Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Thursday, May 7, 2020 Volume 37 Issue 19 50¢

A TIME TO GRIEVE



Relatives of Cynthia and Clasford Johnson, who were interred at Cedar Grove Cemetery last weekend, are shown by their grave. Only ten members of the family were allowed to be present at the burial. Photos courtesy Amos Monteiro

Family mourns loss of couple married 58 years

She was the matriarch and died first; he didn't wait that long to join her

By BILL FORRY **E**DITOR

Cynthia Johnson and her husband Clasford were married for nearly six decades. On Saturday, they were buried together in a joint fu-neral at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Dorchester, their adopted home since the 1970s.

The Jamaican-born couple, who were resi-

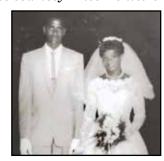
Park nursing home in recent months, died just five days apart.

Mrs. Johnson, 85, passed away from "natural causes" on Friday, April 24. It is not known for certain if there were any complications related to COVID-19.

Mr. Johnson, 84, died on April 29. He had tested positive for COVID-19

dents in the same Hyde three weeks before, but never developed severe symptoms from the illness. He was, according to family accounts, not killed by the virus."

Two of his grandchildren, Amos Monteiro and Tintra Monteiro, said that they believe that Clasford Johnson's rapid decline in health was due to the loss of his beloved "Cynti."



The couple on their wedding day in Jamaica in 1962

His death was not expected, said Tintra, who works as a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Boston Medical Center where she has watched the virus ravage people far younger than her grandfather.

(Continued on page 4)

It's now an order: Cover faces in public spaces or risk a heavy fine

Social distance a mitigating factor

By MATT MURPHY STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Warning that the threat of COVID-19 transmission will be "with us for a very long time," Gov. Charlie Baker this week ordered that all citizens in Massachusetts must wear masks or facial coverings in public—or face a \$300 fine—if they cannot socially distance. The order went into effect on Wed., May 6.

The executive order put added weight behind what had only been a recommendation from the Baker administration and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh until now. It also gives businesses the authority to deny someone service if they don't wear

"We view this as common sense and an important way on a statewide basis to establish for the long-term a set of standards for what we would call

(Continued on page 13)

Data showing Dot, Mattapan are still among hardest hit

By Shannon Dooling WBUR REPORTER

Boston is a city of neighborhoods. You can easily turn a corner or cross a street and find yourself in a different community with its own character and vibe. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the city's neighborhoods — even those that are side-byside — have experienced the crisis in different ways.

Looking at the Boston Public Health Commission's map, the neighborhoods with the lowest numbers of reported COVID-19 cases are a pale pink color - Fenway, Allston-Brighton, Charlestown, Back Bay and South Boston.

Neighborhoods shaded in dark purple have the most cases and the highest per capita rates of reported infections. Those include Mattapan, Hyde Park, East Boston and Dorchester.

(Continued on page 12)

A eulogy for my dad, who knew well how to be one

By Katie Trojano REPORTER STAFF

Humanity wasn't ready for this, our country wasn't ready for this, our neighbors weren't ready for this, and we as individuals were not ready for this. The coronavirus pandemic has created a world that is surreal.

Nobody is ever prepared to deal with the tragic type of death and loss that we've seen during these last four months and counting. On top of that, who could have foreseen the ways in which an infection from another continent would change how we experience almost everything today, the deaths and illnesses of loved ones included?

My father, Robert "Bob" Trojano, died peacefully at home last Wednesday surrounded by his family. He was 62. Born and raised in Fields Corner, he later moved to Savin Hill where he lived



for most of his adult life during which he worked for more than 20 years as a heavy equipment operator for the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) before retir-

He had a number of health complications that contributed to his early death, including liver cancer, diabetes, and congestive heart fail-

(Continued on page 5)



Robert 'Bob' Trojano

ing last July.

ure. Even though these



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Relatives of the late Robert 'Bob' Trojano watched as a parade of Boston Transportation Department workers drove by their home in Savin Hill last Friday. Mr. Trojano, 62, died on April 29 after a battle with cancer.

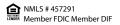
Katie Trojano photo

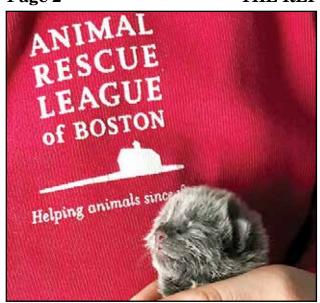


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Animal cruelty alleged in death of kitten

By Daniel Sheehan Reporter Staff

Last weekend, a concerned resident contacted the Animal Rescue League of Boston's (ARL) Field Services Department after finding a kitten with a plastic bag tied around its head in a residential neighborhood in Dorchester.

The male kitten, who was estimated to be just 1-2 weeks old, died days after being rescued.

ARL Law Enforcement is investigating the matter as an act of animal cruelty and abandonment, as it's believed the bag was placed over the kitten's head intentionally and directly contributed to the animal's death.

Animal cruelty is a felony in Massachusetts, punishable by up to seven years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

Anyone with information on this act of animal cruelty is urged to contact ARL Law Enforcement at 617-426-9170, or via emailcruelty@arlboston.org.

"This is a sad day at ARL. However we remain steadfast and committed to discovering who may have committed this act of cruelty on a defenseless kitten," said ARL President Dr. Edward Schettino. "If anyone has any information, we plead for you to reach out so we may give this kitten some peace and perhaps save the lives of more vulnerable animals."

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BPD stats shows spike in crime on B-3 district

Boston Police released data on Tuesday showing a slight decrease in overall crime citywide, but an increase in the number of shootings over the same time period last year.

The summary of socalled "part one crimes" — which includes homicides, rapes, aggravated assaults, burglaries and auto thefts— covers the period Jan. 1-May 3 and shows a three percent reduction over the same timeframe in 2019.

Area B-3, which includes Mattapan and a large part of Dorchester west of Washington Street, has seen a significant increase in crime, according to the report.

Overall, reported incidents are up 20 percent over 2019 in B-3, driven by a significant uptick in non-domestic aggravated assaults, which includes shootings.

Area C-11 — the police district that covers a large section of Dorchester— has recorded four homicides so far this year— three more than during that period in 2019. The C-11 district has seen a one percent drop across all crime categories, with a significant decline in aggravated assaults, which includes shootings. Area C-6, which includes South Boston and parts of Dorchester

north of Columbia Road, saw a two percent decline year-to-year.

The same BPD analysis revealed that the number of non-fatal shootings has gone up this year from 37 to 47— an 10 percent increase. Firearm arrests have dropped from 131 to 113 year-to-year.

• • •

Boston Police found a discarded firearm in an alley near Edward Everett Square on Saturday evening after responding to a call for shots fired. Police found spent shell casings and "other ballistic evidence" on the sidewalk near 152 East Cottage St. and located the 9mm handgun in a

side alley off of Massachusetts Avenue. "This investigation remains active and ongoing," Boston Police said in a statement.

Two men were arrested last Friday (May 1) evening near the South Bay Mall after a police officer heard several gun shots and saw the alleged suspects fleeing on foot. The two men—Ronilson Depina, 21, and Pedro Daveiga, 24— were arrested on nearby Baker Court. A 9mm Glock firearm was found in a discarded Target bag

that one of the suspects

was carrying, according

to the BPD report.

Judge denies early release plea from convicted Latin King's gang leader

A federal judge last week rejected a request from an alleged leader of the Mattapan branch of the Latin Kings gang for pre-trial release because of Covid-19 concerns, saying there is no way she could release him without creating a po-

tential danger to society.
Angel Calderon, an alleged "Inca" or leader of the Morton Street Bricks branch of the violent national gang, said his extreme obesity - he had a mastectomy after developing gynecomastia,

a case of asthma puts him at particular risk for complications should he be infected with Covid-19 while housed at the federal Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls, RI.

veloping gynecomastia, Calderon was seekhis lawyer says - and ing to be allowed to live with his girlfriend in Dorchester while awaiting trial. He is one of 62 local alleged Latin Kings members indicted in December on federal racketeering and related charges. He has been held since his arrest.

Polling shows that a large majority favors mail-in voting for fall balloting

Michael P. Norton State House News Service

Seventy-four percent of Massachusetts residents support conducting upcoming state elections entirely by mail, with 21 percent opposed, according to new poll results. The Suffolk University/ WGBH News/Boston Globe poll results showed vote-by-mail was supported by 84 percent of Democrats and 82 percent of independents, but only 14 percent of Republicans.

The survey, involving 500 respondents and

conducted April 29–May 2, also measured public opinion on leadership and decision-making during the COVID-19 crisis and the pandemic's impacts on income.

Gov. Charlie Baker's decision to extend his nonessential business closure order and stayat-home advisory for Massachusetts from May 4 to May 18 was supported by 85 percent of respondents, the same number that supported his handling of the crisis. Sixty-six percent of respondents disapproved of President Trump's han-

dling of the pandemic, and 25 percent approved.

Forty-six percent of respondents said the coronavirus has diminished their regular income.

The results showed residents feel they are more vigilant about wearing masks than others are and indicate just 23 percent said they would feel comfortable attending a sporting event, while 18 percent would ride a bus, subway or commuter train. Even if there were a vaccine, nearly one in four still would not attend a sporting event or take public

transportation.

"These data can inform politicians, sports team owners and business organizations as they consider how to emerge from the current restrictions once public health indicators deem it safe,' David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center in Boston, said in a statement. "The large percentages of people who rule out going to an athletic event or riding public transportation suggest that even as businesses reopen it will not be business as usual."

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute will take its annual Walk for Peace event — set for Sunday, May 10— to virtual mode this year. The Fields Corner-based institute provides important resources, literature, and healing services for those impacted by homicide and helps them navigate grief, trauma, and loss. The center holds a fundraising walk every Mother's Day as a way to honor loved ones who have been murdered.

This year, some of that walking may be done on treadmills: acknowledging that the community won't "be able to gather physically on Mother's Day," the center is asking participants to register and donate online at mothersdaywalk4peace. org. The institute, which is still operating and providing services, hopes to reach its \$400,000 goal.

"The COVID-19 outbreak has impacted all of our daily lives, and for those of us who've experienced murder, trauma, grief, and loss, social distancing can add to an already stressful and overwhelming time," wrote organization founder Tina Chery in a newsletter. "Many of us are feeling isolated and it's more important now than ever that we join together virtually."

Tree removal on Dot Ave gets Zoom hearing on May 7— The Boston Parks and Recreation Department will hold a public hearing via Zoom on Thursday, May 7, at 11 a.m. on a request to remove one public shade tree in Dorchester. The request is for the removal of one Norway maple tree measuring 17 inches diameter at breast height due to a proposed curb cut for a driveway at 1683 Dorchester Avenue.

The hearing will be held by the City of Boston's Tree Warden. Written comments or questions may be submitted to parks@boston.gov prior to the hearing. The information for the Zoom hearing is online at DotNews.com. For further

information, please contact the Tree Warden at 617-635-7275.

Where to go for food resources in Dot, Mattapan— In response to spikes in food insecurity coinciding with the COVID-19 crisis, the city of Boston has created a map of food resources compiled from information on free breakfast and lunch sites for Boston students, meal sites for adults, and locations of food pantries and soup kitchens across the city.

Following is a list of designated food resource locations in Dorchester and Mattapan:

Dorchester Youth Meal Sites: McCormack Middle School, 315 Mt. Vernon St.; Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School, 270 Columbia Rd.; BCYF Holland, 85 Olney St.; BCYF Marshall, 35 Westville St.; VietAID, 42 Charles St.; Community Academy of Science and Health, 11 Charles St.; Faith Christian Church, 301 Harvard St.; Joseph Lee K-8 School, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St.; VietAID, 155 Talbot Ave.; VietAID, 1

Dorchester Food Pantries: USCCB/Blessed Mother Teresa Parish, 800 Columbia Rd.; Salvation Army/Kroc Center Emergency Food Pantry, 650 Dudley St.; St. Mary's Food Pantry, 14 Cushing Ave.; Pilgrim Church Community Lunch, 540 Columbia Rd.; Holy Tabernacle Church, 70 Washington St.; CCAB/Yawkey Center, 185 Columbia Rd.; Dot House, 1353 Dorchester Ave.; Greater Anointing Church Pantry, 20 Charlotte St.; Bethel Tabernacle Pentecostal Church, 12 Bicknell St.; Codman Square Health Center, 378-A Washington St.; Eglise Baptiste Haitienne, 1 Dix St.; BCYF Leahy Holloran* (Adult Meal Site), 1 Worrell St.; CSNDC/Franklin Hill Food Pantry, 1 Shandon Rd.; Faith Pentecostal Church, 301 Harvard St.; Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center, 895 Blue Hill Ave.; USCC/ St. Matthew's

Church Food Pantry, 33 Stanton St.; HHS/Neponset Health Center Food Pantry, 398 Neponset Ave.

