

Dorchester Reporter

“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

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50¢

BRACING FOR AN OUTBREAK

The next two weeks will tell if we're ready

By BILL WALCZAK
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, institutions, events, schools, construction and even churches.

(Continued on page 6)

Last calls and last meals for Dot eateries and bars

‘Take-out’ taking over

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF

New 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



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 the disease. *Jesse Costa/WBUR photo*

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, 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)

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.

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 combat the highly contagious coronavirus.

Schools closed across Boston on Tuesday and all schools in Massachusetts 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’

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At DotHouse Health, getting ready for a ‘rush’

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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 16)

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



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Ronald Gomes, MD
Internal Medicine

BPDA halts large project review

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

Prompted by the coronavirus pandemic, the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) has postponed all Article 80 “large project” review meetings until further notice.

The agency issued the following statement last Friday: “Following guidance issued by Mayor Walsh recommending the postponement or cancellation of public meetings with 25 people or more, the BPDA is postponing all public meetings regarding Article 80 development projects and planning studies until further notice.”

The BPDA is the city entity responsible for conducting community engagement and collaborating with other city agencies to oversee development projects in each neighborhood. The agency will continue to hold its monthly board and commission meetings, but with extra social distancing precautions.

“At this time, this excludes monthly BPDA Board Meetings, Boston Zoning Commission meetings, and Boston Civic Design Commission meetings due to regulatory and statutory requirements.”

Two scheduled Dorchester-related BPDA community planning were among those postponed until further notice:

Wed., March 18: 69 Bailey St.

Thurs., March 19: 780 Morrissey Blvd.

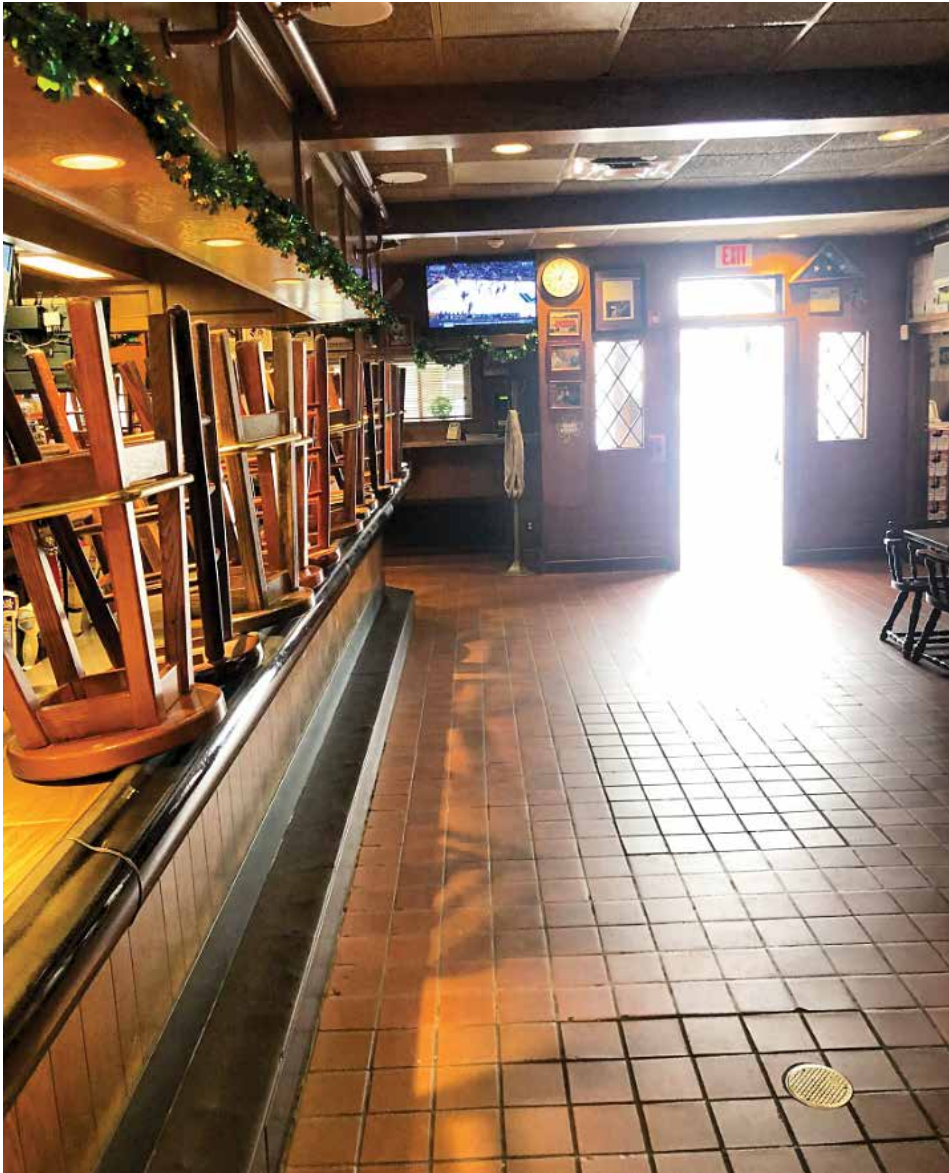
In Dorchester, 11 Article 80 development projects are listed on the BPDA’s website as “under review,” meaning that more public meetings will need to be completed as part of the process.

In Mattapan, one project is under review. Many more projects in both Dorchester and Mattapan have been board approved, but likely will require additional public meetings going forward.

Various BPDA neighborhood planning initiatives that incorporate public meetings, like PLAN: Mattapan, PLAN: Glover’s Corner, and PLAN: Newmarket, will also be affected by the postponement notice.

On Sunday, the mayor also announced the suspension of all activity at construction sites in the city — except for security measures— and the closing of Boston Public Library branches.

A DOWN TIME AT THE EIRE PUB



Eire Pub in Adams Corner was empty on St. Patrick’s Day amid the ban on dining and drinking in 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 T 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 differed 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, but parking at stations — sometimes used as a proxy — had dropped 69 percent by Friday.

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

— Chris Lisinski
SHNS

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 o’clock that morning. Earlier, on Feb. 7, a federal judge had released Soto on \$10,000 bond and under the condition that he wear a GPS tracking device. This followed his arraignment in January on charges that he and two other men conspired to traffic fentanyl and crack 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. On arrival, they observed a large crowd that dispersed upon seeing the officers. Many of the individuals entered motor vehicles and fled the scene, but officers were able to stop a motor vehicle being 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.

“While on scene, officers observed a Hispanic male retreat 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. An additional male suspect, who was suffering from multiple contusions to his head, was located in the area of the aforementioned location. The male suspect was identified as being involved in the altercation with the victim, kicking and punching the victim while the victim was on 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.

DOT BY THE DAY March, 2020

A snapshot look at key upcoming events in and around the neighborhood for your weekly planner.

Well, all events have been canceled.
Watch DotNews.com for updates
and follow us on Twitter @DotNews

March 19, 2020

Boys & Girls Club News	17	Dorchester Reporter (USPS 009-687)
Opinion/Editorial/Letters	8	Published Weekly Periodical postage paid at Boston, MA.
Neighborhood Notables	10	POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: 150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 120, Dorchester, MA 02125
Business Directory	14	Mail subscription rates \$30.00 per year, payable in advance. Make checks and money orders payable to The Dorchester Reporter and mail to: 150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 120, Dorchester, MA 02125
Obituaries	18	NEWS ROOM: (617) 436-1222 ADVERTISING: (617) 436-1222 FAX PHONE: (617) 825-5516 SUBSCRIPTIONS: (617) 436-1222
Days Remaining Until		
Patriot’s Day	32	
Mother’s Day	52	
Memorial Day	67	
Dorchester Day	80	
Quadricentennial of Dot	3,835	

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 Philips Old Colony site — The BPDA was to host a meeting on Thurs., March 19 to examine plans by Michaels LLC to build a 206-unit residential building at 780 Morrissey Blvd, which is currently the site of the now-closed Phillips Old Colony House. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Leahy Holloran Community Center, 1 Worrell St., Dorchester. Contact Stephen Harvey at Stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov.

