

East Boston

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Messages to Our
Quarantine Grads
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Edwards makes records request to Massport on Eversource substation plan

By John Lynds

A week after environmental justice agencies and local environmental activists filed a civil rights complaint against Massachusetts energy agencies regarding Eversource's plan to place a substation at the City Yards in West Eagle Square, City Councilor Lydia Edwards submitted a formal records request to Massport to obtain information related to a proposed substation on Massport property.

The Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), GreenRoots and Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR) officially filed a Title VI civil rights complaint recently arguing state agencies like Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) failed to provide proper translation and interpretation services in proceedings regarding a proposed substation.

The EFSB ruled in favor of placing the substation at the City Yards back in 2018.

Councilor Edwards recently held a hearing regarding the proposed Eversource substation in Eagle Hill and is seeking more information regarding the Massport project to better understand whether the two proposals could be combined on airport property.

"We invited Massport to

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Last Thursday during Floyd's formal memorial service, Mayor Martin Walsh and city officials joined in 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence--the total time Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin knelt on George Floyd's neck before he passed out and later died.

Mayor Walsh, "We can't turn the page...it's time to listen"

By John Lynds

Last Thursday, the first formal memorial service for George Floyd was held in Minneapolis. The National NAACP called for eight minutes and 46 seconds of silence--the total time Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck before he passed out and later died.

In Floyd's memory Mayor Martin Walsh, and other city officials, participated in the silent protest to Floyd's murder.

Prior to Floyd's memorial, Walsh gave an impassioned speech during his daily press briefing.

Holding back no punches, Walsh addressed Floyd's death head on, the subse-

quent protests, and brief rioting that occurred in Boston, and the emotional toll Floyd's death has taken on many here and around the world.

"Here in Boston, Mr. Floyd's murder has caused real pain and it has brought out real pain that has existed for a long time," said Walsh. "I want to thank the many thousands of people who have come out to honor George Floyd and take a stand against racism: on Boston Common, in Franklin Park, and across the city over the last few days. We've seen many examples of connection and compassion. We've seen protestors looking out for each other. We saw leaders in the community guiding young peo-

ple to express themselves safely. We saw police officers taking a knee in solidarity. It made me proud to be the Mayor and proud to be a Bostonian."

Walsh said now, more than ever, there needs to be change.

"We are seeing disturbing scenes across the country, and we are hearing disturbing messages from Washington," said Walsh. "In Boston, we are keeping our historic public spaces safe for free speech, and we are listening, I am listening, to the voices and the message of our Black neighbors who are harmed by systemic racism every single day."

Walsh said for elected of-

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Chelsea Street gunfire leads to one arrest

By John Lynds

Boston Police arrested an East Boston man in connection with allegedly firing a gun Sunday evening on the corner of Chelsea and Porter Streets.

Stephen Woodard, 30, of East Boston. Woodard was arraigned in East Boston District Court on charges of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Carrying a Loaded Firearm on a Public Way, Possession of a Firearm with an Obliterated Serial Number, Discharging a Firearm within 500 Feet of a Dwelling, Assault by Means of a Dangerous Weapon, Breaking and Entering of a Motor Vehicle, and Armed Career Criminal.

The incident occurred on Sunday just before 7:30

p.m. when officers from District A-7 police station responded to a radio call for a person with a gun in the area of Chelsea Street and Porter Street.

According to police, several witnesses directed officers to an unknown male suspect, later identified as Woodard, who was sitting in a car and in possession of a firearm.

Witnesses led police to Woodard who had entered a motor vehicle that was parked in the lot across from Santarpio's Pizza after firing off several rounds.

Officers approached and observed Woodard bleeding from the hand and sitting in the driver's seat of a gray motor vehicle that had a shattered driver's side

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Davis Companies hope for robust community process for EBNHC lots

By John Lynds

The Davis Company and East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) recently announced a partnership to redevelop a series of parcels along Bremen and Orleans Streets being used for EBNHC employee parking.

However, the Davis Companies has pledged

that it will conduct a robust community process prior to submitting any drawings or plans to the City of Boston.

Last week Stephen Davis said the community engagement process will last through June 30 with the purpose of gauging community sentiment and priorities. Davis said this will

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City Realty donates Chromebooks to Mario Umana Academy

By John Lynds

Last week the City Realty Group continued its long-standing partnership with

the Mario Umana Academy through a generous donation of Chromebooks for the school's students.

City Realty, known for

several development projects in Eastie, has a non-profit offshoot called City Kids in areas where the development team works and conducts business.

Since landing in Eastie and developing residential projects in the neighborhood, City Realty's City Kids, has been looking for ways to give back to the community. During its project on Border Street several years ago, City Realty partnered with the Mario Umana Academy and donated supplies to the school. The developer also pitched in to help clean and maintain a park between Border and Meridian Streets.

"I got a chance to meet the new principal of the Mario Umana School Christina Michel and donate 10

Chromebooks on behalf of City Realty's City Kids," said Sal LaMattina. "Tommy Welsh, who oversees the schools in East Boston and lives in Orient Heights, as well as Principal Michel were thrilled to receive the donation."

LaMattina said City Realty has been donating Chromebooks throughout Eastie during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Last month City Kids donated new Chromebooks to the Boys & Girls Club to help Eastie students continue learning at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

City Realty Group Vice President of Operations James Caruso said the donations are a way City Re-

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Mario Umana Academy Principal Christina Michel, City Realty's Sal LaMattina and BPS Elementary School Superintendent Tommy Welch. City Realty donated Chromebooks to the school last week.

LET'S GET MOVIN' AT HOME CHALLENGE



A Let's Get Movin' team member puts the finishing touches on the bags.

The At Home Activity Bags contain an assortment of physical activity materials, like jump ropes, Frisbees, and resistance bands, along with some fun additions like beach balls, balloons, youth cooking magazines, and coloring books. See Page 6 for more photos.



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For the latest news in East Boston that you need to know, check
eastietimes.com

Eastie’s Berkshire Roots to become second recreational marijuana shop in Boston

By John Lynds

East Boston’s first adult use retail marijuana facility planned for Meridian Street will now open any day according to Western Mass’s Berkshire Roots, Inc.

Berkshire Roots received its final license from the Cannabis Control Commission to open shop at 253 Meridian St. and once open it will become only the second adult use shop to open in Boston. Pure Oasis, an adult-use marijuana dispensary located in the Grove Hall neighborhood of Dorchester, opened in March.

“We’re following in the footsteps of thousands of newcomers to East Boston in the past 300 years,” said Berkshire Roots in a statement. “Berkshire Roots will be bringing our award-winning dispensary and cannabis product line up to the city of Boston. We hope you’re as excited as we are. Serving adult use customers, we will be located at 253 Meridian Street, East Boston. Just minutes walk from the Maverick Square T stop on the Blue line, Berkshire Roots is opening up in a lovely little neighborhood that we’re glad to be becoming a part of.”

Berkshire roots received community support from the Eagle Hill Civic Association and was later granted a Conditional Use Permit by the Boston Zoning Board of Appeals last year.

Berkshire Roots is the largest grower of cannabis in Western Massachusetts and was the first medical marijuana dispensary to open in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Berkshire Roots’s Meridian Street shop includes 1,400 sq. ft. retail space on the first floor of the building that the company says



The first adult use retail marijuana facility on Meridian Street is finishing the final construction projects and will open soon for business.

will be a sleek and stylish dispensary with façade improvement and subtle and understated signage.

There will be no cultivation, processing, or packaging on site. There would also be no product consumption on site and the product would not be visible from the street.

There will be a security guard at the front door. When a potential customer enters, he or she must present either a valid Massachusetts Medical Marijuana Card or a valid state license or identification card proving the customer is over 21 years of age. Between the front door and the actual dispensary is a locked door. The front door and internal ‘locked’ door are never open at the same time. Once the customer is approved by the security guard an employee inside the dispensary would have to activate a buzzer for the

internal door to allow the customer inside.

Aside from paying the city three percent of its sales per quarter, Berkshire Roots also agreed to install security cameras in and around the business and to participate in public safety and beautification initiatives in and around the business.

According to the agreement with the city, there will be no benches or social gathering areas in or around the business and Berkshire Roots agrees to prohibit smoking, vaping or any other form of consumption of marijuana onsite. The company also agrees to share data and reports to the Boston Public Health Commission as well as assist in the dissemination of materials related to public health, public safety and prevention efforts.

Eversource //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

our hearing a few weeks ago and they chose not to come,” said Edwards. “Instead they sent a four paragraph letter that doesn’t answer the community’s questions. If the two substation projects can’t be combined, we deserve a public explanation of why not.”

The records request asks Massport to turn over all documents related to “substations” or “switching stations.”

In the written testimony that was submitted for the recent hearing held by Councilor Edwards, Massport indicated that “there are very distinct differences between switching stations and substations.” However, Massport board documents from September 2019 show references to a “proposed new Eversource substation” on Massport property.

“This is an important issue to our community. These decisions will have consequences for decades,” said Edwards. “Getting these answers is important so that we know how to best advocate moving forward.”

Under Massachusetts Public Records Law, Massport is required to respond to the request within 10 days.

Last year Eversource filed a Notice of Project Change and sought ap-

proval to move the proposed substation 190 feet to the western side of the City Yards lot. Eversource said the two 115-kV transmission lines that would connect to the substation would no longer be routed along Condor and East Eagle Streets if the substation is placed in the western portion of the parcel.

In their civil complaint the group argues the electrical project would have catastrophic implications for low-income communities of color in Eastie and Chelsea. State officials treated demands for interpretation as disruptive, effectively shutting out participation from the area’s many Spanish-speaking residents.

Last year, local environmentalists from Eastie and Chelsea gathered at Boston City Hall to deliver 700 postcards to Boston Mayor Martin Walsh asking for the mayor to meet with residents on both sides of the Chelsea Creek to discuss alternatives to placing Eversource’s proposed substation along the creek.

For three years local environmentalists on the Eastie and Chelsea sides of the Chelsea Creek have launched a visual, media and talking campaign against Eversource’s plans to place the substation at the City Yards in Eagle Square.

However, the EFSB ap-

proval came with some provisos. According to the state energy board the EFSB directed Eversource to enter into discussions with the City of Boston regarding the possible relocation of the new substation on the Chelsea Creek site.

The complaint requests that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) investigate the state’s EFSB and its parent agencies, the Department of Public Utilities and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, for their failure to comply with federal laws ensuring equal access for limited English proficient speakers.

The complaint urges the EPA to halt the review of the proposed substation, pending this investigation into the Board’s language access policies and practices and until the present state of emergency has been lifted.

The substation was initially slated to be built on an Eversource-owned parcel on Bremen Street. However, under the former late Mayor Thomas Menino, Boston executed a land swap with Eversource. Eversource handed over the Bremen Street parcel so the city could build the new East Boston Branch Library in return for the city-owned parcel in East Eagle Square.

Listen //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

officials like himself it is time to ‘listen’.

“As elected officials, it’s a time to listen and learn and keep those voices at the center of the conversation — not just for today, not just for the next week, not just the month, but for our entire careers,” he said. “It’s also a time to roll up our sleeves, work together — that’s all of us, working together — and get some real work done. I am committed to making real change. I pledge my continued commitment to making Boston a national leader in healing the wounds of our history and building a more just future.”

Walsh addressed the rioting that occurred in Boston two Sundays ago. While it was tough to watch, Walsh said the rioting did not shake his Administration’s resolve.

“Sunday night was a tough moment, but this is a good week for our city,” said Walsh. “We cleaned up and we are helping small businesses get fixed up. We continue to listen to our Black community and push for equity and justice in all that we do. We continue to fight this virus with every ounce of energy we have. We continue to support the residents of Boston through this crisis, with food, with financial relief, with health and safety advice, and whatever else it takes. All this work is making us a more connected city and a more resilient city. I am more confident than ever that we will come out of this a stronger, healthier, and more equitable city.”

Walsh added that City Hall does not operate in a vacuum and that his staff had participated in many of the peaceful protests that occurred after Floyd’s death.

