



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

Charlestown 'average' in reported COVID-19 infections rate slightly below rest of Boston

By Seth Daniel

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) reported last weekend a citywide review by neighborhood and age range of those infected by COVID-19, with Charlestown registering 29 cases and a 14.9 rate per 10,000 people as of April 2.

Since that time, data and rates might have changed, as numerous new infections have been reported across the City since neighborhood data was released. As of April 7, according to Boston Public Health Commission data, there are now 2,287 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 258 people recovered and 25 deaths.

For the April 2 data release, the citywide average rate was 18.1 per 10,000 people. South Dorchester had the most cases with 175, but

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Churches move to online services for Easter, Holy Week

By Seth Daniel

In the midst of Holy Week and approaching Easter services this coming Sunday, most of the faithful are turning exclusively to online formats or cable television to worship in one of the most revered seasons of the Christian calendar.

Churches all over the Archdiocese of Boston and other Christian denominations have cancelled in-person services several weeks ago, and are now conducting Holy Week services or preparing for Easter Sunday.

"It's unprecedented to be

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The delivery was able to provide groceries for 250 senior citizens who were not able to get out.



A volunteer at one of the senior citizen buildings places bread in a grocery package.



Milk was one of the staple items many senior citizens said they needed from the store.

Associates deliver 250 grocery packages to the neediest senior citizens

By Seth Daniel

The Bunker Hill Associates mobilized and delivered on a major effort Tuesday that placed grocery orders in 250 senior citizen homes, hitting the neediest seniors in several buildings around the Town.

President Maureen Collier, Vice President Jimmy Lister and Past President Kim Mahoney reported on Tuesday that the first delivery of groceries hit 250 homes and went very well.

They delivered primarily to St.

Mary's Co-op, Park Street, Mary Colbert Apartments, Ferrin Street apartments, and the General Warren Apartments, among others.

"We got some really positive feedback right away," said Lister. "My concern in going ahead with the first delivery was whether people would like it, whether we bought the right things and in the right quantities. We are certainly going to have to grow this in the coming weeks. It was well-

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Charlestown Pride Week postponed

Bunker Hill Parade Committee looking at all options

By Seth Daniel

The most fun month in Charlestown has been postponed, and the greatest holiday parade in the Town is looking at all options on whether to move ahead this coming June – both groups making those moves in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Arthur Hurley, chair of the Battle of Bunker Hill Parade Committee, told the Patriot-Bridge on Wednesday that he is carefully assessing the situation this month

as to whether or not to go forward with the June 14 parade. It would be the first time in modern memory that it could perhaps be canceled – certainly the first time in a century that it could be canceled due to a pandemic.

He said there were a lot of things to consider, and too many things right now that are unknown.

"Right now we're waiting until the end of the month to see how things are, which is only three

(PRIDE WEEK Pg. 2)

Boston EMS seeing dip in calls, but exposure risks very high

By Seth Daniel

When Boston EMS crews respond to the various neighborhoods for an emergency, the response is just as fast as normal, but the procedures are more deliberate and more carefully conducted.

EMS Chief James Hooley told the newspaper this week that while overall calls are down, the risks for EMTs to be exposed to COVID-19 during calls is increasingly high – and they've taken careful measures to protect those front-line workers

so they can continue to address the emergency and not fall to the sidelines with the sickness or for quarantine.

"There are definitely less calls coming in," he said on Tuesday. "However, we started seeing a steady increase in the numbers of calls where we were treating full isolation patients. There was that change where total calls went down, but the degree of difficulty and how we're approaching every single call is challenging. You

(EMS Pg. 16)



Boston EMS workers are taking extra precautions when they respond to calls now. While calls are down, more calls involve people who have or probably have COVID-19 infections.

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

Meeting Online: Attendance is good, some quirks though

By Seth Daniel

As public meetings in Boston continue to move online more and more, one of the first boards to meet online in the City was the Conservation Commission (Con Com) under Chair Michael Parker, of Charlestown.

Last week, the Con Com held its second public meeting online using the Zoom meeting format and call-in ability as well, and the two hour meeting went very well all things considered.

It has been a learning process, Parker said, but one that they were willing to embark upon in order to prevent a backlog of applications piling up during the COVID-19 shutdown.

“The importance of keeping it going and the real motivation for going online with these meetings is the Con Com meets every two weeks and we have mandated deadlines,” he said. “If a proponent files, we have 21 days to decide. We had those deadlines and we weren’t sure immediately how those would be affected so we decided to keep on by

going online. We also have a fairly lengthy agenda each meeting and if we waited until June or July to meet, we’d have a tremendous backlog. So, we decided to try a Zoom meeting.”

So far, the public input aspect has gone well, as have the Commission members input – all tuned in by video or phone. There are some hiccups, such as the inevitable Zoom-bomb at meetings.

“You’re dog’s barking in the background, make it stop,” yelled one anonymous person during the public portion of the April 1 Zoom meeting.

“I don’t know what that was,” said Parker, “but let’s move on.”

Such things happen in a more anonymous online world, but by far, Parkers said there has been greater input and attendance online so far.

“What I’m finding out by having virtual meetings, the public participation hasn’t really dropped at all by going online,” he said. “The attendance was as much, if not more, as our regular meetings in City Hall. I’m also finding there are more people in the industry that are tuning in to watch meet-

ings even if they don’t have anything on the agenda, and neighbors are calling in to give a lot of input. Maybe it’s a feeling of normalcy.”

Another major reason the Con Com pushed on is to address the City’s recently-approved Wetlands Ordinance (Dec. 23, 2019), which is a major step to addressing climate resiliency and climate change all over Boston. While the ordinance has passed, nothing can be done with it until regulations are developed, vetted by the public and implemented by the Con Com.

Parker said the Commission wanted to keep meeting online so they could develop Phase 1 of those regulations and be ready to have real, in-person meetings later in the year for Phase 2. That, he said, could really help get the ordinance into place.

All of it has added up to keeping productive and moving forward in a time when most things are stuck.

“It’s pretty interesting to see the Con Com continue its function, just in a different format,” he said.

PRIDE WEEK (from pg. 1)

weeks away,” he said. “If we have to take more measures and the state extends the order into June, then we have to cancel. Right now, we’ll wait until the end of the month.”

Hurley said one big complication is that all of the bands that march had been contracted in January, as that is the normal time to book for a June parade. There was also concern about the high school JROTC marchers, and whether they would even be in school at the time. Likewise, the large military presence that adorns the Parade (it is a military parade first and foremost) might have other more important matters to tend to than the Parade in June.

All of that is left to consider, he said.

In Dorchester, the Dorchester Day Parade Committee, which holds a parade the week before on June 7, announced late Tuesday they would cancel.

“It is never an easy decision to cancel an event but we feel this is the best and safest decision for us to protect the health and safety of our committee members,

participants and neighbors,” read a statement from the Dorchester Day Parade Committee, as reported by the Dorchester Reporter.

Meanwhile, the massive Charlestown Pride Week (which is really nearly two weeks’ of events) held by the Bunker Hill Associates announced they will postpone their celebrations – including the popular Bunker Hill Day Breakfast – until the fall.

President Maureen Collier, Vice President Jimmy Lister and Past President Kim Mahoney made the announcement on Tuesday, just after they had spent an entire week mobilizing their organization to deliver groceries to the neediest senior citizens that were isolated at home.

“In my conversations around the neighborhood, the concern is if this continues on and everyone is being realistic, it is more important to be safe,” said Lister. “The indication is having group gatherings won’t come back right away. They’ll allow us to scale things up probably little by little. If we have a 300-person event like the breakfast, I don’t think the City

would allow it anyway. We are committed to having it because we understand what it stands for. It’s unfortunate.”

Mahoney said they would likely do something in the fall, but that right now all of their membership is focused on trying to take care of the community.

“We are going to postpone Charlestown Pride Week, including the breakfast,” she said. “Anything put on by the Bunker Hill Associates is postponed until the fall. We had a vote also to extend Maureen and Jimmy’s term until 2021 as well...Our full efforts are focused on helping and supporting the community right now. Right now, we would be planning the breakfast and raising money for Charlestown Pride Week. However, now the focus has moved to supporting and helping the Town.”

All said there are no dates in mind right now for when to have the full schedule of events, but it would be decided in the coming months.

GROCERY (from pg. 1)

ceived.”

Mahoney said they understand the need is great, but they wanted to focus on the neediest senior citizens first.

“This is putting a small dent in the overall need, but it how we can help,” she said. “We’re going to do our best and try. Our priority was to get this to people who really needed it. The coordinators in each building determined who was most in need, and they distributed what we dropped off.”

Two weeks ago, the Associates bought \$4,000 worth of gift cards to local restaurants and initiated their first online raffle at rallyup.com. People have gone online in droves to donate to the raffle, which directly funds the senior citizen grocery effort. The raffle will be drawn online April 24 at 1 p.m., but right now the need for more donations is great so that a second round of groceries can be purchased.

Lister elicited the help of Baldor Foods in Chelsea through a contact that lives in Charlestown. Through that wholesaler, they were able to order large quantities of food and have it dropped off by truck in Charlestown. From there, volunteers from the Age Strong Commission, the Kennedy Center

and other local groups got the food to the proper places.

“The only way to continue on is with more funding at the online raffle,” said Lister. “If we can be a generous with the raffle, it can help so many seniors. We have a system in place now that works and has been tested. We believe we can do it again much easier and probably be able to get better pricing too.”

Some of the things delivered included break, milk, peanut butter, English muffins, crackers, pasta, string cheese and lots of fruit. Most of those who received the deliveries also get Meals on Wheels delivered daily, but Lister said these are senior citizens who cannot go out – and should not go out – to grocery shop.

“All of the people in Charlestown should have the ability to have a full fridge while this is going on, and the deliveries will fill the gaps for them so they don’t have to go out,” he said.

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>.



Volunteers pose with the Baldor Boston food truck in Charlestown on Tuesday.

Visit www.charlestownbridge.com

INFECTIONS (from pg. 1)

only had a rate of 21.6. Hyde Park and East Boston had the highest concentration of cases, with 30.4 (104 cases) and 27.7 (130 cases).