Mattapan Youth Meal Sites: BCYF Gallivan, 61 Woodruff

Way; Mildred Ave. Community Center, 5 Mildred Ave. Mattapan Food Pantries: BCYF Mattahunt* (Adult Meal Site), 100 Hebron St.; Glad Tidings Food Pantry, 573 Norfolk St.; BMC/Healthy Baby, Healthy Child, 213 River St.; Greater Boston Nazarene Compassion Center, 130 River St.

For more information regarding hours of operation, visit boston.gov.

City Hall guidance on operations— All essential City of Boston services such as public safety, public health and maintenance operations including street cleaning, parks maintenance, trash and recycling pick up, etc will continue to be in operation. City Hall is open to the public only on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Public access to 1010 Massachusetts Avenue is limited to the Boston Public Health Commission on the 2nd Floor and residents must be accompanied when entering the building.

Everyone entering City Hall, including employees and members of the public, will be required to complete a self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms, including elevated temperature. Residents are required to make appointments if they need to visit any of the essential services offered out of City Hall, and can learn more about the status of city departments and hours of operation at boston.gov. All COVID-19 questions should be directed to the Mayor's Health Line at 617-534-5050 or 311.

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BPS updates structure to remote learning plan

By Carrie Jung WBUR REPORTER

As Boston Public Schools prepares for an all-remote finish to the school year, the department has released new guidelines to give students more structure while they learn from home.

The revised remote learning plan, which took effect Monday, is laid out in three tiers. The first tier includes all students and requires things like scheduled morning and afternoon meetings on a regular basis. It also requires teachers to begin recording attendance and provide meaningful feedback to student work.

Grades are also coming back — in some form. The grading system is designed so that feedback only gives students credit and does not hurt their academic standing. Elementary school students will be graded based on their progress toward the state's new critical standards: "Not Yet Meeting," "Approaching," or "Meeting."

Middle and high school students can get letter grades for the upcoming term if it's an improvement from their pre-closing standing. Otherwise, grades issued will be "Pass" or "Incomplete."

Superintendent Bren-



da Cassellius said she's hopeful the added structure will be helpful to students.

"I've heard that there's been some variability that a family might have two children in their home and one child is getting instruction every single day and the other is not," said Cassellius. "So, I think this is going to bring more predict-

Tier two of the plan covers students who are identified as needing extra support. It encourages teachers to develop individual student success plans that offer kids additional support with instruction and other needs.

And tier three sets up a recommended guideline for how to re-engage hard-to-reach students.

Cassellius said she feels good about moving forward this way and the opportunity to try a blended learning system that combines synchronous and asynchronous opportunities. Students will be getting about three hours of real-time class instruction each day and one hour of work that can be done at any time.

"I see that students who have anxiety at school and mental health issues may have opportunities to come to school differently," she said. "Especially if it demonstrates that students don't lose a lot of ground."

BPS officials said that they won't be holding any students back a grade next year, but they are planning some form of testing in the beginning of the year to assess learning needs.

Officials with the Boston Teachers Union said they appreciate that the plan is centered on the

Left: A worker examines boxed-up course material for each Boston Public Schools student to resume their coursework remotely with the Chromebook they will receive.

Jesse Costa/ WBUR photo importance of equity and access. In a written statement, Jessica Tang, the group's president, also praised the district for deciding not to hold students back next year but did express concern about whether parents and students have enough time to adjust to the new schedules and guidelines.

"This may be particularly challenging for our families in most need of support, though we appreciate the plan's clear focus on supporting the most vulnerable students," she said.

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Family mourns loss of couple married 58 years

(Continued from page 1) "He was never in great health. He was diagnosed with COVID-19 about 17 days before. But he had been doing very well. He didn't have all of the classic symptoms. He was a very strong, physical man," she said.

The husband and wife lived in different rooms at the nursing facility in Hyde Park. As Cynthia's condition worsenedand it became clear that death was near- her family arranged a final visit for the couple.

"Two days before she passed, we decided he should be brought in to see her," said Amos. "He was wheeled in and he sat on her bedside and they both kind of fell asleep together.

Clasford began to fail in the hours after his wife passed away. Even though he suffered from dementia- and frequently forgot the names of friends and familyhe never stopped asking about his Cynti.

"I believe that he knew that she had passed and he took a rapid decline," said Amos, a Boston firefighter who lives in Dorchester.

His sister agrees. "I'm in the medical field and we deal in science," said Tintra. "But the minute she went, he knew this is it. She was his lifeline; that's the only reason he was still there."

Cynthia Valentia Rose was the youngest of three children born to Iris Miller and Stanford Rose in Craighead Manchester, Jamaica, in 1935. Later, her mother married Barry Green and settled in Kingston. That is where she met her future husband, Clasford, who hailed from a differTogether Forever



Cynthia and Clasford Johnson were married for 58 years and lived in Dorchester since moving here from their native Jamaica in the early 1970s. At right: Their caskets at the gravesite in Cedar Grove Cemetery. Photos courtesy Amos Monteiro

"There were several oth-

er West Indian families

house was kind of like an

international airport,"

he said with a laugh.

"People would come

from all over and stay

for a few days and some-

times a few weeks at

Tonawanda. We've had

a lot of contact with our

family abroad and that's

because of Cynthia. She

always kept in contact.

Every year, several times

a year, they'd come and

stay. Her home was re-

Cynthia was doing all

of this while also caring

for her husband, who

suffered a stroke before

the age of 50, a setback

that limited his ability to

work as a mechanic — his

She also remained de-

Rev. Bruce Wall, her

pastor since the 1980s

at Dorchester Temple

(later Global Ministries

Christian Church) on

Washington Street, re-

called that Cynthia was

chosen profession.

voted to her faith.

ally the epicenter."

"My grandmother's

on the same block."

In 1970, Cynthia was granted a visa and moved to Boston, where she worked as a seamstress at the Jewish Memorial Hospital and Rehab Center. Her husband and her four youngest children joined her in 1971 and 1972, by which time she had already found the family a home on Tonawanda Street near Fields Corner, which they acquired in 1973. (Their eldest daughter Janet emigrated to London, England, in 1970.)

for a very long time,"

early days in co-ministry at the Codman Square church. "Cynthia was there

a critical influence in his

before I became the pastor and I was there for 27 years. She brought me in and she was critical to my staying and surviving as a pastor," Wall said.

Wall remembers Cynthia as "loveable, laughable, warm. There was a whole Caribbean community at what was then known as Dorchester Temple. And once Cynthia found out that my people were from Jamaica, I was 'in like Flynn."

Rev. Wall was part of a two-man, interracial pastoral team alongside Rev. Craig McMullen, a white minister. It was experimental for the Baptist congregation.

"Cynthia saw the potential in Craig and me. She gave us encouragement and love and counselthrough it," said Wall, who officiated at the funeral last Saturday.

"When she stopped coming to church, we would go to her home. We gave her a radio and said, You can be part of our church even if you cannot come."

If she couldn't pray with her fellow congregants on Washington Street— or be present for their family milestones— there were other more personal pursuits.

"My grandmother would cook every weekend," said Amos Monteiro. "She worked as a seamstress, but even when she was home, she would be on the sewing machine: pillows, dresses, curtains, whatever.'

"She spent a lot of time doing that," said her granddaughter, Tintra. She was a pint-sized little person, but she was so strong. Even later in her life, you could see the muscles in her legs.'

"The lottery was big," said Amos, again laughing. "She loved numbers. I think she was a little superstitious. She would dream numbers."

He added: "She held the family together. One of the poignant things is that my grandfather, he lived a rough life. He's been kind-of-old my entire life. We joked that grandpa will outlive everybody; that's always been the joking narrative.

'When our grandmother died and he passed a few days later, we knew the reason."

There was no advance "plan" to bury the Johnsons as a couple on the same day. Cynthia was ill and her death was anticipated. The family had arranged plots and services through Dolan's Funeral Home five years ago. When Cynthia died peacefully on a Friday afternoon, the plan just kicked in. But it soon became clear that Clasford was letting go— and the family hit "pause" on the next steps.

By last Wednesday, it was clear that he would be joining his bride in a final repose. Her funeral was delayed to allow for a joint service and burial.

We had a viewing at Dolan's," said Tintra. "There could only be ten of us and we walked in in family pairs at different times to observe

social distancing. We proceeded to the cemetery where we listened to Pastor Wall and had the final services."

It's tough enough to endure one loss. Two?

Pastor Wall said it was the first in his long pastoral calling. "I'm used to giving a sermon and eulogizing in a church. But in this case the actual service was at the gravesite. No chairs. It was so awkward. But you have to create an atmosphere of love and support. This is new for us, too. It's a culture shock, but we have to provide that love and support in this whole new environment."

For the family, the absence of a wake translated into a relentless series of phone calls. The extended Johnson clan elected to create a video record of the burial and related services.

"We made sure we got some pictures of us and the caskets and we recorded a video of Pastor Wall and the ceremony at the cemetery," said Amos. "We've been 'What's Apping' people in Jamaica and England and Pennsylvania.

It's no coincidence to their grandchildren that Amos and Tintra Monteiro are on the frontlines of the pandemic that complicated— if not claimed— the lives of their grandparents.

"They remained together for such a long time," said Amos. "We've all done well and are still doing well. I attribute it to Tonawanda Street, to my grandmother primarily; the work ethic and the manners."

'She was the epicenter," says Tintra, who is safe and managing the crisis she faces every day in the ICU with her grandmother in mind.

"She never missed work. If she worked every day, it didn't matter. Her door was still open. She held the family together."

said Amos, who grew ent part of Jamaica, the second eldest of Estelle up spending nearly evand Ivan Johnson's 14 ery weekend with his grandparents while his mother, Andora, worked.

children. Cynthia and Clasford - who was also known as "Vernon"were wed in 1962 and welcomed five children: Janet, Howard, Andora, Robert, and Denniston.

'Our entire family sort of revolved around the house on Tonawanda





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A eulogy for my dad, who knew well how to be one

(Continued from page 1) conditions brought him pain in his last years, he rarely missed an opportunity to make me laugh.

In his final week, he was given hospice care at home and died relatively quickly, without too much pain, and attended to by my mother, my older sisters, and me.

While his death wasn't attributed to the coronavirus, the impact of the disease restricted our ability to grieve along with those who wanted to say goodbye to him at his wake and funeral. Only 15 people were permitted at the wake, a heartbreaking limitation for my family, as it is for all grieving families during these times.

In his heyday, my dad was a social butterfly, and he would've loved to have seen everyone together at his funeral, although he would've understood that under the circumstances that sort of scene wasn't possible.

The outpouring of support we've received from many who knew him has been amazing as people found ways to mourn with us while keeping at social distancing. My dad's former coworkers at BTD organized a drive-by parade to salute our family, rolling by our house with messages on signs and



A caravan of Boston Transportation Department workers saluted their former colleague Bob Trojano and his family in a drive-by visitation at his home on Auckland Street on Friday, May 1. *Katie Trojano photo*

sounding their horns and lights in the same way that community members have opted to use to salute healthcare workers, and celebrate birthdays, retirements, graduations, and more during the pandemic.

Just weeks ago, I covered a drive-by parade for healthcare workers at Carney hospital, an event called "Dorchester Salutes the Carney." Last week, when BTD drivers began to drive by our house, I grabbed

my camera and captured photos of my own family's reaction to this moment of grace.

•••

I am enormously grateful that I was able to spend most of the last year of my father's life by his side. An opportunity for a reporting position at the *Reporter* pulled me home to Dorchester from Southern California no sooner and no later than precisely the right time. In July of last year, after some months

of feeling a draw to be physically close to my family, particularly my father, I reached out to *Reporter* publisher Bill Forry, asking if he could use another a reporter.

Jenn Smith, who at the time was making a transition from a successful and productive four-year stint at the paper to attending Northeastern University School of Law, was leaving some big shoes for me to fill. My timing was fortuitous. After speaking

with Bill, I gave notice at the Beverly Hills Weekly and two weeks later set out for home.

My dad, who was okay with not using the internet, smartphones, text messaging, and email, was ecstatic to hear that I was coming home to work in Dorchester. We had communicated over the phone frequently while I lived on the other coast, and when he couldn't reach me, he'd leave voicemails that always began in exactly

the same way, with the four words that opened this message that he sent to me last August as I was halfway through my five-day drive home:

"Yeah, Katie, it's Dad. Me and mom were just talking about it— we can't wait for you to get home." There was a pause. "Yeah, we can't wait for you to get home..."

•••

My father was the string that held our family tightly together. He constantly showed us, with humor and unwavering love, that we could make it through anything. He had an ability to tunnel through chaotic times, always positive, empathetic, and never judgmental in his support of others. I hope I can match those qualities as I grow and learn.

