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# CHELSEA RECORD

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1890

VOLUME 120, NO. 9

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

35 CENTS

## Rootin’ Tootin’ Train

Residents riled  
by new train  
whistle protocols

By Seth Daniel

Citing one death and four major accidents and a history of non-compliance between 2007 and 2011 with promised upgrades, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) told the Chelsea Record that they moved to re-establish the train whistle through Chelsea as a final measure to protect safety as the City has not come through with necessary improvements over a period of many years.

The situation stretches back more than a decade, and was seemingly inherited by City Manager Tom Ambrosino – who said he had dealt with similar battles with the FRA over ‘Quiet Zones’ when he was mayor of Revere.

“The City is working to re-establish the Quiet Zone,” he said. “It just is a time-consuming process. We have to have a

See TRAIN Page 3

## APPRECIATION

### Remembering Joe Stutto Sr., a Chelsea icon

By Cary Shuman

Residents are mourning the loss of Joseph C. Stutto Sr., one of the greatest and most revered youth sports coaches and leaders in the city’s long history.

Mr. Stutto died on May 7 at the Massachusetts General Hospital after a brief illness. He was 68.

Joe Stutto was a lifelong resident and graduated from Chelsea High School. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War and a recipient of the Purple Heart Medal.

While he was widely known for his talented disk jockeying, singing, and hosting of karaoke shows, it was in his role as a coach in Chelsea youth sports leagues that made him a beloved fatherly figure

See STUTTO Page 4

**INDEPENDENT**  
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## HOLD ON TIGHT

After six weeks of fighting for her life to beat COVID-19, including having to have an emergency C-section to deliver her baby, Chelsea’s Isabel Gonzalez was finally reunited with baby Victoria on Tuesday morning outside Spaulding Hospital Cambridge. Family members said the 34-year-old mother of three nearly didn’t make it while being on a ventilator for 24 days. However, what could have been a tragedy turned into a happy ending Tuesday as baby and mother were finally able to embrace for the first time.

## After a treacherous battle with COVID-19, Isabel Gonzalez reunites with her baby

By Seth Daniel

Isabel Gonzalez was being very careful through the month of March due to the increasing worries of COVID-19 and the fact she was pregnant and due very soon.

But somehow, the stay-at-home mother who lives on Clark Avenue got COVID-19 in late March, and it started a long spiral that resulted in the emergency delivery of her baby,

a touch-and-go fight for her life over 44 days in the hospital, and the separation from her newborn, baby Victoria, for more than six weeks.

That nightmare, which came very close to being a tragedy, ended on Tuesday morning when Isabel, 34, was discharged from Spaulding Cambridge Hospital and was reunited with her baby just outside the front door of the hospital – with tons of family

from Chelsea surrounding her, including her husband Romo and her two other daughters.

It was a highlight moment like no other in a time dominated by dark, sad stories.

“I was taking care of baby Victoria for a month,” said Marina Gonzalez, who is Isabel’s in-law and health care proxy. “She asked me to take care of her children

See GONZALEZ Page 5

## Good News

### Testing at senior buildings reveals very few cases

By Seth Daniel

With the rates of infections in Chelsea so high, for most they figured it was a given that the senior citizen buildings at the Chelsea Housing Authority (CHA) would be overwhelmed with COVID-19 infections – but after aggressive testing over the last few weeks, it’s just not the case.

CHA Director Al Ewing said this week that they have very few cases in their buildings, and City Manager Tom Ambrosino confirmed that other senior buildings outside of the CHA envelope that were tested also had very few cases.

It is a mystery given that Chelsea has more than 2,000 confirmed cases and likely many more that are unreported and an infection rate that is nearly double any other municipality.

“One case is too many, but we are pleasantly surprised our rate of people testing positive is much lower than the city as a whole,” said Ewing. “We were very encouraged by these results because some of the numbers we were seeing in Chelsea were pretty scary. We have our staff cleaning in the build-

See TESTING Page 3

## National Guard to leave May 22 as food service ratchets down

By Seth Daniel

The National Guard has been described as “Herculean” in their helping the City feed more than 18,000 residents every week, but their service to the City is coming to an end, with City Manager Tom Ambrosino reporting their last day will be May 22.

The National Guard was dispatched to Chelsea as hunger began to become as much of an epidemic as the COVID-19 virus had become a pandemic. Troops from the Guard helped to distribute food to the daily

lines of hungry residents that gather to get boxes of food. They’ve also helped to deliver supplies and food to those in quarantine – not to mention using their trucks to deliver food from the Greater Boston Food Bank to the PORT Park.

“By May 25 the National Guard will be out and the City will be consolidating all food packaging and distribution at the PORT Park (150 Marginal St.),” said Ambrosino. “We’ll be doing food distributions at that site only starting May 25 and probably only three

See GUARD Page 9

# A Good Friend To Chelsea

## Patriots, Kraft family assist Chelsea residents

By Cary Shuman

The Kraft family continues to be a true most valuable player for this region and the city of Chelsea.

This past Saturday, the New England Patriots delivered 80,000 boxes of food to Chelsea on their now-famous red, white, and blue trucks emblazoned with the 6X (six-time) Super Bowl champion insignia. The food was distributed to Chelsea residents who have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Patriots’ plane and trucks have come to symbolize all the kindness, generosity, and charitableness that owner Bob Kraft and the Kraft family have extended to so many New Englanders during their stewardship of the NFL’s most successful franchise.

Councillor-at-Large Leo Robinson was one of several officials on hand as the truck pulled in to the former Sea-Lect parking lot on Marginal Street. Cheers of gratitude were heard as the media recorded the

truck’s arrival.

“I think the Kraft family deserves a lot of credit for stepping up and helping Chelsea,” said Robinson. “We have known Josh Kraft and his many years of outstanding service at the Jordan Boys and Girls Club and his continuing, strong relationship to Chelsea. The city has a special place in Josh’s heart and we are grateful to him and his family. It was nice of them to be able to provide the truck and bring the food up to Chelsea.”

Robinson said State Rep. Dan Ryan, Council President Roy Avellaneda and City Councillors Todd Taylor, Melinda Vega-Maldonado, and Naomi Zabot were also at the local food distribution site on Saturday.

Alexander Train and Ben Cares of the Community Planning and Development Office supervised at the site. Chelsea DPW workers assisted in the distribution

See PATS Page 6

PHOTO BY DARLENE DEVITA

Councilor Naomi Zabot readies to help deliver the food from the New England Patriots last week at the PORT Park. The Patriots and Food4Veterans partnered to deliver hundreds of boxes of food to Chelsea for a distribution last week. After seeing the need, the Patriots organization felt they needed to send help immediately to the city.



# Chelsea

R E C O R D

**PRESIDENT:** Stephen Quigley

**EDITOR IN CHIEF:** Cary Shuman

## A NEWFOUND RESPECT FOR TEACHERS

The closing of schools across the country for the remainder of the school year because of the coronavirus has presented many challenges for educators and parents alike.

School districts have been experimenting with the implementation of on-line classes in their effort to provide a meaningful learning experience for students of all ages.

Parents have been enlisted in this effort to varying degrees, mostly-dependent upon the age of their children. High schoolers are able to do what they need to do with little parental supervision and guidance.

On the other hand, parents of children in the youngest age-groups have been required to spend a lot of time with their children in order to assist teachers in fulfilling the school system's, and their child's, educational needs and goals.

In our view, the coronavirus has brought to the forefront a number of issues with our educational system in general, and on-line learning in particular.

First and foremost, remote learning can be only as successful as the technological capabilities of the students, their families, and their households. Access to high-speed internet and ownership of up-to-date hardware (and software) are crucial to successful on-line learning.

Second, the degree to which young students are dependent upon their parents to make on-line learning a meaningful experience has become painfully obvious. Parents need to have the time, the patience, the skills, and a certain degree of knowledge if they are going to participate meaningfully in their children's at-home instruction.

Third, parents have discovered that instructing younger children is far more complex a task than just knowing the ABCs and basic arithmetic. The large number of parents who basically have given up on the process as the pandemic grinds on attests to the frustration of the average parent in attempting to participate meaningfully in their children's education.

Finally, the current crisis has brought into crystal-clear clarity the crucial role played by teachers in educating and inspiring our nation's children. Until now, most parents -- and certainly non-parents -- have taken for granted the unique and amazing job performed each day by America's educators. The typical parent puts their child on the bus, gets them off the bus, and that's about it.

But just as the pandemic has highlighted the incredible work that our first and second-level responders accomplish day-in and day-out, so too, the value of America's educators has become abundantly clear to all.

We hope that one of the lasting effects of the pandemic is the degree to which we acknowledge that our children's education -- and the very future of our country -- depends upon a well-funded public educational system, and that the backbone of that system are our qualified, professional, and dedicated teachers.

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# Forum



GUEST OP-ED

## Saving the waters of the U.S.

By Jack Clarke

There are almost one hundred law suits pending against the Trump Administration as it does its best to recklessly dismantle America's common-sense public health and environmental protections.

In addition to taking advantage of the coronavirus pandemic by providing an enforcement holiday for industrial polluters, among the most blatant rollbacks is one taking place under the Clean Water Act of 1972.

A proposed rule coming out of the White House would gut defenses against pollution for about half the country's wetlands and millions of miles of streams that are primarily fed by rainfall. It is an unprecedented and dramatic setback of decades of environmental security for our nation's waters.

And it won't be going unchallenged, as Mass Audubon, the Conservation Law Foundation, and the National Resources Defense Council, along with five watershed groups from around the country, have filed a legal action in the federal district court in Boston to stop the repeal.

Although America's overall water quality has improved significantly

since passage of the Clean Water Act, a recent federal assessment showed that nearly half of the nation's rivers and streams, a third of our wetlands, and a fifth of our coastal waters and Great Lakes waters are still in "poor biological condition."

Rather than reverse an almost five-decade legacy of clean water protection, we need to step up our efforts in the fight against pollution along with the negative impacts of climate change.

The Clean Water Act is one of the nation's most important environmental laws. It safeguards permanent and temporary rivers, lakes, channels, creeks and streams that millions of Americans rely on for drinking water and for activities such as swimming, fishing, and hunting.

The law also protects millions of acres of associated wetlands that keep those water bodies healthy by filtering out pollutants and reducing flood damage -- these are public health and safety benefits that should not be lessened in this time of climate change-induced weather disruption.

In New England, the rule changes would also affect isolated wetlands and thousands of vernal pools -- seasonal bodies of water in forests that provide habitat

to many wildlife species including resident and migratory birds.

Of the Bay State's 143 breeding bird species recently evaluated by Mass Audubon, 43 percent are "highly vulnerable" to the effects of climate change alone. Reducing the protections for critical waters used by avian life to breed, nest and raise their young will only add to their levels of stress and vulnerability.

Nationally, we've already lost 3 billion birds in the past half-century due to pollution and loss of wetlands habitat, and we know that two-thirds of North American bird species are now at further risk of extinction from climate change. This rule change piles on the threats.

The decisions to reform environmental laws should be based on sound science -- science that informs and drives public policy, not the other way around. In this case, and as it has in the past, the White House has dismissed all scientific evidence.

Just this past winter, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) advisory panel of 41 scientists responsible for evaluating the scientific integrity of the agency's regulations, including the proposed clean water standards, concluded that the new rule

ignores science by "failing to acknowledge watershed systems." They found "no scientific justification" for excluding certain bodies of water from protection under the new regulations, noting that pollutants from smaller and seasonal bodies of water can have a significant impact on the health of larger water systems.

It is no surprise, as The New York Times pointed out several weeks ago, that "...a disregard for scientific advice has been a defining characteristic of Trump's administration."

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, a former coal lobbyist, is re-writing the law at the behest of industry groups including the American Farm Bureau, American Gas Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the American Petroleum Institute, the National Mining Association, US Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Farm Bureau, and the Heritage Foundation.

