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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

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

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Marty Walsh and Governor Charlie Baker continue to update the public with new announcements as the coronavirus outbreak continues to develop. Governor Baker on Tuesday announced an extension of his previous executive order requiring the closure of all non-essential businesses as well as the stay-at-home advisory until May 4. The orders were previously set to end on April 7. "This order also extends the 10

person limit on social gatherings until May 4 as well," the governor said. The state will also put out an updated list of businesses and organizations that will continue to operate during this period of time, which can be found at mass.gov/covid19. "These actions will improve our ability to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and the impact the surge has on our healthcare system," Baker said. The governor said he recognizes

the "high cost" this has on small businesses and on residents who have to stay away from their loved ones for even longer. "If we can limit face-to-face, person-to-person contact now, we can slow the spread and get back to work as soon as safely as we can," he said. Additionally, the governor said that hotels, motels, and short term rentals like Airbnbs are to be used "for limited purposes only"—ones (COVID-19 UPDATE, Pg. 4)

Councilor Bok steps up to help residents in need

By Lauren Bennett

As the City comes together to help each other during this crisis, elected officials are among the many who can serve as a resource and someone to reach out to. The Sun checked in with District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok to see what she has done and will be doing to assist residents both in her district and across the city. "One of the things I've been

thinking about since this started is the need to set up a bigger system for delivering food to folks," Bok said, because a lot of the families and seniors that are already food insecure are used to going places to get food. Many of those places are now shut down, and many residents are following guidelines to stay in their homes, she said. Bok said that an added element of the outbreak is that now there are even more people at risk of

food insecurity due to loss of jobs. "For the last few weeks, I've been working with different parts of the City administration to get a more robust food delivery," she said. Last week, Bok teamed up with Fenway Cares, an alliance of local Fenway organizations such as the Fenway Civic Association and the Fenway Community Center, to run a pilot program in the Fenway that (BOK, Pg. 5)

SoWa landlord gives tenants a break for April, businesses still open, hanging in there

By Seth Daniel

April 1 is known for pranks, but for many commercial tenants in the South End this year, it has been a date on the calendar that is no joke.

With the COVID-19 response coming so fast and furious in March, April 1 became the first time that rent payments were due since the bottom fell out of the economy, social life and the health care system. Many businesses

have been shut down completely, while others deemed essential continue to operate but on very narrow margins. GTI Properties owner Mario Nicosia announced last week that he was giving all of his tenants in the SoWa Art + Design district some sort of break. Nicosia has (SoWa, Pg. 9)



Bay Village takes to social media to stay connected

By Lauren Bennett

Though it may be small, the neighborhood of Bay Village is coming together in big ways to help each other. Bay Village Neighborhood Association (BVNA) president Bethany Patten spoke with the Sun about how they are keeping each other informed and entertained during the COVID-19 crisis. "We're usually such a super

close-knit group, going to each other's houses for dinner," Patten said. "We really have moved into lockdown mode. I have a lot of respect for the Mayor and other elected officials to make these decisions every day." Patten has been putting out newsletters to those on the BVNA email list with updates from the City, as well as shout-outs to Bay (BVNA, Pg. 7)

SBA, Treasury begin unprecedented Public-Private Mobilization on Friday

Massive effort will work with local lenders to distribute

Staff Report

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

of banks and other lending institutions to provide small businesses with the capital they need. The application period for the program is expected to begin Friday, April 3. The CARES Act establishes a new \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program. The Program will provide much-needed relief to millions of small businesses so (LOANS., Pg. 4)



Volunteers from Fenway Cares join the Katsiroubas Brothers and Councilor Kenzie Bok in delivering produce to residents in need.

EDITORIAL

THERE ARE MANY HEROES IN THE BATTLE AGAINST COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THIS WILL BE A LONG HAUL

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE MUST TACKLE THIS TOGETHER

Dear Editor,

It is more important than ever that landlords and tenants work together to deal with the crisis caused by covid-19. The landlord/tenant relationship is a symbiotic one - the success of one supports the success of the other. Good tenants are not easily replaced and retail tenants are essential to the function and vitality of neighborhoods.

More than ever, every payment we fail to make has a ripple effect through the economy that reduces the number of jobs and hampers our ability to provide needed services. So we have to ration our resources for the common good and to provide for those most in need.

