

# Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢

## Church leaders ask for merger of St. Ann-St. Brendan parishes

By BILL FORRY  
EDITOR

Warning that "time is running out" as they face an "insurmountable debt," two Catholic priests who lead St. Brendan and St. Ann parishes have asked Cardinal Sean O'Malley to merge the two Neponset parishes, while pre-

serving both churches, under a new name.

In a letter dated May 10, Fr. Brian Clary and Fr. Bob Connors wrote that "we are asking the Cardinal to merge St. Ann and St. Brendan Parishes into one new parish retaining the two worship sites."

"This letter is to inform you

that we are in a high-risk financial situation threatening our sustainability and causing us to make a difficult decision regarding the relationship between the two parishes – the same challenge being faced by many parishes in the Archdiocese," Clary and Connors wrote. "For the future of the



St. Ann Church on Neponset Avenue, left, and St. Brendan on Gallivan Boulevard.



Catholic presence in the area this action must be taken.

There have been clear warning signs that such a merger

might be inevitable. Clary and Connors have worked with lay leaders over the past two

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5th Suffolk Rep. Liz Miranda, shown above with her parents Alberto Pires and Maria Miranda Pires, is recovering from COVID-19. Her father was hospitalized, but is on the mend, along with other members of her family who were also infected. Photo courtesy Rep. Miranda

## Rep. Miranda talks of her bout with the virus; 15 in family were infected

Community testing a must, she says

By KATIE TROJANO  
REPORTER STAFF

State Rep. Liz Miranda is on the mend after testing positive for COVID-19 on May 1. The 39-year-old lawmaker, who has represented the 5th Suffolk District since Jan. 2019, talked to the *Reporter* this week about her experience with the virus, health disparities in Roxbury and Dorchester, and the importance of community testing.

Of the 20 of her family members who have been tested, 15 tested positive for the coronavirus, she said. In the

two weeks after her diagnosis, Miranda said, she had some scary days, but feels that she is "on the upswing. I'm feeling much, much, better."

Most of her family who came down with the disease are also recovering well, she added. "My father is home out of the hospital, and back as close to normal as possible. We're taking it day by day and following protocols. Thankfully, pretty much all of us are on the upswing. I've checked in daily, and only about two family members are still at the point where they're experiencing

some body aches or fever."

In March, while she was working to support residents during the state of emergency, some of her family members began experiencing illness, Miranda said. Her father and grandmother were both sick, but tested negative for the virus. Shortly after returning home from the hospital, her grandmother, 85-year-old Maria Alves Miranda, fell ill and was given hospice care. She died on April 17.

"As a state rep, I was working hard every day, mostly dealing with unemployment issues, SNAP benefits, and

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## Walsh says Boston will move slowly as it begins reopening

By STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE

With the state's economy beginning to wake up on Tuesday, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh stressed the importance of moving slowly in the capital, stating that he has no plans right now to lift the city's curfew and that he worries that allowing offices to reopen at a quarter of normal capacity might be "too much" to start.

The mayor also outlined a more deliberate approach to resuming construction activities, and said the city was working on a plan that could be ready in the next week or two revolving around outdoor

dining once restaurants are allowed to reopen.

Walsh spoke outside City Hall on Tuesday for the first time since Gov. Charlie Baker on Monday detailed his four-phase strategy to reopen the Massachusetts economy after two months of being shut down due to fears over the spread of COVID-19. The mayor said he thought Baker took a "thoughtful approach" but differed with the governor over the reopening of offices downtown.

Baker said offices can bring 25 percent of their workforce back starting next Monday evening. (Continued on page 16)

## Is keeping seniors locked in the best that society can do?

By BILL WALCZAK  
REPORTER CONTRIBUTOR

Hints on how the governor was going to approach the "reopening" of the economy were mounting last week. On Thursday, a Boston Globe article by staff members Shirley Leung and Larry Edelman noted that "a growing number of scientists, economists, and business leaders" have come up with reopening strategies balancing health and economic needs that include "maintain[ing] a stay-at-home advisory for seniors."

The article continued: "A group of MIT economists" looked at the "stark choice between saving lives and saving the economy," and concluded that "combining a protective lockdown of those 65 and older with lesser restrictions on younger adults could

(Continued on page 9)

## There is relief, confusion, and disappointment as business owners react to Baker's reopening plan

By ADRIAN MA  
WBUR REPORTER

Eight weeks after the state first ordered the shutdown of all non-essential businesses to slow the spread of the coronavirus, the governor on

Monday released a timeline for gradually reopening over the coming weeks. Among small local small business owners, it was an announcement that was greeted with a mix of relief, cautious opti-

mism, confusion, and disappointment.

Myriame Pierre, co-owner of Unique Cuts in Lower Mills, was surprised to learn that barbershops and salons would be included in Phase

1 of the state's four-phase reopening plan.

"Working so close to people and the body-to-body contact," she said, "I did not think we would go under the first round."

(Continued on page 18)



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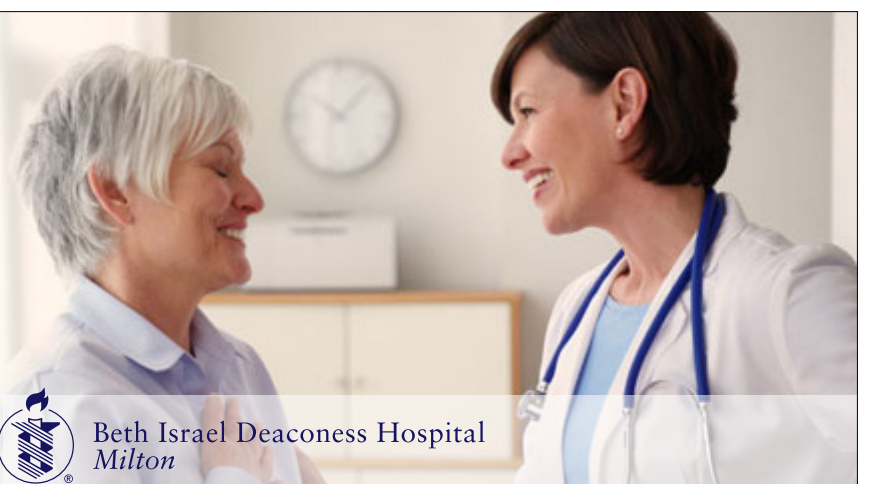






Photo courtesy Chris Stockbridge

## Mike ‘Backin’ Mackan is home

Mike Mackan, who battled COVID-19 for weeks and was on a ventilator for part of his bout with the illness, was released from the hospital last Saturday and returned to his Lower Mills home and his wife, Joyce, shown above driving him home. That day, a parade of well-wishers organized by the Lower Mills Civic Association drove by his Bearse Avenue house to welcome Mackan back to the neighborhood. Many of the signs referred to Mike’s campaign slogan from past bids for political office: “I’m Backin’ Mackan.” His brother Chris Stockbridge and Mackan were both infected with the virus and lost their mother, Jo Spencer, to COVID-19 in April. Mackan’s symptoms became life-threatening and he was hospitalized and treated at St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center in Brighton. There, he was given a plasma donation from someone who recovered from COVID-19. Mackan credits that infusion with saving his life and hopes to donate his own blood to assist others battling the disease. He urges those who have had the illness and recovered to call the American Red Cross at 833-225-8017 to arrange for a donation.

– BILL FORRY

# A park, a playground, and a steeple among Dot projects to get CPA help

By KATIE TROJANO  
REPORTER STAFF

A new park next to Talbot Avenue station, a playground adjacent to the Henderson School, and extensive repairs to the steeple at Codman Square’s Second Church lead the latest round of Community Preservation Act grants awarded by the City of Boston.

A total of \$24.3 million in CPA funds was approved during a virtual hearing of the City Council’s Community Preservation Committee on May 5. In Dorchester, \$2.3 million will be distributed to support 40 applications, including six historic preservation and open space projects.

The largest sum – \$800,000 – is directed toward the construction of a new park on four parcels of open space on Norwell Street alongside the MBTA’s Talbot Avenue station on the Fairmount Line. The next largest figure— \$730,000— will support the building of a new, fully accessible playground and school yard at the lower campus of the Henderson Inclusion School (formerly the Woodrow Wilson

school) on Alicia Road in Dorchester.

The Second Church in Dorchester, built in 1806, will get \$400,000 to restore its steeple, which has been in worsening condition for decades. The church on Washington Street is one of the oldest wooden churches still standing in the city.

First Parish Dorchester on Meetinghouse Hill, which restored its steeple over the last decade, will also get \$20,000 in CPA money to remove and restore a Palladian window.

The Council panel recommended that CPA funds be used to support 40 projects across the city, including: \$15.7 million to support nine affordable housing projects; \$3.4 million for historic preservation; and \$5.1 million for the creation and preservation of recreational use and open space projects.

The open space targets include \$250,000 for the creation of a community garden at the Franklin Field Homes, and \$150,000 for a community garden in a now-vacant lot on Magnolia Street.



The Second Church of Dorchester in Codman Square will get \$400,000 in Community Preservation Act funds to help pay for repairs to its steeple, which dates to 1806. *Resonant Energy photo*

In Mattapan, CPA money will be used to transform a vacant corner lot into the Morton Street Community “food forest” with open space and a community farm. Funds will also go to transform the Chittick Elementary School playlot into a multi-purpose park that serves both the school and neighborhood.

“These historic preservation projects will help keep our communities connected to the rich histories of Dorchester and allow people to continue to gather and enjoy these places,” said Councillor Michael Flaherty, who chairs the committee that oversees the funding. “The open space projects will similarly provide the

community with places to gather, play, and connect with one another and nature.”

Added District 4 Councillor Andrea Campbell: “I am grateful to all the residents and organizations that submitted their creative ideas and am excited to join Councillor Flaherty in moving this next round of CPA projects forward, particularly those that will transform vacant lots in Dorchester and Mattapan into parks, community gardens, and other spaces for community use.”

In three rounds of CPA funding, more than \$67 million has been awarded to 131 projects spanning every neighborhood in Boston.

## Two dead in separate shootings

Two men were shot to death in Dorchester in the last week in separate incidents on Saturday and Monday.

Paul Richards, 56, of Dorchester, was found shot multiple times in the area of 45 Bellevue St. on Saturday just before 8 p.m. The victim later died at a local hospital. No arrests have been reported and Boston Police are asking anyone with information to contact detectives at 617-343-4470.

On Monday, a man was

shot to death at 45 Bernard St., near Browning Avenue, around noon-time. The victim’s name has not yet been released by Boston Police. Police say the man was pronounced dead at the scene.

Anybody with information can also call an anonymous tip line at (800) 494-TIPS or text TIP to CRIME (27463).

