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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 120, NO. 6

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

35 CENTS

Mandatory face coverings in Chelsea

Special to the Record

Chelsea has the highest rate of COVID-19 infection in Massachusetts. For the safety of everyone in our community, it is mandatory to wear face coverings. Even people with no symptoms can still carry COVID-19, which means you can infect others by speaking, coughing, or sneezing near others. Wearing a mask helps to prevent you from accidentally passing the virus to others, and it helps to keep you being infected.

When should I wear face coverings?

Face coverings are mandatory whenever you are in an Essential Business. If you work at an Essential Business, you and all employees must wear a covering. If you visit an Essential Business, you must wear a

See MASKS Page 2

Collaborative, Vega appear on livestream with Sen. Markey

By Cary Shuman

During an emotional livestream walkthrough at the Chelsea Collaborative COVID-19 response food bank, Executive Director Gladys Vega asked Sen. Ed Markey to continue to help Chelsea residents in the fight against the insidious virus which has had a devastating impact on the immigrant community.

Markey has been at the forefront in calling for a boost in the federal response to ending the spread of COVID-19. Markey watched and listened as Vega described the challenges facing Chelsea in providing food for residents during the global pandemic.

Markey noted that Chelsea has been a community hit very hard by COVID-19, with Vega responding that [the crisis] "is very real."

"This is a pop-up food pantry," said Vega, who was stationed inside Council President Roy Avellaneda's Pan Y Café (which has closed due to the pandemic). "We created this because people were hungry and they were

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INDEPENDENT Newspaper Group

www.chelsearecord.com







Photos by Seth Daniel

City officials are struggling to help feed residents as the food shortage has become enormous in Chelsea. Last Friday, the second day of the new pop-up food distribution, people began lining up at 8:30 a.m. for an 11 a.m. start. By 1:30 p.m. the line was still long and they had run out of food. City officials said they are ratcheting up operations to have more food available over the next two weeks. Here, DPW worker Hector Ortiz breaks down boxes of spaghetti sauce to provide in food boxes. Next, a resident puts a box of sauce on his shoulder, with mask in place, and heads home with some, but not all, of the food hoped for.

Food Distribution pop-ups, pantries struggle to find enough food for residents

By Seth Daniel

It was the second day of the pop-up food distribution site last Friday, April 17, in the parking lot of City Hall. Where many residents had once come to pay parking tickets, renew their resident stickers or attend a City Council meeting, they were now lining up to see if they could find food for their families so they wouldn't go hungry. So pronounced is the food shortages and losses of wages in Chelsea that there is a great deal of worry that residents aren't eating, children aren't eating, and the basics of life in America aren't being met.

At City Hall on Friday, people began lining up at 8:30 a.m. for a distribution that started at 11 a.m. – risking their lives being outside around so many people in one of the hardest hit COVID-19 cities in the state. They wrapped around City Hall and far out into Fay Square.

The distribution went at a fast pace, with DPW workers and Chelsea Police, with some volunteers, handing out large cans of spaghetti sauce, soda pop, bottled water, bread, pasta,

pears and other staples.

The distribution was to only last until 1 p.m., but by that time there were still more than 50 people still in line – young people, mothers, fathers, children and older folks too.

"That's it folks," said a police officer over the loud speaker. "No more food. We have cans of spaghetti sauce if you want that. We're all out."

Faces of disbelief were on the crowd.

Some seemed as though they might cry. Slowly, the

See FOOD Page 6

MILITARY ESCORT



Soldiers from Alpha Company 126th Brigade Support Battalion in Springfield Massachusetts transported and handed out meals from the Salvation Army in Springfield to the community in Chelsea. "We are happy to be a part of the personnel that have been sent in to help first responders, health care workers and the overall community of the commonwealth of Massachusetts," said Cpl. David Bourgoult (U.S Air National Guard Photos by Master Sgt. Lindsey Sarah Watson-Kirwin)

MGH researcher finds interesting results here

By Seth Daniel

Even before Dr. John Iafrate came out to Chelsea, he knew it was the place he would find the best research and the most people who had been infected.

What he found in Bellingham Square on April 14 and 15 has stoked a lot of hope in City officials and the medical community about how to help Chelsea move forward through its tremendous infection rate, and potentially how to lead the rest of the state out of the woods as well.

"We knew we had a lot of patients in MGH and in the ICU there from Chelsea, even before it was publicized so much," he said. "So that's how we started this project. It became clear about three weeks ago there were really high numbers of individuals from the Chelsea community. We needed some clarity and we needed to get folks out there and get more information on the ground."

That resulted in Dr. Iafrate, a physician at MGH who doubles as a researcher, setting up in Bellingham Square and asking for 200 volunteers to help research COVID-19. They were using a brand new blood,

anti-body test that simply pricks the finger for a small blood sample – much like a diabetes sugar test. The test, from North Carolina's BioMedomics company, is an affordable \$10 per test and allows researchers to get results in 10 minutes. It was the best blood test that MGH had encountered after testing about 10 new products on the market.

And so they sent Iafrate out to the streets to use it.

They already knew about 2 percent of the population in Chelsea had tested positive for COVID-19, which is a very high number, but they had also heard of a lot of people here with mild symptoms. The question for him was how many people were out there sick, infectious and didn't know it.

"We knew that 2 percent of the Chelsea population had tested positive and that's a high number and it begs the question – how many people had it and didn't know or had mild symptoms and weren't part of the official number."

The answer was quite a few – a whopping 32 percent of the 200 volunteers walking, shopping and moving through Belling-

See VOLUNTEERS Page 3

Legal Aid

As COVID-19 care continues, legal questions arise in the ER

By Seth Daniel

Literally a moment before they were ready to medicate the patient, the nurse manager came running in with paperwork they had just found on file – she was not to be resuscitated or intubated, known as a 'DNR.'

"The nurse had the paperwork in hand and I was literally one moment away from pushing the drugs to intubate her," said Lai-Becker. "It was a very intense moment because we have to have laser focus when we're about to intubate. It was emotionally draining."

Lai-Becker and most

See AID Page 9

PUBLIC NOTICE FROM THE CITY OF CHELSEA

While the COVID-19 crisis continues, Pop-Up Food Pantries operated by the National Guard will occur each day in two different locations Monday through Friday at 11 am. The City is increasing our supply of food to try to meet all needs. While we ramp up production, we ask for patience. The food boxes we are providing are robust and should provide food for several days or more. We want to accommodate all hungry families. Please return only if your household is in need. When you come to the Pop-up food pantries, please practice social distancing and wear a cloth mask. We will do our best to give everyone a box and

See NOTICE Page 2

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

chelsearecord.com







# Cases continue to increase as nursing home deaths rise

By Seth Daniel

Cases seem to continue escalating in Chelsea as the City reported more than 1,000 confirmed cases on April 22, with 84 deaths in the city primarily attributed to the large nursing home population in Chelsea – a population that has been decimated at most every facility by COVID-19.

There were 1,054 COVID-19 confirmed patients as of April 22, with all of them supposedly in quarantine. There are 242 that have recovered, but 84 that died of the virus. As has been said repeatedly, the numbers reported are likely just a small portion of what is really out in the community – with some postulating that as many as 30 percent of the population could be infected.

“We are definitely in the middle of the surge right now,” said City Manager Tom Ambrosino. “Our infection rate isn’t going down and is still the highest in the state. We have a really high death rate in Chelsea and it’s drive by the large nursing home population we have – the Soldiers’ Home, East-

pointe, and Chelsea Jewish. They have frail and elderly populations and that is the population this disease attacks. That is really driving our death rate, which is also one of the largest in the state. The nursing homes have been decimated.”

Right now, there has been a great piece of hope in that several medical facilities and the Department of Public Health (DPH) have stepped up to offer testing for anyone with symptoms – and complete testing for those in senior citizen buildings.

He said MGH Chelsea is testing 200 per day, and Beth Israel Chelsea is testing about 100 per day at their testing facilities. Most get results back within 24 hours.

“We’re getting the message out to everyone in the community,” he said. “I don’t know what it’s like in the rest of America, but in the City of Chelsea, if you have symptoms, you can get tested. They’re testing every single person and if you have symptoms, you can get there and now you don’t even need an appointment – even though it’s suggested. We’ve had great cooperation with those two.

They’ve really stepped up.” Ambrosino said he was very grateful for the tremendous amounts of support from Gov. Charlie Baker and the state administration – who have really stepped in to help Chelsea since he and others made the call for help three weeks ago. Now, he said, it is a battle to keep people who are positive – and their contacts – in quarantine.

“With every COVID-19 positive patient, we have three or four people who are contacts that should be quarantined too,” he said. “In the real world, though, it’s hard to reach those people. Some don’t have phones working or they speak another language other than Spanish. You call them and say they need to stay in and they say, ‘Sure, but I’m an essential worker and have not food and need to go to work.’ There’s the theory on paper and the reality in practice and the two don’t match up well in this crisis.

“Nevertheless, we encourage people and we hope the people we tell to isolate do stay in and we will support them and we will deliver food to their doors,” he continued.

## New ambulatory COVID-19 testing site opens at Beth Israel Deaconess HealthCare - Chelsea

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, part of Beth Israel Lahey Health, expanded its ambulatory COVID-19 testing locations today with the addition of a site at “Learn more about BIDHC-Chelsea” Beth Israel Deaconess HealthCare-Chelsea. This site will be supporting all patients, including those who are uninsured, by performing COVID-19 ambulatory testing. Appointments are preferred, but not required. The site, located at 1000 Broadway in Chelsea, will offer testing seven days a week in both English and Spanish.

“Our communities in Chelsea and Revere have by far the highest rates of infection in the state of Massachusetts,” said Jose Abrego, MD, an internist at BID-Chelsea and Medical Director of BID-Chelsea’s ambulatory testing site. “There are many rea-

sons why these communities are seeing such high rates of infection—mainly due to their high-density populations where overcrowded housing makes isolation difficult. By expanding testing for COVID-19, we hope to get a more accurate assessment of the health crisis in these communities. We can then identify those at highest risk of complications early while partnering with city and state officials to help decrease the likelihood of spreading the virus.”

Both drive-thru and walk-up COVID-19 testing is available onsite. Appointments are preferred, but not required. To schedule an appointment in advance, call the Chelsea urgent care location at “Call BID HealthCare-Chelsea” t “\_ blank” 617-975-6060.

Testing Hours of Operation  
•Monday – Friday: 10

a.m. – 6 p.m.  
•Saturday – Sunday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
“Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center has been proud to be part of the Chelsea community for more than 25 years,” said Pete Healy, president of BIDMC, which opened Beth Israel Deaconess HealthCare-Chelsea in 1995. “In our collective battle against COVID-19, there is an urgent need for expanded testing and care in Chelsea. In strong collaboration with Governor Baker and his team, the City of Chelsea and with other hospitals, we stand ready to meet the needs of this community.” BIDMC urges everyone to follow public health recommendations for social distancing in order to limit the spread of the virus and ease mounting pressure on the health care system.

## Volunteers /Continued from Page 1

ham Square a week ago either had the virus or had the virus previously.

“We knew going in it was going to be high,” he said. “The number of 32 percent for people walking down the street in Bellingham Square on a Tuesday and Wednesday was surprisingly high. That meant 32 percent of the people at large had been infected.”

To make things more interesting, of the 200 volunteers there were 100 who reported they had felt no symptoms in the past month – so exactly 50 percent.

“Of that group of 100 people with no reported symptoms in a month, we found 20 percent had been infected,” he said. “They had no idea they had had the virus.”

The blood test has its limits. It can only tell if someone has been infected more than 21 days ago, or less than 21 days ago. Unlike the swab tests, it cannot tell if you have a positive result at the moment, and if you are contagious.

