



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

Councilor Edwards calls on City, state to wait on schools MOU work

By Seth Daniel

Calling it tone-deaf to proceed on, Councilor Lydia Edwards is calling on the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Boston Public Schools to put on hold the transformation work detailed in a recent state report and agreed to in a March 10 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

With all of Charlestown's schools – including the Eliot K-8 in the North End – affected with new programming as part of the MOU, and the fact it was signed just days before COVID-19 closed the schools through May 4, Edwards said now is not the time to work out critical education decisions when families are in disarray.

“Most parents are trying to figure out how to pay rent or mortgages, how to feed their kids and deal with being home all the time or losing their jobs,” said Edwards.

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SBA, Treasury begin unprecedented public-private mobilization Friday

Staff Report

Following President Donald Trump's signing of the historic Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Jovita Carranza and Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin announced Tuesday that the SBA and Treasury Department have initiated a robust mobilization.

(SBA Pg. 11)



Nurses and health workers on the front lines pose for a photo with Charlestown's Debbie Burke, the senior vice president of patient care and chief nurse at Mass General Hospital. Burke said she is alarmed at the lack of seriousness in the Town for practicing social distancing. She said these providers on the front lines are counting on residents to be smart and safe. She is worried people aren't getting that message clearly enough.

Six Feet Top Nurse at MGH sounds the call for better social distancing in Charlestown

By Seth Daniel

Charlestown's Debbie Burke has made the walk from Mass General Hospital (MGH) to her home in Charlestown for years, but late last week and into this week she has been alarmed by what she is seeing.

The carefree gathering of many adults was in stark contrast to the dire situation she is seeing daily at the hospital where many young adults – not just older adults – are being admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with severe symptoms of COVID-19.

“I have to wonder if people understand social distancing, and that it's being physically distant from others by at least six feet,” she said. “I wonder if they under-

stand why we're doing this... Another thing that really needs a response is there is this sense that young people, especially those under 50, if they get COVID-19 it won't be severe and they'll get quickly over it or maybe they won't get it at all. It's definitely being seen as an older person's disease now. I really am worried because that's not what we're seeing.

“Of course, older people, due to age, have a different immune system so they are at greater risk and so are people who have compromised immune systems,” she continued. “You could be asymptomatic and carry this disease to others. We are also seeing young

(MGH Pg. 6)

Filling the gap Unique Charlestown fabricator transitions fast to making Face Shields

By Seth Daniel

Just 10 days ago, Chad Bennett and his theatrical manufacturing company toiled in relative obscurity over by the train tracks on the Charlestown line, but by now they might be the most skilled maker of face shields for health care workers in the entire city.

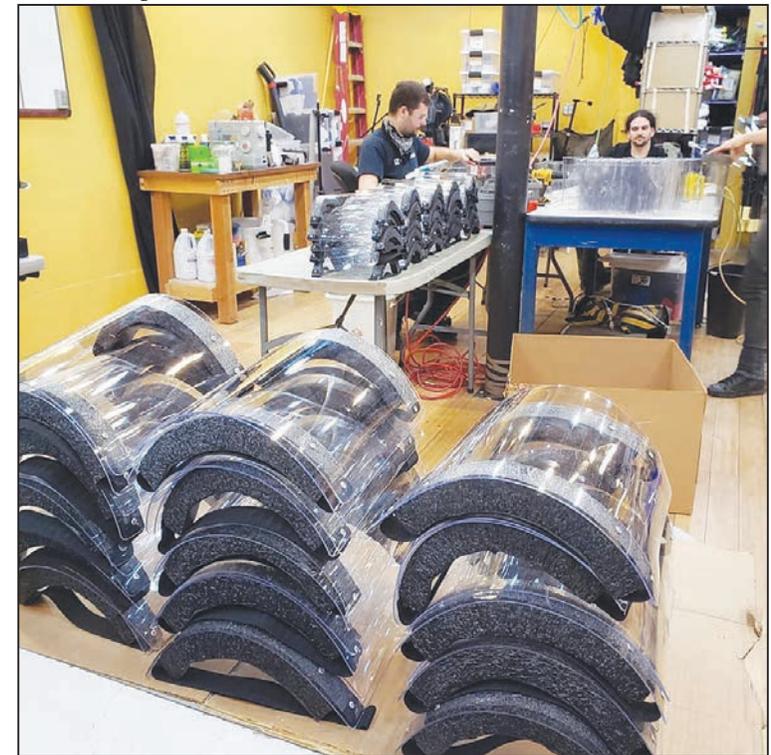
Earlier this month, Bennett said he was looking at a few models regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, one from England that said with no intervention nearly 2 million American could die, and another model that focused on the dangers to health care workers – which was significant.

“I said, ‘Wait, hold on,’” he said in an interview on Monday while taking a break from build-

ing shields. “I knew it was going to be bad, but I hadn't realized it could have been that bad. I immediately told everyone we had to do something and we shut down the shop immediately.”

Those models stopped Bennett in his tracks, and twelve days ago his company, Dark Monk, and

(FACE SHIELDS Pg. 3)



The Charlestown Faceshield Project quickly emerged in a small workshop by the train tracks on the Charlestown line. Chad Bennett's company Dark Monk usually makes theatrical fire equipment, but quickly switched to making face shields late last week. Last Sunday, they produced 501 to be donated directly to local hospitals for those on the front lines.

For the latest news in Charlestown that you need to know, check charlestownbridge.com

Legislature passes bills to help local government, restaurants

Rep. Ryan commends leaders for getting bills passed quickly

By Seth Daniel

The State Legislature passed several pieces of legislation over the past few days that focus on helping local businesses like restaurants by allowing liquor license holders to sell beer and wine with food to go – along with a municipal package focusing on taxes.

State Rep. Dan Ryan praised the efforts of both houses of the State Legislature in working well together to get necessary changes passed quickly that will help local businesses and local governments survive the COVID-19 response.

“I want to commend the House and Senate leadership for getting these bills to the Governor’s desk,” he said. “Legislative bod-

ies, by design, are accustomed to deliberation, not immediacy. In Massachusetts our work is bi-cameral, and bi-partisan. We are working collectively to get relief to our local communities as quickly as possible while respecting the confines of our Constitution. We are not out of the woods by a long shot. But I feel good about our local and state governments’ ability to respond and adapt. Mistakes will be made but the will to work and work collectively is heartening.”

State Sen. Sal DiDomenico said the bill came to the Senate on Monday after being passed in the House on Friday, March 27, and it included key provisions like the ability of restaurants with liquor licenses to be able to serve beer

and wine with food to-go or delivered.

DiDomenico said despite the shut-down at the State House, the legislature continues to meet regularly via online meetings.

On Tuesday, they had a caucus and last week they had an online meeting with 40 of the state’s top legislative leaders. They plan to have more as well in the coming weeks, likely about two a week.

“We’re still in business and passing bills and I’m co-sponsoring bills,” he said.

The legislation would extend the individual state tax filing and payment deadline from April 15 to July 15.

The legislation also includes the following provisions:

- Permits establishments licensed

to sell alcohol for on-premises consumption to sell wine and beer via delivery and take-out provided the wine or beer is sold in the same transaction as a purchase of food and in a sealed container.

- Modifies local permitting processes, extending municipal tax deadlines, and allowing municipalities to extend property tax exemptions and deferrals.

- Allows municipalities to activate qualified workers by suspending the cap on hours and compensation for certain retired employees for hours worked during the state of emergency.

“As the COVID-19 public health crisis continues to evolve, the House responded again today to the growing needs of our communities, our businesses, and our residents by easing burdens related to local permitting, extending

the state’s tax deadline and giving restaurants more business opportunities,” said Speaker Bob DeLeo. “Thank you to Chair Michlewitz and Chair O’Day for their leadership on these important issues.”

Said neighboring State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, chair of the Ways & Means Committee, “This relief package will give administrative and economic relief to our restaurants, our cities and towns, and to the taxpayers of the Commonwealth. As we continue to face the day to day effects of COVID-19, it is vital that we do all that we can to offer assistance to those in need.”

The bill was expected to be signed quickly by Gov. Charlie Baker, who proposed many of the measures two weeks ago.

Baker extends stay-at-home advisory, closure of non-essential businesses until May 4

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Marty Walsh and Governor Charlie Baker continue to update the public with new announcements as the coronavirus outbreak continues to develop.

Governor Baker on Tuesday announced an extension of his previous executive order requiring the closure of all non-essential businesses as well as the stay-at-home advisory until May 4. The orders were previously set to end on April 7. “This order also extends the 10 person limit on social gatherings until May 4 as well,” the governor said.

