Patricia (Pat) O’Neill, Boston Teachers Union, agreed with negative impacts on learning.

The education field, with most view private schools closed through the May 18 closings to business closures and a ban on large gatherings as the administration launches an effort to create a roadmap for a “phased reopening.” In Boston, where there were 8,421 recorded cases of and 315 deaths as of Monday, Mayor Walsh announced a partnership with Massachusetts General Hospital to test 1,000 volunteers for both COVID-19 and antibodies to the virus as part of a study to evaluate the true level of exposure in the city.

Gov. Charlie Baker’s stay-at-home advisory took effect May 18, with most public life in Massachusetts will remain shut down until at least May 18. Gov. Charlie Baker announced Tuesday, adding at least another two weeks to business closures and a ban on large gatherings as the administration launches an effort to create a roadmap for a “phased reopening.”

In Dorchester, last week that he was “deeply saddened to hear the passing of Pat O’Neill.”

Gov. Baker has heeded the calls from educators, health care workers, parents, and municipal leaders by recognizing that a return to school in May is not feasible and that learning should continue remotely for the remainder of the academic year,” she wrote in a statement. She added: “We hope that he will also be the first to head the calls from similar groups to begin more intentionally addressing the statewide racial and economic disparities that this when Massachusetts paused elective care and routine visits so that hospitals could focus on patients with COVID-19. “I worried that if families stopped coming to the hospital, we would have a cohort of unvaccinated children and that would increase the risks to the kids of getting illnesses that are far more dangerous for them than COVID-19,” said Costello, chief of ambulatory pediatrics at Boston Medical Center, in an interview.

She said that Dr. Eileen Costello’s fear last month was that she would be the nurse who would be the first to head the calls from similar groups to begin more intentionally addressing the statewide racial and economic disparities that this when Massachusetts paused elective care and routine visits so that hospitals could focus on patients with COVID-19.

Pediatrician Melissa Nass, center, spoke to a mother and her child as she prepared to assist with a vaccination outside their Dorchester home last week.

2d push in time of coronavirus: Curbside shots for other diseases

School shutdown seen as right call; educators worry about the fall

Racial, economic gaps in spotlight

Governor extends closings to May 18; antibody study is focusing on Dot

Pat O’Neill: Civic dynamo

Cook-Off to the Peabody Square Holiday Celebrations, she dedicated her life to sharing simple joy with her community.
Fire service veteran Dempsey tapped to lead BFD

Jack Dempsey, a Boston firefighter for 35 years, was appointed commissioner of the Boston Fire Department on May 13, 2020.

Dorchester Reporter

April 30, 2020

While the coronavirus pandemic continues to challenge our communities, we’re stepping up to volunteer and help others need. Over the weekend, Southwest Airlines generously donated over 12,000 snacks to the Mary Ann Bost Food Pantry in Dorchester. These snacks would normally be served on their planes. But since many of their planes are grounded, Southwest reached out to the Food Pantry. The Mary Ann Bost Food Pantry, which serves hundreds of local families in need, is funded by private donations and managed by a staff of committed volunteers. Shown, left to right: Nick Vargas, Southwest Airlines; Jim Brett, Zac Deegan, Southwest Airlines; Fr. Doc Conway.

Pattie Brett photo
Minority-owned businesses in danger of losing out on US aid, advocates say

BY ADRIAN MA
WBUR REPORTER

Community development groups, along with advocates for black, Latinx, and Asian business owners, are worried that minority-owned small businesses could be left behind in the latest round of federal aid.

A group of nearly 80 organizations, calling itself the Small Business COVID-19 Response Coalition, says the federal government’s efforts to help small businesses during a time when most have been closed to stem the spread of the coronavirus have not reached many businesses in communities of color, rural communities, and Gateway Cities.

Joe Kriesberg, president of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations, will pitch state lawmakers on the funding proposal, which was outlined last week in a letter addressed to Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, Senate President Karen Spilka, and House Speaker Robert DeLeo.

“Many of the businesses we serve,” the letter said. “That is why we need a state-level approach that is focused on reaching those who continue to be left behind.”

More federal money is on the way for the federal government’s Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which helps small businesses secure a forgivable loan from a local bank in exchange for keeping employees on the payroll. The program reopened on Monday after Congress replenished it with an additional $310 billion last week. The initial allocation of $349 billion was depleted in a matter of days.

However, the PPP’s first-come, first-served structure put some business owners at a disadvantage, such as those who did not have a pre-existing relationship with a participating bank, or who are not fluent in English, or who did not have ready access to financial and legal expertise.

Some $60 billion of the second round of PPP funds are slated to go to smaller banks with less than $10 billion in assets, in the hope that the money will make its way to smaller businesses. That is no guarantee.

Language and cultural barriers have also prevented many business owners from obtaining relief through the PPP. “Many of the businesses we left in the dark,” said Rosario Ubiera-Minaya, executive director of the nonprofit Amplify Latinx, which is also in the Coalition. “Many of the businesses thought they didn’t qualify because they didn’t understand the information.”

In 2016, Massachusetts’s minority-owned businesses (which the federal government generally defines as being at least 51 percent owned by one person who identifies as Asian, Black, Hispanic, or Native American) were the source of an estimated 126,000 jobs in the state, according to the US Small Business Administration.

To make sure that these businesses are not left out, Ubiera-Minaya said, funds must be allocated to community-based organizations that can assist owners in navigating the process, and to community lending institutions where those owners are most likely to go for a loan or grant.

The Coalition’s proposal for spending the requested $150 million dollars is as follows:

• $10 million to support community-based organizations that deliver “culturally competent and multi-lingual assistance and coaching to small businesses; $30 million in emergency relief grants to help businesses cover rent, mortgages and other fixed costs; $35 million to Community Development Financial Institutions, community development corporations and other community-based lending programs to provide low-interest loans or grants to small businesses; $75 million to MGCC for a revolving loan fund to help businesses unable to access SBA financing, with a particular focus on communities of color, immigrant communities, rural towns, and Gateway Cities.

It also calls for a state-wide Small Business Assistance Task Force charged with ensuring the effective delivery of support to small businesses during the economic shutdown.

Idowu acknowledged that such an outlay could put more strain on what is predicted to be a massive shortfall in the state budget, but he argued that fairness and economic concerns support the measure.

“The development of some communities cannot co-exist with the under-development of others,” Idowu said.

“But when we’re investing in businesses, particularly in communities of color, we are helping to not only grow the local economy there but also to increase the tax base and the investment that these communities are making in the state coffers.”

This article was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on April 26. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.
New push during crisis: Curbside shots for other diseases

(Continued from page 1)

urgent. So, the company had some ambulances and EMTs who weren’t too busy.

Mark Brewster, the company’s president, says he’s more than happy to loan an ambulance or two, along with an EMT driver, to BMC for the time-being. “We get to help the pediatric population,” he said, “but this also helps me avoid furloughs and layoffs and keep everybody working.”

So as of last week, one of the ambulances that arrives at BMC every weekday morning is there to pick up a nurse, a pediatrician, a baby scale, a small cooling unit packed with vaccines, and those brown paper bags of food and supplies. The team will make 10-12 stops a day.

