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

Amid mixed messages from Washington about the likely duration of the COVID-19 emergency, 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 1,109 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 to shut down.

Addressing the fallout

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

By Daniel Sheehan

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. It also provided them “social distancing protocols,” a caveat that Mayor Martin Walsh discussed in a recent press conference.

“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)

Health Centers plead for state support

By Bill Walczak

The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, Inc. (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 the millions of 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 the League CEO Jim Hunt, warns that a “countdown to the closure” of health centers is under way, as the number of positive cases of the COVID-19 pandemic, most health centers have been forced to curtail all 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 financial relief, has a detailed list that includes grocery stores, pharmacies, media, and transportation – to (Continued on page 11)

Happy 90th Birthday Mom, Nana, and Great Nana

March 23, 2020! We love you!

Mary L. Manekis (Clougherty) may have taught you to swim, gave you your 1st job at Linda Mae’s, brought you to Nantasket as a kid, or waited on you at Greenhills, or Mary L.

Call Charlie if you would like to reach out to our Mom at her residence in Keystone Apartments.

Francy, Charlene, Charlie (Cazy), and MaryAnne (Mook)

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Boston Neighborhood News, Inc.
DOT BY THE DAY
March, 2020
A snapshot look at key upcoming events in and around the neighborhood for your weekly planner.

An Egg Hunt has been Canceled
Watch DotNews.com for updates and follow us on Twitter @DotNews

March 26, 2020

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Text BOSFracais (for French) to 433511 for Spanish)

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

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-19 to 99411 to opt-in. This text service is also available in Spanish, Haitian, French, Cabo Verdean Creole, and Portuguese.

• Text BOSEspañol (for Spanish) to 99411

• Text BOSKreyol (for Haitian Kreyol) to 99411

• Text BOSFracaís (for French) to 99411

• Text BOSkríolu (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 blooming bulbs planted by schoolchildren and volunteers.

Street cleaning to begin on schedule — Mayor Walsh said this week that the city's daily 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 Chip Cook-off Cancelled — The 14th annual Dorchester Chip Cook-off — which has been scheduled for Sunday, March 29 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Local 103 (888 Washington St.) has been postponed. More than 20 entrants representing restaurants, civic associations, youth groups, and community organizations, vie for bragging rights to the best chip in Dorchester. There is live entertainment, games and prizes. A panel of judges will award prizes in four categories: Best of Show, Best Non-Beer, Most Creative Dish and Team Spirit (decorations, costumes, enthusiasm.) The People's Choice award earns its winner the golden bean pot and bragging rights.

Update from Franklin Park Coalition — Franklin Park Coalition is postponing its annual Kite and Bike festival scheduled for May 16 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 procedures have been updated.

• Although parks remain open for passive recreation (such as walking or jogging), park users are advised to follow "social distancing" guidelines recommended by the BFD Public Health Commission. Remain at least six feet away from other people. Wash hands regularly, use 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 on the status of parks.

Visit Boston.gov/coronavirus for the latest public health information.

SEND UPDATES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

See new events daily at dotnews.com

Police
Man shot and killed on American Legion Way
A young man named Vincent Lewis-Coppens, 26, was shot and killed last Friday night (March 20) outside an apartment building on American Legion Highway near 5800 American Legion Way in Dorchester Police. The 18-year-old victim was found suffering from multiple gunshot wounds in the rear of 86 American Legion Way at around 7:30 p.m. He was taken to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

Boston Police are asking for information on the murder to be called by homicide detectives at 617-343-4470.

A 28-year-old man from Brighton was ar- rested last week and charged with attempted murder for allegedly stabbing a 16-year-old teen during a brawl near a Roman Park earlier this month. Dontae D. Soto, 28, was arrested on March 15 by members of the Boston Police Department’s Fugitive Unit at an address on Walden Street in Roslindale. Soto was involved in an early morning fight near 108 Adams St. on March 7 that left a man with life-threatening injuries. A police report alleges that Soto was already being monitored with a GPS bracelet and 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 the Oct. 30, 2019 shooting with Intent to Murder and Assault and Battery by means of a deadly weapon, according to the BFD.

With more home deaths reported amid the COVID-19 cri- sis, Boston Police issued an advisory to all delivery driv- ers to “exercise caution” to “reduce the risk of becoming a robbery victim.” The depart- ment cautioned drivers to “limit the amount of cash on hand,” use “credit cards for sales.”