So, in response, some of the country's leading conservation advocates are fighting the rollback in the courts -- at the behest of the nations' waters and public health.

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

## Calare Properties expand urban industrial portfolio with Chelsea acquisition

As part of a strategic focus on the urban industrial market North of Boston, Calare Properties (Calare) has added to its portfolio of prime commercial real estate with the purchase of 201 Crescent Ave. in Chelsea. The 31,800 sq. ft. industrial flex asset is fully leased with a stable, long-term tenant in place.

"This acquisition reflects our philosophy of leveraging advancing market trends for maximum investment value," said Bill Manley, CEO at Calare. "With the ongoing growth of e-commerce, the demands for last mile logistics, and the need for flexible space, 201 Crescent presents an ideal opportunity for Calare and our investors."

201 Crescent Avenue sits on 1.38 acres in a highly desirable location just 4 miles from downtown Boston and 3 miles from Logan Airport.

The well-maintained property was extensively upgraded in 2019 and features a modern and flexible design that can accommodate a variety of tenants, from office and distribution, to technology and education. The single-story building offers high ceilings spanning up to 25 feet and two available loading docks.

The property has been purchased with a long-term lease in place to Shore Educational Collaborative, a multi-purpose educational agency serving students and adults with disabilities, under a triple net lease

agreement. Shore is deeply committed to the location to support their current and future business needs.

201 Crescent Avenue is located in a high-demand urban market with easy access to Boston and the surrounding area via public transportation and major roadways including I-90, I-93 and Rt. 1. The asset is well positioned in a highly competitive industrial market seeing consistent growth across all submarkets. The Greater Boston industrial market continues to experience limited availability and rising rents due to this steady demand for space.

Roy Sandeman, Scott Dragos, Doug Jacoby, Chris Skeffington, Tim

Mulhall and Tony Hayes of CBRE represented the seller and buyer on this transaction and Middlesex Savings bank provided the financing.

Calare Properties is a private real estate manager and operator focused on acquiring warehouse, manufacturing, lab and flex/office commercial real estate for the economic benefit of our investors and strategic partners. Since the firm's inception in 2003, Calare has led the acquisition of over 18.5 million sq. ft. of properties representing \$850 million in transactions through funds, direct deals and a multi-asset portfolio.







Stutto/Continued from Page 1

to countless Chelsea kids whom he mentored.

Joe Stutto’s coaching career allowed him to watch from the sidelines as his son, Joe Stutto Jr., developed into an outstanding high school athlete and personable and kind young man. From Pop Warner to Little League to Youth Basketball and Youth Baseball, Joe Stutto Jr. carried his father’s name proudly and learned directly from his dad how to be a good teammate, a sportsman, and a team leader. Joe Stutto Jr. is an officer in the Chelsea Police Department, a position that engenders universal respect and symbolizes bravery – a career of which his father took great pride.



Joe Stutto Jr., one of the All-Star players on the Major League Pirates teams coached by his father, Joe Stutto Sr.

‘A man of many skills with a big heart’

Bucky Cole said he had “the honor” of coaching alongside Joe Stutto in the Chelsea Pop Warner football organization. Bucky also noted that his son, Tommy, and Mr. Stutto’s son, Joe, were teammates on the Northeast Regional football and baseball teams.

Bucky said that Joe Stutto was a man with a big heart” and possessor of many skills.

“Joe was a great guy,” said Bucky. “He had a great singing voice, was a great karaoke DJ – everything he did, he did well. He was a handy guy. Whenever you needed something living in the projects, if your car broke down, he was always over fixing it for you, doing something. Every kid in the neighborhood, he cared about.”

The Pop Warner years together were special, said Bucky. “We had so much fun – myself, Joe Stutto, John Bondola, Ray Deleidi, Jerry Fontenot coaching and teaching football,” recalled Bucky.

“I had Joe Jr. on the ‘D’ team with kids like Nicky Bondola, Chris LaChance, and my son, Tommy,” he said. “Joe Stutto was a really good football and baseball player. He became a home run hitter in the Youth Baseball League. Joey played football with my son, Tommy, at Northeast, and he was a fast runner.”

Bucky said he’s saddened by the passing of his friend. “He’s going to be missed – everybody loved him. Joey LaChance, Brian Higgins, all of his former players absolutely loved him. He was a good man.”

Al Mazin knew the gregarious and larger-than-life Joe Stutto on the DJ circuit and from his years of living in Chelsea.

“He was a wonderful person, so talented and always wanting you to have a fun night of music and karaoke,” said Mazin. “I knew him for many years and I don’t know anyone that he didn’t try to lift up and make them smile in his presence. I know the esteem in which he was held by his fellow coaches and the players he’s coached. I will miss Joe dearly.”

“He enriched lives,” says son Joe Jr.

Joe Stutto Sr. presided over Chelsea Little League for many years and was a coach during the Larry Du-long Era. He also ran the Pop Warner program for a year.

“My father started coaching youth sports when I was about 8-or-9 years old, so he did it for over 30 years,” said Joe Stutto Jr.

Messages of gratitude for his father’s mentoring and the many kindnesses to kids through the decades have been extended to Joe Jr. over the past week. He has been touched by the outpouring of love from so



Joe Stutto Sr., pictured at a Chelsea Little League awards banquet.



Beloved Chelsea Little League Coach Joe Stutto Sr., shown with his Major League Athletics players after winning one of his many city championships.

many people.

“Being my father, I already knew he was a great guy, but you get to see from an outsider’s perspective from the impact he had on other children – that was his whole life,” said Joe Jr.

Joe Jr. said that like many families in Chelsea, there were challenges along the way,

“Meager means was putting it nicely,” said Joe Jr. “We grew up very poor in the projects. But he just enriched so the lives of so many kids in the city. That’s what he lived for and he did for over 30 years.”

Little League Baseball in Chelsea became Joe Stutto’s biggest forum of assisting young athletes.

He oversaw the league, coached for 25-30 years, and won multiple championship with the Pirates.

“He was like the Tommy Lasorda of Little League Baseball,” said Joe Jr. “But more importantly he just lived to help kids. He had an impact on so many children’s lives. We know this city is very hard to grow up in and I would like to personally believe that kids could’ve gone in the wrong direction – maybe they were nudged a little bit by an impression my father may have left on them.”

Joe Stutto Sr. left his indelible mark on Chelsea in a positive way. Coaches loved coaching with him and kids loved playing sports for him.

He may have coached the Pirates, but Joe Stutto Sr. was a Giant in every good sense of the word.

Blue Line work to begin Monday Shuttle services to replace train service from Airport to Bowdoin Stations

By John Lynds

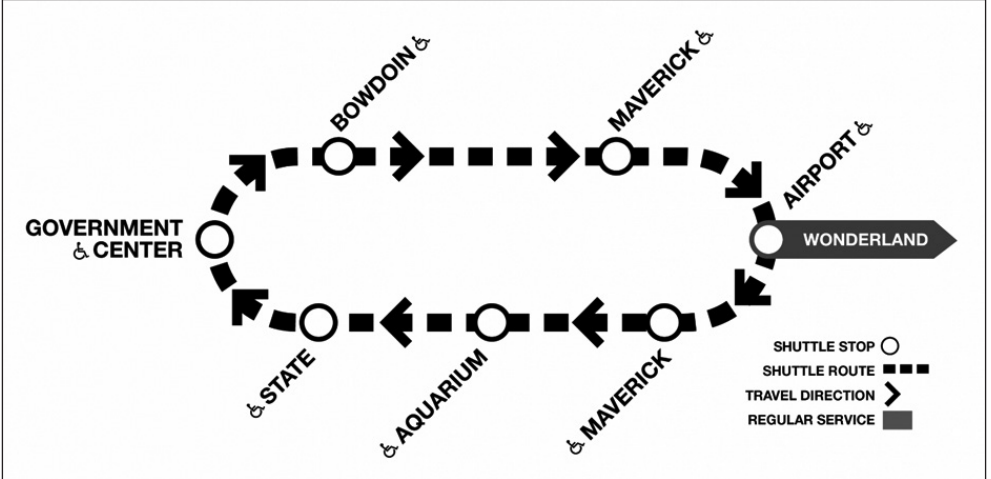
Beginning on Monday, May 18 the MBTA will fully close down the Blue Line from Airport to Bowdoin stations for 14 days and run shuttle busses instead of train service until May 31.

The goal of this is to allow for accelerated track and infrastructure work to take place while ridership and traffic is at an all time low due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The work was originally going to be spread out over a longer period of time and only on weekends.

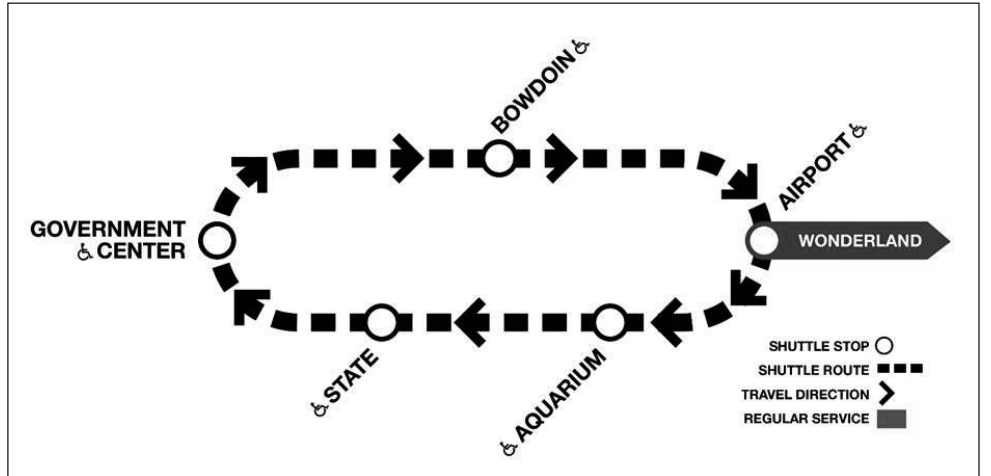
According to MBTA’s General Manager Steve Poflak, during this accelerated work, shuttle buses will replace service between Bowdoin and Airport stations for fourteen consecutive days, including both weekdays and weekends, beginning at the start of service May 18 through the end of service on Sunday, May 31.

“The work accomplished during this closure will lead to numerous benefits, including increased train speeds, shorter travel times, and a more reliable service schedule,” said Poflak. “Our main focus continues to be safety, especially during the COVID-19 situation, with the MBTA’s shuttle plan including measures that promote social distancing. We know these diversions can be an inconvenience, but the service suspension allows us to expedite critical track and tunnel infrastructure work and remove the restrictions that currently limit train speeds.”

Poflak said this work



Full Shuttle Route during May 18-31 Blue Line Diversion.



Express Shuttle Route during May 18-31 Blue Line Diversion.

comes as part of the MBTA’s plan to quicken the pace of infrastructure projects in 2020 and the MBTA is assessing whether other projects can be further accelerated. This Blue Line work was previously scheduled to be accomplished through a series of weekend diversions later this year, and doing the work now allows its completion at a time when both transit ridership and traffic on the roadways that shuttle buses will use is much lower than it is likely to be by the fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, Poflak said

the MBTA recognizes that many essential riders do continue to use the Blue Line and that ridership may rise as the Commonwealth begins to consider reopening opportunities within the coming weeks.

Addressing the ongoing pandemic, Poflak said the MBTA’s shuttle plan includes measures to promote social distancing that protect MBTA workers and riders, and the MBTA will carefully monitor ridership levels on the shuttle buses, adjusting service levels if needed.

