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35 CENTS

COVID-19

**Protecting our community.
Keeping you informed.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

We want to see you...at Home!

Special to the Independent

Telemedicine allows health care professionals to evaluate, diagnose, and treat patients at a distance using telecommunications technology, such as a smartphone or computer. As we

fight the COVID-19 pandemic, telemedicine has quickly become an essential tool in our health care arsenal. The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC), like other medical providers across the commonwealth, is mov-

ing swiftly to increase telemedicine access. “Telemedicine allows us to continue to provide high-quality care to our patients during this pandemic while minimizing exposures,” said Laura Rogers, EBNHC Chief Information

Officer. “We can treat people who are most at-risk for COVID-19 while they stay safely at home—and we can accommodate the essential stay-at-home orders that we should all be following right now. EBNHC patients who might otherwise miss

important or routine appointments can continue to be monitored by their doctor’s office without having to leave home.” Prior to the pandemic, only a tiny fraction of EBNHC patients were being seen through telemedicine.

That changed on March 15 when Governor Baker signed an executive order that dramatically increased the potential of telemedicine by requiring commercial insurers to reimburse

See EBNHC Page 2

City Manager advises 24-hour curfew as Chelsea becomes ‘hot spot’

By Seth Daniel

Chelsea City Manager Tom Ambrosino couldn’t stress enough Wednesday morning how precarious things have become in Chelsea with the COVID-19 outbreak, as the city has become a hot spot for infections, and Ambrosino advised everyone to stay inside 24 hours a day if at all possible.

There were 356 reported cases as of Tuesday night in Chelsea, but many – including Ambrosino – said it’s likely many multiples of that number. Chelsea, along with Revere and East Boston have been noted as

See HOT SPOT Page 2

Five veterans pass away at Soldiers’ Home, four confirmed COVID-19

By Seth Daniel

The Chelsea Soldiers’ Home continues to take great measures to fight an overall outbreak at its facility on the top of the hill.

This week, officials reported that five veterans at the state-run home have passed away, with four of them testing positive for COVID-19. The fifth resident who died was tested, and that test is pending. There was only one death reported last week. That information was current as of Tuesday night.

In total, there are 14 veteran residents who have tested positive, while 19

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INDEPENDENT

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A STUDY IN BLACK AND WHITE

PEOPLE OF CHELSEA PROJECT: PANDEMIC EDITION

PHOTOS BY DAR DEVITA

Photographer Dar DeVita has been busy for the past few years documenting the people of Chelsea, and in the midst of that project, the City began to suffer from the world COVID-19 pandemic. Here, Juliana and Carlos Cardona pose with their eight children over a ‘Boston Stay Strong’ chalk drawing as they get some air during the shut-down. Meanwhile, Maryellen Cahill poses in front of her window with a handful of masks she has made for first responders. DeVita said Cahill has made hundreds of masks and mailed them to those in need. See Page 9 for more photos.

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Chelsea City Council meets online

By Seth Daniel

The Chelsea City Council met on Monday, April 4, in the first online meeting of the COVID-19 response era, joining communities like Boston and others who are moving to online or cable tv meetings.

In what was a start presentation, wearing masks, Council President Roy Avellaneda convened the meeting while wearing a mask and separated at great distances from other councillors – including Councilors Judith Garcia and Leo Robinson. All other councillors participated via phone or WebEx video conference.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino was also in attendance and brought forth several measures.

While the meeting was a novel first for the Council, and there were some hiccups in the first portion of the meeting, but overall the gathering was of great importance.

The Council heard an emergency request from Ambrosino to provide \$500,000 in funding to help with the City’s response to help those affected by, or who were sick from, COVID-19.

See MEETING Page 5

PUBLIC NOTICE FROM THE CITY OF CHELSEA

All indications are that the virus spread will be especially dangerous in the next two weeks. We urge all residents of Chelsea to stay home at all hours unless you work in an Essential Business, or have essential travel to do, such as getting groceries or medicine.

However, if someone in your home is sick, no one should leave the house for any reason. Ask friends or family outside of the home to bring food to you.

If there is no one who can help, the city can deliver emergency food supplies or help you with other basic needs. Chelsea residents can call 311 to get assistance. For all families, staying home and maintaining physical distance from others is the only way to stay safe and stop the spread of the virus in the community.

Your life, and the lives of your neighbors, depends upon your cooperation.

• • • •

Todo indica que la propagación del Corona-

See NOTICE Page 3

World of Difference

Two weeks that changed everything: CHA facing crowded, challenging conditions

By Seth Daniel

Two weeks is often described as an eternity in politics or sport, but rarely in the emergency room of a hospital.

In the COVID-19 era, though, all is possible.

It was only two weeks ago that Dr. Melisa Lai-Becker, Emergency Department chief at CHA Everett, said

they were preparing for a surge, with great hopes that there would be no surge of sick patients with COVID-19.

Preparations have now turned to practice.

“What a world of difference here in just two weeks,” said Dr. Lai-Becker on Monday night after

See CHA Page 3

Cataldo Ambulance sees drop in overall calls

But more potential COVID-19 patients

By Seth Daniel

When Cataldo Ambulance responds to a call in any of its 18 communities – which include Chelsea, Everett and Revere – no matter what the issue is everyone being treated has to be considered a possible COVID-19 patient.

When responding to a car accident, a sick person, someone with chest pains or any other kind of accident, Owner Dennis Cataldo said

EMTs and paramedics on their ambulances are outfitting themselves in full gear for complete safety.

“We are anticipating things could ramp up quite substantially in the next week or so and create a surge for us,” said Cataldo. “There is definitely more pressure on the health care industry...Early on, or before all this, if a report came in or an emergency came in with a full response or a car

See CATALDO Page 3



Cataldo Ambulance personnel have seen calls drop for overall service, but are responding to many more people who are positive or suspected to be positive for COVID-19. Ambulance workers are wearing enhanced PPE and are being very deliberate and safe on every call.

Mass Bankers: Operative word is ‘patience’ with large federal loan programs

By Seth Daniel

The Massachusetts Association (MBA) reported varying degrees of success over their membership banks with the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EDIL) – two key parts of the federal CARES Act that look to help prop up small businesses across the nation.

The PPP was the big story going into effect by taking applications at most banks last Friday, and the rush was certainly on for small businesses with under 500 employees to participate in the \$350 billion program administered by banks and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

“The approval process and the money should start happening I think by the end of the week, at the latest, barring any unforeseen circumstances,” said Daniel Forte, president and CEO of Mass Bankers on Monday. “There was \$30 billion of the \$350 billion submitted and approved nationally by Sunday. From Friday to Sunday the SBA did a year’s worth of lending nationwide. That’s amazing in one respect, as that’s about what they do in one year, but it’s also a good reminder that patience is going to be required here. I think the industry feels it’s a win-win.”

Forte said none of the 135 banks in his membership had any loans approved over the weekend, but he did say several had good experiences with the application process and successfully submitted complete applications for customers.

However, there were also hiccups and the system was a little on-the-fly and “clunky.”

First, he said, the regulations of the program weren’t submitted in final form until Thursday night, the night before the launch of the PPP, and there was also still no formal application.

A lot of the existing SBA lender banks, he said – which is about 1,000 of 5,200 banks, got a jump start on the program. Many of them moved quickly to have online webinars and instruction calls for existing customers, but for those without those existing relationships, things moved slower.

In all, he said things would likely move slower because many banks are not physically open, and they’re being flooded with so many applications.

“An example is one regional bank of ours had 25,000 applications on Wednesday and Thursday already and they had eight people to process them and they were all working out of their houses,” he said. “So you have to be sympathetic

ic to that and those issues. The operative word, again, should be patience. The banks want to get moving and small business owners want to get in the queue.”

Many of the banks also reported that the portal to process applications was jammed as banks and customers tried to apply all at once Friday and into the weekend, a problem he said likely would work its way out as time goes on.

“There were banks that started at midnight Thursday into Friday processing applications,” he said. “Many were not able to immediately put those through because the portal can only accept so many hits at a time, and things get stuck. Lenders had applications, but could not access the portal because it was jammed.”

He said if there is a second round or a tweak of the program, he can see there being a way for others to process the applications and the banks to disperse the money, having a second market liquidity platform created.

“It’s just not in the current business model of banks so be able to process this many loans in a week,” he said.

He also said many banks have already been busy working with customers, especially borrowers looking to modify their loans or mortgages. His membership has been rushing to do

those things the last three weeks, adding to the workload.

“The banks have been working with customers for three weeks now,” he said. “It’s not like the PPP is the only things they’ve done. For the customers who have been impacted by business with the COVID virus...they have already been working with banks to modify their business loans or mortgages.”

In all, the programs are in great need, and Forte said the SBA is trying to pull off an amazing feat to help with the assistance of banks in every region of the country. That will happen, but it may not be instant.

