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CHELSEA RECO

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VOLUME 120, NO. 7

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

35 CENTS

Serving the needs of residents

Salvation Army involved in massive food distribution effort

By Cary Shuman

The Salvation Army facility at 258 Chestnut Street is in full-scale operation each day, helping to distribute 500-600 food boxes that contain 35 meals in each box.

Capt. Isael Gonzales and his wife, Capt. Brenda Gonzalez, Commanding Corps Officers at the Chelsea facility, said the lines of residents have grown substantially as the COVID-19 pandemic has decimated

"At 8:30 a.m., 90 minutes before we open, the line was already at the corner by the [Central] Fire Station and it remained that way for three hours," said Capt. Isael Gonzalez.

He said the number of families the Salvation Army is seeing during the crisis has quadrupled on average.

The Salvation Army, which is part of the Chelsea Hunger Network, also serves 75 "grab-and-go" hot meals each day.

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Council likely to approve \$1.6 million in emergency funding

By Seth Daniel

City Manager Tom Ambrosino and Council President Roy Avellaneda both said the Council is likely to approve an emergency funding request of \$1.6 million to continue helping with food efforts and to pay for services at the regional quarantine hotel in Revere.

Ambrosino said the funding is critical and he expects the Council to agree.

"They will vote that at the next meeting," he said. "That will cover the food distribution and the hotel costs for May. We will get reimbursed for some costs by FEMA and assistance

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MASKING THE SMELL OF FRESH FLOWERS



Bellingham Square exploded last Friday with a huge display of fresh flowers on the pavilion. The New England Flower Exchange on Second Street and its partners Poppy Floral and Kinship Floral had excess flowers on hand and decided to shed a bright light on what is a dim situation in Chelsea. The flow-



ers were in place Friday morning and caused a good deal of people to stop and...well... smell the flowers – at a proper social distance of course.

Chelsea's Hope

Student's drawings capture an historic moment

By Seth Daniel

There's something about the two color drawings by Chelsea's Jaylee Ortiz that has captured this moment in the City's history in a way that grabbed everyone's attention.

Ortiz, 15, is a sophomore at Chelsea High School

(CHS) and a member of the REACH program there when school is normally in session. Over the past eight weeks, she said she has seen so much in her hometown that has happened, that she needed to express herself. REACH Director Stephanie Rodriguez sug-

gested Ortiz use the time to



Chelsea High student Jaylee Ortiz uses drawing (above and below) to keep calm, and decided to draw some of the things she was seeing around her hometown. Now, her two color drawings have inspired hope in the City's residents as they begin to circulate through the community.



express herself through her

drawings. That produced, so far, two drawings that are showing up everywhere in Chelsea and to other parts of the state as well while the spotlight shines on the City as it becomes the epicenter of the COVID-19 battle in New England.

One of the drawings is a nurse in a mask and gloves flexing her muscles with the Mystic/Tobin Bridge and Chelsea High behind her. A second drawing depicts a National Guard solider at City Hall giving eggs to a resident in a mask.

"I've had a thing for drawing since I was a kid in elementary school," she said, noting that she also attended the Williams School and the Hooks Elementary. "They always had me put in the art show. I enjoy that I'm able to put what I see in my mind on paper and people understand what I'm saying. It's something that keeps me calm. I'm the type of person that if you catch me in class, you'll see a lot of doodles on my paper because it keeps me focused."

Interestingly, Ortiz isn't an artist in any of the CHS programs or doesn't take any classes to perfect her art, but simply likes to convey what she sees to others.

These days, that includes seeing the city she calls home upended, with peo-

See DRAWINGS Page 2

Update

City approaches 2,000 cases as new cases finally plateau

By Seth Daniel

The numbers of new positive cases of COVID-19 being reported to the City daily has seemingly plateaued recently, with about 70 new cases per day being reported.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said it was a hopeful estimation, but indicated the numbers of infection is still very high, and the rate of infection in Chelsea is so much higher than any other place - making any such news about a plateau to come with curbed enthu-

"I think there's maybe been a plateau," he said. "We're not seeing any large spikes. We're getting numbers around the 70s every day. That's not good news, but at least we're not seeing any increase. We will feel a lot better when we see these

numbers slowly declining." As of April 28, Chelsea had 1,915 positive cases confirmed, with 426 people having recovered and 98 having died from the virus. Last weekend, there appeared to be a major spike in the numbers. However, that was only because there was a backlog of tests that were finally registered from the Quest Diagnostics Lab. Many of these tests had been done some time ago,

He said there is no one clamoring in Chelsea about re-opening the city as there is in other parts of the country. He said Chelsea would likely be the last community to open in the region.

and only recently reported.

"I think our infection rate is so much higher than anyone else, I can't imagine anyone advocating to open things in Chelsea," he said.

See CASES Page 2

#StayWell

Chelsea's Chick Corea performs in a group of 60 international artists

As individuals and insti-Grammy Award-winning music legends, including Chelsea native Chick Corea, teamed up to help spread a smile and stay well.

The result is the music video "Spread a Smile," a modern-day "WE ARE THE WORLD," that has already hit over 5 million views, generating an international following across more than 100 nations.

The Church of Scientology of Boston, where Corea is well-known as a member, is a voice among those millions making that message heard across New England where it is also working to ensure people

better understand how to keep themselves and work places sanitized and more tutions the world over face safe from our current panunprecedented challenges, demic with free information that can be found with the "Spread a Smile" video Scientology.org/Stay-

Well. "This is what we need right now when so many people are isolated," said Kevin Hall, Human Rights Director for the Scientology Church of Boston that is temporarily, in Quincy Center. "You really can't help but smile when viewing this video so we are getting this out to as many people as we can. All you have to do is click, watch

and spread a smile." The music video inspiration and now internet sensation features Gram-

See COREA Page 5



Chelsea native Chick Corea appeared in a video recently called 'Spread a Smile' with more than 60 other musicians.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Councillor At-Large Giannino on the ballot for State Rep.

Last week, Revere City Councilor At-Large, Jessica Giannino, submitted signatures the Secretary of State, Bill Galvin's office. The signatures were later certified, resulting in confirmation that Giannino will officially be on the September ballot for State Representative, 16thSuffolk District.

"I'm excited that we have officially qualified for the September 1st ballot, submitting well over the required 150 certified signatures to the MA Secretary of State. Knowing how strong and deep the support of my friends, neighbors and community runs validates our vision for the 16th Suffolk District. I am humbled by the incredible support that I have received," said Giannino.

"Since announcing my

candidacy for State Representative, I have been campaigning non-stop. The COVID-19 crisis has required Team Giannino to get creative while ensuring they comply with the appropriate protocols including social distancing and avoiding gathering in large

I'm thankful to all the voters in Chelsea, Revere and Saugus who took the time to sign our nomination papers and look forward to meeting and continuing to work on issues that affect the quality of life of the residents of the 16th Suffolk

Jessica began her career in politics as a City Councilor At-Large for the City of Revere in 2012. In that time, she has worked on countless issues that impact

the daily lives of the citizens of Revere, as well as ordinances that will impact generations to follow. In 2013 her inclusive style and strong leadership qualities prompted her colleagues to elect her Vice President of the Council. In 2016 and 2018, Jessica had the honor of serving as City Council President. During that time, she worked ensure the agenda maintained a balance between protecting and growing the city's economic base, without compromising the quality of city services to residents. Jessica believes it is her responsibility to ensure that Revere's government is accountable to the people, financially responsible and forward thinking.

Not many visitors to quarantine hotel, but necessary says City Manager

By Seth Daniel

The Quality Inn quarantine regional hotel effort has been quite an expensive affair for Chelsea and Revere, but so far it hasn't had too many guests.

Needless to say, City Manager Tom Ambrosino said it was a service that is critical no matter what the "People are reluctant to

leave the places they are comfortable in," he said. "It is hard to convince people to go there. It's slowly getting filled." As of Tuesday, there were 37 people there with

100 rooms available. Only 18 of them were Chelsea residents. Meanwhile, the costs of the facility have already eclipsed \$1 million for operations through the month of May.

Funding / Continued from Page 1

This week, Lynn and Somerville have joined the effort and are sending patients there to quarantine - and will likely be paying some of the costs too. Revere kicked off the payments this month with a \$470,000 payment to the hotel for its use. Chelsea has been paying for security and operations and other incidentals. Ambrosino said he expected the cost to Chelsea to be around \$600,000 for use of the hotel when all is said and done. Some of that will be reimbursed by FEMA, and the state has also promised

to help. The medical care has been provided by MGH, and the state MEMA has provided food, but most of the rest of the costs are borne by the cities - with hopes of reimbursement in

the future.

Nonetheless, Ambrosino said it was critical even if for a small number.

The reason he started the effort was because people who were sick and in precarious living conditions were returning to the hospital and being turned away from their living arrangements. That left the possibility that it could happen to many more people as Chelsea does have a number of difficult living arrangements.

"Over time, it will get a good use and availability and was the right decision," he said. "There are 18 people from Chelsea that now would be without a place to go if not for that hotel."

The quarantine hotel has been open for two weeks

Gravellese qualifies for ballot in State Rep race

Joe Gravellese has qualified for the ballot in the Democratic Primary for State Representative in the 16th Suffolk District (Revere, Chelsea, Saugus), turning in his verified signatures at the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office last week.

The Primary election will be held on Tuesday, September 1.

"I'm grateful to my friends, family and supporters who took extraordinary steps to help me get the

signatures I needed during these challenging times,' said Gravellese, a 2006 graduate of Revere High School, former staffer at both the State House and Revere City Hall, and current higher education professional at Boston College.

"As I speak with voters all over the district, it's clear that there's a hunger not just for new representation, but for a new approach to governing. Voters want to make state government more transparent, build an

economy that works for us all, and ensure that the Massachusetts that emerges from the COVID-19 crisis is cleaner, healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable than what existed before. I look forward to fighting for these priorities, on the campaign trail and at the State House."

More information about Gravellese's campaign can be found at www. joegrav.com.

Drawings / Continued from Page 1

ple bravely going to work in health care facilities and other essential jobs and others waiting in long lines just to get food for their fami-

She said she wants her drawings to represent hope.

"Both of my drawings are to represent hope," she said. "I'm still very hopeful. I'm hopeful because people are motivated to go to work and they are brave. People are trying to feed the City of Chelsea had preciate what I've done."

their families. It makes me motivated that people are still trying. It's very difficult now, but people haven't given up."

Supt. Almi Abeyta said she was very inspired when she saw Ortiz's drawings.

She saw them on Facebook and immediately reached out to Rodriguez about them. Soon, they were on the Chelsea Public Schools website, and then

posted them on their online channels. Now, Abeyta said some state education organizations have asked to post them as well - as they symbolize what many believe is a hope for Chelsea during tough times.

"It makes me really happy to know people appreciate it," she said. "I really want people to know how thankful I am that they apas the state can. The Council has committed to doing this because it is an essential need and we need it." The hotel has mostly

from Gov. Baker who has

offered to help us as much

been covered by Revere, which paid \$470,000 at the outset to reserve the hotel. Chelsea has been picking up security costs and other operations. The expenses for the hotel have been about \$1 million so far, and Ambrosino said Chelsea's portion would come in at around \$600,000 in the end.

In addition to Revere and Chelsea, now Lynn and Somerville have joined in on the hotel effort.

"It's expensive," Ambrosino. "At some point we'll figure out an accounting and Lynn and Somerville will pay their fair share and Chelsea will figure out who owes what. We are all City leaders and all trust each other and feel confident it will work out in the end "

Council President Avel-

laneda said they are calling munity Preservation Act the request COVID-19 2.0, as the Council has already approved \$500,000 earlier this month in emergency funding for food and other quarantine measures.

"This is something we know we need to do," he said. "Now we're looking to support and fund the efforts by the Salvation Army, the National Guard and the volunteers for the box distribution. You'll see myself, Councilor Todd Taylor and Councilor Naomi Zabot distributing boxes. Councilor Calvin Brown has picked up some boxes for residents who cannot make it down to the distributions. Councilor Melinda Vega and myself have been working on the frontlines at the Chelsea Collaborative twice a week at their distributions. We know the urgency and see it firsthand."

Avellaneda said they would also be voting on the emergency housing program, which has opened and will be using Com-

(CPA) money to fund rent payments for families who apply, qualify and are chosen through a lottery sys-

Avellaneda said he and former Councilor Matt Frank advocated heavily for the CPA to be passed two years ago. It's to be used for affordable housing, historic preservation and open space and is collected on top of the property tax. Never, however, would he have thought it was something that could assist residents in a pandemic.

