

# Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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Thursday, May 28, 2020

50¢

## Franklin Park Zoo is re-opening this week

By DANIEL SHEEHAN  
REPORTER STAFF

Zoo New England, the organization that operates the Franklin Park Zoo, announced this week that the facility will reopen for members only this Thursday (May 28) and to the general public starting next Thursday (June 4). The zoo has been temporarily closed since mid-March due to the public health emergency.

### Thursday for members, and next week for guests

"Care is at the heart of everything we do here at Zoo New England, and our team has been spending a lot of time over the past many weeks planning for how to reopen as safely as possible to protect the health and well-being of our visitors, staff and animals," said John Linehan, president

and CEO of Zoo New England.

"Both Franklin Park and Stone Zoo offer expansive outdoor spaces with plenty of room for social distancing while learning about many of the incredible species that call our zoos home," he said. "While all of our animals have continued

to receive excellent care during the closure, both our staff and animals have missed our guests, and we are all very excited to open our gates to visitors once again with new protocols in place."

A press release noted that new health and safety measures have been implemented in accordance with social distancing precautions, including online and timed

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Visitors to Franklin Park Zoo will be reacquainted with giraffes Amari and Jana when the zoo reopens this week.  
Zoo New England photo



A worker from Pure Oasis in Grove Hall brought out an order to a customer on the first day of reopening.  
Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

## Wary, yet eager, customers line up for their cannabis, and their haircuts

By ANGUS CHEN  
WBUR REPORTER

Tayah Peterson-El, a 32-year-old woman from Dorchester, got in line outside the cannabis store on Blue Hill Avenue at 10:30 a.m. on Monday. The store, Pure Oasis, wasn't going to open for another 30 minutes,

but its customers were already wrapping around the block.

Pure Oasis — along with other retail stores, barber shops, hair salons, and a few other services — are back in business for the first time in two months, thanks to Phase 1 of the

state's reopening plan. While many people are wary, they also are glad that some of their favorite stores are returning. Peterson-El has been waiting to buy a new supply of cannabis for weeks now.

"I have arthritis, so it helps me with my joints

and my knees and things like that. Also recreationally; it also helps with anxiety," she said. Like everyone else in line, a face mask muffled her voice.

Just before the state shut down non-essential businesses to slow the

(Continued on page 12)

## City Hall's message to small businesses: If you're not ready to open, then don't

By KATIE TROJANO  
REPORTER STAFF

"Take your time." That was the key message from City Hall officials at an internet seminar on safety protocols for the city's phased reopening plan held last week for small business owners.

"We want to be really clear: Until you are pre-

pared to open, you should not be opening," said Natalia Urtubey, director of Small Business for the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, which co-hosted the webinar with Greater Ashmont Main Street and Fields Corner Main Streets.

"I know that the state's

reopening plan has caused some stress, confusion, and fear," added Urtubey. "One of the key things that the mayor has been really clear about is that just because we're reopening doesn't mean you have to. Just because the state is reopening an industry doesn't mean the city will.

"We want to make sure you understand what you're required to do and the steps you can take to ensure safety and trust is being built in your community."

Tom McDonough, Neighborhood Business Manager for the city's Office of Business De-

(Continued on page 16)

## Baker: Surge is 'behind us,' but the threat remains

BCEC hospital halt admissions

By COLIN A. YOUNG  
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

As the state's economic reopening began in earnest, Gov. Charlie Baker said Tuesday that COVID-19 public health data indicates "that we are trending in the right direction," and the head of the state's COVID-19 Command Center said plans are in the works to allow people to once again visit their loved ones in long-term care settings.

Baker said the average positive test rate is down to about 9 percent and has "been pretty much in that general vicinity now for about a week." And the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 has shown "a significant decrease over the course of the past two or three weeks," he said.

"With phase one of the reopening now underway and more sectors of the economy slowly reopening, this data indicates that we are trending in the right direction," the governor said. "The progress that

(Continued on page 18)

## City focus is on helping, not fines

By KATIE TROJANO  
REPORTER STAFF

Various departments of city government have been waiving fees and permits online for merchants planning to reopen this week, according to Dion Irish, commissioner of the Inspectional Services Department (ISD).

"The mayor has asked us to work collectively and collaboratively to ease burdens on businesses and help them reopen while also guiding them to do so safely," Irish said. Others involved include the

(Continued on page 13)



Dion Irish



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# TechBoston Academy’s Keith Love has died at age 53

By BILL FORRY  
EDITOR

Keith Love, the co-headmaster at TechBoston Academy (TBA) in Dorchester, died on Tuesday, May 26 at age 53 after a three-year battle against prostate cancer. While anticipated, Love’s death prompted an outpouring of grief from the school community that he cherished and from city leaders.

A native of Camden, New Jersey, Keith had worked in Boston Public Schools since 2001. He led the Academy alongside his colleague Nora Vernazza since 2013. He worked at the campus for 16 years. Vernazza called him “the heart of soul” of TBA.

“He just embodied everything about relationships,” said Vernazza. “Every single staff member had a story about how he connected with them and their family. He had this ability to connect with people in a way that was larger than life.”

Mayor Martin Walsh saluted Love as a “hero to a lot of young people” during his press availability on Tuesday afternoon.

“Keith Love was someone who lived to empower and inspire young people. His legacy is a good reminder of the people and the values we’re fighting for.”

Walsh said Love “is also a good reminder of the strength, the courage, and the role models in our community that we can draw on to win this fight.”

City Councillor Andrea Campbell called his death “a devastating loss for Boston Schools and for our Dorchester community.”

“Keith Love’s commitment to and compassion for his students, so many of whom the system was failing, inspired me since the day I met him as a young education attorney. He will be dearly missed.”

Love was idolized by his students, many of whom participated in a drive-by parade at Love’s home in Grafton, MA earlier this month. Love had suffered his own personal losses in recent weeks. His stepfather had died suddenly this spring and his mother suffered a stroke and died shortly after that.

In an interview with WCVB-TV, Love said:



Keith Love worked as an administrator at TechBoston Academy for 16 years. He died on Tuesday after a three-year battle with cancer.

“I cannot thank you enough,” he said. “Look at this, unbelievable. Thank you Lord.”

Vernazza said students are devastated by his death.

“He was a father figure to them,” she said. “He had such high expectations for them, but always in a loving, supportive way.”

Love was most proud of how strong the community at TBA became under his leadership, Vernazza said.

“He created the culture and he nurtured the kids and the whole community,” she said. He was frequently the face of the school to the public as well, attending civic meetings and other community events.

“For us and the school, we have to figure out how to carry on that environment of caring for both students and staff,” said Vernazza. “It’s a hard act to follow to say the least.”

Information about arrangements for a funeral are not yet available.

## Food bank busier than ever

By COLIN A. YOUNG  
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

The Greater Boston Food Bank distributed more food in both March and April than in any other month in the food bank’s 40-year history, the organization said as a new survey shows a sharp rise in food insecurity in eastern Massachusetts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

GBFB said new projections from Feeding America show that one in eight people in the eastern part of the state is expected to experience

food insecurity in 2020, a 59 percent increase over the most recent Feeding America report which showed one in 13 people at risk of being food insecure this year.

“Unfortunately, these new food insecurity projections do not surprise us as we have seen a dramatic increase in the demand for food in our region,” Catherine D’Amato, GBFB president and CEO, said. “The emergency food network in Eastern Massachusetts, which includes 550 GBFB partner agencies, has shown incredible

resiliency during this difficult time and continues to heroically adapt to the needs of an ever-increasing number of people, many of whom have never had to rely on a food pantry for assistance to feed their family.”

The GBFB said it distributed 8.1 million pounds of food in March and another 9.5 million pounds in April. The food bank said its highest average monthly distribution prior to the COVID-19 pandemic was 5.7 million pounds.

## Police, Courts, & Fire

**Dot man charged in February murder on Magnolia St.** – Boston Police have arrested and charged 20-year-old Jose Carrucino of Dorchester for the Feb. 5 murder of a 21-year-old Dorchester man, Admilson Ribiero, who was found fatally wounded by gunshots outside 149 Magnolia St. Carrucino was arraigned in Dorchester Court on Tuesday.

A 26-year-old Dorchester man has been arrested and charged in a non-fatal shooting in March in Codman Square. Deandre Lattin was taken into custody on May 22 for the March 22 incident in the area of 465 Washington St. Lattin faces several charges, including unlawful possession of a gun and assault and battery with a firearm.

A man who was allegedly handling a gun on Regina Road last Thursday night was arrested by Boston Police on an outstanding warrant issued from Dedham Court. Tramonte Queen, 21, was arrested at the scene after police found what Queen said was a “starter pistol” in a car on the street. Boston Police say he was taken into custody because he had a warrant out for his arrest for allegedly intimidating a witness and driving without a license or registration. He could face additional charges based on an ongoing analysis of the firearm.

May 28, 2020

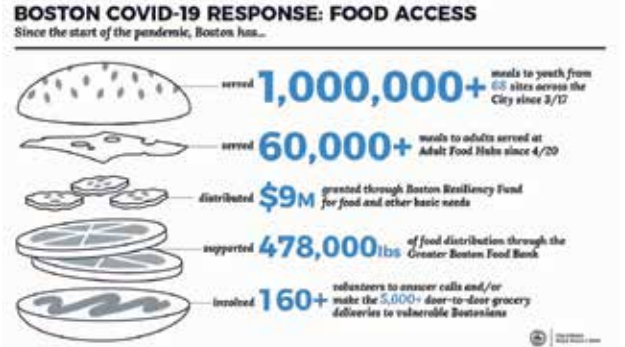
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## UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Hancock Street Civic to hold online annual meeting**— The annual meeting of the Hancock Street Civic Association – in which the group elects officers – will be held on Tues., June 2 immediately following its regularly scheduled monthly meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. Membership dues are payable at that time - \$5/per person, annually. Go to sites.google.com/view/hasca02125/ for more information.

