The next two weeks will tell if we’re ready

BY BILL WALTERS
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

One of the most iconic lines in movie history is from “Jaws,” where Brody, played by Roy Scheider, sees the shark for the first time, and realizes it’s way bigger and more dangerous than anticipated. The shark proceeds over the rest of the movie to kill the captain and destroy the boat before it is finally killed.

Scientists have done thorough analyses of how the coronavirus spreads by looking at how it has hit other countries. It spreads gradually, and then suddenly. The only way to keep down the numbers of people who will come down with the virus is to practice “social distancing.”

It took some time for the leadership of our country, state, and city to make critical decisions to allow that to happen, but in the past week, we’ve seen most of the Commonwealth shut down or eliminate in-person meetings in government, institutional events, schools, construction and even churches. (Continued on page 6)

Carney shifts its focus, will serve as treatment center for COVID-19

BY BILL FORRY
EDITOR

Dorchester’s Carney Hospital will be transformed into the nation’s first “Dedicated Care Center” for treating patients who test positive for COVID-19, Carney will be transformed into the nation’s first “Dedicated Care Center” for treating patients who test positive for the disease. Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

A tent was erected outside Carney Hospital’s emergency department this week in preparation for an influx of patients who need testing for COVID-19. Carney will be transformed into the nation’s first “Dedicated Care Center” for treating patients who test positive for COVID-19, according to the hospital’s parent company, Steward Health Care, which says Carney will become its model for regionalizing COVID-19 specialty care centers across America.

The 159-bed hospital on Dorchester Avenue will be converted immediately to enhance “patient isolation protocols” and to marshal equipment such as ventilators and personal protective equipment on site. Carney’s emergency department will be available to anyone who needs it, but the in-patient wards will all be converted to “negative pressure treatment areas,” said Nicholas Puleo, a spokesman for Carney and Steward.

“Carney is becoming a dedicated in-patient facility so we can take COVID-19 patients from all Steward hospitals and beyond who need it,” said Puleo.

COVID-19 patients will only be admitted to Carney “if they need in-patient care. Most people with COVID-19 can self care and quarantine at home,” Puleo said. “This will be just for those who need in-patient treatment.”

On Tuesday, the hospital had one, 11-bed ward (Continued on page 5)

Last calls and last meals for Dot eateries and bars

‘Take-out’ taking over

BY DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF

The spread of COVID-19 restrictions limiting restaurants to take-out and delivery service went into effect on Tuesday, leaving establishments across Dorchester scrambling to put contingency plans in place in hopes of staying afloat during what will be an unprecedented period of partial closure for those that attempt to stay open.

By Tuesday morning, residents were encountering the “new normal” at establishments around their neighborhoods in the form of signs posted on doors and outgoing voicemails explaining procedures going forward.

At Dorchester Brewing Company (DBC), co-founder and CEO Matt Malloy told the Reporter that he was struggling with the uncertainty and open-endedness of the crisis.

“There’s no end date on this, there’s no finite issue...I mean,” he said, “I’m hearing the CDC (Continued on page 18)

Alyssa Foster, left, and co-owner Sarah Mabel-Skillen, right, served customers outside of the Ice Creamsmith in Lower Dorchester.

A fast-paced succession of edicts from state leaders managing a week-old emergency in the Commonwealth—coupled with more localized restrictions in the city of Boston—tightened the cord on daily life throughout the region. Much of Massachusetts is hunkered down as the state adjusts to a new normal and prepares for the next phase of the effort to fight the highly contagious coronavirus.

Schools closed across Boston on Tuesday and all schools in Massachusettess are at the beginning of a three-week shutdown ordered by the governor over the weekend after evidence of community spread mounted.

(Continued on page 13)

Health center leader counsels: ‘Don’t just show up—call first’

Page 13

At DotHouse Health, getting ready for a ‘rush’

Page 19

Mayor Walsh: ‘You are not alone’

BY STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE AND REPORTER STAFF

Boston is bracing for weeks of disruption, illnesses, economic hardships, and the likelihood of lives lost this week as a coronavirus pandemic—once simply a remote scourge menacing other nations—descended on our communities with still unfathomable consequences.

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(Continued on page 13)

Beth Israel Deaconess HealthCare - Dorchester

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Beth Israel Lahey Health
Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital
Milton

Appointments 617-696-3800 bidmc.org/pcpdorchester

Dorchester Reporter
“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

Volume 37  Issue 12 Thursday, March 19, 2020  50¢
Eire Pub in Adams Corner was empty on St. Patrick’s Day amid the ban on dining and licensed establishments that went into effect on Tuesday in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. The Eire continued to prepare and deliver boiled dinners and corned beef sandwiches—a traditional meal served and enjoyed at the pub for decades.

**Photo courtesy Jake Stenson**

Steep decline in MBTA riders

Ridership declines spurred the MBTA on Monday to scale back service. A 7 blog post Monday night put some numbers behind the trend: Daily trips steadily decreased every day last week as COVID-19 cases increased and as Massachusetts progressed into a state of emergency and more widespread business closures.

On Tues., March 10, total daily ridership on the subway and Silver Line was 12 percent lower than the weekly average during the week of Feb. 24. By Wednesday, that had dropped to 20 percent lower; by Thursday, 32 percent lower; and by Friday, the MBTA’s rapid transit ridership was 48 percent below the average over the last week of February.

“Usually Fridays are, of course, lighter ridership, but not nearly this much,” the T wrote, noting trends differing by line.

Bus ridership saw more variation by day, but was still about 32 percent lower on Friday than it was the comparison week. MBTA officials did not have detailed ridership data for the commuter rail to offer either, but parking at stations—sometimes used as a proxy—had dropped 60 percent by Friday.

Starting Tuesday, the T planned to run Saturday-day schedules on rapid transit and most bus routes, less commuter rail service than standard weekdays and no ferries.

— Chris Lisinski

UPCOMING CIVIC ASSOC. MEETINGS • FULL LISTINGS ON PAGE 10

In almost every instance, community events have been postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 health emergency. The Reporter is tracking cancellations and is noting them here. Watch DotNews.com for updates and follow @DotNews on Twitter.

Cancelled: Public meeting on plans for former Phillips Old Colony site — The BPDA was to host a meeting on Thurs., March 19 to examine plans by Michaelis LLC to build a 206-unit development at 780 Morrissey Blvd, which is currently the site of the now-closed Phillips Old Colony House. The meeting will be held at Dorchester High School, 739 Morrissey Blvd, on Wed., March 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Business includes tower massing and location of the building. For more information, call Nadia Lovinsky at 617-704-6656.

Cancelled: Tompkins hosts Mayors for RCC — Tompkins Public Relations is hosting a meeting on Wed., April 1, to examine plans for the development of the South End site for the Dorchester Day Parade. The meeting will be held at 108 Adams St. on the ground floor of the building. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, call Nadia Lovinsky at 617-704-6656 or Stephen Harvey at 617-918-4418 or Stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov.

Police

Ronan Park stabbings — On Sat., March 7, Boston Police arrested Danilo Soto, 26, of Brighton on charges that he repeatedly stabbed another man on Adams Street near Ronan Park around 6 a.m. that morning. Earlier, on Feb. 7, a federal judge had released Soto on $10,000 bond and under the condition that he turn over his immigration device. This followed his arraignment in January where Soto and two other men conspired to traffic fentanyl and crack cocaine in Boston, according to federal court records.

