

Arrest //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and demanded the money from the cash register. The victim said the suspect flashed a firearm inside of his waistband. The victim complied with the suspect’s demands before taking the money and fleeing in an unknown direction.

On Tuesday, April 14 Dasilva is the suspect in an armed robbery of a store at 210 Border Street. According to police the victim said an unknown male had entered the store and handed the victim a note demanding the victim give the suspect the money inside of the register. The victim told police the suspect displayed a firearm inside of his waist-

band. The victim said she notified her manager who complied to the suspect’s demands and handed over the cash from the register. The victims said the suspect took the money and fled in an unknown direction.

On Tuesday, March 10 officers responded to a radio call for a robbery in progress at the store at 1 Central Square. The victim told police an unknown male had handed her a note demanding the victim open the cash register and give him the money. The victim said the suspect displayed a firearm. The victim said she opened the cash register and handed over the money

to the suspect who fled the store.

According to police Dasilva allegedly first struck Eastie back on Monday, Jan. 13. On that day police responded to a radio call for a robbery in progress at a store located at 396 Chelsea Street. Officers spoke to the victim who said he had been robbed by an unknown male with a firearm. The victim removed the money from the cash register, handed it over to the suspect who took it and fled the store on Saratoga Street toward Meridian Street.

Eastie nonprofits benefit from Boston’s Resiliency Fund

Several East Boston nonprofits that are helping residents or providing assistance to the city or state during this COVID-19 pandemic were recently awarded grant money through the city’s Boston Resiliency Fund.

Last week Mayor Martin Walsh and the Boston Resiliency Fund Steering Committee announced the distribution of another round of grant funding totaling \$1.7 million in funds to support five Eastie organizations and 15 other organizations throughout the city hat provide critical services and support to residents, vulnerable populations, and Boston families whose well-being is most immediately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Walsh said this round of funding is aimed at providing continued support for community health centers, individuals experiencing homelessness, persons with disabilities, community-based organizations in neighborhoods experiencing higher rates of COVID-19, and Boston’s Muslim community during Ramadan, which begins this week.

Walsh said organizations doing work in Eastie got top priority because the neighborhood is experiencing higher rates of COVID-19.

In Eastie, the Center for Cooperative Development and Solidarity will offer financial relief for local families in need who are ineligible to receive support from other resources.

The East Boston Community Soup Kitchen will get Resiliency funds to continue distributing grocery gift cards to families in need in the community.

Through the latest round of funding Eastie Farm will work with East Boston Mutual Aid, East Boston Soup Kitchen, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, and Chinese Progressive Association to identify families in need of

food. Two local restaurants, Bon Me and Tawakal Halal Cafe, will then prepare and distribute safely prepared meals to families in Eastie and Chinatown.

“Eastie Farm is delighted to be part of an innovative solution that helps ensure food security in East Boston and Chinatown, while supporting our partners Bon Me Restaurant and Tawakal Halal Cafe in sustaining themselves through this economic crisis,” said Kanan Thiruvengadam, director of Eastie Farm. “We thank Bon Me and Tawakal for providing much needed culturally sensitive meals at cost and with utmost attention to the health and safety of all involved, and we thank Mayor Walsh for this generous support for Eastie Farm’s work in resiliency, and for his tireless and diligent leadership during this challenging time.”

Maverick Landing Community Services, in partnership with The Harborside Community Center, Neighbors United for a Better East Boston, and Veronica Robles Cultural Center, will offer food, supplies and financial assistance to Eastie families who do not have access to stimulus dollars, unemployment assistance, or who do not qualify for public benefits.

Finally the Salesian Boys and Girls Club distributes meals from the Club and provides home delivery of breakfast, lunch, hygiene products, and at-home art activities to children and families.

“Through the Boston Resiliency Fund, we are harnessing the generosity of Boston’s residents and businesses and we’re making sure those resources go where they will make the biggest, most immediate impact for our residents,” said Walsh. “I am incredibly proud and thankful for everyone’s generosity as we come together to support one another during these difficult times.”

Since its creation in March, the Boston Resiliency Fund has raised over \$26 million from over

4,200 individual donors. The Fund will continue accepting donations from individuals, organizations and philanthropic partners who wish to contribute and offer their support, and 100 percent of donations will be awarded to local organizations, with the majority of future grants to be made through the rest of April and May. Organizations are encouraged to complete a statement of interest to be considered for future grants.

During the first round of funding the East Boston Community Health Center received funding to expand their COVID-19 testing to Eastie clients as well as first responders during a testing event at Suffolk Downs.

Crossroads Family Shelter in Eastie was also a recipient of funds during the first round.

“Crossroads Family Center serves more than 60 families each year in our shelter and stabilization programs,” said Crossroads Director Lauren Antonelli. “Additionally, we serve more than 500 families annually via our community food pantry. Now, more than ever, our services are critical in supporting families during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are extremely grateful to Mayor Walsh and the City of Boston for support from the Boston Resiliency Fund, which will allow us to continue our work.”

Antonelli said funding from the City will help to supplement some of the immediate costs the shelter’s families are facing, as well as provide some relief for the shelter, which is seeing increased operational expenses.

“Funding that will go directly to our clients will be in the form of gift cards to purchase food and essential hygiene supplies,” she said. “We are honored to serve the many families that rely on us every day, but especially now, and we are most grateful for the support of our neighbors in the community and the City of Boston.”

Edwards holds virtual ‘coffee hour’

City Councilor Lydia Edwards held a virtual “coffee hour” on Saturday, April 18th via Facebook Live to discuss housing concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. She was joined by Joey Michalakes, an attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services, to discuss housing resources and tenant/landlord rights as well as answer questions from residents online.

Councilor Edwards, who represents the North End, Charlestown, and East Boston, started the conversation by urging residents to remain at home, citing recent data that shows younger people have the highest rate of infection while the elderly remain the most vulnerable to becoming critically ill. As of April 27th, Massachusetts is third in the country for infection rates behind only New York and New Jersey.

During the coffee hour, Councilor Edwards acknowledged that the City of Boston was already facing a housing crisis. Approximately half of Boston residents make no more than \$50,000 per year, demonstrating the ever-widening income and wealth gaps present in the City. With 66% of residents being renters, Boston was experiencing a large amount

of resident displacement due to unaffordable rent. This unprecedented public health crisis will only exacerbate existing inequities as unemployment claims rise and the inability to pay rent is expected to increase.

Councilor Edwards also highlighted certain protections and rights that both landlords and tenants have during the pandemic. She stressed that while common sense and good health practices are crucial components to navigate housing during a pandemic, there are basic rights that will always stand regardless of a public health emergency. Tenants are still entitled to the right to a safe and secure home and that as a landlord, there is a continued obligation to provide repairs to tenants.

Councilor Edwards and Michalakes acknowledged that while many Bostonians have suffered unexpected unemployment and income loss during this crisis, the obligation to pay rent still stands for tenants. Although eviction processes have been halted temporarily, there is no guaranteed protection against eviction once this pandemic ends. Residents are encouraged to pay their rent if possible. If you are experiencing extreme financial difficul-

ty, Michalakes’s advice is to communicate with your landlord in order to reach some sort of payment agreement.

If you or someone you know is seeking legal advice in regards to housing, they are encouraged to call Greater Boston Legal Services Housing Division at 617-603-1807.

Other topics included rental relief assistance programs at the federal, state, and city levels, mortgage relief resources for landlords, small business information, and information for those who are homeless. For more information, watch Councilor Edwards’ complete update on her facebook page at facebook.com/lydiaforboston or by calling her office at (617) 635-3200. Additional information on relief funds and Boston’s developing response to COVID-19 are posted at boston.gov/coronavirus.

Councilor Edwards is having another virtual coffee hour this Saturday, May 2nd at 10:00 AM on her Facebook to discuss issues related to unemployment. She will be accompanied by workers rights attorneys from Greater Boston Legal Services to help answer questions from the Facebook Live audience.

ZONTA CLUB OF CHELSEA CHANGES NEWS

The Zonta Club of Chelsea is pleased to announce that it has changed its name to the The Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore. We have serviced the areas around Chelsea for years and finally decided to have that reflected in our name. Many of our present members live in the surrounding cities. We are honored to be able to continue the great work we do in our cities and hope you will think about joining us in this relationship. Please call us at 617-874-0271 Mary Jane O’Neill or email us at Chelseazonta@zontadistrict1.org and check out our website, zontadistrict1.org/area-4/chelsea-ma. We really need your help

to continue our wonderful work. Our meetings are held the third Thursday of the month.