“There will be hiccups,” he said. “It’s nobody’s fault. It’s not the lenders fault, the SBA’s fault, or the Administration’s fault. Everyone is trying to do what they can do within current situation. We want to be part of it, but there are going to be logjams.”

Business owners wishing to apply should review the information available at: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/top-priorities/cares-act/assistance-for-small-businesses>. Borrowers will need payroll records for the past year, Tax ID numbers, and information on each individual with more than a 20 percent ownership stake in the company.

EBNHC / Continued from Page 1

providers for telemedicine visits and relaxing certain regulations. Two days later, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) broadened access to Medicare telehealth services so that beneficiaries can receive a wider range of services from their providers without having to travel to a health care facility.

Now that these barriers have been reduced, the use of telemedicine is skyrocketing at EBNHC and medical facilities across the country. Over the last two weeks, EBNHC provided more than 6,000 telemedicine visits, with 640 occurring on the busiest day. Video conferencing launches this week, which will significantly enhance the telemedicine experience for patients as well as providers.

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.

Any EBNHC patient who has fever and flu-like symptoms or has had a possible COVID-19 exposure should not come to the health center. Instead, call the health center at 617-569-5800 for phone screening. If appropriate, you will be given instructions on how to get tested.

Recently, Mayor Walsh announced the launch of two online dashboards that allow Boston residents to see the number of COVID-19 cases in Boston and throughout the state. The dashboards are part of a suite of digital tools available to residents that includes a texting service in six languages, online city services, and frequently updated resources and fact-sheets. Visit www.boston.gov/coronavirus.

For as long as it takes, EBNHC will continue working with local and national public health officials to ensure the safety of our staff, patients, and members of the communities we serve. EBNHC has partnered with Independent Newspaper Group to bring you this content, which also appears at ebnhc.org/ COVID19 and on our social media channels.

Wynn Resorts seeks \$350 million in capital amidst local, worldwide uncertainty

By Seth Daniel

As the COVID-19 pandemic has now hit Wynn Resorts in three locations – Everett, Las Vegas and China – the company announced a private offering on Tuesday to raise \$350 million in capital as uncertainty now and in the future unfolds.

On Tuesday, the company announced a private offering of \$350 million in senior notes that would be due in 2025, saying they would use the net proceeds from the offering for general corporate purposes and to pay related fees and expenses. Already, the company has said it would pay employees, full and part-time, their regular wages through May 15.

That comes also as uncertainty worldwide in their product is on the horizon – something the company detailed in a filing Tuesday with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

“The COVID-19 outbreak has significantly increased economic and demand uncertainty,” read the filing. “The current outbreak and continued spread of COVID-19 could cause a global recession, which would have a further adverse impact on our financial condition and op-

erations. Current economic forecasts for significant increases in unemployment in the U.S. and other regions due to the adoption of social distancing and other policies to slow the spread of the virus is likely to have a negative impact on demand for casino resorts once our operations resume, and these impacts could exist for an extensive period of time.

“The extent of the effects of the outbreak on our business and the casino resort industry at large is highly uncertain and will ultimately depend on future developments, including, but not limited to, the duration and severity of the outbreak, the length of time it takes for demand and pricing to return and normal economic and operating conditions to resume,” continued the narrative.

Another key part in the form related to the high level of debt that Wynn Resorts carries for projects like Encore Boston Harbor, a new resort in Macau from 2017, and other major projects in Las Vegas – as well as the settling of very expensive, ongoing litigation in early 2019.

The company detailed that capital markets may not be available in the months to come, and perhaps more certainly not in

the terms they would find acceptable. Were they not to make the offering now, they seemed to indicate in the future they may not be able to pay their debts.

“To the extent COVID-19 adversely affects our business, operations, financial condition and operating results, it may also have the effect of heightening many of the other risks related to our business, including, but not limited to, those relating to our high level of indebtedness, our need to generate sufficient cash flows to service our indebtedness, and our ability to comply with the covenants contained in the agreements that govern our indebtedness,” read the filing.

Few companies have been hit as hard and as frequently by the pandemic as Wynn Resorts. In February, their Macau operations were closed for 15 days at a cost of about \$2.5 million per day. Even though gaming operations in Macau on March 20, visitation to the island gaming mecca is extremely limited. Many residents of China, Hong Kong and Taiwan have extreme limitations put on their entry into Macau and anyone not a citizen of Greater China (meaning most of the world) cannot travel to Macau still.

Of course, Encore Bos-

ton Harbor closed operations on March 15, and Las Vegas closed its casinos on March 17. Both are still closed until April 30 in Vegas and May 4 in Everett, and the company estimated it is costing \$3.5 million per day to keep those operations going.

Already, on March 25, the company announced that the Board of Directors and top executives – including CEO Matt Maddox – would defer pay this year in exchange for stock in the company. Maddox agreed to defer all of his cash wages for the entire year, while others agreed to forgo between 33 percent and higher of their wages.

Those move were meant to offset ongoing employee and payroll expenses at the properties.

•In other news, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) voted unanimously in a teleconference meeting to continue the closure of all of its gaming licensees – including Encore Boston Harbor – until May 4. They agreed that it was important to be consistent with Gov. Charlie Baker’s dictate about keeping non-essential businesses closed until May 4.

The MGC agreed to convene in a meeting prior to May 4 to re-assess the conditions within the state.

Hot Spot / Continued from Page 1

hot spots in the state for the outbreak.

“That number is only the number of people tested and those tested in our community is just a small percentage of the population,” he said. “We’ve tried to keep the message simple, the message about staying home unless it is essential to get out of the house because you are an essential worker, need to go to the grocery or to get medicine. The Boston mayor set a curfew from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. We’re going to say there is a curfew all day long – 24 hours a day. That’s our advice. It’s not an order, but our advice right now is to stay home. It’s voluntary compliance. We’re just saying there is no magic number with 9 to 6. People right now should stay home at all times if they can.”

There were no official rates posted for Chelsea, as so many are sick but haven’t been tested or sought treatment. Some estimates in the media were that the rate was 71 per 10,000, which is staggering when compared to Boston’s overall rate 18.1 per 10,000 rate on April 2.

“From what we can determine, Chelsea has by far the highest rate of infection per 10,000 residents in the Commonwealth,” said Ambrosino.

The City has logged eight deaths attributed to COVID-19, with five of them being at the Soldiers’ Home, and 36 people have recovered from the virus.

In Everett, an order issued on Tuesday included giving the police the ability to fine those that defied the curfew \$300 per day. Ambrosino said the police will not be empowered in Chelsea to practice enforcement of those in defiance, but he said large groups of people would be moved along.

“The Chief and I feel that voluntary compliance is what we’re looking for,” he said. “We have engaged gatherings and had them disperse. It’s not practical to write citations when people have no obligation to give police their name or information. We’re not going to be locking people up. We’re trying to get the information to people and get them to comply voluntarily for everyone’s safety.”

•Construction has been mostly shut down

Ambrosino said construction has not been completely shut down, but they are mostly following the governor’s edict about limiting construction as much as possible.

One of the few projects that will continue is the hotel project on 2nd Street, and that’s only because Ambrosino said he wants it to be ready in case it should need to be used for COVID-19 overflow.

“We want to get life-safety systems in there in case we need to use the hotel for the COVID-19 response,” he said. “I’d rather have it ready than not ready. There are some continued life-safety items that need to be put in there, including an elevator.”

•CPS Meal Distribution will continue

While Everett Public Schools shut down its meals distribution sites this week, Ambrosino said it is too crucial a service for Chelsea families to shut down.

“It’s a balancing act on everything,” he said. “We feel in Chelsea that food distribution is too critical to the survival of our families to stop it. I recognize there is risk in running the programs, but the distribution of this food is essential we feel.”

Home / Continued from Page 1

have tested negative. Almost all of the residents have now been tested, and there are 258 residents now waiting for the results of their tests.

Nine staff members have tested positive as well. Staff testing was in progress and is expected to be done this week as well. Staff that are currently on medical leave are also being screened via drive through testing in the parking lot. Staffing is being managed, said a spokesman, to provide safe care for residents, and the Home has put in place per

diem contracts with nurses so they can start immediately.

Meanwhile, the spokesman reported that all community and shared areas have been closed, and residents in the dorm are being screened as they come in and out of that residence. Visitors are restricted, and have been.

When residents test positive for COVID-19, they are enforcing isolation rooms and quarantine zones, and increased use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). In those cas-

es they are also restricting visitors and increasing hygiene and disinfecting protocols.

All veteran residents who test positive for COVID-19 have been transferred to the Boston VA Health Care System, and if additional veteran residents test positive they will be proactively transferred to be properly quarantined and cared for.

To help residents communicate with loved ones during restrictions, the following measures have been taken:

- I-pads have been delivered to Chelsea to support veteran resident communications, with assistance of social workers.
- Families can also request updates on their loved ones by contacting the Home at HYPERLINKmailto:CSH@mass.gov or “_blank” CSH@mass.gov.
- Please note the Soldiers’ Home can only share medical information about a resident with the authorized health care proxy on file.