Police gave the following report on the case: “Officers responded to a report of a fight outside 108 Adams St. on the morning of March 7. Upon arrival, they observed a large crowd that dispersed upon seeing the officers. The officers learned the individuals entered motor vehicles and fled the scene. Officers were unable to stop a motor vehicle believed to be operated by the victim, who was suffering from multiple stab wounds. The victim was transported to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries, but was later upgraded to stable condition.”

Police added that officers observed a Hispanic male tail a white to a white Jeep Grand Cherokee and subsequently flee the scene even as officers attempted to stop him. The male was later identified as the suspect, Danilo Soto. The individual was wanted for a June drug arrest in the area of the aforementioned location. The individual was identified as being involved in an ongoing case involving the victim, kicking and punching the victim to the ground.”

Police added that officers arrested Soto around 1 p.m. last Sunday at 354 Walnut Ave. in Roxbury. He is charged with assault with intent to murder and assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon.
State officials, BPS reach accord after review finds ‘major structural problems’

By Kathleen McNerney
WBUR Editor

State education leaders have reached a three-year agreement with Boston, following a review detailing “major structural problems” in the district.

State officials released the 291-page report mid-day Friday as district officials in Boston — and across the state — were responding to a flurry of coronavirus-related developments. In addition, Mayor Walsh is in the midst of mounting pressure from Boston residents and political leaders, announced Friday night that all district schools would close for more than a month.

The state report, dated Friday, details many significant structural problems across the district, but does not call for the state to take over any schools. Among the systemic issues cited were special education services, conditions for English learners, curriculum guidance described as “scant” and not in line with state standards, variations and inequities among the different high schools, inadequate support for school principals and problems with late buses, and the poor condition of a number of school buildings.

“This are not issues that can simply be resolved on a school-by-school basis,” wrote Jeff Riley, state education commissioner. “Instead, district-wide policies and systems are significant contributors to student underperformance, particularly of Boston’s economically disadvantaged and other high needs students.”

Given the report, state and Boston officials have agreed to make changes in the district and 34 of its lowest performing schools. The memorandum of understanding places four priorities for the district to address: teaching and learning, equitable access to students supports, improving services for students with disabilities, and improving transportation.

“It has been work that’s been quite challenging for many superintendents and for many years,” Superintendent Brenda Cassellius said in an interview with WBUR. “And so it’s really going to be a systemic approach moving forward.”

Cassellius pointed to her five-year strategic plan and the mayor’s promise to pump an additional $100 million dollars into the district. This is Cassellius’s first school year leading the district. She is also the fourth to hold the post in the last seven years.

In a statement, the Boston Teachers Union expressed support for the plan, saying it addresses challenges identified in the state report, and also fired off criticism at the state leaders.

“The state has ignored those needs for decades, and is just now catching up to them,” said union president Jessica Tang, who went on to say, “Thirty years of state-level divestment from public education combined with a charm of district leadership has had dire consequences for Boston students.”

Tang also said it was “troubling” that the state released the report while the coronavirus, the timing was only going to get worse if we waited.

The Dever School on Columbia Point is one of two BPS under state receivership. State officials are not recommending taking over the Boston schools at this time.

Jackie Reis said, “It took details, and with coro- navirus, the timing was only going to get worse a while to work out the

In Fenway garage, drive-through testing for COVID-19 under way

By CARY GOLDBERG
WBUR REPORTER
Bryan Bordeaux rolls up to the third floor of the garage near Fenway Park in a black BMW with his four-year-old son in the back seat. He feels as though he has the flu, with a cough and some shortness of breath, he says. And as a primary care doctor himself, he figures he probably has COVID-19, and he probably contracted it on a recent trip to Disney World.

“We’re on quarantine,” Bordeaux says. “As soon as I started having symptoms Saturday night, we decided to put our family on quarantine — my wife, my son and I.”

But tests to confirm his self-diagnosis have been hard to get — the criteria for who can get them have been very limited. The testing sites include tents outside hospitals, and at least half a dozen states have opened drive-through clinics.

On Monday, Atrius Health — a giant medical network with more than 700,000 Massachusetts patients — set up three drive-through testing centers, including this one in the garage near Fenway Park. The other two are in Braintree and Peabody, and Atrius aims to have three more up and running by the end of the week. They’re not wide open to all comers.

“I actually was trying to get drive-through testing yesterday,” Bordeaux says, “but this wasn’t up and running here, there was nothing in the city that I was aware of.”

That’s changing as health care venues scramble to set up ways to test patients without bringing them inside where they can infect others. The testing sites include tents outside hospitals, and at least half a dozen states have opened drive-through clinics.

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“there definitely is a ton of demand out there,” says Lori Stevens, the nursing director for urgent care at Atrius. The drive-through testing is only for Atrius patients who have already phoned, been evaluated, and given an appointment, she says.

It’s a specific group of patients: “People who we feel don’t need an exami- nation, so they just need the test.”

Medical assistant Yadira Sarmiento — garbed in full protective gear including gloves, gown, and face shield — says the test is simple: a swab up the nose. The drive-through tests for the flu as well.

“So we first go and do the flu swab,” she says, “and then we do the COVI- VID — that also goes in your nose. We stick the COVID swab in for like a few seconds, and then that’s it!”

Testing for COVID-19 is being conducted at this garage near Fenway Park.

The tests go to the commercial lab company Quest, and results come back in two to five days. The Fenway garage operation aims to handle at least 40 tests a day soon. Stevens, the urgent care nursing director, says the biggest challenge in setting up the drive-through clinic has been doing it in addition to everything else in these coronavirus times.

“So we see patients in the clinic, and we’re doing telephonic — we had to get that up and running,” she says. “And then being able to try to get enough staff to be able to staff this as well as everything else that we’re doing.”

The coronavirus tests are free to patients, with no co-pays, and Stevens says at this point, the plan is to continue the drive-through testing indefinitely.

Other medical groups have opened drive-through clinics on Cape Cod and in Middle- ton, Mass., the Boston Globe reported. Bordeaux, the doctor getting tested in his car, says his wife is having some symptoms, too, and will likely come in soon for a drive-through test. And he may need to be tested again.

“If I test positive, then I need to be tested and make sure I’m cleared to go back [to work] so I don’t spread this to my patients,” he says. “So there’s a big public health implication here in making sure that I know that I’m clean.”

Epidemiologists estimate that thousands upon thousands of Massachusetts residents need to be tested. Though most won’t develop severe symptoms, the testing allows doctors to diagnose patients and public health authorities to get a better handle on the spread of the virus.

This story was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on their website on March 17. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

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Free mobile banking allows doctors to diagnose patients and public health authorities to get a better handle on the spread of the virus.

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Carney shifts focus to serve as COVID-19 treatment center

Change is in the air for the Carney Hospital on Dot Ave.

Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

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(Continued from page 1)
Walsh: For now Boston's schools will be closed until April 27

By Ally Jarmanning
WBUR Reporter

Boston schools closed on Tuesday and classrooms will likely remain empty for more than a month.

Mayor Walsh says if the coronavirus outbreak is quelled, he will bring students back sooner. Walsh made the announcement last Friday after taking a two-week break. Walsh had cancelled classes earlier in the week.

"We're going to wait for more cases to be confirmed," Walsh said. "We've determined that now is the time to take bold action and slow the spread of this virus."

In his remarks, Walsh highlighted several challenges facing many of the 55,000 plus BPS students and explained that these facts factored into their decision to close.

- Nearly 75 percent of students are economically disadvantaged and rely on BPS for at least two meals a day.
- Roughly 8 percent of students are experiencing homelessness.
- A third are English language learners.
- More than 20 percent have programs to accommodate you students with disabilities.
- Programs to accommodate a third are English language learners.
- Roughly 8 percent of students are experiencing homelessness.

