

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 alarm.

“Some of you may have

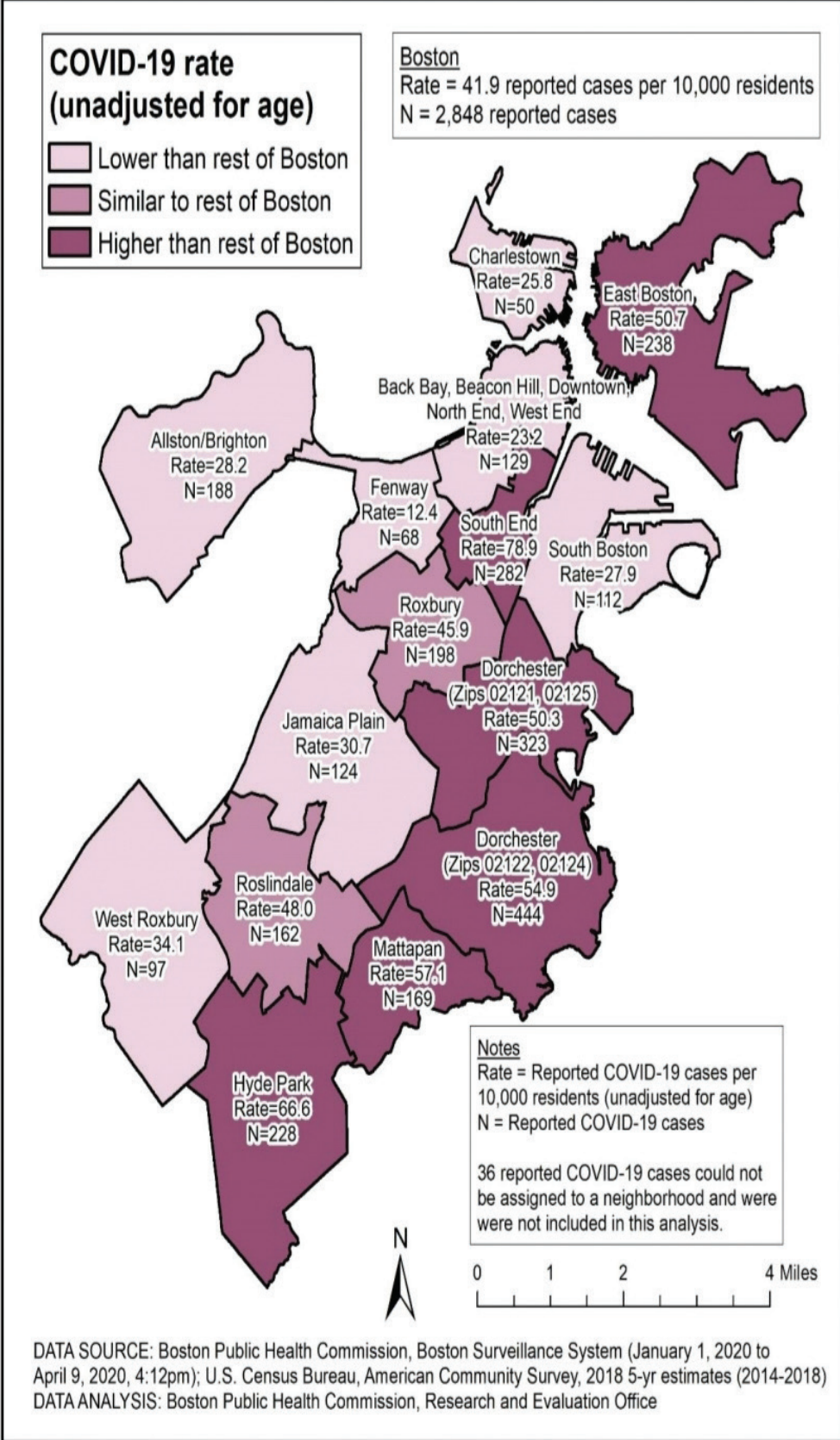
seen the recent data from the Boston Public Health Commission showing that East Boston has a Covid-19 infection rate of 50.7 cases per 10,000 residents,” said City Councilor Lydia Edwards. “While this information is troubling, there are a few important things for us to keep in mind when looking at the 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 coronavirus.”

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.”