LOST PET?

FREE RESOURCES AND HELP ON FACEBOOK:

www.Facebook.com/Groups/LostPetsNetwork

LOST AND FOUND PETS NETWORK:

CHELSEA, EVERETT, MALDEN, REVERE

Latino residents said to be infected at a greater rate than others

By Seth Daniel

Hospital officials and City officials are reporting this week that Latino residents – particularly in Chelsea, East Boston and Lawrence – are being infected with the COVID-19 virus at a greater rate than other groups.

On Tuesday, Mass General Hospital indicated to reporters that were seeing 35-40 percent of their admissions into the hospital to be Latinos – which was 400 percent higher than what they had predicted and far outsizing their percentage of the population.

That was first reported on WBUR Radio, and a spokesperson for MGH couldn’t confirm it for the Record by press time.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said he certainly believes that Latinos are coming down with COVID-19 more readily, just like every other majority-minority community – and he’s asking for more resources in light of that fact.

“Absolutely,” he said. “There is no question that majority minority communities like Chelsea are being disproportionately impacted by this virus in a major way. It’s Chelsea, Brockton and

Lawrence. The numbers are staggering in Chelsea – the infection rate. That’s making things incredibly dangerous in Chelsea and why we want people to stay home at all hours. We’ve shared the numbers with MEMA and those at the state. They want to deploy resources equally around the Commonwealth and we want them to see that we need those resources here.

“Chelsea, Revere, Brockton and Lawrence,” he continued. “That’s where the situation is critical and nowhere else.”

Numbers in East Boston have also shown an outsized infection rate in the Hispanic community there. In neighborhood numbers released last Friday, East Boston had the second highest rate of infection in all of Boston, with a 27.7 per 10,000 rate. There are no official numbers for Chelsea’s rate as so few have been tested, but some in the media have suggested a rate of up to 71 per 10,000.

Many have argued about why the Latino population is turning up sick so often.

Clearly, many have had to, or chose to, continue going to work, and many ride public transportation.

Others have argued that information about the outbreak didn’t reach deep into

the community until it was too late. Still, others have said there was a lack of seriousness in the community at first, and persistent rumors that it was a hoax perpetrated by President Donald Trump to try to deport Spanish-speaking people.

It could have been all of those, or none of them.

Ambrosino said in Chelsea he believes it is because conditions are very dense, and many people in the community were essential workers.

“The explanation is not that complicated,” he said. “These are all communities with very dense populations and crowded living conditions. They are economically disadvantaged and tend to work in low-wage jobs that are essential and most get there by using crowded public transportation.

“I don’t think it’s a level of information or understanding on the part of residents,” he continued. “I think it’s a product of people living in crowded housing situations. They don’t get to isolate themselves in the third master bedroom like people can do in the suburbs...Even in this crisis, some of the buses people ride to get to work are very crowded.”

Chelsea collaborates on hotel for COVID

By Seth Daniel

The City has moved to create a partnership with Everett and Revere to potentially use a hotel on Rt. 1 in Revere to house COVID-19 patients who seemingly have nowhere else to go.

Already, Ambrosino said, that has happened in Chelsea, and it’s what prompted him to move quickly to partner with other communities. The state’s MEMA operates a hotel for such situations, but it is in Lexington, and many believe it will fill up quickly.

“We are working hard to secure the Quality Inn in Revere,” he said. “The logistics of doing that is ex-

traordinarily challenging. They’re going to hand us the keys and say good luck. We have to decide how to operate it and staff it. It’s incredibly complicated and we hope to do that next week...We’re still working out the details now and it’s not done.”

The issue in Chelsea crept up due to complicated living situations that many in the city find themselves in – and which become very difficult when someone comes up positive for COVID-19. Ambrosino said one resident had been living with extended family for some time, but then went to the hospital and tested positive for the virus.

Upon being discharged, that resident was told they

couldn’t return to the home where they had been living.

It is situations like that - which have come up in Chelsea, in Revere, and are believed to come soon in Everett – that brought all three City leaders together on the issue.

“In a perfect world, MEMA would be able to step in and provide this service, but they are stretched thin all over the state,” he said. “Cities and Towns need to take it on themselves to solve problems and I need to solve this fast.”

Ambrosino said if anyone is in trouble for any reason, whether housing or food, they should call 3-1-1, or (617) 466-4209.

Cataldo / Continued from Page 1

accident, for instance, people didn’t necessarily take the time to put on PPE or masks, but now everyone represents a potential coronavirus patient, even at a car accident, and especially with 12,000 people having the virus in the state and any number of others who don’t know they have it...It’s a lot more preparation and a lot more time on task because they know they have to put on the full PPE and mask for every patient they encounter.”

Overall call volumes for Cataldo have decreased in the last several weeks across all communities, Cataldo said, and that’s likely because so many people are at home heeding the isolation orders. There are a number of people, he said, that think they might be sick, but really it’s the anxiety of the situation that’s working on them.

“There are a lot of people with high anxiety and they are worried,” he said. “Once one of our people can give them information on what the symptoms are and check their levels, they try to figure out if they need to go to the hospital, and they let them know that it is risky to go to the hospital.”

However, other calls they encounter can be quite serious when they see sick patients who need immediate care, and it can be worrisome for those in the field.

That said, Cataldo said it’s the kind of things that EMTs and paramedics run to, rather than run from.

“This situation is kind of why people get into this

field,” he said. “When people run from a health care scare, our people want to run in where others want to run out. There is a level of anxiety out there because no one knows if this will come and go or if it will linger around or be more of a destructive pandemic than it already is. You need to be able to envision and end in sight. When it really isn’t defined and they’re fighting something endless, there is more anxiety.”

To protect those workers on the ambulance, Cataldo said protocols start from the time they report to work. Each worker gets their temperature tested and they have to fill out a form about whether or not they are experiencing symptoms. When they leave headquarters to go into the field and respond to calls, they carry substantial PPE in the vehicle. That PPE includes gloves, masks, full face shields, full gowns and N95 masks.

“It’s mostly the same as what you might see being worn in hospitals and health care environments, and that is what we’re going out into the field with in order to have safe patient contact,” he said.

So far, Cataldo said they have been lucky in their workforce, as only a few workers in their fleet of about 80 to 90 ambulance companies have come up positive.

One of the overarching worries for ambulance companies, public safety officials and health care workers is what would happen if large numbers of their staff test

positive – resulting in the quarantine of many others on the staff that have had contact with them. In such a case, there is concern that a shortage of first responders, including ambulance personnel, could suddenly be in short supply.

“That’s a concern on the minds of everyone in health care right now,” Cataldo said. “It would be tough to have to quarantine large numbers of individuals. If it resembles some of the indicated trends and looks anything like it does in New York, it’s going to be difficult to tell people they’re on a 14-day quarantine because they’ve been exposed...I don’t think anybody has any answers for that right now and so far, we have not had that happen.”

Like most all providers, Cataldo said the public can help his ambulance companies by practicing social distancing and staying out of public gatherings. A surge of patient calls could expose ambulance workers and overwhelm the entire system.

“From a health care perspective there is a pretty serious virus going on and actually it is a pandemic,” he said. “Though you might feel well and others around you might feel well, you don’t know who’s carrying it.”

Cataldo Ambulance has between 80 to 90 ambulance companies operating every day in 18-plus communities – a network that includes serving Everett, Revere and Chelsea.

CHA / Continued from Page 1

finishing her shift in the ER. “Everything we were preparing for is coming to bear and now we are experiencing the surges I had hoped wouldn’t come. Our volume had actually gone down by one-third, but to counter the lower volumes was the fact that the acuity level is greater. I would say three-quarters, about 80 percent, of our patients are coming in sick. With that many presenting sick we have begun suspecting they are COVID-positive. The ICU has been full for over one week, including with continued admissions and transfers out.”

Just on Monday afternoon, Dr. Lai-Becker counted 10 new admissions on her chart that they are taking care of in the department. While they would have about five patients on a ventilator in the ICU during normal times, she said they have a dozen or more now that need ICU and ventilation care – a treatment that is the highest level of treatment for most hospitals. Most of that treatment is demanding a ratio of two patients to every nurse as a result of the overall surge to the ICU.

Dr. Lai-Becker said, in response to that, the hospital has expanded their ICU beds, using the post-anesthesia care unit as a makeshift ICU – a place where normally patients recover from surgery. Right now, they have the appropriate space, but have been transferring patients to other places using ambulances when need be.

“When we don’t have a bed available here, we get people moved to our sister campus in Cambridge,” she said. “If those beds are full, we send them to a location that has a bed available... We have been lucky to be able to partner with the tertiary hospitals like MGH, BMC, Beth Israel, the Brigham and Tufts. They understand the challenges we face and understand why we are calling them for help; it’s because our ICU is full. They are wonderful and do what they can to help us out. Talk about a large, statewide and regional effort – that’s what that is.”