For Landlords, this means making concessions for tenants who, due to job loss or business closings, cannot pay their obligations. These concessions will take different forms based on the income and obligations of the landlord and the tenant, and the scope and duration of the crisis.

For some landlords not receiving rent means that they will be unable to pay for utilities, emergency repairs, mortgages, taxes, and other obligations that keep the property and the economy going. Other landlords may be financially able to defer/lower/forgive rent payments based on their own and their tenants' ability to pay.

Arrangements will need to be reviewed regularly to take into account the financial resources of both parties and the concessions, payment deferrals, and subsidies, such as unemployment and SBA loans, that may become available to each.

For all tenants who can afford to pay their rent, continue to do so. This will give landlords the financial means to meet their obligations, keep the property up, and grant concessions to tenants who are not so fortunate.

We don't know how long this crisis will last and how it will ease so landlords and tenants, keep communications open and work together to forge solutions that fit each others' unique circumstances.

Sheila Grove

A founder and member of South End Business Alliance Small Property Owner Residential and Commercial 45 year resident and activist in the South End, Boston

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE LEGISLATURE

Dear Editor,

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

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

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

Many proposals have been floated for how to address different facets of this flood of need, and to keep circulation flowing in our local economies: a one-time supplemental payment TAFDC and EAEDC cash assistance beneficiaries; a universal basic income intervention; closing holes in healthcare coverage for the underinsured; expansion of the UI benefit beyond 50%; supplementing the federal LifeLine program to ensure people have adequate minutes on their

phone to enroll in these programs and to realistically practice social distancing; an infusion of dollars into the shelter system and RAFT program to help people be/stay safely housed. We implore you to choose some of these solutions and move on them now.

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

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

We recognize that the Fund, combined with federal resources, will likely be needed to support emergency response and economic recovery over several months and potentially years. But given the acute state of emergency facing our people and our economy in the immediate weeks, a modest draw of up to 6%, or about \$200 million, from the \$3.47 billion total in the Rainy Day Fund is entirely warranted. As many of our family members, neighbors, and fellow Bay Staters enter the third week

(LETTER, Pg. 3)

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Fenway organizations come together to form Fenway Cares

By Lauren Bennett

While the Fenway Community Center (FCC) remains closed until Governor Charlie Baker lifts his stay at home order, many Fenway organizations have joined forces with the FCC to create a group called Fenway Cares.

Fenway Cares, according to FCC Executive Director Robert Kordenbrock, was born out of community activist and FCC board member Kirsten Mobilia's desire to find a role that the community center could still play during the closure.

"I took that idea and reached out to colleagues at their respective organizations," Kordenbrock said, and several came together to create Fenway Cares, which helps facilitate the distribution of information and pairs those in need with services and volunteers.

Fenway Cares consists of the Fenway Alliance, the Fenway Community Development Corporation, the Fenway Civic Association, the Fenway Community Center, Grace City Church, and Operation PEACE.

Kordenbrock said that over the last couple of weeks, Fenway Cares has set up an email account and a phone number, and the primary goal has been to let the neighborhood know that this group exists. They have also created an intake form on which people can indicate one of three things: that they would like to help in some way, if they are in need of assistance, or

if they have information to share.

Kordenbrock said that so far they have been able to distribute translated fliers with information to the neighborhood, as well as organize a distribution of 318 boxes of fresh produce in collaboration with City Councilor Kenzie Bok. Fenway Cares was able to see who needed the produce through its intake form.

"It was a nice way for Fenway Cares to at least play a small role," he said.

"The other piece where we've seen the most movement," Kordenbrock said, has been taking the information people have shared and gathered from various online resources—such as mutual aid groups—and creating an open source resource page that they have been sending people who have requested assistance.

Kordenbrock said that the most effective role these Fenway organizations have the capacity to play right now is to facilitate the delivery of resources to residents, rather than serving directly like they normally do.

Fenway Cares organizes helping people with things like picking up medication, either through putting the resident in touch with other organizations who can help, or reaching out to its core of volunteers to see who might be able to assist.

The Fenway Community Center itself is also working on ways to keep residents connected through-

out the closure of the physical community center.

Neighborhood Chat is offered Wednesday evenings from 8:00-8:30pm and Friday afternoons from 1:00-3:00pm via Zoom. For

more information, visit fenway-communitycenter.org.

