

Dorchester Reporter

“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

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50¢



Gaby Araica, a 10-year-old 4th grader at St. Brendan's School, has single-handedly sewn 24 masks and counting for health-care professionals in need of personal protection equipment. Araica's sewing teacher at In Stitches in Quincy posted a tutorial with directions on how to make the masks, which inspired her to start. As Araica continues to sew more masks, she plans to donate them to nurses in her neighborhood. Read more about local sewing efforts: page 15.

Elected officials confronting close-in needs as constituents ask for guidance, reassurance

BY KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

Unprecedented times have always been the catalyst for unprecedented leadership. As they deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, people in Dorchester and the city are looking for just that, leaning on their local elected officials for guidance, connection to resources, reassurance, and advocacy.

Over the last week, the *Reporter* reached out to members of the City Council, state representatives Dan Hunt and Liz Miranda, and state Sen. Nick Collins and asked them what they have been up to and what they are looking for going forward. The report follows:

District 4 Councillor Andrea Campbell – While juggling child care for her two children, Campbell, holding her three-month-old, took a few minutes to connect with

the *Reporter* via phone on Friday.

“First, there’s a lot of confusion amongst folks who want more information on COVID-19,” she said. “They want it more frequently and quickly throughout the day. People want to know what the numbers are in terms of cases – in the city and state. And people are unsure exactly what self-quarantine means and what to do if they’ve done that for 14 days.”

Campbell said the majority of calls she’s receiving are from constituents who want to see more testing; are concerned about testing for vulnerable populations, like immigrants; are worried about senior citizens and isolation, and from local merchants.

“Some business owners are absolutely afraid that they

(Continued on page 14)

City marks first deaths from virus; case-load rises

Baker orders ‘non-essential’ businesses to shut their doors for the next two weeks

BY REPORTER STAFF
AND STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Amid mixed messages from Washington about the likely duration of the COVID-19 emergency – with the president himself suggesting an end to disruption within two weeks – Bostonians prepared for far worse this week as the number of positive cases of the pandemic disease ticked up steadily, along with two reported deaths in Boston.

As of Tuesday noon, state officials reported that 1,159 people in Massachusetts had tested positive for the illness, and 11 had died from

the disease, with many more cases in the population likely still undetected. A total of 13,749 people had been tested across the state.

Gov. Baker ordered up the most aggressive phase yet in the fight against the highly contagious coronavirus. As of noon Tuesday, any business not deemed essential was ordered to shut down for two weeks. The governor’s latest order requires any workplace that does not conduct a service the state considers essential – a detailed list that includes grocery stores, pharmacies, media, and transportation – to

(Continued on page 16)

Addressing the fallout

A scramble for shopkeepers to make do amidst crisis across Dot neighborhoods

BY DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF

As the Dorchester neighborhood entered Week 2 of operating under coronavirus-era restrictions, the inevitable fallout from the state and city’s responses to the crisis continued to ripple through its small business community.

On Monday morning, Gov. Baker ordered all “non-essential businesses” to close their doors by noon on Tuesday and stay shuttered until at least April 7. While that directive shut down some businesses, like nail salons and barber shops, it allowed restaurants to continue takeout and delivery services – provided they “follow social distancing protocols,” a caveat that Mayor Martin Walsh discussed later in the day.

“I want to remind both restaurants and residents to continue practicing social distancing while waiting for take-out,” Walsh said. “We’re hearing at different points of the day

(Continued on page 4)



Leona, an employee at M&M BBQ inside Dorchester Brewing Co., offered service with a smile after packaging a takeout order Tuesday afternoon. The establishment is offering a complimentary roll of toilet paper with every takeout/delivery order. Daniel Sheehan photo

Health Centers plead for state support

BY BILL WALCZAK
REPORTER CONTRIBUTOR

The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (Mass League) sent a letter to Governor Baker on March 19 asking for “immediate and substantial financial relief in order to avoid a partial or complete collapse.” The letter describes the critical role that health centers play in caring for over one million Massachusetts residents, including “MassHealth members and the uninsured, as well as the linguistically, ethnically and racially diverse populations

throughout our state.”

The letter, authored by Neponset resident and Mass League CEO Jim Hunt, warns of a “countdown to the closure of Community Health Centers in Massachusetts.” Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most health centers have been forced to curtail non-urgent services and suspend dental, vision, and routine medical visits, unless such visits can occur via “tele-medicine.”

The result is a 50-70 percent reduction in income from visits, which, with health centers chronically underfunded,

will result in closure without “financial relief.” The organization Capital Link, which assists health centers with

(Continued on page 11)



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Only essential passengers should ride, say T officials

Hours after the Department of Public Health issued a new advisory on Monday urging Massachusetts residents to stay home whenever possible, MBTA officials stressed that commuters should only travel by train and bus for essential trips.

The T said customers should “avoid any and all unnecessary service,” and that by doing so, the service that does remain will be available to health care workers, grocery store employees, and other travelers who rely on public transit to get to jobs at the front line of fighting the coronavirus outbreak.

Schedules across the system have been reduced amid plummeting ridership, though the T will add some new morning commuter rail trips on Wednesday specifically aimed at hospital employees who need to make 7 a.m. shift changes.

Since last Saturday, all MBTA buses and street-level trolley stops have been using rear-door boarding in an effort to limit contact between drivers and passengers during the coronavirus outbreak.

Passengers with accessibility needs, including seniors, can still use the front doors, but all others are being asked to use the back doors to enter buses, Green Line above-ground trains, and the Mattapan Line trolleys.

MBTA and employee union officials say the practice will help enforce the social distancing that public health experts say is key to limiting the spread of COVID-19.

Keolis, which operates the commuter rail, said conductors “will provide access to all coach cars, even with low ridership, during both peak service and off-peak service” to support social distancing. Bicycles will be allowed on all trains.

Keolis and the MBTA will provide updates on service to passengers via Twitter at @MBTA_CR, at MBTA.com, through T-Alerts and on station signage and onboard announcements.

- CHRIS LISINSKI SHNS



Sean Simmons became Dorchester’s newest eagle scout last Saturday, March 14 after receiving an eagle medal and certificate during a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Eagle Court of Honor ceremony held at the Boston Police Patrolman’s Association Hall on Freeport Street. Simmons, of Troop 28, earned a total of 27 merit badges and a bronze palm. For his Eagle project, the 18-year-old Simmons refurbished six outdoor benches and planters at the Henderson K-12 Inclusion School and dedicated the project to an 18-year-old Scout, Luc Theberge, who passed away last year. Shown, from left: Scoutmaster Chris Gross Troop 28; Assistant Scoutmaster Mike Simmons (Sean’s father); Boston Police Commissioner William Gross; Eagle Scout Sean Simmons; Elaine Simmons (Sean’s mother).

Veteran political strategist Larry Rasky is dead at 69

By MATT MURPHY
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

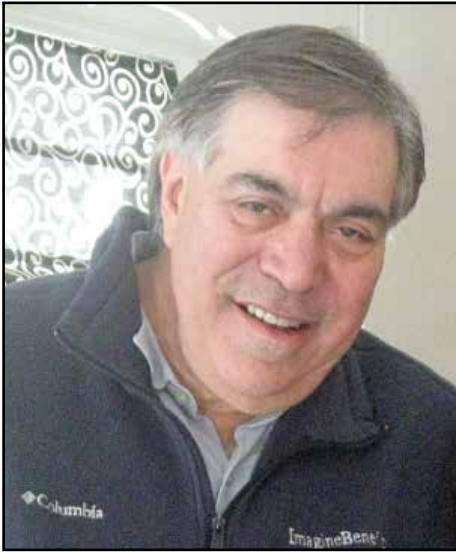
Larry Rasky, one of Boston’s pre-eminent public relations gurus and a confidant of former Vice President Joe Biden, died Sunday morning, according to three people close to him and his company. Rasky, 69, was the chairman and CEO of Rasky Partners, and had more than 30 years in the public relations business with offices in Boston and Washington.

Friends and co-workers said that in recent weeks Rasky had been extremely active with both business and his work helping to run a super PAC supporting Biden’s presidential bid.

“I’m devastated, absolutely devastated,” said Therese Murray, the former president of the Massachusetts Senate who went to work with Rasky after her career at the State House ended. “He was just a great guy, really. He had integrity and treated everyone so well. No matter who you were he treated everyone with respect. This is going to be really hard on his family and his work family.”

The cause of death is unknown.

“Larry was a giant in so many ways, not just professionally but personally. He loved and was loved by so many. He always treated the company like a family and we are all shocked and saddened by the news of his passing. He has left an indelible imprint on



Larry Rasky

everyone he touched and the company that bears his name will go on in his spirit,” the company said in a statement.

Rasky was a long-time advisor to Biden and served as press secretary of the Delaware Democrat’s 1988 presidential campaign. Last fall, he helped to launch the United the Country super PAC to support Biden’s most recent 2020 campaign and served as its treasurer.

A memorial will be planned for a later date, said one official, when people can gather again to celebrate his life.

Police

Man shot and killed on American Legion Hwy. A young man named Vincent Lewis-Coppin was shot and killed last Friday night (March 20) outside an apartment building on American Legion Highway, according to Boston Police. The 18-year-old victim was found suffering from multiple gunshot wounds in the rear of 86 American Legion Highway around 7:30 p.m. He was taken to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. Boston Police are asking for information on the murder to be called into homicide detectives at 617-343-4470.

...

A 26-year-old man from Brighton was arrested last week and charged with attempted murder for allegedly stabbing another man during a brawl near Ronan Park earlier this month. Danilo Soto, 26, was arrested on March 15 by members of the BPD Fugitive Unit at an address on Walnut Street in Roxbury. Police say Soto was involved in an early morning fight near 108 Adams Street on March 7 that left a man with life-threatening injuries. A police report alleges that Soto was already being monitored with a GPS device while out on bail for a federal charge of conspiracy at the time of his arrest this week. He will be charged in Dorchester District Court for “Assault with Intent to Murder and Assault and Battery by means of a Dangerous Weapon,” according to the BPD.

...

With more home delivery services operating amid the COVID-19 crisis, Boston Police issued an advisory to all delivery drivers to “exercise caution” to “reduce the chances of becoming a robbery victim.” The department cautioned drivers to “limit the amount of cash on hand,” use “credit cards” for sales.”

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

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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.

The City of Boston has launched a new, free texting service to provide daily updates and information about the coronavirus. Stay in the know and text **BOSCOVID** to **99411** to opt-in. This text service is also available in Spanish, Haitian, French, Cabo Verdean Creole, and Portuguese.

- Text **BOSEspanol** (for Spanish) to **99411**
- Text **BOSKreyol** (for Haitian Kreyol) to **99411**
- Text **BOSFracais** (for French) to **99411**
- Text **BOSKriolu** (for Cabo Verdean Creole) to **99411**
- Text **BOSPortugues** (for Portuguese) to **99411**

Dot Park Spring Egg Hunt Cancelled— Dorchester Park Association (DPA) has cancelled next month’s spring egg hunt at the park to prevent the spread of coronavirus during the event. As soon as the virus is no longer a threat, the DPA says it will continue planning for the rest of the season

including the car show which is tentatively scheduled for September 13. Visitors continue to enjoy walking through the park during the pandemic by remaining at least six feet apart and not touching swings, fences, benches, etc. Spring at the park this year includes blossoming bulbs planted by schoolchildren and volunteers.

Street cleaning to begin on schedule— Mayor Walsh said this week that the city’s daytime street cleaning program will begin as planned on **April 1**. Check the posted street sweeping signs on your street for the schedule and parking restrictions. However, Mayor Walsh has said there will be no ticketing or towing for street cleaning until the COVID-19 emergency ends. Trash and recycling pickups are also on a normal schedule.

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 prepared bean pot and bragging rights.

Update from Franklin Park Coalition — Franklin Park Coalition is postponing its April 11 annual meeting and will post a new date once the situation permits. The annual Kite and Bike festival scheduled for May 16 is also canceled. At this writing, Franklin Park and other city parks are open to the public.

Here is the latest guidance from the city’s parks department:

- Tot lots and playgrounds are temporarily closed.** Parks remain open at this time. Maintenance and operational functions continue uninterrupted.
- Although parks remain open for passive recreation (such as walking or jogging), park users are advised to follow “social distancing” guidelines recommended by the Boston Public Health Commission. **Remain at least six feet away from other people. Wash hands, utilize hand sanitizer, and cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your inner elbow. Limit time in public areas and avoid congregating in groups. Stay home if you feel sick.**
- Please call 617-635-4505 or email parks@boston.gov if you have questions about Parks permits or events. Visit Boston.gov/coronavirus for the latest public health information.

