Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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Focus is on disparities as viral infections rise to peak

The following article was compiled by Reporter staff and the State House News Service and written by Bill Forry, the Reporter's editor.

The city of Boston mounted a new effort to identify potential health disparities associated with race and neighborhood this week as Massachusetts entered what public health officials expect to be a peak period for new COVID-19 infections and patients requiring acute care in hospitals.

 $In\,Boston-as\,of\,Tuesday-there\,have\,been\,4,\!286$ known confirmed cases of COVID-19, 87 deaths, and 547 recoveries. The state reported 1,296 new COVID-19 cases, and 113 new deaths, but said no single day's numbers indicate an overall trend because of "day-to-day variability" in reporting by testing labs.

The total of confirmed cases statewide was put at 28,163, and the number of deaths at 957.

A total of 126,551 people in Massachusetts have now been tested for the virus through Tuesday. Race and ethnicity data remain missing or unknown for a large percentage of confirmed cases and deaths

statewide. There is also incomplete data available about race and ethnicity related to COVID-19 cases in Boston. The figures are known for only about 62 percent of the identified positive cases in the city

But preliminary data released last week by the city's Public Health Commission indicated that of the 62 percent for which race and ethnicity are known, 42 percent are black.

Last week, Mayor Walsh formed a task force to fo-(Continued on page 13)



Elizabeth Rouse at work last Friday, painting the front windows of The Ban-

Windowfront artist a messenger of gratitude to front-line workers

By Daniel Sheehan REPORTER STAFF

Dorchester's Elizabeth Rouse has been painting storefront windows at businesses in and around Boston for more than a decade. It's a hobby that began one year when a family friend commissioned her to post St. Patrick's Day decorations - nothing crazy, just a written message and some shamrocks on his store front windows.

Soon, Rouse was regularly painting Christmas greetings on store facades each holiday season. In the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013, she has been using blue and yellow paint to scrawl messages of "Boston Strong" and Martin Richard's credo, "No more hurting people... Peace," on windowfronts.

Now, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, she is using her talents to express gratitude to medical workers and first responders.

If you go by The Banshee, the bar on Dorchester Ave. in Savin Hill, you'll see Rouse's handiwork: The large center window of the establishment has been transformed into a rippling American flag with the words: "Thank you to all our medical staff and first

(Continued on page 15)

'We are in survival mode' Health centers thankful for federal funding, say they need much more

By BILL FORRY AND KATIE TROJANO REPORTER STAFF

The leader of one of Dorchester's front-line health centers said on Saturday that recent federal funds promised to community health centers — while "helpful" — are not going to relieve the massive financial and supply-chain burden that has put her facility and staff and others like it in "survival mode.

Sandra Cotterell, CEO of Codman Square Health Center, said Thursday that news reports, including one in the Reporter, that relayed "accurate" information about forthcoming federal funds released to centers like Codman through the CARES Act may leave people with the wrong impression "to the detriment of health centers, their patients, and our community.

"The headline gives the appearance that community health centers have received millions and are rolling in cash, have been made whole, and we are all set," said Cotterell. "This could not be further from the truth.

"In fact we, and other community health centers, are in dire straits," she added. "We've furloughed significant staff, our volume has materially dwindled, and we are in survival mode - solely focused on addressing COVID-19."

On Wednesday, the state's congressional delegation issued press statements highlighting the funding from the CARES Act, which totals \$36.5 million statewide. Every health center will get a cut of that allotment. In Cod-



Dr. Pamela Adelstein, Director of Family Medicine at Codman Square Health Center, is shown in full protective gear.

Codman Square Health Center image

man's case, the payment is \$919,250. While Cotterell said that infusion is "very much welcomed and helpful, she noted that it is "nowhere close to sup $plying \, the \, funds \, we \, need \, to \, continue \, to \,$ provide our necessary services during this crisis and beyond.

"In fact," she said, "this funding will only provide a couple of weeks of needed support.'

Revenue from routine visits has nearly evaporated due to COVID-19 restrictions and the non-profit health center, which is "break-even each year" at best, has seen a dramatic loss in income over the last month. Codman

(Continued on page 12)

For realtors and their clients, 'the show must go on'

REPORTER STAFF

The coronavirus outbreak has disrupted what is normally the busiest season of the year for realtors everywhere. In Dorchester as elsewhere, agents and brokers are adjusting

By Katie Trojano by using online plat- market. Ultimately, it typical spring market, ren Group- which forms that allow them to continue to "show" properties for sale while biding their time until the current crisis abates.

> "The truth is that we don't know how long this will last or exactly what the impact will be on our

will come down to consumer confidence when the dust settles," said Kerry Dowlin, real estate associate at Gibson Sotheby's International Realty on Savin Hill Ave.

"I am hopeful that once we get past this, our

that would normally be happening in full stride now, will happen this summer. I don't think it will look exactly the same – but we are preparing for a very busy June, July, and August."

Last month, the War-

tracks property transactions across the statereported that the median sale prices for singlefamily homes and condominiums had increased to all-time highs for the month of Febru-(Continued on page 5)



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Beth Israel Deaconess HealthCare - Dorchester

Now Accepting New Patients

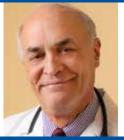
Beth Israel Lahey Health Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital Milton

Dorchester, MA

1100 Washington Street



Deviney Chaponis, MD **Family Practice**



Internal Medicine

COVID-19 CASES

The city has recorded 4,286 positive cases of coronavirus (confirmed and presumptive) through April 14. So far, 547 of these residents have fully recovered. There have been 87 CO-VID-19 related deaths of Boston residents.

PRECAUTIONS

Stay home. If you must go outside, practice physical distancing from others (6 feet apart); avoid crowded places.

Wear a face covering if you absolutely must go outside. They help reduce the risk of people spreading the virus, especially if they are asymptomatic. Visit CDC guidelines on face coverings for more information and guidance.

Observe the curfew recommended for everyone in Boston except for essential workers: 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least

From City Hall: Guidance to Citizens



The Neponset River Greenway Council posted signage along the trail near the Harvest Bridge in Milton and Mattapan last week with advisories on social distancing for people using the recreational path during the health emergency. For more on the recommended guidelines from the Greenway Council, see neponsetgreenway.org. Image courtesy Neponset River Greenway Council/Twitter

60 percent alcohol; avoid shaking hands.

Cover your coughs and sneezes; clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces; and avoid close contact with people who are sick.

If you think you might be sick, please call your doctor or 311 to be connected to the Mayor's Health Line 617-534-5050. Buov Health has created a free online diagnostic tool that screens for COVID-19 at buoy. com/mass.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Donate supplies to first responders at bostonopendata.knack.com/ covid-19-donation-intake-form#home/

NEWS AND INFORMATION

• The city is working with the Whittier Street Health Center in Roxbury to help make testing more accessible to residents. Starting last Monday, Whittier is offering scheduled rapid result testing to all. Testing is by appointment only and patients must be at least 18 years of age. Please visit wshc. org for more info.

• School lunches – In partnership with Project Bread, YMCA of Greater Boston, Boston Centers for Youth and Families, and other community organizations, the city has served more than

161,000 meals since schools have closed, averaging 13,000 meals per day. Free breakfast and lunch will be provided throughout the school closure including on April 20 (Patriots' Day) and April 21-24 (April vacation). Meal distribution sites serving BPS families near Dorchester and Mattapan:

Grove Hall BCYF - 51 Geneva Ave.; Holland BCYF - 85 Olney St.; Marshall BCYF - 35 Westville St.; Perkins BCYF - 155 Talbot Ave.; Leahy Holloran BCYF - 1 Worrell St.; VietAID - 42 Charles St.;McCormack Middle School - 315 Mt. Vernon St.; Lee School -155 Talbot Ave.; Frederick School - 270 Columbia Rd.;Dorchester YMCA -776 Washington St.; Gallivan BCYF, 61 Woodruff Way; Mattahunt BCYF, 100 Hebron St., Mattapan; Faith Christian Church, 21 Harvard St., Dorchester; Lee School, 155 Talbot Ave., Boston; Mildred Ave Center, 5 Mildred Ave., Mattapan.

• The Boston Hope

Medical Center at BCEC opened this past weekend. The facility has a total of 1,000 beds, including 500 for homeless patients. As of Sunday evening, there were 45 patients.

• Through the Public Health Commission, the city is actively hiring candidates for critical positions such as homeless counselors, recovery services, public health advocates and public safety officers. Please go to bphc.org for job listings.

• The city has a free texting service to provide daily updates and information about the coronavirus. Text BOSCOVID to 99411 to opt-in for English. Language and communications access remains a priority for Mayor Walsh, so this text service is also available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, French, Cabo Verdean Creole, and Portuguese. Text BOSEspanol for Spanish; text BOSKreyol for Haitian Krevol; text BOSFrancais for French; text BOSKriolu for Cabo Verdean Creole; text BOSPortugues for Portuguese.

• 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. to 5 p.m. Everyone entering City Hall 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 de-

partments and hours of

operation at boston.gov. • 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.

• Residents are asked not to call 9-1-1 unless you are experiencing a medical emergency. All COVID-19 questions should be directed to the Mayor's Health Line at 617-534-5050 or 311. The city and BPHC will continue to provide updated information on bphc.org and boston.gov/ coronavirus.

• Partners HealthCare is seeking help from care providers of all types: including registered nurses, advanced practice providers, physical and occupational therapists, pharmacists, and providers with experience in respiratory care. Visit partners.org/bostonhope for more info.

• The city is working with 13 of the largest housing lenders in Boston to prevent foreclosures on homeowners. These lenders have agreed to defer homeowners' mortgage payments by 3 months. They also agreed not to charge late fees or report non-payment to credit bureaus. More info: boston.gov/ news/covid-19-housingresponse.

• The city has created a Small Business Relief Fund for local businesses at risk of shutting down permanently due to the crisis. We received almost 3,000 applications. While this round of funding has closed, we will make an announcement if and when more funds become available. Any business needing guidance can review the City's Financial Relief Handbook or reach out to the Economic Development team at Boston.gov/ smallbusiness.

April, 2020

DOT BY THE DAY

A snapshot look at key upcoming events in and around the neighborhood for your weekly planner.

Well, all events have been cancelled.

Watch DotNews.com for updates and follow us on Twitter @DotNews

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS



In almost every instance, community events have been postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 health pickups are also on a normal schedule. emergency. The Reporter is tracking cancellations and is noting them here. Watch DotNews.com for updates and follow @DotNews on Twitter.

Cedar Grove Cemetery grounds open, but offices and buildings closed to public - Cedar Grove Cemetery is taking necessary precautions to project the safety of our visitors and our employees. The Cemetery office and buildings are closed to the public. The Cemetery office will be closed on Saturday mornings until further notice. The grounds of the Cemetery will remain open from 7 a.m. to 6p.m. daily. Staff will be conducting business by telephone at 617-825-1360. "Thank you for your understanding. Stay safe and we will get through this." Street cleaning to begin on schedule— Mayor Walsh said this week that the city's daytime street cleaning program began as planned on April 1. Check the posted street sweeping signs on your street for the schedule and parking restrictions. However, Mayor Walsh has said there will be no ticketing or towing for street cleaning

Image from the Neponset Greenway and Pope John Paul II Park in Neponset showed a higherthan-usual volume of discarded bags of dog poop left in the park and on the Greenway. The Neponset River Greenway Council reminds users: "Carry in, carry out! Take trash with you, including dog poop."

until the COVID-19 emergency ends. Trash and recycling

Update from Franklin Park Coalition-Coalition is postponing its April 11 annual meeting and will post a new date once the situation permits. The annual Kite and Bike festival scheduled for May 16 is also canceled. At this writing, Franklin Park and other city parks are open to the public.