The data was as of 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, and new neighborhood data is expected on April 10. (Check www.charlestown-bridge.com for complete updates through the week).

Charlestown was listed as “similar to the rest of Boston,” while areas like West Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Fenway, and Allston/Brighton were listed as “lower than the rest of Boston.”

In other places nearby, such as Revere and Chelsea – the numbers have really spiked. Revere, with a population of around 53,000 people reported 257 cases on April 6, while Chelsea reported 356 cases and eight deaths on April 7.

Many health professionals in the Town have been concerned

about the potential surge in the rate in the neighborhood, as social distancing among adults has not been executed in a way they feel is responsible. So far, that concern hasn’t registered in the numbers, but time will tell as the outbreak hits its zenith on April 10-20.

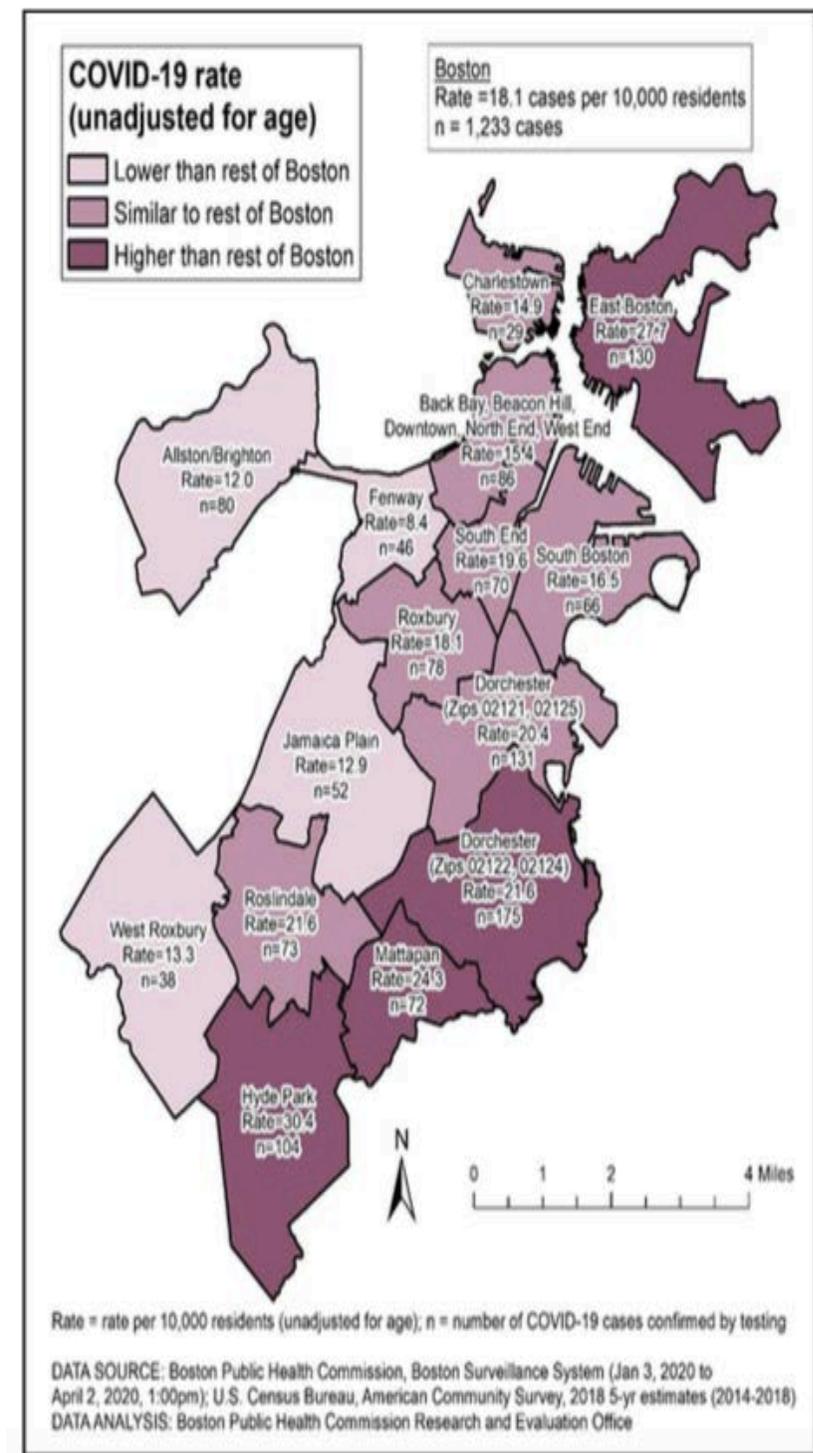
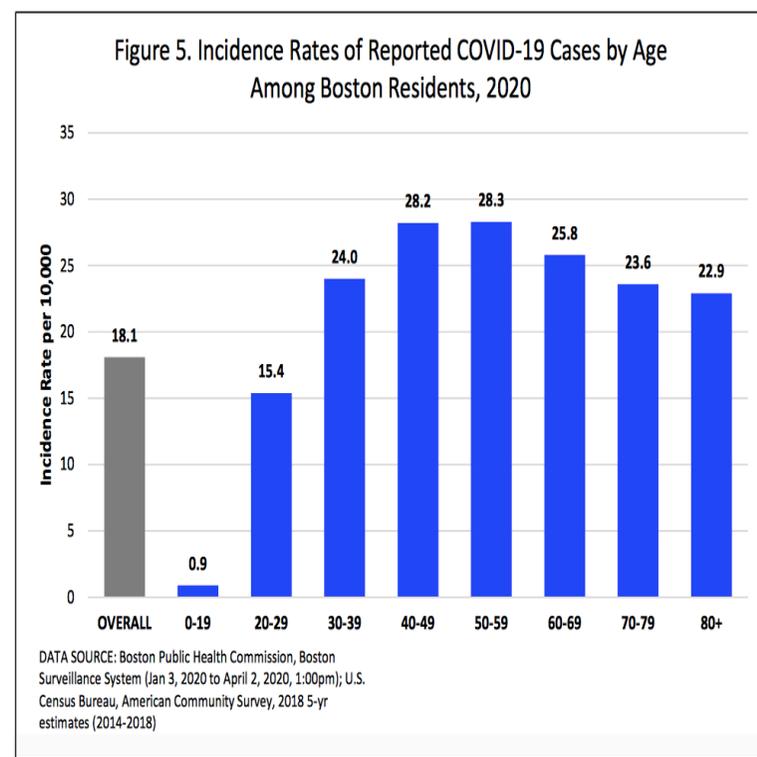
Citywide, on April 2, there were 1,116 active cases on April 2, with 106 people having recovered. There were 10 deaths citywide as well. That equaled a total of 1,232 confirmed cases in Boston. Of all those active cases, 96 have been hospitalized. There were also many residents showing up at the Emergency Room with COVID Like Illness (CLI). That has been transformed into a statistic known as CLI and of all ER visits, 9.1 percent were for those with CLI. That was up from 7.4 percent in the week prior (March 20-26).

In Boston overall, it appears

that men have a higher incidence of infection (18.7) that women (17.4) at this point, with that overall rate in Boston being 18.1.

The age ranges have been changing in the last week, with age 0-19 registering hardly any confirmed cases (0.9 rate). The highest rates have migrated to those in middle age, with those 40-49 having a rate of 28.2 and those 50-59 with a rate of 28.3. While those 20-29 initially showed comparable numbers, they are now on the lower end of the spectrum with a rate of 15.4 – that compared to those just above them ages 30-39, whose rate is much higher at 24.0.

For the most part, older adults have stayed steady in their rates, which are higher than the overall citywide average, but lower than those in middle age. (70-79 had a rate of 23.6 and 80-plus were 22.9).



- Neighborhood ZIPS**
- Allston/Brighton (A/B)=02163, 02134, 02135
 - Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End, and Downtown (BB)=02108, 02114, 02116, 02199, 02109, 02110, 02103
 - Charlestown (CH)=02129
 - East Boston (EB)=02128
 - DOR=Dorchester
 - DOR (02121, 02125)=02121, 02125
 - DOR (02122, 02124)=02122, 02124
 - Fenway (FW)=02115, 02215
 - Hyde Park (HP)=02136
 - Jamaica Plain (JP)=02130
 - Mattapan (MT)=02126
 - Roslindale (RS)=02131
 - Roxbury (RX)=02119, 02120
 - South Boston (SB)=02127, 02210
 - South End (SE)=02111, 02118
 - West Roxbury (WR)=02132

CHURCHES (from pg. 1)

unable to celebrate the holiest week of the year in our parishes, but through the gift of modern technology, CatholicTV allows us to gather virtually at the mother church of the Archdiocese with our shepherd, Cardinal Seán, for these sacred rites,” said the Most Reverend Robert Reed, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston and President of CatholicTV.

The schedule for online Holy Week and Easter Masses is listed at the end of this article.

Meanwhile, at the First Church in Charlestown, Pastor Erik Maloy said they moved services online in early March, having cancelled for the first time on March 15.

“Our goal for Easter is to do an online service and do the best we can to provide hope to people and give them some semblance of normalcy despite where we’re at now,” he said. “Since going online, our numbers have been crazy though. Last Sunday, our service was online and we had 520 views. People have been tuning in. It’s hard to see really because Facebook doesn’t always tell you who it is or where they’re from, but it seems we’ve had a good online turnout. I’d still love to be with people on Easter in the church, but it does surprise me and I’m excited about so many people watching.”

The service on Easter Sunday at First Church goes live at 10 a.m.

Maloy said they have pared down the service, and eliminated a lot of the liturgy they have and some of the prayers – things they learned early on are really only

effective with an audience.

“We’re just thankful for the technology,” he said.

•Online Holy Week Schedule from Cardinal Sean O’Malley
SCHEDULE
 (CATHOLIC TV ONLY or CatholicTV.org – No in-person Masses)

•Holy Thursday, April 9
 Mass of the Lord’s Supper with Cardinal Seán O’Malley
 CatholicTV broadcast LIVE at 7:30 p.m.