It will take me many years and decades of learning, coping, and struggling with the facts that my father is gone and that my world has been changed forever.

In these trying times we find ourselves in need of unity, connection, and empathy to find a way out of a world in chaos. But we will eventually overcome, we will deal with the losses, and we will heal, learn, grow, and laugh together again.



Arts Academy foundation steps up for its graduating class

By Daniel Sheehan REPORTER STAFF

Like other high school seniors across the commonwealth, members of the 2020 graduating class at Boston Arts Academy in Fields Corner are missing out on their prom, senior class trips, senior recitals, and an in-person graduation ceremony experience due to the pandemic.

As a way to show support to those seniors, the BAA Foundation has organized a "103 Reasons to Give" fundraiser campaign — named for the 103 graduates-inwaiting — that kicked off with a virtual ceremony last weekend.

Denella Clark, president of the foundation, said the campaign has a goal of raising \$200,000, a figure that would go toward student scholarships (96 percent of the graduating class are going on to attend higher education) and also give each graduate



A scene from a recent performance of "RESPECT: A Boston Arts Academy Tribute to Aretha Franklin."

a yearbook and a care package valued at \$500.

"For our kids to reach this milestone and to not have senior recitals, proms, or any of these other rites of passage is really devastating," said

Clark. "We wanted to do this to try to lessen this feeling our students are experiencing."

The campaign was launched on May 2 with a prerecorded virtual ceremony at 7 p.m. featuring music and dance performances by students. The event was held in place of the BAA Honors, an annual fundraising event that was also canceled.

A virtual graduation ceremony is slated for June 8, with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Massachusetts-born fashion designer Ruth Carter delivering commencement remarks. BAA leadership is hoping an in-person celebration will be able to take place in the fall. Nalany Guerrier, student body president of the Class of 2020, called losing their senior spring traditions "heartbreaking. The shift due to coronavirus has been a hard adjustment for the senior class because we had been hoping to share our creativity and show

what we've learned. "Our last year here is so much different from other high schools; we

Nalany Guerrier, student body president of the Class of 2020 at Boston Arts Academy.

have performances all year long and to not have that culmination, it's been frustrating and annoying. But a lot of us have been practicing our artistic work at home, learning new songs, making little films, so that's been kind of a coping mechanism for us."

A Dorchester resident, Guerrier, who will be studying media arts production at Emerson College in the fall, added that while the situation is unfortunate, her classmates have demonstrated resilience in the face of change and uncertainty.

"One thing we've learned is that we may fall back a bit, but we always get back up," she said. [With] "this experience showing us that we can take our creativity home, we can handle most things." To register for the "103 Reasons to Give" campaign and for more details about tomorrow night's kickoff event, visit https://e.givesmart. com/events/hg2/.



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COVID-19 UPDATE The Boston Public Library issued this guid-

Boston Public Library

ance on March 16, 2020. At this point, there are few people who have not been impacted in some way by the COVID-19 virus. Here at the Boston Public Library, we are doing everything in our power to continue to bring

you important services. All locations closed

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

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

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

Don't worry about due dates

The BPL has waived all library fines through May 1.

In addition, all books will be automatically renewed for an additional 15 weeks, and any

library cards that were to expire in March and April have had their expiration dates extended to October.

Online resources

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

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

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

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

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

The Dorchester Reporter is proud to have the support of the Martin W. Richard Foundation, which works to advance the values of inclusion, kindness, justice, and peace by investing in community programs that broaden horizons for young people and encourage them to celebrate diversity and engage in positive civic action. The foundation's support for community journalism at this challenging time will help make it possible to continue bringing to you stories like the ones on this page and throughout the Reporter. You can learn more about the work and mission of the foundation at MartinRichardFoundation.org



The Banshee re-opens for take-out meals, cocktail 'kits'

By Daniel Sheehan REPORTER STAFF

Faithful patrons of the Banshee rejoiced over the weekend when the beloved Dorchester Ave. fixture announced on social media that it would be reopening for takeout and delivery on May 6. After shuttering in accordance with Governor Charlie Baker's orders on March 16, the establishment spent weeks considering next steps and putting appropriate safety procedures in place, co-owner Ray Butler told the Reporter.

"We spent the last couple of weeks thinking strong and hard about this, and we decided if we're going to do it, we're going to do it right," said Butler.

In taking cues from other restaurants, the new-look Banshee has fully adapted to the times: after a "thorough cleaning" of the whole building, Butler said all the tables and chairs on the first floor were removed to accommodate social distancing, plastic screens were installed at credit card machines for customers who prefer not to pay over the phone, and masks, gloves, and

able for all staff mem-

"Before, we felt like we didn't fully understand what was going on, and so our main concern was for the staff, to make sure they were healthy, safe, and felt comfortable coming back to work," explained Butler. "Now we have everything in place to make them comfortable."

The Banshee is primarily known as a watering hole and dine-in spot. which means the new normal of takeout-only service is "a bit of a different ballgame for us," admitted Butler. But the bar is up to the task and demonstrating flexibility by offering takeout, curbside pickup, and delivery to anywhere in the Dorchester/South Boston area.

"Just call us, tell us what you want to do, and we'll make it happen," said Butler.

To start, the Banshee's new operating hours will be Wednesday and Thursday from 4 - 8 p.m.; Friday from 12 - 8 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Sunday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

sanitizer stations have A "limited" food menu been made readily avail- still includes ample options with soups, appetizers, salads, burgers, sandwiches, and entrees like steak tips and fish and chips all available for order. In addition, the Banshee is offering a brunch menu on the weekends featuring omelettes, breakfast sandwiches, and mimosa and Bloody mary kits packaged to-go.

In the coming weeks, Butler said they also plan to offer "BBQ kits" with burgers, chicken, and steak tips marinated and ready to go with condiments and other fixings. Beer, wine, and prosecco are all available for takeout and delivery, as well.

Butler said in the end, the move to reopen was less of a business decision and more of a gesture of support and solidarity.

"We just want to be an amenity for the community," he said. "Obviously, the business is not going to make a lot of money with this, but we've been in Dorchester for 24 years, and we just want to be a part of the community and show that we care about the people here.



Lt. Callahan with his wife, Jean, and daughters Nicole and Melissa. Daniel Sheehan photo

BPD vet feted by retirement parade

By Daniel Sheehan REPORTER STAFF

Lt. Donald Callahan, a 37-year veteran of the Boston Police Department, was celebrated with a surprise 50-car drive-by parade Thursday evening in recognition of his retirement day.

At around 5:30 p.m., a procession of police cruisers and civilian vehicles rolled by Callahan's Adams Street residence in a flurry of flashing lights, honking horns, and handmade signs.

The 65-year-old Callahan served in the Air Force before joining the BPD in 1983, where he worked at several districts including West Roxbury, Hyde Park and East Boston. Speaking just after the parade, he thanked his family for their support and said he'll miss the BPD, which he called "the best department in the country."

Liz Schnaible, Callahan's niece, said the lieutenant "was always tak-



ing care of us. He was like a second dad to everyone in the neighborhood." And family friend Shalin McDonough recalled with a laugh how Callahan would "do background checks on all of our boyfriends."

Callahan was regularly involved in charitable causes, and was "the most modest, humble person you could meet," said his daughter Melissa.

When asked how it feels to be retired, Callahan responded simply: "It feels good."



The Banshee on Dot Ave re-opened for take-out on May 6.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dorchester's First High School

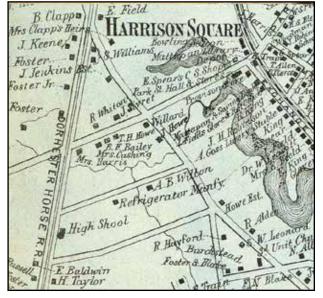
Although Dorchester was tne earliest town to establish a school open to all boys, paid for by the town budget, it was not until the middle of the 19th century that it established a high school. The following is from William Dana Orcutt, "Good Old Dorchester" (Cambridge, 1893)

"In 1850, the subject of a high school was again agitated, this time with more success. One hundred and eightythree taxpayers of the town signed a petition asking the school committee 'to recommend to the town the immediate establishment of a high school.' This petition was discussed and reflected upon for two years, when action



was finally taken. The sum of six thousand dollars was appropriated with which to erect a building, the location selected being on the School Pasture property, on the westerly side of South Boston and Dorchester turnpike, a little north of Centre Street. This spot was selected as being the most central position.

"The school was organized in December 1852, with a membership of fifty-nine pupils of both sexes, representing the Everett, Mather, Adams, Gibson, Winthrop, Norfolk, and private



schools. The first principal was William J. Rolfe, the present Shakespearian authority, who held the position for four years."

Although Orcutt places the school on the west side of Dorchester Avenue, the 1858 atlas of Norfolk County shows the building on the east side occupying the lot that is today a small shopping plaza at the corner of Dorchester Avenue and Gibson Street. The School Pasture property encompassed what is now Town Field and land across Dorchester Avenue to the east.

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchester historicalsociety.org. The Dorchester Historical Society's historic houses are open on different dates. The Lemuel Clap House (1712 and remodeled 1765) at 199 Boston Street is open on the third Saturday of each $month. \ The \ James \ Blake$ House, 735 Columbia Road (1661) and the William Clap House, 195 Boston Street (1806) are open on the third Sunday of each month. Open hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Editorial

She opened her door

Virginie Auguste was surprised to see me. And, honestly, I was kind of unsure of why I was at her door.It was ten days or so into summer vacation and I missed my St. Gregory's grammar school classmates, Pierre and his older brother Richard. I didn't have their phone number.

She recognized me, smiled and let me in.

I had been cast in the school musical with her sons earlier in the year. Pierre had the lead role of Jesus in "Godspell" and he really nailed it. I can still hear his father's very audible gasp echoing across St. Greg's gym during the crucifixion scene. His brother Richard and I were two of the disciples.

After rehearsal, Pierre and Rich would come to my house on Richmond Street. We'd play basketball in my driveway and drive my mother insane with a boombox blasting Run DMC's "King of Rock." It was 1986.

The Auguste boys were at my house a lot, but I'd never been in their home — or any Haitian home— until that day. The smell that wafted from their galley kitchen was new to my senses: rice, fish ,and fried plaintains on a constant rotation on the stovetop. When she offered me a seat on the couch, I

nearly slid off. Every stitch of upholstered furniture in the two-story brick house was wrapped up in plastic.

The homes in the Morton Street projects were starter kits, built for returning GI's in the 1940s. Now they were thick with hard-working families like the Augustes—immigrants, new Bostonians. The parents took jobs as



Virginie Auguste

home health aides and janitors and hospital orderlies. Virginie took care of elderly people in tonier suburbs, just like my grandmother, Mary Kate— a new arrival from another island nation, Ireland—had done in the 1930s.

Like my own gran, Virginie and her husband spoke English pretty well, but in a heavy accent. At home, of course, they mainly spoke Kreyol, and as my visits became more frequent, she would expect me to at least try to learn some words. As I tried and inevitably failed, she'd suck her teeth, roll her eyes, clap her hands, and laugh uproariously.

Her kids were mainly like her: Loud, argumentative, mischievous. Constantly exploding with laughter. Frequently joyous. Never verbally profane, though. This was an Adventist house and Mr. Auguste—bespectacled, gentle, pious, soft-spoken—wouldn't stand for profanity. The television was off from Friday sundown to sundown Saturday to observe "the Sabbath." The family's clothes were immaculate and conservative, the hip-hop-influenced haircuts frowned upon.

Virginie, like her husband Vilaire, was a church leader, both founding members of the Temple Salem Seventh-Day Adventist church on Woodrow Avenue. While Nanne, or Ninnie, as her many friends and relations called her, was prayerful and devout, she had a playful spirit and a twinkle in her eyes. She was stylish, and she sang beautifully.

The last few years were tough on Virginie. She lost Vilaire too young. She herself battled a brain tumor and, before the scourge of coronavirus was even a far-off whisper, she was desperately sick. After she died on April 23, her kids learned that she had, in fact, contracted the virus in her Abington nursing home. Her death at age 74, while terribly sad, was merciful in the end. As we mourn her this week, I'll choose to remember the 40- year-old Virginie. The one who let me in the door that day in 1986 and for many more years to come.

Mèsi anpil, Nanne.

-Bill Forry

The Reporter

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Emergency care is not on hold; if you need some help, ask for it

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

During this public health emergency, many of us are feeling stressed and anxious. Days are uncertain and our routines have shifted. Many people are working remotely, or have lost their jobs. Students are learning online. Many of our favorite events have been canceled. For some time now, I have urged you to follow many precautions, like staying home, covering your face when outside, and not visiting friends and family. But one thing has not changed and should not change: If you are experiencing an emergency, please call 9-1-1 for help. Boston EMS and our emergency rooms are ready to help you.