Pausing, Dr. Lai-Becker did confirm they have had several patients die from COVID-19 while in their care, but it was a painful topic for her and her staff as they don’t know how much more of that lies ahead. What they do know is that the patients they are seeing are not exclusively the old and infirm that were talked about last month.

“About half of our patients seem to be in their 40s and 50s,” she said. “We are getting quite a number of patients in their 20s and 30s – not as many in their 20s. It is now not surprising to see someone here in their 30s. They come in and we know we’ll send the test and it will be positive. It’s been surprising that regardless of age, it’s very stark.”

Notice / Continued from Page 1

virus será especialmente peligrosa en las próximas dos semanas. Le pedimos a todos los residentes de Chelsea a quedarse en casa todo el día a menos que trabaje en una tarea categorizada como esencial o tenga que hacer un viaje esencial (como comprar alimentos o medicamentos).

Si alguien en su hogar está enfermo, nadie debe

She said they have been fortunate in that many of those patients can be treated and then sent home with home oxygen kits to help them breath, and they can recover outside of the hospital setting and make way for sicker patients. That is a good reason for social distancing, and for people to stay in the home as much as possible. There is a direct correlation with not heeding those warnings, and the hospital being inundated with new and more critical cases. It is one of the few protections the public can provide for health care workers like Lai-Becker and her staff.

“It’s definitely the real world playing out,” she said. “It’s important to social distance and the better we do with that, the better we can have these resources around for everyone. Getting a large rush of patients right now might get us to a point where there isn’t enough ventilators or hospital beds. It’s something everyone is watching so closely in Massachusetts.”

Another way to help is by donating or making Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the health care workers. Dr. Lai-Becker said they were able to secure a large amount of N95 masks from the New England Patriots humanitarian mission that used the team plane to go to China and get more than 1 million masks for the state. However, as a community hospital sitting beside many large medical centers, they may not get all the supplies they need ahead of those larger hospitals. That is why she said they welcome and appreciate the community donations.

“We know there are a lot of makers out there and we welcome cloth masks, we welcome cloth gowns, and the welcome the tech savvy folks who are using 3-D printers...to make sure we have the respirators needed to protect us,” she said. “We’re really grateful for every glove, mask and gown and disinfectant we get. Every little bit makes a difference and as a community hospital, it’s wonderful...We’re not a big juggernaut. We’re not MGH.”

It is, in fact, the support of the community that has kept the staff going in the surges from the area communities like Everett, Chelsea and Revere – where their patient base mostly resides.

Small things, she said, like Everett Police Chief Steve Mazzie dropping by on Monday with several baskets of “treats” for the ER staff keep the morale up in what has become a challenging day most every day.

“I have to give a shout out to Chief Mazzie for bringing that by,” she said, “and for everyone else in the community who has thought of us in so many ways and supported their community hospital. Those things mean so much; we were so encouraged when

he came in with those treats for us. It means so much to have that support.”

Two weeks ago was all about preparations, and this week has been about treating and hoping that the next two weeks don’t see any further surge – as the hospital is pretty much full already. It is a remarkable change in a short period of time, and scary in that no one in the ER is certain what next week will bring.

“It is a distinctly different place than where we were only a short time ago,” she said.

“It is an all hands on deck effort for sure,” she continued. “We’re fortunate to be here in Boston and to be serving this community and to be as well-resourced as we can be given that at the end of the day, we’re a community hospital that’s working with what we have.”

Sidebar – (set aside in a box or separate story – not just a trailing sidebar, pretty big news)

CHA Everett working on innovative treatment to help slow COVID’s infection

Looking to find anything that might help the most serious COVID-19 patients, Dr. Melisa Lai-Becker of the CHA Everett Emergency Department said they have started a new protocol to try to slow the attack of COVID-19 on the lungs.

That possible treatment is simply put – the antidote for Tylenol poisoning – and it might be showing some signs of working.

“We’re starting one new procedural protocol using a medium that we could be incorporating into a clinical trial study,” she said. “We are hopeful it’s helping these patients. It’s not been in the news a lot and it’s something we developed on the toxicology side.”

The treatment is a medicine that is used for Tylenol poisoning, and they hope it can help to stop the aggressive attack on the lungs in patients that fail to recover. When COVID-19 attacks the lungs, she said it unleashes a “storm” of cytokines – which are small proteins that help cells communicate. Those proteins seem to inhibit the immune system of those that aren’t recovering, and there is hope that the antidote might slow that process and keep the immune system intact.

“Those who have COVID-19, about 80 to 85 percent don’t need a hospital and their immune systems are ok,” she said. “Those who are sick enough to be in the ICU, it seems to be their immune systems go awry. It starts attacking their lungs. The idea is this medicine might slow that down before it happens.”

There are no results right now, but Dr. Lai-Becker – who is also involved in the toxicology department – said they have hope for it to be useful.

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Chelsea

R E C O R D

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

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ONE DAY AT A TIME: IT'S "GROUNDHOG DAY" FOR EVERYBODY

Here's one way to view the current situation in which we all find ourselves:

Prior to the pandemic sweeping the nation and the world, our lives were such that each day truly was a new day, filled with new challenges and the possibility of new excitement, albeit to varying degrees.

Today however, with most of us locked down in our homes, our daily routines have taken on a stunning sameness that is bereft of any sense of the usual moments of joy that form the essence of our humanity.

Similar to the classic Bill Murray movie "Groundhog Day" from 1993 (wow, has it really been 27 years?), each day seems to be a repeat of the day before.

The daily news in particular has a feeling of being in "Groundhog Day" mode. The headlines, politicians, and talking heads basically tell us the same thing, day after day after day, to the point where most of us now are tuning it out.

And yet, unlike the movie, there is nothing humorous about the real-life Groundhog Day in which we find ourselves.

The COVID-19 pandemic by far is the most tragic, far-reaching, and life-changing event that every American has faced since the end of World War II 75 years ago.

The phrase, "One day at a time," which is meant both as an inspiration and an admonition to those among us who struggle with substance abuse and other issues, now applies to every person, in every corner of the globe, regardless of fame, wealth, power, or any other status that differentiates us from anyone else.

The news that public figures as disparate as the actor Tom Hanks, Boris Johnson (the Prime Minister of England), and James Dolan (the billionaire owner of the New York Knicks and Comcast) have contracted COVID-19 -- on three different continents -- makes it clear that the coronavirus does not discriminate and is world-wide in scope.

In short, there is no escape -- no way out -- for every human being on the planet.

Moreover, with public health authorities informing us that the ongoing lack of testing in the United States continues to leave our nation flying blind in the face of the pandemic, we truly will have reason to fear every interaction with another human being (even if we and they are fully-masked and we space ourselves six feet apart) for the foreseeable future.

Without any understanding of the true extent of the spread of the disease in the United States, no one can predict when we will begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

"One day at a time" will be our mantra for many days to come.



CELEBRATE EASTER - APRIL 12TH

GUEST OP-ED

Lyft has been a lifeline for me

As COVID-19 continues to erode our nation's health and economy, I am perpetually worried for my family's future. Every day, I read about how more and more people are getting laid off from their jobs and struggling to find new work.

That's why being able to earn through rideshare platforms like Lyft have been such a lifeline for me. Even in these dark times, as a single mother of two, including a child with special needs, I am able to earn an income to support my family through driving. And the flexibility to turn the app on and off whenever I want means I'm in control of when I work and for how long.

That's why it's so terrifying to hear that this flexibility could soon come to an abrupt end if a judge

here in Massachusetts rules rideshare drivers must be reclassified as employees in a pending court case. Even though I know the intentions are well meaning, this would be a disaster for me and my family.

Just look at all these other companies that are having to drastically cut back on their employees right now. If Lyft had to reclassify drivers at a time like this, they would likely have to do the same, meaning the vast majority of us, tens of thousands of people, would lose flexibility and wouldn't be able to support ourselves on the platform at all anymore. And even worse, it would mean we could lose the new stimulus benefits provided to us under the new federal relief law, things like paid sick and family leave for when we can't drive, if we fall ill,

our families fall ill, or our children are without child-care. In short, we would gain nothing and risk losing everything.

This goes without saying, but traditional employment doesn't work for everybody in the best of times. I had a job before the outbreak that required me to work set shifts with no flexibility. This was hard for me because my child with autism requires regular care and visits to the doctor. I couldn't take time off the way I needed to and I ended up having to leave the job. And as we get through this pandemic and deal with the economic fallout, I know I won't be alone in needing access to this type of flexible work, especially as those currently getting laid off by their employers try to stay afloat.