Cancelled: Public meeting on proposed 29-unit building for Bailey Street — A proposal to build a new four-story, 29-unit residential building at 69 Bailey St. in Dorchester was to be the subject of a BPDA-sponsored public meeting on Wed., March 18 at 6:30 p.m. at All Saints Church, 209 Ashmont St., Dorchester. See bostonplans.org for more info on the proposal or contact Stephen Harvey at 617-918-4418 or Stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov.

Cancelled: Tompkins hosts Mayors for RCC ‘Conversation’ — Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department was to host “A Conversation About Municipal Government” on Thurs., March 19 at Roxbury Community College from 6p.m. to 8p.m. Guests include Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Somerville Mayor Joe Curtatone, Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll, Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera, and Yvonne Spicer Framingham Mayor The event is free to the public and doors will open at 5:30pm. For more information or to register, call Nadia Lovinsky at 617- 704-6656.

Dot Chili Cook-off Cancelled— The 14th annual Dorchester Chili Cook-off — which has been scheduled for Sunday, March 29 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Local 103 IBEW at 256 Freeport St. to benefit Dorchester Day Parade.— has been postponed. More than 20 entrants representing restaurants, civic associations, youth groups, and community organizations, vie for bragging

rights to the best chili in Dorchester. There is live entertainment, games and prizes. A panel of judges will award prizes in four categories: Best of Show, Best Non-Beef, Most Creative Dish and Team Spirit (decorations, costumes, enthusiasm.) The People’s Choice award earns its winner the golden bean pot and bragging rights.

Character breakfast on April 4 supports Dot Day Parade — Support the Dorchester Day Parade on Sat., April 4 at St. John Paul II Catholic Academy on Columbia Road in Dorchester for a delicious breakfast and a visit from many different characters including a guest appearance from the Easter Bunny. 9 a.m. Tickets are 20.00 per person and children two and under are free. You can purchase tickets at the door. This event is generously donated by the Bowery Bar and Lucy’s.

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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 midday Friday as district officials in Boston — and across the state — were responding to a flurry of coronavirus-related developments. In addition, Mayor Walsh in the face 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 princi-

pals and problems with late buses, and the poor condition of a number of school buildings.

These “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 that strategic 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 churn of district leadership has had dire consequences for Boston students.”

Tang also said it was “troubling” that the state released the report while the commonwealth is under a state of emergency.

When asked why the report was released Friday, state education department spokeswoman



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.
Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

Jackie Reis said, “It took details, and with coronavirus, the timing was only going to get worse if we waited.”

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

By CAREY 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 strict and the supplies very limited. "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.

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.

"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 examination, 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 COVID — 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.
WBUR photo

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 Middleton, 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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PLAY TO ACHIEVE

Carney shifts focus to serve as COVID-19 treatment center

(Continued from page 1) fully equipped and sealed off ready to accept COVID-19 patients, Puleo said. As of Monday, Carney was not one of the Steward hospitals with a COVID-19-positive patient. That was still the case as of Tuesday morning, according to Steward.

“The plan is to take that ward and continue to expand capacity in the hospital as we need it,” said Puleo.

“This unprecedented action serves two important purposes,” Puleo wrote in a statement released Tuesday morning. “First, by locating COVID-19 patients in a focused environment, Steward can better dedicate the necessary resources, equipment, and expertise to provide COVID-19 patients with focused care and the very best opportunity for a full recovery.

“Secondly, this measure keeps Steward’s emergency rooms and other hospitals in Massachusetts fully operational, allowing us to continue caring for other patients who are sick, who are mid-course in treatments, who are in chronic pain and who need high-quality care. This approach also ensures that non-COVID-19 patients continue to receive necessary treatment of acute conditions.”

Mayor Martin Walsh said on Tuesday that he supports the decision by Steward.

“COVID-19 is one of the greatest public health challenges our city has ever faced, and the steps that are being



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

Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

taken now across sectors to mitigate its spread are critical,” the mayor said in a statement. “The city of Boston is home to some of the best medical experts and hospitals in the world, and it is important that as they do the necessary planning on how to care for patients diagnosed with COVID-19, we rely on their guidance and decision making during this difficult time. I have supported Steward Health Care in making this decisive move, which comes at a time when the number

of cases in Boston continues to increase. It is our collective hope that it will be one of the strategies employed that will help contain the spread of the virus.” Puleo said that the decision came after Steward “launched a substantial program to acquire and stockpile specialty equipment required to treat COVID-19 patients - including ventilators and personal protective equipment. Many of those resources have been strategically distributed to our hospitals already.”

On Monday, a tent was erected outside Carney’s emergency department. Puleo said it would be used to test patients directed by their physicians to be checked for COVID-19. “While we have only treated 10 confirmed COVID-19 inpatients across our more than 7,000 beds nationwide to date, we are prepared for an influx,” he added. “Utilizing remote testing sites allows local emergency rooms to maintain capacity to treat all other patients in emergent situations,” Puleo said.

Bill Walczak, a longtime Dorchester health center leader who is a past president of Carney Hospital (and is a contributor to the *Reporter*) called the decision “a smart move.”

“The problem in greater Boston is that our major teaching hospitals are the places people go for care for conditions that community hospitals typically deal with in most other parts of the country, so it’s difficult to sustain our community hospitals in greater Boston,” Walczak said. “By becoming a hospital focused on an emerging disease that is difficult to segregate from regular hospital patients, the Carney has a niche that could sustain it.”

Carney Hospital had already begun to impose tighter restrictions on visits to the Dorchester Avenue facility before Tuesday’s announcement. Currently, patients hospitalized at Carney can only see one visitor at a time. No one 12-years-old or younger can visit patients.

Puleo said that restrictions to the main hospital building was not expected to impact outpatient appointments at the Seton Medical Building, which is located at the rear of the main Carney building. However, he recommended that patients call ahead to their physicians who have offices at Seton. The Dunkin’ Donuts coffee shop, located in the main lobby of the hospital, is going to close, he said.

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Walsh: For now Boston’s schools will be closed until April 27

By ALLY JARMANNING
WBUR REPORTER

Boston Public Schools closed on Tuesday and classrooms will likely remain empty for more than a month, although Mayor Walsh says if the coronavirus outbreak is quelled, he could bring students back sooner. Walsh made the announcement last Friday night after dozens of other districts had cancelled classes earlier in the week.

“We’re not 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 53,000-plus BPS students and explained that these facts factored into the district’s 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 young people with disabilities.

Student and teachers were in schools on Monday. Walsh said that was to give parents time to plan, and students the ability to pick up items they might need for the unexpected break. “If the situation with



Mayor Walsh, flanked by city councillors, announced the suspension of Boston Public Schools during a City Hall press conference on March 13. Isabel Leon photo/Mayor’s Office

coronavirus changes for the better, and we all pray that it does,” he added, “we will bring our students back before April 27.”

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 signers.

Last Wednesday, the city ordered the closing of the three North End campuses of the Eliot K-8 school 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 the two weeks that many have already announced. Everett 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

home learning while this is going on.”

Walsh said plans are being finalized on childcare, meals for students, and other essential services for students with special needs.

On Monday, BPS students and teachers were in attendance at schools to gather belongings and study materials for “remote learning.” Students and their families have also been given details on where they can pick up lunches each day at dozens of sites across the city, including many in Dorchester and Mattapan.

Lunch is now available for students from any school in Boston from the following locations: Boston Latin School, Lee School, Mildred Avenue School, New Mission High, Community Academy of Science and Health, Frederick Pilot Middle School, and the McCormack School.