"I always said the best part would be the things we'll be able to do with CPA that we cannot imagine now," he said. "Here we are today. At no point in time would I have been able to predict we would use CPA money for pandemic responses. Thank God the people of Chelsea passed the CPA a few years ago, and it means we can help people a lot today."

Cases / Continued from Page 1

"We'll follow the guidance of the governor and regional partners and probably do something regionally. We're certainly not going to be taking the lead and we would probably be the last community to come along."

Right now, he said they are pushing more and more testing, and he is very encouraged by the anti-body testing study being conducted by MGH in Chelsea. That project started two weeks ago and tested 200 people. Last week they tested 400 people, and this week they also tested 400 people. The finger-prick blood test gives results in 10 minutes, but is only an indicator as to whether you have had the virus. Further swab testing has to be done if an anti-body test is positive, and that's what Ambrosino said he hopes can be done.

"MGH is doing that and we really want to ramp it up," he said. "They need to go carefully to follow the rules of the study and to understand their results. At some point, we want to really scale that up, but this is MGH's project."

Those who come back positive on that test can then be routed to the swab testing sites at MGH Chelsea or Beth Israel – where they are testing hundreds of patients per day.

One of the interesting pieces of that study is the

fact that some come back

showing they have anti-bodies, but they are not sick - meaning they have a negative swab test.

"Everyone thinks that is good news, but no one knows for sure," he said. "For people who test positive for anti-bodies and then negative for COVID-19, no one has quite got the messaging down for them. They might have an immunity, but no one knows for sure."

Testing is also happening in large numbers at the senior buildings throughout the city where the state Department of Public Health (DPH) and other partners are testing everyone. The results from those tests have been a bit slow, averaging around five days for a result. Ambrosino said they will continue with that program at other senior buildings, but want to get a better and quicker system for receiving results.

•GETTING HELP VS.

A major barrier in helping people who are sick is health privacy rights.

When a person tests positive, the City Nurse is contacted and she and her staff contact that person and monitor them. However, they cannot share any of that information due to HIPA health privacy rights.

That has been a barrier to making sure people who are sick have enough food and services. If the person doesn't give permission to

the Nurse to give out their information, the City has no way of finding out who and where they are.

"There is a bit of a disconnect there," he said.

There are many people who are sick, he said, but the City cannot identify them to help them. That hampers the isolation of patients and the City's ability to deliver food and supplies to people in quarantine.

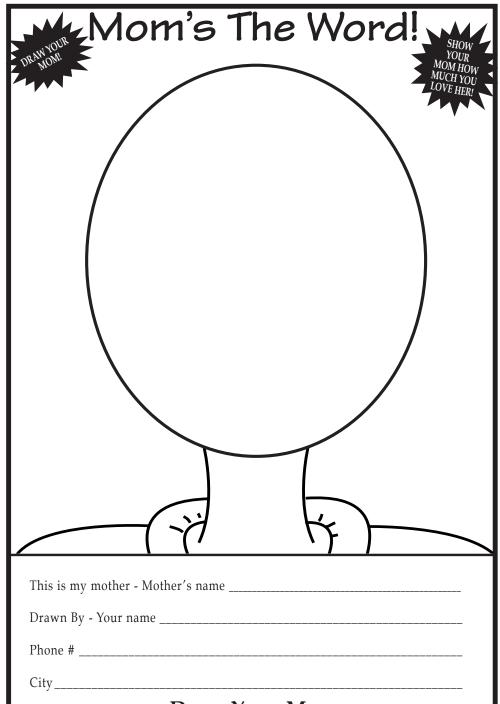
"The Nurse cannot divulge that information to us unless the patient gives express consent," he said. "That's why we really encourage people to call our helpline if they need help."

•FOOD EFFORT STILL RAMPING UP

Ambrosino said the City is still scaling up its efforts to help feed the city with partners like the National Guard, Chelsea Collaborative and Salvation Army among others. Still, long lines of residents gather almost daily to try to get boxes of food for the week.

"It's going as good as it can probably go," said Ambrosino. "It's a Herculean effort to feed 18,000 people in the City each week. We have 45,000 pounds of food delivered every day to the PORT Park. We have to sort it and box it up. We're probably getting close to 1,000 boxes day, but the goal is 1,300 boxes at some

point next week."



Draw Your Mom Complete the picture by creating a picture of your mother

• Pens, pencils, markers or crayons, use colors

Please mail to: The Independent Newspaper Group, Citizens Bank Building, 385 Broadway, Revere or email: promo@reverejournal.com Deadline for entries will be Friday, May 3rd.

Entries will be published in the May 8th, & 9th issues of the Revere Journal, Chelsea Record, Everett Independent, East Boston Times, Winthrop Sun Transcript, The Lynn Journal and The Charlestown Patriot Bridge

Community non-profits could play a role in mental health restoration for Latino communities

By Seth Daniel

As the pandemic continues to rage within the communities of Everett, Chelsea and Revere, every day it becomes more apparent how much more the virus impacts communities of color than other racial groups.

This is particularly being shown to be true in the Latino community – whether it is documented or undocumented immigrants, and even those that are citizens.

One Mass General researcher told a teleconference sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation last week that now is the time for communities and medical providers to prepare for the psychological impacts on Latino families that will begin to show up in the com-

"We should be ready for the post-mental health challenges that will come after the virus, particularly in Latino families," said Dr. Margarita Alegria, one of the country's preeminent experts on racial and ethnic disparities and chief of the Disparities Research Unit at MGH. "There is such psychological stress from foreclosure, job loss, sickness, and it brings on depression, anxiety and substance abuse. This psychological stress is higher on low-income people and intensifies their risk. We need to be prepared for all this, especially in vulnerable populations where they may have job loss and were already challenged economically... It would be tragedy to have another wave of death due to these disparities and we

are not ready. "There is a real opportunity to be ready and to serve Latino and minority families," she continued.

While other communities of color, such as Black/ African American populations have also suffered from COVID-19 disproportionately, Alegria said it was particularly the Latino community that is most at risk due to the fear and anxiety over losing housing, over immigration sta- health counseling under the

charge rules. The public charge rules are a branch of immigration law that began to be enforced again this year, and it prohibits legal immigrants from accessing government benefits for a period of time – with grave consequences for their citizen sponsors if they do.

"What we have seen on the ground for undocumented families is that it's even harder for them because they aren't being recognized for receiving benefits from the government," she said. "Families are very, very afraid to go forward, whether it is for reporting domestic violence or even going to medical facilities for testing because they feel information will be used against them for public charge or to deport them. People don't want to talk about information or about being sick or giving information."

She said there are also reports of landlords throwing undocumented families out if they think one or more of them has gotten sick with COVID-19, despite the many protections put in place by the courts and lawmakers.

All of that has primed the Latino community for severe mental health and anxiety challenges in the coming months - challenges that could exacerbate the current situation in large immigrant communities like Everett, Chelsea and

Alegria said now is the time that the state and federal government should focus on non-profits in the communities - ones that those on the fringes or in Latino communities trust. It is there, in association with local health centers, that Alegria believes early and frequent mental health check-ups can ease the problem.

"Making money from federal stimulus packages to these community-based organizations is important and I would advocate doing that," she said. "I would advocate training workers at these community-based organizations to offer mental tus and over the new public supervision of clinicians winner in 2017.

and primary care providers. That could be the way to go. We have done this before when we used community-based organizations in other situations. These are the places people trust and will turn to when they won't go to a medical facil-

She said the key would be accessing federal monies for such a program and making sure the proper training is put in place.

"These workers and staff members would be supervised and trained by clinicians," she said. "It's doable, but we need to make sure resources are going to these community-based organizations and make sure they are received for these services."

These organizations in local communities could perform in-person visits perhaps in association with a Food Pantry - or they could be trained to do tele-health appointments and check-ins. Many of these organizations, she said, have already been on the front lines of Latino communities and have been helping residents with food, diapers and living expenses. They have built up tremendous trust, Alegria said, in a way that a health center or hospital has not. To tap into that trust to treat mental health in the coming months could be a tremendous help for adults and children in those communities who are going to suffer from the trauma of the last eight weeks.

If situations and symptoms are too difficult for simple counseling, the association with clinicians at a local health center could be used for support - as a referral where a trusted person relays the patient to a more qualified physician.

"We know we need to get them mental health supports early on," said Alegria. "In past epidemics and recessions the people who do well have emergency mental health supports and ongoing maintenance afterward."

Chelsea was a winner of the Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Prize

ZONTA CLUB OF CHELSEA CHANGES NAME

The Zonta Club of Chelsea is pleased to announce that it has changed its name to the The Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore. We have serviced the areas around Chelsea for years and finally decided to have that reflected in our name. Many of our present members live in the surrounding cities. We are honored to be able to continue the great work we do in our cities and hope you will think about joining us in this relationship. Please call us at 617-874-0271 Mary Jane O'Neill or email us at Chelseazonta@zontadistrict1.org and check out our website, zontadistrict1. org/area-4/chelsea-ma. to continue our wonderful work. Our meetings are held the third Thursday of the month.

The members of The Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore participated in our first virtual membership meeting on April 16th as we all met on "Zoom". At this meeting, we had the pleasure of installing our new member, Christine Lee, the Human Resource director for the Chelsea Public Schools .We are so pleased to have a representative from the educational system we have supported and invested in second only to Zonta International since our club was established in December of 1980. With Christine's involvement,



Christine Lee, Human Resource Director for the Chelsea Public Schools

we can and will continue to insure this partnership continues and grows stronger. Welcome to our newest member, Christine Lee!

POLICE Briefs By SETH DANIEL AND PAUL KOOLLOIAN

ATTEMPTED MUR-DER

We really need your help

On April 24, at 7:45 p.m., Chelsea officers were dispatched to a report of a stabbing in Bellingham Square. Officers arrived and observed a male victim with a serious, but non-life threatening, stab wound to his upper torso. Chelsea Detectives and officers were given a description of the attacker and began a neighborhood search. That subject was placed into custody on Congress Street after officers observed him fleeing the area. Officers also utilized city and private cameras that helped identify the suspect.

He was charged with Assault to Murder. The victim was treated and released from MGH Boston.

STOLEN VEHICLE On April 21, at 9:57 p.m., a CPD officer observed a vehicle parked obstructing the fire hydrant at the corner of Shurtleff and Chester Avenue. The officer conducted a license plate check that revealed the vehicle to be stolen. As the officer drove closer to the car, he observed the vehicle was occupied with a driver and a passenger. The officer noticed the driver attempt to conceal himself as he approached. The operator was taken into custody and charged with receiving a stolen motor vehicle. The passenger was not arrested.

NOT INVITED

On April 22, at 2:15 a.m., officers were dispatched to 141 Hawthorne St. for an argument involving a knife. Officers were told by the victim that a male approached and asked if he could drink with them.

When the victim and witness told the man to go away, he pulled a knife and threatened the victim. The offender was apprehended a block away and positively identified by the victim.

ATTACKED ELDERLY WOMAN

On April 27, at 11:30 a.m., a CPD officer was conducting uniformed patrol when dispatched to the location of 855 Broadway, The Broadway Glen Apartments, for a report of an elderly female that had just been attacked at the bus stop. The victim pointed out her attacker and she was placed under arrest for Assault and Battery on a person over 60. The victim was transported to CHA Everett to be evaluated for non-serious injuries.

MassDOT schedules tunnel lighting maintenance in Ted Williams Tunnel

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing that there will be reduced lighting in the Ted Williams Tunnel (TWT) eastbound and westbound in Boston. This essential work began on Sunday, April 26, at 11 p.m., and will continue through to Saturday, May 2, at 11 p.m. This is critical lighting maintenance in

preparation of an extensive lighting replacement to begin later this month.

Lights in the left lane, eastbound and westbound, will be turned off during this time frame. Lighting in the right lanes will function as usual. Drivers are advised to keep lights on for safety.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and advanced message boards will be in place to guide drivers through the work

Drivers who are traveling through the area should use caution.

All scheduled work may be impacted due to an emergency or other unplanned situations.

Chelsea Police Department reminds residents of construction zone parking restrictions

Chief Brian Kyes and the Chelsea Police Department would like to remind residents to follow any parking restrictions that may be temporarily implemented in construction zones throughout the city.

Over the next few months, crews will be completing construction projects throughout Chelsea, including critical upgrades for some of city's infrastructure.

