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Wednesday, April 15, 2020

At East Boston Savings Bank, safety for staff and customers comes first

By John Lynds

East Boston Savings Bank Chairman and CEO Richard Gavegnano said each relationship that the bank has with employees, customers, and the communities the bank serves matters to him greatly.

So, as the public health concern surrounding COVID-19 grows the bank has been keeping its staff and customers informed on the precautionary steps EBSB has been taking.

"We are working hard to do everything we can to be prepared and the safety of our employees and customers is the most important thing," said Gavegnano. "We are providing gloves, masks, sanitizer, and practicing social distancing. Any employee feeling that they cannot work due to any medical issues or family needs can work from home and we are paying all these employees.'

To protect both staff and customers, Gavegnano said EBSB branches with drive thru service are open and branches that don't are open by appointment.

"We have the branches staffed to handle all regular business," said Gavegnano. "If any branch has no drive thru they can call and get in to see the manager, but for safety of our staff and customers only one person is let into the branch at a time."

Gavegnano said the bank is also monitoring all its employees for signs or symptoms of illness and has a constant open line of communications with branch staff.

"We are also responding to the needs of the communities we serve,' he said. "We are taking deposits, opening checking accounts and processing loans. We have a long rich

See EBSB Page 2



April 20th, Patriot's Day Holiday, Trash will be delayed by one day.

Capitol Waste Services, Inc



Snyder wearing one of the newly created masks produced by Boston based New Balance. The sneaker company has repurposed its factories to produce masks for hospitals and clinics like the Health Center.



New Balance repurposes factory to make masks, donates to EBNHC

By John Lynds

Boston based New Balance, the manufacturer of popular running sneakers and other athletic footwear, recently repurposed its factories to produce a general-use face mask.

With an urgent demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) that continues to intensify across the country, New Balance produced its first face mask

prototype less than a week ago and donated some of these masks to the staff at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBN-

"By mid-April, our goal is to make up to 100,000 units weekly at our Lawrence, MA and Norridgewock, ME factories combined," said New Balance Owner and Chairman Jim Davis in a statement. "We

vancing our current face mask design and materials specifications to ideally meet FDA requirements and achieve a product that can be confidently used by frontline medical staff who

require those criteria." EBNHC Vice President Steve Snyder said once he caught word that New Balance was producing masks he reached out to the company immediately and was

See EBNHC Page 2

Funeral homes start to see the first wave of COVID deaths

simultaneously

By John Lynds

On Tuesday Joseph Ruggiero III, Funeral Director of the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home in Orient Heights, East Boston, told me to hold on for a minute as the phone in his office rings.

The incoming call is for the removal of a deceased resident who died at home.

"What's the address? Do you have a time of death? Has the medical examiner

released the body?", asks Ruggiero.

Then comes the question Ruggiero has been asking for the past 10 days.

"Is it Covid? It is, okay, we'll be right out," he says before hanging up.

We have all been warned that COVID-19 infections and deaths would surge and hit an apex by the middle of the month and Ruggiero is becoming all too familiar with the predicted surge.

"We serviced more fami-

lies at the Ruggiero Family Memorial Home than any other day in our 20 plus years of business," Ruggiero.

In the past 10 days Ruggiero said the Funeral Home has processed funeral arrangements for 15 confirmed COVID-19 victims and another six that were 'presumptive' cases.

"The medical examiners are not coming out to do

See FIRST WAVE Page 2

moratorium passed on evictions and foreclosures

By John Lynds

East Boston renters of apartments and commercial properties are not immune to the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. A majority of residents

rent and many small businesses owners do not own the building that they op-With so many out of

work and small businesses owners forced to close due to the virus outbreak, the ability to pay rent has become harder and harder as each week passes.

Luckily there has been some relief on the state level to help renters as well as homeowners.

The House, led by House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo and Rep. Adrian Madaro, along with their colleagues passed legislation to set a moratorium on most residential and commercial evictions and residential foreclosures during the

See MORATORIUM Page 2

East Boston Community Soup Kitchen still doing its part

By John Lynds

For nearly four years the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen in the basement of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on Paris Street has been feeding hundreds of people a week that are both homeless or just in need of a hot meal.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has put a halt to the Soup Kitchen's operations inside the church as the congregation of more than 10 people at any given time has been prohibited by the Governor.

With tighter restrictions imposed by the government from week to week Soup Kitchen founder Sandra Nijjar said her group has been forced to become more creative.

"Each week our numbers of food insecure folks increase because they are out of work; they have no income and they have bills to pay, they need to eat, they need to feed their children and, sadly, some are infected with the virus," said Nijjar. "Definitely things

See SOUP KITCHEN Page 5



The pile of gift certificates and food vouchers that have been donated to help feed Eastie's vulnerable population.



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EBNHC //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sent thousands of masks.

"New Balance and in particular, the New Balance Foundation has been a strong supporter of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center for several years," said Snyder. "When I heard about them retooling their factory to make masks I contacted them right away and they gave us access to over a couple of thousand masks. We are really proud of the actions they are taking supporting health care providers during this crisis they are a first class organization and true friends of EBNHC."

New Balance is approaching distribution through a combination of direct medical facility coordination and

testing anymore," he said.

"If someone dies at home

and was symptomatic before

their death it is presumed to

be COVID based on the cri-

teria and symptoms. How-

ever, there could be many

more deaths due to COVID

Ruggiero points to an Ea-

gle Hill man that died last

week in his late 40s as an

"Was he infected? Did he

meet the criteria? Without a

test to confirm we just don't

than we know."

example.

First Wave //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said.

communication at the Massachusetts and Maine state levels, where its factories are located, to help the company best understand where our current face mask design fits their supply and demand

"This is not a commercial opportunity," stressed Davis. "NB is pursuing break-even pricing and/or donations for the face mask. This initiative has kept many of our associates proudly engaged during this economic and public health crisis while our traditional retail customers are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Davis said New Balance is also quickly responding to calls for other PPE including gowns and foot cov-

know but we have assumed

and take all the necessary

precautions when we go

pick up the deceased," he

some who have no family

members around or have

been in isolation since the

pandemic began to hit Bos-

Sure, one can assume

many of the deaths could

be from natural causes or

old age but Ruggiero argues

some of the deaths could

be COVID related and slip

There's also the elderly,

erings, among other items, with its Sports Lab production teams. This includes working toward prototypes and exploring collaborative opportunities that optimize U.S.-based 3D printing capabilities.

"We are proud to combine the industrial research and development expertise and innovative thinking of our associates with our manufacturing resources to work to solve new and extraordinary product challenges, reflecting our brand's purpose-driven culture and leveraging our skilled American workers in our New England factories," he said.

through the cracks.

"It's real out there," he said. "Please stay home and stay safe. Hug your loved ones that live with you and keep everyone else six feet away. Make time to check in with your family and friends, some of the strongest people in your life might be alone and very scared. Use zoom, FaceTime, Skype to tell people you love them and will see them soon. Cherish the time in doors because the alternative is sad, horrible and

often catastrophic."

EBSB //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

history of surviving many significant world events starting with the Civil War, World War 1, the Great Depression and World War II. We will emerge as a stronger bank and continue being a provider of banking needs of Boston citizens."