Here is the latest guidance from the city's parks department:

• Tot lots and playgrounds are temporarily closed. Parks remain open at this time. Maintenance and operational functions continue uninterrupted.

 Although parks remain open for passive recreation (such as walking or jogging), park users are advised to follow "social distancing" guidelines recommended by the Boston Public Health Commission. Remain at least six feet away from other people. Wash hands, utilize hand sanitizer, and cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your inner elbow. Limit time in public areas and avoid congregating in groups. Stay home if you feel sick.

•Please call 617-635-4505 or email parks@boston. gov if you have questions about Parks permits or events. Visit Boston.gov/coronavirus for the latest public health information.

SEND UPDATES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM SEE NEW EVENTS DAILY AT DOTNEWS.COM

MCAS testing suspended under new law; state panel eases graduation protocols

By Chris Lisinski STATE HOUSE News Service

MCAS testing requirements for the school year are suspended, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will modify or waive graduation requirements for students set to complete high school this summer, and due dates for district improvement plans will be pushed back under a bill Gov. Charlie Baker signed last Friday.

Baker signed the law the one day after the Legislature sent it to him, implementing immediate changes in school districts that have been closed by executive order since March 15. The legislation also postpones the MBTA's budget timeline and makes housing assistance benefits easier to acquire remotely.

Cancelling MCAS testing for the remainder of this school year will enable our teachers and students to focus on learning and personal well-being as we continue to navigate the current public health emergency," Sen. Jason Lewis, co-chair of the Legislature's Education Committee, said in a statement after the

branches had agreed to the bill Thursday. "Legislators heard loud and clear from teachers, parents, and superintendents that this was the right thing to do."

The new law requires Education Commissioner Jeff Riley to vacate the annual requirement for a standardized test in public schools amid disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will also be instructed to modify or waive MCAS competency standards typically required to acquire a high school diploma.

The law also grants districts breathing room on filing plans to close achievement gaps, which originally were due by April 1 under a sevenyear, \$1.5 billion education funding reform law signed last year. Language in the law Baker signed sets the new deadline as May 15 while giving Riley authority to delay it again.

If schools are unable to approve fiscal year 2021 budgets by June 30 because of ongoing social distancing, they can implement stopgap monthly spending plans at one-twelfth the

amount of the fiscal year 2020 budget, under the new law.

Baker's current executive order requires all K-12 schools to remain closed through at least May 4, and while the governor has resisted keeping them shuttered through the end of the academic year, extensions are possible if public health risks continue.

The federal government allowed states to cancel testing requirements if they filed waivers, and at least 40 have done so, according to the Massachusetts Teachers Association.

"Once the governor ordered schools closed until at least May 4, it was obvious to educators and parents that Massachusetts should join the many other states that have already canceled their test-administration requirements this spring," MTA President Merrie Najimy said shortly before Baker signed the bill.

Najimy reiterated past criticism of the MCAS system and said the pause "provides all of us with an opportunity to rethink the testing requirements.

The new law also delays statutory budget dates for the MBTA. which has seen ridership drop more than 75 percent and revenues fall by tens of millions of dollars per month during the pandemic.

The Fiscal and Management Control Board now has until May 15 to approve a preliminary budget and until June 15 to submit a final spending plan to the MBTA Advisory Board, rather than March 15 and April 15, respectively.

Before the pandemic moved into Massachusetts, the focus had been

into the T to ensure its capacity to more efficiently move scores of travelers. For now, the debate around the T has changed.

The new law also allows Massachusetts residents seeking housing assistance to acquire benefits without completing in-person verification in a state office, enabling people to avoid COVID-19 exposure risks.

on investing more money

Towns cannot terminate essential services offered to residents. including water, electricity and trash collection for failure to pay taxes or fees due after Baker

declared a state of emergency on March 10, so long as the constituent demonstrates a financial hardship stemming from the outbreak.

"This legislation helps a wide variety of entities deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic," House Ways and Means Committee Chair Rep. Aaron Michlewitz said. "Whether it's aiding our cities and towns with the needs of their school districts, to helping homeless providers have greater flexibility in protecting those most in need, the Legislature stands ready to help those most affected by this public health crisis.'

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IBEW Local 103 responds to pleas: 20,000 masks for nurses' group to distribute at Brigham and Women's

By Katie Trojano REPORTER STAFF

Responding to the statewide shortage of critical medical supplies, Dorchester's IBEW Local 103, the region's largest electrical workers' union, last week donated 20,000 medical-grade protective masks to the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) for direct distribution to front-line caregivers at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

"I want to thank the Massachusetts Nurses Association for their tireless work, and IBEW Local 103 for generously stepping up to provide this much needed equipment that will strengthen our collective response and save lives," said Mayor Martin Walsh.

Our nurses are working around the clock on the frontlines of Boston's COVID-19 response," Walsh said. "The tremendous outpouring of support we have seen every single day since the start of this public health crisis makes me so proud to be mayor of the city of Boston."

Laura Dayton, a nurse at Brigham and Women's, helped coordinate the logistics of the



Massachusetts Nurses Association members picked up PPE donations from IBEW Local 103 union hall in Dorchester.

IBEW's donation with cal 103, and today it's the help of her father, a retired Local 103 member. They got the masks from Source Squared owner Paul Kenney, one of Local 103's go-to PPE vendors.

"Words can't express how grateful I am, and how grateful all my colleagues are for these supplies," said Dayton.
"They're going to help ensure that we can do our jobs safely and effectively, for everyone's sake. IBEW Local 103 didn't hesitate to do all they could to help, and it means the world to have their support through this incredibly difficult

She added: "My father has always been so proud to be a part of IBEW Loespecially easy to see why. It's a really special moment for me.'

Lou Antonellis, IBEW Local 103 business manager and financial secretary, said: "Whatever our nurses need, we're there. The bravery these caregivers are showing, and the sacrifices they are making are incredible and we need to honor and support that. IBEW Local 103 is a community-focused organization, and we're going to continue to support them in every way possible."

Last weekend, IBEW Local 103 also donated thousands of additional masks to First Responders in surrounding cities and towns, coordinating

trips to fire stations in Billerica, Methuen, Lawrence, Salem, Woburn, Somerville, Quincy, Weymouth, and Milton.

"The 12,000 plus members of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts are forever grateful to the leadership, and membership, of IBEW Local 103, for their ongoing efforts to provide PPE to first responders and nurses who are battling this pandemic," said Rich MacKinnon, Jr., president of the group.

Trish Powers, the MNA's chairperson at Brigham and Women's Hospital, appealed to the larger community to do its part in collecting urgent supplies.

"MNA stands with our



Bags of masks readied by IBEW Local 103 for direct distribution to first responders.

front-line caregivers who are bravely fighting this pandemic for our community, and it breaks my heart that these are the conditions they're dealing with," said Powers.
"The MNA is work-

ing around the clock to support our nurses in any way we can, but this needs to be a community effort," she said. "Sourcing these supplies needs to be our collective

priority, and any and all donations will literally help save thousands of lives. IBEW Local 103 has stepped up to the plate and shown our nurses that they are not alone in this battle. Our gratitude for their support is truly boundless."

To donate funds or supplies to front-line caregivers, visit:

Boston Resiliency Fund at boston.gov.

The health of our clients, sales team, staff, their families, and our communities is our top priority.

Our offices are temporarily closed to the public, but we are leveraging technology to continue to serve our clients and ensure our associates and staff are supported.

> Our sincerest gratitude goes out to all first responders and hospital staff keeping our communities safe.

For realtors and their clients, 'the show must go on'

ary – \$380,000, up 4.1 percent from \$365,000 in February 2019, for single-family homes and a 16.6 percent increase to \$400,000 for condos.

Data for March — not yet available— will likely show "fairly normal and consistent trends," according to Warren Group CEO Tim Warren, because it will mostly reflect homes that went under contract before the coronavirus pandemic.

"A slowdown is inevitable," Warren said. "People who feel that their jobs are at risk, have been also seeing their investments and retirement accounts shrink. Those people are not going to be home shopping aggressively in the second quarter."

The disruption has been particularly tricky for people who were already in the middle of selling or buying a home.

"There are still buyers who need to move or are relocating to the area as well as sellers who have made plans to move. So, for them, the show must go on," said Dowlin, who has seen purchases happening "sight unseen."

For most realtors in Dorchester, adapting to the crisis has meant a bigger dependence on tools that had increasingly become part of their arsenal even before

the health emergency: virtual tours, video walkthroughs, interactive floor plans using drones, even robotics.

Leslie MacKinnon, a realtor at Compass Real Estate, has been using Zoom and FaceTime to help sellers prepare their properties for the markets.

"I have to be literally directing people, like where to point the camera so I can see different things. It's strange," she said with a laugh, "but it's working."

MacKinnon said she has one condo unit in Dorchester that's currently under agreement. The two-bedroom condo on Stoughton St. in Jones Hill, listed at \$769,000, is expected to close in the beginning of May, she said.

Marlea Mesh, a realtor at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, hosted an open house the weekend of March 14 and 15 at 48 Juliette Street on Jones Hill. The threedecker is currently listed with Coldwell Banker for \$999,000.

"It was heavily attended and we did take precautions," Mesh said. "The property generated multiple offers."

Charlie Maneikis, real estate agent and owner of The Maneikis Companies, said market data shows that people are still buying. "The interest rate environment is definitely supporting the market," said Maneikis. "If you're a highly motivated buyer or a highly motivated seller, there's still an opportunity to buy and sell," he said.

Data from Multiple Listing Service (MLS,) a database of real estate listings, shows that from March 15 through April 14 in Dorchester and Mattapan zip codes (02121-02126) there were a total of 74 listings, including single families, multi-families, and condos. Of those, 31 have accepted an offer or are under agreement. One listing has sold, a multifamily property at 27 Radford Lane in Dorchester.

Four single family properties were listed on March 15. Of those listings, it took an average of 9 days for an offer to be made. The average sq. footage of those properties was 2,045, and the average listing price was \$578,000. A total of 19 condos were listed, averaging offers within 7 days, average price listing of \$507,000 and an average of 11,086 sq. ft.

The remaining multifamily unit listings saw an average of 6 days to receive offers, an average price of \$276,000, and a

"Agents are going to be less willing to push the envelope on anything that's on the market for more than 14 days," said Maneikis. "Things are going under agreement within 10 days. once it hits the 14-day mark in the past agents might have been willing to lower prices a bit. Now i think there's a better chance that they'll say to their clients, let's wait this out. Let's withdraw."

"In terms of my own clients, I am tempering some expectations and being very realistic that the market is the market," Maneikis said. "But buyers are also going to respond to a well presented product in a great location.'

Mary Kelly, of Jack Conway Realty, is also still seeing activity.

"The market here is driven by inventory and people are still desperate to buy properties," she said, adding that closings already in the pipeline are continuing while noting that fewer people are calling to list their properties. But because rates are low and there's high demand, "we think that the market will come back around in June," she said.

"This is an industry of relationships, so a

total average of 3,035 lot of what I'm doing personally is picking up the phone and calling people. I'm trying to be a calm voice and share any comforting or essential information and services that I can," she said."

Lynn Hollenbeck of Seaport Realty has seen a slowdown in business.

"We are not fortune tellers as realtors. I don't think it's possible for us to completely rebound. Spring is usually a huge surge and we're missing

Her advice for people who need to sell their properties: "It's better to list now than to wait and see what happens if the economy doesn't rebound. On the other side, buyers are really hoping for a market crash."

Hollenback is still actively working and showing properties to prospective buyers.