On this Thursday morning, the first curbside patient is a baby boy who has just turned one and is due a slew of vaccines packaged in three shots. Nurse Priscilla Stout, wearing a gown, mask, goggles and gloves, lays baby Juellz onto a stretcher in the back of the ambulance where she’ll weigh and measure him.

Pediatrician Melissa Nass squeezes onto the ambulance bench for an abbreviated check of the baby’s heart and lungs. And then it’s time for the shots. Juellz is quiet for the first two, and then he wails.

And then it’s time for the shots. Nurse Priscilla Stout, wearing a gown, mask, goggles and gloves, lays baby Juellz onto a stretcher in the back of the ambulance where she’ll weigh and measure him.

Outside the ambulance, while the baby’s older brother Anthony gets one shot, mom Karen Agosto says she’s not sure how long her boys would have gone without their vaccines if the medicine hadn’t come to them. Their pediatrician’s office is at Boston Medical Center, and Agosto doesn’t want her children inside a hospital during the pandemic. “Since my kid, well, all my kids have asthma problems, I’d rather not take that chance,” she says. “So, it’s good that they found a solution.”

Some families have been reluctant to come out even to the curb. Stout says parents may be connecting the ambulance to images on TV of COVID-19 ambulances that arrives at BMC every weekday morning is there to pick up a nurse, a pediatrician, a baby scale, a small cooling unit packed with vaccines, and those brown paper bags of food and supplies. The team will make 10-12 stops a day.

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Some families have been reluctant to come out even to the curb. Stout says parents may be connecting the ambulance to images on TV of COVID-19 patient transports. Stout has to reassure some parents that the ambulance is clean, that it’s not infected. “This is different, this is new,” said Nass, “and people have to put their trust in us that what we’re doing is important, which it is.”

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, which tracks childhood vaccines, says state-supplied vaccine orders were down 39 percent in March of this year as compared to last and down 68 percent for the first two weeks of April. A measles outbreak can occur when just 5-10 percent of children in an area aren’t vaccinated. It’s not clear how quickly communities in Massachusetts and elsewhere might be vulnerable to eruptions of other diseases on top of COVID-19, but Dr. Jose Romero, the chief of pediatric infectious disease at Arkansas Children’s Hospital, says there’s no time to wait.

“Them in the fall. He says allowing pharmacists to vaccinate older children is another way to increase access to vaccines. Back in Dorchester, the ambulance is also making stops to check on babies born to mothers who have the coronavirus so that the mothers don’t have to come back into the hospital just for baby visits. Tami Chas mentions one baby who was seen last week and is negative, but the hospital wants to watch the baby closely. “The nursery is incredibly happy that we can do this work for them,” she said.

The mobile pediatric crew is helping specialists across the hospital keep tabs on patients — drawing blood, checking blood pressures, monitoring diabetes. “Now that we have figured out how to do the vaccine administration,” Costello says, “this is opening up possibilities for ways that we could engage patients and change the way we deliver care.”

This story was first published on April 24 by WBUR 90.9FM. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

LEARN MORE about the PACE program, an exceptional alternative to a nursing home. Offering personalized healthcare and all-inclusive services to aging individuals to keep them independent and at home.

- Visit ElderServicePlan.Org -

HARBOR HEALTH ELDER SERVICE PLAN

A Massachusetts PACE Program

FREE COVID-19 Testing

Must Call First, For APPT: 617 - 825 - 3400
632 Blue Hill Avenue, Dorchester, MA
M-F 8:30 AM - 4:30PM & SAT. 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center

~ Visit ElderServicePlan.Org ~
At Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester our mission to support young people and families has never been stronger!

We **DO NOT** give up!

We **DO NOT** stop doing our work!

We **ARE** repurposing our talents & reinventing our jobs!

We **ARE** providing essential resources to families!

We **ARE** delivering quality Virtual programming!

We **ARE** reacting to the needs of those who need us most!

We **WILL** do whatever it takes!

#WeAreDorchester
From the Kenny School, a message of hope, resilience in song and dance

By Daniel Sheahan Reporter Staff

A new “viral” music video created by students and staff at the Thomas J. Kenny Elementary School with the intention of spreading “a message of joy and positivity” has been making its rounds on the internet since it was first published last Friday.

In the video, which was filmed in January and February while school was still in session, Kenny students sing and dance along to “Good & Swell,” an education-themed reimagination of a popular song by Lizzo.

Principal Emily Bryan said the idea for the video hatched from a snow-day video challenge issued by another school.

“The Kenny kids are aiming for a goal of reaching 15,000 people and getting 1,000 likes on social media. You can view the video through Twitter @tkenny,” Bryan said.

Bryan said, the song has been a hit among educators and people right now are “talking about things we could do to help the community see the great things going on at the Kenny school, and at the same time show how loving and talented our students and staff are,” explained Bryan, who added she chose a Lizzo tune because of the artist’s message of self-acceptance.

“She is a really inspiring entertainer... and she represents this idea of loving yourself no matter who you are or what you look like. She has also written a lot about standing up to bullies, and talked about loving your own image and who you are. That message aligned with a lot of what we stand for at the Kenny.”

The original words of the song have been changed to Kenny-themed lyrics (“I do my schoolwork” while keeping sentiments of hope and resilience (“Come now dry your eyes/know you’re a star, you can touch the sky”). The video even includes a brief cameo from Mayor Martin Walsh, who chimes in on the song’s chorus.

“While spreading positivity was the initial goal of making the video, Bryan said, the song has taken on a new meaning since the COVID-19 crisis closed schools for the rest of the year. She admitted she “felt nos- talgic” while editing the footage of her students and staff.

“I struggled with whether or not it was appropriate to release right now because it’s very happy, and so many people right now are not ‘good & swell’, so many people are suffering. It’s even harder for families of students with disabilities, or those who are dealing with food insecurity or housing insecurity, and that’s a huge percentage of our school community.

“So I went back and forth over if we should release it, but decided ultimately that sharing it would remind our community we’re strength- ened by our love for each other, that we’re not alone, we’re separated but we’re still together as one... the same mes- sage is there, but now it means something different. I think when this is all over, we will come back stronger and closer, and more grateful for each other than when we left off.”

The Kenny kids are aiming for a goal of reaching 15,000 people and getting 1,000 likes on social media. You can view the video through Twitter @tkenny.

Students at the Thomas J. Kenny Elementary School are shown in a music video called “Good & Swell,” a play on a popular song by Lizzo.
Real estate firm donates supplies to Codman Square Health Center

Helge Capital, a Boston-based real estate firm, has donated medical equipment and supplies to Codman Square Health Center. The health center put out an urgent appeal for help with funding and supplies earlier in the month as it hustles to meet the demands of Boston’s coronavirus outbreak. Helge Capital’s President and CEO Oleg Uritsky delivered 70 units of Oximeter, Blood Pressure Monitors, and 20 boxes of energy bars and other individually wrapped snacks for Codman staff.

“I believe it’s critical for Codman to have enough tools to assess the oxygen and blood pressure levels of COVID-19 and other patients and for the scarce medical resources to be used appropriately,” said Uritsky. “I know enough about shortages of medical resources that can devastate people’s lives.”