Walsh said the decision for Boston was complicated in part because of the diversity of the 53,000 students the district serves. Three-quarters of the students rely on school for at least two meals a day. About 4,500 students are experiencing homelessness. One in five students has a program to accommodate a disability. Walsh's announcement came after mounting public pressure on him to close the schools, including an online petition with more than 16,000 signatures.

On Wednesday, the city ordered the closing of the three North End campuses of the Eliot K-8 after a "non-student member of the school's community" tested positive for the coronavirus. Walsh said he believes other school districts across the state will have to extend their closures beyond two weeks that many have already announced. Even Walsh also announced a month shutdown.

"There's no signs now the coronavirus spread is going to stop or slow down," the mayor said. "It seems like it is going to be more aggressive and we want to make sure as we put plans in place we can prepare our kids to do some

The next two weeks will tell us we're ready

(Continued from page 1)

The Catholic Archdio-
cesis of Boston, Worces-
ter, NY and Washington DC have drained the holy water fonts and canceled in-person Mass until further notice.

And on Sunday, the governor closed Mass. public schools, prohibited more than 10 people or more, and banned on-premise consumption at bars and restaurants until April 6.

"Social distancing" is important because the coronavirus spreads very rapidly when people are close together. We saw that happen a few weeks ago in China, Iran, and Italy, where a few cases became thousands in a few days. The virus isn't spread because people stay away from each other. Without social distancing, it will slow, and eventually it will diminish to a manageable disease. If it doesn't, we'll look like Italy, a country of 60 million people in lockdown.

As of Tuesday morning, coronavirus cases in New York hit 27,900 cases and 2,158 deaths. Spain and France have joined Italy in lockdown, and most of the rest of Europe is heading that way. Lockdown means people only will be allowed to leave their homes to buy food and medicine, commute to work, to medical centers and banks, or take trips to care for the young and elderly.

Contrast that with Singapore, which, after the outbreak in China, closed down many parts of the country, aggressively monitored its population, and severely limited social contact. People who failed to abide by their "Stay Home" requirements have been punished. They have had 243 cases of coronavirus, and no reported deaths. If social distancing doesn't work and COVID-19 spreads rapidly, we will see our number of cases and deaths rise quickly, with the result that our health care system will be overwhelmed, and our economy will grind to a halt.

But, many here in Boston didn't seem to get the message or are unclear on the concept. On Saturday, I received a text reporting that bars in Adams Village were "stay-at-home" with people. And Twitter was ablaze with pictures of Southie bars packed to the gills with people celebrating St. Patrick's Day. The park in front of my house had groups of adolescents frolicking.

By the morning, there was an outcry about the lack of safe distancing, leading to the governor closing all bars and restau-

rants except for take-out a few days later. This is not a vacation. Time we've shut down our state in this way that our residents will practice "social distancing" and thereby limit COVID-19 infection. People are getting the wrong impression when the media report on coronavirus infection based on confirmed cases when testing has been nearly impossible to obtain. Our government and media need to approach our situation differently.

We hear reports of the South Korean schools that have been closed for many weeks. Some health centers are testing people for someone to answer. Some health centers are testing patients with out Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) because they can't get any masks or gowns, there-

By the fact that some teacher faculties are shutting down on Monday and will stay closed until at least until April 7.

"On an ongoing basis, the Catholic School Office will consider whether this period of time is extend further," said Thomas W. Carroll, the superintendent of archdiocesi-

sane schools. We invite you to explore our extensive offerings, including the ability to stream and download the diverse content available through applications like Shelf-Service. We also offer learning modules, including the ability to stream and download the diverse content available through applications like Flashcards and Quizlet.

If you don't have an account, you can get started with a trial of our service. If you have an account, you can learn more about our services by visiting our website. We offer a wide range of services, including the ability to stream and download the diverse content available through applications like Shelf-Service. We also offer learning modules, including the ability to stream and download the diverse content available through applications like Flashcards and Quizlet.

At this point, there are few people who have not been impacted in some way by the COVID-19 virus. Here at the Boston Public Library, we are doing everything in our power to continue to bring you important resources.

- **All locations closed**
  - As of 6 p.m. Monday, March 16, all BPL locations are closed. You can find out more about our resources.

- **All events cancelled**
  - As a preventative measure to minimize the spread of COVID-19, all Boston Public Library programs and events have been cancelled. This includes all events—classes, programs, and workshops—at all of our branches.

- **Don't worry about due dates**
  - The BPL has waived all library fines through May 1. In addition, all books will be automatically renewed for an additional 15 weeks, and any library cards that were to expire in March and April have had their expiration dates extended to October.

- **Library resources**
  - We are also able to provide you with additional options from books to skill training online at bpl.org.

- **Keep other safe**
  - We all have a role to play in protecting our com-
munities and mitigating the spread of coronavirus. Please also visit boston.gov and bpl.org for the latest updates.
YMCA director returns to Dot roots; sees branch as a ‘welcoming place’

By DANIEL SHELHAMER REPORTER STAFF

When Anthony Attride was hired as executive director of the Dorchester YMCA last summer, he didn’t fully appreciate how much he would come to love the neighborhood. He lived at 44 Virginia Street, where he lived until the age of five.

Attride told the Reporter that “it feels great” to be back in the community. “It was an overwhelming feeling when they actually offered me the job,” he said. “When you look back, you’re very thankful for the people who kind of mentored you and shaped you throughout your career.”

Attride began his role with years of experience at the Y already under his belt. After graduating from college, he signed on as the community and its rapidly changing environment, Attride acknowledged the need to remain a rock in the neighborhood and provide a welcoming place for everyone.

“Dorchester is — not surprisingly, but surprisingly — a lot different than I remembered it from three years ago. So I think what I really want it to be is a place where everybody feels welcome. There have been so many things that I think about Dorchester that have changed, whether it be an influx of people moving in or others moving out, and I think it’s up to us to embrace the community that not only has been here for many, many years, but also to recognize and respect the fact that there are some folks that are in Dorchester that maybe in years past wouldn’t have been the case, but now they are part of this flourishing community.

At the end of the day, I just love being in a place where everybody feels like the place I want to go to is the Y — that’s where I feel supported, I feel safe, and I can be the best version of myself every day.”

**NOTE:** Greater Boston YMCA began to close all fitness facilities and pools beginning Monday, March 16, in response to statewide efforts to contain COVID-19. YMCA branches will remain open as food distribution centers for those in need of “critical” childcare services.

James Brett of Dorchester, a longtime advocate for people with disabilities, was recently named vice chair of the National Council on Developmental Disabilities. Brett, the president and CEO of The New England Council on Developmental Disabilities, said he place not only as his policy maker as well as his employer, but also as its commitment to improve the quality of life for people with intellectual and physical disabilities. The Council’s quality research and thoughtful programs have improved the lives of countless people with disabilities. They are a leading voice for people with disabilities and are proud to be part of this organization.

The New England Council on Developmental Disabilities has been appointed to the NCD by Congress in 2016. In recent years, the Council has focused on a range of issues including improving access to quality dental care for people with disabilities, enhancing protections for individuals who may be exposed to abuse, and understanding the particular challenges of medical and long-term care for vulnerable populations.

At the New England Council, Brett launched a collaboration between business and higher education to advocate for access to employment for those with disabilities. At the University of Massachusetts Boston, he raised funds to establish a permanent position to research and study the use of technology to help individuals with disabilities enter the workforce. The James T. Brett Chair in Disability and Workforce Development is the nation’s only endowed chair in disability and workforce development.

Brett is also chair of the Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability and Services as well as the chairperson of the Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission.