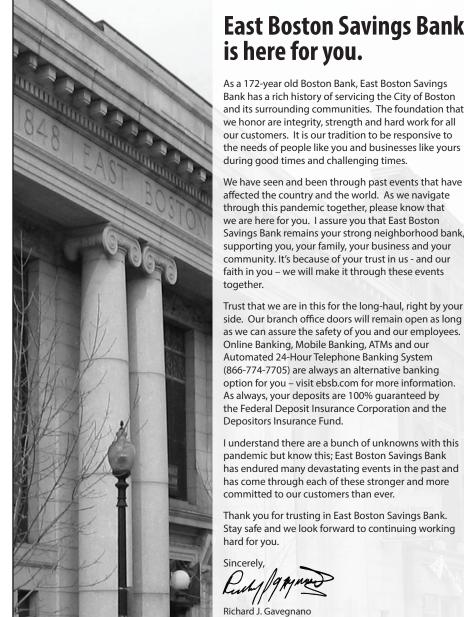
Work for most projects will be done from Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., unless otherwise posted. Residents are asked to move their vehicles from the designated areas before and during this time in order to ensure the road is cleared and work can safely be completed.

Should a vehicle not be moved prior to the start of construction, it may be towed. Residents are also asked to ensure their vehicle registration information is up to date or leave a note with their contact information on the dashboard of the vehicle in case a vehiin their neighborhoods by the construction companies alerting them to any temporary parking restrictions and the times which those restrictions are in place.

"We recognize the inconvenience this may cause and are grateful for everyone's help by temporarily moving their vehicles from construction zones during the day, " Chief Kyes said. "This allows crews to work safely and prevent delays during



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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.

side. Our branch office doors will remain open as long as we can assure the safety of you and our employees. Online Banking, Mobile Banking, ATMs and our Automated 24-Hour Telephone Banking System (866-774-7705) are always an alternative banking option for you – visit ebsb.com for more information. As always, your deposits are 100% guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund.

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.







Chelsea Record

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

ALLOWING THE STATES TO GO BANKRUPT IS A **REALLY BAD IDEA**

One of the most glaring shortcomings thus far of the stimulus and disaster packages that have been passed by Congress in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been the failure to provide assistance to the states.

Every state in the nation is seeing its revenues plummet to never-before-experienced depths. However, of the trillions of dollars thus far appropriated by Congress, there is barely a penny for state government operations -- and by extension, municipalities -- which are carrying the battle against the pandemic on the front lines.

The states thus are caught in an ever-tightening vise of plunging tax revenues on the one hand and skyrocketing costs on the other.

Despite the obvious squeeze on state budgets, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell last week commented, in response to a question about whether the Congress soon would be aiding the states, that he believed it would be preferable for states and municipalities to declare bankruptcy than for the federal government to provide needed funding to close their budget gaps.

It is hard to fathom why somebody of McConnell's stature would make such a statement, other than to give voice to the general Republican creed that disdains government operations at all levels. In particular, the GOP has immense dislike for what it considers to be overly-generous pension plans for state and municipal union employees.

However, the reason why states are in such desperate fiscal trouble these days has nothing to do with their pension or budget policies, but specifically is linked to the coronavirus, which has had a devastating financial impact on every facet of commerce, including state budgets.

Questions regarding the pension plans of the states as a contributor to their overall fiscal soundness certainly can be debated, but this is not the time to do so amidst this unprecedented crisis.

State and municipal governments across the country provide the first line of response for every American in protecting our health and welfare, so it makes no sense to allow states and municipalities to fail in this mission at this critical juncture amidst a pandemic that threatens to extend for many months.

In addition, without funding from the federal government, state and local governments will be forced to make layoffs of police, firefighters, teachers, and others in order to balance their budgets, a situation that will exacerbate even further the national unemployment rate.

Finally, the effect on the bond market from a plethora of state and municipal bankruptcies could have far-reaching and long-lasting negative effects for the country and the

In short, there is nothing good that can come out of state and municipal bankruptcies at this time; but there is a lot

Mitch McConnell's opinions are a grotesque perversion of responsible government. Hopefully, the rest of the Congress will not go along with his extreme and destructive ideas.

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Chelsea Record is published every Thursday by the Revere -based Independent Newspaper Group. Periodical postage rates paid at Boston, MA. Subscription rates are \$30 per year in Chelsea, and \$60 per year outside the city. The Chelsea Record assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements, but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error occurs. Advertisers will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur. Chelsea Record, 101-680, at 385 Broadway, the Citizens Bank Building, Suite 105, Revere,

MA 02151, is a weekly publication. Periodicals postage paid at Boston, MA 02110. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Independent Newspaper Group, 385 Broadway, Suite 105, Revere, MA 02151. Subscription price in-town is \$26 and out of town is \$50. **USPS NO. 101-680**

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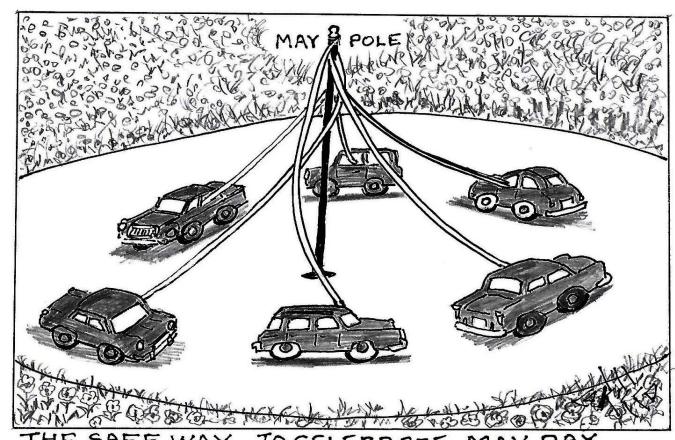
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WAY ... TO CELEBRATE

GUEST OP-ED

Fighting for the frontline

By Maura Healey

than 300,000 More health care workers and first responders in Massachusetts have stepped up to the frontlines in the battle against COVID-19. They suit up in scrubs or uniforms, leave the comfort of their homes, and put their lives at risk to keep us, our families, friends, and neighbors safe. We have an obligation to do everything we can to make sure they have access to the support they need during a time when they are sacrificing so much. That's why my office has launched FrontlineMA. org—a one-stop shop for frontline workers to get the information on resources they need during this crisis.

From Pittsfield to Provincetown, and from Newburyport to New Bedford, our frontline workers are putting in countless hours to combat this pandemic. Thankfully, many businesses, state agencies, and individuals have stepped up to help provide housing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and meals to make lives easier for them. This website provides a centralized place to get information on those resources.

For health care workers who may be exposed and can't be with their families, we've compiled resources for alternative housing so they can have a place to stay and minimize the risks for their families in case they become infected.

For parents who are working essential jobs and are struggling to find a safe place for their kids, we've put everything in one place to ensure they can continue to access childcare.

And to protect our heroes and honor people like Officer Jose Fontanez, who lost his life to COVID-19 while keeping our communities safe, we're working with stakeholders to secure PPE. I encourage health care facilities and providers, police and fire departments, and state and county agencies to consult the resources we've put together to get first responders and frontline workers the protective gear and information they We've also compiled de-

tails on priority testing sites, tips for self-care, guidance on self-isolation and quarantine, and a list of free and discounted meals so that our health care workers, first responders, and their families can stay informed, safe, and healthy.

In addition to providing frontline workers with essential information, we want to make sure they know how much our communities appreciate and support them. That's why we created a Hero Wall where people can post pictures and send messages to thank our heroes and our frontline workers can share their own messages. I encourage everyone to post pictures of their sidewalk chalk or window art, or just a kind note, to say thank you to our nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders. Throughout the

site, you'll see opportunities to chip in, by providing a meal or two, providing a safe place for workers to stay in between shifts, volunteering, or donating PPE.

Just like all of us, I'm thankful for our frontline workers who bravely show up and risk their lives every day to combat this pandemic and keep us safe.

We're grateful for our partners at HubSpot and IDEO who helped make this website possible, and for the invaluable input from healthcare providers and police and fire associations in making sure this website is the most effective for our frontline. We'll continue to update it as new information becomes avail-

To our frontline workers, please use FrontlineMA. org as a resource during this battle. And to everyone else, stay home, stay safe, and thank a hero.

Maura Healey is the Attorney General of Massachusetts.

GUEST OP-ED

Science Matters

By Jack Clarke

Either science matters or it doesn't. Policy makers can't have it both ways and selectively apply it only when it advances a political

Science should inform and drive public policy not the other way around - this is especially true when it comes to the health of the American people.

In the case of the coronavirus pandemic and the climate change crisis, nowhere is the advancement of science more important. Lives depend on its accuracy, use and availability.

According to NASA scientists, 97 percent or more of published climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are "likely due to human activities." Yet the President calls it a hoax and, along with many in Congress, refuses to believe the science. On the national level, denying what science teaches us about the short and longterm consequences of climate change will have dire

consequences for this and

Climate Change (IPCC) tell

future generations. Scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on

us that failure to take the climate emergency seriously now will result in lives lost as sea level rise accelerates, storms get stronger, droughts and fires increase, and the days get hotter. This fact is also acknowledged by scientists in many other federal agencies, including the Defense Department.

While America and the world grapples with the coronavirus, climate scientists and health experts forecast threats from additional infectious diseases spurred on by rising tem-

Mosquito-driven illnesses like dengue fever, West Nile, and Zika will become more common this century, they warn us, as the insects that transmit them expand their habitat range.

The World Health Organization (WHO) predicts that between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately a-quarter-million additional deaths per year world-wide from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress. And, as we are seeing from the coronavirus, no one is immune from

illnesses once thought of as exotic.

With the prospect of

those diseases appearing in the US, we need to start addressing the public health emergency of climate change and limit the spread of these afflictions - and we're not.

Dr. Kristie Ebi, a climate and public health scientist at the University of Washington and an IPCC contributor says she's "worried we're not prepared" - She's not the only one.

"The Lancet," a journal that "make(s) science widely available so that medicine can serve, and transform society," recently launched its "Countdown" project to provide an independent, global scientific monitoring system tracking the health dimensions of climate change. It views climate change as this century's "biggest public health threat."

As with the coronavirus, we are all vulnerable to the public health impacts of climate change. Some, however, are more vulnerable than others and minority communities, pregnant women, children and the elderly will suffer disproportionately.

ence of medical experts

Unfortunately, as with climate change, the White House disregarded the scifrom at home and around the world who predicted the current pandemic and it wasted January and February playing down the threat

from the new virus. Like the science of climate change, the President called the pandemic a political hoax, even though medical science informed the WHO's decision to declare the outbreak a global public health emergency at the end of January. The White House was informed of its potential consequences on January 5th.

Now, America's confirmed cases of Covid-19 are unnecessarily the highest in the world with nearly 800,000 infected and 42,500 dead - thousands of which could likely have been prevented if the science was taken seriously.

The World Economic Forum recently recognized the relationship between the climate change crisis and coronavirus and reported that a "global-to-local response and long-term thinking" is needed with responses guided by science and "the political will to make fundamental changes when faced with (these)

> "The Nation" magazine See OP-ED Page 5

risks."

GUEST OP-ED

COVID-19 has put a spotlight on disadvantages

By Mayowa Sanusi, MPH

In the past few weeks, data from multiple cities, states and counties across the nation have revealed how COVID-19 is disproportionately affecting communities of color. An analysis done by the Washington Post reveals that in places like Louisiana, Michigan, Chicago and Milwaukee county, Black people were over-represented among COVID-19 deaths compared to their population size. In Milwaukee County, Black people comprise about 70 percent of the dead but just 26 percent of the population. A similar trend is seen in Louisiana, where 70 percent of the people who have died were Black, although African Americans make up only 32 percent of the state's population.

During a press conference last Tuesday, President Trump and Dr. Anthony Fauci acknowledged that COVID-19 is disproportionately affecting communities of color. Dr. Fauci stated that, "We have known literally forever that diseases like diabetes, hypertension, obesity and asthma are disproportionately afflicting the minority populations" but he gave no context as to why. People of color are not genetically predisposed to developing these diseases, so why are these communities disproportionately affected by chronic disease and

COVID-19? The primary reason for racial inequalities in health outcomes is differences in social conditions, and at the root of these disparities in social conditions is racism. The type of racism that set the scene for these social conditions is structural racism, also referred to as systemic or institutional racism. It is pervasive, sometimes obscure, and quiet literally deadly in situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Institutional racism is defined as, "differential access to the goods, services, and opportunities of society by race...institutionalized racism is often evident as inaction in the face of need."

COVID-19 has put a spotlight on the disadvantages that people of color face in this country, the shortcomings of the systems within the United States when it comes to protecting people of color and other marginalized populations, and the inaction by systems and government during this crisis. In the city of Chelsea, Massachusetts, which is predominantly Latino, essential workers make up approximately 80% of the population and the infection rates occurring in this community are comparable to some places in New York City. Chelsea residents are even more at risk because of the environmental injustice that has happened over the years causing the community to have high rates of asthma.