Helge Capital owns a residential portfolio of properties in Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury, and Hyde Park and self-manages its properties through an affiliate, Advanced Property Management. Codman Square Health Center is still in urgent need of donations due to COVID-19. To donate, please visit GoFundMe. To learn more about Codman Square Health Center, search Facebook or Twitter at codman.org or visit Codman.org.

City Realty donates Chromebooks to Dot teens

By KATIE TROJANO REPORTER STAFF

We were able to forward real estate development company last week donated laptops to the Cape Verdean Association of Boston, which delivered the computers to Dorchester youth who need the materials for at-home learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stephen Whalen, managing partner of City Realty and founder of their nonprofit organization City Kids, said the donation was also a way to honor the memory of 17-year-old Alissa King, who was killed last week in a broad-daylight shooting in Dorchester.

Whalen coordinated the effort with Paulo DeBarros, president of the Cape Verdean Association of Boston, who personally delivered the Chromebooks to the homes of five teenagers in Dorchester. “Paulo and the Cape Verdean Association are working around the clock under extremely difficult circumstances, making sure people are getting food, medical testing and other essential services,” said Whalen. “City Kids and City Realty are proud to partner with him to help make it possible for kids to continue learning and be engaged at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Each year CityKids funds and hosts a Surf Camp at Hampton Beach to support the Cape Verdean Association of Boston, and St. Peter's Teen Center in Dorchester, which provides after-school programs for a large population of Dorchester’s youth and teens.

To learn more and support visit: capeverdeanassociationofboston.org.

YESTERDAY ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Remembering Walter Humphreys: He died for the Union at Cold Harbor

John Treadwell Humphreys was the son of Henry Humphreys and Sarah Clapp Humphreys. John was born on July 4, 1842. Twenty years and four years later, the war raged on, he enlisted in Company A of the 13th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, and two years after that, he wrote a letter home dated May 2, 1864, when he was near Mitchell’s Station, Virginia: “I must say that I am ready for the coming conflict and hope that victory although it may come with the sacrifice of some blood, may mean that our flag will fly over a future nation with much precious blood may be the result of our arming—with haste. Yours in love, Walter.”

He died one month later, on June 2, 1864, at Cold Harbor. “One of the members of his company, Warren Freeman of West Cambridge, wrote about Walter: “One day last week Walter Humphreys of our company, whom you know, while digging in the trenches was struck in the bowels by a bullet and died the next day. I went to relieve him and was just on the point of taking his place when he gave a shout. I threw up a line of rifle pits at this time. Since this we have lost we have in the regiment twelve men killed and wounded.”

The above is an excerpt from a letter Warren sent to his family the other day published in “Letters from Two Brothers Serving in the War for the Union and Their Family at Home in West Cambridge, Mass.” (Cambridge, 1871). Walter Humphreys’ name appears on the Soldiers Monument on Meeting House Hill. His brother was Richard Clapp Humphreys, who was later president of the Dorchester Historical Society from 1893 until his death in 1912. Richard began work at the grocery store of F. Upham & Co., in 1852, and nine years later became a partner in the business, where he remained for 20 years. He then associated himself with Messrs. Holbrook & Fox, real estate dealers, where he remained eight years after which he retired and became engaged as a trustee of the People’s Savings Bank, holding 50 appointments from the courts as executor, administrator, trustee, or guardian.”

The Battle of Cold Harbor, with Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee on defense and Union Gen. US Grant on offense, took place from May 31 to June 12, 1864, near Mechanicsville, VA. Grant’s forces took a terrible beating (12,378 casualties; 1,845 dead to the Rebels’ 5,287 casualties, and 788 killed in action). The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistorical-societ y.org. The Dorchester Historical Society’s historic houses are open on different dates. The Le- muel Clap House (1712 and remodeled 1767) at 199 Boston Street is open on the third Saturday of each month. The James Blake House, 735 Co- lumbia 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.
Kudos for frontline workers

BY MAURA HEALY

More than 300,000 health care workers and first responders in Massachusetts have stepped up to the frontlines in the battle against COVID-19. They suit up in scrubs or uniforms, leave the comfort of their homes, and put their lives at risk to keep us, our families, friends, and neighbors safe. We have an obligation to do everything we can to make sure they have access to the support they need for as long a time as they are sacrificing so much.

That’s why my office has launched FrontlineMA.org—a one-stop shop for first responders to get the information and resources they need during this crisis.

From Pittsfield to Provincetown, and from New Bedford to New Bedford, our frontline workers are putting in countless hours to combat this pandemic. Thankfully, many businesses, state agencies, and individuals have stepped up to help provide housing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and meals to make meals for them. This week, a centralized PPE and volunteer information on resources those.

For health care workers who may be exposed and can’t be with their families, we’ve compiled resources for alternative housing so they can have a place to rest and recuperate for their families in case they become infected.

For parents who are working essential jobs and are struggling to find a safe place for their kids, we’ve put together a list ofdaycare options; child care providers; and nonprofit organizations that can help.

I urge all of us to support our first responders and frontline workers the protective gear and information they need.

We also offer resources on priority testing sites, tips for self-care, guidance on self-isolation and quarantine, and a list of free and discounted meals so that our health care workers, first responders, and their families can stay safe, fed, and healthy.

In addition to providing crucial PPE and volunteer resources to our frontline workers, we have an obligation to ensure that they know how much our communities appreciate and care for them.

That’s why we created a Hero Wall where people can post pictures and messages of thanks to our hospital workers, doctors, healthcare workers, and first responders.

Throughout the site, you’ll see opportunities to chip in, by providing a meal or two, providing a safe place for workers to stay in between shifts, volunteering, or donating PPE.

I’m thankful for our frontline workers who bravely show up and risk their lives every day to combat this pandemic and keep us safe.

We are grateful to our partners at HubStreets and IDEO who helped make this website possible, and for the invaluable input from healthcare providers and first responders. I hope that everyone who visits this site realizes that this is the most effective for our frontline.

We’ll continue to update it as new information becomes available.

To our frontline workers, please use FrontlineMA.org as a resource during this battle. And to everyone who helps to keep our communities informed, safe, and healthy, we are so grateful.

Maura Healey

Editorial

Positive turn for a stricken neighbor

Mike Mackan, Jo Spencer and Chris Stockbridge

The Reporter office is pretty quiet on Sunday even-ings. So, it was a surprise to hear the newsroom phone ringing this past weekend. I picked it up.

Last week, in this space, we passed along worri-some news about Michael Mackan, a well-known Lower Mills resident who was in grave condition with COVID-19 on a respirator and in an induced coma. His brother, Chris Stockbridge, was very concerned that Mike’s life was in danger. They had lost their mom, Jo Spencer, from a combination of cancer and coronavirus on April 7 and Stockbridge had also con-tracted the virus.

Chris had recovered well enough to get cleared to donate blood. He was hopeful that his extractions antibodies would help someone, perhaps his brother, in battling the virus.

On Friday, following a transfusion of plasma that likely saved his life, Mike had made such progress that doctors and nurses removed him from the ventilator that had kept him breathing over the previous four days.

By Sunday, when he called to check in with the Reporter, Mackan was feeling strong and was eager to be up and out of his hospital bed. On Monday, he took his first walk and made a request for his first meal: a frappe from the Ice Creamsmith.