That still has to be done with the swab, quick test (known as a PCR). However, there are extreme shortages for those tests and for swabs, and it isn’t suggested that everyone be tested. Yet, there is a problem with the fact that so many people are walking around who have COVID-19 and don’t know they have it. They can spread it without having any symptoms or only very mild symptoms.

“The blood test is not as powerful as a PCR

Iafrate said if his blood test can be used more thoroughly in the greater population, it can be a gateway for finding people who need to be PCR tested and who need to isolate and quarantine. Those who test negative with his test could be allowed to go about their business.

It could be the way back to opening the city and potentially the state and nation.

“If we can roll out the test and use Chelsea as the test over the next two weeks, we should see the

32 percent go up 40 percent or 50 percent,” he said. “We need additional data points...COVID-19 behavior in Chelsea is going to be very different than in a rural community not as dense. As a state, each city and town will have its own behavior. It will depend on the density of the community and socio-economic issues that require people to have to go to work... If we can start in Chelsea and get two or three communities of different types, we hope to create a model statewide.”

For now, Iafrate said they will focus on Chelsea and try to help Chelsea. They plan to continue doing studies for the next three weeks in order to help bring down the infection rate here.

“The main reason here is to help the community in Chelsea,” he said. “It’s not to do science or publish academic papers, but to help understand the virus and get more resources to Chelsea and try to help the people there.”

## POLICE Briefs

BY SETH DANIEL AND PAUL KOOLLOIAN

### Salvadoran National Sentenced for Passport Fraud

A Salvadoran national previously residing in Chelsea was sentenced last week for passport fraud.

Eliseo Rivas, 47, was sentenced in a videoconference hearing before U.S. District Court Judge Patti B. Saris to three months in prison and three years of

supervised release. Rivas will face deportation upon completion of his state and federal sentence. Rivas is currently serving a seven-year state sentence in Maryland for a September 2018 conviction of sexual abuse of a minor. In March 2020, Rivas pleaded guilty to making a false statement in a passport application.

On Sept. 30, 2016, Rivas submitted an application for a U.S. Passport using

the name, Social Security number, and date of birth of a United States citizen. As proof of citizenship and identity, Rivas submitted a Puerto Rican birth certificate in the victim’s name and a Massachusetts Identification Card in the victim’s name but with Rivas’s photo. After reviewing the application, the Boston Passport Agency forwarded the application to federal authorities for investigation.

## Clark Ave school meal site gets a heart-felt surprise Friday

By Seth Daniel

Amazingly, it only took a few paper Market Basket grocery bags, a colored marker and a lot of sincere good will to make the day for school meal distribution workers at the Clark Avenue Middle School – as well as for workers and volunteers in the program across the whole city’s five sites.

Since March 16, about 17 school food service workers and about 12 volunteers citywide have been providing breakfast and lunch to students and young people in the schools who are now at home. Many do not have enough to eat, and as the pandemic has escalated, the need and numbers of students coming for food has been extraordinary.

Amanda Muniz, director of food service, said they have now been serving 4,000 meals per day at the five sites, and it has taken a toll on the workers there who know many of the kids from when school was in session.

So it was, last Friday, when Christine Follis and her crew showed up for their daily distribution to the young kids, they found a note on the front door.

“You are all here rain or shine,” read the note written on the inside of a paper shopping bag. “You are appreciated. Chelsea Strong. We are one. We see you from across the street. Thanks.”

Follis said it was heartwarming and really picked them up.



Anonymous posters of encouragement were posted on the front door of the Clark Avenue Middle School last Friday to encourage the school meal distribution crew that has been serving more than 4,000 meals a day from their site – rain or shine. The anonymous posters were shared across the city and made the day of every worker and volunteer in the program.

“We got there and saw it and it felt really good for people to show their gratitude for what we’re doing,” she said. “It’s heartwarming to see that and people coming here say Thank You all the time. You know they need this food. We’re doing it and helping people who are experiencing unfortunate times now. It’s a wonderful thing to know people see that. We know a lot of families that don’t have food now.”

Muniz said everyone across the city’s food distribution sites soon got the pictures texted to them, and the entire crew of workers and volunteers really were encouraged.

“It was so nice to see something positive,” she said. “We’ve really received a lot of positive feedback from people. It boosted the mood of the staff. Christine was so happy she cried. She

and her staff are so appreciated. The staff across the city heard about and everyone has worked so hard – it just made out day...Everyone felt confident what they were doing was worth it and important right now.”

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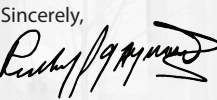
As a 172-year old Boston Bank, East Boston Savings Bank has a rich history of servicing the City of Boston and its surrounding communities. The foundation that we honor are integrity, strength and hard work for all our customers. It is our tradition to be responsive to the needs of people like you and businesses like yours during good times and challenging times.

We have seen and been through past events that have affected the country and the world. As we navigate through this pandemic together, please know that we are here for you. I assure you that East Boston Savings Bank remains your strong neighborhood bank, supporting you, your family, your business and your community. It’s because of your trust in us - and our faith in you – we will make it through these events together.

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I understand there are a bunch of unknowns with this pandemic but know this; East Boston Savings Bank has endured many devastating events in the past and has come through each of these stronger and more committed to our customers than ever.

Thank you for trusting in East Boston Savings Bank. Stay safe and we look forward to continuing working hard for you.

Sincerely,  
  
Richard J. Gavegnano  
President, CEO and Chairman  
East Boston Savings Bank



# Chelsea

## RECORD

**PRESIDENT:** Stephen Quigley  
**EDITOR IN CHIEF:** Cary Shuman

# Forum

## ONCE AGAIN, MASS. IS SHOWING THE WAY

With the launch this past week of the COVID-19 Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC) to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus in Massachusetts, our state once again is taking a leading role at this critical time for our nation.

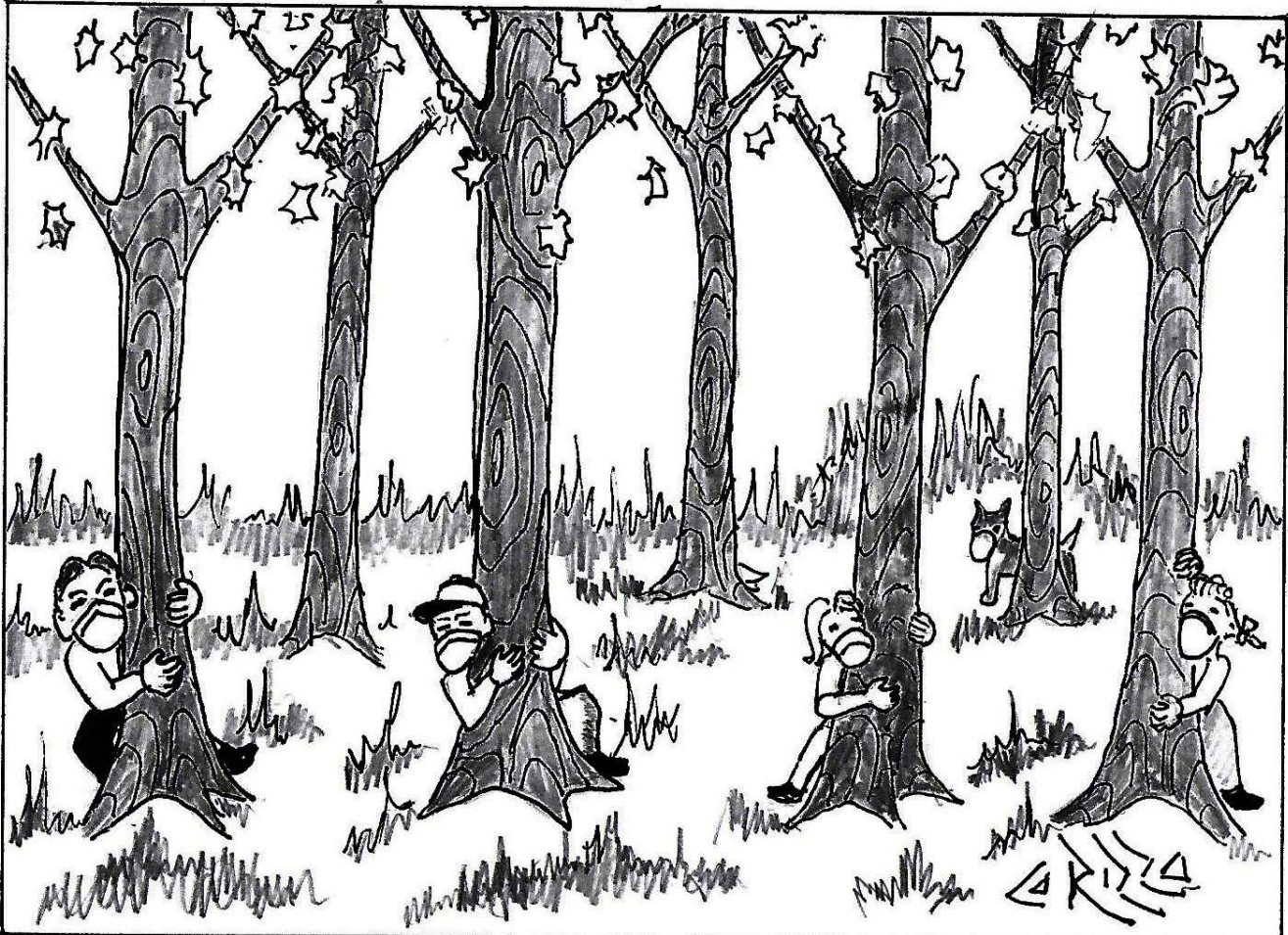
Massachusetts is the first state to invest in an ambitious contact-tracing program, budgeting \$44 million to hire 1,000 people. Gov. Charlie Baker said the goal of the program is to enable state health officials to identify pockets of infection as they emerge and thereby prevent infected people from spreading the virus further.

If successful, the program will provide government leaders in the coming weeks with the data they need to make meaningful decisions about relaxing our current strict social-distancing measures in order to reopen our economy.

The collaborative effort with Partners In Health will focus on tracing the contacts of confirmed positive COVID-19 patients and supporting individuals who are in quarantine. It will augment the efforts already underway from the state’s COVID-19 Response Command Center to assist the contact tracing being done by local boards of health.

Partners In Health will provide staff and contribute technical expertise in community tracing. The Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority will provide a virtual support center and maintain connectivity, while the Massachusetts Department of Health will manage data. Accenture, a professional services company, and Salesforce, a global leader in customer relationship management, are implementing support center capabilities.

We applaud this extraordinary joint effort between state government and private entities. In addition, we urge all of our residents who receive a call from CTC workers to cooperate fully with the program so that our communities can begin to take the offensive against this terrible pandemic.



CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY APR. 24TH AT A DISTANCE

## DiDomenico announces new legal protections for health care workers

Sen. Sal DiDomenico recently announced that the Massachusetts Legislature passed a bill providing additional legal protections for health care personnel and facilities to ensure that they can rapidly respond to the COVID-19 emergency.

“Our health care workers are on the front lines of this public health emergency, and it is critical we do everything we can to protect them as they confront

the pandemic and provide treatment for our residents,” said Sen. DiDomenico. “As Massachusetts enters the midst of its COVID-19 surge, this legislation is key to ensuring our health care system can quickly respond to the crisis and our brave medical personnel can continue providing critical care for patients.”

Under the legislation, health care professionals, facilities and volunteer or-

ganizations assisting in the state’s efforts to respond and treat COVID-19 would be protected from suit and civil liability for alleged damages related to the virus. Health care facilities and professionals would still be subject to consumer complaints brought by the Attorney General and protections would not extend to acts of negligence, recklessness, or intent to harm or acts of discrimi-

nation. These protections would apply retroactively to March 10, 2020, and remain in effect for the duration of the State of Emergency.