All Catholic elementary and high schools in the Boston archdiocese shut down on Monday and will stay closed at least until April 7.

“On an ongoing basis, the Catholic Schools Office will consider whether this period needs to be extended further,” said Thomas W. Carroll, the superintendent of archdiocesan schools.

The Reporter updated this article, which was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on March 14.

The next two weeks will tell if we’re ready

(Continued from page 1)

The Catholic Archdioceses of Boston, Worcester, 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 gatherings of 25 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. If the virus isn’t spread because people stay away from each other, transmission will be slowed, and eventu-

ally 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 Italy number 27,980 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 will only be allowed to leave their homes to buy food and medicine, commute to work, go 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 “wall-to-wall” 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 restaurants except for take-out food a few days later.

This is not vacation time. We’ve shut down our state in the hope 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 number of Massachusetts cases identified, which was 197 as of

Tuesday morning – but the state had only tested 1,092 people in total. South Korea is testing 15,000 people *per day*. We know that the number of infected residents is much higher, but we won’t know how much higher until testing is widespread.

An infectious disease physician on the radio was asked about the fact that we now have 5,000 test kits in the Commonwealth, and whether that would make a difference in getting control of the virus. She said maybe if we were doing 5,000 tests *each day*.

We’re not ready for this.

On Sunday, I called the special 211 number to get information on coronavirus for a friend who has symptoms. It took two-and-a-half hours

for someone to answer. Some health centers are reporting that they are treating patients without Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) because they can’t get any masks or gowns, thereby potentially exposing them to the virus. This is further complicated by the fact that some infected people have no symptoms, currently a prerequisite for getting a test.

Medical providers are testing positive and nationally two emergency room docs are in critical care units after being exposed. Any hope for preventing our country from turning into a larger scale version of Italy rests on our taking action now. The next two weeks will reveal whether we acted in time.

We need a bigger boat.

Coming Up at the Boston Public Library

Adams Street

690 Adams Street • 617- 436-6900

Codman Square

690 Washington Street • 617-436-8214

Fields Corner

1520 Dorchester Avenue • 617-436-2155

Lower Mills

27 Richmond Street • 617-298-7841

Uphams Corner

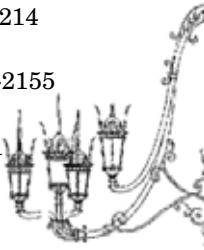
500 Columbia Road • 617-265-0139

Grove Hall

41 Geneva Avenue • 617-427-3337

Mattapan Branch

1350 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan • 617-298-9218



Boston Public Library COVID-19 UPDATE

The Boston Public Library issued this guidance on March 16, 2020.

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 services.

All locations closed

As of 6 p.m. Monday, March 16, all BPL locations are closed until further notice. All online services will remain available.

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.

As always, we are closely following the directives of the City of Boston and the Boston Public Health Commission.

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.

Online resources

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

We invite you to explore our extensive offerings, including the ability to stream and download the diverse content available through applications like Kanopy and Hoopla, or to learn new skills with lynda.com. We can also help you with personalized reading recommendations through Shelf-Service.

If you don’t have a library card yet or your account has expired, learn how to get an eCard.

And if you have research questions, the team at ask@bpl.org is also here to help.

Keep each other safe

We all have a role to play in protecting our communities and mitigating the spread of coronavirus. Please also visit boston.gov and bphc.org for the latest updates.

Reporter's

People

News about people
in and around our Neighborhoods

YMCA director returns to Dot roots; sees branch as a ‘welcoming place’

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF

When Anthony Attride was hired as executive director of the Dorchester YMCA last summer, it meant he would be returning to an organization just blocks away from his childhood home on Fuller 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 new role with years of experience at the Y already under his belt: In 2011, he signed on as the

membership director at the Huntington YMCA branch before moving to Dorchester where he became operations director in 2017.

Then, he moved out west to take a position as associate executive director at the East Bay YMCA in Richmond, Calif., where he said it was “trial by fire” but overall a rewarding experience.

“There’s a saying, ‘You don’t know what you don’t know,’ and I think that experience made me realize how much I had to learn,” he said. “But I got some really great feedback out there, which prepared me for where I am today.”

As executive director, Attride is filling the shoes left by Andrea Baez, whom he called a “mentor.” Taking cues from her will be part of

his model for success going forward, he said. “She connected folks so well, she really was the epitome of an open-door policy, you know, in terms of if you need to talk about anything professionally, personally, ‘I can help you kind of navigate that, I’m here for you.’ I was very keen to that because there was never a time when she felt unavailable for myself or any other staff, so I try to emulate that going forward.

“And I think for this particular position and role, there’s not many folks who know how to hustle more than she does. The energy, the commitment that it takes to be successful in this role ... I learned that’s kind of the expectation ... I’m super appreciative because

she definitely laid that foundation for what a successful ED looks like.”

In discussing his own vision for the Y going forward, Attride emphasized that finding a balance between stability and flexibility is key when it comes to running a successful branch.

“For me, it’s working on the foundation of the stuff that we already have here, and making sure that those things are successful...I want to be creative in the things that we do here but I also recognize that consistency is very powerful and it helps guide a lot of the things we do. But I want this branch to be the best for whoever needs it, and if that requires that we think a little differently about some things, I’m all for it.”

Taking stock of the



Anthony Attride

community and its rapidly changing environment, Attride acknowledged the need to remain a rock in the neighborhood and provide a welcoming space 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 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 want 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 Mon., March 16, in response to statewide efforts to contain the COVID-19 virus. Branches will remain open as food distribution centers and for “essential” childcare services.

Brett named vice chairman of National Council on Disability

James Brett of Dorchester, a longtime advocate for people with disabilities, was recently named vice chairman of the National Council on Disability (NCD). Brett, the president and CEO of The New England Council, has dedicated much of his work as a policy maker as well as his community and civic life to improve the quality of life for people with intellectual and physical



James T. Brett

disabilities.

NCD is an independent federal agency that advises the President, Con-

gress, and other federal agencies on policies, programs, and procedures that affect people with disabilities. Its members are appointed by the president or by a member of Congress.

“I am honored to take on this role with the 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 Coun-

cil’s quality research and thoughtful analysis has improved the lives of countless people with disabilities. They are a leading voice for people with disabilities and I am proud to be part of this organization.”

Brett was appointed to the NCD by Congress in 2016. In recent years the NCD 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 people 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 people 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 chairman of the Governor’s Commission on Intellectual Disability and serves as the chairperson of the Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Gamewell Fire Alarm

At the time the Gamewell Company was located in Newton. The Gamewell fire alarm was created by 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 Boston Office of Western Union. During his tenure, he hired and oversaw the work of a young Thomas Edison as a telegraph operator. After many years of service, Milliken left Western Union and by 1885 had become the superintendent of Electrical Development and Manufacturing, a laboratory and factory on Congress Street. Three years later, Milliken was Superintendent at the Gamewell Aux.



Advertisement in *Fire Engineering* magazine, April 1949, featuring a picture of eight-year-old Thomasina De Beneditto who pulled the fire box alarm when she observed a fire in a nearby factory in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

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 ad, was a Dorchester resident, and the inventor of the alarm system had lived in Dorchester.

The Dorchester Historical Society’s historic houses are closed at this time due to the COVID-19 corona virus. 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 dorchestershistoricalsociety.org. The Dorchester Historical Society’s historic houses are open on different dates. The Lemuel Clap House (1712 and remodeled 1765) at 199 Boston Street is open on the third 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.

Tutoring

Ann F. Walsh
617-877-7140

AnnFWalsh@aol.com

Class meets at 15 Fairfax Street,
Dor. MA 02124

IS EE

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

Editorial

The Reporter intends to keep serving you

As editor and publisher, I want to share with you a few thoughts on our plans at the Dorchester Reporter for covering our communities during this COVID-19 emergency.