When we spoke, Mike wanted people in his neigh-borhood to know how much he appreciated their well-wishes and the food deliveries made to his wife Joyce, who was at home and worried sick about him more than a week ago.

He also wanted people to know that he firmly believes that the plasma he received last Thursday saved his life. The 72 hours he spent in an induced coma, he said, reminded him “the three wildest nights of dreams I’ve ever experienced. I was flying around in jet planes, I was in a helicopter flying over Ventnor Park and watching bodies stack up. It was craziness.”

When he woke up, he found he was sewn into his hospital bed and strapped down to keep him from trying to rip out the tubes that had kept him alive. After he was entubated, he was thrilled to speak to Joyce and hear her voice.

Mackan urgently wants to recover well enough to offer his own blood to patients who are just beginning their battle with COVID-19.

His brother, Chris, calls it a miracle that he re-covered.

“I believe that good people help you. If you do good in your life, people do good for you,” he said.

While Mike’s recovery continues, his brother has stepped in to fill his shoes. Chris Mackan is a RN who has had coronavirus and survived it to donate what he calls “liquid gold.” He appeared in an interview on DeadlineBoston.org, an online channel where Mike had been interviewed.

“I offer my own blood to patients who are just beginning their battle with COVID-19,” he said.

As the call for universal vote-by-mail grows louder by the day, are medically disabled, or have religious ob-jections; "Asked and answered," as they say on televised news.

"Billy. It’s Michael."

As the call for universal vote-by-mail grows louder by the day, we’re hearing stories of how people are finding a safe place to vote.

We need to extend the time for early voting;

Independent voters will need to request a party ballot after the primary.

In-person voting would allow voters to make last-minute changes;

All these issues have been addressed by the states that already have universal voting-by-mail:

Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, and Utah.

We’ll keep you posted.

The Boston Resiliency Fund for COVID-19 relief has reached most of its goal, raising more than $2.4 million from more than 4,200 individual donors since its March launch. Last week, Mayor Martin Walsh and the fund’s steering committee announced an additional $1.7 million in funds to support 20 organizations.

Already, the fund had distributed $13.8 million in 76 emergency grants to 135 organizations. This latest round of fund distribution, the mayor’s office said, “is to stay at providing immediate support for community health centers, individuals experiencing housing instability, individuals with disabilities, community-based organizations in neighborhoods experiencing higher rates of COVID-19, and Boston’s Muslim com-munity during Ramadan, which begins this week.”

Walsh’s office said 29 percent of the organizations receiving grants Wednesday are led by a person of color and 52 percent are women-led organizations.

Colin A. Yeung

State House News Service

Looking up Longfellow Street

Secretary Galvin, hear my plea

BY EDWARD M. COOK

SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

I urgently plead with you to support and imple-ment universal vote-by-mail in the Commonwealth for the September primary and November final elections. By this I mean mailing ballots to all reg-istered voters in the state. The case for this action has been made to you repeatedly by greater powers than I. Here are some of their arguments:

• Given that the danger to voters of COVID 19 will likely continue until at least the fall of this year, in-person voting poses a proven risk to the lives of anyone who votes at a polling location;

• Dorchester is one of the “hot spots” in the state for cases of COVID-19;

• There is danger to workers who staff the polling sites, from each other and from in-person voting.

• The virus is a danger to workers who staff the polling sites, from each other and from in-person voting.

• The primary and general elections, important to the health and safety of the citizens of Massachusetts.

• We do not need another impediment to our voting rights in Dorchester.

We urge you to join us in the April 22 Boston Globe vote by mail can continue to access citizen;

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State House News Service

Resiliency Fund balance: $26m+

The Boston Resiliency Fund for COVID-19 relief has reached more than $26 million from more than 4,200 individual donors since its March launch. Last week, Mayor Martin Walsh and the fund’s steering committee announced an additional $1.7 million in funds to support 20 organizations.

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State House News Service
IBEW Local 103 and NECA Greater Boston contractors are proud to maintain the safest worksites in the region, and the world. Our professionals are the best-trained and most efficient in the industry, and the safety of our workers, our clients, and our communities is our top priority.

Today and always, we are committed to raising the standards of the construction industry by standing as a strong advocate for working people, and responsible employers, across the region.

ThePowerProfessionals.com
Dorchester resident and BPS teacher Brianne Gore showed love for the neighborhood this weekend by painting her property's Roxbury Puddingstone with uplifting messages. Gore lives on Meeting House Hill with her husband, Javin, and sons Tabor and Maddox. Gore said her family wanted to paint the puddingstone to "remind my favorite community that we are 'Dorchester Strong' and we will overcome this difficult time."

The Team at Mattapan Community Health Center is committed to keeping our patients, community and staff safe and healthy during these most challenging times.

We Care for the Whole You

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Behavioral Health – Telehealth Visits
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Please call 617-296-0061 before coming to the health center or if you have any questions.

We remain open with reduced hours:
Monday- Thursday 9:00am – 6:00pm
Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm
Saturday Closed

It is during these challenging times that we come together.

MATTAPAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
1575 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan, MA 02126
Patricia (Pat) O’Neill, at 80, leader, guiding spirit of the Ashmont Adams community

(Continued from page 1) Pat was a true force for good in the entire City of Boston will miss your fierce and loving spirit.

The oldest of four children of the late Patrick F. and Gertrude E. (Kaminski), Pat was raised on Harvestville Road in Dorchester’s Polish Triangle and graduated from Dorchester High School in 1957. She worked at Libby’s Mutual and at WHDH-TV and eventually at Avon, where she became a sales manager, but it was while she was waitressing at the old Howard Johnson’s restaurant in the South End that she met David O’Neill. They were married in 1968 at Saint Margaret Church on Codman Road.

The couple moved to the Ashmont Adams neighborhood, first to the Polish Triangle and later to what is now Ashmont Adams. Pat and David, and later Pat and Patrick, went to the grammar school. “That was quite a point to move to Ashmont Street where installation of their in-ground swimming pool soon followed,” recalled her close friend Gail Ravitalla. “Though she herself did not swim, she was the gracious host of many pool parties in recent years, most of them thank-you events for neighbors and friends who helped with her many neighborhood endeavors.”

Pat was honored as “Volunteer of the Year” by Boston Main Streets and was cited by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women as one of its “unsung heroines.” She was also a member of the Dorchester YMCA at its 2017 gala at Versailles in Boston.

In 2016, she received UMass Boston’s Quinn Award for outstanding community leadership at the university’s annual community breakfast.

The Ashmont Adams neighborhood leadership is like being a concierge and stepping into the plate when you see something isn’t right,” said Pat at the Ashmont Adams Volunteer of the Year ceremony.

In her time, Pat always had figures for the most part; he was an impec- cunious presence in the altar, following ancient ceremonial rubrics with fan while at the same time giving sermons that spoke both theologically and practically to things on the ground in the lives of his parishioners.

As the president of the neighborhood, Pat was an active volunteer and led the group in setting up a non-profit 501c3 to fund the community breakfast and other initiatives of the Ashmont Adams neighborhood. Pat was a true force for good in the City of Boston and will miss your fierce and loving spirit.

Community journalism is more important than ever.