In compliance with the Executive Order that

went into effect on May 6, MBTA customers must wear face coverings while onboard shuttle buses. Additionally, in an effort to promote social distancing efforts and protect the health and safety of MBTA riders and bus operators, ridership on shuttle buses will be limited. The MBTA will also operate additional shuttle buses than originally planned with a robust fleet of shuttles on standby to accommodate ridership demands as needed.

Due to the road geography around most Blue

Damali Vidot builds immediate fundraising momentum and support in State’s Second Suffolk District Seat race

Chelsea City Councilor Damali Vidot announced last week her candidacy for the Massachusetts House of Representatives Second Suffolk District Seat in a virtual announcement on Thursday, May 7.

Councilor Vidot attracted an outpouring of support from over 1,000 participants who represent a majority of residents from the district and raised over \$2,000 during that event. She has since raised close to \$5,000 from mostly small-dollar contributions.

“The response and support we’re receiving from so many constituents in the Second Suffolk District is a clear sign that people want leadership that includes all of our voices and represents our true people-powered movement,” said Councilor Vidot. “Now more than ever, it’s important that the residents in this district can count on a leader who is not only actively involved in the day-to-day emergency response efforts during this pandemic, but also understands the urgency of trans-

lating these urgent issues into participatory policymaking at the State House.”

The Committee to Elect Damali Vidot, with the support of volunteers from the district, safely collected and returned beyond the number of required signatures to qualify for the ballot. The Vidot campaign has already established strong, grassroots organizing efforts in Chelsea and Charlestown and will soon unveil comprehensive virtual organizing tools to provide support and resources to residents

in this time of crisis.

“We will soon realize that the residents of Chelsea and Charlestown have so much more in common than being at two ends of the Tobin Bridge,” said Councilor Vidot. “Our campaign will be about bringing a sense of community and pride in this district, where we can support one another, and uplift our most vulnerable and impacted neighbors.”

Primary Day election day is on Tuesday, September 1.

Numbers of Chelsea cases on the decline day over day

By Seth Daniel

There is a bit of good news this week regarding the numbers of new COVID-19 cases in Chelsea day over day, with the numbers of new cases reported to the City declining significantly over the last four days.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said he is encouraged by the numbers – noting that the numbers of new cases last week day over day were in the 20s and this week they were below 10 a day. That is opposed to just a few weeks ago when there were about 70 new cases per day.

“We have to be careful, but the data suggests we are on the downside,” said Ambrosino. “The numbers are looking very, very good for our COVID-19 cases. The last two nights we’ve had eight or nine new cases reported. I’m not sure that will keep up. I think as soon as we open up the economy, we’ll see higher numbers, but hopefully we’ll not get

to the situation where we are seeing 70 new cases a night. That’s a lot for a City of this size. We have over 5 percent of our population testing positive. That’s just those that were reported. I expect it’s much higher.”

As of May 12, the City had registered 2,353 confirmed cases, with 957 people having recovered from the virus. Sadly, 132 people have died as a result of COVID-19.

It is a marked slowdown from weeks before.

Chelsea is also probably one of the most mask-compliant cities in the area. While some people can be seen without a mask or face covering in public, the vast majority do wear masks. Those masks are readily available and handed out at food pantries, distribution centers and medical facilities free of charge to everyone.

“I do feel people are very aware here and taking precautions,” said Ambrosino. “I have no doubt when we open to everyone, inevitably there will be a spike

in the cases here and elsewhere.”

Ambrosino said they are looking toward the guidance of the state’s task force on opening, and municipal leaders are monitoring that and making sure their voices are heard.

He said he can see a situation where retail establishments could open in the coming weeks.

“I can see retail opening with limited occupancy,” he said. “I don’t see why that would be significantly different from grocery stores with limited occupancy. I think restaurants are different because it will be hard. The majority will have tables six feet apart and most are small already. Whether these restaurants can survive with limited occupancy is unknown...I do think businesses can open with appropriate restrictions. The question is can they survive economically with the restrictions that will be required.”

Some of those requirements for restaurants and all businesses will be stay-

ing six feet apart from one another, supplying employees with PPE, face coverings for employees and customers and other measures.

As for City Hall, Ambrosino has said the last two weeks he has June 1 circled on his calendar as an aspirational date to get things in City Hall rolling.

“I’ve been talking about June 1 as a date that is plausible,” he said. “If we were to open up then, it would be slowly. There will be social distancing in City Hall. People will be spread out and the normal things we understand to happen in City Hall wouldn’t be allowed. People will get used to it. It’s just like people got used to the security and restrictions in the airport after 9/11. They grumbled at first, but they get used to it. When we open up, if someone doesn’t have a mask on, it will draw attention.”

He said they still need two good weeks of having the COVID-19 under control – meaning no growth in new cases. That has not yet happened.



# Encore Boston Harbor files re-opening plan with Governor’s Office, MGC

By Seth Daniel

Encore Boston Harbor has thought of virtually every detail in their re-opening plan submitted to the state late last week – a plan that requires multiple temperature checks, straws in their paper sleeves and even a temporary departure from the “fancy” things that were known to accompany an experience at Encore.

That, said Encore President Brian Gullbrants, is the small sacrifice that will be mandatory in order for the resort casino to welcome employees and guests back to 1 Broadway in the near future. The 21-page Encore Health & Sanitation Program was compiled at the request of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) and submitted to them and to Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and the state Re-Opening Task Force. It is a plan that covers a great deal of territory in all operations, from customers to employees and front-of-house operations to back-of-house operations. Gullbrants said it was compiled with a collaborative effort from sister properties in China and Las Vegas, with the oversight of a team of medical professionals brought in from Johns Hopkins and Georgetown to consult.

One noticeable change will be having to sacrifice some of the fancy extras that are a staple for Encore. “We’re approaching each

business at Encore Boston Harbor very carefully,” he said. “There is no overdoing it when it comes to safety and health. We’re going to be paying attention. It might mean the experience isn’t as fancy as you once had, but we’re going to have to sacrifice the fancy for safety.”

Some of those immediately obvious things will be plexiglass barriers in places all over the casino, including on the gaming floor and reception and at the hostess counter at restaurants. Some of the extras like unwrapped straws and unfolding the napkin will also be on hold.

“Typically, when you come to dine our servers will take the corner of the napkin and place it on guest,” he said. “We’re no longer going to do that until it’s safe.”

Lounge seating at Rare and Sinatra’s will be taken away for the time being, and silverware will come wrapped in a paper napkin – straight from the sanitizer to the table. Even the menus will be disposable.

“We always had these large leather-bound menus that are beautiful, but if those menus make the customer uneasy in the short-term, it’s not worth it,” he said. “We have put our efforts into high-quality printing of our menus on paper that will be single-use.”

Menus have also been uploaded so that guests can even peruse them online

and order without having to touch any paper at all – if they so choose.

Re-opening for Encore is something that has been well-publicized as it is being carefully thought about at the MGC and in state government since they are resorts that are heavily regulated by the state – unlike some other businesses in the community. That said, Gullbrants said they don’t expect to be open at the outset of the state’s phased approach.

“In no way do we think we should be part of the initial openings, and we don’t think we’ll be in Phase 1,” he said. “We think we’ll be in a latter phase. When the governor and MGC decide it’s appropriate, we’re ready to execute...Priority number one is the safety of our customers and our employees.”

Transportation, including the water shuttle and buses, will be at 25 percent and there will be clear separation for people to adhere to on those services. On the gaming floor – as in all of the resort – an aggressive cleaning protocol has been spelled out in the plan for slot machines, poker tables, railings and even the submersion of chips in disinfectant every time they are brought to the “cage.”

Temperature checks with a thermal camera will be done on every guest entering the facility, and anyone registering 100.4 or above will be taken to a separate

private room for a second temperature check by trained security. If a person is still registering over 100.4 degrees, they will not be allowed into the resort.

Even reporting to work for the hundreds of local residents working at Encore will have a whole new look. Like guests, their temperature will be scanned and checked. Anyone not feeling well, or registering 100.4 degrees or higher, will be sent home.

The famous uniform carousel will even have a different look, Gullbrants said.

“To get their uniform, employees press a button for the carousel to retrieve their uniform,” he said. “Now we’ll have an additional employee there to make sure that button is wiped down between each push. We’re going to have staff just about everywhere. It makes business a little harder to operate, but we believe it’s important to preserve the safety of our guests and employees – and that includes the many employees we have that live in Everett and the surrounding communities.”

Other things, like the nightclub and the spa, are still more in flux. He said those things will need to wait on more input from the state before they consider re-opening.

“With regard to a few businesses, we are going to just wait,” he said. “We’re going to wait for the governor and state to guide us

and weigh in and help.”

Gullbrants added that all employees would be trained on procedures in the plan before they can return to work, and there would be clear markings on the floor to make sure customers and employees know where to stand.

Bottom line, he said, is that it will be a time of staying apart, even when folks are trying to enjoy themselves in a place like Encore.

“Hopefully one day in the future we can start de-escalating the plan,” he said. “In the short-term, we’ll be living in masks and staying further apart from one another.”

The plan will be presented to the MGC at its meeting in the coming days, where it will be reviewed by stakeholders and MGC staff.

said they pledged to continue paying their employees in both locations as they have been.

“What we have decided to do is to extend our current pay practices in North America through the end of the month – a two-week extension,” he said. “We’re one of the very few companies in our industry, not just the casino resort business, but hotels and airlines, that have done this. The 75-days, from March 15 to the end of May, we’ll have invested roughly a quarter of a billion dollars into payroll for all of (our employees).”

“We’re doing that because we have the best culture and we have the best team and I want to invest in this until May 31,” he continued. “We are hopeful we will then be open and we can then understand our demand and how we need to staff. I can assure we will work with each and every one of you for the best possible outcome.”

In Las Vegas, it appears they are ahead of the curve, and there is a possibility he said – depending on the benchmarks made and the science – that Las Vegas facilities could open by the end of May. He said they are preparing for that eventuality. In Massachusetts, he said, they are just getting started with determining the phased opening approach.

“When we open it will not be the world we’re used to, but it will be progress,” he concluded.

## Gonzalez / Continued from Page 1

and to be her proxy. I took the challenge. I was asked to make some really difficult and hard decisions for her...It did get bad to a point that she was not getting better and I thought she might not make it. She had to have a tube put in because she had a lot of fluid in her lungs. She wasn’t getting better. They said they could try the tube. When you’re going through this it’s day by day, hour by hour, and minute by minute. They can’t guarantee anything at all. We were praying every day for her. We weren’t sure. But today she is home, Victoria is home and we are all here and happy. It’s amazing.”

It wasn’t always so great though, Marina said, as Isabel had been hospitalized 44 days. She was intubated on April 2 and stayed on a ventilator until April 26 – a full 24 days on the machine. She gave birth on March 30, and despite seeing Victoria on a video camera afterward, she never got to actually meet the child she carried for months.

Marina said Isabel had been very careful during her pregnancy. Romo and Marina’s husband both work construction, and no one was really a front-line worker with a lot of exposure. So, when Isabel had a little snuffle in late March, she went to Mass General where they apprised her symptoms and decided to test her as she had a fever.

“I told her to go to MGH and she did,” said Marina. “She said they were going to test her because her symptoms matched. She called me at 10 a.m. to say she had tested positive. They were going to do a C-section to deliver the baby immediately. By 11:30 a.m. Victoria was born.”

For the first several days, Isabel was sick but doing okay. She was able to see Victoria on camera with a new system devised at MGH that allows COVID-19 mothers to see their babies via video camera. However, because she was positive, Isabel could not hold her child.

“It was very tough be-



Family members gathered outside the hospital to welcome Isabel Gonzalez on Tuesday.

cause the first thing you want to do as a parent is hold your infant and she didn’t get to do that,” said Marina.

But then on April 2, things took a turn for the worse.

Isabel called to say they wanted to intubate her and put her on a ventilator – a very terrifying thought. She had fluid in her lungs, a persistent fever and low oxygen levels. It was the best thing they could do for her at the time.