Yes, COVID-19 is the big story and it likely will be so for a quite a while. Our team of reporters and contributors continue to work from our newsroom and remotely to document what’s going on, both with COVID-19 and with all the neighborhood activities impacted by the crisis.

We fully intend to continue printing the weekly editions in Dorchester and Mattapan, which are circulated on Wednesdays each week. We have contingency plans in place to publish online-only at dotnews.com if there is some interruption in printing capacity.

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 fit— subscribing to the paper.

We don’t have a paywall on our website— and we have no plans to change that, especially now. Everyone needs access to the information we will provide over the coming days and weeks. But we will introduce a new tool on our website that will allow readers who want to help underwrite our efforts to make a contribution. This will be badly needed since much of our advertising revenue— the lifeblood of a newspaper and many digital products, too— is definitely going to take a hit, at least in the near-term.

We have a long story thread online now that synthesizes reporting from our team and from State House News Service reporters, who have done an exceptional job in providing a stream of information from critical sources in government. We are also grateful to our partners at WBUR 90.9FM, with whom we share resources and content in a media partnership that is now about two years old.

This week, our staff has spent time talking to people at neighborhood stores and restaurants and cafes to get a better sense of what is happening at those businesses and to find out more about how this crisis is changing behaviors of spending and the like.

We’re staying in close contact with health centers and hospitals in Dorchester and Boston to document what they are hearing and seeing. Our contributor— Bill Walczak— offers some valuable insights on that part of the story in today’s edition.

While 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. Effective March 12, all advertisers— including those seeking to place legal notices— must do so through phone (617-436-1222), fax (617-825-5516), or email (addesk@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 staying focused on the local angle and providing the best information we can to our readers.

Right now, we’re very interested in hearing from you about what you want to know. We invite you to help us document this event as it unfolds. Send us your tips, your thoughts, your photos, and— yes— your prayers

The best way to get us for the moment is @DotNews or email us at newseditor@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

We can’t let ‘social distancing’ lead all of us to social isolation

By Roy Lincoln Karp
Reporter Columnist

The Friday after Sept. 11, 2001, I took the Greyhound bus from Boston to New York city to check on my friends and family. The place I had called home for 25 years was still reeling from the attacks, its residents in a state of traumatic shock. My mother took me to the local fire station, where a makeshift memorial had been created for the five firefighters they lost, including their captain. These types of memorials, filled with messages of love and peace, had sprung up all around the city.

The next day, we heard there was going to be a candlelight vigil that evening. At 6 p.m. we headed downstairs and joined up with small group of neighbors who had gathered on my mother’s corner. Together, we sang songs like “America” and “Imagine.” You could see dozens of similar, candle-lit gatherings on other street corners as far as the eye could see.

Sadly, it seems we need to experience this kind of mass tragedy to remind us of our common humanity. In times of crisis, most of us experience a deeply felt need to come together, to renew the social bonds that connect us all. After the Boston Marathon bombing, the city came together and, at least for a brief moment, we were Boston Strong.

Now we are facing a new crisis, a rapidly spreading global pandemic, and that emotional pull to come together is as strong as ever. But this particular challenge requires us to practice “social distancing.” At a time when we are frightened for ourselves and our more vulnerable friends, relatives, and neighbors, we have been asked to keep at least six feet from one another and avoid social gatherings.

One of the biggest challenges ahead is to make sure social distancing does not lead to widespread

social isolation. According to Marc Lipsitch, Director of the Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics at Harvard’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health and one of the world’s foremost experts on infectious diseases, “mitigating the impacts of social distancing is as important as social distancing.”

Joan Maya Mazelis, a sociologist at Rutgers University who has studied social ties in low income communities, says she prefers the term “physical distancing,” which underscores the importance of maintaining and strengthening networks of mutual support.

An informal survey and friends and family on Facebook shows that people are getting creative, often using technology to overcome physical distance. Many talked of connecting more frequently with friends and loved ones through text, email, and social media, as well as phone and video calls. On Sunday, our church held a remote service using Zoom and the Social Justice Action Committee met that way as well. One friend said a neighbor left a note on her door asking if she wanted to help form a support group on her block. Another hosted a 30-minute “loving-kindness” meditation using Zoom.

One post in particular caught my attention. A friend of mine from church said she heard about a group suggesting that everyone sing one chosen song at 6 p.m. each night from out of their window. The first song they chose was “Yellow Submarine” by the Beatles. The song they have chosen for tonight is “Everything’s Gonna Be Alright” by Bob Marley. I have no idea if this has caught on, but I plan to open up my window tonight with the hope that it will be. I will do so also in the hope that we finally begin to understand how much we need one another, not just in a crisis, but all the time.

Looking up Longfellow Street

Dorchester’s voice is

By Edward M. Cook
Special to The Reporter

Looking at voter registration and voter turnout in various neighborhoods of Dorchester can be shocking. In Ward 15, 35 percent of registered voters have not voted once in the past six years. In an effort to improve registration and turnout, local activists have created a coalition called DotTheVote. This coalition already includes US Sen. Edward Markey, Attorney General Maura Healy, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Suffolk County Sheriff Steve Tompkins, eleven neighborhood organizations and labor unions, district City Councillors Andrea Campbell and Frank Baker and all of the at-large councillors and, importantly, state Sen. Nick Collins and state Rep. Liz Miranda. And the list continues to grow daily.

Passing Election Day Registration (EDR) is strongly endorsed by the DotTheVote coalition. For voters, it is a crucial reform for 2020 that is now being considered by the Legislature for implementation that would make us the 22nd state to introduce this measure. Which raises the rhetorical question: Why weren’t we first? Maine and Minnesota introduced it 40 years ago!

In 2018 EDR allowed 50,000 eligible voters to vote in New Hampshire. The Massachusetts Senate has passed an EDR bill twice already. What is up with the House? EDR will modernize voter registration and make registration more cost-effective, accurate, and secure. Sen. Collins and Reps. Liz Miranda and Russell Holms are co-sponsors of the bill.

Here is how it would work:

- Accuracy and security: Massachusetts has joined the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a national clearinghouse that collects registration information and compares it with that of other state and federal databases to assure accuracy and security of voting lists. All election officials at each polling place will have access to the statewide list of registered voters in the central registry.
- Here is how it would work in other regards:
 - Guaranteed right to participate in our elections: No one should be disenfranchised for moving to another residence close to election day. Seniors, young people, veterans, renters, low-income people and young families are all likely to move, and their political voice matters. Media coverage intensifies about an election in the final month. When voters are most likely to be learning about an election, they could find out that they aren’t able to participate. EDR changes that.
 - Proof of residency: Eligible Massachusetts citizens must provide proof of residency when they register or soon after – a current driver’s license or ID card suffices, or documentation of residence such as a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, a paycheck, or a lease agreement – and make a written oath attesting to their citizenship. In addition

Dorchester’s vote

to allowing voters to register to vote, they will be able to fix errors in their registration. Importantly, EDR will reduce human error associated with paper forms, help eliminate duplicate records, cut down on provisional ballots, and ensure that those who move and have not yet updated their records are not denied the right to participate in our democracy.

Democracy is on all of our minds in 2020. John Dewey, the twentieth century American philosopher, said, “The solution to the problems of democracy is more democracy.” Passing Election Day Registration is a one of the best ways for us to strengthen our democracy right here in Massachusetts and expand voting rights.

“Dorchester’s voice is Dorchester’s vote” is the motto of DotTheVote. It captures the notion that every vote counts. Everyone who is interested in or that we want to be interested in, our neighborhood has one thing in common: they can count. Woody Allen said, “80 percent of success is just showing up.” The ballot box is where the community’s voice is heard. Even if a candidate or cause fails to win, Dorchester wins when there is a good turnout. The ultimate goal of DotTheVote and Election Day Registration is community empowerment for “We the people.”