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, ac-

According to three people close to him, Rasky was a long-time advisor to Vice President Biden and was presidential campaign. Last fall, he helped to

He had integrity and treated everyone with integrity and treated everyone fairly. He was a dedicated public servant, a confidant of former Vice President Biden, a long-time advisor to Vice President Biden and was presidential campaign. Last fall, he helped to launch the United the Country with Intent to Murder and Assault and Battery by means of a deadly weapon, according to the BFD.

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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, if there is enough space, 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

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’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, 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 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.
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 a little bit, maintain a social distance; 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.”

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 staff and customers. We will be back at full operations as soon as we are given official word,” said co-owner Shawn Ahern.

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

Nextdoor at 50Kitchen, 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 Avenue, one staple food spot, 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 staff and customers. We will be back at full operations as soon as we are given official word,” said co-owner Shawn Ahern.

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

Daniel Sheehan photo

Shawn Ahern

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March 26, 2020

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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 literature 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 BRA’s housing and senior buildings,” said Smith. “We already knew that would be walking, hand-to-door with literature volunteer was provided organizing the effort. Each of the city’s neighborhood liaisons took charge of or- dered 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, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Cape-Verdean Kreyol, Simplified Russian, and Russian. The pamphlet also included a list of food access sites and a list of city coronavirus websites.

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 literature 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 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 pamphlets.

“Working with the BRA, it became apparent better,” Smith told the Reporter. “We appreciate 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 communica-

“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.”

“Dorchester, it was really important that we got into areas like Bow-doin/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.
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 rabbits 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 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.

“Half 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 harbrus geometric but beautiful...there’s a beauty to it, but an awful violent to it, too.”

Raised Catholic, West said her superstitions teach secrecy played a role in envisioning the exhibition. Historically, key rings, 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 a chicken wire ceiling with ball chains affixed to it, they always seem to create an aura.”

As of 6 p.m. Monday, all DAP offices are closed to the public for at least a few weeks. But the methodical setting up of the exhibition, amid the COVID chaos evolving outside, seemed to give West a brief respite from reality.

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

Boston Water and Sewer Commission COVID-19 Update

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.

Boston Residents: Your water is safe to drink

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 Public Library COVID-19 UP-DATE

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

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

All locations closed

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

All events cancelled

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

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

Don’t worry about due dates

The BPL has waived all library fines through May 1. In addition, all books will be automatically renewed for an additional 15 weeks, and any library cards that were to expire in March and April have had their expiration dates extended to October.

Online resources

We are also able to provide the spread of options from books to skill training online at bpl.org.

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

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

And if you have research questions, the team at askdhpl.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.
Virtual worship clicks at First Parish; ‘connections’ hailed in a time of virus

A letter from future times to a 2020 newborn

By Daniel Sheron

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 shot a cyber-space for the abbreviated service, with parishioners tuning in from home or on their devices.

While the format was different, the community nature of the service was evident. Members of the 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 González Milliken near the end of the service:

“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 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 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 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 apart, the communities of people came together in incredible ways. 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 nephews, 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. Rotting, or moistening, of the stalks helped to separate the fiber. In the space of a few days to a week, micro-organisms 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 brake 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 has a metal or plastic comb – 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, 725 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.
Sitting on a volcanic Indonesian island, 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 Ubud, near the southern tip of Bali. My wife is sitting on a deck chair on the patio of our remote AirBnB, a two-bedroom retreat 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 is the taste of home.

This is good news. And, if people needed further confirmation that we are all in this together, I think that they’ve got it.

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 conversation about us, and it means to be, American.

As some of you know, I decamped to California as soon as the National Immigration Forum announced a telework to help my partners. I am fortunate to have the flexibility to do this. So many families without this exhibit resiliency. I am supported by the immigrant community.

This morning, I was on a kitchen critical mission to secure rotis (we were down to two packs) for the local Indonesian Grove. As I dove past the gleaming new Apple building in Cupertino, the next intersection took me into Sunnyvale—what it was like of the last-working-class suburbs in Silicon Valley.

The grocery store was in a strip mall like you would find in any small town across the country. Small businesses driving the economy. In each case, this 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 earlier that day had loaded and vegetable into a truck, to the store and onto the shelves. A progression that, in a shock, led to this moment, with an immigrant farmer.

Meanwhile, back in Washington, Democrats and Republicans were in a nonstop, all-day debate over the economic stimulus package that as I write this, leaves one 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 our sense of the American identity to include all those who contribute.

To COVID-19, we are all Americans.
Feeney Brothers steps up, donates its face masks and other supplies to medical facilities across the city

BY ED FORBY
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 well as hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities in need of these items in the fight against the coronavirus.