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

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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.”

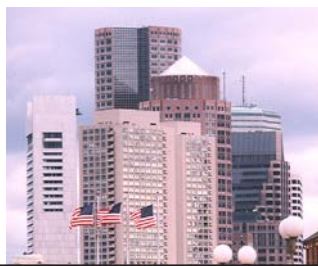
Our war against the coronavirus still has a long way to go. But with the outbreaks and death toll dropping in many places around the world, including New York City, perhaps we can see a pinhole of light in the long, dark tunnel in which we find ourselves.

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 power.

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.



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-hands-on-deck response, and it has affected every aspect of daily life in Boston. Every day, we are sending our love, our support, and our prayers to everyone who’s battling this terrible illness, and our hearts break for the families who have lost loved ones.

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

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

People are focused on protecting their fellow Bostonians, especially the

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

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

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

We’ve helped more people get connected with

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

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

My hope is that when we get through this, we will

have a new appreciation for all the things we hold dear. I hope that we will never again take simple joys and freedoms for granted.

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

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

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

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 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.

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 tobac-

co 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
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in Action

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.

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Local food truck stops in Eastie to help residents

By John Lynds

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 Jamaica Mi Hungry food truck was parked outside of Orient Heights Station and offered hygiene items like Pampers, soap, wet wipes, toothpaste, 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.

Soup Kitchen // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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 form.

"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 support."


Parents of infants: You are focused on keeping your baby safe right now. We are too.




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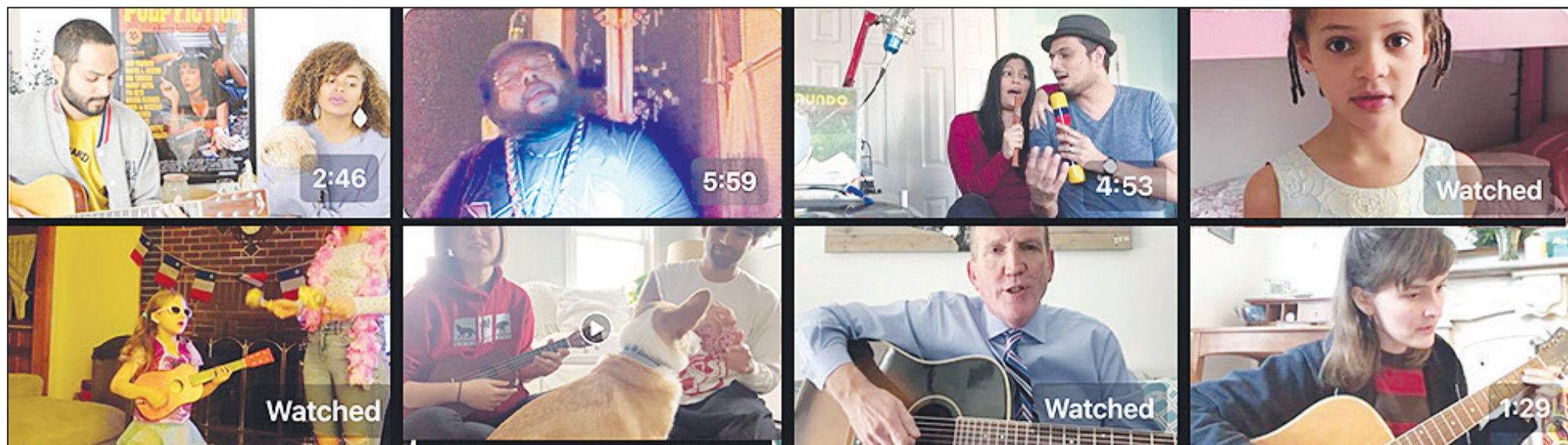
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Members of the community participating online in Zumix’s Sing-A-Song, Send-A-Song fundraising effort.

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

By John Lynds

With Eastie’s non-profits 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 Director 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 consid-

er 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 time.

“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 to witness how music con-

nects us during this time of physical distancing.”

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

Dedicate the song to someone you love and/or miss.

Sing/play your song.

Challenge three people to do the same.

And include the hashtag #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 30.

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 now.