In anticipation of Boston's surge in COVID-19 cases, we have been doing our part to not overwhelm our emergency departments. We are asking individuals to call their primary care provider or 3-1-1 if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have any health-related questions. You can also visit buoyhealth.com/mass for an online screening of COVID-19 symptoms. But, life-threatening emergencies like difficulty breathing or pain or pressure in the chest should be addressed immediately by calling 9-1-1.

Boston EMS will provide you the necessary pre-hospital care and transport you to the nearest emergency department if needed. Hospitals have seen dramatic decreases in health emergencies, like heart attacks, strokes, and appendicitis. Even though coronavirus is a new challenge, that does not mean other health challenges are less present. Please do not delay getting life-saving care because of fear of getting coronavirus. Go to the emergency room if you think you are in need of care. Our hospitals in Boston have been taking many steps to ensure safety and cleanliness, and they have space for you.

Every day we plan and respond to reduce the

further spread of coronavirus. One piece of this has been increasing hospital capacity. We know it is important to be ready to treat as many people as possible, and not just for COVID-19. We must also help frontline workers, like our medical professionals, first responders, grocery store employees, public servants, and sanitation workers, stay healthy by practicing our guidelines: staying home as much as possible, covering your face when outside your home, keeping at least six feet of distance from other people, washing your hands frequently, and disinfecting frequently-touched surfaces.

I know it's a hard adjustment, and it seems like this has been going on for much longer than it has. But this virus will stop spreading if everyone follows our guidelines. I want to thank everyone who has been avoiding gatherings and wearing a face covering when they go outside. I know it's not always comfortable or easy to do, especially as we move into warmer weather. Your actions will directly help save lives. To those of you ignoring these guidelines, I urge you to reflect on the consequences of your actions. Is ignoring them worth risking the lives of your friends, family, and neighbors? We can overcome this, but we have to work together.

The City of Boston will continue to take the proper steps to respond to this crisis in a comprehensive way. This is a difficult time for everyone around the world. It's okay to feel stressed. We will get through this together by following the public health guidelines, working together and supporting each other, one day at a time.

For more information on Boston's COVID-19 response, please visit boston.gov/coronavirus or text BOSCOVID to 888-777 to receive text alerts on a regular basis, available in 11 languages. For non-emergency questions, please call 3-1-1.

The new normal in community health care

By James W. Hunt Jr. Special to the Reporter

Social distancing. Face covering. Six feet apart at concerts and restaurants. Fan-less sporting events. Everything will look different once the COVID-19 crisis subsides. Our New Normal. Many of the temporary restrictions and recommendations that responsible people are adhering to in the present will likely take hold for the longer term.

For sure, practices that keep us safe are necessary until a vaccine for the novel coronavirus is made widely available for all communities. Although promising signs are on the horizon, experts predict that one is months away.

"Good evening folks and welcome back to our restaurant. Let me show you to your two tables of four set at the standard and safe distance of six feet. Please enjoy the added comfort of more space. I see you brought your own masks. Before your server puts in your drink order, Kathryn will take your temperatures. Please enjoy your meal. And stay safe."

Access to community-based health care has already changed, too. Wellness and prevention, the hallmarks of primary care as well as chronic disease management, are all being handled quite differently now and will be done so into the foreseeable future. Advances in telehealth along with telephonic visits and face-to-face visits reserved for urgent care only have all taken hold with the onslaught of the pandemic. For Community Health Centers, responding to patients and communities is nothing new. However, cases of adjustments to

schedules, postponements of some routine care, and responses to unique community needs, vary. Be assured though, that centers are on the front lines during this crisis. They are connected on the ground to their communities, cities, and towns. They remain trusted allies of patients, speaking their languages and welcoming them to seek care when needed, and always — no matter the circumstances — supporting the particularly vulnerable. Courageous health center staff at all levels are responding to the needs of their communities. In fact, some of the changes being experienced may pave the way for community-based health care in the future.

I am reminded of what happened post-Sept. 11, 2001, when the United States and the world amped up screening and security measures. Clumsily handled at first, today these measures are commonplace and have been streamlined and made more efficient over the last two decades.

In a future health care system, many of the temporary measures in place today may become permanent. It is likely that post COVID-19, telehealth and telephonic consultation will be standard operating procedure in community health in ways we never could have imagined. It may be a good thing for our most vulnerable patients, the future New Normal.

James W. Hunt Jr. is the president and CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.He is a lifelong resident of Dorchester

Mother's Day 2020: Unlike Any Other

By Rev. Jack Ahern

When I was growing up, Mother's Day in my house was akin to being a holy day. All of us gathered for a festive meal (prepared by my dad), gift-giving, and just enjoying the company of one another. It was a delightful time to celebrate our love for our mother. There were no virtual gatherings in my early years.

The coronavirus pandemic, though, will change how many of us celebrate Mother's Day this year. Many will not be able to be with their mothers. Social isolation, physical distancing ,and our concern for the welfare of loved ones and oneself force us to re-consider how we celebrate the day.

We are living in a world of uncertainty and isolation. Given that, celebrating things big and small is even more critical and life-giving! Perhaps more than in years past, we need to celebrate Mother's Day this year.

Make the time to Zoom or Facetime (I didn't know

what either was six weeks ago) if you are not able to spend time with your mother. Make the time to drive by the house and stop for a while, and as you socially distance from one another, remind them how much you love them and long to hug them again. A good friend of mine just had a new grandson, and as much as she needs and wants to hold him but can't at the moment, she is thrilled by photos sent her way and the ability to see him through the storm door.

Our mothers are in many ways God's greatest gifts to us. Today, let's pause for a moment to say thank you and to remind them how much they are loved. If you are able to be with your mother this year, savor the moment and cherish the embrace. If not, let them know that you miss their hugs and kisses more than they can imagine.

Happy Mother's Day.

Fr. Jack Ahern

 $Rev. Jack Ahern is the {\it pastor of St. Gregory Parish}.$

As Dot coped with fears, shortages during WWII, this diarist took notes

By GREG WAYLAND SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

"The war overshadows all our days and our lives, but we go about doing things in the normal way in so far as possible."

Sound familiar? It was Jan. 12, 1943; the war was with Axis powers, not COVID-19; and the words are from my late mother's diary about living in war-time Dorchester, a handwritten record on yellowing stacks of bond paper joined by rusting staples that I uncovered in a cache of family memorabilia.

Josephine Wayland cherished her diary, begun when the family lived on Bowdoin Street and completed after a move to Neponset Avenue. "The truth is we just seem to adapt ourselves to the conditions," she wrote.

Her account of food and fuel shortages and traffic restrictions enumerates terrors exceeding our fears of an invisible virus, including the threat of aerial bombardment. My father, an air raid warden, made sure the attic was free of flammable clutter.

"The night air raid alarms frighten the children," Mom wrote on June 29, 1943, "and they cluster about me crying,



Greg Wayland and his mother, Jo Wayland, were photographed in 1950 at Green Harbor in Marshfield, Massachusetts.

but we make jokes and soon we all forget the weird sirens."

Those night alarms were incomprehensible to my sister and three brothers, ages two to six (I hadn't come along yet.) "All oblivious are they," she wrote, "to the awful war that engulfs the earth, the obituary notices of fine young men dying every day."

There were, in fact, signs of the war overhead. "The sky is full of the student pilots training for their 'wings," Mom wrote. "Often we perceive that they are brand new recruits from the wavering of the planes."

The Dorchester waterfront looked out on the Squantum Naval Air Station. Those trainee pilots went on to serve, and often die, in skies over Europe and the Pacific. Squantum's hangers and runway have vanished beneath the sprawl of Marina Bay.

"We have received our ration cards for sugar and also for gasoline," Mom wrote on May 18, 1942. "There are also the restrictions on metals True the great was oversladown day and and lines, but our go daining in the numed was for the possible. He go mit and and took took to unless it is ungered of or illness that nevertal

A page from Mrs. Wayland's wartime diary.

and vital materials like rubber and silks. We go without butter and tea. The papers say roads are 90 percent empty, dealing a death blow to resort owners. We cannot ride in the family autounless it is urgent business or illness that necessitates it. I shall be glad for the rationing because, you stand in line (for food) and before you know it, all that the storekeeper has is all given out. It's humiliating."

War bulletins mingled with household news. On Feb. 6, 1943, she wrote, "President Roosevelt flew to Casablanca today to meet with Prime Minister Winston Churchill" and also that "Hitler has not made a comment and there's speculation as to where he is and what he may be doing." Then we learn that Mom baked bread and muffins and Dad bought shoes for

the kids.

At Christmastime, prices were high and "all toys are either wood or pressed paper and even they are scarce." My father, a salesman for Glendale Coal & Oil, found, according to Mom, that "people are so cruel and unkind when a shortage makes it necessary to curtail or delay their order." She added that he welcomed rumors of coal rationing because 'it's the only way to stop the hoarders."

As the war dragged on, Momwrote, "Looking back on our mountainous problems, "it is fun to watch them disappear like mists before the sun."

Let's all keep that in

Josephine Wayland was 82 when she died at Carney Hospital on Aug. 5, 1986.

Commentary

'Boomers' need to flex their electoral muscles

By BILL WALCZAK REPORTER CONTRIBUTOR

My gray hair has grown out to a length not seen since I was in my teens, and I've gotten used to the appellations for my grandfather status. But I never really felt old until the coronavirus. Being placed in a category that carries a serious risk of death just because I'm over 60 has had an impact on me, and, from talking to other boomers, on our entire generation. I lost a very close friend a few weeks ago whom I had known for nearly 60 years. He was a nurse who did a home visit to an elderly man who was feeling ill after visiting his wife in a nursing home. A week later, both the man and his wife were dead. Two weeks later, my friend was dead at age 66. He had no immune-compromising illnesses.

I retired last August and qualified for Medicare, but I felt pretty good, got married in January, and was looking forward to a new writing career with plans for more travel. I had spent many years working on various projects in South Africa, Northern Ireland, and Vietnam as part of my work at Codman Square Health Center, and had developed friendships with people in those countries whom I planned to visit.

But I won't be getting on a plane anytime soon.

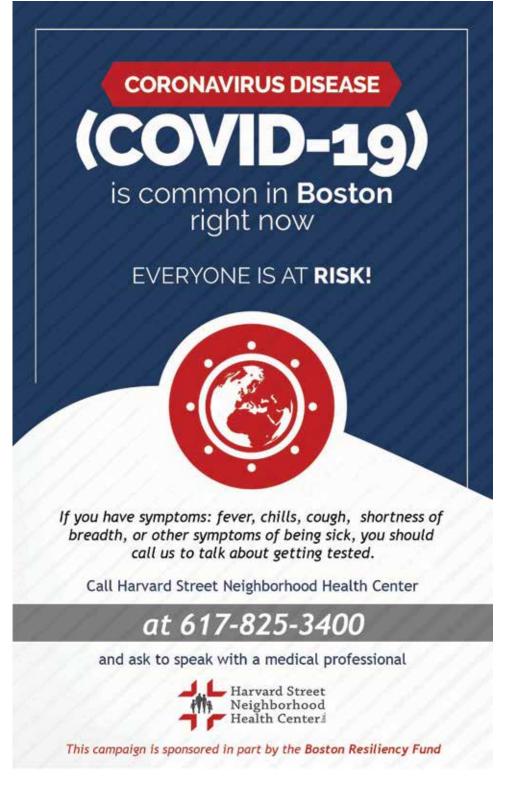
COVID-19, referred to disparagingly by some young people as the "boomer remover," has terrified many in my generation. It drives us to distraction seeing the mostly younger white men who run or ride by us not wearing masks. Going into a grocery store takes an act of courage. The governor finally ordered masks to be worn this week, but we can't imagine why it took so long. We do not visit our grandchil-

dren because we don't know if they are asymptomatic carriers.

The notion that our elected officials are planning to reopen the economy in the next month seems crazy to us. Reopening should follow getting control of the virus, not precede that control. Knowing that a vaccine is a long way off means that, to feel safe, we need to do a testing program on a massive scale, on a regular basis, perhaps every few days for those who want to go back to work or school, and quarantine and contact trace every person who is positive. This plus universal mask wearing would go a long way toward allowing us to feel safe, but to date we don't have a reliable test and, beyond that, the ability to massively test. And wnat do we do 11 otner states refuse to do the same thing?

The country seems to be moving toward opening parts of it based on the degree of viral infection. My great fear is that the reopening will not just be geographic. When I arrived in Dorchester in the early '70s, there was a great concern about elderly "shutins," essentially old people who seldom left their homes because they lived in fear. Kit Clark Senior Services was created partly to deal with the shut-in issue in Dorchester. If we can't get to a plan for everyone feeling safe, I fear we will wind up with a new generation of shut-ins.