The state will also put out an updated list of businesses and organizations that will continue to operate during this period of time, which can be found at mass.gov/covid19.

“These actions will improve our ability to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and the impact the surge has on our healthcare system,” Baker said.

The governor said he recognizes the “high cost” this has on small businesses and on residents who have to stay away from their loved ones for even longer.

“If we can limit face-to-face, person-to-person contact now, we can slow the spread and get back to work as soon as safely as we can,” he said.

Additionally, the governor said that hotels, motels, and short term rentals like Airbnbs are to be used “for limited purposes only”—ones that serve “direct efforts related to the fight against COVID-19,” which includes nurses, doctors, workers part of the

essential business community, and Massachusetts residents “who have been otherwise displaced.”

Baker said that restaurants may continue providing food for take-out and delivery only, and stressed the importance of social distancing when outside and inside grocery stores and pharmacies.

“The next couple of weeks are going to be critical in this battle,” Baker said. “People need to play their part.”

He thanked all the workers on the front lines, including nurses, doctors, first responders, public sector workers, the National Guard, and essential workers like grocery store employees. “The state is filled with remarkable people and remarkable communities,” he said.

Baker also talked about the 13 confirmed deaths at the Solders’ Home in Holyoke, six of which have been officially attributed to COVID-19.

Baker said that in the short term, a primary focus of the state will be on the residents of the Solders’ Home in Holyoke, and assured that the state “will get to the bottom of it.”

Mayor Walsh Announces Plan For Homeless Individuals

As of March 31, there were 6,620 confirmed cases in Massachusetts and 938 cases in Boston. Walsh said on March 30 that 55 people have made full recoveries in Boston, and two Bostonians have passed away. Statewide, 89 people have died from the virus.

“We continue to work around the clock to slow the spread,” Walsh said on Monday afternoon.

Walsh urged people to remain in their homes, and only leave for essential items. He assured residents that water services will continue for all Boston residents, and urged people to reach out to their banks regarding mortgage and credit card payments, as many banks are offering programs to help. People can also reach out to the Boston Home Center, he said. He said that all eviction proceedings are halted until the crisis is over as well.

Walsh also said that the federal stimulus package will help renters and those with federally backed mortgages, and he will let people know what they can apply for as the city learns more about the package.

Walsh also announced a comprehensive plan for homeless individuals in the City, which includes the construction of a 38 bed isolation and quarantine facility next to the 112 Southampton Shelter.

Additionally, Suffolk University is repurposing one of its dormitory buildings to provide 172 beds to help aid with social distancing in Boston’s existing shelters. The facility will be managed by the Pine Street Inn and the Boston Public Health Commission. Walsh said that people should go to shelters and not directly to one of these facilities. At the shelters, staff will evaluate people and decide where best place for them to go is.

“I sincerely want to thank Suffolk University for stepping up to the plate and getting these facilities ready so quickly,” Walsh said.

An additional seven beds will be provided by The Davis Companies at the site of a former hospital in

Brighton. This facility will be operated by the Boston Public Health Commission and Boston Health Care for the Homeless.

Walsh said that all homeless shelters in Boston remain open and are receiving regular deep cleaning and sanitizing.

Social Distancing Outdoors

Walsh said that while most people are doing a good job of social distancing, there have been several 311 calls reporting that people are still gathering in groups and playing sports in the City’s parks.

In response, the Mayor has put zip ties on basketball hoops in an effort to dissuade people from gathering in groups to play sports. “The last step is to lock the park down,” Walsh said. “We don’t want to lock the park down.”

Additionally, Walsh said the City has received calls that realtors were showing properties in Open Houses. He asked realtors to not do that, and to show apartments by appointment only.

Schools, Seniors, Parking, And Healthcare Updates

Walsh said that the City continues to serve students and families while Boston Public Schools are closed by distributing meals at over 70 sites across the city. Additionally, over 21,000 Chromebooks have been distributed for online learning.

The City also continues to reach out to its seniors to make sure they are receiving the support they need. Walsh said that seniors who are having trouble accessing food should call 311; they can also call the Greater Boston Food Bank or Project Bread.

For transportation updates,

Walsh said that a five minute pick-up zone can be created for cars to park while picking up take-out from restaurants, and those with resident parking stickers are allowed to park within their neighborhoods in metered spaces without payment or time limits. There will also be no ticketing for expired registrations, and still no ticketing or towing for street cleaning. Residents are still not allowed to park in handicapped spots or in front of hydrants or crosswalks.

“It’s about all of us working together,” Walsh said. He said that while he knows kids and parents are getting “antsy,” families should talk to their children about the “seriousness of this.”

He reminded people again to stay at home, but going out for a walk and staying socially distant from others is “fine.” He said he doesn’t want to have to arrest or fine anyone, but said that everyone needs to follow the guidelines.

“We need to level this off; probably won’t see it for another couple of weeks,” the Mayor said.

Additionally, Massachusetts has partnered with Buoy Health, based in the South End, which can provide free health tools to residents. At buoy.com/mass, residents can use an online diagnostic tool to assess risk for COVID-19.

Other Baker Updates

Governor Baker on March 30 announced actions that would increase the health care workforce in Massachusetts, including expediting licensing for certain health care workers and initiatives to recruit volunteer medical profes-

FACE SHIELDS (from pg. 1)

a host of volunteers started the Charlestown Faceshield Project. Seven days ago they began production of their approved face shields, and on Sunday they made 501 in a single day.

“We started production four days ago and rolled out the concept nine days ago,” he also said on Monday. “Having gone from having no idea how to produce a face shield at all to producing 501 in one day on Sunday with volunteers is hard to fathom. I’m still trying to wrap my head around that. It was huge. As soon as we put calls out to the manufacturing community, people helped us. We found parts and supplies all around from our contacts. It was an absolute village effort.”

So far, they have been donating the face shields to Cape Cod Hospital and Cambridge Health Alliance and others. Right now, Beth Israel and Brigham and Women’s are looking at the product with a mind to approve its use as well – further driving up demand for something they hadn’t made one week ago.

Bennett said the idea is to create enough of them to fill the gap for the next week or two until the major manufacturers begin to ship their standard face shields.

“If you’re the kind of person that understands manufacturing and product design, it’s not a big step to chart this course,” he said. “We’re asking doctors to be product designers and they can’t be. A study for a doctor takes years... You get a little person like me who has an idea and I can push out a prototype in two days and be on the market quick. They need these now and we can’t wait for the big guys to start delivering in three weeks. We have to fill this gap right now to protect those health care workers on the front lines. It is all about helping those on the front lines.”

He said the goal of his project was simply to make 100 face shields, but that has now ballooned to thousands.

“The goal of 100 went to 500 and then 2,000 and now 3,000,” he said. “If I could meet the needs of all the hospitals that want them, it would be 15,000. The problem is raw materials. I have just placed the largest order for rivets and washers that I’ve ever placed or will ever place. It’s an order of \$3,000 to \$4,000 worth of rivets and washers. Incredible.”

Normally, Bennett’s company makes theatrical and performance materials, particularly for people who work with fire. It’s a small niche market, but they are the largest company in America that

makes such things.

“If someone is working with something that’s on fire, chances are we built it,” he said.

It’s a far cry from making face shields, but Bennett said from his

Sherman Street workshop that it’s about ingenuity and rolling with the times. As someone that’s handy and a tinkerer and manufacturer, anything can be done quickly.

The effort has a GoFundMe

page that is for ordering supplies so more shields can be made in the next two weeks. It is listed under Charlestown Faceshield Project. All donations, he said, will go straight to raw materials as those

making them are volunteers.

He gave a special thank you to VDA scenic design company and also the IATSE Local 11 theatrical union.



DND Affordable Rental Opportunity

Talbot Commons- Phase 1 - Multiple Addresses in Dorchester, 02124:
 14 & 18 New England Ave, 15 & 17 Mallard Ave, 207 Norfolk Street, 4-6 Norfolk Terrace

40 Income-restricted Units

19 New Construction and 7 Moderate Rehab to be rented through lottery
14 units are currently occupied with no waiting list. Filled on turnover by this lottery

Number of Units	Number of Bedrooms	Rent	Maximum Income in AMI
3	2-Bedrooms*	up to 30%household income	30% AMI
6	3 Bedroom*	up to 30%household income	30% AMI
3	1-Bedroom	\$1,359	60% AMI
25	2-Bedroom**	\$1,530	60% AMI
3	3 Bedroom	\$1,359	60% AMI

*The three 2 bedrooms and one 3-bedroom units are Homeless Set-asides filled through direct referral from HomeStart. For more information, please visit <https://www.homestart.org/bostonhsa> or call 857-415-2139

**Two of these units are built out for people with mobility impairments + one is built out for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing

Maximum Yearly Income based on Number of People in Household (2019 limits, provided by DND)

Number of People in Household	30% AMI	60% AMI
1	\$24,900	\$49,800
2	\$28,450	\$56,880
3	\$32,000	\$64,000
4	\$35,550	\$71,100
5	\$38,400	\$78,800
6	\$41,250	\$82,500

Minimum Yearly Income Based on the Number of Bedrooms

Number of Bedrooms	30%	60%
1	No Minimum	\$41,133
2	No Minimum	\$49,371
3	No Minimum	\$57,024

Minimum Incomes do not apply to households with housing assistance like Section 8, MRVP, Vash

Applications are available March 30, 2020 through April 24, 2020

After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period.