"We're exploring what that looks like," Kordenbrock said. He also said the FCC is hoping to join Councilor Bok in setting up well-

ness calls for older residents.

"It's a fluid situation," Kordenbrock said. "This was a unique opportunity for the Fenway organizations to come together to serve the neighborhood."



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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

LETTER (from pg. 2)

of coronavirus impacts, we believe this \$200 million is not only desperately needed, but overdue.

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

Progressive Massachusetts Act on Mass

American Federation of Teachers (AFT) MA

American Friends Service Committee MA

Brazilian Worker Center

Chinese Progressive Association
Cooperative Metropolitan Industries

Council on American-Islamic Relations-MA

Dismas House

Lynn United for Change

Massachusetts AFL-CIO

Massachusetts Communities

Action Network (MCAN)

Massachusetts NOW (National

Organization for Women)
Massachusetts Public Health Association

Mijente Boston Asamblea
NAACP, New England Area

Conference
National Association of Social

Workers (NASW), MA Chapter
Neighbor to Neighbor Massachu-

setts

New England Jewish Labor

Committee

One Fair Wage

Our Revolution Massachusetts
Progressive Democrats of Massa-

chusetts
Public Higher Education Network

of Massachusetts (PHENOM)

Rosie's Place

Somerville Community Corpora-

tion

UAW MA State CAP Council

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COVID-19 UPDATE (from pg. 1)

that serve “direct efforts related to the fight against COVID-19,” which includes nurses, doctors, workers part of the essential business community, and Massachusetts residents “who have been otherwise displaced.”

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

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

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

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

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

MAYOR WALSH ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

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

“We continue to work around the clock to slow the spread,”

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

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

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

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

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

An additional seven beds will be provided by The Davis Companies at the site of a former hospital in Brighton. This facility will be operated by the Boston Public Health Commission and Boston Health

Care for the Homeless.

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

SOCIAL DISTANCING OUTDOORS

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

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

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

SCHOOLS, SENIORS, PARKING, AND HEALTHCARE UPDATES

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

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

For transportation updates, Walsh said that a five minute pick-

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

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

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

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

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

OTHER BAKER UPDATES

Governor Baker on March 30 announced actions that would increase the health care workforce in Massachusetts, including expediting licensing for certain health care workers and initiatives to recruit volunteer medical professionals. Health care professionals who are licensed in other states or have allowed their Massachusetts licenses to expire within the past 10 years while in good standing

can receive expedited licenses to help out in hospitals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOANS (from pg. 1)

they can sustain their businesses and keep their workers employed.

“This unprecedented public-private partnership is going to assist small businesses with accessing capital quickly. Our goal is to position lenders as the single point-of-contact for small businesses – the application, loan processing, and disbursement of funds will all be administered at the community level,” said Administrator Carranza. “Speed is the operative word; applications for the emergency capital can begin as early as this week, with lenders using their own systems and processes to make these loans. We remain committed to supporting our nation’s more than 30 million small businesses and their employees, so that they can continue to be the fuel for our nation’s economic engine.”

“This legislation provides small

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

The new loan program will help small businesses with their payroll and other business operating expenses. It will provide critical capital to businesses without collateral requirements, personal guarantees, or SBA fees – all with a 100 percent guarantee from SBA. All loan payments will be deferred for

six months. Most importantly, the SBA will forgive the portion of the loan proceeds that are used to cover the first eight weeks of payroll costs, rent, utilities, and mortgage interest.

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

•The new loan program will be available retroactive from Feb. 15, 2020, so employers can rehire their recently laid-off employees through June 30, 2020.

Loan Terms & Conditions

•Eligible businesses: All businesses, including non-profits, Veterans organizations, Tribal concerns, sole proprietorships, self-employed individuals, and independent contractors, with 500

or fewer employees, or no greater than the number of employees set by the SBA as the size standard for certain industries

•Maximum loan amount up to \$10 million

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

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

- *Interest rate of 0.5%
- *Maturity of two years
- *First payment deferred for six months
- *100 percent guarantee by SBA
- *No collateral

*No personal guarantees

*No borrower or lender fees payable to SBA

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

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

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

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

•Waiver of garnishments through 2020.

Downtown parks a source of respite amid uncertainty

By Lauren Bennett

As so many other things remain uncertain and the Commonwealth enters its second week under a stay-at-home advisory, many residents have taken to the City's many parks as respite.