“She told me to take care of Victoria and her two other children and if I would be her health care proxy,” said Marina. “That’s when everything started.”

For the next 24 days, the family took care of the baby and Marina fielded calls twice a day about Isabel’s condition. Her condition would remain steady, and sometimes spiral down. At the same time, conditions in Chelsea were getting worse and more and more were getting sick.

Marina said her family, including Isabel’s husband Romo, couldn’t bear to look at the news any longer. They didn’t want Isabel to be just another of the numbers flashed on the screen.

“It was torment because in that time things began to get really bad in Massachusetts,” she said. “Numbers were going up. Deaths were going up. It was very frustrating. We stopped looking at social media because we didn’t want Isabel to be another number added to the totals. I’m so glad she’s back home now.”

After coming off the ventilator on April 26, Isabel was transferred to Spaulding Hospital Cambridge on May 4, where she made steady improvements in her health for the past week. Nurses there went out of their way, Marina said, to make Isabel feel at home – making posters of Victoria’s pictures for her to see all around her room.

On Tuesday, May 12, she was cleared and ready to meet her daughter for the first time. With her two other children, her husband Romo, Marina and a lot of family and friends gathered outside the hospital across the street, she was wheeled outside in a chair.

Then Victoria was presented to her by the staff from the hospital.

Isabel wept.

And the family was reunited, but at a social dis-



Chelsea’s Isabel Gonzalez is pictured here with the full clinical team on the COVID recovery unit at Spaulding Hospital Cambridge Tuesday morning.

tance, and they all went home to Clark Avenue in Chelsea, where a spontaneous car parade welcomed them home in a rare moment of joy in these difficult times.

For the family, the moral of the story is one in which they hope the community

can share in their joy and also share in taking care of one another in the same fashion so many took care of Isabel.

“There are still a lot of people that don’t believe in this virus and they want to protest or go out and do what they want and open up

the state,” she said. “This is real. It isn’t anyone’s fault and it doesn’t matter where it came from. The problem is we have it here and we need to take action on that and stay home and take care of one another.”



**Pats** / Continued from Page 1

operations.

The Kraft family has donated more than two million meals during the COVID-19 crisis. Earlier, the family

made a substantial donation and helped transport a million respiratory masks from China to Boston.



One residents heads back home after getting a box of food from the Patriots and Food4Veterans.



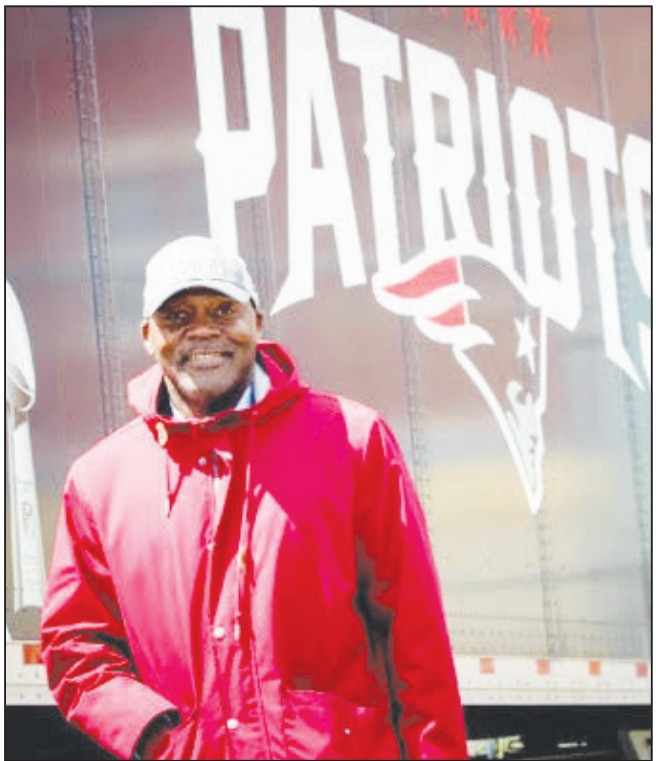
Chelsea resident Roberto Hinojosa watched as the Patriots truck pulled into the PORT Park.



Councilor Todd Taylor, City Manager Tom Ambrosino and Councilor Leo Robinson.



A piece of heavy machinery unloads the boxes of food from the Patriots semi-truck.



Councilor Calvin Brown at the ready by the Patriots truck.



Michelle Gomez ready to help pass out boxes to residents.



Residents wait by the PORT Park for the delivery of the boxes of food last week.



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DPW's Fidel Maltez directs one of the delivery trucks into the PORT Park.



Former Yarmouth Deputy Chief Steven Xiarhos was one of the drivers of the truck. Interestingly, Xiarhos was a keynote speaker for Memorial Day a few years back at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home. He lost his son, who was serving in the military, during the War on Terror.

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# Ryan participates in historic, remote voting in State House

By Seth Daniel

State Rep. Dan Ryan reported that the first remote voting session in history for the state House of Representatives was flawless and would likely continue through the pandemic.

On Wednesday, May 6, the House organized its first remote full session with 160 state representative members after having met in informal session for the last seven weeks to pass key legislation to address the pandemic. However, as things have continued, Speaker Bob DeLeo moved to organize a larger, full session meeting to vote on matters that included the income tax extension and some Constitutional borrowing approvals for the State Treasurer.

“Last Wednesday’s historic remote vote was a necessary fiscal house-keeping measure that gives our Treasury the flexibility needed to get through these tough economic times,” said Ryan. “Speaker DeLeo, Chairman Michlewitz and the COVID working group have done an incredible job in a relative short amount of time to ensure our democracy remains intact. The vote was conducted with the minimum amount of human interaction. This was critical so that we, the legislature, did not put others at risk by bringing hundreds of people from around the state into one setting.”

Said DeLeo, “During this time of uncertainty, the House is focused on not only public health but en-



State Rep. Dan Ryan walking to his State House office on May 6 for the House’s historic first remote formal session vote. Rep. Ryan said the process worked well and he was impressed by how much people on all sides have come together in state and local politics.

surings the financial health of our Commonwealth. I am grateful to Chair Michlewitz for his work to move this legislation forward and to the House COVID-19 Working Group that made this vote possible today.”

Ryan said since he lives only two miles from the State House, he decided to walk to work and take the historic vote remotely in his State House office. The process worked with a call-in number to five division leaders who registered Rep. Ryan and others’ votes in the Chambers.

“I walked to work to get out of the house a figured it would be easier to take the vote at my desk and figure this new system out there rather than staying at home and trying to find a quiet corner for three hours,” he said. “I did walk up to the Chambers at one point. It was interesting to see and

it was surreal. That was my third time to the Chambers it was definitely different to see people spread out and wearing masks.”

The legislation, An Act to Facilitate the Delay of the Income Tax Filing Deadline, authorizes the State Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of tax receipts by the end of Fiscal Year 2020 and to repay those sums by June 30, 2021. This action is necessary due to the delay in tax revenue as a result of the extended deadlines of income tax filings and payments to July 15, 2020, which were extended because of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Rep. Ryan said the system worked really well, but he said when they begin to have real debate, it will be quite different and likely take more coordination.

“Under the traditional rules, you can just stand up and speak,” he said. “This way it’s a little bit more orchestrated. You have to know who is going to speak ahead of time.”

He also said he has been impressed with how everyone has come together during this time.

“You have to have a great trust in leadership to make this work,” he said. “I’m encouraged by how well the House, Senate, Republicans, Democrats, the Attorney General, Mayor Walsh and the governor have come together. There will be a time when we need to hash things out, but right now we’re all coming together. There is a lot of partisan bickering around the country, but it’s not happening here.”

## PAY YOUR RENT, OR GET THE MACHETE

On May 11, at 6:20 p.m., Officers responded to 60 Chester Ave. for or a report of a disturbance between two roommates. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the reporting party, who told offices that an argument ensued over the payment for renting one of the rooms. The victim claimed that the male said he would use a machete to settle the issue. The suspect did display the weapon to the victim. The suspect fled on foot as the police arrived, but he was later arrested on Watts Street after a foot pursuit.

## STOLEN CAR

On May 9, at 5 p.m., officers received a radio broadcast BOLO for a stolen vehicle that was last seen in the area of Marginal and Pearl Streets. About 6:05

p.m. a CPD officer reported that he observed the vehicle operating in the area of Williams at Spruce Street. Other CPD officers responded to the area and were able to stop the motor vehicle without issue in front of the Eastern Bank on Spruce Street and placed the operator in custody.

## STOLEN CAR, FOOT CHASE

On May 10 at 5:20 p.m., CPD officers while patrolling the area of 500 Broadway noticed a vehicle that was speeding in the left lane. The officers ran the registration and it was reported stolen. The officers attempted to pull the vehicle over on Broadway. The vehicle fled the area at a high rate of speed for a few blocks before the operator stopped the car and fled on foot. Officers were able to pursue on foot and take the individual into custody.



OFFICER LYLE ABELL RETIRES

On April 17, the CPD said farewell to a department legend. Officer Lyle Abell worked his last shift on April 17 after spending 42 years serving in law enforcement, with 32 of those years at the CPD. All the best in your retirement, Officer Abell.

# Amtrak to return Acela service

Beginning June 1, Amtrak is restoring Acela service on the Northeast Corridor on a modified schedule in response to anticipated increased demand. Modified service will include the restoration of three weekday Acela roundtrips. Northeast Regional frequencies will also be increased from eight to 10 roundtrips.

“We are dedicated to doing everything possible to return service safely. We want everyone to feel comfortable as they navigate this new normal,” said Amtrak President and CEO Bill Flynn.

Amtrak continues to take extra steps to sanitize stations and trains. Additional measures include the following:

- Facial coverings: As part of Amtrak’s ongoing commitment to protect customers and front-line employees in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Amtrak is requiring that all

customers in stations, on trains and thruway buses wear facial coverings. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of simple cloth facial coverings or masks to slow the spread of the virus and prevent transmission.

- Limiting bookings: To help maintain CDC recommendations for physical distancing onboard trains, we have temporarily reduced Coach, Business, and Acela First Class sales to 50% capacity.

- Cashless service: As an added measure to ensure the health and safety of our customers and employees, we are temporarily accepting only cashless payments in stations and on trains.

- Physical distancing: Signage has been displayed at several of our busiest stations to indicate safe distances in high customer traffic areas such as waiting rooms, in front ticket offices, at the base/top of escala-

tors, lounge entrances, etc. In addition, clear protective barriers have been retrofitted at stations where there are no current glass barriers.

- Food and beverage service: We are temporarily offering Flexible Dining service in the dining or lounge car on all long distance routes (except Auto Train) and encouraging all Sleeping Car customers to select optional room service for their meals. In addition, we are limiting seating in dining and café areas.

While some services were reduced or suspended, Amtrak has and will continue to operate as an essential service as our nation recovers. In addition to the Acela and Northeast Regional, trains will be restored to service by monitoring demand, working with state partners and continuing to prioritize customer and employee safety.

# More than 2.5 million residents in Massachusetts got Stimulus payments

Staff Report

The Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service today released updated state-by-state figures for Economic Impact Payments, with approximately 130 million individuals receiving payments worth more than \$200 billion in the program’s first four weeks.

“We are working hard to continue delivering these payments to Americans who need them,” said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. “The vast majority of payments have been delivered in record time, and millions more are on the way every week. We encourage people to visit IRS.gov for the latest information, FAQs and updates on the payments.”

More than 150 million

payments will be sent out, and millions of people who do not typically file a tax return are eligible to receive these payments. Payments are automatic for people who filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019, receive Social Security retirement, survivor or disability benefits (SSDI), Railroad Retirement benefits, as well as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Veterans Affairs beneficiaries who didn’t file a tax return in the last two years.