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Emergency child care critical for frontline health workers

By SIMÓN RIOS
WBUR REPORTER

As child care centers across Massachusetts closed their doors on Monday, an array of emergency sites opened to allow frontline workers in the battle against the coronavirus to get to their jobs. The options include reopened childcare centers and home-based care offered by hundreds of individuals approved by state education officials to provide care on a temporary, emergency basis.

The state is calling on families to “keep children out of group care settings to the greatest extent possible,” according to a statement at Mass.gov instructing families to use the emergency child care only as “back-up, drop-in care.”

Priority under the new system will go to families considered “vulnerable” by the state, as well as to these groups, according to the website:

- Health care workers
- Essential state and human service workers
- COVID-19 health workers
- Grocery store employees
- Emergency response personnel
- Law enforcement
- Transportation and infrastructure workers
- Sanitation workers



Health care workers in a tent prepare to test the next person at a drive-through area for COVID-19 testing at Somerville Hospital. Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

- DCF-involved families
- Families living in shelters
- News Media

A list of providers was made available Saturday by the Department of Early Education and Care.

Lauren Cook, who heads the Ellis Early Education Center in Boston, said child care workers’ health also needs to be considered. “I hope that there are enough [providers to meet demand],” Cook said. “I think that there’s a lot of fear still on the part of early childhood providers that we make sure our workforce is safe if they do step up.”

The state says it will prioritize testing for emergency child care workers exposed to or symptomatic of COVID-19. But Cook said she will not reopen — that’s because she’s pregnant,

and it’s unclear whether it’s safe for her to be around people exposed to the virus.

In addition to the emergency child care, Cook suggested looking at small-scale, local alternatives. “It’s a good idea for people to explore all their options, whether it’s putting feelers out on different neighborhood groups or websites, because people need income, and healthy people that are trying to make money who care about kids I’m sure would prefer to be working in smaller settings,” she said.

Among the thousands of workers responding to the coronavirus is Natali Taylor of Dorchester, a mother of four who works as a nurse at a community health center in Mattapan.

Taylor said she has been allowed to work from home for a few

weeks and use telemedicine, so her husband can keep working at his operations job at Boston Children’s Hospital. Taylor hopes he can get the same leeway to work from home — though that’s a difficult request when you work for a hospital during an outbreak.

“It’s so tough — talking to my boss and basically asking him for being home for at least three weeks, and then my husband will take over for the next three weeks,” she said. “I think we’re trying to work it out that way. But I don’t know if Children’s is going to let

him go for three weeks.”

Emergency medical staff aren’t the only ones affected by the closure of schools and preschools. Larry Cronin, chief operating officer at Elder Achievers, a for-profit that employs nearly 100 full-time and part-time home health aides, said several of his workers are already unavailable because they don’t have child care.

“I’ve also got other women who are paying babysitters so that they can work,” Cronin said. “But this is such an unfairness, too, working so hard and to have to give

up half their pay in order to get child care just so that they can get out to work.”

And Cronin said he doesn’t know how much longer those aides can go on paying babysitters.

Parents who have to work — but aren’t considered frontline responders — can check in with the regional child care centers to see if slots are available, the state says.

This story was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on March 22. The Reporter and WBUR share content and resources through a media partnership.

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Addressing the fallout

(Continued from page 1) that people are gathering inside restaurants. If you place an order, if you could, stand on the sidewalk and practice social distancing; it's really important. Restaurants, I'd like you to do the same thing – encourage folks to spread out so we're not having people on top of each other."

However, with residents being urged more and more to stay inside, restaurants that do not offer delivery may suffer losses on walk-in takeout orders. At the very least, the new advisory will put pressure on restaurateurs like John Pappas, owner of Brothers Deli & Restaurant in Mattapan Square, to make some decisions.

"We'll see how long we can do it," Pappas told the *Reporter* after noting that the restaurant had already seen a 50 percent drop in food orders. "This weekend will determine if we can continue to operate. We might have to shut down for a while... time will tell."

He added: "We're considering getting delivery service also so we can keep everybody working, you know. We all have families, we all have bills to pay. I've had to cut back a little bit, but I want to keep everybody on."



All orders at Ba Le are being taken and distributed from a storefront window on Dot Ave.

Daniel Sheehan photo

Elsewhere in the neighborhood, others have been pushed to the edge, with some deciding to close up shop. The Ice Creamsmith in Lower Mills, which last week had set up a takeout window at their front door, decided to close indefinitely just a few days later. Just up the street, The Bowery, along with Lucy's American Tavern, its sister establishment in Adams Corner, arrived at the same decision.

"At this time, we have closed the locations to focus on the safety and health of our teams and guests. We will be back at full operations as soon as we are given official word," said co-owner

Shawn Ahern.

In Fields Corner, homestead bakery announced on Tuesday that it will close indefinitely beginning next Sunday at 3 p.m. "We will miss our wonderful community and will see you on the other side," wrote co-owner Elisa Gerard in a Facebook post.

Nextdoor at 50 Kitchen, Chef Anthony Caldwell, who fulfilled his dream of opening a restaurant just last month, is also facing uncertainty. After accepting takeout orders for much of last week, the restaurant was closed Monday and Tuesday of this week and customers were told to expect "day-to-day" updates.

On Dorchester Av-

enue, one staple food spot is back to its take-out roots – for now – after just making the move to add more seating.

Jennifer Nguyen, owner of the Vietnamese restaurant Bánh Mì Ba Le, said "we are taking it day by day." Last week, Nguyen told the *Reporter*, "We stay open for our staff and customers, but we look for a way to keep everyone safe too."

Once a bustling shop with only a single table nestled among the packages, snacks, and bubble tea station, Ba Le recently completed an expansion that roughly doubled its size and added seating – a goal Nguyen had looked forward to rapturously in a mid-2019 interview right before Dorchester Day.

Nguyen confirmed that they are back to take-out service only, in accordance with the state-wide restrictions on restaurants. The staff is "doing our best to encourage social distancing among the customers," she said. Ba Le is taking all orders and distributing food through a storefront window to customers on the sidewalk in an effort to avoid crowding the store's interior.

A few blocks to the south along Dot Ave., staff at dbar have begun to appeal to the community to help combat another by-product of the pandemic: widespread

layoffs in the food industry.

A group of former employees started a gofundme fundraiser Sunday to support those left without a job – and without tips or paychecks – due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Other businesses are gearing up to serve customers "curbside" during the evenings. Tavolo – located in the Caruth building next to Ashmont station – will be open from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays. It is offering special menu items for families at its website, tavolodotave.com.

Pat's Pizza in Lower Mills remains open for takeout and delivery. A sign on the front door directs customers to call in orders and pick them up at the back door in an effort to maintain social distancing.

On Gallivan Boulevard, another pizza joint, Papa Gino's, has begun offering a "limited contact delivery" option in addition to their normal takeout and delivery, whereby customers can choose to pay with a credit card over the phone and give drivers instructions to leave delivery orders outside their front door.

In another COVID-19-themed promotion, Dorchester Brewing Co. and restaurant partner M&M BBQ are includ-

ing a complimentary roll of toilet paper with each takeout or delivery order.

In the South Boston seaport, Harpoon Brewery announced that it is now offering delivery services to a zone that includes parts of Dorchester, including Columbia Point, Savin Hill, Jones Hill, Uphams Corner, and Grove Hall.

Many other businesses offer services that won't be viable in the age of extreme physical distancing. Serge Pierre, owner of Unique Cuts barber shop in Lower Mills village, turned off the lights on his barber's pole on Monday.

Pierre, a native of Haiti who has operated in Lower Mills for 23 years, said he and three other employees will sit out the hiatus at home. "We will be okay," he said. "Everybody needs to do this to be safe. We all have families to take care of."

For more details about the takeout/delivery service status of local restaurants, see the the city of Boston's directory at www.boston.gov/departments/small-business-development/support-bostons-restaurants.

Reporter editor Bill Forry and former Reporter news editor Jennifer Smith contributed to this report.



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Citywide ‘lit-drop’ drive drew more than 1,000 volunteers

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

It’s long been a staple of political campaigns in the city of Boston: Volunteers going door-to-door with literature promoting candidates and seeking votes.

On Saturday, the Walsh administration led a re-boot of the old-school “lit-drop” to get out vital COVID-19 information across the city. An army of nearly 1,100 volunteers picked up bags of lit from locations across the city, dropping the informational pamphlet, accessible in seven languages, to every property in Boston.

Jerome Smith, the city’s chief of civic engagement and neighborhood services director, told the Reporter that the effort continued from Saturday through Monday morning.

“We did it all weekend long-- on Saturday and Sunday we continued our effort with BHA housing and senior buildings,” said Smith, “We already knew that would take some special weekend and was going to stretch through the whole week-end.”

Last Thursday, Smith said that the city had logged a total of 680 lit drop volunteers, with an overall goal of 1,000.

“We did reach our vol-



Patrick Fandel, Office of Neighborhood Services liaison, distributed lit-bags to volunteers on Clancy Road, across from Walsh playground in Lower Mills.
Katie Trojano photo

unteer goal. We got over 1,000, just short of 1,100 people participated and it was great,” said Smith. “We blanketed the city at right around 3 p.m.”

The “lit” was delivered in the form of a folded piece of paper that outlined details about COVID-19, a list of preventative measures to mitigate the spread, and a compilation of city resources, in seven different languages.

Those languages included: English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Hai-

tian Kreyol, Simplified Chinese, Cape-Verdean Creole, and Russian. The pamphlet also included a list of food access sites located around the city, and has been made accessible on the city’s coronavirus website on Friday in many other languages.

Smith and all of the city’s neighborhood liaisons took charge of organizing the effort. Each volunteer was provided with a reusable bag full of lit, a map of the area they would be walking, hand

sanitizer, and gloves.

Volunteers were required to sign-up in advance so that the city could keep control of the crowds and make sure they were limited to 25 people and followed social distancing rules.

“Ultimately, I believe it was a success,” said Smith. “Especially given the fact that the Sunday before, we had no idea whether or not we would be able to pull it off.”

Smith said that many residents thanked the volunteers, and also of-

fered the city organizers advice for future efforts.

“We did also get some feedback from resident groups on how to organize better,” Smith told the Reporter. “We appreciate if any readers have comments or advice, that they reach out to our office and share any of their thoughts on the process or how we could make it better.”

Last week, Smith said that the lit-drop was a necessary means of disseminating COVID-19 info to those who had not been reached by other methods of communication.

“This lit-drop effort is particularly important in places like Dorchester, where, for many, English is not the first language,” he said, “And messages put out on social media and other venues are not penetrating. Sometimes the best way to get the word out is the

old-school, grass-roots method of going door-to-door. Not everybody has access to technology,”

“For Dorchester, it was really important that we got into areas like Bowdoin/Geneva, and that we got to Fields Corner-- where for many, English is not the first language,” he said. “We were able to inform people of where to go to seek more info and directed them to trusted news sites and city websites.”

Smith also noted that the city had been in coordination with both the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) and the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), so that those respective agencies could reach out to individual property managers in large housing developments who were responsible for disseminating the informational pamphlets.

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About rabbits feet, brass chains, and what it means to be tokenized

Exhibition awaits reopening at DAP

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF

On Thursday, while much of the country was grappling with the developing coronavirus crisis, filmmaker and media artist Georden West was in the Dorchester Art Project gallery in Fields Corner affixing thousands of white rabbits feet to five-foot long brass chains.

The tedious process was one step in the construction of the central piece of artwork in West's "Queer Body in Ecstasy" installation, which had been scheduled to be on display from March 14 through April 11 at the DAP gallery until its management decided to close until April 1.

In the piece, the rab-

bits feet dangle from ball chains affixed to a chicken wire ceiling in a closely measured grid-like pattern to form symmetrical diagonal and horizontal rows meant to be at once aesthetically pleasing and mesmerizing. But constructing the final product meant hours of work: first ordering the materials in bulk, then making sure each length of chain was identical, and, finally, counting squares of chicken wire to make sure the grid was mathematically correct.

"All the length had to be cut, everything had to be measured, so it's a really labor-intensive piece," explained West. "But I think it manifests to look simple and

elegant."

