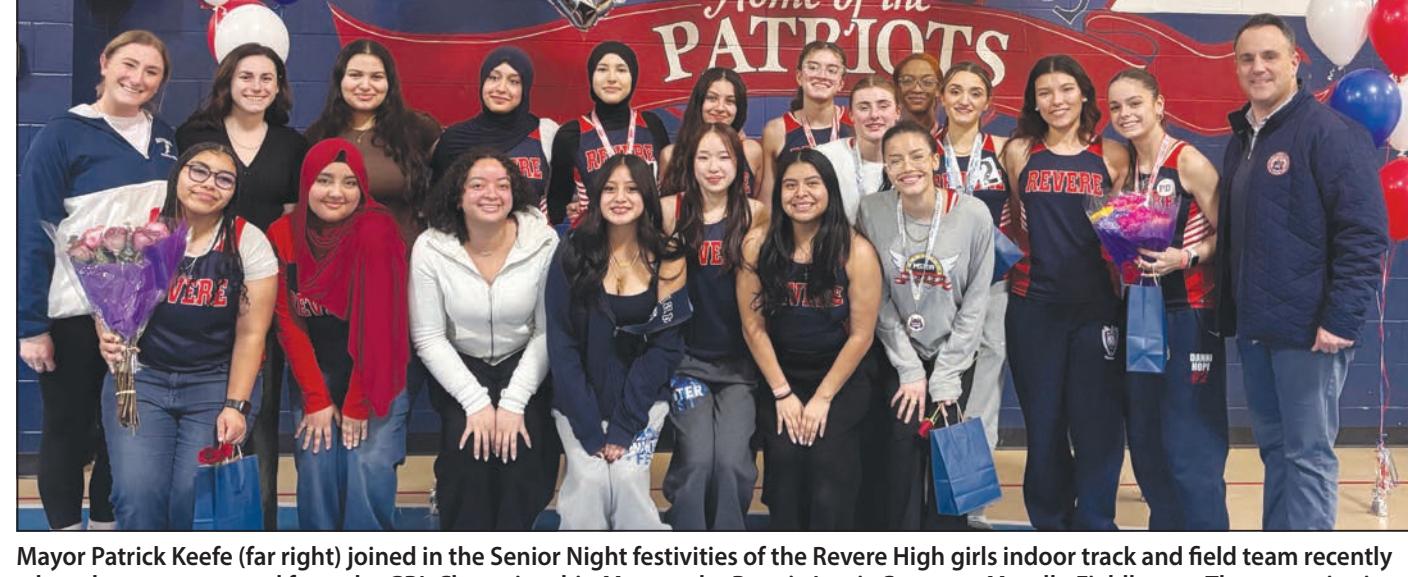
Nour Maihouane and family with head coach Racquel MacDonald-Ciambelli.



Dayana Ortega and family.



Jade Dang and family.



Mayor Patrick Keefe (far right) joined in the Senior Night festivities of the Revere High girls indoor track and field team recently when the team returned from the GBL Championship Meet at the Reggie Lewis Center to Merullo Fieldhouse. The mayor is pictured with all 17 of the team's seniors along with head coach Racquel MacDonald-Ciambelli and assistant coach Noelle MacDonald, who are in the second row, far left.



Danni Hope Randall with her mother, former RHS basketball star, Melissa Moore-Randall. See more photos on Page 10.

### RHS BOYS 4 X 200 TAKES SECOND PLACE AT D-2 MEET; SMASHES THEIR OWN RHS RECORD

The Revere High boys 4 x 200 relay quartet of senior Oliver Escobar, junior Joey Angiulo, senior Edwin Alarcon, and senior Jeremy X turned in a superb performance at the MIAA Division 2 State Championship Meet last Wednesday at The Track at New Balance to bring home a second-place medal.

Their time of 1:30.76 was just 0.42 behind the first-place team from Catholic Memorial and shattered their own RHS school record of 1:33.27 that they had set just two weeks previously at the MSTCA Invitational.

In addition, the foursome put up the sixth-fastest time in Massachusetts this season which qualified them for the 2026 Nike Indoor Nationals in New York City and likely will also qualify them for the 2026 New Balance Indoor Nationals in Boston.

"The guys ran incredibly fast," said RHS head coach

David Fleming. "Oliver got us off to a blazing start. As usual, he turned on the jets at about 30-40 meters and got us the early lead. Joey ran a great second leg. You could see how determined he was to keep us in front. Edwin, who keeps finding new gears, was able to extend the lead and hand off to Jeremy. And, when Jeremy gets the baton with a lead, it's all over. It was just a matter of how fast.

"I could see with about 100 meters to go that it would be a fast time," Fleming continued. "With a big lead, it's a credit to Jeremy that he pushed all the way through the finish line. The combined effort helped them take almost two and a half seconds off their record.

"They work so well together," Fleming added. "Everyone knows their role. They take pride in their smooth handoffs. I can't wait to see how they do in the All-State Meet."

In the other events featuring Revere boys who qualified for the meet

-- Three Patriots competed in the 55m dash. Jeremy X finished in 14th place with

a sprint of 6.83; Escobar came across the line in 23rd in 6.89; and Emmanuel Lopera was 25th in 6.92;

-- In the 300m dash, Jeremy X just missed medaling, coming across the line in 9th place with a time of 36.24. Teammate Joey Angiulo finished in 23rd place in 37.63;

-- The 4 x 400 relay four-some of Angiulo, Lopera, Amari Miller-Tobey, and

Alarcon finished in 11th place in a time of 3:36.90, which was just 1.26 seconds off the medal podium;

-- The 4 x 800 team of Diogo Yogi, Kosta Stamatopoulos, Cristian Requeno, and Thomas Waldron finished in 18th place with a time of 9:27.12; and.

-- Bryan Maia's toss of 40'-10.5" in the shot-put landed Bryan in 15th place in the competition.

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### GEMMA STAMATOPOULOS WINS 8TH PLACE MEDAL IN 600 AT D-2 MEET

Revere High track standout Gemma Stamatopoulos

brought home an eighth-place medal in the 600m event at last Wednesday's Division 2 State Track Meet that was held at The Track at New Balance in Brighton.

