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CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

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35 CENTS

At East Boston Savings Bank, safety for staff and customers comes first

By John Lynds

East Boston Savings Bank Chairman and CEO Richard Gavegnano said each relationship that the bank has with employees, customers, and the communities the bank serves matters to him greatly.

So, as the public health concern surrounding COVID-19 grows the bank has been keeping its staff and customers informed on the precautionary steps EBSB has been taking.

“We are working hard to do everything we can to be prepared and the safety of our employees and customers is the most important thing,” said Gavegnano. “We are providing gloves, masks, sanitizer, and practicing social distancing. Any employee feeling that they cannot work due to any medical issues or family needs can work from home and we are paying all these employees.”

See EBSB Page 5

The Quaranteens: CHS yearbook staff looks for student stories

By Seth Daniel

Like most things about the Class of 2020, the yearbooks has a lot of question marks on its pages.

Will there be spring sports to highlight?

Are prom pictures going to be featured?

What will replace the cancelled NHS induction?

No one is sure what the final product will look like, but the closure of Chelsea High and the isolation of its students has not stopped the Yearbook Club from thinking creatively. Knowing that they needed to acknowledge the COVID-19 experience somewhere in the yearbook, they decided to dedicate the

See STORIES Page 11

To slow community spread, cities of Chelsea and Revere open “The Inn”

Temporary housing for residents to safely quarantine, recover from COVID-19

In a joint effort to slow community transmission of COVID-19, Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo and Chelsea City Manager Tom Ambrosino today announced a site for non-congregate housing to open Thursday for those recovering from the virus, do not require hospital care, and are in need of a safe place to quarantine.

The Quality Inn in Re-

vere agreed to allow the use of the entire building for the next 60 days to provide an alternative, safe housing solution for Chelsea and Revere residents who live in overcrowded housing conditions or would otherwise be at risk of spreading the virus within their community.

Partners HealthCare has stepped up to serve as

See INN Page 2



Chelsea City Manager Tom Ambrosino speaks in front of the Quality Inn announcing the temporary housing available there.



On the steps of City Hall, a volunteer hands out the One Chelsea Fund checks to qualified recipients during a distribution this week. The fund is looking to help people on the edge and is sponsored by the United Way.

Community Leaders, United Way launch One Chelsea Fund

Community leaders in Chelsea, in partnership with City Manager Tom Ambrosino and United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley announced the establishment of the One Chelsea Fund to mobilize resources to provide emergency assistance to individuals and families impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

The fund has already disbursed the first \$250 checks this week to help those in crisis.

“Since this crisis hit our community, we have seen people and organizations

come together swiftly and decisively to meet the needs of individuals and families who are being severely impacted,” said City Manager Tom Ambrosino. “Yet as a community that is already home to some of the most vulnerable populations in our region, the needs created by the COVID-19 crisis far outweigh these efforts. We thank the leaders of our community for creating the One Chelsea Fund in partnership with United Way to help those who are facing increased economic insecurity during this unprecedented and challenging

time.”

The One Chelsea Fund will provide financial relief to Chelsea individuals and families to meet their basic needs. The City and community leaders from The Chelsea Collaborative, GreenRoots, and The Neighborhood Developers will quickly and equitably distribute financial resources to our neighbors in crisis. Funds in the amount of \$250 will be distributed at Chelsea Bank, as a direct deposit, a check, or as a direct payment to a vendor. Funding will initially

See FUND Page 3

Emergency letter triggers major response from Gov. Charlie Baker

By Seth Daniel

Sounding a major alarm, a host of City and state leaders and hospital executives wrote an emergency letter on Friday, April 10, pleading for more resources as Chelsea’s COVID-19 infection rate surged higher and higher.

By mid-week, City leaders said the call had been heard.

The letter was signed by 47 individuals, including City Manager Tom Ambrosino, Council President Roy Avellaneda, MGH President Peter Slavin and Beth Israel Lahey Health CEO Kevin Tabb – among

others.

“We implore you to take immediate action,” read the letter. “Our cases are growing at a phenomenal rate and we have not yet reached the ‘peak’.”

The letter reports that, even though rates are not 100 percent verified, that Chelsea is experiencing the highest infection rate in the state by a huge margin. It read Chelsea’s rate is more than 106 per 10,000 people, which is much larger than the next highest rate in Massachusetts, that being Lawrence with a rate of 75 per 10,000.

“Our rates are not only significantly higher than

other communities, as far as we can tell, but there is a significant gap between what we are experiencing in our community and the next highest community,” read the letter. “Chelsea’s per capita rate is higher than some of the hardest hit boroughs of New York City, the epicenter of the virus in the United States. As community leaders, public health professionals, researchers, organizers and elected officials, we understand that these rates are not a perfect re-

See LETTER Page 3

TRASH
NOTICE

Due to the
holiday, trash will
be delayed by
one day.

INDEPENDENT
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Beacon of Hope

City, state officials laud emergency response from Gov. Baker to Chelsea

By Seth Daniel

After sending an emergency letter last week backed up by hospital, non-profit and state leaders, City Manager Tom Ambrosino said state government had responded in a major way to the requests.

“It was the letter that advocated for the services and the numbers are shockingly bad in Chelsea,” he said Wednesday morning. “Governor Baker really came through and has mobilized a lot of people to help us. They’ve given us the full support of the National Guard with food and testing services for everyone and support for

the Quality Inn opening up today. I don’t know what they did behind the scenes, but I think there was a lot of push.”

State Rep. Dan Ryan, who also signed the letter, said they responded admirably after the emergency letter.

“This country and Commonwealth were not ready to respond to this pandemic,” he said. “That being the case, the people of Chelsea along with City Manager Ambrosino, the City Council, School Committee, first responders and medical personnel have responded admirably. I want to thank

See RESPONSE Page 11

Rates continue to climb in Chelsea, as cases soar over 600 this week

By Seth Daniel

The numbers of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Chelsea continue to climb higher and higher this week, with a supposed infection rate of well over 100 per 10,000 residents – the highest rate in the state and hovering around rates seen in hard-hit areas of New York City.

On April 14, the City reported there were 618 cases in Chelsea, with 154 patients having recovered. There were 23 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in the City as of April 14.

“It is true that Chelsea has the highest rate of contagion in the Commonwealth,” said Ambrosino.

“The best advice I can give to the residents is stay at home unless you have essential reason to travel.”

This week, Chelsea took more strict measures when it came to wearing masks, making it mandatory to have a face covering even if going to the grocery store. Anyone who works in an essential business must have a face covering over their nose and mouth. Also anyone visiting an essential business, such as a grocery store, must have a face covering over their nose and mouth when they enter the business.

Under the City order, stores can actually stop one from entering if they aren’t

See CLIMB Page 2

PUBLIC NOTICE FROM THE CITY OF CHELSEA

National Guard in Chelsea no cause for alarm

The City is aware that a lot of people in our community are struggling to access food, either because they no longer have a source of income or because they must quarantine at home while someone is sick. With the help

of the Baker Administration, the City is working to mobilize all available resources to help.

Later this week, members of the Massachusetts National Guard will be coming to Chelsea to help with the distribution of food and other essential

See NOTICE Page 3

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Classes begin Monday, April 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mon. - Fri. for 3 weeks
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For the latest news in Chelsea that you need to know, check
chelsearecord.com

CHA to roll out new, fast COVID-19 testing at hospitals

By Seth Daniel

In the fast-changing and complex world of testing for the COVID-19 virus, CHA Everett officials announced this week what is a major piece of good news for the group’s network of community hospitals in Everett, Cambridge and Somerville – that being the offering of a rapid test that can be done in-house with results in hours rather than days.

Dr. Rebecca Osgood, chief of pathology and clinical labs for Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA), said on Monday that the hospital network has rolled out new rapid testing capabilities at its Cambridge location, and will soon have it up and running at the CHA Everett hospital as well. It is a major breakthrough for the communities served by CHA Everett – which have experienced some of the highest rates of infection in the state – whereby more people can be tested and get results much faster.

“Up until now, we’ve not been able to do testing in-house,” she said. “We’ve had to send our tests out to three labs after collecting samples...I’m happy to announce as of Monday we have our own in-house testing with a real-time PCR...One of my goals is to improve the lab resource at CHA Everett. We will be having the test at that site. Currently we’re only using it at Cambridge...but bringing it to Everett is important because Everett is very, very busy. It’s really a very, very busy campus. It is really a community that has benefitted from the presence of CHA being there in the community for them.”

Testing for the COVID-19 virus has been a confusing matter for doctors, public health officials, patients and the general public. Almost weekly there seems to be some sort of breakthrough, but each test seems to have its own set of positives and negatives. Keeping track of just how one can be tested is next to impossible. However, Dr. Osgood clarified exactly how it’s being done at CHA.

The new quick-test that is now being offered is the Cepheid Analyzer Xpert Xpress system – which is compatible with lab equipment at the CHA campuses. It takes just 4-6 hours to get a result, and is done with a nasal swab. It was developed, like most tests, very quickly and only given emergency authorization from the federal government on March 22.

CHA Everett has also been using three other real-time PCR tests that have to be sent out for lab analysis. They are using a COC Assay test that goes out to the State Lab in Jamaica Plain and takes 2.1 days on average for a result. They also partner with Labcorp on testing, which uses the Roche Analyzer test and has a turnaround time of 1.8 days. Meanwhile, their



The Cepheid Analyzer Xpert Xpress COVID-19 testing system has been rolled out in-house at Cambridge Health Alliance this week – allowing patients to get a test result in 4-6 hours rather than one to two days. The testing is available now at the Cambridge site and will be coming to CHA Everett very soon.

clinical affiliate Beth Israel has been working with CHA Everett to do testing using the Abbott quick-test, which is sent out to Beth Israel for analysis and returned on average in 0.93 days.

She said they are doing about 140 to 160 tests per day and, as of mid-day April 13, had completed 3,071 tests since around March 11.

“All of these tests are pretty rapidly produced, but when you send them out to another lab, it’s a lot of transportation time,” she said. “It’s really a breakthrough to have testing done here in our own lab. It means a result in 4 to 6 hours...The other tests are all about one or two days, so being able to do it in-house is a much better situation. Time is very important to our patients.”

Dr. Osgood said they hope to be able to radically expand testing soon in Everett to help with the next stage of treating and detecting the sickness. However, that is hampered by one thing – a lack of swabs.

“Our plan is really to expand testing throughout the communities we’re involved in I believe,” she said. “That is something to expect, but what’s holding us back is the swab availability and the inability to get in new swabs. I’ve tried and tried to order more, but we can’t get them in.”

She said, as a pathologist, not having swabs to use – a standard and plentiful piece of equipment in normal times for any medical lab – would have never occurred to her.

“Absolutely never,” she said. “Who would have ever believed that I would have asked a colleague at the MIT Labs if they can 3-D print a swab? No one could have predicted that, but we have asked.”

New Testing Coming

While all of the testing right now is being done through nasal or oral swabs with what is known as rapid-time PCR testing, a new test is coming online known as serology – which tests for antibodies in the blood. Rather than taking a sam-

ple from the nose, the test is done by taking blood. Lab workers then analyze the blood for antibodies from the immune system, which helps them to know if one has had the COVID-19 virus and has recovered.

She said within a week, they hope to be able to do such testing with their partner, Labcorp. Within two weeks, she said they hope to be able to have the testing in their in-house lab. She said it is this testing that has been on the news a lot lately, and particularly the one that is talked about a lot in presidential press conferences.

“When you get a test in-house like that, we can’t start it right away,” she said. “That’s hard to understand, even for doctors. We have to go through a quality control process and make sure it meets the standards.”

Once that is up and running, it will prevent needing to use swabs, but it will also be able to likely tell if you have had the virus and recovered. It is not a new concept, she said, and has been used for years to detect if one has had the mumps or any other such disease.

“It is simply measuring the immune system anti-body response to the organism,” she said. “In this case, testing will look at your anti-body response to COVID-19. If you have a good enough response, we’ll know you had the virus. Those patients are going to be important for the Red Cross because the Red Cross is looking for donors who have recovered after a certain period of time. They will be able to donate their plasma to help our patients who are struggling with COVID-19.”