**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, Murl’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.

**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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# Essaibi-George: Small businesses need a seat at the reopening table

**By KATIE TROJANO  
REPORTER STAFF**  
City Councillor at-Large Anissa Essaibi-George of Dorchester is calling for the creation of a task force and a call-in “help line” that she says would support small businesses in Boston as they begin to reopen. She filed her proposals during the council’s online weekly meeting last Wednesday.

“While large industries are well represented in the state’s economic recovery plan, our small businesses do not have a meaningful seat at the table in our plans to reopen,” said Essaibi-George, who also owns her own business, the Stitch House on Dorchester Avenue.

“To plan for a successful recovery, there is an urgent need to address the significant and costly changes to come for small businesses,” she said. “I am calling for the Small Business Task Force because we need immediate action to ensure our businesses can exist and survive with the uncertainty of reopening.”

The panel would convene small business owners to help inform city policies and to make direct recommendations to the state. Her action received enthusiastic support from her colleagues.

“I join my colleagues in applauding Councilor Essaibi-George for the hearing orders and

for flagging the sad reality that this body, and frankly many folks in the administration, weren’t meaningfully allowed to participate in the conversation around re-opening,” said District 4 Councilor Andrea Campbell. “There’s obviously incredible value we could have brought, not only because of our unique perspectives, but also because of the constituents we serve in our respective districts and across the city.”

Said Council President Kim Janey: “This late file matter will be referred to the small business and workforce committee.” The Council also voted to unanimously adopt the resolution to create the COVID-19 pandemic helpline.

A COVID-19 hotline, Essaibi-George says, would provide business owners and operators with a direct line of support and inform employees and customers of the safety requirements that operating businesses must follow.

The Stitch House remains closed, she said. “After a virtual meeting with my employees this weekend, we decided to remain closed until more can be done to guarantee the safety of my staff and my customers. It was an impossible decision made even more difficult by the lack of directives for small and niche businesses.”

She added: “Throughout the pandemic, business owners have been forced to weigh risks for their employees, customers, and the mere existence of their business.”



The Boston Park Rangers welcomed a new class of seasonal rangers during a ceremony held at Franklin Park on May 15 within proper social distancing guidelines. Presenting the new recruits with their certificates were Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods and Chief Boston Park Ranger Gene Survillo. This year’s class includes Brighton residents Tyler Bowman, Alexander Hartgrove, and Michael Materia, Dorchester residents Michael McRae and Randall Pinkham, Jamaica Plain residents Eli King and Emily Wright, and Connor Decarlo of South Boston.

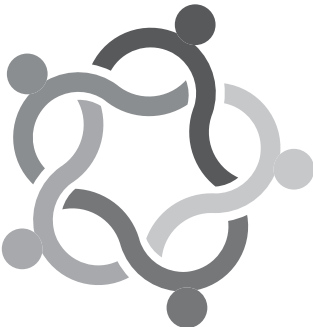
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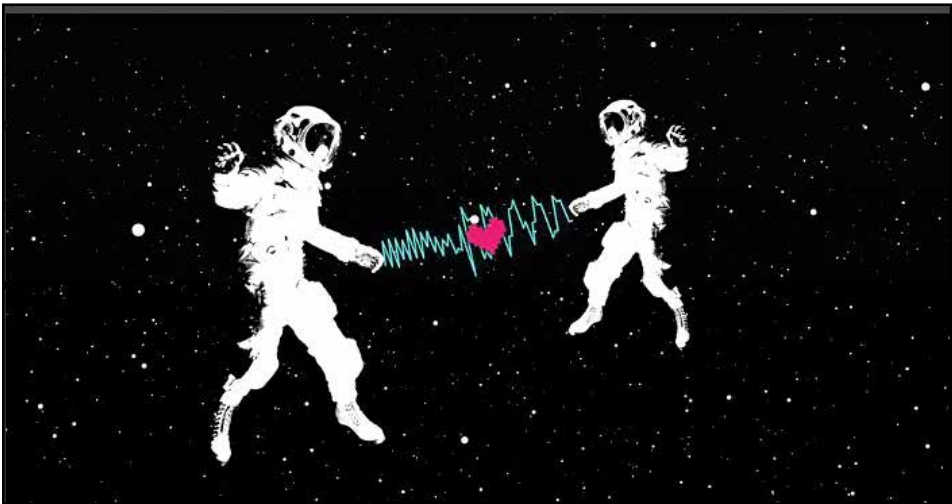


# ‘Mission: Music’ – Artists redirecting royalties to help keep their music alive

By DANIEL SHEEHAN  
REPORTER STAFF

A new COVID-19 artist relief effort will allow Boston music fans to support their local artists by just pressing “play.” An initiative spearheaded by Erik Sarno of Union Sound in Somerville called “Mission: Music” will redirect royalties from streaming services to the Boston Music Maker COVID-19 Fund, an artist relief grant program started by Newmarket Square community music workspace The Record Co. earlier this spring, with the goal of “using music to save music.”

Sarno, a producer who goes by the name Loman, said he’s been scrambling to “pivot to virtual” in recent weeks while seeing many of his peers in the music community similarly struggling to replace lost income. After seeing festivals like Boston Calling canceled and venues like Great Scott closed down by the virus in recent weeks, Sarno and co-collaborators Dust Collectors Records and Flagg Street Studios felt a need to take action. “Every day, it becomes more clear that musicians and cultural



Through Mission: Music, music fans can directly support The Record Co.’s Boston Music Maker COVID-19 artist relief fund by streaming local artists’ songs on the initiative’s “Unbeatable” playlist.

institutions won’t receive meaningful support from local, state, or federal government quickly, if at all,” said Sarno. “As a music community, we’re bracing for more bad news, for more of the venues we came up in to close. Same goes for the record stores and studios. With “Mission: Music,” we are offering a new way for everyone to support the arts now.” “Unbeatable,” the first playlist curated through “Mission: Music,” went live on Fri., May 22, and features original tracks from 23 Boston artists, including Dorchester standouts Latrell

James, Red Shaydez, Cliff Notez, and Brandie Blaze. The artists have effectively donated their music for the cause, meaning 100 percent of streaming royalties will go to the relief fund. “Some artists haven’t had the capacity to record recently, so a lot of the tracks are music they had in their personal vault, and either planned to release but decided to adjust their strategy, or it’s music they’ve had and want to be heard but were waiting for the right time... it’s cool to provide that platform,” said Sarno. A press release on the

website for “Mission: Music” lays out statistics from the Mass Cultural Council detailing the extent of the financial toll of the pandemic: Arts and culture organizations reported more than a quarter of a billion dollars in lost revenue; 91 percent of all respondents to a survey reported canceling programming and events; 95 percent of organizations with facilities reported closing their facilities to the public; and 62 percent of cultural organizations responded that they are making decisions to lay off or furlough em-




Dorchester-bred rapper and producer Latrell James contributed a track, “The Good and the Bad,” to the playlist, on which fellow Dot MCs Brandie Blaze, Cliff Notez, and Red Shaydez also feature.

ployees, or reduce their hours or wages. These decisions will impact 15,381 employees across the commonwealth, according to the MCC. While several COVID-19 artist relief funds exist, Sarno said, he chose The Record Co.’s relief fund for its “direct” impact on the music community; it has already raised over \$100,000, providing small grants of \$200 to 568 local artists. “We love what The Record Co. stands for,” said Sarno. “They essentially want making music in a studio to be accessible as going to play basketball in a park, and that’s definitely something I can get behind.”

Standard Spotify rates translate to fractions of pennies per play, but those eventually add up: a million plays roughly equates to \$4,000 raised. And while each individual financial contribution isn’t huge, the main advantage of the initiative is its ease and practicality. “It doesn’t matter where you are. If you’ve got Spotify or Apple Music, a phone or a laptop, all you have to do is listen and you’re supporting the entire Boston music-making community,” said Sarno. To learn more about the initiative and the artists featured on the playlist, visit [mission-music.org](https://mission-music.org).


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# Despite no fundraising gala this year, Project Place, undaunted, presses on

**By DANIEL SHEEHAN  
REPORTER STAFF**

For over 50 years, the nonprofit organization Project Place has served Bostonians struggling with homelessness and poverty by providing education opportunities, job skills training, housing, and support in finding a job.

While the nonprofit's annual Spring Gala, normally a major fundraising opportunity, has been cancelled due to the pandemic, the important work of the organization continues: Last Wednesday, Project Place premiered a video on its Facebook page entitled "No Matter What" that featured stories from clients as well as shout-outs from special guests.

Kevin, an alumnus highlighted in the short film, described the various opportunities the program has provided him. "Project Place has given me wonderful

skills that I've obtained in my life and that I utilize day to day to acquire a job that I have been working for the last six years, and has given me a place to live."

Wayne, another client, described how Project Place helped him re-enter society after he was incarcerated.

"When I first came in, I'd done probably 38 years in prison. I was very skeptical," he said. "When you do a lot of time, nobody really cares about you, you know. These people wanted me to succeed, and they cared about me."

Gov. Charlie Baker and Mayor Martin Walsh also chimed in during the video, with Baker calling Project Place a "wonderful organization" and Walsh describing the operation as "one of our closest partners."

Project Place's work remains particularly critical during these difficult times as many

## 'Kindness and generosity are not cancelled,' says director of the nonprofit

of its clients have found jobs as essential workers in grocery stores, pharmacies, manufacturing and delivery businesses, and the cleaning of city streets and hospitals. Elsewhere, efforts to match clients with jobs have transitioned to addressing the dramatic rise in unemployment rates.