Gemma came across the

See ROUNDUP Page 10

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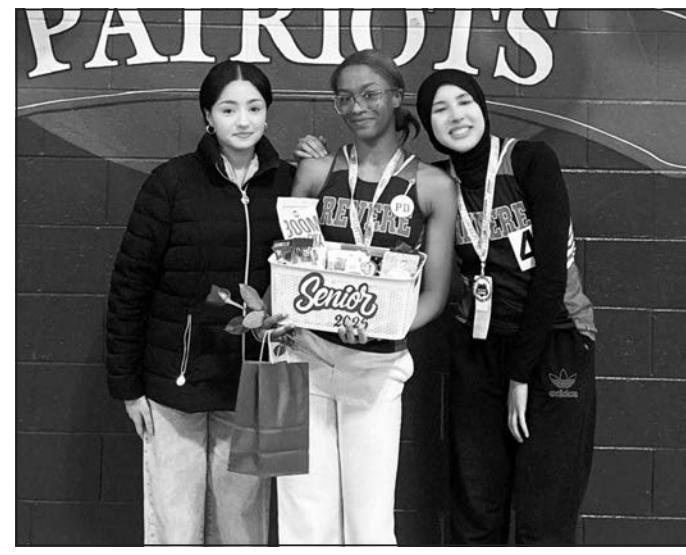
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## RHS GIRLS INDOOR TRACK &amp; FIELD SENIOR NIGHT



Gemma Stamatopoulos with family members (including their dog).



Jaliyah Manigo and family.



Olivia Rupp with family members (including their dog).



Jaleayah Figueroa and family.



Lesly Mendoza and family.



Sara Brown and family.



Aidah Louaddi and family.



Bsmela Ahmed and family.



Fatima El Hariri and family.



Kawtar Lharz and family.



Rania Hamdani and family.

## Roundup // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

line in a time of 1:42.58 to earn her ribbon from among the field of 28 competitors. "This was not a personal record (PR) for Gemma, but still a super-strong race," said RHS head coach Racquel MacDonald-Ciambelli. "Since the field was so competitive, the girls took the first of three laps a little too hard, which put Gemma right off her PR."

Rania Hamdani was right behind Stamatopoulos with a 10th place finish in the 600. "This was not bad for being only Rania's fourth time running this distance," said MacDonald-Ciambelli. "She ran a 1:45.28, also just off of her PR."

Teammate Olivia Rupp competed in the 1-mile and finished in 25th place with a clocking of 5:49.21. "This was a strong time for Olivia, right next to her season-best time of 5:47," noted MacDonald-Ciambelli.

The Lady Patriot 4 x 200 quartet of Jaliyah Manigo, Dayana Ortega, Hamdani, and Danni Hope Randall, who had been seeded 22nd coming into the meet, finished in 17th place with a time of 1:55.38, which was the second-fastest time in school history, only 0.18 off the school record that was set three years ago.

Revere's 4 x 800 team of Rupp, Hamdani, Emma De-Crosta, and Stamatopoulos turned in a strong performance to come across the line in 11th place with a time of 10:41.47.

Looking ahead to the rest of the indoor season, a contingent of Lady Patriots will be competing in these upcoming meets:

-- On February 25, Dayana Ortega, Basma Sahabi, and Zizi Kalliavas will compete in the MSTCA Pentathlon;

-- On March 21, Gemma Stamatopoulos will compete in the 800m at the Adidas Nationals in Virginia Beach;

-- On March 22, the Sprint Medley Relay Team of Danni Hope Randall, Zizi Kalliavas, Rania Hamdani, and Gemma Stamatopoulos will compete at the Adidas Nationals.

### RHS GIRLS HOOP DEFEATS NORTHEAST, QUALIFIES FOR TOURNEY

The Revere High girls basketball team punched their ticket for a Journey to the Tourney with a 54-18 victory over Northeast Regional this past Monday.

The triumph improved the Lady Patriots' record to 10-8, thereby assuring coach Ariana Rivera's squad of the .500 record needed to secure a spot in the MIAA Division 1 state tournament.

Last Tuesday the Lady Patriots traveled to Somerville, which is undefeated and in first-place in the Greater Boston League, and came up on the short end of a 53-36 decision.

The contest was a hard-fought battle through the first half. The Lady Patriots trailed 16-7 after one period, but closed the gap to 26-21 at the intermission. However, the Lady Patriots struggled on offense to start the second half. Revere scored only six points in the third period and never recovered.

Shayna Smith led Revere in the scoring column with 15 points and pulled down five rebounds.

Two nights later the Lady Patriots hosted GBL foe Everett for Senior Night festivities at which the five members of the team from the RHS Class of 2026 -- Shayna Smith, Sonia Haily, Sara Sbai, Zohra Benkreira, and Asmaa Azeroual -- were recognized for their contributions to the RHS girls basketball program.

The game started with a nice show of sportsmanship by both teams. Revere senior Sonia Haily, who had her senior season cut short because of a knee injury, was allowed to step on the court to start the game and to score the first basket. (An Everett girl then was allowed to score the next hoop.)

The Lady Patriots once again got off to a slow start and fell behind by 13 points, 17-4, at the first buzzer. However, Revere found its offensive touch in the second period and sliced the Everett advantage to one, 25-24, at the half.

However, the Lady Patri-

ots were unable to sustain their momentum after the intermission, scoring only seven points in the second half to come up on the short end of a 47-31 decision. Allyson Olliviera and Addison Ulwick both hit for nine points to pace the Revere offense.

The Lady Patriots returned to the win column last Friday with a big win over Salem, 54-13. Revere shot out to a 15-2 lead after the first period and never looked back, taking a commanding 30-5 lead into the half, enabling RHS head coach Ariana Rivera to use her entire roster.

Sarah Lechheb (12 points and four steals), Sara Sbai (12 points), and Addison Ulwick (11 rebounds) led the way for the Lady Patriots.

Rivera and her crew were scheduled to conclude their 2026 regular season with contests last night (Tuesday) against Danvers and tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon for a 1:30 tip-off with Medford.

They then will await the announcement, which is expected this Saturday,

of their seeding and opening-round opponent in the D-1 tourney.

### RHS BOYS HOOP WINS SEASON FINALE

The Revere High boys basketball team concluded its season on a positive note with a 64-31 victory at Northeast Regional this past Monday.

