

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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Baker, Walsh continue to update residents as stay at home advisory is in effect

By Lauren Bennett

On Monday, both Governor Charlie Baker and Mayor Marty Walsh provided updates to the public regarding the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. At press time,

Boston had 197 cases of the virus, and the state has 1159. Two people have died in Boston, and 11 statewide. Mayor Walsh said that 21 people have made full recoveries.

After several states have issued

what they call “shelter in place” or “stay at home” orders, Governor Baker directed the Department of Public Health to issue a stay at home advisory that began

(COVID-19 UPDATE, Pg. 5)

Researchers at the South End’s NEIDL have started working to find COVID-19 treatments

By Seth Daniel

One researcher at Boston University’s National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory (NEIDL)

in the South End of Boston received samples of the COVID-19 virus late last week, and has permission to begin working to find a treatment for those with the

virus – with the NEIDL being one of only about 10 places rushing for a breakthrough therapy.

(NEIDL, Pg. 4)



PHOTO BY SETH DANIEL

South End resident Mary Lockwood was one of more than 1,000 volunteers Saturday morning that blanketed the entire City with accurate literature in five languages regarding the COVID-19 virus and the proper precautions. On Dwight Street, Lockwood placed the fliers in doors and on stoops with care, noting that she came out because she felt people weren’t taking the outbreak seriously.

City mobilizes volunteers across downtown, every neighborhood

By Seth Daniel

No one had ever attempted in modern memory to blanket the entire City of Boston with printed literature in just a few hours’ time, but that’s exactly what happened on Saturday, March 21, as volunteers fanned out all over the South End, Back Bay and Fenway – as well as the rest of the City - to drop accurate COVID-19 printed information on every doorstep.

“I think it’s important the literature says it’s from the mayor and the City of Boston on it and it’s accurate information,” said South End/Bay Village Liaison Faisa Sharif. “It’s been amazing to see people step up and want to help. The South End has responded well. There is no way the City could have done this on its own so

(1,000 VOLUNTEERS, Pg. 8)

MEAL DISTRIBUTION AT BLACKSTONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



PHOTO BY SETH DANIEL

School Nurse Kellie Binczyk, a South End resident, hands out oranges during the meal distribution last Friday, March 20, at the Blackstone Elementary School. The Blackstone is one of the central locations for breakfast and lunch service for students and families in the South End. There are sites all over the city open, but the Blackstone School is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Charlesgate professor faces challenges going virtual

By Lauren Bennett

As people all over the city adjust to virtual meetings for a gamut of events that would typically be held in person, college professors have to adapt their lectures and lesson plans to students who are not only no longer together in the classroom, but are now spread out across the globe.

One such professor is Parker James, a Charlesgate resident and a history professor at Brandeis

University. “I have had to adapt to Zoom,” James said, referencing the videoconferencing program. James currently teaches a course called East Asia in the Modern World, which is a survey of northeast Asia (and some of southeast Asia) from about 1600 to present day.

“Brandeis made the switch [to online] very quickly,” he said, and he was expected to immediately go online without ever having done it before.

(VIRTUAL LEARNING, Pg. 7)

EDITORIAL

THANK GOODNESS FOR DR. FAUCI

Watching the daily press briefings of the White House Task Force on the current corona virus crisis, we know we speak for all Americans in being thankful for the calming and professional presence of Dr. Anthony Fauci, who has served as the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) since 1984.

It's hard to believe that Dr. Fauci is 79, not only because of his energy, but also because of the spot-on answers he has for every question from the press, which often includes having to make sense of the typical off-base pronouncements from President Donald Trump.

It is fair to say that there are few in the entire world who has Dr. Fauci's breadth of experience and expertise in the realm of infectious diseases. If there is one person who is irreplaceable in our government at this critical time, that person is Dr. Fauci.

We know we join with all of our fellow citizens in thanking Dr. Fauci for his many years of service to our country and for all that he is doing today in order to help us through these difficult times.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, TOM

For the past 20 years, there has been no public figure in New England who has been more well-known, and more idolized, than Tom Brady. Regardless of whether you are a football fan, male or female, young or old, everyone knows who Tom Brady is.

Up until this season, the thought of Tom Brady not finishing his career as a Patriot was unimaginable.

But this past week, Brady's departure for Tampa Bay was the emotional equivalent of a bucket of ice water in the face. The young man who grew from a last-round draft pick into a legend, both on and off the field, has left us with an ache in our hearts, even for those of us who don't know a first down from first base.

Tom Brady never has been the most athletic person on the gridiron, nor did he possess the strongest arm. But what he demonstrated during his 20-year career is that hard work, dedication, and mental toughness matter far more than natural ability.

It is a lesson that transcends the game of football and that constitutes the essence of what made Tom Brady the GOAT.

In the vein of the maxim, " 'Tis better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all," even though it may take another 20 years for the Patriots to get to the Super Bowl, the six championships that Tom Brady brought our region will forever be inscribed in our collective memories.

Thanks for the memories, Tom.

THE BOSTON SUN

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY, STEPHEN.QUIGLEY@THEBOSTONSUN.COM

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO (DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

ART DIRECTORS: KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT

REPORTERS: SETH DANIEL, SETH@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

LAUREN BENNETT, LAUREN@THEBOSTONSUN.COM

GUEST OP-ED

Through every challenge, Boston stands together

By Mayor Marty Walsh

The coronavirus is a serious public health crisis that is affecting every aspect of life in our city. I know that the changes have been disruptive, and the cancellations have been disappointing. Some working people are losing paychecks, worried about bills, and struggling with childcare. And through it all, many of the people we want to wrap our arms around the most, are the very people we must keep at arm's length, for their own safety. I want you to know that the city is working around the clock to slow the spread of the virus, keep people healthy, and make sure that our city can return to normal as soon as possible.

The City of Boston is committed to keeping all residents informed and up-to-date. Here are the facts. The common symptoms of coronavirus are fever, coughing and shortness of breath. Most people recover by managing their symptoms at home. But for some, especially older people and those with medical conditions, it can be a severe illness. If you think you are getting sick, isolate yourself from others, and call your healthcare provider, or call 3-1-1 to talk to the Mayor's Health Line. You can learn more, including the latest updates, at boston.gov/coronavirus.

Here are the preventative measures that public health officials and healthcare workers have been recommending: Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue

when you cough or sneeze. Wipe down surfaces that you frequently touch with disinfectant. Practice social distancing by avoiding crowded places, staying at least six feet away from others, and staying home as much as possible.

What I want people to remember is that these steps aren't just about keeping yourself healthy, they are also about protecting the most vulnerable in our community, including people who have weakened immune systems and our older residents. No one wants to be isolated, especially during these times of stress and uncertainty, but the steps we take now will slow the spread of the virus, and will help all Bostonians in the long run. A lot of people are asking what they can do to help at a time like this. Staying home, and minimizing contact with others, especially those who are most vulnerable, are the best things you can do. I also encourage people to check in on one another. Sometimes, a phone call, an email, or a smile across the hallway or the yard can go a long way. If you are able, I encourage you to donate to the Boston Resiliency Fund, a new resource we created for local families in need. You can donate or learn more at boston.gov/Boston-ResiliencyFund.

As a City government, we have taken bold and aggressive action to protect all residents. We closed the Boston Public Schools, with plans to re-open on April 27. If it is safe to re-open our schools sooner, we will do so. And we created a plan to keep all 53,000 students fed and engaged with learning activities for up to six weeks out of school. To protect our families, we closed all our City gyms, pools, and commu-

nity centers. We closed all Boston Public Library locations. The BPL offers thousands of ebooks, audiobooks, and movies that you can access for free online. Visit [BPL.org](https://bpl.org) to learn more. To protect workers, we've ordered a pause to construction, with the exception of essential safety related projects. Restaurants are closed for dining-in, but we are lifting regulations to allow all restaurants to offer take-out and delivery. And we're ready to help any establishment get set up with a delivery service. We have worked with the Boston Housing Authority and private property owners to stop eviction proceedings until the crisis is over.

At City Hall, we will only have employees on-site who are critical to the operations of the City. We're maintaining essential City services in order to keep our government running, including public health and public safety; trash and recycling; and more. We will also continue to provide essential and emergency support for seniors, children, veterans, immigrant communities, and people experiencing homelessness. Our first responders are working and on duty, because safety is always our top priority.

When we have been challenged in the past, the City of Boston always works together. We have proven that we are Boston Strong. With vigilance and patience, with empathy and love, we will get through this together. I want to thank all the people of Boston for their strength, their understanding, and their support at this critical time.

Martin Walsh is the Mayor of the City of Boston

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

LOOKING AT THE CURRENT CRISIS

Dear Editor,

As an emergency room physician who spends his nights treating patients and his days on Beacon Hill as a state representative, I find that the oath I swore to protect the public health has never been more relevant than at this critical moment. The coronavirus has upended the lives of so many of our friends and neighbors over the past few weeks. And unfortunately, the worst is yet to come.

As the pandemic continues, I want to provide a brief update on what I have been up to, as well as our government. I have been pulling double duty in the ER at Boston Medical Center and in the legislature, seeing firsthand the difficulty in implementing our response to COVID-19. Yet, I have had the honor and privilege of working the last few weekends in the ER and have seen the great strides made in protocols, infrastructure, and management of the virus. COVID-19 testing has finally scaled up to the capacity that we need, yet

obtaining sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) remains an issue. We no doubt have a long way to go but I'm confident we'll get through this crisis together. I have put a lot of thought into how I can best serve my constituents, community, and patients. To that end, I have been providing regular updates via social media to share my experience on the ground and provide policy updates. Follow along on Twitter and Facebook for the most up to date information from the front lines.

State Rep. Jon Santiago

GUEST OP-ED

Turnout was up. But it can — and should — be higher

By Jonathan Cohn

During the presidential primary earlier this month, turnout was up across the downtown neighborhoods.

Despite minimal growth in registered voters, the number of votes cast in the Democratic primary was typically at least 25%—if not more than 50%—higher than it was in 2016’s contested primary.

In Ward 4 Precinct 2 around Back Bay Station, the number of votes cast was up 44%. In Ward 5 Precinct 8, north of the library, votes were up 60%. And although Ward 3 Precinct 6, in the heart of downtown, has seen a lot of new construction, that alone can’t account for the 69% increase in votes cast.

But such increases weren’t seen everywhere. In the parts of Fenway dominated by local colleges and universities, the number of votes cast stayed flat—or even fell.

The residents of these precincts are both younger and more likely to be renters—two populations that tend to move around a lot.

Our election laws, unfortunately, are designed to prevent such populations from voting.