•Good Friday, April 10
 Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion with Cardinal Seán O’Malley
 CatholicTV to broadcast LIVE at 3 p.m., rebroadcast 9:30 p.m.

•Holy Saturday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.

Solemn Vigil of Easter with Cardinal Seán O’Malley
 CatholicTV to broadcast LIVE at 7:30 p.m.

•Easter Sunday, April 12, 8 a.m.

Mass of Easter Sunday with Cardinal Seán O’Malley
 WLVI-TV to broadcast at 8-9 a.m. | CatholicTV to broadcast at 11 a.m., 7 p.m., and 11:30 p.m.

Ways to Watch the CatholicTV Network:

- Cable: Comcast Ch 268, Verizon Ch 296, RCN Ch 85
- Livestream: CatholicTVLIVE.com
- Daily Masses: WatchtheMass.com

Also available on Roku, Apple TV and Amazon FireTV, Samsung Smart TV, iOS and Android apps.

EDITORIAL

ONE DAY AT A TIME: IT'S "GROUNDHOG DAY" FOR EVERYBODY

Here's one way to view the current situation in which we all find ourselves:

Prior to the pandemic sweeping the nation and the world, our lives were such that each day truly was a new day, filled with new challenges and the possibility of new excitement, albeit to varying degrees.

Today however, with most of us locked down in our homes, our daily routines have taken on a stunning sameness that is bereft of any sense of the usual moments of joy that form the essence of our humanity.

Similar to the classic Bill Murray movie "Groundhog Day" from 1993 (wow, has it really been 27 years?), each day seems to be a repeat of the day before.

The daily news in particular has a feeling of being in "Groundhog Day" mode. The headlines, politicians, and talking heads basically tell us the same thing, day after day after day, to the point where most of us now are tuning it out.

And yet, unlike the movie, there is nothing humorous about the real-life Groundhog Day in which we find ourselves.

The COVID-19 pandemic by far is the most tragic, far-reaching, and life-changing event that every American has faced since the end of World War II 75 years ago.

The phrase, "One day at a time," which is meant both as an inspiration and an admonition to those among us who struggle with substance abuse and other issues, now applies to every person, in every corner of the globe, regardless of fame, wealth, power, or any other status that differentiates us from anyone else.

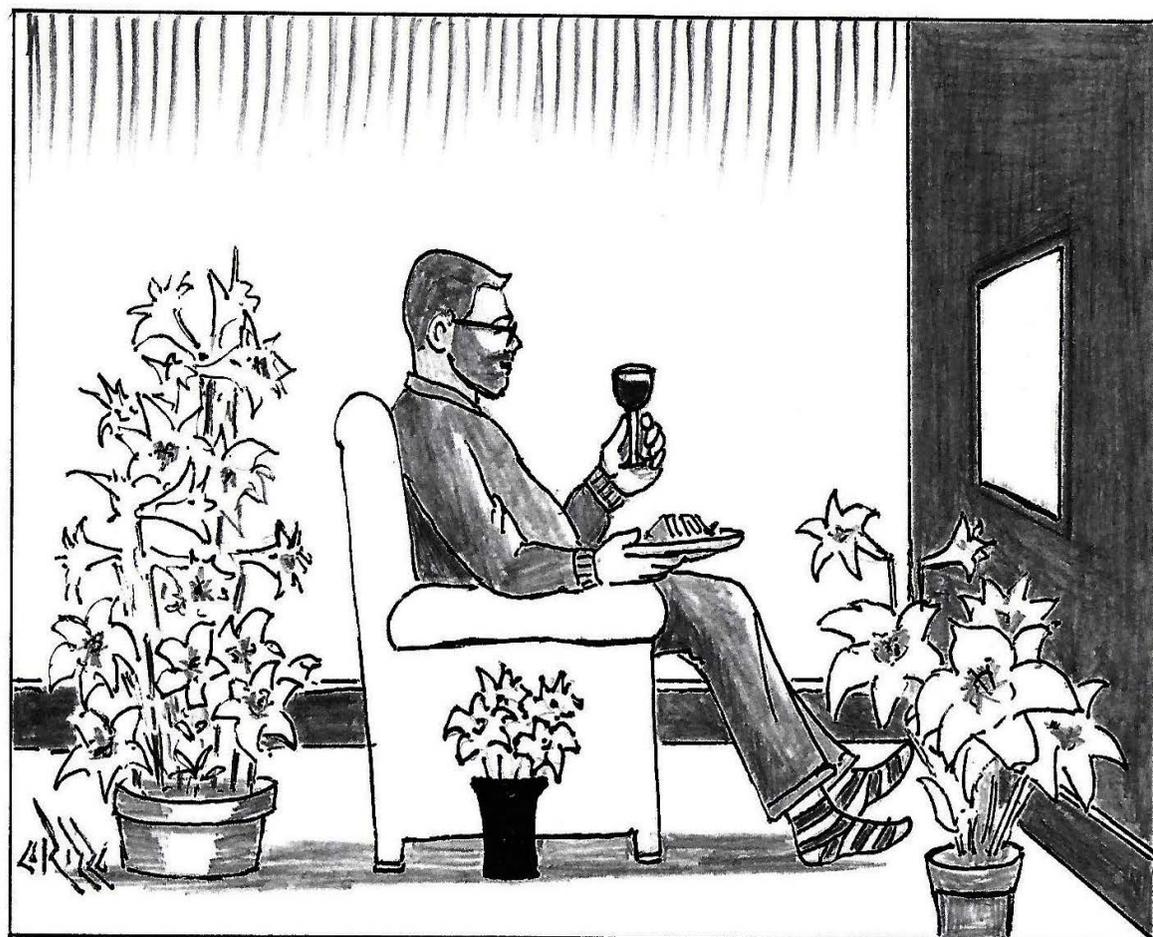
The news that public figures as disparate as the actor Tom Hanks, Boris Johnson (the Prime Minister of England), and James Dolan (the billionaire owner of the New York Knicks and Comcast) have contracted COVID-19 -- on three different continents -- makes it clear that the coronavirus does not discriminate and is world-wide in scope.

In short, there is no escape -- no way out -- for every human being on the planet.

Moreover, with public health authorities informing us that the ongoing lack of testing in the United States continues to leave our nation flying blind in the face of the pandemic, we truly will have reason to fear every interaction with another human being (even if we and they are fully-masked and we space ourselves six feet apart) for the foreseeable future.

Without any understanding of the true extent of the spread of the disease in the United States, no one can predict when we will begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

"One day at a time" will be our mantra for many days to come.



CELEBRATE EASTER - APRIL 12TH

GUEST OP-ED

Easter Sunday Ringing of the Bells

On Easter Sunday, April 12, churches at parishes across the Archdiocese of Boston will join in unison with ringing of the bells at noon.

The gesture of solidarity and celebration was proposed by several parishioners from different regions of the Archdiocese and received by Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley as an encouraging expression of hope during these challenging times. One parishioner cited a sense of calm and assurance at hearing the church bells, another cited the importance of proclaiming our faith as a sign of our care and concern for the community. The Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston, the Mother Church of the Archdiocese, will

be joyfully ringing its own historic bells at the noon hour in solidarity with the faithful throughout the region.

Cardinal Seán said, "Christians are experiencing this Holy Week of worship as never before - in the solitude of our homes and for first responders, in their places of work. In ordinary times, church bells are a call for people to gather in prayer. This year, in the midst of the pandemic, the bells remind us that we are a community of people who need to take care of each other in the power and strength of spiritual connection and the love of the Resurrected Christ."

For those parishes able to participate, the Archdiocese is requesting that they stream the

bells ringing on their social media and digital platforms. Parishes are encouraged to use the hashtag #AnEasterPeople. In particular this is also an opportunity to recognize and pray for those on the front lines of this crisis including among others nurses, doctors, EMT's, police, fire, other medical professionals and other essential workers such as grocery and pharmacy employees.

The Cardinal is pleased to know other denominations are also planning to ring the bells of their churches as a sign of hope and solidarity.

From the
Archdiocese of Boston



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

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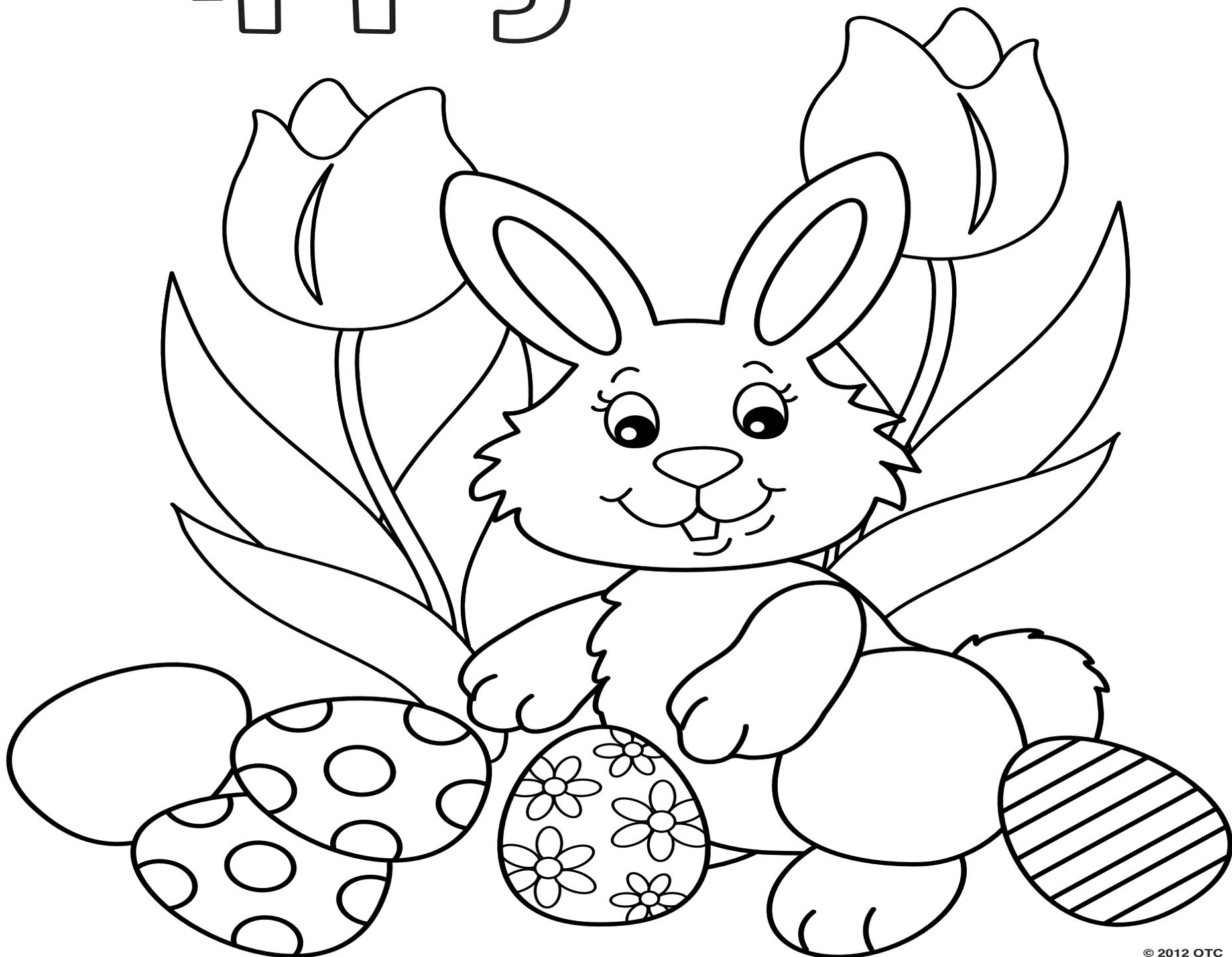
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Easter Greetings, from TCB