•••

A 46-year-old Dorchester man was arrested on gun charges last Saturday night after a violent

altercation on Hancock Street led police to his apartment. The suspect, Keith Howell, was one of four men who went to the hospital with knife wounds following a fight in the parking lot of the Fernandes liquor store around 8:45 p.m. on May 16. Police obtained a search warrant and went into his apartment at 69 Hancock St. where they reported finding three weapons. The cache included “a 5.56 caliber Bushmaster rifle with large capacity feeding

device, a .22 caliber Remington long rifle, a .32 caliber Cobra semi-automatic handgun and 42 rounds of 5.56 caliber ammunition.”

Boston Police later determined that the Bushmaster rifle had been reported stolen in New Hampshire. In addition to the illegal-ammunition charge, Howell now faces three counts of unlawful possession of a firearm, possession of a large capacity feeding device and receiving stolen property.

### May 21, 2020

Boys & Girls Club News .....	17	Dorchester Reporter (USPS 009-687)
Opinion/Editorial/Letters .....	8	Published Weekly Periodical postage paid at Boston, MA.
Business Directory .....	18	POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: 150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 120, Dorchester, MA 02125
Obituaries .....	14	Mail subscription rates \$50 per year, payable in advance. Make checks and money orders payable to The Dorchester Reporter and mail to: 150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 560, Dorchester, MA 02125
<b>Days Remaining Until</b>		<b>NEWS ROOM: (617) 436-1222</b>
Memorial Day .....	4	<b>ADVERTISING: (617) 436-1222</b>
Dorchester Day .....	17	<b>FAX PHONE: (617) 825-5516</b>
Father’s Day .....	24	<b>SUBSCRIPTIONS: (617) 436-1222</b>
Flag Day .....	31	
Independence Day .....	51	
Quadricentennial of Dot .....	3,772	

## UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Taste of Dorchester**, the neighborhood’s annual culinary celebration and fundraiser hosted by the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA), will take place in a virtual format on Thurs., May 28 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. In lieu of an in-person tasting event— which had been scheduled for April 30— Taste of Dorchester “At Home” will take place over Zoom and feature chef demonstrations, live interviews with special guests, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$25 per household, with 50 percent of all proceeds going to a Dorchester restaurant relief fund This year’s event will support a long list of local establishments including 50Kitchen, 224 Boston, American Provisions, Ashmont Grill, Bahn Mi Ba Le, Blarney Stone, Bobby Fish Market, Boston Harbor Distillery, The Bowery Bar, Bred, Chill on Park, Clarke’s Cakes and Cookies, Dorchester Brewing, DW Brewpub, El Barrio Mexican Grill, Family Affair Restaurant & Catering, Ghost Pepper Taco & Tequila Bar, Homestead Bakery & Cafe, Ice Creamsmith, The Industry, Irie Jamaican Style Restaurant, Lower Mills Tavern, Lucy’s American Tavern, McKenna’s Cafe, Muri’s Kitchen, Oasis Vegan Veggie Parlor, One Family Diner, Pat’s Pizza, Phillips Chocolates, Restaurante Cesaria, Shanti Indian Cuisine, Sweet Life Bakery and Cafe, Sweet Teez Bakery, Tavolo Ristorante, and Zia Gianna Caffè. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit mahahome.org/tasteofdorchester.

**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.; 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.

**Suspension of large events through Labor Day—** On May 8th, Mayor Walsh announced that parades and festivals will not take place in the City of Boston this summer,

up to and including Labor Day on Sept. 7, 2020. No permit will be issued “for events that bring crowds together in close contact, like a road race, concert, or flag raising,” he said. The Boston Symphony Orchestra will not be holding a live performance of the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular on July 4. Instead it will present, on television and online, A Boston Pops Salute to Our Heroes, in honor of front-line workers and all those who have lost their lives to the health crisis. City of Boston events that will move to a virtual option include the Donna Summer Disco and Gospelfest.

**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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# Crisis stirs officials, activists to discuss ‘safe streets’ hopes

By KATIE TROJANO  
REPORTER STAFF

Bostonians could soon see widened sidewalks and other traffic-calming changes in various neighborhoods with municipal officials and local legislators having serious discussions about how to implement a “safe streets” approach as businesses begin to reopen across the city.

Washington Street in Codman Square has already been identified as a suitable site for an early pilot program.

Possibilities for new installations were laid out last week (May 11) at a remote hearing held by At-large City Councillor Michelle Wu and District 9 Councillor Liz Breadon, who led their colleagues, city planners, Boston Transportation Department (BTD) staff, and community advocates in considering a number of options.

Jacob Wessel, director of the city’s Public Realm office, which has as its focus the “implementation of people-oriented interventions on streets and sidewalks,” outlined four strategies that the city is contemplating that would reallocate street space to expand sidewalks, eliminate push “beg-buttons” for pedestrian crossing signals, and ensure adequate

frequency of public transit so riders can physical distance on buses and trains.

Possibilities include “open curbs” in small business districts and downtown, which Wessel explained as “expanding what is typically a parking lane so that there’s extra space for people looking to enter businesses.” He identified Washington Street in Codman Square, Centre Street in Jamaica Plain, and Meridian Street in East Boston as potential program pilots.

The shared/slow streets model, which would develop routes for residents to use while socially distancing, could include simple barriers and traffic control signage in areas like some streets in Roxbury, north of Franklin Park.

“This type of approach is something that could be done in a lot of different neighborhoods, but it won’t allow for the same transportation access that cities with a grid system would have,” said Wessel.

A third option, he said, is pop-up bike lanes that would serve as core transportation avenues in areas that already have substantial bike corridors, like Commonwealth Ave., Malcolm X Blvd., and Columbus

Ave. in the South End.

“These provide key connections to job centers but also hospitals where many essential workers are travelling to today,” Wessel said.

A final option would see expanded bus stops and lanes for key routes, which would increase space for people waiting at bus stops by utilizing travel and parking lanes and bus priority to accommodate additional service. This model could be suitable for the Silver Line bus lane on Washington and Essex streets downtown, he said.

Added Vincent Gupta, the BTD’s director of planning: “First we have to think about the context of what the city is doing. We want to focus on public health, environmental benefits, and economic vitality and [ensure] that projects we do today line up with our future goals.”

Noting the obvious – that the city’s small businesses have taken a tremendous economic hit – Gupta said that the BYDF would assess how certain changes could work for them. He added that residents need more space to walk and exercise, and that seniors need safer walking spaces.

“As we move forward, he said, “we’ve adopted a

few approaches relative to how we are going to repurpose space that is available or currently underutilized.”

In a press conference last week, Mayor Martin Walsh spoke about the importance of making sure the city takes measures to provide residents enough space for social distancing.

“As we prepare for a phased reopening, we want to make sure that we have enough space for safe distancing,” he said. “We want to make sure our small businesses can get the support they

need, and we want to make sure everyone has safe and healthy transportation options.”

The mayor took to Twitter with his thoughts on the day of the council hearing, saying, among other things: “Expanding sidewalks in business districts could help with physical distancing, especially where people wait in line for businesses that are following new capacity guidelines.”

Jeff Speck, a city planner and principal at the urban design and consultancy firm Speck & Associates, provided some

context on best practices for rolling out similar “safe streets” programs to enable social distancing across the country.

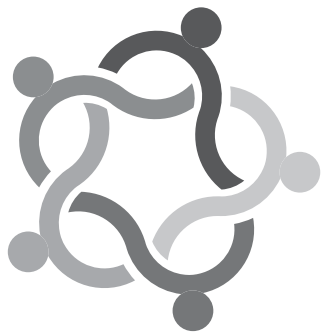
“A number of mayors around the world are talking about what we want our cities to look like when this is over. This is a conversation we need to have,” he said. “What we face at present is a physical and mental health crisis that is at its heart a spatial crisis. Put simply, the way that space has been allocated in our communities is increasing the spread of the disease.”

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# Testing and safety match up well when Walk Up Doc's on the job in Codman Sq.

By DANIEL SHEEHAN  
REPORTER STAFF

A new type of technology is helping physicians and health care providers at Codman Square Health Center (CSHC) test patients for COVID-19 infections more safely while lessening the pressure caused by shortages of personal protection equipment (PPE). The Walk Up Doc, a plexiglass structure akin to a telephone booth with holes cut out for arm-length rubber gloves, allows testers to administer tests for the virus without the need for masks or gowns.

The apparatus was donated to the health care center last Monday by Trigger House, a creative design company based in Portsmouth, NH, and joins a similar structure that the center acquired earlier this month with the help of Partners HealthCare. Currently, both are in use in the outdoor testing tent outside of Codman Square Health Center, where between 30 and 70 walk-in patients are being tested each day.

CSHC CEO Sandra Cotterell told the Reporter that in addition to preserving PPE resources, the booths provide a "critical" level of

comfort for healthcare providers. "When COVID hit, it was apparent right out of the gate that people were concerned with their own personal safety, especially with supplies and materials being limited and safety equipment being limited. So when an opportunity presented itself, it was a no brainer to look at this as a great way to make people feel safe."

Lindsay Soares White, a nurse practitioner and clinical lead for the community testing tent initiative at CSHC, said the new testing booth will save 3-6 masks and gowns per day, a big boon for efforts to preserve scarce stockpiles of PPE, particularly N-95 masks, which continue to be "challenging to come by."

"It completely encloses the tester on the sides that face the patient so any particles that are put into the air during the testing procedure, like coughing or sneezing, that tester is protected," explained Soares White. "Masks help filter those particles, and gowns help keep them off your clothes, but actual plastic booths completely block them, so it's a higher level of safety for the tester."

The Mass League of

Community Health Centers, known as Mass League or simply "The League," worked with Trigger House to arrange the placements of the donated Walk Up Docs, which are now in use in Codman Square as well as at a health center in Brockton. Jim Hunt, president and CEO of Mass League, said he was "impressed from the get-go" by the initiative and "social conscience" shown by the company.

Trigger House, a versatile creative design agency that builds everything from mall displays to concert rigs and television sets, has pivoted in recent weeks to making testing booths for those on the front lines of the pandemic. Hunt said he only found out about the company a week ago through a family friend.

"Their CEO, Josh Sheets, called me up and said they want to donate one of these Walk Up Docs to Codman, and that they're delivering it today. I told him we'd look at arranging transportation, delivery, et cetera, and he said, 'Oh, no, we'll do all that.' I came away from that conversation really impressed."

Hunt, a lifelong Dorchester resident,

added that he was further impressed after personally testing out the booth in Codman Square last Monday.

"It has an excellent intercom system that allows the health care provider to communicate with the patient safely, and it's very clear and understandable; I could hear people talking in the parking lot 15 feet away."

Testing booths like the ones created by Trigger House are quickly becoming commonplace; a similar model dubbed the "Hexapod" is currently in use at Mass General and Brigham and Women's testing centers, and Hunt says other companies around the country are looking into purchasing and developing models of their own. He sees the Walk Up Docs and other units becoming standard at health centers and hospitals as the healthcare world adjusts to the long-term reality of the pandemic era.