That’s because we have an arbitrary and unnecessary 20-day voter registration cutoff. If you wanted to vote in the primary, you had to have registered by February 12. But those final twenty days before an election are, indeed, when campaigning and media coverage are at their height—and when people are most likely to know an election is even happening. Indeed, local

campaigning for Massachusetts presidential elections rarely starts in force until after the New Hampshire primary. That was Feb. 11.

Fortunately, there is a solution to this: Election Day Registration, a policy embraced by almost every other state in New England. When voters can register or update their registration on Election day, turnout rises on average five percent.

All of us who believe in a healthy democracy should want to see increased turnout. But the benefits of Election Day Registration extend beyond that. EDR can also help address the clerical errors that exist in any human-driven system. Did your name get misspelled when it was entered into the registration database? With EDR, you can fix that.

In less than six months, Massachusetts voters will go to the polls again for our state primary. The election falls on September 1, the same date that two-thirds of leases in the city turnover. If you’ve ever lived in Boston on September 1, you know you’ll see your fair share of U-Haul trucks. And that means that many young voters and renters will be moving the same day they are expected to vote—a situation practically designed to cause confusion and disenfranchisement.

With several months in the legislative session left to go, our legislators can make sure that situations like that don’t happen. Senators Joe Boncore, Will Brownsberger, and Sonia Chang-Diaz and Representatives Jay Livingstone and Jon Santiago have all signed on to legislation that would imple-

ment Election Day Registration. House Ways & Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz and Representative Chynah Tyler should join

them. And they should all stress to the leadership of both branches of the Legislature that, in 2020, strengthening our democracy must

be a top priority.

Jonathan Cohn is the Chairman of the Ward 4 Democratic Committee.

State issues order to ensure continuity of waste and recycling collection

The Baker-Polito Administration on Monday announced the issuance of an emergency order to ensure that intrastate waste and recycling collection and disposal will continue uninterrupted during the COVID-19 emergency.

Due to the essential nature of these services and anticipated impacts due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Administration’s order provides relief from state and federal requirements that govern the hours of service allowed for commercial vehicle operators involved in waste and recycling transportation and collection, while maintaining important safety protections and measures.

“As Massachusetts continues its comprehensive response to the COVID-19 outbreak, it is imperative that residents across the Commonwealth be able to rely on key services such as waste and recycling

collection and disposal,” said Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Martin Suuberg. “By issuing this emergency order, we can better protect public health by ensuring that residents are able to maintain proper hygiene, cleanliness, and social distancing in their homes while navigating these new and challenging circumstances.”

The Administration’s action will help support continuity of waste and recycling operations by helping to ensure availability of adequate staffing resources throughout this emergency, and is consistent with the State of Emergency declared by Governor Charlie Baker on Tuesday, March 10.

The order will remain in effect until April 12, 2020 unless the Administration determines otherwise.



East Boston Savings Bank is here for you.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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



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NEIDL (from pg. 1)

Professor Robert Davey, PhD., said the NEIDL started on Thursday, March 19, growing the virus in the Level 5 biolab with samples of the COVID-19 collected from the first patient that died in the United States, a man from a nursing home in Washington state.

With the virus samples in their possession, Davey said the entire scientific community in Boston and at the NEIDL is invigorated to begin working in combination on a successful treatment for a sickness that has rocked the entire globe off its normal axis.

"That's why it's great working in Boston because you have all this great stuff going on here," he said, noting that he worked in Texas for about 20 years before being recruited by the NEIDL in 2018. "That's how great science is

done and how you find great treatment...All the schools and universities here have come together to try to nail this. That is very invigorating and exciting.

"Otherwise, scientists tend to be stuck to their own thing," he continued. "I have my niche and exist in that niche. I might practice my science and do great work, but usually there isn't everyone coming together at once like this. I'm looking forward to doing our work and seeing if we can make an impact on this outbreak."

Those helping Davey in the testing will be Harvard University, MIT, the Broad Institute and other industry partners.

Samples came in just in the last few days, and Davey said they are growing the virus right now in the lab to be used in testing over the

next month. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) had taken samples from the first man in the U.S. that died in Washington state on Feb. 29. Those specimens were sent to the University of Texas where they have a repository for infectious disease samples. From there, they were sent to the NEIDL this week, along with about 10 other places.

Having all those places working at the same time is a strategy similar to taking as many shots at goal as possible, with the idea being that one will eventually get through for success. He said that having 10 places is not a lot of places nationwide, so they do consider it an honor to be part of the group looking for a successful treatment.

"Finding an effective treatment is much like finding a needle in a haystack," he said. "To swing the odds in our favor, you need to throw a lot of needles into that haystack and you'll find one that works. With our testing, it's like taking as many shots on goal as you can and by doing that you'll have a greater chance of success."

The NEIDL will be testing small molecules on the virus. Small molecules are drug treatments that have been made by chemists as potential treatments to a virus of this kind. They will test these small molecules on tissue samples infected with the virus with the goal of finding something that stops the virus from replicating. Once they find a "hit," they would begin testing it on lung cells that are in the possession of the lab – as lung cells are most relevant to what the virus attacks.

To get to that point, they'll be using 20,000 small molecules produced by their partners.

"We are expecting to test 20,000 small molecules," he said. "A (typical) pharmaceutical company (trial) would test one million,



The Boston University National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory, known as the NEIDL, in the South End has been controversial with the neighborhood in the past, but may grow more popular now as they are one of only a few sites in the country moving fast to find a treatment for the COVID-19 virus. Researchers received samples of the virus late last week, and began growing samples of it in their lab on Thursday, March 19, for testing.

but this is a very directed session."

Finding one of those small molecules that work is the first step, Davey said, to identifying a treatment.

The testing, he said, would likely last for about a month. However, any success they have would then have to be run through testing with mice, then to Phase 1 clinical trials and finally to licensing with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). There is no sense of how long that might take, but the FDA has said it is focusing all its resources on approving anything that is successfully produced at the NEIDL or any of the other approximately nine sites across the country.

Davey clarified they are only working on a treatment for those who already have the COVID-19 virus, but there are others within the NEIDL preparing to work on a vaccine for COVID-19, which would be given to those who are not yet sick in order to prevent them from getting sick.

"There are other groups here doing vaccination development, and in the near future you will hear about them," he said.

As he and his team began to prepare for the work of finding a therapy, he said he did feel a sense of extreme purpose.

"It's important to be part of a team effort contributing to trying to find a cure," he said.

ADVERTISEMENT

SECTION 1.0 - NOTICE TO PROPOSERS
CITY OF BOSTON/COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
MAYOR'S CABINET OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

HHS Rising to the Challenge Adult Shelter Learning Collaborative
Event ID: EV00007831

The City of Boston, acting by and through its Chief of Health & Human Services (The Official) is requesting proposals from interested and qualified organizations which operate adult emergency shelters in the City of Boston that are interested in improving and updating policies, procedures, operations, and staffing to better serve youth and young adults experiencing homelessness who are unaccompanied by a parent and/or guardian, as particularly set forth in the Request For Proposals (RFP)

The RFP Documents may be obtained from the City of Boston's procurement website at <http://www.cityofboston.gov/procurement> and by accessing the supplier portal and from the supplier portal respondents should select the Event ID EV00007831.

For information relating to this advertisement please contact Varnie Jules, Unit Manager of Finance via email at varnie.jules@boston.gov or by phone 617-635-4920 x 2149. For information specific to this RFP please refer to the contact person named within the RFP Documents or contact Roxanne Longoria, MPH, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships by email roxanne.longoria@boston.gov or by phone 617-635-0056.

This RFP opportunity will award up to 5 (five) organizations an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 each to support the community's recommendations in Boston's Rising to the Challenge Plan to support young Bostonians experiencing homelessness, and will be used to support young people where they currently are in the emergency shelter system. The term of the contract will be one year; there will not be an option to extend or renew. In creating their proposals, applicants should treat this as a one-time funding opportunity up to the amount of \$100,000.

The RFP Documents shall be available from Monday, March 23, 2020 at 9:00 AM until the proposal filing deadline Friday, April 10, 2020 at 4:00 PM. All proposals shall be filed no later than the filing deadline. **LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Completed proposals must be submitted via the Supplier Portal. The contract awarded pursuant to this RFP shall be for a term of one (1) year commencing on or about July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2021 (FY'21). This contract shall be subject to the availability of an appropriation.

Responding to this RFP is voluntary. All costs associated with responding to this RFP, including any interviews, will be the sole responsibility of the vendor participating in the RFP response.

The attention of all proposers is directed to the provisions of the request for proposals and contract documents, specifically to the requirements for bid deposits, insurance, and performance bonds as may be applicable.

The Official reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or any part or parts thereof, and to award a contract as the Official deems to be in the best interest of the public. The maximum time for proposal acceptance by the Official after the opening of proposals shall be 90 days. The award of this contract shall be subject to the approval of the Mayor of the City of Boston.

Marty Martinez

Chief of Health & Human Services

(March 23—April06)

Courts continue emergency-only operations

The Massachusetts Trial Courts will remain closed to the public except for emergency matters, after more than a week of closure already.

Gov. Charlie Baker on Monday issued an order minimizing non-essential activities outside of home for effect on Tuesday, March 24 at noon.

The Order confirms that it does not apply to the Judiciary.

However, as detailed in a Supreme Judicial Court Order and Trial Court Standing Orders issued on March 17, 2020,

courts continue to operate on an emergency-only basis. Courts are closed to the public but are staffed to enable the handling of emergency matters. Whenever possible, these emergency matters, such as restraining orders and juvenile protection cases, are being conducted by telephone or videoconference.

Court leaders are coordinating emergency staffing levels and Court Officers are ensuring public and staff safety through a variety of measures. Court Officers are screening the public at courthouse

entrances to provide guidance on emergency court matters and assess the level of risk posed by individuals arriving at courthouses across the state. Courts have created designated six-foot distance boundaries from any counters. Facilities are cleaned thoroughly each day with industrial cleaning supplies.

All updates regarding the court system's response to the COVID-19 pandemic are available on the court's website: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/court-system-response-to-covid-19>.

Banks will remain open; consumers strongly encouraged to bank electronically

Staff Report

The Massachusetts Bankers Association announced on Monday that banks throughout the Commonwealth will remain open while keeping their customers and employees safe.

According to Gov. Charlie Baker's order issued earlier today, financial institutions such as banks are considered essential services and will not be subject to the closure.

"While we strongly encourage all Massachusetts residents to heed the Governor's stay at home

advisory and use online or mobile banking, consumers will continue to have access to banking services during the mandatory non-essential business closure," said Daniel J. Forte, MBA President & CEO. "The safest place for your money right now is in your local bank where it is insured up to \$250,000

by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Many Massachusetts banks also have excess insurance to protect your funds."