The bill, which is the latest action by the Legislature to address the COVID-19 public health crisis and its effects on Massachusetts, has been signed by the Governor.

**Your opinions, please** The Chelsea Record welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is **781-485-1403**. Letters may also be e-mailed to **editor@chelsearecord.com**. Letters must be signed. We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

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# CHELSEA

## RECORD

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By Cary Shuman

The spotlight is finding Roy Avellaneda and it’s a platform he didn’t seek.

No one expected a global pandemic to hit the United States in 2020 and no one could have predicted the impact COVID-19 would have on Chelsea, which has been one of the hot spots in Massachusetts.

Roy Avelleneda, president of the Chelsea City Council, has been in the middle of the fight against the disease, reaching out for many hours daily to help Chelsea residents in their time of need. Last Thursday Avellaneda stood in his Pan Y Café restaurant that his friend, Chelsea Collaborative Executive Director Gladys Vega, has converted in to a popup food pantry.

As Vega appeared on a livestream broadcast with U.S. Sen. Ed Markey, Avellaneda could be seen in the background preparing food boxes for distributions to the hundreds of residents waiting in line outside the café.

A voice could be heard on the live broadcast – believed to be that of Sen. Markey – saying, “Thank you, Roy, for all you’re doing.”

Earlier, Avellaneda had appeared on a virtual town hall broadcast with Congressman Joe Kennedy III, joined by Councillor Judith Garcia and GreenRoots As-

sistant Executive Director Maria Belen Power. The three Chelsea representatives were quite impressive in their conversation with Rep. Kennedy.

Avellaneda’s non-stop volunteerism has not gone unnoticed by city officials, residents, and his friends.

“I take my hat off to Roy,” said Councillor-at-Large Leo Robinson. “He’s been out there working hard and helping to provide food and items to the community.

Avellaneda, whose family has owned Tito’s Bakery on Broadway for many years, has been everywhere in the city helping out, most notably in the food distribution effort.

“I started doing this [food distribution] to help out the community and I’m doing as well as what I can get from the people in the community – if the Monkiewicz family didn’t help me, if the Produce Center guy didn’t help me, and the donations weren’t coming in – none of this would have been possible. I may be a vehicle but what’s inside the food pantry, it’s definitely all of Chelsea. It’s incredible in that way.”

Avellaneda reached out to his father Tito Avellaneda’s contacts in the grocery industry and it’s produced results. Compare Market, owned by Alberto Calvo, responded with generous donations.



City Council President Roy Avellaneda unloads the boxes of food while Chelsea Collaborative Executive Director Gladys Vega and volunteers assist in the effort.



City Council President Roy Avellaneda (left) and City Manager Tom Ambrosino collaborate on food distribution plans outside the pop-up pantry at Pan Y Café.

“I’m happy that so many people are responding to my requests,” said Avellaneda. “They’re watching the news and they’re seeing what’s happening in Chelsea. They know my reputation and they trust my judgement and my efforts.”

“The amount of publicity this has gotten is incredible,” said Avellaneda. “Somebody like Timmy Mullaney sees it and he makes a donation. My college friends are making donations. It’s not about me. They see the efforts and they want to give.”

Long-time Chelsea residents aren’t surprised that Avellaneda’s leadership is coming to the forefront. The son of Tito and Isabelle Avellaneda, Roy was a popular kid and very good athlete growing up in the city. He excelled as a center for a championship Bucks team coached by Bruce Harrison and Leo Robinson. He distinguished himself in academics and athletics at Dom Savio and went on to receive a degree from Babson College, one of the nation’s finest business schools.

Avellaneda’s colleagues on the City Council are also contributing to this full-scale humanitarian effort. Councillor-at-Large Damali Vidot, who appeared on a livestream broadcast with Sen. Markey Monday, has been a standout while the dean of the Council, Leo

Robinson, is also helping out in the community every day. Todd Taylor (helping out at Washington Park) and other councilors are also doing what they can to assist residents.

Avellaneda has been in daily correspondence with City Manager Tom Ambrosino since the COVID-19 crisis began in the city.

“I back Tom Ambrosino 100 percent,” said Avellaneda. “I think the world of Tom.”

One of the co-MVPs with Avelleneda has been Gladys Vega. The City Council president is quick to credit Vega.

“Gladys is unbelievable in the fact that she can lobby for the residents, but she can also bring a team together,” said Avellaneda. “It’s great to walk in to the Collaborative and have all these people who volunteer their time because they have faith in Gladys and know they’re doing a great thing. I can go out and get some donations in food and cash, but if there wasn’t the effort by Gladys and her team of volunteers, it would be impossible to get this done.”

Today Roy Avellaneda will be at the Collaborative assisting a massive food distribution operation. He is doing his best for his city as he has for all of his 49 years.



# Temple Emmanuel holds virtual Seder

By Cary Shuman

Temple Emmanuel of Chelsea congregants enjoyed an interactive, virtual Passover Seder with Rabbi Oksana Chapman leading the group in observance of the Jewish holiday.

With their Hagaddah prayer books in hand, Temple members and families asked the traditional Four Questions, recounted the Ten Plagues, broke unleavened bread (matzoh), and joined Chapman in prayers and Passover songs.

In recent years under the energetic direction of Temple President Sara Lee Callahan, members have gathered at the temple for the Seder, the traditional Passover

dinner held on the first two nights of the holiday.

With Gov. Baker’s stay-at-home advisory still in effect due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, Temple members were situated in their homes as Rabbi Chapman presided over the Seder from her residence.

Earl Vigoda, website designer for the temple, said members have participated in two virtual Shabbat services in addition to the Seder.

“We’re embracing technology using video conferencing to bring the Temple together during this time when people are staying home,” said Vigoda, who set up the conference and moderated the Seder. “Spe-



Rabbi Oksana Chapman of Temple Emmanuel of Chelsea leads the congregation in prayer during the virtual Passover Seder.

cial occasions like these also give members the opportunity to socialize with others, which is so vitally important at this time.”

President Callahan and her husband, Attorney Mi-



Members of Temple Emmanuel of Chelsea, including President Sara Lee Callahan (second from left, front row) and Moderator Earl Vigoda (back row, second from left), are pictured at the virtual Passover Seder.

chael Callahan, and close to 50 members took part in the virtual event.

“We’re going to have Shabbat services every Friday night,” said Vigoda, a star first baseman on Chelsea Little League’s greatest All-Star team, the 1971 Chelsea Nationals.

Members praised Vigoda for his technological expertise that has allowed the Temple to hold virtual services. A 1977 Chelsea High graduate, Vigoda majored in computer information systems at Bryant University and worked in that field during his successful career. Interestingly, Earl’s moth-

er, Phyllis, and sister, Marla, president of the Chelsea High School Class of 1981 “attended” the virtual Seder. Members of the community can sign up for the Temple Emmanuel newsletter on the website: templeemmanuaelofchelsea.org for the schedule of services.

## Vega / Continued from Page 1

calling the Chelsea Collaborative and they had nowhere to look for food. We have large families of Latinos so we created this food pantry. Pretty much everything here has been donated. Every other day we have a pop-up food pantry.”

Prior to exiting the food pantry during the live broadcast, Vega said, “We took over his [Avellaneda’s] restaurant and we made this a food pantry.”

Vega then proceeded to walk the entire length of Forsyth Street where scores of residents could be seen standing in line, many wearing masks and adhering to social distancing guidelines – waiting for their time to receive their food at the pop-up pantry.

“This is our Senator, Ed Markey,” said Vega, pointing at the screen and speaking in Spanish to the residents. “This is our very hard-working community, people who work at the hotels, in landscaping, in construction. They’re very respectful and they’re here rain or shine looking for food because the need is so

great.”

Markey asked, “How many meals are you [The Collaborative] going to be serving today?”

Vega replied, “We’re expecting close to 900 today.”

The senator asked Vega whom has been providing the assistance to The Collaborative with its food distribution efforts.

“The community has been getting me food. The businesses that are closing – they’re donating whatever they have left over. The Produce Center, food pantries in Boston. We are a non-profit organization. The people of Chelsea are rising to the occasion and opening their cabinets and giving me a little bit more. Senator, we need help for these beautiful people.”

She requested assistance from Markey for the immigrants in Chelsea. “Everybody in Massachusetts is getting \$1,200 but nobody is thinking about the undocumented, the immigrants in general that may have no benefits at all and we need your help. We’re seeking your help and we beg you

not to forget Chelsea.”

Markey said he would continue his fight for funding in Washington to help the residents of Chelsea during the coronavirus crisis.

“And anyone who is watching Gladys on screen, I urge you to contribute to help everyone in Chelsea and help all these families,” Markey implored.

Vega commended other organizations in Chelsea that are assisting residents with their daily efforts. “There a lot of organizations that are doing a lot of work that people may not see,” said Vega. “You have the 311 team. They take food to the seniors’ homes. You have teachers giving lunches. You have volunteers delivering lunches to people.”

The Collaborative is also assisting adults with their applications for unemployment benefits and on housing displacement issues and encouraging youths to be respectful and helpful to their families.

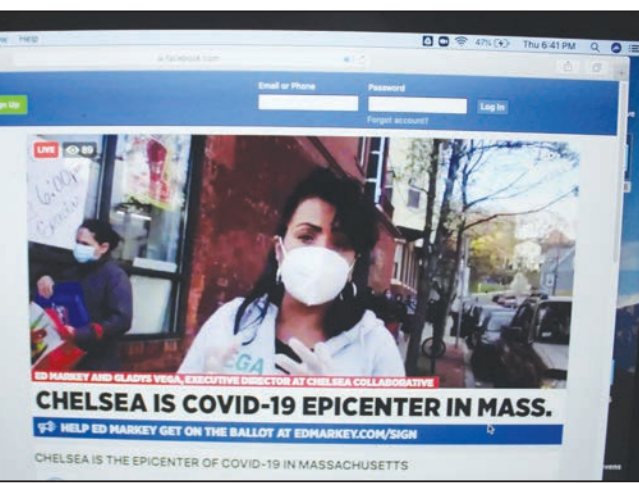
As Vega completed her livestreaming walk back to the pop-up pantry, viewers

could see Chelsea Police cruisers in the background, helping out in Cary Square and providing safe and unhindered access to the pantry.

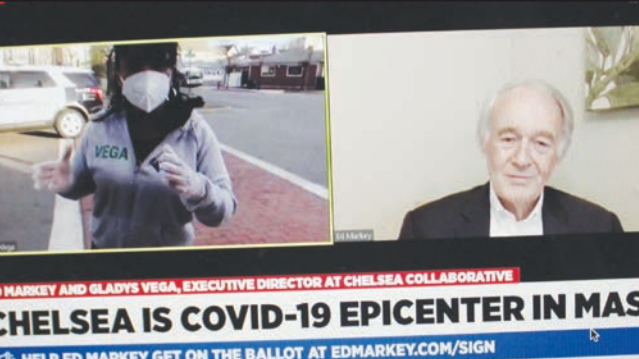
Markey, who once represented Chelsea as its congressman before the realigning of districts took place, lauded Vega. “You are an inspiration to me and to anyone who is seeing you here tonight. I will do everything I can to help you, Gladys. I hope everyone who is watching this does so as well,” said Markey.

Vega thanked Markey and his senatorial staff for extending a helping hand to Chelsea during these difficult times.

“You have always been a friend of the Collaborative, every time we are in need of anything, immediately you come down,” Vega said. “We are extremely grateful for everything you do, for doing this livestream, because it’s an important indication of how much you care about the people that are under the shadows.”



Gladys Vega asked Sen. Markey for federal assistance as residents wait in line outside the pop-up pantry the Chelsea Collaborative set up for food distribution during the coronavirus crisis.