"Our department has been spending time examining current and projected labor market information," said Allie Orlando, Director of Career Services at Project Place. "Using this data, we hope to make appropriate adjustments in programming to ensure our clients are prepared for the new economy that will result due to COVID-19. The high unemployment rate will

impact how clients job search and for what jobs.

"We are determined," she added, "to make sure our clients are competitive candidates and that employers are well aware of this pool of talent. For clients who have lost work due to the pandemic, our case managers have been great about helping them apply for unemployment."

Stabilization Programming Around Recovery and Resilience Coaching (SPARRC), an initiative established in December meant to assist clients struggling with addiction recovery and related mental health challenges, has proved to be an important resource.

"We could not have possibly foreseen this, but SPARRC seemed to

develop at the perfect time," said program manager Emily Rittenour. "Last month, we served about 60 people in stabilization, addressing mental health and addiction concerns that are clearly exacerbated by the stress and fear with the COVID-19 pandemic. As some health systems are failing, we are finding our clients falling into greater isolation and lacking much-needed mental health supports. We are meeting this challenge by consistently meeting with clients around emergency services and connecting them to providers. We also are continuing support groups that foster a sense of community to combat this isolation."

Project Place's Reentry Team, which works closely with clients who have recently been released from incarceration, has also been busy in recent months in addressing the fallout of the virus in imprisoned populations and helping those who have been released navigate the

current climate.

"For incarcerated individuals who have been on a 'lockdown status' since the pandemic began, Project Place's adapted service delivery model is being considered by correctional facilities as an alternative method to provide them with access to programming," said Reentry Director Beth Carter. "The team continues to strive to ensure that recently released individuals obtain the necessary support and connections to resources."

Right now, Project Place is counting on donors to keep its crucial work going. In the "No Matter What" video, Executive Director Suzanne Kenney emphasized that "while stay at home orders forced us to cancel our annual gala, attributes like kindness and generosity are not cancelled...Project Place has your back, and we will be back."

To learn more about the nonprofit or to make a donation, visit [project-place.org](http://project-place.org).

Saint Anselm College student Dayijah Achille of Dorchester, was honored along with the members of the 2020 class council with the Student Engagement and Leadership Outstanding Student Organization Award for the 2019-2020 academic year in recognition of their community service and involvement. Achille, a English major in the class of 2020, served as the council's Class Activities Chair. The members showed exemplary service and leadership throughout the last two years but in particular during the senior year challenges. College president, Dr. Joseph A. Favazza, began the evening offering a few thoughts saying,



"Service is at the heart of what it means to be Anselmian. It's at the very heart of our mission. It's who we are and I can't be more excited than to be here with you, to celebrate with you." The ceremony was held virtually on April 28th due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

# UMass Boston professor wins \$100k leadership prize

Rebecca Herst, director of the Sustainable Solutions Lab (SSL) at UMass Boston, has been awarded the 2020 Zuckerberg Endowed Leadership Prize for her work in climate adaptation.

Established in 2005 by UMass Lowell alumnus and former senior director of Goldman Sachs, Roy J. Zuckerberg, the Zuckerberg Prize recognizes faculty and staff across the UMass system for leadership in helping the university accomplish its goals.

The two-year, \$100,000 award provides \$30,000 toward research and service activities and a \$20,000 stipend for a total of \$50,000 each year.

Herst has been at UMass Boston for nearly five years and director of the Sustainable Solutions Lab for the last three. Under her leadership, SSL has become a trusted resource in the Greater Boston region around questions of climate adaptation and resilience.

"I commend Rebecca for her outstanding contributions to the university and society," said President Marty Meehan. "Through her important work at the Sustainable Solutions Lab, she is putting the needs of the region's underserved communities front and center."

"Professor Herst is a jewel in the UMB crown," said Interim Chancellor Katherine Newman. "Her dedication to teaching is widely known and tremen-



dously appreciated. I am delighted she has been honored by this prize. It is richly deserved."

The Zuckerberg prize will allow SSL to host an invitational climate justice convening that will bring together researchers and frontline activists from around the country.

## YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### WWI Memoir: The A'Hearn Brothers of Bruce Street

Following are excerpts from a much longer biographical account written by Camille Arbogast.

John J. A'Hearn, a native Bostonian and roofing foreman married Gertrude Crowfoot, a native of England, in 1886, at Saint Vincent de Paul's Church in South Boston. By 1910, the family was living at 13 Bruce Street, and there were eight children in the household: Gertrude (1888), Ellen, known as Nellie (1890), Leonard (1892) in 1892; Clarence, known as C. Joseph (1893); William (1904); Marie (1905); and Arline (1907). Two other children had died: John (1895), of pertussis, or whooping cough, and Frank (1899), of spinal meningitis.

### MR AND MRS JOHN A'HEARN, DORCHESTER, HAVE THREE SONS IN WAR SERVICE



CLARENCE A'HEARN.



HAROLD B. A'HEARN.



LEONARD A'HEARN.

Illustration from Boston Globe, February 13, 1918.

Leonard was the first to enter the service, joining the Coast Artillery Corps in 1914. Leonard served in Mexico as a National Guardsman, and fought in France as part of the 101st Infantry. While overseas, he was wounded five times.

In the summer of 1917, Clarence entered the Naval Aviation school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The eight-week program was the Navy's first pilot training ground school. By the late summer of 1918, he had completed his training

and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Aviation Corps. He was discharged on Dec. 3, 1918.

Harold registered for the second draft in June 1918 when he was already working for the United States Quartermaster at Camp Upton, New York. He was inducted into the Army two months later on August 24, 1918, and later sent to Camp Jackson, in Columbia, South Carolina, where he served in the Headquarters Detachment. On October 25, 1918, he was transferred to the Headquarters Company of the 61st Field Artillery where he remained until he was discharged on Jan. 3, 1919.

The A'Hearns received some notice in local newspapers for having three sons in the military. A *Boston Globe* article entitled "Mr and Mrs John A'Hearn, Dorchester, Have

Three Sons In War Service" noted that John and Gertrude did what they could to support the war effort. A member of the War Savings Fund Committee, Mr. A'Hearn spent "much of his time doing his 'bit.' ... Mrs. A'Hearn is a hard worker in the Red Cross Society."

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

## Poll: T likely to take big hit

More people will be heading back to work over the coming weeks. The roadways, which have been relatively traffic-free for the last two months, are likely to get crowded again. In fact, it might end up being even more congested than before, if polling data released Wednesday is on target.

According to the MassINC Polling Group, which has done outstanding work tracking behaviors and opinions in Massachusetts since the pandemic hit, residents they’ve interviewed are more likely to be driving or walking to work – and trying to avoid public transportation.

“In all, 35 percent of residents say they will ride the MBTA subway less than before, and 33 percent say the same of the commuter rail,” the pollsters said in a summary released this week. “Among the most frequent transit users, 44 percent say they will ride the subway less, and 45 percent expect to drive more. Young people and Boston residents are among the groups indicating the biggest increases in driving.”

The survey, conducted between May 5-13 and sponsored by The Barr Foundation, suggests that many of us who have been working at home will continue to do so. Forty-one percent of those surveyed told the pollsters that “they would prefer to work from home even after the state reopens.”

Steve Koczela, president of The MassINC Polling Group, said that the survey “suggests we could see changes all across the system in terms of how people get around, with large swaths of the population planning to do things differently than before.” He also noted that “there are deep inequities in who can work from home.”

Of those surveyed who have worked from home throughout the crisis, a large proportion – 71 percent – hold an advanced degree. “Only a quarter of workers with a high school degree or less have worked from home all of the time during the crisis,” Koczela’s report notes.

For those who do rely on the T – and particularly for the men and women who work for the transit agency – there will undoubtedly be lingering concerns. James Evers, the president of the Carmen’s Union, wrote to MBTA general manager Steve Poftak last week noting that passenger volume has increased 20 percent in recent weeks.

“As the state begins to embark on reopening efforts, MBTA drivers and operators are increasingly concerned about what reopening will mean for increased passenger volume and, as a result, the increased risk of exposure in these confined spaces,” Evers wrote. He urged the MBTA to enforce the governor’s directive that passengers wear masks. “It is not enough to simply ask passengers to comply – it must be enforced,” Evers wrote.

But there are limits to what the MBTA can accomplish. Poftak told WBUR last week that enforcing the face-covering policy cannot really be done “in a police action kind of way” since people with medical conditions are exempt.

The MassINC poll indicates that potential MBTA riders are also spooked. Only ten percent told pollsters that they would “feel very comfortable” riding during peak hours. That number increased to a majority if the T were to adopt “precautions like requiring masks, installing hand-sanitizer dispensers, and limiting the number of passengers allowed on vehicles and platforms.

If there’s an “upside” to any of this, it might be that some people – especially those of us fortunate enough to live in the city – won’t be jumping into a private vehicle, either. Some are planning to turn to our devices – our feet –to get around. According to the MassInc survey, 53 percent of Bostonians said that “they plan to walk more as the state reopens.” And 64 percent think the city should dedicate more space on Boston streets to walking and biking.

- Bill Forry

## If you want to support your city’s welfare, start by filling in your Census responses

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a Census that is aimed at counting every person living in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and the five US territories. This is more than just a head count; the Census determines everything from representation in Congress, to federal funding for schools, affordable housing, infrastructure, and healthcare programs.

As Boston continues to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and work toward an equitable recovery, federal funding will play a key role in providing relief for our small business owners, veterans, renters, our healthcare sector, and more. Much of the recovery aid that Washington will allocate is based on our population’s size as determined by the Census. Filling out the 2020 Census is a great way to support healthcare workers, first responders, and other people on the front lines from the safety of your home. It will also help Boston respond to future emergencies by increasing data accuracy and federal dollars for community health centers and hospitals.