According to Gavegnano EBSB's responsive steps have included:

- Preventive programs in place to reduce the likelihood that our operations would be significantly affected by the COVID-19, including:
 - Educating employees

- Monitoring of potential
- Communicating and coordinating with critical service providers and suppliers
- Providing appropriate hygiene training and tools to employees
- The bank will continue to monitor our employee population and take appropriate action to reduce exposure to other colleagues and customers if an employee is exhibiting flu like symptoms. As always, the bank has instructed all colleagues exhibiting any signs of illness to stay home.
- Have asked cleaning companies to be even more vigilant in disinfecting frequently touched areas. In addition, the bank has made hand sanitizer available for use at all locations.
- The bank has implemented internal "social distancing" techniques to minimize the typical faceto-face contact by utilizing teleconference calls, video conferencing, and flexible workspaces. In addition, the bank asks all of its customers to help maintain a handshake-free zone at all EBSB locations.

Moratorium // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

COVID-19 State of Emer- during this pandemic." gency and for 30 days after

"During these unprecedented times, we need to do whatever we can to keep people healthy, safe and in their homes," said Speaker DeLeo. "This legislation shields tenants and homeowners from economic insecurity during and immediately after the period of the state of emergency. I thank Chairs Honan and Michlewitz for their work with members and stakeholders in putting together this bill, which will enhance pub-

Rep. Madaro said he was proud to support this comprehensive evictions and foreclosure moratorium bill.

"This legislation is necessary to protect renters, homeowners, and small landlords and businesses affected by the ongoing COVID-19 emergency," he said. "Given that nonessential businesses have been forced to close, leaving thousands unemployed across the Commonwealth, we must swiftly ensure stability for renters and homeowners alike. I look forward to seeing this legislation finalized and signed into

The legislation includes the following provisions.

- Establishes a moratorium on most residential and commercial evictions within the Commonwealth for the duration of the State of Emergency and 30 days after the State of Emergency ends.
- Landlords may not charge late fees or send reports to credit rating agencies if a tenant notifies the landlord within 30 days of a late payment that the non-payment of rent is due to a financial impact related to the COVID-19 emergency.
- Prohibits landlords from sending "notice to quit" letters for the duration of the State of Emergency and 30 days after the State of Emergency is terminated.
- Establishes a moratorium on foreclosure actions for the duration of the State of Emergency and 30 days after the State of Emergency ends. Allows for video con-
- ferencing during the State of Emergency for reverse mortgage loans. Current mandates require in-person consultations for these loans. Emergency evictions
- atorium for actions that involve allegations of criminal activity or substantial lease violations that may be detrimental to public health or public safety. "During these difficult

times we need to be cognizant of our most vulnerable populations and ensure that people will not lose their homes due to the effects of COVID-19," said Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Co-Chair of the

EBNHC stocks the shelves at Meridian **Street Community Resource Center**

By John Lynds

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic the population served by the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center had a food insecurity rate of 50 percent.

The virus outbreak has put more and more people at risk of being food insecure as many residents lose jobs or experience a reduction in income.

Last week, in partnership with the American Red Cross, the EBNHC staff and volunteers were able to stock the new Community Resource Center at 282 Meridian St. with emergency canned and dry goods for the Health Center's most vulnerable population.

EBNHC Vice President Steve Snyder said the Health Center has been working with the Red Cross, who is making weekly deliveries of food to EBNHC's Community Resource Center, and EB-NHC staff are making bags of food to distribute to patients and other clients.

"So far we have connected over 300 people to food," said Snyder. "Beginning this week we will be doing food drop off to high risk patients."

As calls for food needs continue to grow the Health Center is actively looking at how to increase our capacity to meet the growing



Last week the Health Center connected over 300 with food.



EBNHC staff began organizing the delivery from the



bags of food for residents.



The American Red Cross truck delivers canned and dry goods to EBNHC Community Resource Center on Meridian Street.

Walsh announces partnership with local banks for mortgage relief

By John Lynds

While many are working from home and still are lucky to have a job, there are thousands of residents that have been laid off or are furloughed until the COVID-19 pandemic

This coupled with owners of multifamily homes that suddenly have tenants that are out of work and unable to pay rent has made keeping up with monthly mortgage payments difficult for residents. Building on his Admin-

istration's commitment to keep the people of Boston stably housed during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayor Martin Walsh announced last week that 12 of the largest housing lenders in Boston will offer at least three months of deferred mortgage payments for homeowners who contact them and demonstrate they have been financially impacted by the public health crisis. In addition, the lend-

ers have committed not to charge late fees, or report non-payments to the credit bureaus. Homeowners will not be required to pay back the deferred mortgage payments in a lump sum, but will instead work with lenders on an affordable re-

home right now. During

these times of global un-

certainty, homeowners and renters in Boston can be certain that we are doing everything we can to help ease the burden brought on by this pandemic and give them much-needed flexibility," said Mayor Walsh. "I want to thank our lender partners who have stepped up to the plate to meet the needs of our residents during this time, and I encourage others to follow suit. Now more than ever, we have to work together to make sure that we can keep people in their homes."

According to Walsh, the participating lenders will provide at least three months in a loan deferment for homeowners, with the option to extend for longer periods, if needed. They have also agreed to the goal of approving deferments within 21 days of application and with only essential paperwork needed from the homeowner. The lenders will not report this deferment as a bad loan, nor report it to the credit bureaus as being a late loan. They will not charge late fees on the late loan payments or deferments. Once the deferment period is complete, the homeowner is not required to pay the total deferment/forbearance amount in a lump sum.

Cambridge Trust Compa-

ny, Century Bank, Citizens

Bank, City of Boston Cred-

The 12 lenders that will offer this relief to homeowners include: Bank of America, Boston Private,

it Union, Dedham Savings Bank, Eastern Bank, Mortgage Network, Inc., Prime Lending, Salem Five Bank,

and Santander Bank. "Bank of America is pleased to work with the City of Boston on a goal we share: to help the clients we serve get the assistance and support they need to get through this crisis," said Micheal Chamberlain, Massachusetts President, Bank of America.

Many lenders are offering deferral periods longer than those required in the plan, and homeowners should contact their serfor more vicer directly information. However, the Boston Home Center is available to answer any questions and can be reached at 617-635-4663, "The Massachusetts Af-

fordable Housing Alliance is committed to helping homeowners impacted by COVID-19, and our job would be much more difficult if lenders and service providers did not cooperate," said Symone Crawford, the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance's Director of Homeownership Education. "We applaud these 12 lenders for stepping up and signing onto the City of Boston's plan to assist homeowners through this unprecedented time and thank Mayor Walsh and Sheila Dillon for working diligently to protect Boston homeowners."



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Means (D-Boston). "This bill

offers much needed relief on

this front."

payment plan. "No person should have Joint Committee on Ways & to worry about losing their

City Councilor Lydia Edwards reacts to Eastie's COVID infection rate

By John Lynds

In one week, East Boston's COVID-19 infection rate nearly doubled and as of Friday there was an infection rate of 50.7 cases per 10,000 residents, up from an infection rate of 27.7 cases per 10,000 residents just a week ago.

As of Friday there were 238 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Eastie, up from the 130 cases reported by the Boston Public Health Commission a week ago.

The stats 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 has the fifth highest infection rate in the City of Boston behind the South End (78.9), Hyde Park (66.6), Mattapan (57.1), and Dorchester (54.9).

The sobering numbers and the fact that Latinos in Boston make up over 16 percent of COVID-19 cases in Boston is cause for some

"Some of you may have

seen the recent data from the Boston Public Health Commission showing that East Boston has a Covid-19 infection rate of 50.7 cases per 10,000 residents," said City Councilor Lydia Edwards. "While this information is troubling, there are a few important things for us to keep in mind when looking at the data. The first is that a high rate of confirmed cases means that the neighborhood is testing at higher levels. Knowledge is an important tool in the battle against this virus. The high testing numbers highlight the incredible work that our local neighborhood clinics like the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center are doing."