We have an understanding of what it will take to allow a reopening. Why is it taking so long to figure out how to massively test? Our country has the greatest number of cases and deaths, but our national effort is about affixing the blame for the outbreak of the virus rather than making it go away. It's time for "boomers" to exercise our electoral muscle before we can't.



Neighbors turn out in force along four Dot streets to hail a graduating senior

By Reporter Staff

When it comes to talk about the city's neighborhoods, Cara Gillis, who lives with her family on Hinckley Street, will allow for no comparison to Dorchester as "the best" in any ranking. As backup for that assertion, she related the following story to the *Reporter* this week:

"My oldest son Thomas is a senior at Boston Collegiate Charter School. With plans for a traditional graduation ceremony cancelled, and things still up in the air for an alternative, I wanted to do something for him in our little neighborhood, mostly to get photos to share with his grandmothers, but also so he could have something memorable to commemorate his achievement.

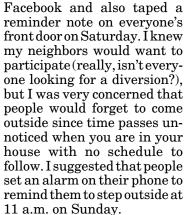
"Even though he technically hasn't yet graduated – he still has a couple more weeks of on-line learning and two AP exams to take – I decided to do my "something" on the first



Sunday in May when it wasn't raining.

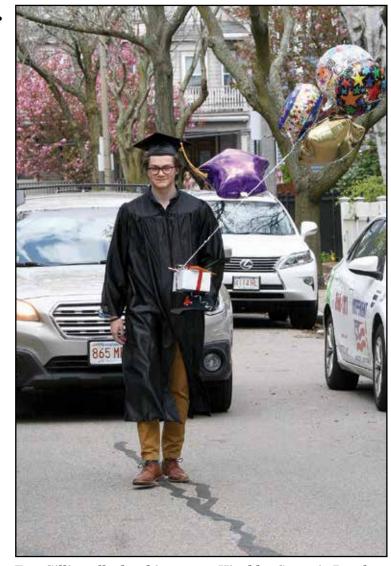
"I planned a "graduation procession" up and down our four blocks of parallel streets by asking neighbors to come out on their porches and decks to clap for the graduate as he walked by in his cap and gown. His father would follow him in the car, playing "Pomp and Circumstance," and that would be it.

"I posted the request on



Anyway, as Thomas set off down our street (very reluctantly, as he doesn't like to be the center of attention), I headed in the opposite direction so I could take a photo of him coming up the adjacent street. I arrived at the top of the street just in time to see him rounding the corner. He was wearing a big smile, holding cards, a gift box — and a bunch of balloons.

"Everyone was out clapping, cheering, ringing cowbells, blowing horns, and waving signs. The signs! They were the best. People had taken the time to make homemade signs out of whatever material they had on hand. That people, most of whom I don't know, took the time to make signs and hand him things he might appreciate (cash, gift cards, a Red Sox hat and even a Whoopie Pie from the Daily Market, among other items) was simply amazing to me and, given his nature, a little embarrassing to him.



Tom Gillis walked up his street—Hinckley Street in Dorchester—in his graduation cap and gown on Sunday morning. He was greeted along the route by neighbors who cheered him on. Gillis is a senior and a member of the class of 2020 at Boston Collegiate Charter School.

Cara Gillis photos

It was the people who caused that big smile.

"This outpouring was repeated on each of the four streets he walked down: ours, Mayfield, Morrill, and Trescott. It was far beyond

any expectation and confirmed what I already knew. This is the best place to live because neighbors will go all out to support one another and step up when asked."

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dotnews.com May 7, 2020 THE REPORTER Page 11



e've never accepted the idea of ordinary.
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We support each other through challenging times.

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"It concerns us that

this follows the trajec-

tory of so many public

health challenges that

we face, of a dispropor-

tionate impact in com-munities of color," he

said. "Having said that,

there's nowhere in the

city where we're testing

at the rate that we want

According to Martinez,

none of the city's neigh-

borhoods have tested

more than 5% of its resi-

dents — and that needs

to ramp up in order to

get the full picture of how

the virus is spreading.

That's especially true in

communities with high

rates of positive tests,

like East Boston, where

city data show 47% of

those tested had positive

Poverty and

Language Barriers

Combine

results.

to be testing.

Data showing Dot, Mattapan are still among hardest hit

(Continued from page 1) The Struggle Is Real'

The last few months have been challenging for Rosalind Young. The Dorchester resident said she recently lost her job at a Boston hotel because of the pandemic. She can't afford her \$1,100 dollar a month rent, and on top of that, she's taking care of her 80-year-old mother who has several high-risk factors for contracting COVID-19.

Young knows her neighbors are hurting as well. Some have lost loved ones and some are strapped financially.

"The struggle is real," she said. "It's like this regardless but the pandemic has tremendously made it worse, trust me. And, so people are still out there having to work because we just don't have no choice."

At Dorchester's Bowdoin Street Health Center, 30 percent of the community members tested for the coronavirus have had positive results.

Bowdoin Street Medical Director Dr. Kamau Karanja said the poorest and most vulnerable communities are often hit the hardest by public health crises.

"Poorer communities tend to have higher



The drive-in and walk-in testing station at Bowdoin Street Health Center in Robin Lubbock/WBUR photo Dorchester.

rates of pre-existing conditions," he said. "They're also more likely to have jobs that would increase their exposure, whether it's healthcare jobs or custodial jobs, and they're also less likely to be able to work from

That all adds up to some of the neighborhood-by-neighborhood disparities we're seeing in Boston's reported cases, he said.

A Deeper Dive

Census data show black residents make up about a quarter of the city's population but they represent more than 40 percent of the city's reported COVID-19 cases.

Black residents make up more than 40 percent of Dorchester. Education levels and median income here are below

the city's average. The city's latest data shows a rate of 136.6 cases per 10,000 residents in the neighborhood's northern zip codes, and 127.7 cases per 10,000 in the southern zip codes.

Neighboring South Boston paints a drastically different picture.

Census data show that South Boston is nearly 80 percent white with education levels and incomes well above the city's average. As of Wednesday, South Boston had 54 reported cases for every 10,000 residents - that's less than half of the infection rate in Dorchester.

Boston Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez said the city's map of COVID-19 cases illustrates a familiar trend.

ita rate of COVID-19 cases is even higher than Dorchester's. More than 50 percent

East Boston's per cap-

of East Boston's residents are immigrants to the U.S., with many living in predominately Spanish-speaking households.

Patricia Montes heads up Centro Presente, an East Boston nonprofit supporting immigrants. She said the pandemic is raising the stakes even higher for people who have already been living in fear, mostly of immigration enforcement.

"It's not just about being afraid that ICE is going to your house and they are going to deport your family. On top of that now people, they don't have food, they are afraid to go to the hospitals and have access to healthcare," she said.

Centro Presente is delivering meals to households in East Boston, where Montes said families often double up in small apartments. Splitting the rent and the bills is a little easier this way, but it also makes physically distancing oneself from others nearly impossible.

> A Path Forward, **Together**

Mayor Marty Walsh recently convened a task force to address some of the inequities laid bare by the pandemic. The committee is working to increase testing across the city, improve data collection and support minority-owned businesses.

It's an effort that City Councillor Andrea Campbell supports. She represents Dorchester and Mattapan, two of the neighborhoods hit hardest.

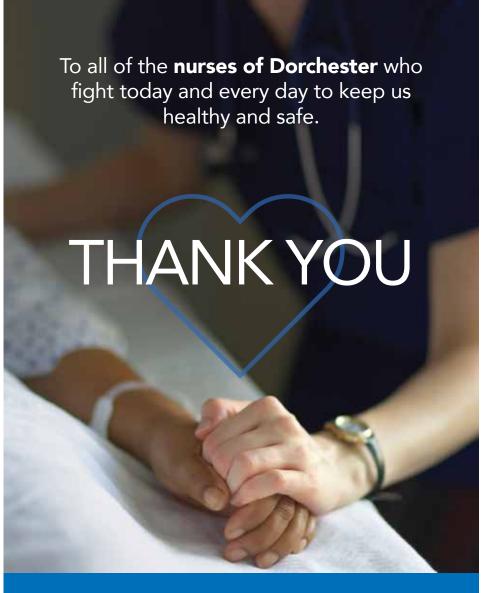
"I am hoping, and my residents are hoping, that the silver lining to all of this is that the inequities that they have been dealing with and the solutions they have been trying to put forward to eradicate them,' she said, "that the entire city now come together to do the same, to do it as a collective."

Karanja hopes the pandemic opens people's eyes to a public health truth he's long known.

"If we have certain parts of our community that are being disproportionately affected, when it comes to contagious illness such as this, it puts everybody at more risk," he said.

Because, Karanja said, the health of the poorest among us has a direct impact on the city's health as a whole.

This article was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on April 30. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.



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IN REMEMBRANCE:

Mona Scantlebury

Board Member Emeritus, Codman Square Health Center

Codman Square Health Center is sad to say goodbye to long-time Board member Mona Scantlebury, who passed away on April 23rd at 94 years old.

Mona served on our Board since the Health Center's early days, and was a member of the Association, one of the six organizations that helped found the Health Center.

Mona was a vitally important member of the



Board. She was always positive and encouraging, and relied on her deep faith to get her and others through some of the toughest times faced by the Health Center in its early days.

Mona was direct in her advice and counsel as a CSHC Board member. She was a woman of faith who advocated for her community and she was tireless in her commitment.

Mona has been a special friend and her legacy lives on in what she has created in our community. May she rest in peace.



Codman Square Health Center

637 Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02124 | 617-822-8271 | codman.org

Baker eases tight restrictions on retail, car dealers

By Matt Murphy STATE HOUSE News Service

It's not just the flowers that are blooming in the springtime warmth.

Gov. Charlie Baker on Monday gave florists, as well as many other "nonessential" businesses, a green thumbs up to bring back a limited number of employees to fulfill online and phone orders for delivery, as long as they follow proper safety measures and keep the doors locked to customers.

The updated guidance comes just ahead of Mother's Day, which is a major event on the calendar for many garden and flower businesses.

Retailers Association of Massachusetts President Jon Hurst has been making a hard push over the

er administration to relax its essential businesses order to allow fulfillment centers and other retailers categorized as non-essential, including bookstores and jewelers, to work in locked store

"If you want to pick up flowers for mom, what are you supposed to do? Go into Stop & Shop? How does that make sense from even a health standpoint?" Hurst asked last week.

RAM presented for Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito's advisory committee on reopening the economy on Wednesday, and requested that the administration not wait until its full recommendations are made on May 18 to relax these rules.

On Monday, the retailer's request was granted.

The administration quietly updated its essential services guidance to allow a limited number of employees of florist shops and other businesses to reenter closed stores and warehouses to fulfill and ship orders taken over the phone and online.

The new guidelines require these stores to remain closed to the public and limit operating hours to allow for sufficient off-hour cleaning. Employees must wear face coverings and stay at least six feet apart from one another, and all deliveries must be "no-contact" deliveries to consumers.

The guidelines also limit the number of employees that can work at a car dealerships, allow-

given time, starting with three in a business smallerthan 10,000 square feet and growing to seven in a facility with more than 30,000 square feet.

Employers must also require workers to selfadminister temperature checks before their shifts, and not report to work if they have a fever over 100 degrees.

"(Three) yards in a cloud of dust. Just keep trying for that next first down as the goal posts keep moving farther away," Hurst emailed Monday night, using a famous football metaphor to describe how small business must just keep scraping to survive the pandemic.

The updated essential business guidelines also made new allowances for ing for sales to resume over the phone or online and for dealerships to follow the same remote fulfillment rules as other retailers.

Test drives of vehicles are not permitted, and all processing of documents should be done electronically, if possible, the rules said.

Dealerships must remain closed to walk-in customers, but transfer, delivery and return of new and leased vehicles or trade-ins can be conducted in person by appointment.

Winston Flowers, one of Boston's most wellknown florists with multiple locations in the city, went so far as to advertise last week that it was reopening for the week of Mother's Day, only to be told by the city of Boston that it must remain closed because it was a nonessential business.

The company had made plans to assemble orders in its design studios with a board-certified nurse on hand to monitor all team members' temperatures at the start of each day and for employees to work with personal protective gear in socially-distanced workspaces.

'We will probably need to shut down our business after being a part of the community for 75 years and giving back millions of dollars to local charities through partnerships. We have lost all of our wedding, hotel, and retail business," owner Ted Winston told the News Service after being told it couldn't open.

It's now an order: Cover faces in public spaces or risk a heavy fine

(Continued from page 1)

the new normal," Baker

The order does not apply to children under age two or anyone who cannot wear a mask because of a medical condition. Baker said the Department of Public Health would be putting together guidelines for children aged 2 to 5.