With the exhibition, West said, the aim was to explore the way their own queerness is simultaneously presented as a "failure of femininity" and a "tokenized" version of sexuality. "It's grappling with gender, and how to navigate that both as a sexual person and a person of the world. How do I navigate and rebuild an idea around what it means to be a sexual person as a non-binary person, and what does it mean to also struggle with being sexualized as a queer person?"

West chose rabbits feet and golden brass chains and key rings – items with symbolic weight and spiritual significance – to represent the duality inherent in the struggle. "The materials we used are more or less tokens," they said. "What does it mean to be tokenized, and how do I bring that conversation into the architecture of the space? It both feels harshly geometric but beautiful...there's a beauty to it, but an awful violence to it, too."

Raised Catholic, West said her superstitious tendencies played a role in envisioning the exhibition. Historically,



Georden West, the artist behind "Queer Body in Ecstasy," a new installation at Dorchester Art Project: "There's a beauty to it but an awful violence to it, too." *Daniel Sheehan photo*

rabbits feet are worn as a good luck charm, or a way to ward off evil. That "grotesque idea of carrying around another thing to ward off something for yourself, something that is not of you that you've taken from something else in order to carry throughout the world, I think that kind of reflects what it means to be fetishized in a lot of ways," said West.

A second installation in the exhibition ar-

ranges hundreds of gold keyrings, which "elevate commodity to the level of art," in a "field" pattern on the floor just beyond the lattice of rabbits feet. West's intention is that the two pieces will complement each other. "I'm interested to see how people will react [to the rabbits feet]. Will they just walk through them? Will they duck under them?...When there's something arranged on the floor like

that, it always seems to create an aura."

Due to the hiatus at DAP, "Queer Body in Ecstasy" likely won't be open to the public for at least a few weeks. But the methodical setting up process of the exhibition, amid the COVID chaos evolving outside, seemed to give West a brief respite from reality.

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Boston Water and Sewer Commission COVID-19 Update

Boston Water and Sewer Commission offices are closed to the public

Due to the recent outbreak of COVID-19, Boston Water and Sewer Commission will be closed to the public until further notice. In addition, Neighborhood Site Visits will not be held until further notice. BWSC offers other available payment methods such as online, by phone, or by mail. Any questions about your account please call 617-989-7800.



Keep wipes out of pipes!

If you are using any type of wipe (whether or not it says "flushable"), please do not flush them down the toilet. These items can clog your household plumbing, the pipes in the street and the critical equipment at the treatment plant.

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Boston Water and Sewer Commission in conjunction with Massachusetts Water Resources Authority regularly tests drinking water for any contaminants. Be assured that we will continue to provide our customers water that meets all health standards. COVID-19 is not in Boston's drinking water.

Boston Water and Sewer Commission

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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 addi-

tional 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-Serve.

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

Virtual worship clicks at First Parish; 'connections' hailed in a time of virus

A letter from future times to a 2020 newborn

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF

Across the country, the COVID-19 pandemic is changing the way people worship, forcing many religious gatherings and observations to online platforms. This past Sunday, in lieu of its normal worship service, First Parish Dorchester held a virtual service via Zoom, a group conferencing/video chat app.

In place of gathering in the church on Meetinghouse Hill, which has been closed to the public, Rev. Terry Sweetser and other First Parish personnel shared cyberspace for the abbreviated service, with parishioners tuning in from home on their devices.

While the format was different, the community nature of the service was effectively replicated: a family lit a ceremonial candle set on their dining room table; the director of music and the cantor played piano and sang hymns from their respective homes; and parishioners used the app's chat feature to chime in with prayers and messages of support.

Following is the text of a homily delivered by Director of Religious Education Lucas Gonzalez Milliken near the end of the service:

"My sister gave birth to my nephew a few weeks ago, and she sent me a tongue-in-cheek photo of him surrounded by three rolls of toilet paper, a tube of disinfectant wipes, and a sign that said "Baby's first pandemic." We will get through this, and we will get through this together. As a spiritual community, and as human beings.

"One of the things that we are stubborn about is staying connected. In the last few weeks we have seen truly creative ways of making sure that we stay connected. We are gathering in ways that we have not gathered before, finding ways to reach each other, and express love and hope for each other, and since we will get through this together, we will tell stories of this time.

"My nephew will not remember this time, but he will ask about it, and when he does, I want to be able to tell him this story:

"In those days, people came together in incredible ways. We were told to keep physical distance from each other, but we found other ways to stay close. Some of us hung our artwork out on porches for our neighbors to see. Some of us put on concerts on our sidewalks, and we all sang from the top of our lungs in 30-part harmony.

"In those days we started to realize that the technology we had at our fingertips could connect us across thousands of miles. And we started reconnecting to people that we hadn't spoken to in far too long a time. We sent photos and videos of our children to each other. We read books to each other every day. We held virtual talent shows and we put on plays for the world in our own living room. We started

Lucas Gonzalez Milliken, First Parish Dorchester's director of Religious Education, is shown during Sunday's online worship service. Inset: A pianist performed during the First Parish service.

teaching each other in ways that we hadn't considered.

"We exercised and prayed and worshipped and sang right next to people who before we had thought were so far away. We knew that people were singing the same song that we were, at the same time as we were, from entirely different parts of the globe.

"But most importantly, we didn't forget. When the virus passed, and we no longer had to keep social distancing, or shelters in place, we didn't forget the lessons we had

learned. We didn't forget that it was possible to quickly and effectively shut down business as usual. We learned ways to help each other when business as usual got shut down, and we kept using those tools long after the virus left. We learned more and more ways to make sure that services were accessible to all people, especially those who were most at-risk and vulnerable.

"We kept staying connected to our neighbors, singing with them across the way. We kept sharing our art with each other.



We kept teaching each other and learning from each other. We didn't forget that we need each other to survive.

"Which is why, dear nephew, we are singing with you now. Which is why, dear child, we do story time every day with someone who lives far away, but whom we love. Which is why we are right now writing this letter to our family from out of town, and why we are knocking on

our neighbors' doors to check in with them to see if there is anything they need, or if they would like to get together for a paper airplane-flying contest later.

"We learned so much in that time. Yes, it was painful and scary, but in our pain and fear, we leaned into our deep connections and we leaned into our love, and we remembered how to do that, and we never forgot it."

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Flax-Processing Tools

With the Dorchester Historical Society closed to visitors during this period of social distancing, it seems a good time to give readers a look at some of the items in the Society's collections – like the tools that were used to process flax.

The Clapp Family Farm, now owned by the Dorchester Historical Society, has among the family's artifacts many of the pieces involved in linen-processing.

After harvesting, flax stems were dried and then the seed heads were removed from the stalks. Some of the seed was saved for the following year's planting, and the remainder was pressed for linseed oil. After the oil was extracted, the remains of the flax heads were fed to cattle. Retting, or moistening, of the stalks helped to separate the fiber. In the space of a few days to a week, microorganisms helped to break down the plant structure. The stalks were then dried.

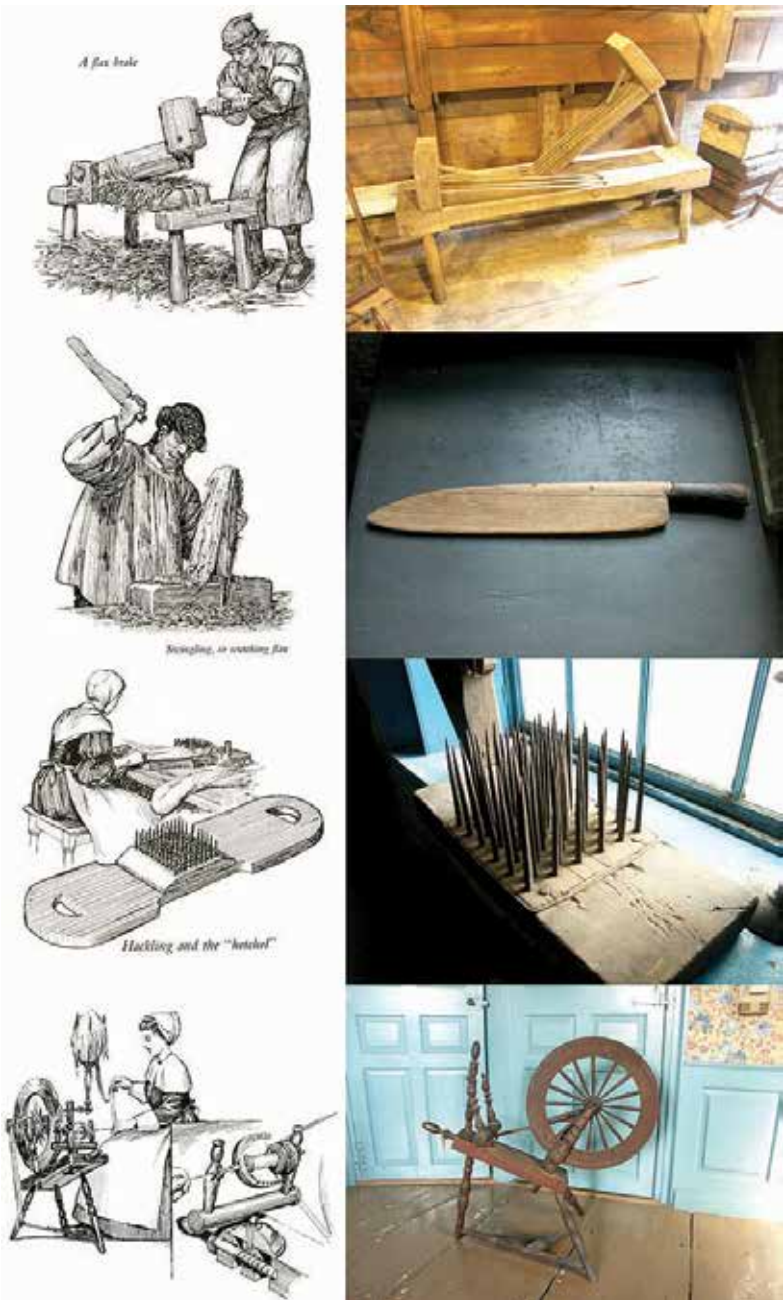
A flax break, or brake, has wooden blades in an arm that fit inside blades in the base. The weight of the arm of the flax break was used to smash and break the woody portion of the flax stalk into pieces, leaving the fibrous strands, which are located between the outside of the stalk and the inner core, intact.

Most brakes were designed for one person. The two-person brake at the Clapp Family Farm is quite unusual.

After the breaking, a scutching knife was used to separate the broken inner and outer pieces of the stalks from the fibers. The flax was hung over an upright board, and the knife was used to gently scrape away the unwanted parts of the stalks. The strands were then drawn through hackles or a flax comb to straighten the fibers spinning. A flax comb – or hatchel or hetchel or hechel – looks like a bed of nails. The flax fibers were drawn through the nails to produce spinnable fiber.

Spinning was done on a flax wheel that was a smaller version of the wool-spinning wheels often seen in historic houses.

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.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.



Processing Flax

Editorial

Poll shows we are getting the message

Most of us are finally starting to embrace the new abnormal. That’s one takeaway from a newly published poll tracking the behavior of Massachusetts residents. The survey, sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts and conducted by The MassINC Polling Group, was taken during March 20-23. It is the “second wave” of data gathered by the MassInc team, which conducted its first poll on the subject the week before (March 16-19). The data show that we are, in fact, “taking more steps to distance [our]selves from others as the coronavirus crisis continues.”

Here are some of the key findings, as summarized by the pollsters themselves: “Residents are increasingly taking social distancing actions to help slow the spread of the virus. Since the first wave, which ended late last week, 60 percent now say they are not seeing or visiting anyone, up from 46 percent.

“Similarly, 82 percent report cancelling social plans, up from an already-high 72 percent just a few days earlier. When it comes shopping, 74 percent say they are only going to stores if it is essential, and another 11 percent are not going at all.”

That’s moving in the right direction, particularly when we consider that Gov. Baker’s directive for non-essential workers to “stay-at-home” just kicked in on March 24 and would not be reflected in these numbers.

- Other sobering takeaways:
- 16 percent of respondents report losing a job, and 28 percent of those still employed reporting losing some portion of their paycheck.
 - Of those polled, 65 percent say the crisis is “very serious,” compared to 58 percent last week. “Combined with the 25 percent who say it is “somewhat serious,” concern over coronavirus in Massachusetts is nearly universal,” says Steve Koczela, who is president of the MassInc Polling Group.
 - The poll also indicates that a vast majority of Massachusetts people think that the official response to the crisis has either been “about right” (59 percent) or that it “has not gone far enough” (27 percent) .