There has already been great work and research done on treating sick patients with anti-bodies in the blood of recovered patients, and it does seem to have good results. Once those serology tests are performed, the Red Cross is hoping to be able to provide this therapy more often on patients who are sick.

It will also be an important part of figuring out if there is natural immunity to the COVID-19 virus, and whether or not someone can get it more than once. If the serology test shows that someone has had the virus, and then they show up sick again – it will raise many new questions that have not been posed just yet.

False Negatives

There are also many concerns with testing for COVID-19 due to potential false negatives – where a test shows that a person doesn’t have the virus, but they actually do have it.

It does happen, Dr. Osgood said.

The real-time PCR tests use a nasal or oral swab to collect viral material from the upper respiratory system. Detecting the virus depends on timing and the success of the test collection – a collection that is very uncomfortable and requires the swab to be in-

serted far into the sinuses for up to 30 seconds.

In that method, only about 60 to 70 percent of those with the virus had a positive test, according to data released from testing in China. A lower respiratory test was more accurate, around 90 to 100 percent. However, that requires a timely, invasive procedure to gather samples from the lungs.

Some of the restrictions on the upper respiratory test are whether or not the sample was done correctly, and whether the patient has come in too early.

“You actually might have a falsely negative specimen at the beginning,” she said. “There is no perfect test. We’re taught in medical school there are always tests with false positives and false negatives. In this test, false positives are very rare, but false negatives can happen...It could be the testing wasn’t done as vigorously as it should have been. You’re supposed to be in there 15 to 30 seconds and it is uncomfortable. It could be you came in too early and your virus level isn’t as high.”

She said that is one reason they use the test as just one piece of data to diagnose the virus. CHA Everett is tending to look at the whole patient picture, including what kinds of symptoms they have. If they test negative, but have all of the correct symptoms of COVID-19, there is an assumption that the patient is probably sick.

Right now, at the CHA network, they are testing positive at a rate of 31.9 percent. That is 10 percent higher than the state average of 21.9 percent. Overall, employees at CHA are testing a lot lower than both averages – around 10 to 15 percent positive, which is good news.

“That is consistent with other hospitals in the area,” she said.

Overall Challenges For Testing

The challenge overall for increased testing of more people in Everett, Chelsea and Revere will be materials. As Dr. Osgood said above, swabs are in short supply, but testing kits are also in short supply, as well as equipment.

While they have the Cepheid machinery, they have also tried to procure the Abbott ID Now machinery which helps process the Abbott quick-tests.

“I’ve asked for that machine and they think it will be months,” she said. “They can’t even tell me when I’ll be able to be put on a wait list for an instrument.”

She said other testing kits are also in short supply right now.

“Just like masks goggles, gowns and gloves, testing is in really short supply,” she said. “We try to get an order in...The pandemic has really shown how important it is to have all these supplies ready at any time. It’s really been an interesting experience.”

the Chelsea clinical command and they are being augmented by recently established contracts with six agencies to fill open slots with contract staff. As staff testing results are returned, there are currently 42 staff who have tested positive and are therefore quarantined and out from work. Existing staff are being provided emotional support through the Employee Assistance Program.

Families can request updates on their loved ones by contacting the Home at [HYPERLINK “mailto:CSH@mass.gov”](mailto:CSH@mass.gov) at “_

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the healthcare management team offering in-room health care services, eliminating the need for individuals to travel to doctors’ offices or hospitals, and a third-party management company will oversee all non-medical related operations, including private security. North Suffolk Mental Health Association will provide mental health support services. Plans for The Inn were developed with support from MEMA, the Department of Public Health and the Governor’s Office, and public safety and health officials from both Revere and Chelsea.

“We know the best way to protect all our residents from this virus is to prevent exposure to it in the first place,” said Mayor Arrigo. “Providing a safe place for quarantine to those who need it is a critical part of our strategy to slow community transmission in Revere.”

“This partnership of two cities working in concert with state partners is critical if we hope to slow the pandemic in the hard hit communities of Chelsea and Revere,” said City Manager Ambrosino. “This temporary housing will ensure that the health of all of our residents, and most especially those in over-crowded units, is protected.”

An individual that is eligible to stay at The Inn will: be a resident of Revere or Chelsea; be Covid-19 positive; have been determined by a doctor that they do not

currently require hospital care;

and be living in a situation where significant challenges are presented for self-quarantining or isolation.

Public officials in Chelsea and Revere, in consultation with medical experts, will confirm an individual meets eligibility requirements. There will be no acceptance of “walk-in” patients.

The Inn will provide individuals who live in homes where they are at high-risk of spreading infection of this highly contagious virus and provide a safe, secure and fully-staffed location to support necessary medical needs. Most rooms will be for individuals, and some rooms may be utilized by families.

Seventy five percent of the costs associated with The Inn’s operation will be covered by FEMA, with substantial additional support from MEMA. The remainder will be financed equally by the Cities of Revere and Chelsea. All patients and staff will be provided the necessary Personal Protective Equipment by MEMA. MEMA will also provide for delivery of three meals a day to all patients. Revere and Chelsea police will provide additional 24-hour security initially, to be continued as long as deemed necessary. Revere Fire and Cataldo Ambulance will manage emergency response to the building.

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supplies.

There is no need to be alarmed by the presence of the Massachusetts National Guard. These are not ICE or Immigration police.

The Guard will be here solely on a humanitarian mission to provide help to the City, at the City’s specific request. They may wear a uniform, but they are not the U.S. military. The women and men of the Massachusetts National Guard live in every community in the Commonwealth, including in Chelsea. In this humanitarian effort, they will be working alongside employees from the City of Chelsea and partners from the Salvation Army and other nonprofit organizations, to help you.

The members of the Massachusetts National Guard will not inquire about your immigration status, nor about how you arrived in this City. Your documentation status is of no concern to them. They are just here to help you during this emergency.

-
-
-

La ciudad está en conocimiento de que muchas personas en nuestra comunidad tienen dificultades para acceder a alimentos porque ya no tienen una

fuentes de ingresos o porque deben permanecer en la casa en cuarentena mientras alguien está enfermo. Con la ayuda de la Administración Baker, la Ciudad está trabajando para movilizar todos los recursos disponibles para ayudar.

Al final de esta semana miembros de la Guardia Nacional prestarán su apoyo a los esfuerzos de distribución de alimentos y suministros esenciales a los residentes de Chelsea.

No hay necesidad de alarmarse. Estos no son agentes de ICE o policías de inmigración.

Las mujeres y los hombres de la Guardia Nacional de Massachusetts viven en todas las comunidades de la Commonwealth, incluso en Chelsea. En este esfuerzo humanitario, trabajarán junto con empleados de la ciudad de Chelsea y organizaciones aliadas como son el Salvation Army y otras organizaciones sin fines de lucro.

Los miembros de la Guardia Nacional de Massachusetts no le preguntarán sobre su estado migratorio ni sobre cómo llegó a esta ciudad. Su estado de documentación no les concierne. Solo están aquí para ayudarlo durante esta emergencia.

Climb / Continued from Page 1

wearing a face covering. Individuals also must keep a six-foot social distance in those businesses or at work, or they can also be removed.

“The City of Chelsea has the highest rate of COVID-19 infection in the state,” read a City statement. “We must do everything we can to keep everyone in our community safe. Because even people with no symptoms can still carry COVID-19 and infect others, it is a top priority right now that everyone wear masks or face coverings.”

One hot spot in Chel-

sea has been the Soldiers’ Home, where cases and deaths continue to mount. As of Wednesday, there had been 12 veteran resident deaths, with eight of them positive for COVID-19 and four negative.

There are 23 veteran residents with COVID-19 confirmed cases and 216 veteran residents that have tested negative for the virus. There are 49 staff who have had a positive COVID-19 test.

A spokesman for the Home said all residents had been tested, and their results received. Those

who are positive have been isolated and their health is being monitored closely. The Home is also beginning to accept veteran residents to back into the Home who had tested positive. They have all been medically cleared to return to the facility, but will stay in a dedicated ward where they will be monitored for any setbacks.

Additional isolated wards have been created for veteran residents who have tested negative, but appear to have symptoms.

Staffing levels continue to be monitored closely by

blank” CSH@mass.gov.

The climbing rates among low-income, communities of color, low-wage workers and those in nursing homes has underlined and shone a light on inequities that exist in society, Ambrosino said.

He said it has never been more clear how unfair things are in the country, particularly in places like Chelsea.

“I think there’s no question this pandemic has shined a very, very harsh spotlight on the inequities that exist in American society right now,” he said.

“This pandemic has underscored the things that people in low-wage jobs, who are low-income and live in crowded conditions in places like Chelsea, Lawrence and Brockton face all the time. These are the people who are keeping this system running now. The grocery clerks, the food distributors. These people are doing essential work and provide work that keeps everyone going and they get by on dirt pay in when the economy is going well. They are essential now and are a group at a very high risk.”

State construction projects will continue through COVID-19

By Seth Daniel

Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollack said on Monday that state bridge and roadway work – such as the North Washington Street Bridge project or the Mystic/Tobin rehabilitation work – will continue on through the COVID-19 response while using protective measures on the job sites.

“On the one hand, we have to address health and safety first, but on the other hand it is construction season and we have a limited construction season here,” she said. “In any case we can continue safely with construction, we hope to do so.”

Critical infrastructure and repair work has been deemed essential since the beginning of the COVID-19 response, as has most construction, but some have opted to shut down for worker safety anyhow. Pol-

lack said completing projects can be done as long as it is done with care.

She said they have new job site protocols and are requiring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with a zero tolerance policy towards those that don’t follow their explicit direction.

Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver said they have been taking precautions with their own staff that investigates sites for compliance, and also a set of precautions for the contractor community.

All sites must practice social distancing first and foremost, he said. When that’s not possible, they turn to protective equipment.

“When social distancing isn’t possible as part of construction, such as working inside a mechanical room or placing a beam when two people have to be in close quarters with one another, in these situations contractors are expected to imple-

ment protections by supplying masks and eyewear and other PPE that is necessary to do that operation in a safe way,” he said. “We’ve been really clear with contractors and our staff that to be prepared with PPE is as essential as having a hard hat on the job.”

Gulliver said they are prepared to shut down job sites that don’t comply, but so far they haven’t had to.

“There have been no occurrences where we’ve had to do a full shutdown, but we’ve had to ask contractors to modify their work in several important ways,” he said.

•In news from the Registry, it was reported that the federal government has given the state an extension to comply with the Real ID requirement.

Everyone with a license was supposed to have a new Real ID by October. Now, that has been continued to next year.

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flection of reality. However, we also understand that Chelsea is in desperate need of state assistance.”

MGH officials reported in the letter that 40 percent of the hospital’s positive COVID-19 infections are non-English speakers and more than half of those are Latino.

“As a working class community, the majority of whom are Latinx, many of our residents are considered essential workers during this crisis,” read the letter. “Whether they are in hospitality industries, supermarket/grocery store, transportation, maintenance workers, etc. These residents are carrying out essential services during this pandemic, and compromising their own health and that of their families and our community.”

The conglomeration of leaders called on Gov. Charlie Baker to help Chelsea specifically on four major points, including:

- Funding for emergency food, medical, and cleaning supplies.
- Funding for emergency housing of displaced residents due to positive COVID-19 tests.
- Multilingual communication support to alert residents of the severity of this crisis.
- Manpower/resources to coordinate with the City’s existing efforts to effectively operationalize the aforementioned services and resources.

The City and a number of stakeholders – including police, fire, ambulance, medical professionals and non-profit leaders - have banded together like never before during the crisis. Every day at 4 p.m. they con-

duct a conference call with nearly 70 to 80 people on the line, Ambrosino said.

He said he was proud that so many have come together to form task forces and to solve problems, but he added that no matter how much they do, they cannot meet every need that is out there.

That has been the genesis of the letter that came out today, with Ambrosino saying with emphasis on Wednesday that resources should not be distributed equally throughout the state. He called, then, on the governor to marshal resources to hardest-hit areas like Chelsea, Revere, Lawrence and Brockton.