“Our COVID-19 Task Force is working with our doctors, hospitals, and hospital staff to ensure that they have what they need,” 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 that it is part of our responsibility to give back to the community where 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 we 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 masks will include some 900 masks and supplies last Thursday and Friday to Boston Medical Center, the Bostonian Nursing Home in Jamaica Plain, 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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THE REPORTER
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 many health professionals have been forced to adapt quickly and efficiently so that they can maintain vital services for patients.

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 services for roughly 100 families, continuing her company’s services for roughly 100 families, retaining her staff, and keeping her business afloat. 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.

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

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“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 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 and worrying about our hands, we’re helping ourselves and our families to stay well-centered.”

After Gov. Charlie Baker announced last Sunday that 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 access at home on phones, tablets, or laptops. Dujardin, who compared the experience to a Facetime call, explained that the transition to telehealth has had its drawbacks, but also has seen some unexpected benefits.

“I think the biggest challenge 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 said that the transition has been difficult for many health professionals, including herself. She noted 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 many health professionals have been forced to adapt quickly and efficiently so that they can maintain vital services for patients.

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

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March 26, 2020

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 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."

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

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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 MULLOY
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 that subset to turn to hard-cover or a paperback 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 clock, didn’t do it right. And as those numbers began to roll over to four, 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 terrible or damaging had been recognized as such early on and prepared for directly and publically to the best of society’s abilities.

In his book “The Body,” which was published last year, John M. Barry, on the 1918-1920 “Spanish flu” catastrophe in the November 2017 edition of Smithsonian Magazine, wrote:

“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, it contributed to the great depression and was widely cited analysis. “The impact of the pandemic on the American economy,” the WHO and CDC announced on their 100th anniversary, “was the largest in the world’s history.”

“The killing created its own horrors… What would have been more deadly was the government policy toward the truth. The United States entered the war, Pres. Woodrow Wilson had demanded that “the spirit of ruthless brutality… enter into the very fabric of national life.” So he created the Committee on Public Information, which was inspired by an adviser whom we wrote, “the ‘truth and falsehood’ articles…,

Before we spend our daily lives; our texture of facts in which the historian knows how to rewrite history again, the totalitarian rulers’ methods, learned from the totalitarian experiment in Germany, will find it impossible to carry on 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 experiment and the totalitarian rulers’ frightening determination in the power of lying—in their ability, for instance, to rewrite history again and again and again to adapt the past to the ‘political line.’

The fact is that while the lies and falsehoods are terrible, the lies are addressed is not likely to make it disappear. The deliberative 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 simple lies or torn 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 a normal statement can ever be double;—as secure and enduring against attack as, for instance, the statement that two and two make four.

Under normal circumstances the liar is deflated by just one lie, which is a substitute; no matter how large the issue, if he can enlists the help of computer technology to increase the immensity of falsehood. The liar, who may get away with it, but 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 experiment and the totalitarian rulers’ frightening determination in the power of lying—in their ability, for instance, to rewrite history again and again to adapt the past to the “political line.”

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By Martha Bebinger

On Saturday morning, in the medical mecca so often frequented by 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 room of the 16 suspected COVID-19 patients in the tent, in between two white plastic walls, now with their own rigid wire girdles.

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

About three weeks ago, as the coronavirus erupted in eastern Massachusetts, those with growing anxiously increased. How would her patients at the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program isolate themselves? Where does someone quarantine if they become infected? Where does one call colleagues and nurses who do not have suspected COVID-19?

On Saturday morning, “These tents are going to be in isolation — or someone quarantine if they are infected? Where does one call colleagues and nurses who do not have suspected COVID-19?”

Jessie Gaeta learned a new skill, the boola boola knot, as described by Dr. Martha Beiser, program CEO.

“Tent medicine” set for care of homeless

By MarTha BeBerGer

When Rhode Island's 2,400 homeless men and women gathered at the Rhode Island Convention Center, the first crew members from the 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 said the first crew members arrived at 3:30 that morning, in pitch dark.

Suffolk said 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 want to be helpfully we want to be helpful,” said a Suffolk spokesman.

It’s not clear how much the coronavirus among homeless men and women because what affects the spread of infection.

Barocas, who specializes in infectious diseases 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 cares for patients who do not need to control the spread of infection.

Dr. Marty Walsh and a member of his team.