Data from the 2010 Census show that for every Massachusetts resident who *doesn’t* fill out the Census, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts misses out on more than \$2,300 in federal funding. That’s a significant loss for our communities, including our students, our older adults, our residents experiencing homelessness, and other vulnerable groups. In 2015, Massachusetts received more than \$16 billion for crucial programs and services such as Medicaid and Medicare, SNAP and free school lunch programs, Section 8 Vouchers, public education, and childcare

programs for low-income families like Head Start. We need everyone in the city to participate in this year’s Census so we can continue to support and improve these programs.

Many of Boston’s communities are at risk of an undercount. Almost 60 percent of the city’s population lives in census tracts that have historically been undercounted, and this year, we want to change that. The Census is a means to increase community power. Boston recognizes how vital each resident is to our social fabric, and the 2020 Census will make sure the federal government does, too.

I want to assure everyone in Boston that responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Answers can only be used to produce statistics, and the Census Bureau cannot share your personal information with anyone – not to law enforcement, and not to your landlord. You will not be asked about your immigration status, and answers will not affect any public benefits you receive.

The Census is very easy to complete. It only takes a few minutes to fill out the questionnaire online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov). You can also fill it out over the phone in 13 different languages. The phone number is listed on the website. Everyone counts equally in our democracy, and everyone deserves to be seen, heard, and invested in, regardless of your age, background, housing status, how much money you make, where you were born, or any other characteristic. The 2020 Census is an example of direct democracy in action, and I urge all Bostonians to take part.

Martin J. Walsh is mayor of Boston.

## Strong action needed now to avert more educational woes across state

By Bill Walczak  
Reporter Contributor

Gov. Baker didn’t include schools in his four-part plan to re-open the state. In response to a question, he said that the commissioner of education has put together a task force that has already begun meeting. The team will address the schools reopening issues in a few weeks.



Bill Walczak

Many states don’t yet have plans, but there are some guidance elements emerging. Maryland has already put together an excellent program.

Massachusetts has led the US in K-12 education for many years, which is why it’s alarming to see our state performing so poorly in that area in dealing with the coronavirus crisis and moving to remote learning.

Since the early part of the disruption, national evaluators have improved the state’s grades, but there is no doubt that progress has been moving slowly, disadvantaging many students whose districts lacked urgency.

Some districts have done a terrific job, and some have already given up. The sudden decision to close schools put everyone – students, parents, teachers, administrators, officials – in a difficult situation. At the beginning of January, none of those involved could have imagined that the entire system would need to be transformed to remote learning, let alone in a matter of a few weeks.

Teachers are not routinely trained in remote teaching, and most students are new to learning online. If school districts were depending on the state for direction, what they got at first was confusing messaging. Many districts believed they were told by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) that students should not be taught new content because districts would be exposed to litigation if all students were not learning new content (which was not exactly the message from DESE).

There were also collective bargaining issues between districts and some teachers’ unions (Boston took a month to come to terms), and districts varied greatly in how they approached remote learning. Some districts had students who had immediate access to the internet and computers, and others had students who had neither. As a result, many wealthier communities moved forward with new content, while poorer districts – and their students – struggled.

We’re a month away from the end of the school year, and the crisis in equity grows. Since May 4, more than 10,000 Boston Public School students (22 percent of all BPS students, according to a *Boston Globe* article) have not logged on to any

online classes or picked up homework; essentially, they have dropped out of school. Across the state, thousands of students, especially in districts with large numbers of low-income families, basically have lost a third of their school year to the pandemic.

With September in sight and a potential fall surge of COVID-19, we need to move quickly to avert a disaster for efforts to bridge any part of the achievement gap. The first question to be answered is whether and how schools will be able to reopen safely for students and adults. How will students maintain social distance in schools, let alone on buses? How will schools prepare to pivot between remote and on-site learning?

My best guess is that Massachusetts will need to continue remote learning into the fall. This means that we have three months to deal with the technology and family scaffolding issues that prevent many low-income students from participating in remote education, to train teachers to be effective in remote learning, and to develop an appropriate remote learning system, with accountability measures, for all districts.

The second question involves whether schools should require thousands of students who have fallen behind to repeat their 2019-20 school year. If not, how do students catch up so that they’re prepared for the next grade’s curriculum? The alternative to holding back students who are far behind is to have them catch up during the summer. We have one month to figure out how to do this.

The third big question is how to pay for everything. The Mass Taxpayers Foundation forecasts a \$6 billion loss in state revenue in FY 2021, which starts July 1. This gigantic shortfall greatly reduces the chances of new revenue for schools from the Student Opportunity Act (SOA). Even without new funding to the SOA, we have a pressing moral obligation to implement the new funding formula called for in the legislation for how state dollars reach schools. This formula, based on principles of equity, puts a higher percentage of dollars into districts based on numbers of low-income students, English Language Learners, and those with special needs.

We must also insist that federal funding through the Cares Act be used for summer programming for students who have fallen behind. Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley estimates that the cost to ensure that all students have access to technology for education is about \$50 million. Finding these dollars must be our priority.

Massachusetts created the public education system in America and has been ranked first in education outcomes for many years. We don’t have much time to demonstrate to the children of the Commonwealth that we deserve continuation of that ranking.

Bill Walczak lives in Dorchester and is a co-founder of both the Codman Square Health Center and Codman Academy, a charter public school.

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# Mass. jobless rate surges past 15 percent

By Chris Lisinski  
State House  
News Service

The Massachusetts unemployment rate moved above 15 percent in April, smashing some 45 years of records as the pandemic and the resulting public shutdowns caused massive job losses.

On Friday, state labor officials announced that Massachusetts had shed 623,000 jobs in April, the first full month during which non-essential businesses were ordered to close their physical locations to employees and customers and most residents were urged to stay at home whenever possible.

From March to April, the unemployment rate increased 12.3 percentage points, to 15.1 percent, the highest level since the US Bureau of Labor Statistics began tracking seasonally adjusted unemployment rates at the state level in 1976. The numbers reflect the waves of new jobless claims that have been filed in recent weeks, and show how far the state now has to go to both defeat the virus and return people to their old jobs or new ones.

Michael Goodman, executive director of the UMass Dartmouth Public Policy Center and a co-editor of MassBenchmarks, said joblessness in Massachusetts may not have reached such elevated levels since the recession immediately following World War II.

“I don’t think there are a lot of surprises here, but it’s still pretty stunning when you look at the data,” he said.

At least one in seven Massachusetts employees were out of work last month, and economists cautioned that the real figure is likely higher because of gaps the statewide unemployment rate does not cover.

Goodman said that “things are worse than they appear,” while Alicia Sasser Modestino, associate director of Northeastern University’s Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy, said April’s figures “could really just be the tip of the iceberg.”

Pioneer Institute Research Director Greg Sullivan estimated that the ac-

tual unemployment rate today is more than 22 percent, based on additional unemployment claims filed in May.

Every private industry in Massachusetts besides the information sector reported losing jobs compared to April 2019, though the depth of the cuts varied.

Some 61 percent of positions in leisure and hospitality evaporated from March to April, by far the most significant impact, while construction lost 37.1 percent of its jobs, other services lost 35.7 percent, and trade, transportation, and utilities lost 19.5 percent.

Both Goodman and Modestino said one major red flag in the state data is the level of strain in education and health services, a combined category that lost more than one-tenth of its jobs in April.

With so many colleges and universities and a robust health care sector in Massachusetts, the industries tend to be major and stable employers, they said.

“The fact that they are shedding jobs at as rapid a rate as we’ve seen is notable,” Goodman said. “I think higher ed and health care institutions and health systems are particularly vulnerable, and we’ve come to rely on those as a source of innovation and economic opportunities. Both of those sectors are pretty heavily exposed here. That’s a big vulnerability.”

A key question hanging over the recovery process is how many jobs that have been cut will return as states lift mandatory business closures and stay-at-home recommendations.

The Baker administration has unveiled plans to begin reviving business activity in Massachusetts on a gradual basis, starting with construction, manufacturing and some additional limited health care services. Employers across the spectrum will face a range of new safety restrictions and caps on capacity

“Because of that, they’re not going to need to hire back the same number of workers they had before the pandemic hit,” Modestino said. “Even under

a best-case scenario of the economy reopening over the next one or two months, not all of those workers will be recalled.”

Progress could be stunted if the COVID-19 outbreak, which has killed more than 6,000 Massachusetts residents in the past two months, rebounds and the administration reinstates stricter limitations on public activity.

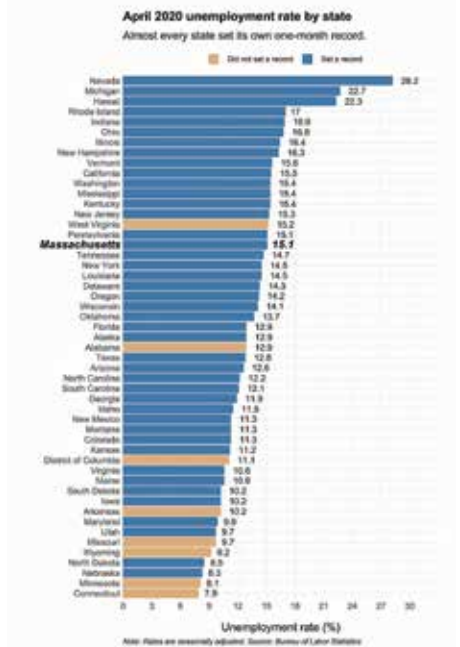
Massachusetts is not alone in facing unprecedented circumstances: 42 other states set their own records in April for monthly unemployment since 1976. The situation has prompted Congress to pass a series of major relief packages and debate continues on additional aid.