Senior tri-captain Isaiah Llanos poured in a career-high 26 points, which included four three-pointers. Sophomore guard Charles Dobre reached double figures with 13 points and made five steals.

The win was a nice bounce-back for the Patriots after a tough stretch last week. Last Tuesday the Patriots dropped a heartbreaker to Somerville, which is in third place in the Greater Boston League, by a score of 46-45.

The contest was highlighted by Senior Night festivities at which the seven members of the team from the RHS Class of 2026, captains Devin Berry, Nick

Rupp, and Isaiah Llanos and fellow seniors Zaney Kayembe, Jadrian Sanchez, Joseph Carlo, and Omar Attabou, were recognized for their contributions to the RHS boys basketball program.

In a 64-59 loss to Medford this past Saturday, Llanos drained a trio of treys to lead Revere in the scoring column with 13 points. Dobre turned in a strong all-around effort with 10 points, seven rebounds, and three steals. Senior Jordan Sanchez added seven points and pulled down five boards.

Last Thursday, the Pats came up short to Everett, 74-35, with Llanos hitting for 10 points and junior forward Bryan David grabbing 10 rebounds and adding six points.

"The team showed a lot of improvement from December through January and into February," said RHS head coach David Leary, whose squad ended up at 5-15. "The kids stayed together, continued to work and made their community proud."

## REVERE HIGH CHEERLEADING SENIOR NIGHT



Captain Briana Capunay with parents, Diane & Jose, siblings, Jacob, Mia & Julian, aunt Catherine, boyfriend, Noah and best friends Izzy & Jess.



PHOTOS BY JENN CIMINO



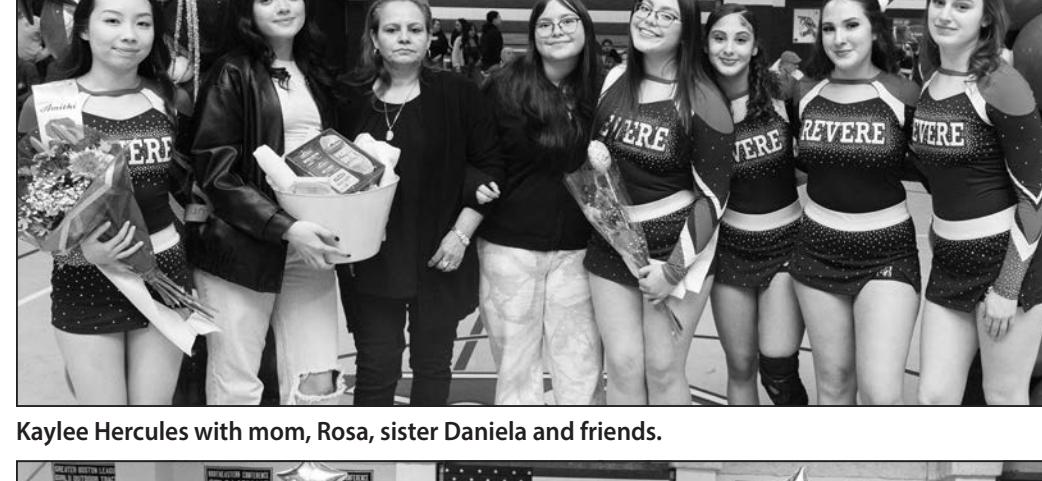
Captain Nicolas Freitas with mom, Marlet, aunt, Rosaline and friends, Kimberly Lavalle, Ciara Freeman, Lorella Beachin, Mia DiGregorio, Olivia Audrey and Mav Araujo.



Captain Geovanny Acetty with mom, Maria, sisters, Keila & Kamyla and friends.



Ian Alvarez with mom, Milena and best friends Helena & Alejandra.



Kaylee Hercules with mom, Rosa, sister Daniela and friends.



See SPORTS YEARS Page 12

### RHS SPORTS Through the Years

#### 10 years ago

February 17, 2016

Paige Licata, a 2010 graduate of Revere High School where she was a three-sport captain, is the new head coach of the St. Mary's High School softball team. At 23, Licata becomes one of the youngest varsity head coaches in the state.

The Revere High hockey team earned what arguably was its biggest win of the season with a 2-1 victory over Lowell Saturday evening at Cronin Rink, keeping alive the Patriots' chances at qualifying for the MIAA post-season state tournament and a shot at earning a spot in the school-

boy version of the Frozen Four at Boston Garden. Mike Goroshko (assisted by Steve Noel and Joe Ristino) and Anthony Cecca (assisted by Rob Stoica and Rick Brian) lit the red lamp for Revere.

Madison Matheson with dad, Mark, stepmom, Maureen, Nana Tina, sister, Mina, cousins Jordyn & Maya and friends.

### RHS BOYS BASKETBALL SENIOR NIGHT



Joseph Carlo with parents Rita & John and sister Samantha.



Tri-Captain Nick Rupp with parents Heidi & Paul and sister Olivia.



Zaney Kayembe with parents Daisy & Paul, brother AJ and girlfriend Dayana.



Jadrian Sanchez with parents Michelle & Bernie, Grandmother Norma and sister Alilah & Kailey.



Omar Attabou with his friends.



Tri Captain Devin Barry with parents Maria & Anthony and family.



Tri-Captain Isaiah Llanos with parents Erin & Waldy, siblings OT, Joseph & Sophia and family.

# Drought conditions worsen in southeast region

Special to the Journal

The Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper declared the Southeast Region has worsened to a Level-2 Significant Drought, and the Millers River Basin has improved. All other regions remain unchanged.

Drought is a look back at conditions over a period of time. The Drought Management Task Force (DMTF) collected and analyzed data from August 2024 through January 2026.

During January, Massachusetts received a significant amount of snow and a total of 2 to 3.5 inches of precipitation. In spite of this, precipitation deficits since 2024 remain. Additionally, record cold temperatures and frozen ground have prevented snowmelt from occurring and soaking into the soil, limiting groundwater recharge and discharge to streams.

The current drought, which began in 2024, has continued to have significant impacts on the natural environment, including low streamflow, decreasing wa-

ter levels in lakes and ponds, and declining groundwater in nearly all regions. Although local water supplies are currently stable, as the drought continues to persist and with reduced recharge at this time of the year, it is prudent for all to be very conservative and save water whenever possible.