This is not the time for

opportunistic lawyers to try and use a crisis to win unjustified lawsuits, and our legal system shouldn't put into jeopardy the very essential services deemed critical by Governor Baker that millions are counting on. If an injunction is issued, even temporarily, access to essential activities in the hardest hit communities will be interrupted -- maybe permanently.

I get it. Everyone is having a tough time these days. But the idea of losing my flexibility and such an important part of my income in the midst of this pandemic and volatile economy is a terrifying thought. Please don't hurt me and family any more than we already are.

Brenda Castillo
Chelsea-based
Lyft driver

GUEST OP-ED

No Easter for America?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Because of Covid-19 many churches will not be in their sanctuaries for Easter, April 12, 2020.

Easter Sunday can fall on any date between March 22nd and April 25th. The dates change because Easter happens on the Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon. The word Paschal means "Passover" in Greek which is a transliteration of the Hebrew word pesach. The Paschal Full Moon is the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. This is sometimes referred to as the Egg Moon. This moon sometimes occurs in March and sometimes in April. So, April 12 is not locked in for Easter every year, but it is the date for 2020.

Easter 2020 will be remembered for a very long time as the Sunday America had no Easter. Or, the Easter where churches did not

gather in small and large buildings. This is disappointing to multitudes. It is the "one" Sunday that many Americans attend church. Globally, churches pull out all the stops for presenting their best music. Ministers have been working the last several weeks polishing up their sermons. But it's the same story, the old story that, once a year, people come to hear.

Some people still buy new clothes for Easter. Americans are more casual than ever but retailers still make out good for Easter, but not this year. Macy's and other retailers just furloughed hundreds of thousands of workers. For these retailers Easter has been cancelled and they are feeling it in their pocketbooks.

The first Easter didn't have a date of April 12. We don't know the date. We do know that the followers of

Jesus were terrified. They had just watched him crucified on a cross and they feared they were next. Financially they were struggling because they had left everything to follow Jesus. They had "sheltered" themselves in fear of the religious opposition.

That first Sunday morning Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. In the middle of her sorrow Jesus appeared, spoke her name and Mary realizing it was Jesus called him "Teacher". She must have put her arms around Jesus because he said, "Don't hold onto me, I have not ascended to my father." John 20:17 Essentially, he said, "Don't touch me!" This story is more relevant all the time. The saddest weekend of Mary's life turned into the greatest day of her life as she became the first witness of the risen

Jesus, later exclaiming to the disciples, "I have seen The Lord!" Wouldn't you like to have that kind of Easter? We will miss gathering in church this Easter but experiencing Easter and the risen Christ can happen even if you are alone.

There will be Easter on April 12. There will be Easter for every person on the planet who will take the time to celebrate the old story, the good news of Easter wherever you are and whatever your situation, this Easter 2020.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist -- American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

LETTER to the Editor

PROTECT NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

The following letter was sent April 7 from AARP Massachusetts to Governor Baker regarding nursing home and long-term care regulations during COVID-19:

Dear Governor Baker:
On behalf of 775,000 AARP members in Mas-

sachusetts, we are writing regarding the Massachusetts Department of Public Health order dated March 10, 2020 providing guidance on MassHealth regulations for transfers and discharge of long-term care facility residents, 130 CMR 456.701 through 456.704. In addition, we are writing regarding 610.028 through 610.032, for the limited

purpose of safely transferring and discharging all residents living in a long-term care facility that is intended to be used as a designated COVID-19 facility.

We deeply appreciate the state's focus on protecting the health and safety of our state's older population, nursing home residents and LTSS recipients, which is paramount. We are, howev-

er, very concerned that current state guidance does not adequately protect nursing home residents during this public health emergency.

Release Of Information On Facilities With Covid-19 Positive Cases

We urge Massachusetts' Department of Public Health to release publicly the names of nursing

See LETTER Page 12

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Gov. Baker says more ICU beds are needed; COVID death rate in Mass. is lower than other states

Gov. Charlie Baker announced good and bad news on Thursday requiring the anticipated surge of COVID-19 cases in the coming 20 days - with the good news being there are ample Acute beds and the state's death rate from COVID-19 is lower than other states, and the bad news being that even with an expansion of ICU beds at existing hospitals the state will likely be short up to 500 beds.

State officials, in response, are looking to build Field Hospitals to take the stress off of medical centers – including hiring a contractor that can quickly begin to build out places like the South Boston Convention Center if need be. The plan to build up to 1,000 beds in this fashion around the state.

Gov. Baker's COVID-19 Response Command Center today (April 2) outlined projections related to the anticipated surge of COVID-19 cases in the Commonwealth, which they believe will come between April 10-20.

The projections are the result of the Command Center's work with medical experts to complete modeling of the outbreak in Massachusetts. The Administration also detailed its efforts to respond to this surge, including a significant increase in hospital capacity, staffing, and equipment.

COVID-19 Surge Planning:

- Modeling and Projections:

The Administration's COVID-19 Response Command Center has been working with its Advisory Board of medical experts and epidemiologists from Harvard University, University of Guelph and Northeastern University to refine models related to the expected surge of COVID-19 cases. These efforts include modeling the surge's timing, number of cases, necessary bed capacity, and work to find facilities that will meet overflow capacity. The model's projections are based on the experience of Wuhan, China, but Massachusetts' trajectory could differ due to lower population density, lower smoking rates, and earlier social distancing measures. The Command Center has

also been comparing to experience in other states and around the world.

The model's latest projections estimate that the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts could range from 47,000 to 172,000 (or 0.7% to 2.5% of the total population of Massachusetts). The models show hospitalizations would potentially peak between April 10-20. The current fatality rate in Massachusetts is lower than other areas – it is approximately 1.5 percent of those infected. The Command Center is monitoring this statistic closely.

The COVID-19 Response Command Center is working with hospitals to provide them with flexibility to expand ICU capacity.

The Commonwealth is asking academic medical centers and teaching hospitals to work to significantly expand their ICU capacity. But after hospitals execute on their surge plans, the model estimates there could be a remaining gap in ICU capacity of more than 500 beds.

•Response Efforts:

In response, the Administration is aiming to find or build an additional 750 – 1,000 beds in field medical hospitals and other alternate care sites to reduce strain on hospitals as much as possible. Gov. Baker and Lt. Gov. Polito visited the first of these Field Medical Stations at the DCU Center yesterday.

The Administration has identified additional possible

sible sites for Field Medical Stations including the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Joint Base Cape Cod, Springfield's Mass Mutual Building and other smaller locations. The Administration has secured a contractor who can build out sites once a healthcare partner has been finalized.

The Command Center is also securing 1,000 beds in capacity for step down care options in nursing facilities for stabilized COVID-19 positive patients who can be transferred out of the hospital to make room for those with higher medical need.

United Way partners to create One Chelsea fund

The people of Chelsea, Massachusetts need help urgently.

Chelsea is home to some of the most vulnerable groups in the Boston region: newly-arrived immigrants, undocumented families, non-English speakers, and low-income workers and families with children.

As a frontline community, Chelsea residents already experience greater public health challenges. The economic, social, and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were immediate and dire for the

many in Chelsea who live one paycheck away from serious financial hardship. COVID-19 has magnified the ongoing struggles of our community: unstable and unaffordable housing, food insecurity, low wages, lack of English proficiency, and high rates of uninsured.

This week, the United Way has moved to create a fund to address this issues, working with local non-profits The Neighborhood Developers, Chelsea Collaborative and GreenRoots.

Please consider donating

to The One Chelsea Fund through the United Way. Any and ALL funds raised will go directly to Chelsea families impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. None of the dollars raised will go to any organization and no Fees will be incurred.

All Chelsea families will be eligible for a \$250 gift card/cash benefit directly from the funds raised through The One Chelsea Fund.

Visit unitedwaymass-bay.org/covid-19/the-one-chelsea-fund/.

Sen. DiDomenico urges residents to respond to the 2020 census

Sen. Sal DiDomenico put out a call to his constituents and residents across the Commonwealth to respond to the 2020 Census. Wednesday, April 1 was Census Day, a day to raise awareness and promote participation in the 2020 Census.

“Now more than ever, it is critical that we ensure everyone is counted in the 2020 Census,” said Senator Sal DiDomenico. “Our district and the entire Commonwealth depend on your household to respond so our communities get the fair share of federal funding and representation that we need and deserve. Furthermore, now is the perfect time for families who are spending a lot of time at home to fill out the census online, and I encourage them to respond to their questionnaire today.”

Preparations for the 2020 Census has been a top priority for Senator DiDomenico this legislative session. He has worked closely with the Massachusetts Census Equity Fund to secure funding needed in advance of the 2020 Census and to spread awareness on the importance of a complete and accurate census count. Throughout the legislative session, he has partnered with advocacy organizations to host legislative briefings at the Massachusetts State House to secure support for census funding in the state budget and help legislators and staff understand what is at stake in the 2020 Census.