To request an application online please go to: <http://bit.ly/talbotcommons1>

If you cannot complete the application online (recommended), please call us at **(617) 287-9580** to request that we mail you one and to ask for any guidance you might need to complete the application.

When you call, you will be asked for your full name, complete mailing address, and phone number. This is a City and HUD requirement.

Application must be submitted online OR postmarked by April 24, 2020. Reasonable accommodations made.

Selection by Lottery. Income, Asset, & Use Restrictions apply. Preferences apply. For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call or email.

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations email WinnResidential at TalbotCommons@winnco.com or call (617) 287.9580 / TTY/TDD: (800) 439-2370



EDITORIAL

THERE ARE MANY HEROES IN THE BATTLE AGAINST COVID-19

The current crisis in which we find ourselves has been compared to a war.

But instead of an opposing army, our enemy is a novel virus that is 1/900th the width of a human hair and that can be transmitted in ways that are both stealthily insidious and ruthlessly efficient.

As with any battle, it is the soldiers on the front lines who are doing the hard fighting and bearing the heavy burden of loss.

In this case, the army responding to take on COVID-19 consists of our first and second-level responders -- the police officers, firefighters, EMTs, nurses, doctors, and other health care and emergency workers -- as well as the truckers, grocery store and pharmacy clerks, utility company employees, municipal employees, and the countless others whose jobs have been deemed "essential" in order that their fellow Americans can maintain some semblance of normalcy.

Although these heroes perform many disparate tasks, the one thing that they have in common is that they literally are putting their lives, as well as the safety of their loved ones, on the line by exposing themselves to possible infection when they deal with any member of the public.

For our first and second-level responders, the danger has been particularly acute. The tragic stories making the headlines about nurses and doctors who have died because of exposure to COVID-19 have cast into stark reality the very real, life-and-death battle that these heroic Americans are facing every minute of every day that they are on the job.

Thanks to a level of unpreparedness by our nation that is nothing less than shocking -- from the lack of available test kits that could have identified those first cases that ensnared so many unsuspecting victims, to the scarcity of necessary protective and life-saving equipment (masks, gowns, and ventilators) -- our first and second responders have been left defenseless in their battle against this onslaught.

As one emergency room nurse in New York aptly put it, "We are being asked to fight a war without any ammunition."

We know we join with our readers in thanking all of our heroes for their selfless service to our nation and upon whose continued devotion to duty our very survival is dependent.

THIS WILL BE A LONG HAUL

It has become evident to everyone that the effort to hold back COVID-19 is not conducive of either an easy or a quick fix.

This is going to be a long and difficult ordeal that will test the fabric of our nation, both collectively and individually.

No one among us is immune to the effects of this plague. It will reach into every corner and crevasse of society, regardless of age, gender, fame, or wealth.

The \$2 trillion relief bill that Congress approved last week is just the beginning of what promises to be the unlimited spending of vast sums in order to provide all Americans, from the biggest corporations to individual citizens, the means by which they can make it through to the other side of this pandemic, however long that may take.

With almost all of the country essentially quarantined in place, these additional, enormous government outlays will be the only available option to ensure that no American goes hungry and to save hundreds of thousands of businesses, both big and small, from disappearing forever.

Unlimited government spending to achieve these ends also will be necessary to prevent our society from descending into a state of total anarchy.

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

LETTERS to the Editor

WE'LL MATCH DONATIONS

Dear Editor,

In recognition of the amazing work that the Kennedy Center does on a day by day basis and especially during the current COVID-19 crisis, until April 15, Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard will match donations up to \$1,000 made to Kennedy Center.

For more than 56 years, the Kennedy Center has provided critical safety nets for Charlestown's most vulnerable children, families and seniors. During the COVID-19 crisis, the Kennedy Center is a Boston Public Schools Eats Drop and Go food site and distributes free books, early literacy and learning kits, and related material daily. The Kennedy Center's Home Care arm is reaching out to seniors and directing resources to address health, safety, financial and food insecurities.

We know this is not the best time to be soliciting donations, but any amount will go a long way to providing resources to those who are having trouble meeting basic needs in this difficult time. Donations can be made to kenedycenter.org/donate. Thank you.

Michael Parker
Friends of the
Charlestown Navy Yard

ACT WITH THE URGENCY THIS CRISIS REQUIRES

Dear Editor,

(An open letter to the Massachusetts State Legislature)

In this time of crisis, instabil-

ity, and fear we look to you for leadership—and the lives of Bay Staters will literally depend on it. We are grateful for the role the legislature has played over the past two weeks, from moving legislative offices to remote function, to encouraging Governor Baker to close schools and daycares statewide, to waiving the 1-week waiting period for unemployment assistance. However, this moment requires more from the legislative branch, and on a rapid timeline.

Even as workplaces across the Commonwealth shutter and paychecks disappear, individuals' expenses are increasing due to the demands of this emergency. And as we saw vividly in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when disasters strike, it is people of limited means who bear the most unforgiving brunt of these crises. Low-income residents must now heat their homes during the hours when they used to be at school or work. Families must make daily pilgrimages to meal distribution sites—also often exposing themselves and their children to risk of coronavirus exposure on mass transit—to replace the two meals a day previously provided at schools. Formerly routine trips to the laundromat are now costly moral choices between leaving young children home alone longer, taking a less-frequently running bus, or paying for a TNC ride to get home to your kids faster. Residents in need are spending scarce cell phone minutes on long wait times to apply for emergency aid or to get telemedicine consults.

Massachusetts' assistance programs, as currently configured, are not adequate to meet this

unprecedented need. Applications for SNAP benefits have increased fourfold in the last two weeks. The unemployment system has been flooded with applications, many of whom are ineligible for assistance under current parameters. And even for those who do qualify, the existing 50% wage replacement will not sustain already-low-income families. Advocates in the domestic violence space are steeling themselves for a wave of families in crisis. And these are just a few examples. The coronavirus pandemic has put immense stress on the safety net system.

Many proposals have been floated for how to address different facets of this flood of need, and to keep circulation flowing in our local economies: a one-time supplemental payment TAFDC and EAEDC cash assistance beneficiaries; a universal basic income intervention; closing holes in healthcare coverage for the underinsured; expansion of the UI benefit beyond 50%; supplementing the federal LifeLine program to ensure people have adequate minutes on their phone to enroll in these programs and to realistically practice social distancing; an infusion of dollars into the shelter system and RAFT program to help people be/stay safely housed. We implore you to choose some of these solutions and move on them now.

Low-income families are in desperate, health-compromising situations and have been so for many days already. Specifically, we call on you to put a package of safety net measures on the floor of the House and Senate for a vote no later than April 10—a full month after the state of emergency was declared.

We recognize that funding will be necessary to back up these interventions. While federal assistance may cover some of these expenses, it likely won't cover all of them. Thanks to your stewardship of the state budget in recent years, Massachusetts boasts the strongest "Rainy Day Fund" we have ever had, at \$3.47 billion. One of the three allowed purposes for appropriations from the fund is "for any event which threatens the health, safety or welfare of the people or the fiscal stability of the commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions." If this isn't such an occasion, we don't know what

(LETTERS Pg. 5)



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EMAIL: editor@charlestownbridge.com • WEB SITE: www.charlestownbridge.com

NEWSSTAND PRICE: FREE / SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$75 ANNUALLY

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CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

Honesty

By Very Reverend James Ronan, VF – Pastor, St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena Parish

If a dog is a part of your life's routine, you are out walking even in these most challenging times. In fact, these walks are some of the most pleasant times of the day, especially as springtime sneaks up on us. Ambling along with Lily, who cannot be convinced to keep social distance from other dogs, offers a chance to greet others all over town. Usually the greeting begins with some kind of a salutation like, "How you doing Father?" I confess, in these times, I am unsure how to respond.