ARL thanks the Dorchester Reporter for its dedication to continuing to bring our neighbors the local news and important information they need about people and animals.
School shutdown seen as right call by educators who are making do for now, but who are anxious about the fall

(Continued from page 1) pandemic is exacerbating and revealing across the Commonwealth both with regard to health and education.

In a press conference on Monday, Mayor Mar-

chin Walsh provided some updates to BPS’s ongo-

ing transition to remote learning in noting that the city has already dis-

tributed more than 1,200 wi-fi hotspots and more than 33,000 laptops
to families who lacked access. Half a million meals have been dished
to students through the city’s student meal site program, he added.

“Superintendent Cas-

sellius and BPS are

finalizing plans for re-

ote learning for the

remainder of the school

year,” said the mayor. “The

next few weeks as

from home will start

on Mon., May 4. Families

will receive additional

information from the su-

perintendent later this

week about attendance,

grading, and scheduling.

Schools will be creating

individualized learning plans for students with the

highest needs to make sure no one falls

behind.”

A BPS survey aimed

collecting parent feedback

is currently soliciting information

from families to assess their needs related to

financial stability, food

security, and childcare

services, among other

concerns. City Council-

or at-large Annissa

Essaibi-George told the

Reporter that continued

communication between BPS and parents will be

important.

“We have to continue
to seek families out,

create virtual spaces for

the time being where

parents can access and

impact decisions,” she

said.

A parent and former

BPS teacher herself,

Essaibi-George cred-

ited educators for their

hard work in trying to

minimize learning loss
during the last several

weeks.

“Remote learning has

been a learning process

for everybody—for fami-

lies, for kids, for teach-

ers, for districts—and

we’ve spent some time

over the last month or so figuring it out, working out kinks in the

system,” she said. “Some classrooms and some teachers were

more ready for it than others, some households

were certainly more

ready for it than others... as a city councillor and

especially as a former

teacher, I know that the

work our school staff has

committed to — making

sure that they are able to

reach every child, to support every child in

our district – has been extraordinary.”

In a May 4 School Council

session held remotely in prepara-

tion for a BPS hear-

ing later in the week,

Essaibi-George said she

emphasized fulfilling BPS’s commitment to

having a full-time, in-person guidance counselor, and mental

health professionals in every school building when schools

re-open. Many school mental health profes-

sionals are checking in with students now by

using telehealth, she said, calling the mainte-

nance of socio-emotional support systems for

students—which Mayor Walsh alluded to in his

press conference—“a huge concern.”

She noted that “this is an

important time in

kids’ lives, and especially

for kids experiencing

homelessness and kids who require Special Ed, as they have been turned

upside down. So it’s up to

us, it’s up to me as a city
councilor, to make sure those resources are

in place...we know that

as kids are insulated from

their school community, and from the resources

they access from the school community; that those resources in par-

ticular are more impor-

tant than ever.”

Fears of students fall-

ning behind top of the list of concerns for Latoya

Gayle, a Dorchester resident and founder of BPS School Finder, a digital resource out-

let that provides informa-

tion about Boston schools.

As a mother of three school-aged chil-

dren, Gayle occupies

space along the interface

of parents, students, and teachers in the Boston

education system. “In general, online

learning is great to sup-

plement structures that we have in schools now,” said Gayle. “I think

when you think about it as the primary mode

of learning, it becomes more complicated...edu-

cational systems were

not prepared to switch to remote instruction and

learning.”

“My youngest just

turned five, and so when

I think about all the little

kids, we don’t want to be

in a situation where in

three years, everybody’s

wondering why the third

graders are not reading

at grade level because they

missed the part of the school year where

you would be learning to sound out words and reading and literacy...I worry about my oldest, who

will be in preschool—a really important year.”

In the weeks since schools

were closed due to the coronavirus, Boston School Finder

has been soliciting information to include a database of COVID-19 related

information for families

with resources and regular updates. It remains uncertain

whether par-

ents will be able to use the site for its original purpose—to match

their child with the

right-fitting school—but by the time the upcoming school year rolls around in

September, Gayle and she was wary about the process by which a solution will be

found. “Some schools are giving the go

ahead to reopen. Given those districts that al-

ready existed between the pandemic and other crises, she

knows that students

from certain communi-

ties and communi-

ties of color are at risk of suffering more than

others.

“The impact is not go-

ing to be equal on how

this is felt,” said Gayle. “Some people say, ‘Ev-

erybody’s in the same

boat now.’ No, we’re not all in the same

boat, because some people were

in a cruise ship before and others were in

a dinghy. So we have to

really be thinking about how this has magnified the

inequalities—inequities

that already existed, but also to make sure that parent voice is included when we

are thinking about solutions for what is happening now and how it’s going to

impact our children’s fu-

ture...it’s imperative that family voice is included in that, and especially the

families who are the most impacted.”

LEGEND

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Notice

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

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

For now our programs have been suspended.

Now, patients at DotHouse Health can add individual and some group appointments to their digital to-do list, as we’ve implemented phone and video visits to continue providing safe, easy, convenient, and confident care.

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Adjusted for Special Ed, as they have been turned upside down. So it’s up to us, it’s up to me as a city councillor, to make sure those resources are in place...we know that as kids are insulated from their school community, and from the resources they access from the school community; that those resources in particular are more important than ever. Fears of students falling behind top of the list of concerns for Latoya Gayle, a Dorchester resident and founder of BPS School Finder, a digital resource outlet that provides information about Boston schools. "In general, online learning is great to supplement structures that we have in schools now," said Gayle. "I think when you think about it as the primary mode of learning, it becomes more complicated...educational systems were not prepared to switch to remote instruction and learning." My youngest just turned five, and so when I think about all the little kids, we don't want to be in a situation where in three years, everybody's wondering why the third graders are not reading at grade level because they missed the part of the school year where you would be learning to sound out words and reading and literacy...I worry about my oldest, who will be in preschool—a really important year." In the weeks since schools were closed due to the coronavirus, Boston School Finder has been soliciting information to include a database of COVID-19 related information for families with resources and regular updates. It remains uncertain whether parents will be able to use the site for its original purpose—to match their child with the right-fitting school—but by the time the upcoming school year rolls around in September, Gayle and she was wary about the process by which a solution will be found. "Some schools are giving the go-ahead to reopen. Given those districts that already existed between the pandemic and other crises, she knows that students from certain communities and communities of color are at risk of suffering more than others. "The impact is not going to be equal on how this is felt," said Gayle. "Some people say, 'Everybody's in the same boat now.' No, we're not all in the same boat, because some people were in a cruise ship before and others were in a dinghy. So we have to really be thinking about how this has magnified the inequalities—inequities that already existed, but also to make sure that parent voice is included when we are thinking about solutions for what is happening now and how it's going to impact our children's future...it's imperative that family voice is included in that, and especially the families who are the most impacted."
Some hopeful signs from the battlefield

By Bill Walczak
REPORTER CONTRIBUTOR

By the beginning of May, we will be looking at more than one million cases of the coronavirus in the US in just three months. There were 30,000 reported per day during the month of April. Looking at that, it would appear that plans for re-opening our common-wealth are premature, as getting control of the virus would seem to be a moving target.