“Neighborhood coordinators from our Office of Neighborhood Services participated in the rallies and marches and helped organizers with a range of issues,” said Walsh. “Let me say that again: some of our coordinators from Neighborhood Services that work for the City of Boston

participated in the rallies — not as city employees, as individuals. And many other people have in this building. I have been meeting with our Black employees and employees of color. I’ve been listening. To be quite honest, what I hear is heartbreaking. As a white person, you can and you should be opposed to racism. You can learn and understand how it affects people.

But when you make the space for people you know to truly open up, and when you really hear what a daily experience racism is for them, it deepens your perspective and it strengthens your resolve to be an ally and push for change. That’s what I am doing, and I encourage everyone who is white to do that listening. Listen to the black Bostonians who are protesting. Listen to your neighbors, friends, and colleagues of color. Resolve to be part of the solution.”

Walsh said when he first got into recovery for alcoholism he said he learned recovery is about changing the human being.

“I heard the Serenity Prayer a million times prior to that, but the Serenity Prayer kept me sober because the Serenity Prayer says it all,” said Walsh. “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I can not change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference. What we’re dealing with in Boston is about wisdom. Wisdom to listen; wisdom to understand. If you don’t understand right now, just listen.”

Walsh continued, “I’ve had many conversations in the last days with the employees from the City of Boston: Some are Cabinet positions; some are entry-level positions. We created a space where we can have a conversation. They weren’t talking to the Mayor of Boston, they were talking to Marty Walsh. They opened up, and I watched the reaction of their white colleagues. Some people honestly said — Department heads and

Cabinet-level — “I don’t know what to do right now. I don’t know how to respond right now.” The response is: let’s just listen for a while. Let’s not give opinions. Let’s not criticize. Let’s not judge. Let’s listen. Because if we listen, we’ll be a stronger city for it. When I say this, I’m not lecturing anyone, I’m talking to myself; I’m talking to the press that’s here; I’m talking to everyone.”

Walsh said the images that we are watching are difficult to watch and while it’s hard to see our country be torn apart—our country’s had this underlying tearing for a long time.

“There’s a moment in time — and now is that moment in time — for us to address racism, address real change,” said Walsh. “What I mean by that is not just simply talking about a policy. I can talk about all the policies up here all I want, and say this is what we’re going to do. It’s about acting on that.”

Walsh went on to say that the U.S. has had a bad habit in the past of just ‘turning the page’ when incidents like Floyd’s murder happen in the country.

“We can’t turn the page,” said Walsh. “I was Mayor when there were riots in Ferguson. There were riots there and we had some demonstrations in Boston. I was worried something would happen but nothing happened so we turned the page. There’s been mass shootings across the country over the years and everyone gets up and arms for a while that we need gun reform but we turn the page. And then there’s another murder in Baltimore or in New York but we turn the page. We have a great ability to turn the page when something really uncomfortable comes to the surface. George Floyd’s death is painful to watch. It’s awful to hear his kids and his brother and his family talk in such a great way about him. It’s sad that he is not here. We can’t turn the page on that.”

Umana //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

alty can do their part to help children remain engaged and capable of continuing their studies at home.

Stephen Whalen of Boston, Managing Partner at City Realty Group and

founder of City Kid, said his company has been a longtime supporter of the Umana as well as Salesian Boys & Girls Club and other area schools and after-school programs.

A few years ago City Realty, with the help of the Gove Street Citizens Association, donated ChromeBooks to the Sam Adams School’s Autism Strand classroom.

Arrest //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

window.

Officers asked Woddard if he had been shot, but he sat stoically, refusing to answer the officers. Woodard had his hands between his legs down by the floor of the vehicle. Officers repeatedly asked the male if he was in possession of a firearm or if he had been shot, eventually the male answered no to both questions.

Officers removed Woodard from the vehicle and subsequently recovered a folding knife in his front pants pocket. Partially under the driver’s seat where Woodard had his hands, officers located a Rock Island Armory 45 caliber firearm. Officers also observed ballistic damage to the vehicle.

After taking Woodard in custody officers spoke to a victim who said he had picked up food from a restaurant in the area and walked toward his car when he observed Woodard pull-

ing on the door handle of the victim’s car. The victim told Woodard that the car belonged to him, causing the Woodard to walk away from the victim’s car.

Woodard then approached another vehicle and again attempted to gain entry by pulling on the door handle. The victim said he asked the suspect what he was doing and Woodard responded by allegedly pulling out a firearm. The victim stated he fled the area, hearing several gunshots as he walked away.

Additional victims stated they had exited the same restaurant and were walking to the parking lot when the suspect proceeded towards the two of them and allegedly pointed a firearm at them. The victims who were inside their motor vehicle, fled the parking lot at a high rate of speed, hearing multiple gunshots ringing out from the area.

Another witness stated he had observed Woodard allegedly waving the firearm, before shooting at a motor vehicle and fleeing the area.

According to reports, Woodward is the same man that made national headlines last year for stealing a truck full of lobsters from a Boston pier and fleeing to Charlestown. Woodard was arrested after two other lobstermen in refrigerator trucks pursued Woodard into Charlestown and rammed into the stolen truck.

In June 2010, Woodard, then 20, escaped from a Suffolk County sheriff’s van. He ran on foot before stealing a Department of Public Works vehicle and leading officers on a brief chase. Woodard ditched the vehicle and took off running again. Three days later, he surrendered to the police at an apartment in Charlestown.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Huang, Shiyun	Buccella, Antonetta	1030 Bennington St #16	\$340,000
Canto, Zachary	K&K Development Inc	42 Chelsea St #3	\$685,000
231 Maverick Street LLC	Iantosca, Maria	229 Maverick St	\$935,000
Thibeault, Joseph A	BDD RT	44 Waldemar Ave	\$510,000
Petrarca, Ashley	Hale, Cristina	228 Webster St #A	\$958,000

37 MAVERICK SQUARE ■ EAST BOSTON ■ 617/561-4495

Some restaurants in Easie with outdoor capacity will cautiously reopen in the next week or two

By John Lynds

In this post COVID-19 surge world, not all restaurants in East Boston are created equal. On Saturday Mayor Martin Walsh signaled restaurants that have been forced to switch to a take-out or delivery model during the COVID-19 shutdown can slowly begin dine-in service following the state’s Phase II reopening plan.

However, there is a catch.

Restaurant owners can only reopen with a limited amount of patrons designated to ‘outdoor’ seating areas.

Some restaurants that dot Eastie’s business districts like the Cunard Tavern, Mavericks, Angela Cafe in Orient Heights or Taco Mex in Maverick Square are already equipped with outdoor dining, but other establishments without outdoor dining options will have to wait until they receive an outdoor dining permit from the city or hold on until Phase III to reopen indoor dining.

In preparing for restaurant reopenings Walsh and the Boston Licensing Board took steps to streamline existing processes for restaurants who wish to expand outdoor seating

as part of the COVID-19 reopening process. These new processes make it easier for restaurants to take advantage of outdoor space in Boston when they are allowed to open.

Over 270 businesses have already begun this process throughout all of Boston’s neighborhoods.

Temporary street closures with barriers and signs will also be explored as part of the outdoor seating work, and to create better green links to parks and open spaces.

“Public space and transportation will be key to a healthy reopening and an equitable recovery,” said Chris Osgood, the city’s Chief of Streets. “Right now, that includes making sure hospital staff and front line workers can get to work safely and affordably, and rethinking how Boston’s streets best serve our residents. These changes to Boston’s streets are in line with Boston’s transportation goals of safety, access, and reliability, and the City’s work to create a safe city for every resident.”

While the permitting process was being fast tracked by the Licensing Board some are still waiting for their permits.

“Unfortunately, we are currently waiting on our

patio permit to be allowed to open this upcoming week and going forward,” said Renegades Pub in Orient Heights Square in a statement. Renegades has been conducting a take-out and delivery option since the pandemic hit. “We are so excited to see you all and are waiting patiently for some updates.”

Owner of Cunard Tavern Phil Frattaroli said the restaurant’s rooftop deck will be able to serve patrons while following the state guidelines.

However, other restaurants like Mavericks, that have an outdoor patio area may wait a bit longer to reopen. Owner Dan Lyons said he probably won’t be ready until the end of next week. Lyons said he wants to make sure he and his staff are ready and prepared to meet all the guidelines set forth by the state.

Mayor Walsh cautioned this week that restaurant owners planning to re-open should be doing so gradually and cautiously, following all the state requirements.

“A gradual re-opening also means a gradual economic recovery,” said Walsh. “We know that many people are still struggling and will continue to struggle for some time, so we will continue to meet

the needs of families, workers, seniors, and small businesses. We will continue to approach this work with equity for the communities with the deepest needs, informed by our Health Inequities Task Force. I want to thank the House of Representatives and Ways and Means Chairman Rep. Aaron Michlewitz for his leadership in passing a good Restaurant Relief bill, as we move forward with our plan to support outdoor dining and new revenue opportunities for restaurants.”

According to the reopening guidelines the Baker-Polito administration announced on May 29, the following applies to restaurants;

- Outdoor dining, where possible, will be allowed at the start of phase two

- Once indoor dining does resume later in phase two, restaurants that can, will be encouraged to continue focusing on outdoor dining as much as possible.

- Tables must be six feet apart and six feet away from high-traffic areas, like routes to the restrooms. The distance can be under six feet only if separated by non-porous barriers such as walls or plexiglass dividers that are at least six feet high.

- Both employees and

customers should maintain a six-foot distance from others as much as possible (not congregating in break rooms or near restrooms, for example), and restaurants should post signage, use distance markers, etc. to enforce this.

- No more than six people can sit at a table together.

- Customers cannot sit at bars, although restaurants can reconfigure their bar areas into standard dining areas as long as existing building and fire code regulations are followed, along with COVID-19 safety guidelines regarding spacing.

- Along the same lines, customers cannot be served standing up (no bars, standing counters, etc.).

- Masks are required for both staff and customers, although customers can remove theirs when seated at a table.

- Condiments won’t be preset on tables and will instead be served upon request in single-serving containers. Likewise, utensils won’t be preset and must either be single-use or sanitized after each use, brought to the table rolled or otherwise packaged.

- Menus must either be single-use, disposable paper; a display, such as a

whiteboard or chalkboard; or electronic and viewed on customers’ own mobile devices.

- Communal serving areas (such as unattended buffets, topping bars, and self-service stations) must remain closed for now.

- Restaurant areas not directly related to food and beverage service — such as dance floors and pool tables — must remain closed for now.

- Restaurants are encouraged to use technology to create an experience that is as contactless as possible (reservation systems, mobile ordering, mobile payment, etc.)

- Restaurants are encouraged to increase indoor ventilation however possible (such as by opening doors and windows).

- Restaurants should retain a phone number of someone in each party, whether for reservations or walk-in customers, for possible contact tracing.

- If an employee, customer, or vendor of a restaurant tests positive or is presumed to be positive for COVID-19, the restaurant must immediately shut down for at least 24 hours, cleaning and disinfecting in accordance with CDC guidelines before reopening.

Senator Markey receives major endorsement from the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Massachusetts last week announced its endorsement of Ed Markey for re-election to the United States Senate.

“Senator Ed Markey has been a supporter of public education for decades and has consistently fought for adequate funding - not because we asked him to, but because he knows that public education is the pathway to better communities,” said AFT Massachusetts President Beth Kontos. “He grew up in a household that valued education and the

rights of workers. His record in support of labor and the rights of workers to organize is second to none.”

The AFT Massachusetts represents 23,000 educators throughout Massachusetts.

“I am incredibly grateful for the support of the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts,” said Senator Markey. “Our school employees and our educators are heroes. Their work is instrumental to ensuring that our children are prepared for the future. They deserve to have wages, health care, and other benefits that reflect

just how vital their role is. While their usual tools of tablets and pencils have been replaced by tablets with pixels in the coronavirus pandemic, these educators’ skills and commitment remain integral to the health, well-being, and success of Massachusetts’s students. My father was a union leader, and I learned just how critical unions are to families, to our economy, and to our democracy. I will always fight for AFT Massachusetts, and I am proud that they will fight for me.”