The Sun spoke with Friends of the Public Garden's Executive Director Liz Vizza about what changes the organization has had to make to its spring schedule, as well as how people can stay safe while still enjoying nature.

The Friends of the Public Garden's Annual Meeting scheduled for April 2 has been rescheduled to be combined with the Members Reception on October 27. Also delayed are the openings of the

Brewer Fountain Plaza and seasonal bathrooms on Boston Common "until further notice."

Duckling Day, which was scheduled for May 10, has also been cancelled, as well as the Green & White Ball that was scheduled for May 1.

Though the COVID-19 outbreak has put many events and activities on hold, "nature knows it's spring," Vizza said. "Even though we are not doing things, nature is doing her things."

She said that people visiting Boston parks should "use common sense" by staying SIX FEET distant from others and washing their hands before and after going outside. Those who feel sick should remain in their homes.

The Friends of the Public Gar-

den advocates for 83 acres of Boston's parkland consisting of the Boston Common, the Public Garden, and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

"Never in our 50 years have I felt like our parks are more important than they are today," Vizza said. She added that she hopes everyone "plays by the rules" so these parks will remain open for use during the outbreak.

Mayor Walsh announced that he had to tie up basketball hoops to discourage sports from being played, as they do not coincide with social distancing guidelines. The Mayor recognizes the importance of open space and allowing Bostonians to take some time out-

side, but guidelines must be followed so everyone stays safe.

Vizza said that between the Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall, there are "a lot of nooks and crannies" where people can safely distance themselves from others while still finding the peace that nature can offer during this stressful time.

Vizza also said that the Boston Common Master Plan is moving forward, as the team has received feedback from nearly 8,000 residents at different public events over the past few months. She said they have garnered enough public input to incorporate people's interests into goals, and match them with the objectives of the project

team.

She did say that another public meeting scheduled for May will be moved, but the team is still meeting virtually to discuss the Master Plan and how to proceed.

The team learned that 55,000 residents consider these downtown parks their backyard, and though they will be more user-friendly, inviting, and active in the future, for now, they are a vital source of tranquility for residents.

"We love our fun events, but in the absence of that, the parks are doing what they do and we get to go out there and love it," Vizza said. "In this moment of patience, the parks are telling us what we need to get healed and calm."

Legislature passes bills to help local governments, restaurants

Michlewitz commends leaders for steadfastness

By Seth Daniel

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

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

"This relief package will give administrative and economic relief to our restaurants, our cities and towns, and to the taxpayers of the Commonwealth," he said. "As we continue to face the day to day effects of COVID-19, it is vital that we do all that we can to offer assistance to those in need."

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

The legislation also includes the following provisions:

- Permits establishments licensed

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

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

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

"As the COVID-19 public health crisis continues to evolve, the House responded again today to the growing needs of our communities, our businesses, and our residents by easing burdens related to local permitting, extending the state's tax deadline and giving restaurants more business opportunities," said Speaker Bob DeLeo. "Thank you to Chair Michlewitz and Chair O'Day for their leadership on these important issues."

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

BOK (from pg. 1)

delivered boxes of fresh produce to people who signed up.

Bok said she chose the Fenway to pilot the program "because that's a neighborhood that I represent and know well and know a lot of people who rely on those ordinary food programs that have shuttered."

Fenway Cares partnered with local produce distributor Katsiroubas Bros. Produce as well as Fresh Truck to deliver 318 boxes of fresh produce at no cost to residents over the course of two days, including to senior developments and one of Pine Street Inn's supportive housing buildings. Residents could sign up both online and by phone to have the boxes delivered to them.

Bok said the Fenway distribution was a way for her to see what the best method of food delivery was, as well as the best method to see what the need is.

She said the pilot was "very successful," and garnered a lot of positive feedback. "There are a

lot of people looking out for their neighbors," she said, and "food doesn't solve the biggest systemic problems, but it's the first step."

While the City remains in crisis mode, providing food, shelter, and health services to residents is the main focus right now, Bok said.

Bok said she was so impressed with the "great core of volunteers" in the Fenway who donned gloves and used hand trucks to help deliver the boxes.