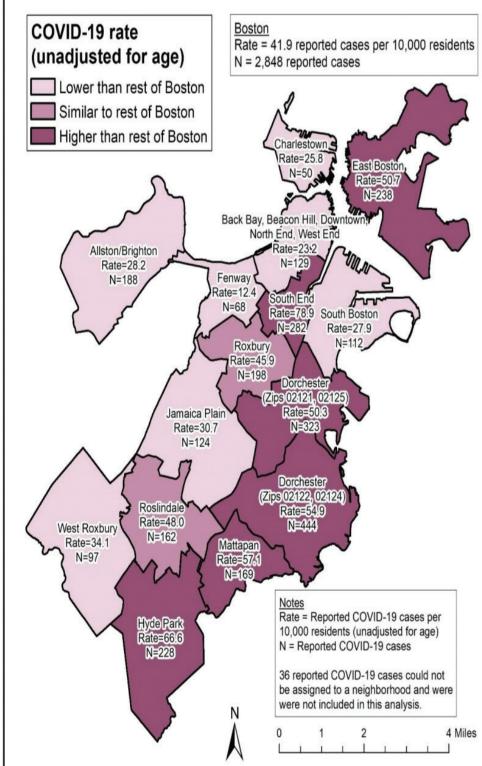
Edwards said currently, testing is not yet widely available to the general public. Testing sites, including the one at Suffolk Downs two weeks ago, are focusing on testing first responders like our nurses, doctors, and EMS personnel that are on the front lines of the fight against this virus. "Because of this limited testing availability, the current numbers of confirmed cases also indicate

neighborhoods with a higher concentration of these first responders," she said. "The current neighborhood breakdown of cases does not necessarily mean that a particular neighborhood is a hotbed of Covid-19 cases. We should still take this data very seriously and continue to follow social distancing guidelines outlined by the CDC. We all have a part to play in the fight against the coronavi-

Edwards said for most of us that means staying home as much as possible, covering our nose and mouth if we do leave the house, and making sure we stay at least six feet away from other people when doing essential tasks like grocery shopping or picking up medicine from the pharmacy.

"If we all do our part we will be successful in flattening the curve," she said. "East Boston is a resilient neighborhood and I am confident in our collective ability to adapt, stay strong, and move forward from this crisis more united than we were before all this happened. I want to thank all of the first responders and medical personnel as well as the hospital cleaners, garbage collectors, delivery drivers, grocery store workers, and all other essential workers that put themselves at risk every day to help. We could not do this without you."

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DATA SOURCE: Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Surveillance System (January 1, 2020 to April 9, 2020, 4:12pm); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 5-yr estimates (2014-2018) DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research and Evaluation Office

New data released by the BPHC shows the COVID 19 infection rate in Eastie nearly doubled in a week.



East Boston Savings Bank is here for you.

As a 172-year old Boston Bank, East Boston Savings Bank has a rich history of servicing the City of Boston and its surrounding communities. The foundation that we honor are integrity, strength and hard work for all our customers. It is our tradition to be responsive to the needs of people like you and businesses like yours during good times and challenging times.

We have seen and been through past events that have affected the country and the world. As we navigate through this pandemic together, please know that we are here for you. I assure you that East Boston Savings Bank remains your strong neighborhood bank, supporting you, your family, your business and your community. It's because of your trust in us - and our faith in you - we will make it through these events together.

Trust that we are in this for the long-haul, right by your side. Our branch office doors will remain open as long as we can assure the safety of you and our employees. Online Banking, Mobile Banking, ATMs and our Automated 24-Hour Telephone Banking System (866-774-7705) are always an alternative banking option for you – visit ebsb.com for more information. As always, your deposits are 100% guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund.

I understand there are a bunch of unknowns with this pandemic but know this; East Boston Savings Bank has endured many devastating events in the past and has come through each of these stronger and more committed to our customers than ever.

Thank you for trusting in East Boston Savings Bank. Stay safe and we look forward to continuing working hard for you.

Sincerely,

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





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A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

The United States now is the official epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic.

We have more deaths and more cases of disease than anywhere else in the world.

However, this past weekend the experts began to give us a glimmer of hope that we are turning the tide against this dreaded foe and the possibility that our lives may return to some semblance of normality in incremental steps within 30-60 days.

We are the first to concede that there are many "ifs" to any discussion of ending the shutdown of the U.S. economy and the present lockdown mandates currently in place throughout most of the nation. A vast increase in testing in order to identify both virus carriers and those who may have immunity will be essential before we can begin to emerge meaningfully from our life of quarantine.

It also is clear that even with some sort easing of the lockdowns, life still will be far from normal: Schools most likely will remain closed for the rest of this school year, professional sports will not take place anytime soon, public gatherings of all kinds will be banned, and the travel industry will continue to be in a state of non-existence indefinitely.

But the experts' insights about the possibility of some degree of easing of our current situation brought to mind the famous words of Winston Churchill amidst the worst days of World War II when Nazi Germany's advance had been stopped by England with the defeat of Rommel at El Alamein:

"Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

Our war against the coronavirus still has a long way to go. But with the outbreaks and death toll dropping in many places around the world, including New York City, perhaps we can see a pinhole of light in the long, dark tunnel in which we find ourselves.

SO LET'S TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER

The weather this April has been full of irony. We had mild months for January, February, and March, with above-average temperatures (among the warmest on record) and few storms of any consequence.

However, April has been anything but spring-like. Temperatures have been below normal and two fierce storms, including this past Monday's, left many of us without

So although April thus far has ranged from seasonably unpleasant to rather ferocious, weather-wise, at least it has provided us with a diversion from our preoccupation with the coronavirus.

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.

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Forum

GUEST OP-ED

We are a resilient city of resilient people

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

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

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

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

People are focused on protecting their fellow Bostonians, especially the

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

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

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

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

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

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

Normally, this is one of the best times of the year in Boston. Any other year, we'd be getting ready to welcome athletes and fans from all over the world for the Boston Marathon. We'd be celebrating the home opener at Fenway Park.

We'd be holding the first of our annual coffee hours in neighborhood parks across the city. Kids and families would be enjoying the warm weather and all the festivities that come with the end of the school

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

> Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston

LETTER to the Editor

KNOWLEDGE IS AN **IMPORTANT TOOL**

Dear Eastie neighbors,

Some of you may have seen the recent data from the Boston Public Health Commission showing that East Boston has a Covid-19 infection rate of 27 cases per 10,000 residents, the second highest in Boston's neighborhoods behind Hyde Park. While this information is troubling, there are a few important things for us to keep in mind when looking at the

The first is that a high rate of confirmed cases means that the neighborhood is testing at higher levels. Knowledge is an important tool in the battle against this virus. The high testing numbers highlight the incredible work that our local neighborhood clinics like the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center are doing.

Currently, testing is not yet widely available to the general public. Testing sites, including the one at Suffolk Downs, are focusing on testing first responders like our nurses, doctors, and EMS personnel that are on the front lines of the fight against this virus. Because of this limited testing availability, the current numbers of confirmed cases also indicate neighborhoods with a higher concentration of these first responders. The current neighborhood

breakdown of cases does not necessarily mean that a particular neighborhood is a hotbed of Covid-19 cases.

We should still take this data very seriously and continue to follow social distancing guidelines outlined by the CDC. We all have a part to play in the fight against the coronavirus. For most of us that means staying home as much as possible, covering our nose and mouth if we do leave the house, and making sure we stay at least six feet away from other people when doing essential tasks like grocery shopping or picking up medicine from the pharmacy. If we all do our part we will be successful in flattening the curve. East Boston is a resilient neighborhood and I am confident in our collective ability to adapt, stay strong, and move forward from this crisis more united than we were before it.