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All Charlestown schools to get more attention under state MOU

By Seth Daniel

Under the state's Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) with Boston Public Schools (BPS), all of the schools in Charlestown – including the Eliot K-8 in the North End – would be enlisted in a competitive program called Kaleidoscope.

In March, right before schools were dismissed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) produced a critical report of BPS inequities, a report that is done for every district in the state on a 10-year timeframe. That also came with an MOU between DESE and Supt. Brenda Cassellius pledging to start discussions immediately about how to turn the district around in those respects.

In the proposed School Budget, Cassellius had already begun to address the needs of 33 of the lowest-performing schools in the district – two of which are in Charlestown (Charlestown High and Edwards Middle). That is likely step one in the MOU plan, but many wonder about the rest of the schools.

There apparently is a plan for that, though it won't be unveiled soon as the state and BPS have agreed to move back the start of discussions to May 18.

DESE told the Patriot Bridge that many of the schools in Charlestown and East Boston perform in the lower tier on standardized testing, but aren't at the level of the 33 schools identified for large investment.

Kaleidoscope is apparently a program to address that.

"As part of the MOU, we have decided to move a group of Boston schools in East Boston and Charlestown to the front of the line, recognizing that there is a concentration of schools in the bottom 10 to 20th percentiles in these neighborhoods," read a statement from DESE. "The Kaleidoscope support will help to ensure these schools make continued progress, while BPS focuses its efforts on improving the 33 lowest-performing schools. The district has already created a detailed plan for supporting the 33 schools, which is further supported by Mayor Walsh's \$100 million investment in the school system over the next three years."

The schools included will be the Warren Prescott K-8, the Harvard Kent Elementary, the Eliot K-8, the Edwards Middle School and Charlestown High School. They are part of a new group of 15 schools citywide to be potentially placed in the Kaleidoscope support program.

Kaleidoscope is described

as a professional development program focused on promoting engaging instruction that asks students to work on real-world tasks while building skills like collaboration and creativity. DESE is currently providing this program to a group of approximately 20 innovative schools and districts across the state – which already includes the Eliot K-8, which was accepted after a competitive process in January.

When the state started the program, they had 500 letters of interest for the 20 statewide spots available, and so it was a very sought-after program. At that time, BPS had put in an application for the entire district to be included in the program, but only the Eliot K-8 and Tech Boston High in Dorchester were accepted.

The work on the MOU had started in mid-March, and less than one week later the schools had shut down completely for the COVID-19 response.

Last week, Councilor Lydia Edwards called for the MOU work to be put off until after the crisis and re-assessed completely.

She also was curious about the Kaleidoscope program and asked for more information on it given that most of the public schools in her district were proposed to be placed in the new program.

This week, DESE indicated it

had agreed with BPS to hold off further planning for 60 days, starting on May 18.

"The MOU specifies a 60-day timeline to agree on targets for improvement across several initiatives and work out other details of the partnership," read a statement from DESE. "Near the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, the commissioner and superintendent decided to push back the start of that 60-day period, and they recently codified that decision as an amendment to the MOU that moves the start of the 60-day period to May 18. Under the new deadline, discussions would conclude mid-summer."

DESE officials said it was important to note that the MOU doesn't place the district or any of the Charlestown schools in receivership, nor does it create an empowerment zone for schools in certain areas of the district. The MOU does include the following priority initiatives for BPS and supporting initiatives for DESE and BPS.

BPS priority initiatives:

- Teaching and learning: Make specific improvements in the district's 33 lowest performing schools, which will be defined as "transformation" schools.

- Equitable access to student supports: Adopt MassCore as a uniform high school graduation

requirement for all BPS schools and reduce chronic absenteeism overall, especially at the high school level.

- Supporting students with disabilities: Increase the percentage of students with disabilities who are served in the least restrictive environment and reduce the disproportionate placement of students of color in substantially separate programs.

- Transportation: Improve the student transportation system.

DESE/BPS supporting initiatives:

- Teaching and learning: Prepare a cohort of 15 BPS schools for entrance into DESE's Kaleidoscope Collective for Learning, a professional development initiative designed to engage students and teachers in deeper learning.

- Equitable access to student supports: Help broker partnerships for schools that do not have strong partners.

- Educator diversity: Help BPS recruit and retain a diverse educator workforce by providing additional staff capacity and developing programs that could include such programs as homebuying incentives or signing bonuses.

- Facilities: Provide a DESE employee(s) to work with BPS on upgrading essential facilities such as student bathrooms.

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 EMERGENCY 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



Trial court launches help line to assist court users

The Trial Court announced this week the establishment of a Help Line that began on April 2 that the public can call to ask general questions about their civil and criminal cases and help them navigate the court system while the court system remains closed to the public except for emergency matters.

The Help Line will be staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and can be reached by calling 833-91COURT.

For emergency matters, court

users should first call their local court Clerk's or Register's Offices. Contact numbers for individual courts and offices can be found online.

Emergency matters include: emergency protection and harassment prevention orders; arraignments of new arrests; bail reviews; dangerousness hearings; mental health commitment orders; care and protection orders; and other matters. Each department of the Trial Court issued Standing Orders that contain full lists of

emergency matters.

"In light of the Supreme Judicial Court Order issued April 1 that extends the previous order limiting courts to emergency matters until May 4, the Help Line is an important resource for people who need information on their court cases, who have questions regarding non-emergency matters, and who may not know where to go for answers to their questions," said Trial Court Chief Justice

(COURT Pg. 7)

Real Estate Transfers

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| Reliable Roofing&Sheet | C-Town Ventures LLC | 374-398 Bunker Hill St #102 | \$800,000 |
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| Gilman, Samantha | Zaitchik, Jesse | 73 Sullivan St #2 | \$590,000 |



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Sen. DiDomenico urges residents to respond to the 2020 census

Sen. Sal DiDomenico put out a call to his constituents and residents across the Commonwealth to respond to the 2020 Census. Wednesday, April 1 was Census Day, a day to raise awareness and promote participation in the 2020 Census.

“Now more than ever, it is critical that we ensure everyone is counted in the 2020 Census,” said DiDomenico. “Our district and the entire Commonwealth depend on your household to respond so our communities get the fair share of federal funding and representation that we need and deserve. Furthermore, now is the perfect time for families who are spending a lot of time at home to fill out the census online, and I encourage them to respond to their questionnaire today.”

Preparations for the 2020 Census has been a top priority for Senator DiDomenico this legislative session. He has worked closely with the Massachusetts Census Equity Fund to secure funding needed in advance of the 2020 Census and to spread awareness on the importance of a complete and accurate census count. Throughout the legislative session, he has partnered with advocacy organizations to host legislative briefings at the Massachusetts State House to secure support for census funding in the state budget and help legislators and staff understand what is at stake in the 2020 Census.

Last budget cycle, DiDomenico played a key role in securing funding in the state budget that will help to ensure a complete and accurate count in the 2020 Census. The Senator and his House colleague Representative Michael Moran were the lead sponsors of an amendment in the

Fiscal Year 2020 budget that provided \$2.5 million to establish a grant program for statewide census outreach. This grant program will help to support trusted community organizations and grassroots leaders reach historically hard-to-count communities.

“With \$16 billion in federal funding to Massachusetts for programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP on the line, it is critical that we do everything we can to get an accurate Census count,” DiDomenico said. “More than half of my district’s population lives in hard to count neighborhoods, which is why I know how important it is that we work with community based organizations that have trusted messengers to get out the count in 2020.”

While the COVID-19 crisis has created new obstacles to 2020 Census outreach, there are many ways that households can respond to the census without anyone having to come to their door.

Massachusetts residents can respond to the census today:

- Online at [HYPERLINK “http://my2020census.gov”](http://my2020census.gov) \t “_blank” my2020census.gov

- Over the phone at 1-844-330-2020

- Or via mail (census forms were mailed to households across the nation last month)

Online responses and those done over the phone are available in over 13 languages.

The Census is a national population count that occurs once every decade. The results of the Census are used to make critical decision that will impact Massachusetts over the next ten years, such as federal funding for local communities, political representation throughout the Commonwealth, and even civil rights laws.

COURT (from pg. 6)

Paula Carey. “It will also serve as a backup resource in the event a Clerk’s or Register’s office is closed or otherwise unable to assist in an emergency.”