Senator Markey is committed to fighting for the

rights of union workers across the Commonwealth and nation. In October, he walked the picket line with SEIU 509 Fidelity House workers in Lawrence demanding better pay and working conditions. In February, he stood with UNITE HERE Local 26 airline catering workers for a rally at Logan Airport to call on LSG Sky Chefs to provide fair wages and affordable healthcare for its employees. Just two weeks ago, he stood alongside the Massachusetts Nursing Association and United Auto Workers Local 2322 as

they called on the owners of Providence Behavioral Health Hospital to stop the closure of the Providence Behavioral Health Hospital Psychiatric Unit. Senator Markey has a 100 percent voter record in the Senate from the AFL-CIO.

The AFT Massachusetts union endorsement adds to Ed Markey’s other, major endorsements, including: the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, NARAL Pro-Choice, the NRDC Action Fund, and Peace Action. Ed has earned a 100 percent labor voting record in the Senate from

the AFL-CIO, and his campaign is endorsed by unions throughout the state including American Postal Workers Local #4553, UNITE HERE Local 26, AFSCME, SEIU 888, SEIU 32BJ, CWA 1400, AFA, and AFGE.

The AFT Massachusetts, a strong voice for collaborative education reform that is good for students and fair to educators, represents more than 23,000 public school employees, higher education faculty and staff, and public librarians.

Phase Two of state’s reopening plan begins this week

By Lauren Bennett

Phase Two of the state’s reopening plan began on Monday, June 8, after an announcement by Governor Charlie Baker over the weekend.

“This terrible virus and the terrible toll that it takes will be with us until there are medical breakthroughs with respect to treatments or vaccines. But thanks to your hard work and your sacrifices, we’re bringing the fight to the virus and we’re moving forward and Massachusetts is continuing to reopen,” Baker said on June 6.

He said that since the beginning of May, the seven-day average for positive COVID-19 tests is down 82 percent, the three-day average of hospitalizations is down 55 percent, and the number of hospitals operating in surge is down 76 percent. “It’s good to see these stats continue to drop,” Baker said.

The Commonwealth has conducted a total of

630,000 viral tests so far, and the number of tests continues to increase each day, he added.

He said that since the “trends are moving in the right direction,” the state is in good shape to move onto Phase Two of the reopening plan.

“COVID-19 is still very much with us,” Baker said. “While we should all feel a certain sense of relief and progress with respect to the start of phase 2, we should also keep in mind that we have a way to go to get to what we would call the permanent new normal. Please do your part to continue to socially distance, wear face coverings, practice good hygiene, and stay home if you feel sick.”

Phase Two includes the expansion of outdoor recreation activities, as well as marks the beginning of preventative health care services such as mammograms, colonoscopies, and heart screenings, all of which were put on hold during the worst of the out-

break.

Secretary Mike Kenneally provided more information about Phase Two, including that it will be in two steps. The first step, which began on Monday, allows for the reopening of retail stores, childcare, day camps, lodging, youth sports, and outdoor seated dining at restaurants, with specific safety guidelines.

Step Two, “the start of which will be determined based on continued improvements in public health metrics,” Kenneally said, “will allow restaurants to serve guests indoors,” as well as allow for the opening of “close contact personal services” like nail salons, massage therapy, and tanning salons.

Kenneally explained that there are three levels of safety guidelines for residents, businesses, and workers for Phase Two, as there was in Phase One: “general social guidance, mandatory workplace safety standards, and sector specific safety protocols,”

he said.

Last week, the state released guidelines and protocols for retailers, restaurants, and lodging, as well as pools, beaches, and outdoor sports ahead of the start of Phase Two so those businesses and activities could prepare to open safely.

“Today, we released protocols on close contact personal services as well as protocols for what we’re calling ‘sectors not otherwise addressed,’” Kenneally said, which are “businesses with unique operations that don’t really fit into other categories.”

Kenneally said that in order to reopen, businesses “must meet all safety standards, create a COVID-19 control plan, and complete a self-certification.”

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito asked residents to support local businesses in their communities.

“When you buy from the local and small businesses that make up the fabric of your community

The Orient Heights Neighborhood Council meeting updates

The Orient Heights Neighborhood Council (OHNC) would like to update the Orient Heights residents as to their summer meeting plans in light of COVID-19 and the MA reopening plan:

JUNE - No meeting, explore virtual options.

The YMCA is unable to host the meeting at present; we hope to hear more from them soon. Additionally, Phase 2 of the MA reopening plan does not give clear guidance on an indoor gathering size quota, although it would assur-

edly not allow everyone to meet in person yet. Several East Boston neighborhood associations are exploring virtual options such as Zoom meetings. We are exploring this possibility as well. We appreciate feedback from you on the idea of a fully virtual or hybrid virtual/in person model meeting. (Email: OrientHeightsNC@gmail.com). We are also exploring outdoor, physically-distanced meetings.

JULY - Meeting on July 20, full details TBD.

.Regular meeting time:

Monday, July 20, 6:30 p.m. Location TBD depending upon the nature of the reopening process. Might be in person, hybrid in person/virtual, or totally virtual. More info to come. Agenda items from March will be prioritized, and nominations for new board elections will be taken up to and during that meeting as well (positions are all open for election: Chairperson [President], Vice-Chairperson [VP], and Secretary).

August - BONUS meeting called by the Chair/President

Bonus meeting to be held Monday, August 17, at 6:30 p.m. location TBD. Purpose of the meeting will be to catch up on “lost time” as well as to hold the new board elections. New board will be instated starting September and will be in place for two years.

Email us to get on our regular OHNC distribution list, or follow us on Facebook (@OrientHeightsNC - it’s a “page” not a “group”) for the most updated information.

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“DEFUND” THE POLICE? NOT SO FAST

Racism, from subtle to overt, has existed at every level of American society since our nation’s inception. It was embedded in our Constitution by our Founding Fathers, many of whom were slave owners, who declared that slaves should be counted as only three-fifths of a person.

Even though slavery was abolished by Abraham Lincoln with the Emancipation Proclamation, segregation and discrimination became the norm in the American way of life after the Civil War and judicially affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1896 decision, *Plessy v. Ferguson*.

Although the Supreme Court overturned the “separate but equal” doctrine in the 1954 decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*, it has become clear that despite the apparent strides toward racial equality that have been made in the past 66 years, so little actually has changed.

Tragically, it has taken the brutal death-by-suffocation of a 46 year-old African-American man, George Floyd, at the knee of a white police officer in Minneapolis to bring to the eyes of every American the gross discrepancy between the uniquely American ideal that, “All men are created equal” and the stark reality of life today for persons of color who comprise most of our country’s permanent underclass.

To be sure, the shockingly inhumane treatment by police officers of minority suspects (and even non-suspects) in the past few years has highlighted the racism that continues to exist in many police departments across the country.

There also have been instances of police brutality and over-reaction during these past two weeks against mostly-peaceful demonstrators.

But the reality is that the vast majority of police officers have acted in a completely professional manner during this trying period, as most of them always do.

Yes, there are a few who became police officers for the wrong reasons, but the vast majority of our police force is comprised of men and women who want to make a positive impact in their communities and take a great deal of pride in doing so.

The movement underway in some parts of our country to “defund” police departments is, in our view, a short-sighted effort to scapegoat the police for the shortcomings of our society as a whole, especially among the white liberal class, for whom “blaming the cops” is a convenient means for absolving themselves of personal responsibility for the glaring inequality that exists in America in 2020.

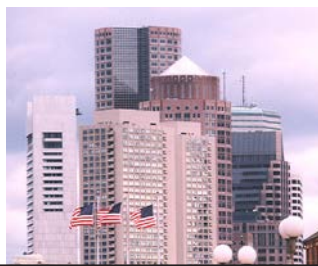
Our rank-and-file police officers are underpaid (their starting salaries are barely able to afford the rent for an apartment) and they are asked to perform a myriad of duties far beyond mere law enforcement, especially when dealing with persons who are mentally ill or who have substance abuse issues -- and let’s not even get started on domestic calls.

It also is ludicrous to cut funding for our police departments when there are 300 million guns, many of which are military-grade, in the hands of private citizens, many of whom either are members of radical groups or who individually subscribe to radical beliefs.

To be sure, there are fundamental reforms that need to be undertaken in police departments all across the country to eliminate policies that are racist in their effect. There also must be a commitment to ensure swift accountability for officers who break the rules.

But the same is true for every aspect of American life in both the private and public sectors. The racism that is systemic in many of our nation’s police departments is a reflection of the racism that pervades every nook and cranny of our society from top to bottom.

Unless our nation’s leaders and our people are committed to bringing about real change at every level of our society -- and contributing vast resources in order to alleviate police from the burdens of dealing with drug users and those with mental health issues -- we are deluding ourselves if we think that “defunding” our police will accomplish much of anything toward the goal of achieving a more just and more equal society.



Forum



LETTER to the Editor

RACISM IS STILL A DEADLY CONTAGION

To the Editor:

I am not sure white supremacy is all that it is made up to be but I do believe that there is such a thing as systemic racism. I saw it growing up in Lower Roxbury. I saw it in the folks who ran B.H.A. I lived in Orchard Park as a kid when administrators created two separate “projects.” One “project” for white residents and another project in the rear for black residents. This B.H.A. policy ended in 1958 when I

was 10 years old. If that is not systemic racism, I don’t know what is.

Seven years later, 1965 I saw it again. This time in the town of Natick. My brother, myself and two black friends took a ride to Natick to see friends who lived there. We weren’t off the bus 15 minutes before a cruiser stopped us and asked us why we were there. We started to say something but he wasn’t listening. He told us to leave town, waited at the bus stop to make sure we got on the bus. I was so angered by what happened and why it happened. He was surely less concerned about my brother and me

and more concern about our friends with us. All four of us laughed at what had happened but it really was far from funny. It took me 25 years to return to that town. I have always resented what happened to us that long-ago day.

I believe we are a much better country today then back in 1965. Are we perfect yet? Hardly. Racism is still with us and today it is much more invisible. However, watching the video of that police officer seemingly oblivious to what he was doing you know racism is still a deadly contagion.

I understand why folks were angry and wanted to

peacefully protest the ugliest of that unarmed guy on the ground who had less than nine minutes to live because of actual evil person standing over him.

We need to work together all of us regardless of race, color, ethnicity, gender, gay or straight to do what Dr. King sought over 50 years ago that all of us should be judged not by the color of our skin but by the content of our character.

If we can reach this plateau, we can be one people indivisible with justice for all.

Sal Giarratani

MBTA’s RIDE distributing food to vulnerable residents

The RIDE has partnered with the City of Boston, YMCA of Greater Boston, and The Greater Boston Food Bank.

The MBTA announced late last week a partnership with the City of Boston, YMCA of Greater Boston, and The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) to help provide Boston’s most vulnerable residents with access to food by utilizing the RIDE paratransit service.

“One of the many tragic consequences of the pandemic has been the explosive growth of food insecurity,” explained MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. “Employees at the RIDE interact with Boston’s most vulnerable citizens every day. During the pandemic, these employees saw firsthand and early on that individuals who have issues with mobility, illness, quarantine, or are otherwise at high risk were unable to leave their homes to access food. It was their willingness to help that led us to the Food Bank with an offer to share resources.”

“This partnership is a testament to the impact we can make in the lives of our families and those in need

when we work together,” said City of Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. “I thank the MBTA, and our partners at the YMCA, and the Greater Boston Food Bank for helping us strengthen the City of Boston’s food access work that has already provided over one million meals to our residents most in need and negatively impacted by COVID-19.”

“We relish this opportunity to partner with the MBTA and City of Boston to deliver food to our most vulnerable children, families, and seniors,” said YMCA Senior Vice President Wendy Zinn. “It is a blessing to coalesce our organizational skills, infrastructures, and ‘people power’ in the spirit of serving others. We thank the MBTA and City of Boston for allowing the YMCA of Greater Boston to participate in this important partnership, as we are universally committed to mitigating hunger for all Bostonians during this crisis and beyond.”

“This pandemic is unprecedented in our history, so it takes great community partners like the YMCA of Greater Boston and the

MBTA to find creative ways to safely serve all of our neighbors in need,” said President and CEO of The Greater Boston Food Bank Catherine D’Amato. “With food insecurity on the rise in our region, we also thank Mayor Walsh and the City of Boston for leading the way with innovative solutions that help to enhance the work of the emergency food network during this challenging time.”