The polling jibes with what we’ve been seeking this week in Boston, even before the order from Baker went into effect at noontime Tuesday. Fewer people are out and about. The weekday peak commute for those still on the roads is lighter than a sleepy Sunday morning. And people are, by and large, avoiding contact with each other, even if they are out for walks or bike ride on the Greenway.

This is good news. And, if people needed further confirmation that it’s absolutely necessary to adhere to the advice from Baker and Mayor Walsh, we got more this week. On Monday, we learned that a second Bostonian had died from illness related to the COVID-19 virus. “With each tragic loss, it’s a reminder of how dangerous this situation is that we’re living in,” said Walsh in announcing the news outside City Hall.

The mayor urged Bostonians to help the city avoid a larger spike in case numbers by simply staying home. “The best way to show gratitude to the people on the front lines of this is to stay home— because so many people can’t stay home,” said the mayor. “Physical distancing is the most effective way we have to slow the spread, to keep people healthy and to preserve our medical capacity.”

The city, Walsh said, will not deploy police or other personnel to enforce the governor’s order. He’s expecting Bostonians to step up and police ourselves.

“Right now, it’s a common sense thing,” he said. “All you have to do is look to Italy and see the number of deaths happening in Italy. We want to prevent that from happening in the United States and Massachusetts and the city of Boston. So, we’re asking businesses to do the right thing here.”

Bill Forry

The Reporter

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Sitting on an idyllic Indonesian isle, a Dorchester émigré craves local connections in midst of the crisis

By Mike Shaw
Special to The Reporter

BALI, Indonesia – The waves roll in on Thomas Beach in Uluwatu, near the southern tip of Bali. My wife is sitting on a deck chair on the patio of our remote AirBnB, which hangs over a cliff that overlooks the idyllic swimming and surfing spot. Her parents are in chairs on either side of her, laughing at some private joke from her childhood. It’s a taste of home for her that we both know that she’s incredibly

A Letter from Bali

fortunate to have. These days, many expats in these parts don’t have the chance to fly back to their native countries; fewer still can boast that their parents were already on a trip in Asia that’d been scheduled last fall when the Covid-19 outbreak hit and could still swing down as planned.

The tropical milieu notwithstanding, it’s a bitter-sweet scene. What was supposed to be a more than two-week visit has been cut to just a few days as the State Department has issued a “Level 4” travel advisory and told all Americans traveling overseas to get home ASAP or risk being stranded “for an indefinite period.” We both know that this is probably the last glimpse of home that either of us will have for the foreseeable future.

Before I go any further: We’re fine. My wife and I have visas that allow us to stay in Indonesia through next August; the rent on our home is paid up through then; and we’ve got a small stockpile of food and water set aside in case the robust logistics chains that supply this tourist mecca seize up. (Since Bali sits on the Ring of Fire, has an active volcano, and has experienced tsunamis in the past, this was something that we set up as soon as we arrived.)

As comfortable as we are though, we are painfully aware that we’re not back “home” while the Covid-19 pandemic is unfolding, and that’s both a blessing and a curse.

The blessings are obvious. We’re in a place that’s almost obnoxiously beautiful. The population is pretty spread out, so social distancing is relatively easy. The island produces an immense amount of food that would sustain it in the event of a supply chain collapse. And it’s a major destination for global airlines, offering quick access to a dozen major cities in at least as many countries in case we need to bug out.

On the other hand, it’s tough reading the headlines from back home. I thought that I’d gotten used to

To COVID-19, we are all Americans

By Ali Noorani
Special to The Reporter

SILICON VALLEY, CA – At a time when each of us is impacted by COVID-19, we are not thinking about all of us. Instead, whether or not we realize it, we are having a debate about who is, and what it means to be, American.

Commentary

As some of you know, I decamped to California as soon as the National Immigration Forum went telework to help my parents. I am fortunate to have the flexibility to do this. So many families without this flexibility face far worse situations today.

This morning, I was sent on a kitchen critical mission to secure *rotis* (we were down to two packs) and other goods from the local Indian grocery store. As I drove past the gleaming new Apple building in Cupertino, the next intersection took me into Sunnyvale and what felt like one of the last working-class suburbs in Silicon Valley.

The grocery store was in a strip mall like you would find in almost any city or town across the country. Small businesses driving the economy. In this case, each store seemed to cater to a different immigrant community.

And, with the exception of the grocery store, each was shuttered. Just like you would find in a growing number of communities across the country.

Also, similar to what you find across the country, the produce aisles were stocked and the shelves were packed. Someone was getting fruits and vegetable into a truck, to the store and onto the shelves. A process that, in all likelihood, began with an immigrant farmworker.

Meanwhile, back in Washington, Democrats and Republicans were negotiating a massive coronavirus economic stimulus package that as I write this, leaves out many segments of the immigrant community.

When some would say this is the time to prioritize Americans’ needs over those of all others, I would argue that when critical health care, agriculture and food service sectors are supported by the immigrant workforce, documented and not, we need to expand

the constant nostalgic pang that comes with being a 7th-generation Bostonian (and hardcore Dot Rat) who has been called to live overseas, but this is a whole new level of angst. Knowing that my old stomping grounds in Savin Hill, Fields Corner, Neponset, and Adams Village are all but ghost towns pains me. I think of all of the businesses that have been forced to close, and all of the people who have suddenly found themselves out of work and/or isolated at home. Like most people, I don’t know what to *do* about it.

Of course, there’s really nothing to do except to practice social distancing to keep myself, my wife, and our neighbors safe. It’s the same the world over.

In a strange way, this global need for everyone to isolate themselves has the potential to be a unifying event like none other. Just as families on Sydney Street are all holed up in their houses, venturing out one at a time only to make supply runs, so are my friends in Sydney, Australia. My friends in Beijing and Shanghai, who are only now slowly coming out of their strict quarantines, are sharing tips with people in the US on how to get through what’s just beginning for them. Here in Bali, our social distancing is only now getting under way.

We’re all in this together. Community has never been more important yet so distant. One of the ways that I’ve been coping is by organizing a group chat with the community of China-based expats who found themselves stranded here when the virus got serious in China back in mid-January. We commiserate, share tips, and provide much-needed support to one another. Ironically, now that we’re all self-isolating, I’ve got as much contact with them as I do with people back in Boston.

I’m voraciously reading the news and writing a weekly newsletter for people who are living/stuck overseas. I’m engaging on Twitter with fellow OFDers and Boston transplants alike. It feels like as I withdraw inward, I’m reaching out ever further for contact.

In the end, I know that I’m very fortunate. I come from a great place that’s prepared me to live in a diverse world. I live a great life. I’ve got an incredible partner that I can share it with. But I’ve never felt the 10,000 miles between me and Dorchester more profoundly than I do now. And I’ve never felt more connected to it since I left in 2008.

We’re all in this together.
Mike Shaw is the Managing Editor of Migration Media and host of the Migratory Patterns podcast. Follow him on Twitter @zax2000.

our sense of the American identity to include all those who are contributing.

A quick list: Seventy percent of farmworkers are undocumented and contributing \$9 billion to the fruit and vegetable industry alone; immigrants make up 24 percent of direct care workers and 28 percent of highly skilled professionals in health care; tens of thousands of DACA recipients are a part of the health care sector and might lose their protection should SCOTUS support the administration’s position; and, immigrants make up 22 percent of all restaurant industry workers, and are 33 percent of all restaurant and hotel owners.

Or, as José Andrés, immigrant, US citizen, restaurateur, philanthropist, super hero, writes in the Times, “But only those of us who work in restaurants can help revive the economy while feeding and building our communities at the same time.”

COVID-19 makes no distinction between citizens, permanent residents, visa holders, and people who are undocumented. To COVID-19, we are all Americans.

Which is why local, state, and national leaders need to prioritize the health and safety of all community members — including immigrants and refugees. If these vulnerable populations that are part of the backbone of our economy are healthy, that means we all will be safer.

I understand all the reasons why this is incredibly difficult, particularly when little feels stable or safe. Because, as Donna Hicks wrote in “Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict” – “One’s identity requires a sense of safety and stability to evolve. Lacking safety and stability, our sense of who we are becomes frozen in time.”

Which is why the leadership and support of allies has never been more important. Helping the public understand why we are all American at this time of sacrifice is not easy. But I am not sure it has ever been more important.

Ali Noorani is a former Dorchester resident who worked at DotHouse Health and Codman Square Health Center. He is now the executive director of the National Immigration Forum.

Feeney Brothers steps up, donates its face masks and other supplies to medical facilities across the city

By Ed Forry
Associate Publisher

The Dorchester utility service company Feeney Brothers has donated a large supply of N95 masks and protective supplies to several medical facilities around the city of Boston as word comes that hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities are urgently in need of these items in the fight against the coronavirus.

“Our COVID-19 Task Force is working with our customers, municipalities, and other stakeholders to ensure that our crews continue to complete their work safely [while] focusing on maintaining the health of our team and community,” the company said in a statement. “Because we’re all in this together, we’ve donated almost 2,000 N95 masks and other protective supplies to various medical facilities around Boston in response to the shortage of these items nationwide.”

Brendan Feeney, who with his brother Greg owns the Fields Corner-based company (Clayton Street), told the Reporter, “We have been doing business here for years and we consider



Pattyanne Lyons, left, Director of Development at Sherrill House, and Dawn Collins of Dorchester, Assistant Director of Nursing at the facility.

that it is part of our responsibility to give back to the community when we can.

“We usually place an order once a year for the masks, and they had arrived recently,” he said. “So we kept enough for what we need in the coming weeks, and were able to donate about 1,600 masks to help fill the immediate public health needs.” Meanwhile, he said, his firm will place another order to replenish the donated masks with the understanding that hospitals and other health care facilities will have priority in future orders. The company delivered some 900 masks and supplies last Thursday and Friday to Boston

Medical Center, the Bostonian Nursing Home in Neponset, the Codman Square Health Center, and the Sherrill House Nursing Home in Jamaica Plain. The brothers also expanded their reach into a New Bedford nursing home, which houses relatives of some of the company’s employees.

Said Pattyanne Lyons, Director of Development at Sherrill House, “These donations are greatly appreciated, especially for a center like Sherrill House that is caring for one of the most vulnerable populations in Boston, none with COVID-19, although Sherrill House is prepared.”

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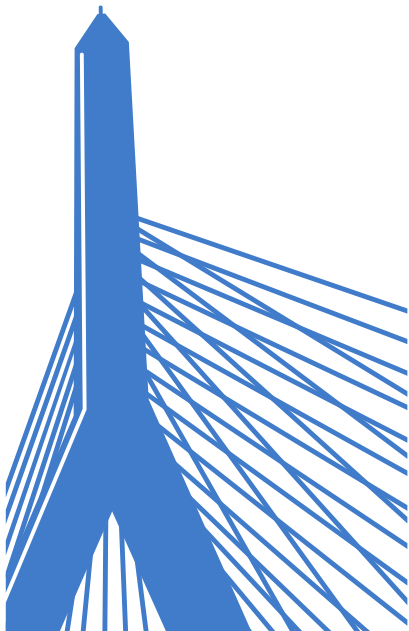
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New form of ‘house calls’ in crisis: Telemedicine

**By DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF**

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to change business models in various industries, many health professionals have been forced to adapt quickly and efficiently so that they can maintain vital services for patients.

Boston Sensory Solutions, a Milton-based pediatric occupational therapy, speech therapy, and sensory integration provider, was among the first businesses to convert to “telehealth” last week, closing their physical location and moving all services to Doxy, an online video telemedicine platform.

Bridget Dujardin, a Dorchester resident who founded the company in her Melville Park basement and later operated out of a yoga studio near Neponset Circle before leasing space in Milton, told the *Reporter* that she sensed things beginning to move toward the transition weeks ago.

“As this whole COVID-19 thing seemed to be ramping up, we started wondering, with all this shared equipment we have, how do we keep people safe?” she said. “We see most kids once a week, so to just pull that out from under them, especially at a time when people need more support around anxiety and maintaining routines, it seemed like a bad decision from a clinical perspective.”