Sen. Ed Markey listens as Chelsea Collaborative Executive Director Gladys Vega describes the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the city during a livestream broadcast at a pop-up food pantry,

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Telemedicine allows health care professionals to evaluate, diagnose, and treat patients at a distance using telecommunications technology, such as a smart phone or computer. Telemedicine allows us to continue to provide high-quality care to our patients during the COVID-19 pandemic while minimizing exposures.

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# Food / Continued from Page 1

50 to 80 people still in line accepted the fate, and were assured there would be another distribution soon.

“We’re tired; we’ve had a long day,” said Jan Martinez of the DPW. “None of that matters. We’re doing this for our city. People need this.”

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said the City and the National Guard and all of their partners have a singular focus on trying to feed people right now. He said his heart went out to everyone coming to the pop-ups and waiting for hours.

“If you’re coming in here for three hours for food, you’re hungry and you have a need,” he said. “We’re going to try to provide everyone with enough food to eat...People don’t realize what great need there is out there for food. It’s enormous.”

The food effort has been complex as the City, with the help of the National Guard and volunteers, has tried to gather 45,000 pounds of food from the Greater Boston Food Bank each day and try to organize those food stuffs into boxes for people – boxes meant to feed two or three people for seven days.

The effort includes delivering the food from the Food Bank to the PORT

Park, where they are trying to ratchet up their operations for pop-ups, food pantries and home deliveries.

“We have to acquire the food supply, which isn’t easy and then transport that supply to the PORT Park,” he said. “The National Guard is helping, but we had contract with companies to get it here too. When it gets here, it isn’t packaged. We have to break it down and gather it into individual boxes that feed two or three people for seven days. It took a lot of manpower. We don’t just get boxes full of food. We have to break it down and then get it out to the locations, which the National Guard is really helping us on.”

He said another aspect of the situation is getting food delivered to homes where people are sick and/or in quarantine. That, he said would prevent them from going out and trying to work or get food.

“We have 900 people in isolation for COVID-19,” he said. “Not all of them need food deliveries. Some have resources or have family members that help, but not all of them. We’re trying to deliver 500 boxes to them per day with the help of the National Guard.”



Volunteers help a resident with a box of food.



DPW workers Giovanni Recupero (right) and Tito Arroyo (left) take a break after the distribution was over.



Residents lined up for food boxes.



Some residents gather at Bellingham Square on Friday – some wearing masks.



Even into the afternoon, the lines continued at the City Hall pop-up.



The DPW’s Arlex Flores gathers food to put in boxes.

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Dan Ryan  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRAT

A resident takes home a box of food meant to last seven days.

Parents of infants:  
You are focused  
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We are too.

We know you are worried, but it is important to bring your baby to the health center for regular vaccines. Vaccines are more important now than ever, and without them, your baby is at risk for serious and sometimes fatal diseases. **We are safely seeing babies in a separate building that is only being used for healthy babies.** These visits are limited to one healthy infant and one healthy parent or caregiver. If you are unwell, please do not come to the health center yourself. If you have questions, please call us at 617-569-5800.

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During this crisis, here are some Chelsea resources.

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Please reach out with any questions, deadline for Thursday April 30 is Tuesday April 28 at noon  
Call 781-485-0588 or email [deb@reverjournal.com](mailto:deb@reverjournal.com)



# Something to celebrate: Apollinaire Theatre receives nine 2020 Elliot Norton Nominations

Staff Report

Apollinaire Theatre has been nominated for nine Elliot Norton awards—Boston’s most prestigious theatre award.

If you caught their show in PORT Park last summer, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, you were likely very impressed by the teen lead, Seamus G. Doyle, who has been nominated for Outstanding Actor. Doyle worked with an autism consultant to craft his portrayal of 15-year-old Christopher Boone, exceptional at math but ill-equipped to interpret everyday life.

Brooks Reeves and Becca A. Lewis, both frequent and popular performers with Apollinaire, have been nominated for Outstanding Actor for their roles in The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart. Two actors new to the Apollinaire stage last year, Lily Kaufman and Alexander Pobutsky, have been nominated for Outstanding Actor for their roles in Cry It Out and Hir, respectively.

The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart has also been nominated for Outstanding Production, Outstanding Ensemble, Outstanding Direction: Danielle Fauteux Jacques, and Outstanding Design: Elizabeth Rocha, David Reiffel, and Danielle Fauteux Jacques.

Audiences loved Pruden-

cia, by Scottish playwright, David Greig, and the Apollinaire production enjoyed an extended run. Critics praised Apollinaire’s immersive staging taking the audience on a Scottish trip to hell and back, and the magic the ensemble created with their vivid characters and live music.

Before learning of their nominations, Apollinaire was looking for something to celebrate, like most of us, during this troubling time. Their answer was to launch free online programs as a way for adults and youth to participate in the arts from home. As Apollinaire’s Artistic Director, Danielle Fautuex Jacques, was recently quoted in the Globe, “artists always find a way.”

First, there’s Apollinaire at Home, a script-reading gathering over Zoom that takes place Thursday – Saturday at 7:30pm and a Sunday “matinee” at 3:00. Participants download the script, (pour themselves a glass of wine if they wish), sign on to the meeting, indicate the kind of role they’d like to read or if they’d prefer to be an audience member, and then the fun starts! So far they’ve read 21 play and film scripts, such as Melida Lopez’s Sonia Flew, Jaws, Sense and Sensibility, and A Raisin in the Sun.

For youth, their acting instructor, Anna Hadingham, has been running free

online Acting and Games classes for kids ages 4-8 and 9-16 on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Ms. Hadingham states, “I knew that entering a period of lockdown and quarantine without access to cultural learning and artistic outlets would be extremely tough on the community’s young population. In coordination with local efforts of community organizations and the public school system, we were able to promote high-quality online classes for local kids and teens over Zoom. Both age groups have deeply enjoyed the chance to see friends, laugh together, and experience a highly engaging group activity while in their own homes.” All are welcome to join the classes. For information visit: HYPERLINK “http://www.aplaylab.com” \t “\_blank” www.aplaylab.com

Apollinaire Theatre Company produces adventurous contemporary theatre, and free outdoor summer shows. Apollinaire’s home is the Chelsea Theatre Works in Chelsea Square, which houses their three theatres: the Apollinaire Theatre, the Riseman Family Theatre, and the Black Box. Their programs also include their youth program—Apollinaire Play Lab, a Resident Artist Program, and a soon to launch bi-lingual community theatre program.



A collage of scenes from the award-winning season at Apollinaire Theatre this past 12 months. The Theatre received nine Elliot Norton Award nominations this week.

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844-474-2020 (Portuguese)

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***The future of Chelsea depends on you!***



**Look for your census invitation in the mail**

**www.ChelseaCensus2020.com**



CORONA VIRUS CONTINUED IMPACT ON CHELSEA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

State announces CARES Act benefits for self-employed, gig economy workers

Staff Report

The state announced today that Massachusetts residents who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits can now apply online for the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program – more than one week ahead of the original schedule that predicted an April 30 rollout.

The new federal PUA program provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits who are unable to work because of a COVID-19-related reason but are not eligible for regular or extended unemployment benefits. This includes self-employed workers, independent contractors, gig economy workers, and those with limited work history. Some of the most affected workers in this category were ride-share (Uber or Lyft) drivers who are not officially employees

Applicants can learn more and apply at [www.mass.gov/pua](http://www.mass.gov/pua).

“As a Commonwealth, we are committed to doing everything in our power, and moving as urgently as possible to get workers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis the benefits they deserve,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “With the implementation of this new federal benefit program, we can better support workers not normally covered by the unemployment system like those who are self-employed or work in the gig economy.”

To be eligible for this new program, individuals must provide self-certification that they are otherwise able and available to work, but are prevented from doing so by circumstances relating to COVID-19, including their own illness or that of a family member.

Those able to telework with pay and individuals receiving paid sick or other leave will not qualify for PUA. Individuals receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits for less than their customary work week, however, may still be eligible for PUA. Also, those working fewer hours, resulting in a loss of income due to COVID-19, who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits may be eligible for PUA.

“It is vital that our workforce gets the resources and help they need during this critical time,” said Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Rosalin Acosta. “I’m proud of everything our team is doing to rapidly implement new programs, and ensure that as many eligible workers as possible get some relief.”

The federal CARES Act signed into law on March 27 created PUA, as well as another temporary federal program called Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) that provides an additional \$600 weekly benefit for those receiving unemployment benefits or PUA. FPUC provides that additional benefit through July 25, 2020.

All approved PUA applications will initially receive the minimum weekly benefit amount, plus the additional \$600 FPUC weekly benefit. Once a worker’s wages are verified, weekly benefit amounts may increase. The amount of PUA benefits received is based on the individual’s reported previous income. PUA benefits may not be more than the state’s maximum weekly benefit rate for regular unemployment, which is \$823 in Massachusetts.

Weekly benefits, including any increase to your weekly benefit amount, will be retroactive to January 27, 2020, or the date when you became unemployed, whichever is more recent, as long as you became unable to work because of a COVID-19 related reason.

•PUA Application Process:

To apply, individuals must provide their Social Security number or US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) number if not a citizen of the United States, and their wage records for 2019, which includes 1099 forms, pay stubs, or bank statements. Applicants will also need the Social Security numbers and dates of birth for dependent children and, if requesting direct deposit for payment, your bank account and routing numbers. A full list of required documents is available at [www.mass.gov/pua](http://www.mass.gov/pua).

Please note that, initially, the system can only pay benefits retroactively to the week ending March 14, 2020. Eligible workers will be able to certify for benefits, and will be able to request benefits retroactively to January 27, 2020, if their dates of unemployment make them eligible.

Individuals who are determined ineligible for PUA will receive a written disqualification along with information on how to pursue an appeal. Additional information about the appeals process will be separately posted at a later date.

Suffolk County Sheriff details containment measures

Staff Report

With the inevitable arrival of the first cases of COVID-19 to its facilities, the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department has engaged in a rigorous containment and spread-prevention strategy aimed at limiting the effect of the global pandemic within its facilities.

Presently, as of April 17, there have been six positive tests for COVID-19 among those in Department care and custody – all within the detainee population at the Suffolk County Jail – and eight staff members who tested positive for COVID-19 (seven officers and one medical contractor). One detainee testing positive was hospitalized at Boston Medical Center overnight, and discharged back to Department facilities the following day. All six detainees have been transferred to a special quarantine unit at the House of Correction and positive staff members went into mandated quarantine. An additional two residents of the Jail are currently being housed separately at the House of Correction while awaiting test results.

In the instance of a positive test for officers, the Department conducts a review of on-duty contacts (staff/detainee/inmate) that an officer may have had. Typically, an officer does not fall within the CDC guidance of “close contact” with inmates, unless they have had physical contact through a “use of force” action or an assignment that put him or her in an enclosed area for a prolonged period of time. The Department also reviews staff contacts and assignments. Certain staff contacts have led to mandated quarantine, others, self-quarantine, and still others no quarantine, depending on the review and level of contact.

Consistent with the Department’s enhanced sanitization and decontamination protocols, the Jail units in which the individuals who tested positive lived pre-test, underwent deep cleaning and decontamination. Sanitization efforts continue in those units on an accelerated pace, in addition to the cleaning and sanitizing protocols enforced multiple times throughout the day throughout both facilities.

The use of masks for all personnel has been mandated, and anyone entering Department facilities is screened for symptoms and administered a temperature test. Custody and medical staff have been assigned personal protective equipment (PPE), and all staff, detainees and inmates have been given masks, which are replaced as needed.

“The arrival of COVID-19 in our facilities is something that we have been preparing for since the outset of the pandemic,” said Sheriff Tompkins, stressing the Department’s readiness. “As many of the health organizations and

infectious disease experts have stated, the introduction of the COVID-19 virus in prison settings is inevitable, and we are all a microcosm of what is happening on our streets and in our communities.”