California was the state with the most payments and the highest amount of benefit, with 13,564,730 payments totaling \$22,465,995,771. Texas was the state with the second most payments.

For those who don’t receive federal benefits and didn’t have a filing obliga-

tion in 2018 or 2019, the IRS continues to encourage them to visit the Non-Filer tool at IRS.gov so they can quickly register for Economic Impact Payments. People can continue to receive their payment throughout the year.

Economic Impact Payments, totals by State (Northeast only)

- Massachusetts - 2,503,206 - \$4,008,005,049
- Connecticut - 1,325,813 - \$2,162,539,412
- New Hampshire - 560,833 - \$941,099,188
- Rhode Island - 446,941 - \$725,567,957
- Maine - 594,555 - \$1,005,363,003
- Vermont - 267,295 - \$450,251,509
- New York - 7,737,476 - \$12,523,017,409



AS DAYS TURN TO MONTHS, WE’VE ALL BEEN GOING A LITTLE STIR-CRAZY. THE PEOPLE WANT OUT. AND THEY’RE PLANNING FOR IT. MAKE SURE THAT PLAN INCLUDES YOU

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

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!

www.ebnhc.org •





# Baker announces four-phase reopening plan

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker on Monday announced a four-phased approach to reopening the state, as well as released Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards that all industries will follow.

“The goal of the phased reopening, based on public health guidance, is to methodically allow certain businesses, services, and activities to resume, while protecting public health and limiting a resurgence of new COVID-19 cases,” the state said.

Phase 1, called “Start,” means that limited industries—ones that are “more naturally set up,” according to Baker, would be allowed to open with “severe restrictions.” Phase 2, called “Cautious,” means that more industries can open “with restrictions and capacity limits.” Phase 3, called “Vigilant,” means that even more industries can “resume operations with guidance,” and Phase 4, called the “New Nor-

mal,” includes a development of a vaccine or therapy and “enables resumption of new normal.”

Baker said at a press conference on Monday that “all phases will be contingent upon the public health data.” He said that the goal is to begin implementing this plan on May 18, but added that “the facts on the ground will determine whether or not we actually hit that goal.”

Baker said on Monday that the state’s Reopening Advisory Board had met with stakeholders from 44 different industries and sectors, representing more than 110,000 businesses and over two million workers, in industries like dentistry, museums, sports, arts, entertainments, fitness, cannabis, labor unions, hair salons, and more.

Additionally, he said that the board has received written comments from more than 2200 employers and organizations.

He said that a more detailed plan about which in-

dustries fit into which phase will be released in the coming days.

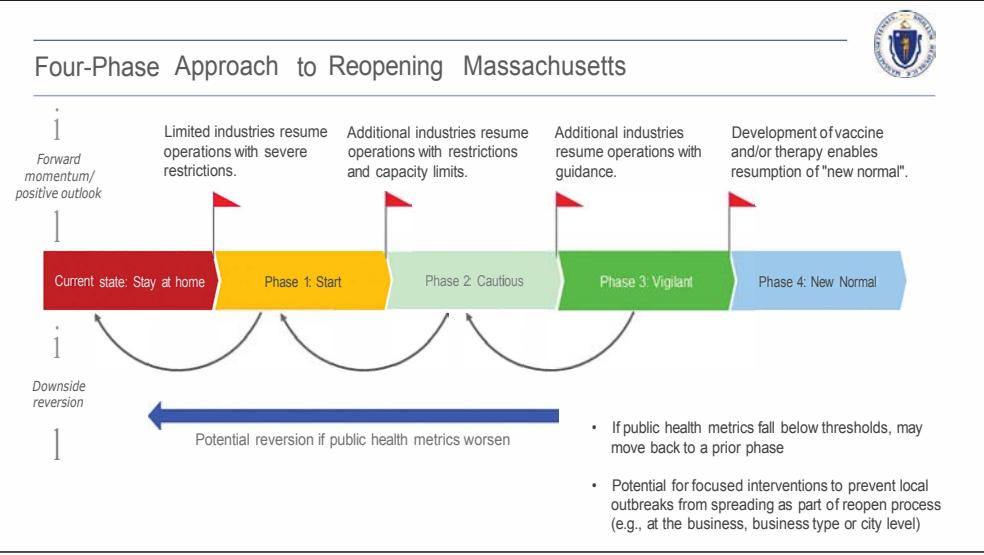
“This is no time to quit,” Baker said, especially “when we don’t have real certainties” about how the virus changes and reacts.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito talked about the Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards on Monday, explaining that “all workplaces that are allowed to operate will be required to implement these mandatory workplace safety standards.”

These standards include things like social distancing in the workplace, installing social distancing signage in the workplace, and requiring all employees to wear face coverings or masks, Polito said.

For hygiene, the standards include frequent hand washing and regular sanitization of high touch areas, as well as including a place for hand washing in the workplace that is adequately stocked with soap.

Polito also said that



cleaning protocols “specific to the business” must be established and maintained, and if an employee contracts COVID-19, the workplace must be cleaned and disinfected.

“As we move towards a new normal, we all have a lot of work to do,” Polito said. “I am confident that when we reopen, we will do so in a safe manner for all the people of this Commonwealth.”

**Community Health Centers Public Awareness Campaign**

On May 8, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the creation of a new COVID-19 public awareness campaign titled “New Tools, New Rules—Same Great Care” in partnership with the Mass League of Community Health Centers.

“Community Health Centers throughout the Commonwealth are open and accepting patients, and this campaign encourages residents to continue to seek care for their medical conditions and reminds individuals not to delay treatment as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency,” the state said on May 8.

“In addition to implementing additional, onsite safety protocols, many Community Health Centers

have introduced and expanded telehealth care options. Furthermore, MassHealth contracts with three telehealth providers to offer additional support for members with questions about symptoms that might be related to COVID-19.”

Ads for the campaign will run for free on WCVB in the Greater Boston area, as well as digitally on Facebook in “English, Spanish, and other languages, and will specifically target regions with the highest populations of families in need of services,” a release from the state said.

**Other Updates**

Baker on Tuesday announced that he filed a supplemental bill authorizing around \$1 billion for costs related to COVID-19, including the purchasing of PPE, “rate adjustments for providers of congregate care and other essential human services,” temporary field hospitals across the state, the Community Tracing Collaborative, and other expenses.

He said that the money would likely be reimbursed by federal aid programs such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), among others. He said he looks forward to working with the state legislature on enacting this bill.

Baker continues to provide updates on the Community Tracing Collaborative that began on April 12 and stressed the importance of answering these phone calls if you receive one. “Contact tracers will only reach out from phone numbers with 833 or 857 area codes, and the phone’s caller ID will say MA COVID Team,” according to the state.

As of May 7, the Community Tracing Collaborative has reached almost 14,000 people with confirmed cases of COVID-19 and established over 7,500 of their contacts. Baker said that the average number of contacts per confirmed case is two.

On May 11, he said that the state is “continuing to monitor daily trends” in COVID-19 data. “We believe we are trending in the right direction,” he added. Baker also said that 10 million pieces of PPE have now been distributed across the Commonwealth.

On Tuesday, Baker said that “while these recent numbers have been encouraging, we’re not yet out of the woods and we should all remember that.”

As of May 11, Massachusetts had 78,462 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 5,108 people had died.

## New unemployment claims decline for the fifth week

Massachusetts had 55,223 individuals file an initial claim for standard Unemployment Insurance (UI) from April 26 to May 2, the fifth consecutive week of fewer initial claims filing over the previous week.

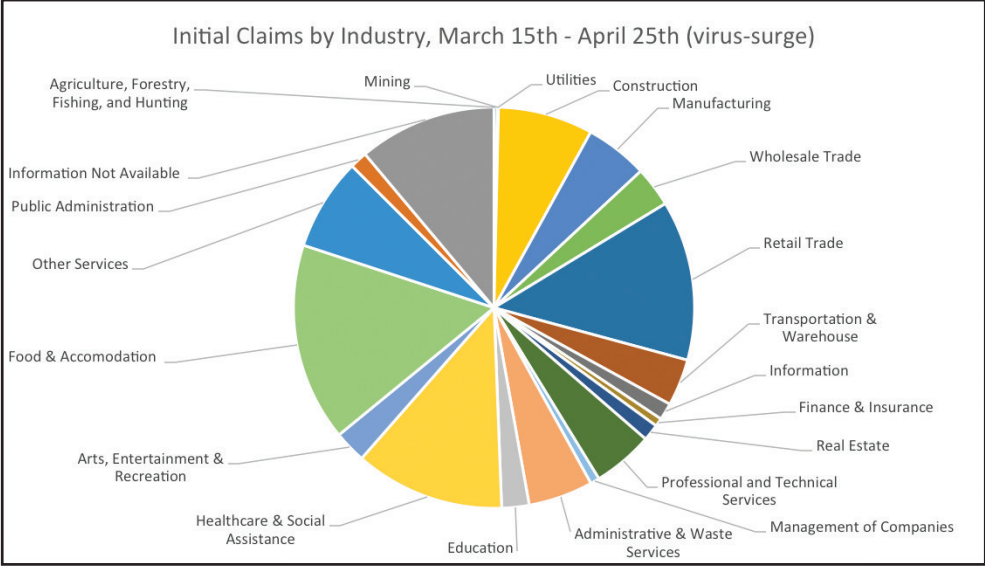
Since March 15, a total of 777,232 initial claims have been filed for UI. For the week of April 26 to May 2, there were a total of 556,272 continued UI claims, an increase of 5.4 percent over the previous week.

Since April 20, around

185,000 claimants have filed for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).

Over the last month, the customer service staff at the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has grown from around 50 employees to over 1,300. The remote customer service operation is now making over 25,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host daily unemployment town halls – which are being held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese –

and have been attended by over 230,000 constituents. Massachusetts was one of the first states to successfully launch the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. Due to DUA’s previous efforts to migrate their systems to the cloud, the first unemployment agency in the country to do so, the unemployment online platforms for both regular UI and PUA has maintained functionality throughout the surge in demand.



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## State files supplemental budget bill to authorize \$1 billion in COVID-19 spending

Gov. Charlie Baker filed a supplemental budget bill on Tuesday for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20), which will authorize \$1 billion in spending necessary to cover incurred and expected costs during the COVID-19 public health crisis.

It is expected that this spending will result in no net cost to the Commonwealth, after anticipated federal reimbursement and other federal funding sources.

These expenses include the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment, rate adjustments for providers of congregate care and other essential human services, incentive pay for state employees on the front lines at certain facilities in operation 24 hours a day, costs of temporary field hospitals and shelters, National Guard pay, the first statewide contract tracing program in the country, emergency child care for essential workers, and increased costs of local housing authorities and of the family and individual shelter system.

This authorization will enable the Commonwealth to leverage federal financial support, most notably, aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which can only reimburse state spending resulting from eligible disaster response activities. This legislation would ensure that adequate state spending has been authorized to

allow the Commonwealth to continue to protect the public unimpeded until the federal reimbursement process can be realized.

COVID-19 costs not supported by FEMA reimbursement will, to the extent possible, be matched to other available federal revenue sources, including the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund established in the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

The bill would also attribute federal reimbursements to FY20 if they are associated with COVID-19 response costs incurred in FY20, allowing the use of revenue sources without putting the FY20 budget out of balance.

## More than 50 filmed-in-MA movies & TV series available

As the COVID-19 public health emergency continues, many people staying home are looking for more films and TV shows to watch on the streaming services they subscribe to. Many are also looking for ways to connect virtually to our local communities. Thanks to the Massachusetts film industry’s resurgence over the past several years, Massachusetts residents can choose from hours of locally-filmed TV and film content available on the streaming services they already subscribe to.