Edward Cook, a Dorchester resident, is the campaign manager of DotTheVote.

State courtrooms closed until April 6- at earliest

Courts in Massachusetts courts will be closed to the public from March 18 until at least April 6, except to conduct emergency hearings that cannot be resolved through a videoconference or telephone hearing, according to a standing order issued Tuesday by the Supreme Judicial Court.

“Individual clerks’ offices will be open to accept emergency pleadings, to address questions and to assist with videoconference or telephonic hearings,” the SJC said. Each Trial Court department has issued a standing order to specify what constitutes an emergency matter. People with previously scheduled hearings - emergency or non-emergency, during the closure period should contact the appropriate clerk’s, clerk magistrate’s, register’s or recorder’s office for instruction.

“We are in uncharted territory for state judicial systems, and we are working to continue to deliver justice to all individuals while striving to keep the public, court users and our employees safe,” said Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey. “In these unprecedented times, we intend to listen, learn and adjust as necessary to accomplish our objective to deliver justice and to keep all safe.”

- Michael P. Norton
State House News Service

The Reporter

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Galvin: Virus makes online Census responses critical

By MATT MURPHY
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

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 coronavirus and the steps being taken to limit person-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 third time.

"I must confess to you that in the beginning of this process and actually for a long time I've been somewhat skeptical of what the response rate would be online. But in light of the coronavirus situation, online might be a very important part of our response," 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 colleges and universities across the state this week to ask students not to return to campus after spring break "couldn't come at a worse time" for the count and that the virus could impact recruitment of door-to-door canvassers and people's willingness to interact with Census takers.

Counting college students is an integral part of the state's Census effort, and the decision of schools like Harvard, MIT, Boston University and the University of Massachusetts to move exclusively to online learning, and send students home will make it harder to account for them.

The US Census Bureau already accepts administrative records of students living in dormitories, and Galvin said he sent a letter to the Census Bureau asking it to do the same for enrolled students who might live in off-campus housing.

Galvin said he was also worried about the state's ability to convince the more than 1 million



Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin stressing the value of online census responses at a press conference last Thursday. *SHNS photo*

foreign-born residents to participate given the anxiety in the immigrant community about interacting with the federal government.

"Whether they're legally present or not, we believe they're here and we know they should be counted," Galvin said.

Galvin said he believes based on academic studies and existing Census data that Massachusetts is home to roughly 6.9 million people. The challenge now is counting all those people.

If the count is successful, Galvin said Massachusetts should not lose another Congressional seat as it did after the 2010 Census, when redistricting consolidated the state's 10 districts into nine, and US Rep. John Olver, of western Massachusetts, announced he would retire.

"Am I concerned? Yes. Every estimate, however, has suggested that we would not, and, in fact, if we prove out that population of 6.9 we would be pretty confident we would not," 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 6.5 million Bay State residents, a 3.1 percent increase over the previous decade during which the national population grew 9.7 percent. If Massachusetts's 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 residents of the Berkshires may get them sooner.

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 communities approved by the Legislature to aid the counting effort.

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.

"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.

Millona has chaired the state's 2020 Complete Count Committee, and said that only 185,000 to 190,000 immigrants

would fall into the category traditionally referred to as "undocumented." Hundreds of thousands of other immigrants have been naturalized, or maybe have been in the country for decades on temporary protected status.

"Given the rhetoric and everything else going on looking at the foreign-born population as a problem, it's creating reluctance and people are not coming forward out of fear of this mixed status, and fear that every information I give about me might damage my family members at a later time," Millona said.

Galvin dismissed criticism, as reported Thursday by the Boston Globe, that his office has been slow to award millions in funding for non-profits

and municipalities to assist with the count.

Galvin said non-profits have been made aware of the grants they can expect to receive, and much of that money will be sent out by the end of the week, while the \$1 million set aside by the Legislature in December for municipalities was specifically for communities with low response rates, which won't be known for some time.

"It would be like paying people to be plow drivers in October. You don't do it," Galvin said about the criticism that non-profits should have received the funding sooner.

Cheryl Clyburn Crawford, the executive director of MassVOTE, said her group remains committed to educating residents about the Census and passing an election-day voter registration law. But in the era of coronavirus, Crawford said her group's strategies might have to change.

"We will continue to deliberate with legislators, organize grassroots-based support, and ensure that underrepresented communities have their voices heard," Crawford said. "Yet how we fulfill these tasks may change. Instead of holding in-person meetings with legislators and their staffs, for example, we may simply speak with them on the phone. As opposed to promoting and speaking at large-scale public gatherings, we may encourage that such meetings take place online."

"While these circumstances are far from ideal, they are unquestionably necessary," she said.

Find out more about how the ESP could help you
or a loved one at (617) 533-2430 or www.hhsi.us



We Help People Like
Patricia and her Daughter

“

Our family chose to join the program to gain the medical and home support we needed to keep my mother healthy and safely living at home. We are delighted with the medical services, attention, and support provided by the Elder Service Plan. Most importantly, we have all benefited from the compassion and dignity conveyed by the caring staff at the program. Our family is committed to providing my mother with the best care possible and the Harbor Health Elder Service Plan is our partner caring for her needs.

”

Patricia, Participant's Daughter

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Reporter's Neighborhood Notables

civic assoc's • clubs • arts & entertainment • churches • upcoming events



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.

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CODMAN SQUARE HEALTH CENTER LAUNCHES
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A woman in a black lab coat with a stethoscope around her neck is smiling and talking to a young man in a green t-shirt that says "DISTRICT". He is also smiling and holding a stethoscope.

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Mayor, housing activists seek halt to evictions during crisis

By KATIE TROJANO
AND BILL FORRY
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



Jacqueline Tucker (front right) faces eviction and rallies for an eviction moratorium in front of Boston Housing Court. Marilyn Humphries photo

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 at housing court. “If they

can shut colleges and schools down, why are they subjecting us to come here and get sick?”

Asserting that people in Housing Court are typically packed shoulder-to-shoulder for hours, putting them at risk for exposure, Andres Del Castillo, a City Life/Vida Urbana organizer, said, “No one should have to choose between defending their home and being healthy.”

On March 14, Chief Justice Timothy Sullivan ordered the postponement of most eviction cases in Massachusetts until April 21. Advocates celebrated

the decision as a victory, but want legislation passed to codify a full moratorium.

Last week, State Reps. Mike Connolly and Kevin Honan, who is chairman of the Joint Committee on Housing, filed legislation that would do just that. House bill 4935 would enact a statewide halt on evictions, foreclosures, and related legal proceedings in the Commonwealth for the duration of the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

“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.”

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With Masses canceled, Catholics told to worship at home

**By BILL FORRY
EDITOR**

Last Friday, Cardinal Seán 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 are called to respond to policies and programs they recommend."

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 par-

ishes "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

without any physical contact. If the priest celebrant chooses to extend the invitation for the sign of peace, the faithful, instead of a handshake, may bow to the persons nearby."

Other faith communities locally have similarly cancelled services or moved to online worship, including Dorchester's First Parish Church, which held an online service on Sunday.

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 Foundation 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. "This 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 tbfb.org/COVID19Fund.