Consumers needing access to banking services should check with their institution, as many banks have closed branch lobbies, reduced hours or shifted to drive-

through only at some locations in an effort to protect their customers and employees. However, bank staff are available to serve customers and answer questions. In addition, access to funds through online and mobile banking, ATMs and at Point of Sale transactions remains available during this time

COVID-19 UPDATE (from pg. 1)

Tuesday, March 24th at noon and will last until Tuesday, April 7th at noon. Residents are advised to stay at home and avoid unnecessary travel and other unnecessary activities during the advisory. He also said that those over the age of 70 or who have underlying health conditions should especially limit social interactions.

The order also limits gatherings to 10 people during the state of emergency, a change from the previous 25 that were allowed.

"This includes community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based events, and any similar event or activity that brings together more than 10 persons in any confined indoor or outdoor space," according to a release from the state. Gatherings of 10 or more people in an outdoor space such as a park or athletic field are not prohibited by the order.

"The Baker-Polito Administration does not believe Massachusetts residents can be confined to their homes and does not support home confinement for public health reasons," the release states, though some people have written to the governor asking him to put a stricter order in place.

Governor Baker also issued an emergency order "requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide 'COVID-19 Essential Services' to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public as of Tuesday, March 24th at noon until Tuesday, April 7th at noon," the release states. A list of designated businesses that are allowed to remain open can be found at [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov).

Businesses that are not on this list are encouraged to continue their work remotely, the governor said. Restaurants are permitted to continue offering food for takeout and delivery as long as social distancing protocols are followed.

"People will not lose access to food or medicine," Baker assured residents. Additionally, he said a goal for the state is to be testing people for the virus "at a significantly higher level."

Mayor Walsh spoke to Boston

residents on Monday and Wednesday as well, announcing that one Boston Police officer and one EMT have tested positive.

The pause on nonessential construction began on Monday, Walsh said, as did daycare closures statewide with the exception of some that remain open for the children of healthcare professionals and first responders.

Walsh once again thanked the healthcare workers for being on the frontlines and helping those who are sick, and reiterated that practicing physical and social distancing is of the utmost importance to stop the spread of the virus and not overwhelm hospitals.

"There is no reason to panic buy or hoard items," he also told residents, adding that Boston water is safe to drink and people should not be hoarding plastic bottles of water from the store.

As the governor said, restaurants can continue to offer takeout and delivery, and the City is offering a guidebook on how to set it up for those who do not currently offer it. A directory for residents of which restaurants are open and offering takeout and delivery will also be available, the Mayor said.

Walsh reminded those waiting for takeout to practice social distancing and to not gather in large groups.

Walsh announced that the Boston Resiliency fund has surpassed the initial \$20 million in a little over a week, and is still accepting donations. He said that the money is already been used to buy thousands of Chromebooks, and \$5 million in grants will also be released for organizations such as the Greater Boston Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Fresh Truck, Community Servings, Project Bread, Boston's Healthcare for the Homeless, Pine Street Inn, and more.

Walsh also announced that he has lifted the ban on plastic bags, and essential businesses that remain open will be allowed to distribute goods and food in plastic bags without charging people the typical five cents.

"Our businesses need flexibility

right now to serve their customers," Walsh said.

Walsh said that the city will continue to be in touch with seniors, the homeless population, students who need free lunch, and other vulnerable residents. He also said that there is now a team of experts reviewing emergency management plans for the city.

When asked about plans for helping people with their rents and mortgages, Walsh said that a lot of landlords and tenants are currently struggling, and getting them help is something that will require action.

"This is uncharted territory," Walsh said, adding that he is "grateful" for the support of this team.

Boston Public Schools remain closed, and Walsh said that around 15,000 Chromebooks have been distributed to students across the city so they can continue their learning from home. Additionally, free meals for students are being distributed at 70 locations across the city.

Walsh also said that homeless shelters remain open, and the city is erecting facilities for screening, testing, and isolating patients, including the first tent that opened on Saturday afternoon with room for 18 individuals.

"To date, no one has the coronavirus in the homeless population," Walsh said. The city is also hiring candidates for homeless councilors, public safety officers, and more.

For seniors, Walsh said that the Age Strong Commission "is here for you," and is conducting phone calls in multiple languages to keep seniors up to date.

Walsh encouraged families experiencing financial hardship to reach out to their banks, as many are putting products and information out there about reworking mortgages and working out payment plans for credit cards.

He is also looking for donations of gloves and masks from nail salons, construction workers, and other businesses who use that equipment, as hospitals are in dire need of these supplies.

"These are extraordinarily difficult times," Walsh said. "We're

going to see numbers increase because of testing made available."

Residents who are feeling alone, scared, or anxious are urged to call 311 to be connected with an anonymous counselor. "We are here for you, Walsh said. "We are going to get through this together, one day at a time."

Walsh said that there is no "safe date" where everything will return to normal, as no one can predict what will happen. He said that he hopes that cancelling the St. Patrick's Day parade as well as postponing the marathon will make an impact and help prevent the spread of the virus, and reiterated the importance of staying inside and away from others so life can return to normal as soon as possible.

BAKER UPDATE MARCH 24

On Tuesday afternoon, Baker announced that the state is continuing to ramp up testing capabilities, including adding 10 additional labs in addition to the state lab and other private labs that have been processing COVID-19 tests. At press time, Baker said that almost 9000 tests have been completed in Massachusetts, up from 6,000 on Sunday.

Baker advised people who are showing flu-like symptoms to first contact their healthcare provider before going anywhere. "We need to keep people who don't need to be in our hospitals and medical facilities out," he said. The state has expanded telehealth services to make it easier for people to call and video chat with healthcare providers, as well as made it easier for nurses who are licensed in other states to work in Massachusetts.

As of Tuesday morning, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has made 89 deliveries of personal protection supplies, including over 750,000 masks, face shields, masks, and pairs of gloves from the strategic national stockpile. He also said that the dental community has donated masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer as well, and similar outreach to other communities like the construction community have gone

out too.

Baker said that the only things people should be going out for are groceries, medications, and for some fresh air, but physical distancing should be maintained.

The state has also announced its own text alert system. Baker said that while the state is not looking to inundate people with even more information, they felt it was important that people are getting information from trusted sources, and only one or two notifications would be sent out per day.

The service would provide latest news and updates, public health tips, information on social and physical distancing, personal hygiene, and more. To sign up for the service, text COVIDMA to 888-777.

"It's a great way to stay in touch with the Commonwealth," Baker said.

When asked about relief for rent and mortgage payments, Baker said that it is hard for the state to know what to do without clarity from the federal government. He said that it is not possible to foreclose or evict without going to court, and courts are currently closed. He said they are talking about what the state could do on this matter, but he said in MA, under existing state law, it takes 90 days to cure on mortgages and 60 days on rent, and this law will be enforced.

The Baker administration also announced new legislation that would cut down on some of the "bureaucratic processes for local governments," Baker said.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito said that the package includes things like giving local governments more flexibility on collecting taxes from taxpayers, working with project proponents on local projects and permitting processes, and giving local businesses who are offering takeout and delivery services permission to include beer or wine in a sealed container with meals. For more information on the legislation, visit [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov).

"We know that we will all do better when we work together," Polito said.

South End Seniors Zoom In

Popular group had to stop meeting, but that hasn't stopped them during pandemic

By Seth Daniel

It was several weeks ago that the Haley House in the South End announced they would not be able to host the South End Seniors group for their weekly roundtable.

The lively group meets every Tuesday there for great discussions and socializing as well. But the closure left a void, and many in the group had already retreated due to concerns over exposure to COVID-19. Those retreats often led to isolated homes where maybe they were alone or only with a few people.

For many, it was a difficult transition.

But it hasn't stopped them from connecting regularly by e-mail chats on everything from humor to serious medical questions to poetry to politics and even whether or handling the mail is safe. Each member of the group has remained active via e-mail, though some

more than others.

Late last week and this week, that e-mail discussion group gave way to the first-ever South End Seniors Zoom meeting – an online discussion group that allows people to talk and see one another. While the e-mails were great, Ben and Jane Seigel said neighbors and friends were missing the more personal contact of 'seeing' one another.

On Friday last week, they had 33 members show up for their first Zoom meeting, and while it was a learning curve and a technological lesson, the exercise was well-received.

"The e-mails have been fun and that's gone on a long time, and the first Zoom was very successful," said Ben Seigel. "People were certainly brought together and they looked forward to doing it again even if it wasn't quite the same as face-to-face at the Haley House."

Added Jane Seigel, "There are

a number of people that live alone and that's really difficult now. The things people feel the most in our group is fear.

"And the uncertainty of what's happening and how we get a grip on what we're supposed to do. The South End Seniors are a resilient group that can care for people when they need it," added Ben.

Maggie Huff-Rousselle said she has been using Zoom now with the Seniors and a number of other groups around Boston – including some things for her work. She said it can be tiring and a little clunky at first, but it is enjoyable to have contact with others when things feel isolated.

"I don't know how many people were on the Zoom meeting Ben led Tuesday morning, but I think there were 30 or more," she said. "It was jolly but a bit chaotic. It seemed everyone really appreciated the sense of community that 'seeing' and hearing one another

created via Zoom. I felt some of those who live alone...were particularly appreciative...I think others may be feeling more isolated than I am, although I am also not leaving my apartment - not even walking lately. If anything, I feel some of the on-line frenzy with Zoom is a kind of mild hysteria about the upheaval in our world."

Said Ann Hershfang, "It was magical to be able to meet without meeting. And to learn to Zoom in the process. And, as someone said, the coffee is much better."

Arnold Zack said he definitely enjoyed the time online with others and found it filled a gap, and showed how important connecting with one's friends and neighbors actually is. He added that it has also sparked some interesting poetry from the group.

"It filled a gap in our neighborhood since we had come to rely on Tuesdays at 10:15 to meet outside Haley House and carry on person-

al and group conversations before during and after that hour," he said. "I think we all missed bumping into one another on the street and saw this as a welcomed return to normalcy. We all wanted more, so we'll reconvene to Zoom again this Friday. We needed it."

Having learned how to use the technology now, he said he and his wife actually scheduled a Zoom cocktail party with friends this week.

"And we don't have to go shopping for drinks and snacks to make it work," he said with a laugh.

Jane Seigel said learning a new digital technology in the process was also very valuable. She said they are also using it for book talks, for visiting with their family and for private conversations with friends.

"People jumped on and they learned a new digital technology at the same time and that was good," she said. "It will be used in many ways now I am sure."

MassDOT Board votes to award Melnea Cass construction contract

Neighbors say it came without mention of petitions against doing so

By Seth Daniel

The MassDOT Board voted unanimously on Monday in a virtual online meeting to award a \$25.64 million construction contract to Newport Construction over the objections of more than 370 residents who had signed a petition asking for the vote to be delayed.