Those who also signed the letter included the following:

- Councillor Damali Viodot
- Roseann Bongiovanni, GreenRoots
- Maria Belen Power, GreenRoots
- State Rep. Dan Ryan
- State Rep. Roselee Vincent
- Councillor Leo Robinson
- Councillor Enio Lopez
- Councillor Giovanni Recupero
- Councillor Yamir Rodriguez
- Councillor Judith Garcia
- Councillor Calvin Brown
- Councillor Naomi Zabor
- Councillor Melinda Vega Maldonado
- CAPIC Director Richelle Cromwell
- TND Director Rafael Mares
- Chelsea Community Connections Director Cara Cogliano
- Chelsea Black Commu-

nity President Joan Cromwell

- School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia
- School Committeeman Roberto Jimenez-Rivera
- School Committee-woman Marisol Santiago
- School Committee-woman Jeanette Velez
- School Committee-woman Ana Hernandez
- School Committee-woman Lucia Henriquez
- School Committee-woman Rosemarie Carlisle
- School Committeeman Henry Wilson
- School Committee-woman Yessenia Alfaro
- GreenRoots Board Chair Madeleine Scammell
- Roberta White, BU School of Public Health
- Jonathan Levy, BU School of Public Health
- Francine Laden, Harvard Chan School of Public Health
- Richard Clapp, BU School of Public Health
- David Ozonoff, BU School of Public Health
- M. Patricia Fabian, BU School of Public Health
- Laura Senier, Northeastern University
- John Durant, Tufts School of Engineering
- Karl Kelsey, Brown U. School of Public Health
- Patrick Kinney, BU School of Public Health
- Marco Luna, Salem State University/GreenRoots
- Seth Tuler, Worcester Polytech
- Eugene Benson, GreenRoots Board
- Rev. Sandra Whitley, Peoples AME Church
- Rev. Ellen Rohan Ball, First Congregational Church Chelsea
- Joe Mahoney, Chelsea Chamber president

Fund / Continued from Page 1

be limited to one check per family. As the fund grows, community leaders will work to expand access and amounts.

“With many families in Chelsea already one paycheck away from financial hardship, the economic, social, and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were immediate and severe,” said Michael K. Durkin, President and CEO at United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. “Individuals and families who have unexpectedly lost jobs or wages should not have to make painful choices between rent, food, medicine or other basic needs. Through the One Chelsea Fund, we can both mobilize people to help and connect

those in need with critical resources.”

To donate, visit <https://unitedwaymassbay.org/covid-19/the-one-chelsea-fund/>. One hundred percent of donations will go to individuals and families in need. Donations are tax-deductible, and no fees will be charged beyond what the credit card company requires. Alternatively, donations may be made by check and mailed to United Way of Massachusetts Bay; P.O. Box 51381, Boston, MA 02205-1381. Please make checks out to “United Way of Massachusetts Bay” and include “One Chelsea Fund” in the memo of the check.

The three organizations facilitating the distribution of funds are The Chelsea

Collaborative, GreenRoots, and The Neighborhood Developers. Each organization is creating a list of names of individuals/families in need. As soon as funds become available, these three organizations will provide names to Chelsea Bank for check distribution. Individuals seeking financial assistance due to the impact of COVID-19 can contact these organizations to be added to a list:

- The Chelsea Collaborative: Dinanyili Paulino
- GreenRoots
- The Neighborhood Developers Pandemic Hotline

Residents seeking additional support services should call 311 or 617-466-4209.

POLICE Briefs BY SETH DANIEL AND PAUL KOOLLOIAN

SIX FEET AWAY PLEASE!

On March 16, at 8:16 a.m. officers were dispatched to the Market Basket for a report of a disruptive customer. Officers were told a dispute started in the checkout line because of one shopper felt it was unsafe due to the COVID-19 virus that the combative party would not stay at least six feet away. The customer became uncooperative with three officers who struggled to place him into custody after several warnings for him to finish his shopping and leave the store.

Connor Groom, 28, of Peabody, was charged with assault and battery, disorderly conduct, threatening to commit a crime, and trespassing.

CHELSEA RESIDENT ARRESTED FOR SHOOTING

Three days after a non-fatal shooting near the Boston Common, Boston Police investigators have arrested three individuals on April 10 for their roles in connection to the incident, one from Chelsea. At about 4:23pm, on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, officers from District A-1 (Downtown) responded to a call for a person shot in the area of 37 Beacon St. On arrival, officers located a male victim suffering from a gunshot wound. The victim, suffering from non-life threatening injuries, was transported to an area hospital for further treatment of his injuries. At about 3 p.m., on Friday, April 10, officers arrested Karmau Cotton-Landers, 25, of Chelsea, Karari Jenkins, 30, of Boston and Vinico Acosta, 25, of Boston and charged all three with Assault with Intent to Murder. Officers were able to discover and recover a firearm found in a backpack belonging to Cotton-Landers. As such,

Cotton-Landers is facing additional charges including Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition and Carrying a Loaded Firearm on a Public Way.

CHILD ENDANGERMENT, OUI

On March 22, at 5:15 p.m., an officer was dispatched to 260 Clark Ave. for a report of a male party unconscious behind the wheel with a little girl in the car. The operator was believed to be overdosing on a controlled substance. The male was administered Narcan and revived. The officer made notification to the Department of Children and Families who assisted with placing the child and charged the operator with OUI drugs.

Kelvin Sunsinsin, 28, of Everett, was charged with operating under the influence of drugs, child endangerment while OUI, reckless endangerment to children, reckless operation and malicious destruction of property under \$1,200.

BEWARE OF STIMULUS CHECK SCAMS

Congress has approved a stimulus plan that will provide most Americans with a check to offset lost income due to the Covid-19 state of emergency. Checks will be sent in a few weeks. This means that you will receive a direct deposit check to your bank account (if you included that information when filing your last tax return) or a paper check that will be mailed to you.

Scammers are already trying to take advantage of this situation.

How to Spot a COVID-19 Federal stimulus scam:

- Government agencies will not contact you through social media, phone, text or email.

- Government agencies will not ask you to verify your personal information or provide banking details. It is not “necessary” to provide this information in order to receive your stimulus check.
- Government agencies will not ask for your social security number.
- Government agencies will not contact you to get your funds “immediately” or “faster”.
- Government agencies will not ask you to pay a “processing fee.”

If a scammer calls or contacts you, don’t engage. You should just hang up or delete the email. Do not click on any links.

WATCH OUT FOR: Imposter Government websites. Make sure it is a legitimate government website before believing any information provided to you. When in doubt, assume it is a scam. Legitimate government websites: www.irs.gov/coronavirus and <https://home.treasury.gov/>

REPORT SCAMS TO: Federal Trade Commission: <https://www.ftc.gov/>

ATTACKED WITH KNIFE

On March 21, at 7:15 p.m., officers responded to 75 Pearl St. on a report of a past assault. Officers arrived and spoke to the victim who stated that he asked the third-floor tenant to move from the front stair because he was blocking the way. The victim said the male took out a knife and made an assertive slashing motion with the knife, grazing the face causing a noticeable but not serious wound. Officers were able to locate the suspect later in the evening and took him into custody.

Juan Mata, 18, of 75 Pearl St., was charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, threatening to commit a crime, and one immigration detainer.

Progressive Massachusetts members endorses Ed Markey for U.S. Senate

Progressive Massachusetts (Progressive Mass) has announced its endorsement of Ed Markey for re-election to the United States Senate.

Senator Markey received the support of 96 percent of Progressive Mass members.

“Progressive Mass is an incredible group of grassroots organizers who understand that the 2020 election is among the most important elections of our lifetime,” said Senator Markey. “Access to affordable health care, clean energy, public health, and social and economic justice are all on the ballot this fall and we must act together to make real, structural change. Their progressive values are my values, and I am proud to have earned their endorsement in this race.”

“Both candidates in the United States Senate race participated in the Progressive Mass endorsement

process. Member after member cited the powerful combination of both the vision and experience of Senator Markey. As the lead sponsor of policies like the Green New Deal, Ed Markey has articulated a bold and clear vision to address one of the most existential crises we face in a way that leaves no one behind. He has a track record of fighting for progressive causes, as well as years of experience in translating his vision into results,” said Progressive Mass Chair of Election Committees Jon Cohn.

The organization’s endorsement follows the recent announcements of support from several major groups, including UNITE Here Local 26 labor union workers, the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, NARAL Pro-Choice, the NRDC Action Fund, and Peace Action.

Progressive Massachusetts (“Progressive Mass”) is a statewide, member-driven grassroots organization with activists from across Massachusetts who advocate for progressive policy. Progressive Mass has 16 chapters across the Commonwealth including Boston, Lowell, Needham, the South Shore, and Woburn.

Senator Markey has served in the United States Senate since winning the special election in 2013 and has amassed a deep record on environmental, climate, gun safety, and consumer protection issues. His leadership has led to legislation to address the humanitarian crisis on the southern border, protect LGBTQ+ rights, and ensure that Donald Trump cannot launch a nuclear first strike without Congressional approval. Raised in Malden, Ed Markey has always stood up for the priorities of Massachusetts.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Barandao, Anita R	Johnson, Kenneth C	26 Boatswains Way #26	\$549,000
Jason, Elizabeth A	Lyla Properties LLC	55 Cherry St #1	\$415,000
Abreu-Duran, Jose	RFR Development Inc	131 Congress Ave #2	\$425,000
8 Pembroke LLC	Martin, Mario	8 Pembroke St	\$875,000
Duzenko, Anna	GR Residential RT	505 Washington Ave #32	\$216,800



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R E C O R D

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Cary Shuman

A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

The United States now is the official epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic.

We have more deaths and more cases of disease than anywhere else in the world.

However, this past weekend the experts began to give us a glimmer of hope that we are turning the tide against this dreaded foe and the possibility that our lives may return to some semblance of normality in incremental steps within 30-60 days.

We are the first to concede that there are many “ifs” to any discussion of ending the shutdown of the U.S. economy and the present lockdown mandates currently in place throughout most of the nation. A vast increase in testing in order to identify both virus carriers and those who may have immunity will be essential before we can begin to emerge meaningfully from our life of quarantine.

It also is clear that even with some sort easing of the lockdowns, life still will be far from normal: Schools most likely will remain closed for the rest of this school year, professional sports will not take place anytime soon, public gatherings of all kinds will be banned, and the travel industry will continue to be in a state of non-existence indefinitely.

But the experts’ insights about the possibility of some degree of easing of our current situation brought to mind the famous words of Winston Churchill amidst the worst days of World War II when Nazi Germany’s advance had been stopped by England with the defeat of Rommel at El Alamein:

“Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”

Our war against the coronavirus still has a long way to go. But with the outbreaks and death toll dropping in many places around the world, including New York City, perhaps we can see a pinhole of light in the long, dark tunnel in which we find ourselves.

SO LET’S TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER

The weather this April has been full of irony. We had mild months for January, February, and March, with above-average temperatures (among the warmest on record) and few storms of any consequence.

However, April has been anything but spring-like. Temperatures have been below normal and two fierce storms, including this past Monday’s, left many of us without power.

So although April thus far has ranged from seasonably unpleasant to rather ferocious, weather-wise, at least it has provided us with a diversion from our preoccupation with the coronavirus.

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Forum

GUEST OP-ED

Easter is about being surprised by Joy, it’s also about sharing the good news and the joy

By Cardinal Seán Patrick O’Malley

There is a Franciscan tradition that the risen Christ appeared first of all to his mother. It would’ve been a very private, intimate setting, not documented in the Gospels. The Gospels do not record every incident in Jesus’s life. His encounter with Mary is a tradition supported by the logic of love and devotion. Hence in many Spanish-speaking countries the Easter procession is called the Encuentro, the meeting of Jesus and Mary. Typically, the men accompany the statue of the risen Christ and in another procession the women accompany the statue of the sorrowful mother. When the two processions meet the black mantle covering the sorrowful mother is removed and underneath Mary is wearing a beautiful white raiment that the betokens the joy of Easter. The same mystery, or event, the meeting of Jesus and Mary after the Resurrection is the sixth joyful mystery of the Franciscan rosary.