The Massachusetts Production Coalition, a network of film and media professionals and businesses throughout the state, has created a directory of 50+ films and episodic series shot in Massachusetts in just the last 5 years that are available now for streaming on various video-on-demand streaming services. You can watch these locally-filmed movies and TV

series on popular streaming services including Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV+, HBO Now, Hulu, Netflix, Passionflix, Showtime, Starz, and Tubi.

“Watching locally-filmed series and movies is a great way to connect with your friends and neighbors during social distancing, whether it’s by holding a virtual watch party or just watching a movie and discussing it later,” said David Hartman, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Production Coalition. “Pointing out local landmarks; spotting neighborhood small businesses; arguing about the routes characters choose to drive; laughing when we’re used as a stand-in for other states – watching a locally-filmed production is just more engaging and connection-worthy.”

See the directory at [mass-prodcoalition.org/news/made-in-ma-streaming](https://mass-prodcoalition.org/news/made-in-ma-streaming).

Since 2006, more than 250 film and television pro-

ductions have filmed in over 220 Massachusetts cities and towns, together spending more than \$2.6 billion in the state. Film and television productions have a significant impact on a local economy, from supporting thousands of jobs, to buying goods and services from small businesses, to donating to local initiatives.

“Filming is suspended right now due to the coronavirus, but it’s a great time to relive memories from past sets I’ve worked on by watching locally-filmed movies and shows,” said Taryn Walsh, a key costumer who has worked on projects including Little Women and Patriots Day. “There are so many amazing films and TV shows that were shot here in Massachusetts available at your fingertips. Staying home and watching local is the ideal way to practice social distancing while still supporting our local arts industry.”



NEWS Briefs

BY SETH DANIEL

GRADUATION FOR CLASS OF 2020 TO BE VIRTUAL

Chelsea High Principal Mark Martineau took to Facebook last week to publicly announce that the district has moved quick to secure a vendor so as to have a virtual graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020.

The move seems necessary, but was incredibly unpopular amongst the class – many of whom had not heard of the idea until it was announced.

“I hate the current pandemic is taking this away from you and your families,” he said. “We don’t know when we’ll be able to be back together again and we don’t know what changes will be in place when we are able to get back together. What we do know is we want to honor our students. The online or virtual graduation was an idea as a way to have this honor... Our intention was to move quickly to secure a vendor and not to limit student participation.”

He said they would have a Town Hall for students and parents online in the coming weeks to talk about what it entails and why they made the decision. He said many video production companies have pivoted to start providing virtual graduations, and they have been swarmed with requests from schools. That caused the quick decision to be made so there was something rather than nothing.

“Many of you have heard we are planning an online graduation this year, and many have voiced your displeasure for a lack of in-person graduation to honor your four years of hard work or even just to have a voice in that decision,” he said. “Thank you for making your feelings known. But let me be clear. The last thing I want to happen is to have no graduation or celebration at all. That is not an option.”

He said the advantage is that there is a definite moment to celebrate, and time won’t go by to an extent where suddenly nothing happens.

“I can think of no greater disservice than to have no recognition at all,” he said.

Chelsea officials were able to find a good vendor they like, discussed it with the class officers, and moved quickly to secure a potential date, which will be revealed soon. However, it doesn’t mean it is the final thing that will be done for seniors.

“This does not have to be the final thing we do to honor our seniors nor does it have to be the only thing we do,” he said.

He encouraged students and parent with ideas and suggestions to reach out.

CAPIC FUEL

Guard /Continued from Page 1

times a week. We’ll continue our home deliveries as well, but we are scaling down. The National Guard will have their last day here on May 22.”

This week and next week the current pop-up pantry locations will continue as they have, but the following week, starting on May 25, operations will begin to ratchet down with three pantries a week, all at PORT Park.

“We’ll consolidate there and have pantries three times a week, and we’ll do that into the first few weeks of June and then re-assess,” he said.

While the situation on the ground is still dire with hundreds coming out every

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.

GETTING FOOD TO EVERYONE IN NEED: UPDATES

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

Pop-up Pantry Locations:

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

TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR RESIDENTS TO SAFELY RECOVER FROM COVID-19

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

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

Those meeting these qualifications will be further evaluated by health-care professionals to determine if the Quality Inn will provide appropriate temporary isolation housing for their unique circumstances. Isolated individuals at the Quality Inn will receive care from Partners HealthCare medical professionals, along with food and hygiene supplies provided by MEMA. There will also be mental health support services from North Suffolk Mental Health Association. This safe housing option will be available for 60 days.

DIAPER DRIVE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

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

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

MGH CHELSEA, BETH ISRAEL OFFERS TESTING FOR THOSE WITH SYMPTOMS

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

One doesn’t need to be a patient of MGH to qualify. There is also not a need to have health insurance, and immigration status does not 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.

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

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

EBNHC OFFERS TESTING TO CHELSEA RESIDENTS

The East Boston Neighborhood Health Center now offers testing to Chelsea residents. Unlike testing at MGH and Beth Israel, this testing is for anyone – one does not need to have COVID-19 symptoms. Like MGH and Beth Israel, one does not need to be a patient, they do not need insurance, and immigration status does not matter.

Appointments are required – no walk-ins are allowed. To schedule an appointment, call 617-569-5800. Testing is done in East Boston.

COLLABORATIVE MASKS FOR SALE

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Chelsea Collaborative was supporting a group of jornaleros (day laborers) to launch a worker-owned tailoring cooperative in Chelsea for entrepreneurial immigrants in search of economic opportunity. They have now come together to support community crisis responders and help undocumented families in Chelsea weather the financial crisis. The jornaleros are sewing proper masks to protect Chelsea’s community response organizations from the spread of the virus. Masks are being sold for \$10 each and the proceeds are going to support undocumented families who are not eligible for unemployment benefits. 300 masks have already been sewn and distributed with more on the way. Individuals can purchase

High school seniors unsure about their future should consider a career in court reporting

Are you a high school senior not sure about taking the college path for your future? Or, are you interested in learning a new skill set? Maybe you’re just ready to explore a new career choice. Now could be the perfect time for college bound student unsure about committing to a four-year traditional college, to take advantage of the National Court Reporters Association’s (NCRA) A to Z@ Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program, a free online six-week introductory course that let’s participants see if a career in court reporting or captioning is a good fit for them. NCRA is the country’s leading organization representing stenographic court reporters and captioners.

NCRA’s A to Z Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program is an introductory course in stenographic theory. It provides participants with the opportunity to learn the basics of writing on a steno machine. There is no charge to take the course, but participants are required to have access to a steno machine or an iPad they can use to download an iStenoPad app. NCRA does not have any machines available for rent at this time.

The program is a hybrid course combining both live online instructor sessions with videos and dictation materials for self-paced practice. During the six-week program, experienced court reporters teach participants the alphabet in steno and how to write on a machine.

The course is perfect for high school seniors who are still considering what career path to follow upon graduation in the spring. A career in court reporting or captioning is also a viable

masks as well. To purchase any masks, you may place an order via email, please provide your name, phone number, address and number of masks by contacting: sylviar@chelseacollab.organd then via Cash App: \$ChelseaCollaborative.

SCHOOL MEAL DISTRIBUTION CHANGES

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

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

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

Meals will be served this week during April vacation week.

IF YOU ARE NOT SICK AND NEED FOOD

- Monday-Friday: Hot lunches and kids lunches at 11:30 a.m. at Salvation Army (258 Chestnut Street)
- Tuesdays and Thursdays: Grocery pick-up 10 a.m.-noon at the Salvation Army (258 Chestnut Street).
- Tuesdays and Thursdays: Grocery pick-up at 5 p.m. at the Chelsea Collaborative (318 Broadway).
- Thursdays and Fridays: Mass General Hospital Food For Families Pantry (151 Everett Ave.). Available two times per month to MGH patients by referral. Please call (617) 887-3575.

- Saturdays: Grocery pick-up 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Saint Luke’s Episcopal Church (201 Washington Avenue, Chelsea); no appointment necessary.
- IF YOU ARE IN ISOLATION AND NEED FOOD

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

- IF YOU ARE 65 YEARS OR OLDER

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

PANDEMIC-EBT

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

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

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# State Treasurer’s unclaimed property division pays out \$5.5 million in claims during covid-19 pandemic

As COVID-19 has forced millions to work remotely, businesses and government agencies have also had to adjust to these unprecedented times. The Massachusetts Unclaimed Property Division (UCP), however, was uniquely positioned to remote work without disrupting the customer experience and has paid out over \$5.5 Million in claims since the start of the pandemic.

In 2016, UCP updated its database system and public-facing website. State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, who oversees UCP, ensured that the division moved from an internal, on premises only, server-based system, to a secured-cloud-hosted web-based system. Employees who now work remotely are able to do so with the

same functionality as if they were on site. The division also built a robust outreach program. As a result, staff already had experienced working remotely to initiate and pay claims outside of the office.

“By introducing new technology into Treasury departments and agencies we have been able to continue to efficiently serve the people of Massachusetts during these uncertain times,” said State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, “By establishing an advanced web-based system, Unclaimed Property has been able to serve thousands and pay out millions, which is currently needed by a lot of people.”

The list of unclaimed property owners in Massachusetts has grown each year. As we experience un-

precedented circumstances, the UCP team’s established online presence is fully accessible to the public and continues to be extremely effective, as the number of searches and claims for unclaimed property has increased.

In the past five weeks alone, UCP has processed over 12,000 claims. With an efficient and customer-friendly claims system in place, over \$5.5 million worth of claims have been properly paid out during the pandemic.

With unemployment numbers increasing, the opportunity for Massachusetts residents to discover unclaimed property that is rightfully theirs has been beneficial. Unclaimed Property can consist of bank accounts, uncashed checks, stocks or divi-

dends, insurance policies, or the contents of safe deposit boxes.

“Similar to other agencies and businesses, we have had to quickly adapt to our new normal,” states Mark Bracken, Assistant Treasurer/Director of the Unclaimed Property Division, “But because of thoughtful planning and preparation we are in a much better place than most and have been able to help thousands of people in the past five weeks.”

UCP currently holds over \$3.4 billion in unclaimed property at Treasury and it could be yours. One in ten Massachusetts residents are owed money. To search to see if you have unclaimed money, visit: <https://find-massmoney.com/>.

# LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

## MALDEN CATHOLIC HONOR ROLL WINTER 2020

Malden Catholic High School students have completed the coursework for the third quarter for the 2019-20 academic year. Malden Catholic divides honors into three levels: Headmaster’s List, First Honors and Second Honors.