As a result of the success of the pilot, the City of Boston funded a Katsiroubas Bros. and Fresh Truck Partnership, which will receive about \$500,000 from the new Boston Resiliency fund. This money will allow the produce delivery program to expand beyond the Fenway to residents across the city.

"That pilot came together very quickly," Bok said. "I can't speak enough how much it matters that there were a group of volunteers who were ready to help. It's a testament to the tight-knit of that

neighborhood."

Across the rest of her district, Bok said that her Mission Hill aide, Henry Santana, is a graduate of the Tobin School "and has been doing a lot of support since the closure of BPS." She said he has helped families get Chromebooks, has helped with tutoring, and has just generally looked out for the school community. "He's been amazing on that front," she said.

Additionally, Councilor Bok's office has been fielding questions and requests from constituents and trying to work out a system for people to help those in need, as many have reached out to her office wondering how they can help.

Her office is also calling seniors throughout the district starting this week. She said they started by calling some of the leaders of senior buildings and checking in with different housing communities, but moving forward they hope to reach out to seniors on a more individual level and have volunteers who are ready to assist with that.

"I'm spending my time working on housing related issues," Bok said, as that is her area of policy expertise. She is specifically focused on taking care of large senior and public housing buildings during this crisis.

Lastly, she and the rest of the City Council have to prepare for budget season in new ways, as their traditional ways can no longer be executed.

Bok said she is proud of Boston communities for coming together and "springing into action" to take care of each other during this time of need.

"We're still in the crisis, emergency part of this," Bok said. "We've got to provide."



Boston City Councilors Ammissa Essaibi-George (front) and Kenzie Bok (back left) working together with the Katsiroubas Bros. Produce to ensure residents are getting the resources they need in these times.



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State designates Newton Pavilion for shelter, treatment of homeless individuals

By Seth Daniel

Just days after the idea was floated in the South End Forum Opiate Working Group, the state moved fast to designate and begin working to configure the Newton Pavilion into a COVID-19 treatment and quarantine hospital for the homeless in the Mass/Cass area.

“As we continue to urge residents to stay at home, it’s vitally important to provide for the safety of individuals who don’t have a place to call home,” said Governor Charlie Baker, who announced the move on March 26. “We continue to take steps to protect the health and safety of all residents, particularly our more vulnerable residents including older adults, individuals with underlying health conditions, and individuals experiencing homelessness.”

Added Mayor Martin Walsh, “It’s critical that we continue to support our most vulnerable residents, especially our homeless population. In Boston, we are putting in place measures to protect shelter

guests and prevent the virus from spreading, including new facilities for screening, testing and isolating patients, and identifying additional overnight beds in the city. The reopening of the Newton Pavilion at Boston Medical Center will be essential to relieving stress on our health care system and increasing medical care for our homeless population as we continue to respond to this public health crisis.”

The former Boston Medical Center hospital and clinic building had been sold to a developer three years ago, and then suddenly purchased by the state 18 months ago in order to transfer operations from the Shattuck Hospital in JP to a renovated Pavilion. It has been under construction for several months and was supposed to be open in early 2022, but now that will all change as it quickly becomes extension space for COVID-19 overflow.

On March 24, in a meeting of the Working Group, Moderator Steve Fox had questioned City officials and local providers about the idea of using Newton Pavilion as overflow to treat any potential

surge of homeless in the area testing positive for COVID-19. Everyone pronounced that the Pavilion was on a list of many underutilized places, and Fox said it shouldn’t be a surprise if it happened.

Few knew it would happen so quickly.

So far, the infection among the homeless and addicted populations on Mass/Cass remained lower than some might have thought, with no infections by March 24. That number has risen, but is believed to be controlled with quick testing and quick isolation.

Officials said the plan to re-purpose the Pavilion temporarily is being planned and has been started under the direction of the Army Corp of Engineers and the National Guard. It will serve to address medical needs, a release said, noting no timeline for an opening.

The new facility will be operated by a consortium of providers, including Boston Medical Center, Boston Healthcare for the Homeless, shelters including the Pine Street Inn, and the City of Boston’s COVID-19 response team.

“This action is a critical protec-

tion for the health care needs of individuals experiencing homelessness, a population at high risk for the virus that needs a place to recover safely in cases of mild illness,” said Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders.

The facility will be able to be used as needed for a range of care needs, potentially including treatment of homeless patients who:

- Are confirmed COVID-19 positive with mild symptoms who do not require hospitalization but do require isolation from the general population.