The full cost of the project with contingencies and police details comes out to \$30.67 million and was substantially higher than the \$19 million estimate put out prior to bidding. Newport was the low-bidder on the project by about \$200,000 over P. Gioioso & Sons.

"We recognize the bids were higher than the estimate," said John Bechard of MassDOT. "The contractors looked at the number of weeks and number of modes and the complexity of it doesn't lend it to a seamless construction project. It's going to be a little more costly and take a little longer as we want to protect all traffic while construction is going on. We feel it's a good bid, although higher than originally anticipated."

The project is a key one for the City of Boston, and Pat Hoey of Boston Transportation told those in the meeting it will unlock eco-

nomics development and better multi-modal transportation on what is a key local and regional corridor.

A driving force within the project was pedestrian safety and better bicycle connectivity. He said the project features separated bike tracks on either side of the roadway, new traffic signals, raised crossings, raised intersections, removal and reconstruction of medians, full-depth reconstruction of the roadway, new storm-water systems, and new lighting and transit facilities throughout the Melnea Cass corridor.

However, a key issue with neighbors has been the numbers of trees being taken down and continued prioritization of cars running through the neighborhood.

The South End's Ken Kruckemeyer has led the charge to gather signatures to ask the Board to put off the vote.

"There is a lot more to be said about how wrong it was for the MassDOT to vote this contract without consideration of public input," he said after the vote. "Probably more important is how illogical it is to award this 'highway project wolf' - dressed up in the clothing of 'complete streets.' State money needs to be spent on



A rendering of the design of the new Melnea Cass reconstruction project. The bid was awarded to Newport Construction on Monday despite calls from the community to delay the vote.

projects that slow global warming, not projects that unnecessarily cut down 100 trees and threaten many more in the middle of the Roxbury heat island."

Kruckemeyer said they had gathered 372 signatures asking them to delay the vote so proper community input could be gathered. He said that wasn't even mentioned to the Board during the online presentation. Because people weren't allowed to be present at the meeting due to the COVID-19 response, he isn't even sure the Board was aware of the petition and opposition.

"Most important is that the

request from elected officials to delay a decision was not even acknowledged, nor was the petition signed by 372 neighbors even mentioned to the Board before it took up the award of the contract," Kruckemeyer said. "That is from what could be seen and heard on the video. We know nothing about what paperwork or emails were circulated to the Board, if any."

Hoey did mention the Friends of Melnea Cass briefly in his remarks, but seemed to indicate the issue had been resolved.

"The issue of the trees was important to the Friends group,"

he said. "We've gone above and beyond in planting new trees and preserving existing trees. A good number we're taking down are unhealthy or diseased. We've limited the healthy trees we're taking down."

He said they will be planting 210 new trees as part of the project, in addition to landscaping the corridor.

Construction is tentatively scheduled to start in the summer of 2020, depending on the outcome of the COVID-19 situation. It would be ready for substantial use by 2024, and fully completed by 2025.

City's 3-1-1 system becomes a life-line for residents with all kinds of questions

By Seth Daniel

There's no telling what kinds of questions might come over the phone lines or the online application for 3-1-1 workers during the COVID-19 crisis, but rest assured those operators are – as is often said in TV commercials – “standing by for your calls.”

The COVID-19 pandemic, and the advisories for so many of the City's residents to stay home, has elicited many more calls to the 3-1-1 system each and every day, said Neighborhood Services chief Jerome Smith. It is the first widespread catastrophic event in the city where the modern 3-1-1 system is available, and Smith said it has been a life-line for so many people to hold onto during the crisis.

On Monday, after Gov. Charlie Baker announced his stay-at-home advisory, the call volumes spiked, which has been a pattern at the Center following any major announcement or press conference.

“We're up to 2,200 calls already today (Monday) and it's only 3 p.m.,” said Smith, who manages the Center. “We have put an increase in staffing for 3-1-1. We're also transitioning some neighborhood liaisons to help out as well during off hours. We're at an 84 percent service rate, which means around 80 percent of the time we're returning or answering a call within 5 to 10 seconds.”

Mayor Martin Walsh has been big on telling residents to call 3-1-1 during the COVID-19 response for things other than emergencies, so that the 9-1-1 operators can be reserved for critical response if need be. By and large, the public has gotten the message.

“The most calls we've gotten during a normal busy period at 3-1-1 is 2,100 calls for 24 hours,” he said. “So having 2,200 calls by 3 p.m. is a good influx. It's mostly people listening to the news and having questions and calling 3-1-1.”

Many people call about the symptoms they appear to have,

and wonder if it's consistent with COVID-19. Others want to know about whether they need to pay a City bill, and others want to know about getting birth certificates. There are questions for Public Works on normal things like trash, and for Boston Transportation as well. Others have called about the schools, including meal distribution sites and overall closures.

In addition, they get a lot of calls about things people cooped up at home simply see from outside their windows.

“Right now, it's amazing we have a lot of eyes on the street and residents looking at what's going on,” he said. “What I see in the calls is a lot of residents pointing out things their neighbors are doing. There are a lot of calls like that of people pointing out things people shouldn't be doing like congregating. It's funny when we tell everyone to use 3-1-1 and residents call about a lot of things. There are some interesting calls coming in.”

Atrius Health offers drive-through testing

By Lauren Bennett

As drive-through COVID-19 testing centers pop up across the nation, Massachusetts' Atrius Health has opened up a number of testing centers in the Commonwealth, including one in the Fenway. These testing centers reduce the risk of spreading the virus, as testers don protective equipment, and ill people stay in their vehicles and away from the public.

In a combination effort of many different departments of Atrius Health and led in part by Sean Barwis, Director of the Urgent Care and Ambulatory Program, three sites went live last Monday and by Friday, six were open. Aside from the Fenway location, Atrius Health also has drive-through sites in Braintree, Norwood, Peabody, Somerville, and Wellesley.

“It really took a village of people to basically rapidly learn the swabbing procedures and safety protocols and donning protective equipment, masks, gowns, gloves, all of that,” Barwis said.

“It's been tremendous,” he continued. “There's a lot of support

from the community as well.”

He said that right now, about 30 people per day are being tested at the Fenway location.

These particular drive-throughs are for Atrius Health patients only and those patients can only be tested after speaking with call center staff who will determine if a person meets the clinical protocols for testing. “It's not a drive-up free testing facility,” Barwis said.

Barwis said that when scouting out locations for these facilities, the team had to decide what the best and safest entrance way would be for cars to pull up. At the Harvard Vanguard garage in the Fenway, a portion of the garage was blocked off.

Once approved for testing, patients can drive up, get swabbed, and be on their way. Barwis said that patients are given a sheet on home care, what to expect, and follow-up information.

“It's been an awesome experience to really work with people,” he said. “This has been an immense community organization effort to get this up and running in this short amount of time. It's been really awesome to watch.”

Massachusetts National Guard activated for COVID-19 response

On Thursday, March 19, Gov. Charlie Baker activated up to 2,000 Massachusetts National Guard members to assist with the State of Emergency declared on March 10, 2020 as the region continues to respond to the spread of the coronavirus.

The Massachusetts National Guard said in a release it is ready to assist local communities and to react

to requests for assistance through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Some of these requests could include, but are not limited to: medical, transportation, and logistics.

“Throughout our 383 years of existence, the Massachusetts National Guard has been faced with many challenges, some of which helped form our nation,”

read a statement from the Guard. “The Massachusetts National Guard is prepared and committed to answer the requests of cities and towns in the Commonwealth.”

More information on the scope and nature of the Massachusetts National Guard's response support missions will be released as the situation develops.

Walsh announces temporary approval of plastic bags at Boston stores

Staff Report

Mayor Martin J. Walsh on Wednesday, March 25 issued a temporary Executive Order allowing plastic bag use in Boston for certain businesses during the public health emergency of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Under the Executive Order, the City of Boston has granted temporary exemptions to Boston's plastic bag ordinance, which had restricted plastic bag use in the City of Boston. This measure will protect residents as they shop for essential needs.

This temporary exemption will apply to all retail establishments that qualify as “Essential Businesses” under the Governor Baker's Emergency Order announced Monday, March 23. Essential businesses will be allowed to use plastic bags, and will be exempt from the requirement that they charge customers a fee for checkout bags.

“During this challenging time, we understand the retail establishments our residents rely on -- like grocery stores, pharmacies, and restaurants -- need added flexibility to best serve their customers,” said Mayor Walsh. “We are adjusting Boston's plastic bag ordinance to give establishments and residents the help they need during this time.”

As part of their ongoing efforts to serve the public effectively during this public health crisis, grocery stores and other entities that sell or provide food, medicine, and other necessities, may require additional flexibility in providing checkout bags or in acquiring supplies of bags to use to facilitate carry out or checkout by patrons. This Executive Order went into effect on March 24, 2020, and will be in effect until the last day of the Public Health Emergency declared by the Boston Public Health Commission.

COVID-19 UPDATE (from pg. 1)

He said that aside from the technical challenges creating online lectures brings, he has 106 students spread across 12 time zones. That means it would be impossible for him to do a live lecture at regular class time, so he has no choice but to prerecord his lectures.

This has come with its own set of challenges. James said that Brandeis recommends uploading prerecorded lectures to its cloud, which he said takes 72 hours and would set him too far behind. “I have stopped uploading to the cloud,” he said. Instead he sends it out over Google Drive to his students.

However, since he has 70 students in the People's Republic of China, Google does not pass over the firewall there and students are unable to access the drive. So he has asked students to download a VPN software, which he said has been working so far.

“Two hours of prep has turned into a day of prep,” James said. He said that the fact that the lectures are all recorded have caused anxiety

and self doubt, especially since this is the first time in his 18 years of teaching that he has ever recorded and listened to one of his own lectures. He said he doesn't like the sound of his recorded voice, nor does he like cameras, but he's willing to face both for the good of his students.

His students are able to follow along with his PowerPoint on Zoom as he delivers the lecture, so they aren't focused on his face the entire time.

“I'm probably my harshest critic,” he said. “I just miss my students so much and thank those who write back to me.” He said he tries to make his lectures entertaining, and even though it's a big class, he cares about each of his students and said it means so much to hear from them during this crisis.

When everyone is in the classroom, he typically has review sessions after lectures and then gives exams. After going online, he said, the assignments are to watch the prerecorded lectures, as well as

some free movies pertinent to the topics that are available on YouTube. The way a classroom works has to be modified to fit all of the challenges that this virus has created within the world of education.

“There's no way of monitoring whether they're actually doing it,” he said, but he hopes to possibly have an essay prompt at the end of the semester that is weighted towards the lectures.

Previously, James said that teaching was the easiest thing in his life, as he is also a member of the Charlesgate Alliance and has been putting in a lot of effort with the organization. He's also working on a book project with a writing partner, but now much of his focus has shifted to his class. “Teaching has waxed,” he said, and is now the biggest and most time consuming thing in his life.