After Gov. Charlie Baker announced last Sunday that



A Boston Sensory Solutions patient interacted with his therapist via laptop during a telehealth occupational therapy session last week.
Photo courtesy BSS

all commercial insurers will cover telehealth appointments for all treatments, Dujardin and her team made the decision to close up shop and work remotely. That meant all appointments would now be livestreamed on Doxy, a free service that families can

lenge for us is not being right there in the same room as the kid,” said Dujardin. “We’re very hands-on practitioners, and we work with kids with a lot of movement activities and coping skills. Trying to engage them to participate on a screen instead of in the clinic is tricky. But keeping parents involved, and having them be our hands has been really helpful. We’ve found that families who participate in the session are seeing good results.”

Dujardin added that the nature of her profession – one that demands flexibility and creativity – makes the transition less daunting.

“As occupational therapists, our primary job, even before COVID, has been to meet our patients where they’re at. I think we’re uniquely positioned as a profession to meet this challenge. Our job is to accommodate the situation to make the environment most conducive to the patient; we’re constantly adjusting and adapting.”

But while children who are patients at Boston Sensory Solutions have seen minimal disruption in their therapy sessions, the same cannot be said for children who rely on those sessions through the Boston Public Schools, Dujardin pointed out.

“One other thing we’re just starting to think about is how we can best support kids who might have been getting OT or speech at school now that school isn’t happening. It’s

sort of this whole other layer. With schools closed, they’re not required to provide those therapeutic services, which means all those kids are all of a sudden no longer getting it. We’re trying to figure out how to translate those to things parents can do at home.”

Like many others, Dujardin at the moment is juggling continuing her company’s services for roughly 100 families, retaining her staff, and keeping her business afloat. But being able to stay busy has helped keep her mind preoccupied and further validated her work, she noted.

“Honestly, it’s been really fun. It’s challenging but I feel a bit removed from the disease and all the stress associated with it because I’m focused on making this transition happen. It’s a nice way to be engaged and be proactive in this situation.”

“We’re part of the solution: By moving to telehealth we could remove a lot of the interactions between people that happen just in our waiting room, and we’re also helping families. Part of the role of an OT is maintaining daily structure – how are you filling your time with things that are therapeutic to you, talking about managing time at home to keep healthy and emotionally strong. We’re not just sitting around wringing our hands, we’re helping ourselves and our families to stay well-centered.”

We will return neighborhood notables to this space when events are rescheduled.



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Health Centers make urgent request for state support

(Continued from page 1) capital needs, reported that “over the next 12 weeks alone, ... declines (in income) will result in income losses of between \$109 million and \$152 million statewide.”

Like other health care entities, community health centers have had to deal with staffing issues, including staff that is quarantined, staff with daycare issues, or in risk categories that result in inability to be at work.

Another issue reported in the letter is the lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Most health centers report that they have few respirator masks, and extremely limited protective gear, which is exposing staff to potential infection. The great fear among many health center leaders is that they will be forced to shut down from seeing patients should staff need to be quarantined.

Studies in the past few years have indicated that most Massachusetts health centers’ cash on hand lags most other states. Health centers provide an array of support services for which there is no or very limited reimbursement, and payments for services that are reimbursed are significantly

lower than what is paid in many other states. Meanwhile, personnel costs are increasing due to competition for staff from hospitals.

Chuck Jones, CEO of Harbor Health Services, noted that his organization—which includes centers in Neponset, Columbia Point and Mattapan—is dealing with staff on leave and reimbursable medical visits that have been cut in half. Jones pointed out that just closing dental services is resulting in a loss of \$600,000 per month.

“Normally our employees have stressful days, dealing with the challenging problems of patients, but now when they go home the anxiety doesn’t stop,” said Jones. “We’re trying to balance survival of our organization with people who are the organization. This is a fight for survival. We’re going after every possible source of funding for relief.”

“I’m very worried that the safety net that took decades to build could be gone in two to three months. Consideration is being given to bailing out airlines, while care for 1 million people in Massachusetts could disappear.”




Sen. Nick Collins said

he has eight health centers in his district and understands and supports the effort to get health centers financial support.

He said that he’s been “in discussions all week on the public health impact [of COVID-19] and the infrastructure that’s needed in personnel and

equipment. I anticipate we’ll have to appropriate more money for this, and I’m committed to getting the resources needed.”

Bill Walczak is a Dorchester resident and past CEO of Codman Square Health Center and a former president of Carney Hospital.



Please submit applications by May 15

MPDE

Massachusetts Partnership for Diversity in Education

In light of the fact that we have had to postpone the MPDE Diversity Job Fair. We would like to direct all potential MPDE applicants to send their resumes to: lindsayk92@mac.com, for distribution to MPDE's 28 school districts. This service will support contact with all possible applicants for the positions opened in MPDE districts.

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In a period of ‘social distancing,’ reading history might valuably occupy your time

By TOM MULVOY
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A time like this, with all its negative implications, offers a bit of relief to those in what has been called a subset of Americans—book readers. With the guidance from on high that we should stay home as a general rule, there is the opportunity for them to pick up a hard-cover or a paperback or a Kindle or to click on Google and turn away from this time and place to a consideration of other times when such a crisis, or presumed crisis, dominated the news across the world.

For most of 1999, the general media were transfixed by the term “Y2K,” which when followed by the word “crisis,” was shorthand for the idea that all the world’s computers might crash or do other strange things at the stroke of midnight on Dec. 31, 1999, because 30 years before, people building the internet decided not to use four numbers when citing the century in dates; they used just two, as in 02/12/99, instead of 1999, because that saved significant storage space. The fear was that the switch to 2000 would give computers 01/01/00 to deal

with, and all working computers might see this as a nullity and crash or shut down, setting off worldwide chaos.

I was the managing editor for news operations at *The Boston Globe* at the time. To call up our daily editions online, especially those published in the late months up to the very last day of 1999, is to know that the newspaper took the matter very front-page seriously, as did discrete sections of the government, the media, business, technology, and the public. Some thought the world as we knew it would soon be over, others thought that the preparations that had been made in the preceding months would, with all hands on deck at every company that used computers, prevent any type of catastrophe from happening, and, of course, still others spread conspiracies of foreign intervention or just cried “hoax.”

Then the clock struck midnight, and moved on to 12:01 a.m. Jan. 1, 2000, and so did the world.

While there was the usual Monday-morning quarterbacking for days after, most people seemed to feel that the

preparation was worth the time, effort, and cost, which was put at several hundred billion worldwide at the time. A problem that could have been terribly damaging had been recognized as such early on and prepared for directly and publically to the best of society’s abilities.

Bill Bryson, in his book “*The Body*,” which was published last year:

“Every February, The World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control get together and decide what to make the next flu vaccine from, usually based on what’s going on in eastern Asia. The problem is that flu strains are extremely variable and really hard to predict. ...

“Based on all the available information, the WHO and CDC announce their decision on Feb. 28, and all the flu vaccine manufacturers in the world begin working on the same strain. Says [Dr. Michael] Kinch [of St. Louis], “From February to October, they make the new flu vaccine in the hope that we will be ready for the next big flu season. But when a really devastating new flu emerges, there’s no guarantee we will actu-

ally have targeted the right virus.”

While the two agencies did their jobs and did target the anticipated flu strain appropriately for new vaccine purposes, something was happening in 2019, China that would upend that accomplishment and startle the world’s public, if not its national intelligence agencies, as the new year began.

John M. Barry, on the 1918-1920 “Spanish flu” catastrophe in the November 2017 edition of *Smithsonian Magazine*:

“Wherever it began, the pandemic lasted just 15 months but was the deadliest disease outbreak in human history, killing between 50 million and 100 million people worldwide, according to the most widely cited analysis.

“The impact of the pandemic on the United States is sobering to contemplate: Some 670,000 Americans died. ...

“The killing created its own horrors. ... What proved even more deadly was the government policy toward the truth. When the United States entered the war, President Woodrow Wilson demanded that “the spirit of ruthless brutality... enter into the very fibre of national life.” So he created the Committee on Public Information, which was inspired by an adviser who wrote, “Truth and falsehood are arbitrary terms. ... The force of an idea lies in its inspirational value. It matters very little if it is true or false.”

“At Wilson’s urging, Congress passed the Sedition Act, making it punishable with 20 years in prison to “utter, print, write or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language about the form of government of the United State...or to urge, incite, or advocate any curtailment of production in this country of anything or things...necessary or essential to the prosecution of the war.” Government posters and advertisements urged people to report to the Justice Department anyone “who spreads pessimistic stories...cries for peace or belittles our effort to win the war.”

Against this background, while influenza bled into American life,



This front page left little doubt as to where the editors stood on Y2K.

public health officials, determined to keep morale up, began to lie.”

History will eventually confirm the effects, deleterious or not, of President Donald Trump’s rhetorical vacillations and back-and-forth public actions as COVID-19 spread across the country in late winter into the spring this year just as history, in the person of one historian/philosopher, confirmed, in writing about the Pentagon Papers, what hiding the truth did 50-plus years ago as the war in Vietnam tore the country asunder.

Hannah Arendt, “*Lying in Politics*,” excerpted from the Nov. 18, 1971, edition of the *New York Review of Books*:

“When we talk about lying, and especially about lying among acting men, let us remember that the lie did not creep into politics by some accident of human sinfulness; moral outrage, for this reason alone, is not likely to make it disappear. The deliberate falsehood deals with contingent facts, that is, with matters which carry no inherent truth within themselves, no necessity to be as they are; factual truths are never compellingly true. The historian knows how vulnerable is the whole texture of facts in which we spend our daily lives; it is always in danger of being perforated by single lies or torn to shreds by the organized lying of groups, nations, or classes, or denied and distorted, often carefully covered up by reams of falsehoods or simply allowed to fall into oblivion. Facts need testimony to be remembered and trustworthy witnesses

to be established in order to find a secure dwelling place in the domain of human affairs. From this, it follows that no factual statement can ever be beyond doubt—as secure and shielded against attack as, for instance, the statement that two and two make four....

Under normal circumstances the liar is defeated by reality, for which there is no substitute; no matter how large the tissue of falsehood that an experienced liar has to offer, it will never be large enough, even if he enlists the help of computers, to cover the immensity of factuality. The liar, who may get away with any number of single falsehoods, will find it impossible to get away with lying on principle. This is one of the lessons that could be learned from the totalitarian experiments and the totalitarian rulers’ frightening confidence in the power of lying—in their ability, for instance, to rewrite history again and again to adapt the past to the “political line” of the present moment, or to eliminate data that did not fit their ideology, such as unemployment in a socialist economy, simply by denying their existence: the unemployed person becoming a non-person.

The results of such experiments when undertaken by those in possession of the means of violence are terrible enough, but lasting deception is not among them. There always comes the point beyond which lying becomes counterproductive. This point is reached when the audience to which the lies are addressed is forced to disregard altogether the distinguishing line between truth and falsehood in order to be able to survive. Truth or falsehood—it does not matter which any more, if your life depends on your acting as though you trusted; truth that can be relied on disappears from public life and with it the chief stabilizing factor in the ever-changing affairs of men.”



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‘Tent medicine’ set for care of homeless

By **MARTHA BEBINGER**
WBUR REPORTER

On Saturday morning, in the medical mecca some call Boston, Dr. Jessie Gaeta learned a valuable skill: the boola-boola knot. She used it to suspend a gray plastic basket holding a blood pressure cuff, a stethoscope, and a thermometer from a rope inside a medical tent. The 16 suspected COVID-19 patients in the tent, in bays separated by heavy white plastic walls, now have their own rigged vital signs kit.

“This is a new kind of medicine in Boston,” said Gaeta. “Tent medicine.”

About three weeks ago, as the coronavirus erupted in eastern Massachusetts, Gaeta grew increasingly anxious. How would her patients at the Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program isolate themselves if they became infected? Where does someone quarantine if they don’t have a stable home?

Gaeta, nurse Maggie Beiser, program CEO Barry Bock, and others called colleagues and scoured the web for answers. They heard useful tips but couldn’t find a model to copy. So, “we made it up,” said Gaeta, with a giddy, sleep-deprived laugh. “We made it up.”

“It” is a MASH-style compound in a parking lot, flanked by a jail and a homeless shelter. There are two tents, trailers holding individual showers, a line of porta-potties and generators to power the 24/7 operation. One tent is for quarantined patients. It can hold 20 people who do not have symptoms but who’ve been in contact with someone who has COVID-19. “If you had a co-worker who screened positive, you’d be asked to stay home for 14 days,” Beiser said. “We can’t do that in a shelter so we will be doing that here.”