The members of The Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore participated in our first virtual membership meeting on April 16th as we all met on “Zoom”. At this meeting, we had the pleasure of installing our new member, Christine Lee, the Human Resource director for the Chelsea Public Schools .We are so pleased to have a representative from the educational system we have supported and invested in second only to Zonta International since our club was established in December of 1980. With Christine’s involvement,

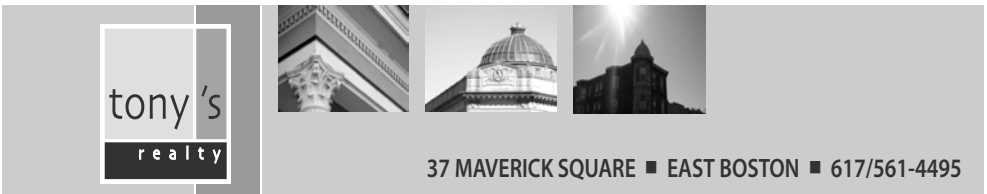


Christine Lee, Human Resource Director for the Chelsea Public Schools

we can and will continue to insure this partnership continues and grows stronger. Welcome to our newest member, Christine Lee!

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BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Larsen, Wyatt	Foote, Katharine	69 Cottage St #3	\$495,000
D&I Isaac 2007 RET	Kolb, Pamela	65 Lewis St #508	\$1,005,000
Lang, Frank J	217 Paris Street LLC	217 Paris St #2	\$620,000
Wu, Sarah	217 Paris Street LLC	217 Paris St #4	\$645,000



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ALLOWING THE STATES TO GO BANKRUPT IS A REALLY BAD IDEA

One of the most glaring shortcomings thus far of the stimulus and disaster packages that have been passed by Congress in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been the failure to provide assistance to the states.

Every state in the nation is seeing its revenues plummet to never-before-experienced depths. However, of the trillions of dollars thus far appropriated by Congress, there is barely a penny for state government operations -- and by extension, municipalities -- which are carrying the battle against the pandemic on the front lines.

The states thus are caught in an ever-tightening vise of plunging tax revenues on the one hand and skyrocketing costs on the other.

Despite the obvious squeeze on state budgets, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell last week commented, in response to a question about whether the Congress soon would be aiding the states, that he believed it would be preferable for states and municipalities to declare bankruptcy than for the federal government to provide needed funding to close their budget gaps.

It is hard to fathom why somebody of McConnell's stature would make such a statement, other than to give voice to the general Republican creed that disdains government operations at all levels. In particular, the GOP has immense dislike for what it considers to be overly-generous pension plans for state and municipal union employees.

However, the reason why states are in such desperate fiscal trouble these days has nothing to do with their pension or budget policies, but specifically is linked to the coronavirus, which has had a devastating financial impact on every facet of commerce, including state budgets.

Questions regarding the pension plans of the states as a contributor to their overall fiscal soundness certainly can be debated, but this is not the time to do so amidst this unprecedented crisis.

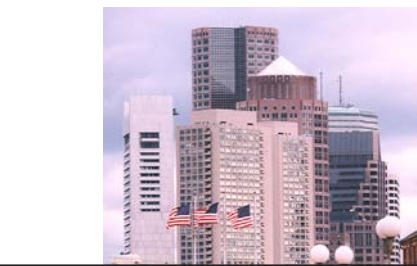
State and municipal governments across the country provide the first line of response for every American in protecting our health and welfare, so it makes no sense to allow states and municipalities to fail in this mission at this critical juncture amidst a pandemic that threatens to extend for many months.

In addition, without funding from the federal government, state and local governments will be forced to make layoffs of police, firefighters, teachers, and others in order to balance their budgets, a situation that will exacerbate even further the national unemployment rate.

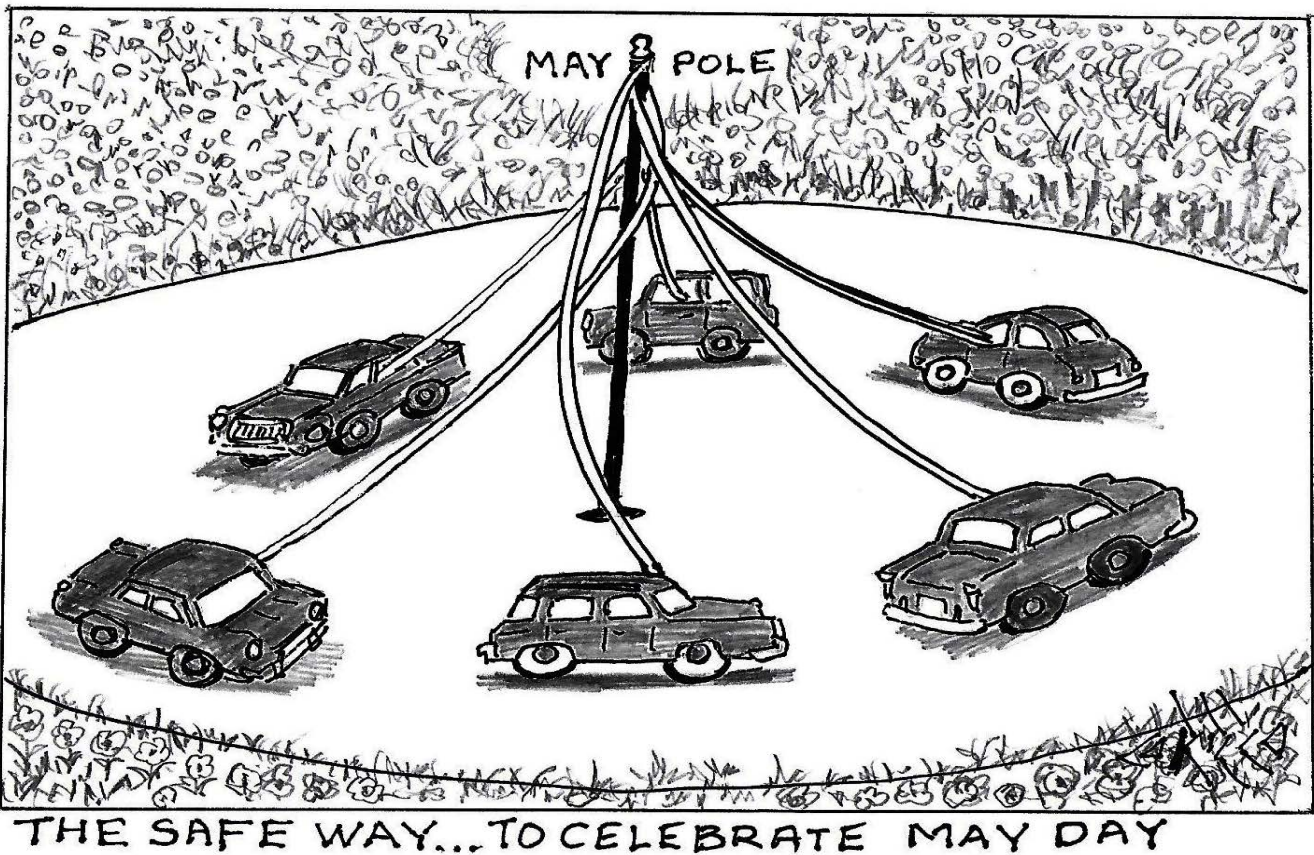
Finally, the effect on the bond market from a plethora of state and municipal bankruptcies could have far-reaching and long-lasting negative effects for the country and the economy.

In short, there is nothing good that can come out of state and municipal bankruptcies at this time; but there is a lot that is bad.

Mitch McConnell's opinions are a grotesque perversion of responsible government. Hopefully, the rest of the Congress will not go along with his extreme and destructive ideas.



Forum



GUEST OP-ED

Fighting for the frontline

By Maura Healey

More than 300,000 health care workers and first responders in Massachusetts have stepped up to the frontlines in the battle against COVID-19. They suit up in scrubs or uniforms, leave the comfort of their homes, and put their lives at risk to keep us, our families, friends, and neighbors safe. We have an obligation to do everything we can to make sure they have access to the support they need during a time when they are sacrificing so much. That's why my office has launched FrontlineMA.org—a one-stop shop for frontline workers to get the information on resources they need during this crisis.

From Pittsfield to Provincetown, and from Newburyport to New Bedford, our frontline workers are putting in countless hours to combat this pandemic. Thankfully, many businesses, state agencies, and individuals have stepped up to

help provide housing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and meals to make lives easier for them. This website provides a centralized place to get information on those resources.