Unfortunately, the effects of systemic racism are far reaching, and no institution is spared even in the most "progressive" of states like Massachusetts. This is evident by the way that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has handled this epidemic when it comes to data collection.

On April 9th the Massachusetts Department of Public Health released race/ ethnicity data for the state and nearly 70% of race/ ethnicity for COVID-19 cases and deaths were either missing or unknown and no race/ethnicity data related to testing was released. On the same day, Secretary Marylou Sudders issued an order that labs and healthcare providers start collecting this data and that the Department of Public Health would issue guidance on how to do so. Still, over a week later

there is still nearly 60% of death and case data unknown or missing and there have been no guidelines issued to labs or healthcare providers on how to collect this data.

Some would wonder how not collecting this data is "racist" but this failure is but a small part of a larger system that devalues people of color's needs. The fact that we know that communities of color are often times most impacted by crises, evident by H1N1, the HIV epidemic, and Hurricane Katrina, and still did not collect race/ethnicity data is a clear example that we are all not all in this together and that some lives mean more than others in the eyes of our systems.

Dr. Fauci stated the other week during a White House press conference that, 'There is nothing we can do about it right now except to give them the best possible care to avoid complications" when referring to the impact that COVID-19 is having on communities of color, but this is not true.. We need our leaders to do better, we need our systems to do better, and we need our country to do better.

Mayowa Sanusi, MPH is a public health researcher with a passion for social justice and addressing health inequities in communities of color. His expertise includes survey development, focus group facilitation, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, and community organizing. Currently, Mayowa is employed at Health Resources in Action as Research Associate where he supports several public health assessment and evaluation projects. Mayowa earned his master's degree in public health from the Boston University School of Public Health with a focus in Community Assessment, Program Design, Implementation, and Evaluation.

Corea/Continued from Page 1

Award-winning legends Chick Corea, Stanley Clarke, Mark Isham and David Campbell among an array of 60 international artists. Corea and Clarke were members of the popular jazz/fusion band "Return to Forever." Keyboard specialist and composer Corea has won 20 Grammy Awards while his band mate Clarke has won 5 times as an extremely accomplished bass player.

This uniquely inspired collaboration comprises an ensemble filming from their homes around the world. Artists participated from New York, Los Angeles, Bogotá, Milan, Melbourne,

Cape Town and more than a dozen other cities across Europe and the United States.

"Spread a Smile" tells viewers that, even if you're stuck at home, you can lift the world up by spreading positivity. It's a message harmonized throughout the video by Smash Mouth's Greg Camp, radio and television personality Kerri Kasem, Australian icon Kate Ceberano, Chilean singer-songwriter Alberto Plaza, Argentine star Diego Verdaguer, Israeli guitarist extraordinaire David Broza, Cuban-born bass virtuoso Carlitos Del Puerto, Idols South Africa star Tebogo Louw and Colombian actor-comedian Andrés López.

Written and produced by Scientology Media Productions, "Spread a Smile" is about the power of togetherness, even in a time when we're all apart. The video further raises awareness about basic prevention and wellness resources available at the How to Stay Well Prevention Resource Center. The center provides materials, including PSAs, booklets and signage-all downloadable for free online at Scientology.org/ StayWell.

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Parents of infants: You are focused on keeping your baby safe right now. 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.



Charlestown company offers online ordering of produce and specialty foods for next-day pickup

Staff report

Consumers can now order a self-described "chef's selection" of fresh fruit, vegetables and specialty food online for next-day pickup from a Charlestown-based company.

Located at 18 Bunker Hill Industrial Park, Costa Fruit & Produce is offering its selection of the highest quality produce, artisan cheese, meats and ingredients for online ordering at https://costafarmersmarket.com/ Monday through Thursday from noon to 4

Selections include the 8.5-pound Savenor's Market Meat Box for \$50, with one pound of Savenor's ground sirloin, two Choice 8-ounce New York strip steaks, a 3.5-pound whole Giannone chicken, one pound of bacon, one pound of boneless skinless chicken breast and one pond of boneless skinless chicken thighs; the Fresh Fruit Box for \$25, with one pineapple or melon, six pieces of stone fruit, six apples, six oranges, one container of



Costa Fruit & Produce's Fresh Nutra-Snack kits, which the Charlestown company distributed to local hospital workers in the Boston area.

berries, two pieces of topical fruit and one bag of grapes; the Fresh Veggie Box for \$25, with lettuce or greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, broccoli, two onions, one pound of carrots, two avocados, four squash or zucchini, two peppers and five pounds of potatoes; and the Fresh Produce Box for \$40, with one order of lettuce or baby greens, two onions, tomatoes, broccoli, two peppers, two cucumbers, one pineapple or melon, six pieces of stone fruit, six apples, six oranges, one container of berries and one bag of grapes, among other options.

"We hope that by providing an alternative to shopping at a traditional market, we will make it easier for communities to maintain social distancing and still obtain delicious fresh foods," Manny Costa, the company's CEO and president said in a press release.

And Costa is also showing its appreciation for the healthcare profession by donating Fresh Nutra-Snack kits to local hospital workers in the Boston area. The kits are produced at Costa's onsite, SQF certified processing facility and contain fresh fruit, juice and yogurt - all washed, sealed and ready to eat for workers on the go.

"Healthcare workers are putting themselves at risk every day fighting the COVID-19 virus. In appreciation of their heroic selfless effort we are happy to help where we can," Costa said in a press release.

Costa is also providing their drivers with the snack kits as they service essential workers throughout New England.

Op-Ed/Continued from Page 4

pandemic as a "dress rehearsal" for what we can expect with the impending impacts of climate change.

recently referred to the

Climate author David Wallace-Wells calls it a "sobering preview" of what is to come if we continue

to ignore the science of climate change.

Whatever it is, we're not prepared for it.

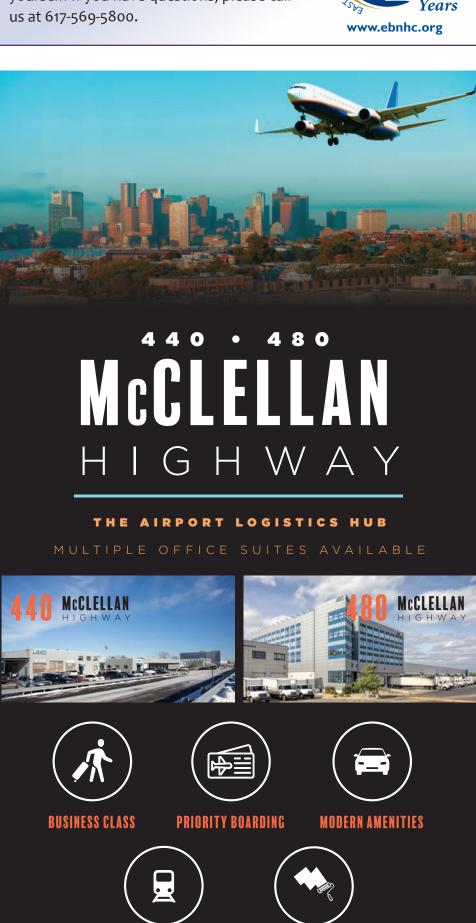
Believing or not believing the science can be a life or death situation, as we see now. We ignore and down-

play its legitimacy and con-

clusions, at our own and our children's peril.

When it comes to climate change and the public's health, it's time to act.

Jack Clarke is the director of public policy and government relations at Mass Audubon.



BOSTON'S BACKYARD

HIGH-END FINISHES

CBRE

TIM LAHEY

Cares Act

City planning worker transitions to food supply coordinator

About two months ago, Ben Cares was tucked away at his desk in the City's Department, Planning mostly only going outside during a workday to take a site visit to a park that was to be renovated, or scouting out locations for the City's upcoming BlueBike program.

That was then.

Now, just 45 days later, his day starts around 5:30 a.m. in the office answering e-mails, but his job quickly morphs into a day outside at the PORT Park doing his new normal of a job - coordinating the food supply for thousands of residents in the city who have lost reliable access to food and

basic supplies. "I got a text from our planner Alex Train who said he thought they might need me to help with food support staff," said Cares. "In the nascent stages of the program, I was trying to figure out what the food distribution system was like in Chelsea. I always had an interest in food systems and studied a little about it in school. We started at the senior center with a small operation, then it moved to the PORT Park and then we expanded across the street from there. Now we're doing around 750 boxes of food a day, which equates to providing 1,500 individuals with food every day and then another 100 boxes delivered to homes every day. It happened very quick over the course of three weeks. Now we're getting into the flow and trying to ramp up to doing more box-

es a day." Cares is part of a team at the PORT Park that receives a delivery of 45,000

pounds of food each day on pallets from the Greater Boston Food Bank. They quickly have to break it all down, put it into boxes and then get it ready for distribution at the various sites around the City. The estimate is they need to feed 18,000 people in the city who now do not have a way to feed themselves or their families - with another portion of those needing food being the large numbers of COVID-19 patients who are at home and need help.

They hope to be able to distribute 1,000 boxes a day to the pantries, he said, and another 500 for home deliveries.

He works with a very motivated team, including Ron Fishman of the Chelsea Hunger Network - a veteran of providing food to those in need long before anyone had heard of COVID-19. They utilize a large group of volunteers and other City workers to get the job done every day.

Cares is also another example of municipal workers at City Halls all over the region who have put their regular duties to the side and focused on helping to feed their cities. The same is happening in Everett, where Inspectional Services workers are delivering more than 400 hot meals per day to senior citizens and the infirm between inspection visits.

Cares said he goes to City Hall at 5:30 a.m. every morning to do some of his regular job, answering e-mails and following up on projects that still need

By 7 a.m., he is at the PORT Park site to open up the operations and receive the deliveries of food that come in every morning.

After about four hours of breaking down pallets and sorting food into individual boxes, it's time to deliver. With a group of volunteers and City workers known as Team Rubicon, they deliver the boxes to the sites and then make home deliveries.

At about 7:30 p.m., he returns to City Hall to answer any e-mails before going home and getting ready to start it all over again.

He said the situation with COVID-19 in Chelsea has illuminated the socio-economic disparities in the public health and food system – something that existed in Chelsea before the outbreak, but a condition he said is seen on the front lines all the more.

"It's a lot of people who have the virus, but in Chelsea, there is such a high socio-economic costs because of the virus," he said. "It's like putting the local economy in a vise grip. The need is 10 times what it was."

Working now mostly on the logistics end of things, Cares said he recalls on one of the first days of the food distribution effort going to the door of a woman who desperately needed food.

"She opened the door and saw me there with the food and started to break down and cry," he said. "That was a poignant moment. Now that I'm on the logistics side, I have to draw from that moment. It's not just beans and rice and potatoes and fruit. This is going to people who really need it. That's why it has been a privilege for me to take on this role. Not only can I do something that helps so many, but it's also a huge challenge and daunting."

Cares has worked in the City's Planning Department for almost two years.



Ben Cares, who normally works in the Planning Department, has now transitioned to take on the role of food distribution specialist – helping to coordinate the effort in feeding 18,000 of the neediest people in Chelsea who no longer can get food. He said it has been daunting, but has ramped up over just three weeks.



Point of Distribution team members have also ramped up quickly. Nancy Maldonado from ISD, Naomi Libran from Licensing, and Michael DeJesus, a community volunteer, have stepped up in the last two weeks to help run pop-up food pantries.

We are Here and We Count!

The 2020 U.S. Census is now more important than ever! Every household that does the census brings more money to Chelsea that will help the city recover after the coronavirus

It is safe to do from home. Go online to my2020census.gov or call:

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844-477-2020 (Haitian Kreyol) 844-474-2020 (Portuguese)

The future of Chelsea depends on you!



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www.ChelseaCensus2020.com



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.

Telemedicine appointments are being scheduled in Pediatrics, Adult Medicine, Family Medicine, Women's Health (OB/GYN), Behavioral Health, Neighborhood PACE, and other departments. We use certified medical interpreters during telemedicine appointments for languages other than English.

Do you need to schedule a telemedicine appointment with your primary care provider? Did you miss an appointment that needs to be rescheduled? If so, call 617-569-5800 to schedule a telemedicine appointment. This is especially important if you have a chronic or a behavioral health condition.

You should be treated if needed, especially during this public health crisis. We're here to keep you healthy!