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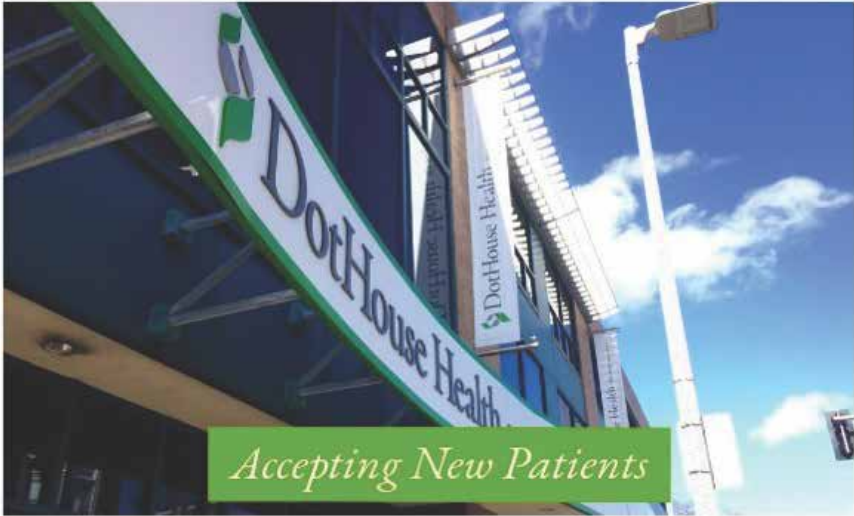
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Health center leader: ‘Call ahead, don’t just show up’

By **BILL FORRY**
EDITOR

The man who oversees several Dorchester health centers has a message for patients this week: “Call ahead, don’t just show up.”

Chuck Jones is the president and CEO of Harbor Health Services, the umbrella organization that includes Neponset’s Daniel Driscoll Health Center on Neponset Avenue, the Elder Service Plan on Morton Street in Mattapan, and the Geiger-Gibson Health Center on Columbia Point.

Jones and his team are busy coordinating with public health officials at the city and state level for an eventual role in

triaging and testing COVID-19 patients. But he is quick to note that Harbor 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— everything 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 understandably concerned and 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 Neponset Health Center, for example, do not have diagnostic kits on hand to test for COVID-19, Jones said. When test kits are deployed in large quantities, he and his team are working to develop protocols and even alternate sites to help administer and process tests.

But those supplies are not in hand — yet. “We would like to play a role in performing the screenings,” Jones told the *Reporter*, adding that he and his team hope their staff will be part of satellite testing, perhaps modeled on “drive-through

tests.

Until then, “We really don’t want people coming in if they are symptomatic. All of the triaging is being done over the phone,” he said.

“We obviously have this public health crisis going on right now, but we also have thousands of patients we provide care for in each of our communities and these 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 them through what we’re doing to keep them safe during their visit.”

Of 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, Mattapan, and surrounding neighborhoods.

Many of them come into the Mattapan facility daily — or at least weekly — for activities, wellness, and medical care though 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 thoughtful around protecting this population. We are starting to be much more restrictive about who we bring into our day center and ramping up in-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 for phone numbers to call ahead before a visit — go to hhsi.us.

As virus descends, officials seek to curb wider spread

(Continued from page 1)

On Tuesday night, Mayor Martin Walsh addressed the anxiety and fear Boston residents and others across Massachusetts are feeling. The mayor’s prime-time address came at the end of a day that saw the number of positive coronavirus cases in Massachusetts climb to 218, including 42 in Boston; Carney Hospital in Dorchester embarking on a plan to focus only on COVID-19 patients; and the forecasting of a recession from a state fiscal watchdog and a major credit rating agency.

“This is an unprecedented situation, both in the nature of public health challenge and the steps we are 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 not powerless and you are not alone.”

Because the situation is serious, Walsh said, it will take “every single resident to help, no matter your age or your health status.” He told people to continue to wash their hands often, to cover coughs and sneezes, and to isolate themselves and call a doctor if they feel sick.

“The actions all of us take now will save lives,” the mayor said. “This is not a time for house parties, play dates, or visiting friends. We need everyone to limit their contact with each other right now. This is the social distancing that we’re learning and practicing together. It’s a new situation for our city, but it’s a known solution to the challenge we face.”

The mayor also addressed the possibility of ordering Boston residents to shelter in place. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Tuesday that his residents should be prepared for such an order in the next 48 hours.

“We are not currently at that point, but we are monitoring the situation closely,” said Walsh. It’s not a situation that should be made lightly or in isolation,” he said, pledging to stay in close contact with Gov. Charlie Baker and to do what’s best for the public health of the city.

With new evidence showing community transmission occurring in seven counties, the governor on Sunday ordered bars to close and mandated that restaurants offer only takeout or delivery.

On Tuesday, Baker announced new emergency orders, saying he will “cut red tape so hospitals can staff up faster,” adjust minimum standards for ambulance staffing to maintain EMS availability, and facilitate telehealth services across state lines to help keep people out of hospitals in non-emergency situations.

Also, the state is distributing \$5 million in emergency funds to local boards of health, Baker said. He noted that he was also formally requesting that the Small Business Administration issue a declaration of economic injury for Massachusetts in order to make low-interest loans

available to small business owners affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Baker has consistently denied rumors that he is planning to order Massachusetts residents to shelter in place for two weeks, saying he had heard those rumors himself as the pandemic spread of coronavirus continues in Massachusetts and around the world.

“We have no plans to do that,” Baker told WCVB’s Janet Wu during a live interview Sunday morning. When Wu asked if the rumor was “wild speculation,” the governor said, “yes.”

Last Friday, Baker imposed a ban on many gatherings of 250 people or more, but by Sunday he has dramatically lowered the “capacity cap” to just 25.

Three private labs — Quest Diagnostics, LabCorp and Thermo Fisher — have also been given FDA approval in recent days to begin testing.

“I think you’re going to see tons more testing and with tons more testing, yeah, you’ll probably see a significant increase in the number of people who have been affected,” Baker said on Monday.

Though he wouldn’t put a time frame on it, he said the state’s objec-

tive is to quickly ramp up testing to the point that at least 1,000 people a day can be screened for the virus, through either public or private labs. He said the goal of the state is to spread out the rise of infections and avoid a spike that would overwhelm the health care system.

Baker also was prescient on Sunday about drive-through testing, suggesting that that process may soon become available. On Tuesday came stories that health-care programs like Atrius Health have started testing that way, in its case at a garage near Fenway Park and at two other locations with more to come.

Other notable moments in the last week locally included:

- Mayor Walsh announced in a press conference on Friday that the 2020 Boston Marathon will be postponed until Mon., Sept. 14. The development marks the first time in the 124-year history of the marathon that the race has been pushed back in the calendar.

- The Dorchester Chili Cook-Off, scheduled for March 29, has been postponed until the fall. A statement taken from the Chili Cook-Off’s so-

cial media noted: “In light of the government’s Corona virus advisories, we regret to inform you that the Dorchester Chili Cook-Off has been postponed until the fall of 2020. The exact date will be determined later. Thank you for your understanding.”

- The JFK Library and Museum, which closed abruptly on March 11, offered some new details about the facility’s closure due to COVID-19. According to the statement, two library employees currently under self-quarantine contracted the virus after attending a conference at Row Hotel in Somerville on March 4 where other attendees were confirmed to have cases.

The library recommended that any patrons who visited the facility between March 2 and March 11 monitor their health for symptoms of coronavirus...

- On March 12, The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate announced it was closing to the public while continuing to monitor and assess the public health situation.

- On March 11, BC High in Dorchester announced that it would close for two days (March 12-13) for a “deep clean” after parents of a student tested positive for COVID-19. The student tested negative for the virus, but will remain in quarantine for “as long as recommended,” according to an email sent to the school community this afternoon.

“We plan to open for a normal school day on Mon., March 16,” the school’s president and principal said in a letter. They added: “At this point it is important to be clear that we are confident as we can be, that we do not have COVID-19 at BC High.”



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A Moment of Paws

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.



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Lynch talks COVID-19 with Tufts epidemiologist

**By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF**

Congressman Stephen Lynch on Monday hosted a live stream discussion about the COVID-19 with Dr. Gabriela Andujar Vazquez, an epidemiologist who specializes in infectious diseases and infection control at Tufts Medical Center.