I want to thank all of the first responders and medical personnel as well as the hospital cleaners, garbage collectors, delivery drivers, grocery store workers, and all other essential workers that put themselves at risk every day to help. We could not do this without you! Sincerely,

> Lydia Edwards **Boston City Councilor District One**

NOW IS AN **IMPORTANT TIME** TO CONSIDER QUITTING **SMOKING AND VAPING**

Dear Editor,

We all know that smoking is harmful to one's lungs. As our lives are disrupted by the coronavirus, this fact raises concerns about the damaging impact the coronavirus (COVID-19) may have on those who smoke or vape. Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, says, "Because it attacks the lungs, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 could be an especially serious threat to those who smoke tobacco or marijuana or who vape." While the long-term impact of vaping is not clear, there is evidence coming out that vaping, like smoking, harms the ability of the lungs to fight infection.

Despite the stressful times we're living in, people who smoke or vape may want to quit to improve their ability to fight the coronavirus. The stress may have led others to relapse and start smoking or vaping again. It's never too late to try to quit,

People who smoke and vape know how hard it is to quit because nicotine, the drug in tobacco and vaping products, is highly addictive. Repeated tobacco and nicotine use is not a habit, it's an addiction and quitting can takes several tries before one can quit for good. Many tobacco users say quitting is the hardest thing they've ever done; however, with planning, support, and dedication, many people quit for good.

Now may be a good time for those who smoke or vape to call the Massachusetts Smokers' Helpline at 1-800-QUIT NOW (1-800-784-8669) for free coaching and support 24 hours each day, seven days a week. Enroll online, access quit planning tools, peer support and motivational text messages at KeepTryingMA.org.

Up to eight weeks of FREE nicotine replacement help from patches, gum or lozenges are available through the Helpline (with medical eligibility). With coaching and quit medication people can be twice as likely to quit for good compared to those who try to quit on their own.

Quitting improves one's health right away; lungs start to heal, and the body starts to repair its ability to fight infection. For more information, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or visit KeepTryingMA.org.

Edgar Duran Elmudesi **Metro Boston Tobacco-Free Community Partnership Health Resources** in Action

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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

Local food truck stops in Eastie to help residents Soup Kitchen //continued from Page 1

Last week, the widely popular Jamaica Mi Hungry food truck made a stop at Orient Heights MBTA station. The longtime Boston staple, that recently opened its first brick and mortar location in Jamaica Plain in September, switched gears from its famous Jamaican cuisine to take part in a Restaurant Relief Program.

Instead of jerk chicken or rice and peas, the Jamai-

ca Mi Hungry food truck was parked outside of Orient Heights Station and offered hygiene items like Pampers, soap, wet toothpaste, wipes, shampoo and other essentials that are becoming increasingly hard to find at grocery stores and pharmacies. The food truck and its staff were also offering canned and boxed dry goods for residents.

While continuing to operate their food truck business, Jamaica Mi Hungry Chef Ernie Campbell and general manager Aquila Kentish, opened their first permanent location at 225 Centre St. in Jamaica Plain.



The Jamaica Mi Hungry food truck outside Orient Heights MBTA station last week. Instead of serving its usual Jamaican fare, the food truck was handing out essential hygiene items and canned and boxed dry goods to residents.



are much more challenging for our Soup Kitchen leadership team and volunteers to serve our most vulnerable neighbors but we still haven't stopped being there for our Soup Kitchen guests and friends.'

Despite the challenges the Soup Kitchen faces with COVID-19 and social distancing requirements Nijjar and her group continue to do what they can to help residents have access to food.

"Last Tuesday we distributed meal vouchers and gift cards in the open to abide by the six foot distance requirement," said Nijjar. "We gave vouchers out and a gift card to all of our guests who don't have access to postal mail. Then we finished mailing out the meal vouchers to those who do have access to postal mail and haven't yet been given vouchers."

Then, starting this week the Soup Kitchen will give out Shaw's Supermarket gift cards.

"We are taking these measures because of the increased COVID-19 spread here in Eastie so as to avoid any crowd congregating,' said Nijjar. "We will mail the gift cards to those who have a home and those who don't have a home, we will hand out the gift card in person."

Any resident in need of food can visit the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen's Facebook page and fill out a meal voucher

"We will continue to share the form for folks to fill out each week and the



East Boston Community Soup Kitchen Founder Sandra NIjjar hands out gift certificates and food vouchers in Eastie last week.

deadline is Sunday at 5:00 p.m. so we can provide food access to our Soup Kitchen guests through postal mail," said Nijjar. "You may request meal vouchers once per week. You can use the ticket to order a takeout meal from a participating East Boston restaurant."

"Once again this week we were able to provide about 500 hot meal vouchers sponsored by Cargo Ventures, HYM Investments Group, Sankara's

Project Heal Foundation, Resurrection Church, The Law Office of Richard Lynds and Kieran McAllen from Waypoint Companies," said Nijjar. "Thank you wholeheartedly, everyone, for believing in our efforts. We wouldn't be able to help our most vulnerable if it weren't for your generous donations week after week. Honestly, we wouldn't be able to do this work without your sup-



We know you are worried, but it is important to bring your baby to the health center for regular vaccines. Vaccines are more important now than ever, and without them, your baby is at risk for serious and sometimes fatal diseases. We are safely seeing babies in a

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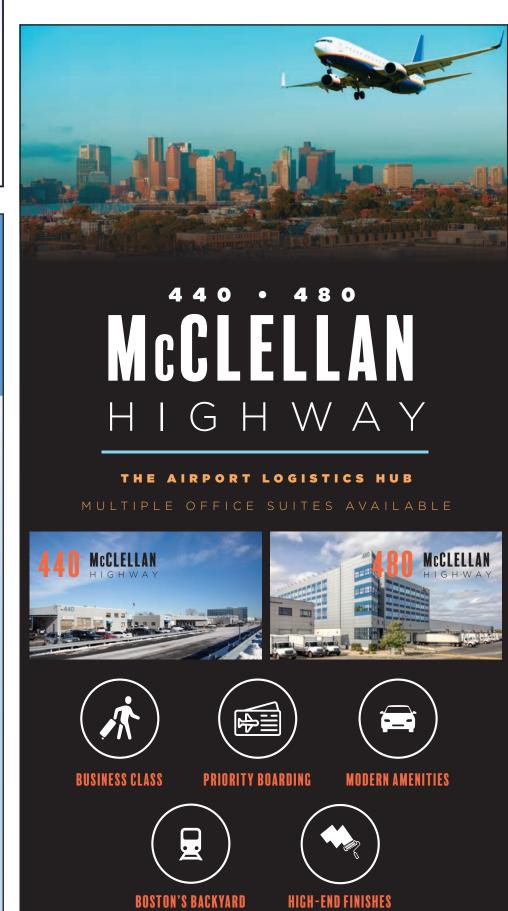
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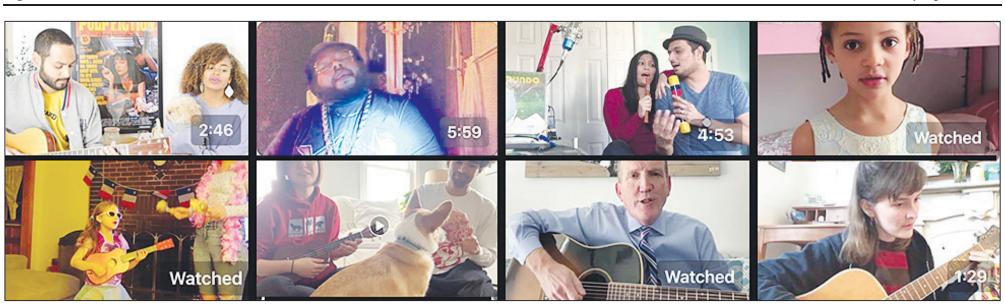
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CBRE



Members of the community participating online in Zumix's Sing-A-Song, Send-A-Song fundraising effort.