The facial coverings, Baker said, don't have to be proper masks, but can be T-shirts or bandanas. He urged that people reserve medical grade masks for frontline health care workers. He added that he thought "people for the most part" have adhered to the recommendation he made on April 10 to use a face covering in public.

"But I think we all believe that as part of the strategy around anything associated with reopening people are going to need a mask or a face covering if they're going to be close to people. You can't always stay six feet away, and even if you can stay six feet away, especially if you're inside, you probably ought to have a face covering on," Baker said.

Under the new order that takes effect May 6, all employees and customers of grocery stores, pharmacies and other retail establishments that have been allowed to stay open during the public health emergency must wear masks at all times. The same goes for users and drivers of taxis, ride-hailing services, and public transit.

Asked specifically about joggers and bicyclists, Baker said if someone is running early in the morning and confident they won't encounter other people they might be able to exercise without a mask, but if they go running during the afternoon when more people are out they should probably cover their face.

Baker said some businesses and municipalities have already put in place similar policies. "It's a big change, I think, for many people, but I'm hoping we get to the point where it becomes the norm, because it should be," Baker said.

Baker said the trend lines have moved "a little bit in the right direction," but he wanted to be careful not to try to rush a reopening of businesses and relaxation of safety precautions in a way that would risk a resurgence.

"By reopening, we could actually create another fire and be dealing with this thing all over again at some point shortly down the road," Baker said. "When we re-open we want to do it based on the right data at the right time with the right mechanisms in place to monitor this so that we only have to do this once. Because the calamity and economic hardship associated with it is absolutely not something any of us wants to have to put up with again."

At a press availability on Monday, Mayor Walsh said that while the number of people in intensive care units at Boston hospitals has been gradually going down, the daily increase in cases has been roughly steady for some time— largely due to increased testing.

Through Sunday, Walsh said, about 28,000 Boston residents, or 4 percent of the City's population, have been tested for COVID-19. Last week, testing increased by 44 percent. Currently, about 32 percent of people who

get tested are testing positive.

The city of Boston continues to send some patients to Boston Hope Medical Center at the BCEC. As of Sunday night, the mayor said, there were 161 patients at Boston Hope, including 63 on the homeless respite side, and 98 on the hospital side. Altogether, 548 patients have been treated at the

The city and Mass

General Hospital continue to conduct a random antibody testing initiative— with results expected later this week. A total of 1,000 randomly selected residents of East Boston, Roslindale and the 02121 and 02125 zip codes of Dorchester are included.

Boston City Councillor Michelle Wu said on Monday that she tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies after being randomly selected to

"Got my test results last night: negative for coronavirus & positive for antibodies—meaning I was most likely infected at some point without knowing it," Wu tweeted Monday morning along with photos of a nasal swab test and finger prick test. "That's why physical distancing & testing are so important: anyone can get this virus & spread it without even showing symptoms!"

participate in the study.

NOTICE

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

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

For now our programs have been suspended.



William Clapp House, 195 Boston Street **Lemuel Clap House, 199 Boston Street** James Blake House, 735 Columbia Road

www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org

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RECENT OBITUARIES



ABRUZZESE, Jeanette M. (McDonald). She was married to late Lawrence "Larry" Abruzzese for 57 years. Mother to Kristine Melo and her husband Ted of Braintree. Grand-mother to 2. Sister of Burchsted Adelaide of Brockton. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Jeanette was born in Boston to the late Daniel and Adelaide McDonald. She was a retired employee of Liberty Mutual Insurance in Hingham. Please consider a donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.



CLAIBORNE, Harmon Roosevelt was born to the late Willie and Mary Claiborne on in 1935 in Lawrenceville, Virginia. He was the fourth of seven children born to this union. It was in Lawrenceville where he was raised and educated. From his early childhood, he had a deep passion for the singing of gospel music. At a young age, he and his brothers George and Otis along with their uncle Willie Brown formed a group called the Royal Light Gospel Singers. Upon relocating to Boston, in 1968, he and his family joined the Morning Star Baptist Church under the Pastorate of Reverend

ber of Morning Star for only two years, he was ordained as a deacon in 1970. In 1981 Pastor Claiborne joined the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church as a charter member under the leadership of its first pastor, the late Reverend Walter A. Stevenson. At Antioch, he served as a deacon, church clerk, Sunday school teacher and president of the choir. In July of 1988, Deacon Claiborne married Thelma White Graham and they have continued their spiritual journey. In 1989, he was licensed by Antioch and ordained in 1990 by his Pastor, Reverend Walter A. Stevenson. In 1991, Reverend Stevenson suggested that Reverend Claiborne spread himself and plant his own seed as pastor. Acting on the suggestion of Reverend Stevenson, he and two other preachers decided to let God lead them through singing together. In addition to singing, they preached together; they were blessed to start Preach- $\operatorname{ers} - N - \operatorname{Concert}$ at 302 Columbia Road in Dorchester. The name of the group was N-Retro which included his brother the late George Claiborne and Gene Claiborne, his son, with musicians: the last the late Kevin Davis, Elbert Vines and Paul Giflian. Upon the death of Rev. Stevenson in 1995, Reverend Claiborne was led by the spirit of God, and the members for him to return home and be the leader of Antioch. In 1995, he was led to feed his flock at 1082 Blue Hill Avenue. Reverend Claiborne leaves to behind his wife of 32 years, Thelma Claiborne; his sisters: Mary Mckinnon and Fannie Louise Trusty; 8 surviving children; a host of grand, great grand, great- great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and family and friends. He also leaves behind a special son-in-law, Clarence Carleton, his bud-

Elisha Gilbert. After

having been a mem-

ROBERT F. "BOBBY" TROJANO



Robert F. "Bobby"
Trojano in Dorchester.
Husband of Andrea
J. (Sheridan) Trojano. Father of Kristen
and her husband Jim
Finneran of Framingham, Michelle Trojano of Dorchester,
and Katie Trojano of
Dorchester. Devoted
"papa" of Hunter,
Tinneran Son of Con-

Owen, Tenley, and Peyton Finneran. Son of Constance (Reynolds) Trojano of Quincy. Brother of William and his wife Ann Trojano of Dorchester, Michael Trojano of Stoughton, Margaret Trojano of Marshfield, and his late twin brother Merrill Trojano. Brother-in-law of Deborah Trojano of Fall River. Survived by many nieces and nephews. Bobby was a retired heavy equipment operator for the City of Boston Transportation Department for over 20 years. Donations in Bobby's memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association at diabetes.org a celebration of Bobby's life will be held at a later date.

dy and his God-daughter, Andrea Raye.



CLASBY, Marie (Cusick) passed away due to complications of covid-19, days before her 89th birthday. Born in Boston, she was the daughter of the late James "Jim" and Anne (Hanley) Cusick. Raised in Dorchester, she attended Dorchester High School for Girls. She was also predeceased by her husband of 50 years, Robert "Bob" Clasby, her sister Phyliss Connolly, and her brother James "Junior" Cusick. She is remembered by her daughter Ann and her husband Ted Marrese of South Easton and her son Robert Clasby, Jr. and his wife Ramona of North Greenbush, NY. She was a proud nana to 7. She is also survived by her brother Robert Cusick and his fiance Julianne Schilling of Dorchester, her devoted niece Luanne Coutoumas of Hanover, and her lifelong friend Nancy (Sullivan) Locke of Braintree. She also leaves behind many nieces, nephews and a large extended family. Donations may be made in Marie's name to Old Colony Hospice, 321 Manley St., West Bridgewater, Ma 02379.

CONNORS, Dorothy L., 95, of Dorchester. Daughter of the late Mary and Myles Connors. Niece of the late Rose, Helen, Patricia, Francis, and Joseph Lyons. Aunt of Robert Lyons and the late Paul Lyons and Francis D. Lyons. Great-aunt of 4. Dorothy is also survived by eight great-grandnieces and nephews. Donations in Dorothy's memory may be made to St. Ann's Parish, c/o Parish Office, 15 Rita Road, Dorchester, Ma 02122. Due to current restrictions, interment will be private. A celebration of her life will be planned for a later date.



CORBIN, Jesse L., 77, of Myrtle Beach, SC, formerly of Boston. He was born in 1942, in Newport News, VA to Rosetta Floyd and Stafford Leroy Ward. He was educated in local schools before relocating to Boston, MA. He received his G.E.D. from Roxbury Community College (RCC) then continued learning the rest of his life. He joined the Army National Guard. Jesse attended New England Institute of Applied Arts & Sciences in the field of Mortuary/Funeral Science. In the 1970s and early 1980s, he was certified and recertified as an Embalmer and Funeral Director. He Hospital in Pathology for over 20 years. There he met Helen. Helen Henry worked in the laundry at Boston City Hospital. Together they opened Jesse L. Corbin Funeral Home in Mattapan, MA. He also started Corbin Removal to transport the deceased to various destinations. He acquired his CDL and started Corbin Trucking service. He operated the trucking company for a few years but kept his CDL for the remainder of his life. He was a Deacon at Holy Tabernacle church. He belonged to the Mason Lodge #10 as a Master Mason under the jurisdiction of George Wash-

ington Carver Grand

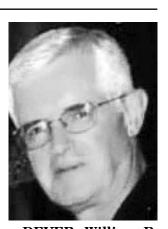
Lodge Inc. AF & AM

Boston, MA. He ran for State Representative. He did not win but enjoyed the experience. Jesse and Helen sold the business in 2005. They retired to Myrtle Beach, SC. Jesse is survived by his daughter Sharon P. Corbin, son Curtis Sanders, granddaughter Natasha L. Corbin, brothers Thomas Floyd, David M. Floyd, Ernie Floyd, Dana P. Floyd, Edward Ward; sisters Patricia Floyd, Lucille Ward. Jesse is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and grandchildren. Jesse is predeceased by Helen Corbin, Stafford L. Ward, Rosetta Corbin Floyd, William (Henry) Corbin, Timothy Corbin.



COUGHLIN, Robert M. "Bobby" Dorchester. Survived by his former spouse Lisa MacGillivray Coughlin and their two sons Ryan Patrick and Brendan Robert. Son of the late William J. and Mary A. (Cusack) Coughlin. Brother of Eileen Howe of MD, Eddie Coughlin and his wife Lillian of FL, and the late William B. Coughlin and Diane Weir. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends. mechanical Retired foreman at Amtrak after 33 years. Graduate of UMass Boston with a degree in constitutional law. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. Donations in Bobby's memory can be made to the American

Heart Association. DAVIS, Rosemary Frances (Davis), 93. Born in Boston, Rosemary was the eldest of six children of the late Michael Joseph "Joe" Davis and Florence (Campbell). A graduate of st. Gregory High school, Rosemary went on to have a long and successful career with the New England Telephone Co. Rosemary was the wife of the late Forrest M. Davis, and the sister of the late Alice Welch (Thomas), Florence Owens (Edward). Margaret Popsie. Joseph Davis (Delores) and Francis Davis (Roberta). Rosemary is survived by many nieces and nephews. A memorial mass in celebration of Rosemary's life is planned for a future date. Expressions of sympathy may be made in Rosemary's memory to the American Cancer Society, 3 Speen Street, Suite 250, Framingham, MA 01701.



DEVER, William P. "Diz" of Dorchester, 76. Husband of Kathleen T. (Healy) Dever. Father of Timothy P. and his wife Randi, Brendan P. and his wife Eileen, Sheila M. Spear and her husband Bryan, and the late Richard T. Dever. Grandfather of 6. Brother of Mary Corkery, Richard Dever, Ann McDonald, and Margaret Fujii. Son of the late Celia and Dennis Diver of Donegal, Ireland. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Bill was a highly decorated Vietnam combat veteran serving as 1st Lieutenant Officer in the USMC and was the recipient of the Purple Heart Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat Valor, along with numerous others. He was a graduate of B.C. High class of 1961 and Boston State College class of 1965. Retired longtime Probation Officer in both Framingham and Roxbury District Courts. Member of the International Longshoremen's Association Local #805. Proud player and coach of 25 years in the Boston Park League Football Program for the Lyons Club and Eddie's Giants. Longtime member of St. Peter's Parish and proud coach of St. Peter's Little League. A Celebration of Life Service to honor Bill will be announced at later date. Donations may be made in memory of Bill to the Ricky Dever Scholarship Fund, 157 Livoli Ave., Braintree, MA 02184.