But James said that hearing from his students creates pockets of happiness in an otherwise uncertain time. “It just means so much,” he said.

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1,000 VOLUNTEERS *(from pg. 1)*

it's been really important to have so many volunteers willing to canvas the neighborhood street by street. I think the big thing is neighbors want to help other neighbors who may not have access to reliable information, but we also want to protect the volunteers too."

Volunteers in the South End gathered at Peters Park and Franklin Square on Saturday. They were provided gloves, hand sanitizer and a bag of literature – which was a full-sized pamphlet of accurate COVID-19 information printed in five languages. Each volunteer worked at a distance with a partner to drop the literature on each door, but without really engaging closely with anyone they encountered.

"I agree 200 percent there is so much misinformation circulating that isn't coming from a reputable



John Russell reports back on Saturday morning after finishing his lit drop around Shawmut Avenue.

source," said neighbor Ingrid Nevins, who is a nurse by profession. "I think the key is getting information from reputable sources like the CDC, the governor and the mayor. That's why I wanted to help drop these fliers, which is reliable information."

Volunteer Mary Lockwood said she has been shocked by the numbers of people that don't appear to be taking social distancing and the stay-at-home advisory seriously.

"I think it's important to help people get on the ball," she said. "I don't think people are taking this seriously, no I don't. I was at Peters Park Friday night and there was a big group playing basketball like normal. They're playing with a ball they're all touching. I mean, the NBA shut down its season and players in the NBA have gotten sick. That should say something to people. I just don't think people are getting it. I'm hoping this effort helps."

John Russell said he wasn't aware of the effort until his girlfriend got an e-mail from someone who was volunteering. Having been cooped up and essentially unable to do anything to help, this seemed like a way to be productive.

"We've been cooped up all week and this seemed like a great way to get out for a little bit and help the neighborhood," he said.

Meghan Diciara, of the Ellis South End Neighborhood Association, said she has found there is a need for reliable information in paper format.

"It's also a good way to get out in the sunshine for a little while, while helping to get this resource in to the hands of people who may not have access to all the electronic formats," she said.

Jerome Smith, chief of Neighbor-



In Peters Park, Neighborhood Services Coordinator Jacob Wessel shows some of the hand sanitizer given to volunteers prior to going out with literature.

hood Services, said last week they were watching so much misinformation spread about COVID-19, and also were encountering a lot of people who didn't have access to information channels. Working with Mayor Martin Walsh, they decided to try to mobilize City government and volunteers to combat that problem in the response chain.

"We were seeing so much bad information out there and hearings tons of misinformation in particular about the City shutting down and the state shutting down," he said. "The mayor said we just had to get information out. We had put information on Facebook and on the web every day. Ultimately, the mayor and I agreed we just needed to go door-to-door but not have groups going door-to-door. We needed to hit every door and we

began to make it happen. In one week we had two printers working on the pamphlet and looking for volunteers."

At first, he said they were nervous about volunteers. They were worried they wouldn't get enough to carry out the job, and they were also worried they would have too many volunteers – thus violating the social distancing advisory. All of the effort, of course, had to be done in tandem with other people, but not at a close distance.

"We wanted 1,000 volunteers and we put out the word that's what we were looking for to hit the whole city," he said. "In one day, we had 500 volunteers sign up. After hitting city councilors and elected officials and their networks, we were able to easily get our 1,000 volunteers. It turned into a great thing."



South End/Bay Village Mayoral Liaison Faisa Sharif organizes routes for volunteers to follow near Blackstone and Franklin Squares.

While volunteers from the City, state and community hit the streets with the literature, pre-arranged employees from senior housing developments and Boston Housing Authority (BHA) properties took delivery of the pamphlets and delivered them door-to-door in all of those buildings. That effort finished up late on Monday afternoon.

"It really has been a different experience for me, but an amazing experience too," he said. "We were able to get the entire city dropped by 3 p.m. From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. we used volunteers to fill in the gaps. I appreciated all the coverage we got and especially our volunteers. We really have to do this together. To combat misinformation residents need to go to trusted sources... We needed to provide that in print and we did. It was very important."



Shown above: Ingrid Nevins and Meghan Diciara get instructions from Mayoral Liaison Faisa Sharif at Franklin Square on Saturday morning.

Shown to the right: Leanna Shea and Patrick Roath finished their volunteer shift after dropping COVID-19 literature beyond Franklin Square.



DISTRIBUTING MEALS AT BLACKSTONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Nurse Kellie Binczyk, Maggie Gilligan, Bethany Beck of Playworks, and Steve Liu of the Boston Chinese Evangelical Church (BCEC) keeping safe social distances as they prepare to distribute meals.

Photos by Seth Daniel

The Boston Public Schools continue to have a daily, weekday meal distribution this past week, with the South End's Blackstone Elementary providing breakfast and lunch each weekday morning.

- Other nearby sites include:
- YMCA at Wang, 8 Oak St. (8 a.m.-noon)
 - Vibrant Boston Community Center at Lenox/Camden —136 Lenox St. (8 a.m. – noon).
 - YMCA at Huntington Ave. — 316 Huntington Ave. (8 a.m. – noon).



A masked bicycle rider comes up West Newton Street to the Blackstone meal site on Friday.

Mixed-use project planned for Parcel 12 clears another hurdle

By Dan Murphy

A developer's plan to build a mixed-use project on air-rights Parcel 12 at the critical intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Boylston and Newbury streets in Back Bay cleared another hurdle Monday when it received joint-approval from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation board of directors and the Fiscal and Management Control Board.

Boston-based developer Samuels & Associates intends to build a 237-foot, 20-story building at the location that would accommodate the headquarters for Cargurus, a Massachusetts-based automotive research and shopping website, as well as a 154-foot building that would be home to a local outpost

of citizenM, a Netherlands-based chain of affordable luxury hotels. The project also includes plans for a public plaza; 70,000 square feet of restaurant and retail space; and a below-grade garage that could accommodate up to 150 vehicles.

Among the "public-realm improvements" planned as part of the project is a plan to renovate and reopen the currently shuttered MBTA pedestrian tunnel that links the Hynes Convention Center to the west side of Massachusetts Avenue.

More than half the project site would be located over the Massachusetts Turnpike, with the two buildings sitting atop an elevated podium.

Scott Bosworth, understudy and chief strategy officer with

MassDOT, said although the start date for construction, which is estimated at \$700 million, is now tentative given concerns over the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak, the project would start with the reconfiguration of the highway before moving onto moving the Mass. Turnpike on-ramp.

"We're staying committed to ready to hit the roadway as soon as you will allow it," Bosworth said.

While basic guidelines for the proposal, including terms for a 99-year lease for the site with MassDOT, were approved, Transportation Stephanie Pollack said a removal of Mass. Turnpike lane for the project would require further review by both boards.



Bethany Beck and Steven Liu prepare breakfast and lunch packs for families.



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An artist's rendering of the mixed-use project slated for Parcel 12 in the Back Bay.

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City Council hold first virtual meeting regarding coronavirus

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston City Council held its first ever virtual hearing regarding COVID-19 on Monday, March 23 using the video conferencing program Zoom.

The hearing, which was held by the City Council Committee on Public Health and chaired by new District 5 Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, invited a gamut of people from professors to nurses to speak and answer questions related to the coronavirus.

Zoom's platform allowed panelists to use PowerPoints for their presentations if need be, as well as for people to ask questions. The purpose of this hearing was to disseminate as much information as possible to the public as well as get some answers to questions that

many people have.

The hearing's first guest, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health's Dr. Marc Lipsitch, provided a presentation. An epidemiologist, Lipsitch said that a large fraction of the transmission from the virus is from close contact—when droplets from the cough or sneeze of an infected person land on someone else. He said that there is probably some airborne transmission as well, though it is less likely if you are outdoors.

"There is not zero risk from a doorknob," he warned, telling listeners that they should wash frequently touched surfaces and hands often.

"When will we have a better idea of how long we might be looking at?" City Councilor Michelle Wu asked.

Lipsitch said there are a lot of

factors, "probably some we haven't even realized yet." He said that China took measures earlier as far as social distancing goes, and "hospitalization is a lagging indicator of new cases."

City Councilor Kim Janey asked that if testing is part of the strategy for flattening the curve, if enough is being done.

Lipsitch said that the country is "not there yet," in terms of the amount of testing that needs to be done. He said that per capita, the United States has done 30 times less testing than South Korea per capita. "We do not have the capacity to do what people are strongly advocating for," he said.

City Councilor Julia Mejia said that it seems as though the age group for who is at risk for the virus has changed, but Lipsitch said that there is "no evidence"

that the virus has changed. What has changed, he said, is the way that researchers understand the virus.

While children are much less symptomatic on average, they are still capable of catching and transmitting the virus.

Margaret Conlon of Carney Hospital in Dorchester said that a floor of the hospital will turn into a negative pressure area, which will pull infected droplets away from healthcare professionals. The hospital. The hospital is the first in the nation to offer a dedicated care center for COVID-19 patients.

Phil Landrigan, Director of the Global Public Health Program and Global Pollution Observatory at Boston College, spoke strongly about the importance of a stay at home order, though he thinks the governor's stay at home advisory

is "clearly a step in the right direction," he said. "My concern is that it doesn't go far enough."

Many others also spoke at the hearing, including a representative from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office and nurses who are providing care to those infected with COVID-19.

"Things are changing daily," said City Councilor Matt O'Malley. "We want to get as much information as we can out."

As of press time, the full video for this hearing was not yet posted on the City Council's YouTube channel for playback.

The City Council will continue to hold virtual meetings and hearings; the links to follow along and participate at home can be accessed via the City of Boston website's Public Notices section.

APRIL 15 BECOMES JULY 15 FOR TAX DAY:

Treasury, IRS extend filing deadline and federal tax payments

By Seth Daniel

The extension of Tax Day has brought some relief to taxpayers who might wish to file and, perhaps, pay later in the summer, but for tax preparers, their goal is to work as if nothing has changed.

On Saturday, March 21, the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced that the federal income tax filing due date is automatically extended from April 15 to July 15. Taxpayers can also defer federal income tax payments due on April 15 to July 15 without penalties and interest, regardless of the amount owed. This deferment applies to all taxpayers, including individuals, trusts and estates, corporations and other non-corporate tax filers

as well as those who pay self-employment tax. There are also no additional forms to file or calls to make to take advantage of the extension.

For Richard Stern, a CPA who works in the Back Bay and lives in the South End, the extension provides some relief, but he's not using it as a crutch.

He said many of his clients are young people who got inadvertently hit by the new tax code last year with high tax bills. They are anxious to know if that happened again, and would like to take care of it, and other people who receive refunds simply want more cash in their pocket given the uncertainty of the financial markets.