"This 'new normal' is going to have us doing testing for a long time; testing and retesting," said Hunt. "We may end up formulating partnerships with small businesses to have people with symptoms tested and people without symptoms on the



Dr. Stephen Tringale performing a test on a patient in the Walk Up Doc outside of Codman Square Health Center.

front lines tested and retested...I don't think we're back to normal in three months, so I could see uses of the booths being multifaceted in the long run for other types of treatment."

Hunt noted that due to the size of the booths, he wasn't sure if they would be "a right fit" for all health centers. Most currently in use are located in outside tented locations, like at Codman, or in designated spaces inside some of the more spacious centers.

However, Hunt said, Mass League is considering purchasing more booths from Trigger House and developing that relationship in the future. Ballparked at around \$5,000 each, the units are being made available for "by far the lowest price on the market," he added.

"My sense is that big companies that want to protect employees and big insurers who want to lower the total cost of care are going to have real interest in devices like this, and that eventually they'll be looked at for commercial use, as well."

The immediate impact at Codman Square Health Center is already being felt, noted Hunt, who suggested that the technology could help boost testing numbers in vulnerable communities like Dorchester.

"We worry about the equity equation a lot at The League, and in communities of color, communities where languages other than English are spoken, and communities where fear has people not wanting to go to hospitals, this could make a real impact."

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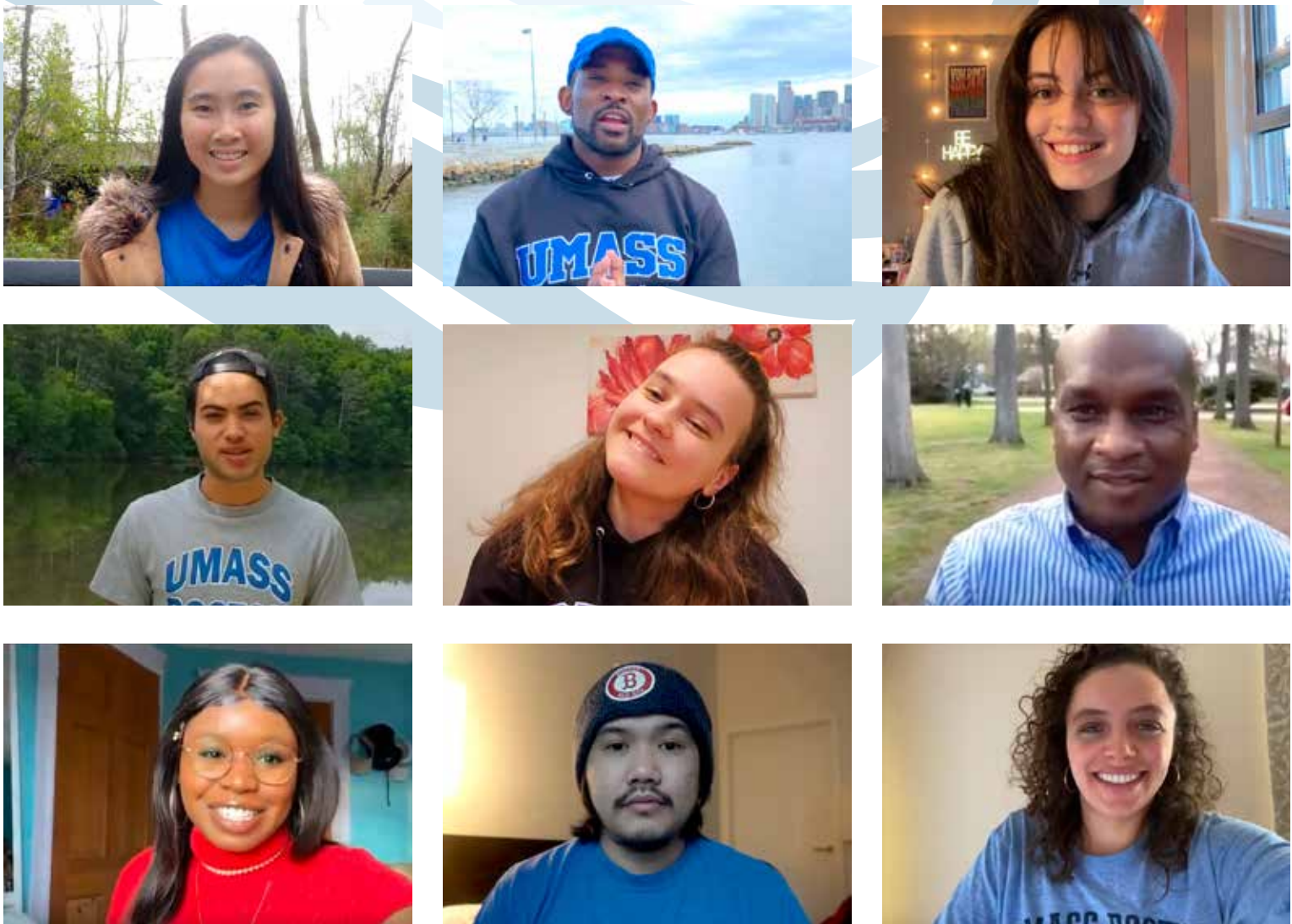
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## Contact tracers can close the gap on uninsured

By Senator Nick Collins

A 2019 study by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation identified that over 25,000 Bostonians and over 200,000 Massachusetts residents did not have health insurance. This was despite the 2006 universal health care law that was passed in Massachusetts making health care a right statewide and the 2009 affordable care act that brought universal health care access nationwide.



What was incredibly important as part of these laws were provisions that dropped the most significant barrier to accessing health care- pre-existing conditions. Prior to these laws, health insurance companies could deny coverage to someone based on a pre-existing condition like chronic illnesses such as asthma, diabetes, hypertension, and obesity. With higher rates of asthma and diabetes prevalent in communities of color, and the denial of those with preexisting conditions, access to health insurance was yet another barrier for communities of color. Think of health care redlining.

Despite these transformative laws being passed by the Romney and Obama Administrations, respectively, lack of access and mistrust in the system still persist. However this crisis presents us with an opportunity to remove mistrust, and bring families and individuals into the healthcare system by getting them insured while they're receiving COVID-19 testing.

The City of Boston's Food Access program has delivered food and meals to over 25,000 families weekly since the state of emergency began in early March. With correlation between food insecurity, poverty, and chronic illness. Data suggests correlation between these families and the 25,000 uninsured population in Boston. This makes closing the gap on the

uninsured even more critical as these families are more susceptible to contracting the coronavirus and with the presence of chronic illness more vulnerable to worst outcomes.

Since the city of Boston's Resiliency Fund has helped increase Covid-19 testing at community health centers across Boston, more accessing to testing is available. In addition, in partnership with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Partners in Health is leading a groundbreaking contact tracing initiative, with over 1,000 tracers who will follow up with patients who have tested positive with the goal of containing the virus. It is unprecedented. But in order to go a step even further, the Department of Public Health should authorize contact tracers to sign up the uninsured through MassHealth.

For the uninsured, like many of the patients being offered testing at Codman Square and Whittier Street Community Health Centers, and hopefully more broadly if the state adopts our call to allow the Massachusetts National Guard to blanket test senior, low income and public housing, taking the step to enroll into health insurance plan will change their interaction with healthcare for the better.

While dedicating our efforts to address this historic crisis, there is an opportunity to address other systemic issues like healthcare reform – by scaling up the system to cover everyone, cutting wasteful spending, managing chronic illness and shifting the focus to preventive care, which will improve future outcomes and ultimately lead to higher life expectancy. A reinvigorated commitment to expanding access to health insurance hopefully will prevent the disparities we are seeing play out the next time our society is faced with a public health crisis of epic proportion.

*State Senator Nick Collins represents the First Suffolk District which includes Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park and South Boston. He is Also the Vice Chair of Public Health in the Massachusetts Legislature.*

# CONGRATULATIONS Class of 2020



BC HIGH



Reporter's

People

News about people  
in and around our Neighborhoods

# BPS seniors surprised with full, four-year scholarships

**By KATIE TROJANO  
REPORTER STAFF**

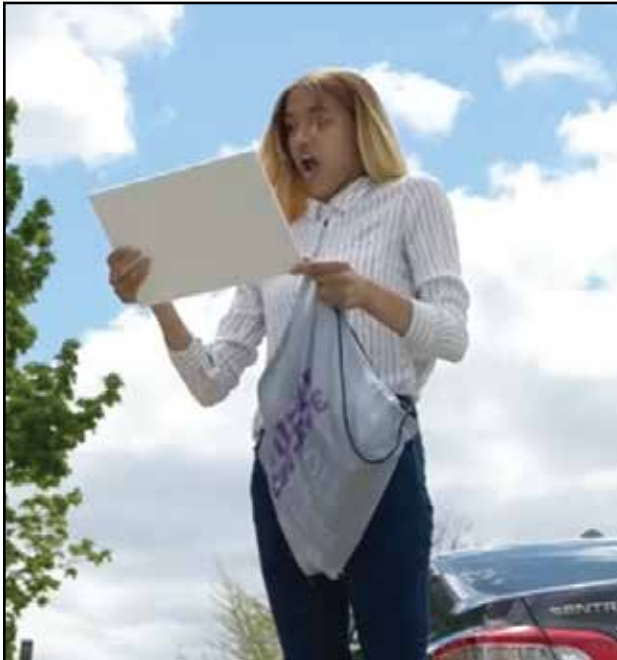
Two Boston Public School seniors who are active in the Scholar Athletes program were surprised with full four-year college scholarships last week. Ainsley Peña, a student at English High School in Jamaica Plain was awarded a scholarship to Curry College; and Janelys Delvalle, Snowden International High School senior, received a scholarship to Regis College.

Scholar Athletes, a non-profit launched by Suffolk's John Fish, supports academic achievement through athletics and college and workforce preparation. The program will pay the full four-year tuition cost for both students.

Peña earned a 3.02 cumulative GPA and played multiple sports at English High and was the only female to play on the football team. Delvalle earned a 3.6 cumulative GPA while playing varsity basketball and interning at a hospital. Both applied for the scholarships and were recommended by Scholar Athletes based on academic performance, participation, and financial need.

They learned the news last Tuesday during a Zoom call with Fish and Scholar Athletes interim director Cara Gould.

"Leave your video on, and go ahead outside for a surprise," Gould told Peña, who lives in Roxbury. Once outside, a drone approached her house from above, lowering a Curry College backpack. When she opened



**Above: Ainsley Peña, a student at English High School, learned about her full scholarship to Curry College from Scholar Athletes last week via drone. Right: Janelys Delvalle**

the backpack, she found a letter detailing her four-year scholarship to Curry College.

"Ainsley, I just want to congratulate you," John Fish said. "When I think about the American dream, I think about people really believing in themselves and having an opportunity, and you've taken full advantage of that opportunity. You should be very well congratulated. As an ex-football player, I really admired it when I heard you were playing football for English."