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

For parents who are working essential jobs and are struggling to find a safe place for their kids, we've put everything in one place to ensure they can continue to access childcare.

And to protect our heroes and honor people like Officer Jose Fontanez, who lost his life to COVID-19 while keeping our communities safe, we're working with stakeholders to secure PPE. I encourage health care facilities and providers, police and fire departments, and state and county agencies to consult the resources

we've put together to get first responders and frontline workers the protective gear and information they need.

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

In addition to providing frontline workers with essential information, we want to make sure they know how much our communities appreciate and support them. That's why we created a Hero Wall where people can post pictures and send messages to thank our heroes and our frontline workers can share their own messages. I encourage everyone to post pictures of their sidewalk chalk or window art, or just a kind note, to say thank you to our nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders. Throughout the

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

Just like all of us, I'm thankful for our frontline workers who bravely show up and risk their lives every day to combat this pandemic and keep us safe.

We're grateful for our partners at HubSpot and IDEO who helped make this website possible, and for the invaluable input from healthcare providers and police and fire associations in making sure this website is the most effective for our frontline. We'll continue to update it as new information becomes available.

To our frontline workers, please use FrontlineMA.org as a resource during this battle. And to everyone else, stay home, stay safe, and thank a hero.

Maura Healey is the Attorney General of Massachusetts.

GUEST OP-ED

Science Matters

By Jack Clarke

Either science matters or it doesn't. Policy makers can't have it both ways and selectively apply it only when it advances a political agenda.

Science should inform and drive public policy not the other way around - this is especially true when it comes to the health of the American people.

In the case of the coronavirus pandemic and the climate change crisis, nowhere is the advancement of science more important. Lives depend on its accuracy, use and availability.

According to NASA scientists, 97 percent or more of published climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are "likely due to human activities." Yet the President calls it a hoax and, along with many in Congress, refuses to believe the science. On the national level, denying what science teaches us about the short and long-term consequences of climate change will have dire consequences for this and future generations.

Scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) tell

us that failure to take the climate emergency seriously now will result in lives lost as sea level rise accelerates, storms get stronger, droughts and fires increase, and the days get hotter. This fact is also acknowledged by scientists in many other federal agencies, including the Defense Department.

While America and the world grapples with the coronavirus, climate scientists and health experts forecast threats from additional infectious diseases spurred on by rising temperatures.

Mosquito-driven illnesses like dengue fever, West Nile, and Zika will become more common this century, they warn us, as the insects that transmit them expand their habitat range.

The World Health Organization (WHO) predicts that between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately a-quarter-million additional deaths per year world-wide from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress. And, as we are seeing from the coronavirus, no one is immune from illnesses once thought of as exotic.

With the prospect of

those diseases appearing in the US, we need to start addressing the public health emergency of climate change and limit the spread of these afflictions -- and we're not.

Dr. Kristie Ebi, a climate and public health scientist at the University of Washington and an IPCC contributor says she's "worried we're not prepared" - She's not the only one.

"The Lancet," a journal that "make(s) science widely available so that medicine can serve, and transform society," recently launched its "Countdown" project to provide an independent, global scientific monitoring system tracking the health dimensions of climate change. It views climate change as this century's "biggest public health threat."

As with the coronavirus, we are all vulnerable to the public health impacts of climate change. Some, however, are more vulnerable than others and minority communities, pregnant women, children and the elderly will suffer disproportionately.

Unfortunately, as with climate change, the White House disregarded the science of medical experts

from at home and around the world who predicted the current pandemic and it wasted January and February playing down the threat from the new virus.

Like the science of climate change, the President called the pandemic a political hoax, even though medical science informed the WHO's decision to declare the outbreak a global public health emergency at the end of January. The White House was informed of its potential consequences on January 5th.

Now, America's confirmed cases of Covid-19 are unnecessarily the highest in the world with nearly 800,000 infected and 42,500 dead -- thousands of which could likely have been prevented if the science was taken seriously.

The World Economic Forum recently recognized the relationship between the climate change crisis and coronavirus and reported that a "global-to-local response and long-term thinking" is needed with responses guided by science and "the political will to make fundamental changes when faced with (these) risks."

Your opinions, please

The Times welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is 781-485-1403.

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Letters must be signed.

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CBRE

Food // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

other Eastie residents in need.

“Then I was wondering if they (the Network) found a kitchen for me in East Boston I’d be able to cook for the entire community,” said El Mennaouy, who still has a kitchen in Chelsea.

El Mennaouy decided to fund the entire operation through community donations set up on a GoFundMe page.

So far El Mennaouy has raised \$1,397 of a \$5,000 goal to keep the weekly kitchen going.

“We are in the process of trying to find other funding sources to help with the production of meals,” said Gaeta.

El Mennaouy said the first week he started he produced just 60 plates of food but that number has risen to more than 200 plates of food each day he’s there cooking.

“I thought I have to do something to help my community,” said El Men-

naouy. “This community gave me a lot and I said it was time to give back to the community. “Together, we can ensure no child goes without dinner. We can ensure every family has food on the table. We can ensure no one who lost their job to this pandemic goes hungry.”

Gaeta said at the Eastie Y he and his staff want to ensure that they are maximizing resources during this unprecedented crisis.

“When the opportunity arose for us to partner with Said to produce Halal meals for families in need it was a no brainer,” he said. “Through the East Boston Mutual Aid Network and the City of Boston we are doing our best to make sure we feed as many people in need as possible. This is truly a whole community partnership to make sure we get through this crisis. We are stronger together and this community will make it through.”



Some of the tasty Halal meals Said El Mennaouy and Tamaris Cuisine are cooking up for families and individuals living in Eastie.



Workers from Tamaris Cuisine and the YMCA staff have collaborated on the effort.

Op-Ed // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

“The Nation” magazine recently referred to the pandemic as a “dress rehearsal” for what we can expect with the impending impacts of climate change.

Climate author David Wallace-Wells calls it a “sobering preview” of what is to come if we continue to ignore the science of climate change.

Whatever it is, we’re not prepared for it.

Believing or not believ-

ing the science can be a life or death situation, as we see now. We ignore and downplay its legitimacy and conclusions, at our own and our children’s peril.

When it comes to climate change and the public’s health, it’s time to act.

Jack Clarke is the director of public policy and government relations at Mass Audubon.



Said El Mennaouy, owner of Tamaris Cuisine, and his staff have been at the Ashley Street Y two days a week on Tuesdays and Fridays using the East Boston YMCA’s Ashley Street “Test Kitchen” to prepare fresh meals for residents.

Storytime // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

my favorite books - “Thank You, Mr. Falker” by Patricia Polacco,” said Weymer last week dressed as the title character, Mr. Falker. “If you’ve ever been in the office, you’ll notice a copy of it in the entryway. It’s our daily reminder to be encouraging, caring, and kind. These are qualities that we see in all of our teachers and staff at the McKay who continue to bring their best to our school community day after day (and even on break!) as we adapt to new routines and new ways of teaching and learning. So to the teachers and staff, thank you.”

On Monday, Weymer dressed in purple garb as he read “Harold and the Purple Crayon” by Crockett Johnson.

Since beginning his virtual storytime Weymer has also donned an elephant hat for “I Will Take a Nap”,

paper scales for “The Rainbow Fish”, a bear mask for “Corduroy”, and had a little help from his son, Eli, while holding an umbrella and reading “Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs”.

“Our Costume Director Eli has been popping into our read alouds more frequently to check on his work,” posted Weymer last week. “From hats to backdrops to Ducky and Turtle, Eli manages it all and helps us increase our production value.”

The storytime live feed also gives Weymer’s students the opportunity to check in with their favorite principal.

However, the storytime is not just limited to McKay School students. Any student can log-on to McKay’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/dmckayK8/> and participate.

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Telemedicine appointments are being scheduled in Pediatrics, Adult Medicine, Family Medicine, Women’s Health (OB/GYN), Behavioral Health, Neighborhood PACE, and other departments. We use certified medical interpreters during telemedicine appointments for languages other than English.

Do you need to schedule a telemedicine appointment with your primary care provider? Did you miss an appointment that needs to be rescheduled? If so, call 617-569-5800 to schedule a telemedicine appointment. This is especially important if you have a chronic or a behavioral health condition. You should be treated if needed, especially during this public health crisis. We’re here to keep you healthy!

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Sometimes McKay School Principal Jordan Weymer gets a little help from his son, Eli, like during the reading of “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs”.