"The answer as to whether this helps me is 'Yes, but,'" he said last Friday. "It's something that I know

is there if I need it. I'm just trying to not acknowledge it so I stay motivated. For my clients, many of them want their drafts at the same time and I don't want to ruin their expectations. I have to fight hard to get there and ignore the extension. The goal is to get everything done, but I do know I have the extra time if I really need it."

That falls in line with the guidance from the IRS, which urges taxpayers who are due a refund to file as soon as possible. Most tax refunds are still being issued within 21 days.

"Even with the filing deadline extended, we urge taxpayers who are owed refunds to file as soon as possible and file electronically," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "Filing electronically with direct deposit is the quickest way

to get refunds. Although we are curtailing some operations during this period, the IRS is continuing with mission-critical operations to support the nation, and that includes accepting tax returns and sending refunds. As a federal agency vital to the overall operations of our country, we ask for your personal support, your understanding – and your patience. I'm incredibly proud of our employees as we navigate through numerous different challenges in this very rapidly changing environment."

More than anything for Stern is the numbers of Board meetings and business meetings he's been asked to attend for tax advice related to the financial meltdown. Many are trying to figure out how they will stay solvent or stay in business, and there are many

unknowns, he said.

"There's a general business panic out there and there have been a lot of meetings," he said. "I've been pulled into a lot of meetings...and they're trying to figure out what can they do and what should they do."

The Tax Day announcement comes following President Donald Trump's emergency declaration this month pursuant to the Stafford Act. The Stafford Act is a federal law designed to bring an orderly and systematic means of federal natural disaster and emergency assistance for state and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to aid citizens. It was enacted in 1988.

NEWS BRIEFS

SOUTH END STREET SWEEPING CLARITY

Street sweeping is still on in the South End and the City encourages residents to move their cars to allow for Public Works to properly clean the streets. However, the City said it understands that given the current situation with COVID-19 in Boston, that moving a car may be difficult at this time. As a result, the City is suspending ticketing and towing for the time being. That said, the City

does highly encourage those who are able to move on street cleaning day, to do so. Street Sweeping in the South End began on March 1.

MCKINLEY SOUTH END CASE TESTS NEGATIVE

The McKinley South End Academy on Warren Avenue was shut down on Monday ahead of other Boston Public Schools due to a potential positive case of COVID-19 in the school community.

That person was tested over the weekend, and it was report-

ed Monday night that the person tested negative for the virus. Those worries, in fact, were abated in the South End.

BPDA MEETINGS CANCELED

Following guidance issued by Mayor Walsh recommending the postponement or cancellation of public meetings, the BPDA is postponing all BPDA-hosted public meetings regarding Article 80

development projects and planning studies until further notice.

COUNCILOR ED FLYNN WORKING REMOTELY

Please note on Mon March 16, Councilor Ed Flynn and his team began working remotely from home. In addition, the Boston City Council facilities will be closed indefinitely following the regular meeting on Weds., March 18. However, they will continue to

work on City Hall matters, constituent services, and quality of life issues in District 2. At this time, aim is to help mitigate the threat of community spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) to employees, family/friends, neighbors as it may pose serious risks to those with underlying health issues, our seniors. For all constituent service requests, please continue to contact us at Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov or 617-

COVID-19 Statistics for Massachusetts

COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts as of March 25

Confirmed cases of COVID-19	1838
	+679 from the 24 th

Massachusetts residents subject to COVID-19 quarantine by current status as of March 24

Total of individuals subject to quarantine	3802
Total of individuals who have completed monitoring (no longer in quarantine)	1655
Total of individuals currently undergoing monitoring/under quarantine	2147

COVID-19 INFECTION BY AGE BRACKET

≤19 years of age: 41	20-29 years of age: 326
30-39 years of age: 322	40-49 years of age: 313
50-59 years of age: 330	60-69 years of age: 249
≥ 70 years of age: 255	Unknown: 2

These do not reflect the most up to date numbers, as they were not reported by press time. Please scan the QR code to the left to see them.

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

Total Number of Cases by County

Barnstable	51
Berkshire	71
Bristol	67
Dukes and Nantucket	3
Essex	177
Franklin	14
Hampden	45
Hampshire	11
Middlesex	446
Norfolk	222
Plymouth	101
Suffolk	342
Worcester	129
Unknown	159

For the most up to date information scan this with your smartphone at any time to visit the State's website for all information related to the virus.



What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Homeless, addicted population on Mass/Cass remains free from COVID-19

By Seth Daniel

Massive efforts from the City, state and provider community to test and monitor the homeless and addicted population on Mass/Cass for COVID-19 infection has rolled out this week, and so far they have reported no infections.

With the opioid epidemic on the corridor in full swing (though still down in numbers of people due to the colder weather) many in the South End and within the recovery services community were quite worried that an outbreak within this vulnerable population could become disastrous.

On Saturday, Boston Health Care for the Homeless opened two large tents on the parking lot of the Southamptton Shelter in a 24-hour, all hands on deck effort, to create an area to test and quarantine those on the corridor immediately.

It was a "Herculean" effort, said Jenn Tracy of the Mayor's Office of Recovery Services on Tuesday during an Opiate Work-

ing Group teleconference.

"As of now, we have started screening anyone with symptoms," she said. "We have all negatives so far."

One of the tents is used to house people with symptoms who have been tested and are awaiting results. The other tent is for people to be quarantined if necessary.

"Unless things have changed rapidly, we have had all negatives in our testing," she reaffirmed. "We have about 70 homeless people waiting on tests. Boston Health Care for the Homeless and BMC (Boston Medical Center) have been administering those tests."

Meanwhile, she said AHOPE Needle Exchange has been moved outside to a canopy on the street doing harm reduction services there, and also assisting a vigorous campaign by the street team and BMC's Project Trust to look for anyone who might be exhibiting symptoms on the streets.

"We're doing our best to reach everyone to do screening and to

reduce other infections," she said. "We're also trying to get as many people as we can into temporary housing."

At the moment, Miriam Komaromy of the Grayken Center said they have secured beds for quarantine at the McGinness House and can access up to 50 beds there if an outbreak in the homeless community expands.

They are also trying to get healthy people out of the shelters and into other housing so that the facility can be set up with the proper distancing between people.

She also added that on Tuesday, BMC began in-house testing for COVID-19 that allows for quicker results and won't require people to wait for days in the temporary tent structure.

"That will speed it up," she said. "People will be able to come in and be tested and then find out the result in the hospital while they wait."

Added Tracy, "The next big push is following the isolated folks

and quarantining those that test positive and are COVID infected. This is a major effort to pick up people quickly when they have symptoms and not re-introduce them to the larger population who are not sick."

•LOOKING AT ALL FACILITIES

Moderator Steve Fox said there is a lot of interest from the neighborhood in facilities that might be identified for patient overflow if an outbreak occurs in the homeless population.

Tracy said everything is on the table now, and most of that effort is being led by the state.

"Newton Pavilion is on that list for sure," she said. "Many things are being considered. The Shattuck is pretty full...They were looking at other spaces in the Shattuck that aren't being used as a possibility. All cities and the state are looking now at what properties we own and what of those can be scaled up."

She said Mayor Martin Walsh

has asked that they locate 1,000 beds for people who are homeless, for homeless families and for elderly who need treatment."

Fox said it's important in this time for neighbors not to be surprised when government spaces or buildings begin to be commandeered for use to quarantine people.

"I think it's important that no one be surprised if we start to see underutilized and lesser used spaces start to be readied, such as the Newton Pavilion," he said. "I think it would be helpful to try to set expectations so it doesn't come as a surprise to people if it does happen."

While things for the Working Group are up in the air as to in-person meetings, the group agreed to attempt another teleconference meeting in April to get updates on how the COVID-19 response has been going.

SEBA works to aid South End businesses during COVID-19 outbreak

By Lauren Bennett

As neighborhoods across the city continue to come together

during this time of crisis, one South End organization is working nearly around the clock to help small businesses in the neighborhood adapt to the rapidly changing situation.

South End Business Alliance (SEBA) is a group of business owners and people who work in businesses in the South End and come together to help each other as well as artists and non-profit organizations within the neighborhood. SEBA has an all volunteer board.

Board member Randi Lathrop said that as an organization, SEBA focuses strictly on the South End's small businesses, over 50 percent of which are food establishments. She said the organization has

begun to reach out to local businesses to see what they need and how SEBA can help.

"My philosophy is if you don't have a job, you don't have a home," Lathrop said, citing the reason why she believes it's so important to help out businesses that are struggling right now. "This crisis has paralyzed businesses to date," she said. "Our job is really trying to help our businesses through this emotionally, physically, and economically" difficult time, as well as to communicate information coming from City Hall.

SEBA board members are working together and using their individual expertise to assist different businesses and people in the neighborhood. The AC Hotel in the South End is currently housing doctors, and SEBA hosted a podcast organized with State Reps. Jon Santiago and Aaron Michlewitz to try and further spread information. "The South End is lucky to have these two," Lathrop said. Other podcasts include speakers who are lawyers and accountants to get information from even more perspectives.

Though SEBA is still figuring out what some businesses need and how they can assist, some businesses, like Giacomo's restaurant, have already received some help from SEBA. Prior to the outbreak, Giacomo's was cash only,

so to reduce the spread of the virus, SEBA helped the restaurant get set up with Venmo so people could pay electronically in a contact-free way.

Boston Pedicab in the South End has also reached out to SEBA and offered to provide rides to residents who need to pick something up from a restaurant.

Foodie's remains open and fully stocked, and has introduced special shopping hours for those ages 60 and older. From 8:00-9:00am, residents over the age of 60 are welcome to shop at Foodies, which is a later window than many corporate stores are currently offering. "Foodies has been filling their shelves," Lathrop said.

"We've been really pushing on social media and email, listing all restaurants doing takeout and delivery," she said. "SEBA is about connecting and communicating and networking."

SEBA has put out a survey for South End businesses to fill out, outlining their particular needs or struggles so SEBA can figure out how best to serve each business, as each one faces unique challenges. "Challenges vary from business to business," Lathrop said.

Lathrop said that food businesses are primarily concerned about their tipped employees, and most non-food businesses have shut down due to the social

distancing recommendation and stay at home advisory put forth by Mayor Walsh. Businesses are looking to help their employees apply for things like insurance, healthcare, and making sure they can pay their rent.

"Landlords are being very generous," she added.

"I think the South End has always prided itself on having independent or family-owned businesses," Lathrop said. "Survival is our biggest goal; getting everyone to be able to survive."

She said that she and her husband decided to move to the South End more than 30 years ago because of the diversity and economic differences in the neighborhood. "The South End is a very, very special place," she said. "The South End historically has always come together."