James T. Brett

disabilities.

NCD is an independent federal agency that advises the President, Con- gress, and other federal agencies on those programs and procedures that affect people with disabilities. Its members are appointed by the president and non-voting member of Congress.

“I am honored to take on this role with NCD and am looking forward to the year ahead,” Brett said. “The NCD has a long history of service and advocacy for people with disabilities. The Council’s quality research and thoughtful programs have improved the lives of countless people with disabilities. They are a leading voice for people with disabilities and are proud to be part of this organization.

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YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Gamewell Fire Alarm

At the time the Gamewell Company was located in Natick, the Gamewell fire alarm was installed on Congress Street. Three George Milliken who lived at 44 Virginia Street, Dorchester from the 1880s to 1921. Milliken was renowned for his inventions. Among them were the Milliken Repeater and the Duplex System, both of which aided greatly in the development of the telegraph system. By 1867, Milliken had risen to the position of General Manager of the Borden Office of Western Union. During his tenure, he had the task of overseeing the work of a young Thomas Edison as a telegraph operator. After many years of service, Milliken left that company in 1885 and by 1885 had become the superintendent of Electri- cal, Mechanical, and Manufacturing, a labora- tory and factory on Congress Street. Three years later, Milliken was Superintendent at the Gamewell Aux-

Fire Alarm Company on Pearl Street, where he stayed until his death in 1921.

So we have a Dorchester- double: little Thomasina, who appeared in the scene, was a doubled resident and the inventor of the alarm system had open on Dorchester.

The Dorchester Historical Society’s historic houses are closed at this time due to the COVID-19 coronavirus. We will announce when the houses will be once again open to the public. For now, our programs have been suspended.

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.com. The Dorchester Historical Society’s historic houses are open and the most updated dates are: The Lemuel Clap House (1712) and remodeled 1765) at 190 Boston Street is open on the second Saturday of each month. The James Blake House, 735 Columbia Road (1661) and the William Clap House, 195 Boston Street (1806) are open on the third Sunday of each month. Open hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**NOTE:** Greater Boston YMCA began to close all fitness facilities and pools beginning Monday, March 16, in response to statewide efforts to contain COVID-19. YMCA branches will remain open as food distribution centers for those in need of “critical” childcare services.

Brett is also chair of the Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability and Services as well as the chairperson of the Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission.

**Tutoring**

Ann F. Walsh 617-577-7140
AnnWahls@Gmail.com
Class meets at 15 Pinxfield St., Dor. MA 02124

**ISEE**

Math and English for 5th and 7th Graders who will take the ISEE in November follow up course in September

**ADVANCED WORK PREP**

Math and English for 2nd, 3rd, 4th Graders who will take the Terra Nova in November

**SAT PREP**

Math and Test Strategy

Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-Calc, Calc, Latin, Biology, Chemistry, Physics
The Reporter intends to keep serving you

As editor and publisher, I want to share with you the thoughts of The Reporter’s Editor and Publisher, Michael Norton, and the Board of Directors, for Dorchester and the Reporter for covering our communities during this COVID-19 emergency.

Yes, COVID-19 is the big story and it will likely be so for a quite a while. Our team of reporters and contributors continue to work from our newsroom and remote locations. We have contingency plans in place to publish online only at dotnews.com if there is some interruption in print ing.

But whatever the medium, our reporters and columnists and editors will continue to share information and context with you. We hope that you will help us in that mission by engaging with the Reporter, sharing our work and—if you see it—subscribing to the paper.

We don’t have a payroll on our website—and we have no plans to change that, especially now. Everyone reading the paper—or accessing content online—will provide over the coming days and weeks. But we will introduce a new tool on our website that will allow reporters who want to help us generate much-needed advertising revenue to make a contribution. This will be badly needed since much of our advertising revenue—the lifeblood of a newspaper—has dried up, too. We hope to get us to make a contribution. This will be badly needed since our advertising revenue—the lifeblood of a newspaper—has dried up, too. We hope to be able to keep serving you.

This week, our staff has spent time talking to people who own local stores and cafes and want to keep releasing their food at their local cafes. The hope is that this will be beneficial. And we’re hoping to bring up a few local cafes to get a better sense of what is happening at the grassroots level and the like.

We’re staying in close contact with health centers and hospitals in Dorchester and Boston to document what is happening. A special thanks to Beth Bill Wallczak—who offers some valuable insights on that part of the story in today’s edition.

And our newsroom remains open and active at this time, we have made an important change in protocol that impacts advertising and other walk-in appointments. (You may not meet all advertising— including those seeking to place legal notices—must do so through phone: 417-436-1222, fax: 417-825-1222, or email: news@dotnews.com. We will not accept walk-in business during this state of emergency.

This is an incredibly fluid story. It’s magnitude and scope is unprecedented. But we’re committed to covering it as well as we can and we hope that we will help you in that mission as well.

Right now, we’re very interested in hearing from you about how you are staying safe. We ask you to help us document this event as it unfolds. Send us your tips, your thoughts, your photos, and—yes—you stories. We will do our best to get them out to the public.

The best way to get us for the moment is @DotNews or email us at news@dotnews.com.

Everyone reading this understands the gravity of the situation. It is ridden with anxiety and uncertainty. But we need to stay calm, do the work that needs to be done, and support one another as much as we can. Let’s step up, Dorchester.

— Bill Forry
The last time Massachusetts tried to count its population the state wound up losing a Congressional seat. This time, Secretary of State William Galvin hopes Massachusetts can avoid a similar fate, even in the face of challenges exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

The 2020 US Census kicked off on March 12, with postcards in the mail to millions of Massachusetts households informing them of how to take part in the decennial population count – online, by mail, or by phone.

Galvin, however, said widespread fear over the spread of the virus and the steps being taken to limit personal-to-person contact could make existing challenges, like counting college students and foreign-born residents, that much harder.

The Brighton Democrat is overseeing the state’s Census effort for the first time.

“I must confess to you that in the beginning of this process I was initially skeptical of what the response rate would be online. But in light of the coronavirus situation, I think it might be a very important part of our state,” Galvin told reporters at a press conference to highlight the start of the 2020 counting effort.

He said he hoped people working from home might use that freedom to fill out the Census online.

Galvin also said Thursday the decision of many students living in dormitories, and Galvin said he sent a letter to the chancellor, will make existing challenges, like counting college students and foreign-born residents, that much harder.

Galvin dismissed criticism as reported Thursday of the state’s Census effort for the first time.

Eva Millona, executive director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, said her group and the state has been doing outreach through schools, universities, health centers and other service providers to reach immigrant communities and make sure they understand the importance of the Census.

“We also have done amazing outreach in faith-based institutions that people go and practice their faith, making sure the message that we want them to get is coming from people they trust,” Millona told the News Service.

After April, plans call for Census workers to be deployed door-to-door to try to count residents who have not responded online or by mail or by phone.

Eva Millona, executive director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, said her group and the state has been doing outreach through schools, universities, health centers and other service providers to reach immigrant communities and make sure they understand the importance of the Census.

“Whether they’re legally present or not, we believe they’re here and we know they should be counted,” Galvin said.

Galvin said he expects to get data from the federal government on response rates later this month, which will help him decide how to disperse $1 million in funding for local community groups approved by the Legislature to aid the counting effort.

Galvin said that only 185,000 of 190,000 immigrants would fall into the category traditionally referred to as “undocumented.”

“I'm very concerned that we do this in a way that would not, and, if in fact, we prove out that population of 6.9 we would be pretty confident we wouldn't,” Galvin said.