As outlined in the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, continued detailed monitoring of drought conditions must continue. The drought levels also require ongoing coordination among state and federal agencies to implement drought response actions such as water-use restrictions. Additionally, engagement with municipalities, including local Boards of Health (BOH), is essential.

This includes providing technical outreach and assistance to water suppliers and affected municipalities. Residents are asked to report to their local BOH if wells drying up; BOHs are asked to report here on the condition of local private wells.

Residents can report dry environmental conditions and submit photos to help

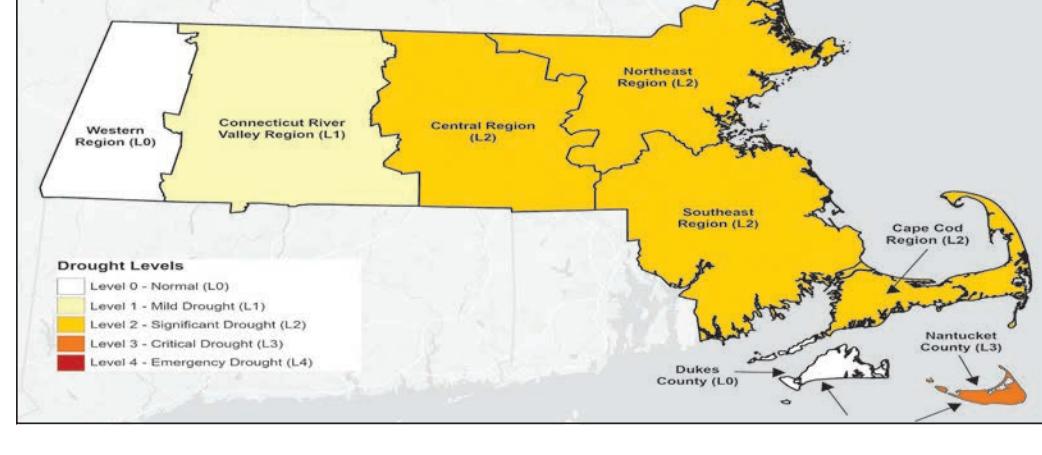
monitor the situation on the Massachusetts Water Impact Reporter (here). Additionally, a FAQ is now available for questions regarding the current drought status and water conservation; and private well owners can go here for information on how the drought may impact them.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will continue to assist communities in managing their water systems. The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) water supply system is not experiencing drought conditions.

Below are recommendations for communities and individuals living and working within a Level 1-Mild Drought, Level 2-Significant Drought, and Level 3-Critical Drought including those utilizing a private well. Residents and businesses are strongly urged to check with their local water system in case more stringent water restrictions are in place. Many systems may have other, more severe local conditions and constraints on water supply.

Residents can report dry environmental conditions and submit photos to help

streamflow, decreasing wa-



## Sports Years //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

### 20 years ago

**February 22, 2006**

Revere star hurdler Peniel Muteba turned in an outstanding performance in the 55 meter hurdle competition at the Division 1 State Meet with a time of 8.69 seconds (the winning time was 8.51) to take second place. Muteba handily had captured the Northeastern Conference crown the week before.

RHS sophomore Deth Chan won a fourth-place medal in the parallel bars at Saturday's State Gymnastics Meet. Chan fell just short of earning three

more medals in the pommel horse, floor exercise, and all-around, finishing in seventh position in all three.

Coach Jim Palumbo's RHS hockey squad handily clinched a berth in the state tourney with wins of 7-2 over Saugus and 6-1 over Beverly. Matt Leslie (2), Anthony Morico (2), Pat Weber (2), who is the second leading scorer in the NEC, and Gerard Salvati scored the goals against Saugus. Weber scored four goals in the Beverly victory, with Anthony DelloIacono and Rick Mastropietro also

scoring for Revere.

The RHS girls basketball team, which had endured a 79-game winless streak entering this season, finished off the 2006 campaign with a 65-60 triumph over Medford in overtime. Senior captain Christina Polsonetti led Revere with 18 points. Fellow captain Alex DeMatta added 12 points. The Lady Patriots recorded four victories this season.

### 30 years ago

**February 21, 1996**

Despite a full house at Cronin Rink, including

the "Pats Pound" cheering section, whose members were decked out in blue body paint, the RHS hockey team was unable to end Arlington's 40-game winning streak and dropped a 2-0 decision. RHS goalie Mark Lavery was sensational, turning in the best game of his career, but his Patriot teammates were unable to mount a substantial offensive threat against the powerful Arlington defense.

However, after a 14-1 win over Malden, coach Jim Palumbo's team set a new record of 16 wins in one

season for the RHS hockey program.

Despite losses of 62-52 to Medford and 50-44 to Peabody, the RHS girls basketball team ended the season with a 9-7 record in the GBL. The Lady Patriots are 11-7 overall and are headed to the state tourney.

Nick Piscitelli ended the season undefeated in the GBL and claimed the GBL title with a victory in the hurdles at the All-GBL Meet Wednesday. Sam Ros took fourth place for the Patriots in the mile with a personal record time of 4:52.2.

### 40 years ago

**February 19, 1986**

The RHS boys gymnastics team capped off another fine year with a third place finish in the state gymnastics meet. The team was led this season by junior sensation Phi Che, Paul DeBenedictis, and John Spinelli.

John Bruzzese captured first place for the RHS boys track team at the GBL Meet with a victory in the 1000 in 2:29.0. The RHS boys placed second in the meet. At the State Meet held at Harvard, Rich Casoli finished sixth in the dash in 5.81. The relay team of Casoli, Bruzzese, Jeff Pitz, and Joe Galvin set a new RHS record of 3:36.7 in the 4 x 400 to take fourth place at the meet.

After a 59-42 loss to Peabody and a 61-28 win over Chelsea, the 10-8 RHS girls basketball team needs to win both of its final games to achieve the requisite 60 percent winning record to qualify for the state tourney. Freshman center Patrice Misiano led Revere with 15 points in the Peabody contest.

Despite a 38-point effort by Sal Bottari, the RHS boys basketball team

## CITY PAWS

### At Home Dental Care

By Penny &amp; Ed Cherubino

Would you like to save thousands of dollars in veterinary expenses over your pet's lifetime? One easy way is to provide effective at-home dental care. Daily tooth brushing can reduce the number of professional dental cleanings your dog or cat will need to undergo.