Zumix Sing-A-Song, Send-A-Song fundraiser is a hit

By John Lynds

With Eastie's nonprofits closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, places like Zumix have been getting creative with fundraising efforts as other money raising events have either been canceled or postponed.

Zumix, Eastie's popular music and performing arts nonprofit, recently launched an online Sing-A-Song, Send-A-Song fundraising effort to keep a steady stream of funding for programs once life returns back to normal. Zumix Executive Di-

rector and Founder, Madeleine Steczynski said Sing-A-Song, Send-A-Song is a way people can sing, or play on an instrument, a song dedicated to someone they are missing during this difficult time. Once you post your song to Facebook, you challenge three other people to do the same and ask them to consider donating \$10 to Zumix through a donation page set up at https://www.firstgiving.com/event/zumix/ SAS4ZUMIX.

Steczynski said Zumix is doing its best to continue to support youth and teaching artists through this difficult

"With all the stress this pandemic has caused, it's been incredible to witness these musical, heartfelt, connections happen over time and space," she said. "Sing-A-Song, Send-A- Song clearly shows how music is a universal language, how we are all interconnected, and how much we all care for each other. I'm grateful to be part of such a thoughtful community, and look forward to hearing live music with friends and neighbors when it's safe to do so."

So far Zumix has raised over \$5,000 towards a \$10,000 fundraising goal.

"We've been overwhelmed with joy and inspiration from Sing-A- Song, Send-A-Song," said Kimberly Dawson, Director of Advancement at Zumix. "It has been incredible to see friends and strangers sharing music alongside Zumix youth, alumni, staff, and board members in this unique way. It's also been incredible to see just how far it has reached. People from all over the world - the UK, the Netherlands, India, Ecuador, and Germany have been posting videos. It's such a beautiful way

nects us during this time of physical distancing."

If you want to participate in the effort for Zumix go onto Facebook and In your

Dedicate the song to someone you love and/or

Sing/play your song.

Challenge three people to do the same.

And include the hashtag

tors, gig economy workers,

and others who otherwise

would not qualify for regu-

#SAS4ZUMIX.

State offers first guidance on new unemployment claim process under CARES Act

The state government today, April 9, announced details for the initial implementation of federal unemployment benefits in the CARES Act, the federal based COVID-19 relief package.

This federal program, enacted on March 27, 2020, will be administered by states. To-

day's announcement reflects the first set of partial guidance that Massachusetts will immediately implement to support unemployed workers. The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is moving swiftly to implement the new benefit programs and awaits additional

guidance from the federal government for the remainder of benefits authorized by the CARES Act – including building a completely new platform for self-employed and gig workers that they hope to have ready by April

Understanding the great

urgency of Commonwealth residents to access these benefits, DUA issued new guidance to instruct all residents of what actions they can take

•Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC): For Individuals Currently Collecting Benefits

From Regular Unemployment Compensation:

to witness how music con-

Overview: An additional \$600 per week for individuals collecting benefits from regular unemployment compensation is being implemented by DUA. The additional \$600 will be added to unemployment benefits retroactive to March 29, 2020 and will begin being disbursed to claimants this week.

The FPUC program will provide an additional \$600 per week to individuals who are collecting regular Unemployment Compensation (UC), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Extended Benefits (EB), Trade Readjustment Act (TRA), and Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DA). The Department has already begun implementing the FPUC program for regular UC claimants. The \$600 will be added to all eligible weeks of benefits retroactive to March 29, 2020 and continuing until July 31, 2020. FPUC monetary disbursements will begin immediately in Massachusetts for those who are currently collecting benefits on regular UC claims. Those receiving PEUC, PUA, and EB will receive the additional \$600 payments retroactive to March 29, 2020 as soon as their claims are processed and determined eligible.

Next Steps For Claimants: Eligible claimants who are already receiving UI do not need to do anything for the additional \$600 to be added to their weekly benefit amount. This benefit will be available for all new claimants filing for regular Unemployment Compensation as well, which can be done at www.mass.gov/unemployment/covid-19

•Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA): For Individuals Not Covered Under Traditional Unemployment Insurance (Self-Employed, Gig Economy Workers, Others):

Overview: A benefit will be available for individuals not covered under traditional unemployment insurance like the self-employed or gig workers or those who do not qualify for lack of wages. DUA is now working with a vendor to build a new platform to disburse those benefits. This platform is expected to begin processing claims on or about April 30, 2020.

COVID-19 and are self-em-

ployed, independent contrac-

PUA will provide up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals who are not working as a result of

lar UC or EB under state or federal law or PEUC. These individuals will not be able to claim benefits directly through the UI Online System in Massachusetts, as of this time. The Department of Unemployment Assistance has engaged a vendor to build a new platform to disburse PUA benefits. The platform is expected to begin accepting PUA claims by April 30, 2020. Eligible claimants under PUA will be retroactively compensated with this benefit beginning February 2, 2020, or the first week a claimant was unable to work as a result of COVID-19, whichever date is later. The last week this benefit is payable is the week ending December 26, 2020. Next Steps For Claim-

ants: Eligible claimants should continue to check for updates at HYPERLINK "http://www.mass.gov/unemployment/covid-19" "_blank" www.mass.gov/ unemployment/covid-19 on the new platform, which will be ready this month. Once the system is up and running, eligible claimants will receive this benefit backdated to February 2, 2020, or the first week a claimant was unable to work as a result of

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC): For Individuals Who Exhausted Previous UI Benefits:

COVID-19.

Overview: A 13-week extension of benefits for individuals who exhausted their previous benefits – is not yet available as DUA continues to await federal implementation guidance.

The PEUC program provides up to 13 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits to individuals who have exhausted their previous unemployment benefits. The first week a claimant can be compensated on this benefit is the week beginning March 29, 2020, and the last payable week is the week ending December 26, 2020. The Department of Unemployment Assistance is awaiting additional federal guidance on how to implement and administer this program and the extended weeks of PEUC benefits are not yet available.

Next Steps For Claimants: No action at this time. Eligible claimants should continue to check for updates, which will be made available as soon as the state receives information from the federal government.

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Deliveries * Takeouts * Home Services During this crisis, here are some East Boston resources.

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Registry announces additional licensure extensions; introduces online CDL option

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) continues to thoroughly review its licensing protocols and credential requirements to identify additional measures that can be implemented to reduce non-essential travel, reduce the need for customers to visit RMV Service Centers, and ensure proper "social-distancing" can take place under Governor Charlie Baker's declaration of a State of Emergency the week of March 9.

The following changes to service delivery and organizational protocols are now or are about to be in place as follows:

 Professional credentials for School Bus Certificates, School Pupil Transport Licenses (7D), Inspector Licenses, Driving Instructor Licenses and Driving School Licenses that have expired or are expiring, between March 10 and April 30, will be extended for 90 days after the State of Emergency is lifted. These credentials should all be considered "active" as the RMV implements the system changes to reflect that status in the near future.

•Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holders are now able to renew their licenses online if they are self-certified in the Non-Excepted Interstate (NI) category for medical certification.

•All passenger and motorcycle road tests (Class D and Class M) have been cancelled through Monday, May 4, 2020.