However, in the Gospels when they want to record Jesus first meeting, they chose to cast Mary Magdalene in that role. Jesus said he came to call sinners and so it is very fitting that the first apparition recorded in the gospel is to a woman who had been possessed by seven devils. Likewise, the last apparition of the risen Christ in the New Testament is to a sinner called to conversion, Saul. The risen Christ appears to the Pharisee Saul who is persecuting the Christians in Damascus. The risen Christ says to Saul who was later St. Paul the apostle, “, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” These words were an invitation to St. Paul to realize that when you persecute the church you are persecuting Christ, because the Church and Christ are one. Later on, Paul in his epistles describes the church is the body of Christ. Paul is converted by this encounter with the risen Christ, and because he has seen the risen Christ Paul becomes himself an apostle in a community of forgiven sinners.

Mary Magdalene is also been called an apostle because of her encounter with the risen Lord. When Peter and the apostles fled into the witness protection program, Mary Magdalene followed Jesus all the way to Calvary. It is interesting to note that so often when artist depict the crucifixion scene, they show the blessed mother standing on one side of the cross, John the beloved disciple standing on the other side of the cross, and in the center, kneeling clinging to Jesus’s feet is the figure of Mary Magdalene. When Lazarus sister Mary sat at Jesus feet listening to his words while Martha pre-

pared the meal. Martha complained but Jesus said Mary has chosen the best part it will not be taken away from her. The best part for the disciple is to be at the feet of the master, always learning, always attentive, always near.

Today’s gospel begins with Mary Magdalene setting out before dawn to visit the tomb of Jesus. She had to wait until the Sabbath was over to be able to walk that distance. When she gets there she discovers that the tomb has been opened and the body is gone. She is distressed, surely thinking that the tomb has been desecrated by enemies of Jesus. Overcome with grief she runs to the city to tell Peter and John what she has found. I hate to say this, but I don’t think Peter and John would’ve gone to the tomb on Easter Sunday had they not been shamed into it by Mary Magdalene and her report that the tomb was empty. They were too busy practicing social distancing and were so frightened of the possibility of being discovered that I’m sure they would gladly have worn facemasks.

The three of them rush back to the tomb. It was a journey of faith for the three of them. When they saw the borrowed tomb where Joseph of Arimathea had buried Jesus, they were experiencing the first signs of the Resurrection that come with the new light of day as they move out of darkness and unbelief. We see Peter and John entering the tomb with Mary Magdalene. In my office I have a photograph of the holy sepulcher, that very same tomb where I celebrated mass with the group a Boston priest, packed in there like sardines. It was a thrilling experience to enter the empty tomb and know that our Redeemer lives. He has conquered sin and death. In the photograph you can see that the tomb is crowded with joyful disciples because the master is risen and is alive.

Today’s Gospel says that when John saw the burial cloth and the cloth that covered Jesus’s head folded in a separate place, he begins to believe, even though the disciples did not yet understand the Scripture that Christ had to rise from the dead. After this, the gospel records that John and Peter returned to the city where later that same day, the risen Lord will seek them out with the other apostles in their hiding place.

But Mary Magdalene who followed Jesus through the way of the cross, who clung to the foot of the cross on Calvary, who participated in his burial, who was the first to arrive on Easter morning at the tomb, she did not leave. She was not going anywhere. It was then that the risen Christ appeared to her, to Mary Magdalene, his first official apparition on

Easter Sunday. He called her by name, and immediately she threw herself at his feet and cling to his feet, just as she had done at Calvary. Always the posture of the faithful disciple. But having seen the risen Christ and heard his words, she becomes his apostle sent to take the good news to the other apostles that the tomb is empty because Jesus is alive, risen from the dead. No one stole His body.

The power of the Resurrection changes one’s perspective and how we see life. We no longer need to fear death. Knowing the Resurrection means receiving a mission to live the life of the Resurrection and witness to the world that Christ lives, he loves us, he forgives us, he redeems us. The church exists to witness this great truth of Easter. Without Easter there is no church.

Easter is the most important event in the history of the world. Other events are marked by annual observances, both civic and religious. Hence, once a year we celebrate Christmas, once a year we celebrate Fourth of July, our Independence Day. But Easter is different, we have a weekly observance, we celebrate the Lord’s Resurrection each Sunday as a reminder that it is the most important event in our history and in our lives. If the whole Bible were lost but the Easter Gospel were saved, we would still have the Good News. We might ask ourselves how 12 uneducated fishermen did this. A tax collector and peasants from backwater villages in a conquered country, without smartphones, they established a religion that embrace billions of people, one third of the inhabitants of the world. The answer is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. His Resurrection has changed everything. The Resurrection has divided history, not just our calendar into BC and AD.

On Easter, the Lord is inviting us to emerge from the tomb to walk in the light to know that the world can never be the same because he has conquered sin and death for all of us. In our own lives no matter how far we are from the Lord, Easter is an invitation, to draw near to gaze into the empty tomb, to put our fingers in the place of the nails, to renew our baptismal vows and know that we are part of Christ’s family. Easter is an invitation to new life, to a new beginning, Easter means that life and love are forever, nothing else matters.

When the risen Lord meets anyone in the Gospels they are given a task, the task is to join the announcement, to be witnesses to the new life that is offered by Jesus Christ, even when persecuted the Church bears witness in its joy, overcoming fear

in worship, in the midst of war, in famine, and during a pandemic. In Haiti, after the earthquake I was so moved by the faith of those thousands of Haitians living in refugee camps where for hours into the night the people could be heard singing God’s praises and lifting their voice in prayer because in the face of death and destruction their faith in the risen Lord gave them hope and joy.

At Easter we celebrate that new life that Jesus gives us. We witness to it when we insist that money isn’t our ruler, that self-promotion isn’t our King, that pleasure isn’t a fulfilling aim and that the ruthless individualism of our age can never bring happiness. The new life of Christ is broken into our world, it cannot be contained, nor restricted nor managed.

In Goethe’s book Faust there is a dramatic scene where Faust is overcome with depression and sadness, he is contemplating suicide when suddenly he hears the Easter bells, the community of faith celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The sound pulls him back from the edge and gives him hope. Today in Massachusetts all of the Christian churches are ringing their bells as a sign of the hope and joy that Easter brings us.

Today as we hear the Easter bells as a call to solidarity among all the members of our community so that in the face of the pandemic, we might respond to witness to the power of the Resurrection, the power of love that is stronger than death, and faith in a provident God who can always bring good out of evil.

To know the risen Lord, is to know his love, and his invitation to lead a better life, to treat each other with greater respect and concern. To know Jesus’ Resurrection is to begin to understand that we too are going to live forever. In the light of the Resurrection, our lives must change. We must move beyond the materialism and individualism of our culture and embrace our mission to witness to the good news and make God’s kingdom more visible by the way that we love, forgive, care for each other and serve one another especially those who are sick and suffering. The Resurrection assures us that there is life beyond the cross, there is meaning to suffering, that love is stronger than death. If Easter is about being surprised by Joy, it’s also about sharing the good news and the joy that our Redeemer lives. Mary Magdalene ran to tell the people, let’s stop dragging our feet, we must share the good news.

Cardinal Seán Patrick O’Malley is the Archbishop of Boston.

LETTER to the Editor

Our rates are not only significantly higher than other communities, as far as we can tell, but there is a significant gap between what we are experiencing in our community and the next highest community.

Chelsea’s per capita rate is higher than some of the hardest hit boroughs of New York City, the epicenter of the virus in the United States.

As community leaders,

public health professionals, researchers, organizers and elected officials, we understand that these rates are not a perfect reflection of reality. However, we also understand that Chelsea is in desperate need of state assistance.

According to data from Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), 40% of MGH’s positive COVID-19 infections are non-English speakers, with more than

half of those being of Latino descent. As a working class community, the majority of whom are Latinx, many of our residents are considered essential workers during this crisis. Whether they are in hospitality industries, supermarket/grocery store, transportation, maintenance workers, etc. these residents are carrying out essential services during this pandemic, and compromising their

See LETTER Page 5

EBSB/ Continued from Page 1

To protect both staff and customers, Gavegnano said EBSB branches with drive thru service are open and branches that don't are open by appointment.

"We have the branches staffed to handle all regular business," said Gavegnano. "If any branch has no drive thru they can call and get in to see the manager, but for safety of our staff and customers only one person is let into the branch at a time."

Gavegnano said the bank is also monitoring all its employees for signs or symptoms of illness and has a constant open line of communications with branch staff.

"We are also responding to the needs of the communities we serve," he said. "We are taking deposits, opening checking accounts and processing loans. We have a long rich history of surviving many significant world events starting with the Civil War, World War I, the Great Depression and World War II. We will emerge as a stronger bank and continue being a provider of banking needs of Boston citizens."

According to Gavegnano EBSB's responsive steps have included:

- Preventive programs in place to reduce the likelihood that our operations would be significantly affected by the COVID-19, including:
- Educating employees
- Monitoring of potential outbreaks
- Communicating and coordinating with critical service providers and suppliers
- Providing appropriate hygiene training and tools to employees
- The bank will continue

to monitor our employee population and take appropriate action to reduce exposure to other colleagues and customers if an employee is exhibiting flu like symptoms. As always, the bank has instructed all colleagues exhibiting any signs of illness to stay home.

- Have asked cleaning companies to be even more vigilant in disinfecting frequently touched areas. In addition, the bank has made hand sanitizer available for use at all locations.
- The bank has implemented internal "social distancing" techniques to minimize the typical face-to-face contact by utilizing teleconference calls, video conferencing, and flexible workspaces. In addition, the bank asks all of its customers to help maintain a handshake-free zone at all EBSB locations.

Letter/ Continued from Page 4

own health and that of their families and our community.

Chelsea has banded together to provide immediate response to the dire need in Chelsea. We have all hands on deck, and it is still not sufficient to meet demand. Many of the issues that made Chelsea a municipality pre-pandemic have been exacerbated (e.g., high rates of children relying on subsidized meals at school and living in poverty; high rates of tenant occupied housing; language barriers; pre-existing health conditions that are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 including cardiovascular disease, asthma, hypertension; extreme population density; English language isolation, and low rates of health care utilization). We need your support and your quick action before the situation in Chelsea deteriorates further.

Specifically, we request the following:

- Funding for emergency food, medical, and cleaning supplies
- Funding for emergency housing of displaced residents due to positive COVID-19 tests
- Multilingual communication support to alert residents of the severity of this crisis
- Manpower / resources to coordinate with the City's existing efforts to effectively operationalize the aforementioned services and resources.

We implore you to take immediate action. Our cases

are growing at a phenomenal rate and we have not yet reached the 'peak'. To discuss this further, please contact Councilor Damali Vidot damali4chelsea@gmail.com and City Manager Tom Ambrosino (617)466-4175.

Peter Slavin
President, Mass General

Tom Ambrosino
City Manager

Kevin Tabb
President and CEO

Beth Israel Lahey Health
Councilor Damali Vidot

Council President Roy Avellaneda
Rosann Bongiovanni
Director GreenRoots

Maria Belen Power
Associate Director GreenRoots

Plus 40 other named individuals



East Boston Savings Bank is here for you.

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

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

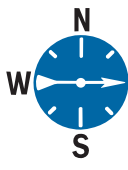
Trust that we are in this for the long-haul, right by your side. Our branch office doors will remain open as long as we can assure the safety of you and our employees. Online Banking, Mobile Banking, ATMs and our Automated 24-Hour Telephone Banking System (866-774-7705) are always an alternative banking 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.

Sincerely,

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



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Tobin Bridge traffic plummets, toll revenues down in March

By Seth Daniel

Trips across the Mystic/Tobin Bridge have plummeted over the last month, reducing toll revenues and creating much less congestion over the Bridge that drivers have become used to over the years.

For the most recent data available, which is the week ending April 3, trips in both directions on the Bridge are down 55.4 percent, according to data released from MassDOT on Tuesday. That includes an average weekday decrease of 45,639 trips over the Bridge compared to the same week in 2019.