Of course, normally, the response is "Good or fine -- and how are you?" So, I am stumped. Do I answer with descriptors like, worried or scared or anxious? It makes me think. Honestly, how do I really feel?

Maybe COVID-19 is precisely the time for some honest reflection, not just about the moment of a greeting on a walk, but about everything. What happens if, now, I look at all aspects of my life through a lens of pure honesty.

Think about it: your career, your family, your health, your friendships, your community, your church, your faith, your finances, your routines, your plans, your home, and on and on. When I do this, in the reality of COVID-19, I find everything starts to stack, so to speak, with the most important areas quickly becoming of highest priority.

Within this new ordering, brought about through honest assessment, I find myself valuing, appreciating, even gratefully celebrating, parts of my life that today I see as more precious than ever. Honesty can do this. Gratitude emerges in this new honesty as a blessed reminder of God's generosity. It is not just in this moment, of course. The generosity of God's lavish love has always been active, in fact, has never been absent. Allowing one's heart to be infused with this awareness, namely of recognition of God's goodness, kindness, and generosity, transforms these moments of anguish.

In fact, for me, everything changes when I allow gratitude to define my honest awareness of all within and around me. Even in the midst of this most frightening time, looking into our lives with honesty, over all the years, yields a humble recognition of being Blessed.

So let's accept the opportunity during this COVID-19 moment and beyond, to unplug as best we can and reflect – reflect on our lives in the most honest of ways. Let's prioritize what is of true value in our lives and hold onto those priorities each day. Let's take the time to develop an awareness that is to be greatly embedded in our hearts and minds for all time that, truly, God has greatly blessed us, especially with all those who are so precious to us. Let's walk each day with hearts filled with gratitude to God for these blessings. Believe it or not, that is a joyful place to live.

Lottery sales down nearly 30 percent since beginning of March

By Seth Daniel

State Lottery officials reported this week sales have dropped off steeply on lottery products across the board, and if that drop continues, it could have a major effect on Local Aid payments to cities and towns this year.

That news comes just as worried municipalities begin to put together City or Town Budgets in one of the most uncertain times on record. Budgets always have relied on Local Aid payments from the state, which come from a variety of sources. However, lottery disbursements were always a steady and reliable stream within the Local Aid formula – even in tough times.

However, the lottery products are mostly based on physically going to a retailer, and with many stores closed and social distancing in place for those that aren't, it's a tougher sell. That combined with tremendous job loss in the last four weeks has led to steep declines.

"The health and well-being of Lottery employees and residents of the Commonwealth are our top priority and the Lottery will continue to follow the guidance and orders of state and federal officials regarding public health and safety," said Michael Sweeney, executive director of the Massachusetts State Lottery, on

Tuesday. "Representative of the whole economy, Lottery revenues have decreased significantly over the last three weeks. This will affect the revenue returned to the state and could potentially impact unrestricted local aid returned to cities and towns. The decreased sales and revenue production will also negatively impact the small business owners who are increasingly under financial duress. As an in-store cash-only business, with a stay-at-home advisory currently in place and many of our retail partners being closed, we anticipate that these figures will continue to be drastically lower than usual."

Since the week beginning on March 1 – which featured fairly "normal" Lottery sales, the overall Lottery products are down 29 percent. That meant sales went from \$111.6 million during that week, to \$78.9 million the week beginning March 22.

Overall, Keno sales are down the most, dropping 52 percent since the beginning of March. Instant tickets were down 24 percent, while numbers game sales were down only 17 percent.

Below are the weekly sales numbers from the Lottery for March:

- March 1-7: \$111.6 million
- March 8-14: \$110.2 million
- March 15-21: \$88.7 million
- March 22-28: \$78.9 million

CHARLESTOWN BEAT

Larceny

03/26/20 – A victim on Cross Street reported she left her Yoyo stroller on her front stairs at about 4 p.m., but when she returned at around 5 p.m., it was gone.

Assault and Battery

03/27/20 - As a result of a fight on Bunker Hill Street between two females, complaints may be sought in Charlestown Court.

Auto Theft

03/27/20 – A victim on Elm Street reported he parked his motor vehicle - a gray Audi - in his driveway at approximately 3 a.m., but when he got up at 5:30 a.m., he noticed it was gone. The victim said he thinks he might have left the keys in the car. A security video shows someone in the area of the car after 3 a.m. before it cuts out.

LETTERS (from pg. 4)

is. We urge you to use the Rainy Day Fund to swiftly enable some combination of the interventions above.

We recognize that the Fund, combined with federal resources, will likely be needed to support emergency response and economic recovery over several months and potentially years. But given the acute state of emergency facing our people and our economy in the immediate weeks, a modest draw of up to 6%, or about \$200 million, from the \$3.47 billion total in the Rainy Day Fund is entirely warranted. As many of our family members, neighbors, and fellow Bay Staters enter the third week of coronavirus impacts, we believe this \$200 million is not only desperately needed, but overdue.

In Massachusetts, we have the means to protect the health and welfare of our residents. We beg you to act with the urgency this crisis requires.

Progressive Massachusetts

- Act on Mass
- American Federation of Teachers (AFT) MA
- American Friends Service Committee MA
- Brazilian Worker Center
- Chinese Progressive Association
- Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries
- Council on American-Islamic Relations-MA
- Dismas House
- Lynn United for Change
- Massachusetts AFL-CIO
- Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN)
- Massachusetts NOW (National Organization for Women)
- Massachusetts Public Health Association
- Mijente Boston Asamblea
- NAACP, New England Area Conference
- National Association of Social Workers (NASW), MA Chapter
- Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts
- New England Jewish Labor Committee

- One Fair Wage
- Our Revolution Massachusetts
- Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts
- Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts (PHENOM)
- Rosie's Place
- Somerville Community Corporation
- UAW MA State CAP Council
- Union of Minority Neighborhoods
- United for a Fair Economy
- Worcester Interfaith

Affordable Senior Housing

Senior Living on Bellingham Hill
100 Bellingham Street in Chelsea
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Various payment options available. Must be at least 18 years old.



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MGH *(from pg. 1)*

people who are getting very, very sick and they are in their 20s, 30s and 40s. We have to take drastic social distancing measures...This is going to get worse and we will see that. However, now is our opportunity to level the curve by staying home."

Burke, the senior vice president for Patient Care and Chief Nurse at MGH, is on the very front lines and shares a great deal of the worries that the nurses under her supervision feel. After a difficult shift last week, she said she was heart-broken to walk back to her long-time home in Charlestown and see people hanging out like it was business as usual. At some of the restaurants, they were outside and congregating closely as they waited for food. Others jogged with large groups, and some played basketball on the courts.

"I saw them hanging out together and having a good old time," she said. "It was so staggering, a total shock, to me. I think by this time they should know what we've been saying about social distance and why we're doing it. It has to be now and not later. It has

to be serious. We don't want to be the next New York."

Burke said the situation at MGH is one where more and more patients are starting to come in and inundate the hospital. It's the same thing that hospitals all over the state are seeing.

"We're seeing some very, very sick people," she said. "We are seeing the numbers of patients going up and up every day. We are planning for the worst. We've been planning for disasters for a long time. We have a good Emergency Response team but clearly this isn't anything that we all prepared for – it kind of came out of nowhere."

She said they are planning to test many more people and also to have more people on ventilators – and the actions of those on the outside of the hospital has everything to do with protecting healthcare workers like Burke and her large numbers of nurses and respiratory therapists who are treating people who are so sick.

"When you're seeing the actual front lines every day, you have a much greater appreciation for this

and for the call to social distance than those who may not see these things," she said. "If you go out for a run, you shouldn't be running with other people. I saw people running very closely together in large groups the other day. Also, if you're waiting for your food outside of a restaurant, you should wait six feet apart. Don't congregate while you wait...There is an opportunity to make a difference now and if we wait, it will be too late. That's why I'm so worried."

•IF YOU GET SICK, DON'T PANIC

Burke said if anyone does start to show symptoms, and feels like they might have COVID-19, they are not alone on their journey and it's not a time to panic.

She said gateways have been set up and medical professionals are prepared to take care of patients, even when they don't need to go to the hospital – as many do recover at home with rest.

The first thing to do is to contact a primary care doctor, and they will evaluate the symptoms and potentially send one for testing at a test site.



A group of MGH Respiratory Therapists on the front lines of the COVID-19 epidemic are shown imploring those in the Town to stay inside and practice social distancing. "We stay here for you; Please stay home for us," reads their sign.

"It really is about monitoring and treating the symptoms you would do like with any other virus," she said. "If you have a fever, take something to reduce the fever. It's really symptom management and keeping hydrated."