The population count not only governs how many seats in Congress the state controls, but dictates the flow of federal money for things like education and transportation that are based on the number of residents in a state or community. It’s not just about the political representation, which is oftentimes the first thing people think about. It’s also about the money and for us in Massachusetts it’s particularly important we get the money,” Galvin said.

The last Census in 2010 counted more than 6.3 million Bay State residents, a 3.1 percent increase over the previous decade during which the national population grew 8.7 percent. If Massachusetts’ population has grown to more than 6.9 million, that would be a more than 6 percent increase in population.

Beginning Thursday, residents could go to 2020Census.gov and fill out the online form. Paper questionnaires will be mailed to most parts of the state on April 8, though resident of the Berkshires may get them sooner.

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Codman Square Health Center’s Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Residency program provides newly graduated FNPs with additional training and mentoring so they may specialize in delivering high-quality care in community health centers.

**THE FNP RESIDENCY IS:**
- A one-year program beginning July 2020
- Applications will be accepted: February 15 to March 13, 2020

**APPLICANTS WILL BENEFIT FROM:**
- Precepted clinical sessions
- Multidisciplinary faculty
- Team-based care
- Mentorship & professional development

**VISIT:** https://cutt.ly/Codman-Square-FNP
**EMAIL:** FNPResidency@codman.org
**CALL:** Vivian Unyeochi at (617) 825-9660 Ext. 8408

The Jeremiah E. Burke High School boys basketball team get together for a team pic and senior group on Wed, March 11 at TD Garden. Previously, the Bulldogs won the Division 3/South title and a state playoff game at the Garden, beating St. Mary in Lynn 50-47 to advance to the final game planned for Sat, March 14 in Worcester. With the cancellation of the games by the MIAA, Burke and Sutton are Division 3 state title co-champions. Patrick O’Connor photo

We will return neighborhood notables to this space when events are rescheduled.
Mayor, housing activists seek halt to evictions during crisis

BY KATHIE TRAGANO AND BILL FERRY
REPORTER STAFF

Housing advocates are pushing for a total moratorium on evictions as the coronavirus pandemic descends on the region—a call that is finding support among state lawmakers, Mayor Martin Walsh, and some of the largest property management companies in the region.

On Saturday, Walsh, joined by business leaders from the Greater Boston Real Estate Board and the Massachusetts Apartment Association, announced a “partnership” to “impose a moratorium on evictions while Massachusetts is under a state of emergency.”

The agreement would “encourage” property owners to “implement a moratorium on evictions that could be in effect for 90 days, with reviews every 30 days.”

Trinity Financial, Winn Residential, The Community Builders, and the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations were named as businesses that would “support the moratorium.”

Said the mayor: “Our primary focus in Boston is protecting our residents and ensuring they are safe and healthy as we work to stop the spread of coronavirus. Housing stability is crucial at this time, and I thank the Greater Boston Real Estate Board and the property owners throughout our city for working to minimize the disruptions to our residents during this challenging time.”

Greg Vasil, CEO and president of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board, said the group is urging its members to place a moratorium on evictions in Boston.

“During this time,” he said, “we know how vital it is to do our part to minimize the anxiety and health risk to our tenants. This moratorium could last up to 90 days, with decisions being reviewed every 30 days. The halting of evictions will apply to those who are directly impacted by economic loss due to the coronavirus outbreak.”

Last week, the tenant advocacy group City Life/Vida Urbana and legal partners Harvard Legal Aid Bureau and Greater Boston Legal Services organized a rally in front of Boston Housing Court to make the case for a complete halt to any evictions while the state of emergency in Massachusetts remains in effect.

“It’s very unhealthy for us to go to the courthouse,” said Jacqueline Tucker, a Section 8 tenant fighting a rent hike who last week had an appointment to go to the courthouse, “to know how vital it is to do our part to minimize the anxiety and health risk to our tenants. This moratorium could last up to 90 days, with decisions being reviewed every 30 days. The halting of evictions will apply to those who are directly impacted by economic loss due to the coronavirus outbreak.”

The postponement is a huge step in the right direction, but it still allows executed evictions to go forward, encourages settlements out of court when residents have little access to legal aid, and, he said, “This postponement creates space for the more comprehensive legislative solution that’s pending in the state house, H.4935, which should pass immediately,” said Joey Michalakes, an attorney with Greater Boston Legal Services.

Steve Meacham, coordinator at City Life/Vida Urbana, said many low-income workers who aren’t able to work remotely are particularly concerned about potential evictions.

“The loss of income for parents of kids in BPS who can’t work remotely, retail workers, service industry workers, and many others will absolutely lead to the inability to pay rent and mortgages, which will lead to evictions,” he said.

“The postponement is a huge step in the right direction, but it still allows executed evictions to go forward, encourages settlements out of court when residents have little access to legal aid, and ends on April 21 when the emergency could carry on far longer.”

Jacqueline Tucker (front right) faces eviction and rallies for an eviction moratorium in front of Boston Housing Court.
With Masses canceled, Catholics told to worship at home

BY BILL FORRY
Editor

Last Friday, Cardinal Séan O’Malley issued a new advisory cancelling all Masses “until further notice” in the archdiocese of Boston. The cardinal also issued a “dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass” to all Catholics.

The advisory altered or amplified directives the archbishop had issued on Thursday to Catholic parishes when he asked the community to “call on faith and reason to meet the challenge” of COVID-19, which he said should lean on “public authorities and the scientific/medical communities to guide us with facts and advice and we should lean on “public authorities and the scientific/medical communities to guide us with facts and advice and we

People who are ill or “at particular risk by reason of age or existing health conditions are excused from the obligation to attend Mass,” O’Malley wrote. “We encourage participation in the celebration of Mass broadcast on CatholicTV.”

All other public gatherings in parishes “such as dinners, lunches, and other social gatherings should be postponed or canceled until further notice,” the Cardinal wrote.

Fonts that contain holy water “should be emptied, cleaned and remain empty,” O’Malley added.

Communion was still to be distributed at Masses, but O’Malley said that the church would be “temporarily suspending distribution of communion on the tongue and invite the faithful to reverently receive the Eucharist in their hand.”

“This directive is motivated by care and concern for the health of our people, especially those who are most vulnerable. As soon as the need for this temporary policy has passed and it will be safe to do so we will return to the practice of distribution of communion on the tongue,”

Earlier directives from the Archdiocese addressed the exchange of the “sign of peace,” a standard part of Catholic liturgies. As outlined in the parish bulletin at St. Gregory’s in Dorchester, the sign “is to be offered bow to the persons nearby.”

“Practice of distribution of communion on the tongue and invite the faithful to reverently receive the Eucharist in their hand.”

The Boston Foundation sets up coronavirus response fund; city will help ensure reach

The Boston Foundation, Greater Boston’s community foundation, today announced it is establishing the COVID-19 Response Fund to rapidly deploy flexible resources to organizations in Greater Boston that are working with communities that are disproportionately affected by the coronavirus outbreak.

The Fund will award one-time operating grants on a rolling basis to non-profits whose operations in support of elders and other vulnerable populations have been stressed by the outbreak. The Foundation encourages institutions, companies and other funders to contribute to the Fund.

The Fund will work in partnership with the city of Boston and other funders to ensure the Fund has maximum reach and effectiveness.

“As we continue to take proactive steps to address the coronavirus, I’m proud to see Boston communities step up to the plate, as we always do in times of need, to help our friends and neighbors,” said Mayor Walsh. “These resources from the Boston Foundation will help communities who are most impacted by the virus, and I thank all those involved for supporting Boston residents.”