As ridership on the MBTA’s RIDE service has significantly declined during the COVID-19 situation, available RIDE vehicles are currently being utilized to pick up and deliver food items and school meals. Collaborating with GBFB and the YMCA, RIDE drivers arrive at the YMCA location on Huntington Avenue daily to pick up an assortment of grocery bags and shelf stable school meals. Groceries are delivered by RIDE vehicles to designated homes, the amount based on the size of the household and whether or not the family is enrolled in the Boston Public School partnership.

Under the leadership of Mayor Walsh, the City of

Boston has provided more than 1.2 million free meals to youth across sixty-eight sites since the beginning of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Since expanding the number of meal sites to also serve adults in April, the City has distributed nearly 100,000 meals to adults. As of the end of May 2020, the RIDE has completed over 3,185 deliveries, totaling 5,129 grocery bags and 24,000 school meals to over 1,200 Boston Public School children. Residents can visit HYPERLINK “http://www.boston.gov/COVID-19food” \t “_blank” boston.gov/COVID19food or call 311 to find food resources, including meal sites for youth and adults, food pantries, and more.

For more information, visit HYPERLINK “http://www.mbta.com” \t “_blank” mbta.com, HYPERLINK “http://www.boston.gov/COVID-19food” \t “_blank” boston.gov/COVID19food, or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA.

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The Times encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com

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.

Letters may also be e-mailed to editor@eastietimes.com.

Letters must be signed.

We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

Jessica Gordon’s Academy of Performing Arts celebrates 10 years

By John Lynds

For the past ten years Jessica Gordon’s Academy of Performing Arts has been a mainstay in the local, regional and national dance world providing dance education for beginner through advanced dancers.

Founded by longtime dancer and dance instructor, Jessica (Gordon) Schettino, the academy located in Winthrop has been offering ballet, acro, tap, and hip hop for recreational and competitive students in East Boston, Winthrop, Revere and beyond.

Schettino was born on Beach Street in Revere to Ricky Gordon and Michelle (Bosco) Gordon, both Eastie natives and moved to Tuscano Avenue when she was eight-years-old.

Schettino got her start as a dancer at the age of three in East Boston under the tutelage of Eleanor Rubino and Rubino’s daughter, Paula Terenzi at the Eleanor Rubino Academy of Performing Arts.

While dancing, Schettino attended and graduated from Savio Prep in 2006. While in high school Schettino became a dance teacher’s assistant at the age of 14 at the dance academy and later became a full fledged dance teacher at the age of 17.

During her senior year in

high school, Schettino was crowned Revere’s Junior Miss and went on to compete in Junior Miss Massachusetts

After graduating from Savio Schettino enrolled in Salem State College. While attending classes and working a full time job she took over the dance studio from Rubino and Terenzi after Rubino retired and Terenzi founded her own dance studio at the age of 21.

A year later Schettino founded Jessica Gordon’s Academy of Performing Arts.

While running the dance academy Schettino graduated from Salem State with a Bachelor’s Degree in Sports and Science Movement with a concentration in Dance.

Since she founded the studio, which has grown to over 100 students and six instructors, Schettino and her dances have found a string of local and national success.

She and her dancers have participated in many regional and national dance competitions, dancing at Disney World, Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and Myrtle Beach.

Her studio was the Grand Champion in the 11 and under category at the Inferno Dance Competition in 2020.

At the Beyond the Stars

Dance Competition in 2019 the Studio received the Excellence Award as well as the Entertainment Award.

Last year, Schettino won Best Dance Assemble in 2019 for her choreography for musical Once Upon This Island from the The Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild.

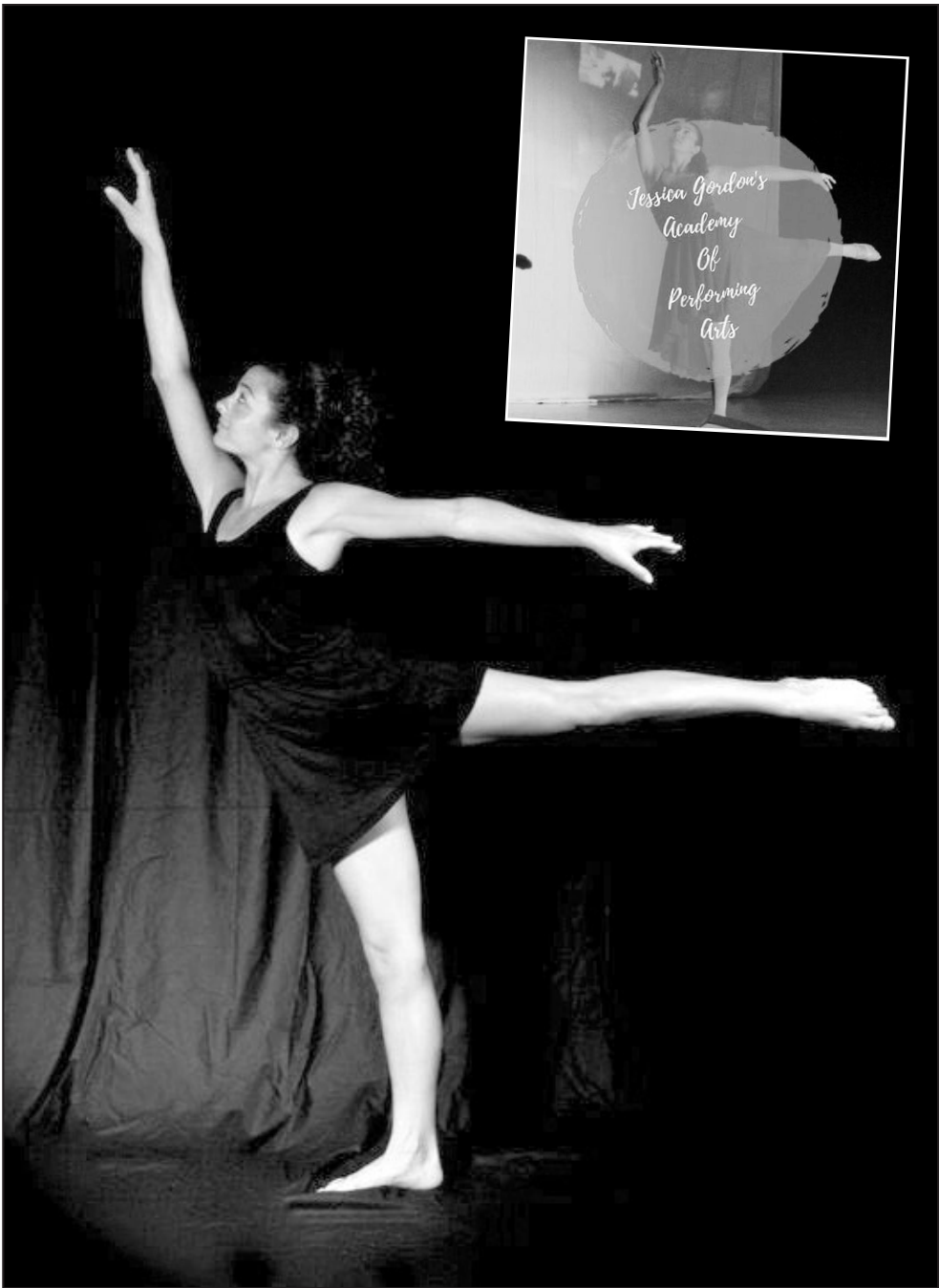
The Academy also recently won the Choreography Award at the StarPower Dance Competition

Schettino’s dancers have also found a level of success after training at the academy with two students going on to dance professionally at Disney World in Orlando and one student that recently competed in a national beauty pageant.

Throughout her career, Schettino has never forgotten her roots in East Boston, Revere and Winthrop and she and her dancers are a constant presence at community-wide events.

The academy’s dancers perform yearly at Eastie Pride Day, Eastie’s Elves and the East Boston Columbus Day Parade as well as the Winthrop Fall Festival, the I Love Winthrop Festival and the annual Winthrop Christmas Tree Lighting.

She has also choreographed numerous musicals for Lynnfield Middle School and Lynnfield Community Schools.



Jessica Gordon providing dance education for beginner through advanced dancers for 10 years.



*Congratulations
to 10 Years of
Jessica Gordon Academy
of Performing Arts!*



EBNHC LAUNCHED THE LET’S GET MOVIN’ AT HOME CHALLENGE WITH ACTIVITY BAG DISTRIBUTION

With in-person programming on hiatus since March, the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center’s Let’s Get Movin’ team has turned to virtual engagement to continue its mission of empowering youth and families to live healthy lifestyles.

Realizing that physical activity is more challenging than ever due to the disruptions of COVID-19, but also increasingly important to our physical and mental health while we continue to practice social distancing and stay at home the Let’s Get Movin’ team came up with something creative.

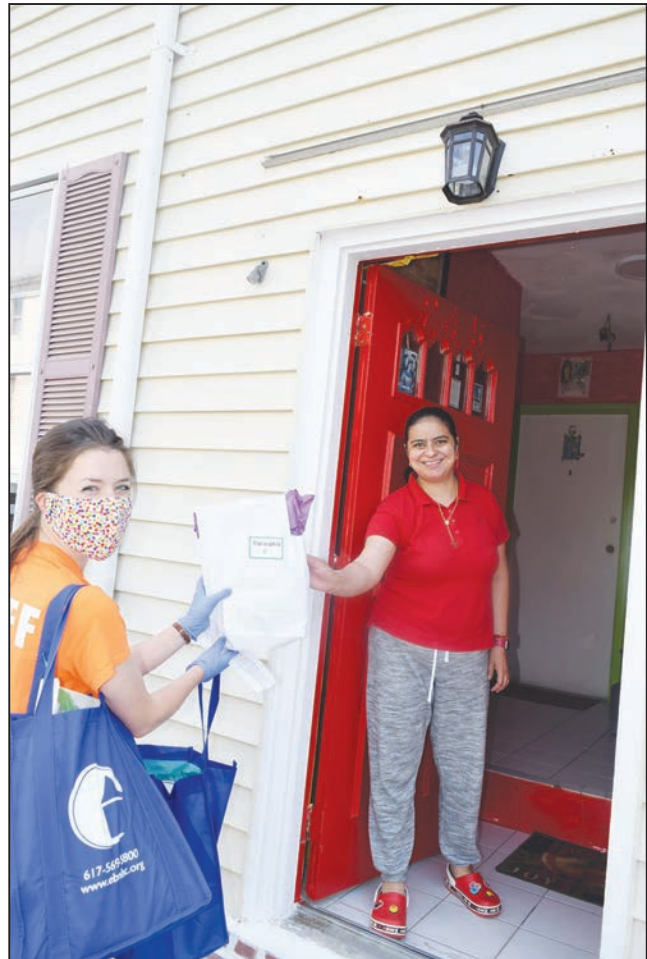
In efforts to support and engage its participants, EBNHC launched the Let’s Get Movin’ At Home Challenge, in which exercise and nutrition activities are posted daily on Instagram

and Facebook for youth to complete at home.

After the announcement that schools would not re-open before summer, Let’s Get Movin’ coaches wanted to provide participants with exercise materials, as well as bring some fun and positivity to the families they work with during these difficult times.

The At Home Activity Bags contain an assortment of physical activity materials, like jump ropes, Frisbees, and resistance bands, along with some fun additions like beach balls, balloons, youth cooking magazines, and coloring books.

Last week, Let’s Get Movin’ coaches assembled and delivered the bags by car and by foot to 80 families across East Boston, Everett, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, and Lynn.



The bags were distributed to 80 families across East Boston, Everett, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop, and Lynn.



EBNHC Let’s Get Movin’ staff launched the Let’s Get Movin’ At Home Challenge, in which exercise and nutrition activities are posted daily on Instagram and Facebook for youth to complete at home.



EBNHC Let’s Get Movin’ team was out in full force last week handing out At Home Activity Bags.



An Eastie resident received one of the healthy goody bags last week.



EBNHC Let’s Get Movin’ team works diligently getting the At Home Challenge Activity Bags ready for distribution.



EBNHC Let’s Get Movin’ team loads up the car with the activity bags ready for distribution.