The second tent can hold 16 patients who have symptoms, have been tested and need to be in isolation — or as close as they can get. Patients in this tent are assigned their own bathroom and supplies.

Both tents have a negative pressure ventilation system to reduce the spread of infection. They have heat, electricity in each patient bay, oxygen and basic life-saving equipment as well as naloxone in case of an opioid overdose. The tents have hand washing stations and lots of wipes. They do not have running water.

The transition from idea to plan took about two weeks. On Sun., March 15, Gaeta got input from MASS Design

Group, which has experience building hospitals in the developing world. Later that same day, Boston Health Care for the Homeless reached out to Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and a member of his team.

As Gaeta recalls, “The mayor said, ‘Let me call Suffolk,’ as in Suffolk Construction, “and Suffolk just sent a massive team over.” Beiser says the first crew members arrived at 3:30 that next morning, in pitch dark.

Suffolk says it took about 25 crew members, including some city employees, a little more three days to erect the tents and infrastructure. Suffolk employees continued to help with fencing and finishing touches through Saturday morning. “These folks are on the front lines. Wherever we can be helpful we want to be

helpful,” said a Suffolk spokesman.

It’s not clear how much of the supplies and labor Suffolk will donate. Walsh says he’ll worry about any costs later.

“Our homeless population are some of our most vulnerable people out there,” Walsh said. “They’re a population of people I’m really concerned about because most people are not in the best of health.”

Dr. Josh Barocas, who specializes in infectious disease at Boston Medical Center, says it may be more important to control the spread of the coronavirus among homeless men and women because what affects one person could have a wide ripple effect.

Barocas, who worked on infection control planning for the tents, say they will relieve pressure on hospitals that

are holding homeless patients who don’t need hospital level care, but don’t have a safe place to await test results.

Boston Health Care for the Homeless has set up safe transportation to the tents from homeless shelters that are now screening guests for symptoms or exposure.

The isolation tent opened around 1 p.m. on Saturday and was full by Sunday night. Patients who need nursing care but not a hospital bed may go to BHCHP’s medical respite facility, the Barbara McInnis House, which has created a separate COVID-19 unit.

This article was published by WBUR 90.9FM on March 23. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.



Dr. Jessie Gaeta, chief medical officer with the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, stands in one of the isolation tent patient “rooms” with a rigged holder and a vital signs kit.
Martha Bebinger/WBUR photo

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a public hearing will be held on April 8, 2020, at 9:15 A.M., in connection with the Fourth Amendment to the Development Plan for Planned Development Area No. 67, Olmsted Green (“Fourth Amendment”), filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency. Commissioners will meet in Room 801, Boston City Hall. Presenters will meet and present in Room 900, Boston City Hall, and members of the public will observe and participate from the Winter Chambers at 26 Court Street, 1st Floor, Boston.

Said Fourth Amendment would eliminate the originally approved approximately 4.2-acre Urban Farm and Food Retail components on the East Campus and to allow for the creation of restricted open space and recreation component and/or passive recreational space.

A copy petition, the Fourth Amendment, and a map of the area involved may be viewed at the office of the Zoning Commission, Room 952, Boston, City Hall, between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. any day except Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

For the Commission
Jeffrey M. Hampton
Executive Secretary

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40 Income-restricted Units
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Number of Units	Number of Bedrooms	Rent	Maximum Income in AMI
3	2-Bedrooms*	up to 30%household income	30% AMI
6	3 Bedroom*	up to 30%household income	30% AMI
3	1-Bedroom	\$1,359	60% AMI
25	2-Bedroom**	\$1,530	60% AMI
3	3 Bedroom	\$1,359	60% AMI

*The three 2 bedrooms and one 3-bedroom units are Homeless Set-asides filled through direct referral from HomeStart. For more information, please visit <https://www.homestart.org/bostonhsa> or call 857-415-2139

**Two of these units are built out for people with mobility impairments + one is built out for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing

Maximum Yearly Income based on Number of People in Household (2019 limits, provided by DND)

Number of People in Household	30% AMI	60% AMI
1	\$24,900	\$49,800
2	\$28,450	\$56,880
3	\$32,000	\$64,000
4	\$35,550	\$71,100
5	\$38,400	\$78,800
6	\$41,250	\$82,500

Minimum Yearly Income Based on the Number of Bedrooms

Number of Bedrooms	30%	60%
1	No Minimum	\$41,133
2	No Minimum	\$49,371
3	No Minimum	\$57,024

Minimum Incomes do not apply to households with housing assistance like Section 8, MRVP, Vash

Applications are available **March 30, 2020 through April 24, 2020**

After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period.

To request an application online please go to: <http://bit.ly/talbotcommons1>

If you cannot complete the application online (recommended), please call us at **(617) 287-9580** to request that we mail you one and to ask for any guidance you might need to complete the application.

When you call, you will be asked for your full name, complete mailing address, and phone number. This is a City and HUD requirement.

Application must be submitted online OR postmarked by April 24, 2020. Reasonable accommodations made.

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Elected officials confronting close-in needs as constituents ask for guidance, reassurance

(Continued from page 1) will never be able to come back from this," she said, adding that her office is calling seniors as often as possible and assisting with connecting them to services like grocery delivery.

She noted many concerns about unemployment, saying, "People are asking how they can file unemployment requests. We are raising those concerns with the mayor's administration as well as the Boston delegation."

The Council has been meeting via virtual platforms, but Campbell believes the city needs to halt "business as usual" in order to establish explicit mandates as to which things are shut down and which are doing business in some way and to clear up confusion.

Campbell offered this advice to all residents: "Everyone should be taking this virus extremely seriously by socially distancing themselves and staying home as much as possible. I'm aware that this is going to cause incredible disruption, but our job, first and foremost, is to keep people safe. And then afterwards, we will roll up our sleeves and get to work addressing that disruption."

At-Large Councilor Anissa Essaibi-George spoke to the *Reporter* over the phone on Thursday while she was on her way to a local grocery store to pick up bread, peanut butter, jelly, and water for an organization that provides food for homeless individuals.

"We're really seeing an impact on the volunteer base for many organizations with coronavirus," she said, "That's what me and the kids will be doing this afternoon in a very sanitary way." She added: "I know that a lot of senior housing properties are looking for support to make sure residents have access to food, so I'll also be collecting tuna and canned soup to support those efforts."

"I had a call this morning with the Massachusetts Nurses Association, and some of them mentioned that the term 'social distancing' is maybe

not totally appropriate," Essaibi-George said. "They think the term 'physically distancing' is more accurate. I have a fear, especially for our young people. I worry that there will be serious social isolation."

As a former Boston Public School teacher, Essaibi-George often looks at council issues with BPS in mind. "For teachers, this week is still sort of a novel idea. I hear kids referring to it multiple times as vacation, when in fact it is not. This week has been a planning week for teachers who are gearing up for what could be more time learning from home," she said, "Next week, I expect that reality is going to start setting in for a lot of kids and families."

At-Large Councilor Julia Mejia said she's very interested in how the situation is continuously evolving. "Those are the things people are worried about, that the nature of this is uncertain," Mejia told the *Reporter*.

"From what I understand, there's no plan, no guide for the things that most people are worried about," she said. "For the city, we are figuring out things as we go. What we have been hearing in our office from residents is that there's a high population of low-income folks and service workers expressing anxiety around how they will survive this."

She continued: "Unemployment doesn't cover the rent, so for people figuring out finances, not knowing the length of time is hard. You can't plan for uncertainty and there's anxiety around basic survival."

Struggles to provide childcare are also a concern that Mejia said she's been hearing from constituents. "I know from my own experience as a working mom that this been a stretch for me and so that is a sentiment that a lot of parents are sharing. Juggling all of the work, and the mental health of our families; it's anxiety. I've noticed that there's been an uptick of fear around school closures with people realizing how serious this is."

Throughout all of the craziness, Mejia said, she keeps looking for a silver lining. "I'm thinking about how this could be a blessing in disguise; maybe everything we're going through is for a reason. Out of this, we can build new ways to redesign the system. I feel like this will magnify the issues of our most vulnerable and uncover that in a bigger way. We have so many opportunities to be creative."

District 5 Councilor Ricardo Arroyo on Thursday connected with the *Reporter* via email, he wrote: "Residents are looking for answers and support. COVID-19 has changed what our day-to-day looks like and the news is evolving by the hour."

In terms of constituent calls that he's received, Arroyo said that he's been asked a lot of questions regarding parking tickets, trash pickup, and inspections. He added: "I've had many residents unfortunately express how they are unable to pay their rent and mortgages."

On Thursday, Arroyo announced on social media that he's offering a resolution requesting a moratorium on rent and foreclosures in the city to provide housing security in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

"My team and I have been working around the clock to provide folks with the best answers we can in this moment and connect them to resources provided by the city and the community," Arroyo wrote. "Also, our team is beginning to do outreach over the phone to our 65+ residents in District 5 to make sure they feel secure during this time of social isolation."

District 3 Councilor Frank Baker of Dorchester told the *Reporter* on Thursday that he's concerned the economic results will be as bad, if not worse than the COVID-19 pandemic itself. That said, he continues to urge people to take the public health emergency seriously and stay home.

"I'm really concerned for local business people," he said. "We will get through this, but hopefully there will be something there from the state and federal level to relieve small businesses," said Baker.

"I think as public officials, it's incumbent on us to try and spread messages and information," he added, "We need to make sure people have multiple points of contact and tell them to take this seriously –



City councillors and other city and state officials were shown behind Mayor Martin Walsh as he announced plans to close Boston Public Schools through April 27 during a press conference on March 17 outside Boston City Hall.

Isabel Leon photo/Mayor's Office

to make sure they are resting, keeping things clean, and keeping family close."

Baker added that the council's daily calls with Mayor Walsh are fostering connectivity, and helping to ensure that efforts are not duplicated. "We're doing the best we can right now as far as trying to stay coordinated. We're talking and sharing ideas," he said. "Just the fact that the mayor has allowed us to be part of this process so that we know what decisions are being made, and allowing us to weigh in is good for the council and the mayor."

Baker also said he has seen a "really good outpouring" of people looking for ways they can help. "It shows the best and the worst when we go into crisis mode. But for the most part, I'm seeing people step up."

At-Large Councilor Michael Flaherty of South Boston sees his most important role during the ongoing health emergency as connecting worried constituents to vital, accurate information resources. "With new details and orders from the governor and the mayor emerging almost daily, it's important to update people and let them know there are resources available," Flaherty told the *Reporter* in a phone call on Monday. "Sometimes it's simply a matter of pointing them in the right directions that makes a huge difference."

He praised last Saturday's citywide lit-drop as "a great way to get info out to people across the city. In many of the calls and emails my office gets," he said, "people are looking for information and answers."

The councillor's advice for the citizens of Boston: Prioritize your health, look for information only from trusted new sources and elected officials, and trust that the city will get through the public health emergency together. He added: "We're all in this together, and one of the strengths of Boston is our resiliency. We've been tested before and we've come out all right. We can do that again."

State Rep. Dan Hunt of Dorchester

said that he and other representatives are continuing their work through conference calls with the governor's and mayor's offices. "I'm educating myself via the academic reports that have been coming out, and relaying that info to folks," said Rep. Hunt. "Some people still think this is not a big deal at all and others are afraid to leave their homes."

Hunt said the House and Senate have worked on a piece for small business relief, and have begun working on legislation related to unemployment insurance. "We've eliminated the week-long wait, and tens of thousands of people have applied who were laid off in the last seven days relative to construction or the service industry," he said, adding:

"All of our bills demand public hearing and notice, but many bills are in their second year and have already gone through that process. So the work of the House continues. The speaker [Robert DeLeo] encourages all members to work and try to continue to move things along."

Senator Nick Collins of South Boston said in a phone interview that "A lot of the calls I'm getting right now are coming in from health care organizations asking how they can get resources they need to combat the coronavirus." He added: "We're trying to address those issues and identify where we can help. We're working on legislation now that would give the Dept. of Public Health an initial \$15 million."

Collins agreed that unemployment is an issue that many are struggling with. "A lot of people are facing unemployment – service industry workers, construction workers – and many have been laid off temporarily," he noted. "We recently worked to get rid of the one-week waiting period associated with unemployment insurances."