If a member of the public is unable to reach a Clerk’s Office or Register’s Office, Help Line staff will serve as a backup resource and will be able to look up case information and assist callers. The following Trial Court Departments will have representatives on the Help Line: District

Court, Boston Municipal Court, Superior Court, Probate and Family Court, Juvenile Court, Housing Court, and Land Court. The Massachusetts Probation Service will also have representatives available on the Help Line. Callers to the Help Line will be prompted to select the Trial Court Department they wish to reach and then be connected to a knowledgeable representative who can access the main court case database.

Charlestown Branch Library is closed

For the health and safety of our patrons and staff, all locations of the Boston Public Library, including the Charlestown Branch, are closed until further notice. Please do not make returns or donations until the library re-opens. Fines will be waived until June 30, 2020.

All of our many online

library services remain available at the BPL website, at www.bpl.org. We have large collections of eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, movies, and TV series to enjoy on your own computer or mobile device. For your research needs, we provide access to over 150 subscription databases and

resources.

Don’t have a library card? Sign up for an e-card at www.bpl.org/ecard. Anyone who lives or works in MA can sign up for one. If you are having trouble with your account or need some assistance, email the library at ask@bpl.org.

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.

•CONSTRUCTION

Due to the public health emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, Mayor Walsh announced that he is extending the City of Boston’s order to pause non-essential construction for City of Boston permitted sites. The initial order announced on March 16th was set for 14 days and will now continue until further notice.

HELP COVID19 EFFORTS

- Stay home. If you must go outside, practice physical distancing from others (6 feet apart); avoid crowded places.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol; avoid shaking hands

- Cover your coughs and sneezes; clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces; and avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- If you think you might be sick, please call your doctor or 311 to be connected to the Mayor’s Health Line 617-534-5050. Buoy Health has created a free online diagnostic tool which screens for COVID19 at [HYPERLINK “http://buoy.com/mass”](http://buoy.com/mass) \t “_blank” buoy.com/mass.

- Donate supplies to first responders.

- Donate to the City of Boston Resiliency Fund.

- Volunteer with the City of Boston.

- Fill out the 2020 Census. The Census informs how billions of dollars in federal funds

will be allocated by state, local and federal lawmakers annually for the next 10 years. It’s more critical than ever to ensure that all Bostonians are counted.

- 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 City Councilor Frank Baker). These matters were referred to the Committee on January 29, 2020.

On April 5th, Mayor Walsh announced the following restrictions to municipal buildings:

- Starting Tuesday, April 7, City Hall will reduce the days of operation that it is open to the public to only Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 [HYPERLINK “http://am.to”](http://am.to) \t “_blank” a.m. to 5 p.m. Note: City Hall will be open Monday, April 6 and Tuesday, April 7 and will be closed on Good Friday, April 10.

- Public access to 1010 Massachusetts Avenue will be limited to the Boston Public Health Commission on the 2nd Floor and residents must be accompanied when entering the building.

- Additionally, everyone entering City Hall, including employees and members of the public, will be required to complete a self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms, including elevated temperature.

- Residents are required to make appointments if they need to visit any of the essential services offered out of City Hall.

- Residents are asked not to call 9-1-1 unless you are experiencing a medical emergency. All COVID-19 questions should be directed to the Mayor’s Health Line at 617-534-5050 or 311. The City and BPHC will continue to provide updated information on bphc.org and boston.gov/coronavirus.

- From the April 9, 2 p.m., COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HEARING (VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM MEETING):

To discuss ways to support tenants facing eviction and displacement, and regarding the creation of temporary rental assistance to support residents impacted by COVID-19. Order for a hearing to discuss ways to support tenants facing eviction and displacement. Order for a hearing regarding the creation of temporary rental assistance to support residents impacted by COVID-19.

- 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.

PLEASE RECYCLE

Charlestown Coalition

COVID-19:

RESOURCES FOR THE CHARLESTOWN COMMUNITY

The **Charlestown Coalition** is carefully monitoring and assessing the developments and consequences of COVID-19 and its impact on the Charlestown Community, our partners, and loved ones.

In an effort to continue addressing the needs of the community, we've compiled a resource packet to help navigate the COVID-19 crisis.

Please visit our website, CharlestownCoalition.org/covid-resources frequently as this resource will be updated as new information is released.

Please reach out if you have questions about any of the Coalition's work during this time.



Family Support Circle

The Charlestown Family Support Circle will continue to work remotely/safely with youth, families and members of the community who are in need of support during this time. If you need assistance or would like to get more involved in the task force, please feel free to contact Phenice at (617) 726-0058 or Pzawatsky@Partners.org.



Youth Programming

Turn It Around Thursday youth programming will be conducted virtually via Zoom until further notice. Mswati Hanks, Turn It Around's Program Coordinator, will be staying in touch with all Turn It Around members and assessing their needs as well as the needs of their families. Contact Mswati at (646)-247-6208 or MHanks1@Partners.org.



Addiction Recovery Services

Shannon Lundin, Program Manager of Addiction and Recovery Services, will continue to reach out to individuals struggling with substance use disorders in the community via phone or virtual meetings and assist with connecting people to appropriate levels of care during the COVID-19 crisis. Contact Shannon at (617)-320-9058 or SMLundin@Partners.org.

Find us online: CharlestownCoalition.org



USS Constitution Museum launches 'A Sailor's Life for Me' educational online game

On April 1, the USS Constitution Museum launched A Sailor's Life for Me (asailorslifeforme.org), a dynamic online game and educator resource that gives people of all ages a chance to step into the shoes of an 1812 sailor.

Students, families, and educators are invited to join the fight for freedom on the high seas when they virtually enlist as sailors on board USS Constitution and travel back in time to prepare for the War of 1812. Sailors take on the tasks and challenges of life at sea, including scrubbing the deck, whacking rats in the hold, and sailing the ship at sea. The Museum worked on A Sailor's Life for Me with Green Door Labs, a developer of online resources for educational institutions, and web developers at Eduweb.

"A Sailor's Life for Me offers education and entertainment to students and learners of all ages," said Anne Grimes Rand, Museum President & CEO. "Its launch coincides with a time many are unable to attend school or work, and the Museum's hope is that it will be a welcome addition to our current digital offerings."

A Sailor's Life for Me is part of a larger strategy to serve students and the public at home. It includes a robust outreach and visitor engagement initiative where the Museum has turned "inside-out." Every day the Museum disseminates dynamic content related to Constitution through its social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube, and website usscm.org.



Image from the USS Constitution Museum's A Sailor's Life for Me digital game. Illustration by Stephen Biesty © 2010.

HEY BOSTON, STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY

Message from Mayor Martin J. Walsh

CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS:

- Fever (100.4F / 38C or higher)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Call ahead before going to your doctor's office or the ER. Call 311 for the Mayor's Health Line.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Stay at least six feet away from others
- Do not socialize in person
- Wear a face covering when you are in public
- Wash your hands, use hand sanitizer, cover your cough and sneezes, and avoid others when sick

There is a Public Health Advisory for everyone in Boston except essential workers to stay home from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily. As a reminder, please stay home when you can during the day.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED:

- Sign up for text alerts in six languages: Text BOSCOVID, BOSEspanol, BOSFrancais, BOSKreyol, BOSKriolu or BOSPortugues to 99411 for daily updates
- Visit boston.gov/coronavirus or call 311 for guidance and information from the City of Boston

By doing the right thing, we can slow the spread of coronavirus in Boston and save lives. Thank you for all you have done already: for staying safe, staying inside your home, and staying Boston Strong.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Martin J. Walsh

Wynn Resorts seeks \$350 million in capital amidst local, worldwide uncertainty

By Seth Daniel

As the COVID-19 pandemic has now hit Wynn Resorts in three locations – Everett, Las Vegas and China – the company announced a private offering on Tuesday to raise \$350 million in capital as uncertainty now and in the future unfolds.

On Tuesday, the company announced a private offering of \$350 million in senior notes that would be due in 2025, saying they would use the net proceeds from the offering for general corporate purposes and to pay related fees and expenses. Already, the company has said it would pay employees, full and part-time, their regular wages through May 15.

That comes also as uncertainty worldwide in their product is on the horizon – something the company detailed in a filing Tuesday with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

“The COVID-19 outbreak has significantly increased economic

and demand uncertainty,” read the filing. “The current outbreak and continued spread of COVID-19 could cause a global recession, which would have a further adverse impact on our financial condition and operations. Current economic forecasts for significant increases in unemployment in the U.S. and other regions due to the adoption of social distancing and other policies to slow the spread of the virus is likely to have a negative impact on demand for casino resorts once our operations resume, and these impacts could exist for an extensive period of time.

“The extent of the effects of the outbreak on our business and the casino resort industry at large is highly uncertain and will ultimately depend on future developments, including, but not limited to, the duration and severity of the outbreak, the length of time it takes for demand and pricing to return and normal economic and operating conditions to resume,” continued the narrative.

Another key part in the form related to the high level of debt that Wynn Resorts carries for projects like Encore Boston Harbor, a new resort in Macau from 2017, and other major projects in Las Vegas – as well as the settling of very expensive, ongoing litigation in early 2019.

The company detailed that capital markets may not be available in the months to come, and perhaps more certainly not in the terms they would find acceptable. Were they not to make the offering now, they seemed to indicate in the future they may not be able to pay their debts.

“To the extent COVID-19 adversely affects our business, operations, financial condition and operating results, it may also have the effect of heightening many of the other risks related to our business, including, but not limited to, those relating to our high level of indebtedness, our need to generate sufficient cash flows to service our indebtedness, and our ability to comply with the

covenants contained in the agreements that govern our indebtedness,” read the filing.

Few companies have been hit as hard and as frequently by the pandemic as Wynn Resorts. In February, their Macau operations were closed for 15 days at a cost of about \$2.5 million per day. Even though gaming operations in Macau on March 20, visitation to the island gaming mecca is extremely limited. Many residents of China, Hong Kong and Taiwan have extreme limitations put on their entry into Macau and anyone not a citizen of Greater China (meaning most of the world) cannot travel to Macau still.