Let’s Get Movin’ coaches wanted to provide participants with exercise materials, as well as bring some fun and positivity to the families they work with during these difficult times.

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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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The activity bags were assembled at the former Meridian Street Library.

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You are true heroes.
Thank you

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DCR re-opens parking at Constitution Beach last Thursday after a flurry of complaints from neighbors

By John Lynds

Thurston Street resident Jim Rowan walked out of his home last week to run an errand only to find a car had illegally parked and blocked his driveway. Since Constitution Beach was closed to parking since April due to the COVID-19 pandemic the perpetrator decided it would be okay to park his in front of Rowan’s driveway.

Afterall, he and his kids were only going to go down the beach for a few hours so what harm could it cause?

Since the weather has warmed Constitution Beach has become an oasis for those that have been stuck in their homes in isolation during the height COVID-19 pandemic.

However, with the beach’s parking lot closed beachgoers had resorted to flooding the surrounding residential streets and the problem of illegal parking got a little out of hand.

Residents like Rowan, John Fanning and Dave Dillon reported that cars would start coming early in the morning, park in fire lanes, block hydrants, park in front of driveways and head to the beach for the day.

“It was getting out of hand,” said Dillon. “Something had to be done or it’s going to be a long summer.”

Residents on Thurston, as well as residents on the other side of Constitution Beach living on Coleridge, Byron and Cowper Streets all flooded Rep. Adrian Madaro’s office with angry phone calls--demanding the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) reopen the beach to parking.

“I heard the resident loud and clear and worked all last week pressuring DCR to reopen the beach’s parking lot,” said Madaro. “When they closed parking

at all DCR beaches from Nahant to Nantasket I was concerned once the warmer weather came it would be a problem here.”

Madaro explained that the blanketed policy by DCR to close beach parking at all DCR run beaches in order to promote social distancing and cut down on large crowds congregating at the beach did not sit well with him.

“We are an urban beach surrounded by a residential neighborhood,” said Madaro. “We are not like Nahant or some beaches on the South Shore. When the parking lot is closed at Constitution Beach beachgoers are simply going to seek parking on residential side streets. For the past two weeks this has caused a headache for many residents living around the beach.”

After a few days of negotiations with the DCR Madaro was finally able to get them to reopen the beach parking lot last Thursday.

“They heard from me, they heard from my constituents and they recognized it was becoming an unmanageable problem around Constitution Beach,” said Madaro. “The police and Boston Transportation Department don’t have the resources to police parking all day on the residential side streets surrounding the beach. I thought it was unfair to tax the police and BTD resources as the problem of illegal parking was growing when the easiest solution was to just reopen the parking lot.”

As for the original intent of promoting social distancing Madaro said closing the beach in April was a necessary step during the COVID-19 surge in April.

“We were getting reports of large crowds gathering, sports being played at the height of the surge,” said Madaro. “That is why the

state decided to close parking at state beaches. However, as the state begins to reopen and with the weather warming we really had to re-examine this policy. With or without the parking lot open it seems the same amount of people were heading out and enjoying our neighborhood beach on warm days. The only difference is it was to the detriment of residents living near the beach that had to deal with the overflow of beach parking and illegal parking.”

In a statement the DCR the agency said as of Monday, May 25, 2020, visitors of state coastal beach reservations are now able to engage in transitory and non-transitory/non-contact activities, including swimming and sunbathing, but must adhere to social distancing guidelines.

The agency asks that all park visitors be respectful of local parking rules, posted signage, and other policies to ensure a fun, and safe experience.

These include;

- Parking lots, people entering the beach, or other factors should be managed, if necessary, to limit beach capacity to accommodate adequate social distancing based on an assessment by the beach manager;
- Beach visitors are required to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet or more at all times and visitors should maintain at least 12 ft minimum distance between towelings/beach blanket areas;
- Organized ball games should not be allowed activities, including, but not limited to, volleyball, Kan Jam, spikeball, football, soccer, Kadima, and bocce; and,
- A minimum distance of 6 feet should be maintained between lifeguards, the public and lifeguard stands except in the case of an emergency.



DCR finally reopened the the parking lot at Constitution Beach last Thursday,



Barnes Avenue leading to Constitution Beach had been jammed with illegally parked cars while the beach’s parking lot was closed.



Thurston Street resident Jim Rowan explains to a Boston Police officer how a beachgoer simply parked in front of his driveway and headed down to Constitution Beach.

Davis //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

help his company develop a plan that satisfies community priorities to the greatest extent possible before filing initial plans with the city.

Davis said this is a different approach than the usual community process that is historically triggered after plans are filed with the city.

Davis said he is starting the community process a month and a half early in order to begin engaging the community in English and Spanish. The company will also work to accommodate other foreign language speakers to gather as much information and feedback as possible.

In addition to phone calls with community members and virtual zoom meetings

with local stakeholders, The Davis Companies has drafted and distributed a survey to collect feedback from the community, available in both English and Spanish.

The company also plans to advertise in print and digital formats to increase awareness of the survey and is planning a Webinar and Teletown Hall to engage local residents, business owners, and anyone who has an interest in East Boston development.

“The Davis Companies believes engaging with the East Boston community at this juncture is critical to ensure we are meeting the needs of the community,” said Davis. “So far we have

heard a good deal about the neighborhood’s desire to minimize congestion, add to the neighborhood’s housing stock, enhance open space and contribute to a walkable and connected East Boston. We look forward to learning more. We encourage every resident, property

owner, business owner, regular volunteer or employee that works within the East Boston geographic boundary, to take a few minutes to fill out the survey. We look forward to sharing the results of the survey and incorporating your priorities into our plan.”

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

COUNCIL SETS ASIDE MONEY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

CHELSEA - The Chelsea City Council has taken another step in helping the City recover from COVID-19 by approving more than \$1 million to help small businesses recover from the extended closures and crippling business losses.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino proposed the expenditure after it was recommended by a Council Task Force that had been appointed by Council President Roy Avellaneda in April.

"We'll start working on the program now in the next couple of weeks," said Ambrosino.

Avellaneda said the Council did make an amendment, as it was suggested there would be a \$250,000 administrative portion, leaving \$900,000 left for loans. However, the Council didn't agree to that and asked that the administration fee be kept to \$150,000. That left \$1 million for loans. Half of that will be reserved for the Restaurant Recovery Program and the other half will be for a Small Business Relief Program.

"This is the third financial step the City and City Council has taken to relieve the impact of COVID-19 in our community," he said. "Obviously, the food relief was first and then we moved to shelter with our rental assistance lottery and now we want to concentrate on small business. I want businesses to understand we had to focus on other things first, but I want them to understand we care about them."

"We want to fill in the gaps with this for businesses that didn't get the federal loans or didn't qualify for them," he continued.

Two City Councillors have been tapped to join City departments on the evaluation committee, and they include Councillor Judith Garcia and Councillor Naomi Zabot.

Garcia said she was excited to participate in the evaluation team and on the Council Task Force earlier in the process, particularly because she represents most of the downtown area.

"Small businesses have been vital in our economic

growth as a city and this pandemic should not put them out of business," she said. "This program will be a lifeline for many. I heard from a local barbershop owner that he has spent his life savings these past three months as he was forced to remain closed due to Covid-19. Another business owner informed me her rent increased by \$200 as of last month. That's why I have been very involved in this process of offering up to \$20,000 in grants to local businesses. I want to abstain from referring to this monetary assistance as a loan because our goal is for this program to pick up where the CARES Act failed."

"Our small business owners cannot afford to take up any more debt with strings attached," she continued.

The goal is to offer grant money that business owners do not have to worry about paying back, she said.

"I am personally advocating for an easy and streamlined application process that comes with no strings attached aside from seeing our businesses thrive and remain here," she said.

Councillor Todd Taylor, a business owner himself, was one of the first Council voices to begin talking about how small businesses in Chelsea were going to be able to weather this storm. He was on the Task Force appointed by Avellaneda and helped to design some of the program.

"This program is just as important as our food or rent assistance program," he said. "The businesses in Chelsea, especially the ones in the hospitality sector, are having a hard time surviving because they have been closed for months while they still have rent and insurance bills to pay. And our restaurants are especially vulnerable because the Federal programs are not designed for them."

He said the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) required restaurants to spend 75 percent on payroll, but that was impossible without customers. And after opening in Phase 2, they can only be at 25 percent capacity.

"The most important part of this program must include rent negotiation with landlords much the same as we did with the rent assistance program," he said. "In order to try to

avoid economic disaster, we not only have to have programs like this in Chelsea, we must put pressure on our federal representatives to have additional monies directed toward our hospitality businesses who have largely been left out of relief efforts. People have dedicated their whole lives to their businesses and having been forcibly shut down by the state, I think the state has the responsibility to help these businesses get back to normal as soon as possible."

The program is being paid out of the City's Free Cash funds, and more information will be coming soon about applications and how it will work.

CITY HALL RE-OPENS

CHELSEA - Were anyone to assert last February that City Hall being open for business was a milestone worthy of the shedding of a few tears, it would have been more than puzzling – if not laughable.

But the cruel tool to fate has made it just that, as City officials opened City Hall for limited operations on Monday and it was an emotional, and happy, milestone for a City that has suffered tremendously with massive levels of COVID-19 infections and long lines of hungry residents no longer able to provide food for their families.

So, City Hall opening was a semblance of order and return to what might be better times.

"We're excited," said Mike Sandoval of the DPW, who had the pleasure of opening the door to residents for the first time since mid-March. "We want it to become normal because people need to get back. We know there will need to be time to adapt, but we're here to help and happy this city is coming back."

Fidel Maltez, DPW director, said he and his staff and members of the administration worked to figure out the best way to re-open the seat of City business. They have limited walk-ins to the City Clerk's office and the Treasurer's Office to pay bills – and staff members are outside to help residents figure out if they have all they need so they don't congregate inside needlessly.

Other departments can be access with appointments only, calling 3-1-1 (which is 617.466.4209 outside of Chelsea) to schedule those times.

There is one entrance – on Washington Avenue near the lot – and one exit

CHS CELEBRATE THE CLASS OF 2020



Chelsea High Senior Leslie Carretto shows off the Senior Sign delivered to her last week as part of the Senior Week activities that took place leading up to what would have been graduation ceremonies this month. With an in-person graduation now not possible, school and City officials celebrate seniors with a number of tributes and gifts. A virtual graduation will take place in July, and an individual walk-in graduation will take place in August.

– on the Broadway side. Inside they have stickers for people to stand on in line to keep them at the right distance. Cleaning crews move through rapidly all the time, with custodial staff on duty. Surfaces are wiped down after every customer comes to a window, and the Treasurer's Office has been built out with new walls and a window screen.

"It feels good to be open," said Maltez. "People have been excited to be able to come in and pay their tax bills, get parking stickers and to pay excise taxes. Chelsea has a large population of cash-only businesses and online payment isn't an option for them."

The Hall is open Monday to Friday with limited hours – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. It will be open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, and 9 a.m. to noon on Friday.

At the Clerk's Office, Hector Velez was taking customers at his window and preparing for the new normal – which includes wiping and sanitizing all

surfaces after each customer visit.

"It feels good to be back working in person with people," he said. "I'm glad we're doing all these things to make sure we can help stop the spread."

Outside, greeting residents, was Yareli Arenas. Residents were filling out forms to indicate what they wanted to do inside. She said it felt good to be able to help people again face-to-face.

"I'm excited it's come to the time when we can welcome people back," she said. "People have been inside for a while now and they are starting to go out again."

City Manager Tom Ambrosino said he was admittedly nervous about opening City Hall. Not many City Halls have opened yet – including Everett and Revere – and Chelsea was a hot spot for some time. Brining people back inside made him nervous.

But by Wednesday, it was going very well.

"I think it has gone well and probably better than we thought it would," he said. "There are a lot of unbanked people in our community and we needed to accommodate them so they could pay by cash. That required City Hall to be open and the deadline for these bills by law is June 29. We didn't want penalties for them. This was also some symbolic point to it as well that was a positive one."

SENIOR CITIZEN BUILDINGS HAVE LITTLE TO NO COVID-19

EVERETT - Results from major COVID-19 testing initiatives at senior citizen buildings in Everett have shown virtually no cases in those buildings – with only a small amount of cases reported at the 66 Main St. building.