Needs/Continued from Page 1

"To see the need of some many people and hear their stories about the loss of jobs and having no income, I've never seen a greater need or more people express their appreciation for the services that we provide," said Gonzalez, who as a college student in New York participated in Salvation Army special training and assisted the humanitarian effort following the 9/11 attacks.

Gonzalez said he is in daily correspondences with City Manager Thomas Ambrosino, conferring on the citywide food distribution efforts.

Chris Farrand, regional emergency disaster services for the Salvation Army for Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, has been instrumental in the execution of the food distribution effort in Chelsea, according to Gonzalez.

"I've always had a very good relationship with Chris," said Gonzalez. "He's become one of our closest friends the past couple of years. He's been very helpful and it's very good that we're working together on this effort."

Farrand, who oversees the state-level disaster operations, has been working with MEMA and the National Guard to provide additional support to the efforts in Chelsea.

"The National Guard is great at distribution (The food is from the Salvation Army, the City of Chelsea, and the Greater Boston Food Bank)," said Farrand. "The Guard is a very organized, orderly partner and they bring that expertise, which is really necessary in times like these, just to make it go efficiently where there are so many moving pieces."

As the Chelsea Corps has seen a tremendous increase in need for its services, Farrand has mobilized the Salvation Army's state assets to support Chelsea.

"When Gov. Baker reached out to MEMA to say that Chelsea was in dire need of support, MEMA reached out to us and we collaborated with the National Guard on providing 1,300 food boxes (39,000 meals in four locations) in addition to what the Corps was already doing," Far-

Farrand said finding the extraordinary amount of food needed to meet the demand has become "a daily task and challenge."

"When we first started, we could use the Food Bank, but because every community is using the Food Bank, we're reaching out to Sysco, US Foods, BJ's and to almost any vendor that we can find to try and keep getting the different types of product that we need."

Farrand visited Chelsea on successive days to assist the food distribution operations and "it was something to see."

The Chestnut Street facility has operated an existing food pantry that is open Tuesdays and Thursdays. When the COVID-19 crisis began to pummel Chelsea, the numbers spiked substantially at the pantry.

The Salvation Army's effort is separate from the City of Chelsea's food distribution's effort and the Chelsea Collaborative's food pantry. But they do converse on how best to answer the needs of Chelsea residents.

"I'm pretty much in touch daily with Chelsea city officials," said Farrand. "Every day the goal is how do we keep ramping up resources because the need is great. There are thousands of Chelsea residents in need of food."

According to Farrand, since the COVID-19 response started, the Salvation Army in Massachusetts has provided one million meals to residents throughout the state.

Farrand said it is an effort that requires teamwork and execution.

"The need is too great for one local pantry," he said. "The food insecurity, the loss of jobs, the COVID-19 positive challenges – I keep saying that it's kind of the perfect storm of needs that are requiring us to really figure out how to keep expanding our services."

(People wishing to donate to the Salvation Army's food distribution effort can visit: salvationarmyma.org/ fill-the-food-pantry)



The National Guard assists the Salvation Army at its Chestnut Street location.



The National Guard prepares to unload the food truck at the Salvation Army in Chelsea.

Beach Parkway to Everett Drivers should take care

to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work

Carter Street off-ramp closure reminder The Carter Street offp.m. – Monday, May 4 at 5 Everett and take Revere

ramp from Route 1 Southbound in Chelsea will close for three weekends for necessary repairs and safety improvements on the Carter Street off-ramp. The ramp closure originally scheduled for the weekend of April 24-27 has been shifted to the first weekend of May as shown below.

WEEKEND CLOSURES: • Friday, May 1 at 10

- Friday, May 15 at 10 p.m. – Monday, May 18 at
- Friday, June 19 at 10 p.m. - Monday, June 22 at

CARTER STREET

OFF-RAMP DETOUR Drivers looking to exit Route 1 Southbound in Chelsea should use the Route 16 West exit towards

Mystic Valley Elder Services' benefit event Spring for Independence raises over \$146K

Mystic Valley Elder Services' (MVES) annual fundraiser Spring For Independence to help older adults and adults with disabilities was unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event, in its fifteenth year, was to be held on April 4th at the Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham. Despite this year's benefit performance of The Cast of Beatlemania being cancelled, more than \$146,000 was raised for MVES' programs due to the generosity of its dedicated sponsors.

"Our sponsors have collectively helped us raise these funds to benefit our neighbors in need. In these challenging times, we are especially grateful that their support will provide critical economic resources that will meet urgent program necessities," said Jenny Vanasse, Director of Develop-

ment at MVES.

The annual theater event has grown from a fundraiser into a true community event, with more than 300 patrons turning out for the performance. More than 100 businesses and individuals sponsored the event, including Lead Sponsors John and Wendy Pereira and StonehamBank, Principal Sponsor Agero, and Diamond Sponsor The Piccolo Family Charitable Foundation, Inc.

"StonehamBank and the Pereiras have been outstanding supporters of our agency for many years," said Dan O'Leary, of MVES. "Each year, we hold this large fundraising event and I'm excited to say, despite these difficult times, we reached our fundraising goal. The proceeds will provide critical assistance for older adults in

need."

StonehamBank's Chief Executive Officer Edward Doherty said, "With a history like MVES' that is so deeply rooted in our community, we are committed to doing our part to encourage positivity to those around us by sponsoring the theater event. MVES has helped many in need through their programs and services and the Bank is proud to support such a wonderful organization in our community along with



Pictured (L to R) Daniel O'Leary, Chief Executive Officer of MVES, accepts a Lead Sponsor check from StonehamBank's Chief Executive Officer Edward Doherty for the Spring For Independence fundraising event.



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SJC issues updated order regarding state court operations during the pandemic

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) on Monday issued an updated order, which will be effective May 4, 2020, regarding the operation of Massachusetts state courts and courthouses during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the new order, until at least June 1, 2020, all courts of the Commonwealth will continue to be open to conduct court business, but courthouses will continue to be closed to the general public, except where entry is required to address emergency matters that cannot be addressed virtually (by telephone, videoconference, or comparable means, or through the electronic filing system).

Jury trials in both criminal and civil cases in state courts are postponed to a date no earlier than July 1, 2020. All bench trials, in both criminal and civil cases are postponed to a date no earlier than June 1, unless they may be conducted virtually by agreement of the parties and of the court. The new order also extends various deadlines.

Monday's SJC order also directs Trial Court departments to identify categories of non-emergency matters that they will attempt to address virtually, where it is practicable to do so, and to provide clear guidance to the public and members of the bar regarding what those categories will be by posting periodic notices to the judiciary's COVID-19 webpage. The SJC and Appeals Court will continue to conduct oral arguments virtually in non-emergency matters.

All court clerks', registers', and recorder's offices shall continue to conduct court business -- to accept the filing of pleadings and other documents in emergency and identified non-emergency matters. to schedule and facilitate hearings, to issue orders, to answer questions from attorneys, litigants, and the general public, and to conduct other necessary business of the respective court. All such business will be conducted virtually, except when the filing of pleadings and other documents in

emergency matters cannot be accomplished virtually.

All orders, standing orders, guidelines, and notices issued by any court department or appellate court in response to the pandemic, as well as all amendments, modifications, and supplements are posted upon issuance on the judiciary's COVID-19 webpage.

Weekly initial unemployment claims down for the second week

Massachusetts had
80,153 individuals file an
initial claim for unemploy-
ment insurance from April
12 to April 18. This repre-
sented a decrease of 22%
over the previous week as
most of the workers who
have been laid off as a re-
sult of work closures re-
lated to COVID-19 have
already filed claims in the
previous weeks.

Special to the Record

In the previous work, from April 5 to April 11, Massachusetts had 102,828 individuals file an initial claim for unemployment insurance. This also represented a decrease, at that time 26% over the previous

Since March 15, a total of 651,457 initial claims were filed.

As in last week, Retail Trade with 12,669, Food and Accommodation at 9,564, and Health and Social Assistance with 9,249 continued to show the largest number of initial claims filed this week. Since March 15, Food and Accommodation, Retail Trade, and Health and Social Assistance accounted for over 41% of all initial claims

Week Ending Week Ending 4/18 Industry Change % Change 4/11 393 281 -28.5% Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and -112 Hunting 25 13 -12 -48.0% Mining -3 Utilities 85 82 -3.5% 4,754 Construction 7,881 -3,127-39.7% -14.1% Manufacturing 5,896 5,065 -831 Wholesale Trade 3,709 -19.7% 4,618 -909 12,669 -2.865 -18.4% Retail Trade 15,534 Transportation & Warehouse 3,362 -2.1% 3,292 -70 Information 1,480 1,336 -144 -9.7% -27.1% Finance & Insurance 735 536 -199 1,040 Real Estate 1,370 -330 -24.1%

5.567

715

5.863

2,283

12,597

2,206

12,634

6,971

1,425

filed at 16.8%, 12.8% and 11.8%, respectively.

Professional and Technical Services

Management of Companies

Administrative & Waste Services

Education

Health & Social Assistance

Arts, Entertainment & Recreation

Food & Accommodation

Other Services

Public Administration

Information Not Available

Currently, the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is paying unemployment benefits to nearly 400,000 people. Over the last month, the customer service staff at DUA has grown from around 50 employees to nearly 1000. The remote customer service operation is now making over 20,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host daily unemployment town halls, held in both English and Spanish, which have

11,188 200,000 constituents. This week, Massachusetts launched Pandemic Un-Assistance employment (PUA) for groups like the self-employed, becoming one of the first states in the country to begin providing financial assistance to those not traditionally eligible for

unemployment compensation. In just the first few days of the program launch, DUA has already received over 200,000 PUA applications (going forward, total PUA related claims data for the previous week will be released on Thursday mornings at mass.gov/

-1.208

-229

-907

-630

-3,348

-429

-3,070

-1,588

-181

-2,483

4,359

486

4,956

1,653

9,249

1,777

9,564

5,383

1,244

8,705

lwd.) Due to DUA's previous efforts to migrate their systems to the cloud, the first unemployment agency in the country to do so. the unemployment online platforms have maintained functionality throughout the surge in demand.

-21.7%

-32.0%

-15.5%

-27.6%

-26.6%

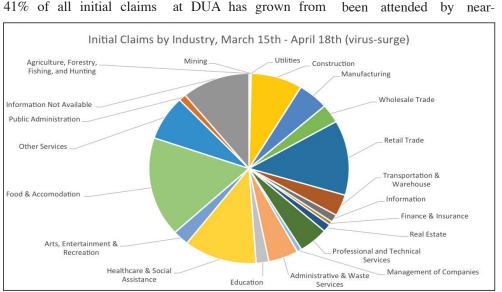
-19.4%

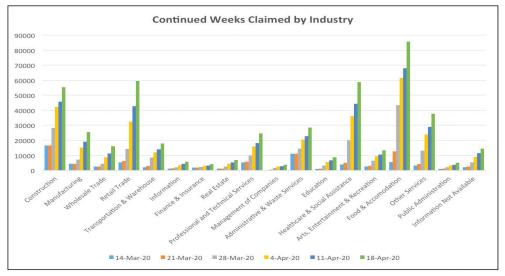
-24.3%

-22.8%

-12.7%

-22.2%







Lets face it: Social distancing a measure put in place to stop the spread of the coronavirus has made celebrating major holidays with family and friends hard.

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Research sample company looking for COVID-19 blood samples

A biological specimen company is calling out to all those who have COVID-19 or have recovered from the virus to donate blood immediately to help wage a scientific war on beating the virus.

Specialty Biological Company (BSC) typically collects samples of several different diseases and sicknesses for the research community, including those in pharmacology, academia and the government. In normal times, one might go to one of their collection labs, such as in Medford, or at a health center. However, the company is responding to the immediate crisis, and 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 popu-

lations 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 distributes them to the research community. Right now demand is at a tremendous high for them to get researchers valid and diverse samples so they can learn about the virus and try to develop a way to fight it.

Any samples collected will be used to develop diagnostics, or to learn about what COVID-19 is. They could also be used to study anti-bodies in the blood, which are immune system responses to fighting the disease. Researchers want to learn why some fight off the disease and others have

trouble with it. Finally, they will use it to try to develop a vaccine so that no one ever 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.

"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."

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.

"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."

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.

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

•BSC is seeking blood 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.

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,

to BSC's lab for processing and distribution. **Donating Blood Post**

they will send the sample

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

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

Potential donors can obtain additional information and schedule an appointment by calling 1-833-GO-4-CURE, visiting www. biospecialty.com or sending an email to donors@biospecialty.com.