“The key for us is in the implementation of our plans and the consistency in their operation,” Sheriff Tompkins continued. “As I said, we are prepared for this unfortunate but inevitable situation, and we will do everything in our power to limit the incidence of the virus in our facilities and mitigate its effects by quarantining people who test positive, those who may have been in close contact with them, continuing our rigorous sanitizing and decontamination procedures, and following and updating the protocols that we’ve already implemented, as needed.”

The Department has also enlisted the expertise of Infectious Disease Specialist Dr. Alysse Wurcel of Tufts Medical Center to bolster the practical and strategic planning of its COVID-19 response.

In addition to the protection and mitigation protocols, the Department has also been working with the courts to reduce the population within its facilities in compliance with the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) Order 12926. To date, 31 detainees, meeting specific criteria identified by the SJC, have been released from Department custody.

State announces distribution of PPE To all emergency responders in Massachusetts

Gov. Charlie Baker on April 17 announced the distribution of approximately 200,000 respirator masks for all local law enforcement officers and firefighters to ensure they have the protective equipment during the COVID-19 crisis.

These FDA-approved respirator masks will be distributed to all local law enforcement officers, including sheriffs and college and university police, and firefighters starting today through a coordinated effort by the COVID-19 Response Command Center and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers are continuing to receive these types of masks and other PPE.

To facilitate quick distribution of these masks, MEMA is employing a regional point of distribution (POD) model where communities can pick up their supply of masks at their designated MEMA POD. These POD sites are open and have already distributed tens of thousands of masks to first responders.

This new distribution will ensure that local law enforcement and firefighters will have five respirator masks each, equivalent to a one month’s supply. Including conservation methods currently being used by some organizations, this will provide each individual a mask per week and a spare, allowing the mask to dry overnight and reuse for up to one week.

The Baker-Polito Administration and its COVID-19 Response Command Center continue to prioritize the procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment for front-line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. As of yesterday,

the Commonwealth has delivered over four million pieces of PPE statewide. This includes over 2.3 million gloves, over 370,000 masks from the “AirKraft” shipment, almost 190,000 gowns and 380 ventilators.

The following PPE distributions as of April 17 went to municipalities of facilities in the area, including:

MUNICIPALITIES

- March 24 – Revere: 200 Masks, 100 Gowns.
- March 27 – Chelsea: 500 Masks, 3,600 Gloves, 4 Shields.
- April 1 – Boston: 5,600 Gloves.
- April 5 – Chelsea: 600 Masks, 200 Gowns.
- April 5 – Boston: 4,500 Masks (Kraft), 10,000 Masks, 35,500 Gloves, 200 Goggles.
- April 6 – Chelsea Board of Health: 1,500 Masks.
- April 7 – Winthrop: 5,000 Gloves, 300 Gowns.
- April 11 – Chelsea Welsh Funeral Home: 10 Masks, 10 Shields.
- April 11 – Boston: 4,000 Masks, 16,600 Gloves, 2,950 Gowns, 2,946 Shields.
- April 13 – Chelsea: 200 Shields.
- April 13 – Winthrop: 300 Masks, 300 Shields.
- April 14 – Chelsea: 200 Shields.
- April 16 – Chelsea/Revere Quality Inn Shelter: 200 Masks, 500 Gloves, 200 Gowns.
- April 16 – Everett: 4,400 Masks, 100 Gowns, 125 Goggles.

FACILITIES, NURSING HOMES, HOSPITALS

- March 29 – Chelsea Jewish Life Care (CJLC): 120 Masks (Kraft), 90 Gowns.
- March 30 – Chelsea Leonard Florence: 30 Gowns, 90 Shields.
- March 30 – Chelsea Katzman Family Center: 60 Gowns, 192 Shields.

- April 3 – CHA Everett Hospital: 300 Gowns.
- April 4 – East Boston Neighborhood Health Center: 120 KN95 Masks, 1,500 Masks, 2,000 Gloves, 120 Gowns, 314 Shields.
- April 4 – Rehab and Nursing of Everett: 1,000 Masks, 120 Gowns.
- April 4 – Chelsea Jewish Life Care: 1,000 Masks (Kraft).
- April 4 – CHA Everett Hospital: 1,000 Masks (Kraft).
- April 4 – East Boston Neighborhood Health: 1,000 Masks (Kraft).
- April 5 – Boston EMS: 5,000 Masks (Kraft).
- April 5 – Chelsea Katzman Family Center: 1,000 Masks (Kraft).
- April 5 – Chelsea Leonard Florence: 1,000 Masks (Kraft).
- April 7 – Chelsea Katzman Family Center: 120 Gowns.
- April 9 – South Boston Convention Center Hospital: 420 KN95 Masks, 4,500 Masks, 25,000 Gloves, 10,002 Gowns.
- April 13 – CHA Everett Hospital: 1,000 Coveralls, 300 Gowns.
- April 15 – Chelsea Katzman Family Center: 480 KN95 Masks, 1,000 Masks, 12 Coveralls, 60 Gowns.
- April 17 – Chelsea Eastpointe Home: 2,000 Masks, 100 Coveralls, 420 Shields.

VENTILLATORS

- Boston Medical Center, 28
- Beth Israel Medical Center, 23
- Cambridge Health Alliance, 19
- Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, 18
- Tufts Medical Center, 15
- Brigham & Women’s Hospital, 15
- Melrose Wakefield Hospital, 13
- Mass General Hospital, 5.

U.S. Attorney urges health care sector to report fraud related to the COVID-19 pandemic

As part of the comprehensive federal response to the COVID-19 outbreak, United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling is urging leadership at Massachusetts hospitals to report individuals and companies that may be engaged in wrongdoing related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a letter to leadership at Massachusetts hospitals, U.S. Attorney Lelling encouraged health care facilities to report to federal authorities individuals and companies that may have acquired vital medical supplies in excess of what they would reasonably use, or for the purpose of charging exorbitant prices. This includes 15 categories of health and medical supplies designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) as “scarce,” thus triggering civil and criminal enforcement remedies that the U.S. Attorney’s Office will pursue. In addition, the U.S. Attorney’s Office will investigate any other fraudulent conduct designed to benefit from the pandemic (e.g., false treatments, tests, and/or vaccinations for COVID-19).

“In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, my office is prioritizing the investigation and prosecution of wrongdoing related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including those engaged in hoarding and/or price-gouging with regard to critical medical supplies,” said United States Attorney Lelling. “These practices are not only morally repugnant in light of the pandemic but also, if left unchecked, will inhibit hospitals, physicians, other health care professionals, and government agencies from fully implementing

measures designed to save lives and mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus.”

U.S. Attorney Lelling named Amanda Strachan, Chief of the Health Care Fraud Unit, as the COVID-19 Fraud Coordinator for the District of Massachusetts.

Massachusetts residents who believe they are victims of fraud or other criminal activity related to the pandemic should contact the United States Attorney’s Office at USAMA. [victimassistance@usdoj.gov](mailto:victimassistance@usdoj.gov) or call 1-888-221-6023 and leave a message. Members of the public can also contact the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) by visiting [www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov). If you or someone you know are in immediate danger, please call 911.

Research sample company looking for COVID-19 blood samples

huge request from researchers for COVID-19 samples, by changing its business model to collect blood samples from patients at their homes in a mobile collection unit.

“We need real diverse samples from diverse populations and in diverse stages of fighting the virus,” said Lori Ball, chief operating officer of BSC. “We really need to spread the word as fast as we can because this is a pandemic and we have a pocket of time where this is really valuable information...This is the time right now to collect this and get the information while it’s in process within the body.”

Ball said their company collects samples, and then

By Seth Daniel



# MIAA will make statement on spring sports season by April 24

By Cary Shuman

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) said on its website that it will provide a formal statement regarding the status of the high school spring sports season by April 24.

Gov. Charlie Baker announced Tuesday the closing of all schools in Massachusetts for the remainder of the

2019-20 school year due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Chelsea High Athletic Director Amanda Alpert had been in regular correspondence with other Commonwealth Athletic Conference athletic directors with the shared hope that the spring sports season would happen. But Baker’s announcement will most likely lead to the cancellation of the entire spring sports season.

In a related matter, Alpert had expressed hope that track star Stephanie Simon would be able to compete in the New Balance Nationals in North Carolina. That event has been rescheduled for July.

“Obviously this is Stephanie’s decision to make, But I will support her if she wants to go and it is safe to do,” said Alpert.

Alpert is awaiting word whether the Women’s Football Alliance will be holding

its 2020 season. The start of the season has been suspended.

Alpert is a starting center for the Boston Renegades and has been a part of five Super Bowl champion women’s professional football teams.

“I was ready to be back 100 percent this year,” said Alpert who has fully recovered from surgery after sustaining a tear in her knee last season. “I will be ready whenever we are good to go.”

# Aid // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hospitals in the area over the last two weeks have absorbed the surge of critical patients who are older, especially those coming from nursing homes. As testing and information sharing has gotten better at those nursing home institutions, nearly all of them in the area have realized they have a severe outbreak even though some are asymptomatic. But it hasn’t stopped the spread in homes to more vulnerable patients who soon end up in the ER at CHA Everett.

Lai-Becker said one good thing about caring for older adults is they’ve often thought about end-of-life care decisions, and have clear instructions for doctors about what to do. However, in COVID-19, often times family members want that changed, or the circumstances aren’t clear – leaving doctors to try to sort out the madness in the midst of the hectic ER or ICU while on the phone with the hospital’s legal team.

coming from Chelsea in their 40s, 50s who have an interesting mix of symptoms – asymptomatic patients and patients who have the atypical but prevalent symptoms.”

•ICU’S ARE FULL, BUT ONE GLIMMER OF HOPE LAST WEEK

Nearly four weeks ago, CHA Everett converted an anesthesiology recovery room into an overflow ICU department, and since that time it has not emptied. The same has happened at the CHA Cambridge hospital, and both hospitals are completely full.

They are almost done with an Institutional Review Board application to move the treatment to a clinical trial.

“We have been giving it now for about three weeks and we have just enough information to see whether or not it is working,” she said. “The hope is to register this as one of the 500 or so clinical trials going on right now – continuing it and spreading the word. Honestly, we want to convince some bigger institutions in Boston to add this in.”

four hours. That has been a fantastic addition, Lai-Becker said.

“It was successful enough we already ran out of those tests and were without them for 48 hours,” she said. “On Monday morning, we got a new shipment and I’m sure we’ll plow through them quickly too. It is amazing what Dr. Osgood was able to do for a small community hospital.”

•COVID-19 WAS PROBABLY HERE IN JANUARY

As the pandemic has advanced, there are now great suspicions that COVID-19 was present and spreading quickly in Boston as early as January.

“Many have had end-of-life discussions already and that part is good but there are less confident instructions at times, but thankfully the whole hospital system has stepped up,” she said. “No one could have predicted we’d be speaking to the general counsel of the hospital 24/7 for the legality of so many situations.”

“The ICU overflow for Everett and Cambridge are full and the ICU departments in Everett and Cambridge are full all the time,” she said. “We are thankful we have a great critical care network.”

Many patients when there aren’t enough beds in the ICU are being transferred into Boston to their partner networks, including Beth Israel which has seen a major surge in patients starting last weekend. Nevertheless, they are hoping that patients in the ICU can get better through treatments – such as the innovative Tylenol poisoning antidote being used at CHA Everett – so they can come off a ventilator and make space for more critical patients.

She said there appears to be some credibility to the treatment, and the fact that is it already approved, it’s safe, plentiful and available in generic form make it a great option, if proven.

“We’re hopeful,” she said.

•COMFORT CARE UNIT ESTABLISHED FOR END OF LIFE

The new blood test for anti-bodies – which is being tested now across the country – is revealing quite a few people who apparently had the virus earlier this year and didn’t know it. Many reported having a cold or some type of flu in late January or February, but had no idea it was COVID-19.