The Bay State had the 16th-highest rate among all states last month, and it landed toward the middle of the pack compared to its New England neighbors. Rhode Island had the highest unemployment rate in the region at 17 percent, while Connecticut was the lone state nationwide not to crack double digits with its 7.9 percent, a figure that Modestino said may be a reporting error.

Federal labor officials earlier this month reported a 14.7 percent national unemployment rate for April, citing 20.5 million jobs lost that wiped out most of the gains made in the years following the Great Recession beginning in 2008.

Modestino warned that about 95 percent of the state’s job losses so far have occurred in the private sector, even as state and local governments around the country face budget shortfalls with tax revenues shrinking.

Massachusetts, like many other states, is constitutionally required to balance its budget every year. Gov. Charlie Baker, who last week described an “economic calamity” hitting the state, signed legislation allowing the state Treasury to borrow billions of dollars this fiscal year to cover shortfalls and



pay it back next fiscal year, when revenues from the tax-filing deadline delayed from April 15 to July 15 will materialize.

Even then, the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation projected the state’s tax collections in fiscal year 2021 could fall \$6 billion short of earlier estimates.

Democrats in the US House of Representatives have proposed \$875 billion in federal stimulus funding for state and local governments and another \$20 billion for tribal governments, but the legislation has little traction among Republicans.

“We need Congress to pass a state and local aid package yesterday,” Modestino said. “The last thing we need right now is to be adding public employees to the unemployment line.”

If federal aid does not materialize, Modestino said Massachusetts leaders should consider increasing the state income tax by 1 percentage point to help fill revenue gaps, potentially on a short-term basis with language reversing the increase once recovery is more stable.

# Report SSOs

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2019/2020 ACADEMIC  
YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

EXAM PREP PROGRAM

- ▶ 240 students enrolled
- ▶ 85% of students increased their score from pre-test to post-test
- ▶ 80% of students admitted into an Exam School

PRIVATE SCHOOL  
PLACEMENT PROGRAM

- ▶ 8 out of the 10 students enrolled were admitted to private school

LATIN EXTRA HELP

- ▶ 10 students in program (still ongoing via Zoom)

ONE ON ONE TUTORING

- ▶ 38 students, 33 tutors
- ▶ 450 hours of community service completed



One on One Tutoring Students

Mary Armstrong	Conrad Magoon	
Anna Bailey	Devin Mandeville	
Nora Bailey	Kamari Marchan	
Michael Chuairy	Richard McGrath	
Michael Cloherty	Kelly McKenna	
Dante Foster	Rosaleen McLaughlin	
Sheny Foster	Thomas Misilo	
Aoife Frize	Thomas Moriarty	
Conor Hegarty	Jenna Nguyen	
Cian Hegarty	Lilia Nguyen	
Adam Henley	Thomas Quinlan	
Camila Henriquez	Brody Richard	
Carlos Henriquez	Michael Scully	
Liam Kaszanek	Julia Studley	
Audrey Kelley	James Swanson	
Kyle Kim	Erin Tracey	
Leo Lovering	Sarah Tracey	
Oscar MacKinnon	Callum Wallace	
Sean Maginnis	Stacey Wong	



**BRONZE MEDAL**  
(3rd highest academic points overall)\*  
**Leo Lovering**

**SILVER MEDAL**  
(2nd highest academic points overall)\*  
**Kelly McKenna**

**GOLD MEDAL & DOTTIE BARRY MEMORIAL AWARD**  
(highest academic points overall)\*  
**Sean Maginnis**

**DR. THOMAS S. DURANT TUTORING AWARD**  
(awarded to the volunteer who goes above and beyond to see their student succeed)  
**James Delaney**

**ALICE C. SWEENEY ESSAY WRITING AWARD**  
(highest marks on assigned writing throughout the year)\*  
**Sheny Foster**

**DANIEL A. O'HARA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**  
(most logged hours of completed service)\*  
**Thomas Moriarty**

THE LIVE AND PROSPER SCHOLARSHIP

The Live and Prosper Scholarship, in memory of Tom and Patty Doar, is awarded annually to twelfth- grade tutors who benefited from the support of Project D.E.E.P. as middle schoolers and then demonstrated their gratitude by giving back to the organization as high schoolers. The gift will be used over the recipients' time at a post- secondary institution for expenses such as room and board, textbooks, transportation, etc.

An essay application as well as recommendations are required to be considered for this scholarship. The total amount distributed among the 2020 recipients was \$13,000.

**Mairead Baker, Harvard University**  
**Aidan Devlin, Westfield State University**  
**Gregory Rosa, Northeastern University**

\*signifies what was submitted by the 3/16/20 COVID-19 office closure



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THE MARTIN RICHARD FOUNDATION  
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GOLDENTREE ASSET MANAGEMENT  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE NICK COLLINS

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# Customers are eager, but re-opening is a challenge

(Continued from page 1) spread of the coronavirus, Peterson-El bought a large stash of weed. But as the shutdown dragged on, she ran out a few weeks in. Since then, she said, her arthritis has flared up from time to time – but without the calming fog of marijuana to relieve her symptoms. So, she’s been anxiously waiting for cannabis shops to open back up.

“Actually, it was the first thing on my mind this morning,” she said, chuckling.

Throughout the pandemic, Peterson-El said, she has been concerned about getting the coronavirus, but on this morning, she felt comfortable waiting in line outside Pure Oasis. Everyone in the queue stood six feet away from others and wore a mask.

“I’m not worried at all,” she said. “I probably won’t come back for a while, but only because the wait is super long.”



**Tayah Peterson-El picks up a bag of cannabis from a newly reopened cannabis store. The store was able to open for curbside pickup on Monday, the first time since the coronavirus shut down the operation.**  
*WBUR/Angus Chen photo*

After an hour and a half in line, an attendant came out of Pure Oasis and handed Peterson-El a brown paper bag. She peeked inside. After two long months, she was finally able to restock.

It’s not the only wait that’s over for her,

though. Peterson-El is also a hair stylist, and she hasn’t been able to work over the last couple of months. Before the coronavirus, she had a storefront, but she couldn’t keep paying the rent without any clients. Now, she’s moving her business into her

home, and she has nine appointments lined up this week, which makes her a little apprehensive, but she said she’s looking forward to getting back on her feet.

“You always get that anxiousness surrounding the coronavirus, but I’m not afraid,” she said. “It is a relief to start working. I’ve been waiting for a long time. So, it’s like, finally.”

But, she said, there’s a lot more to do when reopening during a pandemic than dust off the counters. There are a lot of restrictions to reopening, Peterson-El said. For one thing, customers need to be six feet apart, and she can’t do walk-ins anymore. Nobody will sit around, chat, or catch up. The atmosphere, she said, is going to change a lot.

“It’s like the experience at the barber shop or the hair salon is no longer going to be that experience,” she said. “I have disposable slippers, dis-

posable capes. You just come in, take your jacket off, take your shoes off, put on the disposables, and toss them out when you’re done.”

Down the street, J&C Barber Shop reopened for business on Monday. Latin music spilled out of its open door onto the avenue, and two men were wearing face masks inside as they were getting haircuts. Leuris Luna is one of the barbers there. On opening day, he was wearing gloves, a mask, and a face shield.

He said the job is a lot harder now, and less comfortable because of all the restrictions in place aimed to slow any potential spread of the virus. “We’re doing the best we can, but everything is a little complicated,” he said. “We’re washing hands with soap or alcohol, cleaning the whole area all the time, wearing a mask all the time. We’re taking every kind of measure now.”

One of his custom-

ers, Tom Tran, sat in an empty barber chair waiting for a barber to cut his hair. He said the shop feels a lot different now. “I can see they got the red tape on the floor. This is not how it used to be. There used to be chairs all around where you can sit. They took all that away. So, you know. Everybody’s all distanced now.”

Still, seeing the safeguards made Tran feel confident about staying in the store and getting his hair cut. “People’s taken their precautions,” he said. “They’re protecting you and themselves.” It’s about time he got a haircut, too, he added.

“It’s overdue. It’s been seven weeks,” he said. “You can see, man. I don’t keep my hair this long.” Tran looked into the mirror and ran a hand over his black hair. He normally gets a haircut once a week. Now, he’s looking forward to that part of his life returning to the way it used to be.

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## Franklin Park Zoo is re-opening this week

(Continued from page 1) ticketing, guest capacity limits, one-way paths to control guest flow, clearly designated six-foot distance markers, enhanced cleaning protocols, more hand sanitizer stations throughout the zoos, and COVID-19

training for all staff.

Guests and staff are required to wear face coverings and adhere to six-foot social distancing while on zoo grounds.

Guests will be required to purchase tickets online for a designated time slot, and there will be no re-entry once admitted into the zoo. Members are also required to reserve their time slot prior to their visit.

“Member Appreciation Days” will run from May 28 through June

3. Online tickets for the general public will be available for purchase beginning on June 1 at [zoonewengland.org](http://zoonewengland.org).

During the first phase of opening, guests will be able to enjoy an Outdoor Safari Walk and view all outdoor exhibits while indoor buildings remain closed. At Franklin Park, the outdoor animal exhibits include the chance to see lions and tigers, prairie dogs and red pandas, zebras, ostriches, wart-

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# Outdoor high school graduations, with cautions, OK'd post-July 18

By KATIE LANNAN  
STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE

New state guidance allows for high schools to hold in-person, outdoor graduation ceremonies starting July 19, with certain safety precautions in place and as long as public health data around COVID-19 allows the commonwealth to continue along its reopening plan.

Graduation ceremonies held between now and July 18 are to “be held virtually or in extremely limited other circumstances following safety protocols (e.g., car parades),” according to the guidelines.

Schools have been physically closed since March and will remain so throughout the rest of the school year, a dynamic that has resulted in cancellation or postponement of many events and celebrations associated with high school graduations.