In the past two weeks, major testing efforts with mobile units have taken place at 66 Main St., Glendale Towers, Whittier Drive and Golden Age Circle – all of which are senior citizen buildings. While more testing is still needed there of more residents, Public Health Nurse Sabrina Fir-

icano said the results were stunning.

She said 66 Main St. had two positive cases reported, and the three Everett Housing Authority (EHA) senior locations had no cases out of about 70 people tested.

"Cases that came out of that were very, very low, which was shocking to me," she said. "Not everyone was tested because you have to sign up. But we did not have any cases for the testing at the three EHA buildings. That was amazing and shocking to me."

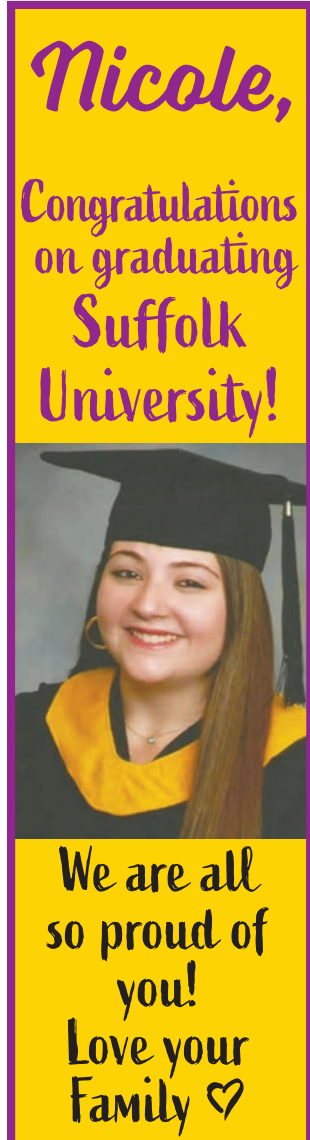
The only cases that came out of the testing were the two at 66 Main St.

"You would think it would be a lot higher and I previously thought it would be a little higher," she said. "I thought there could have been a lot of asymptomatic individuals that would test positive. I was shocked."

Those results parallel the findings at senior citizen buildings in Chelsea too, where mobile testing was done in late April and early May – with results coming back very, very low. In that testing, out of 384 tests in senior buildings, there were only 11 confirmed cases. That also shocked City leaders there as they expected the buildings to be a hotbed for activity.

Both testing efforts were championed by Sen. Sal DiDomenico, who said he has been in close contact with Gov. Charlie Baker and Health Secretary Marylou Sudders regarding more testing resources for senior buildings in his district – particularly in Everett and Chelsea.

"In talking with Secretary Sudders, we were able to work with Cataldo Ambulance and Cambridge Health Alliance to get test kits for the senior buildings and 66 Main St.," said DiDomenico. "We've tested all our senior buildings in the city. That was done through our office. There was a long-term care facility that was hesitant to participate in testing. I knew there had been at least 20 cases there. We were able to get Secretary Sudders to call them personally and they decided to participate. Now all of the patients and



Region //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

staff there have also been tested.”

Meanwhile, Firicano said they want to do more testing and will return with the mobile units soon, but this time will make sure everyone who wants to be tested has an appointment and registration before the unit arrives.

HOSPITAL TREATING LESS COVID-19 CASES

EVERETT - Over the past several weeks, the Emergency Department – and much of the CHA Everett hospital - has seemed like a facility devoted entirely to the incredibly stressing task of treating COVID-19 patients, but over the last two weeks the hospital has slowly transformed in many ways back to its pre-virus flows.

For Dr. Melisa Lai-Becker, chief of the Emergency Department at CHA Everett, and her staff in the ER, that has been measured in the number of conference calls per day focused on finding space and beds for those who are sick. At the height, that was a conference call that happened three times a day as the health system tried to find places to take care of the surging patient loads.

On Monday, that transitioned to a once-a-day call – which Lai-Becker said was a big example of how things are moving towards pre-COVID

“For these last two and a half months, we have been talking two times a day and sometimes three times a day the director level staff...in order to figure out how to get patients where they should be for care and transfers. As of Monday, we decided we can now take our foot off the gas pedal and not meet two time a day. Now we’ll meet one time a day and see that that goes. It’s big for us and a turning point in terms of how we’ve now configured our work flows.”

The story of CHA Everett looking back is one of getting ready for the pandemic – wondering if it would be as bad as expected, treating what was a horrendous surge of sick people who struggled to get better or died, a flattening of the curve of sickness, and now a return to some normal patterns while also still treating COVID-19 patients.

“Everything put into place in March and early April, it is nice to see as all the big changes operationally have made a difference because we can let the system handle the flow, especially since having a lull now the volumes are climbing back up quite nicely, but with a medium level of mix,” she said. Now it seems like it’s a more even mixture of patients.”

One clear example of that was a patient who came in last weekend with pneumonia – a nearly 100 percent sign of COVID-19 over the past two months. Lai-Becker said they did all the testing and were perplexed as to why there was no COVID showing up. After some further testing, they realized it was just standard pneumonia and not related to COVID.

“We were like, ‘Wow, it’s just regular pneumonia,’” she said. “So welcome back to just plain old community-acquired pneumonia.”

The hospital has closed down some of the specialty spaces created on the fly for COVID-19 over the past several weeks, and they are looking at returning to elective, but necessary, surgeries. They are also bringing back routine tests like colonoscopies.

“The hospital operations are slowly re-opening,” she said. “As of Monday, they were looking at bringing back certain elective scheduled procedures. We want to keep up with the elective surgeries – maybe they can

be done later, but need to be done. It’s also colonoscopies and mammography. These are important and it’s been three months without doing them now. These are having a very slow start-up.”

Likewise, the respiratory clinic has been full-speed for so long now, but they are beginning to add outpatient hours.

At the same time, they are planning on how to return some of the clinical departments. That comes with a lot of planning, she said, about how to handle such visits with providers and how to handle the waiting rooms.

“It’s now a slow unwinding of these processes to see if any outpatient sites can re-open and how does it change the setup,” she said. “It’s similar to what dental offices in the Commonwealth are facing. Everyone wants to eliminate the waiting rooms. That’s going to take careful planning.”

One thing that they are also seeing as they re-open so many things are the new innovations done on the fly for COVID-19 that they hope to keep as part of traditional medical treatments.

Tele-medicine visits have become the norm, and there are a lot of patients that Lai-Becker said will likely continue with those appointments on a screen – particularly as many in the older adult population in large part has become adept at using Zoom and other face-to-face platforms online.

Many chronically ill patients have found the visits to be better for them, as it can be strenuous to get a ride to the hospital for an appointment that can be done over a screen.

Likewise, CHA Everett has rolled out over the last week a new program called MobileHome in association with Cataldo Ambulance. That is a program they have dreamed of and worked on for a long time, she said. With the pandemic, they were able to roll it out fast. That program allows EMTs at Cataldo to do more advanced visits while in connection online with a physician. They can do more than a visiting nurse and can gauge whether a patient needs to be brought into the hospital or not. Using tele-medicine check-ups, and then MobileHome, many unnecessary trips to the hospital can be avoided to make patients more comfortable and medical delivery more efficient. The crux has always been about who was going to pay for it and how would they pay for it, Lai Becker said.

That year’s-long battle was resolved in a matter of weeks.

“I think people will recognize a lot of operational challenges in having these programs with tele-health and para-medicine...were hampered by who was going to pay for it,” she said. “Remarkably, the tele-health visits can be paid. Apparently it is possible to have them both paid for now. That is the opportunity of this crisis. I think they are an enormous positive and they will stay even after...we see so many other things settle out. They are positive changes.”

•TYLENOL ANTI-DOTE NOW GOES TO TRIAL

One of the innovations at CHA Everett during the COVID-19 crisis was using the antidote for Tylenol poisoning to treat patients with several sickness related to COVID-19. It particularly helped the immune response in the lungs, and now CHA Everett is going to be moving that treatment to a clinical trial to see if it is an effective treatment for the virus.

They will be going to trial with Clintrials.gov.

“We’re happy that CHA-wide our respiratory clinic is starting to prescribe it in the same manner as the Emergency Department

has,” she said. “We will embark on the randomized trial of patients and then share the results. It seem to help...It would be great because it is off-patent, doesn’t cost much and has been around more than 50 years...It’s not very sexy for that reason, but if it works, great.”

She said they would need three months at a minimum, but likely six months to get enough treatment information. Already, they have some information in using the treatment over the last two months, but need more solid study.”

•LARGE GATHERINGS A CONCERN

As the weather lightens up and gatherings seem to increase – in addition to the large-scale protests that have happened in Boston – Dr. Lai-Becker said those in the hospital have had a concern.

That also goes for the gradual re-opening of businesses and services.

“It is a concern and it’s something in the hospital we’ve been paying attention to over the last week,” she said.

She said they will watch over the next two or three weeks to see if new cases arise, and if they can be traced to large gatherings like the protests. She said being that they were outside, there could be some saving grace in that.

QUARANTINE HOTEL CLOSES FOR PATIENTS

REVERE - Revere Fire Capt. Robert Fortuna, the city’s liaison for the Quality Inn Quarantine Hotel for COVID-19 patients, has announce that the hotel closed on June 10 at which point the facility will be returned to hotel management.

The last patient must either be medically released or transferred to the EnVision Hotel, a state-run facility for COVID-19 isolation in Everett.

The hotel partnership agreement developed between Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo and Chelsea City Manager Thomas Ambrosino will also end on June 10, according to Fortuna.

Fortuna said that Adrienne Maguire, RN, and a Revere school nurse, “was charged with the challenging task of vetting, qualifying and referring Revere people to be patients at the Quality Inn.

“Adrienne told me that initially there was some hesitancy by family members to stay at the facility,” related Fortuna. “But once there, noting the level of MGH staff and care on site, combined with not having to worry about meals, their comfort level overwhelmingly changed.”

Fortuna said that most importantly the underlying premise and motivation for opening a quarantine site locally was realized and deemed a success by the medical community.

“Patients at the Quality Inn were able to avoid passing the disease to family members, their young children, and those living with them who were immune compromised,” said Fortuna. “The plan most certainly helped to control the spread of the virus for these families.”

During the course of the hotel being used for COVID-19 patients, Revere referred 32 people to the Quality Inn, while 147 patients from all cities found refuge and isolation there.

Fortuna, who is also the director of emergency management and planning, said that emergency management preparation is the key to mitigating a situation before it has overwhelmed your ability to react and control it.

“The facility at the Quality Inn was a bold step in addressing the growing number of COVID-19 positive cases and one of the many taken toward the success of limiting the spread of the virus,” said Fortuna.

REVERE YOUTH STAND WITH BLM

REVERE - With the ongoing Black Lives Matter demonstrations taking place nationwide, young Revere residents have begun vocalizing a demand for public figures, community members, and city officials to address the crisis. Collectively, they have released a sign-on letter, calling attention to racial injustice and demanding action be taken locally.

“Black Lives Matter (BLM) is a movement that fights for the injustice of my people,” says Seba Ismail, a Revere High School alum and member of the class of 2019. “To me, it is action. It is equality. It is a voice against white silence.”

Led by a different member of the class of 2019, Somaya Laroussi, youth of all ages and backgrounds managed to connect virtually to express their concerns to one another and translate their feelings into words and actions.

“Acknowledging social injustices is not political, which too often is forgotten,” clarifies Soleil Yuong, a current RHS student aged 17. “ Asking community leaders to speak out about the current situation often gets confused with pushing an agenda on them. If you claim you support minority groups in the past, that should hold true, now,

more than ever.”

An estimated 69% of enrolled Revere Public School (RPS) students are of color (and identify as members of ethnic minority groups).

But, both current and previous Revere High students feel that the ethnic diversity is often exploited.

Stephanie Carvalho, RHS class of 2019, explains that, “it seems to me that Revere High loves to tout its diversity when they get awards or grant money out of it, but when it comes to acknowledging the trauma that affects that diversity ... they’re resilient.”

Faith Nwafor, RHS class of 2021, echoes her sentiments in explaining that in her seventeen years living in Revere, it’s already hard enough as it is, but feeling like there’s no one to represent people of color in our community is disheartening.”