In a 2025 article, the website Chewy.com estimated the cost of a veterinary dental cleaning for a dog to be between \$200 and \$800. We all know the cost in this area is high and may exceed that estimate.

That's just the cost of the cleaning. Because general anesthesia is used, preoperative examinations, blood work, and urinalysis may be needed. If dental radiographs, periodontal treatment, or extractions are required, the costs can reach into the thousands.

Even with the best of care, as we have learned with our Westie Poppy, breeding and other health issues may still find you facing dental procedures.

#### Brushing Teeth

Your vet can show you how to brush your dog's teeth. There are also many videos online that offer tips and tricks.

We knew the benefit of daily brushing. Our second Westie, Maggie Mae, had her teeth brushed twice a day for 15 years. She was cooperative and thought her poultry-flavored toothpaste was a treat. She had one dental cleaning in her life, at age seven.

We use regular soft-bristle toothbrushes with



Even if your dog or a new rescue has visible tartar, it's never too late to start dental care.

dog-specific toothpaste. Canine toothpaste comes in flavors dogs like. It can also be swallowed, so you don't have to teach your pup to spit and rinse.

The first step is to help your pet get used to having you examine their mouth. Gently open the mouth with one hand and look around. Once that works, apply a small amount of toothpaste to your finger and rub it on the teeth. Step by step, your dog or cat will learn to accept a toothbrush.

#### Other Ways to Clean Teeth

Besides brushing, there are other ways you can help your dog have cleaner, healthier teeth. And, if you have an older dog or one that just won't let you into their mouth, these may be the best you can do.

Your vet can tell you about wipes, sprays, treats, and chew toys that help clean the teeth. Holistic approaches may include di-

etary changes and adding supplements to food or water to help kill bacteria and reduce plaque on teeth.

There are special chew toys that help clean teeth. These work best for young dogs and dogs who love to chew. Brushing is always better because the process becomes easier as the dog ages, and it allows you to perform a daily review of the mouth and teeth.

#### Symptoms of Dental Disease

Bad breath, visible plaque on teeth, and red, swollen gums are reasons to make a vet appointment. More subtle changes in your pet may provide early warning and should be reported to your veterinarian. These would include: not chewing food well, chewing on one side of the mouth, less interest in chew toys, an increase in salivation, and pawing at or rubbing the face.

See CITY PAWS Page 16

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# A STROLL THROUGH TIME

## ONE FIFTH

REVERE'S FIFTH-GRADE BASKETBALL  
TEAM TAKES THE EASTERN TRAVEL  
LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

STORY AND PHOTO, PAGE 13

## INSIDE

Paula Dean says 'Hop to It, Y'all.' Recipes, Page 6  
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# REVERE JOURNAL

VOLUME 11, NO. 11

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1881

50 CENTS

WEDNESDAY,  
MARCH 24, 2010

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## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

# Code green (and blue)

It's not easy  
balancing energy  
and cost efficiency

BY SETH DANIEL  
seth@reverejournal.com

The buzzwords of the times we live in right now are 'Green' and 'energy efficient,' and Revere is looking to march into that movement this year by taking steps to qualify as a state-defined Green Community.

However, as many are finding out concerning this movement, when the heat is on to go Green, it often means a lot of cold cash coming out of the pockets of private businesses and consumers.

That's just what many construction businesses owners and city councillors are finding out



about one portion of the Green Community Act that Mayor Tom Ambrosino is pushing. The reason for the push is so that Revere can capitalize on state government grant money.

One of the most controversial points in the quest to become a Green Community is to implement a stricter building code.

The code - called the Stretch

## LOOKING AT THE NEWS

# This idea is a stretch

BY SETH DANIEL

The mayor's proposal of enacting the new 'Stretch Building Code' pretty much sums up the political times we live in politically right now.

The Code is an offshoot of the new "Green Movement" - whatever that really is - that has enraptured the country since President Barack Obama took office. It, obviously, stems from the unrealistic environmental movement of the 1960s.

Just as with last weekend's health care vote and other federal measures taken against the automotive industry and the financial sector, Revere Mayor Tom Ambrosino has seemingly begun to pit government revenues against the sustainability of private enterprise.

This has happened before in Revere, and in the recent past.

When the local Meal's Tax came up last year - a measure that was wisely defeated - the mayor once again pitted city revenues/jobs

## CITY HALL

# The mayor wants to open for business on Fridays

## JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A locked door no more? Mayor Tom Ambrosino said he is making a priority out of trying to get City Hall back open again for a half-day on Fridays.

Despite what is anticipated to be a 4-5 percent cut to state local aid this year, the mayor said he was putting together a proposal for City Hall unions to call them back for Fridays.

Last June, amidst drastic state local aide cuts, the city began closing City Hall every Friday. That has persisted for nearly one year now in order to save money.

But it could be coming to an end.

"I'm looking for some health insurance concessions that, over time, would really benefit the city," he said. "If I get those and



MAYOR AMBROSINO

*This week, we look back 16 years to the news of 2010.*

*We hope you enjoy the reprinting of these Page 1 stories.*

## COMMUNITY



CARY SHUMAN PHOTO

St. Mary's High cheerleading coach Beverly Buckley and the Revere girls on the team, Jillian Powers and Courtney Carey.

# Revere Pop Warner grads lead St. Mary's cheerleading team to a fifth place finish

BY CARY SHUMAN  
editor@lynnejournal.com

Two graduates of the Revere Pop Warner cheerleading program helped lead the St. Mary's High School (Lynn) basketball cheerleading squad to a fifth-place finish in the New England Championships in Providence.

St. Mary's juniors Courtney Carey and Jillian Powers are members of the varsity squad that won the Catholic Central League championship.

St. Mary's, under the direction of coach Beverly Buckley, advanced to the New Englands as a result of its fifth-place finish in the Massachusetts State Championships at Wachusett Regional High School in Holden.

Courtney Carey is in her eighth consecutive year of cheerleading. She began cheering in the Revere Junior Patriots organization and continued in the sport when she entered St. Mary's as a freshman.