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

From Regular Unemployment Compensation:

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.

tors, gig economy workers, and others who otherwise would not qualify for regular 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 Claimants: Eligible claimants should continue to check for updates at [HYPERLINK “http://www.mass.gov/unemployment/covid-19”](http://www.mass.gov/unemployment/covid-19) at “_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 COVID-19.

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

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.

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.

PUA will provide up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals who are not working as a result of COVID-19 and are self-employed, independent contrac-

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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 new 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 State Police are still conducting road tests for Commercial Driver’s Licenses (CDLs), but require anyone taking these road tests to bring and 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 Road Rage (SCARR) 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 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 Agency.

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”](http://usps.com) to 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 around!

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 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.

Schools presumably would play only other schools within their own conferences, a move that would necessitate a reconfiguration of the existing schedules for every school.

If schools do in fact reopen 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 whether schools are allowed to reopen on May 4, which is an increasingly-unlikely scenario.

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.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Sharpe Airport Bremen LLC	Bremen Gove Development	256-258 Bremen St	\$3,450,000
Sharpe Maverick Bremen	Bremen Gove Development	88 Bremen St	1,960,000
Sharpe Maverick Bremen	Bremen Gove Development	90 Bremen St	\$1,960,000
Klaus, Karrie	K&K Development Inc	42 Chelsea St #2	\$599,000
Chen, Andre	Chan Realty LLC	64-66 Gove St #5	\$580,000
Teasdale, Georgina A	Chan Realty LLC	64-66 Gove St #6	\$580,000
Mccusker, Daniel A	161-163 Leyden Street	161 Leyden St #1A	\$660,000
Foster, Theresa J	Marks, Patrick	211 London St #1	\$490,000
Konkioff, Naomi R	Falcucci Properties LLC	67 Lubec St #4	\$670,000
Gujar, Ninad	Byer, Craig	71 Lubec St #6	\$405,000
Vidal, Philip	Glaropoulos, Ellen	311 Meridian St	\$930,000
396 Meridian Street LLC	Myers, Eric	396 Meridian St #3	\$100,000
Foy, Lauren	217 Paris Street LLC	217 Paris St #1	\$460,000
Castro, Marco	217 Paris Street LLC	217 Paris St #5	\$780,000
Buzelli, Patricia G	Pomeroy, Martin C	156 Porter St #147	\$480,000
Distefano, Michael	Princeton Brooks LLC	135-137 Princeton St #2	\$529,000
Saratoga Portfolio 1 LLC	Bickertown Holdings LLC	140 Saratoga St	\$855,000
Witkus, Matthew	Samuelson, Kendall	303 Sumner St #3F	\$849,000
Sullivan, Matthew	Statham, Allison	463 Sumner St #1	\$477,500
Toomey, Kyle	Mcgillicuddy, Jean M	102 Trenton St	\$425,000

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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 missed.

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 nieces and nephews.



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 501 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



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

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 Deleagro and adored great-grandfather

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 Serino of Winthrop, formerly 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.

Donations in Ernest's memory to either



the NortheastAnimalShelter.org or DoctorsWithoutBorders.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

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 of 92.

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 Sodality.

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 H. Rice passed away Wednesday afternoon, April 8 at the Melrose Wakefield Hospital. He 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.

Due to the current 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.

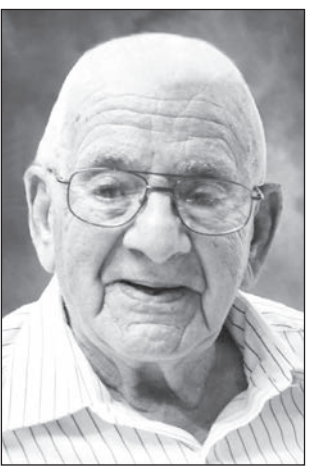
In accordance with the gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19 CDC, Mass. Department of Public Health, Archdiocese of Boston guidelines and local restrictions, all services will be privately held. For guest book, please visit www.buonfiglio.com

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 Alesia, 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 Revere.

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

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55th Birthday Remembrance

William F. Leach, Jr.
4/17/1965 - 8/4/2008

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
LITTLE BILL

Love,
Mom, Dad, & Family
Love You, Miss You
Wish You Were Here

Gloria DeMartino
2019 - April 16 - 2020

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 you're safe and sound in heaven. But with you gone we'll be forever changed. And though we cherish every moment of every memory, Oh how we'd love to have you back again. Never we'll forget you, always we will miss you. Until then we'll 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 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. MagrathFuneralHome.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 husband 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 Wilmington.