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By Martha Beberger

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

(Continued from page 1) will be working on this back from this," she said, adding that her office is calling business leaders as possible and assisting with connecting them to services like grocery delivery.

She noted many concerns for the business community, saying, "People are very anxious and I hope we can file unemployment requests. We are raising this through our conversations with the mayor’s administration as well as the Boston delegation."

The Council has been meeting via virtual platform, but the phone believes the city needs to halt "business as usual" in order to provide explicit mandates as to which things are shut down and which ones are staying in business in some way and to clear up confusion. Collins offered this advice to all residents: "Everyone should be talking about this extremely seriously by socially distancing themselves and staying home as much as possible. I’m aware that there’s 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."

District 5 Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George spoke to the Reporter 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.

Essaibi-George saw 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 food, a way I can support those efforts."

"And I called this morning with the Massachusetts Nurses Association, and they also mentioned that the term 'social distancing' is maybe not totally appropriate," Essaibi-George said. "They think the term 'physically distancing' is the right term, but that has a fear, especially for our young people. I worry that there will be serious social isolation."

Former Boston Public School teacher, Essaibi-George often mentions a former class with BPS in mind. "For teachers, this week is still sort of a novelty idea. I hear kids referring to it multiple times as vacation. And in fact, it is not. This week has been a planning week for what could be more time learning online. I expect this change. 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 decisions continue to evolve. "Those are the things people are really concerned about. We want to know the nature of this is uncertain," Mejia told the Reporter.

"From what I understand, there’s no plan, no logistics behind this. The thing most people are worried about, she said. "For the things that are going to happen in a week's time, people are figuring out things as we go. What we have been hearing in the city is that there is a high population of low-income folks and workers expressing anxiety around how they will do in the next couple of weeks.

She continued: "Unemployment doesn’t cover the rent, so for people figuring out finances, not knowing if they're going to be able to do this. We don’t know where we're going to be.”

Many people are going into crisis mode. But there's an "outpouring" of people looking for ways they can help. "It shows the best and the worst when we go into crisis mode. But it also shows the most positive people are seeing people step up," he said.

At-Large Councillor Michelle Flaherty of South Boston sees his most important role during this time as connecting with the public and connect them to resources, he said, "to provide housing security and public health emergency, as well as access to health care and the community," Arroyo wrote. "Also, our city’s health care system is an outreach over the phone to our 65+ residents in District 5 to make sure they feel secure during this time of social isolation from the community."

District 3 Councillor Frank Baker of Dorchester told the Reporter on Thursday that he concerned the economic results will be as bad, if not worse than the COVID-19 pandemic because of the amount of people that are out of work. "That's shaping the economy," Baker said. "I've noticed that there's been an outpouring of around school closers with people realizing how serious this is."

Throughout all of the businesses, Mejia said, she keeps looking for a silver lining. "I think that we're going to have a blessing in disguise; that everything going through is for a reason. Of out, we are building new infrastructure to design the system. I feel like this will magnify the issues in ways that are vulnerable and uncover that in a bigger way. We have so many opportunities to be creative."

District 5 Councillor Ricardo Arroyo on Thursday connected with the Reporter via email for answers and support. COVID-19's growth puts the councilman in a pinch as he looks to day-to-day and looks like the news is evolving by the hour.

In terms of constituents, Arroyo said he has been asked a lot of questions about parking tickets, trash pickup, and inspections. Many folks have residents unfortunately express how they are unable to pay their rent and mortgages.

On Thursday, Arroyo spoke with Mayor’s Department of Public Health media that he's offering a resolution requesting a moratorium on foreclosures in the city to provide housing security and public health emergency of the COVID-19 outbreak.

"My team and I have been working around the clock to provide folks with the best answers we can and connect them to resources, she said, adding, "Our responsibility is to provide housing security and public health emergency, as well as access to health care and the community."

"And 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 folks are facing unemployment — service industry workers, construction workers — and many have been laid off in the last seven days relative to construction. We’re weighing in on policies that we're going to get out of this is by bending the curve and job training, "Collins said.

City councilors and other city and state officials were shown behind Mayor Walsh as he announced plans to close Boston Public Schools through April 7 during a press conference on March 16. (Isabel Leon photo/Mayor's Office)

State Rep. Dan Hunter of Dorchester said that he and other representatives are having telephone work through calls with the governor’s and mayor’s offices. "I’m educating myself via the academic reports that have been coming out, and relying that into info for 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 waiting period of people looking for ways they can help. "It shows the best and the worst when we go into crisis mode. But it also shows the most positive people are seeing people step up," he said.