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We know you are worried, but it is important to bring your baby to the health center for regular vaccines. Vaccines are more important now than ever, and without them, your baby is at risk for serious and sometimes fatal diseases. **We are safely seeing babies in a separate building that is only being used for healthy babies.** These visits are limited to one healthy infant and one healthy parent or caregiver. If you are unwell, please do not come to the health center yourself. If you have questions, please call us at 617-569-5800.



Baker invites EBNHC CEO Manny Lopes to daily COVID-19 briefing

By John Lynds

As Governor Charlie Baker announced an initiative to expand COVID-19 testing at Community Health Centers throughout the state last Wednesday, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) President and CEO Manny Lopes was front and center at the Governor’s daily COVID-19 briefing.

Last week EBNHC began offering COVID-19 testing seven days a week to any community residents who have flu-like symptoms or have been in contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive.

The announcement last week will expand this effort in partnership with Quest Diagnostics and the Mass League of Community Health Centers.

Baker said in rolling out increased testing, community health centers in areas

of high need, like Eastie, that have the ability to increase their testing capacities will be prioritized.

Since Friday, Quest has sent over 2,255 kits to EBNHC and other community health centers in Boston and Brockton. Quest Diagnostics has committed to ship an additional 5,000 COVID-19 test kits to EBNHC and 11 other community health centers in Boston, Brockton, Lowell, Quincy, Fall River, Provincetown, and Worcester.

“I’ve heard the Governor mention many times when we are in a crisis like this it is a team sport,” said Lopes at Last Wednesday’s briefing. “On behalf of the Mass Community Health Centers we are grateful for the support we have received from Governor Baker. For over 50 years community health centers in Massachusetts have been providing high quality, accessible care to

anyone that walks through our doors. We have been working hard to close the healthcare gap. Now, we are on the frontlines of COVID-19 testing, tracing and treatment.”

Lopes said community health centers provide an additional line of defense to keep patients out of larger hospitals and help avoid overburdening the healthcare system.

Lopes said currently, EBNHC, is servicing two of the most impacted neighborhoods in the Commonwealth--East Boston and Chelsea.

“Many patients are essential workers that work in supermarkets, restaurants, and healthcare facilities,” said Lopes. “Sadly, many of these residents can not afford the high cost of housing and live in crowded apartments with multiple families. So what has been an American Dream for

some has become an American Nightmare for others as this virus continues to spread in the community.”

Lopes said EBNHC’s response to COVID-19 has been extensive, wide reaching and hyper-local.

“We have been focused on education, testing and, as the Governor mentioned, part of this unique (state-wide) collaborative to conduct contact tracing,” said Lopes. “At EBNHC we are now open for testing 7 days a week. Like many health centers in Boston, with the support of Mayor (Martin) Walsh we have modified our operations to offer multiple settings for testing.”

Testing includes a walk-through location at 79 Paris Street from 8 a.m. to noon daily; a drive through location at Suffolk Downs, 525 William F. McClellan Highway from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. daily; and at EBNHC’s emergency de-



EBNHC President and CEO Manny Lopes during Governor Baker's COVID-19 briefing last Wednesday.

partment (open 24 hours) at 10 Gove Street for those experiencing influenza-like illness.

“This partnership with Quest Diagnostics will help us increase our testing capabilities in the community to over 500 individuals per day,” said Lopes. “So far we have tested over 3,000 individuals and as we all

know testing will be critical in the well being of our residents. Testing leads to detections and allows us to keep sick individuals at home and reduce exposure in our community and reduce the spread of the virus. Having this reliable supply of test kits will allow us to test more individuals and the most at risk.”

Parks department announces East Boston virtual tree removal hearing

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will hold a virtual public hearing on Thursday, May 7, at 12 p.m. on a request to remove one

public shade tree in East Boston.

The request is for the removal of one honeylocust tree measuring 13 inches dbh (diameter at breast height) due to a proposed curb cut at 152 Liverpool

Street.

The hearing will be held by the City of Boston’s Tree Warden (or designee). Please note that due to the current pandemic the hearing will be a virtual meeting via ZOOM.

Written comments or questions may be submitted to parks@boston.gov prior to the hearing.


Public testimony will be taken, or may be provided prior to the hearing in writing to the Tree Warden,

Boston Parks and Recreation Department, 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd floor, Roxbury, MA 02118 or by emailing parks@boston.gov with “East Boston Tree Hearing” in the subject line.


A final decision regarding the request will be made within two weeks of the hearing. For further information, please contact the Tree Warden at (617) 635-7275.

A SHORT STORY ABOUT
A HARD CURVE.
AND A HOME RUN.


Carol Truncala's story isn't just about how she prevailed through a severe childhood case of scoliosis, or curvature of the spine. It's about what she did when she grew up. She became a nurse—a decision inspired by the support and dedication she received from her own medical team during her long years of treatment and successful recovery. Carol Truncala's story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know: don't give up, and remember to give back. If Carol's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
aaos.org/75years



AAOS
CELEBRATING
HUMAN HEALING
orthoinfo.org



DO:

- Place leaves and yard debris in large paper bags or open barrels labeled “yard waste.”
- Tie branches with string 3 feet max length and 1 inch max diameter
- Place barrels, bags, and branches curbside by 6 a.m.

DON'T:

- No plastic bags
- Don't put branches in barrels
- No dirt

NOTE:

- If you have two recycling days per week, **collection is on your first recycling day of the week**
- We don't collect leaf and yard waste curbside on non-scheduled weeks
- We collect Christmas trees from January 4 – 15, 2021

COMPOST AT HOME:

You can buy backyard compost bins and kitchen-scrap buckets at:

Boston Building Resources
100 Terrance St. Mission Hill, Roxbury

For more information, go to:
boston.gov/trash

Leaf and yard waste curbside collection

Household hazardous waste drop-off

2021 Tree collection

Yard Waste drop off
500 American Legion Hwy, Boston, MA 02131

APRIL

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HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

JUNE 20 | SOUTH BOSTON
Central DPW facility
400 Frontage Rd.

JULY 25 | WEST ROXBURY
West Roxbury DPW
315 Gardner St.

AUGUST 1 | DORCHESTER
John W. McCormick middle school
315 Mt. Vernon St.

AUGUST 22 | SOUTH BOSTON
Central DPW facility
400 Frontage Rd.

OCTOBER 31 | SOUTH BOSTON
Central DPW facility
400 Frontage Rd.

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WINTHROP MARKETPLACE

To Our Valued Customers

In these stressful and uncertain times, we are only doing weekend specials until futher notice.

Weekend Specials
Thursday, April 30th through Sunday May 3rd
"while supplies last" - no rain checks

PRODUCE
Yellow Onions 2lb Bag **99¢ limit 2**
Hot House Tomatoes **\$14.9/lb**
Green Giant Baby Carrots **99¢ limit 2**

DELI
Carolina Turkey Breast **\$4.99/lb**
Best Yet Roast Beef..... **\$6.99/lb**

GROCERY
Pepsi 2 Liter..... **4/\$5.00 limit 4, plus deposit**
Medium Size White Eggs **99¢ limit 2**

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Special Senior Only Hours
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8:00 am — 9 am Sunday

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Store Hours: Mon-Sun 7:30 am-7pm • Not responsible for typographical errors.
We have the right to limit quantities.

OBITUARIES

Thomas Terenzi, Jr.

Of East Boston

Thomas Terenzi, Jr. of East Boston passed away on April 25.

He was the loving son of the late Thomas Terenzi Sr. and Angelina (Barraso) and is also survived by his aunt, many cousins and friends.

Thomas will be laid to rest in Holy Cross Cemetery. In accordance with the CDC, Mass. Department of Public Health, Archdiocese of Boston guidelines and

local restrictions on gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, all services will be held for the immediate family privately. If you have any questions or would like to express your condolences please contact the funeral home during normal business hours or leave a message for the family on the tribute wall. For more information please visit www.ruggieromh.com.

Annette Marion Nazzaro

Of East Boston

Annette Marion (Ferrino) Nazzaro of East Boston passed away peacefully in her 101st year.

The beloved wife of the late Clarence Nazzaro and Daniel Trotto, she was the devoted mother of Susan Curley and her husband, Stephen of Marblehead and Donna Trotto of Stoneham; dear sister of the Hon. Joseph Ferrino, Esq. and the late Dr. Peter Ferrino M.D. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

In accordance with the guidelines and local restrictions on gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, all services will be held for the immediate family privately. If you have any questions or would like to express your condolences, please contact the funeral home during normal business hours 617-569-0990 or leave a



message for the family on the tribute wall www.ruggieromh.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to support Grace Federated Church Food Pantry and their effort to support families of East Boston particularly during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Donations may be sent to Grace Federated Church 760 Saratoga St., East Boston, MA ATTN: Food Pantry Memorial Donation for Annette Nazzaro.