The minimum standards for in-person graduations later in the summer include limiting attendance to graduates and their immediate family members, with pre-registration required, and hugging or hand-shaking prohibited during a ceremony that “should be kept as brief as possible.”

Venues must be cleaned prior to the ceremony, which can only be held in an unconfined outdoor space. All attendees would be required to wear masks, except for children under the age of 2 and people with medical conditions, though speakers could remove their masks during their remarks.

Gov. Baker’s office on Friday announced plans for a June 9 virtual high school commencement ceremony that will feature remarks from Baker, members of the New England Patriots, Boston Red Sox, and Celtics, the actor Steve

Carell and others, plus a Boston Pops Orchestra performance.

In a message to school and district leaders, Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeff Riley also highlighted additional ways to celebrate the class of 2020, including a rotating display of photos on his department’s website.

“As graduation time approaches, please encourage your high school community, particularly teachers, to share highlights about the graduating class on social media with the hashtag #ThatsMyStudentMA and tag the

DESE account at @MASchoolsK12 on Twitter or @MassachusettsDESE on Facebook,” Riley wrote.

## City focus is on helping, not fines

(Continued from page 1)

Licensing Board, the Transportation Department, the Public Improvement Commission, and Public Works.

“Things have been going quite well, we’ve been able to adapt pretty quickly. We’ve invested in mobile computers so staff can take things home and we’re updating our website frequently,” said Irish, who noted that “field inspectors already had some mobile technology that has allowed them to get working to provide services.”

ISD enforces building, housing, health, sanitation and safety regulations mandated by the city and the state. It also oversees the city’s Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA), which inspects and reviews buildings for zoning compliance, and regulates the rules behind what can be built, and where, in Boston.

The full board has not convened since the state of emergency was issued in March. “We’re looking at announcing something for the full board – likely a virtual meeting – in late June,” Irish said this week.

“We’ve obviously discontinued in-person ZBA hearings and going forward we wanted to make sure we found a safe way to continue that keeps the public’s trust and confidence,” he said. “For that reason, we have not had a full board hearing, but we did have a subcommittee hearing using a virtual platform. That agenda had about 15 small projects and it was a good opportunity for us to gain some confidence.”

Subcommittee recommendations are advanced to the full board for approval. “We’re at a point where we are looking at ways to have a full hearing with small project matters on the agenda,” Irish said. “But we need to do that in a way where we are addressing participation concerns, equitable access, and language access needs.”

He noted that there are roughly 100 applications pending in the pipeline—all filed since the state of emergency began.

“These cases also need to go through a community process, so we want to get to a point where we are having these meetings safely in a virtual manner, and so that people feel comfortable that they can effectively participate.”

Irish said he is confident that the board will be able to catch up on backlog with virtual meeting agendas.

ISD recently re-opened its Planning and Zoning Division to the public, with 30-minute appointment-only time slots, and with restricted hours. Irish said that this division, which reopened last Friday, was immediately booked out.

“We’ve been evaluating our services on a weekly basis to see where the demand is for services that have been paused,” he said. “Some folks are effectively applying for permits and making payments electronically, but we noticed that there is a small subsection of folks that need to physically drop off or pick up project plans.”

He said that ISD is making adjustments to meet that demand, reducing appointment time slots from 30 minutes to 15 minutes.

“We encourage folks to use our electronic services, but understand that some need to come in, so we’ve made those appointments shorter and will be able to service more people.”

In terms of enforcement, Irish said fines will be issued in any instances where ISD might see repeat offenses of rules or guidelines. But, he added: “Right now, our focus is not on fines. We’re focused on creating guidance to educate folks so that they can develop plans that are COVID safe.”

To protect employees, Irish said that ISD is developing guidance and

training sessions and rotating schedules for office staff as well as for field staff entering construction sites.

“We’re providing guidance and training at construction sites so they understand what we’re looking for and doing that same extensive training session for our staff that will evaluate re-opening construction sites,” he said. “Buildings are being sanitized, staff will have the appropriate PPE, and we’re staggering schedules to keep a minimum number of people in buildings at one time.”

The Licensing Board voted last Thursday to pass an emergency amendment to its general rules, taking steps to streamline existing processes and remove restrictions to help small businesses and restaurants during the reopening process.

The board also lifted the preexisting condition of “alcohol with food only” on outdoor space or any other similar condition that prohibits the sale and service of alcohol on outdoor space without the service of a food item.

“We’ve said from the

beginning that Boston’s reopening process must take a cautious approach that puts science and public health at the forefront of our discussions,” said Walsh. “It’s my hope that these updated protocols will help ensure proper social distancing, and give much-needed assistance to the small businesses that are the lifeblood of Boston’s neighborhoods.”

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RECENT OBITUARIES



**BURKE, Beryl E.**, 79, from complications of COVID-19. She was born to Cyril Othman Burke, Sr. and Vashti Naomi Burke (née Edwards), who immigrated to the U.S. through Ellis Island from Barbados. Her parents settled in Boston and raised eight children, of whom Beryl was the youngest. Beryl was a graduate of Girls Latin School, and earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Boston University. She was an Accounts Receivable Analyst in the Controls and Statistics Department at the Boston Children's Hospital. She was predeceased by her siblings Kenneth, Cyril, Jr., Vernon, Vashti, Stanley, Edwin, and Iris. She is survived by many nieces and nephews. A celebration of her life will be held in Cambridge at a later date.



**DYER, Bruce**, 62, in Quincy. Bruce served Boston EMS for over 10 years. He is survived by his daughter Rachel, and sons Scot and Ollie. Family will hold a private service. Memorial donations may be made to the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute.

**EVANS, Henry Paul Jr.**, 64, in Dorchester. Henry was born the fifth child of Martha Helen Cooper Evans and Henry Paul Evans, Sr. Henry worked for Whiting Construction Company. He also devoted his life to culinary arts working in several restaurants in Illinois and Massachusetts. He leaves his wife, Helen Roberts Evans of Monrovia, Liberia; one daughter, Synethia Nicole Burgess of Boston, MA; four sons, Malachi Evans of New York, Cooper and Cori Evans,

of Pasadena, MD, Gideon Evans of Chicago, IL, Micah Evans of Boston, MA; brothers, Richard Evans of Boston, MA, and Anthony Carr of Newton, MA; sisters, Karen S. Haywood of Newton, MA, Martha and Marvin Cruse of Ashland, MA, Michelle and William Andrews of Richmond, VA; and one granddaughter, Raven Evans. He departs leaving a host of nieces and nephews and cousins.



**DOHERTY, Carole A.** of Hanover, formerly of Hanson, originally from Savin Hill. Carole was born in 1936 in Newfoundland, Canada to Harold and Mary Wells. She had four sisters: Mary Jane McCweeney of Hyannis, Pamela Robertson of Taunton, the late Doris Curran and the late Phyllis Wells. She was a sister-in-law to John McCweeney of Hyannis, the late Daniel Curran and the late William Robertson. Carole was the mother of Edward Doherty and his wife Maria of Marshfield, Thomas Doherty and his wife Kathleen of Hopkinton, Lyn Clark and her husband Michael of Middleton, and the late Michael, John, and Joseph Doherty, and leaves a daughter-in-law, Grace Doherty of Norwell. Grandmother of 11 and great-grandmother of 5. Carole also

leaves many nieces and nephews. Carole was loved and respected as a nurse at the Little House Health Center in Dorchester. It was her second home and second family. Carole was also certified as a Smoking Cessation Counselor. She helped countless people overcome their addiction to nicotine. While raising six children, she always found time to volunteer. She was a swim instructor at Malibu Beach in Savin Hill, a Den Mother for Cub Scouts, Secretary for CYO and the Boston Neighborhood Hockey league, volunteer for Savin Hill Youth Baseball and chauffeur for various sporting events or beach outings. The family has established a scholarship fund at Laboure College where Carole was a 1984 graduate. The scholarship will be awarded annually to single mothers in the nursing program. Donations to the Carole A. Doherty, RN Memorial Fund can be sent by mail to Laboure College, 303 Adams Street, Milton, MA 02186 or online at laboure.edu Please indicate that the donation is for the scholarship fund. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date.



**FITZPATRICK, Derek Wesley** of Dorchester, he was 49. Father of Cherelle Spencer, Derek McClure,

Derek Fitzpatrick, Jr., Dayla Fitzpatrick and Darius Fitzpatrick. He leaves behind by his 3 sisters, Stella, Tyeashaa, and Shelley. His 3 brothers, Stanley, Isaiah, and Zaccarie. He is also survived by many dear friends and extended family.



**FOLEY, Marguerite P. "Margie,"** she was the daughter of the late Thomas J. and Barbara E. (Flaherty) Foley. Sister of Mary A. (Foley) Foley of Weymouth, formerly of Canton, her late brother-in-law William E. Foley, BFD ret., and the late Anne B. Foley of Quincy. Aunt of Mary Hynes (Joe, deceased) of Milton, Barbara Turley (Walter) of Easton, William Foley (Mary) of Scituate, Colleen Forrester (Gary) of Raynham, and Patricia Jones (Karl) of Grafton. Also survived by several grandnieces and grandnephews, as well as a great-grandniece and nephew. Margie grew up on Fairmount St. in Dorchester, where she lived for 50 years before moving to Quincy in 1974. She attended Dorchester schools and was a devout parishioner at St. Gregory's. For those who wish, donations in Marguerite's memory may be made to Hancock Park, c/o Activities Fund, at 164 Parkway, Quincy, MA.