For businesses who have questions or comments for SEBA, they can email them to either taskforce@seba.com or info@seba.com. SEBA board members are in constant contact with each other through text and Zoom meetings, and they encourage businesses to reach out.

"I think we will survive. I think you'll feel this for a very long time," Lathrop said, but "we've got to support the local and family-owned businesses in the South End."

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Betsey Barrett

Ron Berkowitz

Toni Doggett

Landmarks Commission holds first virtual hearing

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) held its first virtual meeting using videoconferencing program Zoom on Tuesday, March 24. BLC Commissioners, staff, project proponents, and the public were able to tune into the hearing and participate.

The BLC approved landscape improvements at both the Collins and Garrison statues on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall in the Back Bay. Both statues require some repair work as they are worn in certain areas.

Cassie Bethoney of Weston and Sampson presented the proposal, and those watching were able to follow along with a PowerPoint presentation on the screen.

“We want to create a uniform plaza,” Bethoney said in regards to the Garrison Statue. The proposal includes pitching the pavers to drain to the outside curb, and installing a vertical granite curb.

She said they are considering a unit paver field that’s set with a sand bedding with a slab underneath that has holes for water to drain through. It will have a three inch reveal that will act as a visual barrier for tires and pedestrians.

Bob Mulcahy, Director of Parks Care and Capital Projects for the Friends of the Public Garden, who is a leader on this project, said that the majority of people move around this piece and not on it, though some do come up the stairs for a closer look. “This part of the surround is a very contemporary feature,” he said of the area with pavers, as historically it was evergreen planting beds.

The proposed new pavers would have a smoother finish on them than the current ones. More than one pattern was proposed, but the Commission said they leaned more towards the diamond pattern.

BLC Commissioner Brad Walker asked why the actual steps were not being reset, as they “look pretty rough,” he said.

“We did look at it, Mulcahy said, but “ultimately it did come down to money in this phase.” He said that the joints will be repointed as part of this project, but in order to reset the stairs, everything needs to be removed and it is more complicated than it looks.

For the Collins Statue, Bethoney said that the cobble surrounds on the back of the plaza are being pushed out by the roots of the existing tree.

“There’s an opportunity here

to create a uniform pathway that drains properly and mitigates vehicular tire issues,” she said.

They are also proposing to change the planting around the monument itself, and plant evergreens, hostas, and daffodils, though they are still early in this process and are working with the Friends of the Public Garden as well as the Garden Club of the Back Bay on the final planting decisions.

These proposals were approved by the Commission with the proviso that final choices for things like mortar coloring and granite selection be submitted to BLC staff.

For the Back Bay Fens, Stella Lensing, Senior Project Manager at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) presented a proposal to plant 52 trees along Park Drive and the Fenway. She said that both DCR and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy are working on this project.

There is a list of species that the DCR is proposing, which includes trying to plant as many native trees and ones that fit into specific locations as as possible. No existing trees would be removed as part of this project.

Along the park strip in the Fen-

way, Lensing proposed Jefferson American Elm trees, and at Park Drive at Peterborough Street, Black Gum/Tupelos, as there is a larger area there with a lot of soil volume, so they think larger trees can be established there.

The other locations and trees proposed are as follows:

Intersection of Park Dr. and Queensberry St.: Jefferson American Elm and American Hornbeam
55 Park Dr.: American Linden and Serviceberry

77 Park Drive: American Hophornbeam and Eastern Redbud

Park Drive at Jersey St.: Black Gum/Tupelo and American Hornbeam

Park Drive at Kilmarnock St.: American Hophornbeam and Black Gum/Tupelo

Park Drive to Boylston St.:

American Hophornbeam and Black Gum/Tupelo

BLC Commissioner David Berarducci said he was concerned about the trees in the Fenway surviving in the narrow strip surrounded by pavement, but Lensing said that would be investigated.

Aside from that concern, “there is no issue” with anything proposed, Berarducci said. “We were fine with everything they showed.”

“I think it looks like a very nice job,” said Commissioner Brad Walker. There were two letters of support submitted for this project, and the Commission approved the project as presented.

The team had hoped to start planting this spring, but given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, Lensing said they hope to begin as soon as possible.

BCA and the City Partner for Boston Artist Relief Fund

Staff Report

Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) has partnered with the City of Boston to create the Boston Artist Relief Fund to support artists living in Boston who have lost or anticipate losing income due to COVID-19.

The partnership will allow individuals and private entities to make donations to the Boston Artist Relief Fund through the BCA website. One-hundred percent of all donations to the Boston Artist Relief Fund go directly to artists.

“At Boston Center for the Arts, we live by our commitment to support Boston’s working visual and performing artists,” said BCA Co-Executive Directors Emily Foster Day and Kristi Keefe. “The citywide event, program, and performance cancellations are having devastating and immediate effects on artists’ livelihoods. In this spirit, we are excited to partner with the City of Boston to facilitate individual and organizational support of the Boston Artist Relief Fund.”

The Boston Artist Relief Fund will award grants of \$500 and \$1,000 to artists living in Boston whose creative practices and incomes are being adversely impacted by cancellations related to COVID-19. The Boston Artist Relief Fund will be open on a rolling basis and will replace the Opportunity Fund through June 30. All artists living in Boston are eligible and welcome to apply. The City of Boston will prioritize low-

er-income artists and artists who have not previously received a City of Boston grant this fiscal year (July 1, 2019-present).

“We are so proud to partner with the City of Boston on this important initiative to support our valued creative community during these challenging times,” said BCA Director of Visual Arts Randi Hop-kins. “It is core to our mission to provide a wide array of resources needed to keep art and artists thriving here, and the City’s innovative response to an unprecedented situation gives us a welcome chance to connect and have a meaningful positive impact.”

The Boston Artist Relief Fund is open for, but not limited to, the following uses: the recouping of financial losses due to cancelled events, such as performances, readings and speaking opportunities; reimbursement for travel expenses related to an artist’s discipline, including residencies, conferences and touring; the offsetting of lost income for teaching artists who could not teach during this time; and support for artists working in the service industry who have lost supplemental income to support their artistic practices.

“We’ve already seen an overwhelmingly positive response to the Artist Relief Fund,” said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture for the City of Boston. “We are seeing Boston’s cultural community and the city as a whole band together to help each other and those most in need.”

NEWS BRIEFS

From Pg 10

635-3203. I will continue to provide updates on social media. For health concerns, please contact a health provider, or Healthy Boston at (617) 534-5050 and 9-1-1.

“During this time, it’s critical that we continue to be good neighbors, treat all with respect and dignity, including seniors, persons with disabilities, immigrant communities, and Asian American neighbors,” he said. “We’ll get through this period of disruption staying united, and relying on public health officials.”

THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE/WERE CANCELLED

The following meetings are or were canceled:

- Housing Expo 3/14;
- Tremont Design Open House 3/16;
- BU Medical Campus Task Force 3/19;
- Tremont Design Open House 3/21;
- Blackstone Family Gym 3/21;
- BCYF Blackstone Spelling Bee

- 3/21;
- Mayor’s Youth and Jobs Resource Fair 3/28
- Bay Village Neighborhood Association meetings

BOSTON WARD 4 DEMS CAUCUS: POSTPONED

The Ward 4 Democratic Committee Caucus that was to be held on March 21 has been postponed until further notice.

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN CANCELS ALL EVENTS

The Friends of the Public Garden announced on March 13 that they will be canceling all events and programming in the Public Garden and Boston Common through April 30. They remind, though, for the sake of fresh air and sanity, that the Common, the Public Gardens and the Comm Ave Mall are outdoor spaces and open to all during this time.

CONNECT DOWNTOWN OPEN HOUSES

Connect Downtown cre-

ates a network of comfortable, on-street walking and bicycling routes from Columbus Avenue in the South End to key locations in Bay Village, Downtown, Beacon Hill and beyond. Boston Transportation Department (BTD) plans to design the project in a way that allows for faster construction. Below are upcoming open houses in the South End. Open Houses at the BPL South End Branch Library - 685 Tremont Street

- Tuesday, March 17, Noon-8 p.m. **POSTPONED**
- Tuesday, April 14, Noon-8 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 12, Noon-8 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 9, Noon-8 p.m.

WOMAN FOUND IN MUDDY RIVER

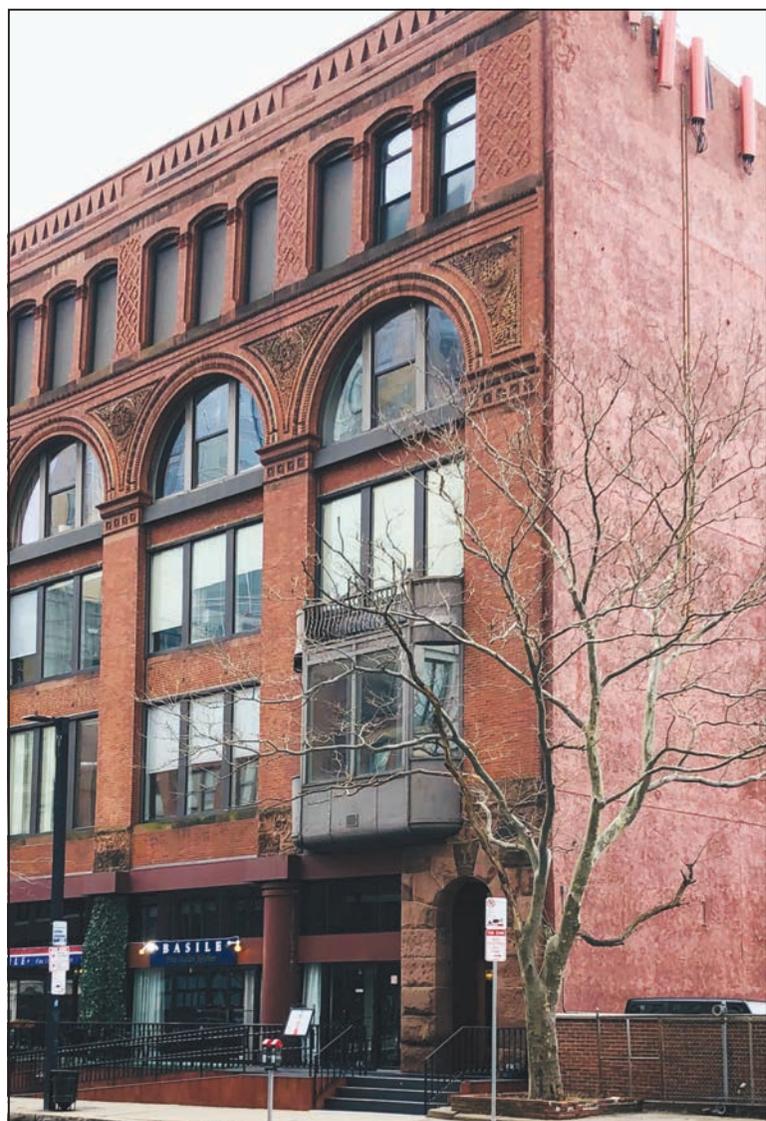
A woman was found on top of her car after driving into the Muddy River on March 18, after driving down the Newbury St. Extension. The woman survived, and this is the second time in recent months such an event has occurred.