“There is a clear and apparent disconnect between the people and authority in our community and that needs to be addressed now,” proclaims Somaya Laroussi, local community organizer and RHS alum.

She goes on to explain that “continued indifference by people responsible for protecting Revere youth will only make us more unsafe.”

Laroussi is the primary organizer of this project and has led a number of social justice campaigns on behalf of Revere youth for years. The group of youth promoting this are not affiliated by any organization in particular and hope to simply ensure the safety and protection of their commu-

nity members. This sign-on letter project is also not affiliated in any way with the now-cancelled peaceful demonstration that was meant to take place June 5 in Revere. The timing of the two projects was coincidental.

The letter urges local leaders to immediately take steps to address the ongoing crisis, including:

- Urge your constituents not to affiliate with other racist platforms, organizations, and public figures that have attempted to profit off of the ongoing struggles of Revere youth.

- Commit to working to dedicate spaces for youth, especially Black Revere youth, to vocalize their feelings and organize. Commit time to listening to youth voices at these spaces.

- Continue to support upcoming initiatives that Revere youth of color will be pushing for in the coming weeks.

- The sentiments going out to the Black community on behalf of the youth are summarized by Minnah Sheikh, RHS class of 2021, as she explains, “As allies of the Black community, it is our responsibility to continue to elevate the voices of those who have been silenced with years of systemic racial injustice. To our Black peers, you are heard and you are valued. You matter.”

The letter has just been released and submitted to local public officials including city council members, school committee members, Superintendent Dr. Diane Kelly, Mayor Brian Arrigo. As of this press release, the sign-on letter has 622 signatures.


FATHER'S DAY IS JUNE 21!
SURPRISE DAD THIS YEAR WITH
A MEMORY YOU SHARED!
SEND US YOUR
FAVORITE PHOTO OF
YOU & YOUR DAD

PLEASE EMAIL PHOTOS TO PROMO@REVEREJOURNAL.COM
SUBMISSIONS WILL BE PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17.
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT IS MONDAY, JUNE 15.

OBITUARIES

Elvan Wayne Johnson

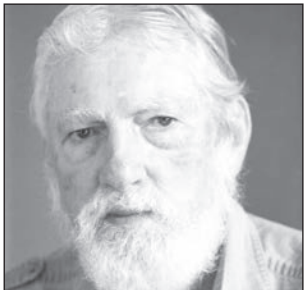
Department of Veterans Affairs retiree

 Elvan Wayne Johnson, born July 30, 1938 passed away unexpectedly June 4, 2020.

A native of Perry, Florida, Mr. Johnson was a Vietnam era veteran and served in the United States Navy for 14 years. After his military service, he resided in Boston where he worked at the Massachusetts State Police as a dispatcher. He then went on to work for Citicorp Group and ultimately retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs in Boston Massachusetts.

He and his wife moved to his home state of Florida for retirement where he resided until his passing.

Mr. Johnson is survived by his wife of 51 years, Rebecca Johnson, his daughter Desiree Johnson of Las Cruces, NM, his son, Juan Jose Johnson and his wife, Lisa of Batesville, Arkansas, daughter Mary Carmen Dodero of Spain, Eu-



gene Rector of Lowell and he was predeceased by his late sons, Anthony Wayne Johnson and Nicholas Metrick. He also leaves his grandchildren Alexander McCusker, Maggie Mombourquette and Micheal Ash. He was the brother of Donnie Johnson and Dora Jane Miller of Perry, Florida, Dolores Guidry of Lafayette, LA, Marie Gordon Martell of Georgia and the late Thomas Johnson of Tallahassee and Betty Jo Hughes of Florida. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews and his dear companion, his dog Kitty.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, June 12 at Tallahassee National Cemetery.

Stephen Cuzzi

Server at Tavern in the Square in Boston.

Stephen Cuzzi, born and raised in East Boston, passed away suddenly on May 10. at the age of 27.

Stephen worked as a server at Tavern in the Square in Boston.

He leaves behind his loving mother, Lynn Cuzzi, father, Joseph Laurenza, grandparents, Anne and Richard Cuzzi of Revere, uncle, Stephen Cuzzi of Rhode Island, great grandmother, Albina Indorato and Godmother Jennifer Nofle. His great-grandparents were Isabella and Luigi Cuzzi of East Boston and the late Joe Indorato. He is also survived by many loving great aunts, uncles, cousins and friends!!

Stephen's service was held at Boston Cremation in Malden on Tuesday, May 26. Due to COVID-19, his viewing was held by immediate family and close friends in a private service. A celebration of Stephen's life will be held at a later date.



Stephen made a lasting impression on everyone he came in contact with. Stephen is part of the LGBT community!! I'm sure he is dancing like a Queen..... cheering the angels on.... His presence will surely be missed!! Thank you to all who donated to his GoFundMe page on Facebook and all the lovely cards and flowers that were sent to help Stephen be laid to finally rest!! Love you ALL!!!

--

George Tirro

Decorated veteran, served with the US Army 30th Infantry WW II D-Day Normandy Landing



George Tirro of Revere passed away on June 8 at the age of 101.

George proudly served his country in the United States Army in the 30th Infantry that landed in Normandy and advanced into France during WWII. He received the Purple Heart, American Defense Service Medal, European African Middle Eastern campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal, 3 Bronze Service Stars, American Campaign Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. George was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the N.E. chapter of the 30th Infantry Division.

Born in Revere on June 5, 1919 to the late Frank and Anna (Tampano), he was the beloved husband of 57 years to the late Mary (Fala); devoted father of Ann Marie Costa-Ferullo and her husband, Ronald of Revere and Rosalie Hobbs and her late husband, William of Swampscott; dear brother of the late Ralph and Angelo Tirro; cherished grandfather of Rachel Simone and her husband, James Chilton of Hollis NH, William Hobbs II of



Swampscott and Marisa Hobbs of Arlington; adored great grandfather of Isabella Simone of Hollis, NH. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the Chelsea Soldiers Home for the compassion and exceptional care they gave to George during his time there.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Anthony's Church, 250 Revere St, Revere on Thursday, June 11 at 10 a.m. Private Interment. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project, 4899 Belfort Rd, Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256 or to a charity of one's choice. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com

Leonard 'Lenny' Viera

Former owner of Sabanty's Laundromat in Revere and McGee's Liquors in Winthrop

Leonard "Lenny" A. Viera, 79, a 32-year resident of Saugus, formerly of East Boston, died at the Melrose-Wakefield Hospital on Thursday, May 28.

The loving husband of Andrea (Daly) Viera with whom he shared 59 years of marriage, Mr. Viera was born and raised in East Boston, the son of the late Arthur and Elvira (DeSanctis) Viera.

Leonard was the former owner of Sabanty's Laundromat in Revere and McGee's Liquor's in Winthrop. He later worked for North Shore Community College.

In addition to his wife,

Mr. Viera is survived by his son, Jack Viera of Quincy; four grandchildren, Joseph, Talia, Rachel and Anthony; one great grandchild, Grayson; one brother, Lawrence Viera and one sister, Judy Viera.

Due to the regulations of the state and the CDC guidelines, a private Funeral Mass was celebrated at Blessed Sacrament Church, 14 Summer St., Saugus. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital @ stjude.org. For condolences please visit www.Bisbee-Porcella.com.

Geraldine Sacco

Graduate of RHS, Class of 1979

Geraldine "Geri" Sacco of Chelsea, formerly of Revere, passed away unexpectedly on June 5 at the age of 58.

Geri graduated with honors from Revere High School, Class of 1979. She attended Northeastern University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

Born in Revere on Dec. 22, 1961 to Rose (D'Ambrosio) Sacco and the late Nicola Sacco., she was the devoted mother of Thomas Faigle of Virginia, dear sister of Lois Sacco and her husband, Joseph L. Pedoto



of Saugus and cherished aunt of Joseph Pedoto II.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Anthony's Church, Revere on Tuesday, June 9. Entombment was in Holy Cross Mausoleum. For guest book, please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

Loretta Lee Pelosi

Worked at Orient Heights Taxi, East Boston and Winthrop Taxi and Suffolk Downs

Loretta Lee Pelosi, 67, a life time resident of East Boston, passed away peacefully due to complications of Covid 19 on June 3.

She was born December 23, 1952 to the late Francis Lester Fitzgerald and Blanche Edith (Phillips) Fitzgerald, formerly of East Boston.

She worked for many years at Orient Heights Taxi, East Boston and Winthrop Taxi, and had many great friends there. She was a dedicated and longtime employee of Suffolk Downs Racetrack, East Boston.

She graduated from Winthrop High School in 1970, married Paul Pelosi and continued to call "Eastie" her home.

Loretta leaves behind her husband, Paul, her beloved daughter, Bridgett Pelosi and her partner, Nick Araujo, her brother and sister-in-law, Gerald P, and Sharon K Fitzgerald of Plano, Texas and her loving sister and brother-in-law, Kathleen and Bob Jameson of Boxford. She was preceded in death by her brother and sister-in-law, Lester Francis and Marlene Fitzgerald of San Diego, California. She



also leaves her life-time dearest friend, Donna Kavjian.

She so loved her many nieces and nephews: Jennifer and Jeff Rathkamp, Kristen and Joseph Malcolm, Shannon and Kenneth Groppi, Lauren Fitzgerald of San Francisco, and Julie Beall of Dallas, Texas. She adored her grand nieces and nephews: Olivia Webb, Ryan Malcolm, Ethan Malcolm, Tatum Webb, Teagan Webb, Benjamin Rathkamp and Kate Rathkamp.

May you rest in peace sweetheart, you will be missed.

Loretta's family will have services at a future date. To send messages of condolence to the family, please go to her Tribute Page at MagrathFuneral-Home.com.

MVES seeks volunteers for new social engagement program

Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) is seeking volunteers for its new Social Engagement Program to help improve the health and well-being of isolated older adults in the community by providing meaningful social connection—whether it be through regular visits, telephone calls, or email.

The Social Engagement Program will provide focused intervention on the poor health and wellness outcomes linked to loneliness and social isolation, a problem that is impacting older adults in epidemic proportions, especially during the coronavirus pandemic. With the recruitment and training of volunteers, this new service will become a reality in the lives of many isolated older adults in MVES' communities that will continue after the pandemic subsides. Bilingual volunteers are also needed to help us serve individuals of ethnic diversity

As part of the program, volunteers will be paired up with consumers who are participants in MVES' home care program. Vol-

unteers will connect with participants in a variety of ways that meet the needs of the consumer and the volunteer. Connection options will include: a Telephone Reassurance Program, where a volunteer calls the isolated individual and provides a social contact and friendly conversation; an Email Correspondence, for online engagement with others via technology; and a Friendly Visitor Program*, in which the consumer receives home visits that focus on in-person socialization and companionship.

You can make a difference as a Social Engagement Program volunteer and play an important role to combat the effects of social isolation for isolated older adults in your community. If you would like to learn more about volunteering for the MVES Social Engagement Program, please contact Leah Mulrenan at (781) 388-2375 or lmulrenan@mv.es.org.

* The Friendly Visitor Program will begin when determined it is safe to visit consumers in their homes.



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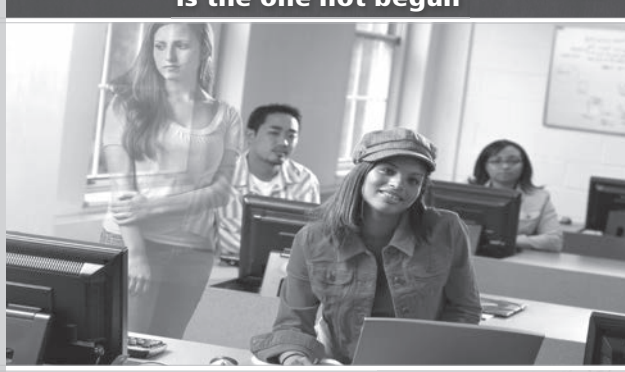
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OBITUARIES

Dennis Michael Arsenault Sr.

Family and friends meant everything to him

Dennis Michael Arsenault, Sr. of Revere passed away surrounded by his loving family on June 4 at the age of 67.