"I have appointments this afternoon," she said while noting that "virtual tours are great, but you can't really get a grasp for a property unless you're physically in it. A lot of the time I find myself giving virtual tours and then in-person tours for people. It's double the work but it's necessary. Nobody really wants to buy a property without ever seeing it."

One thing that Hollenback said she hopes will stay in place after the state of emergency lifts is e-signing tools.

"It makes life so much easier for so many people. I don't know if the registry will allow efiling to stay in place but if they do, I think it's an awesome tool for us.'

For her part, Dowlin says she is positive that the neighborhood's market will prove to be resilient.

"I know that it will adjust and a new normal will evolve, but the buyer demand has been high, interest rates are still amazing, and inventory is lower than we have seenitin years," she said.

"I have been in this Dorchester market for 20 years and saw the '08 crash up close," she added. "The conditions today are vastly different. Prices may level off a little, but with our inventory down about 28 percent from this time last year, there is still strong demand for properties.

"Unless the market gets flooded with inventory, I honestly don't see huge corrections happening. So, I am optimistic that we will look back and see that while real estate may not have had a banner year, it continued to chug along."



Dorchester gets going



Proprietors Michael Vaughan & Raymond Butler

To our friends, neighbors and loyal customers - we'll see you soon.

At left, Dorchester artist Elizabeth Rouse painted a message to medical workers and first responders on the front windows of the Banshee last week.

The ties that bind: Big Tim, Little Curtis - an enduring match of love and respect

By Daniel Sheehan REPORTER STAFF

The bond formed between mentors and mentees in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program of Eastern Massachusetts is often strong enough to surmount obstacles like distance and time. In the context of coronavirusdriven social distancing, Tim Dibble of Concord, and Curtis Blyden of Cambridge are proof of that strength.

They were matched when Blyden was eight years old and living in Dorchester with his grandmother and sister. He has since served as the best man in Dibble's wedding and become an honorary son and big brother in the Dibble family.

"It was awkward when we first met until we discovered what we have in common - sports, music, a curiosity in the field trips we took," said Blyden, now 38. "He has always been a father figure and mentor to me and now I can also call him my friend. We celebrate holidays and milestones together – like his son's upcoming college graduation. And we check in every week by phone, which is now more important than ever.' When Blyden was

young, he and Dibble, who is 54, played basketball and football, had dinners together, took field trips to local parks and museums, and cheered courtside for the Boston Celtics. When his grandmother passed away in 2000, Blyden moved in with the Dibbles to finish school at Concord-Carlisle Regional High School. He credits his mentor for pushing him to pursue post-secondary education at Curry College, serve in the Peace Corps, and earn a master's degree from Suffolk University.

"Tim has been a tre-

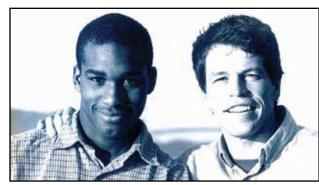
mendous role model in my life," said Blyden, who is paying it forward to kids with childhoods like his as the METCO Director in Lynnfield. "He taught me the value of an education, how to be fiscally responsible. and how to treat others. He has shown me what it is to be a father and good husband. He is my family."

Dibble feels the same way. When he moved to San Francisco for a few years to pursue a professional opportunity, he frequently flew Blyden out for a visit. In 1994, he asked Blyden to serve as the best man at his wedding, although at age 12, he says, Blyden was just as interested in catching frogs at the venue. When asked how many kids he has, his answer is: "Five. Four biological children, ages 16 to 23, and Curtis, the older brother."

Said Dibble, managing general partner at Alta Equity Partners, "When I started being a Big to Curtis, I had to make sure I had time for him. But my mindset quickly changed to make sure I had time for everything else after being there for Curtis. People always say to me that it's great what I brought to Curtis's life. But really, it's the opposite. I can't tell you everything he has brought to me, my family, and everyone around me.'

Dibble knows what it's like to grow up without a male role model. His father passed away when Tim, his only child, was 14 and at a point in his life when he craved connections. He became a Big in 1984 while he was studying at Weslevan University. He was matched with Blyden in 1990 and the duo have remained each other's match ever since.

"It's funny to look back when Curtis was young



Curtis Blyden, left, and Tim Dibble. Photo courtesy Tim Dibble

and small," said Dibble. who has sat on the board of directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts for the past 18 years. "Now, he is 6-foot-2, about 230 pounds, and towers over our family. I could not be prouder of the man he has become and the place he has carved in our family."

Now in its 70th year, the largest Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliate in New England has created more than 20,000 matches and will serve 4,000 matches this $year. \, To \, support \, matches \,$ during the COVID-19 crisis, the nonprofit is sharing a weekly online resource in which Bigs,

Littles, and their families will have access to virtual mentoring activities, community resources, and additional learning opportunities as well as ideas for how to discuss the coronavirus and engage with their Littles.

"Not every match continues as long or as deep as Tim and Curtis, but many do," said Wendy Foster, president and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts. "No matter how society shifts, children will always need guidance from caring adult mentors, which is why we are working to ensure our matches stay connected during this time."

Dot's Audette called champion for patients and staff at Dana Farber

By SAUL WISNIA SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Her regular visits to the Massachusetts State House have been replaced in recent weeks by texts, phone calls, and Zoom meetings with political and healthcare leaders, but Dorchester's Kate Audette is still advocating for patients and staff as Dana-Farber's director of government affairs

Audette's primary focus is supporting Dana-Farber's Legislative Action Network and strengthening the Institute's relationships with



Kate Audette

elected officials and policymakers, while advocating for sustainable policy change in areas central to cancer treatment, research, and prevention.

Now, with normal legislative business and

pending bills largely put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she is redirecting her efforts to help Dana-Farber and the Commonwealth best respond to and learn from this challenge.

A trained social worker, Audette joined Dana-Farber last fall after more than six years as director of state government relations at Boston Children's Hospital. There, she had championed issues such as expanding access to telemedicine services, health equity, and the unique needs of children

with medical complexities. These causes remain on her agenda, along with ensuring that patients of all ages receive the best treatment options – and best viable ancillary support – for their specific needs.

"It is a privilege when you can sit with a family and bear witness to their lived experience and then say, 'You know what? You're not alone. You're not the only one with this challenge in the healthcare system, and we can work together to try and fix it."

In bringing the needs of telemedicine (also known

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patient and their families to Beacon Hill and Capitol Hill, one of Audette's most passionate causes has been telemedicine. Connecting with healthcare providers by remotely using technology such as phone or video can protect the safety of immunocompromised patients, such as those with $cancer\,or\,recovering\,from$ stem cell transplants. Lack of legislation and consistent means of access, Audette explains, has previously resulted in insurance companies refusing coverage for as telehealth) for many Dana-Farber patients.

Now that the Coronavirus pandemic has taken hold locally, however, leaders, including Gov. Charlie Baker, are stressing the value of telemedicine both in treating COVID-19 patients and in preventing the virus from spreading. Baker signed an executive order on March 15 dramatically expanding access to telemedicine, requiring insurers to cover such visits and making it easier for patients to virtually connect with their providers.



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Fields Corner 1520 Dorchester Avenue • 617-436-2155 Lower Mills 27 Richmond Street • 617-298-7841 **Uphams Corner** 500 Columbia Road • 617-265-0139 41 Geneva Avenue • 617-427-3337 **Mattapan Branch** 1350 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan • 617-298-9218 Boston Public Library COVID-19 UPDATE

Coming Up at the Boston Public Library

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

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

All locations closed

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

All events cancelled

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

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

Don't worry about due dates

The BPL has waived all library fines through May 1.

In addition, all books will be automatically

renewed for an additional 15 weeks, and any library cards that were to expire in March and April have had their expiration dates extended to October.

Online resources

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

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

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

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

Keep each other safe

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

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



Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy's 'Ms. Gaylord' helps pupils stay connected

By Daniel Sheehan REPORTER STAFF

Since in-person classroom lessons began to fall victim to the coronavirus pandemic weeks ago, educators across the country from preschool through the university level have turned to the internet as a new medium for instruction.

Savin Hill resident Emily Gaylord, who works as a teacher's aide at Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy's Lower Mills campus, has carved out a space on the web where she can continue, even expand, her role at the school.

Gaylord's YouTube channel – titled 'Ms. Gaylord' - is filled with

short video clips in which she leads sing-alongs, reads aloud from children's books, and teaches crafting activities for the school's students. She said she anticipated the transition from classroom to digital instruction as the need to shut down schools to counter viral spread gradually became apparent weeks

"On the day we found out the school was going to be shutting down, I took home a bunch of books from our curriculum," explained Gaylord. "I've been reading two books a week, as well as singing songs the kids would enjoy.

Singing and playing

her ukulele is something Gaylord, an alumna of Boston City Singers, occasionally gets to do with students during dismissal time at the end of the school day. Now, she sees her ample at-home time as a chance to engage and entertain Saint John Paul kids with music, serenading them to the tune of "Itsy Bitsy Spider," "Baby Shark," and other fan favorites.

"With the singing I've just been focusing on being silly, fun, and lighthearted, you know, just doing my best to ease any anxieties and worries that these kids might be experiencing," she said. "I can't imagine having to deal with this situation as a four year old."

As a teacher's aide, Gaylord primarily provides in-classroom support to the K1 teachers, she said. But the move away from the classroom has paradoxically given her a chance to do more.

"While I sometimes do the read-along and sing-along stuff, a lot of the time I'm doing other things to help out, like sweeping and wiping down tables...this has been a cool opportunity to do it myself and have more face time with the kids."

The focus on online engagement has also given Gaylord, who is currently pursuing a



Emily Gaylord, a teacher's aide at St. John Paul II Catholic Academy's Lower Mills campus, in a video from her YouTube channel.

secondary degree in education, more of a taste of the duties and responsibilities of fulltime teachers.

"I do think that what I've been doing has helped me prepare for when I become a fulltime teacher, which is something that has been a goal of mine for a while. So it's nice to be able to do a bit more and see what that's like," she said.

Gaylord added that seeing how other teachers have adapted to online mediums has given her some direction: "It's been amazing to see all these other educators all over doing amazing things for their students. That's been encouraging, and it's pushing me to do a lot more with my

Catholic Schools Foundation raised \$3.6 million online; Dorchester's Aisha Veras was featured student speaker

On Thursday, April 2, around 470 friends of the Catholic Schools Foundation (CSF) gathered virtually to celebrate the 30th Annual Inner-City Scholarship Fund (ICSF) Gala. The gala was held in honor of Bank of America, who received the Carolyn & Peter Lynch Award for their dedication to providing young people the opportunity of a high-quality Catholic education. The event, which raised over \$3.6 million towards scholarship support for lowincome students, was chaired by Mike Minogue, Chairman, President & CEO of Abiomed.

Ben Simmoneau, Anchor at WCVB Channel 5, returned as the Master of Ceremonies for the virtual Gala. Simmo-



gathering about challenges. neau's opening remarks were followed by a performance by

Aisha Veras talked to the

Amanda Mena, junior at Saint Mary's High School in Lynn and America's Got Talent semi-finalist.

The virtual event was attended by some of Boston's

top business leaders, including Peter S. Lynch, former manager of the Magellan Fund at Fidelity Investments who currently serves as President Emeritus of the Catholic Schools Foundation.

Student speaker Aisha Veras, a CSF Scholar at Saint Joseph's Preparatory School in Brighton, addressed the crowd to talk about the challenges she faced growing up as a daughter of immigrants in Dorchester as well as her plans for the future.