"Small businesses are also clearly taking a dramatic hit," Collins said. "We need to identify

what fees and taxes that are usually in the way to help get them back up off the ground.

The senator said that his office is pushing communication via social media and by phone and mail. "We work to connect people with translation services, getting them appropriate phone numbers and areas to contact. It's also important that we communicate particularly with our seniors," he said. "They are not the same as our other populations; social distancing makes it difficult to get info to them, so we're reaching out via phone, mail, and lit-drops."

Collins' advice to the public is this "Take it serious. Especially to the young people who are not hearing this message and were rushing the bars. The only way we're going to get out of this is by bending the curve down and stopping COVID-19's growth."

Last Thursday, **Rep. Liz Miranda** and 26 diverse co-sponsors filed a bill that would provide "emergency access to equity and justice for all in response to COVID-10."

"I filed this bill to ensure that our most vulnerable constituents and small business owners will not be left behind in economic recovery efforts on Beacon Hill," she said, adding, "Our district knows something about being left behind. This legislation will protect residents in sustaining current benefits and strengthening financial security for the duration of this public health crisis. We have to help every resident of the Commonwealth now."

The legislation would provide support to Mass. residents, including immediate cash assistance of up to \$1,500 monthly with dependent stipends of up to \$750 for families. It would also establish a small business recovery grant program for immediate assistance of up to \$50,000. The commonwealth's small business loan funds program was paused on Thursday because the \$10 million allocated to it had been exhausted.

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Essaibi-George champions a virtual ‘Sew-A-Long’ to aid health workers

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

Local volunteers are taking advantage of a newly obtained abundance of free time by using fabric and elastic to create masks for healthcare workers experiencing shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) nationwide in dealing with the coronavirus crisis.

At-large City Councillor Annisssa Essaibi-George is leading the effort out of the Stitch House, her sewing business on Dorchester Ave. On Sunday, she hosted a virtual ‘Sew-A-Long,’ which was live streamed on Facebook and Zoom.

“Yesterday went really well. We were on Facebook live stream and about 25 people joined us on Zoom,” Essaibi-George told the Reporter in a phone

call on Monday. “Going into yesterday we had requests from local medical facilities and hospitals for about 400 masks. And with everybody involved, we got a few hundred done.”

Stephanie Cave, an instructor at the Stitch House, has organized the effort online, calling the group the Boston Area Mask Initiative (BAMI). She has been answering questions and providing instructions for internet volunteers.

“We’ve put the call for requests out and our current request level is at about 2,400 masks,” Cave said on Monday. “We have many people in the community making these masks and it’s very exciting,” she told the Reporter, adding:

“We have had many requests from medical workers in the greater

Boston area, and we’ve gotten some requests from people in the suburbs, but about 90 percent of them have come from Boston.”

While Cave is creating a website for the group to centralize all of its information, volunteers are currently coordinating efforts on Facebook, where they can find a written list as well as video instructions for making the masks. The group also provides connections for people who need materials, and a list of drop-off sites.

“Right now we have three drop-off locations: Gather Here, a stitch lounge in Cambridge; the Stitch House in Dorchester; and Sullivan’s Pharmacy in Roslindale,” said Cave. Sullivan’s will serve as the flagship drop-off location should the other businesses have to shut

down per the governor’s latest advisory.

Cave said that the virtual interactive sew-a-long sessions are also providing a space for social interaction. On Sunday, “it was a great way to connect and it felt very social even though none of us were in the same room.”

She added: “This project overall has developed out of a need and a desire to help in some way, and this is a very tangible way that we can make a difference. It keeps me going to see people on the ground working on a grass-roots level. The smaller requests that we get for, say, 10 masks, are just as important as the much larger requests that we get.”

The initiative grew out of a request for masks from hospitals in the Midwest, said Essaibi-George. “We decided if



City council staffer Karen Foley, seamstress Stephanie Cave and City Councillor Annisssa Essaibi-George, right, worked on assembling protective masks inside the Stitch House on Dorchester Avenue on Sunday, March 22.
Chris Lovett photo

we were going to do it, we were also going to support local interests, and we discovered that there was local need.”

She’s planning to host another Sew-A-Long on Friday evening, saying: “We’ve had more requests for masks.” The effort will be completely virtual this time, Essaibi-George said, noting that on Sunday “we had about three people in the shop keeping social distancing. But going

forward, we will be 100 percent virtual following Gov. Baker’s latest announcement” advising a more-widespread stay-at-home effort for Massachusetts residents.

“People who sew and craft are always looking for some way to contribute,” said the councillor. “It feels good to help out, and it has been really nice to see other people and connect through the livestreams while we are all social distancing.”

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Feeney Brothers Utility Services has donated a large supply of N95 masks and protective supplies to several medical facilities around the city of Boston, as word comes that hospitals, nursing homes and health care facilities are urgently in need of these items during the COVID-9 outbreak.

Our COVID-19 Task Force is working with our customers, municipalities, and other stakeholders to ensure our crews continue to complete their work safely and focusing on maintaining the health of our team and community. Because we’re all in this together, we’ve donated almost 2,000 N95 masks and other protective supplies to various medical facilities around Boston. (Photo below at Sherrill House Nursing Home)



“We have been doing business here for years and we consider that it is part of our responsibility to give back to the community when we can. We usually place an order once a year for the masks, and they had arrived recently. So we kept enough for what we need in the coming weeks, and were able to donate about 2000 masks to help fill the immediate public health needs.”

Brendan and Greg Feeney

Feeney Brothers Utility Services

103 Clayton Street
Dorchester, MA 02122

City marks first deaths from virus; case-load rises

(Continued from page 1)

close its physical operations while also cutting the maximum size for public social gatherings to 10, down from 25.

Residents of the state are advised — the administration stopped short of declaring a formal shelter-in-place order that Baker has repeatedly resisted — to stay home as much as possible and avoid “unnecessary travel and other unnecessary activities” for the next two weeks.

In Dorchester, testing for the disease began last Friday at Carney Hospital and several health centers, although the procedure was restricted to patients who had been given prescriptions for the tests by their physicians.

At Codman Square Health Center, a tent was set up outside its main building to screen visitors for COVID-19 symptoms. Yellow caution tape blocked the path to stairs that normally lead to the lobby. Signage in English, Spanish and Haitian Kreyol read: “For patient safety, all patients and visitors will need to have a brief screening before they enter the Health Center.”

Codman’s CEO Sandra Cotterell said the outside screening is one of several new measures put in



Gov. Baker and Mary Lou Sudders, Sec. of Health and Human Services huddle over the weekend.

place over the last week as the facility braces for what everyone expects will be a surge in virus cases.

“This is changing quickly,” she said last Wednesday. “This is no longer a day-to-day situation. It’s hour-to-hour, minute-to-minute.”

“We are telling people who don’t have an urgent care issue or immunizations not to come in,” said Cotterell, who said that many routine patient matters are now being done over the telephone— something she calls “telehealth.” The health center has modified its hours slightly. It is now open 9 a.m.- 7 p.m., Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. on Saturdays and 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. on Sundays.

“Even though we may have staff there, we want to use those ‘off hours to

monitor our inventory,” she said.

Michelle Nadow, CEO of DotHouse Health, said similar protocols are now in place at the Dorchester Avenue facility. She noted that a combination of workforce stress, short supplies of critical protective gear, and financial strains on the health center were all challenges facing her and the 250 employees.

“As you can expect, many of our staff are affected by the necessary school closures that make it difficult for them to come to work,” Nadow said. “We’re also trying to keep up with demands for personal protective equipment (PPE) to keep our staff and patients safe. We have roughly 14 days’ worth of PPE on hand, and the average for health centers is about 6-18 days’ worth.”

Nadow said many donors had stepped forward to connect DotHouse with supplies, “including Rep. Liz Miranda, Councillors Frank Baker and Annissa Essaibi-George, the Feeney Brothers, and a myriad of others.”

She said that her facility had seen more than 1,100 patients in the last week, about 50 percent less volume than usual. Most people are conducting all but urgent care appointments over the phone.

“Of course, we’re having people come in if they really need to for whatever reason, Nadow said. “Our urgent care is still open. It feels really important to continue to offer that service, and help people stay out of emergency rooms— and now it’s more important than ever. We don’t want people possibly getting exposed to COVID-19.”

Protecting the region’s front-line health workers and first responders and essential support staff

has become an urgent priority. The MBTA has advised that commuters should only travel by train and bus for essential trips. The T said customers should “avoid any and all unnecessary service,” and that by doing so, the service that does remain will be available to health care workers, grocery store employees, and other travelers who rely on public transit to get to jobs at the front line of fighting the coronavirus outbreak.

As of Monday, Mayor Walsh said that one Boston police officer and one EMT have tested positive for COVID-19 and are recovering at home. Three more EMTs are under quarantine as a precaution, he said. Walsh reiterated the need for Bostonians and everyone in the state to stay physically isolated from other people.

“The best way to show gratitude to the people on the front lines of this is

to stay home— because so many people can’t stay home,” said Walsh. “Physical distancing is the most effective way we have to slow the spread, to keep people healthy, and to preserve our medical capacity.”

The mayor announced Monday that he hired retired four-star Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal to coordinate city’s COVID-19 efforts, leading a team that Walsh called “the McChrystal Group.”

The city will not be deploying police or other personnel to enforce the governor’s order to “stay-at-home,” Walsh said.

“Right now, it’s a common-sense thing,” he said. “All you have to do is look to Italy and see the number of deaths happening in Italy. We want to prevent that from happening in the United States and Massachusetts and the city of Boston. So, we’re asking businesses to do the right thing here.

St. JPII Academy prepares for ‘the long haul’ online

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

With school closings changing the way students are learning across the nation, the leader of Dorchester’s St. John Paul II Catholic Academy, which operates three campuses in Lower Mills, Neponset, and Columbia Road, says she is confident that virtual learning will only improve in the days and weeks to come.

“As hard as this has been, there will be learning and blessings from this,” said Catherine Brandley, regional director of the academy, which closed on March 16. “We’ve learned many things through this process and we will make changes. My teachers and staff have been phenomenal. They’ve done everything I’ve asked and jumped in supporting each other.”

The academy is using the social media platforms YouTube, Zoom, and other sites to meet the needs of students and families. “All of

our principals send a daily message to our families along with our teachers, and our leadership team connects on Zoom numerous times a week,” she said, adding, “our number one goal throughout this whole thing is that we are connecting with our families and our students. Academics are part of that, but just like we would in the classroom, our job is to educate the whole child.”

Maintaining some level of normalcy for students in an uncertain time is also vitally important, said Brandley. “The goal is to create somewhat of a normal school day for the kids. Consistency and structure are especially important for younger students.”

As to her educators, Brandley said, “Teachers are connecting with their students daily through email and phone calls. All principals are continuing to lead morning prayer, with birth-day announcements,

and the pledge of allegiance on YouTube and other social media. Right now, some students are even leading them.”

“At the same time,” she said, “we’re thinking about help to grow critical thinking skills in regard to technology and teaching them how to use tech appropriately. Teachers are really missing their students. And younger students are asking about how their classmates are doing,” she added.

Brandley noted that on Tuesday, the school distributed Chromebooks to students and families who didn’t have devices at home. “Probably about 100 families came to get them,” she said.

She said that academy staff are receiving phone calls and email from parents concerned about tuition payments, and added that the school is “getting creative” in terms of addressing those concerns. Families relying on vouchers, Brandley said, have been provided food. All students can access meals at sites now maintained daily by the Boston Public Schools.

She wants people to know that the school will be open next year, “We’re not going anywhere as a school. We will be there for the long haul, and we’ll have openings for the next year,” said Brandley. “If parents need something from us in the meantime we want them to reach out to us. We don’t want them to live in isolation if we could help or listen. We’re very proud to be a part of the Dorchester community.”



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- Jocelyn, BGCD Member

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RECENT OBITUARIES

DWYER, Bridget M. of East Brigewater, 82. Born and raised in England, she was the daughter of Ann (Hally) and John McDonagh. In her early 20s, Bridget left England to pursue an employment opportunity in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

In 1963, she moved to Boston, and it was there she met her husband. They married in 1964, and raised their family in Dorchester and Randolph. Bridget was the wife of James A. Dwyer, mother of Donagh M. Tuffo of Hull, Brian J.