Serafina Spera

Of East Boston

Serafina Spera of East Boston, formerly of Italy, passed away on Thursday, April 23.

She was the beloved wife for 63 years of Pietroangelo "Peter" Spera, devoted mother of twin daughters, Teresa and Rita Spera of East Boston and the late Henry Spera, dear sister of the late Lena Damiano and Maria Iocca and cherished grandmother of Adriana, Marc and Ashley.

Serafina will be laid to rest at Ridgeland Cemetery, Watertown.

In accordance with the CDC, Mass. Department of Public Health, Archdiocese of Boston guidelines and local restrictions on gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, all services



will be held for the immediate family privately. If you have any questions or would like to express your condolences please contact the funeral home during normal business hours 617-569-0990 or leave a message for the family on the tribute wall www.ruggieromh.com.

Antonia Rubino

Of Andover, formerly of East Boston

Antonia (Barisano) Rubino of Andover, formerly of East Boston, passed away on Saturday, April 18.

She was the devoted wife of the late Carmine Rubino, devoted mother of Chiarina (Corinne) Cheney and her late husband, Paul R. of Andover and loving grandmother of Matthew, Rachel and Blake.

Antonia will be laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery with her beloved husband Carmine. May they rest in peace.

In accordance with the guidelines and local restrictions on gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, all services will be held for the immediate family privately. If



you have any questions or would like to express your condolences, please contact the funeral home during normal business hours 617-569-0990 or leave a message for the family on the tribute wall www.ruggieromh.com.

Brian Crawford

Former East Boston Little League and Pop Warner Coach

Funeral Services were held privately due to the ongoing COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, for Brian R. Crawford, 51, who died on Sunday, April 19 at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston due to multi organ failure,

Brian was a lifelong East Boston resident. He was educated in Boston Public Schools and was a graduate of East Boston High School, Class of 1986.

Brian worked for Comcast as a customer service representative for approximately 10 years before health issues resulted in his no longer being able to work.

One of Brian's passions was coaching kids. He was a longtime East Boston Little League Coach and East Boston Pop Warner Football. Brian was "Eddie Proud", and coaching was his way to give back to his community. He also loved being with his family and friends.

The beloved son of Celia (LoRusso) Plagenza and her husband, Joseph Plagenza of East Boston and the late Joseph R. Crawford, he was the devoted husband of Cheryl A. (Borrelli) Crawford of East Boston, loving father of Joshua R. Crawford of East Boston, Peter P. Penney and his wife, Melanie of Revere, Daniel A. Penney of Bangor, ME and Stefanie M. Penney of Revere, cherished grandfather of Michael Penney and dear brother of Maria Crawford and Robert Crawford, both of East Boston. He is also lovingly survived by several nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and by many former players and friends.



Remembrances may be made to Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, 50 Federal Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02110. To send online condolences, please visit www.vertuccioandsmith.com. Funeral Arrangements under the care and direction of the Vertuccio & Smith, Home for Funerals.

ford of East Boston, Peter P. Penney and his wife, Melanie of Revere, Daniel A. Penney of Bangor, ME and Stefanie M. Penney of Revere, cherished grandfather of Michael Penney and dear brother of Maria Crawford and Robert Crawford, both of East Boston. He is also lovingly survived by several nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and by many former players and friends.

Antonio Moscato

Of Revere

Antonio Moscato of Revere died on April 26 at the age of 88.

Born in Mirabella, Italy on June 13, 1931 to the late Michele and Antonina Moscato, he was the beloved husband of the late Julia (Caruso) Moscato. He was preceded in death by his loving daughter, Ann Longo and son, Michael Moscato. He was the cherished grandfather



of Michael Longo of Revere, dear brother of Phyllis Moscato and her late husband, Mario of Wakefield, Joe Moscato and his late wife, Rosamond of Revere, Sandra Terramagra and her husband, Louis of North Andover and the late Lena Grassa and is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

In accordance with the CDC's current restrictions on gatherings due to Covid-19, all services will be held privately. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverley Oaks Rd, Waltham, MA 02452. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

In Memoriam
May 5, 2005-May 5, 2019
15th Year Anniversary

**ALBERT
SACRAMONE**
"ALBIE"



Miss You!
Love -
Sons, Grandchildren,
Nieces & Sister

Ralph Gerard Bruzzese

May 30, 1931 – April 24, 2020

Ralph Gerard Bruzzese of East Boston, formerly of Revere, born on May 30, 1931 in Brooklyn, New York, died on April 24, 2020.

The son of the late Filiberto and Annunziata Bruzzese, he was a resident of East Boston for many years and of Revere in his later years.

He was the loving brother of Geraldine and late Peter Mullen of Quincy, Nicodemo and Elsa Bruzzese of Saugus, Rose and Frederick Sena of Melrose and Josephine Bruzzese of East Boston; dear cousin of Nicodemo and Angela Ciccia and Scarfo family members. He was the uncle and great uncle to many nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family in the US, Canada and Italy and his dear friends, June Chiarella and Joseph Delloiacono.

He was the former proprietor of Days Square Cleaners and a tailor at Kennedy's and RH White's. A Member of the USS Constitution Model Shipbuilders Club, he enjoyed traveling to various conventions at US seaport locations. Photography, music and gardening were his hobbies.

Our family greatly appreciates the care and services provided by Elmhurst HealthCare and Care Dimensions of Danvers



throughout the past year. Also, Atria Maplewood Place, Malden, where he lived for several years in Assisted Living. We were fortunate to be associated with these agencies.

Memorial donations may be made to Salesian Boys and Girls Club, Savio Unit, 150 Byron St., East Boston, MA 02128. In accordance with the CDC, Mass. Department of Public Health, Archdiocese of Boston guidelines and local restrictions on gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, all services will be held for the immediate family privately. If you have any questions or would like to express your condolences please contact the funeral home during normal business hours or leave a message for the family on the tribute wall. Ralph will be laid to rest at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Anthony Cartolano

No one loved Boston as much as he did

Anthony "Sonny" Cartolano of East Boston, formerly of the West End, passed away on April, 23.

He was the beloved husband of the late Claire (Martignetti) Cartolano, devoted father of Michael and his wife, June of Salem NH, loving brother of Michael of Medford, Marie "Mela" Matranga of Tewksbury and the late Joseph, Angelina and Josephine, cherished brother in law of Maria Palazzolo and Elaine Petrucci and adored grandfather of Anthony, Gina Marie and e is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

City by the Sea. No one loved Boston as much as our grandfather. He grew up in the West End where the Mass General is located today. Anthony enjoyed 50's music and dancing while growing up. In the 70's and 80's, many people in town knew him as Tony the Jeweler. Later in life, he took a retirement job working for Old Town Trolley. Many tourists would come in and ask questions about Boston.

When we were growing up, he would take us into Boston and show us around the various historical sites. We miss that. RIP Papa Sonny Cartolano, the



city will miss you.

Anthony will be laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery with his beloved wife Claire. May they rest in peace.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Anthony's name can be made to The West End Museum 150 Staniford Street Suite 7, Boston, MA 02114 or go to <https://thewestendmuseum.org/support/donate/>

In accordance with the guidelines and local restrictions on gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, all services will be held for the immediate family privately. If you have any questions or would like to express your condolences please contact the funeral home during normal business hours 617-569-0990 or leave a message for the family on the tribute wall www.ruggieromh.com.

Lucy DiDonato

Lifelong East Boston resident

Lucy DiDonato, 98, a lifelong resident of East Boston, passed away from complications of Covid-19 on April 20.

Born on July 27, 1921 to the late Giuseppe and Carmela DiDonato (formerly of Torre del Greco, Italy), she was the beloved sister of Camille D'Amico of East Boston and the late Louis DiDonato of Boca Raton, Florida, Philip of East Boston, Ralph of Medford, Albert of Lake Worth, Florida, Vincent of Stoneham and Margaret Ferullo of East Boston. Lucy is also survived by loving



nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

A celebration of life will be held at a future date.

Vazza Funeral Home
www.vazzafunerals.com.

To place a memoriam in the Times Free Press,
please call 781-485-0588

Please visit eastietimes.com



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OBITUARIES

Giovanni Carullo

Will be remembered for his compassion, warm heart and big smile

Giovanni Carullo of Medford passed peacefully from this life due to the novel Coronavirus on Thursday, April 23 at the age of 87.

Giovanni was born in Orsogna, Italy on December 23, 1933, the oldest of two children of the late Nicolo and Concette Carullo.