Caitlin Murphy, a Dorchester resident and headmaster at English High School, called Ainsley "an absolutely incredible young woman."

"When she approached me last year about go-



ing out for the football team — to be the first female football player that we've ever had at English High School—we knew that she would be not only accepted by her teammates but also celebrated because she gives 100 percent of herself at all times. She inspires all of us."

"To everybody in the Scholar Athletes foundation, you should be so proud of yourselves. Thank you for what you do," said Ken Quigley, president of Curry College, who was also part of the presentation.

"Most importantly, Ainsley, thank you for who you're going to

become, what you'll do on our campus and the impact that you'll make."

Peña was shocked by the surprise — and a drive-by parade that followed it.

"I don't know how you all did it," she said. "This was a great set-up and a great surprise because I was never going to know," she said. "I'm speechless, I'm excited. This was definitely my number one choice school to go to. I really appreciate and value this, and I'm never going to forget it."

She added: "Thank you, this is going to be so much fun, and I can't wait to get on campus."

A few hours later, the Scholar Athletes team readied themselves for another surprise virtual scholarship announcement. Janelys Delvalle was waiting for what she thought would be an admissions interview with Laura Bertonazzi, dean of undergraduate enrollment and retention at Regis College.

"We are so impressed by your academic achievement and your passion about improving the world. We believe that you are exactly who the world needs now more than ever," said Bertonazzi. "On behalf of President [Antoinette] Toni Hayes and the entire Regis College community we are proud to award you with the 2020 Regis College Scholar Athletes Scholarship."

Added Bertonazzi: "There is no doubt in my mind that you are going to become a doctor but that you are going to make this world such

an amazing place. You are going to help those who need your level of expertise the most."

Gene Roundtree, headmaster at Snowden, said keeping the surprise under wraps was difficult, but worth it.

"We've been keeping this secret for a couple of weeks. I was so excited when I heard you'd been selected for this honor," said Roundtree, "Because it's been such a great honor to be your headmaster and to see your growth and development through academics, sports, and more."

Linda Dorcena Forry, a vice-president at Suffolk and board member of Scholar Athletes, also joined in to congratulate

Delvalle.

"Look at all the amazing teachers and support that you have at Snowden. It's incredible," said Forry. "We hope that you come back and speak to the students at Snowden and elevate them with the support and courage that you've had to get through to your senior year. The whole Scholar Athletes team is so proud of you."

Looking happy, shocked, and humbled, Delvalle gave thanks to her support system at Snowden and Scholar Athletes saying: "Thank you to the whole community and my teachers at Snowden, you really helped me a lot."



**Dorchester's Marquis Roderique, a sophomore at Anna Maria College, was named Most Valuable Player for his performance and leadership on the school's football team last year.**

## YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### John Danforth/ Maria Cummins House

The Rev. John Danforth House, built in 1712, was located on Bowdoin Street at the site now occupied by the St. Peter's parochial school building.

The Rev. John Danforth (1660-1730) graduated from Harvard College in 1677 and was ordained as minister of the First Church in Dorchester in 1681. He served 48 years, the longest tenure in the history of the Church, but as one local observer has suggested, "in all this time nothing of consequence occurred." In 1712 he gave up his right to live in the ministry house and built the house on Bowdoin Street, and lived there until his death in 1730.

In 1732 the house was converted to use as the Turk's Head Tavern. Stagecoaches from Boston and Roxbury stopped there. The coaches would stop again at Robinson's Tavern on Washington



Street before continuing along to the bridge at Lower Mills and on toward Plymouth.

In the 19th century the building was again a private home, and Judge David Cummins, who sat in the Court of Common Pleas in Norfolk County, and his daughter, Maria Cummins, lived here.

Born in Salem in 1827 to a family of some social standing and relative affluence, Maria Susanna Cummins moved, while still quite young, with her family to Dorchester, at

that time still a rural suburb separate from Boston. Her mother was the judge's third wife. He already had four children prior to this marriage, and three more followed Maria, making eight children in the family.

Maria attended Mrs. Charles Sedgwick's Young Ladies' School in Lenox, Massachusetts. Later, in 1854 when she was 27, she published "The Lamplighter," which sold 40,000 copies in the first month and 100,000 by the end of a year. It is

the story, as described in the Dictionary of American Biography, of a child lost in infancy, rescued from a cruel woman by an old lamplighter, adopted by a blind woman, and later discovered by her well-to-do father. It tells a woman's story: a young girl, without financial resources or family support, must find her own way. The plot focuses on the development and use of the main character's own talents, and the book is intended in this manner to be useful and instructive. The characters in the book are mainly people from the country who have come to Boston from small towns and farms of New England, a trend reflective of society at the time.

Maria became seriously ill ten years later and died in 1866 of abdominal disease. She wrote three other books: "Mabel Vaughan" (1857), "El Fureidis" (1860) and "Haunted Hearts" (1864). None of them achieved great success.

•••  
**Editor's Note:** The Dorchester Historical Society has a collection of bricks collected by Edward Huebener at the end of the 19th century. Huebener was a board member of the Society. The bricks have portraits of Dorchester buildings, and the story is that each brick came from the building whose portrait it carries.

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at [dorchestershistorical-society.org](http://dorchestershistorical-society.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.



Editorial

# To church or not? A mix of choices

The first phase of Gov. Charlie Baker’s statewide reopening protocols allows for houses of worship to open right away. But in Boston, that doesn’t mean that churches are ready — or willing — to swing open their doors. At least, not yet.

None of the Dorchester or Mattapan Catholic churches will open for Mass until Sat., May 30. “No one is prepared for this weekend,” said Fr. Jack Ahern of St. Gregory’s parish.

Deep cleaning the churches and implementing specific guidelines laid out by the archdiocese on Monday will require more planning, Ahern said. Also, there is concern that if one or two of the neighborhood’s Catholic churches were to open ahead of the others, it could lead to overcrowding. The governor’s order issued on Monday allows for only a 40 percent capacity.

At St. Brendan, the first Mass will be at 4 p.m. on May 30. At St. Ann, the first liturgy will be at 10:30 the next morning. In a letter to parishioners, the pastoral team asked for volunteers to help.

“Without enough volunteers to help at each liturgy with welcoming and cleaning after each Mass, we can’t have Mass. This is a time to step up and help everyone,” the team wrote.

Everyone, of course, will have to wear a mask. There will be no singing. Families can sit together, but parishioners are asked to “use the front seats first and fully, so we minimize the cleaning after Mass,” the team said, adding, “Communion will be unique and safe for all. Baskets at the entrance will be for your offertory. No collections will take place.”

Other congregations in the neighborhood are approaching the notion of re-opening with even more caution.

Bishop John Borders at Morningstar Baptist Church on Blue Hill Avenue, thinks it may be two to four weeks before the church is prepared to open its sanctuary. They will continue to worship online until then. Funerals, he thinks, will begin sooner.

“I plan on approaching this very thoroughly and gradually, because if we open up and one person is affected, I’m going to be devastated,” Borders said.

When regular services do resume, Borders has already decided to “recreate” the liturgical calendar that was missed in March, April and May — including Palm Sunday and Easter.

Rev. Terry Sweetser, interim minister at First Parish Dorchester on Meetinghouse Hill, said the parish intends to continue online worship this Sunday at 11 a.m. He referenced a comment from his colleague, Rev. Eric Cherry, saying he “speaks for me and many Unitarian Universalists” when he called the new Massachusetts guidelines for worship in congregations “perilous.”

“Though gathering physically is so very tempting, this won’t be like returning to what we all miss so much. And it is undoubtedly and unnecessarily dangerous to self, family, and neighbor,” said Cherry.

This position is most in harmony with that of your mayor. Boston is the third most densely populated major city in the US, Marty Walsh noted in a cautionary press conference on Tuesday. “So, we have unique concerns and situations that affect how we prepare and what we prepare for,” he said.

And for his part, he advised senior citizens not to attend church services in person — not yet. “I know that for many of you, your place of worship is the heart of your community, and you are missing it,” he said. “I want you to hold off going back to your services at this point.”

To pastors and other faith leaders, Walsh said: “I encourage you to take every precaution. If you have any doubts about the ability to re-open and maintain strict guidelines, I urge you not to.”

It’s sound advice.

-Bill Forry

## The Reporter

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# Confronting the other epidemic: Violence on the streets of our city

By Rep. Liz Miranda and Tina Chéry

Today, our community is gripped by the national emergency of COVID-19. There is no one the virus will not affect. Even those who are less likely to become ill are facing job loss, decreased access to basic life necessities, or the mental struggle of social isolation. The long-lasting trauma from this crisis may be immeasurable.

If these words sound familiar, it’s because they should. We use some of these same phrases to describe the grief and trauma left behind in the wake of another national emergency: epidemic levels of violence in our neighborhoods.

You never truly get over the sudden, violent death of someone you love. The grief ebbs and flows, but at its best, that grief becomes a driver for good during a time when everything feels awful. That motivation — that channeling of grief — is at the very heart of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. It drives us today as Survivors of Homicide Victims ourselves.

I, Liz, ran for state representative of the Fifth Suffolk district because of the murder of my youngest brother Michael, who was a random victim of violence in Boston’s club district. I became a community activist, determined to make sure that everyone knew that one loss is too many.

I, Tina, started the Peace Institute in 1993 after the murder of my 15-year-old son Louis, who got caught in crossfire on his way to a Teens Against Gang Violence meeting. We know this fight requires us to call out violence for what it is, a cyclical injustice and symptom of generational trauma, inequity, and poverty. We know the voices of victims deserve to be amplified.

A trademark of the work at the Peace Institute is the training provided, focused on creating a co-ordinated, consistent, and compassionate response in the aftermath of a homicide. Every agency in response — law enforcement and beyond — should be collaborating to ensure equitable and effective protocols. We must strengthen our survivors’ network and victim compensation, and foster cultural competence to help a diverse population, particularly in Boston.

The Peace Institute and the Legislature have worked to reach these goals together. We are grateful for the ongoing support from our legislators who

have shown the same passion for the work that we do in the name of our lost loved ones. Locally, the City of Boston is recognized for its innovative approach, developing a survivor-centered protocol based on best practices.

Over the last 25 years, the Peace Institute has become a changemaker in Boston, starting with the recognition of Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month (observed in Massachusetts from Nov. 20 to Dec. 20). We have provided grants for memorials for homicide victims, instituted a complete protocol with the City of Boston, and provided resources and support for families of victims that grow stronger in impact each year. This work locally has become a national model for other communities, which the Peace Institute will reach through our strategic growth plan to expand our programs and services nationwide.

The Peace Institute is a pioneer to the City of Boston through the many partnerships it holds with the Boston Police Department, Boston trauma hospitals, Neighborhood Trauma Team Network, and more. Our mission extends beyond Boston. We’ve worked and are continuing to work with providers and institutional stakeholders across the state to develop their own coordinated and consistent response to homicide.