The number of trips over the Bridge on Monday, April 1, 2019 was 87,299, while on Monday, March 30, 2020, it was 35,509.

For the month, going from March 2 to April 7, use of the Bridge has gone down from about 80,000 trips per day on March 3 to about 22,000 trips per day (both ways) on April 5. There was an uptick in usage between April 5 and April 7, which has been a bit of a pattern emerging for weekend and weekday differences.

That decrease over the Bridge and throughout the highway network all over Greater Boston has led to dramatically cleaner air. NASA has grown very popular online lately in posting its satellite photos of nitrogen and particulate matter releases from previous years compared to the months of March and April this year.

The differences are astounding throughout the northeast and Ohio Valley – where red-colored emissions in previous years have given away to blue colored clear air pockets. This is very noticeable in Boston.

The decreases also lead to major losses in toll revenues too.

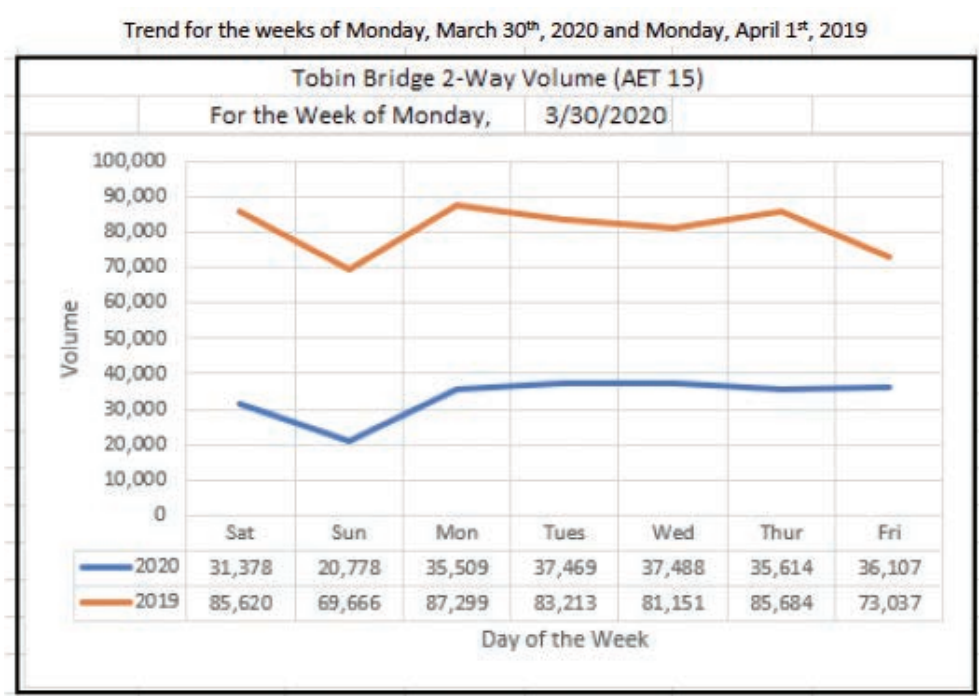
However, at the MassDOT Board meeting on Monday, Secretary Stephanie Pollack said despite loss of revenue on the Bridge, tunnels and Mass Pike, they will be able to use reserves to make up the losses.

“Even with the preponderance of lost toll revenue through FY 2020, we are in good shape,” she said. “We even have reserves to cover construction projects... We do have reserves to get through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2020... We are not putting specific restrictions to keep expenses down or putting on things like hiring freezes or anything like that.”

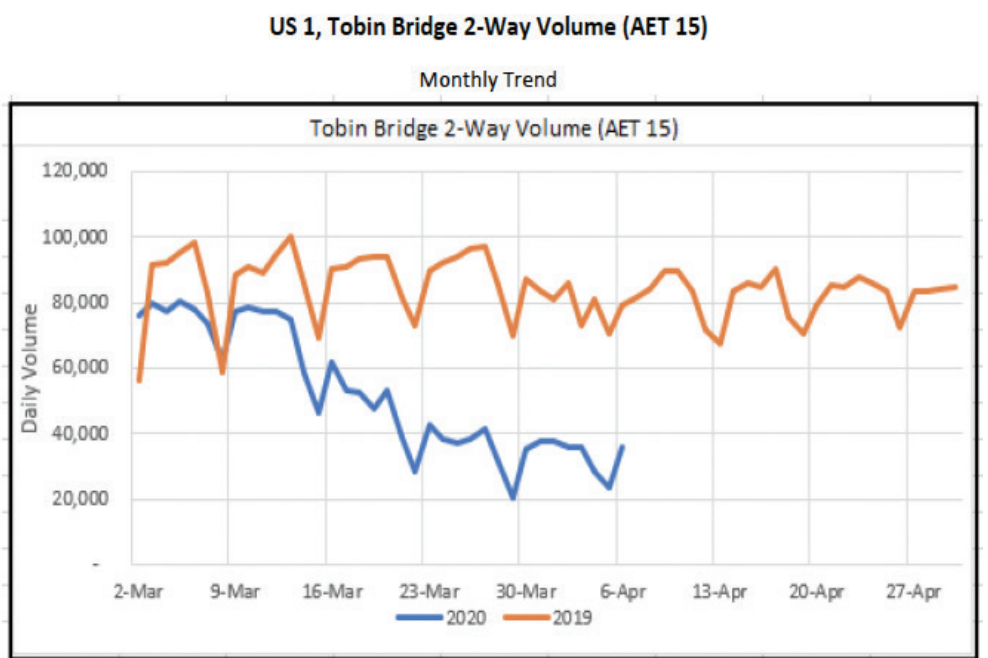
Pollack said toll revenues had been tracking ahead of budget for the first eight months of the fiscal year, which is helpful now. The year-end projection, however, will be substantially impacted by COVID-19 losses. She said they expect toll revenues to be below projections by 8 percent.

MassDOT said it expected to have operating reserves of \$625 million available to cover any shortfalls to cover capital projects on July 1, 2020 (the beginning of FY 2021).

Toll revenues pay for improvement and construction projects on things like the MassPike and the Mystic/Tobin Bridge.



2020 Traffic Volumes			2019 Traffic Volumes			Volume Change (# / %)	
Sat	3/28/2020	31378	Sat	3/30/2019	85620	-54242	-63.35%
Sun	3/29/2020	20778	Sun	3/31/2019	69666	-48888	-70.17%
Mon	3/30/2020	35509	Mon	4/1/2019	87299	-51790	-59.32%
Tues	3/31/2020	37469	Tues	4/2/2019	83213	-45744	-54.97%
Wed	4/1/2020	37488	Wed	4/3/2019	81151	-43663	-53.80%
Thur	4/2/2020	35614	Thur	4/4/2019	85684	-50070	-58.44%
Fri	4/3/2020	36107	Fri	4/5/2019	73037	-36930	-50.56%
AVG Weekday		36,437			82,077	-45639	-55.4%



Chelsea Station construction work postponed

Railroad crossing work with road impacts in Chelsea and Everett, previously announced to begin on Monday, April 13, has been temporarily postponed until further notice. MassDOT will send an update when the work is rescheduled.

- More About Railroad Crossing Work in Chelsea & Everett

The MBTA is building a new, fully accessible Chelsea Commuter Rail station next to the final SL3 stop in Chelsea. When complete, the new station will connect the Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail Lines to the SL3. While building the new station, we are also upgrading the rail signal system and replacing the railroad crossings at Eastern Avenue, Third Street, and Everett Avenue in Chelsea, as well as Second Street in Everett. To prepare for the railroad crossing work, the MBTA’s contractor will be doing utility work at these locations.

Upcoming Traffic Impacts

To safely perform work at the railroad crossings, traffic will be impacted in the following locations when work resumes:

- Second Street in Everett
- Third Street in Chelsea
- Eastern Avenue in Chelsea

- Everett Avenue in Chelsea

MBTA Commuter Rail riders will not be impacted by this work.

- Road Closures and Commuter Rail Service Shutdowns

After work resumes, during up to six weekends MassDOT will need to close some roads while they replace the railroad track crossings. Vehicles will be detoured during the railroad crossing replacements. All detour routes will be added to the project website once finalized. All pedestrian and bicycle access at SL3 stations will remain the same.

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:

844-330-2020 (English)

844-458-2020 (Spanish)

844-416-2020 (Arabic)

844-477-2020 (Haitian Kreyol)

844-474-2020 (Portuguese)

The future of Chelsea depends on you!

☒ 2020 CENSUS

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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!

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CORONA VIRUS CONTINUED IMPACT ON CHELSEA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Baker provides update on hospital surge capacity

On April 9, the state provided an update on the Commonwealth’s hospital capacity and efforts to add more beds to the system to meet the expected surge in COVID-19 cases, identifying the need for 14,500 treatment beds and expanding to that number through the use of field hospitals.

Hospital Surge Capacity: The Administration’s COVID-19 Response Command Center released its initial projections on the surge two weeks ago. Since then, the Command Center has remained in regular contact with the Commonwealth’s hospitals on a daily basis as they work to increase acute and ICU bed capacity. As of today, the Commonwealth has worked to make a total of approximately 14,500 treatment beds available ahead of the surge:

- 11,000 beds could be available for ICU and acute care in the existing hospital system. This represents a breakdown of roughly

9,400 acute care beds and 1,500 ICU beds.

- Through hospital surge planning and field hospitals, the Commonwealth is bringing approximately 3,500 new beds online for ICU and acute care. This breaks down to approximately 2,500 new hospital beds coming online from hospital surge planning, and 1,000 beds coming online through field hospitals.

The Command Center continues to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on different regions and tracking how many hospital beds are available across the Commonwealth. As of April 9, hospitals had reported that 8,100 beds are occupied statewide, or approximately 55 percent (this figure includes hospitalizations for non COVID-19 patients). This meant that 6,400 beds were currently available for both ICU and acute care, or roughly 45%.

Field Hospitals: In the coming days, hundreds of new beds will come online

that will help the Commonwealth significantly ramp up care capacity ahead of the surge to support existing hospitals. The Command Center is targeting five alternate care sites. These field hospitals will serve as an alternative site for hospitals to treat patients, particularly individuals who need acute care. They are being built all around the state to ensure all residents have access to this emergency care. The field hospital at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center opened late last week. Field hospitals at the DCU Center in Worcester and Newton Pavilion in Boston started accepting patients April 8. Over the coming week, additional facilities will open up in Cape Cod, Springfield, and Lowell. All in all, these facilities will provide approximately 1,000 additional beds for patients who do not require ICU-level care.

State to now provide COVID-19 Text Alerts in Spanish

The state announced on Friday, April 10, that its COVID-19 text message alert system “AlertsMA” is now available in Spanish. This expansion of the text-alert system means that the same text alerts that are distributed via the English-language system will now be available to Spanish-language users.

Users can subscribe to the Spanish-language service by texting ‘COVID-MAESP’ to 888-777.

“Throughout the COVID-19 outbreak, we have consistently reminded residents to get their information from trusted sources, and with the expansion of the AlertsMA text alert system, we are making it easier for Spanish-speaking residents to access important updates from the Commonwealth,” said Governor

nor Charlie Baker. “This new service builds on our efforts to keep people in all communities across the Commonwealth informed as we confront COVID-19 together.”

Since its launch on March 24, more than 215,000 individuals have signed up to receive text-message updates from AlertsMA.

The Spanish-language text alerts are the latest effort from the Commonwealth to deliver crucial COVID-19 information to non-English speakers. All of Mass.Gov (including formation” \t “_blank” Mass.Gov/COVID19) is available in 13 different languages, and the Commonwealth’s non-emergency help line, 2-1-1 is available in over 150 languages. Several agencies, including the Department of Public

Health and the Department of Unemployment Assistance, offer additional fact sheets available in multiple languages.

The Commonwealth’s Executive Office of Technology Services and Security partnered with Everbridge, a Massachusetts-based company whose platform powers AlertsMA, to initially bring the notification service online. The Commonwealth and Everbridge partnered with UMass Medical School and the Center for Health Impact for Spanish-language translation services.