She said 60 percent of the MGH's outpatient visits are now being handled with tele-medi-

cine...It is important to call your provider if you feel like you have it because if you get worse, we will want to hospitalize you."

Providers will continue to follow up with their patients, which is part of the remote monitoring program that many health care providers have instituted very quickly in the last several weeks.



"I almost wish I didn't hire Jillian and Steve to sell my place in Charlestown. They did such an amazing job and now I am living in the burbs. I'd never recommend leaving Charlestown, but if you must, I'd definitely recommend having these two sell your place."

— Adam Hawk, Co-Owner
Monument Restaurant & Tavern

REIG + LOSORDO

Jillian Reig and Steve Losordo
rlgroup@compass.com
617.960.6080

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Housing Court standing orders will bar new eviction cases through April 21

By Seth Daniel

Though it is an unintended consequence of the state court system trying to promote social distancing and health, there will also be an added protection for tenants affected by the COVID-19 response who are in fear of being evicted from their homes for not being able to pay rent.

April 1 has been circled on the calendar of many homes for the past three weeks since the bottom fell out of the world economy, and with such job and income loss – it left a lot of folks wondering how they would pay rent at the first of the month, that being the first rental payment due since the outbreak.

Housing Court Chief Justice Tim Sullivan and Deputy Court Administrator Benjamin Adeyinka said this week they have issued a Housing Court standing order through April 21 that will allow only emergency cases to come before them, and those do not include the typical summary process evictions.

“The answer as to whether we are taking those cases is no – we are not taking the garden variety eviction cases until after April 21,” said Chief Justice Sullivan. “The only actions we’re hearing are emergency conditions and they do not include the garden variety eviction cases. Only emergency cases are being heard, and so eviction cases are being suspended presently.”

That order really doesn’t have a lot to do with protecting people from being evicted. In fact, the standing order spells out that the order is to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

“Consistent with the Trial Court’s goal in slowing the spread of the virus, and considering the recommendations by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and from state health officials, the

Housing Court’s aim during this time is twofold: first, where practicable, to reduce the number of people who come to each courthouse where Housing Court business is conducted; and second to promote ‘social distancing,’ thereby minimizing the risk of exposure to court staff and litigants.”

That has, however, stopped evictions at a time when people also need help staying in their homes.

Across all the Housing Courts – which have expanded in the last year across the state – case filings have gone down dramatically because of the order and the inability to appear in court unless an absolute emergency. Filings statewide in Housing Court were down 63 percent two weeks ago, and were down 68 percent last week.

“We think the message has been received loud and clear by the general public,” said Chief Justice Sullivan. “The emergencies we’re doing with telephonic hearings... Still, we want to make sure they fully understand that despite the access to the building, we’re still accessible. They can call us.”

Right now, the typical Eastern Division Housing Court session in Chelsea – which serves Chelsea and Revere once a week – will be suspended for a period of time. Operations for the Eastern Division have been fully moved to the Edward Brooke Courthouse, which has been closed recently.

For those in Everett, typically they had sessions in Woburn for Housing Court, those are also suspended. The headquarters for those operations now are in Salem or Lawrence, but again only for emergencies.

Adeyinka said they cannot take a position on evictions or protections at the court, but they are encouraging communication between all parties.

“We do encourage individuals

in this time to exercise common sense and communicate – landlords with tenants and tenants with landlords,” he said. “We’ve found anecdotally that large landlords have taken measures... We’ve found some of the larger landlords have made that contact. We can’t support or offer any advice though.”

Chief Justice Sullivan said a key item is the state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) standing order that reinforced the order from Housing Court. That order calls on all local housing authorities to allow forbearance of rent on subsidized tenancy. He said that is an important precedent and helpful to those tenants.

“If someone feels they have their back against the wall, whether a landlord or a tenant, they should contact the court’s hotline,” he said.

It is also important to note that any default judgements entered between March 1 and April 21 will be vacated.

Sullivan and Adeyinka said they have Housing Specialists still working diligently who can offer advice on how to access rental programs like the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT). They also said Housing Specialists are bi-lingual in Spanish, and interpreters can be patched in on an advanced conference call line that can handle up to 20 people at once.

“We don’t want language to be a barrier,” Adeyinka said. “We do have the ability to conference in an interpreter.”

Chief Justice Sullivan added the attorney for a day program is also available virtually for those who need it, and they are working with several organizations to have that available by telephone or online.

“We are here to help even though the building is physically

closed,” he said.

Sullivan added the situation and the times are like nothing he has seen, and that has justified the measures that have been taken in Housing Court.

“I agree with is a unique time we’re in,” he said. “I’ve never experienced anything like it in my 60 years. I can’t remember anything being more disruptive than this pandemic.”

The following is contact information for the Eastern Housing

Court:

•Contact information:
<https://www.mass.gov/locations/eastern-housing-court>
Eastern Housing Court #: 617-788-6233

email: easternhousingcourt@jud.state.ma.us

Eastern Divisional Leaders:
Acting Clerk Magistrate,
Michael T. Neville

Chief Housing Specialists, Alex Valderrama

Angell Open for Emergency & Urgent Cases or Prescription/Food Pickup

As the COVID-19 situation quickly evolves, Angell Animal Medical Center has put protocols in place to continue to serve the pets and people of our community while keeping our staff and clients protected.

URGENT AND EMERGENT CASES ONLY

Angell in Boston and Waltham remain open only for urgent and emergent cases. Angell’s clinics in Westford and Danvers remain open for wellness and primary care.

PRESCRIPTIONS/FOOD

Angell Boston continues to fill prescriptions for Angell patients. Clients can submit their prescription requests at angell.org/pharmacy or by calling 617-524-5700.

Angell will waive the shipping fee at this time to mail prescriptions.

For more information regarding this change to services, please visit angell.org/COVID

 **angell**
animal medical center

angell.org

Angell Animal Medical Center | 350 S. Huntington Ave, Boston | 617-522-7282
MSPCA-Angell West | 293 Second Ave, Waltham | 781-902-8400
Angell at Essex | 565 Maple St, Danvers | 978-304-4648
Angell at Nashoba | 100 Littleton Rd, Westford | 978-577-5992



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BAKER (from pg. 2)

sionals. Health care professionals who are licensed in other states or have allowed their Massachusetts licenses to expire within the past 10 years while in good standing can receive expedited licenses to help out in hospitals.

Additionally, the Baker-Polito Administration’s COVID-19 Response Command Center is working to create dedicated facilities for people who are infected with the virus but are stable enough to not be in the hospital. This will free up hospital beds for those who need more critical care.

Baker also spoke about the federal relief package passed by

Congress last week, calling it “a lot of good news.” He said that states are still waiting on guidance from the federal government about how to “implement and distribute these funds.”

Additionally, “our administration is committed to getting the resources to people who need them,” Baker said. Updates will be posted on mass.gov.

Baker said that the state continues to look for personal protective equipment (PPE) through a variety of different supply chains, and the national stockpile did send additional supplies over the weekend. He added that there is a “crucial

need” for blood donations right now as well.

The surge in cases in Massachusetts has been calculated to start somewhere between April 7 and April 17, Baker said.

“For the most part people are doing a good job” of social distancing, he added, stressing the importance of doing so when going outside.

“We are about to enter what will be the most difficult period associated with this virus,” Baker said on Tuesday, adding that there is “no doubt in my mind...that you will all perform above and beyond.”

Bunker Hill Associates step up to help older adults with groceries, restaurant workers

By Seth Daniel

When the Bunker Hill Associates get together to help the community, it's usually a grand time at the Knights of Columbus Hall where fundraising is lucrative and fun at the same time.

However, with the COVID-19 response eliminating such gatherings, and also creating a need to still step up and help, the Associates have turned to a virtual form of fundraising to help those who are most affected by the radical changes right now.

President Maureen Collier, Vice President Jimmy Lister and former President Kim Mahoney started last week organizing an online raffle that will be for gift cards to local restaurants – including the Brewer's Fork, Pier 6, Monument Restaurant, and the Warren

Tavern.

By buying \$4,000 worth of gift cards to raffle off at RallyUp.com – which will be drawn for on April 24 – it's helping the restaurant workers and owners that are hurting right now and have always been generous over the years. At the same time, it helps the Associates to start and sustain a grocery delivery effort to elderly and shut-ins throughout the Town.

"We have a high population of shut-ins in the Town," said Collier. "They are not able to get out and go to the supermarket. We don't want them to go out. They don't even want them going out now to doctor's visits. I feel like it's our job as a community right now to make sure they are safe."