"All of our bills demand more transparency, notice, and have bills in their second year and have already gotten through this process. So the work of the House and Senate has been ongoing," [Robert DeLeo] encourages all members to weigh in on legislation to move things along," he said, adding, "Our district knows something about being left behind. This legislation will help 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 employers with 10 or fewer employees up to $50,000. The Commonwealth’s small business recovery grant program was paused on Thursday because the $10 million allocated to it had been exhausted.

What if you could air your concerns to the mayor’s officials? The councilman often sees this as a way to "speak in the things that are important to constituents," he said.

"And I called this morning with the Massachusetts Nurses Association, and they also mentioned that the term 'social distancing' is maybe not totally appropriate," Essaibi-George said. "They think the term 'physically distancing' is the right term, but that has a fear, especially for our young people. I worry that there will be serious social isolation."

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City councilors and other city and state officials were shown behind Mayor Walsh as he announced plans to close Boston Public Schools through April 7 during a press conference on March 16. (Isabel Leon photo/Mayor's Office)
Essaibi-George champions a virtual ‘Sew-A-Long’ to aid health workers

BY KATIE TRUEANO
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 Annissa 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 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 grassroots 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 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."

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-19 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 several medical facilities around Boston. (Photo below at Sherrill House Nursing Home)
Nadow said many donors had stepped forward to connect DotHouse with supplies, "including Rep. Liz Miranda, Councilors Frank Baker and An- nissa Essaibi-George, the Feeney Brothers, and a myriad of others."

She said that her facil- ity had seen more than 1,100 patients in the last three weeks, although the number of patients per day has lessened. Most people are conduct- ing all urgent care appointments over the phone.

"Of course, we’re hav- ing 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 help people stay out of emergency rooms— and not more important than ever. We don’t want people possibly getting COVID-19 in our ED.

As a result, we’re try- ing to balance patient needs with the health center’s ability 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 18-18 days’ worth."

Codman’s CEO Sandra Cotterell said the outside screening is one of sev- eral new measures put in 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 situ- ation. It’s hour-to-hour, minute-to-minute."

"We are telling people who don’t have an urgent care issue or immuniza- tions not to come in," said Cotterell, who said that many routine pa- tient matters are now being done over the tele- phone— something she calls "telehealth." The health center has modi- fied its hours slightly. It is now open 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sat- urdays 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. Michele Nadow, CEO of DotHouse Health, said similar protocols are now in place at the Dorchester Avenue fa- cility. She noted that a combination of workforce stress, short supplies of critical protective gear, and financial strains on the health center were all facing challenges from both the City's workforce and from our front-line health workers."

"As if you can expect, many of our staff are affected by the neces- sary 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 18-18 days’ worth."
"The #1 priority of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is to keep members and families safe. The Club has always been there for me and my family, and they are also here for you, too."

- Jocelyn, BGCD Member

#WeAreDorchester and we will get through this together.
A quiet place on the banks of the Neponset River Chapel available for: Weddings, memorial services, and celebratory masses. Indoor Services available for COVID-19, all services for Bridge will be held.

GALLAGHER, Stephen J., 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 Systems division. He is the son of Stephen F. and Eileen (Naughton) Gallagher. Father of Christopher Gallagher. Brother of Patrick J. Gallagher. Stephen will forever be remembered for Bridget will be held at St. Eulalia’s Church, 50 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Braintree, MA 02184.

KELLEY, Noreen A. (Norton) of Bridgewater. Formerly of Dorchester. Wife of the late John G. Greene. Sister of the late Margaret Curtis of Scituate and Jupiter, FL, the late Laurine Reinsel of Braintree, and the late John P. Hanover. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Due to the present concerns, only family members will be allowed to attend. Remembered may be made to the St. Matheny Scholarship Fund, 20 Short St., Bridgewater, MA 02324.

JOHANSON, Helen Joanne of Foxboro. Formerly of Hingham, formerly a longtime resident of Windsor, CT. Wife of the late George W. Johanson. Mother of Sally, Susan, and George W. Johanson, Jr. Grandmother of Bridget, Matthew, and Peter Johanson. Sister of Mary Hilliard, David, Gloria Whalen, and Jim Johannson. Brother of the late Regina Johanson and Donald Johnson. Burial. A Celebration of Life will be held at St. John’s in the Mountains, 69 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Braintree, MA 02184.

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Cedar Grove Cemetery

LEGAL NOTICE

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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 family’s 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.

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.

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!

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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.

carneyhospital.org