DOWLING, Rosemary J. (Crowley) of Savin Hill, 91. Wife of the late John "Ben" Rosemary Dowling. was a retired mail clerk for the U.S. Postal service for 30 years. She received a bachelor's degree from Harvard University at the age of 79 years. Rosemary was the mother of Rosemary and her husband Michael McCarthy of Duxbury, Margaret "Chickie" and her husband David Searles of Marshfield, John B.,

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"Betty," 96, of Stough-

ton, MA, originally from

Dorchester, from com-

plications due to the CO-

VID-19 virus. Born in

Cambridge, she was the

eldest child of Alexan-

der and Penelope (Sara-

kinis) Anagnos. She

was the wife of Nicholas

Kenis, and celebrated

28 years of marriage,

until the time of his

death in 1974. She was

a graduate of Dorches-

ter High for Girls and

the Burdett School of

Business.Mother of Alexander Kenis and his

wife Joyce of Waltham,

Dianne Bazarian and her husband David of

Brockton, grandmother

of 4, as well as great-

grandmother of 2. Pre-

deceased by her broth-

ers George and Nicholas

Anagnos, and survived

by her sister, Paraskev-

oula Elis of Abington, as

well as several cousins,

and many nieces and

nephews. A Celebra-

tion of her Life will take

place at a later date.

Donations in her mem-

ory may be made to the

Annunciation Greek Or-

thodox Church of Brock-

ton, 457 Oak Street,

KING, John W. of

Dorchester, formerly of

Stuart, FL, Plainville,

and Natick. He was

born in 1924 the son of

the late Joseph E. and Alice V. (Rennie) King.

John was predeceased by his brother Joseph

C. and his wife Frances

and sister Marie Madi-

son and her husband

Woodrow Madison, also

by her first husband,

Sam Cole. John was a

World War II Veteran

who enlisted in 1942

in the United States

Navy. Members of his

family include many

nieces and nephews.

The late Joseph C. King

II, Denise M. King of

Dorchester, William P.

King and his wife Helen

of Salem, James P. King

of Dorchester, Regina

M. King and her part-

ner Robert of Rockland,

Christine M. (King)

Brockton, MA 02301.

III and his wife Ellen Dowling of North Grafton, and Ralph and his wife Michelle Dowling of Stoneham. "Nana" of 11. Great-grandmother of 4. Sister of the late Frances Kovera, Peggy Knox, Ellen Ryan, Joan Flemming, and John Crowley. Survived by many nieces and nephews. Donations in Rose-

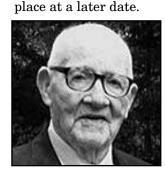
mary's memory may be

made to the American

Cancer Society, cancer.

org. A celebration of

rosemary's life will take



EARLEY, Thomas P. of Dorchester, 93. He was born in County Leitrim, Ireland. Son of the late Catherine and John Early. Husband of the late Sarah Josephine (Cooke) Earley. Brother of Elsie (Earley) Taylor of County Leitrim, Ireland, the late John Early of Medway, and Michael Earley of County Leitrim, Ireland. Thomas is survived by many nieces and nephews. Longtime friend and companion of the late Marilyn Stanton of Waltham. Thomas was a veteran of the US Army, serving in Korean War. Once returning home, he spent his career, at the Continental Baking Company (Wonder-Bread Division). Tom was a longtime resident of Dorchester. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Donations may be made in Thomas' name to NPH USA Irish Hearts for Orphans https://nphusa.org/irish-hearts-donation/



ERNSTS, Ilga of Weymouth, formerly of Dorchester and born in Riga, Latvia. Wife of the late Alexander Ernsts. Mother of Ramona I. Page and her husband Robert of Quincy, and Alfred A. Ernsts and his wife Colleen of Weymouth. Grandmother of 3. Great-grandmother of 2. Sister of the late Zigrid Apse. Due to the current health crisis, visitation and services will remain private. A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date. Donations may be made in Ilga's memory to the Alzheimer's Association.

FRANCIS, Donald R., 80, of Norton, formerly of Dedham. Husband of Karen L.

(Sabin) Francis. Father of Robert J. Francis and his wife Pamela of Stoughton, Christopher A. Francis and his wife Carol of Middleboro, Matthew J. Francis and his girlfriend Kristen of Abington and the late James L. Francis, who is survived by his wife Julianne of Gardner. **Brother of Mary Conkey** of Weymouth and the late John "Jack" Francis and William Francis. Also survived by 7 grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and was the son-in-law of James and Mary Sabin of Hanover. Those wishing, may remember Donald with a donation in his memory made to the charity of one's choice.

HOUGHTALING, Glen L. of Malden, 89. Companion of Betty Boysen of Malden. Former husband of the late Anna Houghtaling, and the late Joan Houghtaling. Father of Carol Houghtaling of Dorchester, Mary Courtney and her husband Brian of Stoughton, Joan Mullane of Salisbury, Donald Houghtaling of TX, Glen L. Houghtaling Jr. of NH, and the late Beth Houghtaling, and Peter Houghtaling. Friend of Linda Perperian and her companion Richard D'Addario of Saugus. Also survived by many grandchildren. and great-grandchildren. Services to honor and remember Glen's life will be held privately. Late US Navy veteran, Korean War.



JOHNSON, Celestine was born in Summerton, South Carolina in 1953 to Elex V. Johnson and Gaynell Johnson (deceased). Vennie Johnson (step-mother, Celestine deceased). departed this life after a long illness.She was the seventh sibling out of ten. Celestine aka Sal-Soul graduated from Dorchester High School in 1972 and later was employed as an Administrative Assistant in Retail Business. Celestine leaves behind many to cherish her memory; these include her daughters, Valerie and Tina, grandsons Dashiel and Myles. Aunt Gussie, sisters Dorothy Allen (Charles), Edith Johnson-Lynch, Christilee, Jeanette, Pamela and Lisa Johnson. Geneva McElroy, and Alma R. Johnson, and brother Elex (Bubba) all deceased. She also leaves behind a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, great nieces and nephews and friends.

May 7, 2020

JOHNSON, Cynthia Valentia (Rose) was born in 1935, in Craighead Manchester. Jamaica to Iris Miller and Stanford Rose. She was the youngest of three children. Her mother Iris, later married Barry Green. She became part of a larger familv with several sisters and brothers. Cynthia moved to Kingston, Jamaica in her late teens.

JOHNSON,

ford, born in 1936 in

Tweedside Clarendon,

Jamaica to Estelle and

Ivan Johnson. Clasford

(Vernon) was the sec-

ond eldest of his four-

teen brothers and sis-

ters. Clasford moved to

Kingston at the age of 19

where he later met Cyn-

Clas-

thia Rose. The two wed in 1962. Between 1955 and 1965 Cynthia and Clasford had 5 children. Janet, Howard, Andora, Robert, and Denniston. Their strength and deenabled termination them to arrange the departure of the family from Jamaica, with the firstborn Janet, to the UK in 1969: Then herself to the USA in 1970 on a work visa. Clasford and the rest of the family arrived in the USA between 1971-1972. For many years Clasford worked as an auto-repairman while Cynthia worked as a seamstress for Jewish Memorial Hospital and Rehabilitation Center. Cynthia was a dedicated parishioner of Dorchester Temple Baptist Church, currently known as Global Ministries Christian Church. Together, Cynthia and Clasford saved and bought their first home in Dorchester in 1973 where they continued to raise their family. Together in life and together in the arms of God, they leave behind their children: Janet Humphries, Andora Monteiro. Robert Johnson, and Denniston Johnson. 12 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great-grandchild and extended family and many friends. Their union remained in life and in passing; departing this earth within 5 days of each other, after

58 years of marriage. KENIS, Bessie A.

TEVNAN|TEVNAN

15 Broad Street Boston, MA 02109

415 Neponset Avenue Dorchester, MA 02124 617-423-4100 | 617-265-4100

> Attorneys at Law www.tevnan.com

Thompson and her husband John of Dorchester, John F. King and his wife Jane of San Antonio, TX, Robert D. King and his wife Sheila of Braintree. Janette Villemaire of Merrimack, N.H., and Sandy Cole-Brown and Kevin Brown of Sanford, N.C. Also many great nieces and nephews. Remembrances may be made in John's name to the



USO, uso.org/donate. LOGAN, George Francis formerly of Dorchester and resident of Sarasota, FL and Pocasset. He leaves his wife of 20 years, Adele (Bornstein) Emanuel-Logan. He is survived by his sons, John M. Logan of Boston and Michael J. Logan and his wife Jonna of Belmont. He leaves behind 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He was the stepfather to the late Michael Emanuel of Randolph. He was the son of the late John and Celia Logan of Donegal, Ireland. He was the brother of the late Pfc John J. Logan, his late sister Mary B. Donovan of Weymouth, his late brother James M. Logan of Harwich and leaves behind his sister Ann P. Demille and her husband William Demille of Abington. Donations may be made to the covid-19 relief fund at info@macovid19relieffund.org or to the alzheimers organization at act.Alz.org. A celebration of life will take place at a later date.



LOMOND, Mark G. of Dorchester, as a result of complications of covid-19. He was the husband of Patricia (Edwards), father of Leah of Dorchester, Brittney of Denver, and Courtney Fain and her husband Sebastian of New York City, and papa of 2. He is also survived by his sister Annette Rankin and her husband Steve (Holbrook), brother Brian Lomond (Hyde Park), and his many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Clare Lomond, and siblings Barry Lomond, Andrea Lomond, and Diane Hayes. Due to the current public health crisis which took his life, a celebration of life will take place at a later date. In honor of Mark, his family requests that you consider a donation in his memory to the cardiovascular center at Boston Medical Center. (Continued on page 16)



Cedar Grove Cemetery

A quiet place on the banks of the Neponset River

Chapel available for: Weddings, memorial services, and celebratory masses. Indoor Services available for winter burials. Greenhouse on premises for fresh flowers. Columbarium for cremated remains. Plant a tree program.

920 Adams St., Dorchester, MA 02124 • 617-825-1360 Consecrated in 1868. Non-Sectarian.



(Continued from page 15) away in 1988. Claire



McBRINE, Claire R. (Lindsay) of West Roxbury, 90, due complications from Covid-19. Claire was predeceased by her husband of 62 years Richard (Red) McBrine and they were the parents of Nancy M. Sheehan and her husband Mark (deceased) of Plymouth and Jeanne Strickland and her husband Jack of West Roxbury. She was especially close with her older sister, Marian, who passed

cherished $_{
m her}$ four grandsons: Gary (Kristina) Sheehan of West Michael Barnstable, (Stephanie) Sheehan of Wilmington, NC, Kevin (Katie) Sheehan of Reno, NV and Bryan (fiancé Devon) Strickland of Charlestown, in addition to her granddaughter, Kelly Strickland of Dorchester. She was the great-grandmother of five and was looking forward to the births of two more great-grandchildren in July. She leaves behind her two nieces Jody Dirienzo of Franklin and Diane Martin of Medfield and their families, as well as many other relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her parents Charles and Emma

(Patterson) Lindsay. Due to current restrictions, a Celebration of Claire's Life will be announced at a later date. Donations in Claire's memory can be made to Sophia Snow House, 1215Inc., Centre Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132.



McCARTHY, Frances E. (Chisholm) of Dorchester, 83, former-

ly of Lynnfield. Born in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada, she was the ninth child of Jack and Sadie Chisholm. She had seven sisters (Isabel, Ruth, Jean, Ann, Mary, Elizabeth and Mora) and five brothers (John, Leo, Lauchie, Joe, and Drew). Her father ran the town shoe store on Main Street, and her mother ran the household on Highland Drive and took care of the children. Wife of the late Francis J. McCarthy. Mother of Eileen Cakouros of Milton, Edward McCarthy of NJ and Andrew McCarthy of Dorchester. Private Funeral Services were held. A donation in the memory of Frances Mc-Carthy may be made to the following organizations: Lynnfield Public Library, 18 Summer St. Lynnfield, MA 01940 (https://www.lynnfieldlibrary.org/) or to Thacher Island Association, P.O. Box 73, Rock-



port, MA 01966, (https://

thacherisland.org/). A

memorial service to cel-

ebrate Frances' life will

be organized at a later

date when it is safe to

ROCHE, Esther Katherine (Bell), 70,

of Weymouth, formerly of Dorchester and Braintree. Born and raised in Braintree, Esther was a 1967 graduate of Braintree High School. Esther and her husband Dan raised their children in Dorchester, where they lived for over 20 years. She was an active member of the local community, most notably volunteering countless hours for St. Ann's Colorguard, an organization that brought her great joy. In addition to her volunteer work, she was also employed by the Boston Home as an office manager, and she continued to champion their mission long after she retired. Esther was the wife of Daniel Roche, Sr. for nearly forty years, the mother of Amanda (Roche) Fuller and her husband Chris of Weymouth, Daniel Roche, Jr. and his wife Nicole of Dorchester, and Michael Roche, and the Nana of Caitlyn and Brendan Fuller. She was the daughter of late Norman and Esther (Clancy) Bell of Braintree, and sister to the late John (Jack) Bell of Braintree and the late Norman Bell of Bridgewater. Although we cannot gather together with Esther's family at this time, friends may still offer their support by visiting Keohane. com and sharing a special memory or message. A donation can be made in her honor to: The Boston Home, 2049 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester, MA 02124 or the boston home.