Said Mahoney, "Those elderly and shut-ins are our target audience right now after that we'll

explore how to help others in need. Now, though, they are the primary need for our effort."

Lister said the three of them connected by phone and decided the organization needed to do something, but they wanted to make sure they weren't repeating other efforts. Soon, enough, they settled on the idea of helping restaurants through the purchase of gift cards, and also helping the elderly get staples that weren't coming through other services like Meals on Wheels.

He reached out to a resident of Charlestown who works for the wholesale food provider Baldor in Chelsea. They are currently putting together a confidential list and making sure they buy just enough and buy the right things.

"We want to step in and fill the gaps and make sure no one is forgotten in the neighborhood right

now," said Lister. "We wanted to find a way to keep this going beyond one time. We will get out on the other side, but it's about getting out of as best as possible too. If we can bridge the gaps, it's a successful project."

Collier and Lister said after surveying directors of senior buildings and other caregivers they learned it was staple items that were needed, like peanut butter, milk, cans of tuna, juices and other such items.

They said they hope to have Baldor deliver to large buildings by the beginning of next week, with future deliveries coming in the weeks afterward and with the same system. Individual deliveries would be also required and they will use their volunteer base for that, making sure everyone is wearing the appropriate gear and protections.

Mahoney said it has all been planned from a distance, which has been challenging. The usual planning meetings at the Knights cannot happen, so it has been up to a select few to hit the phone tree with calls, texts and e-mails.

"We're not even able to meet as a group," she said. "It's the first time in 35 years we can't get together as a group."

Added Collier, "However, we have moved into an age where we can meet online. Everyone in the Associates brings their own piece to the table and everyone wants to help."

To find out more about the grocery effort, residents of large senior buildings are encouraged to talk to their building advocates. To buy a raffle ticket online for the effort, go to <https://go.rallyup.com/bunkerhillassociates>.

Consumers facing financial hardships due to COVID-19 urged to contact local bank

The Massachusetts Bankers Association urged consumers who are facing financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic to contact their financial institution for assistance. Local banks throughout the Commonwealth have pledged to work with their customers – individuals and businesses – to mitigate the financial impact of the current health crisis.

"We strongly encourage anyone who is unable to make a payment on their loan, needs access to funds in a certificate of deposit or other relief to contact their finan-

cial institution for options to help them through this unprecedented situation," said Daniel J. Forte, MBA President & CEO. "Local banks are ready and willing to help during these challenging times, but it is important that you reach out as soon as possible."

Most local banks have already announced programs to assist consumers. For example, Greenfield Cooperative Bank is offering a "payment holiday" for residential and commercial loan customers; Berkshire Bank has established special relief programs for the

LGBTQ and minority-owned businesses while Rockland Trust Company, Eastern Bank, Bank of America and many others have announced significant initiatives to support local residents and small businesses. MBA has created a COVID-19 Resource page on our website with additional information. We encourage you to visit www.massbankers.org.

In addition to relief on mortgages and other loans, banks are working with customers who may need access to funds in Certificates of Deposit (CDs), waiving fees

for certain products or transactions, and increasing daily debit or ATM limits where appropriate. We anticipate that additional programs will be developed in the coming days and weeks to assist individuals and businesses as Congress considers a major economic stimulus package in Washington, D.C.

It is also important that consumers beware of scams and fraud, which tend to increase in uncertain times. MBA reminds consumers that the safest place for money is in their bank, where

all accounts are insured up to \$250,000. Many Massachusetts banks also have excess insurance to protect your funds. Large cash withdrawals are uninsured and at risk for loss; 95% of all transactions can be done on mobile/online banking, debit/credit cards or at an ATM, without the health risks of in-lobby visits.

"These are challenging times for Massachusetts families and businesses and local banks are doing our part to help ease the financial burden," Forte said.

Office of Economic Empowerment launches digital financial resources amid COVID-19 outbreak

The Massachusetts State Treasurer's Office of Economic Empowerment has launched a new digital tool for residents in Massachusetts experiencing financial changes due to the COVID-19 outbreak. With the goal of providing relevant financial education for families, the Office of

Economic Empowerment created a new page on Mass.gov with timely free resources available to the general public.

The page, <https://www.mass.gov/ma-financial-resources-for-covid-19>, features state-of-the-art financial education tools designed by Everfi, an education

technology company. The page also includes critical resources on identifying scams and fraud during this time, directions to file for unemployment, and much more. The Office of Economic Empowerment is committed to updating the page regularly with new materials as they become

available.

"The COVID-19 outbreak has had an impact on all of Massachusetts, so it is important that we provide support during this unprecedented time," said State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, "This website is designed to offer resources that will assist everyone with everyday life challenges."

The Office of Economic Empowerment is dedicated to providing financial education for residents of Massachusetts. In 2017, the Office launched MyFinancialLifeMA.org, a first-of-its-

kind website providing money management strategies and tools that can help guide users through each stage of life.

On day one of becoming Treasurer, Goldberg created the Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE), led by a deputy treasurer, with the deliberate goal of implementing a range of economic empowerment initiatives that include closing the gender wage gap, increasing access to financial education, improving college affordability, and investing in STEM careers and education.

Real Estate Transfers

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Novotny, Christopher	Maccready, Nifer J	42 8th St #3317	\$582,500
9 Hancock LLC	Roberts Frances A Est	9-9A Hancock St	\$1,550,000
Lance, Kirsten	Keefe, Jeffrey	9 Prospect St #1	\$1,150,000
Almond, Delaney H	Marshall, Edward	64 Sullivan St #2	\$690,000

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A public service message from the U.S. General Services Administration.

Baker administration launches online Portal for PPE, volunteers need to join the response

The Baker administration on Sunday announced an online portal where individuals and companies can easily donate or sell personal protective equipment (PPE) and volunteer to support the COVID-19 outbreak in Massachusetts. This effort will ensure that front line responders get the protective equipment they need to stay and push for more trained volunteers to join the response.

“Massachusetts has already received generous donations from countless organizations, and by launching this portal we’ll make it easier to streamline these offers and quickly distribute supplies to those in need,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “We also need more volunteers to help support our response to this unprecedented public health emergency, and urge people to sign up to lend a hand. Our administration will continue making every effort to secure supplies from all possible resources to support our front

line workers during these tough times.”

The Commonwealth’s COVID-19 PPE Procurement and Donation Program creates an easy portal allowing companies and organizations to sell or donate protective equipment that is in short supply given the global demands for such items.

By visiting the COVID-19 PPE Procurement and Donation website, businesses and organizations can offer for purchase or donation critically needed personal protective equipment, including:

- N95/N99 masks (respirators)
- Facemasks with integrated shields
- Goggles
- Protective suits/gowns
- Headcovers
- Sanitizing wipes
- Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PARR)
- Gloves
- Booties/shoe covers
- Hand sanitizer

The initiative announced today

bolsters current efforts to leverage traditional and emergency supply chain channels.

“We have a constant demand and need for personal protective equipment (PPE) available to our medical, first responder and essential service communities. Over the past week, hundreds of deliveries of PPE have been made to front line health care providers, and first responders, but we need so much more,” said Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, the Commonwealth’s COVID-19 Command Center Director. “Last week more than 28,000 masks, and 120,000 pairs of gloves were distributed, and we’ve placed more than \$50 million in orders for additional supplies. We are also waiting on our third delivery from the Strategic National Stockpile.”

The program also provides an entry point for local manufacturers to get more information on adapting their businesses to

produce more equipment here in Massachusetts, an effort being led by the administration’s recently established Manufacturing Emergency Response Team, co-chaired by Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy, and Mike Tamasi, President and CEO of AccuRounds, a precision components manufacturer located in Avon.

“It comes as no surprise that both manufacturers and university R&D partners across Massachusetts have stepped up during this challenging time to support those saving lives and provide logistical expertise toward stopping the spread of this virus,” said Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy, Co-Chair of the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative. “This portal serves as a front door for companies that think their operations can be adapted to address manufacturing supply chain issues and produce

the equipment needed by those on the front lines.”

A call for volunteers:

To support ongoing COVID-19 emergency response efforts, the Baker-Polito Administration has partnered with the Massachusetts Medical Society to match health and medical volunteers with our communities and health care providers based on skillsets and need. There is an immediate need for respiratory therapists and public health nurses, and the administration is asking health care professionals interested in volunteering to sign up by clicking here. Since launching the initiative, more than 1,000 people have already registered.

For more information on COVID-19, visit Mass.gov/covid19. Get notifications to your phone or other mobile device by texting COVIDMA to 888-777.

Amidst pandemic, lost dogs still find their way home

Staff Report

With all that’s going on (or not going on) in the world and the Town these days, simple acts of kindness can easily get overlooked.