MBTA fare transformation program advances with approval of amendment

On Monday, the MB-TA's Fiscal and Management Control Board approved a contract amendment regarding the Public Private Partnership agreement involving the T and the consortium Cubic | John Liang – rolling out the new fare collection system that has been anticipated since

This action marks a significant step toward implementing the revised transformative initiative approved by the Fiscal and Management Control Board (FMCB) in December 2019, locking in an achievable and enforceable schedule while procuring new technology that will that will allow the system to adapt to future changes in ridership and to implement new kinds of fare options.

The amended contract totals \$935.4 million, including both the full cap-

ital cost of the system and a 10-year stream of operations and maintenance payments. Although this represents an increase of \$212.1 million in project costs compared to the contract approved in 2018, the new fare collection system remains cost-effective and is projected to collect over \$8 billion in fare revenue during its first ten years of operation. This amendment, which

strengthens the original 2018 AFC 2.0 contract, enables the MBTA to achieve all the original goals of the project under a new approach. Based on feedback from customers, advocates, and policy makers, the new approach will result in customer-focused upgrades to the existing and future systems. In addition, this board action reestablishes key milestones, includes new provisions that reduce the T's construction risks, and allows the system to within the payment indus-

account for future changes

"Under this program reset, we'll be able to deliver one system that can be used across all modes that meets the needs of our customers today, and has the ability to adapt to future needs," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "Especially in light of recent changes to daily life caused by COVID-19, it's more important than ever to move toward a dynamic system with contactless options that can withstand major changes to conditions that would otherwise undermine a legacy system of fare collection."

The amended contract is only one part of a comprehensive Fare Transformation initiative that will ensure that customers begin to see improvements in fare collection over the next year, including the ability to obtain CharlieCards more easily and the elimination of the cash/ticket surcharge in 2021, so that CharlieTicket and cash fares will be the same as CharlieCard fares.

Under the phased approach and in the short term, Fare Transformation will result in improvements that include: •The ability to pay for a

on the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line with a Charlie-Card: •Deploying fare vend-

trip on all Zone 1A stations

ing machines that dispense CharlieCards; •All-door boarding on

MBTA buses and surface stops along the Green Line; •Integrating ferries and the entire Commuter Rail network into the Charlie-Card system.

This amendment also allots more time for both testing and installation of the new system and customer migration. Working with stakeholders, the program reset establishes a more ro-

bust, thoughtful network of retail sales outlets and fare vending machines centered on the needs of T customers. In conjunction with that process, the MBTA has committed to a significant increase in the total number of vending machines to ensure adequate access.

"Critical to this project's success is outreach, and the level of engagement we've received indicates just how important the future of MBTA fare collection is to our customers," said Ron Renaud, Chief Transformation Officer. "Thanks to the feedback, we are now on a course to provide improvements to our existing system, and ultimately, deliver a project that is even more focused on the needs of our customers."

While the MBTA's existing fare collection system collected approximately \$671.7 million in FY19, the aging system requires substantial maintenance and upgrades and cannot support the kinds of fare options that customers have requested.

The new technology provided by the Public Private Partnership offers reliability of equipment, readily accessible payment technology, and flexibility in fares and programs to further enhance access and equity for the MBTA ridership of the

In 2018, the FMCB authorized the original contract to include \$356.8 million in payments for the capital cost of the new system and a ten-year stream of operations and maintenance payments totaling \$366.5 million for a total cost of \$723.3 million. The revised contract approved today includes \$723.3 million for the capital cost and a reduced ten-year stream of \$212.1 million in operations and maintenance payments, for a total of \$935.4

Pioneering consumer-worker organization demands massive COVID-19 testing production, universal testing

The National Consumers League (NCL), the nation's oldest consumer and worker advocacy organization, is demanding that the federal government put its support behind massive COVID-19 test production and, as quickly as is feasible, put in place a testing protocol for every citizen so that Ameri-

ca can get back to work.

"There are calls across the country to reopen businesses; we understand and share that frustration," said NCL Executive Director Sally Greenberg. "However, as we are currently not allowing tests for people who are asymptomaticand because 25 percent of people who carry the virus don't show symptomsdoing so would be reckless. It's a Catch-22. Until everyone is tested, we can't send symptom-free people back into the world. So the government's first order of business must include giving America's labs and drug companies the goal and the means to produce rapid-response testing for every American within the next month."

lowing recommendations: •Meet the need for test-

NCL has laid out the fol-

ing in clinics and doctors' offices The Food and Drug

Administration (FDA) must oversee the process of improving techniques and reliable, accurate test production. Many labs are working on this, addressing the immediate need for care providers to have enough, high-quality tests.

"The Senate has voted to include \$25 billion for the clinical labs that make the tests in the next COVID legislative package" said Greenberg. "That is welcome news because states cannot do this alone; they end up competing against each other for tests and other supplies." As Maryland Governor

Larry Hogan (R-MD) said this week, "Every governor in America has been pushing and fighting and clawing to get more tests, not only from the federal government, but from every private lab in America and from across the world. It's nowhere where it needs to be." Virginia Governor Ralph Northam (D-VA) noted that the President's claims that the country has enough tests for the virus are "delusional."

Clearly, quality is paramount. The serious stumbles at such premier institutions as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cannot continue. "The federal government must continue to support and expand the production of quality tests, and at capacity to meet the current needs of care providers," said Greenberg.

As stated above, though,

•Universal testing in order to get people back out to restart the economy, we cannot only test those who show serious symptoms and go to care providself-administered, and in adequate numbers so that each person can test for COVID before leaving the home on any given day.

"Millions of workers have to take drug tests every day to keep their jobs; those tests are rapid-response. Consumers can buy rapid response tests for strep throat and pregnancy," said Greenberg. "Those are approved FDA products that are tested for accuracy and safety. We must get to a rapid response COVID-19 home test as soon as possible."

In order to determine who has COVID-19 and should be quarantined, every American must be able to test for the virus on a regular basis. Those who test positive, with or without symptoms, go into quarantine for 14 days, as do the people in that individual's household. Those who test negative are cleared to go out in the world to get the trains running again. This would call for hundreds of millions of tests to enable on-going testing, as it is the only path forward at this And the technology is

not "pie-in-the-sky." The FDA has already approved one home-test kit, though it requires lab analysis. And BARDA/HHS has funded another company to develop "a rapid antigen and antibody diagnostic to identify current or past SARS-CoV-2 infections in 60 sec-

ers to get tested. We must onds." We are on the road. develop tests that can be Antibody testing

While it's not clear how antibodies create immunity, there is a belief that they at least do so

for the short-term. So the next step would be to provide serology testing for people who test negative for COVID-19, using only tests approved by the FDA to ensure quality and accuracy. To date, the FDA has approved only four tests of the many available, but this

is an important start.

Those who are deter-

mined to have a sufficient level of antibodies should be cleared to go back to work, while still wearing masks and gloves until science has confirmed decisively that antibodies create immunity. If the individuals don't have antibodies, they would be advised to stay home, but could be cleared to go back to work so long as they test every day before heading out. Contact tracing

Everyone who tests posi-

tive reaches out to everyone they've had contact with and those people test for COVID-19. Anyone then testing positive goes into quarantine, and the process repeats.

technology •Use self-surveil

Finally, we need a system for uploading test results each day to our phones like the bar codes we use to board an airplane – or to carry evidence that we have taken the test, have antibodies to COVID-19, and can work or otherwise go out. Enforcement would be a new challenge, given our commitment to civil liberties, but one that we can certainly work out.

•Longer term: Vaccinate In a year or more, when a vaccine arrives, 95 percent of Americans will need to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity and widespread protection.

"Our nation has the know-how and manufacturing infrastructure to produce the millions of tests needed to determine whether someone has the virus," said Greenberg. "But due to lack of leadership at the top, our testing capacity is still, several months after the outbreak, extremely limited. To date only 3.3 million people have been tested, according to the COVID

Tracking Project. That's about 1 percent of the population. That is simply not

million.

enough."

NCL is demanding that the Federal government respond to the current national Coronavirus emergency as President Roosevelt responded to World War II, and challenge Americans to "harness the efficient machinery of America's manufacturers" to fight the pandemic.

"We need that call to action now, to challenge America's labs and drug companies with the goal of producing testing for every American within the next month. Federal health care agencies including CDC, National Institutes of Health (NIH), and FDA should be their partners. and this should be a shared cost," said Greenberg. "In the midst of the worst unemployment numbers ever seen in American history, and with millions of businesses having their existence threatened, we need federal leadership, expertise, and financial support to make this happen, and we need it now."



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Baker invites EBNHC CEO Manny Lopes to daily COVID-19 briefing

As Governor Charlie Baker announced an initiative to expand COVID-19 testing at Community Health Centers throughout the state last Wednesday, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) President and CEO Manny Lopes was front and center at the Governor's daily COVID-19 briefing.

Last week EBNHC began offering COVID-19 testing seven days a week to any community residents who have flu-like symptoms or have been in contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive.

The announcement last week will expand this effort in partnership with Quest Diagnostics and the Mass League of Community Health Centers.

Baker said in rolling out increased testing, community health centers in areas

of high need, like Eastie, that have the ability to increase their testing capacities will be prioritized.

Since Friday, Ouest has sent over 2,255 kits to EB-NHC and other community health centers in Boston and Brockton. Quest Diagnostics has committed to ship an additional 5,000 COVID-19 test kits to EB-NHC and 11 other community health centers in Boston, Brockton, Lowell, Quincy, Fall River, Provincetown, and Worcester.

"I've heard the Governor mention many times when we are in a crisis like this it is a team sport,:" said Lopes at Last Wednesday's briefing. "On behalf of the Mass Community Health Centers we are grateful for the support we have received from Governor Baker. For over 50 years community health centers in Massachusetts have been providing high

anyone that walks through our doors. We have been working hard to close the healthcare gap. Now, we are on the frontlines of COVID-19 testing, tracing and treatment."

Lopes said community health centers provide an additional line of defense to keep patients out of larger hospitals and help avoid overburdening the healthcare system.

Lopes said currently, EBNHC, is servicing two of the most impacted neighborhoods in the Commonwealth--East Boston and Chelsea.

"Many patients are essential workers that work in supermarkets, restaurants, and healthcare facilities," said Lopes. "Sadly, many of these residents can not afford the high cost of housing and live in crowded apartments with multiple families. So what has been an American Dream for

some has become an American Nightmare for others as this virus continues to spread in the community."

Lopes said EBNHC's response to COVID-19 has been extensive, wide reaching and hyper-local.

"We have been focused on education, testing and, as the Governor mentioned, part of this unique (statewide) collaborative to conduct contact tracing," said Lopes. "At EBNHC we are now open for testing 7 days a week. Like many health centers in Boston, with the support of Mayor (Martin) Walsh we have modified our operations to offer multiple settings for testing."

Testing includes a walkthrough location at 79 Paris Street from 8 a.m. to noon daily; a drive through location at Suffolk Downs, 525 William F. McClellan Highway from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. daily; and at EBNHC's emergency de-



EBNHC President and CEO Manny Lopes during Governor Baker's COVID-19 briefing last Wednesday.

partment (open 24 hours) at 10 Gove Street for those experiencing influenza-like illness.

"This partnership with Quest Diagnostics will help us increase our testing capabilities in the community to over 500 individuals per day," said Lopes. "So far we have tested over 3,000 individuals and as we all know testing will be critical in the well being of our residents. Testing leads to detections and allows us to keep sick individuals at home and reduce exposure in our community and reduce the spread of the virus. Having this reliable supply of test kits will allow us to test more individuals and the most at risk."

City of Chelsea emergency rental assistance program now available

Funded by the Community Preservation Committee and Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board, the Department of Planning and Development has established an emergency rental assistance program.

Prior to the pandemic, the crisis of housing affordability heavily impacted Chelsea residents. The City is committed to supporting residents during this period of economic hardship, which has worsened the crisis of housing affordability. As a step to reduce displacement and stabilize housing situations, the City has created this program to offer direct grant funding to residents. Qualifying applicants may be eligible for a grant equivalent to up to three (3) months of rent, or \$5,000, whichever amount

quality, accessible care to

Funding is available for income eligible applicants who meet the program's

- Funding is available for Chelsea residents only.
- To qualify, your household income must be at or below 50% of the HUD Area Median Income (AMI).
- Your application must certify compliance with requirements related to household income, assets, and public benefits.
- Applicants must verify monthly rental obligation with written documentation from the landlord or person

they are renting the apartment from.

Applicants will be chosen using a lottery system with preferences for families with children, disabled residents, veterans, seniors over 65, households who have been economically impacted by COVID-19 who are ineligible for other forms of federal assistance, and economically disadvantaged residents with household income at or below 30% of the HUD Area Median Income.