"My parents took the great risk to leave everything they knew behind them," Veras said. "[Their story] sparked in me an interest in law, and how it can help better people's lives. Without my scholarship from the Inner-City Scholarship Fund, I would have never been able to grow my passion and pursue my dreams. My dream of becoming a lawyer and helping the disadvantaged has been made possible by the Catholic Schools Foundation."

Veras also shared with the crowd that she is now deciding between acceptances at UMass Amherst, UMass Boston, Loyola Maryland, Suffolk University and Saint John's University. A poll at the virtual event asking guests to vote on where they thought Veras will attend showed a tie between Suffolk University and Loyola Maryland.

Peter Lynch spoke during the virtual event to honor Bank of America with the Carolyn and Peter Lynch award for their dedication and partnership with the ICSF for three decades.

Guests of the virtual event also enjoyed a video presentation that was filmed at OLPH Mission Grammar School in Roxbury, celebrating CSF's 30th anniversary. The virtual Gala presentation was made possible by generous supporters at Putnam Investments, WCVB Channel 5, and Abiomed.

As the signature program of the Catholic Schools Foundation, the fund supports over 4,000 students across 85 schools in the Archdiocese of Boston who would otherwise be unable to afford a highquality Catholic education.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Three Centuries of Needlework

Today's illustration features a piece of decorative needlework stitched on silk, likely the creation of 17-yearold Jane Withington, a student at Mrs. Saunder's Miss Beaches [sic] Academy on Meetinghouse Hill in 1807.

Born in Roxbury on May 3, 1790, she was the daughter of Edward Withington and Eunice Tucker, one of ten children. She later married Jacob Howe in Dorchester on Aug. 20, 1812. His brother Samuel married her sister Eunice.

The Dorchester Historical Society collections include examples of needlework and samplers from three centuries of Dorchester history. Many of these



pieces were worked by of their education to young women as part show their proficiency with needle and thread. Samplers," by Ethel Stanwood Bolton and Eva Johnston Coe. (Boston: Massachusetts Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 1921.)

"The curriculum at Miss Glover's School and at the Saunders and Beach Academy included decorative needlework as one of the courses of study. One of the popular types of needlework created by young women was the sampler. Samplers began as a way of recording examples of stitches; therefore, a sampler was an exemplar of the various stitches that a young woman had mastered and wanted to remember.

and dated by the maker by the name of sampler. Perhaps the secret charm of samplers was that they were distinctly the expression of the mind of the girl or her mother or her teacher, and so they are pretty nearly as varied as the mind of man. In the second half of the 18th century, samplers became more original pieces of work incorporating images of leaves and flowers, houses, dogs and birds, and other scenes from nature.

"Most of the known surviving needlework pieces were created by schoolgirls. ... Both finishing schools and academies offered needlework instruction as

"In the 20th century, vehicles for religious Much of the following is we have come to call instruction and for furtaken from "American any needlework signed thering education in mathematics and the basics of the English language. The archive of these

> historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchester historicalsociety.org. The Dorchester Historical Society's historic houses are open on different dates. The Lemuel Clap House (1712 and remodeled 1765) at 199 Boston Street is open on the third Saturday of each month. The James BlakeHouse, 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

Parade's cancelled, but Dot Day lives on



For weeks, we've wondered what would become of 2020 Dorchester Day celebrations in the context of this coronavirus madness. If the timing had worked out better, it could have been an opportunity for a massive cel-

ebration, a release of pent-up energy, and a chance to revel in each other's company again.

Alas, that's not to be.

Last week, the organizers of the Dorchester Day Parade withdrew their application for a permit for this year's parade — effectively cancelling the event that was set for Sun., June 7.

"It is never an easy decision to cancel an event, but we feel this is the best and safest decision for us to protect the health and safety of our committee members, participants, and neighbors," said Kelly Walsh, who leads the committee. "We hope that you and your family stay healthy and safe and we hope that we will be able to see you all again soon to celebrate our wonderful community."

It was a tough blow. But, it was, of course, the right decision by the committee.

You may be forgiven if you lost track of that bit of bad news: It truly says something about these momentous days we're living through when the story about the cancellation of the parade ended up on Page 13 of last week's edition of the Dorchester Reporter.

Full disclosure: The news broke late in last week's newsgathering cycle and we did put a headline carrying the sad news on Page One, below the fold.

It's too soon to say whether or not it will be safe to assemble with people outside of our immediate homes by June 7. The big backyard BBQs may or may not happen. But, without the parade, Dot Day 2020 won't be the Victory over Corona bacchanalia celebration.

That's okay. We intend to celebrate it here at the Reporter by publishing a salute to our neighborhood in print and online that will rival any Dot Day publication we have ever assembled in content, page count, or by any other measure.

Dot Day is more than just another holiday in these parts. And it's more than just about a parade, although the march up the avenue is certainly the event that convenes us in the most tangible way.

It's a celebration of a neighborhood that we all call home— and one that deserves a day to call its own.

And while the parade will not be staged and the attendant chief marshal's dinner won't be plated, there's no way that Dorchester Day will not be celebrated this year. If it's not safe— and we're advised by Mayor Walsh to hold off on congregating in even small groups— we'll follow his lead. We'll celebrate with our households— the way many of us did with our housemates— or virtually— on Easter Sunday.

We'd like to hear from our readers over the coming days and weeks: How do you propose to observe a parade-less Dot Day this year? We'd love to share some of those ideas with everyone.

– Bill Forry

The Reporter

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To the people of Boston Strong, a message of hope

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

The coronavirus is unlike anything we've experienced in living memory, and it's testing our city in a way that it's never been tested before. It has required a major, all-hands-on-deck response, and it has affected every aspect of daily life in Boston. Every day, we are sending our love, our support, and our prayers to everyone who's battling this terrible illness, and our hearts break for the families who have lost loved ones.

The grief I feel for these families is coupled with an immense sense of pride for our city. The people of Boston have shown bravery, strength, and solidarity with one another since this crisis began. We've had to close our schools, postpone some of our most beloved traditions, and ask residents to keep their distance from the people they love the most.

I know that these changes have been very difficult for many people. But I'm not hearing complaints; the overwhelming reaction has been support and cooperation.

People are focused on protecting their fellow Bostonians, especially the most vulnerable among us. People understand that the measures we're taking, no matter how drastic they may feel, will save lives. That is our top priority, and the people of Boston have rallied around it. I've seen people, businesses, and organizations stepping up and doing the right thing. I've seen wonderful acts of kindness. And I've seen people of all ages showing what it means to be Boston strong.

In the face of challenges like this one, our city shows its true colors. We are a resilient city of resilient people. That's reflected in our strong neighborhoods, in our enduring traditions, and in the way we govern at the local level.

The fact is, we've been strengthening Boston's ability to respond to a crisis like this for years. We've built deep connections between city government, neighborhood leaders, community groups, and the faith community. We've built up one of the strongest shelter and healthcare networks for homeless individuals in the country. We've made city services more accessible, in more languages, across a variety of platforms.

We've helped more people get connected with affordable internet. And we've worked to close equity gaps to make sure that more people have access to stable housing and financial safety nets. All of these things have allowed us to act swiftly, get people the information they need, and soften the blow that this public health crisis is having on our communities, our economy, and people's lives. To me, this is the definition of resilience. It means



A view inside the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in South Boston which has been converted into a medical center for COVID-19 patients. Jeremiah Robinson/Mayor's Office photo

planning ahead, and building connections before we need them, so that we can adapt to any challenge that we face.

We've got a long road ahead of us. Even after we overcome the immediate threat to people's health, there will be a long economic recovery to get our local businesses and their hard-working employees back on their feet. We will need to be flexible, and work together to get daily life back to normal. And we will continue to grieve, together as a city, for the lives lost. Many families are experiencing incredible shock and sadness right now. We all need to give them the time and the space to mourn their loved ones, with the full support of their city behind them.

My hope is that when we get through this, we will have a new appreciation for all the things we hold dear. I hope that we will never again take simple joys and freedoms for granted.

Normally, this is one of the best times of the year in Boston. Any other year, we'd be getting ready to welcome athletes and fans from all over the world for the Boston Marathon. We'd be celebrating the home opener at Fenway Park. We'd be holding the first of our annual coffee hours in neighborhood parks across the city. Kids and families would be enjoying the warm weather and all the festivities that come with the end of the school year.

When we get through this, and return to these traditions, it will be a cause for celebration. Each of us will have a renewed opportunity to embrace the things that make Boston the greatest city in the world. This is a defining moment in our history that will inspire new strength and resilience. I think it will inspire a new sense of what makes us Bostonians, and what makes us all family. That's what gives me hope, and that's what drives me, every day, to lead our city through this.

A question on Tax Day 2020: What do we really need to make us safe?

By Jeff Klein Special to the Reporter

In a normal year, April 15 would mark the day our federal tax returns are due. This year, of course, is anything but "normal" and the deadline for filing has been extended three months.

Still, Tax Day in the midst of a coronavirus pandemic, is a good time to examine our national priorities. What do our taxes actually pay for? What keeps us safe, and what doesn't? Sometimes a crisis highlights fault lines that are less visible in ordinary times.

It is now impossible to ignore that our fragmented and mostly privatized healthcare system is not up to the challenge of a virus pandemic. A government infrastructure weakened by decades of corporate-friendly policies is incapable of producing and delivering vitally needed lifesaving medical equipment or personal protection supplies even for healthcare workers in direct patient care. Nor is it able to deliver timely relief to workers and small business who face economic disaster.

And while establishment opinion has been almost unanimously opposed to universal public health insurance, millions of newly-laid-off workers are facing the loss of health coverage provided through their jobs. Decades of massive incarceration, even for minor non-violent infractions, are exposing imprisoned populations to potentially fatal plague conditions from which there is no escape. And in a society deeply scarred by institutional racism, it is no surprise that communities of color are suffering disproportionally from the COVID-19 outbreak.

The truth is that we have reached this point through many years of choices we have made – or allowed our political decision makers to make in our name.

Few people realize that military spending has long taken up the bulk of the annual budgets passed by Congress and paid for by our federal income taxes. This is referred to as "discretionary spending." It's the money actually appropriated and spent every year, as opposed to programs funded separately out of payroll taxes like Social Security and Medicare. Recently, military spending has taken up nearly 60 percent of our annual discretionary spending — and that does not include nuclear weapons (funded by the Energy Department), homeland security, veterans benefits, national intelligence, and interest on a national debt that has been generated largely by wars and military expenditures.

Altogether, we spend around one trillion dollars annually on "security." During the past 20 years, the US is estimated to have spent 6 or 7 *trillion* dollars on Middle East wars alone.

Meanwhile, our combined spending on health, housing, and transportation amount to only 13 percent of annual discretionary spending. Yet, when expanding healthcare coverage or advocating for affordable housing or better funding for our schools, the question is always asked: "How will we pay for it?" In the face of the pandemic and a looming economic crisis, isn't it time to re-examine our priorities and ask the question: What do we really need to make us safe?

Universal access to healthcare or endless wars? Paid sick leave for everyone or a \$738 billion Pentagon budget? A well-funded public health system or a vast military-industrial complex? Increased spending for medical research or a military space force? Affordable housing for all or tax breaks for corporations and the rich? Quality free public schools and colleges or more useless weapons systems? Good jobs and a rebuilt infrastructure or more prisons and mass incarceration? A livable planet with better public transit or government subsidies for fossil fuels?

The federal budget is both a choice and a moral statement. Failure to change our priorities will continue to put the lives of ourselves and our families at risk while threatening the destruction of our planet.

Jeff Klein is a retired local union president and a member of Dorchester People for Peace.