That includes finding a lost dog, and making sure the beloved pet finds its way back home.

On Tuesday, March 24, Sarah and Ryan Costa, CharlestownDogs members and dog Samaritans, saw an excited and clearly loose young dog near Bunker Hill Monument Park. The dog found its way into the small fenced garden in front of a home on Monument Square.

Sarah reached out to CharlestownDogs where Jackson Stewart immediately notified the CharlestownDogs community via social media of the lost dog and rushed to the scene.

Jackson was able to settle the excitable hound. Tammy, an owner of the building with the fenced garden, invited Jackson and the lost dog into her house. This stray dog was especially pleased to go inside as Tammy was preparing steaks for dinner.

Arthur Colpack, another member of CharlestownDogs leadership, arrived and, with Jackson, walked the dog to Arthur’s house where they waited until the owner

responded. Through Jackson’s outreach, and helped by a person who had seen a lost dog flyer, Jackson contacted Paul, the dog’s owner.

At this point, the dog had a name: Sasha.

Paul came to Arthur’s house and, while keeping proper human distancing, happily reunited with his precious Sasha.

“Charlestown is a great town filled with passionate and engaged people,” read a statement from CharlestownDogs. “The Charlestown dog community is a big part of all that is good in Charlestown.”



Paul and Sasha back together again at Arthur Colpack’s house.



Jackson and Sasha.

For the Record

•Warren-Prescott School Dates:

School has been canceled until May 4.

•Harvard-Kent School Dates:

School has been canceled until May 4.

•The Charlestown Neighborhood Council meeting, scheduled for Tuesday April 7, has been cancelled in alignment with the Mayor’s guidelines for meetings in the City of Boston at this time.

•CANCELED: From the April 7 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, City Hall Rm. 801, 9:30 a.m.:

•11 Prospect St. Applicant: Owen McCosker
Confirm occupancy as 3 family. Full gut renovation of a three family as per plans. Selective demo of existing building. Provide electrical, heating, plumbing. Install blue board and insulation. Install new kitchens and bathrooms.

•From the April 7, noon, CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS HEARING: (Online via Zoom) Petition for a special law re: An Act

Authorizing Additional Licenses for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to be Drunk on the Premises in Boston (sponsored by Mayor Martin J. Walsh); and, Docket #0281, petition for a special law re: An Act Authorizing Additional Licenses for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to be Drunk on the Premises in Boston (sponsored by City Councilor Frank Baker). These matters were referred to the Committee on January 29, 2020.

•HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

Since taking office in 2014, Mayor Walsh has made fixing quality of life issues a priority in his administration. From investing in Public Works to making sure community policing is a staple in every neighborhood, we are making sure every neighborhood is clean, safe and a great place to live and work in. Unfortunately some properties in Boston need more help than others, and that’s why we are here. If you know of a property that fits one of the following criteria: multiple calls to 911, one that’s blighted or just a general concern, we encourage you to reach out to your neighborhood liaison.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUND UP

VIRTUAL TOURS OF USS CONSTITUTION

USS Constitution has begun offering virtual tours of the ship via Facebook LIVE. The ship is closed to the public until further notice to reduce exposure to the coronavirus.

Take a virtual tour here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AFU7ETWRdPDxiipr5zyN-MMS2eAT22XEc/view?usp=sharing>.

CHARLESTOWN GIRLS SOFTBALL CANCELLED

All Charlestown Girls Softball canceled until further notice. If you have questions or concerns, contact Jack Schievink at 617-201-4507 or Billy Nugent at 617-447-3106 or via email at charlestowngirlsoftball@gmail.com .

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR CMA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Charlestown Mothers Association is pleased to offer up to \$15,000 in college scholarships, to men and women who have been residents of Charlestown for at least five years, and will be attending college full-time this fall. The amount of each scholarship awarded will be determined by the CMA Scholarship Committee. Last year, the CMA awarded 10 scholarships. Copies of the application are available at the "Scholarship" tab on the CMA

website, www.charlestownmothersassociation.org, and also at the Charlestown Branch Library at the circulation desk. The completed application is due by April 24.

MICHAEL P. QUINN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The 2020 Michael P. Quinn Scholarship will be awarded to a student who is a resident of Charlestown for the past four years (minimum) and will graduate with the Class of 2020. This scholarship is for twelve thousand (\$12,000.00) for the recipient's first year of college only. Applications can be picked up at Guidance Dept. at Charlestown High, Boston Latin, Boston Latin Academy and Boy's & Girls Club, Charlestown Library and Malden Catholic High School. Application deadline is April 15, 2020. If there are any questions, please call Ronan J FitzPatrick at 617-242-5493.

HARVEST ON VINE FOOD PANTRY APPEAL

The Food Pantry has had a great need for cereal to include in its distribution. At this time donations of all non-perishable foods are also greatly appreciated. Donations drops are: Food Pantry, 49 Vine St. (Hayes Square), The Cooperative Bank - 201 Main St. or the Parish Center - 46 Winthrop St. (by the Training Field). Or

donate by sending checks to: Harvest on Vine, Parish Center, 46 Winthrop St., Charlestown, MA 02129. For more information, call Tom MacDonald 617-990-7314.

OLD CHARLESTOWN SCHOOLBOYS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Old Charlestown Schoolboys Association is offering a number of scholarships to high school senior boys who will be entering college, preparatory school, or technical school this year. Scholarships will also be awarded to college students who will be entering their sophomore, junior or senior year. Awards are open to any Charlestown schoolboy who is a senior in high school who has been a Charlestown resident for 4 or more years and will be entering college, preparatory school or technical school this year. Applications may be obtained at the Charlestown Public Library and the Charlestown Boys and Girls Club, St. Mary-St Catherine of Siena offices, St Francis de Sales office, St John's and First Church of Charlestown office. Because of school closings, for this year, school transcripts are not required. Please fill out scholarship application and mail it in before April 15. If you have any questions, please call Jim O'Brien 617-543-5384.

Harvest On Vine continues its distributions, morale is high



Volunteers at Harvest On Vine were on hand Tuesday for the second distribution of the month. Director Tom MacDonald said they are still in business and the need is great, but morale is high.

By Seth Daniel

Harvest On Vine food pantry is continuing its distributions as usual, director Tom MacDonald said, and they had their first distribution since the COVID-19 outbreak on Tuesday.

"We're still in business," said MacDonald. "We're still doing the distributions, but we are keeping the proper distances to protect those coming and the volunteers too."

MacDonald said there is a

great need right now, and they are seeing their regular clients and some new faces too.

"There is incredible need right now," he said. "Donations are strong. People in Charlestown are so good. We're keeping up with the demand right now. The morale of those coming and those volunteering is unbelievable. They're so positive and courageous."

MacDonald said he anticipates them being able to do their usual distributions in April as well. Harvest On Vine has two distributions per month.

To place a memoriam in the Charlestown Patriot-Bridge, please call 781-485-0588

Five Year Anniversary

Johnny, 5 years has come and gone. I still can't figure out how I've carried on.

The world I live in is such an empty place because it's been 5 years since I've seen your face.

Putta, you were my life, my soul, my heart.

I died that day God split us apart. My memories of us I cherish so much.

Even though I long for your loving touch. I sometimes wonder if my heart will ever mend, Force to live life without you, my best friend

Love You Forever

Lou xxoo



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EDWARDS (from pg. 1)

"This is not the time or space to begin talking about radical school re-design. Our schools right now are totally focused just on feeding kids and Supt. Cassellius has been doing a great job with that. To want to continue with this conversation on the MOU for BPS is inappropriate and tone-deaf in my opinion."

A three-year MOU was signed on March 10 by DESE and BPS and it sets up a novel partnership involving commitments by both the district and state. In the MOU, BPS agrees to deliver measurable results on four priority initiatives drawn from the findings of the district review, and DESE agrees to support BPS on four complementary initiatives. Over the next three years, a major focus of the district will be on making measurable improvements in the 33 schools that face the most challenges in student achievement. Those schools will be defined as "transformation" schools. Boston Public Schools will also address student success in high school,

programming for students with disabilities and English learners and transportation challenges, as outlined in Superintendent Brenda Cassellius' recently released strategic plan. The strategic plan, along with the BPS budget proposal, aim to accelerate the district's efforts to improve outcomes for students and close achievement gaps through intensive, targeted investments that will support students and educators, starting with those with the highest need.

In Charlestown and at the Eliot K-8, all of the schools are being proposed for placement in the Kaleidoscope Collective for Learning program, with the Eliot already being admitted in January. Joining the Eliot would be the Warren Prescott School, the Harvard Kent School, the Edwards Middle and Charlestown High.