The Commonwealth will continue to promote the service on Mass.gov, through digital displays and billboards at the MBTA, via MassDOT, and through social media.

The extra \$600: State offers first guidance on new unemployment claim process under CARES Act

The state government today, April 9, announced details for the initial implementation of federal unemployment benefits in the CARES Act, the federal based COVID-19 relief package.

This federal program, enacted on March 27, 2020, will be administered by states. Today’s announcement reflects the first set of partial guidance that Massachusetts will immediately implement to support unemployed workers. The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is moving swiftly to implement the new benefit programs and awaits additional guidance from the federal government for the remainder of benefits authorized by the CARES Act – including building a completely new platform for self-employed and gig workers that they hope to have ready by April 30.

Understanding the great urgency of Commonwealth residents to access these benefits, DUA issued new guidance to instruct all residents of what actions they can take now.

- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC): For Individuals Currently Collecting Benefits From Regular Unemployment Compensation:

Overview: An additional \$600 per week for individuals collecting benefits from regular unemployment compensation is being implemented by DUA. The additional \$600 will be added to unemployment benefits retroactive to March 29, 2020 and will begin being disbursed to claimants this week.

The FPUC program will provide an additional \$600 per week to individuals who are collecting regular Unemployment Compensation (UC), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Extended Benefits (EB), Trade Readjustment Act (TRA), and Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DA). The Department has already begun implementing the FPUC program for

regular UC claimants. The \$600 will be added to all eligible weeks of benefits retroactive to March 29, 2020 and continuing until July 31, 2020. FPUC monetary disbursements will begin immediately in Massachusetts for those who are currently collecting benefits on regular UC claims. Those receiving PEUC, PUA, and EB will receive the additional \$600 payments retroactive to March 29, 2020 as soon as their claims are processed and determined eligible.

Next Steps For Claimants: Eligible claimants who are already receiving UI do not need to do anything for the additional \$600 to be added to their weekly benefit amount. This benefit will be available for all new claimants filing for regular Unemployment Compensation as well, which can be done at www.mass.gov/unemployment/covid-19

- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA): For Individuals Not Covered Under Traditional Unemployment Insurance (Self-Employed, Gig Economy Workers, Others):

Overview: A benefit will be available for individuals not covered under traditional unemployment insurance like the self-employed or gig workers or those who do not qualify for lack of wages. DUA is now working with a vendor to build a new platform to disburse those benefits. This platform is expected to begin processing claims on or about April 30, 2020.

PUA will provide up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals who are not working as a result of COVID-19 and are self-employed, independent contractors, gig economy workers, and others who otherwise would not qualify for regular UC or EB under state or federal law or PEUC. These individuals will not be able to claim benefits directly through the UI Online System in Massachusetts, as of this time. The Department of Unemployment Assistance has engaged a vendor to build a new platform to disburse

PUA benefits. The platform is expected to begin accepting PUA claims by April 30, 2020. Eligible claimants under PUA will be retroactively compensated with this benefit beginning February 2, 2020, or the first week a claimant was unable to work as a result of COVID-19, whichever date is later. The last week this benefit is payable is the week ending December 26, 2020.

Next Steps For Claimants: Eligible claimants should continue to check for updates at [HYPERLINK “http://www.mass.gov/unemployment/covid-19”](http://www.mass.gov/unemployment/covid-19) \t “_blank” www.mass.gov/unemployment/covid-19 on the new platform, which will be ready this month. Once the system is up and running, eligible claimants will receive this benefit backdated to February 2, 2020, or the first week a claimant was unable to work as a result of COVID-19.

- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC): For Individuals Who Exhausted Previous UI Benefits:

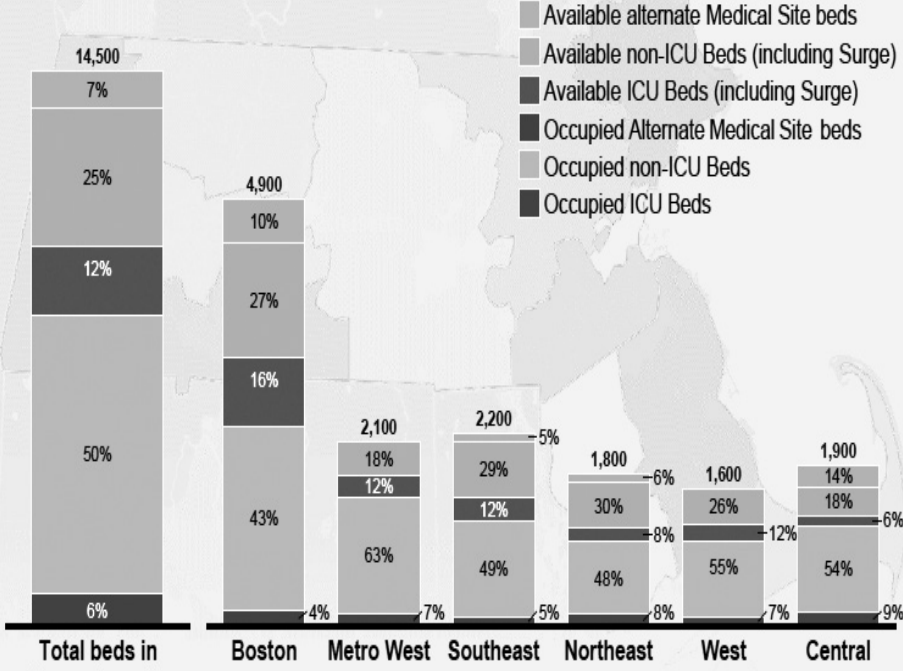
Overview: A 13-week extension of benefits for individuals who exhausted their previous benefits – is not yet available as DUA continues to await federal implementation guidance.

The PEUC program provides up to 13 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits to individuals who have exhausted their previous unemployment benefits. The first week a claimant can be compensated on this benefit is the week beginning March 29, 2020, and the last payable week is the week ending December 26, 2020. The Department of Unemployment Assistance is awaiting additional federal guidance on how to implement and administer this program and the extended weeks of PEUC benefits are not yet available.

Next Steps For Claimants: No action at this time. Eligible claimants should continue to check for updates, which will be made available as soon as the state receives information from the federal government.

Total Bed Occupancy by Region

Last Updated: April 9, 2020, 12:00pm



Occupancy/ availability as reported by hospitals to DPH. Regions represent EOHS Regions.

State administration launches Spanish language unemployment application

On Friday, April 10, the state launched a Spanish language online, mobile-friendly, unemployment benefits application for those who need to apply.

The new, secure application for Spanish speakers is available through mass.gov/desempleo, the Spanish language website for unemployment in Massachusetts.

The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) will make language applications available in Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Vietnamese and additional languages in the coming days.

The Department of Unemployment Assistance is focused on supporting workers impacted by the

COVID-19 pandemic and continues to process claims as quickly as possible. The new Spanish mobile-friendly application is among several efforts to reach and assist all individuals who are eligible for unemployment benefits and provide the financial assistance they need. Other efforts include:

- Rapidly updating the DUA website with the latest information that claimants and employers need to know, what the latest federal legislation means for them, and a step-by-step guide to filing a claim available in multiple languages.

- The unemployment contact form to reach a DUA agent is also available in multiple languages.

- Hosting daily town halls in both English and Spanish, which have been attended by over 100,000 constituents. Individuals can sign up to attend a virtual town hall at mass.gov/unemployment/townhall or at mass.gov/desempleo.

- Deploying over 600 new remote employees to keep pace with the increased volume of unemployment insurance claims, and adding language capacities in the call center to better serve residents across the state.

- Legislation proposed and signed by Governor Baker waiving the one-week waiting period to collect an unemployment claim payment.

How to mail and ship without leaving the safety of your home

You don’t have to go to the Post Office to use many postal products and services. In fact, most simple tasks can be done from the convenience and safety of your home with or without a computer.

Like purchasing stamps. Using your computer, you can go to the Postal Store on usps.com and select different stamp denominations. USPS will deliver them right to your home.

No computer? No problem! Ask your local Post Office or carrier to bring you a Stamps by Mail order form, complete it and put it in your mailbox with a check. Again, USPS will

bring you your stamps.

What if you need to send a package? You can order free Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express boxes, or other package supplies at usps.com. Again, USPS will deliver items to your address. And at usps.com, using Click-N-Ship, you can print a mailing label with the appropriate postage right from your computer.

Need that package picked-up? Go to usps.com and schedule a free carrier pick-up. In your request, let your local Post Office know where they can find the package or packages and the carrier

will retrieve them when he or she delivers your mail.

USPS postal employees are working around the clock to ensure you get your important letters and packages. Skip the trip to the Post Office by ordering stamps, package supplies, and printing package postage from your home. We’ll pick up your packages too.

It’s the most effective type of social distancing around!

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

Baker expands priority COVID-19 to grocery store workers

On Friday, April 10, Gov. Charlie Baker issued further public health guidance, expanded resources for critical workers and increased Massachusetts National Guard activation to support its ongoing response to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

A new Department of Public Health advisory, consistent with CDC guidance, recommends that all residents wear a mask or face covering in public when social distancing is

not possible. In addition, the Executive Branch issued similar guidance to state employees recommending when masks or face coverings should be utilized while working.

The administration has also expanded access to the free priority COVID-19 testing sites for first responders located at Gillette Stadium to include grocery store workers.

Additionally, Governor Charlie Baker authorized the activation of an addi-

tional 3,000 more military personnel of the Massachusetts National Guard.

- Face Coverings and Cloth Masks Advisory: The Administration today issued guidance to residents and Executive Branch employees recommending the use of a face covering or cloth mask when in situations where maintaining proper social distancing measures are not possible to prevent the spread of

Public health groups file to stop proposed ballot question on alcohol licensing

The Massachusetts Prevention Alliance (MAPA), along with the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts, has announced the filing of a brief asking the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to stop the Cumberland Farms’ proposed ballot initiative that would lift the cap on alcohol licenses in the state of Massachusetts. The organizations are raising alarm about the impact on the health of the state’s communities due to deregulation that will vastly expand alcohol outlet density and lead to significantly more addiction and social harms across the Commonwealth. “Our sole concern is the potential impact on the health of our families

and communities,” said Heidi Heilman, president of MAPA. “Limits on the number of licenses for retail sales is the cornerstone of our measured, balanced approach to alcohol regulation. It’s arguably the most critical public health standard of our alcohol system, is the template upon which our adult use marijuana law is based, and is strongly supported by the World Health Organization, United States Surgeon General and Centers for Disease Control. Alcohol is addictive and harmful when misused, and death due to alcohol poisoning is pervasive and preventable. The research makes clear that deregulation will lead to increased health inequi-

ties and social harms that will be close to impossible to reverse.” In the brief, MAPA and the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts have asked the high court to intervene and prevent the complicated, confusing measure from being placed on the ballot in November. They cite a number of issues, including:

- Increase in Alcohol Availability: Alcohol is an addictive substance, which is why it is closely regulated at the state and federal level. Unlimited sales of beer and wine at all food stores will substantially increase the number of alcohol retail outlets in every community.
- Public Health & Safety

Concerns: Increased alcohol outlet density directly contributes to health inequity, Alcohol Use Disorders and associated harms, greater youth diversion, and disproportionately burdens socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.

- Simultaneous Increase in Retail Marijuana Outlets: A significant, though perhaps unintended, consequence of the petition is that it will increase retail marijuana outlets in communities. Currently, marijuana licenses are calibrated to the number of off-premise alcohol licenses in a municipality.

“This petition will allow 3,279 convenience stores in Massachusetts to

be automatically eligible to sell beer and wine, and four years later be eligible to transition into selling hard liquor, too,” said John Scheft, the attorney who wrote the brief. “The problems are extensive and far-reaching and adequate oversight of such a system is unlikely. Although Cumberland Farms claims that the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission will receive more funding, they recently acknowledged in a court filing that there is no guarantee that increased oversight will be funded by the legislature. Furthermore, there are no plans to increase funding for the Cannabis Control Commission even if more marijuana stores open as a result.”