Headmaster’s List – Scores of 90 and above in all classes

First Honors – Scores of 85 and above in all classes

Second Honors – Scores of 80 and above in all classes

The following students at Malden Catholic are Chelsea residents and have achieved the following honors:

**First Honors**  
Vinny Nguyen–Grade 12

Minh Nhat – Grade 12

Founded in 1932, Malden Catholic offers a unique Codivisional model among Catholic schools in the greater Boston area. Codivisional education is an educational model that offers children the best of both worlds, rigorous single-gender academics during the day and integrated social and extracurricular opportunities after school. With 565 students currently enrolled in the private, Xavian-inspired educational institution, Malden Catholic boasts a proud history of academic excellence and leadership. It has graduated a Nobel Laureate, a U.S. Senator, business leaders, and students who have gone on to attend Harvard, Cornell, Columbia, the University of Chicago and Georgetown in recent years.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at [www.biddocsonline.com](http://www.biddocsonline.com). Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer). The City of Chelsea – Public Schools, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from General Contractors for the Williams Middle School Boiler Replacement Project 2020-283. The Project consists of: The Chelsea Middle School Boiler Replacement Project include replacing two existing boilers with pumps, piping and related hydronic; automatic temperature controls; electrical power wiring, testing and balancing. The work is estimated to cost \$400,000.00. Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive. General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work – HVAC and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime Update Statement (Form CQ 3). General Bids will be received until May 28, 2020 at 9:00AM and publicly opened, forthwith online. All Bids should be submitted electronically online at [www.biddocsonline.com](http://www.biddocsonline.com) and received no later than the date and time specified above. General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the City of Chelsea – Public Schools. Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available at [www.biddocsonline.com](http://www.biddocsonline.com) (may be viewed electronically and downloaded). 5/14/20 C

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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 May 4, 2020, the City Council voted to adopt the following emergency orders: Ordered, that the Chelsea City Council act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the awarding of grant funding for a FY2020 community preservation project, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44B, Section 5(3)(d) and in accordance with the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Chelsea, Chapter 2, Article VII, Division 3, Section 2-330: Ordered, that the Council appropriate the following as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee: \$288,823 from the Community Housing Reserve for Project CP20-03 Emergency Rental Assistance - AHTF; \$575,132 from the Budgeted Reserve for Project CP20-03 Emergency Rental Assistance - AHTF; and \$386,045 from the Community Preservation Fund for Project CP20-03 Emergency Rental Assistance - AHTF. Ordered, that the Chelsea City Council appropriates a total of \$1,576,650.00 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. Copies of the orders are available at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 500 Broadway, Room209, Chelsea, MA 02150. Jeannette Cintron White City Clerk 5/14/20, 5/21/20 C

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# OBITUARIES

## Floyd Porter

Established and owned F.P. Enterprises/  
Porter Products

 Floyd H. Porter, 82, of Chelsea, formerly of Revere and Winthrop, passed away unexpectedly at home on Sunday, May 3.

Floyd grew up in Winthrop and graduated from Winthrop High School in 1954. He attended Northeastern University as an accounting major and later earned a Certificate in Radio/TV Repair from DeVry Technical Institute in Chicago, IL, passing his 1st Class FCC License-Radar Endorsed.

He was a Korean War and Cold War Era Veteran, having served from 1954 - 1962 as a SP4 in XIII U.S. Army Corps., Yankee Division, Chemical Corps. at Camp Drum, Utica NY, during which his service time was extended due to the Berlin Wall Crisis.

Following his Army service, he worked as a civilian contractor at Eglin AFB in Florida developing and working on F105 aircraft Doppler radar systems; during that period, he was involved in the rescue of F105 pilot that crashed into the Everglades and subsequent recovery of the on-board Doppler equipment.

After his military and military contractor service, Floyd returned to Massachusetts, where he worked for companies including: Xerox Corp., Anelex Corp, Savin Business Machines, Whittle Communications, Fiore Bus Company, and several other technical companies. He established and owned F.P. Enterprises/Porter Products, all while raising his family.

Once retired, Floyd enjoyed trips to Poland Springs, ME, Cape Cod and leaf peeping around the New England area with his lovely wife by his side.

Floyd was a loyal listener and periodic caller to talk radio shows and would occasionally write letters to the editor. Floyd was never one to shy away from a discussion or debate and took pride in being well read and well informed.

Building upon his knowledge in the restaurant/food industry, he was a frequent visitor to the Chelsea Market Basket where he made the rounds and cultivated some very good relationships with managers and workers over the years, was interviewed by local TV news for live-shots outside the store before snow storms, and met and spoke with a person he



had tremendous respect for, President and CEO Arthur T. DeMoulas.

Floyd was immensely proud of his children and their accomplishments, their families, and everyone's individual successes.

In his later years, he enjoyed his role as Grampie to Kayla and Emily, having many fun and cherished moments including their favorite, "The Grampie Dance."

He is survived by his beloved wife of 47 years, Deborah (Meredith) Porter of Chelsea; two children, daughter Mandy (Porter) Piscitelli and her husband, Frank J. Piscitelli, III Esq. of Millbury and son, Nicholas G. Porter and his partner, Annette Gonzalez of Seattle, WA; two granddaughters, Kayla and Emily Piscitelli of Millbury, who he adored; a sister, Dorothy Langer of New York, NY; his mother-in-law, Shirley (Norton) Meredith of Melrose; two sisters-in-law, Susan Treasure of Wales, UK and Christine Meredith and her husband, Denny of Melrose; his nephews and nieces, Jonathan and Eric Meredith of Melrose and David and Laura Treasure of Wales, UK, and many cousins and friends.

He was born to the late Harold A. Potcherkoff and Goldie (Fineman) Potcherkoff on May 23, 1937 in Boston. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his father-in-law, Kenneth B. Meredith of Melrose and two brothers-in-law, Thomas G. Coccovillo of Revere and Michael Treasure of Wales, UK.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and government restrictions on gatherings, immediate services will be private with family and close friends, with a memorial service at a later time when restrictions are relaxed. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice, in Floyd's name. Services are being provided by the Gately Funeral Home, Melrose.

## Josephine Seekins

April 5, 1945 – May 6, 2020

At 9:50 a.m. on May 6, Josephine M. "Josie" Seekins entered the Kingdom of Heaven after losing her battle with COVID-19 while being cared for by Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. She was 75 years old.

Born on April 1, 1945 in Boston and raised for a short time in East Boston, Josephine was a longtime resident of Chelsea, before moving to Winthrop in recent years. Chelsea was always where she felt at home.

Josephine suffered from Dementia for the past few years and resided at Winthrop Pace Assisted Living for the past year and a half.

Josephine is survived by her beloved and cherished daughter, Tracey Seekins and loving son in law, Rick Silva of Revere, her very special and bonded loved son, Eddie Seekins of Revere and her beloved and adored granddaughter, Casey Oles, of Chelsea. Josephine was the much loved sister of the late Shirley Greene, Dorothy LaFrat-ta of Revere and Patricia Martini of Stoughton, Rita Pittman of Roslindale, and her loving and caring brothers, the late Robert Pittman, the late Gerard Pittman and the late James Pittman and many beloved nephews and nieces and cousins. She also leaves her special and adored cousin Dotty Cimino, who enjoyed spending one day per week together, having lunch for the last few years.

Josephine loved all the many friends she made throughout her life. She was very active. She walked everywhere she would go. Often times, she would take her granddaughter, Casey for slush, ice cream or wherever she wanted to go -- always together, when Casey was little. She never said No to Casey.

Josephine enjoyed dinners or most anything cooked by her daughter, Tracey. She loved Christmas Eves and spending the night with her daughter and son in law, Thanksgivings, Easters and Birthdays, together with her family.

Josephine retired from the Chelsea School Department where she was a very caring and helpful teacher's aide. Josephine was also a former homemaker, school



bus monitor and has always worked to help and care for children and the elderly.

Josephine was well known wherever she lived. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends, loved listening to music, dancing, sitting in the sun, TV and movies, and walking everywhere she went. She would rather walk, instead of taking a bus or riding in a car.

Josephine loved animals, especially her daughter's cat, Smokey and her granddaughter's dog, Fenway. She occasionally made donations to the ASPCA and local animal shelters whenever she could.

Josephine was always willing to lend a hand, do a chore or an errand for anyone.

She was a caring, loving, hardworking and dedicated Mother, Nana, Sister, Aunt, Cousin and Friend. She will always be remembered as such a loving, caring, kind hearted woman, with a good sense of humor. She loved to smile or laugh with all who knew her.

Josephine will be terribly missed and loved forever by her entire family, friends and especially her children, Tracey and Eddie and granddaughter, Casey.

Due to the pandemic, funeral services will be private. A Memorial Mass and celebration of Josephine's life will be held and announced at future date. Arrangements were given to the care and direction of the Anthony Memorial - Welsh Funeral Home, Chelsea. We encourage family and friends who wish, to offer condolences at this time by means of the online guest book or they may send a personalized sympathy card.

In lieu of flowers, should friends desire, contributions can be made in Josephine Seekins' name to the Mass General Hospital COVID - 19 Emergency Response Fund or the ASPCA.

## Mildred Baggs

Will be greatly missed by all who love her

Mildred B. (Carnell) Baggs passed away at her home in Chelsea on Thursday evening, May 7. She was 89 years old.

Born in Conception Bay, Newfoundland, Canada, the daughter of the late Stephen S. and Gertrude L. (Sellars) Carnell, Mildred attended school in Canada and graduated high school there. She came to the United States when she was 18 years old and received her US Citizenship in 1960. Mildred lived in Everett and Revere prior to moving to Chelsea where she has resided for almost 60 years.

Mildred was a homemaker for most of her life, tending to her home and to her two sons. She worked for 20 years for different companies, such as, American Optical, Armitron, and Hysil Manufacturing Company. Mildred retired in 1991 after 20 years of service, ending with her employment as a bow maker at Hysil.

Mildred was a 50-year member of the Mt. Bellingham U.M. Church in Chelsea and a late member of the Glendale U.M. Church

in Everett. She was very active in the Women's Society of each Church. Mildred later joined the First Congregational Church in Chelsea. She will be greatly missed by all who loved her.


She was the wife of the late John M. Baggs; beloved mother of John R. Baggs of Malden and Robert A. Baggs and his wife, Inta of Saugus. Mildred was predeceased by two brothers, Gerald Carnell, John "Jack" Carnell and five sisters, Florence Learning, Lorraine Crocker, Rita Crowley, Edith Coish and Marion Peach. She is also lovingly survived by five grandchildren, Robert Jr., John, Dawn, Shaun and Carress, four great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

Due to the current restrictions placed upon family and friends because of COVID-19, services for Mildred will be private with burial in Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Carafa Family Funeral Home in Chelsea.

## Joseph Stutto Sr.

May 9, 1952 – May 7, 2020

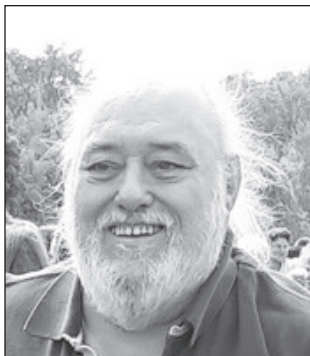
 Joseph Stutto Sr., 68, lifelong resident of Chelsea, passed away on Thursday, May 7 at the Massachusetts General Hospital after a brief non-covid related illness.

Born and raised in Chelsea, he was the only child and son of the late Lawrence J. and Estelle R. (Richards) Stutto.

He attended local schools and graduated from Chelsea High School. He enlisted in the US Army, served during the Vietnam Era, received a purple heart and was honorably discharged from the service.

Joseph worked at various jobs to support his family, working as a construction laborer and truck driver. He most enjoyed the 25 years of hiring himself out as a DJ known simply as "Joe S."

He married Norita (Melanson) and raised three sons and a daughter in Chelsea. He gave over thirty years to Chelsea youth sports, coaching with the Chelsea Little League, POP Warner Football and Chelsea Youth Basketball League. He loved his time working with and mentoring young men and women of all ages. He was a proud life member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).



He is survived by his beloved wife of 20 years, Norita M. Stutto of Chelsea.

He was the devoted father of Thomas Melanson of Ipswich, Joseph C. Stutto and his wife, Jenn of Lynnfield, Marc Stutto and Victoria Stutto, both of Chelsea, the proud grandfather of Thomas Melanson, Jr., Daniel McCarthy, Brandie Melanson and Jackson Stutto. He is also survived by countless friends and extended family members.

A private family farewell will be held, to be followed by a private graveside interment in Woodlawn Cemetery next week. A celebration of his life will be announced for a later date when family and friends can attend. We encourage family and friends who wish, to offer condolences at this time by means of the online guest book or to send a personalized sympathy card. Arrangements are by Anthony Memorial - Welsh Funeral Home.

## Catalina Santiago Vega

April 30, 1937 – May 5, 2020

Catalina Santiago Vega, 83, born in Patillas, Puerto Rico, April 30, 1937 died on May 5, 2020.

She parted from our lives leaving us with many memories.