COMMENTARY/COVID-19

State begins to wrestle with serious budgetary matters

House Ways and Means chairman weighs issues

By BILL WALCZAK REPORTER CONTRIBUTOR

The Massachusetts economy went into free fall a month ago. As a result, tax revenues for the final quarter of FY20 (April-June) will likely be



Bill Walczak

\$500-\$750 million below budget. In addition, the Commonwealth is spending millions of dollars stabilizing hospitals and other health care organizations, supporting public transit and other state and regional entities, and will probably need to invest to keep the unemployment trust fund solvent.

Still, between the \$2 trillion federal aid program and our state's rainy day fund, we should

be able to balance our books for the end of the fiscal year, June 30.

But what about FY21, which starts on July 1? Although there is talk of another federal aid or "stimulus" program, it is not a certainty that Congress will pass another package. As a result,

Letter to the Editor

We'll keep the mail moving, and we'll do it safely, says USPS manager

To the Editor:

During these challenging times, United States Postal Service employees are working hard to ensure that residents stay connected with their world through the mail. Whether it's medications, a package, a paycheck, benefits or pension check, a bill or letter from a family member, postal workers understand that every piece of mail is important.

While service like this is nothing new to us, we need our communities' help with social distancing.

For everyone's safety, our employees are following the social distancing precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health officials. We are asking people to not approach our carriers to accept delivery. Let the carrier leave the mailbox before collecting the mail. With schools not in session, children should also be encouraged to not approach a postal vehicle or carrier.

If a delivery requires a signature, carriers will knock on the door rather than touching the bell. They will maintain a safe distance, and instead of asking for a signature on their mobile device, they'll ask for the resident's name. The carrier will leave the mail or package in a safe place for retrieval.

We are proud of the role all our employees play in processing, transporting, and delivering mail and packages for the American public. The CDC, World Health Organization, as well as the Surgeon General indicate there is currently no evidence that COVID-19 is being spread through the mail.

With social distancing, we can keep the mail moving while keeping our employees, and the public, safe.

Mike Rakes
District manager
US Postal Service
- Greater Boston
District

our Legislature and the governor have launched an effort to study the economic impact of COVID-19 and to play out scenarios on what FY21 could look like, depending on how long the Commonwealth needs to be shut down.

To start the process, a virtual "Economic Roundtable" hosted by the House and Senate Ways and Means chairs and the Executive office of Administration and Finance was held on April 14. One forecast at this event predicted that state tax collections in 2020 will plunge 20 percent and unemployment will soar to 14.7 percent, with the state's gross domestic product this year declining by 7.2 percent.

One of the leaders of the roundtable is the House chair of Ways and Means, Aaron Michlewitz, who represents downtown Boston from the North End to the South End. He was elected in 2009, and is in his first term as chairman of the panel. He said that the roundtable will be an effort to get some answers as Massachusetts economists and budget experts "delve deeper into those numbers."

One of the problems they need to deal with is the impact of delaying the deadline for filing state income tax returns until July 15, two weeks after the end of the fiscal year. He said it was a "\$3.5 billion revenue piece," and that the state is considering borrowing in anticipation of this income. He also expressed his concern about the unemployment trust fund with half a million unemployed in Massachusetts.

Michlewitz anticipates that the state may pass "a temporary budget," and that they "have to be creative in their approach.

"We don't want to use up the rainy day fund before we even have an idea of where we're headed," he said, adding that "keeping flexibility alive is important. [The federal government] will play a major role on what we're able to take on, including local aid. Cities and municipalities had to take on providing wrap around services traditionally provided by schools. The state has a role to play in being helpful."

He further noted that the Legislature is questioning whether deductibility of charitable donations should be implemented on July 1, as that would reduce tax revenue by \$300 million.

Legislators are also considering an "accelerated sales tax," which means that the state would collect sales tax revenue in the month it is generated rather than, as is currently the case, one month behind. Essentially, this means that there could be 13 months' worth of sales tax revenue during the 12-month FY21, though Michlewitz expressed concern about that action's impact on small businesses.

Regarding the new "Student Opportunity Act," he said that the Legislature was in the process of "putting together a strong first year," but it "has to be reanalyzed and reconfigured because of the circumstances we're in." He hopes to have some implementation in FY21, and in the years following, he said, there may be "some things that come down the pike (to help with funding) like the millionaires' tax."

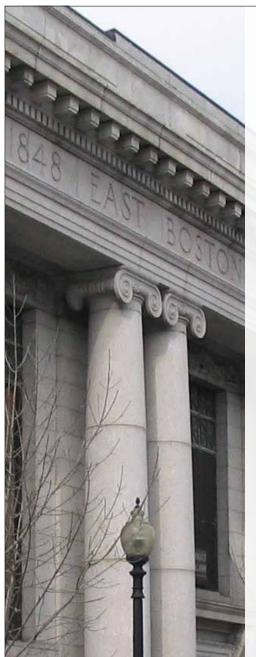
On public transit: "We passed in the House a major transportation revenue package. I don't know what the Senate will do at this point ... raising taxes in a pandemic is certainly very difficult to do. The idea of implementing a better transportation structure, including the MBTA, is still a hope."

Asked what has been learned about having to deal with the pandemic, Michlewitz said, "We didn't have resources immediately to be able to combat this issue – PPEs and ventilators – so we had to rely on outside resources for us to survive the turmoil and chaos, which has been a wake-up call for many of us in state and local government. We used to feel more comfortable relying on the federal government, but that's certainly not the case the way Washington is operating now.

"We had to chase after masks and PPE; it has been an eve opener.

"These are unprecedented times," said Michlewitz. "The state government slowed the economy down to stop a public health crisis and it is unknown how or when to wake up the economy. And we don't know how long it's going to take."

While he said he has concerns about social problems that could become exacerbated from a lengthy shutdown, he expressed confidence from seeing how well all the parts of our Massachusetts government have been working together in these difficult times.



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Richard J. Gavegnano President, CEO and Chairman East Boston Savings Bank

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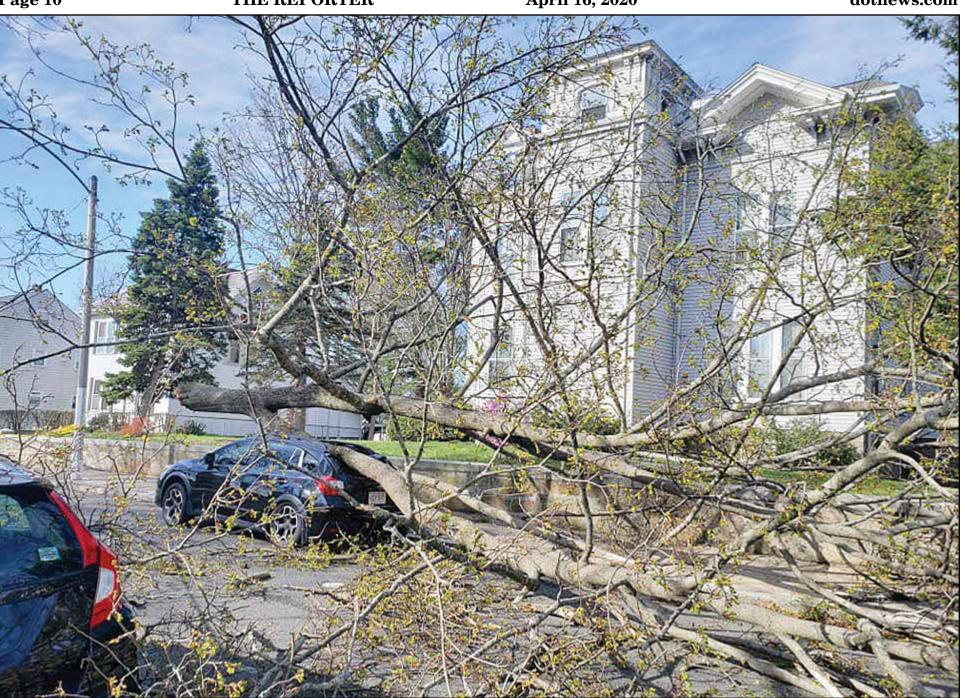
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Damaging winds brought down many trees across the neighborhood on the afternoon of Monday, April 13, including this large tree on Alban Street on Ashmont Hill.

Robert MacEachern photo

We will return neighborhood notables to this space when events are rescheduled.

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dotnews.com April 16, 2020 THE REPORTER Page 11

We Salute our Neighborhood Heroes

Thank you Doctors, Nurses and Hospital Support Workers

Thank you First Responders-Police, Fire & EMTs

Thank you Essential Workers-MBTA Drivers, Postal Workers Grocery & Pharmacy Employees

Thank you Food Service workers who prepare our takeaway meals

Thank you to all our neighbors who look after people in need

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Union workers step up to serve at 'Boston Hope'

By Daniel Sheehan Reporter Staff

Teri Trotman of Dorchester has worked intermittently at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC) since 1994. As a member of the UNITE HERE Local 26 food service workers union, Trotman is a veteran of the industry, having logged countless hours at the center preparing banquets in addition to some banking and bartending work.

Last week, after the South Boston facility was temporarily transformed into the "Boston Hope" COVID-19 field hospital, Trotman didn't think twice about returning to a workspace that was now on the front lines of the pandemic.

"They gave us the opportunity, and I figured it would be something I would want to do," she explained. "Sometimes you just feel that you



UNITE HERE Local 26 food service workers are shown inside the Boston HOPE field hospital at the BCEC last week. The workers include cooks, dishwashers, and more.

Local 26 photo

need to do something. We're all humans, you know, these are all our people. Everybody needs to chip in somehow if they want to, even if it's just staying at home to not spread anything...I felt this is what I wanted to do."

Trotman, 56, is an

essential worker— one of thousands across the city who continue to provide crucial services during this national health emergency. These essential service industry workers — many of whom are from our neighborhood— assume a level of risk as they go

But so far, Trotman told the *Reporter*, she feels safe.

about their jobs.

Trotman said that while a few of her colleagues were nervous at first about working in the same building as COVID-19-positive patients, those fears dissipated when they saw the slew of safety measures being taken

onsite.

"They're really taking precautions," she said. "They're not playing around. When we come in, they take our temperature with this eye instrument and they give us plenty of masks and gloves. They even have this special sanitizer station where they sanitize all kinds of things."

Trotman added that she and her coworkers are "nowhere near the patients," who are being treated in the "Ground Zero" first-floor show-room area while food service workers stay in the loading dock and on the second floor.

"They know what they're doing. They're trying to control this thing," she said. "They're thinking about our wellbeing, too. They need us. They don't want us to get sick."

Trotman sees herself as providing important behind-the- scenes support to the doctors and nurses doing their best to save lives. "We provide breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, plenty of coffee," she noted. "We provide that for them; they need those things to keep their spirits up, keep their energy up."

As for Local 26, Trotman said the union has been "really helpful. They have a hotline, and they've been sending us emails with resources and different things for different people ... If they don't have it, they'll go out and find the information and then call back and check on you."

And while she's happy contributing to the



'We're all here trying to do what we can do' - Teri Trotman

cause, Trotman said that at the convention center, "it's going to be some time before we get back to normal," estimating the effects of the crisis will last "good into the summer."

Until then, Trotman and her colleagues will continue serving the folks at Boston Hope, where she said a feeling of community is developing. "We're all in the same boat. Everybody's just trying to cope with whatever situation they're in. We're all here trying to do what we can do."

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'We are in survival mode'

(Continued from page 1) typically treats about 23,000 people per year, making it a critical link in the city's health care system, but one that has proven vulnerable in this crisis. The center is also a catalyst for civic life and an economic engine in the neighborhood.

"We've been reaching out to individuals and organizations for financial and supply [PPE] donations," said Cotterell. "All the while continuing to provide the care that we've been providing to our patients and community for over 40-plus years, albeit through the addition of a new model of care — telehealth.