In response, the hospital has created a small squadron of case managers to assist in the Emergency Room and that are part of the ER team now. Some patients come in with a “code,” meaning they are critical, but instructions from the first responders doesn’t match up with what the health care proxy/family tells them. Then sometimes the family health care proxy changes their mind at the last minute, not wanting their loved one to die of COVID-19. Other times, Lai-Becker said they learned, a legal guardian is not the same as a health care proxy, and in some families those two roles are fulfilled by different people with different ideas about care. It makes the daunting task of fighting COVID-19 even more difficult, and in a critical time-sensitive moment.

“Every day patients are hopefully getting better and can be moved to the regular medical floor or to make room we’ll transfer patients to an in-town bed,” she said. “It’s a lot of moving parts... Now we are all looking for more and more ways to prevent someone from having to go onto the ventilator. That’s actually our greatest hope short of a cure or vaccine is that all the therapies and treatments can prevent people from going on a ventilator.”

At the Everett and Cambridge campuses, CHA has established Comfort Care Units to help COVID-19 patients be comfortable when they are expected to survive no more than two or three days. This is for patients whose families have decided not to pursue treatment and life-saving care. Palliative care physicians are on site to help them remain comfortable in their last days.

That unit has brought comfort to the staff and families affected by the pandemic, she said. In fact, many on the staff have had their spirits brightened by reading the patient stories written by those tending to folks in their last days.

Dr. Lai-Becker said they haven’t done any patient research, but anecdotally she is beginning to think that community spread was more prevalent in Everett and Boston as early as January.

The case managers have stepped in to try to help solve those issues, she said.

Despite that sobering news, there was a silver lining moment at CHA Everett last week when a patient who had been on a ventilator was able to come off the ventilator and is recovering and likely able to go home. Typically up to now, when someone comes off a ventilator, it is because they aren’t going to make it and life-care is being discontinued.

“Frankly that’s been a comfort for patients and families and also the staff,” she said. “I’ll be honest; I have found comfort in following up on a patient there and reading the report from a palliative care physician that goes into all the considerations about the decision and a lovely, touching synopsis about the person’s life. It has meant a lot.”

•SEEKING MASKS, NEW TESTING GREAT

She said last year many patients came in with the flu and 90 percent tested positive for the flu with the standard flu test. This year, starting in January, many were coming in with what appeared to be the flu, but were testing negative.

“Anecdotally, in February, I remember feeling that so many patients were having negative flu tests,” she said. “It will be very interesting to have a full roll out in a month. We’ll have a much better sense of real anti-body testing that will show perhaps all of us that it was around earlier...If you pressed me on it about whether it was community spread in January, I would say that yes it probably was. It’s the only way I can explain the BioGen super spreader event in Boston.”

“They are now an integral part of a critical care team,” she said. “When a patient comes in that is coding and we’re doing CPR, they are on the phone calling the next-of-kin, the health care proxy and pulling together information and making sure we’re respecting patient wishes. It’s a different challenge and a different aspect of this challenge...It’s another part of what we’re doing. It’s like having another appendage that is also doing something.”

“We have had our first successful extubation seeing the patient came off the ventilator,” she said. “We are very pleased we’ve had someone come off the ventilator and onto the floor and on their way out of the hospital.”

As the pandemic response at CHA Everett continued, Dr. Lai-Becker said they are still seeking new N95 masks made by 3M or Honeywell – as they are approved for full medical uses. They are running low, she said, and anyone with those kinds of masks are encouraged to bring them to the hospital for donation.

“We have run out of the small size of those and are on the hunt for them right now,” she said.

She added that there hasn’t been research or case studies to lend credibility to those hunches, but she said more and more people are leaning towards the idea COVID-19 was around months before things got serious.

“It has been with uniformity that people agree it has to have been around much earlier than people thought,” she said. “I think that’s the best explanation for why the BioGen conference really turned out to be a super-spreader event.”

She said she has heard from other sister institutions that the same thing is happening, and it has become an unfortunate trend in busy ERs.

While some hospitals play the theme from ‘Rocky’ on such occasions, that didn’t happen at CHA Everett, but it was grounds for some celebration, she said.

Last week, CHA announced it was moving to the Cepheid quick-test for its in-house lab – pushing wait times for a result down to

That will remain to be seen as time goes on, but for now, call it a hunch.

“We have maintained the same intensity over the last two weeks with a slight drop off last weekend,” she said. “We’re still seeing a pretty broad age mix. The patients coming from nursing homes are older. Certainly being up the hill from Chelsea – there have been so many patients

•TYLENOL ANTIDOTE TREATMENT GAINING STEAM

The new treatment being studied at CHA Everett under Dr. Lai-Becker is also gaining momentum – that treatment being to give the antidote for Tylenol poisoning to patients who seem to be having a huge immune system response to COVID-19, so much so that it is tearing them down instead of helping them. The idea in using the antidote is to slow down that immune system response and prevent patients from spiraling into a worse condition not caused by COVID-19.

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# Samples // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

gets COVID-19 again.

The only way to get to those important answers is to get samples of the virus from people who have it, thus the need to gather samples at their homes and to put out a public appeal for volunteers.

donors who are over the age of 18 with COVID-19 positive test results confirmed by nasal swab or sera (blood test).

•Patients’ personal information will be kept confidential and only health-related data will accompany their blood sample.

•They will be asked to provide demographic information such as age, race, gender, medications taken, co-morbidities, and smoking status in addition to answering questions about their illness such as symptoms and date of onset.\

•For their time, patients will be compensated \$10 for each tube of blood collected.

“Because of the nature of COVID, we realized that if there were those who wanted to donate, they might have a fever or might be in quarantine and might not be able to get out or don’t feel well enough to get out,” said Ball. “We changed our business model to include a mobile collection program so we could go to the home of COVID-19 patients. Our researchers were having trouble getting access to the research samples. That’s what we do, get them samples, and we felt we needed to be able to go to any zip code where people have been diagnosed.”

# DONATING BLOOD IN QUARANTINE

After a COVID-19 patient makes a blood donation appointment, a BSC phlebotomist, dressed in full personal protective equipment (PPE), will arrive at their home, explain the informed consent and collection process, and collect the blood sample. Then, they will send the sample to BSC’s lab for processing and distribution.

Because COVID-19 is a global pandemic, and there are few answers now, donating to research has become very popular because it is a humanitarian gesture to try to beat the virus. However, being able to get those samples at the right time was difficult given how sick people were who had the virus.

# DONATING BLOOD POST RECOVERY

People who have recovered from COVID-19 and have had no symptoms for at least 28 days, and have had no close contact exposure to a person with confirmed COVID-19 for 28 days, can elect to either donate via the mobile service or make an appointment to visit a BSC blood donor center.

“Some people who have been diagnosed with COVID definitely want to participate in research and many of them are first-time donors,” she said. “This is allowing them to connect with the research community right now. We are the conduit.”

BSC is a critical service supplying more than 30,000 pharma, biotech, diagnostic and government researchers with human blood products for scientific research.

Patients who are sick with COVID-19 and quarantined can now donate blood from the comfort of their home via a BSC mobile donation unit.

Potential donors can obtain additional information and schedule an appointment by calling 1-833-GO-4-CURE, visiting [www.biospecialty.com](http://www.biospecialty.com) or sending an email to [donors@biospecialty.com](mailto:donors@biospecialty.com).

•When patients contact BSC, they will be asked some qualifying questions to confirm their eligibility to participate.

•BSC is seeking blood

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LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS - CLASSIFIED LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DIVISION OF CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

Electronic Bids submitted in the format furnished by the Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance (DCAMM) and clearly identified as a bid will be received through DCAMM's E-Bid Room at [www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/](http://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/) home no later than the date and time specified and will forthwith be publicly opened at One Ashburton Place, Room 220, Boston, MA 02108. General Bids at 2:00 PM: May 13, 2020 Every General Bidder must be certified by DCAMM for the category of work listed below and for no less than the

bid price plus all add alternates of this project, if applicable. The Category of Work is: Electrical

Mass. State Project No. DCP2008 Contract No. FC1

UPS Battery Replacement, Mass. Information Technology Center (MITC) Chelsea, MA E.C.C.: \$1,054,951.14 This project is scheduled for 182 calendar days to substantial completion.

Scope: Replacement of the existing UPS batteries with new, disposal of existing batteries, reconnecting existing wiring, and testing.

A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on April 29, 2020 @ 8:00 AM at MITC, 200 Arlington St., Chelsea, MA. Contact Cheryl Morrissey for more information at Cheryl.Morrissey@mass.gov.

Minimum rates of wages to be paid on the project have been determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor Standards. These rates are incorporated into the bid documents.

Bid documents for this project may be accessed or downloaded at no cost to potential bidders exclusively through DCAMM's E-Bid Room <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/> home One hard copy set is also available for viewing in DCAMM's Bid Room located at One Ashburton Place, 1st Floor, Room 107, Boston, MA during normal business hours.

In order to access bid documents and submit bids through DCAMM's E-Bid Room potential bidders must first be verified by DCAMM's Bid Room and then register with the E-Bid Room vendor. Instructions on the processes can be found on DCAMM's website [www.mass.gov/dcammbids](http://www.mass.gov/dcammbids) or contact DCAMM's Bid Room at (617) 727-4003 or [bidroom.dcammbids@mass.gov](mailto:bidroom.dcammbids@mass.gov).

Carol W. Gladstone COMMISSIONER



# OBITUARIES

## Marion Green

Known throughout her newspaper world as “Miss Marion”

Marion I. (Resnick) Green of Chelsea passed away on Friday, April 17 at the age of 93.

Marion was happiest when spending time with her family and beamed when she and her family were together. She loved Revere Beach and the Boston Sports Teams, especially the Boston Red Sox. But, when there was music and singing, Marion soared! She could really “cut a rug”.

Marion worked in advertising and was employed by various local newspapers. She was known throughout her newspaper world as “Miss Marion” and had ink in her blood.

Marion was the loving mother of Cheryl Rivers and her partner, Ernest Brown and Darlene Jones and her husband, Carl (Butch) Jones; cherished grandmother of Monique Falta (predeceased) and her husband Walter, Elise Caputi and her husband, Jeffrey, Jennifer Jones, Jonathan Jones and Lena Wickham and her husband Jared.

Marion was the adored great grandmother of Ashley Rivers and her partner, Samuel Gonzalez, Danielle Rivers, Sean Falta and his wife, Sarah, Andrea Pasacantilli and her husband, Robert, Amanda Falta and her partner, Edward Roman, Gabriella DePrimeo, Eli Wickham and Sofia DePrimeo.

She was also the cherished great-great grandmother of Nadia Rivers-Gonzalez, Scarlett Roman and Madison Falta.

Meyer Katzman was a very dear and devoted friend.

She was the daughter of the late Lena (Rosenfelt) and Charles Resnick, originally from Russia. She was also predeceased by her dear brothers and their wives: Max and Mildred Resnick, Louis Resnick and Jennie Balicki, and Isadore Resnick. Marion is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

A private burial will take place due to the Covid 19 crisis. Contributions in Marion’s memory may be made to Chelsea Jewish Life Care, 17 Lafayette Avenue, Chelsea, Ma. 02151 with a special thank you to the 1st. floor staff.

## William “Owen” Olenik

Avid Boston Sports Fan



William “Owen” Olenik of Revere, 93, died on April 18 at Boston VA Medical Center due to complications caused by Covid-19.

William was born in Charlestown to William Olenik and Hazel (Webb) Olenik. He was raised in Charlestown and was a U.S. Navy Veteran serving on both the USS Edgcombe and the USS Barnwell during WWII. He worked at Schrafft’s Candy factory for many years. In his free time, he enjoyed playing cards with family and friends, was an avid Boston sports fan and, on occasion, would visit Foxwoods Casino.