WARREN, Walter F. retired detective B.P.D.,



Of Dorchester, from coronavirus. Walter was born in Somerville. He served as a sergeant in the US Marine Corp during the Korean War returning home to work as a longshoreman. He later became a Boston police officer retiring as a Boston Police detective after serving for 33 years. He also served as a member of the Boston Police Honor Guard. He received many awards for his acts of heroism and extraordinary performance as a police officer. Walter was predeceased by his parents Jeremiah and Helen of Somerville, brothers Joseph, Robert and Jeremiah and sister $Helen.\,Walter \, is \, survived$ by his wife of 63 years Ann M. (Griffin) Warren of Dorchester. Father of Gerald Warren and wife Charlene (Wilkinson) of Dorchester, Christopher Warren of Dorchester, Joyce (Warren) Delano and husband Joseph of Weymouth and the late Mary Warren of Dorchester. He will be greatly missed by his six grandchildren and the many nieces, nephews, friends and others who had the pleasure of knowing him. There will be a celebration of life at a later date to honor Walter the gentle giant: husband, father, hero.

WATER MAIN FLUSHING NOTICE



Boston Water and Sewer Commission will begin Water Main Flushing in parts of South Dorchester starting on May 10 through August 26, 2020.

The boundaries for the areas being flushed are: Dudley Street to the north, Neponset River to the south, I-93/Neponset River to the East and Talbot Ave/Blue Hill Ave to the west.

The purpose of the Water Main Flushing Program is to improve drinking water quality for residents and businesses.

Water Main flushing will take place between the hours of 10:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M.

The flushing process may cause discolored water and a reduction in pressure. The discoloration of the water will be temporary and is not harmful. If the condition persists, please contact BWSC's 24 Hour Service at (617) 989-7000.

BWSC appreciates your patience as we work to improve the quality of drinking water we will provide to the residents and businesses of Boston.

If you have any questions, contact BWSC's Night Operations Manager at (617) 989-7000 or visit our website at www.bwsc.org.

Boston Water and Sewer Commission

980 Harrison Avenue Boston, MA 02119

Emergency hotline: 617-989-7000

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT FOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 617-788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

IN THE MATTER OF: ALVIN EARL WILLIAMS A Petiition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Alvin Earl Williams of Dorchester, MA requesting that the court enter a

Docket No. SU20C0110CA

Decree changing their name to:

Alvin Earl Dubose IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the netition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/15/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J

DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 10, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU19D2505DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
MEGHAN A. KUECKER

SHANE P. BOGUE To the Defendant Shane P. Bogue: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown
The Complaint is on file at the Court

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411. You are hereby summoned and re-

quired to serve upon: David Scott Faye, Esq., David S. Faye & Associates, 70 Westview St., Suite 220, Lexington, MA 02421 your answer, if any, on or before **06/11/2020**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, ir the office of the Register of this Court. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, Firs Justice of this Court.

Date: April 21, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: May 7, 2020

COMMONWEALTH OF COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Docket No. SU20P0629EA ESTATE OF:

ROBERT M. WHEELER DATE OF DEATH: 02/14/2020 SUEFOLK DIVISION SUFFOLK DIVISION

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Clyde Wheeler of Pittsfield, NH, Clyde Wheeler of Pittsfield, NH have been nformally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve vithout surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but nterested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
Published: May 7, 2020

Maloney PROPERTIES: DND Income Restricted Rental Opportunity The Meeting House 233 Hancock Street, Boston, MA 02125

20 Income Restricted Rental Units								
# of Units	# of Bedrooms	AMI	Rent					
3	Studio	80%	\$1472					
4	1 Bedroom*	80%	\$1,569					
1	2 Bedroom	80%	\$1,874					
1	3 Bedroom	80%	\$2,155					
4	Studio	100%	\$1,984					
4	1 Bedroom	100%	\$2,125					
2	2 Bedroom	100%	\$2,550					
-			40.000					

mes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + AMI) + Maximum Incomes (set by DND + based on household size + AMI)

# of Bedrooms	Minimum for 80% AMI	Minimum for 100% AMI	Household size	Maximum for 80% AMI	Maximum for 100% AMI
studio	\$42,057	\$56,686	1	\$63,500	\$79,350
Studio			2	\$72,550	\$90,650
1-bedroom	\$44,829	\$60,714	3	\$81,600	\$102,000
1-peuroom			4	\$90,650	\$113,300
2-bedroom	\$53,543	\$72,857	5	\$97,950	\$122,400
2-bearoom			6	\$105,200	\$131,450
3-bedroom	\$61,571	\$84,171			

Minimum incomes do **not** apply to households receiving housing assistance such as Section 8, VASH, or MRVP

Maximum Asset Limits							
80% AMI	100% AMI						
\$75,000	\$100,000						
Does <u>not</u> include retirement. Does include Real Esta							

To complete the application online (recommended), please visit: www.MeetingHouseLottery.com
To have a hard copy of the application sent to your mailing address, please call: 781-992-5307

If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at 781-992-5307, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any guidance you might need to

Applications can be completed online by May 29, 2020

Completed printed, signed, apper applications can also be mailed to Maloney Properties

Postmarked no later than May 29, 2020

Maloney Properties, Inc.

Attention: 233 Hancock Street

27 Mica Lane, Wellesley MA 02481

- Selection by lottery. Asset, Use & Occupancy Restrictions apply.

 Neighborhood Diversity Preservation Preference applies to 50% of units

 To qualify applicants must like within a 7 mile radius of of 233 Hancock Street AND meet at least one other criteria

 For a list of qualified addresses and more on those criteria, please visit www.MeetingHouseLottery.com
- Preference for Households with at least one person per bedroom 2-person minimum requirement for the 3-bedroon

For more info or to make a request for reasonable accommodations, please call, Maloney Properties, Inc. at 781-992-5307 | US Relay 711 | Email:





THE REPORTER May 7, 2020 Page 17 dotnews.com



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



CONNECT THE DOT: BGCD Shout Out To Boston Police

Department: Like others in the Dorchester community, at BGCD we often look to the Boston Police Department to help keep us safe. We have been lucky enough to engage with many officers in fun and engaging ways. When BPD friends heard that some members were feeling scared because of the crisis, they stepped in to help! Officers helped us create a video for one young member; letting him know eventually everything will be okay. Officers like Stephanie O'Sullivan (pictured delivering a gift to a BGCD member) have the ability to relate to those going through hardships, showing compassion while still remaining professional. Taking a moment out of their day to make kids feel safe may not seem like a big deal to these officers, but it means the world to our kids and we appreciate it more than words can say!

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD Continues 8th Session of Friday Night "Grab & Go" Food Pick-**Up for Families in Need:** On Friday night, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester hosted our 8th "Grab & Go" Session for BGCD families in need during these times. Families were able to pick up bags of groceries at the Club. We would like to thank Coppersmith's, Metro **Boston Building Trades, Community** Servings, Boston Resiliency Fund, and Mayor Martin J. Walsh for supporting our COVID-19 Efforts.

Thank you to all of the friends and donors that have continuously reached out in support of BGCD. Your kindness and generosity have helped us continue our efforts of supporting our children and families. We could not do this without all of you. Stay home, stay safe, and stay healthy. We will be back together soon.



BGCD Continues our "DotTalks" Speaker Series with Bill Forry, Editor and Publisher of the Dorchester Reporter: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW: BGCD Continues "DotTalks" with Editor and Publisher of the **Dorchester Reporter: BGCD is** continuing our speaker series "Dot Talks," where BGCD members can be part of a panel and ask questions faceto-face with prominent people in our community. Our third guest was none other than Editor & Publisher of the Dorchester Reporter, Bill Forry. The Q & A session is now available to watch online, so please watch to

hear about his passion for BGCD, his favorite memories from the Reporter and much more. New episodes will air on our social channels Thursdays at 7 pm. In case you missed it, check out our first few

episodes which include Mayor Martin

J. Walsh and BPD Superintendent Nora

Baston on our Facebook and YouTube

pages. 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!

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150 Mt. Vernon Street, Dorchester, MA 02125



Sen. Collins: To prevent a tax on the poor, masks must be free

Last week Governor Charlie Baker set an order in place that would make face coverings or masks mandatory in public. This follows a series of recommendations from public health officials and experts, including Dorchester's Bill Walczak, about the impact their use would have on flattening the curve. The logic behind this policy is sound. Its social and economic ramifications, however, are not so simple.

Reports of corner stores across Boston selling masks for \$5 each reveal the other side of this mandate: without offering free masks to all residents, a policy of mandating masks does not affect everyone equally, and results in a de facto tax on the poor. For those with access and resources to personal protective equipment, this policy won't mean much of a change. But for low income residents and communities of color, it feels like more of the same. Not everyone can stitch or sew. Being punished or shamed for not having access to hard-to-get masks is unkind and unreasonable.

Thanks to many businesses, who without hesitation emptied their stocks of gloves and masks. I and some of my colleagues have been able to distribute critical PPE to our health centers and hospitals. Donations have enabled me and my staff to deliver over 30,000 masks to low income and public residents across some of the hardest hit communities including Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan and Hyde Park. I am proud of those efforts, but it is not a substitute for an equitable program to ensure access for all over the long-term.

Funding from the state DPH to the Boston Public Health Commissioner must be used to procure free masks for the public. The Mayor's Boston Resiliency Fund has provided PPE and resources for community health centers, hospitals, and nonprofits working with vulnerable communities, but they can't do it alone.

Currently, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is in charge of PPE procurement for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA's FY2020 Budget line item and operations are being financed through emergency state and federal funds. MEMA will also be submitting for federal reimbursement through FEMA and the Cares Act. FEMA's Major Disaster Declaration covers 75% of eligible expenses. MEMA is working on a waiver of the state and local match. If approved, 100% of eligible expenses would be covered.

MEMA funding should therefore enable the Massachusetts National Guard and local health boards such as the Boston Public Health Commission to distribute free masks to all residents across the Commonwealth who need them.

We cannot allow this pandemic to exacerbate the economic divide any further. Mandating use of PPE, without providing equal access to it, would create a new disparity. This de facto tax on the poor, would force people already on the margins to spend money at a premium on masks that would otherwise be used for food, medicine and other essentials. Let's lead with compassion, empathy, and understanding, and make sure that everyone in our communities, especially those most vulnerable, have all the basic resources they need.

> **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.



State House 24 Beacon Street Room 312-D Boston, MA, 02133 (617) 722-1150

Nick.Collins@masenate.gov

Bartender from Dot pours 'em out in "Cocktails for a Cause' fundraiser

REPORTER STAFF

A local bartender was named one of the final four contestants in a nationwide "Cocktails for a Cause" fundraiser started in support of currently laid-off restaurant workers. Ryan McHugh, a Codman Square resident who was tending bar at Grill 23 & Bar in the Back Bay before the coronavirus crisis upended barstools across the city, advanced to round six of a bracket-style regional tournament that featured roughly 100 bartenders from all over the country before being eliminated in the semifinals of the competition last Saturday.

Ghost Tequila, the brand behind the contest, is contributing \$1

for every vote cast in the competition to the Restaurant Workers' **Community Foundation** COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund. So far, the initiative has raised more than \$15,000.

Chris Moran, the South Boston-based founder and CEO of Ghost Tequila, told the Reporter that his own experience prompted him to do something to help out.

"I started as a bartender and I launched the brand as a bartender," he said. "We're not a multimillion dollar company, so we don't have a ton of dough, but we still wanted to figure out what we can do to help."

The contest challenges participants to use their creativity and film themselves crafting a cocktail

using Ghost Tequila and random ingredients they find in their house. For the first round of the contest, McHugh whipped up a concoction he called "My Happy Place," using Ghost Tequila, a can of cream of coconut that "had been sitting in [his] cupboard for two years," a dash of habanero hot sauce that he and his wife had brought back from their honeymoon in Belize, and a paprika and salt rim.

"I called it 'My Happy Place' because it was tropical and it reminded me of our honeymoon," he explained. His round three cocktail, "The Haunted Triple Deckah," was a nod to Dorchester's simple but sturdy architecture. McHugh said he had fun with



the contest, but is eager to get back to serving up drinks in person. "It's tough because what we do as bartenders, you know, we are the relief for other people. They come to a bar for a celebration, to get away. Right now we can't provide that, and that's strange."

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Thank You to all the local Heroes

In our 50-plus years in Dorchester, nothing quite compares to what we're facing today.

We're all adapting to the new realities of COVID-19.

But, while most of us have been asked to stay home. Others have been asked to step up.

Medical professionals, first responders, transit and food-service workers, and many others. They are our friends and family on the front lines.

Sully Mac joins in thanking these everyday heroes of Dorchester.

We've never been prouder to be your neighbor.