Dennis was a 1971 graduate of Revere High School. He worked at Star Sales and Distributing in Woburn for 41 years where he formed long time friendships with co-workers.

Family and friends meant everything to Dennis and he will truly be missed by all.

Born in Chelsea on May 7, 1953 to the late Edward and Violet (Marotta) Arsenault, he was the beloved husband of Marlene (Franklin) with whom he shared almost 42 years of marriage, devoted father of Erica Arsenault, and Dennis Arsenault Jr. and his wife, Alesandra; cherished



grandfather of Max Arsenault, who he adored.

In accordance with the CDC's current restrictions on gatherings due to Covid-19, all services will be held privately. Interment Woodlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Mass General Cancer Center, 55 Fruit Street, Boston, MA 02114. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

Derek Kovacev

Of Danvers

Derek J. Kovacev of Danvers passed away on Friday, May 29.

The beloved son of Anthony and Kathleen (Riley) Kovacev, he was the cherished husband of Deborah Simonelli-Kovacev, devoted father of David Marks Kovacev, loving step-father of Katrina and Ryan Gigliello, dear brother of Anthony and his wife, Rachel, Carrie and her husband, John, Christen and her husband, Frank, Joy

and Michael. He is also survived by many treasured nieces and nephews.

A memorial service for Derek will be held at a later date. 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 at: www.ruggieromh.com.

Robert Lotti

Hidden Renaissance Man of East Boston



April 29, 2020 marked the passing of a hidden renaissance man of East Boston, Robert Lotti, who died suddenly but peacefully.

By June 5, 1955, Robert Lotti still lived at the home his grandparent's purchased in the 1930's. Bob was an altar boy and lection at Saint Lazarus Church and graduated from St. Dominic Savio High School. He served four years in the Air Force and carried on with his pilot training to become a Captain in the Civil Air Patrol.

On his return to civilian life, he was a laboratory technician and phlebotomist at Winthrop Hospital for many years until the hospital closed. He began a new chapter in his career when he entered the biotech industry where as a scientist he received a commendation from the President of the United States for his contribution to the Human Genome Project.

As a member of the Knights of Columbus, Bob rose to the rank of Grand Knight of Council 2962. He was also active in the East Boston Yacht Club and served as bar manager.

The purchase of his 1997 Pro-Line 231 was one of his happiest times. He additionally pursued many hobbies and interests. Cooking was a great passion. He was a trained sushi chef, and enjoyed developing and sharing recipes of all kinds and trying the latest gadgets and techniques.

He was also a Padi Certified scuba diver, small plane pilot, ham radio operator, internet radio moderator and speaker for various



programs, wedding photographer, minister, angler and fly tyer, and a member of the Boston Computer Society from which time he often tells the story of swapping his Boston Computer Society pants suspenders with Bill Gates (we're still looking for those).

He was also musically gifted and could play the piano, guitar, harmonica and more. Bob had an extraordinary memory for a vast amount of minutiae, and his friends and family will miss having him as a source of knowledge.

He was the beloved son of Rita and the late Americo Lotti, dear brother of Roland Lotti, Paul Lotti and his wife, Lori and Lisa Matarazzo and her husband, Robert. He was also the cherished uncle to Matthew, Daniel, Christopher, Elena, Nicholas and Emily. He will be profoundly missed by numerous cousins and friends.

In accordance with the rules and regulations on congregations and gatherings due to Covid-19, a celebration of Robert's life will be held at a future date. For more information or to leave an online condolence, please visit www.ruggieromh.com or contact the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home during normal business hours at 617-569-0990.

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Eastie COVID-19 Updates

By John Lynds

East Boston still has the highest COVID-19 infection rate in the City of Boston according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission on Friday, but things seem to be settling down a bit.

While more robust testing for the virus in the neighborhood may be the cause of an increase in the neighborhood's infection rate week over week, Eastie still remains a virus hotspot.

However, the previous increase reported a week ago showed a five percent increase in the number of residents infected while the latest data shows only a 2.7 percent increase.

On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID

testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

In one week Eastie's COVID-19 infection rate rose only 2.7 percent from 310.5 cases per 10,000 residents to an infection rate of 318.6 cases per 10,000 residents as of Friday.

As of Friday there were 1,485 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Eastie, up from the 1,457 cases reported by the BPHC the previous week.

Since testing was ramped up in Eastie 5,024 residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 30.9 percent of those tested were COVID positive, down from 32.5 percent reported last week. However, Eastie still leads the city in the percentage of those testing positive for COVID-19 followed by parts of Mattapan, Dorchester and Hyde Park.

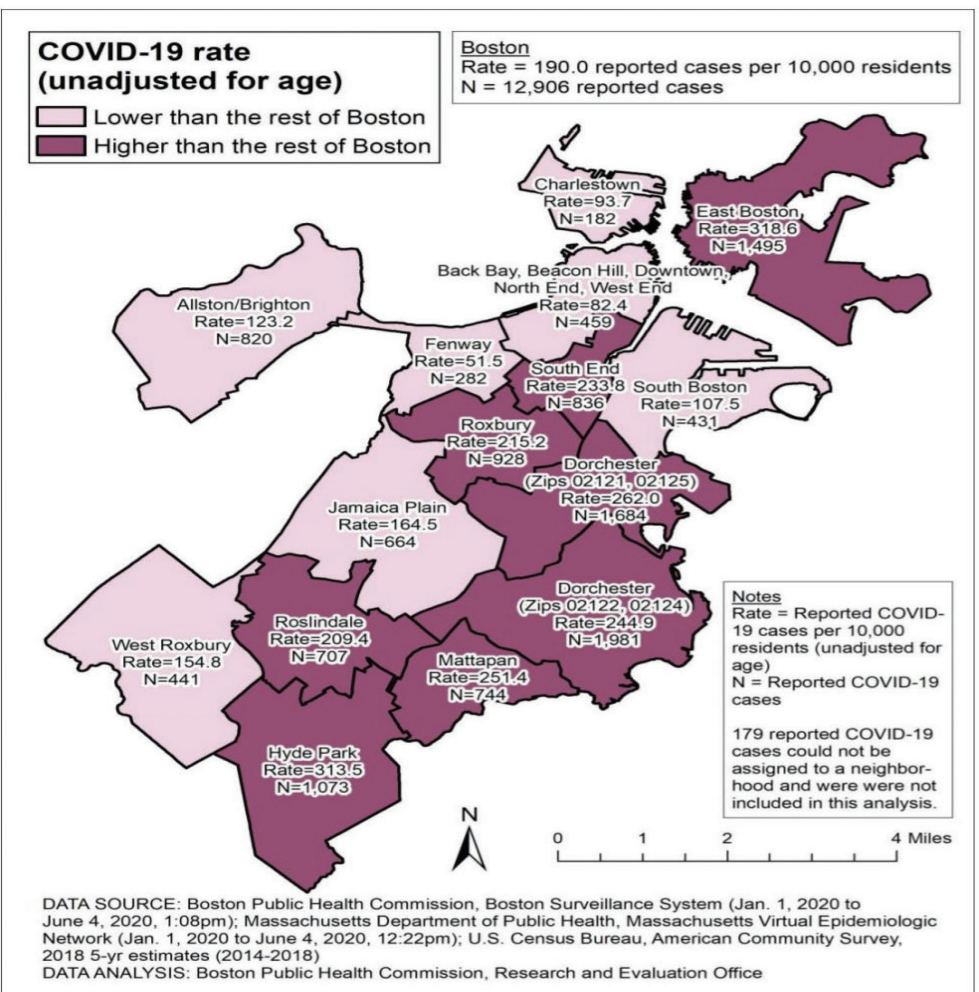
The statistics released

by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID-19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Eastie leads Hyde Park as the neighborhood with the highest infection rate in the city. Hyde Park's infection rate rose only 1.5 percent in a week and was 313.5 cases per 10,000 residents, up from 308.6 cases per 10,000 residents.

Citywide there are 13,026 positive cases of coronavirus, up 1.8 percent from the 12,784 cases reported last week. So far 7,817 of these Boston residents have fully recovered.

Deaths from COVID-19 rose 3.7 percent from 642 deaths to the 666 deaths reported last week.



On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

Joint statement by SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin regarding enactment of the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act

SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin issued the following statement Monday following the enactment of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Flexibility Act:

“We want to thank President Trump for his leadership and commend Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy for working on a bipartisan basis to pass this legislation for small businesses participating in the Paycheck Protection Program.

“We also want to express our gratitude to Chairman Rubio, Ranking Member Cardin, Senator Collins, Congressman Roy, Congressman Phillips, and other members of Con-

gress who have helped to create and guide our implementation of this critical program that has provided over 4.5 million small business loans totaling more than \$500 billion to ensure that approximately 50 million hardworking Americans stay connected to their jobs.

“This bill will provide businesses with more time and flexibility to keep their employees on the payroll and ensure their continued operations as we safely reopen our country.

“We look forward to getting the American people back to work as quickly as possible.”

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

SBA, in consultation with Treasury, will promptly issue rules and guid-

ance, a modified borrower application form, and a modified loan forgiveness application implementing these legislative amendments to the PPP. These modifications will implement the following important changes:

- Extend the covered period for loan forgiveness from eight weeks after the date of loan disbursement to 24 weeks after the date of loan disbursement, providing substantially greater flexibility for borrowers to qualify for loan forgiveness. Borrowers who have already received PPP loans retain the option to use an eight-week covered period.
- Lower the requirements that 75 percent of a borrower's loan proceeds must be used for payroll

costs and that 75 percent of the loan forgiveness amount must have been spent on payroll costs during the 24-week loan forgiveness covered period to 60 percent for each of these requirements. If a borrower uses less than 60 percent of the loan amount for payroll costs during the forgiveness covered period, the borrower will continue to be eligible for partial loan forgiveness, subject to at least 60 percent of the loan forgiveness amount having been used for payroll costs.

- Provide a safe harbor from reductions in loan forgiveness based on reductions in full-time equivalent employees for borrowers that are both unable to re-hire individuals who were employees of the borrower on February 15, 2020, and unable to hire similarly qualified employees for un-

operating at before February 15, 2020, due to compliance with requirements or guidance issued between March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, related to worker or customer safety requirements related to COVID-19.

- Provide a safe harbor from reductions in loan forgiveness based on reductions in full-time equivalent employees, to provide protections for borrowers that are both unable to re-hire individuals who were employees of the borrower on February 15, 2020, and unable to hire similarly qualified employees for un-

filled positions by December 31, 2020.

- Increase to five years the maturity of PPP loans that are approved by SBA (based on the date SBA assigns a loan number) on or after June 5, 2020.
- Extend the deferral period for borrower payments of principal, interest, and fees on PPP loans to the date that SBA remits the borrower's loan forgiveness amount to the lender (or, if the borrower does not apply for loan forgiveness, 10 months after the end of the borrower's loan forgiveness covered period).
- In addition, the new rules will confirm that June 30, 2020, remains the last date on which a PPP loan application can be approved.

New unemployment claims fall by more than 10,000 over the previous week

Massachusetts had 27,034 individuals file an initial claim for standard Unemployment Insurance (UI) from May 24 to May 30, a decrease of 10,584

over the previous week. Since March 15, a total of 924,239 initial claims have been filed for UI. For the same week, there were 575,862 continued UI

claims filed, a decrease of 12,187 or 2.1% over the previous week. This marks the first decrease in continued UI weeks claimed since the beginning of the

pandemic related unemployment surge.

At 54,281, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) initial claims filed for the week ending May

30 were 93,313 less than the previous week. Since April 20, 2020, 573,077 claimants have filed for PUA.

The Pandemic Emergen-

cy Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which provided up to 13 weeks of extended benefits to individuals who have exhausted or expired their regular unemployment compensation since July 2019 was implemented on May 21. For the week ending May 23, 39,011 PEUC claims were filed followed by 4,242 PEUC filings for the week of May 24 to May 30.

Since March, the customer service staff at the HYPERLINK “<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-unemployment-assistance>” at “_blank” Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has grown from around 50 employees to nearly 2000. The remote customer service operation is now making over 35,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host daily unemployment town halls – which have been held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese - and have been attended by nearly 300,000 constituents.

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