Of course, Encore Boston Harbor closed operations on March 15, and Las Vegas closed its casinos on March 17. Both are still closed until April 30 in Vegas and May 4 in Everett, and the company estimated it is costing \$3.5 million per day to keep those operations going.

Already, on March 25, the company announced that the Board

of Directors and top executives – including CEO Matt Maddox – would defer pay this year in exchange for stock in the company. Maddox agreed to defer all of his cash wages for the entire year, while others agreed to forgo between 33 percent and higher of their wages.

Those move were meant to offset ongoing employee and payroll expenses at the properties.

•In other news, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) voted unanimously in a teleconference meeting to continue the closure of all of its gaming licensees – including Encore Boston Harbor – until May 4. They agreed that it was important to be consistent with Gov. Charlie Baker’s dictate about keeping non-essential businesses closed until May 4.

The MGC agreed to convene in a meeting prior to May 4 to re-assess the conditions within the state.

Marriage certificate applications drop significantly in March

By Seth Daniel

The numbers of persons filing for intentions to be married has dropped dramatically in the last month, and especially compared to last year, but for those who persist, they are moving rapidly to online requests.

The number of people filing for intent to be married is down significantly every week since the COVID-19 response, and was down by nearly 300 requests in the last week of March compared to last year.

During the week of March 20-26, there were 67 requests to be married, compared to a total of 343 requests at the same time last year. In the week of Feb. 7-13 this year, there were 225 requests.

City officials indicated that to get a marriage certificate, residents can either go online to file, or they can make an appointment to go into City Hall on the prescribed days. After the state mandated wait period of three days, the City then mails the certificate to them.

Since there are no large church or venue weddings permitted by order of the state right now, City

officials said it was up to the couple, once they had the license in hand, to find an eligible Justice of the Peace or member of the Clergy to perform the wedding in a small way.

Interestingly, of those that have pushed on with getting married during the COVID-19 shut-down, most have dramatically moved towards online filings. Some 75 percent of the intentions filed in the last week of March were done online. That is compared to none at the same time last year when there were more than 300 requests.

That has actually been the standard across the board at City Hall for vital statistics, which also include death certificates and birth certificates (some of the requests may not reflect current births or deaths, but rather people making the request who have more time to tie up such loose ends).

In the last week of March, there were 675 death certificates issued, and 78 percent of them were issued online. Only 144 made an appointment to come in, and only three did it by mail. Last year at the same time, of the 985 death certificates, just 45 percent per-

Week of Mar 20 - March 26, 2020

The Counter requests include Fri 3/20

Now Marriage Intention by Appt.

| Requests | Counter | Mail | Online | Totals | Online Percentage |
|----------|---------|------|--------|--------|-------------------|
| Birth | 122 | 1 | 324 | 447 | 72.48% |
| Death | 144 | 3 | 528 | 675 | 78.22% |
| Marriage | 17 | 0 | 50 | 67 | 74.63% |

Marriage Intentions filed 84 (most of these on Friday 3/20)

A graphic here shows the numbers of requests for vital statistics in the last week of March, including marriages. Those pushing ahead to get married are filing much more frequently online, something that could continue when times normalize.

formed the service online. In the Feb. 7-13 week of this year, that number was just 41 percent.

It is the same story for birth certificates as well.

Some 72 percent of the 447 requests for a birth certificate came online, with just one person

requesting one by mail.

One year ago, of the 1,870 birth certificates issued, only 34 percent were requested online, and that was also the case early in February too, with 35 percent of the 1,584 requests being made online.

It is also fair to note that the

overall numbers of birth and death certificates in the last week of March was way down, with birth certificates down by more than 75 percent over last year and death certificates down 33 percent over last year.

TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL 781-485-0588

Court appearances restricted to emergency matter

In light of the ongoing and urgent public health concerns regarding the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) on April 1 issued an order that continues to restrict the number of people coming to Massachusetts state courthouses through May 4.

Effective April 6, 2020, the new order repeals and replaces two earlier court orders; the Order Regarding Empanelment Of Juries, issued by the court on March 13, 2020, and the Order Limiting In-Person Appearances In State Courthouses To Emergency Matters That Cannot Be Resolved Through A Videoconference Or Telephonic Hearing, issued by the court on March 17, 2020.

All trials, whether jury or bench, in both criminal and civil cases, scheduled to begin in Massachusetts state courts on or before May 1, 2020, are contin-

ued to a date no earlier than May 4, 2020, unless the trial is a bench trial in a civil matter and may be conducted otherwise than in-person by agreement of the parties and of the court.

As a result of the SJC order, courthouses will continue to be closed to the public except to conduct emergency hearings that cannot be resolved virtually (i.e., by telephone, videoconference, email, or comparable means, or through the electronic filing system) until at least May 4, 2020. All court clerks', registers', and recorder's offices shall continue to conduct court business --to accept the filing of pleadings and other documents in emergency matters, to schedule and facilitate hearings in emergency matters, to issue orders in emergency matters, to answer questions from attorneys, litigants, and the general public, and to conduct other necessary

business of the respective court. All such business will be conducted virtually, except when the filing of pleadings and other documents in emergency matters cannot be accomplished virtually.

The Trial Court announced the April 2, 2020 launch of a Help Line for non-emergency matters that the public can call to ask general questions about their civil and criminal cases and help callers navigate the court system. The Help Line will be staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and can be reached by calling 833-91COURT.

Full lists of emergency matters identified in Standing Orders for each department of the Trial Court, as well as updates regarding the court's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, are available on the court's website.

NEMPAC community night lifts spirits through music

On Friday, April 3, the North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) hosted its first Free Open Mic Community Night! This initiative was led by Allie Meek-Carufel, Educational Programs Director & Music Theatre Instructor, and emceed by Josaphat Contreras, NEMPAC Program Coordinator via Zoom.

There were 17 talented acts with 20 performers from Boston's North End & West End, Charlestown, Malden, Somerville, Nashua (New Hampshire), and Ponferrada (Spain) with strong family ties to Italy, Ireland, Spain (to name a few). They all came out to showcase their skills for an

over 70 audience that connected beyond the local neighborhood, from different parts in the World to feel closer to family and friends.

All talents of every skill level were welcomed! Some participants were new to the "stage" with no experience performing, while other performers were there to hone their skills. There was everything from classical, folk, pop, and heavy metal to singers and instrument players! Performers represented a wide array of ages and capabilities, from children through adults, from students, to faculty, to simply friends of the NEMPAC community.

Everybody connected and par-

ticipated as a performer or as an audience, all with the common purpose, to *virtually* come together —showing support for each other through music— and to have a light moment during this daunting time.

With such success last week, NEMPAC will be hosting its second Open Mic Community Night on Friday, April 10 at 6 p.m. via Zoom, emceed by Allie Meek-Carufel! To perform, please email Josaphat Contreras jcontreras@nempacboston.org.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/804381225>

PASSWORD: NEMPAC2020

For more updates, please visit www.nempacboston.org and follow NEMPAC's social media @NEMPACboston.

You'd think at least one of them could tell you how to renew a passport.

Not everyone in the government knows everything about the government. So when you need official info about Social Security, getting a passport, renewing a driver's license, or if you're just checking your local weather, go to FirstGov.gov. A monumental source of useful information.

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Wishing everyone Peace and Good Health!

From the Zelma Lacey House Team!

Zelma Lacey House
Assisted Living Community
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Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter!

Dan Ryan
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRAT

If you need to reach my office at this time, please email: Dan.Ryan@MAhouse.gov or Call 617-722-2370, press #2



HAPPY EASTER • BUONA PASQUA

from **Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards**



EASTER HOLIDAY CHURCH SCHEDULES

Arlington Street Church, Unitarian Universalist

Streaming services and events live on Zoom

April 8, Mini-Concert with Chilean Saxophonist Patricia Zárata Pérez – 5:15 p.m.

April 9, Zen Writing Practice – 1:00 p.m.

April 12, Easter Sunday - 11 a.m.

For more information visit [www.ASCBoston.org]www.ASCBoston.org

Christ Church Charlestown

Easter Worship Service on Facebook Live

Sunday, April 12 at 10AM.

If you've got plans Sunday at 10AM, you can also watch the service later in the day at www.christchurchcharlestown.com/sunday-message.

First Church in Charlestown

Streaming live on Facebook At facebook.com/

FirstChurchinCharlestown

Good Friday 7 pm

Easter Sunday 10 am

More information at www.fcc.com

King's Chapel, Boston

King's Chapel will be offering pre-recorded services at the following times during Holy Week:

April 10, Good Friday Tenebrae at 8 PM

April 12, Easter Sunday at 11 AM

Services can be found at www.kings-chapel.org

Old South Church in Boston

Streaming services online at livestream.com/oldsouth/

April 9, Maundy Thursday - 6:00 p.m.

April 10, Good Friday - 12 noon

April 12, Easter Sunday - 10 am

with pre-service music with the Old South Brass and Percussion

at 9:50pm

All services will also be available for later viewing.

For more information, contact www.oldsouth.org

St. Francis de Sales - Charlestown

Boston Catholic TV will televise the following Masses on these channels:

Comcast Ch 45 and 268, Verizon Ch 296, RCN Ch 85

Holy Thursday April 9th at 7:30PM

Good Friday April 10th at 3PM

Holy Saturday April 11th at 7:30PM

Easter Sunday April 12th at 11AM & 7PM

St John's Church - Charlestown

Join us for online services @ www.stjohns02129.org:

Maundy Thursday - April 9th,

(CHURCH Pg. 13)

To all of the essential workers of Charlestown,

Thank You!



from **Residence Inn Boston Harbor on Tudor Wharf**

Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy Easter.



Join Us Online!



Live Easter services at Facebook.com/FirstChurchinCharlestown

**Good Friday at 7PM
Easter Sunday at 10AM**



Subscribe to our YouTube channel here:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBnEVHAZT6SlcDfZ2UyoFyQ>

www.fccharlestown.com

CHURCH (from pg. 12)

6pm
Good Friday - April 10th, 7pm
Easter Sunday - April 12th, 10am
For more information visit our website www.stjohns02129.org

St. Mary - St. Catherine of Siena - Charlestown

ALL services will be streamed on St. Mary St. Catherine of Siena Facebook page or via our website.