Reminders About Other Previously Announced Changes:

•Driver's licenses, ID cards, and Learner's Permits, including Commercial Driver's Licenses & Permits (CDL/CLP), that have expired or are expiring between March 1, 2020, and April 30, 2020, have had a 60-day extension applied to the current expiration date and do not need to be

renewed at this time. Customers holding a license or ID marked "Limited-Term" that expired between March 1 to April 30 should visit Mass.gov/RMV for more information and to check the validity of their credential. CDL Medical Certificates that expire on or after March 1 until April 30 will be extended until June 30 to prevent license downgrades and elective medical visits, as well as alleviate demand on medical providers.

•Due to the current

COVID-19 pandemic, the RMV has implemented a strict no walk-in policy at a limited number of Service Centers that remain open to the general public. Service for necessary in-person transactions are available by appointment only. Customers should visit Mass. Gov/RMV to make a reservation at an open Service Center or find information on over 40 transactions that can be conducted online, by phone, or by mail.

•Non-Classroom Drivers Education - through a temporary policy, the RMV is allowing driving schools to offer online driver education training and written testing during this emergency period only. The RMV will continuously monitor the current emergency and will keep you informed about the timeframe in which driving schools can offer alternative training.

•Effective April 1, 2020, all of the passenger plate registrations that have expired in March or will be expiring in April have been extended for 60 days. Registrations that expired in March have been extended until May 31 and registrations that expire in April have been extended until June 30. Registration renewals can continue to be performed online at Mass. Gov/RMV during this time. Customers seeking to do so in-person will not be able to make an appointment and should delay their visit to a Service Center at this time.

•The annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspection stickers that expire on March 31 and April 30 have been extended 60 days and all motorcycles with inspection stickers originally set to expire on May 31 must be inspected by June 30. The RMV is also extending the time during which newly registered vehicles must be inspected based on the purchase date.

•Class D and M Learner's Permits knowledge exams have been suspended through May 4. Commercial Learner's Permit tests are available to be taken at the Milford and Wilmington RMV Service Centers during normal business hours and commercial road tests continue to be conducted by the Massachusetts State Police.

 Massachusetts Police are still conducting road tests for Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs), but require anyone taking wear a mask or face covering for the entirety of the test.

•The National Safety Council (NSC) and the RMV have previously announced the cancellation, through May 4, of the following Massachusetts in-person classroom driver safety classes: 8-hour Driver Retraining Program, 4-hour Driver Attitudinal Retraining Program and the 4-hour State Courts Against Rage (SCARR) Road Program. The RMV has temporarily approved an alternative way to deliver the statutorily required content in the form of an online course. For a limited time, participation in the online course will fulfill the in-person class requirement. Additional information is available at http:// drive.nsc.org and impacted customers can expect to receive specific instructions directly from NSC.

Baker expands priority COVID-19 to grocery store workers in state

On Friday, April 10, Gov. Charlie Baker issued further public health guidance, expanded resources for critical workers and increased Massachusetts National Guard activation to support its ongoing response to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

A new Department of Public Health advisory, consistent with CDC guidance, recommends that all residents wear a mask or face covering in public when social distancing is not possible. In addition, the Executive Branch issued similar guidance to state employees recommending when masks or face coverings should be utilized while working.

The administration has also expanded access to the free priority COVID-19 testing sites for first responders located at Gillette Stadium to include grocery store workers.

Additionally, Governor Charlie Baker authorized the activation of an additional 3,000 more military personnel of the Massachusetts National Guard.

•Face Coverings and Cloth Masks Advisory: The Administration today issued guidance to

THE

residents and Executive Branch employees recommending the use of a face covering or cloth mask when in situations where maintaining proper social distancing measures are not possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as in a grocery store. A face covering may

include anything that covers your nose and mouth, including a mask, scarf or bandana. Health care masks, such as N95 masks, should not be used and should be preserved for health care workers and first responders. Cloth masks should not be worn by young children under the age of two, persons with difficulty breathing, or those who are unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

•Grocery Store Worker Priority Testing: The Administration and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security expanded access to the free, priority COVID-19 testing sites for first responders to now include grocery store and supermarket workers. Beginning Saturday, April 11, the men and women who provide critical access to

food and other necessities could schedule an appointment to receive COVID-19 testing at the sites located at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro. All appointments must be made in advance by the worker's supervisor or manager, and personnel do not need to be symptomatic to be eligible.

•Massachusetts National Guard Activation: Gov. Baker authorized the activation of an additional 3,000 military personnel of the Massachusetts National Guard to support the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response. This order raises the total authorization to up to 5,000 members statewide, who may be tasked with supporting requests from state agencies for equipment, logistics, warehousing and related duties. Local cities, towns and state agencies should submit requests for support through the Massachusetts Emergency Management

The activation reflects Governor Baker's statutory authority to activate the Massachusetts National Guard under state active duty to provide necessary assistance to state and municipal civilian authorities.

How to mail and ship without leaving the safety of your home

You don't have to go to the Post Office to use many postal products and services. In fact, most simple tasks can be done from the convenience and safety of your home with or without a computer.

Like purchasing stamps. Using your computer, you can go to the Postal Store on HYPERLINK "http:// usps.com" \t "_blank" usps.com and select different stamp denominations. USPS will deliver them right to your home.

No computer? No problem! Ask your local Post Office or carrier to bring you a Stamps by Mail order form, complete it and put it in your mailbox with a check. Again, USPS will bring you your stamps. What if you need to send

a package? You can order free Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express boxes, or other package supplies at usps.com. Again, USPS will deliver items to your address. And at usps.com, using Click-N-Ship, you can print a mailing label with the appropriate postage right from your computer.

Need that package picked-up? Go to usps. com and schedule a free carrier pick-up. In your request, let your local Post Office know where they can find the package or packages and the carrier will retrieve them when he or she delivers your mail.

USPS postal employees are working around the clock to ensure you get your important letters and packages. Skip the trip to the Post Office by ordering stamps, package supplies, and printing package postage from your home. We'll pick up your packages too.

It's the most effective type of social distancing

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

MIAA plans for shortened season

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) last week announced plans for a shortened spring athletic season season in the event that Gov. Charlie Baker allows schools to go back into session on May 4.

The MIAA's plans compress the 2020 spring season into a regular season of 8-12 games and then an abbreviated post-season that would feature only sectional playoff tournaments. There would be no state tournaments.

presumably School would play only other schools within their own

would necessitate a reconfiguration of the existing is an increasingly-unlikely schedules for every school. scenario

If schools do in fact re-

open on May 4, the MIAA also established guidelines for the pre-season for each sport. The pre-season, including tryouts, would be shortened to a week for most sports. Rugby programs would be required to have a nine-day pre-season, though spring golf programs would be required to have only a three-day pre-season.

Of course, the MIAA's plans are predicated on a big "if," that being wheth-

Real Estate Transfers

conferences, a move that er schools are allowed to reopen on May 4, which

> With the COVID-19 pandemic still rampaging through the state, the chances of schools being reopened -- which would expose students, teachers, coaches, and all of their families to infection -- appears to be remote.

> The MIAA Board of Directors met Monday to discuss further plans and options, but no announcements have been forthcoming as of press time.

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OBITUARIES

Antoinette Melchionno

Active in many senior citizens organizations

Antoinette Melchionno, 97, of Revere and formerly of Chelsea, died on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020.