"I used to go to my cousin's [Robert Otollo] Revere High football games and I'd see the cheerleaders and I loved the fact

that they were cheering for their teams so I wanted to be a cheerleader," said Carey.

She played in the Revere Girls Basketball League, but dancing and cheerleading became her primary extra-curricular pursuits.

Carey has 13 years of dance training from the Nicole Zervas Dance Academy in Revere and Dance Connections in Saugus. She is a four-year cheerleader at St. Mary's.

Carey said she was happy to reunite with Powers in the St. Mary's cheerleading program. "I've been cheering with Jillian for eight years, beginning in Revere Pop Warner," said Courtney, daughter of Michael and Christina Carey. "We've been cheering together for a long time, so she's one of my really good friends."

Powers, daughter of Kristen Galli, John Powers, and Michael Galli, said it's been a great season and having Courtney Carey as a teammate once again has made cheerleading a lot of fun.

"Courtney's one of my best friends - I like all the girls on our squad, they're cool," said Powers, who studied dance for one year at Nicole Zervas Dance Academy. "I felt we've accomplished a lot as a squad by reaching the state finals and advancing to the New Englands."

"Courtney and Jillian are outstanding athletes, but what I like about them most is that they're outstanding students and caring individuals who are well respected and role models throughout the school," said Buckley.

## LEGAL NOTICES

SUBMIT TO LEGALS@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

## LEGAL NOTICE

A-26-06  
Public Hearing  
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws and Revised Ordinances of the City of Revere (RRO) that the City of Revere Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday evening, February 25, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. in the City Councillor Joseph A. DelGrosso City Council Chamber, Revere City Hall, 281 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151 on the application of 690 Washington Avenue, LLC, 502 Proctor Avenue, Revere, MA 02151 requesting the following variances to enable the applicant to raze the existing structure and build a new two-family structure with an attached accessory dwelling unit at 690 Washington Avenue, Revere, MA 02151:

1. RRO Section 17.24.010 with respect to minimum side yard setback requirement of 10 feet for lots greater than 6,000 s.f. within the RB District.  
2. RRO Section 17.24.010 with respect to maximum building coverage requirement of 30% within the RB District.

A copy of the aforementioned application (A-26-06) is on file and available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, Revere City Hall, Revere, Massachusetts, Monday through Thursday from 8:15AM to 5:00PM and on Friday 8:15AM to 12:15PM. If unable to attend the public hearing, proponent/ opponent testimony will be accepted in writing via email to amelnik@revere.org on or before February 18, 2026.

Ashley E. Melnik, Clerk  
City of Revere  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
2/11, 2/18  
R

## LEGAL NOTICE

A-26-09  
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws and Revised Ordinances of the City of Revere (RRO) that the City of Revere Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday evening, February 25, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. in the City Councillor Joseph A. DelGrosso City Council Chamber, Revere City Hall, 281 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151 on the application of 125 Squire Road Real Estate Holdings, LLC, 55 Berkshire Street, Swampscott, MA 01907 requesting the following variances to enable the applicant to construct an additional floor to the rear of an existing hotel (under construction) for the purpose of creating a function room at 125 Squire Road, Revere, MA 02151:

1. RRO Section 17.24.010 with respect to maximum FAR of 1.0 within the HB District;  
2. RRO Section 17.24.010 with respect to maximum height of 50 feet within the HB District;  
3. RRO Section 17.24.010 with respect to maximum number of 5 stories within the HB District;  
4. RRO Section 17.28.020 with respect to minimum parking requirements of 1/4 seats for meeting hall within the HB District.  
  
A copy of the aforementioned application (A-26-09) is on file and available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, Revere City Hall, Revere, Massachusetts, Monday through Thursday from 8:15AM to 5:00PM and on Friday 8:15AM to 12:15PM. If unable to attend the public hearing, proponent/ opponent testimony will be accepted in writing via email to amelnik@revere.org on or before February 18, 2026.  
Ashley E. Melnik, Clerk  
City of Revere  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
2/11, 2/18  
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## LEGAL NOTICE

A-26-07  
Public Hearing  
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws and Revised Ordinances of the City of Revere (RRO) that the City of Revere Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday evening, February 25, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. in the City Councillor Joseph A. DelGrosso City Council Chamber, Revere City Hall, 281 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151 on the application of 125 Squire Road Real Estate Holdings, LLC, 55 Berkshire Street, Swampscott, MA 01907 requesting the following variances to enable the applicant to construct an additional floor to the rear of an existing hotel (under construction) for the purpose of creating a function room at 125 Squire Road, Revere, MA 02151:

1. RRO Section 17.24.010 with respect to maximum area requirement of 10,000 s.f. within the GB District;  
2. RRO Section 17.24.010 with respect to maximum FAR of 1.5 within the GB District;  
3. RRO Section 17.24.010 (q) with respect to minimum front yard setback requirement of 20 feet, side yard setback requirement of 15 feet, and rear yard setback requirement of 20 feet for residential use within the GB District;  
4. RRO Section 17.24.010 with respect to minimum frontage requirement of 100 feet within the GB District; Section 17.24.010 with respect to maximum FAR of 1.5 within the GB District;  
5. RRO Section 17.28.020 (D) with respect to minimum parking requirements for apartment use within the GB District.  
  
A copy of the aforementioned application (A-26-07) is on file and available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, Revere City Hall, Revere, Massachusetts, Monday through Thursday from 8:15AM to 5:00PM and on Friday 8:15AM to 12:15PM. If unable to attend the public hearing, proponent/ opponent testimony will be accepted in writing via email to amelnik@revere.org on or before February 18, 2026.

email to amelnik@revere.org on or before February 18, 2026.

Ashley E. Melnik, Clerk  
City of Revere  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
2/11, 2/18  
R

(D) with respect to

minimum parking requirements for apartment use within the GB District;  
7. RRO Section 17.32.050 with respect to minimum screening requirement of 6 feet between unenclosed multifamily parking and residential uses.

A copy of the aforementioned application (A-26-08) is on file and available

for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, Revere City Hall, Revere, Massachusetts, Monday through Thursday from 8:15AM to 5:00PM and on Friday 8:15AM to 12:15PM. If unable to attend the public hearing, proponent/ opponent testimony will be accepted in writing via email to amelnik@revere.org on or before February 18, 2026.