The daughter of the late Evaristo Vega and Victoria Soto, she had 10 siblings and was mother to Francisco Santiago Jr., David Santiago, Richard Santiago, William Santiago, Miriam "Milly" Santiago and the twins, Darlene (Santiago) Hancock and Arlene (Santiago) Tessitore. She was the loving grandmother of many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Catalina was best known as everyone's Abuela, the head of the family and main provider. Her commitment as a wife was driven by her desire to provide the best life for her children. Abuela always said and did everything with great intentions. Abuela had many characteristics such as integrity, loyalty, devotion, love and was very empowered.

She was the rock to our family, always made it a point to be with family, and made it a point to be there for one another. Abuela had a passion to teach. She taught us to reach for our



goals with self-determination while empathizing with others.

Her life lesson was, that with faith and self-belief you can conquer life. Abuela's favorite advice was "echa pa'lante" meaning "keep moving forward."

She would not want us to grieve over her passing, but to remember all of the fond memories she created. Let us carry her in our hearts and never forget her. "We love you Abuela."

A private family farewell and committal service will be held at Holy Cross Cemetery. We encourage family and friends who wish, to offer condolences at this time by means of the online guest book or to send a personalized sympathy card.

Arrangements are by Anthony Memorial - Welsh Funeral Home.

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OBITUARIES

José Agustín Iraheta  
Martínez Sr.

August 28, 1955 - May 6, 2020

José Agustín Iraheta Martínez, 64 years old, was born in San Vicente, El Salvador on August 28th, 1955. The son of Cleotilde and Dorotea Iraheta. In 1973 he met his beloved Aracely, and they were married by the church on June 30, 1989.

He obtained his Bachelor and Masters degrees in business administration from the Technological University. He belonged to the Saint Rose of Lima Parish where he led groups and was a Eucharist Minister. Jose entered into eternal rest with God on Wednesday May 6th, 2020.

Jose loved and fought for his family to the end. Jose was: a loving husband (he lived for his wife), an exemplary father and a loving grandfather. Above of all, he was a gentleman and a great man.

In his professional life he had a long and varied work life. His character was defined by his work and the love he had for his family and friends. He served as a guide for many, always reaching out to help others. In his absence his memory and legacy will live on in all the people who knew him.

Jose took each day as a gift from God, which he shared with everyone who knew him. Now is the time to return our gift to the eter-

nal peace of our Lord.

The Iraheta family sincerely wishes to thank the Mass General Hospital intensive care medical team for their loving assistance in his last days.

He is survived to cherish his memory: his wife, Aracely Iraheta; his children: Yesica and Danny Santos, Karla Iraheta de Carmona and Roberto Carmona and Jose Iraheta Jr. and Denise Ortega de Iraheta; two grandchildren; six sisters; numerous nephews and nieces, extended family and a great circle of friends

A private family farewell was held on May 12 followed by a procession and funeral blessing at the doors outside of his beloved Saint Rose of Lima Church, concluding with graveside prayers and interment in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. Family and friends will bid farewell in the safety of their cars at the church and at the cemetery before the burial.

The pandemic caused by COVID-19 has affected all aspects of our lives including how we grieve. One of these restrictions is not being able to receive flower bouquets. In lieu of flowers please continue to celebrate Jose's life in prayer and keep yourself safe.

Arrangements are by Anthony Memorial – Welsh Funeral Home.

Augustin Iraheta  
Martinez, Sr.

August 28, 1955 – May 6, 2020

José Agustín Iraheta Martínez Sr. 28 de agosto del 1955 – 6 de mayo del 2020

José Agustín Iraheta Martínez, de 64 años de edad nació en San Vicente, El Salvador el día 28 de agosto de 1955. Hijo de Cleotilde y Dorotea Iraheta. En 1973 conoció a su amada Aracely, y contrajeron matrimonio por la iglesia el 30 de junio de 1989. Obtuvo su licenciatura y maestría en administración de empresas de la Universidad Tecnológica. Pertenecía a la Iglesia Santa Rosa de Lima donde lidero grupos y fue Ministro de Eucaristía. Jose entró en eterno descanso con Dios el miércoles 6 de mayo del 2020. Jose amo y lucho por su familia hasta el final. Jose fue: un esposo amoroso, vivía por su esposa, un padre ejemplar y un abuelo cariñoso. Ante todo, él era un caballero y un gran hombre. En su vida profesional tuvo una larga y variada vida laboral. Su carácter se definió por su trabajo y el amor que tenía por su familia y amigos. Él sirvió como un guía para muchos, siempre extendiendo una mano para ayudar a los demás. En su ausencia su memoria y legado vivirán en todas las personas que lo conocieron. Jose tomo cada día como un regalo de Dios, el cual compartía con todos los que lo conocieron. Ahora es tiempo de devolver este regalo a la paz eterna de nuestro Señor. La familia Iraheta desea agradecer sinceramente al equipo médico



de cuidados intensivos de Mass General Hospital por su asistencia cariñosa que brindaron en sus últimos días. Quedan para atesorar su memoria: su esposa Aracely Iraheta: sus hijos; Yesica y Danny Santos, Karla Iraheta de Carmona y Roberto Carmona, y José Iraheta Jr. y Denise Ortega de Iraheta; 2 nietos; 6 hermanas; numerosos sobrinos y sobrinas; familia extensa y un gran cirulo de amigos.

Una despedida familiar en privado se llevará a cabo el 12 de mayo del 2020, seguida de una procesión y una bendición fúnebre en las puertas de su amada Iglesia de Santa Rosa de Lima, que concluirá con oraciones junto a la tumba y entierro en el Cementerio de Holy Cross, Malden. Familiares y amigos se despedirán desde la seguridad de sus autos en la iglesia y en el cementerio antes del entierro.

La pandemia causada por el COVID-19 a afectado todos los aspectos de nuestra vida incluyendo la forma en que penamos. Una de estas restricciones es el no poder recibir ramos florales. En lugar de flores favor continúen celebrando la vida de Jose en oración y manteniéndose seguros.

RMV cautions customers  
to be aware of unofficial  
third-party websites

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is cautioning customers to use only Mass. Gov/RMV when they are trying to renew a license or registration or process any business transactions online. Customers may inadvertently come across unofficial third-party websites or “mimic sites” that advertise similar services but have no affiliation with the RMV.

“Customers need to ensure that they are using the official Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles website Mass.Gov/RMV to conduct their business transactions,” said Acting Registrar of Motor Vehicles Jamey Tesler. “Customers should avoid using any unofficial third-party websites that are offering RMV services to ensure that their personal and financial information is protected.”

Customers can use the helpful hints listed below to determine whether the website they are using is the official site for the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles.

•Massachusetts uses the abbreviation “RMV.” Any website using the phrase “Department of Motor Vehicles” or “DMV” should be avoided.

•Make sure the Commonwealth’s seal is located somewhere on the page. This will help ensure that it is an official government website. If it cannot be found, customers should leave the site immediately.

•Always read the fine print and look for key phrases such as “for-prof-

it” or “privately owned” at the top or bottom of the third-party websites which may note that they are not affiliated with the Commonwealth.

•The Registry will never charge a customer to check the status of a license, registration, or title. If the site requires payment to access this information, it is an unsecured mimic site.

•At Mass.Gov/RMV, a customer will never be charged to access Registry forms and information, but unofficial third-party sites may charge for this service. Their information is also not guaranteed to be accurate.

•The Registry never charges for address changes. If a customer uses a mimic site, the change cannot be guaranteed to have actually gone through.

Any information on these third-party websites may not be accurate, and any details or payments that customers submit may not be secure. The RMV is not responsible for the content or actions taken by these sites. For more information on the dangers of third-party services, visit the Mass.Gov/RMV.

Customers with additional questions can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation by calling the Consumer Hotline at (617) 973-8787, or toll-free in MA at (888) 283-3757.

For the latest Registry updates and information, follow the RMV on Twitter @MassRMV.

Dorothy Marotta  
Of Revere

Dorothy Marotta of Revere passed away on May 7, 2020 at the age 79. Born in Malden on February 18, 1941 to the late Pasquale and Theresa (Sarni). Beloved sister of Virginia Mullen and her late husband Bill of Revere. Adored aunt of Michael Mullen and his wife Kim Chin of Saugus, Therese Mullen and her partner Gino Marino of Saugus and Steven Mullen of Revere. Cherished great-aunt of Adelina and Anthony. Dorothy also leaves behind her cat Gypsy. Dorothy was an employee for over 40 years at American Biltrite where she retired as payroll supervisor. Dottie's faith was extremely important to her. She was a devoted parishioner at St. Anthony's Church in Revere. She was a past member of the Lady's Sodality. She enjoyed bingo and an occasional trip to Las Vegas.



Dottie will be remembered for her kind and generous spirit, always one to pick up the tab for both family and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Dorothy's memory to St. Anthony's Church, 250 Revere Street, Revere, MA 02151. In accordance with the CDC's current restrictions on gatherings due to Covid-19, all services will be held privately. Interment Woodlawn Cemetery. For guestbook, please visit [www.buonfiglio.com](http://www.buonfiglio.com).



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# Rep. Kennedy joins Chelsea City Councilor Garcia to deliver Mother’s Day gifts to COVID-19 patients

By Cary Shuman

Chelsea City Councilor Judith Garcia delivered Mother’s Day gifts and hot breakfasts and lunches Sunday to COVID-19 patients being quarantined at the Quality Inn Hotel in Revere.

Congressman Joe Kennedy III and his wife, Lauren Kennedy, joined Garcia at the event that drew smiles of gratitude from the 20 mothers, some of whom watched the presentation unfold from the windows of their hotel rooms.

Through the initiative of Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo and Chelsea City Manager Tom Ambrosino, the hotel was converted into an isolation

site for people who had contracted COVID-19 and needed immediate housing to keep the virus from spreading to members of their family.

The Mother’s Day event went smoothly and brought cheer to the residents of Revere and Chelsea being housed at the hotel.

“It went very very well,” said Garcia. “It was very nice to bring a little of hope and happiness to moms who are making great sacrifices. All the patients there are making sacrifices, but especially moms.”

Garcia said she was happy to see the guests receive a warm meals and gifts on a day that usually features large family gatherings enjoying dinners recognizing



One of the 20 plus residents at the Quality Inn in Revere waves hello to the visitors on Mother’s Day.

moms.

“It’s difficult for them to not be with loved ones and their children, so we figured it would be nice to just treat them to a nice warm meal and a little gift that could make the mothers feel special on their day,” said Garcia.

Garcia worked in collaboration with Alvania Lopez, founder of the Peach Box Company, and Casa Colombia (East Boston) and Las Palmas (Roslindale) on the project. She hosted a fundraiser to obtain 51 gifts boxes and the breakfasts and lunches.

The gifts and meals were dropped off at the entrance to the hotel and medical

staff transported the items to the appreciative mothers.

Congressman Kennedy came to Revere to take part in the initiative and said he was excited to be at the event. “Lauren and I were honored to join Chelsea City Councilor Judith Garcia and other local leaders to bring breakfast to recovering mothers who cannot be with their families today,” said Kennedy. “It was a small way to let them know our community is with them and praying for their speedy recovery.”



Chelsea Councilwoman and Council Vice President Judith Garcia greets Congressman Kennedy in the parking lot.



Children quarantined with their moms on Mother’s Day watched all the visitors that were gathering in the parking lot last Sunday morning through their windows.



Congressman Kennedy, Lauren Kennedy and Councilwoman Judith Garcia deliver Mother’s Day packages to residents at the Revere Quality Inn.



Chelsea businessman, Walter Castaneda and owner of Casa Domingo brought breakfast for the quarantined residents last Sunday morning for Mother’s Day. Castaneda is shown with Congressman Joe Kennedy III, his wife Lauren, Chelsea Council VP Judith Garcia and Fidel Maltez, Chelsea’s Commissioner of Public Works.



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a small message here written by the parents,  
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