Born and raised in Chelsea, Antoinette moved to Revere as a young woman where she made her home ever since. She was active in many senior citizen's organizations. In her free time, she loved spending time with family and friends. She will be sorely

The beloved wife of the late Angelo Melchionno, she was the devoted mother of Barbara Eydenberg of Revere, cherished grandmother of Robert Eydenberg of Revere, dear sister of the late Michael Colella, Carmella Ferrante, Adeline "Lily" Massa, Edith Colella, Amerigo Colella, Olga Colella, Jennie Gregory, Patsy Colella and Rita Keating. She is also survived by many loving niec-



es and nephews.

In accordance with the CDC's Current restrictions on gatherings due to Covid-19 all services will be held privately. The family is planning a celebration of Antoinette's life for a later date to be announced. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St Jude Children's hospital St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105 USA . Interment Woodlawn Cemetery. For guestbook please visit www.Buonfiglio.com.

Fred Shindledecker

Veteran of both the US Army and US Navy



L. Shindledecker of East Boston, formerly the North End, passed away peacefully, on April 9.

Fred

Fred was an Army and Navy veteran, serving several years in each branch.

He was the beloved husband of the late Edith (Sforza) Shindledecker, devoted father of Libby Patti-Comeiro of Florida and Frank Shindledecker and his wife, Kathy of East Boston, cherished grandfather of Tanya Parkes and her fiancé, Jimmy Delegro and great-grandfather adored

of Samantha, Nicholas and Frankie Parkes. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Fred was laid to rest with his beloved wife in Saint Michael's Cemetery with military honors. May they rest in peace.

Due to COVID-19, all services were held for the immediate family privately. If you have any questions or would like to express your condolences, please contact the funeral home during normal business hours 617-569-0990 or leave a message for the family on the tribute wall www.ruggieromh.com.

Ernest Serino

US Navy veteran of World War II



Ernest Seformerly of East Boston, died on April 9,

2020. A US Navy veteran of World War II, he was the beloved husband of the late Kathleen L. (Burrows), father of Kathleen Milward and her husband, Wayne, grandfather of Kayla and Eric Wright, brother of Anthony Serino and his wife, Marie and six deceased siblings. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews and his dear friend, Rita D'Amato.

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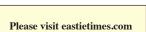
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the NortheastAnimalShelter.org or DoctorsWithout-Borders.org would be appreciated.

Interment will be in Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne. At his request all services are private. Please send condolences to the family on our Tribute Page: MagrathFuneralHome.com





Louis R. Vazza ~ Funeral www.vazzafunerals.com



336 Chelsea St., East Boston 617-567-0910 | www.magrathfuneralhome.com

Teresa Carmela D'Amato

Past Prefect of St. Anthony's Ladies Sodality

Teresa Carmelo (DeSantis) D'Amato of Revere died on April 12 at the age

She was the matriarch of the family and would do anything for them. She took great pride raising the children while volunteering at their schools. Teresa was an active member in her community especially at St. Anthony's Church in Revere where she was Past Prefect of the Ladies Sodal-Born in New York on

August 29, 1927 to the late Frank and Carmela (Longibardi), she was the beloved wife of 42 years to the late Marco D'Amato, devoted mother of Joseph D'Amato and his wife, Nancy of Dracut, Carmel Carnabucci and her husband, John Sr. and Cathy Bradbury and her husband, Jerome, all of Revere, James D'Amato and his wife, Dorothy of Roslindale, and Frank D'Amato and his wife, Hillary of Revere; dear sister of the late John DeSantis, Louise Pittari and Peter DeSantis and his surviving wife, Nora; cherished grandmother of Sarah and Brandon D'Amato, Nicole Cecere and her husband, Daniel, Domenic Carnabucci, Noelle Forte and her husband, Antho-



ny, Marc Carnabucci, John Carnabucci, Jr, Brittany Bradbury, Caitlin, Emily and Elsie D'Amato and adored great grandmother of Louis and Carmela Forte, Alexa Carnabucci, and Anthony and Audrey Cecere. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

In accordance with the CDC's current restrictions on gatherings due to Covid-19, all services will be held privately. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery. Massachusetts Covid-19 Relief Fund: MA COVID-19 Relief Fund c/o Foundation for Business Equity 265 Franklin Street, BOX 304 Boston, MA 02110; or to make an online donation, go to: https://donate.macovid19relieffund. org. For guest book please visit www.buonfiglio.com.

Garry Rice

Retired co-owner of Ad-Com Express



Garry passed away Wednesday afternoon, April 8 at Melrose the

Wakefield Hospital. was 73 years old.

Born in Syracuse, NY, the son of the late Roy and Virginia (Schilling) Rice, he attended grade school in Indianapolis, Indiana but graduated from Lynnfield High School. He enlisted into the US Navy on September 1, 1965 during the Vietnam War. Garry was honorably discharged on July 3, 1968.

He graduated from Indiana University, received a Bachelor of Science Degree and eventually settled in Chelsea where he worked and raised his family.

Garry worked as a Chelsea Auxiliary Police Officer for a number of years before becoming partners in a freight forwarding company. He was a co-owner and business partner of Ad Com Express for 22 years until his retirement five years ago.

Garry and his wife, the late Susan J. (Rollins) Rice, resided in Revere for many

years. As a result of declining health issues, Garry has been residing in Melrose for the last two years. Garry was active in the

City of Chelsea and had an active role in Chelsea Little League from 1984 – 1987. He was a late member of the N.R.A. and the Gun Owners Action League. He was also a late member of the Mystic Valley Gun Club in Malden and a former instructor at the Old Colony Firearms School in Pembroke.

Garry was the husband of the late Susan J. (Rollins) Rice, devoted father of Michelle Gregory and her husband, Vincent of Revere and Colby H. Rice and his wife, Stephanie of Methuen; brother of the late Gregory Rice and is also lovingly survived by two granddaughters, Amanda and Brianna Gregory of Revere.

the current Due to COVID-19 regulations, Garry's Memorial Service and Celebration of Life will be conducted at a later date. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Carafa Family Funeral Home in Chelsea.

Patricia Cecere

Of Revere

Patricia (Hardick) Cecere of Revere died on April 2 at the age of 87.

Born in Chelsea on August 18, 1932 to the late Charles Hardick and Naomi (Reynolds) Hardick, she was the beloved wife of the late John Cecere, devoted mother of Patricia Sutherland of Revere, Leonard Cecere of Malden, Robert Cecere of Chelsea, and the late Mary Cecere; cherished grandmother of Richard Sr, Krista, Stephen, Nicole, Elizabeth and the late Kevin and Matthew; adored great grandmother of John, Richard Jr, Christopher, James and Briana and dear sister of the late Florence "Teeney" and Charlotte. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

In accordance with the gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, CDC, Mass. Department of Public Health, Archdiocese of Boston guidelines and local restrictions, all services will be privately held. For guest book, please visit www.buonfiglio.com

William "Willie" Cino

Of East Boston

William "Willie" Cino, 97, of East Boston, passed away on Friday, April 10.

He was the cherished son of the late Angelo and Anna (Cambria) Cino, beloved husband of the late Clara (Durante) Cino, loving father of William Cino and his wife, Denise and David Cino and his wife, Camille; adored grandfather of Nicholas Cino and his wife, Laura and Christopher Cino and his partner, Dustin White; cherished great-grandfather of Alessia, Domenic and Gabriel Cino; caring brother of the late Frank Cino, Fannie Tuttisanti, Josephine D'Orio, Molly Odoardi and Guy Cino. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all services are private. In lieu of flowers. donations may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital by visiting www.stjude.org.

Vazza Funeral Home www.vazzafunerals.com

Marie Rose Herman

Of Revere, formerly of East Boston

Marie Rose (Amato) Herman of Revere, formerly of East Boston, passed away on Easter Sunday, April 12.