**HARDING, Diane A.** Diane was a very active member of the Greenwood Methodist Church in Dorchester where she served as Head Usher as it gave her a sense of purpose, especially after her retirement. She was born in Trinidad, West Indies in 1942 to the late Alfonso Beckles and Evelyn Lovell. At a young age, Diane met and married the late Ancil S. Knight and from that union they

had five daughters (Erleen, Charmaine, Beverly, Petra and Gail), those children gave her 24 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Diane emigrated to the United States in 1969 to Boston. She was employed at University/Boston Medical Hospital for over 44 years. In the early days of her career she was supervisor of housekeeping and after earning her secretarial certificate, she became a Unit Secretary until her retirement. In 2001 Diane married Dennis Harding. Mourning her physical presence is her husband, Dennis Harding, her children, 24 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, step children Carlene Marshall and Dennis Jr., and her step grandchildren. She also leaves behind her sister Cheril Lynch and brother George Sayers, and a host of nieces, nephews, God children and other relatives and friends.



**KELLEY, Thomas B. Jr.**, 77. Tom was formerly of Hingham and Dorchester. He was the husband of Kathleen T. (Naughton) Kelley. Son of the late Thomas B. and Marie A. (McGowan) Kelley. Brother of Maureen and her husband Paul Kilroy of Sharon, Kevin and his wife Susan Kelley of Tiverton, RI, Kathleen Haffner and her late husband George Haffner of Auburndale, FL, and the late Margaret "Peggy" Kelley-Shuman. Brother-in-law of Tarek Shuman of Naples, FL. Father to John Christopher Sheehan of Boston and Deborah Ellen Sheehan of Revere. Grandfather of 3 and great-grandfather of 1. Survived by several nieces and nephews. Tom was born and raised in Dorchester. He was a US Navy veteran, and during his service he received the National Defense Service Medal. Tom took over the Dorchester Flower Shop in 1969 after the death of his father.

**LEE, Shoon Him ("Himmy Lee")** of Dorchester. He was 78

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(Continued from page 14) years old and was a life-long resident of Dorchester. Everyone from friends at the Paul Sullivan House to South Cove YMCA in Boston's Chinatown to his relatives called him "Himmy." Himmy was the son of the late Eye Hi Lee and Neo Quong Lee. Himmy leaves his two brothers in Hawaii: Shoon Wah Lee ("David") and his wife Shiling Zhu together with their children Mei Fonn Lee, Yew Tin Lee, Mei Lee; and John Lee ("Wee") and his wife Judy Lee together with their children Kenneth Lee and Tracy Lee.

**MALONEY, Mary E. (Clark)** of Neponset. Wife of the late James J. Maloney. Mother of Maureen Mulkern and her husband Geoff Kalika of Charlestown, Kathleen Maloney and Mike Kelly of Quincy, James J. and his wife Marilyn Maloney of Neponset, Vincent and his wife Nina Maloney of Medford, and Mary Maloney of Neponset. Grandmother of Jennifer McCarthy, Lauren and James Maloney, all of Neponset, and great-grandmother of Teddy McCarthy of Neponset.



**MONTAVLO, Rosa** of Dorchester. She was the wife of the late Rafael Sanchez. She leaves behind her children Juan R and Norma Sanchez, Herminio and Beatriz Sanchez, Juan B. Sanchez and Francis, Israel and Elsa Sanchez, Elia and Hector Santiago, Lucy Sanchez, Benjamin Sanchez, Ermelinda and

Emilio Cardona, Ovidio and Janet Sanchez, Betty Sanchez, Rene and Karen Sanchez, and the late Ivan Sanchez. She is also survived by many grand and great grandchildren. Rosa was born in 1932 in Lares, Puerto Rico to Nicolas Montalvo and Amada Cardona, where she was raised with her many siblings. She was an active member of the Saint Patrick's Parish.

**MULLIGAN, Francis J. "Bo,"** 93, of Canton. Born and raised in Dorchester, he graduated from Dorchester High School, Boston College and he was a proud Army Veteran of WW II. Bo went on to work for Stone & Webster for many years as a Nuclear Engineer before retiring. Husband of Marielin (Dowdall). Brother of Donal Mulligan of NC, Mary Mulligan SND of Dorchester, and the late John Mulligan, C. Eileen Tangvik, Anne Mulligan, and Rev. William Mulligan SJ. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

**PROCTOR, Lauretta C. (Norton)** lifelong resident of Dorchester, 78. Daughter of the late Edward S. (Ned) and Rose M. (Lauretta) Norton. Wife of William H. Proctor (retired BPD). Mother of Cindy Crowley and her husband Neil Crowley, Edward N. Proctor, Tracy Doyle and her husband Mi-



chael Doyle (BPD), all of Dorchester. Sister of Agnes B. Hurley of Dorchester and Theresa F. Downie of Dennisport. Grandmother of 5. Great-grandmother to 2. Also survived by her many nieces and nephews. Donations may be made to Leahy-Holloran Community Center, 1 Worrell Street, Dorchester, MA 02122.

**RUBINOVITZ, Esther,** 95, of Dedham, and formerly of Brookline, died of Covid 19. A native of Dorchester, Esther was the third of six siblings: Morris (deceased), Julius (deceased), Sarah Picone, Joseph, and Samuel. For many decades, she lived in Brookline and worked as a bookkeeper. For the last five years, Esther lived at Newbridge on the Charles. The family appreciates the loving care she received at Newbridge and asks that contributions in her honor be directed to Newbridge.

**SANDLER, Lawrence "Larry"** of Revere, formerly of Dorchester, Lynn and Swampscott, 86. Hus-

band of Claire (Gold) Sandler with whom he shared 65 years of marriage. Father of Mark Sandler and his wife Lisa of Lynn and Lynne Sandler and her fiancé Charles Katz and his son Gideon Katz of Cambridge. Brother of Millie Laycob of Brockton. Son of the late Ralph and Shirley (Sidell) Sandler. Larry also leaves many cousins, nieces, nephews and dear friends. A celebration of life to honor Larry's memory will be held at a later date. Expressions of sympathy may be made in Larry's memory to Temple Sinai of Marblehead, 1 Community Road, Marblehead, MA 01945; Project Bread, 145 Border Street, East Boston, MA 02128 or via projectbread.org/ or to the Alzheimer's Association via alz.org/

**TUMILTY, Ann** of Dorchester, formerly



of Co. Cork, Ireland. Wife of 60 years of the late Patrick Tumilty. Mother of Thomas and his wife Janet, Ann and her husband Arnold Behrer, John, Mary Beth, and Sheila and her husband Laurence Coch. Grandmother of 9. Great-grandmother of 1. Sister of Felix of Ireland, George of Wales, and the late Jerome, and Patrick O'Sullivan. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends. A Celebration of Life service to honor Ann will be held at a later date. Donations may be made in memory

of Ann to St. Ann's Parish, 243 Neponset Ave., Dorchester, MA 02122.



**YOUNG, Dorothy,** 73, of Dorchester, formerly of New Orleans. Mother of the late Jimmy Young, Jr., Michael, Stephanie and Aaron Young of Boston. Dear grandmother, and great-grandmother. She is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and dear friends. Due to the current health guidelines and restrictions, a Celebration of Life Service will not be held at this time.



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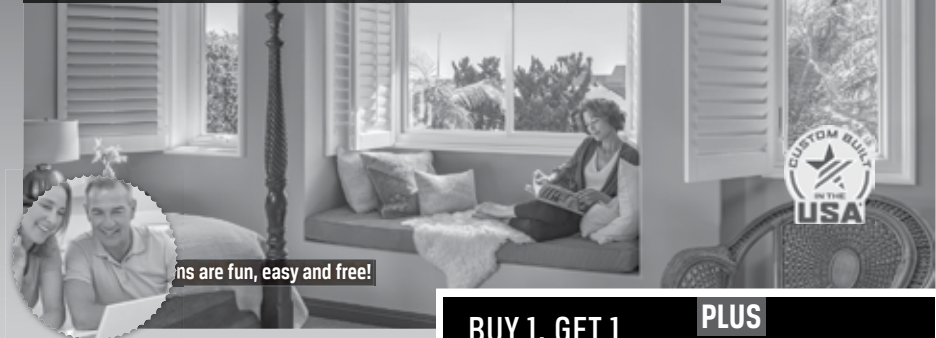
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# City Hall’s message to small businesses: If you’re not ready to open, then don’t

(Continued from page 1) velopment, reviewed four mandatory safety standards for workplaces planning to reopen that were outlined by the mayor’s office. These include social distancing, staff hygiene, a plan for staffing and operations, and cleaning and disinfecting standards.

“Basically, they’re going to have to clean and clean after doing tasks,” said McDonough. “Employees need to pay attention to social distancing and anyone who displays any kind of COVID-19-like symptoms should not report to work.”

The mayor’s office is coordinating the new policy with agencies like the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) and Inspectional Services Department (ISD), and

the Licensing Board.

“We’ve been working really hard on establishing guidelines and figuring out ways to make it easier for you to reopen,” said Urtubey. “Also, the Boston Main Streets organizations work closely with the city to make sure that you have access to the resources available.”

The city designated a food takeout priority zone at the beginning of the statewide shutdown to facilitate take-out and delivery services, mainly for the restaurant industry. This could be expanded to other types of businesses, Urtubey said.

“The Licensing Board has extended a form to submit requests to apply for temporary extensions to outdoor space, to extend the premises of restaurants and cafes so you

can use either public or private space outside,” she added. “This is a really great tool that I think will help us increase capacity for restaurants in particular.”

Said Matt Warfield, new mobility planner at BTD: “We’re looking into making some temporary changes in the streets, both for bike lanes, extending curbs, and creating more space for people. We’re also still taking requests for take-out zones and additional restaurant space on the licensing board website.

One thing to keep in mind with all of these requests is that there’s only so much space at the curb, so there’s a tradeoff. Parking will be reduced in many areas to help make space for these methods.”