How to apply

Printed applications are available for pick-up by City Hall entrance (on Washington Ave.), at the Chelsea Collaborative, and at National Guard popup pantry locations each weekday. Applications can also be submitted online at www.chelseama.gov.

Programa de Asistencia en el pago de la renta durante la emergencia de la Ciudad de Chelsea

Fundado por el Fondo para la Preservación de la Comunidad y la Junta del Fondo Fiduciario de Acceso a la Vivienda, el Departamento de Planeamiento y Desarrollo ha establecido un Programa de Asistencia en el pago de la renta durante la emergencia.

La crisis de acceso a la vivienda impactaba fuertemente a los residentes de Chelsea incluso antes de la pandemia. La Ciudad se compromete a apoyar a los residentes durante este período de dificultades económicas que ha empeorado la crisis de acceso a la vivienda.

Como una acción para reducir el desplazamiento y estabilizar las situaciones de vivienda, la Ciudad ha creado este programa para ofrecer subvenciones directas a los residentes. Los solicitantes podrán ser elegibles para una subvención equivalente de hasta tres (3) meses de renta, o \$ 5,000, la cantidad que sea menor.

La financiación está disponible para solicitantes que cumplan con los criterios del programa

- Disponible solo para residentes de Chelsea.
- · Para calificar, los ingresos de su hogar deben ser iguales o inferiores al 50% de los ingresos medios del área según el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (AMI por sus siglas en inglés).

• Su solicitud debe certificar el cumplimiento de los requisitos relacionados con los ingresos del hogar y los beneficios públicos.

• Los solicitantes deben verificar la obligación de alquiler mensual con documentación escrita del arrendador o la persona a quien le alquilan el apartamento.

Los solicitantes serán elegidos utilizando un sistema de lotería con preferencias para familias con niños, residentes discapacitados, hogares que han sido afectados económicamente por COVID-19 y residentes económicamente vorecidos con ingresos familiares iguales o inferiores al 30% de los ingresos medios del área según el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (AMI por sus siglas en inglés).

Plan for law school graduates announced

The Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Massachusetts Board of Bar Examiners (BBE) last week announced a plan for the Massachusetts Bar Examination to proceed amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and an expanded opportunity for graduates to appear in court under the student practice rule.

The plan for the bar examination outlines three el-

•The bar exam will be conducted using the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) on September 30 and October 1, if that exam can be conducted safely, with social distancing in place for all examinees.

•If the UBE cannot be conducted safely in-person, an alternative exam will be administered remotely and will grant admission only to the bar of Massachusetts. In that event, the BBE will work to ensure that the exam will be similar in content to the subjects tested on the UBE, so that students who have been preparing for the UBE will not need to make major adjustments in preparing for the Massachusetts only exam.

•Regardless of whether the September 30 and October 1 bar exam is the UBE or a Massachusetts only exam, the BBE will work to expedite the grading of the exam and its character and fitness investigations so that law school graduates will have results by mid-tolate December. Admission to the bar will be postponed by only eight weeks -from the week of November 16-20, 2020, when the bar admission ceremonies were going to be held, to the week of January 11-15, 2021, when they will now be held. If an applicant has a pressing need to be admitted in late December, the applicant can arrange with the Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County to be sworn-in, reducing the delay to only five or six weeks.

The Justices also issued an order removing a time restriction applying to students appearing in court under Supreme Judicial

Court Rule 3:03. For those students who are most likely to need to appear in court before they can be sworn in, who are generally those who have or will obtain employment with a district attorney, CPCS, a state legal office, or a legal services provider, and who have yet to obtain the SJC Rule 3:03 certification necessary to do so, the order will permit them to obtain such certification at any time before

graduation. On April 22, Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Ralph D. Gants sent a letter to law school deans outlining the plan. The Supreme Judicial Court also prepared information for law school graduates outlining the plan and the temporary expansion of SJC Rule

The BBE is established by G.L. c. 221 §§35 & 36 to evaluate the qualifications of persons seeking admission to the bar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Critical resources on COVID-19 available in Spanish for construction workers

construction workers who are confronting the coronavirus pandemic at work are now available in Spanish on a new website created by the state's largest construction labor union group. Construction is the sixth

Critical resources for

largest employment sector in the U.S. economy and many job sites remain active during the pandemic. Massachusetts The

Building Trades Council (MBTC) has made its COVID-19 Resource Center available in Spanish to ensure even more workers and their families have the information they need to mitigate chances of getting infected or spreading the virus while at work.

The Council had previously called for a moratorium on all non-essential statewide construction, but feels it is critical for workers who do continue laboring on construction sites to have the knowledge needed to protect themselves to the greatest degree possible.

"There are many tradesmen and tradeswomen whose primary language is Spanish, and it's crucial that the same information is available to them as it is to everyone else," said MBTC President Frank Callahan. "We want to ensure that ev-

eryone who makes a living

on a construction site learns how to stay safe and how to protect themselves and their families during this time of uncertainty."

The global pandemic has disproportionately impacted communities of color, including communities with a high percentage of residents whose primary language is Spanish, such as Chelsea.

Spanish-language Coronavirus Resource Center created by the Massachusetts Building Trades council can be found at: https:// massbuildingtrades.org/ coronavirus-best-practices-

for-building-trades-unions-

esp/.



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OBITUARIES

Joan Burke

Of Chelsea, formerly of Charlestown

Joan M. (Birmingham) Burke of Chelsea, formerly of Charlestown, died on April 18 at the Massachusetts General Hospital from Covid related pneumonia.

The loving and devoted mother of James M. Burke of Saugus, she was the cherished grandmother of Michael J. Burke of Peabody, loving daughter of the late Thomas F. and Mary W. (Conroy) Birmingham, dear sister of the late Winifred M. Quinn, Eleanor M. Doherty, Margaret A. Doherty, Mary Clare Payne, Thomas F. Birmingham and John J. Birmingham and is also survived by her very dear friend, Sandra Terry of Chelsea and by many loving nieces, nephews and extended family members and friends.

A Memorial Mass and family celebration of her life, followed by her inurnment in Holy Cross Cemetery, will be held and



announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, should friends desire, contributions in Joan's memory should be directed to the MGH Corona Virus Response Fund c/o 55 Fruit St., Boston MA 02114 or www.MassGeneral.org Arrangements were given to the care and direction of the Welsh Funeral Home, Chelsea. We encourage family and friends who wish, to offer condolences at this time by means of the online guest book or to send a personal sympathy card visit;

www.WelshFuneral-Home.com.

John "Jack" Hayes

Retired Beth Israel Hospital Account Manager



John "Jack" Hayes, passed away on Friday, April 24 Lifecare

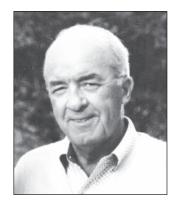
Center of Stoneham.

Born and raised in Chelsea, a beloved son of the late John J. and Helen A. (Hartigan) Hayes, he attended local schools and graduated from Chelsea High School.

He enlisted into the US Air Force, served during the Korean Conflict, was honorably discharged and returned to Chelsea. He continued his education at Suffolk University where he received his Bachelor's Degree in business admin-

He married Dorothy A. (Surette) and they settled in Melrose 40 years ago. He worked for many years as an account manager for the Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. He retired early and became the caregiver to both his wife and mother. He lost his wife to MS in 1994 and his mother passed 13 years later in 2007.

In his lifetime, Jack was an all-around Boston sports fan. He relished following his nephew's college football career attending each and every game played. In addition to his parents and his beloved wife of 43 years, he was also prede-



ceased by his sisters and brother the late Patricia Nolan, Elaine Marrotta, Robert Hayes and Eleanor Waitt. He is survived by his dear brother, James M. Haggerty of Chelsea and is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

A private family farewell was held, followed by graveside prayers and interment in Woodlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, should friends desire, contributions in his memory may be made to National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 101A First Ave., Waltham, MA 02451. Arrangements were given to the care and direction of the Welsh Funeral Home, Chelsea. We encourage family and friends who wish, to offer condolences at this time by means of the online guest book or to send a personal sympathy card visit;

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Maureen Downey Devoted to home and family

THE CHELSEA RECORD

Maureen T. (Adam) Downey passed peacefully from life to eternal life on Friday, April 24 safely home into the arms of her loving savior. She was 83 years old.

Born in York, Maine, she was a loving daughter of the late Ralph and Mary (Smith) Adams. Maureen was raised in Chelsea. attended local schools, studied dance and graduated from St. Rose High School. She married John F. Downey and together they raised four sons and one daughter in Chelsea. Maureen was widowed in 2006 after sharing over 49 years of love and devotion with her beloved husband.

Maureen was very devoted to home and family. She enjoyed cooking, baking and spending time with her family. She encouraged her sons' scouting endeavors, volunteering her time as a Cub Scout Den Mother and supporting her sons as they later continued into the Boy Scouts. She worked outside of her home as a banking associate and was a familiar counter lady working for many years at Al Zack's Sub Shop where she was revered by many of Chelsea's teenagers.

Maureen never forgot a loved one's birthday or special event, sending a card, always including a personal handwritten note. In her retirement she enjoyed travel. She saved and saved to be able to make special anniversary trips to Hawaii with her husband John.

In her lifetime, Maureen sang in the St. Rose Choir, enjoyed gardening, planting flowers, herbs and vegetables around her Central Ave home in Chelsea.

In addition to her parents and beloved husband, Maureen was also predeceased by her siblings: the late Rosalie O'Callaghan, Edward Adams and Joseph Adams and a granddaughter, Brittany Downey. She is the forever loved mother



of Michael J. Downey and his wife, Shirley of Melrose, Robert E. "Bobby' Downey of Dunbarton, NH, Frederick C. Downey and his wife, Arlene of Saugus, Judith Ann "Judy" Downey of Avondale, AZ, and Kenneth P. Downey and his wife, Julie of Malden; cherished grandmother of Scott Downey, Tiffany Palumbo, Janelle Maynard, Shaun Downey, Jillian Downey, Jared Downey, Jianna Downey, Jaden Downey and adored great grandmother of Alyssa, Adriana and Evelyn. She was the dear sister of Marilyn Nolan of Tewksbury and is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and extended family members.

A private family farewell will be held followed by graveside prayers and interment in Woodlawn Cemetery. A Mass and Celebration of her life will be held and announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, should friends desire, contributions in Maureen's memory may be made to the National Shrine of St. Jude, 205 W. Monroe St., Chicago, IL 60606.

en 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 a personal sympathy card, visit;

www.WelshFuneral-Home.com.

Arrangements were giv-

OBITUARIES

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MBTA's RIDE now offering transit services to personal care attendants

The MBTA announced that the RIDE paratransit service will temporarily allow customers to book trips for their personal care attendants (PCAs) in an effort to best support their ADA-eligible customers during the COVID-19 sit-

"This change will al-

low the MBTA to maintain a vital link between RIDE customers and their PCAs," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "As we actively monitor the COVID-19 situation, we will continue to make necessary service changes that meet the travel needs of both those who are essential to combating this virus, and, where we can, the needs of those who are the most vulnerable among

A PCA is defined as an individual that provides assistance in performing Activities of Daily Living (ADLs). ADLs include, but are not limited to, mobility, bathing/grooming, dressing/undressing, passive range-of-motion exercises, taking medications, eating, and toileting. Allowing these bookings ensures that RIDE customers continue to receive the same level of daily support they need to live independent and safe lives.

This update is in addition to other temporary RIDE measures already in effect meant to protect the health and safety of T workers and customers, and preserve

services for those who must travel for essential purposes. Other temporary RIDE updates include the elimination of shared RIDE trips, temporarily extending RIDE eligibility and postponing eligibility appointments, adjustments to booking windows, updates to subscriptions, and a reduction in transfer trips. More information on these temporary updates can be

found at mbta.com/theride. In order to book travel for their PCA, RIDE customers should the RIDE Access Center (TRAC) at 844-427-7433 and inform the agent that the trip is for their PCA. RIDE customers will need to provide the PCA's name, address, and service needs. PCA trips may only be to or from the RIDE customer's home address. RIDE customers can pay for the PCA trip out of the RIDE customer's account with PCAs also able to deposit funds into a RIDE customer's account by calling 888-844-0355. The cost of the PCA trip is equal to traditional RIDE fares. Customers will receive their night-prior call back from the RIDE and customers should let their PCAs know of their pick-up time. Arrival notifications will also go to the customer's phone number.

RIDE service for customer trips will remain the priority. As such, trips for PCAs will be fulfilled only as capacity allows.