"Codman is currently working with the city on additional testing and contact tracing efforts to combat this virus," she said.

Harbor Health Services, Inc., which includes the Daniel Driscoll Neponset Health Center and Geiger-Gibson in Dorchester, will receive \$1,101,650 in federal funds.

Chuck Jones, president and CEO of Harbor Health, said that he and his staff are grateful for the funds, but they will not be enough to cover a full month's worth of losses.

"The CARES Act funding will help to alleviate some of the financial pain that the current crisis has caused for community health centers. Harbor has had to make some very difficult decisions and major changes over the past month," said Jones. "For safety we had to stop offering dental services and furlough a quarter of our staff. We had to respond to needs

of our patients with a new option for having an appointment over the phone or through video.

He added: "Community health centers are especially important during this crisis because COVID-19 is having a disproportionate impact on the communities we serve. Continued support from private and government sources is absolutely essential to sustaining our work and delivering care when the people in our communities need us most."

US Sen. Ed Markey agreed that more must be done to secure additional funding. "I will continue to push for the next round of economic relief to include additional funding for community health centers so that they can care for patients during this health emergency," he said.



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Focus is on disparities as infections rise

cus on health disparities in Boston, saying: "We know that there are significant inequities that put our communities of color and immigrant population at higher risk for contracting coronavirus, developing severe illness, and impeding them from accessing

The task force is composed of 24 members, including former state Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry (who is married to Reporter editor and publisher Bill Forry), Marie St. Fleur, a former state rep.; Dr. Jean Alves of the Bowdoin Street Health Center; Guale Valdez, chief financial officer of the Mattapan Community Health Center; and Reverends Ray Hammond and Gloria White Hammond of the Bethel AME Church.

"At our first meeting we identified priority areas, including testing, collecting more data, community action and understanding the economic impacts," said the mayor. "We've already started putting the ideas into action because we know this work is moving quickly and urgently" and because "we are seeing increased numbers of coronavirus in these communities.'

On Monday, Walsh announced that the city is opening a rapid testing center at the Whittier Street Community Health Center in Roxbury. "A big part of ensuring equity is making sure that communities have access to screening and testing, and that we have strong partners in the community that we can work with," said

"Starting today," he continued, "we will be working with the Whittier Street Community Health Center to make testing more accessible to all residents. The center will be offering scheduled rapid result testing to all.

Boston Public Health Commission figures released last Friday (April 10) showed the South Ena with the nighest rate of COVID-19 infection among city neighborhood. Its 282 confirmed cases as of April 9 give it a rate of 78.9 cases per 10,000 people, compared to a rate of 66.6 in the neighborhood with the next highest rate, Hyde Park.

The commission did not present any explanations for the high numbers in the South End, which reflect a fourfold increase over its numbers last week. However, earlier this week, city officials said they had conducted "universal" testing at some city homeless shelters, two of the largest of which, the Pine Street Inn and Rosie's Place, are in the South End,

Boston Resident COVID-19 Cases as of April 8, 2020

Race/Ethnicity	Known Cases	% of Known Cases
Asian or Pacific Islander	75	4.8%
Black or African-American	631	40.3%
Hispanic or Latino	223	14.2%
Other	193	12.3%
White	445	28.4%
Total Race/Ethnicity Known Cases in Boston residents	1,567	100% of known race/ethnicity
Total Cases in Boston residents		62.4% of total cases in Boston residents have race/ethnicity data. 37.6% (946) of total cases are classified as "missing" for race/ethnicity data.



Officer Jose Fontenez

so it is possible the high rate reflects increased testing in 02118, or that the numbers reflect a particular outbreak of Covid-19 among the city's homeless population, or both.

In Dorchester, a total of 613 COVID-19 cases were reported through April 9 out of the total number of known citywide cases -2,848. Mattapan had 169, according to the city analysis.

The Dorchester zip codes 02122 and 02124 had a rate of known infection of 54.9 per 10,000 residents, according to BPHC. The zips 02125 and 02121 were slightly lower at 50.3 per 10,000 residents. That compares to the citywide rate of 41.9/10,000.

On Tuesday, veteran Boston Police officer Jose Fontenez, a 53-yearold Boston resident, died from COVID-19. Mayor Martin Walsh announced his death at a press briefing at City Hall. The mayor was joined by Commissioner William Gross.

Fontanez has been assigned to Area E-13, the district that includes Hyde Park and Jamaica Plain, since 1996.

"We lost a hero today from this virus," said the mayor. "He made the ultimate sacrifice.

Commissioner Gross said that 67 members of the BPD have tested positive for the virus and that 53 officers "are still out" as they recover from or battle the illness.

Massachusetts is nearly midway through what public health experts believe is the most likely period for the peak in CO-VID-19 hospitalizations to hit Massachusetts, but Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders put it another way during a press briefing on Monday: "This is just the eye of the storm."

Sudders said hospitals are currently at about 50

percent capacity, with just 36 patients at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center field hospital and 10 at the DCU Center in Worcester. Massachusetts has received an additional 200 ventilators from the federal government, which are being inspected and could be deployed as soon as Monday night, officials said.

This came as President Donald Trump said he would like to reopen the economy by May 1. Gov. Charlie Baker said on Monday said that he has begun to think about how to reawaken Massachusetts from its "self-induced coma," but declined to share many details as he is worried that people might start to let their guards down.

"We have had conversations with a variety of folks in our economic and health care communities, and in our public health community, about what it might look like once we get past this, and we will talk about that at some point, but I really don't want people to start to think today that this is over," Baker said.

The governor also reminded that the daily COVID-19 case counts indicate that "the days and weeks ahead will be difficult ones" as he highlighted his administration's efforts to help manufacturers transition to making critical personal protective equipment like gowns, face shields and swabs.

The governor did, however, lay out some flag posts and guidelines for residents to look for as they wonder when life might start to return to some semblance of normal. "I don't think anyone thinks you can just flip the switch at any point in the not-toodistant future, given the fact that the surge is actually not the same everywhere," he said. "It's a wave that's going to play out across the country at different points in time."

On Monday, Baker joined the governors of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Delaware as they announced that they would work together to make the determination about when to begin a return to normality.

On the topic of testing, Baker also said that the National Guard teams the state has deployed

to test residents of nursing homes and long-care facilities-which account for 45 percent of all COVID-19 cases – had tested more than 3,700 people on-site at more than 220 facilities.

The MBTA's subway system is carrying roughly 8.5 percent of its typical ridership and the peak commuting times have shifted to align with shift changes at health care facilities, General Manager Steve Poftak said Monday. That drop in ridership is going to impact the T's fiscal year 2020 budget, and the agency is expecting the coronavirus pandemic to punch a \$231 million hole in its revenue forecast.

The T's ridership data only counts gated subway stations but shows that ridership as of April 9 was down about 92.7 percent compared to the week of Feb. 24. Bus ridership, Poftak said, is at about 20 to 22 percent of its usual level and the commuter rail system is serving about 6 to 8 percent of its typical ridership.

Dot photographer Steve Allen dies at 62

Steve Allen, Jr., a staple at community events as a news photographer in Dorchester since the 1970s, died this week from an illness caused by the coronavirus.



Allen, 62, contracted the COVID-19 disease while he was recuperating from a medical procedure last week, according to his friend and fellow photographer, Bill Brett. who first posted news of Allen's death on Monday night.

"Sad news: Our friend Steve Allen, editor and photographer of the Neighborhood Photo News and lifelong Dorchester resident, died tonight," Brett wrote. "Our prayers to his family

on this loss at such a tough time. This coronavirus is vicious.'

Mr. Allen was a longtime contributor to the Dorchester Argus-Citizen and the South Boston Tribune. After those weekly newspapers ceased publication, he launched his own newspaper initially titled the Southie Photo News. It later was named Neighborhood Photo News with content that focused mainly on South Boston and Dorchester.

His daughter, Lisa Brown, said her father had a "good heart."

He loved Dorchester and tried to help a lot of people," said Brown. "We are very sad and shocked that COVID took him so quickly."

She added: "Please encourage your readers to continue social distancing and follow Mayor Walsh's request to wear masks and help stop the spread."

In a statement on Twitter on Tuesday night, Mayor Walsh said: "Sad to hear of the passing of Steve Allen, a man who loved nothing more than showcasing his community and his neighbors through his photography and in his newspaper. He will be sorely missed in Boston."

Allen was active as a member of the Dorchester Day Parade Committee and the Dorchester Board of Trade. Details on arrangements for Mr. Allen's funeral were not available when the Reporter went to press this week. - BILL FORRY



20 income Restricted Rental Units				
# of Units	# of Bedrooms	AMI	Rent	
3	Studio	80%	\$1472	
4	1 Bedroom*	80%	\$1,569	
1	2 Bedroom	80%	\$1,874	
1	3 Bedroom	80%	\$2,155	
4	Studio	100%	\$1,984	
4	1 Bedroom	100%	\$2,125	
2	2 Bedroom	100%	\$2,550	
1	3 Redroom	100%	\$2.046	

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

# of Bedrooms	Minimum for 80% AMI	Minimum for 100% AMI	Household size	Maximum for 80% AMI	Maximum for 100% AMI
studio	\$42.057	\$56,686	1	\$63,500	\$79,350
Studio	\$42,057		2	\$72,550	\$90,650
1-bedroom	\$44.829	\$60,714	3	\$81,600	\$102,000
1-bearoom	\$44,829	\$60,714	4	\$90,650	\$113,300
2-bedroom	\$53,543	\$72,857	5	\$97,950	\$122,400
2-bearoom			6	\$105,200	\$131,450
3-bedroom	\$61,571	\$84,171			

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

After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period and the information meetings. To replace the informational meetings, we have created a presentation that includes information about the property, the application process, preferences, the lottery, and what happens after the lottery. For a copy of the presentation, please visits <u>www.MeetingHouseLottery.com</u>

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A Moment of Paws

About the power of volunteering - and some final thoughts

By Mary Nee

As I reflect on my nearly eight years as president of the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL), I keep coming back to something that is vital for any nonprofit organization-the power of volunteering.

This is usually one of my favorite times of the year, as normally ARL would be poised to celebrate National Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 19-25). During this week, we typically gather at our Boston, Dedham, and Brewster shelters to salute the amazing accomplishments during the past year of our more than 550 volunteers. Unfortunately, we are not living in typical times, and due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we made the decision to postpone these special events

In 2019, ARL's volunteers generously donated more than 38,000 hours of their time-that is the equivalent of 18 full-time staff!

Volunteers are mission critical for ARL, whether serving as ambassadors for the organization, working with behaviorally challenged animals, comforting a frightened cat or dog, mucking horse stalls, changing litter boxes, or performing a myriad of other tasks, volunteers have one thing in common-a selfless compassion to give back.

Normally our animal care and adoption centers would be bustling with dozens of volunteers every day, but these are not normal times. For health and safety reasons, a handful of volunteers are still pitching in each day at our locations and we have a dedicated network of foster families who continue to make tremendous contributions.

Community service is of upmost importance to ARL during this health crisis, and in this spirit, ARL has



Mary Nee and her friend Lily.

placed approximately 160 animals into the loving care of ARL's foster care network. Removing these animals from a shelter environment has tremendous benefits for the animals in our care

and also allows ARL to free-up kennel space in the event that animals need to be surrendered or temporarily housed by those affected by COVID-19.

Animals in foster care

receive a respite from the shelter environment, can recover from a medical procedure in a quiet, calming space, and can benefit from one-on-one interaction to help overcome behavioral challenges. Additionally, animals in foster care give ARL's animal care associates a better idea of how animals behave and act in a home setting.