Ashley E. Melnik, Clerk  
City of Revere  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
2/11, 2/18  
R

## LEGAL NOTICE

A-26-08  
Public Hearing  
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws and Revised Ordinances of the City of Revere (RRO) that the City of Revere Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday evening, February 25, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. in the City Councillor Joseph A. DelGrosso City Council Chamber, Revere City Hall, 281 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151 on the application of One Shirley, LLC, 1040-1048, North Shore Road, Revere, MA 02151 requesting the following variances to enable the applicant construct a twenty (20) unit apartment building at 700 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151 requesting the following variances to enable the applicant construct a twenty (20) unit apartment building at 700 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151:

1. RRO Section 17.24.010 with respect to minimum area requirement of 10,000 s.f. within the GB District;

2. RRO Section 17.24.010 with respect to maximum FAR of 1.5 within the GB District;

3. RRO Section 17.24.010 (q) with respect to minimum front yard setback requirement of 20 feet, side yard setback requirement of 15 feet, and rear yard setback requirement of 20 feet for residential use within the GB District;

4. RRO Section 17.24.010 with respect to minimum frontage requirement of 100 feet within the GB District; Section 17.24.010 with respect to maximum FAR of 1.5 within the GB District;

5. RRO Section 17.28.020 (D) with respect to minimum parking requirements for apartment use within the GB District.

A copy of the aforementioned application (A-26-09) is on file and available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, Revere City Hall, Revere, Massachusetts, Monday through Thursday from 8:15AM to 5:00PM and on Friday 8:15AM to 12:15PM. If unable to attend the public hearing, proponent/ opponent testimony will be accepted in writing via email to amelnik@revere.org on or before February 18, 2026.

Ashley E. Melnik, Clerk  
City of Revere  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
2/11, 2/18  
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2. RRO Section 17.20.170 (B) with respect to the requirement that at least 10% of the land area of a PUD shall be set aside as permanent usable open space;

3. RRO Section 17.20.200 with respect to the requirement that at least 2 parking spaces per residential unit shall be provided for a PUD.

A copy of the aforementioned application (A-26-10) is on file and available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, Revere City Hall, Revere, Massachusetts, Monday through Thursday from 8:15AM to 5:00PM and on Friday 8:15AM to 12:15PM. If unable to attend the public hearing, proponent/ opponent testimony will be accepted in writing via email to amelnik@revere.org on or before February 18, 2026.

Ashley E. Melnik, Clerk  
City of Revere  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
2/11, 2/18  
R

27, 2016, and registered at Suffolk County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 875234 and noted on Certificate of Title No. C250-8, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant/s/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Service-members Civil Relief Act. If you object to the foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before March 30, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on February 11, 2026.  
Attest:  
Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder  
2/18  
R

Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding.

To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/12/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court.

Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Janine D. Rivers,  
First Justice of this Court.  
Date: February 17, 2026  
Stephanie Everett  
Register of Probate  
2/18  
R

as a mixed-use space, including a Revere Public Schools early education center, the Revere Parking Department, Revere Retirement and the Metro North Regional Emergency Communication Center ("the MNRECC"), and including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, including the oversight of the construction (the "Project"); and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor; and that the Mayor is authorized to apply for, accept and expend any grants or aid available for the Project or for the financing thereof, provided that the amount of the borrowing authorized by this order shall be reduced by any amount received by the City from the MNRECC and/or The Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("the Commonwealth") as grants or reimbursement for costs of the Project.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the appropriate officials of the Commonwealth to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all bonds of the City authorized to be borrowed pursuant to this loan order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as such officials of the Commonwealth may require in connection therewith.

In City Council February 9, 2026. ORDERED on a Roll Call: Councillors Argenzio, Cogliandro, Giannino, Guarino-Sawaya, Haas, Kelley, Mercurio, McKenna, Novoselsky, Silvestri, and Council President Zambuto voting "YES". Attest: Ashley E. Melnik, City Clerk. Signed by Mayor Patrick M. Keefe, Jr., February 12, 2026.

Attest:  
Ashley E. Melnik  
City Clerk  
2/18  
R

## LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Probate and Family Court Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street, Boston, MA 02114, (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU26P0164EA Estate of: Selene Hunter Date of Death: 01/10/2026 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Lyman Rate of Phoenix, AZ requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Lyman Rate of Phoenix, AZ be appointed as

## LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice  
City of Revere, MA  
Mixed Use Facility Bonds  
Approved Bond  
Authorization  
ORDERED: That  
\$37,000,000 is hereby appropriated to pay costs of the renovation and reconstruction of the McKinley Elementary School

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This week's "In the Loop" focuses on these remaining winter months. Winter can be especially challenging for local families and community members. In response to the recent freeze in SNAP benefits and ongoing pressures on food assistance programs, the City of Revere has compiled a guide to regional food resources available in and around the community. Additionally, due to cold weather conditions, an updated list of adult warming centers is available for those in need of a safe, warm place. Residents looking to support their neighbors can also find information on donations and volunteer opportunities by visiting the Public Health Division page on revere.org. You can find this message in five languages playing on all RevereTV outlets through March. Each of these videos are accompanied by a translated visual flyer. Follow RevereTV on Instagram, Facebook, or YouTube to get the first look as soon as "In the Loop" is posted.

A few weeks ago, the Rossetti-Cowan Senior Center hosted a Celebration of Motown Music in honor of Black History Month. Coverage of this celebration will be playing daily on the Community Channel through February. Watch and dance along to a curated playlist of Black artists. These types of events typically happen at least once per month and usually include a great meal and time with friends. Any senior citizen in Revere is welcome to attend.

The City of Revere held its 3rd Annual Winter Wonderland on February 7, 2026 on Revere Beach. There was an ice sculpture event going on all day, even in the snow! Attendees got to enjoy free chili and vote in that chili competition, as well as shop at the winter market and get food from various food trucks. RevereTV's youth correspondent Manique Knessouane takes the audience through the whole event in case you couldn't make it. Watch this coverage now on the Community Channel and all RTV social media accounts.

Continue the vibes of Valentine's Day with the newest episode of "Northeast Coops." In Season 3, Episode 5, now playing on the Community Channel, watch the talented Culinary Arts students from Northeast Metro Tech as they show you how to create delicious Red Velvet Cheesecake Brownies. Everything the students make is from scratch so feel free to watch on YouTube to pause and follow along at your own pace.