The livestream followed the issuance of state and city guidelines meant to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus that Lynch called “among the most aggressive in the country.”

The exchange between the doctor and the congressman and their questions follows:

Q. Will wearing face masks work to stop the spread of covid-19?

A. Face masks work when they are used by a symptomatic person. When we are out in the public, the most important thing that we need to employ is hand hygiene. People that are not sick and are not presenting with symptoms need to wash their hands. To expose anyone to the disease, they have to be in contact with someone who is presenting with the symptoms. Those symptoms are fever, sore throat, cough, and shortness of breath.

Q. If I get the virus and



Dr. Gabriela Andujar Vazquez and US Rep Stephen Lynch.

recover, will I have an immunity to that virus?

A. This virus is new and we think that you would have some immunity; there is some protection there. We don't know yet how long that protection could last and there's still a lot to be known.

Q. What if someone who gets coronavirus has to self-isolate and doesn't have sick leave?

A. (Lynch): We've passed bills addressing the crisis. One is the Family First Bill that secured \$8.3 billion and provides for a number of protections for people whether or not they have insurance. We've also secured paid family leave up to three weeks for those who have to miss work. If you can't afford the doctor, you'll be covered under the legislation, it's a blanket provision.

Q. Are medical professionals working on a vaccine or treatment for the coronavirus?

A. At this time, there is no cure and no particular treatment. All of the tested treatments are in the clinical trial stage and being monitored by the CDC.

Q. What are the chances that Boston could enter

a state of lock down and how do we avoid this?

A. (Lynch) I don't think we are at that stage now. We don't have that flare-up in Boston. This would be high speculation at this point, but it's important that we do address the possibility. Everything is on the table if the situation were to present itself at that level, including lockdown. What we now do to prevent the spreading of the coronavirus, including minimizing the number of people gathering, and practicing social distancing and good personal hygiene will reduce the spread.

Vazquez: Hospitals are definitely prepared to handle the number of cases we have now. The hospitals in Mass. have had pandemic plans put in place for many years

and pandemic responsiveness is something we have processes in place for. We do track, in real time, how it's evolving and when it's deemed to be a pandemic, we make sure we have a plan for every scenario including an influx of patients.

Q. How is a test actually done?

A. The test is a simple nasal swab in each nostril. It's the same procedure as the test that is used for other viruses. It typically takes 4 to 7 days to come back, but we are prioritizing people that have severe illnesses, or those who are healthcare workers to make sure that they're not exposed to patients.

Q. What does “flatten the curve” actually mean?

A. Protective measures flatten the curve

and allow the health care system to handle cases slowly. If we don't take the recommended protective measures, the number of cases will multiply dramatically and that will overwhelm the system.

Q. If someone gets sick, is it best to stay at home and let the virus run its course unless there are serious symptoms?

A. Yes, stay home. We want people to seek medical care if you feel like you aren't getting better. We wouldn't want people to stay home and not do well.

Lynch: Even though it's inconvenient, stay home. We should be able to handle sitting on the couch at home if we think of what's at stake. Do the right thing to protect the country.

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 group 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.

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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



A typical spread of fare from Dorchester Brewing Co. and M&M BBQ. Daniel Sheehan photo

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 weeks 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 businesses 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 take-out 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 continue]. 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 exclusively take-out service, the only option was 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 came 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 industry has faced in recent memory and possibly ever.” The association has created a webpage with industry-specific guidelines, safety protocols, and recommendations for restaurateurs 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, the eve of St. Patrick’s Day, normally an important driver of 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 on 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 round for a pack 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.

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BGCD Partners with Junior League of Boston for STEM Class: See details below.

CONNECT 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.



BGCD Hosts New England Women's Leadership Awards Kick-Off Breakfast: See details below.

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 & World Trade Center.

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

DID YOU KNOW:
BGCD Competes in BGCA National Fine Arts Competition: Eleven BGCD members have been selected from our local Fine Arts exhibit to have their artwork entered into Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Fine Arts competition. The works have been sent off to the Boys & Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster which is hosting the Northeast Regional exhibit.

Congratulations to the following members: Brendan O'Driscoll, Catherine Cole-French, Dahlia Foster, Gabby Maynard, Jasmine Barrett, Leah Brade, Leila Bennett, Lily Paret, Mallory Powell, Naraya Dasilva and Tina Le who will be representing BGCD.

For more information on our upcoming Spring schedule of classes please contact Katy Farrar at kfarrar@bgcdorchester.org.

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.



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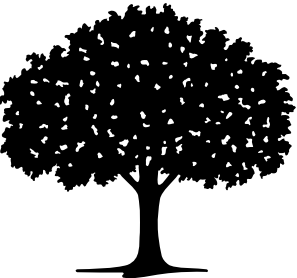
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COLLINS, John J. “Jack” of Quincy, 59. Originally from Dorchester, he received a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science at UMass Boston and worked as a customer service agent for the IRS. The son of the late John G. and Joan M. (Hanley) Collins, Jack was the brother of Monica Becker and her husband Randy of Encinitas, CA, Barry P. Collins and his wife Ina

of Taunton, Daniel M. Collins of Stoughton, and Mary J. Haynes and her husband Dan of Oakham. He is also survived by his special dear friends, Debbie Connelly and Mike and Margaret MacDonald, as well as many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Donations in Jack’s memory may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago,

IL 60601 alz.org or the United Spinal Association, 120-34 Queens Blvd. #320, Kew Gardens, NY 11415 united-spinal.org

GREENE, Catherine Priscilla (Reinhalter) of Braintree, formerly of Dorchester. Wife of the late John G. Greene. Sister of the late Margaret Curtis of Scituate and Jupiter, FL, the late Ambrose Reinhalter of Braintree, and the late Lois Mahoney of Hanover. Also survived by many cherished nieces and nephews. Remembrances may be made to the Stephen Matheny Scholarship Fund., 20 Short St., Bridgewater, MA 02324.

HOEY, Michael J. unexpectedly in Jamaica Plain. Son of Barbara A. (Isberg) Hoey of Jamaica Plain and the late Francis M. “Bingo” Hoey, Sr. Brother of Francis M., Jr. of Jamaica Plain and his

former wife Patricia A. of Wareham, Ellen A. Berry and her husband Robert of Rhode Island, Christopher M. and his wife Lisa of Watertown, John F. and his wife Maura of West Roxbury and Patrick E. and his wife Josephine of Hyde Park. Uncle of Ryan, Lindsay, Patrick, Christopher, Brendan, Liam, Amber and the late Kristen. Great-uncle of Ellie Rose. Donations in Michael’s memory may be made to the Gavin Foundation, 675 East 4th Street, South Boston, MA 02127 or at gavinfoundation.org

McCOOLE, Mary M. (Kelley) of Mashpee, formerly of Dorchester and Milton. Wife of the late Alfred E. McCoolle. Mother of James McCoolle, Marie M. McCoolle and the late Anne E. McCoolle. Mary graduated from Emmanuel College and was on the faculty of St. Elizabeth’s Hospital School of Nursing. Donations in Mary’s memory may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Jimmy Fund, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284.

M c D O N A G H , Francis P., 80, of N. Falmouth. Husband of Linda A. (Lewey) McDonagh. Born in Dorchester, the son of the late Patrick J. and Mary P. (McKeon) McDonagh. Also, survived by his brother James McDonagh and wife Karen of Plymouth, his sister Mary Eileen Walsh and husband George of Orleans; and 10 nieces and nephews. Memorial donations may be sent to the St. Elizabeth Seton Men’s Club, PO Box 861, N. Falmouth, MA 02556.