- Are symptomatic and awaiting test results who require isolation to avoid spreading infection to the general population.

- Post-discharge facility for COVID-19 patients who have been hospitalized but who don’t have a home to return to.

- Acute care for sicker patients, up to and including ICU care.

Capacity of the facility can grow with demand to 250 beds, marking a significant increase in clinical capacity to treat homeless individuals who contract COVID-19.

“This new facility will be a critical asset in our hospital’s and our community’s ability to care for Boston’s homeless patients affected by COVID-19 and in turn will help us prevent further spread of the virus,” said Kate Walsh, President and CEO of Boston Medical Center Health System. “We applaud and thank Governor Baker and his Administration for taking this crucial step and are grateful for the partnership of our fellow providers in this effort.”

Leaders from Pine Street Inn and Boston Health Care for the Homeless also praised the effort.

“This is a huge step forward in ensuring that our patients and the City’s homeless community are able to get the care they will need and deserve in the weeks and months ahead,” said Barry Bock, CEO of Boston Health Care for the Homeless. “We’re ready and eager to work closely in partnership with our fellow providers to make this new facility a reality, and we’re so grateful to Governor Baker for his leadership in making this possible.”

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Mayor Walsh announces temporary parking enforcement changes

Staff Report

To address the transportation needs of residents, health care providers and businesses during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, Mayor Martin Walsh and the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) announced updated enforcement regulations and transportation services on Thursday afternoon, March 27.

"During this challenging time, we're doing all we can to keep our residents healthy and safe," said Mayor Walsh. "We understand transportation is a need and concern for residents and medical professionals, and these updated policies will help everyone during this ongoing public health crisis."

The following updates to parking enforcement policies are in effect until further notice in the City of Boston:

Resident Parking

Residents with a valid resident permit sticker will be allowed to park in a metered or two-hour parking space, without having to adhere to the time limit or pay a meter fee, within their specific neighborhood.

For cars without the relevant resident permit parking sticker, standard time limit and meter requirements remain in place.

Street Cleaning

BTD has not been ticketing and towing for street cleaning, given challenges to finding alternative places to park in neighborhoods.

Residents, however, have been asked to voluntarily move if they can on street cleaning day to allow proper and normal sanitation measures.

Inspection Stickers and Registration

BTD will not ticket for expired inspection stickers or registrations, given potential challenges for people to renew inspections and registrations at this time. This measure is a statewide initiative announced by MassDOT on Monday, March 23, during their Board meeting. The same is true for Driver's Licenses that expire in March or April. A 60-day extension on those licenses (not for commercial driver's licenses though) has been instituted and municipalities have

*Renaissance Parking Garage	835 Columbus Ave.	\$15 flat rate / 24 hours
*Gainsborough Garage	10 Gainsborough Street	\$15 flat rate/24 hours
*Auditorium Garage	50 Dalton Street	\$10 flat for up to 24 hours.
*Crosstown Center Garage	7 Melnea Cass Blvd.	\$17 flat rate online: Spothero.com & parkwhiz.com
*100 Clarendon Street Garage	100 Clarendon Street	\$14/24hrs
*Boston Common Garage	0 Charles Street	\$16 per day
*Prudential Center Garage	800 Boylston Street	\$12 a day
*Simmons University	86-96 Ave. Louis Pasteur, Boston, MA 02115	Weekday: \$18.75 per day / Weekend: \$14.05 per day
*Greenhouse Garage	150 Huntington Garage	\$14 flat rate/ 24 hours
*Harvard Club of Boston Lot	415 Newbury St.	Free
*One Beacon Street	1 Beacon St.	\$15 each day
*Lot 5	90 Traveler St.	\$10 each day
*401 Park Garage	401 Park Drive	\$15 each day
*Van Ness Garage	61 Richard B. Ross Way	\$15 each day

A list of the garages in Downtown Boston offering free or reduced parking rates.

BVNA (from pg. 1)

Village residents for something nice they have done. A few residents volunteered with the City's coronavirus literature drop offs, and a few others had organized community sing-alongs to keep spirits high.