For the humans involved, fostering is a wonderful way to give back, and offers the opportunity to help an animal in need and to enjoy the pleasure of having an animal in the home, if only for a short while.

About 63 million people, or 25 percent of the population, donate their time and talents to worthy causes. In addition to making a difference in the community, volunteering has been shown to improve a person's health by increasing physical activity, enhancing your mood, and decreasing stress. Another bonus? The majority of hiring managers nationally see volunteerism as an asset in candidates seeking

employment. You have read here about the impact that volunteers have on ARL being able to fulfill its mission. If you are able, I would certainly encourage you to consider donating your time to a worthy cause like ARL, or any cause that you are passionate about. The benefits are endless!

Final Thoughts

To the readers of AMoment of Paws, this is my last column, as I will be retiring on May 1, 2020. It is an honor to have served as ARL's president for the past eight years; it is an organization that works to keep animals safe and healthy, living in habitats and homes.

This column is a wonderful vehicle to provide information to assist people caring for animals, to champion all those who give generously of their time and resources to animal welfare, and to highlight the need for public policies to protect animals from abuse and neglect.

Fortunately, "A Moment of Paws" will continue under the able pen of ARL's incoming president, Dr. Edward Schettino. He has served as ARL's VP of Animal Welfare and Veterinary Medicine for the past six years and he is well poised to advance its vision to reach animals and people most in need.

I look forward to reading future columns and joining the ranks of so many who care passionately about animals and who advocate for a more humane society where people, animals, and the environment are valued and protected.

Thank you all.

Mary Nee, a Dorchester resident is the outgoing president of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Pet questions?Email ARL at press@ arlboston.org.

NOTICE

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

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

For now our programs have been suspended.



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

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Windowfront artist a messenger of gratitude to front-line workers

(Continued from page 1) responders" capped off with three letters of local pride: (D-O-T), and a red, white, and blue heart.

Rouse, a Savin Hill native whose father—Richard Rouse—represented the neighborhood in the state Legislature in the 1980s, told the *Reporter* that personal connections to those on the front lines inspired her to send a message.

"My brother is a first responder. He's a fire-fighter, and he's a captain in the National Guard who's been activated as a first response unit, so he's been working a lot keeping us all safe," she explained. "My mom is also a nurse practitioner at the VA, and she's still treating patients. Everyone who's in health care is so important...they're the heroes."

City Councillor Annissa Essaibi-George has known about Rouse's artistic gifts for years. So, when she saw an opportunity last week to get creative with the windows at Stitch House, her business on Dot Ave,



Elizabeth Rouse of Dorchester is shown outside the Banshee on Dorchester Ave. in front of her mural.

she knew whom to call.

"I reached out to her and asked could we do a positive message for folks on the front lines, just to express some sort of gratefulness for the work they do," said the councillor.

Days later, the Stitch House window was adorned with the official seals of the Boston Police, Fire, and EMT departments. along with the words "thank you." Said Essaibi-George, who has been spendingher time between city council meetings sewing protective face masks at home: "It's a message of thanks, it's a public display of gratefulness, and it's also uplifting. I would hope that any doctor, nurse, EMT, firefighter, or police officer that drives or walks by feels uplifted, you know, that they don't feel forgotten, and that they're appreciated for the sacrifices they're making every single day."

To learn more about Elizabeth Rouse's work, visit her on Facebook @ Windowartbyelizabeth.

State Officials Response to COVID-19

Over the past several weeks, the COVID-19 outbreak has upended our daily lives, stressed our economy, and threatened the wellbeing of our communities. It has also presented unprecedented challenges to our city and state. From recordsetting unemployment applications, to surge demand for hospitals, and vast racial disparities across identified cases that threaten our most vulnerable neighborhoods, this is a time for us to keep our faith and band together as a Commonwealth to protect all families.

As your state legislators, we have taken many steps to alleviate the burden on taxpayers, homeowners, renters, seniors, low-income residents, and everyone in our communities. At the outset of this crisis, we passed an emergency \$15 million supplemental budget to invest in our healthcare system, and since then we have worked with the Administration to dedicate another \$1.6 billion to hospitals, community health centers, and frontline healthcare providers.

Our offices have been fielding record-high inquiries for assistance with unemployment, and we have been taking steps with our federal colleagues to expand access and expedite service from the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA), including waiving the one-week waiting period, adding an extra \$600/ week for claimants, expanding access to self-employed individuals, independent contractors, gig economy workers, and others who otherwise would not qualify, and expanding benefits an additional 13 weeks, or 50%.

We know small businesses are suffering, and we have collaborated with our city and federal colleagues to facilitate several grant, loan, and assistance programs, giving Massachusetts businesses the opportunity to keep staff on their payroll, pay their bills, and relieve their debt burden. Recently, the State Legislature acted quickly to allow restaurants to deliver wine and beer or sell it for takeout, allowing these businesses to continue moving inventory and generating revenue. We are also working on legislation to require business interruption insurance to cover the disruptions associated with this pandemic, allowing businesses to collect in their time of need.

Individuals, families, renters, and homeowners are in distress too, and we understand the magnitude of the crisis. That's why we recently passed a bill to place a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures, so no one will end up on the street as a result of this virus. That legislation also requires lenders to offer property owners interest-free reamortization on their mortgages, not paying for several months now and simply adding those bills to the end of the mortgage period without additional fees or costs. And we have extended the state tax filing deadline to July 15th, while empowering cities and towns to defer collection of local taxes too, putting more money back in taxpayers pockets when they most need it: right now.

Working together we are helping connect seniors and at risk individuals with basic necessities to get through these challenging times. We are partnering with local businesses and providers to get more Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) into the hands of our brave frontline healthcare workers. We are leading the fight on legislation to protect our first responders, and get them the insurance they need to be covered in this crisis. We are advancing legislation to provide \$10 million in emergency funds for homeless populations, and allocate emergency payments to low income families receiving state assistance.

The days ahead will be extremely difficult. If you are a first responder, a front line health care worker, a MBTA employee, a grocery store clerk, someone delivering, an essential employee or anyone who is still reporting in person to work we thank you and we are indebted to each of you.

These are truly unprecedented times. While significant, none of these pieces of legislation we have passed is itself a singular silver bullet. They do represent our continued collective and tireless efforts to deliver as many resources as possible to our communities. Our offices pledge to continue doing all we can to be a resource to you, and to the community at large. If you need assistance, please call us at (617)-722-2000 or visit MALegislature. Gov, and we will be happy to advocate on your behalf to get any issues resolved.

In the meantime, stay home as much as possible, and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Senator Nick Collins

Representative Russell Holmes

Representative Dan Cullinane

Representative Liz Miranda

Representative David Biele

Vanuel & Hunt

Representative Dan Hunt



State House 24 Beacon Street Boston, MA, 02133 (617) 722-2000

www.malegislature.gov

Mother's Day Walk for Peace goes virtual

By Daniel Sheehan Reporter Staff

The Louis D. Brown Institute for Peace announced today it will hold a Mother's Day Virtual Walk-a-thon for Peace in place of its annual Walk for Peace event on May 11.

The Fields Cornerbased educational and healing center is a crucial asset for families and communities across the city who are working $through\, their\, responses$ to homicide. The institute provides important resources, literature, and healing services for those impacted by homicide and helps them navigate grief, trauma, and loss. The center holds a fundraising walk every Mother's Day as a way to honor loved ones who have been murdered.

This year, some of that walking may be done on treadmills: acknowledging that the community won't "be able to gather physically on Mother's Day," the center is asking participants to register and donate online. The institute, which is still operating and providing services during the current shelter in place directive, hopes to reach its \$400,000 goal with the help of social media and internet communities.

"The COVID-19 outbreak has impacted all of our daily lives, and for those of us who've experienced murder, trauma, grief, and loss, social distancing can add to an already stressful and overwhelming

time," wrote organization founder Tina Chery in a newsletter. "Many of us are feeling isolated and it's more important now than ever that we join together virtually."

Those interested in participating can register as an individual

or as a team, make a donation, and become a sponsor at mothersday-walk4peace.org.

At Codman Square Health Center, we are committed to keeping our patients, community, and staff safe and healthy.

We are converting our scheduled in-person visits to visits by phone, screening everyone who enters our health center, and reducing our hours.

Our Urgent Care department remains open 7 days a week with reduced hours:

Monday – Friday: 9 am – 7 pm Saturday: 9 am – 3 pm Sunday: 9 am – 1 pm

Call 617-822-8271 with any questions.



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

Reporter, six other Mass. news outlets get Facebook grants

By Daniel Sheehan Reporter Staff

Seven local news outlets in Massachusetts, including the Reporter, each have received grants of \$5,000 from the Facebook Journal-

ism Project (FJP). The new funding initiative is meant to aid newsrooms covering the COVID-19 crisis on a local level.

In addition to the Reporter, the Bay State Banner, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Hull Times Media Group, Inc. MasTV/El Planeta LLC, O16 LLC, and the New Bedford Guide were among the 400 North American publications tapped by Facebook and partners the Lenfest Institute for Journalism and the Local Media Association (LMA) to receive aid in navigating the economic impact of the outbreak.

After announcing the

first round of 50 grant recipients in March, Facebook quickly doubled the pool money to \$2 million for an additional 350 newsrooms after more than 200 publishers applied in the first 48 hours after the application was made available.

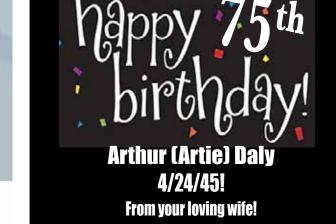
Josh Mabry, Local News Partnerships Lead at Facebook, said the program came about as a way to address an "immediate need" in local journalism that was highlighted by the rise of the pandemic.

"This is really important because Facebook is all about community, staying connected, and being informed, and I think right now a lot of people are realizing how important their local news sources are," said Mabry.

"It's one thing to be following the COVID outbreak on national news," he added, "but it's a different story when it hits home and you want to know how it's affecting your friends and family, people and places in your backyard. Having local news organizations who are telling those stories is critically important."

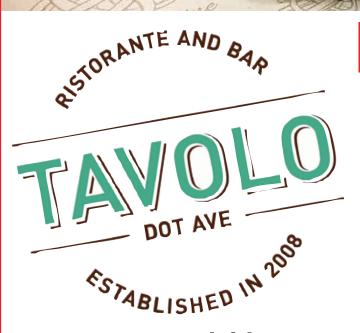
Each grant is meant to "help fulfill immediate needs such as increasing frequency of publishing, tools to work remotely, combating misinformation, and serving vulnerable and at-risk groups." The \$2 million sum is part of \$100 million total in funding that the social media corporation is investing globally to support local news organizations.





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dotnews.com April 16, 2020 THE REPORTER Page 17



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CONNECT THE DOT: BGCD Hosts Drive Thru Easter Bunny Experience: On Saturday, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester hosted a drive thru experience to see the Easter

Our families and members were able to drive up to the Marr Clubhouse to wave and say hello to the Easter Bunny. Those who came by were then surprised with a fun Easter basket that was put together by our Early Ed Staff.

Thank you to all the staff and to everyone who made this possible and who took the time and effort to brighten our families day. Little things like this go so far and really help keep us connected.

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter. We miss seeing you very much and can't wait to see you soon.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD Serves Frozen Meals for

Harbor Point Community: Last week, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester was able to deliver 500 frozen meals to the Senior Housing Center at Harbor Point, and families who we help serve at our Walter Denney Youth Center (WDYC) Clubhouse who live in our community.