Few can comprehend the aftermath of murder: the confusion, the anger, the deep sadness. The grief we feel drives us to make change.

Just 20 years ago, it was not unusual on the day their loved one was murdered for family members to walk out of a hospital with no resources or support system. Gun violence remains as prevalent today, growing to epidemic levels in the wake of mass shootings and gunfire in our own neighborhoods. But our response has evolved, bolstered by a new sense of humanity and compassion. Together, we seek to create a national movement of waging peace - a solution we can reach for the other epidemic we already face.

*Elizabeth “Liz” Miranda is the state representative for the Fifth Suffolk District. Her brother, Michael A. Miranda, was killed in 2017. Clementina “Tina” Chéry is the president and CEO of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Her son, Louis D. Brown, was killed in 1993.*

In Dorchester, similar factors are in play, giving the neighborhood one of the highest infection rates in Boston. Around one in three Dorchester residents are immigrants and 45 percent of the population is black. Many residents work low-wage essential jobs that can’t be done from home. Dorchester also has the highest asthma rate in Boston; the underlying condition increases the risk that the virus will be fatal. This combination of health, environmental, and economic vulnerabilities is foisting disproportionate loss onto black and brown communities — immigrant and non-immigrant — alike.

It’s a daunting picture, and a deeply unjust one. But it’s not one we have to accept, either. There’s a lot we can do right now to make sure that black, brown, and immigrant communities in Bristol, in Chelsea, right here in Dorchester, and throughout Massachusetts are safer and healthier, with the resources they need to care for themselves and their families.

We can pass a strong and substantial safety net by expanding benefits for housing and cash assistance and increasing funding for Lifeline — the program that provides free or low-cost data and phone service. We can institute state-level stimulus checks to get cash directly into the hands of those who need it most. We can release people who pose little to no threat to public safety from our jails and prisons. We can pass meaningful environmental justice legislation to clean up the toxic air in communities like Dorchester and Chelsea, where decades of accumulated air pollution are now linked to a higher risk of dying from COVID-19. And we can make drivers licenses available to all qualified state residents, regardless of immigrant status, so residents who have access to a car can get to and from their front-line service jobs, the doctor, and the grocery store without having to fear infection on public transit.

If we do these things — if we act swiftly and deliberately to tackle COVID-19 health disparities at their source — we will enable low-income families to be agents of solution in this crisis, rather than victims. And that, in turn, means a faster track to recovery for everyone.

*Sonia Chang-Díaz represents the Second Suffolk District in the state Senate.*



# Keeping seniors locked down? Is that the best we can do?

(Continued from page 1) decrease both deaths and economic harm.”

Then, on Saturday, an opinion piece offered to the Globe by two women who have been advising the governor on reopening strategies, Christopher Anderson, president of the Massachusetts High Technology Council, and Steve Pagliuca, co-chairman of Bain Capital and co-owner of the Boston Celtics, spoke of the “difficult decisions” that will need to be made to reopen the economy, by “do[ing] what’s doable and temper expectations on testing and vaccine development,” and that “current testing options are severely constrained, and the cost of deploying them at scale is prohibitive.”

For the past month, we’ve heard that massive testing is the only way out of a continuous cycle of caseload spikes followed by crackdowns. Countries that have put a lid on COVID-19 have done this. The effect is to allow residents of all ages in those countries to feel safe enough to re-engage with society.

But I guess our “growing number of scientists, economists, and business leaders” have come to the conclusion that massive testing isn’t possible to do in Massachusetts at this time. We need 6-to-7 times the number of daily tests that we’re currently doing to get to the minimum necessary for residents not to be driving blind. What happened to large-scale testing?

Here are the problems with reopening the state without massive, accurate testing:

- Studies indicate that as many as 25 percent of those with the virus are asymptomatic. We’re all at risk because a huge number of people who are carriers of the virus do not know it.
- We are nowhere near so-called herd immunity. An MGH/Boston Public Health Commission study suggests that 90 percent of Bostonians have not been exposed to the virus, and scientists believe that 50 percent to 70 percent exposure is necessary for herd immunity.
- We are still in the dark about the different manifestations of the coronavirus. People who did not have fevers and coughs were routinely prevented from being tested in March and April, but now we know that there are many other symptoms that indicate an infection, including loss of taste and smell, skin inflammations, and lower GI issues.
- We don’t have medical treatments that have been proven to work.
- Although there are hundreds of efforts to create a vaccine, it is unclear

whether there will be a vaccine in the next year, or ever, for that matter.

The governor has decided to reopen the economy in phases, with no universal testing, which he says is “constrained and cost prohibitive.” The plan is to test those with symptoms, those who have been in contact with people who have the virus but don’t have symptoms, those who work in fields that are in contact with people with COVID-19, and those in vulnerable populations.

While this is certainly a smarter way to restart the economy than the

“just reopen and see what happens” decisions by a number of governors, for those in risk categories (people of color, those over 60, those who are immune compromised), participating in the reopening will be a bit like stepping out into the square to see if the sniper is still in the nearby tower.

Which explains the recommendation by the MIT scientists to continue the stay-at-home/lockdown for seniors. Keep us in our houses and we won’t get the virus, and that will keep the death rate down. So much for our “golden years.”

We know that we’re likely to see more outbreaks of the virus, and we are fearful that the fall will be worse than this spring. South Korea, which had clamped a lid on the virus due to massive testing and contact tracing, told its people to go out and socialize. Four days later, Seoul shut down many of its socializing places after a new surge, and the country retrenched to a more gradual reopening.

The over-65 population

makes up a sizable part of the American populace – some 40 million, and millions of them are still in the workforce. Can the economy successfully reopen with many of those 40 million people missing from the effort?

We seniors may be declining, but to insinuate that we need to be segregated from the rest of society or we will go gentle into that good night is unwarranted and unnecessary.

Our federal govern-

ment found a trillion dollars to make rich people even richer via tax cuts, and hundreds of billions to bail out corporations harmed by the pandemic.

How about funding to create a coronavirus test that works, daily testing of those who are out in public, and a quarantining and contact tracing system so that all Americans, including seniors, are able to be safe enough to continue to be part of our society.

## 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](http://www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org)



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Manephon J. Vannasy-Daolusay  
Health Careers

Hamilton Varela  
Social Science

Melvyn Xavier Walker  
Broadcast Media Technology

Tyler E Washington  
Health Careers

Vera D Xavier  
Social Science

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

Feven Afera Adhana  
Biotechnology

Praise David Aiya  
Nursing

Omotoyosi R. Ajanaku  
Nursing

Hetsron Nepheg Alexandre  
Criminal Justice

Sylvia Alexis  
Early Childhood Education

Brittany M Appleberry  
Accounting

Nelson David Arias  
Radiologic Technology

Jennifer Augustin  
Early Childhood Education

Patricia Baker  
Early Childhood Education

Bria Baker  
Accounting

Aicha Baki  
Nursing

Princess Baptiste-Maloney  
Criminal Justice

Stephanie Barreau  
Business Management

Soraya Kimberly Beaubrun  
Nursing

Heika Lynn Bergmann  
Nursing

Kiana Marie Bishop-Londy  
Business Management

Suzanne Bordenave  
Nursing

Kimberly A. Bradshaw  
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Deaundra Broglin  
Early Childhood Education

Hayley Esther Calderon  
Criminal Justice

John Casilla Peguero  
Information System Technology

Daryl Dauphin  
Information System Technology

Olimpia F DeAndrade  
Nursing

Jimmy Dorielan  
Engineering

Shataura Jeanine Driver  
Early Childhood Education

Kammica Leonora Ellison  
Criminal Justice

Clive Morace Emmanuel  
Accounting

Yoelkin Fabian Pimentel  
Information System Technology

Nicole Marie Florence  
Criminal Justice

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Catherine Ambo Fomuki  
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Nursing

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Nursing

Lanisha Kenyetta Harrison  
Nursing

Kimberly Natasha Headley-Jeffrey  
Criminal Justice

Tasha T Hope  
Nursing

Minouche Jacques  
Nursing

Magdala M Jeannite  
Nursing

Samuel Barber Kanu  
Nursing

Claire Majorie LaBeach  
Nursing

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Diya Ortega  
Criminal Justice