“The coronavirus outbreak is still likely in its early stages in our region, and the necessary efforts to prevent the spread of the virus will have a significant impact on parts of the community who have the least ability to prepare for it,” said Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation.

“Fund is designed to give added support to those organizations on the front lines of caring for and assisting vulnerable populations, and those communities where the loss of jobs and benefits, or the closure of institutions, are creating a significant new burden for community members and the social service organizations that provide a safety net for them.”

In addition to offering an opportunity to contribute to the Fund, the Foundation is also urging its own donors to look for opportunities to support the critical needs of nonprofits by making general operating support grants to organizations they wish to help. More information is available at tbf.org/Co vid19Fund.

Summer Camp 2020
It’s a Total Experience! Memories for a Lifetime!
As virus descends, officials seek to curb wider spread

(Continued from page 1)

On Tuesday night, Mayor Martin Walsh addressed the city and state level response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The mayor's prime-time address came at the end of a week that saw the number of positive coronavirus cases in Massachusetts climb to 218, including 42 in Boston; Carney Hospital in Dorchester; and a large camp in Lawrence on a plan to focus only on COVID-19 patients; and the city's first case of resection from a state fiscal watchdog and a major credit rating agency.

This is an unprecedented situation, the mayor said in the nature of public health challenge and the city's response is taking to protect our residents," Walsh said. He later noted that public health officials expect the number of cases in the city and state to increase in the near future, but added, "I want you to know: We are prepared and you are not alone."

Because the situation is serious, Walsh said, it will take "every single resident, to help wash their hands often, to cover coughs and sneezes, and to isolate themselves and call a doctor if they feel sick.

"None of us is going to get through this together; the virus is too powerful."

The Dorchester Historical Society's historic houses are closed at this time due to the COVID-19 coronavirus virus.

We will announce when the houses will be once again open to the public.

For now our programs have been suspended.

William Clapp House, 195 Boston Street
Lemuel Clap House, 199 Boston Street
James Blake House, 735 Columbia Road
www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org

By Bill Forbes
Editor

The Dorchester Historical Society over sees several dorchester health centers has a means of visiting during this week: "Call ahead, don't just show up" for such an order in the city and state level for an eventual role in triaging and testing COVID-19 patients. But he is quick to note that Har bor Health's facilities are not equipped to handle patients who may be suffering from coronavirus, "We're not a hospital," said Jones. "We don't have ventilators or ICUs. We're working on how to maintain care for our communities -- every thing from asthma to diabetes patients. Because their chronic diseases don't take a vacation when coronavirus hits." He added: "We are getting a lot of calls from patients who are under standably concerned and who have flu-like symptoms. Those we are trying to handle via phone. The health center isn't the right place for them to be right now."

Facilities like Nepon set Health Center, which has a "hotline" example, do not have diagnostic kits on hand to test patients. Jones said, "When test kits are deployed in large quanti ties, he and his team hope they will start working to develop proto cols and even alternate sites to help admissions and process tests. But those supplies are not in hand -- and we would like to play a role in performing the screenings." Jones added, adding that he and his team hope their staff will be part of the triage testing, perhaps modeled on "drive-through" tests.

Then, "We really don't want people coming in if they are symptomatic," he said. "All of the triaging is being done over the phone," he said. Jones has "obviously had this public health crisis going on right now, but we have thousands of patients we provide care for in each of our facilities and patients need to continue to have access to care. We are doing everything we can to make sure those patients continue to receive care in a safe manner. Our message to them is: please don't discontinue your care. Give us a call, particularly if you have anxiety and we can talk through what we're doing to keep you safe during that visit."

A particular concern for Jones and his team is the Elder Service Plan in Mattapan, which strictly works with a population of about 500 people in Dorchester, Matta pan, and surrounding neighborhoods.

"If any of them come into the Mattapan facility daily -- or at least weekly -- for activities, wellness, and medical care through the PACe program.

"Unlike our health center, every participant in our PACe program is older and medically complex," said Jones.

"Our protocols there are particularly thoughtfully designed to be more restrictive about who we bring into our day center and ramping up home care capabilities quite a bit." He added: "Any care that would have happened on site still needs to happen. We are not expecting decrease in access to care. We will need to provide it in different way."

For more information -- and phone numbers to call ahead before a visit -- go to bhsu.us.

March 19, 2020
Spring cleaning may be a health hazard for pets

We’ve finally turned the clock ahead, which means that the days are getting longer and spring weather is just around the corner. In the season of new beginnings, many of us take this opportunity to complete our annual deep-cleaning ritual. This is the time of year we organize the garage, donate old clothing, and move furniture to get into all the nooks and crannies we tend to neglect. But before you pick up the duster, industrial vacuum, and bottles of solvents and cleaners, keep in mind that not all cleaning agents are pet-friendly.

The ingredients to avoid in household cleaners are phenols – a parent compound used as a disinfectant. If the label says “disinfectant,” “antibacterial,” or “sanitizer,” chances are it contains phenolic compounds, which can be toxic to dogs and cats.

Let’s run through a few common cleaners and how they can be used safely around your pets.

**Bleach/Bleach Cleaners**

There are countless products that contain bleach. However, if used properly, the risk of skin irritation or stomach upset is minute. Straight bleach should be properly diluted with water, and if using either a bleach solution or cleaner, it’s important to thoroughly rinse and air dry. Bleach odor can be overpowering for both pets and humans alike, so use it in well-ventilated areas.

**Carpet Shampoo**

They can cause skin irritation or stomach upset, but most are safe for households with pets. Make sure the carpet is completely dry before allowing pets to re-enter the area.

**Carpet Deodorizing Powders**

If ingested, they can cause respiratory irritation, resulting in coughing, sneezing, or a runny nose. Keep pets out of the room until you have vacuumed up the powder – and make sure to do a thorough job, as it can linger deep inside the carpet fibers. If your pet comes in direct contact with the powder, you should wash their paws with soap and water to avoid skin irritation.

**Aerosol Air Fresheners and Disinfectants**

Chemicals common in many popular air fresheners and disinfectants can cause skin irritation, as well gastrointestinal issues. When spraying, make sure the pets are out of the room and do not come in contact with any surfaces until they are dry.

**Floor Cleaners**

When it comes to cleaning floors, many of us prefer the quick and easy method, like disposable microfiber pads that spray a cleaning solution. The chemicals in these products are usually diluted, which means they do not present serious health risks to pets.

If you opt to use the traditional mop and bucket, be sure to dilute the solution properly with water, and always make sure the floors are dry before allowing pets back into the area.

Taking the time to find household cleaning products that will not create unnecessary risks for your beloved pets, and taking care to use them properly, will ensure clean and healthy living spaces for everyone in your household!

Mary Nee, a Dorchester resident, is the president of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Pet questions? Email ARL at press@arlboston.org.
**Recovery meetings disrupted amid crisis**

Among the many businesses, agencies, and other groups affected by closures this week have been Bostonians in recovery who typically meet up to seek support for addiction issues. The AA Central Service Committee of Eastern Massachusetts website provides a listing of local Alcoholic Anonymous meetings. On Tuesday, they issued an update on cancellations and meetings that have moved online. Their website update reads: “Due to COVID-19 health risk, note that most meetings have been suspended by the host facility until further notice. Cancellations have included The Home Group, a men’s AA ‘hop’ that typically meets at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Carney Hospital and a Meetinghouse Hill group that usually gathers on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at First Parish Church. The website provides a full list of meetings that have not been cancelled as of Mon., March 16.

A Reporter source said that one local meeting that is likely to remain open is the “boat meeting,” which is held outdoors near Sullivan’s at Castle Island in South Boston. The group usually convenes on Saturdays, but will meet Wed., March 18 at 5 p.m.