Eventually, we will get to a place where univer-salization is possible. We can then quarantine new cases, and contact trace to everyone who had interacted with the person who tested positive. We will start to see antibody testing, and we will soon determine whether the virus makes you immune to future infection, a step toward so-called “herd immunity.”

The ultimate control over the virus will occur when we have a reliable vaccine, but that is not likely to occur before early next year at the least.

Right now, anyone in a risk category looks at the virus as a potential death sentence. But medical science has been as unreliable as the virus. While we await a vaccine, potential treatments for the virus are being tested around the globe, and there are promising medical interven-tions on the horizon.

The use of plasma shows great promise. Plasma essentially is blood without the red and white blood cells.moved, leaving proteins and antibodies in the fluid. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced an initiative on March 24 to collect plasma, and the Red Cross started collecting it from recovered Covid-19 patients on March 30, saying it “believes that this effort is necessary and urgent to enable rapid access to potentially lifesaving care for those seriously ill. The Red Cross has been asked by the FDA to help identify prospec-tive donors and manage the distribution of these products to hospitals treating patients in need.” Information on the ef-fort is at RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid.

Dr. Jon Pincus, head of infectious disease at the Codman Square Health Center, said that “while controlled trials are still under way, there are anecdotal published case series from China reporting clinical improvement using convalescent plasma. “In one study, 2 out of 3 patients on mechanical ventilation were weaned from ventilators, and in another study, 3 out of 5 were able to be weaned,” said Pincus. “The exact mechanism is unclear, but convalescent plasma also appeared to be helpful in treating similar infections like MERS and SARS in the Middle East. It’s unclear why it works so well, but there is anecdotal information of dramatic improvement within days” via use of plasma from those cured of Covid-19.

In Paris, researchers have found that the drug tocilizumab greatly reduced the need for mechanical ventilators and lowered the death rate of Covid-19 patients in respiratory failure. They emphasized that more study is needed, but, still, it’s a sign that we’re closer to getting treatments that can lower the mortality rate.

Here in Massachusetts, we may not get any position to do more than plan a re-opening of the commonwealth, but we have reason to hope that there will be one. In the meantime, with Mayor Walsh saying that he will mandate wearing masks/face coverings if constituents fail to do so themselves, follow his lead. Social distancing and hand washing is likely to have taken hold, so keep that at, too. We’ll get there quicker if you do.

(Edited Note: When most of a population is immune to an infectious disease, this provides indirect protection—or herd immunity (also called herd protection)—in which those who are not immune to the disease, according to specialists at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

For example, they say, “if 80 percent of a popul-ation is immune to a virus, four out of every five people who encounter someone with the disease won’t get sick (and won’t spread the disease any further). In this way, the spread of infectious diseases is kept under control. Depending how contagious an infection is, usually 70 percent to 90 percent of a popula-tion needs immunity to achieve herd protec-tion.”

Bill Walczak of Dorchester is the co-founder and former CEO of the Codman Square Health Center. His column appears weekly in the Reporter.

Sen Collins: Community Health Centers key to equitable response and recovery

As policymakers it is our responsibility to respond to the public health challenges before us with urgency while plan-ning the long-term recovery of our city, state, and nation.

Community health centers have been key to delivering an equitable public health response in the fight against COVID-19, and they will be key to delivering an equitable public health recovery for those who the system has historically left behind.

As early reading data revealed that COVID-19 was having a disproportionate impact on communities with higher rates of chronic illness and other health disparities, state elected officials and public health officials prioritized emergency funding including:

• $1.1 billion to support our healthcare system overall
• $900 million to stabilize hospitals, community health centers, nursing facilities, primary care services, behavioral health supports, long-term care services and frontline workers.

Simultaneously, critical support was issued by the Federal government and soon after locally through Mayor Walsh’s Boston Resilency Fund, while Codman, Whittier Street and East Boston community health centers led the way. Boston Resilency fund essential resources needed to stand up COVID-19 screening at community health centers across Boston.

To continue an equitable response to the impacts of COVID-19 on our most vulnerable communities, the Massachusetts Na-tional Guard should be authorized to conduct testing for an senior, low income and public housing communities, where the highest rates of chronic illness are most prevalent. This would not only increase the speed of an adequate diagnosis for those currently with barriers to being tested, but in coordination with a community health center, connect uninsured patients to a primary care provider for preventive health care in the long run. An early diagnosis of COVID-19 may save a life, but preventive long term care can alter the track of slow, costly killers—chronic disease.

Although 2006 brought universal access in Massachusetts and Nationally in 2009, a recent Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts study highlights that of 2017, communities in Boston with the highest rates of chronic illness also had the highest rates of uninsured—from 15 times the community average statewide.

This is a clear indication that mistrust of an old health care system that delivered care via emergency room has persistent in many communities.

These policy changes coupled with increased federal, state and local funding to our community health centers would also ensure the delivery of adequate health recovery lending the promise of an equitable health care reform: scaling up the system, treating patients through the preventative care model, reducing health disparities and increasing life expectancy rates.

Community health centers have been the biggest asset in delivering an equitable response to COVID-19 outbreak, but with the proper funding, will be key to ensuring an equitable public health recovery for the over 25,000 uninsured Bostonians and almost 200,000 statewide.

The State recently announced an additional $130 million investment in our Nursing Homes for staff and PPE to ensure the highest level of care possible in these most vulnerable communities. In order to fulfill the promise of an equitable public health and response to COVID-19, increased fund-ing for our community health centers must remain front and center in the Legislature, as we deliberate upcoming FY2020 Supplemental budget.

This support will provide the resources needed to equip the brave men and women on the front lines of this public health crisis and deliver an equitable public health response and recovery for communities that have suffered from inequities for far too long.

Senator Nick Collins
1st Suffolk District

Senator Collins represents the communities of South Boston, Dorchester, Mattapan and Hyde Park and serves as the Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health in the Massachusetts Legislature.

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

The Massachusetts community health centers are in the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic. Community health centers are essential providers of care, especially to those who are underserved and uninsured. The need for us to continue to provide care cannot be denied, especially in the current climate of the COVID-19 pandemic. 

Although 2006 brought universal access in Massachusetts and Nationally in 2009, a recent Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts study highlights that of 2017, communities in Boston with the highest rates of chronic illness also had the highest rates of uninsured—from 15 times the community average statewide.

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State House
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA, 02133
(617) 722-1150
Nick.Collins@masenate.gov
Linda Anderson of Walpole, brother Christopher Lorraine and Gerald his mother and father to the American Cancer Society directly at https://www.cancer.org.

COLLEERAN, James • Dorchester, 88. Husband of Rosemary (Davis) of Quincy, 83. Born in Ros-

The funeral arrangements are as follows:

CARLSON, Sean B. of Dorchester and Sci-

Dave Davis (Robert), Jo-

The funeral arrangements are as follows:

DECABROS, John, 91, of Dorchester. Born in Pin Port Mourant, Guyana, he was the son of the late George and South Boston, at a later date.