Initiative Petition 19-14 proposes (1) unlimited licenses by a single entity for beer and wine sales (not spirits) by retail establishments that sell food; (2) unlimited licenses by a single entity for beer, wine and spirit sales in any municipality and across the Commonwealth; (3) a point-of-sale ID checking requirement for all off-premises alcohol retailers (not on-premises bars and restaurants); and (4) diversion of alcohol excise taxes to fund the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) and a ratio of one inspector for every 250 licenses.

Registry announces additional licensure deadline by extensions; introduces online CDL renewal option

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) continues to thoroughly review its licensing protocols and credential requirements to identify additional measures that can be implemented to reduce non-essential travel, reduce the need for customers to visit RMV Service Centers, and ensure proper “social-distancing” can take place under Governor Charlie Baker’s declaration of a State of Emergency the week of March 9.

The following new changes to service delivery and organizational protocols are now or are about to be in place as follows:

- Professional credentials for School Bus Certificates, School Pupil Transport Licenses (7D), Inspector Licenses, Driving Instructor Licenses and Driving School Licenses that have expired or are expiring, between March 10 and April 30, will be extended for 90 days after the State of

Emergency is lifted. These credentials should all be considered “active” as the RMV implements the system changes to reflect that status in the near future.

- Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) holders are now able to renew their licenses online if they are self-certified in the Non-Excepted Interstate (NI) category for medical certification.
- All passenger and motorcycle road tests (Class D and Class M) have been cancelled through Monday, May 4, 2020.
- Reminders About Other Previously Announced Changes:

- Driver’s licenses, ID cards, and Learner’s Permits, including Commercial Driver’s Licenses & Permits (CDL/CLP), that have expired or are expiring between March 1, 2020, and April 30, 2020, have had a 60-day extension applied to the current expiration date and do not need to be

renewed at this time. Customers holding a license or ID marked “Limited-Term” that expired between March 1 to April 30 should visit Mass.gov/RMV for more information and to check the validity of their credential. CDL Medical Certificates that expire on or after March 1 until April 30 will be extended until June 30 to prevent license downgrades and elective medical visits, as well as alleviate demand on medical providers.

- Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the RMV has implemented a strict no walk-in policy at a limited number of Service Centers that remain open to the general public. Service for necessary in-person transactions are available by appointment only. Customers should visit Mass. Gov/RMV to make a reservation at an open Service Center or find information on over 40 transactions that can be conducted online, by phone, or by mail.

- Non-Classroom Drivers Education – through a temporary policy, the RMV is allowing driving schools to offer online driver education training and written testing during this emergency period only. The RMV will continuously monitor the current emergency and will keep you informed about the timeframe in which driving schools can offer alternative training.
- Effective April 1, 2020, all of the passenger plate registrations that have expired in March or will be expiring in April have been extended for 60 days. Registrations that expired in March have been extended until May 31 and registrations that expire in April have been extended until June 30. Registration renewals can continue to be performed online at Mass. Gov/RMV during this time. Customers seeking to do so in-person will not be able to make an appointment and should delay their visit to a

Service Center at this time.

- The annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspection stickers that expire on March 31 and April 30 have been extended 60 days and all motorcycles with inspection stickers originally set to expire on May 31 must be inspected by June 30. The RMV is also extending the time during which newly registered vehicles must be inspected based on the purchase date.
- Class D and M Learner’s Permits knowledge exams have been suspended through May 4. Commercial Learner’s Permit tests are available to be taken at the Milford and Wilmington RMV Service Centers during normal business hours and commercial road tests continue to be conducted by the Massachusetts State Police.
- Massachusetts State Police are still conducting road tests for Commercial Driver’s Licenses (CDLs), but require anyone taking

these road tests to bring and wear a mask or face covering for the entirety of the test.

- The National Safety Council (NSC) and the RMV have previously announced the cancellation, through May 4, of the following Massachusetts in-person classroom driver safety classes: 8-hour Driver Retraining Program, 4-hour Driver Attitudinal Retraining Program and the 4-hour State Courts Against Road Rage (SCARR) Program. The RMV has temporarily approved an alternative way to deliver the statutorily required content in the form of an online course. For a limited time, participation in the online course will fulfill the in-person class requirement. Additional information is available at <http://drive.nsc.org> and impacted customers can expect to receive specific instructions directly from NSC.

DiDomenico announces new law to help vulnerable residents, support schools amid the public health crisis

Sen. Sal DiDomenico recently announced that the Massachusetts Senate passed legislation to support those experiencing homelessness and provide testing and budgetary flexibility to school districts. The bill, which is the latest action by the Legislature to address the COVID-19 public health crisis and its effects on Massachusetts, has now been signed into law by Governor Baker.

“This legislation is the latest step from my colleagues and I in the Legislature to provide much needed relief to our Commonwealth’s families and most vulnerable residents,” said Senator Sal DiDomenico. “I am particularly pleased to report that this bill includes a MCAS waiv-

er for the current academic year. Our students and educators are facing enough stress and educational disruptions due to COVID-19 without the added pressure of having to prepare for the MCAS. This was absolutely the right course of action during this unprecedented time, and I was proud to support this change for our students.”

This latest relief package known as An Act to Further Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities, School Districts and State authorities Resulting from COVID-19, includes the following components.

- Student Requirements and District Operations. To address disruptions caused by the closure of K-12 schools due to COVID-19,

the legislation waives the MCAS requirements for the 2019-2020 academic year and allows DESE to modify or waive competency determination requirements related to high school graduation.

In order to comply with measures under the newly implemented Student Opportunity Act, the legislation would require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner to extend the deadlines for school districts to submit their three-year plans to address educational disparities in student subgroups. This deadline shall be extended to May 15, 2020, or later, as determined by the Commissioner.

The legislation also pro-

vides budgetary flexibility for regional schools as a result of COVID-19.

- Helping Vulnerable Populations. In keeping with the Legislature’s commitment to protecting vulnerable populations, the legislation repurposes existing homelessness funds that currently support services that can’t be provided due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The legislation redirects funding to address immediate and critical homelessness needs resulting from the public health emergency.
- MBTA Budget Flexibility. The legislation also provides the MBTA additional budgetary flexibility amid the COVID-19 emergency.

Grocery/Continued from Page 8

COVID-19, such as in a grocery store.

A face covering may include anything that covers your nose and mouth, including a mask, scarf or bandana. Health care masks, such as N95 masks, should not be used and should be preserved for health care workers and first responders. Cloth masks should not be worn by young children under the age of two, persons with difficulty breathing, or those who are unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

- Grocery Store Worker Priority Testing: The Administration and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security expanded access to the free, priority COVID-19 testing sites for first responders to now include grocery store and

supermarket workers. Beginning Saturday, April 11, the men and women who provide critical access to food and other necessities could schedule an appointment to receive COVID-19 testing at the sites located at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro. All appointments must be made in advance by the worker’s supervisor or manager, and personnel do not need to be symptomatic to be eligible.

- Massachusetts National Guard Activation: Gov. Baker authorized the activation of an additional 3,000 military personnel of the Massachusetts National Guard to support the Commonwealth’s COVID-19 response. This order raises the total authorization to up to 5,000 members statewide, who may be tasked with supporting requests from state agencies for equipment, logistics,

warehousing and related duties. Local cities, towns and state agencies should submit requests for support through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

The activation reflects Governor Baker’s statutory authority to activate the Massachusetts National Guard under state active duty to provide necessary assistance to state and municipal civilian authorities.



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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 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 Cintron White
City Clerk
4/9/20, 4/16/20



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OBITUARIES

Edward Lachnicki

Chelsea Water Dept. retiree



Edward J. "Midgie" Lachnicki, 95, passed away on Saturday, April 11 at the Chelsea Soldiers Home.

Born and raised in Chelsea, a son of the late Adam and Agnes (Jakuboczyk) Lachnicki, he was best known by family and friends as "Midgie."

He attended St. Stanislaus Parochial School and graduated from Chelsea High School. After graduation he enlisted in the US Navy and served honorably during World War II. Following his discharge, he returned to Chelsea and began his working career with the Chelsea DPW. He worked in the Chelsea Water Department and retired after many years of dedicated service. "Midgie" was a familiar face around town. He loved walking all around Chelsea or sitting in front of Winnisimmet Park (Chelsea Sq.). He always enjoyed his encounters with friends or just talking with anyone who would lend him their ear.

"Midgie" lived most of his life in Chelsea except for several years when he moved to Malden to live with his niece and caregiver, Mary Ann. "Midgie" returned to Chelsea seven years ago when he took



residence at the Soldiers Home.

He was a past member of the PPC in Chelsea and St. Stanislaus Parish.

In addition to his parents, "Midgie" was predeceased by his siblings: the late Anthony "Antush" Lachnicki, Adam Lachnicki, Mary Dykas and Helen A. Karas. He was the cherished uncle of Maryann Spinney of Peabody and Carol Kolak of Burlington and is also survived by several grandnieces and grandnephews.

A private family farewell and committal service was held at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden. Arrangements were given to the care and direction of the Anthony Memorial - Frank A. Welsh & Sons in Chelsea. For online guest book or to send private expressions of sympathy, please visit; www.WelshFuneralHome.com.

Garry Rice

Retired co-owner of Ad-Com Express



Garry H. Rice passed away Wednesday afternoon, April 8 at the Melrose Wakefield Hospital. He was 73 years old.

Born in Syracuse, NY, the son of the late Roy and Virginia (Schilling) Rice, he attended grade school in Indianapolis, Indiana but graduated from Lynnfield High School. He enlisted in the US Navy on September 1, 1965 during the Vietnam War. Garry was honorably discharged on July 3, 1968. He graduated from Indiana University, received a Bachelor of Science Degree and eventually settled in Chelsea where he worked and raised his family.

Garry worked as a Chelsea Auxiliary Police Officer for a number of years before becoming partners in a freight forwarding company. He was a co-owner and business partner of Ad Com Express for 22 years until his retirement five years ago.

Garry and his wife, the late Susan J. (Rollins) Rice, resided in Revere for many

years. As a result of declining health issues, Garry has been residing in Melrose for the last two2 years.

Garry was active in the City of Chelsea and had an active role in Chelsea Little League from 1984 - 1987. He was a late member of the N.R.A. and the Gun Owners Action League. He was also a late member of the Mystic Valley Gun Club in Malden and a former instructor at the Old Colony Firearms School in Pembroke.

Garry was the husband of the late Susan J. (Rollins) Rice, devoted father of Michelle Gregory and her husband, Vincent of Revere and Colby H. Rice and his wife, Stephanie of Methuen; brother of the late Gregory Rice and is also lovingly survived by two granddaughters, Amanda and Brianna Gregory of Revere.

Due to the current COVID-19 regulations, Garry's Memorial Service and Celebration of Life will be conducted at a later date. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Carafa Family Funeral Home in Chelsea.

Phyllis Varricchio

Bradlee's retiree who also worked as a WWII welder at Charlestown Navy Yard

Phyllis R. (Calderone) Varricchio passed away on Wednesday, April 8 at the CHA-Everett (Whidden Memorial) after a brief illness. She was 98 years old.

Born in Boston's North End, she was one of six children of the late Anthony and Mary (Picariello) Calderone. She attended Boston Public Schools, graduated from Charlestown High School and worked for a time with Schraffts Candy Factory in Charlestown. During World War II, she helped the war effort working as a welder in the Navy Yard.

She married Joseph Varricchio and lived in East Boston before settling in Chelsea where she has resided for most of her life. She enjoyed working at Bradlees Dept. Store in Chelsea for 25 years, only retiring when the store closed. She was a communicant of St. Anthony's Church in Revere. She supported her husband's career attending many gatherings and meetings with the local NAGE Union. In her lifetime, she enjoyed games of chance and traveling to Las Vegas and Foxwoods.