The central service committee will continue to monitor closings and update their website accordingly. To search for on-line meetings go to aa-intergroup.org. The office can be reached at 617-426-9444.
Last calls and last meals for Dot eateries and bars

(Continued from page 1) recommend that businesses stay closed for eight weeks."

DBCo was among the first businesses to close down, opting to voluntarily close to sit-in customers on Sunday, hours before the state issued its new policies. "Technically we could have stayed open, but I think we did the right thing," said Malloy.

Currently, customers can purchase beer, gift cards, and merchandise at the brewery and order take-out food to-go from M&M BBQ, the restaurant housed inside the building, between 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. And a new "social distance special" offers patrons a discount: any four-pack or growler for a reduced $10 price.

Meanwhile, DBCo’s 15-20 person bar staff has been whittled down to one employee, who, Malloy says, will be paid for the shift for the first week. After that, he knows his business will need help.

We’re hoping that the city, state, and federal government helps out small businesses, because you’re gonna hear a lot of stories about businesses going under. If that doesn’t happen, this is very scary because it’s uncharted territory."

Geo Lambert, owner of M&M, said customers can place take-out orders by phone. Because the restaurant opened seven years ago, in January, a partnership with food delivery apps like DoorDash or Grubhub has yet to materialize.

About a third of the brewery’s beer orders have already been canceled, added Malloy, who was worried about the fate of the thousands of gallons of beer currently being brewed in giant steel tanks onsite.

"This is where we need the community to come down and help," he said, noting that the majority of brewery employees and management are themselves Dorchester residents. "Please help us out. We need it. These are local people who live next to you in Dorchester. We’re not a big company, we’re not Anheuser-Busch...when you think about the business in Dorchester with the potential to be the hardest hit, it is the small businesses."

Malloy’s plea for help was echoed by business owners from Savin Hill to Ashmont.

Local standbys like Molinari’s in Adams Village, Antonio’s HiFi Pizza in Fields Corner, and One Family Diner on Bowdoin Street all reassured customers they would be open for take-out services during their regular hours.

Tony Barros, co-owner of Cesaria restaurant, has chosen to follow suit, but he is unsure how long that will be possible. He plans to offer takeout for the “next few days” until their supply of perishables is used and then revisit it. I don’t think it will make sense to reopen. We’ll see how it goes.” He added that the restaurant has seen “large decreases in sales since Thursday.”

Others, like Tavolo in Ashmont, have temporarily switched to offering to-go food from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. But for bars and eateries that lack the capacity for bars and eateries that lack the capacity to close completely and indefinitely.

Other shops, like the Ice Creamsmith in Lower Mills, have adapted their normal service to the times.

We shut down last Friday and come up with a game plan and are doing a take-out window at our front door, so no one is allowed inside,” the shop’s owner, Chris Skillin, told the Reporter. "We have a full menu at the door. Currently we do not do delivery service...we are maybe going to sign up for an UberEats type of thing, changing our whole entire mentality to run the shop. It’s been a challenge, so we’re doing what we can.

The economic impact on Dorchester establishments reflects the massive hit being taken by restaurants statewide. The Massachusetts Restaurant Association told the State House News Service on Monday that the last few days “have been some of the most stressful and anxiety-ridden days our industries has faced in recent memory and possibly ever.”

The association has created a webpage with industry-specific guidelines, safety protocols, and recommendations for restaurants coping with the threat and restrictions of the coronavirus.

Also on Monday, Greater Ashmont Main Streets offered its social media followers a list of ways they can support local businesses from the safety of quarantine, including purchasing gift cards and ordering online.

Shock waves from the COVID-19 outbreak continued to ripple through the neighborhood on Monday night as St. Patrick’s Day, normally an important day for business for local Irish pubs.

At the Blarney Stone on Dorchester Avenue in Fields Corner, workers served up plates and poured pints of Guinness to about 20 customers Monday night who turned out on the eve of the mandatory shut-down for dining and drinking in establishments.

Festooned with St. Patrick’s Day streamers, the bar and restaurant will continue to serve food to-go and plans delivery services as well.

Farther up the avenue, another Irish pub was bracing for a long hibernation. The Banshee, which is typically packed with patrons during the week of St. Patrick’s Day, was largely empty Monday night, with just a dozen or so regulars speckled throughout the room.

The Banshee won’t offer take-out food, so it was last call for the barroom until April, perhaps longer.

An Irish reel played over the sound system as co-owner Michael Vaughn bought a pack for a handful of regulars who were saying their goodbyes—for now to each other and to their favorite watering hole. "We’ll see you again soon. We’ll be back," Vaughn counseled with a smile.

Reporter editor Bill Forry contributed to this report.

Diversity Job Fair
on Saturday, March 21, 2020
from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, MA (Snow date – Saturday, March 28, 2020)

Diversity Job Fair on Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, MA (Snow date – Saturday, March 28, 2020)

Diversity Job Fair invites you to its annual
Diversity Job Fair on Saturday, March 21, 2020
from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, MA (Snow date – Saturday, March 28, 2020)

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CONNET THE DOT:
BGCD Partners with Junior League of Boston for STEM Class: This Winter, as part of our evening enrichment activities, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester are once again partnering with the Junior League of Boston on a STEM program for Girls.

Each week the group is experimenting on a variety of Science and Technology related activities with the volunteers assisting the Girls.

Thanks to the Junior League of Boston for supporting our members in this exciting, hands-on class.

For more information on Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester’s Education program please contact Joel Figueroa at jfigueroa@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT’S INSIDE:
BGCD Hosts New England Women’s Leadership Awards Kick-Off Breakfast: Last week Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester was excited to host our kick-off breakfast for our New England Women’s Leadership Awards (NEWLA).

We were joined by Mayor Marty Walsh, our 2020 event chair Nancy Friedman and members of our NEWLA Committee. Club member, Fatoumata, was our gracious host talking about all she does at BGCD and her NEWLA experience from 2019.

In light of the growing concern over COVID-19, NEWLA will be postponed to September 28th at the Seaport Hotel & Trade Center.

For more information about this years NEWLA event please visit https://give.bgcdorchester.org/NEWLA20.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In light of growing concern over COVID-19, our upcoming events are subject to change.

We are closely monitoring the situation and are following mandates from national, state and local legislature and operating in compliance with the CDC. We are sorry for any inconveniences this may cause.

Please look for any updates on our website at bgcdorchester.org.

Herb Chambers

New 2019 Honda
Fit
• Automatic
• Rearview Camera
• Bluetooth

1.9% APR or 2.9% APR
36 Mos.

$5,195 down payment

Stock# 203414, MSRP $21,480

400+ Civics Available

New 2020 Honda
Civic
• Automatic
• Rearview Camera
• Bluetooth

1.9% APR or 2.9% APR
36 Mos.

$68 or $158 down payment

Stock# 205756, MSRP $24,800

200+ Accords Available

New 2020 Honda
Accord
• Automatic
• Rearview Camera
• Lane Departure Warning

2.9% APR or 3.9% APR
36 Mos.

$1,695 or $1,985 down payment

Stock# 205745, MSRP $24,900

200+ Accords Available

New 2020 Honda
CR-V
• Automatic
• Rearview Camera
• Bluetooth

1.9% APR or 2.9% APR
36 Mos.