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LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION Docket No. SU20W0009WD SUFFOLK Division LASHAWNDA N. THORPE v. MIGUEL MALDONADO

To the above-named Defendant:

A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff, Lashawnda N. Thorpe, seeking a Complaint for Custody Support & Parenting Time filed on 01/02/2020.

You are required to serve your answer upon Plaintiff whose address is: 91 Bird Street, Dorchester, MA 02125.

If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of the Register of this Court at Boston: (24 New Chardon Street, Boston, MA 02114).

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this 4th day of March of the year 2020.

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

Published: March 19, 2020

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU20P0446GD IN THE MATTER OF: ANTONIA COTTO BAEZ of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Boston Medical Center of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Antonia Cotto Baez is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Boston Medical Center of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **04/02/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Date: March 06, 2020

Published: March 19, 2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN Docket No. SU15P2470GD IN THE INTERESTS OF: MICHAEL O’REILLY of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT

Incapacitated Person/Protected Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Casa De Ramana of, in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian.

The petition asks the Court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and /or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **04/13/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Date: March 02, 2020

Published: March 19, 2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU19P2732GD IN THE MATTER OF: KAELYNN KIM of BOSTON, MA RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by DCF of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Kaelynn Kim is in need of a Guardian and requesting that DCF of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **04/09/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Date: March 11, 2020

Published: March 19, 2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU20P0405GD IN THE MATTER OF: ROBERTO MERCADO, JR. of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Dept. of Developmental Services of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Roberto Mercado, Jr. is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Dept. of Developmental Services of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **03/26/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Date: February 26, 2020

Published: March 19, 2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU20P0482EA ESTATE OF: LINDA JOHNSON DATE OF DEATH: 01/05/2020

To all interested persons:

A petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Shawn C. Johnson of Randolph, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Shawn C. Johnson of Randolph, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **04/16/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Unsupervised Administration Under The Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 05, 2020

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

Published: March 19, 2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU20P0482EA ESTATE OF: ANNE McNAMARA EVANS DATE OF DEATH: 11/07/2019

To all interested persons:

A petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy has been filed by Daniel S. Evans of S. Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Daniel S. Evans of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **04/28/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Unsupervised Administration Under The Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 09, 2020

Felix D. Arroyo
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Published: March 19, 2020

Funeral directors get new safety precautions as virus looms

By TOM MULVOY
REPORTER STAFF

While there remain many when, where, how, and why 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.

"We have all sorts of obligations during this crisis," said Jed Dolan, whose family operates homes in Lower Mills and East Milton. "To our staff members 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 suit these times," Dolan said. "But for the most part, they understand what needs to be done and why."

Funerals are ongoing, he said, but the funeral home ambience 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 TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

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's had occupational or travel related health concerns," said Nadow.

DotHouse 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 vitally 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."

Watch DotNews.com for updates on health center info related to COVID-19. Visit DorchesterHouse.org or call 617-288-3230 for DotHouse Health.



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<div><div>NEW 2019 Jeep Renegade Sport 4x4</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$25,020</div><div>REBATE.....-2,750</div><div>CHRYSLER FINANCE BONUS.....-500</div><div>LEASE LOYALTY.....-500</div><div>ASSOC OF REALTORS.....-500</div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-2,025</div><div>SUBPRIME BONUS.....-2,250</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>PUSH START - AUTO - A/C - BACK UP CAMERA - BLUETOOTH - SIRIUS XM</div><div>MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995 \$99 PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>ZERO DOWN LEASE: \$179 PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>Quirk Price \$16,498</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>NEW 2020 Jeep Compass Sport</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$25,100</div><div>REBATE.....-2,500</div><div>CHRYSLER FINANCE BONUS.....-750</div><div>ASSOC OF REALTORS.....-500</div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-2,602</div><div>FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500</div><div>SUBPRIME BONUS.....-1,750</div><div>LEASE CONQUEST.....-500</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>BLUETOOTH - BACK UP CAMERA PUSH BUTTON START</div><div>MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995 \$129 PER MO. 39 MOS.*</div><div>ZERO DOWN LEASE: \$199 PER MO. 39 MOS.*</div><div>Quirk Price \$15,998</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>NEW 2020 Jeep Cherokee Latitude 4x4</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$30,390</div><div>REBATE.....-2,750</div><div>CHRYSLER FINANCE BONUS.....-750</div><div>LEASE LOYALTY.....-500</div><div>ASSOC OF REALTORS.....-500</div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-3,142</div><div>FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500</div><div>SUBPRIME BONUS.....-1,750</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>PUSH START - AUTO - A/C - BACK UP CAMERA - BLUETOOTH - SIRIUS XM</div><div>MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995 \$129 PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>ZERO DOWN LEASE: \$199 PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>Quirk Price \$21,498</div></div></div></div>
<div><div>NEW 2020 Jeep Wrangler Sport JL 2 Door 4x4</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$31,250</div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-4,252</div><div>FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$189 PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>ZERO DOWN LEASE: \$269 PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>Quirk Price \$26,498</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>NEW 2019 Dodge Charger SXT AWD</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$39,785</div><div>REBATES.....-500</div><div>ASSOC OF REALTORS.....-500</div><div>FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-5,087</div><div>CONQUEST LEASE.....-500</div><div>Quirk Price \$29,698</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>NEW 2020 Dodge Durango STX Plus AWD</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$38,785</div><div>REBATES.....-1,250</div><div>FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500</div><div>CHRYSLER CAPITAL.....-500</div><div>ASSOC OF REALTORS.....-500</div><div>LEASE CONQUEST.....-500</div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-5,287</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$179 PER MO. 36 MOS.*</div><div>ZERO DOWN LEASE: \$279 PER MO. 36 MOS.*</div><div>Quirk Price \$29,998</div></div></div></div>
<div><div>NEW 2019 Ram 1500 Classic Warlock Quad Cab 4x4</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$41,190</div><div>REBATES.....-2,750</div><div>CHRYSLER CAPITAL.....-1,000</div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-8,942</div><div>CONQUEST LEASE.....-500</div><div>ASSOC OF REALTORS.....-500</div><div>FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$89 PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>ZERO DOWN LEASE: \$189 PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>Quirk Price \$26,998</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>NEW 2020 Ram 1500 Big Horn Crew Cab 4x4</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$46,470</div><div>REBATES.....-5,000</div><div>CHRYSLER CAPITAL.....-500</div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-7,022</div><div>CONQUEST LEASE.....-500</div><div>TRUCK OWNER CONQUEST.....-1,000</div><div>ASSOC. OF REALTORS.....-500</div><div>FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$169 PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>ZERO DOWN LEASE: \$269 PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>Quirk Price \$31,448</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>NEW 2019 RAM 2500 MEGA CAB BIG HORN 6.4L HEMI V8 4WD</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$56,680</div><div>REBATES.....-2,000</div><div>COMMERCIAL CONQUEST.....-500</div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-9,582</div><div>CONQUEST LEASE.....-500</div><div>FCA CONQUEST.....-500</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500</div><div>ASSOC. OF REALTORS.....-500</div><div>Quirk Price \$42,598</div></div></div></div>

*Lease Loyalty: Must be returning Chrysler lessee. Conquest Lease Assist. available to current lessees of competitive non-Chrysler vehicles. See dealer for details. All lessees: \$3995 down, 10K miles/yr. Tax, title, acq., sec. reg & doc. additional. Extra charges may apply at lease end. "Promaster Conquest: must own a comparable comm. vehicle ask for details. Approved credit. Finance Bonus requires finance w/ Chrysler Capital. Conquest Bonus avail. to Silverado & Sierra owners, no trade required. To qualify for snow plow rebate customers must be a business owner. All transactions must be completed at time of sale. Must finance with dealer. Subject to program change with out notice. Sale ends 3/31/20 0% AVAILABLE IN LIEU OF THE REBATE AND SUBJECT TO BANK APPROVAL.

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