Phyllis was widowed in 1993 with the passing of her beloved husband, Joseph. In addition to her husband and parents, she



was also predeceased by siblings: Edward, Jimmy and George Calderone and Claire Williams. She was the devoted mother of Jo Ann Chiarello of Chelsea and Joyce Maniscalco of Peabody; cherished grandmother of Tanya Fierro, Michael Drigotas, Christopher Drigotas, Joya Maniscalco and Phillip Maniscalco; adored great-grandmother of Gianni and Gino Drigotas and Joseph and Tyler Johnson and dear sister of Joseph Calderone of East Boston. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

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

Patricia Cecere

Of Revere

Patricia (Hardick) Cecere of Revere died on April 2 at the age of 87.

Born in Chelsea on August 18, 1932 to the late Charles Hardick and Naomi (Reynolds) Hardick, she was the beloved wife of the late John Cecere, devoted mother of Patricia Sutherland of Revere, Leonard Cecere of Malden, Robert Cecere of Chelsea and the late Mary Cecere; cherished grandmother of Richard Sr, Krista, Stephen, Nicole, Elizabeth and the late Kevin and Matthew;

adored great grandmother of John, Richard Jr, Christopher, James and Briana and dear sister of the late Florence "Teeney" and Charlotte. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

In accordance with the gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, CDC, Mass. Department of Public Health, Archdiocese of Boston guidelines and local restrictions, all services will be privately held. For guest book, please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

Antoinette Melchionno

Active in many senior citizens organizations

Antoinette Melchionno, 97, of Revere and formerly of Chelsea, died on Easter Sunday, April 12

Born and raised in Chelsea, Antoinette moved to Revere as a young woman and made her home there ever since. She was active in many senior citizen's organizations. In her free time, she loved spending time with family and friends. She will be sorely missed.

The beloved wife of the late Angelo Melchionno, she was the devoted mother of Barbara Eydenberg of Revere, cherished grandmother of Robert Eydenberg of Revere, dear sister of the late Michael Colella, Carmella Ferrante, Adeline "Lily" Massa, Edith Colella, Amerigo Colella, Olga Colella, Jennie Gregory, Patsy Colella and Rita Keating. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.



In accordance with the CDC's Current restrictions on gatherings due to Covid-19 all services will be held privately. The family is planning a celebration of Antoinette's life for a later date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St Jude Children's hospital 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105 USA . Interment Woodlawn Cemetery. For guestbook please visit www.Buonfiglio.com.

Ernestine Karpenko

Worked as Chelsea Soldiers Home Medical Secretary

Ernestine T. (Strunk) Karpenko, 73, of Saugus, formerly of Chelsea, daughter of Louise (Sera) Strunk and the late Delmar Strunk passed away peacefully at Wakefield Center & Rehab on Wednesday, April 8.

Born on October 15, 1946, she was a 1964 graduate of Chelsea High and worked as a medical secretary at the Chelsea Soldier's Home. She loved Foxwoods Casino, bowling, reading, and crossword puzzles.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Richard Karpenko, son, Derek Karpenko, daughter Danielle (Karpenko) Jackson, and granddaughter Amanda Karpenko. She was the sister of the late Edward Strunk and Gregory Strunk and is also survived by her



good friend and sister in law, Carol Desimone, great friend, Sheila McKeering and by many other friends and relatives.

Due to the present health crisis, services are private. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the MS Society @ support.mysmaa.org/donate. For condolences: www.BisbeePorcella.com.

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Stories // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

first several pages to senior class reflections.

They're call the section – Quarant-Teens.

“We wanted to do something about what students are doing in the middle of a quarantine,” said Editor Jasmin Jeval. “The idea is to check in with the seniors to see what they’re doing to pass time and write something about their experiences and maybe take a few pictures – showing how they have gotten through this situation.”

The idea is to be funny and goofy, but they are leaving space for some things that might be serious as well.

Lisa Molina said they are the freshman class that came in with the infamous “fly-cation” four years ago – missing a great deal of school in December and January due to an infestation of flies in Chelsea High. Now, they are going out as the COVID Class.

“We were the freshmen during fly-cation,” she said. “Now were dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak. The fact both of those things happened to us is kind of a joke for a lot of us at this point. I feel like our class has worked really hard over the years. We’ve done so much fund-raising and fun things. We’re still working on the yearbook and we’re very serious about seeing this thing through.”

Jeval said the staff of the yearbook don’t have access to the software they need to work on the yearbook, so they’ve been drawing up some ideas and sending them to Advisor Matt LaBranche using Google Docs. They also do check-in meetings using Zoom, which has kept the senior class connected in

a lot of ways.

They system has been working, but they hope they can get some content from their classmates for the Quarant-Teen section.

“I think it will be the first few pages, but we don’t want it to all reflect this time, because we had a lot of great times that weren’t related to the virus,” said Molina. “We had two full quarters of school before this happened and school closed.”

Supt. Almi Abeyta said she saw the flier for the yearbook section and thought it was a great idea. That said, she wanted to figure out a way to really support the students, who are working so hard despite not being able to physically meet. So, she put it out on her social media handles and on the school website.

“I got a lot of great reactions, but some of my colleagues out of state thought it was for everyone,” she said. “They wanted to submit some things too. So now, there are principals and superintendents from New York, Texas and California who are going to send in some things to me. They thought it was such a great idea and I did too.”

The goal is to have the yearbook done by the time the new graduation date comes around, hopefully in late June. Jeval, Molina and Rebecca Connors said they all have high hopes that they will be able to hand out the yearbook on the day of graduation – Quarant-Teen section and all the rest.

To get involved, CHS seniors can e-mail the staff at chelseahigh.yearbook2020@gmail.com for more information.



CHS students on the Yearbook Club staff have been working diligently throughout the shutdown of the schools to finish their 2020 yearbook. Now, they are calling on their senior classmates to send in essays and photos about their experiences at home during the shutdown. Submissions will be featured in a section appropriately called 'Quaran-Teens.'

Response / Continued from Page 1

Governor Baker and Secretary Sudders for being on the ground early as the Soldiers’ Home and other group elderly settings became the first real causes for alarm. The administration’s familiarity with the City was essential to their ability to respond to our letter.

“As testing becomes more readily available the numbers of those testing positive will naturally go up,” he continued. “We must look at that increase in numbers as a sign that we are properly identifying infection and playing offense against this disease. Chelsea has the historical spirit, and now some of the resources, to be a beacon of hope and resiliency in this trying type.”

Supt. Almi Abeyta said the groundwork done by so many stakeholders in the City prior to the state help arriving this week was a great blueprint. For her, she needed volunteers to help hand out food to students at their meal distribution sites.

“There was already such support in place,” she said. “Now that the governor has stepped in to help, it’s even better. The nice thing is that so many things were laid out so well that there is now a clear vision for the governor to follow. I needed volunteers desperately to help serve our meals. We have systems in place; we just need volunteers from

MEMA, and we have them now.”

One of the biggest challenges to the city day by day was the threat of people going hungry as the food supply and delivery systems had been overwhelmed. A critical promise to Chelsea was for MEMA to mobilize the National Guard, with volunteers from the Salvation Army, to begin help in meeting the food supply and distribution needs.

One of the biggest recipients will be Supt. Abeyta. They are serving on average 2,500 breakfasts per week, and 2,500 lunches per week – and the need is growing every week. All told they have now served 40,000 breakfasts and 40,000 lunches since March 16.

Ambrosino said he expects the National Guard could begin work here as soon as Thursday.

“We think the National Guard may be in the City as early as tomorrow,” he said on Wednesday. “The goal is, by Friday, to have the National Guard ready to assist in the delivery of as many as 750 boxes of food and cleaning supplies that would last each deliver a full week. This will have a huge and beneficial impact on our ability to meet the basic food needs of our residents. Although the City has from the start been buttressing the work of existing food pantries

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.

MGH CHELSEA OFFERS TESTING FOR THOSE WITH SYMPTOMS

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

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

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

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

COLLABORATIVE MASKS FOR SALE

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Chelsea Collaborative was supporting a group of jornaleros

NEWS Briefs BY SETH DANIEL

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

SCHOOL MEAL DISTRIBUTION CHANGES

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

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

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

Meals will be served during April vacation next week.

TAX BILLS, OTHERS DELAYED TO JUNE 1

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

earlier than that.

This extension applies to all of the below:

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

TWO WEEKS OF HIGH RISK

All indications are that the COVID-19 virus spread will be especially dangerous in the next two weeks. We urge all residents of Chelsea to STAY HOME at all hours unless working in an Essential Business, or have essential travel to do, such as getting groceries or medicine. 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. The lives of others depends upon cooperation.

BLOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

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

REMINDER: PARKS EQUIPMENT CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

All childrens’ playground areas, all basketball/tennis courts and all athletic fields are closed to the general public due to the COVID-19 crisis. Some large recreation areas remain open in the City, but public use is limited to passive recreation such as walking and jogging, and only provided that social and physical distancing

rules (six feet away from others) are followed. No athletic activities that bring participants into close physical contact are allowed, even when involving 10 or fewer people.

DEADLINE FOR EXEMPTION EXTENDED

The deadline for statutory tax exemptions, with a previous due date of April 1, 2020, will now be extended to June 1, 2020.

However, the property tax abatement deadline, which was Feb. 3, 2020 is not affected by this change and was NOT altered.

If you have another bill and you are not sure if the deadline is extended, please call 617-466-4209 to confirm.

Note that all payments and applications are due by June 1, 2020. This deadline will not be extended even if City Hall is still closed on June 1. However, the City will extend a grace period for late payments. Payments made after June 1, 2020 but before June 30, 2020 will be accepted without penalty or interest.

We encourage you to pay all bills by mail or online. DO NOT access the City’s on-line payment platform via Google or other internet providers. Please go directly to [HYPER-LINK “http://www.chelseama.gov”](http://www.chelseama.gov) t “_blank” www.chelseama.gov and click on the link for Online Services.

We anticipate that City Hall will reopen significantly before the deadline in order to accept cash payments.

WATER LEAK ALERTS

The City of Chelsea is offering a free service to residents to help efficiently manage water usage and lower monthly bills. The service also notifies residents if usage indicates a possible leak. Register for this service at <http://chelsea.aquahawk.us> or call 617-464-4041 for more information.

For Advertising Rates,
Call 617-884-2416

EAST BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER ON THE FRONTLINES FIGHTING COVID-19

With East Boston having one of the highest COVID-19 infection rates in the City of Boston the doctors, nurses and staff at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center have been working around the clock on the frontlines combating the viral outbreak. These photos are a glimpse into how much our world has changed in the past few weeks as doctors, nurses and staff at the Health Center risk their health each day to provide topnotch healthcare to Eastie's vulnerable residents.



A EBNHC doctor inside the emergency room prepares to examine a patient.



Nurses and healthcare workers are covered head to toe in protective gear inside the Health Center's Gove Street emergency room.



The COVID-19 virus affects the body's respiratory system and can lead to pneumonia, or worse, Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome or ARDS. Here a healthcare worker at the Health Center checks on lung x rays.



Taking no chances, the staff working inside EBNHC's emergency room practice every precaution to avoid catching COVID-19.



A patient being wheeled out to an awaiting ambulance after being stabilized by EBNHC's medical staff.



Like many emergency rooms across the country the staff at EBNHC is asking residents to stay home to protect not only the public but healthcare workers.



EBNHC staff thank donors that recently contributed food for the emergency room staff.



East Boston Neighborhood Health Center staff thank donors that recently dropped off more masks and other protective equipment.



Working the front desk at the Health Center's emergency room has its own risks and staff are still vulnerable to the quick spreading virus.

STAY IN AND TAKE OUT

HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES WHILE STAYING IN

Deliveries ★ Takeouts ★ Home Services
During this crisis, here are some Chelsea resources.

Consider taking out an ad to and to promote your business at this time, there are many people in Chelsea who do not go online and use the newspaper for most of their neighborhood information.

WE'RE OFFERING THIS SPECIAL PAGE AS A RESOURCE FOR ALL SERVICES IN TOWN THAT PEOPLE MIGHT NEED WHILE STAYING IN.
FULL-PRINT EDITION WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE THURSDAY

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Please reach out with any questions, deadline for *Thursday April 23* is *Tuesday April 21 at noon*
Call 781-485-0588 or email deb@reverejournal.com



Medical staff go over a report on a patient's condition and symptoms.

LOST PET?

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