A special thank you to Mayor Martin J. Walsh, the Boston Resiliency Fund, the Metropolitan Boston Building Trades Council and Community Servings for providing the meal packages.

Thank you to our Queenie Santos, Unit Director of the WDYC and Mike Joyce, VP of Programming who coordinated and delivered the meals.

For more information on our "Grab and Go" sessions, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@ bgcdorchester.org



DID YOU KNOW: BGCD's Version of "The

BGCD's Version of "The Masked Singer" on Boston 25 News: On April 8th, Boston 25 News aired a story on Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's very own "The Masked Singer" series.

Boston 25 interviewed Director of Program Development, Brendan McDonald, as well as one of BGCD's families. We were so excited to hear about how the series came about and how much it meant to our members during this time.

You can watch BGCD's "The Masked Singer" Season 1 on our Facebook and Youtube pages now! Don't forget to keep an eye out for Season 2, coming soon!

Please follow and like our pages to join in on the fun!

UPDATES

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

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

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

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Service times and directions at: www.dolanfuneral.com

RECENT OBITUARIES

ACK, David P. retired Boston Globe employee, 85, of Dorchester, formerly of Braintree. Husband of the late Joan T. (O'Leary) Tack. Father of David P. Tack, Jr. and his wife Cristina of West Newton, Kathleen M. Danna and her husband Jim of North Carolina, Joseph P. Tack and his wife Bernice of Dorchester, and the late Carolyn M. Tack. Grandfather of 5. Brother of the late Audrey M. Tack. David was born in Boston, to the late George B. and Dorothy A. (Savage) Tack. He was raised in Mattapan, later moved to Dorchester, and was a graduate of Hyde Park High School. He had lived in Dorchester for the past five years, previously living in Braintree for over forty years. He was an active member of the Boston Typographical Union, taking a role as a contract negotiator. He retired from The Boston Globe in 2002. For those who wish, donations in David's memory may be made to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168 or by visiting.dana-farber.org

BARANOWSKI, James Albin of Milton. Born in 1945, son of the late Albin and Henrietta Baranowski of Milton. Husband of Christine Mary (MacDonald) Baranowski. Father to Amy Christine Warburton of Canton and James Colin 'Jamie" Baranowski and his wife Ruby Santos Baranowski of Foxboro. Grampie to 3. He graduated from Newman High School and Burdett College. He served in the National Guard 1967-1972. His career was commercial and residential real estate for the Flatley Company, Shaw's Supermarkets and he was the owner of Albar Realty with his late father. He is survived by many relatives and friends, most still from childhood. Jim is still a member of "The Walnuts" at the Cunningham Park Wall. A Celebration of Jim's Life

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE and FAMILY COURT
Docket No. SU17P0468EA
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon St., Boston, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
ESTATE OF: COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
ESTATE OF:
GERALD FRANCIS FARLEY
DATE OF DEATH: 12/01/2016
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filled by Suzanne F. Keane
of Dorchester, MA requesting that the
court enter a formal Decree of Complete
Settlement including the allowance of a
final account, a determination of heirs at law
and other such relief as may be requested and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court you have a right to object to this proceeding.

To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/05/2020.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed written appearance and objection followed written appearance and objection followe by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30 lays of the return day, action may be taker without further notice to you.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First

Justice of this Court.
Date: April 07, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

will be held at a later date. BATTOS, Edward

Francis, youngest son of the late John, Sr. and

Rita Battos of Dochester.

Though born in Roxbury, Ed grew up in Dorchester in St. Mark's Parish, where he lived for 50 years before moving to Braintree. He graduated from Cathedral High School and Northeastern University and served in the Air Force before lengthy careers with the MBTA and State Street Bank. Ed was a proud member of the John P. McKeon AmVets Post 146 in Dorchester for over 50 years, as well as the Quincy AmVets Post in Quincy where he will be sorely missed. He leaves behind his wife, Janet Battos (Splaine/ Ouellette), his daughter, Keri Ouellette, and numerous other family members. Additional family includes the late William Battos of Dorchester(brother) and the late John Battos, Jr. (brother) and his surviving family: Ed's sister-inlaw Suzanne in CT and children: Phil, Jackie, Chris, Catherine, and Laura. He was also brother-in-law to Patricia and Sandy (Henry) Mulcahy of Norfolk, MA; Jeanne and Joseph DiBona of Burlington, MA; and Ann and Mark Harrington of Norwood, MA; and relative to all of their children, their spouses and grandchildren. Also survived by many cousins, extended family and friends. For those wishing to extend Ed's legacy of generosity, donations may be made to the Huntington's Disease Society of America, 505 Eighth Avenue, Suite 902, New York, NY 10018. Although we cannot gather together with Edward's family at this time, friends may still offer their support by visiting Keohane.com and sharing a special memory or message. DOHERTY, Marga-

ret T., 92, of Dorchester, formerly of Roxbury. Daughter of the late John Doherty and the late Grace T. (Douglas) of County Donegal, Ireland (Malin Head). She was the sister of the late H. Theresa Feetham and baby Theresa who died at birth. Aunt (mother) and best friend to Peg Feetham and her partner Donna Robershefski of Wakefield. Aunt to Theresa Pedranti of Ayer, Karen Beyer of Quincy, Patricia Forrester of Brockton and the late Kevin Feetham and his wife June Feetham of Quincy. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Margaret worked for New England Telephone for 42 years in downtown Boston. She enjoyed her days in Green Harbor, Marshfield with her late fiancé Peter B. Murphy. Margaret was a member of the Donegal Association. Due to the current

Gilbert C. Sullivan, at 75; founder of I-PAK, Inc.



Gilbert C. Sullivan A Jesuit admirer

Gilbert "Gil" Sullivan, O.F.D, passed away on Easter Sunday, April 12, after a lengthy illness. He was 75.

A proud native of Dorchester, he was born and raised on Bruce Street in St Mark's Parish, and was a graduate of the parish school, BC High, Class of 1962, and Boston College, Class of 1966.

Mr. Sullivan was the founder and retired chief executive officer of I-PAK, Inc., a packaging company, and a generous benefactor of his Jesuit-run alma maters, BC High and BC.

Although he moved physically to Canton in his later years, Mr. Sullivan never cast off his warm memories of Dorchester and the company of the lifelong friends he made there. He also maintained an extensive collection of memorabilia from his days operating out of Bruce Street.

Due to the pandemic, there will be no immediate services. His family plans to organize a celebration of his life at a later date.

health crisis, visitation and Funeral Service will remain private. A Memorial Mass and Celebration of her Life will be held at a later date.

DOWNEY, Mary (Madden) of Dorchester, formerly of Moycullen, Killagoola, Co. Galway. Ireland. Wife of 62 years of John J. Downey, Sr., formerly of Tanvey, Ballydangan, Athlone, Co. Roscommon, Ireland. Mother of John J. Downey, Jr. of Neponset, Marian (Joseph) Wilson of Weymouth, Monica (Edward) Ferguson of Winchester, and Julia (Stephen) Greene of Milton. Predeceased by eight siblings. Mary also leaves a brother, Sean Madden of Galway, Ireland. Grandmother of 8. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. She became lovingly known as "Granny" to everyone in her neighborhood. Due to the current health crisis, visitation and funeral Services will remain private. Donations in Mary's memory may be made to St. Ann's Parish, 243 Neponset Ave., Dorchester, MA 02122.

DRISCOLL, Edwin W. of Dorchester. Husband of the late Norma F. (MacDonald) Driscoll. Father of Maureen Crowley of Braintree, Francis X. of Dorchester, Joan MacDonald of Wevmouth, Theresa Daly of Dorchester, Thomas G. of Dorchester, James E. of Dorchester, Ellen Ranton of Kingston, Paul J. of Braintree, and Ann Callahan of Braintree. Grandfather of 14 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Edwin was a WWII veteran serving in the United States Army. Due to the current health crisis, visitation and funeral Services will remain private. Donations may be made in Edwin's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or to Old Colony

Hospice & Palliative Care at 321 Manley St., West Bridgewater, MA

HURLEY, Grace F.

(Crowley), 85. She was predeceased by her husband, Walter J. Hurley, and her eldest daughter, Virginia A. (Ginny) Hurley. Born in Dorchester, she was a daughter of BPD Captain James V. and Margaret E. (Joyce) Crowley. After graduating from Dorchester's St. Gregory's High School, she was employed for a year by the Metropolitan District Commission. She then found employment - and her future husband - at the Supreme Judicial Court, where she worked until 1957. Grace and her husband moved to Framingham in 1957 to begin raising their family. In addition to Walter and Ginny, she is survived by Nancy A. of Milton, Joseph J. and Nancy (Prince) of East Bridgewater, Joyce E., Lois M. and Edward A. Saunders and Miriam E. and Wayne F. Kent of Framingham. She is the grandmother of 8, as well as great-grandmother to 2. Also survived by Thomas J. and Phyllis C. Crowley and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by the late James V. Crowley, Jr., Alice M. Cashman, and Paul F. Crowley. At a future time, services will be under the direction of Boyle Bros. Funeral Home, 173 Union Avenue, Framingham. The family suggests memorial donations be made in Grace's name either to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, donors@ stjude.org or the Ginny Hurley Memorial Scholarship, Federal Bar Association-Massachusetts Chapter, Jonathan Handler, Esquire, Day Pitney, One International Place, Boston, MA

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WHEN YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN, WE ARE THERE WITH YOU.

Chris Lazama, manager of the Lower Mills Apartments, with a copy of last week's Reporter, which was delivered to the building's residents. Photo courtesy Dave Mareira





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PUSH START - AUTO - A/C - BACK UP

CAMERA - BLUETOOTH - SIRIUS XM

42 MOS.3

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.\$**25,100** -4.000**CHRYSLER** FINANCE BONUS. ASSOC OF REALTORS......-500 QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-1,852

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Price

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PUSH START - AUTO - A/C - BACK UP CAMERA - BLUETOOTH - SIRIUS XM

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ZERO DOWN Ş 49 PER MO. LEASE 39 MOS.* Quirk Price

NEW 2020

Jeep Wrangler Sport JL 2 Door 4x4

MSRP...... \$33.440 **QUIRK** DISCOUNT.....-3,942 FIRST RESPONDERS

DISCOUNT.....

MONEY DOWN

ZERO DOWN PER MO LEASE:

Quirk

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FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNTS/ REBATES.. DISCOUNT.. QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-5,087

CONQUEST LEASE....

-10.087

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MSRP......\$38.785 REBATES.....-2,950 FIRST RESPONDERS **:500** DISCOUNT..

.-750 **CHRYSLER CAPITAL** ASSOC OF

REALTORS.. LEASE CONQUEST.

QUIRK

DISCOUNT..

MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3.995

ZERO DOWN 9 PER MO. 36 MOS.* LEASE

29,998

NEW 2019 Ram 1500 Classic Warlock Quad Cab 4x4

MSRP......\$41,190 REBATES.....-2,750 CHRYSLER CAPITAL..-1,000 QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-8,942

CONQUEST LEASE..... - 500

ASSOC OF REALTORS..

FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT...



LEASE: \$3,995

ZERO DOWN PER MO 42 MOS. Quirk

Price

NEW 2020 Ram 1500 Big Horn Crew Cab 4x4

REBATES.. CHRYSLER CAPITAL.... QUIRK -5,022

CONQUEST LEASE.

GM OWNER CONQUEST. ASSOC. OF REALTORS.....-500

FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT..



TRUCK OWNER CONQUEST..... MONEY DOWN \$ PER MO. ZERO DOWN PER MO.

LEASE Quirk Price

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Quirk

Price

MSRP.....\$56,680 REBATES.....-2,000

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SUN: CLOSED