JOHNSON, Christopher J. was raised in Dorchester,  after in-

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bair of Dedham, Margaret "Peggy" and her husband, Joseph, both of Norfolk, Lisa and her husband Michael Flanagan, both of Dedham, a great-great-grandfriend and companion of Rita Pray of Dedham. Brother of Michael Flanagan, Lynne Sullivan of NY and the late John Paul Sullivan. Grandfather of 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Also survived by many nieces and nephews at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury for many years and a helper of the Dedham Garden Club for many years. Contributions may be made in his name to Alzheimer's research at alz.org.


HALEY, Marina Al- varez, 86, of Newton Center died at contracting COVID-19. Her husband of 25 years, Jose, predeceased her. She leaves four children and their families: Pierre John and Alison King of Aliso Viejo, CA; James and Marina Haley Reiser and her husband George Reis- ter of Dedham; and Kathleen Haley of Newton Center. She is also survived by her two grandchildren; her sister, Carmen Alvarez of San Salvador, El Salvador and many cous- ins, nieces and nephews. Born in Santa Ana, El Salvador, Marina was the middle daughter of a family doctor and stay-at-home mother. When the family moved to Can- pri in Italy, she met and married Pierre. Pierre J. Haley of Newton, who was an officer in the US Navy and could not leave for the night. They were happily married until Pierre died suddenly of a heart attack in 1988. She worked at Boston College for 18 years. The family will hold a Memori- al Service at a later date when they are safely able to do so along with their family and friends in person.

KEANE, Coleman of Boston. Coleman was born in Camus, County Galway Ireland and came to Boston in 1967. Upon attending a dance at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury, he met and married the love of his life (Hamlin Keane) and they celebrated their wedding anniversary on October 10, 2020. They had 2 children, Brian and Jennifer, who both married. Coleman spent 40 years over the Local La- borers 225, and was successfully self-employed as a carpenter. He is survived by his chil- dren Stephen Keane of Quincy, Maria Keane of Dedham, Robert Keane and his wife Kim of Abington, Jennifer Keane and her husband Ashley Corbin of Dedham, and Laura Keane of Dedham. Coleman had 13 grandchildren visiting with their parents.

LEMBO, Joan (Law- less) Of West Roxbury, formerly of Burlington, passed away at the age of 90. Wife of Nicho- las J. Lembo, father of Doris Lembo. Joan was predeceased by a heart attack in 1988. She worked at BC Medical in Dorchester, MA, and Peter J. McSharry, Jr. of Hanover. She is survived by her husband Jack, son Steve Lembo, and 3 grandchildren. The Lembo family extends their thanks to the staff of the West Roxbury, Massachusetts Medical Center for their care and support. A Mass will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waver- ey Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA 02452 or to COVID relief efforts.

McSHARRY, Doris M. (Skinnimon), 96, of Hanover. She was born on April 30, 1924 to Paul M. McSharry and Helen Skinnimon. Doris was predeceased by her husband Thomas McSharry and four siblings. #2020.

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Rehabilitation Hospital at spauldingrehab.org. Donations can be made to Spaulding Reha- bilitation Hospital, 225 E. Chestnut St., Dedham, MA 02026.

LaFOND, Erine of Mattapan. Wife of Jean Dominique Thomas of Roxbury who is the father of the late Francine Therm- on, mother of Renee Marcus-Lambert, Jean Patrick Lucas, Moliere Lafond, Farah Dorisme, Henry-Sel Ra- phael and Jean Domini- que Junior. She is the cherished grandmother of Jeanne Line Thomas, Sabin Jean Baptiste, Marie Jean Baptiste; Sisters In-Therese St. Val, and Patricia Jean Baptiste; Family of Karen L. (Sabin) Francis and her husband John Igoe and his late first wife, Veronica Lawlor Francis, both of Dorchester. "Grandpa" of 1. Brother of Thomas Francis and his wife Carol of Middleboro, Massachusetts. Jean passed away peacefully on April 25, 2020 at spauldingrehab.org. Donations can be made to Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital at spauldingrehab.org/donorform.

McSharry, Doris M. (Skinnimon), 96, of Hanover. She was born on April 30, 1924 to Paul M. McSharry and Helen Skinnimon. Doris was predeceased by her husband Thomas McSharry and four siblings. #2020.

McSharry, Doris M. (Skinnimon), 96, of Hanover. She was born on April 30, 1924 to Paul M. McSharry and Helen Skinnimon. Doris was predeceased by her husband Thomas McSharry and four siblings. #2020.
OTTOLE, Kath -leen T. "Kay" of Brock- ton, formerly of Fal- mouth and Naples, FL. Daughter of the late Bartley and Helen T. (Lee) O'Toole. Friend of Mary Ann Silva of East Bridgewater, Sister of Eileen L. Seger and her late husband Da- vid of Dorchester, and the late John J. and his wife Rita O'Toole, Mary V. and her husband Ed- ward Glynn, George B. O'Toole, and Francis M. O'Toole. Sister-in-law of Elaine O'Toole of Brock- ton and Carol O'Toole Milford. Survived by many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grand- nieces and nephews. Donations may be made in Kay's memory to the Ameri- can Parkinson Disease Association, 72 East Concord Street, Rm C3, MA 02135.

SAMESKI, Eileen P. (Fleming) of Brock- ton, MA. Wife of the late Michael J. Sames- ki, III with whom she shared 54 years of mar- riage. Mother of Mary Maritano and her hus- band Paul; Robert and his wife Terry; Richard "Sammy"; and Michael and his wife Laurie. Grandmother of 12. Sister of Paul Fleming and the late Leo Fleming; Sr. Mary Fleming, RSM; and Sr. Anne Fleming, CSJ. Eileen's memory may be made to The Franciscan Center, 310 N. Perry Ave., Tampa, FL 33612, 813-967-9433 or csj@csj.org.

SULLIVAN, Brenda Marie (Murphy), 81, of Dorchester, died of complications of COVID-19. She is survived by her hus- band, five children, and her nieces and nephews. Donations may be made in Brenda's name to the Boston Health Care for the Homeless, 25 High St., Boston, MA 02109.

SUTESKI, Therese, 90, of Woburn. Hus- band of Frederick J. Perry, J. Jr. and his wife Pat Perry, James and his wife Cathy Perry, John and his wife Christiane Perry, the late Helen and her husband Joseph Dirienzo, Mary and her husband Paul Kelly, and the late Ann McGlash- lin, and the late Edwina and George McCarty. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Due to the current situ- ation we are experienc- ing with the Coronavi- rus, arrangements are private. Donations may be made in memory of Mrs. Suteski to the Ameri- can Cancer Society, 300 Shrewsbury St., Framingham, MA 01701.

STEINBACH, Marie (Koenig), 94, of Woburn. Daughter of the late Russell A. Steinbach Sr. and his wife Donna of Dorchester. Grandmoth- er of 3. Sister of Robert of Roxbury, Potzey Curces, and the late Jean and her husband Frank Perry, and Bar- bara of Billerica. Niece of Carol Perry, Rita and the late David Mikesell, and Al Bucine. Loving daugh- ter of the late Frank and Ursula Perry. Also sur- vived by many nieces, nephews, and friends. Due to the current health crisis, services will remain private. A Celebration of Life ser- vice will be planned for a later date. Donations may be made in memory of Marie to the Alzheimi- er’s Association.