Giovanni grew up in Orsogna and narrowly escaped death at the hands of the Nazis when they invaded his village.

After the war ended, he left Italy to work in America for a few years. He returned to Italy and married Maria Antonelli. Shortly after Maria and Giovanni married, Giovanni became a citizen of the United States. Together, Giovanni and Maria had two daughters.

Giovanni became a member of the Local Union 22 and worked in construction as a brick layer. Initially, Giovanni and Maria raised their family in the North End of Boston. Through his hard work, Giovanni was able to move his family into a two-family home in Medford.

Giovanni was proud of his major construction projects in the City of Boston, including the John Hancock Building and Mystic River Bridge among others.

After a long career of hard work, Giovanni retired and was able to enjoy life, traveling the world, and spending time with family and friends. Giovanni was a world traveler, owning vacation homes in Francavilla al Mare, Italy and Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Giovanni enjoyed bowling, shuffleboard, playing cards, bocce, cooking, gardening and dancing. He made his own homemade wine and enjoyed eating prosciutto, strawberry shortcake, pasta and all other Italian food.

Yvonne Brown

She was a role model and example of how one should live life

Yvonne (D'Amato) Brown of Revere died on April 25 at the age of 82.

Yvonne retired from the Armed Services YMCA business office in Charlestown where she worked with members of the military. Yvonne was always a role model and mentor for all of us throughout our lives, an example of how one should live their life. She showed us how to be a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother, grandmother, caregiver and great grandmother. The memory of her infectious laugh echoed through the room and is forever in our hearts. We will miss her, but she left us all richer by her example. We love you!

Born in East Boston on May 12, 1937 to the late Walter and Betty D'Amato, she was the beloved wife of the late Richard Brown, devoted mother of Thomas Falzarano and his wife, Deborah of Gloucester, Louis Falzarano and Debbie Baker of Revere and Jane Pedersen and her husband, Rob of Hampton,



He was a member of the Orsogna Plaza in Everett. He enjoyed dancing in Wonderland Ballroom. Most of all, Giovanni deeply loved his family.

Giovanni was the loving father of Tina Anzuoni and her husband, Stephen Anzuoni of Winthrop and Marisa Russo and her husband, Philip Russo of Wakefield. He was the proud grandfather of Danielle Ludwig and her husband, Mark Ludwig, Nicole Anzuoni, Philip Russo, Gabrielle Russo and Alexander Anzuoni and adored great grandfather of Giovanna, Alessandra, and Marco Ludwig.

He will be most remembered for his compassion, warm heart, and the big smile he always wore on his face.

In accordance with the CDC, Mass. Department of Public Health, Archdiocese of Boston guidelines and local restrictions on gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, all services will be held for the immediate family privately. If you have any questions or would like to express your condolences please contact the funeral home during normal business hours 617-569-0990 or for more info and to leave a message for the family on the tribute wall www.ruggieromh.com. Giovanni will be laid to rest in Holy Cross Cemetery with his beloved wife Maria. May they rest in peace.



VA; adored stepmother to Debbie Brown of Melrose and the late Danine Marshall; dear sister of Leila Stockberger of Warwick, RI and Edward D'Amato and his wife, Thuy of Revere and cherished grandmother of 16. She is also survived by 17 loving great grandchildren and by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

In accordance with the CDC's current restrictions on gatherings due to COVID-19, all services will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to www.copdfoundation.org For guestbook please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

Pioneering consumer-worker organization demands massive COVID-19 testing production, universal testing

The National Consumers League (NCL), the nation's oldest consumer and worker advocacy organization, is demanding that the federal government put its support behind massive COVID-19 test production and, as quickly as is feasible, put in place a testing protocol for every citizen so that America can get back to work.

"There are calls across the country to reopen businesses; we understand and share that frustration," said NCL Executive Director Sally Greenberg. "However, as we are currently not allowing tests for people who are asymptomatic—and because 25 percent of people who carry the virus don't show symptoms—doing so would be reckless. It's a Catch-22. Until everyone is tested, we can't send symptom-free people back into the world. So the government's first order of business must include giving America's labs and drug companies the goal and the means to produce rapid-response testing for every American within the next month."

NCL has laid out the following recommendations:

- Meet the need for testing in clinics and doctors' offices

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) must oversee the process of improving techniques and reliable, accurate test production. Many labs are working on this, addressing the immediate need for care providers to have enough, high-quality tests.

"The Senate has voted to include \$25 billion for the clinical labs that make the tests in the next COVID legislative package" said Greenberg. "That is welcome news because states cannot do this alone; they end up competing against each other for tests and other supplies."

As Maryland Governor Larry Hogan (R-MD) said this week, "Every governor in America has been

pushing and fighting and clawing to get more tests, not only from the federal government, but from every private lab in America and from across the world. It's nowhere where it needs to be." Virginia Governor Ralph Northam (D-VA) noted that the President's claims that the country has enough tests for the virus are "delusional."

Clearly, quality is paramount. The serious stumbles at such premier institutions as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cannot continue. "The federal government must continue to support and expand the production of quality tests, and at capacity to meet the current needs of care providers," said Greenberg.

- Universal testing

As stated above, though, in order to get people back out to restart the economy, we cannot only test those who show serious symptoms and go to care providers to get tested. We must develop tests that can be self-administered, and in adequate numbers so that each person can test for COVID before leaving the home on any given day.

"Millions of workers have to take drug tests every day to keep their jobs; those tests are rapid-response. Consumers can buy rapid response tests for strep throat and pregnancy," said Greenberg. "Those are approved FDA products that are tested for accuracy and safety. We must get to a rapid response COVID-19 home test as soon as possible."

In order to determine who has COVID-19 and should be quarantined, every American must be able to test for the virus on a regular basis. Those who test positive, with or without symptoms, go into quarantine for 14 days, as do the people in that individual's household. Those who test negative are cleared to go out in the world to get the

trains running again. This would call for hundreds of millions of tests to enable on-going testing, as it is the only path forward at this time.

And the technology is not "pie-in-the-sky." The FDA has already approved one home-test kit, though it requires lab analysis. And BARDA/HHS has funded another company to develop "a rapid antigen and antibody diagnostic to identify current or past SARS-CoV-2 infections in 60 seconds." We are on the road.

- Antibody testing

While it's not clear how long antibodies create immunity, there is a belief that they at least do so for the short-term. So the next step would be to provide serology testing for people who test negative for COVID-19, using only tests approved by the FDA to ensure quality and accuracy. To date, the FDA has approved only four tests of the many available, but this is an important start.

Those who are determined to have a sufficient level of antibodies should be cleared to go back to work, while still wearing masks and gloves until science has confirmed decisively that antibodies create immunity. If the individuals don't have antibodies, they would be advised to stay home, but could be cleared to go back to work so long as they test every day before heading out.

- Contact tracing

Everyone who tests positive reaches out to everyone they've had contact with and those people test for COVID-19. Anyone then testing positive goes into quarantine, and the process repeats.

- Use technology to self-surveil

Finally, we need a system for uploading test results each day to our phones – like the bar codes we use to board an airplane – or to carry evidence that we have taken the test, have anti-

bodies to COVID-19, and can work or otherwise go out. Enforcement would be a new challenge, given our commitment to civil liberties, but one that we can certainly work out.

- Longer term: Vaccinate

In a year or more, when a vaccine arrives, 95 percent of Americans will need to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity and widespread protection.

"Our nation has the know-how and manufacturing infrastructure to produce the millions of tests needed to determine whether someone has the virus," said Greenberg. "But due to lack of leadership at the top, our testing capacity is still, several months after the outbreak, extremely limited. To date only 3.3 million people have been tested, according to the COVID Tracking Project. That's about 1 percent of the population. That is simply not enough."

NCL is demanding that the Federal government respond to the current national Coronavirus emergency as President Roosevelt responded to World War II, and challenge Americans to "harness the efficient machinery of America's manufacturers" to fight the pandemic.

"We need that call to action now, to challenge America's labs and drug companies with the goal of producing testing for every American within the next month. Federal health care agencies including CDC, National Institutes of Health (NIH), and FDA should be their partners, and this should be a shared cost," said Greenberg. "In the midst of the worst unemployment numbers ever seen in American history, and with millions of businesses having their existence threatened, we need federal leadership, expertise, and financial support to make this happen, and we need it now."

MBTA's RIDE offering transit services to personal care attendants

The MBTA announced that the RIDE paratransit service will temporarily allow customers to book trips for their personal care attendants (PCAs) in an effort to best support their ADA-eligible customers during the COVID-19 situation.