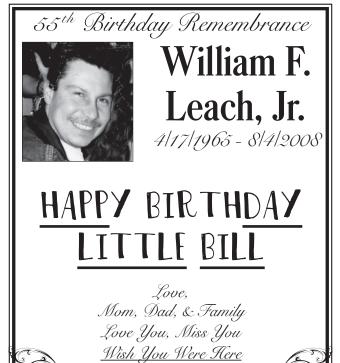
The beloved wife of the Gerald Herman, she was the loving mother of Deborah Milito of Tewksbury Joseph S. Milito and his wife, Deborah of Revere and John F. Milito and his wife, Doreen of Saugus; cherished grandmother of Mafalda "Muffie" Milito, Joseph Milito Jr., Lauren Fiore, Lindsey and John Milito and adored great grandmother of Antonio, Joseph, Mia, Gabriella and Athena; dear sister of Marion Venuto of Peabody and her late husband Charles, Carl Amato and his wife, Rose of Saugus, Elaine Lamattina and her husband, Louis of Peabody and Carol Sicranzo and her husband, Michael of Middleton. She



is also survived by many

nieces and nephews. In accordance with the CDC's current restrictions on gathering due to Covid-19, all services will be held privately. Interment will be in Holy Cross Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Marie's name to a charity of your choice. For online guest book www.vazzafunerals.com Vazza Funeral Home

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





Revere.

2019 - **April 16** - 2020 moment of every memory,

You left this world long before we'd planned for you to go. But though our time to say goodbye came way to soon, You will never be forgotten. You'll live on in our hearts. In that special

place reserved for only you, There is no doubt your're safe and soud in heaven. But with you gone we'll be

forever changed.

And though we cherish every

hold on to the joy you brought to life. And think of you, "Our Angel" with every smile we see, For though always we will miss

Oh how we'd love to have

you back again.

Never we'll forget

you, always we will

miss you.

Until then we'll

you, Never we'll forget you. For in Our hearts your love will always be.

In Loving Memory Husband Joe, Daughter Karen, Family & Friends

OBITUARIES

Anna Finocchio

Of East Boston

Anna M. Finocchio of East Boston passed away on April 6. She was in her 97th year.

The beloved daughter of the late Annagidia (Di-Giovanni) and Franco Finocchio, she was the sister of Frank Finocchio of North Andover, formerly of Malden and the late Assunta "Sue" Finocchio, Domenica "Dimmie" Dennis, Sr. Mary Dolores SND, Irene Dalton, Anthony, Ralph and Jennie Finocchio. Anna

is also survived by three generations of nieces and nephews. She will be buried with

her sister, Sue in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. Due to the restrictions put in place by the CDC, Dept. of Public Health and the Archdiocese of Boston all services will be private. Please consider sending messages of condolence to the family on the funeral home Tribute page. MagrathFuneral-Home.com

Gennaro Licciardi

Of East Boston

Gennaro "Jerry" Licciardi of East Boston, passed peacefully at Beth Israel Hospital on Palm Sunday, April 5.

He was the beloved hus-

band of the late Lorraine (Fay), son of the late Antoinetta (Cifelli) and Paul Licciardi, brother of Vincent Licciardi and his late wife, Dorothea of Wilmington and Julie Licciardi of Deerfield and two generations of nieces and nephews. He was the brother-in-law of Ellen and Raymond Correale of Winthrop and John and Joan Fay of Wilming-

Due to restrictions by the CDC, Dept. of Public Health and the Archdiocese of Boston, all services will be for immediate family only. Please consider sending messages of condolence to the family through our Tribute page. Donations in Jerry's memory to the American Heart Assn. would be appreciated. Entombment will be

in Woodlawn Mausoleum. MagrathFuneralHome.

Turn your yard work into compost

Boston's leaf and yard waste curbside collection starts this month! If you're looking for something to do while social distancing, participating in leaf and yard waste collection is a great way to spend time outside, clean your outdoor space, and repurpose your waste.

The Public Works Department has 20 weeks of curbside leaf and yard waste collection. You can also drop off your collection on scheduled days at the American Legion Highway site. View the schedule for

leaf & yard waste collection and drop-off's at bos-Here's what you need to

know for curbside collec-Place all leaves and yard debris in large paper bags

YARD WASTE Tie branches with string:

or open barrels labeled

3 feet max length and 1

inch max diameter Place barrels, bags, and branches curbside by 6:00

Do not include any plastic bags

Do not place large branches in barrels.

We are working towards a Zero Waste Boston. Composted yard waste helps conserve and rebuild a scarce resource — soil. Finished compost makes its way back into the community when it's donated to Boston's 100+ community gardens. If you want to make your own compost,

you can purchase a com-

post bin for \$25.

By participating in leaf and yard waste curbside pick-up, you can make composting a regular part of your routine. We can work together to move towards a more sustainable, zero-waste Boston.

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of

\$100.00 per paper.

That includes photo.

Please send to obits@reverejournal.com

or call 781-485-0588

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nation call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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EAST BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER ON THE FRONTLINES FIGHTING COVID-19

With East Boston having one of the highest COVID-19 infection rates in the City of Boston the doctors, nurses and staff at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center have been working around the clock on the frontlines combating the viral outbreak.

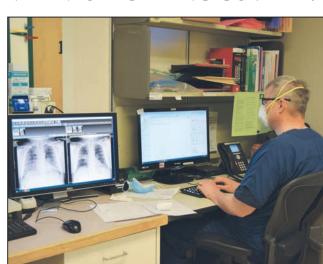
These photos are a glimpse into how much our world has changed in the past few weeks as doctors, nurses and staff at the Health Center risk their health each day to provide topnotch healthcare to Eastie's vulnerable



A EBNHC doctor inside the emergency room prepares to examine a patient.



Nurses and healthcare workers are covered head to toe in protective gear inside the Health Center's Gove Street emergency



The COVID-19 virus affects the body's respiratory system and can lead to pneumonia, or worse, Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome or ARDS. Here a healthcare worker at the Health Center checks on lung x rays.



Taking no chances, the staff working inside EBNHC's emergency room practice every precaution to avoid catching COVID-19.



A patient being wheeled out to an awaiting ambulance after being stabilized by EBN-HC's medical staff.



Like many emergency rooms across the country the staff at EBNHC is asking residents to stay home to protect not only the public but healthcare workers.



EBNHC staff thank donors that recently contributed food for the emergency room staff.

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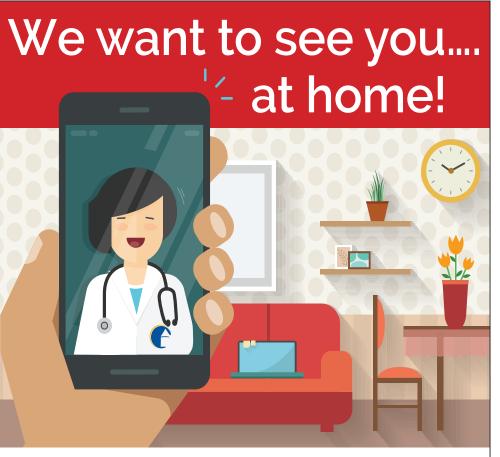
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Telemedicine allows health care professionals to evaluate, diagnose, and treat patients at a distance using telecommunications technology, such as a smart phone or computer. Telemedicine allows us to continue to provide high-quality care to our patients during the COVID-19 pandemic while minimizing exposures.

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

Do you need to schedule a telemedicine appointment with your primary care provider? Did you miss an appointment that needs to be rescheduled? If so, call 617-569-5800 to schedule a telemedicine appointment. This is especially important if you have a chronic or a behavioral health condition.

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