All of the plans must be developed by May 2021 according to the MOU, and state officials have voiced a desire to begin now.

Edwards said there is no clear indication of what the Kaleidoscope

program is, how schools are placed in it, and what might change within the schools that are performing well. Many parents, she said, would likely want to be a part of these discussions, but that cannot be done in a time when there is a National Emergency and there are higher priorities in most households – in addition to the schools now being scheduled for nearly two-month closure.

"We need to wait until this pandemic crisis is over and then re-assess our needs," she said. "While school is out, the gaps that were identified in the report likely will turn into canyons. Imagine kids who have limited English at school and are now home with families that only speak Spanish or only speak Chinese and there is no English all day. We need to see what happens after this interruption and then work on the MOU... To be going on to work on this plan as if nothing has happened is like being in a house that's on fire and commenting that it's a little hot."

•EDWARDS PROPOSES CITY-SPONSORED RENTAL RELIEF

Councilor Edwards also is proposing city-sponsored emergency rental relief for residents economically impacted by COVID-19. In a letter issued on Tuesday, Edwards urged the City to reallocate \$2 million of Community Preservation Act revenue to an emergency rental voucher program.

In February, the Walsh administration recommended 40 projects, totaling over \$24 million, for CPA funding. Of these, \$8 million are dedicated to citywide housing programs, with \$4 million proposed for the Acquisition Opportunities Program and \$4 million proposed for the One+Boston Program. In order to address the urgent and pressing needs of renters who are suddenly out of work, the city could utilize a portion of funds already collected and available to help ensure stable housing for Bostonians during the pandemic.

Edwards said everyone seems on board with using the \$2 million to help, particularly the middle

class who don't qualify for a lot of programs and the small landlords who are worried. She said it could equal out to about two \$1,000 checks.

"I'm hoping it is enough to help small landlords calm down and enough that the tenants can pay the difference," she said. "The money is already allocated and already in the City coffers and it's for affordable housing... This is not a new tax... It is money we were going to give out and I'm asking them to be creative. It's our own sort of housing stimulus."

With COVID-19 in mind, the Massachusetts Housing Partnership has recently issued recommendations for utilizing Community Preservation Act funds for rental assistance. Communities across Massachusetts including Georgetown, Gloucester, Somerville, Waltham, and Martha's Vineyard have used CPA for rental assistance.

SBA (from pg. 1)

tion effort of banks and other lending institutions to provide small businesses with the capital they need.

The application period for the program is expected to begin Friday, April 3.

The CARES Act establishes a new \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program. The Program will provide much-needed relief to millions of small businesses so they can sustain their businesses and keep their workers employed.

"This unprecedented public-private partnership is going to assist small businesses with accessing capital quickly. Our goal is to position lenders as the single point-of-contact for small businesses – the application, loan processing, and disbursement of funds will all be administered at the community level," said Administrator Carranza. "Speed is the operative word; applications for the emer-

gency capital can begin as early as this week, with lenders using their own systems and processes to make these loans. We remain committed to supporting our nation's more than 30 million small businesses and their employees, so that they can continue to be the fuel for our nation's economic engine."

"This legislation provides small business job retention loans to provide eight weeks of payroll and certain overhead to keep workers employed," said Secretary Mnuchin. "Treasury and the Small Business Administration expect to have this program up and running by April 3 so that businesses can go to a participating SBA 7(a) lender, bank, or credit union, apply for a loan, and be approved on the same day. The loans will be forgiven as long as the funds are used to keep employees on the payroll and for certain other expenses."

The new loan program will

help small businesses with their payroll and other business operating expenses. It will provide critical capital to businesses without collateral requirements, personal guarantees, or SBA fees – all with a 100 percent guarantee from SBA. All loan payments will be deferred for six months. Most importantly, the SBA will forgive the portion of the loan proceeds that are used to cover the first eight weeks of payroll costs, rent, utilities, and mortgage interest.

The Paycheck Protection Program is specifically designed to help small businesses keep their workforce employed. Visit gov/Coronavirus" at "_blank" SBA.gov/Coronavirus for more information on the Paycheck Protection Program.

•The new loan program will be available retroactive from Feb. 15, 2020, so employers can rehire their recently laid-off employees

through June 30, 2020.

Loan Terms & Conditions

•Eligible businesses: All businesses, including non-profits, Veterans organizations, Tribal concerns, sole proprietorships, self-employed individuals, and independent contractors, with 500 or fewer employees, or no greater than the number of employees set by the SBA as the size standard for certain industries

•Maximum loan amount up to \$10 million

•Loan forgiveness if proceeds used for payroll costs and other designated business operating expenses in the 8 weeks following the date of loan origination (due to likely high subscription, it is anticipated that not more than 25 percent of the forgiven amount may be for non-payroll costs)

•All loans under this program will have the following identical features:

*Interest rate of 0.5%

*Maturity of two years

*First payment deferred for six months

*100 percent guarantee by SBA

*No collateral

*No personal guarantees

*No borrower or lender fees payable to SBA

SBA's announcement comes on the heels of a series of steps taken by the Agency since the President's Emergency Declaration to expeditiously provide capital to financially distressed businesses affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Since March 17, SBA has taken the following steps:

• Declared all states and territories eligible for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance.

• 1-year deferment on Economic Injury Disaster Loans provided due to COVID-19.

• Automatic deferment of previous disaster loans for homeowners and businesses through 2020.

• Waiver of garnishments through 2020.

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Construction Updates**MASSDOT ADVISORY:
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Temporary Lane Closure on Route I-93 Northbound

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing a temporary closure of the left lane on Route I-93 northbound between

Somerville and Medford. This closure will begin on Monday, March 30, and will last approximately two (2) weeks. The work will occur daily from 7 a.m., to 7 p.m., with the lane closed for the duration of the project. This impact is necessary to establish a work zone so that the contractor can safely and effectively make utility upgrades.

Navy Yard residents execute a big thank you to essential workers

By Seth Daniel

With ringing bells and songs of appreciation, members of the Navy Yard community threw open their windows and sliding doors last Saturday evening to make a resounding noise in support of all essential workers – including those in health care, grocery store workers, city and state employees and first responders.

Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard President Michael Parker said he was told of a similar effort in London where residents of neighborhoods were coordinating efforts to throw open their windows and cheered with song, bells and whistles those working to keep everyone inside safe.

He felt it would be a nice thing to coordinate in the Navy Yard, and so on Saturday at 6 p.m. – a joyful noise emerged from the Yard.

“Those of us whose job it is to stay in place and observe social distancing wanted to show our appreciation to the health care workers, first responders and the essential personnel working on the front lines to make sure we get care, food, medicine, mail, essential government and social services and everything else that is keeping us safe during this trying time,” Parker said. “We decided that creatively cheering from our windows in unison would be a safe and positive way to do so. It was inspiring to hear all that pent up appreciation pouring from those windows. We are looking forward to the time when we can thank all those brave and selfless persons face to face, but until then we’ll continue to find other safe and creative ways to show our profound appreciation.”

Octavio and Jeanne Hurtado said they were happy to partici-

pate in the only way they could.

“It was a great spirit and support for our irreplaceable community providers of emergency services in all areas,” they said. “We did our noisy part and sent our sincere appreciation for their service.”

Doug Pope of Eighth Street said he is so appreciative of essential parts of the economy that continue to function.

“We are all in this together,” he said. “It is so important that during this uncertain time, we can depend upon the essential parts of our economy to function without fear or panic setting in and making the situation worse. We thank the folks in the supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, banks, the truck drivers, the US Postal workers, the nurses, doctors and all of the healthcare workers and state and municipal workers and professions that all make the system function. We also need to laugh at our troubles. The news is bad and it is going to get worse but we will work our way through this time together and after some time, we will be stronger for it.”



Photo courtesy Pete Kershaw

Two local Charlestown residents, Irene Kershaw and her daughter, Blair Kershaw, ringing their bells in appreciation for those on the front line fighting the coronavirus. Their effort was part of a larger thank you sent out at 6 p.m. last Saturday by those in the Navy Yard community as appreciation to health care workers, first responders, grocery store workers and all other essential employees still going to work.



At Flagship Wharf, residents hung American flags outside their windows to show their appreciation as best they could.



Gemma Parker made a sign for her window thanking the nurses and doctors on the front lines.

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Wash Your Hands • Social Distance • Stay Home (if you can)

We are still here to provide care to the community including virtual (telephone and soon, video) adult medicine, pediatric, and behavioral health visits. You can also still call our adult and pediatric practices for same-day urgent in-person visits when necessary.

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