"This change will allow the MBTA to maintain a vital link between RIDE customers and their PCAs," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "As we actively monitor the COVID-19 situation, we will continue to make necessary service changes that meet the travel needs of both those who are essential to combating this virus, and, where we can, the needs of those who are the most vulnerable among

us."

A PCA is defined as an individual that provides assistance in performing Activities of Daily Living (ADLs). ADLs include, but are not limited to, mobility, bathing/grooming, dressing/undressing, passive range-of-motion exercises, taking medications, eating, and toileting. Allowing these bookings ensures that RIDE customers continue to receive the same level of daily support they need to live independent and safe lives.

This update is in addition to other temporary RIDE measures already in effect meant to protect the health and safety of T workers and customers, and preserve services for those who must

travel for essential purposes. Other temporary RIDE updates include the elimination of shared RIDE trips, temporarily extending RIDE eligibility and postponing eligibility appointments, adjustments to booking windows, updates to subscriptions, and a reduction in transfer trips. More information on these temporary updates can be found at mbta.com/theride.

In order to book travel for their PCA, RIDE customers should call the RIDE Access Center (TRAC) at 844-427-7433 and inform the agent that the trip is for their PCA. RIDE customers will need to provide the PCA's name, address, and service needs. PCA trips may only be to or

from the RIDE customer's home address. RIDE customers can pay for the PCA trip out of the RIDE customer's account with PCAs also able to deposit funds into a RIDE customer's account by calling 888-844-0355. The cost of the PCA trip is equal to traditional RIDE fares. Customers will receive their night-prior call back from the RIDE and customers should let their PCAs know of their pick-up time. Arrival notifications will also go to the customer's phone number.

RIDE service for customer trips will remain the priority. As such, trips for PCAs will be fulfilled only as capacity allows.

MassDOT schedules tunnel lighting maintenance in Ted Williams Tunnel

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing that there will be reduced lighting in the Ted Williams Tunnel (TWT) eastbound and westbound in Boston. This essential work began on Sunday, April 26, at 11 p.m., and will continue through to Saturday, May 2, at 11 p.m. This is critical lighting maintenance in preparation of an extensive lighting replacement to begin later this month.

Lights in the left lane, eastbound and westbound, will be turned off during

this time frame. Lighting in the right lanes will function as usual. Drivers are advised to keep lights on for safety.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and advanced message boards will be in place to guide drivers through the work area.

Drivers who are traveling through the area should use caution.

All scheduled work may be impacted due to an emergency or other unplanned situations.

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Weekly initial unemployment claims down for the second week

Special to the Times

Massachusetts had 80,153 individuals file an initial claim for unemployment insurance from April 12 to April 18. This represented a decrease of 22% over the previous week as most of the workers who have been laid off as a result of work closures related to COVID-19 have already filed claims in the previous weeks.

In the previous work, from April 5 to April 11, Massachusetts had 102,828 individuals file an initial claim for unemployment insurance. This also represented a decrease, at that time 26% over the previous week.

Since March 15, a total of 651,457 initial claims were filed.

As in last week, Retail Trade with 12,669, Food and Accommodation at 9,564, and Health and Social Assistance with 9,249 continued to show the largest number of initial claims filed this week. Since March 15, Food and Accommodation, Retail Trade, and Health and Social Assistance accounted for over

Industry	Week Ending 4/11	Week Ending 4/18	Change	% Change
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	393	281	-112	-28.5%
Mining	25	13	-12	-48.0%
Utilities	85	82	-3	-3.5%
Construction	7,881	4,754	-3,127	-39.7%
Manufacturing	5,896	5,065	-831	-14.1%
Wholesale Trade	4,618	3,709	-909	-19.7%
Retail Trade	15,534	12,669	-2,865	-18.4%
Transportation & Warehouse	3,362	3,292	-70	-2.1%
Information	1,480	1,336	-144	-9.7%
Finance & Insurance	735	536	-199	-27.1%
Real Estate	1,370	1,040	-330	-24.1%
Professional and Technical Services	5,567	4,359	-1,208	-21.7%
Management of Companies	715	486	-229	-32.0%
Administrative & Waste Services	5,863	4,956	-907	-15.5%
Education	2,283	1,653	-630	-27.6%
Health & Social Assistance	12,597	9,249	-3,348	-26.6%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	2,206	1,777	-429	-19.4%
Food & Accommodation	12,634	9,564	-3,070	-24.3%
Other Services	6,971	5,383	-1,588	-22.8%
Public Administration	1,425	1,244	-181	-12.7%
Information Not Available	11,188	8,705	-2,483	-22.2%

41% of all initial claims filed at 16.8%, 12.8% and 11.8%, respectively.

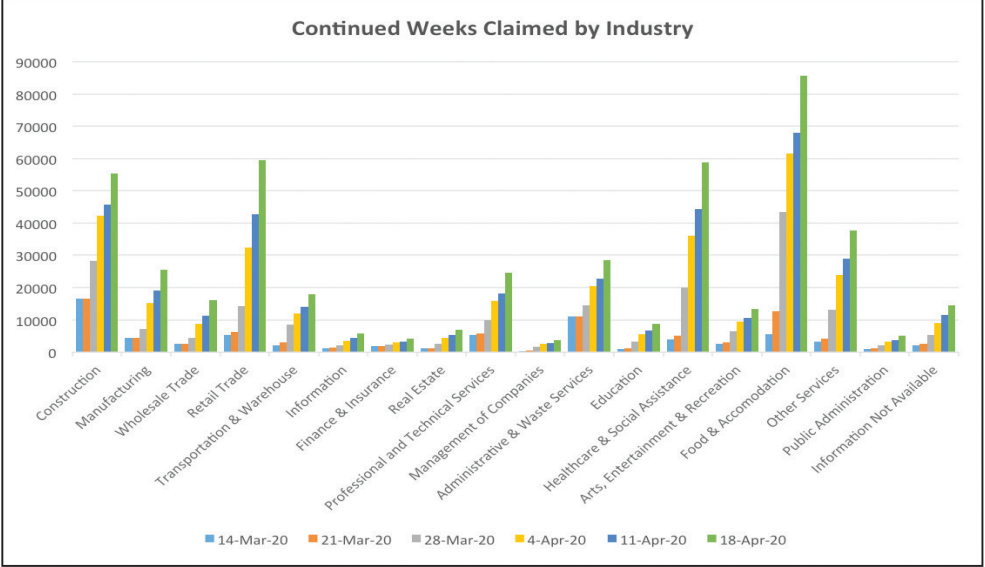
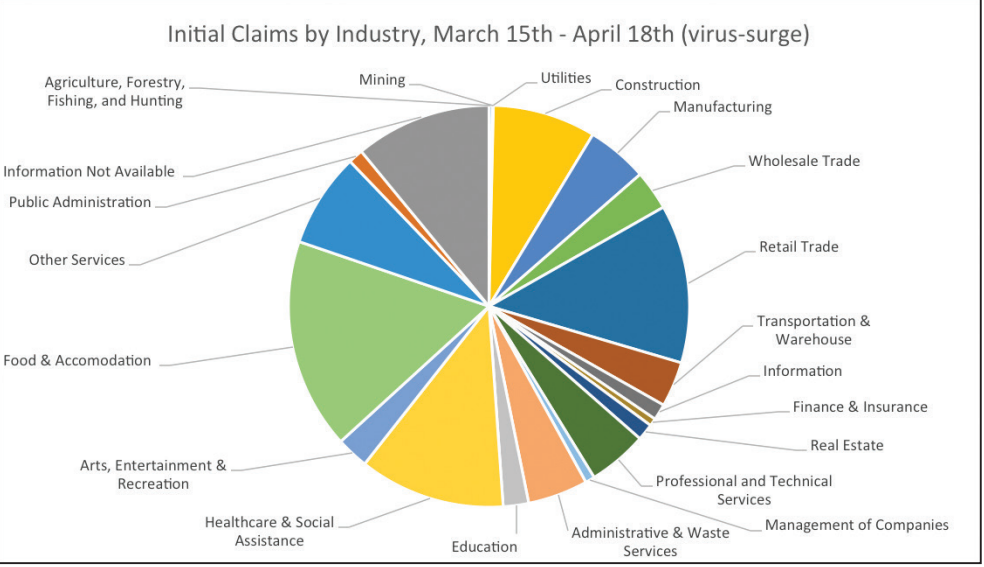
Currently, the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is paying unemployment benefits to nearly 400,000 people. Over the last month, the customer service staff

at DUA has grown from around 50 employees to nearly 1000. The remote customer service operation is now making over 20,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host daily unemployment town halls, held in both English and Spanish, which have

been attended by nearly 200,000 constituents. This week, Massachusetts launched Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for groups like the self-employed, becoming one of the first states in the country to begin providing financial assistance to those

not traditionally eligible for unemployment compensation. In just the first few days of the program launch, DUA has already received over 200,000 PUA applications (going forward, total PUA related claims data for the previous week will be released on Thurs-

day mornings at mass.gov/lwd.) Due to DUA's previous efforts to migrate their systems to the cloud, the first unemployment agency in the country to do so, the unemployment online platforms have maintained functionality throughout the surge in demand.