Joao Manuel Pereira  
Criminal Justice

Liliana H Perez  
Nursing

Laura Marie Perez  
Information System Technology

Ashley Mone't Pope  
Early Childhood Education

Martin Ramos  
Early Childhood Education

Annemerline Ravix  
Nursing

Francelina Resende  
Nursing

Stephanie Resende  
Nursing

Nicole Rivera  
Early Childhood Education

Colin Ruggiero  
Nursing

Nato Rusia  
Nursing

Lauren E Rutkauskas  
Nursing

Mia Lamonte Sanders  
Criminal Justice

Christine L Silva  
Biotechnology

Tanisha Smith  
Criminal Justice

Robin ElizabethChaulk Smith  
Nursing

Yashene Souroy  
Nursing

Rhode St. Georges  
Radiologic Technology

Amanda Brooke Steinfeld  
Nursing

Sandi Sullivan  
Radiologic Technology

Hayley Sweeney  
Nursing

Kiona Thomas  
Criminal Justice

Kimberly Thomas  
Criminal Justice

Audrey M Thomas  
Criminal Justice

Jeriesha Tyler  
Nursing

Josue Viciere  
Nursing

Indea Washington  
Nursing

Scott Edward Winer  
Nursing

Ermias Woldeghiorghis  
Information System Technology

Ashley Nikita Young  
Early Childhood Education

CERTIFICATES

Rhyheemma Burns  
Licensed Practical Nursing

John Casilla Peguero  
nformation System Technology

Mercy Ukhah Enyong  
Licensed Practical Nursing

Audilia R. Fernandes-Depina  
Licensed Practical Nursing

Michael R. Joseph  
Accounting Certificate

Valentine Wanjama  
Licensed Practical Nursing

Meseret Woldeyes  
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<div><div>NEW 2020 Jeep Wrangler Sport JL 2 Door 4x4</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$31,250</div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-3,752</div><div>FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995</div><div>PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>\$179</div><div>ZERO DOWN LEASE:</div><div>PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>\$259</div><div>DISCOUNTS/ REBATE.....</div><div>4,252</div><div>Quirk Price</div><div>\$27,498</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>NEW 2019 Dodge Charger SXT AWD</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$39,785</div><div>REBATES.....-3,500</div><div>ASSOC OF REALTORS.....-500</div><div>FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500</div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-5,087</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>CONQUEST LEASE.....</div><div>-500</div><div>DISCOUNTS/ REBATES.....</div><div>-10,087</div><div>Quirk Price</div><div>\$29,698</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>NEW 2020 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$37,390</div><div>REBATE.....-3,000</div><div>CHRYSLER FINANCE BONUS.....-750</div><div>LEASE LOYALTY.....-500</div><div>ASSOC OF REALTORS.....-500</div><div>FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500</div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-2,642</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995</div><div>PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>\$199</div><div>ZERO DOWN LEASE:</div><div>PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>\$289</div><div>DISCOUNTS/ REBATE.....</div><div>7,892</div><div>Quirk Price</div><div>\$29,498</div></div></div></div>
<div><div>NEW 2020 Ram 1500 Classic Warlock Quad Cab 4x4</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$42,680</div><div>REBATES.....-6,250</div><div>CHRYSLER CAPITAL.....-1,000</div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-3,932</div><div>CONQUEST LEASE.....-500</div><div>ASSOC OF REALTORS.....-500</div><div>FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995</div><div>PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>\$69</div><div>ZERO DOWN LEASE:</div><div>PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>\$169</div><div>DISCOUNTS/ REBATE.....</div><div>12,682</div><div>Quirk Price</div><div>\$29,998</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>NEW 2020 Ram 1500 Big Horn Crew Cab 4x4</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$44,585</div><div>REBATES.....-5,000</div><div>FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500</div><div>CHRYSLER CAPITAL.....-500</div><div>ASSOC. OF REALTORS.....-500</div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-5,087</div><div>CONQUEST LEASE.....-500</div><div>TRUCK OWNER CONQUEST.....-1,000</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995</div><div>PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>\$149</div><div>ZERO DOWN LEASE:</div><div>PER MO. 42 MOS.*</div><div>\$249</div><div>DISCOUNTS/ REBATE.....</div><div>13,087</div><div>Quirk Price</div><div>\$31,498</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>NEW 2019 RAM 2500 BIG HORN CREW CAB CUMMINS DIESEL 4X4</div><div><div>MSRP.....\$64,850</div><div>REBATES.....-2,000</div><div>COMMERCIAL CONQUEST.....-500</div><div>QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-7,201</div><div>CONQUEST LEASE.....-500</div><div>FCA CONQUEST.....-500</div><div>FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500</div><div>ASSOC. OF REALTORS.....-500</div></div><div><div></div><div><div>DISCOUNTS/ REBATE.....</div><div>9,701</div><div>Quirk Price</div><div>\$54,879</div></div></div></div>

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# Harbor Health Services shifts focus to infected elders in need

**BY DANIEL SHEEHAN  
REPORTER STAFF**

For elderly COVID-19 patients who require specialized care, the transition out of in-hospital care can be filled with complexities and obstacles.

Upon being discharged, many encounter situations in which family members are sick or unable to care for them, while others find themselves not allowed to reenter their assisted living or nursing homes because they had tested positive for the virus.

With the aim of filling this gap in care, Harbor Health Services in Mattapan launched a new approach last week at its facility on Morton Street.

The 10-bed Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly Respite Center, which has admitted five patients since opening on May 11, will be a temporary home for patients as they fight the latter stages of the virus, explained Gretchen Reynard, senior vice president and executive director of the Harbor Health Elder Service Plan.

"It's generally for people that have been hospitalized and live at assisted living or nursing homes, and because they are COVID-positive, they don't have anywhere to go," said Reynard. "It made sense



**Gretchen Reynard, NP, executive director of Harbor Health Elder Service Plan.**

from a quality-of-care standpoint and a financial standpoint to open up our own facility and give them a place to stay until they're negative."

Reynard said the task of creating the new facility involved emptying out the facility's day



**Harbor Health Elder Service Plan's medical director Susan Hardy, MD and Mardi McMahon, RN, the clinical director.**

center and transforming it into the new space by bringing in hospital beds, building partitions to give each patient his or her own space, and sealing off the second floor to eliminate access to any other parts of the building.

The center also had to make adjustments in staffing to accommodate its 24/7 operation. Previously, the facility had

been open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.


Over the course of their stay, patients in the center will be tested regularly until the result is negative, said Reynard. Harbor Health has been using test equipment supplied by Quest Diagnostics.

"It's been a little bit challenging; there's not an overabundant supply of tests," said Reynard. "The process is one of those things that is going to evolve as we figure it out, but we anticipate testing people at least once a week, with patients having to test negative twice to be

released."

Reynard added that the crisis has rallied her coworkers and care providers around a common goal.

"While this COVID pandemic has been a challenge, I think we've also seen an amazing ability for the team at Harbor Health Services to come together in a way we otherwise wouldn't have been able to experience," said Reynard. "They're coming together for each other, and they're coming together for the community, so that part of it has been a phenomenal experience."



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Inside: Your Guide to the Dot Day Parade - Sunday, June 2, 1 p.m.

**Dorchester Reporter**

Watching the Parade Go By on Dot Day

**DOT DAY '19**

COMPLETE GUIDE TO SUNDAY, JUNE 2 • 1 P.M.

Along Dorchester Ave. to the South End

**Dorchester Reporter**

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Volume 37 Issue 17

**Baker calls off school for year; says state can 'deal' with surge**

Walsh: Stay vigilant

**Six weeks into Covid-only care, Carney healers see 'ray of hope'**

Sounds of music hail recoveries; numbers speak to stark reality

**It's time to mandate masks, face covering in public spaces**

**New law will pause evictions, foreclosures - for time being**

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**On Broadway: Dimmy, disappointment, relief**

**Developers of Bayside file plans**

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RECENT OBITUARIES



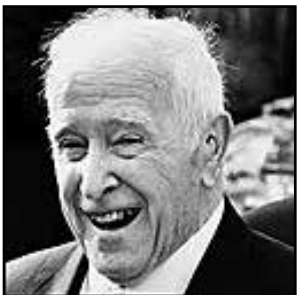
**CARSON, Katherine**, “Kathleen” (O’Sullivan), 100, of Weymouth. Wife of the late Walter “Kit” Carson. Daughter of the late Timothy and Ellen (O’Leary) O’Sullivan, sister of the late Eileen Hawes and the late Joan Fagan. Kathleen was raised in Dorchester. Kathleen enlisted in the US Coast Guard and served from 1944 to 1946. She married her childhood sweetheart Walter, in 1948 and moved to Weymouth. Kathleen is survived by her children, Maureen Carson of Weymouth, Neil Carson of South Hadley, James Carson and his wife Kathleen of Abington, and Dennis Carson and his wife Lisa of Hanson, her 5 grandchildren. She is also survived by a great-grand-

daughter. A Memorial Mass and Celebration of Life will be held at St. Francis Xavier Church in Weymouth at a later date.



**COSTAS, Theodora M. (Barlas) “Teddy”** of Melrose, 82. Wife of the late Spiro Peter Costas. Mother of Joan M. Costas of Melrose, and John A. Costas and his wife Patricia of Medford. Aunt of Michael Dwelley of Dorchester. Sister of the late Irene Dwelley and Louis Barlas. Also survived by one niece and several nephews. Gifts to honor Teddy may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, 51 Blossom St., Boston, MA 02114 or via [shrinershospitalsforchildren.org](http://shrinershospitalsforchildren.org)

**DOYLE, Joseph**



**R. of Weymouth.** Husband of Lee (Fitzgerald) Doyle. He was an active and respected member of Sacred Heart Parish in Weymouth for 64 years. Joe was born in South Boston. He was a graduate of Boston College High School Class of 1945, and after serving in the Navy, he graduated from Boston College in 1952. His is survived by his wife Lee (Fitzgerald) Doyle and their children Mary and John Keohane of Abington, Kathleen and Stephen Puleo of South Weymouth, Tim and Lisa Doyle of Brewster, Pat Doyle and Tom of Weymouth, Joe and Janet Doyle of Pembroke, Michael and Marybeth Doyle of Norwood, Jane and Nate Roach of Dorchester, Nancy and

Mark Logan of Westfield, Megan and Tim Forti of Whitman, Elizabeth Pflaumer of Kingston, Maureen Doyle of Weymouth, Christopher Doyle of Dorchester, and Daniel Doyle of Weymouth. He is the Papa to 35. He is also Papa to his 6 great-grandchildren. Joe was predeceased by his parents Norman and Dolly (Gallagher) Doyle, his siblings Mary, Margaret and Joe Lucas, Helen, Agnes and Larry Hurley, Frank and Marilyn Wellock, and many Clancy, Glancy, and Gallagher cousins. Joe will be remembered by his sisters-in-law Jenna Fitzgerald, Cathy Fitzgerald and Nancy Hurley, as well as his many nieces and nephews and their families. In honor of Joe, donations may be made to Sacred Heart Church, 75 Commercial Street, Weymouth, MA 02188, or Boston College High School, 150 Morrissey Boulevard, Dorchester, MA 02125.



**FERNANDEZ, Lauretta (Kolb)**, 85, passed away from complications related to Covid-19. Lauretta was born in Roxbury to Joseph and Ethel Kolb. She spent most of her life in Dorchester, where she married and raised 6 children. She is predeceased by her husband, Herbert T. Fernandez, and her siblings, Joseph, Ethel and Helen Kolb. Lauretta is survived

by her brother, John Kolb, daughters, Laurie McKinley of Rockland, MA, Paula Seaton of Middleboro, sons, Herbert and Stephen Fernandez of Dorchester, Erik Fernandez and Paul Fernandez of Bridgewater, as well as grandchildren. Lauretta also leaves behind several nieces and nephews. A Celebration of Lauretta’s Life will be held at a later date.

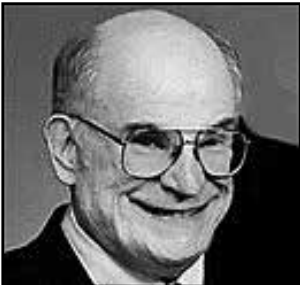


**GRACE, Michael J.** of Hyde Park, formerly of Dorchester. Husband of Joan L. (Laurenti). Father of Lauren and her husband Joseph Keaveney of Westwood and Timothy and his wife Amanda Grace of TN. Grandfather of 3. Brother of the late Gertrude Fein. Remembrances may be made in memory of Michael to the Hyde Park Food Pantry. Former director of Human Resources, City of Boston Inspectional Services Dept. Founding member of the 27th Lancers of Revere and active member of the Boston Crusaders Alumni Corps. Retired Major in the MA National Guard. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

**LEVIN, Eliot** of Sandwich, 73, due to complications from COVID-19, leaving behind sons Eric Levin of Mashpee and Scott Levin with Erin (Martin) Levin of Falmouth. Grandchildren Ava, Moira and Samuel. Also, sister Irene (Levin)



DeCola with Alan DeCola of Randolph. He was born in Brookline and raised in Dorchester by his parents Anna and Saul Levin. Please make a donation to Cape Cod Healthcare Foundation.