Holy Thursday – Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7:30PM

Good Friday – Stations of The Cross 3:00PM

Good Friday – Evening Mass of the Lord’s Passion 7:30PM

Saturday – Easter Vigil – Mass 7:30PM

Sunday - Easter Mass - NOON
Visit stmaryscatherine.org for up to the minute details.

Trinity Church Boston
Join us for Holy Week Worship from Home

At trinitychurchboston.org/live-worship or facebook.com/trinitychurchboston

Maundy Thursday 7 pm
Good Friday 12 noon
Easter Vigil 7 pm
Easter Sunday 9:45 am
More information at trinitychurchboston.org



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HAPPY EASTER



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

"HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN!" LUKE 24: 6- 7
AS THE SUN TO THE EARTH, AND THE SON OF MAN
ON EASTER, WE TOO SHALL RISE!



JOIN US FOR ONLINE SERVICES
INFO @ WWW.STJOHNS02129.ORG:

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 9 6 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 10 7 P.M.

EASTER DAY - APRIL 12 10 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

27 DEVENS STREET 617-242-1272

Holy Week Services



All Services Will Be Live-streamed Via Our Facebook Page Or Access Via Our Website: www.stmaryscatherine.org

- HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 7:30PM
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- GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 3PM
STATIONS OF THE CROSS
- GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 7:30PM
PASSION OF OUR LORD
- SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 7:30PM
EASTER VIGIL MASS
- SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 12 NOON
EASTER MASS OF THE RESURRECTION

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Mass Bankers: Operative word is 'patience' with large federal loan programs

By Seth Daniel

The Massachusetts Bankers Association (MBA) reported varying degrees of success over their membership banks with the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EDIL) – two key parts of the federal CARES Act that look to help prop up small businesses across the nation.

The PPP was the big story going into effect by taking applications at most banks last Friday, and the rush was certainly on for small businesses with under 500 employees to participate in the \$350 billion program administered by banks and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

"The approval process and the money should start happening I think by the end of the week, at the latest, barring any unforeseen circumstances," said Daniel Forte, president and CEO of Mass Bankers on Monday. "There was \$30 billion of the \$350 billion submitted and approved nationally by Sunday. From Friday to

Sunday the SBA did a year's worth of lending nationwide. That's amazing in one respect, as that's about what they do in one year, but it's also a good reminder that patience is going to be required here. I think the industry feels it's a win-win."

Forte said none of the 135 banks in his membership had any loans approved over the weekend, but he did say several had good experiences with the application process and successfully submitted complete applications for customers.

However, there were also hiccups and the system was a little on-the-fly and "clunky."

First, he said, the regulations of the program weren't submitted in final form until Thursday night, the night before the launch of the PPP, and there was also still no formal application.

A lot of the existing SBA lender banks, he said – which is about 1,000 of 5,200 banks, got a jump start on the program. Many of them moved quickly to have online webinars and instruction calls for existing customers, but for those

without those existing relationships, things moved slower.

In all, he said things would likely move slower because many banks are not physically open, and they're being flooded with so many applications.

"An example is one regional bank of ours had 25,000 applications on Wednesday and Thursday already and they had eight people to process them and they were all working out of their houses," he said. "So you have to be sympathetic to that and those issues. The operative word, again, should be patience. The banks want to get moving and small business owners want to get in the queue."

Many of the banks also reported that the portal to process applications was jammed as banks and customers tried to apply all at once Friday and into the weekend, a problem he said likely would work its way out as time goes on.

"There were banks that started at midnight Thursday into Friday processing applications," he said. "Many were not able to immediately put those through because the portal can only accept so many

hits at a time, and things get stuck. Lenders had applications, but could not access the portal because it was jammed."

He said if there is a second round or a tweak of the program, he can see there being a way for others to process the applications and the banks to disperse the money, having a second market liquidity platform created.

"It's just not in the current business model of banks so be able to process this many loans in a week," he said.

He also said many banks have already been busy working with customers, especially borrowers looking to modify their loans or mortgages. His membership has been rushing to do those things the last three weeks, adding to the workload.

"The banks have been working with customers for three weeks now," he said. "It's not like the PPP is the only things they've done. For the customers who have been impacted by business with the COVID virus...they have already been working with banks to modify their business loans or

mortgages."

In all, the programs are in great need, and Forte said the SBA is trying to pull off an amazing feat to help with the assistance of banks in every region of the country. That will happen, but it may not be instant.

"There will be hiccups," he said. "It's nobody's fault. It's not the lenders fault, the SBA's fault, or the Administration's fault. Everyone is trying to do what they can do within current situation. We want to be part of it, but there are going to be logjams."

Business owners wishing to apply should review the information available at: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/top-priorities/cares-act/assistance-for-small-businesses>. Borrowers will need payroll records for the past year, Tax ID numbers, and information on each individual with more than a 20 percent ownership stake in the company.

Baker says more ICU beds are needed; COVID death rate in Mass. is lower than other states

Gov. Charlie Baker announced good and bad news on Thursday requiring the anticipated surge of COVID-19 cases in the coming 20 days - with the good news being there are ample Acute beds and the state's death rate from COVID-19 is lower than other states, and the bad news being that even with an expansion of ICU beds at existing hospitals the state will likely be short up to 500 beds.

State officials, in response, are looking to build Field Hospitals

to take the stress off of medical centers – including hiring a contractor that can quickly begin to build out places like the South Boston Convention Center if need be. The plan to build up to 1,000 beds in this fashion around the state.

Gov. Baker's COVID-19 Response Command Center today (April 2) outlined projections related to the anticipated surge of COVID-19 cases in the Commonwealth, which they believe will come between April

10-20.

The projections are the result of the Command Center's work with medical experts to complete modeling of the outbreak in Massachusetts. The Administration also detailed its efforts to respond to this surge, including a significant increase in hospital capacity, staffing, and equipment.

COVID-19 Surge Planning:

•Modeling and Projections:

The Administration's COVID-19 Response Command Center has been working with its Advisory Board of medical experts and epidemiologists from Harvard University, University of Guelph and Northeastern University to refine models related to the expected surge of COVID-19 cases. These efforts include modeling the surge's timing, number of cases, necessary bed capacity, and work to find facilities that will meet overflow capacity. The mod-

el's projections are based on the experience of Wuhan, China, but Massachusetts' trajectory could differ due to lower population density, lower smoking rates, and earlier social distancing measures. The Command Center has also been comparing to experience in other states and around the world.

The model's latest projections estimate that the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts could range from 47,000 to 172,000 (or 0.7% to 2.5% of the total population of Massachusetts). The models show hospitalizations would potentially peak between April 10-20. The current fatality rate in Massachusetts is lower than other areas – it is approximately 1.5 percent of those infected. The Command Center is monitoring this statistic closely.

The COVID-19 Response Command Center is working with hospitals to provide them with

flexibility to expand ICU capacity. The Commonwealth is asking academic medical centers and teaching hospitals to work to significantly expand their ICU capacity. But after hospitals execute on their surge plans, the model estimates there could be a remaining gap in ICU capacity of more than 500 beds.

•Response Efforts:

In response, the Administration is aiming to find or build an additional 750 – 1,000 beds in field medical hospitals and other alternate care sites to reduce strain on hospitals as much as possible. Gov. Baker and Lt. Gov. Polito visited the first of these Field Medical Stations at the DCU Center yesterday.

The Administration has identified additional possible sites for Field Medical Stations including the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Joint Base Cape Cod, Springfield's Mass Mutual Building and other smaller locations. The Administration has secured a contractor who can build out sites once a healthcare partner has been finalized.

The Command Center is also securing 1,000 beds in capacity for step-down care options in nursing facilities for stabilized COVID-19 positive patients who can be transferred out of the hospital to make room for those with higher medical need.

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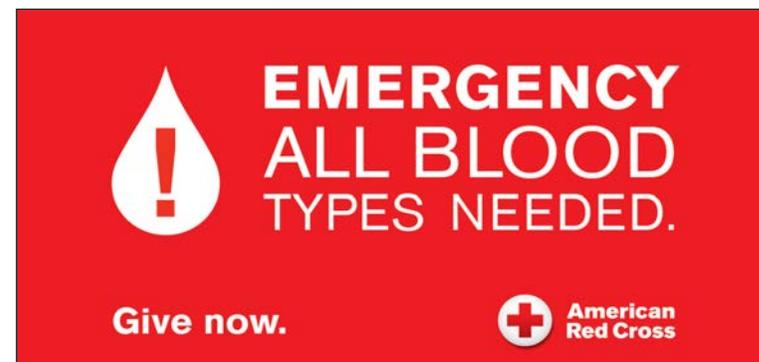
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Baker and Walsh announce stricter measures; new funds for COVID-19 relief

By Lauren Bennett

As the COVID-19 crisis continues and begins to approach the predicted surge in cases, Governor Charlie Baker and Mayor Marty Walsh continue to provide updates to residents and have implemented new measures to prevent further spread of the virus.

As of Monday, April 6, the City of Boston had 2,035 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 19 deaths. The number of people who have recovered had reached 203. In Massachusetts, there were 13,837 cases.

An N95 mask decontamination facility is set up in the former K-Mart at Assembly Row in Somerville. Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders said this is the fourth location in the United States where this technology will be used, and each N95 mask can be decontaminated between five and 10 times before it has to be disposed of, which will extend the life of these masks that are so vital for healthcare workers who are on the frontlines.

Baker announced on April 7 that a new rapid testing site will open in conjunction with CVS in Lowell and will use the new Abbott ID NOW™ COVID-19 test. CVS has created rapid testing sites in only two other states, Georgia and Rhode Island, so Massachusetts will be the third state to use these rapid testing sites.

Additionally, the New England Patriots plane also brought in over 1 million masks last week from China “in a humanitarian mission,” Sudders said.