Dwyer of East Bridgewater, John P. Dwyer and his wife Kimberly of Florida, and Paul J. Dwyer and his wife Deborah of Bridgewater. Grandma to Joseph, Zachary, Kyle, Patrick, Mitchell, and Jacob. She was the sister of John McDonagh of England, and the late Patrick and Constance McDonagh. Bridget is survived by many nieces and nephews. Due to the COVID-19, all services for Bridget will be held privately.

GALLAGHER, Stephen F. Jr. of Dorchester, formerly of Milton. Born and raised in Milton, Stephen was a graduate of St. Agatha School and Archbishop Williams High School and had attended Quincy College. He worked at General Dynamics for over 30 years as a Quality Assurance and Inspection Manager in the Missions System division. Son of the late Stephen F. and Eileen (Naughton) Gallagher. Father of Christopher Gallagher. Brother of Patrick J. Gallagher. Stephen will forever be remembered by numerous

cousins, aunts, uncles and extended family and dear friends. A private family visitation and funeral service will be held. Please consider a donation to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation or Old Colony Hospice, One Credit Union Way, Randolph, MA 02368.

GRAHAM, James H. "Red, Harry" of Dorchester, 81. Brother of Ruth Fallon of Scituate. Uncle of Tricia Walls and her husband Mike of Scituate, Bill Fallon and his wife Diane of Hingham, Jim Fallon and his wife Devon of Cherry Hills, NJ, and Joanne Aprea of Scituate. Also survived by many grandnieces and grandnephews. Longtime employee of New England Telephone. Past Commander & manager of the John P. McKeon Post AMVETS #146. Proud veteran of the United States Army. Due to the current health crisis, there will be a Memorial Service at a later date.

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 nieces and nephews. Due to health concerns, only family members will be allowed to attend. Remembrances may be made to the Stephen Matheny Scholarship Fund., 20 Short St., Bridgewater, MA 02324.

ship Fund., 20 Short St., Bridgewater, MA 02324.

JOHANSON, Helen (Beauchemin), 89, in Hingham, formerly a longtime resident of Winchester. Wife of the late George W. Johanson. Mother of Susan Newman and her husband Barry of Coral Springs, FL, Kristen Johanson of New York City, Elizabeth Johanson of Boca Raton, FL, Peter Johanson of Dorchester, Erica Beal and her husband Richard of Hingham and David and his wife Kim of St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. Dear sister of Jane Sughrue and Carol Low. Grandmother of Matthew, Alex, Kate and Sarah Newman, Perry, Max and Nick Beal and Dante Colicchio. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. In light of the current precautions with the Coronavirus, the Funeral Mass be strictly private and for immediate family members only. Donations in Helen's memory may be made to St. Eulalia's Church, 50 Ridge St., Winchester, MA 01890.

KELLEY, Noreen A. (Norton) of Braintree, formerly of Dorchester and originally from South Boston. Beloved wife of the late Charles J. Kelley, BFD. Mother of Charles J., Jr. and his wife Kim of Dorchester, James P. and his wife Ellen of West Roxbury, and Nancy McCarthy and her husband Dennis of Braintree. Grandmother of Devin, Rylie, and Casey Kelley, James Jr., Francis, Caroline and Annie Kelley, and Jack and Grace McCarthy. Sister of Sr. Mary T. Norton, C.S.J. and the late James Norton and his wife Patricia. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Longtime employee of New England Telephone & the Carney Hospital. Please be advised that due to the current health crisis, visitation will be limited to family members only. Donations in Noreen's memory may be made to Owen Norton Special Needs Trust, c/o South Shore Bank, 372 Washington St., Braintree, MA 02184.

LUVISI, Catherine V. (Burgess) of Waltham. Wife of the late Joseph Luvisi. Mother of Mary T. Luvisi (William Sterritt) of Los Angeles, CA, Kathleen A. Luvisi, Sara J. Luvisi, and Margaret E. Luvisi, all of Waltham, Roseanne P. Luvisi (Lauren Downing) of Weymouth and Susan E. Duffy (Darren) of Dorchester; grandmother of Anthony Luvisi and Reilly Sterritt; sister of Mary Burgess of Jamaica Plain, Sara Burgess of West Roxbury, Margaret Burgess of Canton and the late Daniel Burgess. As a result of the ongoing and ever-developing health crisis in the world and our community and with genuine concern for the people whom they love, her family will gather privately for her funeral Mass and Burial. A Celebration of Life will be held when we return to calmer and healthier times so that we may gather without boundaries to honor, remember and celebrate her life. Memorials in her name may be made to Carmelite Monastery, 61 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Roxbury, MA 02119.

MELVIN, Thomas M. Ed.D. of Stoughton, formerly of Dorchester, 84. Husband of the late Helen C. (Flynn) Melvin. Father of John J. "Jack" Melvin and his wife Jean of Bridgewater, Brian T. Melvin of Atlanta, GA, Janet M. Mullert and her husband Kenneth of Mansfield and Timothy M. Melvin and his wife Denise of Foxboro. Grandfather of Christopher, Cassidy, Meghan, Julia, Jack, Heleana, Dylan and Alec. Son of the late David Melvin and Mary (Morrissey) Walsh. Stepson of the late John "Jack" Walsh. Brother of the late Regina Donovan, Gloria Whalen, Mary Hilliard, David, John, James and Paul Melvin. Also survived by many nieces, nephews and longtime friends. Due to the coronavirus, the Funeral will be held at a later date which the family will make everyone aware of. Expressions of sympathy may be made in honor of Tom to the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675-8516. woundedwarriorproject.org



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SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
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CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION TO
EXPAND THE POWERS
OF A GUARDIAN
Docket No. SU15P1326GD
IN THE INTERESTS OF:
DIANA KOTTORI
of BOSTON, MA
RESPONDENT

Incapacitated Person/Protected Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by DMH c/o Office of General Counsel of Westborough, MA 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 04/09/2020. 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 26, 2020

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SALE OF REAL ESTATE
UNDER M.G.L. c. 183A:6

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of the Suffolk Superior Court (Civil Action No. 19-2865G), in favor of the Board of Managers of the Blue Hill Place Condominium Association against Denise Wright, establishing a lien pursuant to M.G.L. c. 183A:6 on the real estate known as Unit 362 of the Blue Hill Place Condominium with a street address of 362 Blue Hill Avenue, Dorchester, Suffolk County, Massachusetts for the purposes of satisfying such lien, the real estate is scheduled for Public Auction commencing at 10:00 a.m. on April 20, 2020 at 362 Blue Hill Avenue, Dorchester, Massachusetts. The premises to be sold are more particularly described as follows:

DESCRIPTION:

The Post Office address of the Unit is: 362 Blue Hill Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02121
The Unit is shown on Exhibit A attached hereto, as well as on a plan recorded with the Master Deed, to which is affixed a verified statement in the form provided by M.G.L. Chapter 183A section 9, and is conveyed subject to and with the benefit of the obligations, restrictions, rights and liabilities contained in M.G.L. Chapter 183A, the Master Deed, the documents establishing the organization of unit owners and the By-Laws as amended of record. The Unit is conveyed subject to, and with the benefit of, all easements, restrictions and encumbrances of record insofar as the same are now in force and applicable.

Each of the units in the Condominium is intended for residential purpose as set forth in the Master Deed.

The undivided percentage of interest of the Unit in the Common Elements is 14%. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Grantee, and Grantee's successors in title, take title to the Unit subject to the rights of Grantor, as Declarant under the Master Deed, to add additional phases and additional units to the Condominium. The Unit's undivided percentage interest is subject to reduction in case of addition to the Condominium of additional phases and additional units.

If Grantee intends to sell or otherwise transfer any interest in the Unit, including without limitation, the granting of a mortgage interest therein, Grantee shall so notify Grantor in writing, describing the details of the proposed transfer. Within sixty (60) days after receipt of such notice (the "Notice Date"), Grantor may elect, by notice to such Grantee sent by certified or registered mail, to purchase such Unit at the ten fair market value thereof, which shall be determined by an independent third party appraisal. If Grantor elects to purchase the Unit, the transfer shall take place on the business day specified in Grantor's notice of election (which day shall not be more than ninety (90) days after the Notice Date), at the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds. Grantee shall convey the Unit to Grantor by quitclaim deed, with all tax and documentary stamps affixed and paid for by Grantee. Grantee shall pay all other taxes arising out of such sale. If Grantor shall fail to make such election within such 60-day period, then Grantee shall be free to sell or transfer the Unit or any interest therein at any time within one hundred twenty (120) days after the Notice Date. If such sale or transfer is not consummated within such 120-day period, then Grantee shall not sell his or her Unit or transfer any interest therein unless s/he first complies again with the provisions of this paragraph. Grantor may release or waive its rights under this paragraph, either before or after receipt of notice from Grantee, in which event the Unit may be sold or conveyed free and clear of the provisions of this paragraph. A certificate executed and acknowledged by Grantee, stating that the rights under this paragraph have been duly waived or terminated, shall be conclusive upon Grantor in favor of all persons who rely thereon in good faith. Such certificate shall be furnished upon request to any Grantee who has in fact complied with the provisions of this paragraph.

For title, see Deed to Denise Wright dated May 9, 2006 and recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 39558, Page 71.

In the event of a typographical error or omission contained in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said Unit Deed shall control.

TERMS OF SALE:

1. A non-refundable deposit payable in cash, certified or bank check in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the unit shall be payable at the Auction.
2. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid within thirty (30) days of the auction.
3. An Auctioneer's Release Deed will be issued to the purchaser, upon payment of the balance of the purchase price, within thirty (30) days of the auction. The Deed shall convey the premises subject to, and with the benefit of, all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens, or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record senior to the lien hereby being satisfied, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.
4. Additionally, and not by way of limitation, the sale shall be subject to and with the benefit of any and all tenants, tenancies, and occupants, if any.
5. No representation is or shall be made as to any amount of taxes due and outstanding.
6. The successful bidder shall pay the future condominium common charges commencing with the date of the auction.
7. No representation is or shall be made as to any other mortgages, liens, or encumbrances of record.
8. No representation is or shall be made as to the condition of the Premises or the Condominium. The Premises shall be sold "as is."
9. Other items, if any, shall be announced at the sale.
10. The sale is subject to and in accordance with the Judgment and Order, a copy of which may be obtained from the seller's counsel, Attorney Dean T. Lennon, Marcus, Errico, Emmer & Brooks, P.C., 45 Braintree Hill Park, Suite 107 Braintree, MA 02184, (781) 843-5000.

BLUE HILL PLACE
CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION,
By its Board

Published: March 26, 2020

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BGCD Partners with Hope & Comfort in Support of Members: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Partners with Hope & Comfort in Support of Members: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester would like to thank our friends at Hope & Comfort who have stepped up to support our members and families with hygiene supplies during the COVID-19 outbreak.

As many of our families are impacted by the ramifications of the social distancing that is taking place, having these items will allow them to utilize each families limited resources on other important items as they move forward.

Thanks to our friends at Hope & Comfort for being at the forefront of our efforts to assist our members and families during this emergency.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Partners with Boston Cares for Members at Home: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester would also like to thank our friends at Boston Cares who dropped off a variety of activity kits for our members.

The kits include STEM activities, art activities and more fun learning activities for members to utilize. These are sure to be a hit for our members who are spending time at home during these trying times.

Boston Cares is also mobilizing their volunteer network to assist at various BPS food service sites while the schools are closed.

If you would like to join their efforts please visit bostoncares.org.



BGCD Will Be Conducting Virtual Programming: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:
BGCD Will Be Conducting Virtual Programming: Starting Monday, March 23rd, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is going virtual! BGCD programming staff will be providing pre-recorded videos and live streams for members on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

These videos will include activities from art, dance, athletics, education, and more!

During these trying times, BGCD would like to spread a ray of hope to our members by continuing their every day programming online with their favorite staff.

For more information, please contact Brendan McDonald at bmcdonald@bgcdorchester.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the COVID-19 Crisis, all 3 of our Clubhouses will be closed. For the most up to date information, please check our website bgcdorchester.org.

During our closing, a deep cleaning will be conducted by a professional company.

Once we do reopen, we will do so with a modified health policy as well as a newly structured arrival and departure system that will continue to support our overall goal of health and safety.

For those who need assistance, please call 617-288-7120 ext. (4444)



617.288.7120 | 1135 Dorchester Ave. | www.bgcdorchester.org



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Thank you

Carney Hospital thanks its
dedicated and compassionate staff
for the incredible work they are
doing to keep our patients and the
entire Dorchester community safe.