Last budget cycle, DiDomenico played a key role in securing funding in the state budget that will help to ensure a complete and accurate count in the 2020 Census. The Senator and his House colleague Representative Michael Moran were the lead sponsors of an amendment in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget that provided \$2.5 million

to establish a grant program for statewide census outreach. This grant program will help to support trusted community organizations and grassroots leaders reach historically hard-to-count communities, such as Everett and Chelsea.

“With \$16 billion in federal funding to Massachusetts for programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP on the line, it is critical that we do everything we can to get an accurate Census count,” DiDomenico said. “More than half of my district's population lives in hard to count neighborhoods, which is why I know how important it is that we work with community based organizations that have trusted messengers to get out the count in 2020.”

While the COVID-19 crisis has created new obstacles to 2020 Census outreach, there are many ways that households can respond to the census without anyone having to come to their door.

Massachusetts residents can respond to the census today:

- Online at [HYPERLINK “http://my-2020census.gov”](http://my-2020census.gov) t “_blank” my2020census.gov
- Over the phone at 1-844-330-2020
- Or via mail (census forms were mailed to households across the nation last month)

Online responses and those done over the phone are available in over 13 languages.

The Census is a national population count that occurs once every decade. The results of the Census are used to make critical decision that will impact Massachusetts over the next ten years, such as federal funding for local communities, political representation throughout the Commonwealth, and even civil rights laws.

Meeting/Continued from Page 1

Ambrosino said it was a critical funding, and he credited the Council with their quick action in a new online format. The emergency money will be used for emergency housing, food purchases, hygiene items and isolation/quarantine buildings.

The Council also approved a measure that would continue property tax bills, excise tax bills and water and sewer bills, which were due in the coming weeks.

The Council voted unanimously to allow people more time to pay, calling for them to be paid by June 1, but giving a grace period without fees until June 30.

“As long as residents pay by June 30, you will not be charged any interest or fees,” said Ambrosino. “Essentially, you have until June 30 to pay even though the due date is now June 1.”



Council President Roy Avellaneda introduces a motion during the meeting.

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Independent's 2020 Easter Hunnies



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**HAVE AN EGGSTRA SPECIAL
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**HAPPY EASTER TO THE
RAMIREZ FAMILY FROM
MISS PENELOPE**



**HAPPY EASTER! STAY SAFE!
FROM KOBE**



**HAPPY EASTER!
LOVE BAXTER**



**HAPPY EASTER!
LOVEJAKE**



*Happy Easter
and Passover*



STAY HOME

Under normal circumstances, now would be a time of unity and gathering with family around the dinner table, and in the pews of your place of worship. In light of the novel coronavirus we urge you to celebrate together while keeping apart.

There has never been a more important time to stay at home.

In Solidarity.

Together we will overcome. Stay strong. Stay Safe. Stay Healthy.

Best wishes at this special time of the year.



If you need to reach my office at this time, please email: Dan.Ryan@MAhouse.gov or Call 617-722-2370, press #2

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Chelsea delegation announces passage of legislation providing immediate relief to municipalities and others

Sen. Sal DiDomenico, Representative Daniel Ryan, and Representative RoseLee Vincent, announced that the House and Senate passed a bill to provide necessary relief to municipalities, taxpayers, restaurants, and state authorities impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and State of Emergency declaration. The bipartisan legislation extends the state income tax filing deadline for residents; addresses disruptions in municipal tax collections and permitting; and allows licensed restaurants to sell certain alcoholic beverages with food take-out and delivery orders, among other provisions.

“Now more than ever, our communities, taxpayers,

and small businesses need extra support during these difficult times, said Senator DiDomenico. “I am proud of the action we have taken to provide relief for the hardworking people of our Commonwealth, and I am grateful to my colleagues in the Legislature, especially my partners in the Chelsea delegation, for ensuring that our residents and business community remain a top priority during this unprecedented crisis.”

‘I want to commend the House and Senate leadership for getting this bill to the Governor’s desk. Legislative bodies, by design, are accustomed to deliberation not immediacy,” said Representative Ryan. “We

are working collectively to get relief to our local communities as quickly as possible while respecting the confines of our Constitution. The will to work and work collectively is heartening.”

“Through this trying time, I am proud that the House and Senate are working together to swiftly enact policies that will have an immediate direct positive impact on our residents, communities and local businesses, and I am happy to support this measure,” said Representative RoseLee Vincent. “I thank Speaker DeLeo for shepherding this through the House and to Senator DiDomenico and the members of the Senate for taking quick action on

this bill which I believe will greatly benefit the people of Chelsea.”

The major provisions of the bill are as follows:

Tax Deadline Extension. The bill provides immediate relief to taxpayers and extends the 2019 state individual income tax filing and payment deadline from April 15 to July 15 due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. The extension of the tax filing and payment deadline to July 15 is consistent with the federal government and provides additional flexibility to filers during this crisis.

Restaurant Service. The bill includes immediate economic relief to restaurants and other establishments that are licensed to sell alcohol for on-premises consumption to sell wine and beer with food takeout and

delivery. This change would restore a crucial source of revenue to restaurants and other food establishments.

Municipal Governance. This legislation also immediately addresses several challenges affecting municipal functions and operations during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. The bill:

Allows extensions for property tax exemption and deferrals from April 1 to June 1, 2020;

Modifies the permitting process to ensure flexibility for applicants and status hearing processes;

Allows annual town meeting to be delayed beyond June 30, 2020;

Enables a town moderator or person designated as such to reschedule town meetings for up to 30 days, and to do so multiple times if needed;

Permits municipalities to utilize retired employees and lifts pension-related hour restrictions for employees who return to work as it relates to COVID-19 response; and

Prohibits essential services provided by the city or town from being terminated as a result of a missed or late payment.

The bill also makes several adjustments to the municipal budgeting process so that cities and towns can continue to meet their fiduciary responsibility and provide resources for their residents.

This legislation, which is the latest action by the Legislature to address the COVID-19 public health crisis and its effects on Massachusetts, was signed into law by Governor Baker on Friday.

POLICE Briefs

By SETH DANIEL

DAY CONSTRUCTION ON PEARL & WILLIAMS APRIL 6-10

Please be advised that there will be Day Construction taking place on Pearl & Williams on April 6 – 10, 2020 from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.

ARRESTS ARE LOW

Chelsea Police reported that arrests and calls for service were very low at the moment and there was very little to report.

Over the last seven days, there had been only one arrest, and it was related to a domestic situation.

SALVADORAN NATIONAL PLEADS GUILTY AND IS SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL

REENTRY AFTER DEPORTATION

A Salvadoran national pleaded guilty today in federal court in Boston to illegally reentering the United States after being deported.

Following the acceptance of his plea, U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani sentenced Oscar Armand Mejia, 42, of Lynn, to a sentence of “time-served,” approximately 6 weeks’ imprisonment. Following the sentencing hearing, Mejia will be transferred to ICE custody and be placed into removal proceedings.

According to court records, Mejia was arrested in 2008 by the Brockton Police and charged with assault and battery and drunk driving. Mejia was later convicted and ordered to serve a sentence of 90 days. After completing his sentence in Nov. 4, 2008, he was placed into removal

proceedings and deported to El Salvador. Sometime after his removal, Mejia illegally reentered the United States, was subsequently arrested by the Stoughton Police, and charged with drunk driving. Mejia appeared in state court, posted bail and was released. ICE was not contacted at that time. Mejia later defaulted in state court by failing to appear and a warrant was issued for his arrest. On Feb. 24, 2020, ICE located and arrested Mejia.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling and Marcos D. Charles, Acting Field Office Director, Enforcement and Removal Operations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Boston, made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth G. Shine of Lelling’s Major Crimes Unit prosecuted the case.

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.



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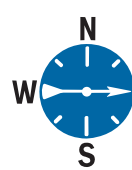
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I understand there are a bunch of unknowns with this pandemic but know this; East Boston Savings Bank has endured many devastating events in the past and has come through each of these stronger and more committed to our customers than ever.

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President, CEO and Chairman
East Boston Savings Bank



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PEOPLE OF CHELSEA PROJECT: PANDEMIC EDITION

PHOTOS BY DAR DEVITA

When Dar DeVita started working on her People of Chelsea project some time ago, she would have never believed how many interesting people she would meet. Even more so, she could have never believed that the project would wind its way through how Chelsea people were living through a worldwide pandemic.

“When this happened, I didn’t know if I should continue working or not,” she said. “I wanted to keep doing the project and if I did it while being safe and keeping social distance, I figured, why not?”

What DeVita found was amazing Chelsea people doing amazing things.

Her neighboring body shop owner riding his motorcycle to the shop and then visiting with his buddies at a proper social distance.

There was a music party in the parking lot of Spencer Lofts where residents relaxed together, but far away from one another.

A friend of hers, Maryellen Cahill, made cloth masks by the hundreds and then mailed them weekly to those who needed them.