He was the beloved husband of the late Bernice “Bunny” (Pisano), devoted father of Kim Mancini and her late husband, Thomas Kulakowski of Revere, Shane of Revere, Cory and his wife, Monica of Everett, Colleen Fisher and her husband, Michael of Connecticut, Tracy Gacicia and her husband, Philip of Hanson, Stacy Olenik and partner, Maggie Buchanan of Saugus and the late Troy Olenik; dear brother of Pauline Mc Laughlin of Charlestown, Ronald Reeves of Lancaster and Laurie Reeves of Tyngsboro, and the late Ada Tibbetts. He is also survived by nine loving grandchildren, four great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

In accordance with the CDC’s current restrictions on gatherings due to Covid-19, all services will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Patient activities fund at Chelsea Soldiers Home., 91 Crest Ave, Chelsea, MA 02150. Interment will be in Holy Cross Cemetery. For guest book please visit [www.Buonfiglio.com](http://www.Buonfiglio.com)



chan of Saugus and the late Troy Olenik; dear brother of Pauline Mc Laughlin of Charlestown, Ronald Reeves of Lancaster and Laurie Reeves of Tyngsboro, and the late Ada Tibbetts. He is also survived by nine loving grandchildren, four great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

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## Anne McCarthy

Kind hearted spiritual woman with a special devotion to the Blessed Mother

Anne C. (O’Connor) McCarthy passed away peacefully of Covid19 on Saturday, April 18 at the Katzman Family Center for Living where she had been a resident for three years. She was 83 years old.

The beloved daughter of the late Michael and Marguerite (Margie) O’Connor, Anne was raised in Chelsea where she graduated from St. Rose High School. Her first job was working for the telephone company as a switchboard operator.

She married John (Jack) McCarthy on May 23, 1959 and together they raised their three sons in Chelsea. She and Jack were devoted to their children whether it was helping with schoolwork, going to their sporting events or taking them on day trips and vacations -- and her youngest sister, Barbara was lucky as she got to go along also.

After the boys were teenagers, she went to work as a bi-lingual aide in the Chelsea Schools where she loved being with the children. She also held a job there preparing lunches for all school children. She furthered her working experience at M.W.R.A. Charlestown as an Administrative Assistant to the Human Resources Manager.

When Anne and Jack retired, they devoted many years volunteering – whether it was running the St Rose food pantry, taking the subway to work at Catholic Charities in Boston or counting weekly envelopes at Our Lady of Grace Church.

Anne was a kind hearted spiritual woman with a special devotion to the Blessed Mother. She enjoyed spending time with her family and long-time friends. Both she and Jack relished the many nights and weekends of playing cards and domino’s with friends. Anne liked walking, dancing, music, going to concerts and plays. She loved to cook and was quite the baker. There were always numerous containers of homemade cookies stacked in the freezer for the taking.

In later years they enjoyed vacations with friends taking cruises, going to Las Vegas, Ireland and England to name a few.



Anne was predeceased by her sister Maureen O’Connor and two nieces, Sandy and Sherry Austin. She is survived by her beloved husband of 61 years, Jack. She will be the forever-loved mother of John McCarthy of Rowley, Brian McCarthy and his wife, Debbie of Danvers and Michael McCarthy and his wife, Kelly of Andover. She was the dear sister of Barbara O’Connor of Chelsea and Helen O’Connor of Pontiac, Michigan and is also survived by her grandson, Michael McCarthy and his wife, Laura of Danvers; granddaughters, Kenadie McCarthy of Danvers and Emmi McCarthy of Andover; great grandson, Nathan McCarthy of Danvers, niece, Terry Austin and nephew, Darrell Austin, both of Michigan as well as many dear cousins and friends.

A private family farewell and committal service was held at Woodlawn Cemetery. A Mass and Celebration of her life will be held and announced for a later date. In lieu of flowers, should friends desire, contributions in Anne’s memory may be made to the Katzman Family Center for Living, 17 Lafayette Ave, Chelsea, MA 02150 or the Alzheimer’s Association, 309 Waverly Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA 02452.

Arrangements were given to the care and direction of the Welsh Funeral Home, Chelsea. For those who wish, we encourage family and friends to offer condolences by means of the online guest book or to send private expressions of sympathy, please visit; [www.WelshFuneralHome.com](http://www.WelshFuneralHome.com).

## Fredy Alberto Ramirez

Great chef and avid Barcelona futbol fan

Fredy Alberto Ramirez of Revere, formerly of Colombia, passed away unexpectedly on April 10 at the age of 50.

Fredy was a great chef who enjoyed cooking for his family and friends. He was an avid Barcelona futbol fan who never missed a match. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Goodbye hurts the most when the story wasn’t finished.

Born in Santa Rosa De Osos, Colombia to Maria (Gomez) and the late Gonzalo Ramirez, he was the devoted father of Christopher and Brian Ramirez and cherished step father to Duvan Lopera and Mateo Tobon; adored brother of Luz Ramirez, Jader Ramirez and Astrid Ramirez, all of Colombia and Sandra Ramirez of Revere. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

In accordance with the CDC’s current restrictions on gatherings due to Covid-19, all services will be held privately. For guest book please visit [www.buonfiglio.com](http://www.buonfiglio.com)



vere. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

In accordance with the CDC’s current restrictions on gatherings due to Covid-19, all services will be held privately. For guest book please visit [www.buonfiglio.com](http://www.buonfiglio.com)

## Richard Bednarek

Malden Hospital retiree who never said no to anyone who needed anything



Richard P. Bednarek passed away on Friday, April 17 at the West Roxbury VA Hospital after a short illness. He was 83 years old.

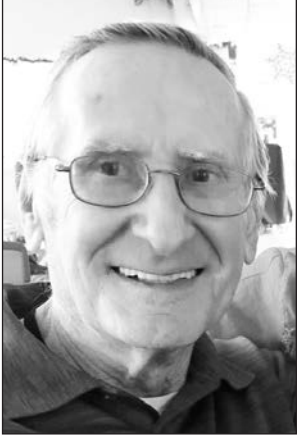
Born and raised in Chelsea, a son of the late Walter C. and Helen (Stopczynski) Bednarek.

He attended local schools and enlisted into the US Navy in 1954, serving during the Korean Conflict. He was honorably discharged in 1957 at the rank of Machinist Mate and was very proud and honored to have served his country.

Upon his return, he met Deb (Ostergard) and were married in 1961. They spent almost 55 years together being each other’s best friend and raising their family. He was the strong silent type with the biggest smile and a sparkle in his eye – he was someone who never had a bad word to say about anyone. He was loved and respected by all who met him and he gave you his time without question – He never said no to anyone who needed anything.

Richard worked as HVAC technician and Maintenance Group Leader at the Malden Hospital for nearly 32 years, only retiring when the hospital closed in 1999. He was happy to retire at the very young age of 62. He had the freedom to do as he pleased and that of course meant taking care of all those around him (including feeding the birds – which was almost a daily occurrence!)

He spent his leisure time with Deb, his grandchildren or helping out at Franks Auto (on most days he could be found there). Richard was active with Chelsea Youth Hockey for many years and volunteered his time as a team coach. He was an avid bowler – 10 pin every week as part of a league and he did that for the past 30 years. He could bowl for hours and would



if we let him. He looked forward to getting together with family and the Christmas Eve (Wiglia) tradition was a favorite-one that continued over years.

In addition to his wife and parents, Richard was also predeceased by his siblings; the late Carol Diamond, Florence Tomaszewski and Ronald Bednarek. He was the beloved husband of the late Diane M. “Debbie” (Ostergard) Bednarek and the devoted father of Richard “Rick” Bednarek and his wife, Laura of Kennesaw GA, and Terri DiOrio and her husband, Robert of Chelsea; cherished grandfather of Nikki and Hannah Bednarek of Georgia, “RJ” DiOrio and his wife, Catherine of Connecticut and Deryn DiOrio and his fiancé, Priscilla Gomez of Chelsea and adoring great-grandfather of Robert III (J.J.)

A private family farewell and committal service was held at Woodlawn Cemetery. A Mass and Celebration of his life will be held and announced for a later date. In lieu of flowers, should friends desire, contributions in Richard’s memory may be made to the Chelsea Soldiers Home Activity Fund, 91 Crest Ave, Chelsea.

Arrangements were given to the care and direction of the Welsh Funeral Home, Chelsea. For those who wish, we encourage family and friends to offer condolences by means of the online guest book or to send private expressions of sympathy, please visit; [www.WelshFuneralHome.com](http://www.WelshFuneralHome.com)

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NEWS Briefs

BY SETH DANIEL

CAPIC FUEL ASSISTANCE UPDATE - YOU MAY NOW BE ELIGIBLE!

COVID-19 is affecting us all whether it's our health, household income, our social well-being or a combination of all three. If you are a resident of Chelsea, Winthrop or Revere and are finding it difficult to keep up with home heating expense during this time please do not hesitate to reach out to CAPIC. All applications can be completed remotely. Call today, you may be surprised you qualify! Please call 617-884-6130.

TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR RESIDENTS TO SAFELY RECOVER FROM COVID-19

Beginning April 16, the Quality Inn in Revere will be used as temporary housing for Chelsea and Revere residents sick with COVID-19 who are in need of a safe, non-overcrowded place to recover. Eligible residents are:

- confirmed by testing to have the virus,
- confirmed by a doctor that they do not need hospital care,
- and living in overcrowded housing where it is difficult to self-quarantine (stay separated from others).

Those meeting these qualifications will be further evaluated by health-care professionals to determine if the Quality Inn will provide appropriate temporary isolation housing for their unique circumstances. Isolated individuals at the Quality Inn will receive care from Partners Health-Care medical professionals, along with food and hy-

giene supplies provided by MEMA. There will also be mental health support services from North Suffolk Mental Health Association. This safe housing option will be available for 60 days.

MGH CHELSEA OFFERS TESTING FOR THOSE WITH SYMPTOMS

Starting Monday April 13, patients with symptoms of Covid-19 are eligible for testing at MGH Chelsea. One doesn't need to be a patient of MGH to qualify. There is also not a need to have health insurance, and immigration status does not matter.

Appointments are STRONGLY encouraged, but walk-ins will not be turned away. If anyone has one of the following symptoms, please call 617-724-7000, to schedule an appointment for evaluation and testing:

- fever
- new sore throat
- new cough
- new runny nose or nasal congestion
- new muscle aches
- new shortness of breath
- new loss of smell

If one is a patient within the Partners Healthcare system, please call the Primary Care doctor's office with any questions, and to be scheduled for evaluation and testing.

TRAIN HORNS

The Federal Railway Administration has recently determined that the Grade Crossings (where road and railroad intersect) in Chelsea no longer qualify as a Quiet Zone. Unfortunately, once the FRA issues this determination, neither the City, the MBTA, nor anyone else can change the

rules to stop train whistles from blowing. In the short term, the whistles will blow for every train crossing. In the long term, the City will work with the FRA to identify, and the construct, the necessary changes to restore the Quiet Zone. That process – identifying construction changes that will satisfy FRA, designing the changes, appropriating the funds for the changes, and actually constructing the changes – will likely take significant time, likely a year or more.

COLLABORATIVE MASKS FOR SALE

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Chelsea Collaborative was supporting a group of jornaleros (day laborers) to launch a worker-owned tailoring cooperative in Chelsea for entrepreneurial immigrants in search of economic opportunity. They have now come together to support community crisis responders and help undocumented families in Chelsea weather the financial crisis. The jornaleros are sewing proper masks to protect Chelsea's community response organizations from the spread of the virus. Masks are being sold for \$10 each and the proceeds are going to support undocumented families who are not eligible for unemployment benefits. 300 masks have already been sewn and distributed with more on the way. Individuals can purchase masks as well. To purchase any masks, you may place an order via email, please provide your name, phone number, address and number of masks by contacting: [sylvia@chelseacollab.org](mailto:sylvia@chelseacollab.org) and then via Cash App: \$ChelseaCollaborative.