RTV GOV remains scheduled with all of the latest government meetings. All of the February meetings thus far are currently replaying in a rotation by date. Live meetings are sprinkled in between at the times they are scheduled on the city calendar on revere.org. Meetings stream live on RTV GOV and YouTube and then replay in the weeks following. RTV GOV is channel 9 on Comcast and channels 13 and 613 on RCN.



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Members during the most recent School Committee meeting were a vote was held to determine the future of middle school placements in the city.

## Lottery system for middle school choice to be phased out

Special to the Journal

The Revere School Committee voted Tuesday night to begin phasing out the city's middle school lottery system, setting in motion a shift in how students will be assigned to Rumney Marsh Academy, Garfield Middle School, and Susan B. Anthony Middle School.

The decision followed a community forum attended by more than 100 families, students, educators, and city officials, and a districtwide parent survey that drew nearly 500 responses. Under the approved plan, the lottery will be eliminated gradually, beginning with incoming sixth graders. Current seventh and eighth-graders will remain in their existing placements, ensuring a phased transition rather than an immediate overhaul.

Vice Chair Monterroso introduced the motion and described the intense work the entire committee had done prior to making this decision. "We've spent over a year—really closer to two years—talking about the lottery, thinking about finances, our community, our students, and our schools. This is an informed decision, one made with feedback from students, parents, and educators."

Further discussion about the precise neighborhood model and implementation details will continue in future meetings.

Mayor Patrick Keefe shared that the neighbor-

hood middle school assignments will begin with sixth grade for the 2026-2027 school year and then proceed from there through 7th and 8th grades in subsequent school years.

Overall, approximately 74 percent of respondents said they preferred a neighborhood-based middle school assignment system. Seventeen percent supported keeping the lottery, and about 9 percent expressed no preference.

Nearly 200 written comments accompanied the survey responses. According to Kelly, the most echoed themes in the survey were a desire for predictability, less stress, reduced transportation time, and the ability for children to attend school closer to home.

"One parent talked about the stability and not having to feel the anxiety of wondering where your child will go," Kelly said. "That predictability creates a sense of calm for families."

At the same time, at least some families praised the lottery for providing options that better fit individual student needs.

Revere's lottery system was introduced in 2010 after new middle school buildings opened. At the time, enrollment demand was heavily skewed toward Rumney Marsh and Susan B. Anthony, leaving Garfield significantly under-enrolled.

Without a balancing mechanism, district lead-

ers said, one school would swell to nearly 700 students while another might enroll fewer than 400—creating inequities in class size, staffing, and programming.

In addition to family concerns, rising transportation costs have played a central role in reopening the debate. Under the lottery, students may be bused across the city depending on placement outcomes, even when another middle school is geographically closer to home. Officials say a neighborhood-based system would significantly reduce busing needs.

At the January community forum, more than 100 families, staff members, and students gathered with Superintendent Dr. Dianne Kelly, Mayor Keefe, School Committee members, and city planning officials to review potential neighborhood models.

City Planner Tom Skwierawski, working with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, presented three possible attendance-zone scenarios. The maps were drawn using natural and man-made boundaries—including major roadways such as Route 1A, Route 16, and Route 60—while

also analyzing demographic balance across income levels, race, multilingual learner status, and special education needs.

Under all three proposed neighborhood scenarios, the number of students living more than two miles from their assigned school would drop dramatically—from more than 400 under the lottery model to fewer than 100. The number of students living within one mile of their school would more than double.

Kelly stressed that specialized programs would remain intact regardless of assignment structure. Students with Individualized Education Programs requiring specific services—such as the ASCEND program housed at Garfield—would continue to be placed accordingly.

"We promise that regardless of the model, all students will have what they need," Kelly said at the forum. "There's no perfect solution. The challenge is figuring out how best to get there."

During Tuesday's School Committee meeting, members also discussed how sibling placement and non-neighborhood requests

would work under the new system.

Kelly explained that once neighborhood schools are implemented, there would no longer be automatic sibling preference as part of a lottery. Instead, families could request a non-neighborhood assignment, similar to the process currently used at the elementary level.

"We would honor non-neighborhood requests as long as it's a lower enrollment and the student is in excellent standing," Kelly said, noting that attendance issues can factor into decisions if travel across town creates chronic lateness or absences.

The committee's vote formally begins the transition away from the lottery, with incoming sixth graders

next fall expected to attend their designated neighborhood schools.

Current sixth graders will move up within their existing schools, and current seventh graders will advance to eighth grade without reassignment. District leaders said attempting to reassign hundreds of current middle schoolers midstream would be too disruptive.

Implementation details—including final boundary maps and communication to families—are expected to be shared later in the spring. The Superintendent and her staff will work closely with the school committee to ensure they can maximize equity, balance, and stability in the middle school assignment process.



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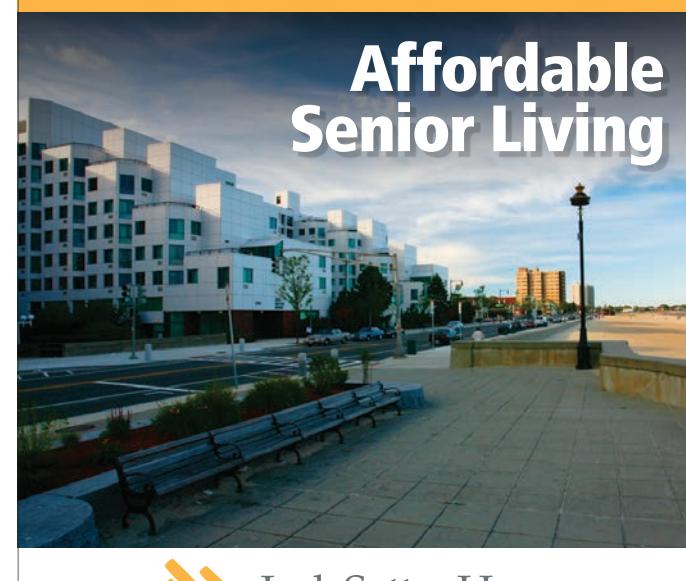
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