So much was happening in the midst of nothing hap-

pening.

“It really is interesting,” she said. “I’ve been taking walks and documenting. It’s wild. It’s the importance of photography and shows how important it is to document a time like this. This is something we will look back on after we get through this...I think this project has been so fun and so important to do now. I want to keep it going, but now it’s different. Now is a very different time than before. I don’t think everything will go back to normal.”



Lofts resident Dick Laurie and little Luciana del Melle play a distant duo.



Residents of Spencer Lofts get time outdoors talking at a safe social distance. DeVita said they had assembled on their own and weren’t directed to move to the right spacing.



A Chelsea family waits in the line to get into Market Basket last weekend.



Social distancing in the line to get into Market Basket.



Brian Downing on his motorcycle.



Grocery store workers have been show great appreciation as they continue to work during the pandemic.



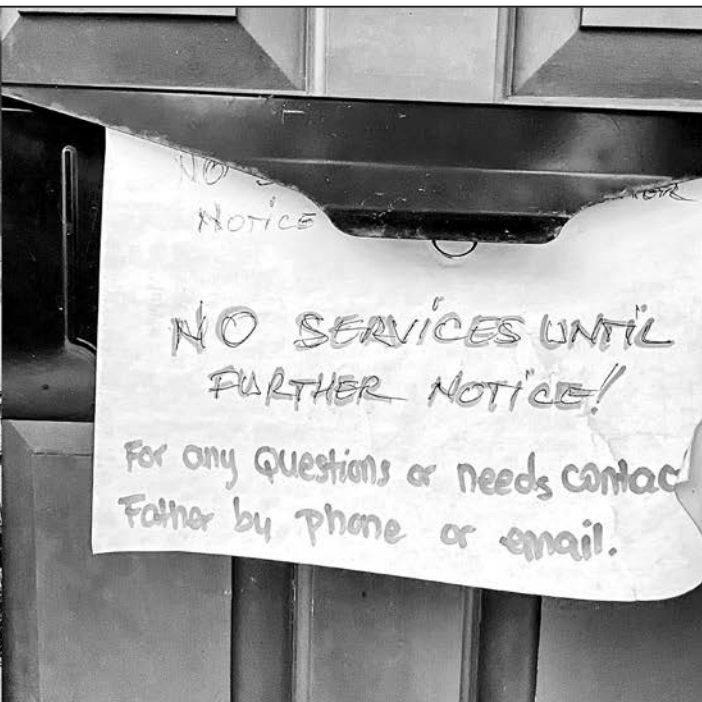
People in line at Market basket are good at keeping their distance from each other.



All spaced at least six feet apart, Brian Downing and his friends visit in the body shop near Spencer Avenue.



The faithful women of the Clark Avenue Middle School handing out breakfast and lunch last week.



Until Further Notice: The Russian Church, 1924. (St. Mary’s Russian Orthodox Church, Addison Street).



Spencer Lofts residents Maran Olsen and Olivier del Melle measure out the right distance to be at during a concert in the parking lot.

TO PLACE YOUR AD 781-485-0588

OBITUARIES

Edward John Malvarosa

Retired Beautician and Florist, Chelsea
Senior Center member

Edward John Malvarosa entered into eternal rest on Sunday morning, April 5, 2020 at the East Pointe Nursing Care Center in Chelsea. He was 94 years old.

Born in East Boston, the son of the late Thomas and Hilda (Vitale) Malvarosa, Edward grew up in Boston's North End. As a beautician and florist, Edward owned his own businesses. He owned and operated Malvarosa Florist in the North End and Eddie's Beauty Shop in Charlestown and the North End. Eddie retired in the early 1990's when he turned 65.

He was the devoted husband for 67 years to Dorothy E. (Hersh) Malvarosa and the couple has lived in Chelsea for the last 20 years. Eddie enjoyed bowling and drawing

during his retirement. He was a late member of the Chelsea Senior Center. He will be greatly missed by all who love him.

He was predeceased by his two children, Thomas E. Malvarosa and Lisa Ann Malvarosa. He was the dear brother of Rosemary DelPirore of Chelsea and the late Nancy Santaniello, Angelo Malvarosa, Francis Malvarosa, Anthony Malvarosa; dear uncle to his devoted niece, Janet Santaniello of Winchester. Eddie is also lovingly survived by many nieces and nephews.

In compliance with current COVID-19 regulations, a private graveside service was conducted at the family lot in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Carafa Family Funeral Home in Chelsea.

Patricia Fernandes

Best known for her independent spirit

Patricia R. (Martin) Fernandes of Chelsea, 87, passed away on Friday, April 3 at the Katzman Family Center for Living in Chelsea where she had been receiving supportive care for the past several years.

She was born and raised in New York City and was one of seven daughters given to the union of the late James and Anna (Feldman) Martin. She married in 1957 and soon relocated to East Boston, raising a family of three sons and one daughter.

She worked outside of her home to support her family, holding positions from bookkeeping at JC Penny to working as an office clerk with the IRS.

Patricia has been residing in Chelsea since 1980. She lived in several neighborhoods making her home from Orange Street to Franklin and Springvale Avenues. She settled for several years on Admirals Hill before going to the Katzman Center in Chelsea.

Wherever she lived, her home was always open, she most enjoyed entertaining and cooking for family and friends. Best known for her independent spirit, she is fondly remembered for her impeccable sense of fashion and dress and her love of music and dancing. She also enjoyed drawing and



painting.

She was the devoted mother of Kenneth J. DiCrescenzo of Lynn, Eric S. DiCrescenzo of Medford, Lorraine A. Easter of So. Berwick, Maine and the late James F. DiCrescenzo. She was the cherished grandmother of four: Christopher Abbott, Eric, Brandon and James DiCrescenzo and great grandmother of two; dear sister of Kathleen Tanskey and Claire Langevin, both of New Jersey, Blanche Squillante of Long Island, Anne DiPalermo of Staten Island and the late Rita Kling and Marilyn Belmonte.

A private family farewell service was held on Wednesday. Arrangements were given to the care and direction of the Welsh Funeral Home in Chelsea. For online guest book or to send expressions of sympathy, please visit; www.WelshFuneralHome.com.

HOLY WEEK AND PASSOVER SERVICES

•**First Congregational Church**
Pastor Ellen Rohan-Ball
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongChurch/>
Easter Sunday 10:45 a.m.

Thursday Zoom Communion Service 7 p.m.

•**Morning Star Catholic Collaborative**
Father John Sheridan
<https://www.morning-starcatholic.org>
Holy Thursday 7 p.m.
Good Friday 3 p.m.
Stations of the Cross Liturgy. 7 p.m.
Easter Vigil 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday Noon

•**New Life Christian Center Facebook**
Pastor Elliott Penn
<https://www.facebook.com/NewLifeChristianCenterChelsea/>
Good Friday Service 7 p.m.
Easter Sunday 10 a.m.

•**People's Chelsea A.M.E. Church**
Reverend Sandra Whitely, Pastor
Call 1-617-312-0957 to get service info the day before by 6 p.m.
<https://peoplesamechelsea.org>
Good Friday Service Noon
Easter Sunday 10:15 a.m.

•**St. Luke's-San Lucas Church**
Father Edgar Gutierrez-Duarte
<https://www.facebook.com/lukelucaschelsea/>
Holy Thursday - Holy Eucharist
English 6 p.m.
Spanish 7 p.m.
Good Friday - Stations of the Cross
English 2 p.m.
Spanish 3 p.m.
Good Friday Service
English 6 p.m.
Spanish 7 p.m.
Holy Saturday Holy Eucharist
English 6 p.m.
Spanish 7 p.m.
Easter Holy Eucharist
English 10 a.m.
Spanish Noon

•**St Rose of Lima Cath-**

olic Church
Father Hilario Sanz
<https://saintroselima.com>
SATURDAY MASS:
8 a.m. (Spanish)
10 a.m. (Vietnamese) 1st Saturday of each month
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS:
4 p.m. (English)
7 p.m. (Spanishh)
EASTER SUNDAY:
8:15 a.m. (Vietnamese)
10 a.m. (English)
11:30 a.m. (Spanish)
7 p.m. (Spanish)

•**Temple Emmanuel of Chelsea**
Rabbi Oksana Chapman
On Zoom – link will be provided by calling (603) 674-4796
Passover April 8 -16, 2020

Online Holy Week schedule from Cardinal Sean O'Malley

The Most Reverend Robert Reed, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston and President of CatholicTV said, "It's unprecedented to be unable to celebrate the holiest week of the year in our parishes, but through the gift of modern technology, CatholicTV allows us to gather virtually at the mother church of the Archdiocese with our shepherd, Cardinal Seán, for these sacred rites."

SCHEDULE

(CATHOLIC TV ONLY or CatholicTV.org – No in-person Masses)

•Holy Thursday, April 9
Mass of the Lord's Supper with Cardinal Seán O'Malley
CatholicTV broadcast LIVE at 7:30 p.m.