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 15)

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The arched window in the last clue is on 162-172 Columbus Avenue. This building was designed by Theodore Minot Clark in 1883 as a factory for Carter, Dinsmore and Company which was by the late 1800s The Carter's Ink Company, the largest ink producer in the world.

The next clue will be found in the Back Bay.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Durbin, Julie	Marion L Nierintz RET	280 Beacon St #34	\$1,550,000
Dallai, Riccardo	Harbert, Nancy E	1 Charles St S #5D	\$2,250,000
Frutos, Maureen	Hurley, Brendan	180 Commonwealth Ave #7	\$1,299,000
Donovan, Peter	Zimmerman, Shirley S	119 Marlborough St #6	\$649,000
Torres, Ricardo	Cushing, Mark E	121 Marlborough St #3	\$1,650,000
Zou, Yihong	Leahy, Peter G	400 Stuart St #20B	\$2,125,000
Swierczynski, Beata	Greene, Michael S	388 Marlborough St #8	\$715,000
BEACON HILL			
Shivvansh LLC	David&Alina Mcalpine	9 Hawthorne Pl #14K	\$422,000
Tu, Ho-Vhou	Spencer, Philip J	9 Hawthorne Pl #7H	\$525,000
Zhang, Winnie	Phinh Properties LLC	88 Mount Vernon St #2	\$345,000
Mehra, Sumit	Gett, Robert L	45 Province St #2901	\$3,900,000
Catherine A Ferguson RET	Ryan, John F	13 Walnut St #1	\$2,900,000
Hensel, James	Cheever, Peter J	8 Whittier Pl #19J	\$590,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Mir Realty Group Corp	Sterling, Karen K	495-497 Beacon St #4	\$466,000
Zhou, Jian	Zhao, Jiajia	188 Brookline Ave #21F	\$1,030,000
Grazulis, Jonas	Choi, Dooyong	725 Harrison Ave #E105	\$780,000
Huang, Wen T	Eng, Victor	35 Queensberry St #17	\$500,000
Rich, Michael L	April Marion Harff T	12 Stoneholm St #532	\$479,500
Thomas A Cowles RET	Debaere, Christopher	690 Tremont St #5	\$999,000
A Edward Friedmann 2009	Schlackmann, Marc A	1313 Washington St #606	\$1,875,000
Tam, Sharon	JP Property 1 LLC	3531 Washington St #327	\$875,000
Mehegan, Tyler	JP Property 1 LLC	3531 Washington St #507	\$660,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Nashed, Michael	Gem Ken Properties LLC	2 Avery St #24G	\$1,180,000
Gu, Songxiang	Kerner, Ann-Louise S	65 E India Row #8C	\$869,000

STAY IN AND TAKE OUT

HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES WHILE STAYING IN

Deliveries ★ Takeouts ★ Home Services
During this crisis, here are some South End-area resources.

Consider taking out an ad to and to promote your business at this time, there are many people in South End-area who do not go online and use the newspaper for most of their neighborhood information.

WE'RE OFFERING THIS SPECIAL PAGE AS A RESOURCE FOR ALL SERVICES IN TOWN THAT PEOPLE MIGHT NEED WHILE STAYING IN. FULL-PRINT EDITION WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE THURSDAY

THE SPECIAL IS A BUSINESS CARD AD FOR 2 WEEKS FOR \$80

Please reach out with any questions, deadline for Thursday April 2 is Tuesday March 31 at noon
Call 781-485-0588 or email deb@thebostonsun.com for more information

NEWS BRIEFS

From Pg 13

SOUTH END DATES

•The March 23 Ellis South End Progressive Dinner has been postponed until further notice. They are working to re-schedule for later this year with restaurant partners. There are several choices for refund. One can just treat it as a tax deduction, with a statement sent to you. The payment can be refunded with the check sent back or shredded, or a credit card refund. Or, the Committee can hold the payment and reservation until a determination is made to re-schedule. Email info@ellisne-

ighborhood.org with instructions.

•The Blackstone/Franklin Neighborhood Association canceled its March 11 meeting due to concerns over the Coronavirus. The busy agenda will likely be rescheduled, but no dates as of yet.

•There Board meeting of the Ellis South End Neighborhood Association for March 24 has been postponed.

•The Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) has postponed its March 24 meeting in the Boston Medical Center's Menino Pavilion.

•The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) has cancelled the next meeting on Tuesday, April 7, but hopes to be able to schedule a meeting in May.

•The next Alexandra Ball Neighborhood Association meeting is on April 14, 7 p.m., in the Grant AME Church on Washington Street in the basement. Potential agenda items include Ramsey Park and a spotlight on Washington Street.

•The BPDA cancelled the South End Urban Renewal meeting that was to be on Weds., March 18, 6 p.m., in the AC Hotel. The meet-

ing is expected to be re-scheduled for a later date.

FENWAY TIMES

•Effective immediately, all Fenway Park tours and events are suspended until further notice.

The Fenway Community Center is closed as of March 16, and the FCC Board of Directors will reevaluate the current health situation and provide an update to the Fenway community by April 1.

2020 FENWAY

CONCERTS

ANNOUNCED TO DATE

*June 21, 2020: James Taylor with Brandi Carlile and Shawn Colvin

*June 24, 2020: Maroon 5 with Leon Bridges and Meghan Trainor

*July 25, 2020: Guns N' Roses

*Aug. 7 and 8, 2020: Dead & Company

*Aug. 25, 2020: Motley Crue & Def Leppard with Poison and Joan Jett & the Blackhearts

*August 27, 2020: Green Day with Fall Out Boy and Weezer

*Aug. 28, 2020: Billy Joel

Lelling issues stern warning regarding scams related to the Covid-19 outbreak

The US Attorney for Boston said on March 19 the federal government would prosecute any and all scams related to the pandemic – including treatment scams and investment scams that have popped up recently.

“As our communities take extraordinary measures to confront the coronavirus outbreak, some may view this as an opportunity to prey on the public’s fears and anxieties. The Department of Justice is now focused on cyber-crime, sale of counterfeit goods, treatment scams and other health-

care and investment scams arising from the pandemic. My office will aggressively prosecute anyone engaged in this kind of activity,” said U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling.

“With the outbreak of COVID-19, scammers have found a platform that preys on people’s fears and could make them more likely to be victimized,” said Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Boston Division. “We want you to avoid falling prey to these scams and help us stop them by reporting it at ic3.gov.”

Massachusetts residents who believe they are victims of fraud or other criminal activity related to the pandemic should contact the United States Attorney’s Office at USAMA.victimassistance@usdoj.gov or call 1-888-221-6023 and leave a message. Members of the public can also contact the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) by visiting www.IC3.gov. If you or someone you know are in immediate danger, please call 911.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Traveler St. located at 33 Traveler St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an on-line auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 4/13/2020 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Dallas Medlock unit #277; Jamaal Rahmeen unit #322. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This

sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.
3/26/20, 4/2/20 BS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Southampton St. located at 100 Southampton St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an on-line auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 4/13/2020

at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Darrell Johnson unit #3135; Renard Roy unit #3172; Michael P Obrien unit #3304; Julio Pagan unit #3308; Linda Winn unit #3317; Stephan D Gray unit #3319; Sherlie Jean-Louis unit #4039; Ernest Ruiz unit #4159; Henry Furtado unit #5038. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

3/26/20, 4/2/20 BS

For the Record

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: Due to public health concerns, the hearings that normally would be held on a week have been postponed or canceled due to the guidance of Mayor Martin Walsh and the order of Gov. Charlie Baker. Some meetings, however, have been moved to an online or teleconference format under the emergency order on the Open Meeting Law issued by Gov. Baker.

From the March 25 Board of Election Commissioner meeting, Conference Call:

- Certification of Nomination Papers
- Other Election Matters

From the March 26 Public Improvement Commission meeting, (social distance):

- There were no local applications before the PIC on March 26.
- PIC COVID-19 Update, Temporary Practices - With the ongoing public health concerns surrounding the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Public Improvement Commission (PIC) will be taking the following temporary steps to promote social distancing and to comply with federal, state, and local directives:
 - The PIC hearing scheduled for April 9 has been canceled.
 - The PIC hearing scheduled for March 26 will be held as scheduled with the following changes to the physical location of hearing participants: Commissioners/City support staff: City Hall room 801 (typical hearing room); Presenters/project team members: City Hall room 900 (BPDA Board Room); Members of the public: 26 Court Street, 1st floor (Winter Chambers).
 - Other future PIC hearings will tentatively be held as scheduled. PIC staff will be present during hearings at all three aforementioned locations until further notice.

From the April 1 Conservation Commission Meeting, Via online Zoom only, 6 p.m. ([HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/6864582044](https://zoom.us/j/6864582044)):

- Notice of Intent from VHB on behalf of the Massachusetts Department

of Transportation for the proposed Interstate 90 Westbound On-Ramp Realignment located off of Newbury St, Back Bay.

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

- 400 Huntington Ave., Fenway. Applicant: Shawmut Design & Construction
Renovation to Cabot Center at Northeastern University. Work to include; selective demo, drywall, HVAC, MEP's, Fire Protection, Fire Alarm, structural steel and the installation of a new elevator. Work at the 1st and 2nd floor.
- 1260 Boylston St., Fenway. Applicant: Andrew Flynn
Erect new mixed-use building containing 451 apartments. Amenity spaces on levels 2 and 14. Theater and retail space to be shell space (fit-out by others). Two levels of below grade BOH space.
- 171 Newbury St., Back Bay. Applicant: Jason Zube
Changing from a retail store to tattoo parlor.
- RE-DISCUSSION: 140-148 East Berkeley St. Applicant: Leo Motsis as Trustee
In connection with ISD Violation Number V228193, tenant seeks to change occupancy from garage for the repair of motor vehicles (and associated accessory uses) to warehousing and storage of food stuff and grocery items.

•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.



LOUISBURG SQUARE

17 LOUISBURG SQUARE
5 BEDS | 3F 2H BATHS | 7,610 SQFT
\$18,500,000



128 BEACON STREET #A
3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 4,112 SQFT
\$6,990,000



81 BEACON STREET #PH
3 BEDS | 4 BATHS | 3,300 SQFT
\$8,450,000



380 BEACON STREET #2
3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,714 SQFT
\$5,950,000



20 CHESTNUT STREET #1
4 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,640 SQFT
\$7,995,000