**MULKERN, Edward Thomas**, 83, of Franklin. Husband of Ann T. (Skahan) Mulkern. Father of MaryAnn Rufo and her husband Paul Rufo of West Roxbury, Diane Walsh and her husband James Walsh of Franklin, and Julie Jones and her husband Greg Jones of South Boston. Grandfather of 11. Brother of the late John and Martin Mulkern, and Mary Crosby. Donations may be made to the Campaign for Catholic Schools, Edward T. Mulkern Scholarship Fund, 66 Brooks Dr., Braintree, MA 02184.



**NOWACKI, John Peter**, 89, of Dorchester. John was married to Patricia Ann Nowacki (Walsh). In addition, John is survived by his seven children, Linda Nowacki-Bowen and husband Arthur of Estero, FL, Thaddeus Nowacki and friend Ann Marie Cosgrove of Randolph, Christine Calter Andrea and husband Ralph of Middleboro, Catherine Nowacki and wife Trina Alexknovitch of Brockton, Michael Nowacki and wife Maureen of W. Bridgewater, Paul Nowacki and wife Diane of Taunton, and Karen Anastas and husband Robert (Jake) of Dorchester. He also leaves behind his 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and the rest of his relatives and friends. He served as an usher at Our Lady of Czestochowa for many years. A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date. Korean War Veteran. Memorial donations may be made to: South Shore Hospital, 55 Fogg Street, South Weymouth, MA 02190, [southshorehealth.org/](http://southshorehealth.org/) give or to BCAN (Blad-

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT  
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT  
24 NEW CHARDON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02114  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE  
OF PETITION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN  
FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON  
PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304  
Docket No. SU20P0261GD  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
CHRISTOPHER J. OWENS  
of BOSTON, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated Person  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Pamela Coakley-Harold of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Christopher J. Owens is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Trod Harold of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.  
The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.  
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/12/2020. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.  
Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate  
Date: March 12, 2020  
Published: May 21, 2020



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# Rep. Miranda talks of her bout with the virus; 15 in family were infected

(Continued from page 1) food access,” said Miranda, “People were scared about not being able to pay rent, and some small businesses were closing. Basic needs were my priority, but at the same time I was working 12 to 16 hours a day. Then my grandmother passed away and had to be buried.

“It was kind of a reality check. We followed all of the protocols that were in place.” Miranda explained, “We used Dolan’s Funeral home in Dorchester. We couldn’t have a priest, and only 10 people were allowed in the funeral home. That really is a moment that for most people is very disheartening: You can’t bury your loved one in a normal way.”

Miranda’s grandmother was not re-tested for COVID-19 after her first negative test,” she said, “so the family went to the burial, and everyone thought they would be okay.” In the midst of her family’s loss, Miranda became focused on advocating for more testing at Community Health Centers (CHCs), especially in communities that were seeing high

infection rates.

“In mid-April I started to see that Dorchester and Roxbury, along with Mattapan and Hyde Park, had really high rates of infections,” she said. “However, there wasn’t testing available yet in our communities.”

Shortly after her grandmother’s funeral, Miranda’s father was hospitalized a second time for a minor injury. On the way to the hospital, EMTs examined him.

“They said that they heard what sounded like fluid in his lungs,” said Miranda. “When he got to the hospital, he was tested for COVID-19, and the next day we found out that it was positive.”

By that time, several health centers in Dorchester, including Bowdoin Street Health Center, DotHouse Health, and Uphams Street Health Center, were offering coronavirus testing. “In a matter of hours, each of my family members that were in contact with my dad were able to get appointments,” said Miranda. “There were about 20 of us, so we spread across a bunch of different hospi-

tals and health centers.”

The most significant symptom that Miranda experienced was fatigue, although she had almost every other sign of the disease except shortness of breath.

“It was very scary, a fatigue that I had never felt before. I couldn’t get out of bed. Then, I had headaches, stomach aches pretty badly. I only had a fever for one day and it went quickly into chills,” she said.

“I really want to point out how important it is to have community testing, also to have information in different languages,” Miranda said. “Many people in our community of Dorchester speak a multitude of languages. It was really important that our health centers had testing because they know our people best.”

She received testing at the Bowdoin Street Health Center, and called the experience “safe and easy.” She added: “Honestly, if they had never tested my dad again, I don’t think that any of us would have gotten tested because we didn’t have any symptoms.”

While she’s looking forward to feeling bet-

ter and getting back to work, Miranda said, she has felt the need to share her family’s experience so that people don’t feel “stigmatized. We’re in this together.”

“The reason why I was able to speak to the Globe and other outlets like the *Reporter* after I got a little bit better is because I didn’t want people to be ... shamed and not getting tested,” she said. “We all need help. I want my community to know that just because I’m a state representative, my family wasn’t immune to COVID-19 and neither was I. I’m a resourced person. I followed all the protocols, and I still got sick.”

While resting, Miranda has had some time to reflect, and said her experience has reinforced to her the importance of taking care of seniors, the immigrant community, and other vulnerable populations.

“Honestly, I feel like the rest of the commonwealth has finally understood what it’s like to live on the fringe of society. For many people in the commonwealth who weren’t doing well before COVID, in a matter of days their lives



Rep. Liz Miranda is pictured with her grandmother Ana “Olinda” Rosa, who died at age 97 on April 28. She was known lovingly by all as Tia Olinda.

Photo courtesy Rep. Miranda

evaporated,” she said. “It was really hard to see how many families had never had to go on unemployment, to use SNAP benefits, or to need free food calling our offices for help.”

Miranda also highlighted the importance of collecting racial data, saying, “it’s important to know who is dying of COVID-19 and who’s being impacted so that we can figure out how to stop the spread and get people help.”

“I just want to say thank you to the community for the outpouring and sympathy of love and care that I’ve got-

ten,” she said. “Dorchester is one big community of people that help each other. I’m very thankful and honored that I get to represent the 5th Suffolk.”

Miranda added, “I want to stress the seriousness and the contagious nature of this disease and that people should be very careful. It’s nice out, so I see a lot of people out and some of them are not practicing social distancing and not wearing masks. We want to make sure that people are protecting themselves and their families.”

(Continued from page 14) der Cancer Advocacy Network), 4520 East West Highway, Suite 610, Bethesda, MD 20814, BCAN.org

**PENDERGAST, Catherine E. (Murphy)** of Dorchester. Wife of the late William J. Pendergast. Mother of Carol J. Pendergast, John F. Pendergast, and Gregory M. Pendergast, all of Dorchester, and the late Catherine M. Spencer and William J. Pendergast. Sister of Walter Murphy of Fl. Also survived by 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.



**PHILBIN, Nora Christine (Frazer)** of West Roxbury and Dorchester, 88. Nora was the daughter of Patrick and Theresa (Hastings) Frazer. She was the wife of the late James L. Philbin, and mother to Mary and Stephen Kelly of Natick, Kathleen LaShoto of Waltham, Lorraine and Joseph Trapuzzano of Washington, PA, James and Elizabeth Philbin of Foxborough, and Anne Johnson of Southborough. Grandma to 9. Nora was the sister of Patrick Frazer of County Mayo, Theresa and James Corrigan of Burnley, England, and the late John, Martin,

Michael Frazer and Mary Clarke. Sister-in-law to Joseph and Patricia Philbin, Yarmouth. A formal Celebration of Nora’s Life will be held at a future date. Donations in Nora’s memory are gratefully accepted by: My Brother’s Keeper, PO Box 338, Easton, MA 02356-0338, or AT-Children’s Project, 6810 State Road 7, Suite 125, Coconut Creek, FL 33073



**URCIUOLI, Sabino A. “Sammy”** retired Suffolk County Courthouse Employee, of Rockland, formerly of Dorchester, 92. Son of Antonio and Antonietta in the small town of Taurasi, Italy. In Boston, he met Diletta (Della) Cavallini, they married and raised 3 children, Anthony, Joanna and Bianca, who still reside in MA. Sabino, or Sammy, as he was affectionately known in Savin Hill. He worked at the Suffolk County Courthouse for 25 years. He worked at St. William’s Parish for decades. In later years, he moved from Savin Hill to Rockland. On May 14, Sabino succumbed to Covid-19. Sabino was the husband of Diletta (Cavallini) Urciuoli. He was the father of Anthony S. and his wife Janice Urci-

uoli of Harwich, Joanna and her husband John Fulford of Rockland, and Bianca Urciuoli and her longtime companion Michael Casey of Rockland. He was “Papa” to Joseph Fulford. Brother of Alfredo and his wife Filomena Urciuoli, Marciano and his wife Franca Urciuoli, Orazio “Jimmy” and his wife Anna Urciuoli, and the late Maddalena “Lena” and her husband Michael Pensavalle, Maria and her husband Luigi Laquinto, and Giovanni Urciuoli. He was also survived by many nieces and nephews in the United States, Italy, Canada, and England. Please consider making a donation to your local food bank to help those struggling to purchase groceries or consider supporting the many heroes who are selflessly serving so many ill people.



**WRIGHT, Mary L.** long time member of New Hope Baptist Church. Mary participated in the Senior Choir, Gospel Chorus, Sunday School, Women’s Ministry, Christian Institute (worship leader), Bible Class, Nurturing for Baptist Churches, Senior Missionary

Ministry and she was a strong supporter of Pine Street Inn. Preceding her in death are Jessie and Carrie Smith (parents) and Anne Mae French (sister). She leaves to cherish her memories her husband Richard Wright; Burnetta Rice (sister-in-law); Cleveland Keshawn White “Pooh” all of Boston, MA; Thounda

(Willie Dean) Craig (sister and brother-in-law) of Selma, AL; Clearance Strong (brother) of Selma, AL; Marilyn Wallace (niece); Doremus Wallace II of Sugarland, TX; Deric Craig of Hoover, AL; and Valencia (Cory) Jackson (neice) of Baltimore, MD. Mary Wright’s Boston family who were committed and loved

her: Minister Virginia (Hugh) Bates, Marion (Ellis) Wilson, Letitia (James) Harris, Latrice Bates, Shanara Rice, Cavell (Kendra) Rice, Burnetta and Little Jelena Bates. There are a host of nieces and nephews as well as her New Hope Baptist Church family that will miss and remember her.

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# Walsh says Boston will move slowly as it begins reopening

(Continued from page 1) everywhere except Boston, and on June 1 in the city.

“I’m personally not comfortable with the 25 percent, to be quite honest with you, and we’re looking at it now,” said Walsh. “I just had a conversation before I came down about what the number would be, but I think 25 percent on the first day would be too much.”

Walsh said that large companies like State Street have said they won’t reopen offices right away. He noted that Boston is unique in that it is the third most densely populated major city in the country, that it doubles in population size every day as workers commute into the city, and that it is a diverse hub of tourism, higher education and health care.

“Overall, the data tell us that we’re moving in the right direction on new cases, on positive tests, and in hospitalizations for about three weeks here now, and that is good news,” Walsh said. “But every day the trend also gives us reason for caution in the terms of how gradual it is, in how necessary our precautions have been, and how much potential there is for new outbreaks if we don’t keep doing the right thing.”