Urtubey and Warfield

urged the directors of the Main Streets organizations to, when they receive requests, identify areas where there are large stretches of businesses so that the city can consider extending lengths of parking in those areas.

“If Main Streets put in specific requests, it makes it easier for us to plan because we know what the requests are,” said Warfield. “The more info you can give us and the more requests we get, the easier it is for us to implement.”

Jenn Cartee, executive director of Greater Ashmont Main Streets, shared her concerns, saying, “I think with the introduction of retail to the mix we’re going to see more tightness in that regard. I don’t know what the uptick in need

for curbside space will be, but if anyone has any questions or issues with the process, please reach out to me,” said Cartee.

“Specifically, we’re supporting the request made by Ashmont Grill to have temporary utilization of the open plaza in front of it,” she said. “They look to return with an entirely outdoor model. We have had success with the curbside pickups for food businesses that have been open for takeout, including Tavolo and American Provisions.”

Cartee also talked about unemployment and answered questions she has been asked by local business owners. “The pandemic unemployment benefits are not affected by the change and the ability for folks to reopen,” she said. “Just because you can reopen, we’re not saying you have to or that you’ll lose assistance or other relief you’ve secured. It’s super

important that people take this safely and at their own pace.”

Jackey West Devine, director of Fields Corner Main Streets, said that the organization is considering reclaiming the old Gallagher Insurance lot and converting parking spaces to make space for business opportunities.

“I’ll be talking to residents and business owners about opportunities we’d like to see in that space, like exercise class or business events. Please be in touch if you have an idea,” she said.

The city’s Office of Economic Development will continue hosting small business webinars in multiple languages over the next few days.

“Just because your business might fall under phase 3 of the reopening schedule doesn’t mean that you can’t start preparing now,” said Urtubey. “It’s really important that you know which phase you’re in so that you can prepare.”

“If you do not yet have a relationship with your Main Streets,” she added, “I encourage you to reach out to these amazing women we have as panelists.”

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The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.  
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Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 14, 2020  
Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate  
Published: May 28, 2020

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AWARDS 2020

Virtual Event  
6:00 PM Livestream  
on our website and social channels  
#NEWLA2020

Please Join Us for BGCD's New England Women's Leadership Awards:  
See details below.

**CONNECT THE DOT:**  
**Please Join Us for BGCD's New England Women's Leadership Awards:** On June calendars for 6-17 at 6 p.m., Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester will be hosting our New England Women's Leadership Awards (NEWLA) Virtually!

Our New England Women's Leadership Awards has been celebrating inspiring women for over 25 years. Over the years, we have recognized remarkable women who meet the challenges they face with confidence, persistence and compassion and this year is no different! We are grateful to welcome back Emmy Award-winning news anchor, Lisa Hughes, who will host this special event and this year's "Circle of Giving Award" will be presented to Julie Frates. We hope you can join us for this special celebration! For more information, please visit [give.bgcdorchester.org/newla20](http://give.bgcdorchester.org/newla20).

**FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:**  
**BGCD Keystone Club Members Create Video to Thank Essential Workers:** Members of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Keystone Club recently created a video to thank our essential workers. Each member took their own video expressing their thanks and gratitude to the hard working people who are sacrificing every day to keep our city running and are keeping us all safe during these difficult times. Their vigorous efforts during the COVID-19 outbreak have been so admirable and we continue to say thank you every day that they are working selflessly for others.

You can watch the touching video that our Keystone Club created on our social media: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Please follow us to stay updated on all things BGCD.



Boston Police Commissioner William Gross joins BGCD "DotTalks" Speaker Series: See details below.

**DID YOU KNOW:**  
**Boston Police Commissioner William Gross 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 most recent guest, Boston Police Commissioner William Gross. The Q & A session is now available to watch online: tune in to hear about how quarantine is going, steps he and his department are taking to keep our city safe, and more. Episodes air on Thursday evenings at 7 pm on our social channels. Past guests include Boston Celtic Tacko Fall, The Wahlberg brothers, Mayor Martin J. Walsh, and more. Check them out on our social media now.

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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It is during these challenging times that we come together.



# Nonprofit's tablets helps seniors, disabled stay in touch

By DANIEL SHEEHAN  
REPORTER STAFF

In an initiative aimed at combating the isolation forced upon seniors and residents with disabilities during the pandemic, a Massachusetts nonprofit last week donated tablets to some 25 nursing homes across the commonwealth, two of them Dorchester facilities.

Guardian Community Trust, a nonprofit created to improve the lives of seniors and those with disabilities, delivered tablets last Thursday to the Boston Home on Dorchester Avenue and the Bostonian Rehab and Nursing Center on Neponset Avenue. Thanks to the trust's gifts, Suzanne Vadala, a resident with sclerosis at the Boston Home, will now be able to more easily stay in touch with her sister, Jeanne, and other family members.

Similarly, Karen Davis, a resident at the Bostonian with a brain injury and dementia, will be able to see the faces of her children, grandchildren, and other loved ones with the videoconferencing opportunities provided by her new computer.

Many Massachusetts residents have been spending most of their

time inside to help prevent the spread of coronavirus, but for seniors and the disabled, the risk factors brought about by the pandemic have effectively trapped them in their homes, an indefinite reality with potential side effects of loneliness and other mental health challenges.

Guardian Community Trust saw tablets as a way to make a small but meaningful impact and help to address some of those issues. "During this pandemic, many of our beneficiaries have been unable to see family for more than two months," said Peter Macy, Community Trust's executive director. "They are lonely and afraid. Access to a computer or tablet is providing a lifeline for them."

Macy also noted that nursing home residents have been suddenly cut off from their loved ones, and their facilities often don't have the means to offer video contact. "These handheld tablets can make all the difference for them and their family members," he said. The need for the tablets was identified by social workers on the Community Trust staff

## Guardian Community Trust donates units to nursing homes across state



Jeanne Shine, sister of Suzanne Vadala, a resident at The Boston Home in Dorchester, and Kerry Donohue, Activities Director, The Boston Home, display the computer tablet just delivered by Guardian Community Trust.

after they talked with beneficiaries in nursing homes and their families. Jayne Gordon, a clinical relationship coordinator for the trust, pointed out that most of these residents do not know how to obtain or use mobile devices, and they would not be able to do so without the help of the trust and the staff at the nursing facility.

"Nursing home directors have welcomed the program," she said, "and have generously made their own staff available to receive the tablets and help the residents get started. Being able to see their loved ones, and not just talk on the telephone,

has been a tremendous improvement in our people's quality of life during this awful crisis." Macy noted that there are both financial and material barriers to video communication for residents of nursing homes.

"Almost everyone in a nursing home relies on Medicaid, which does not allow them to have savings for something like a tablet. Pooled trusts are a vital exception, allowing us to hold their savings and use them to protect quality of life during their last years. Medical benefits alone simply cannot do all that is needed to survive emotionally in a nursing

home environment." In addition to sourcing the tablets, Community Trust opens, inspects, and sets up each unit before it is delivered, installing and downloading email capability and creating a Zoom account. After the removal of unneeded applications from the desktop, the "On" button and "Open Tablet" instructions are marked with stickers so that the resident will be able to see exactly how to start. The tablet is then disinfected, repackaged, and delivered to the nursing home. Social workers, activity directors or other nursing home staff receive the tablets, bring them to the residents and sit with them while they receive the first call. If a resident is able to learn how to accept and make calls, the tablet remains with him or her. For those not able to work the technology on their own, family members communicate with staff to schedule assisted calls. "The nursing homes have been just wonderful in supporting this program," Gordon said. "The tablets are going to people who would not have been able to obtain them on their own and are set up with home screens that are easy for

seniors to negotiate and with email and Zoom accounts.

"We want to make life more livable for our older residents who are isolated from family and friends during this very difficult COVID-19 time period," she said. "Like so many organizations, we are retooling to be useful and relevant and help others in this current unprecedented environment." The plight of nursing homes and other residential facilities has been an increasing concern during the pandemic, as clients face extreme isolation that no one expected when they were admitted. Additionally, as COVID-19 emerges in a large number of facilities across the Commonwealth, the residents deal daily with fear of infection. Macy believes that the need for the tablets will continue until the infection rate in nursing homes is finally under control. "Testing obviously will make a difference if and when it becomes widely available," he said. "Until then, the safety of residents will require painful isolation. We can only hope to make a positive difference."

# Baker: Surge is 'behind us,' but threat remains

we've made has only been made possible by everyone's willingness to do their part to practice social distancing, wear face coverings, wash their hands and play with purpose on this one."

In another sign that Massachusetts is emerging from the worst of the pandemic, Baker referred Tuesday to the surge in COVID-19 patients that the state spent weeks preparing the health care system

for as "something that, thanks to a lot of work by a lot of people, is behind us." He then announced that the 1,000-bed field hospital set up last month at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center "is no longer

necessary" and will stop accepting new patients.

The BCEC field hospital, known as Boston Hope, was opened April 10 as the state was bracing for the possibility that the region's hospitals would become

overwhelmed by infected patients. The site also treated homeless patients and served as a respite site run by Health Care for the Homeless.

"The work of the men and women at Boston Hope these past six weeks was heroic. We were fortunate to have the people and the commitment available to stand up this 1,000-bed facility, which served

so many from throughout the city and across the region," Dr. Anne Klibanski, president and CEO of Mass General Brigham, said.

Baker said Tuesday that the half of the Boston Hope run by Partners HealthCare treated about 700 COVID-19 patients and will remain operational until each of its current patients is discharged.

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- Mayor Martin J. Walsh
  - Senator Nick Collins
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  - City Councilor Frank Baker
  - Boston Police Department
  - City of Boston Elderly Commission
- Senior Home Health
  - United Healthcare
  - Ethos
  - The Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center
  - Housing Opportunities Unlimited

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Bringing our communities to safe harbor.

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