•Good Friday, April 10
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion with Cardinal Seán O'Malley
CatholicTV to broadcast LIVE at 3 p.m., rebroadcast 9:30 p.m.

•Holy Saturday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.

Solemn Vigil of Easter with Cardinal Seán O'Malley
CatholicTV to broadcast LIVE at 7:30 p.m.

•Easter Sunday, April 12, 8 a.m.

Mass of Easter Sunday with Cardinal Seán O'Malley
WLVI-TV to broadcast at 8-9 a.m. | CatholicTV to broadcast at 11 a.m., 7 p.m., and 11:30 p.m.

Ways to Watch the CatholicTV Network:

•Cable: Comcast Ch 268, Verizon Ch 296, RCN Ch 85
•Livestream: CatholicTVLIVE.com
•Daily Masses: WatchtheMass.com

Also available on Roku, Apple TV and Amazon FireTV, Samsung Smart TV, iOS and Android apps.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE

In accordance with Section 2-7 (b) and (d) of the Chelsea City Charter notice is hereby given that at a regular meeting of the Chelsea City Council held on April 6, 2020, the City Council voted to adopt the following emergency orders:

Ordered, that the

Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of \$500,000 from Free Cash to the HHS Department Administration Division, Operations Account #0151052-538201 COVID-19 Emergency Services Fund for food, hygiene supplies, and other expenditures to respond for the COVID-19 crisis. Ordered, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the City Manager to extend the date for tax payments of interest, penalties and late fees

on any excise tax, water charge or sewer charge, or other bill during the period of the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency to the full extent allowed by Massachusetts law. Copies of the orders are available at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 500 Broadway, Room 209, Chelsea, MA 02150. Jeannette Citron White City Clerk

4/9/20, 4/16/20

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SPRING SPORTS *Update*

Alpert looks ahead as Chelsea High exits CAC

By Cary Shuman

Chelsea High Director of Athletics Amanda Alpert is preparing for the start of the spring sports season on May 4 following the MIAA's recent decision to move up the season by one week from April 27.

Of note, Chelsea will be competing in its final season in the Commonwealth Athletic Conference (CAC) after being a member for the past 20 years. Chelsea will be an "independent" school in the 2020-21 school year and will rejoin the Greater Boston League in the fall of 2021.

After two decades of competing against mostly vocational schools including Northeast Regional and Lynn Tech, Chelsea will head to the GBL which consists of Everett, Malden, Medford, Somerville, and

Revere. Chelsea is a former member of the GBL.

"This is it for Chelsea in the Commonwealth Conference," said Alpert, who is her fourth year as athletic director. "Next year we'll be an independent for a year and then starting in the fall of 2021, we'll be joining the GBL."

Chelsea intends to play some GBL teams during the 2020-21 school year. Chelsea football will be an independent program in 2020 and continue in that status in the fall of 2021.

Practices start May 4

Alpert said if the schools re-open on May 4, Chelsea's baseball, softball, and track teams can begin practices on that day.

"All games would begin on May 11," said Alpert. "The minimum number of games we can play is eight

and the maximum number is 12. The State Tournament will start on June 20. If you do not qualify for the tournament, you can play games until June 27."

Alpert said two of Chelsea's teams will have new head coaches. Gena Restiano, who was the first-year girls basketball coach this winter, is the softball coach. Michael Lush, son of former Chelsea High baseball star Mike Lush and nephew of sports great Linda Lush Ayala, is the baseball coach. Cesar Hernandez returns as the head track coach.

Alpert is hoping that CHS athletes, especially the seniors, can return to the playing fields.

"All of our senior athletes are sad, frustrated, and upset by what's happening, because you only get one senior year," said Alpert.

and planning can lead to isolation and despair and the lack of predictability maximizes fear and anxiety.

Proactive Communication With Caregivers

During these times of great uncertainty, when families are prevented from visiting their loved ones in a facility, we believe nursing homes should be required to provide proactive communications to the primary caregiver(s) of nursing home residents regarding their physical and emotional health and more general updates with information for families. We urge the state to modify its guidance to reflect that nursing homes must also create additional or increase listserv communications; assign staff as primary

contact for families; offer a phone hotline for family members to get information about their loved one's care, and establish other opportunities to maintain communication between residents and their families.

We urge the state to adopt similarly strong language with regards to residents and their family members and family caregivers residing in other long term supportive service settings and residential settings, such as assisted living facilities and rest homes.

Virtual Visitation

In addition, we are concerned that nursing home residents going weeks or even months without any visits from loved ones is extremely serious, and the state directives should reflect this by requiring nursing homes to prioritize virtual visits and caregiver communications.

The Department of Public Health ordered that skilled nursing facilities should "restrict all non-essential visitors", but didn't make an allowance for virtual visitation. CMS guidance also contains a restriction on visitation, but

only advises that facilities "should consider" offering "alternative means of communication for people who would otherwise visit, such as virtual communications (phone, video-communication, etc.)."

During this stressful and difficult time when in-person visitation is very restricted, we strongly recommend that Massachusetts immediately modify its guidance to require nursing homes to offer and facilitate reasonable and practicable alternative means of communication for individuals who would otherwise visit, such as virtual communications. Such virtual visits can be essential to the emotional, mental, physical, and social well-being of nursing home residents. For some residents, these virtual visits may be the difference between life and death.

Given the widespread adoption of video-chat options (from FaceTime to Skype to Zoom and so on), AARP Massachusetts believes these virtual visitations must include the ability to communicate on video, not only for the emotional well-being of the resident, but also so family caregivers can ensure their loved ones are being well cared for. If funding is needed to ensure video-chat options, we encourage the provision of such funding and consideration of how such communications could be part of telehealth.

Conclusion

We appreciate the efforts of you and your Administration to ensure the health and safety of older Massachusetts residents living in the community and in residential settings such as nursing homes, rest homes and assisted living facilities. We urge you to address the above-listed concerns immediately.

AARP Massachusetts

JGBC, community leaders laud Kraft family's efforts during crisis

By Cary Shuman

Jordan Boys and Girls Club and community leaders are commending the Kraft family for their humanitarian efforts during the COVID-19 crisis.

Last week Patriots owner Robert Kraft and Patriots President Jonathan Kraft secured 1.2 million N95 masks from China to assist U.S. medical personnel in the fight against the coronavirus. The Kraft family allowed the use of the Patriots' team plane for the transporting of the masks. The family also donated \$2 million toward the purchase of the masks.

Chelsea residents have personally experienced the Kraft family's generosity and philanthropic efforts. It was the Kraft family who helped lead the way for the construction of the \$11 million Jordan Boys and Girls Club on Willow Street.

Josh Kraft, son of Robert Kraft and the late Myra Kraft, was instrumental in the building of the new clubhouse that serves hundreds of Chelsea boys and girls each day through programs in sports, technology, leadership, life skills, and the arts. Josh served as executive director of the JGBC and is currently the president and CEO of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston.

Mark Robinson, chair of the JGBC Breakfast Series

and a major donor to the Club, called the Kraft family's efforts in bringing the masks to the United States "an uplifting story."

"What an uplifting story it was showing the New England Patriots' plane arriving in Boston with the most essential needs for our medical community," said Robinson.

"Of course, it wasn't surprising," added Robinson. "The Kraft family has always been about giving back. When they see a need, they step in. It's exactly what happened in Chelsea. Josh Kraft saw a need for youth services in Chelsea and with the backing of the whole family, they made it happen. Although the Kraft Family will always be known as the owners of the New England Patriots, when it comes to giving back, charity, and making a difference, they are The First Family of New England."

Councillor-at-Large Leo Robinson, a supporter of the JGBC, also applauded the Kraft family for its humanitarianism in a time of dire need.

"The Kraft family stepped up during a critical situation for our country," said Robinson. "They helped America in such a big way and hopefully there will be some other people coming forward that can help make a difference."

Robinson said he has



Patriots owner Robert Kraft.



Josh Kraft.

seen the Kraft family performing philanthropic deeds in the past.

"I am not surprised that the Kraft family would step up to the plate and figure out a way to help out," said Robinson. "Mrs. Kraft was so great in giving back to the community. Mr. Kraft and the family in this instance found a way to get those vital masks to the United States and they stepped up and they did it."

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PALM SUNDAY MASS



PHOTO BY STEPHEN W. FIELDING

A Palm Sunday Mass celebrated by Fr. John Sheridan was live-streamed to parishioners of the Morning Star Catholic Collaborative (St. Mary of the Assumption, Revere and Our Lady of Grace, Chelsea/Everett) on Sunday, April 5. Close to 400 parishioners viewed this Eucharistic Celebration on the Collaborative's Facebook and web page. The upcoming Holy Triduum services and the Stations of the Cross will also be live-streamed. For more information call the parish office at (781) 284-5252.