$1,495 or $2,580 down payment

Stock# 207246, MSRP $27,645

150+ CR-Vs Available

* Lessees are with 12K miles per year. $0.15 per mile excess and require bank-approved credit. Security deposit waived. Lessees are indicated money down plus 1st payment, acquisition fee, doc fee, sales tax and registration. Offers only available on in-stock vehicles. Vehicles are for illustration purposes only. Most finance/lease through Honda Finance. Ads include all available Honda incentives including College Grad and Military Appreciation. Excludes prior sales. APR offers available to qualified buyers. See dealer for details. Actual down payment may vary. *Valid at Herb Chambers Honda in Boston. Manufacturer savings of $150. Coupon not valid with any other offer. Must present coupon at time of purchase. Limit one coupon per person. Coupon does not apply to prior purchases. Other restrictions may apply. Void where prohibited. See dealer for details. Expires 3/31/2020.

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Funeral directors get new safety precautions as virus looms

By Tom Mulvoy

While there remain many questions about COVID-19 as it spreads across the country, there is one sector of society that experiences no relief day to day no matter the crisis at hand: The nation’s funeral directors, whose main purpose is to clinically direct the process from deathbed to gravesite for the bodies of the country’s dead.

While continuing to abide by their traditional obligations, the National Funeral Directors Association and its 20,000 members are also in constant contact with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as they face the possibility of a large-scale increase in their caseloads with the coronavirus pandemic at hand.

“Why do we have all sorts of obligations during this crisis,” said Jed Dolan, whose family operates homes in Lower Mills and East Milton. “Tours start with graves and their families and, of course, to the families we are assisting in their time of grieving.”

He added that the government-driven guidelines being drawn up these days make organizing visitations and funeral services extra-sensitive matters. “Families don’t always come in numbers that they understand what needs to be done and why.”

Funerals are ongoing, he said, but the funeral home ambiance has changed dramatically. Just the family and maybe a few close others at the home, and the priest and family at the church and gravesite.

Public grieving is taking a big hit.

On Tuesday this week, the Globe published 36 death notices, which ordinarily would mean information about the dates and times of wakes and funerals and burials of 36 people. But on that day, readers were told of strictly private services this week or memorial services later for 34 of them.

Death notices in outlets like the Globe are news in the most basic sense; they sort out the comings and goings of community residents and as such will no doubt be one of the key indicators of the impact of the coronavirus going forward.

As to the CDC, Dolan said that his firm’s homes, like most others, follow the common-sense advice the agency is delivering. “We do the deep cleaning and we watch comings and goings,” he said, “and we know what is called for to keep our staff members safe as they help families mourn their loved ones. In our case, we have stopped moving our staff between the two homes. Those in Lower Mills stay there, and the others stay in Milton. We also have scheduled a staff member to work from home and supervise the clerical work online.”

According to the CDC, at this time there is no known risk associated with being in the same room at a funeral or visitation service with the body of someone who died of confirmed or suspected COVID-19; however, federal, state and local public health guidance will continue to impact the size of the gathering a family is able to plan.

Depending on a family’s preferences, their loved one can be safely embalmed and transported in bags that have been disinfected with the appropriate safeguards in place for the bags and funeral home staff. Families still may choose either burial or cremation as usual.

As to what will be available if the crisis unfolds badly by way of funeral home space and services availability, not to leave out the question of expanded real estate for gravesites, Jed Dolan, like everyone else, can only wait to see.

Tom Mulvoy is the associated editor of the Dorchester Reporter and the former managing editor of the Boston Globe.

DotHouse Health readies for a ‘rush’

By Katie Troiano

One of Dorchester’s key health centers is bracing for disruption and testing for the COVID-19 virus this week. Michelle Nadow, CEO of DotHouse Health on Dorchester Avenue, told the Reporter on Tuesday that the facility will continue to see patients and provide assistance to people through its food pantry while the crisis unfolds.

“Our priority, as always, is to protect our staff and patients while continuing to provide high-quality health care,” said Nadow. “We have in place new screening protocols for everyone that comes through the front door so that we can navigate patients to the correct areas. We’ll be able to separate and mitigate any potential spread and also keep within social distancing requirements.”

The DotHouse food pantry will operate two days a week, Nadow said, but will re-route the operation to the side of the building so that people don’t have to enter the health center.

“We’ve also paused some of our community programs, including our tax clinic, swimming pool, gym, and teen center. This is also so that we can direct our staff to be in the places that they are needed.”

“Food security is critically important and at this time we are still committed to providing that,” said Nadow. “We will also use that alternate entrance for our Women, Infant & Children (WIC) services.”

DotHouse also has an urgent care center open to both patients and non-patients that provides testing for symptomatic patients.

“Urgent care here provides testing for symptomatic patients and those who have been in contact with someone who’s tested positive for COVID-19, or who had occupational or travel related health concerns,” said Nadow.

DotHealth employees have reached out to patients with upcoming previously scheduled primary care appointments and determined the best fit on an individual basis going forward— offering phone and video calls to those with routine appointments.

“We’re currently not providing large scale tests of individuals without symptoms,” said Nadow.

“We’ve thought about this— what to do if we get a rush of people. Fortunately we have a lot of space that we could utilize inside. In the past, when we’ve had a large number of flu patients, although that’s a different situation, we have used our gym and our large lobby as multi-purpose rooms for testing.”

“We are proud to be here for our community— this is when our patients vital need us,” said Nadow. “We’re trying to be very mindful about who needs to come into the building and this means we will have a decrease in patient visit numbers, which will inevitably result in a loss of revenue, and we have to try to plan for that.”

### New 2019 Jeep Renegade Sport 4x4
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- **Quirk Discount:** $500
- **Quirk Price:** $24,520
- **Finance Bonus:** $500

### New 2020 Jeep Compass Sport
- **MSRP:** $25,100
- **Rebate:** $2,500
- **Chrysler Finance Bonus:** $750
- **Quirk Discount:** $2,602
- **First Responders Discount:** $500
- **Subprime Bonus:** $1,750
- **Quirk Price:** $15,998

### New 2020 Jeep Cherokee Latitude 4x4
- **MSRP:** $30,390
- **Rebate:** $2,750
- **Chrysler Finance Bonus:** $750
- **Quirk Discount:** $3,142
- **First Responders Discount:** $500
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### New 2019 Jeep Wrangler Sport JL 2 Door 4x4
- **MSRP:** $31,250
- **Quirk Discount:** $4,252
- **First Responders Discount:** $500
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### New 2019 Dodge Charger SXT AWD
- **MSRP:** $38,758
- **Quirk Discount:** $2,500
- **Conquest Lease:** $5,087
- **Conquest Lease Assist:** $500
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### New 2020 Dodge Durango STX Plus AWD
- **MSRP:** $56,680
- **Rebate:** $2,000
- **Commercial Conquest:** $500
- **First Responders Discount:** $500
- **FCA Conquest:** $500
- **Quirk Price:** $42,598

### New 2019 Ram 1500 Classic Warlock Quad Cab 4x4
- **MSRP:** $41,190
- **Rebate:** $2,750
- **Chrysler Capital:** $1,000
- **Quirk Discount:** $894
- **First Responders Discount:** $500
- **Quirk Price:** $36,694

### New 2020 Ram 1500 Big Horn Crew Cab 4x4
- **MSRP:** $46,470
- **Rebate:** $5,000
- **Chrysler Capital:** $1,722
- **Quirk Discount:** $500
- **First Responders Discount:** $500
- **Quirk Price:** $31,448

### New 2019 Ram 2500 MEGA CAB BIG HORN 6.4L HEMI V8 4WD
- **MSRP:** $57,820
- **Commercial Conquest:** $500
- **First Responders Discount:** $500
- **FCA Conquest:** $500
- **Quirk Price:** $42,598

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