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LEGAL NOTICES LEGAL NOTICE the impact the proposed

ExteNet Systems Inc. proposes to construct an approximate 27-foot overall height pole structure for support of antennas. The structure would be located near 128 Pearl Street, Chelsea, Suffolk County, Massachusetts (42° 23' 24.3"N, 71° 02' 3.4"W). ExteNet Systems, Inc.

invites comments from

any interested party on

telecommunications structure may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic

Places. Comments may

America, ATTN: Megan

Corporation of

be sent to Environmental

Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 or via email to publicnotice@eca-usa. com. Ms. Gomez can be reached at (770) 667-2040 x 405 during normal business hours. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice. W1194 MEC.

Gomez, 1375 Union

4/30/20

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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

•confirmed by testing to have the virus,

•confirmed by a doctor that they do not need hospital

•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 healthcare 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 HealthCare medical professionals, along with food and hygiene 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.

DIAPER DRIVE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Chelsea Community Connections and the City of Chelsea are working together to distribute diapers to families in need. Because of the tremendous demand, distribution is dependent on donations of both packages of diapers and funds to purchase supply.

Anyone who would like to donate to the Diaper Drive can do so at the Chelsea Community Connections website. This will ensure the youngest Chelsea residents have their basic needs met.

MGH CHELSEA, **BETH ISRAEL OFFERS TESTING** FOR THOSE WITH **SYMPTOMS**

Patients with symptoms of Covid-19 are eligible for testing at MGH Chelsea and Beth Israel 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

Appointments 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 test-

*Beth Israel Deaconess HealthCare is offering a drive-thru testing service at 1000 Broadway (near the Chelsea/Revere city line). It is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat.-

If you have a Beth Israel primary care physician, call 617-975-6262 to make an appointment.

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: sylviar@chelseacollab. organd then via Cash App: \$ChelseaCollaborative.

Federal Judge postpones Exxon case in Everett, Chelsea

By Seth Daniel

A federal judge in Boston logged a decision on March 23 to postpone the case against ExxonMobil's Everett terminal until the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) makes a ruling on the facility's discharge permit.

The only problem with that, said Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) President Brad Campbell, is such permits can take decades to be acted upon – thus rendering the case moot and residents potentially put at risk due to flooding and storm surges at the terminal.

Judge Mark Wolfe ruled on the matter March 23, which was at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The judge ruled for a stay on the matter using a doctrine we think is not applicable to the case," said Campbell. "Essentially, the judge put a hold on the proceedings until EPA issues a new permit for the facility. That could take years and typically does take years. There are facilities in Massachusetts where permits have been waiting for action for 10 years or more...We respectfully disagree with the judge on the application of the law and will appeal

Maria said he encouraged ExxonMobil to put a plan together to address the deficiencies at the terminal. "As one of the most

Everett Mayor Carlo De-

densely populated communities in the Commonwealth, we have continued

to increase our city investment in enhancing, repairing and maintaining our storm drainage system," he said. "We have updated our storm water regulations, reduced parking requirements, passed a driveway ordinance and built rain gardens. Private businesses need to recognize the catastrophic consequences of ignoring climate change. They need to work with local municipalities to decrease the risks of damage when storms do occur and to move our economy forward while building climate resiliency."

ExxonMobil did not respond for comment.

CLF, along with several groups in Everett and Chelsea, filed the lawsuit on the basis that the Everett Terminal has no plan for coastal resiliency and is subject to flooding from sea level rise and coastal surge storms. In those events, Campbell said polluted waters are being discharged into the Island End River and the Mystic River and it is putting residents of the area at risk as coastal

Large storms have also become worrisome to activists who believe the facility could be inundated and cause great catastrophe through the release of petroleum from the storage tanks. Specifically, CLF's law-

suit alleges that ongoing spills and pollution at ExxonMobil's Everett Terminal and Exxon's failure to address current and imminent climate risks at the facility – risks its own scientists have warned of for decades - are unlawful under the federal Clean Water Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

"We have known that frontline, low-income, communities of color like Chelsea, Everett and East Boston will be hit first and worst by climate events," said Roseann Bongiovanni, director of GreenRoots in Chelsea. "However, what we have learned through COVID-19 is that our communities are being hit worse than we once expected. The tsunami of environmental and public health insults have already caused lasting damage to our health and well-being. This court decision is infuriating and shows that environmental justice communities continue to be shouldered with ever-mounting burdens that make us even more vulnerable."

The timing of the decision is rather disappointing to those involved in the case, especially since it has been under review for several years and the decision was rendered during a pandemic state of emergency. That said, CLF welcomes the appeals process.

"It's languished on the docket and that's clearly disappointing because there are communities at risk, but we're looking forward to the 1st Circuit Court process and telling the story,' Campbell said. "The wheels of justice unfortunately turn slowly and Judge Wolfe's order makes it even more important we continue the fight for the residents of Chelsea and Everett."

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Ryan says new foreclosure/eviction bill will provide relief immediately

House members meant to protect renters, homeowners and commercial tenants - such as small businesses - has been signed into law in the last week by Gov. Charlie Baker and has taken effect immediately.

State Rep. Dan Ryan said he supported the bill for Charlestown and Chelsea, and believed it would help a lot of people. He cautioned that those who can pay all or some of their rent or mortgages, should do their best to do so.

"I want to thank Chairs

Michlewitz and Honan for ushering through this critical piece of protection for homeowners and renters,' he said. "And a special shout-out to Speaker De-Leo for his cool-handed management of the House during these difficult times. "Keep in mind this is

not rent and mortgage amnesty," he continued. "This is an emergency measure to help buy some time for homeowners and renters affected by the crisis. It is important to note that many landlords are small business owners themselves who are just getting by. This bill will strike a balance between protection for the renter and support for that small business owner. If you can, pay your rent or what you can. But know there are protec-

tions in place if you can't." State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, of the North End and chair of the House Ways & Means Committee, said it was important to protect

homeowners, renters and small business renters. "We will figure out a lot of things after the pandemic, and we have to put the

bill keeps people and businesses in their homes and store locations while we all deal with the public health crisis," Michlewitz said. The bill prevents evic-

tions for people in residential apartments, foreclosure proceedings on property owners and evictions for businesses in commercial locations for four months or 45 days after the Massachusetts State of Emergency is lifted, whichever comes "You can't even send

out a notice of eviction to get the process started," Michlewitz said. "A lot of housing advocates wanted that in there. This prevents landlords from sending the notice of eviction while the State of Emergency is in play." The bill also prevents

landlords from charging late fees for unpaid rent, and also requires 180 days of forbearance on those with mortgages. Landlords can also use the last month's rent deposit as payment during the State of Emergency. One part of the bill Ryan and Michlewitz fought for

is adding the commercial evictions to the bill - helping small businesses to be able to stay in their locations despite having to close and having no reve-"It wasn't part of the initial conversation," said

Michlewitz. "We added it because of the large amount of small businesses I was hearing from such as with SEBA. The idea is not just to protect residents, but also small businesses that are in dire straits as well."

Massachusetts is the first

public health component to pass and sign legislation first and foremost, but this to protect residents from eviction or foreclosure during the emergency. Both representatives said that is something they are proud of and they will continue to look for other ways to provide relief.

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Everett Shops keeps MBTA system stocked with sanitizer

By Seth Daniel

When the MBTA faced the COVID-19 crisis, the first thing that had to be done was to provide employees with ways to protect themselves, including hand sanitizer.

However, in March, that was nearly impossible as there was a run on hand sanitizer and little to none could be found through the traditional supply channels.

On Monday, MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak told the Fiscal Management Control Board (FMCB) they decided to bring the operation inhouse at the Everett Shops on Lower Broadway. Not being able to get normal quantities, the MBTA ordered in bulk and took delivery of 12, 55-gallon drums of hand sanitizer one month ago.

Now, MBTA employees have formed their own distribution network.

"We have bulk sanitizer which we are refilling into bottles at our Everett Shops and distributing to our employees and at all the stations," said Poftak. "We collect all the empty sanitizer bottles and bring them in and deliver them to the Everett Shops – where they are disinfected, refilled and brought back to distributed back to the workforce

The system has been a game-changer and has provided plenty of sanitizer to the drivers and employees on the front lines helping people get back and forth to work during the pandemic – particularly those heading to work in health

care jobs.

Officials said employees at the Everett Shops fill bottles ranging from 1 oz. to 4 oz. and to 6 oz. sizes.

After disinfecting and refilling, they are labeled and sent back out.

So far, they have circulated 11,800 bottles from the Everett facility.

•RIDERSHIP DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY

Poftak said they are still maintaining a reduced service level on the T, but have seen ridership plummet – and there are budgetary implications to that which will have to be hammered out in working sessions throughout May prior to the submission of the MBTA Budget in late May.

"In general, we're maintaining the level of service we've provided the last two weeks, which is a modified Saturday schedule," he said. "We're seeing 20 percent of our typical ridership on the bus and 8 percent of our typical ridership on the subway. The Blue Line is the one outlier on subway service is at 13 percent of its typical ridership...Many of the individuals still using the services are health care workers and health care professionals so the T is providing a critical service despite the lower numbers."

At this point, they are providing about 85,000 trips per day on the bus and about 40,000 trips per day on the subway.

The MBTA has received approximately \$827 million through the CARES Act to help them close the gaps in dropped ridership now and into the future. MBTA officials said they would need to use about \$217 million of that right now to close the budget gaps for loss in revenues. but the number continues to grow and they must be prepared to have that funding on hand for the next fiscal year as well - when

ridership could continue to drop off.

MassDOT Secretary Stephanie Pollack said the MBTA budget will need to be something that is more of a moving target than most budgets from past years. With so much up in the air, it will need to be "reassessed and changed over time," she said.

Chair Joe Aiello said trying to pin down budget numbers now is very difficult given the uncertain times. He said it is important to remain flexible and ready to go if demand jumps. However, he said they need to be prepared if things don't bounce back to previous ridership levels.

"This is a little like throwing darts after your third beer," he said.

"In the end, it will be a decision made by others about the economy," he said. "Things could change on a moment's notice. There could be something happen on a Thursday or Friday and on Monday there is a huge demand for our services. We need to maintain operational flexibility and quick response flexibility. I'm less concerned in trying to get the numbers right. You have to think about being flexible to get through what is a very time with the virus

and the economy."

•COVID-19 IN THE WORKFORCE

As far as their own workforce goes, out of about 6,400 employees, there are 83 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Some 31 of those T workers have recovered and are cleared to go back to work. One worker, however, has passed away from the virus.

MBTA management has developed a five-tiered approach to testing among the



Workers at the Everett
Shops have been busy
supplying the entire MBTA
workforce and system
with hand sanitizer over
the last month. When the
MBTA had trouble getting
sanitizer for its workers
last month, they bought in
bulk and employees at the
Everett Shops have been
re-using and re-filling small
bottles in the effort. They
have re-filled nearly 12,000

workforce, with workers having the ability to be tested with other first responders at the state's facility outside Gillette Stadium in Foxboro.

If a worker has been potentially exposed to a positive case, they are notified and told to watch for symptoms. The same system is also being used for contractors, like the Keolis commuter rail.

•CROWDING ON THE BUS

Despite the lower levels of usage on the T, there are still bus routes that are crowded at certain times of day. Those buses are monitored carefully and reinforcements are sent in so that buses don't get too crowded with people who don't have room to socially distance

"We do actively monitor where we have crowding



Bottles of hand sanitizer are ready to go back to the field.

and full buses," Poftak said.
"There is a button operators have to press if their bus is full."

That data is analyzed three times a day and reports are generated about where crowding occurs. When possible, other bus resources are dispatched to the overcrowded routes.



Using trash cans like this, the MBTA is collecting used bottles to be sent back to the Everett Shops for re-filling.

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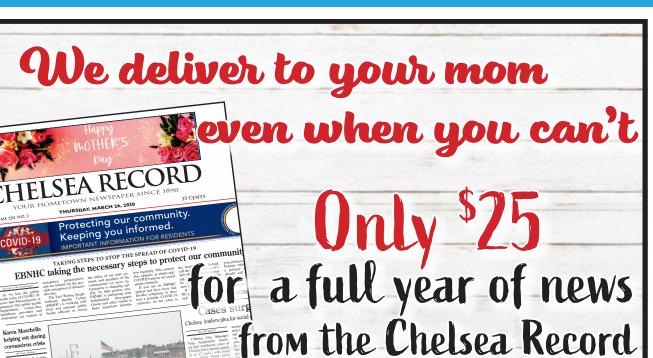
Mandatory Face Coverings in Chelsea

Even people with no symptoms can still carry COVID-19 and infect others.

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