Employers that do revive operations face a range of mandatory protocols to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 transmission and an administration that wants them to keep employees at home or on staggered shifts. Workers and customers will take on new watchdog roles; they are being urged to report any unsafe practices to trigger enforcement. Child-care and public transit will operate with reduced capacity for at least several weeks longer.

As he unveiled his administration’s phased reopening plan, Baker stressed that key features of the pandemic response – wearing face coverings in public, frequent hand-washing, and social distancing – will remain a necessity to stave off a rebound in cases of a virus that has already killed more than 5,700 Massachusetts residents.

He described the process of shuttering almost every facet of the economy and then reopening with new practices as “something no one’s ever done before. This guidance asks people to change behaviors, and it changes the way some of our favorite places look and feel. This is not permanent. At some point, there will be treatments and, ultimately, a

vaccine. But for the foreseeable future, everyone needs to continue to do the right things to bring the fight to the virus so that we can continue to move forward.”

The four-phase reopening process began with construction and manufacturing industries as well as houses of worship, which will be restricted to 40 percent capacity and encouraged to make changes to services, such as using pre-packaged communion. More businesses, including laboratory space, hair salons, and car washes, can reopen with additional restrictions starting May 25.

Under the administration’s outline, every business in Massachusetts will need to draft a written plan in the next week for how it intends to operate without spreading the coronavirus.

Businesses do not need to submit the plan for approval to reopen, but they must keep a copy at the physical location for inspection at any time. Employers must visibly post fliers describing rules for social distancing, hygiene, and cleaning that apply to all workers and customers.

State officials expect employees and patrons to lead the charge in maintaining safety re-

quirements. Enforcement actions, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito said, will be triggered by worker and customer complaints about possible violations of the new restrictions.

Local boards of health, the state Department of Public Health, and the Department of Labor Standards will share responsibility for enforcing the requirements. Employers who do not comply will receive verbal consultation and redirection for a first offense, written redirection for a second offense, fines up to \$300 for the three subsequent offenses and then a cease and desist letter as the strictest punishment, according to the administration.

“It’s about developing confidence for workers to feel safe in returning to their jobs,” Polito said. “And as part of that standard, the employer needs to address [the question] ‘What if my employee becomes sick with COVID while working?’ and to develop a plan around that as part of the reopening strategy.”

Some of the rules, including a requirement that all employees wear face coverings, will apply to every business in Massachusetts. The administration also plans industry-specific guidances to dictate further restrictions.

John Pourbaix, executive director of the Construction Industries of Massachusetts, which represents tens of thousands of workers, said in an interview that

he views the reopening proposal as a “great plan.” The industry-specific guidelines will change conditions on the ground, he said, pointing to practices already implemented by essential construction projects that were not halted.

“It will definitely be different, but I think our industry has proved it’s doable and workable,” said Pourbaix. “We’ve been doing it for the last two months.”

Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy, who co-chaired the reopening advisory board alongside Polito, said the administration has launched an online portal to connect businesses with Massachusetts manufacturers that are producing PPE and other important supplies.

While Polito said that childcare and public transportation are “key components” to reviving economic activity, both fields will remain altered for weeks to come.

Most childcare facilities in Massachusetts had been ordered to close until June 29 under a previous Baker executive order. The reopening plan does not bring those back online immediately. During the Phase One reopening that began Monday, the emergency child care system originally set up for essential workers will stay in place, and still has about 65 percent of its 10,000-child capacity available “to serve more families, to provide care

options, as more workers head back to work and sectors become active again,” Polito said.

K-12 schools will remain physically closed through the end of the academic year.

The Department of Public Health and the Department of Early Education and Care are working to plan guidelines to reopen summer camps, potentially as soon as Phase Two, if the state observes positive trends in key public health metrics.

The MBTA will not return to a full schedule until the third phase, which won’t come until sometime in July at the earliest. Once that hits, commuting will still look different.

Social distancing “will limit effective capacity on vehicles even after full service schedules are restored,” according to the plan, and riders will be required to wear face coverings on buses and trains, though MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak said last week that the T “will not be refusing service to people who are not wearing face masks.”

In its initial reaction to the reopening plan, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce praised the administration for its work but said employers across the region need clearer information on childcare, particularly how Massachusetts will use \$45 million in federal childcare funding in the CARES Act, and on transportation.

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**CONNECT THE DOT:**  
**BGCD Early Education & Care Teacher Parade to Deliver Activity Kits:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Early Education & Care preschool teachers made special activity kits for their students and had their own teacher parade to deliver them to all their families. We hope visits to our members deliver hope, love and inspiration to families and help them through this pandemic.

BGCD is so appreciative and thankful for all of our Early Education & Care staff for what they are doing to stay in touch with, provide online content, and much more during these difficult times.

We can't wait to see all of our members and families back at our Clubs soon! Stay safe and stay healthy.

**FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:**  
**BGCD Continues Friday Night "Grab & Go" Food Pick-Up Sessions for Families in Need:** On Friday night, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester hosted another successful "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 in South Boston, Metro Boston Building Trades, Community Servings, Boston Resiliency Fund, and Mayor Martin J. Walsh for supporting our COVID-19 efforts. Thanks to our friends, we are able to continue supporting our members and families during this time.

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.



**Boston Celtic Center Tacko Fall joins BGCD "DotTalks" Speaker Series:**  
See details below.

**DID YOU KNOW:**  
**Boston Celtic center Tacko Fall joins BGCD "DotTalks" Speaker Series:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester continues to engage teens with our "DotTalks" speaker series. Members are excited to participate in these Zoom panels to ask their questions with prominent people in our community.

We were honored to welcome our new friend and Boston Celtics Center, Tacko Fall. The Q & A session is now available to watch online: tune in to hear about how Tacko's quarantine is going, his training, cultural background and his rise to become a beloved member of the Celtics. Episodes air on Thursday evenings at 7 pm on our social channels. Our next guest, Boston Police Commissioner William Gross, where he will talk about his career and how he and his department have been dealing with the outbreak.

### 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](http://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](mailto:info@bgcdorchester.org).

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

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# There is relief, confusion, and disappointment as business owners react to Baker’s reopening plan

(Continued from page 1)

As early as Monday, May 25, shops like hers — along with car washes, drive-in theaters, pet-groomers, and laboratories — will be allowed to welcome back customers. Luckily, Myriame and her husband Serge Pierre, a barber, has been thinking about how to reopen for weeks. They have ordered faceshields, gloves, and masks for the staff. She’s gotten signs to remind people to stay six feet apart. Still, she’s not sure when she’ll start taking appointments, because the state’s list of mandatory safety requirements and protocols is pretty extensive. “It is nerve wracking, because we want to adhere to everything and so that everyone is safe and is kept healthy,” she said. In order to assist businesses in finding the necessary safety supplies and personal protective equipment



At Unique Cuts, a barber shop located on Dorchester Avenue in Lower Mills, co-owners Myriame and Serge Pierre are preparing to re-open next week. WBUR photo by Jesse Costa

(PPE), the state has provided guidelines and a list of Massachusetts vendors. In addition, all businesses reopening must develop a written “COVID-19 control plan” outlining how the business will comply with mandatory safety standards. The state has made a template control plan available at its Reopening Massachusetts website.

Health and safety is one of the reasons the state decided to limit the reopening of retail shops. Starting next week previously closed retail shops — such as those that sell clothing, toys, jewelry, recreational cannabis — can begin fulfilling curbside pickup and delivery orders. Three weeks from this Monday, May 18, is the earliest phase two of the

reopening plan could kick in, although state officials say that could take longer if data show the outbreak is worsening. Other businesses that will have to wait until phase 2 include casinos, many personal services, such as nail salons, day spas, massage therapists, tattoo parlors, electrolysis. Phase three businesses tend to veer towards indoor recreation such as gyms, movie theaters, museums, concert halls. Larger venues, such as arenas, stadiums, nightclubs, and race tracks will have to wait until phase four. In Jamaica Plain, Kim Mitchell, owner of Bo-ing! Toy Shop, is not quite as eager to throw open her doors to the public yet. For weeks, she said she has been scraping by, taking orders online and shipping them out to customers.

“My retail store has basically turned into a warehouse,” she said. It’s not ideal, but she said she appreciates the gradual approach to reopening. “The business side of me says, ‘Sure, I would love to be open,’” she said. “But I don’t really think that we’re ready.” Until phase two begins, restaurants will also have to wait to accept sit-down patrons. Which is actually fine with Bessie King, who runs Villa Mexico Cafe in the Financial District. “I think overall we need to be very conservative in our steps to reopening,” King said. “And I think that is the smartest way to go about this.” The safety guidelines the state put out on Monday were pretty confusing, she said, and it’ll take time figure out how to implement them. Plus, while they’re at it,

customers can take the time to educate themselves. “I’m concerned about what customers are going to come back. Whether customers are tired of being home and they don’t want to wear a mask and they don’t want to follow these guidelines, and when they walk into my restaurant they’re going to hear, ‘OK, only this amount of people are permitted in at a time. Only people with masks are going to be permitted in.’ Are they going to get mad? Are they going to understand?” If they don’t, and the outbreak gets worse, she says we could be having this “reopening” conversation again in a few months. WBUR 90.9 FM published this story on May 19. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

## Church leaders seek merger of St. Ann-St. Brendan parishes

(Continued from page 1) years to confront a growing debt and deferred maintenance problems. “It’s projected each parish will lose \$7K-\$8K

a month and could run out of savings within a year or so,” the priests wrote. “We need to prepare for where we expect to be a year and a

half from now, because the deficit in finances and the deterioration of buildings continues. Asking the Cardinal to approve a merger is moving forward in a positive and proactive way. “We were not sent here to close the parishes, but just the opposite, to do what we could do to keep that presence,” Clary and Connors added. “Finances were strained; repairs increasing; most of all, participation was dropping.” “We feared that a major unforeseen expense

would be a problem. Who would have ever expected that a pandemic would force us to this hard decision?” The merger will mean a new parish name that has yet to be determined, the priests say. The request for a merger is “critical” to St. Brendan’s school, they say, since if the parish were to shutter, the parish school — which operates independently of the St. John Paul II Catholic Academy system — would also close. “If the parishes merge,

the new parish assumes the responsibility for the school,” Clary and Connors wrote, adding: “The new parish can sell properties to address the debt and deferred maintenance.” “We are aware there will be negative reactions to this change. We know the emotional depth of both communities for their parish. We fully appreciate that merging is difficult to accept,” they wrote. “Above all, we are very sorry to bring this matter to you during the COVID-19

crisis. It is not the best time, but we have no choice. Time is running out.” The request for the merger has not yet been brought to Cardinal O’Malley. It will first be vetted by the Archdiocese of Boston’s Presbyteral Council, a body of priests who counsel the cardinal on governing issues. Rev. Paul R. Soper, one of the priests on the council, said that he expects the group will make a recommendation to the cardinal “sometime soon.”

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