Mayor Walsh Updates

On April 5, Mayor Walsh implemented stricter measures to help protect the residents of Boston. Starting on Monday, April 6, the Boston Public Health Commission issued a Public Health Advisory that establishes a curfew in the City of Boston. Everyone except essential workers should stay inside between 9pm and 6am, the Mayor said. As of right now, this will be in effect until May 4. He said this was a necessary choice to make because there have been reports of people not social distancing especially in the evenings, as people are visiting friends’ houses and gathering while waiting for food takeout, which the Mayor said is unacceptable.

The Boston Pride Parade scheduled for June 13 has been postponed until next year, the Mayor said. New parking rules are in effect for healthcare workers as well. If a healthcare worker gets a parking ticket, the city will waive the ticket if they email a photo of the ticket and their hospital ID to

parking@boston.gov. Walsh said this policy also applies retroactively if healthcare workers have received any tickets in the past few weeks.

The property tax deadline has also been extended from May 1 to June 1, and interest on late property tax and motor vehicle excise tax payments is extended until June 30 if the bill was due after March 10.

Additionally, the Mayor asked “anyone and everyone to wear a mask outside your home,” following the new Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendation to US citizens to do so. “Up to 25 percent of people are out and about because they don’t feel sick,” Mayor Walsh said. He said things like scarves and bandannas will work to cover the nose and face. “We can all help slow the spread by covering our faces,” he said.

He said that covering faces is not a replacement for physical distancing of at least six feet from others, which is still “100 percent necessary.”

City parks with recreational sports areas are also closed as of April 6. “People are continuing to gather and we simply have to take that option away,” he said. “No group activities should be taking place anywhere.” Mayor Walsh said that police are empowered to break up groups, and although he doesn’t want to have to fine people for disobeying the rules, but he is not taking it off the table.

There are also new steps taken at City Hall. Beginning Tuesday, April 7, City Hall is only open to the public on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9am to 5pm, and everyone entering the building, including employees, will be required to have their temperature taken, the Mayor said. He stressed that people should only come to City Hall for services that are not available by phone or online.

The Mayor also announced new measures for those at higher risk—people over the age of 65 and those with underlying health conditions. Walsh is advising these residents to “only go out when you absolutely need to.” Additionally, he recommended that they exercise inside their homes if they are able.

“You need to realize how many people are vulnerable and they’re all around you,” Walsh said. He said there are many residents of the City of Boston who have asthma, diabetes, cancer, and other lung conditions—all of which put these people at risk for having complications should they contract COVID-19.

Additionally, he said that nearly 45 percent of positive tests are in people under the age of 40. “You

have to follow these guidelines,” he said. “We’re doing everything it takes to be ready for the surge.”

Over the weekend, Walsh also announced that the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center would be converted into a 1000 bed hospital, with 500 beds for homeless COVID patients and 500 for hospital capacity, including six acute care suites. Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez said on Tuesday afternoon that there are close to 200 cases in the homeless community.

“This was done in four days,” the Mayor said. “I want to thank everyone who has made this happen. We are preparing for whatever comes our way.” He said these beds are not in use as there is no current need, but they are ready as the City approaches the surge, which is predicted for mid-April.

“Don’t just focus on the numbers going up,” Walsh said. “Think about the cases you individually have stopped and the lives you have saved by doing the right thing.”

Governor Baker Covid-19 Community Tracing Collaborative

Governor Baker announced on April 3 the creation of the COVID-19 Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC) which will help mitigate the spread of the virus in the Commonwealth.

“This initiative is a collaboration between the administration and Partners In Health, and is the first of its kind in the nation, according to a release from the state. “The initiative will focus on tracing the contacts of confirmed positive COVID-19 patients, and supporting individuals in quarantine, and builds on the efforts already underway from the Command Center to leverage public health college students to augment the contact tracing being done by local boards of health.”

“Enhanced contact tracing capability is another powerful tool for public health officials and health care providers in the battle against COVID-19,” Baker said. “Massachusetts is the only state in the nation implementing this type of programming, and this collaborative tracing initiative will break new ground as we work together to slow the spread of COVID-19.”

Partners In Health will be working with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and the contact tracing will be combined with increased testing efforts in the state.

Nearly 1,000 contact tracers will be reaching out to COVID-19

patients and those who they have been in contact with in an effort to contain the virus.

Massachusetts Covid-19 Relief Fund

Governor Baker and First Lady Lauren Baker on April 6 announced the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund, which will support frontline workers and other communities who face issues like housing insecurity.

He said that the fund, which is administered by Eastern Bank, was launched with a \$1.8 million anchor fund, and is now up to \$13 million as a starting point.

First Lady Lauren Baker said that the fund will also “partner with a network of excellent community foundations and local non-profits who have deep roots in their communities.”

She thanked the “generous donors” to the fund, and as the need will continue to raise

throughout the Commonwealth, “the sky is the limit for how much money we can raise,” she said.

Governor Baker said that as of Monday, about 76,500 people have been tested in the Commonwealth. He also said Massachusetts received 100 additional ventilators from the federal government, and he has a commitment to increase that number over the next few days and weeks.

“This public health crisis continues to be one of the most challenging events the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has ever faced,” Baker said.

“The goal here is simple,” he said, referring to the fund, “to help those who are going to have the hardest time working through and dealing with” this crisis.

To read more about the fund and to make a donation, visit masscovid19relieffund.org.

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EMS (from pg. 1)

are being a little more deliberate and looking for more information from the time they call into 9-1-1...Now, every complaint of fever, aches, shortness of breath and cough, we would identify that as suspicious and to use caution.

“With more testing now, we would know some people who are home taking care of their symptoms (for COVID-19),” he continued. “We are also getting calls from people that say they have COVID, and their doctor said to call if they feel their condition was worsening. As a consequence, we would show up at folks homes, and before we come in, we would don the complete PPE gear.”

Chief Hooley said they have had eight EMTs test positive for COVID-19, though none were hospitalized, and they have worked hard to keep those numbers down by exercising extreme caution. One has returned to work, and two more are scheduled to return in the coming week.

When EMTs showed up previously in neighborhoods, they always had gloves and the sirens and lights attracted attention to be certain. Now, however, when EMTs show up, it resembles a type of extreme movie scene as EMTs move to protect themselves and those in the homes they go into.

EMTs now wear gloves, face-masks, face shields, full gowns, head coverings and shoe coverings. EMTs also now provide a mask to the patient as soon as they arrive, which is a protection to themselves and to those in the home.

“It’s for their protection, but also if the patient has no symptoms and is a carrier or maybe they are downplaying what they are feeling,” he said. “Now EMTs and patients all have masks immediately. It’s a good barrier for all of us. We would take these precautions and notify the hospital... The big thing is trying to prevent people from getting sick. We want to keep those numbers (among the

EMTs) down and need to keep the disruptions to patient care to a minimum.”

Certainly the numbers of calls are down, as EMTs aren’t dealing as much with routine medical calls, violence, overdose or the normal things they might do. While there is some of that, it’s not at all what it was prior to four weeks ago. He said on a typical weekday, they might get around 355 calls for service, and transport between 230 to 250 people over a 24 hour period. Three weeks ago, the transport number was down to 160, and two weeks ago it was around 170.

Last week it also went up, and the numbers of those with COVID-19 symptoms were a vast majority of the calls.

“It takes a little more preparation on every call,” he said. “As it plays out now, last week we did 192 transports. The numbers are starting to creep up – even though they aren’t what they were – but 116 of those transports were calls where somebody probably had isolated.”

EMTs are called to be aware, he said, to use their PPE on every call, to have their trucks well stocked with PPE, to wipe down their truck with disinfectant after every call and to be careful when they get off of work as they go home.

“There is a lot of disease within the community,” he said. “We could take great protections at work and five minutes after work we run and errand and bump into somebody without taking the right precautions and all the protections are for naught.”

At EMS headquarters, all the call-takers wear masks and practice social distancing, and even Chief Hooley had a mask on for a portion of the phone interview with the paper. Despite the extreme environment and the risky nature of responding to calls at homes where patients are recovering, Hooley said it hasn’t affected morale. In general, he said, EMTs are the kind that would run



Boston EMS workers are taking extra precautions when they respond to calls now. While calls are down, more calls involve people who have or probably have COVID-19 infections.

towards danger to help, when others might be running away from it. That said, there is worry about how long this might last, and no one has that answer.

“No one is afraid of a challenge or scared to step up,” he said. “They’ve always stepped up for a difficult extraction of an individual in a car (crash) or using a sled to get somebody up a street that is snowed in. People here are amazingly resilient at adjusting and dealing with circumstances. What’s affected morale a lot now is just knowing this is going to be a long-term event. Typically if we’re working during the worst heatwave in the summer, eventually the heat will snap. It’s the same when he had that horrible winter in 2015 with so much snow and every call was so much more difficult. You knew it would melt eventually.”

With this event, there is just no idea when it might end, or if there could be a second round this fall, and perhaps a third next winter. All of it is unknown, and Hooley said that has worn on the EMTs in the field a bit. They have a standing peer support group that was already in place, and now it has moved to an online platform and is being used, he said. Those on the front lines in the ambulances are being brave, he said, and they are also human.

“When I talk to the EMTs, their concern is mostly about timeline and how long we have to sustain this pace,” he said. “They are stepping up. Our attendance is good. We’ve had some people cancel vacations. They wanted to make sure they were available and doing their part. We have people who are very dedicated here.”

•If you call 9-1-1 for ambu-

lance service, make sure it is an absolute emergency.

Dispatchers may ask more questions than usual, but officials said to bear with them. You will likely be asked to put on a mask, or they will give you one to put on. Callers are asked to report every symptom they have, including coughs, low fevers or general body aches. They may ask callers to put on a fresh shirt before the ambulance arrives as well. All of it is out of an abundance of caution.

They may also ask those who are able to meet them on a porch or front stoop to prevent having to go into a home if unnecessary – thus limiting exposure for the EMTs and for those in the home. They may also want patients to get on a stretcher and they will wrap patients up for safety.

All of these things will help make calls safer and quicker.

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