MBTA fare transformation program advances with approval of amendment

Staff Report

On Monday, the MBTA's Fiscal and Management Control Board approved a contract amendment regarding the Public Private Partnership agreement involving the T and the consortium Cubic | John Liang -- rolling out the new fare collection system that has been anticipated since 2018.

This action marks a significant step toward implementing the revised transformative initiative approved by the Fiscal and Management Control Board (FMCB) in December 2019, locking in an achievable and enforceable schedule while procuring new technology that will that will allow the system to adapt to future changes in ridership and to implement new kinds of fare options.

The amended contract totals \$935.4 million, including both the full cap-

ital cost of the system and a 10-year stream of operations and maintenance payments. Although this represents an increase of \$212.1 million in project costs compared to the contract approved in 2018, the new fare collection system remains cost-effective and is projected to collect over \$8 billion in fare revenue during its first ten years of operation.

This amendment, which strengthens the original 2018 AFC 2.0 contract, enables the MBTA to achieve all the original goals of the project under a new approach. Based on feedback from customers, advocates, and policy makers, the new approach will result in customer-focused upgrades to the existing and future systems. In addition, this board action reestablishes key milestones, includes new provisions that reduce the T's construction risks, and allows the system to

account for future changes within the payment industry.

“Under this program reset, we’ll be able to deliver one system that can be used across all modes that meets the needs of our customers today, and has the ability to adapt to future needs,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Poflak. “Especially in light of recent changes to daily life caused by COVID-19, it’s more important than ever to move toward a dynamic system with contactless options that can withstand major changes to conditions that would otherwise undermine a legacy system of fare collection.”

The amended contract is only one part of a comprehensive Fare Transformation initiative that will ensure that customers begin to see improvements in fare collection over the next year, including the ability to obtain CharlieCards more

easily and the elimination of the cash/ticket surcharge in 2021, so that CharlieTicket and cash fares will be the same as CharlieCard fares.

Under the phased approach and in the short term, Fare Transformation will result in improvements that include:

- The ability to pay for a trip on all Zone 1A stations on the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line with a CharlieCard;
- Deploying fare vending machines that dispense CharlieCards;
- All-door boarding on MBTA buses and surface stops along the Green Line;
- Integrating ferries and the entire Commuter Rail network into the CharlieCard system.

This amendment also allots more time for both testing and installation of the new system and customer migration. Working with stakeholders, the program reset establishes a more ro-

bust, thoughtful network of retail sales outlets and fare vending machines centered on the needs of T customers. In conjunction with that process, the MBTA has committed to a significant increase in the total number of vending machines to ensure adequate access.

“Critical to this project’s success is outreach, and the level of engagement we’ve received indicates just how important the future of MBTA fare collection is to our customers,” said Ron Renaud, Chief Transformation Officer. “Thanks to the feedback, we are now on a course to provide improvements to our existing system, and ultimately, deliver a project that is even more focused on the needs of our customers.”

While the MBTA’s existing fare collection system collected approximately \$671.7 million in FY19, the aging system requires substantial maintenance

and upgrades and cannot support the kinds of fare options that customers have requested.

The new technology provided by the Public Private Partnership offers reliability of equipment, readily accessible payment technology, and flexibility in fares and programs to further enhance access and equity for the MBTA ridership of the future.

In 2018, the FMCB authorized the original contract to include \$356.8 million in payments for the capital cost of the new system and a ten-year stream of operations and maintenance payments totaling \$366.5 million for a total cost of \$723.3 million. The revised contract approved today includes \$723.3 million for the capital cost and a reduced ten-year stream of \$212.1 million in operations and maintenance payments, for a total of \$935.4 million.

Plan for law school graduates announced

The Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Massachusetts Board of Bar Examiners (BBE) last week announced a plan for the Massachusetts Bar Examination to proceed amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and an expanded opportunity for graduates to appear in court under the student practice rule.

The plan for the bar examination outlines three elements:

- The bar exam will be conducted using the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) on September 30 and October 1, if that exam can be conducted safely, with social distancing in place for all examinees.
- If the UBE cannot be conducted safely in-person, an alternative exam will be administered remotely and

will grant admission only to the bar of Massachusetts. In that event, the BBE will work to ensure that the exam will be similar in content to the subjects tested on the UBE, so that students who have been preparing for the UBE will not need to make major adjustments in preparing for the Massachusetts only exam.

- Regardless of whether the September 30 and October 1 bar exam is the UBE or a Massachusetts only exam, the BBE will work to expedite the grading of the exam and its character and fitness investigations so that law school graduates will have results by mid-to-late December. Admission to the bar will be postponed by only eight weeks -- from the week of November 16-20, 2020, when the


bar admission ceremonies were going to be held, to the week of January 11-15, 2021, when they will now be held. If an applicant has a pressing need to be admitted in late December, the applicant can arrange with the Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County to be sworn-in, reducing the delay to only five or six weeks.

The Justices also issued an order removing a time restriction applying to students appearing in court under Supreme Judicial Court Rule 3:03. For those students who are most likely to need to appear in court before they can be sworn in, who are generally those who have or will obtain employment with a district attorney, CPCS, a state legal office, or a legal services

provider, and who have yet to obtain the SJC Rule 3:03 certification necessary to do so, the order will permit them to obtain such certification at any time before graduation.

On April 22, Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Ralph D. Gants sent a letter to law school deans outlining the plan. The Supreme Judicial Court also prepared information for law school graduates outlining the plan and the temporary expansion of SJC Rule 3:03.

The BBE is established by G.L. c. 221 §§35 & 36 to evaluate the qualifications of persons seeking admission to the bar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



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East Boston Main Streets helping those who can't get federal help

By John Lynds

As the COVID-19 pandemic began closing restaurants, shops and other businesses in East Boston, East Boston Main Streets (EBMS) sprang into action to help employees that were guaranteed to face financial hardships.

Back on March 30 EBMS Director Gladys Oliveros said Main Streets and volunteers began a program to help local restaurants employees fill out their unemployment forms.

“But after we started, we found out that there were a large number of employees unable to qualify for Federal Aid because they were undocumented,” said Oliveros. “We contacted the City and we found support from the Mayor’s Office of Economic Development and Food Access to help these vulnerable employees.”

On April 8, EBMS began handing out food Boxes outside its office on 154 Maverick St., using Maverick’s Restaurant’s outdoor dining area as a distribution site.

“However, right after we started with 180 meals we realized hair salons workers, barbers and other businesses were closing,” said Oliveros. “There were a growing number of employees without access to Federal help. In the second week we increased to 250 Food Boxes.”

By April 15 it wasn’t just out of work employees lining up for the food boxes but regular community residents were there in line waiting to pick up a food



EBMS volunteers prepare Food Boxes for 500 out of work residents and other adults in need.

box.

“We saw the need in our community, we noticed that in Eastie, we had plenty of food access to kids and youth, but none to families and adults,” explained Oliveros.

So on Friday, April 17 Oliveros and EBMS had a meeting with the Mayor’s Office of Immigrants Advancement and several non-profit organizations from Eastie.

“We mentioned in this meeting that we needed more Food Access sites for families and adults,” she said.

With help from the Mayor’s Office and local non-

profits EBMS distributed 430 food boxes to small business employees and residents in need.

On Tuesday, in its fourth week of distribution, EBMS handed out 500 Food Boxes to employees and residents.

“We started to get help from East Boston Health Center; Piers Park Sailing Center, and East Boston Soup Kitchen,” said Oliveros. “If you’re a small business owner in East Boston please encourage your employees experiencing financial difficulty to take a Food Box from this program by East Boston Main Streets.”



Volunteers wear protective covering during the food distribution event.



East Boston Health Center; Piers Park Sailing Center, and East Boston Soup Kitchen all pitched in to help the food relief effort.



The line to receive food stretched from the EBMS offices on Maverick Street, around the block and down Chelsea Street last week.

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