TRAN, Bay T., of Dorchester. She was the beloved wife of David Mikesell, whom she married in Saigon, Vietnam. Born in Saigon, Vietnam, Mrs. Tran was the daughter of Huong and Tran Van Tran of Saigon, and the late Tran Van Tran and wife Van Le of Saigon, Hien T. Vo and wife Dang T. Nguyen. She is also survived by her granddaughters, nieces, and nephews. Due to the current health crisis, services will remain private. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Donations in Tom's memory may be made to the American Heart Association, 223. Due to the current health crisis, services will remain private. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Donations in Tom's memory may be made to the American Heart Association, 223.
CONNECTION THE DOT:
BGCD Thanks City and Mayor Walsh for Boston Resiliency Fund Grant: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is honored to have been selected as one of the City of Boston and Mayor Martin J. Walsh’s Boston Resiliency Fund grantees.

This generous support will help aid our efforts assisting our children and families within the community to make sure they stay safe and healthy during the #COVID19 outbreak. Thank you to the Boston Resiliency Fund for all that you are doing to help keep Boston safe during this time.

Support of BGCD during these times is crucial and we thank everyone for their support. We are still here for you. We will always be here for you. #WeAreDorchester.

FIND OUT WHAT’S INSIDE:
BGCD Continues Friday Night “Grab & Go” Food Pick-Up for Families in Need: On Friday night, BGCD hosted our 7th “Grab & Go” Session. Families were able to pick up a bag of groceries that included meat or poultry which were generously donated by Bruce Redman, the owner of Cambridge Packing Company. Special shout out to our friends at Coppersmith’s Restaurant for providing 30 pizzas that were handed out to teens and families to go with the bags of groceries.

We would also like to thank Mayor Martin J. Walsh, the Boston Resiliency Fund, the Metropolitan Boston Building Trades Council and Community Servings for providing 500 frozen meal packages that were distributed to families that partake at our three Clubhouses earlier in the week.

BGCD Continues “DotTalks” with BPD Superintendent: BGCD is continuing our speaker series “Dot Talks”, where BGCD members can be part of a panel and ask questions face-to-face with prominent people in our community. Superintendent, Nora Baston of the Boston Police Department, was our second guest in our series. The Q & A session is now available to watch online, so please watch and listen to how the Superintendent is doing and how the BPD is helping to keep us safe.

New episodes will air on our social channels Saturdays at 4pm and Thursdays at 7 pm. In case you missed it, check out our first episode with Mayor Martin J. Walsh on our Facebook page. Please follow us and like our pages to join in the fun!

UPDATES
Due to the COVID-19 Crisis, all 3 of our Clubhouses will remain closed. For the most up to date information on Club activities and resources or to make a donation to our Clubs, please go to our website at bgcdorchester.org.

For those in need of assistance, please call our Club Community Hotline @ 617-288-7120 ext. (4444) or email us at info@bgcdorchester.org.

Thank you to our community and friends, we will get through this together! #WeAreDorchester

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Governor extends closings to May 18; antibody study is focusing on Dorchester

On Tuesday, Baker extended executive orders requiring non-essential businesses to keep their physical businesses closed to workers, customers, and the public, and banning events with more than 10 people, as well as an advisory that residents stay at home for public health safety whenever possible. Without action, the orders were set to expire on May 4.

Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kenneally, municipal officials, business leaders, and public health experts will form an advisory board and draft “new rules of the road” for how the state can take steps toward reviving economic activities in the coming weeks.

The board will submit recommendations by the May 18 date that the extensions expire, Baker said.

The governor told reporters that he recognizes the shutdowns, which also included reactivation of schools through the end of the academic year and non-emergency child care closures until June 29, carry a significant economic impact, but described them as necessary steps to save lives during the pandemic.

“I know pushing these dates back a couple of weeks is probably not what everyone wants to hear,” he said. “We all look forward to stepping in front of this podium to tell you we’re starting to open for business. I know we’ll get there soon, but we have to be smart about how we do it and recognize and understand there are risks in doing so, paired with opening too soon.”

Officials in Boston are working on a “recovery framework” that will lay out short, medium, and long-term steps to bounce back from the coronavirus pandemic and the pause it has put on economic activity.

Walsh said this week. He added that “there’s never a moment,” but those officials do not think about the financial hardships people and businesses are facing, but that he has “serious questions if we are relaxing some of the measures we’ve taken in order to keep our commonwealth on May 4. There is no question that this is a crisis.”

The recovery framework will include public health guidelines aimed at minimizing the spread of COVID-19 until a vaccine or a treatment becomes available, the mayor said. “It is not going to look back and wait for the coronavirus to go away before we take the next steps, but we are going to approach it very thoughtfully. We should never put ourselves in a position where we move too quickly and undo the progress that’s been made.”

Boston is “still in the peak of the outbreak,” the mayor said. After urging people to cover their faces in public, Walsh said he’d heard reports of people not wearing masks in grocery stores. “Quite honestly, this is unacceptable,” he said, “putting other people at risk.”

On Monday, the numbers of new COVID-19 deaths and cases were both down to their lowest levels in at least a week, but the death toll in Massachusetts rose above 3,000. Before the latest figures were released, Gov. Charlie Baker said he was beginning to see a plateau in the state’s data.

“It seems to have plateaued, depending upon which part of Massachusetts you’re in, and then the question is will and the expectation is it will start to fall, but it will probably fall slowly, the same way it ramped up.” Baker added the nearly Monday afternoon.

In a related matter, MBTA officials said on Monday that the $827 million in federal funding the transit system is expected to receive probably won’t be enough to address the system’s budget chasm and future needs.

“I think I’m on safe ground when I say it is unlikely to fund us at the level we would wish,” MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak said. “It is obviously a significant amount of money, but we’re going to have to go through a pretty extensive budget process to see if we understand just how far that money takes us.”

Meanwhile, a group of medical providers, academics, and concerned citizens called on the governor to do more to address the “racial and economic dispari- ties that have become a defining element of the COVID-19 pandemic” in Massachusetts.

In a press release on Monday, the group said Massachusetts “is not an island” and the data for most of its COVID-19 cases and deaths are “insufficient for Massa- chusetts.” There is an ongoing need to “rapidly increase COVID-19 disparities that are occurring across Massachusetts,” the group said.

Walsh said in a statement. The more we can expand our testing, the more we can learn how to use our medical resources more efficiently, and how we need to focus our current efforts to contain the virus.”

Testing for COVID-19 is done with a nasal swab, while antibody testing is done with blood drawn from a finger prick to determine whether the body is responding to infection or has previously fought it.

Residents contacted to be tested or have previously fought off the virus. Testing for residents contacted to be a part of the study will be free and on a first-come-first-serve basis.

(Continued from page 1)

Walsh said in a state-

(Continued from page 1)
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To all of our health care heroes:

THANK YOU

We recognize the brave men and women of Steward Health Care – and all health care workers across Massachusetts – who deliberately walk into harm’s way and hazard’s grasp to care for patients during this pandemic.

Your work is not a choice, it is a calling.
You are the heroes among us.

While we all stand together during this historic moment, you are the ones who step forward, fighting an invisible enemy to save and protect lives while risking your own. Because that’s who you are.

We see your selfless efforts.
We witness your sacrifices.
We are here to support you.
And we are forever grateful.
Thank You.