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.com

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 boston.gov.

Here’s what you need to know for curbside collection:

Place all leaves and yard debris in large paper bags or open barrels labeled **YARD WASTE**

Tie branches with string:

3 feet max length and 1 inch max diameter

Place barrels, bags, and branches curbside by 6:00 AM

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 compost 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



FHAP AGENCIES & OTHER STATE/LOCAL REFERRAL AGENCIES

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One City Hall Plaza, Suite 966
Boston, MA 02201-1054
617-635-4408

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51 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139-1732
617-349-4396

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES
21 Grand Street, 4th Floor
Hartford, CT 06106-1561
860-541-3400

MAINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
51 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
207-624-6050

MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
One Ashburton Place, Room 601
Boston, MA 02108-1599
617-994-6000

RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
180 Westminster Street, 3rd floor
Providence, RI 02903-3768
401-222-2661/62

VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
135 State Street, Drawer 33
Montpelier, VT 05633-6301
802-828-2480

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
2 Chenell Drive
Concord, NH 03301-9053
603-271-2767

NEW HAVEN COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
200 Orange Street, Room 402
New Haven, CT 06510
203-946-8160/8165

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination 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 health-care to Eastie's vulnerable residents.



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 room.



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.



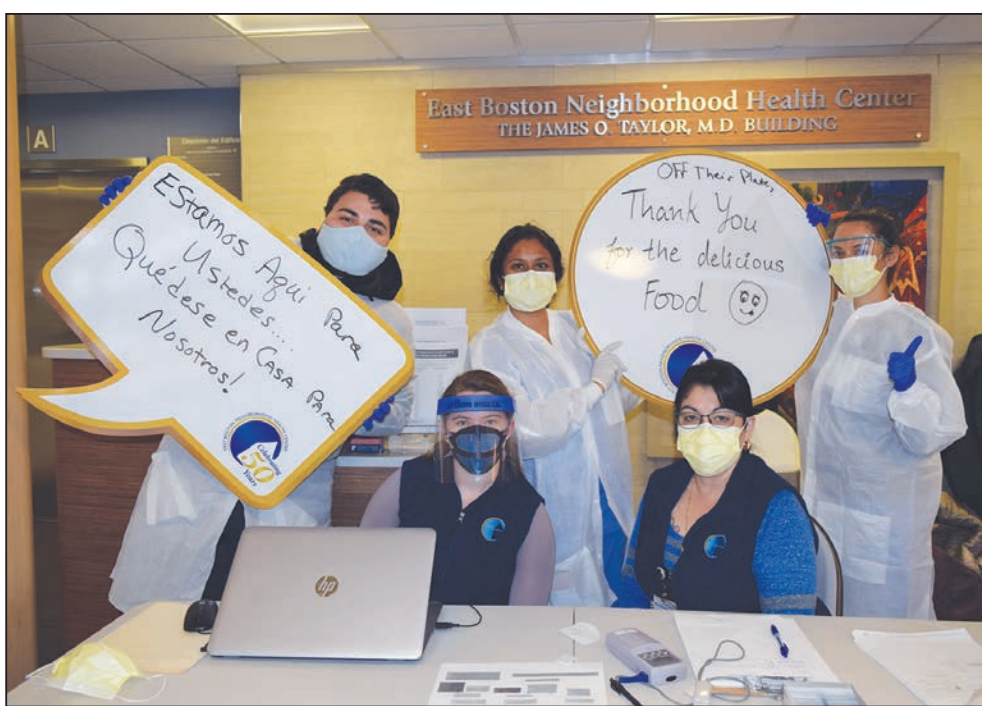
Taking no chances, the staff working inside EBNHC's emergency room practice every precaution to avoid catching COVID-19.



A patient being wheeled out to an awaiting ambulance after being stabilized by EBNHC'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.

We want to see you....
at home!

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. You should be treated if needed, especially during this public health crisis. We're here to keep you healthy!

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Medical staff go over a report on a patient's condition and symptoms.



Working the front desk at the Health Center's emergency room has its own risks and staff are still vulnerable to the quick spreading virus.

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