GETTING FOOD TO EVERYONE IN NEED: UPDATES

Pop-Up Food Pantries are continuing to serve the people of Chelsea, providing boxes of food every weekday beginning at 11 a.m. The City is increasing our food supply daily so that everyone who needs food can get it. With this in mind, please be patient and mindful of your neighbors in need. Some families

have more immediate need than others and we want to make sure that everyone gets to eat. Soon there will be enough for everyone.

Pop-up Pantry Locations:

- Mondays: Quigley Park, 25 Essex Street
- Ruiz Park, 141 Washington Avenue
- Tuesdays: Luther Place, Cherry Street, between 5th Street and 4th Street
- Bellingham Hill Park, 115 Bellingham Street
- Wednesdays: Washington Park, at Washington Ave and Hancock Street
- Bosson Park, 43-56 Bellingham Street
- Thursdays: Chelsea Square, near 2 Second Street
- Highland Park, in front of 30 Willow Street
- Fridays: City Hall Parking lot, 500 Broadway
- Mary C. Burke Complex, 300 Crescent Avenue

IF YOU ARE NOT SICK AND NEED FOOD

- Monday-Friday: Hot lunches and kids lunches at 11:30 a.m. at Salvation Army (258 Chestnut Street)
- Tuesdays and Thursdays: Grocery pick-up 10 a.m.-noon at the Salvation Army (258 Chestnut Street).
- Tuesdays and Thursdays: Grocery pick-up at 5 p.m. at the Chelsea Collaborative (318 Broadway).
- Thursdays and Fridays: Mass General Hospital Food For Families Pantry (151 Everett Ave.). Available two times per month to MGH patients by referral. Please call (617) 887-3575.
- Saturdays: Grocery pick-up 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church (201 Washington Avenue, Chelsea); no appointment necessary.
- IF YOU ARE IN ISOLATION AND NEED FOOD

Do not wait in line for food. Call 311 (617-466-4100).

- IF YOU ARE 65 YEARS OR OLDER

Contact the Chelsea Senior Center for grocery deliveries. Call 617-466-4377 or 617-466-4370.

SCHOOL MEAL DISTRIBUTION CHANGES

The City will no longer have meal services at Saint Rose starting this week.

Next week, the City will reduce site locations to the following:

- Early Learning Center
- Mary C. Burke Complex
- Williams School (Wright/Browne Middle Schools)
- Clark Ave School
- Voke Park

Meals will be served this week during April vacation week.

PANDEMIC-EBT

Pandemic-EBT, or P-EBT, has recently been approved for Massachusetts and things are underway to implement the program in the state. For households with students who would have received free and reduced price schools meals, P-EBT provides extra money to buy food. Eligible households will receive \$5.70 per student for each day of school closure, which will be paid in a lump sum of \$199.50 to cover the 35 days that schools have already been closed. If you already have an EBT card, then the funds will be added to your card.

P-EBT benefits can be spent in the same way as SNAP, and they're available to households regardless of immigration status. However, they do not make you eligible for SNAP and they cannot be used to receive HIP benefits. They also do not replace the existing School Food Program, which continues to serve grab-and-go meals on weekdays for students.

GRANTS FOR DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES

If anyone owns a small business in Downtown Chelsea that is struggling during this time, they may be able to apply for financial assistance from the Chelsea Business Foundation. Grants are from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and can be used to cover rent, keep employees, and other critical needs. To apply, your business must:

- Be in Chelsea's TDI District
- Have less than 50 employees
- Need financial help due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Applications are due by 6 p.m. Friday, April 24.

TAX BILLS, OTHERS DELAYED TO JUNE 1

The due date for ALL city payments and applications has been extended to June 1, 2020. This policy applies to all bills with a due date on or after March 10, 2020. June 1, 2020 is the new due date even if you received a bill that said the due date for payment is earlier than that.

This extension applies to all of the below:

- Real property tax bills
- Personal property tax bills
- Applications for property tax exemptions
- Parking stickers applications and renewals
- Parking tickets
- Parking ticket appeals
- Excise tax bills
- Water and sewer bills

BLOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

With the increase in people needing medical assistance during the pandemic there is a critical need for blood as well. If you are able, please contact the Red Cross to make an appointment or look for upcoming opportunities to donate at MGH-Chelsea.

REMINDER: PARKS EQUIPMENT CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

All childrens' playground areas, all basketball/tennis courts and all athletic fields are closed to the general public due to the COVID-19 crisis. Some large recreation areas remain open in the City, but public use is limited to passive recreation such as walking and jogging, and only provided that social and physical distancing rules (six feet away from others) are followed. No athletic activities that bring participants into close physical contact are allowed, even when involving 10 or fewer people.

Northeast Metro Tech closed through end of academic year

Gov. Baker Extends Statewide School Closure Through End of School Year

Superintendent David DiBarri announces that, in accordance with a new order from Gov. Charlie Baker and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Northeast Metro Tech will remain closed through the end of the 2019-2020 academic year as a precaution against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The statewide closure of schools, originally set to end on April 7 and previously extended to May 4, has been further extended through the end of the school year.

The last day of school at Northeast Metro Tech is scheduled to be June 19.

The extended closure of schools is an unprecedented step in limiting the potential spread of COVID-19 and continuing the practice of social distancing as more positive cases and deaths are announced in the state each day.

The Northeast Student Benefit Fund is currently funding the preparation and delivery of multi course meals daily to students and student families in need, and the district plans to continue this initiative as long as social distancing advisories remain in place through the end of the school year. Students and their families in need of additional resources are also encouraged to call the state's 211 number, which was established by the state to connect people throughout the Commonwealth to information regarding COVID-19 and services they may need throughout the course of the pandemic.

All athletic programs, events and after school activities will remain suspended and fields will remain closed until further notice.

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Jeffrey Riley canceled MCAS for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year across grades 3-10. The Commissioner has not yet made a decision regarding competency determination for high school graduation.

Discussions about events like graduation, prom and academic awards ceremonies will be addressed in the coming days and weeks and further information will be shared as it becomes available.

Remote learning will continue through the end of the school year, June 19, and new content will continue to be introduced to students by their teachers.

Commissioner Riley will be releasing additional guidance and recommendations to school districts statewide within the coming days.

Teachers and administrators have worked since the initial school closure to support students' connections to their school community and classwork.

During the school closure, teachers have remained vigilant and mindful of their individual students' needs and have made adjustments according to those needs. Teachers will continue to reach out to students and families on a regular basis throughout the remainder of the school closure.

For more information, visit the district's website at <https://northeastmetrotech.com/>.

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# Encore employees volunteer time away from work to check on Everett senior citizens

By Seth Daniel

Most employees at Encore Boston Harbor have been out of work since March, and though they are still getting paid, they have a lot of free time on their hands.

Instead of killing that time in an unproductive manner, many of the Encore employees are using their time to connect with senior citizens in Everett. It is just one of many volunteer opportunities that employees are signing up for to help the community while they wait for the resort casino to re-open.

Public Relations Director Rosie Salisbury said many employees have been taking advantage of the time to serve the community, whether at food banks or by working the phones. Personally, she said she has gotten a great deal of satisfaction from checking in regularly on a list of senior citizens provided by the City of Everett.

“One of the great volunteer opportunities that Encore has made available to employees is calling and checking in on a list of more than 6,000 senior residents of Everett,” she said. “I personally find it fulfilling and uplifting to be able to volunteer from the safety of my home and spark a little joy during an

otherwise challenging time. When I speak to the residents of Everett, you can hear the happiness that it brings them and how appreciative they are knowing that they have neighbors who care. It’s been really gratifying to connect with them and bring a sense of hope and unity to the most vulnerable members of our community.”

Late last week, Wynn Resorts announced it was expanding its approach to community service at its Everett and Las Vegas locations – both of which are closed due to COVID-19 responses. The company launched its new Virtual Volunteer program last week, a digital platform for employees to give back through national and local online volunteer opportunities. From assisting the visually impaired to mentoring high school students to building websites for small businesses, employees can choose from hundreds of ways to offer their personal and professional skills to help people in need.

“Wynn employees volunteer more than 50,000 hours every year at Company-sponsored events in support of our vital non-profit partners,” said Wynn Resorts CEO Matt Maddox. “This commitment to service doesn’t stop just because it can’t be done in

person. The Virtual Volunteer program is an innovative new way to think about volunteering and keeps our employees close to the causes they care about most.”

Virtual volunteer opportunities are available in dozens of cause areas including crisis relief, mental health, technology, business services, the arts, childhood and continuing education, assisting veterans, and many more. National and local partners in Boston will continue to be added, and currently include:

- 7Cups
- American Corporate Partners
- Be My Eyes
- Bookshare
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
- Bread of Life
- Career Village
- Catchafire
- Cradles to Crayons
- City of Everett
- Heart
- iCouldBe
- LibriVox
- Message of Hope
- Missing Maps
- Mapathon
- Smithsonian Digital Volunteers
- Strive For College
- Tech Soup
- Translators Without Borders
- Nonprofit organizations can request participation in the Virtual Volunteer program by completing the assessment survey on the



As a show of visual support for the communities around them, Encore Boston Harbor has displayed a number of different messages and pictures of hope during the last several weeks using the lights of their hotel tower to spell out words like ‘Be Strong’ or to create a heart. The company has been encouraging volunteer activities among its employees during the closure, and has also donated \$2.8 million worth of financial aid, PPE, food, and cleaning/hygiene supplies.

Wynn Employee Foundation website at [wef.wynnresorts.com](http://wef.wynnresorts.com).

Additionally, the Wynn Employee Foundation, a charitable giving foundation funded and managed by Wynn employees, is providing \$50,000 in grants this week to two

Boston area domestic violence shelters. The Elizabeth Stone House and Casa Myrna will each receive \$25,000 to help support a recent rise in demand for their services that is linked to Covid-19 stay-at-home orders.

The donation and volunteer strategies follow an extensive financial protection plan implemented by Maddox that ensures all Wynn employees in North America will continue to receive their full wage, including their average tip, through May 15, 2020.

# Revolutionary Clinics celebrates 4/20 by giving back

Revolutionary Clinics, one of the state’s leading providers of medical marijuana, has designated April 20th as a day of giving. Commonly referred to as 4/20, the day is traditionally cause for celebration in the marijuana community, but in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it serves as an opportunity to reinforce the notion of unity and lend support to affected neighbors. The efforts will focus on some of the most

vulnerable members of the population, those on the front line and those facing financial hardship.

“When we thought about how to celebrate 4/20, we decided the best way would be to channel the spirit of togetherness and use the holiday to help those around us,” said Keith Cooper, CEO of Revolutionary Clinics. “While the pandemic has affected everyone, we chose to concentrate on some of the people

hit hardest, including senior citizens, health care professionals and restaurants. We’re also extremely honored to be writing a check that will provide about \$10,000 for Cambridge residents. Using the day to give back demonstrates how tightly we’re connected and how strong these communities are.”

As a gesture of gratitude to those on the front line of fighting the pandemic, Revolutionary Clinics

is partnering with Cambridge’s Aceituna Grill and the non-profit organization “Fuel the Fight Boston” to deliver approximately 200 meals to the doctors, nurses and hospital workers at the Cambridge Health Alliance’s hospitals in Somerville, Cambridge and Everett. By partnering with Aceituna Grill, this act will support a local restaurant in addition to health care professionals.



Workers at Revolutionary Clinics load meals from Cambridge’s Aceituna Grill onto a truck to be delivered to area hospitals, including CHA Everett.

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