She also said that over the next few weeks, she will be asking people to send her photos of what they are doing in Bay Village "to help them get through." One neighbor recently held a virtual cocktail hour, and another jump roped outside his home, staying a safe distance from others. There is also a chalk drawing in the Public Garden where people can "Stand Here for a Virtual Hug," a photo of which can be found on the bay-villageboston Instagram page.

"Everyone has their own way" of dealing with the crisis, and Patten said she is really trying to use social media to encourage people to see this. "We are using social media to boost each other up," she said.

Bay Village has a very large presence on nextdoor.com, where neighbors are listing businesses who are still open for takeout and/or delivery. Patten also said that she is hoping she can rally some neighbors to call others to see how their doing—"some kind of check-in network," she said.

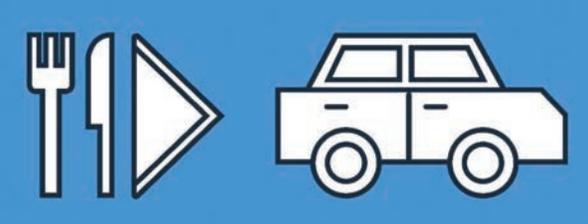
City Councilor Ed Flynn has put out a request for volunteers to call seniors in District 2, so Patten said she is also looking for some Bay Village residents to step up for

that.

"In a time of social isolation and physical distancing, a phone call may just be the assurance that they need to know that we are always here for them," Flynn said in a letter to his constituents.

BVNA is also looking to host some of their meetings virtually, where more ideas of how people can help each other could be shared.

For a small community that is used to being in constant contact, social media is a vital tool that is being used for neighbors to safely share what has been going on in their lives. It's also been a way to connect each other to resources—and maybe a smile or two.



FOOD TAKEOUT PRIORITY ZONE

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CITY of BOSTON  Transportation

been made aware of it.

Parking Garages

To support the medical community, BTD has identified facilities offering free, reduced rate or reserved parking for medical professionals. To receive discounted parking, medical staff will need to present a hospital ID. Downtown parking garages participating can be seen in the chart to the left.

BlueBikes

The City of Boston and its municipal partners of Brookline, Cambridge, Everett, and Somerville are offering all hospital staff a free 30-day pass for our public bike share, Bluebikes. To learn more about how to sign up for the program, visit boston.gov.

Pick Up/Drop Off Zones for Small Businesses

To help small businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19, BTD is creating temporary pick up zones in front of restaurants that have transitioned to takeout and delivery only. Takeout food pickup zones restrict parking to five minutes to increase convenience for the quick pickup and delivery of takeout food from restaurants, and provide adequate room for social distancing of six feet or more. Restaurants that would like to request a temporary pick up zone can do so on boston.gov. Requests will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

With the exception of those changes noted above, BTD will continue to enforce parking violations, with a focus on public safety violations, such as blocking a hydrant, sidewalk or handicap ramp.

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

By Seth Daniel

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

April 1 has been circled on the calendar of many homes for the past three weeks since the bottom fell out of the world economy, and with such job and income loss – it left a lot of folks wondering how

they would pay rent at the first of the month, that being the first rental payment due since the outbreak.

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

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

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

“Consistent with the Trial Court’s goal in slowing the spread

of the virus, and considering the recommendations by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and from state health officials, the Housing Court’s aim during this time is twofold: first, where practicable, to reduce the number of people who come to each courthouse where Housing Court business is conducted; and second to promote ‘social distancing,’ thereby minimizing the risk of exposure to court staff and litigants.”

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

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

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

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

For those in Everett, typically

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sullivan and Adeyinka said they have Housing Specialists still working diligently who can offer advice on how to access rental programs like the Residential

Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT). They also said Housing Specialists are bi-lingual in Spanish, and interpreters can be patched in on an advanced conference call line that can handle up to 20 people at once.

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

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

“We are here to help even though the building is physically closed,” he said.

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

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

The following is contact information for the Eastern Housing Court:

•Contact information:

<https://www.mass.gov/locations/eastern-housing-court>

Eastern Housing Court #: 617-788-6233

email: easternhousingcourt@jud.state.ma.us

Eastern Divisional Leaders:

Acting Clerk Magistrate, Michael T. Neville

Chief Housing Specialists, Alex Valderrama

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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 online 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
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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.

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SoWa (from pg. 1)

been a long-time supporter of small business and operations one of the largest business incubators in the region with the SoWa Market.

Retail tenants in their buildings are receiving forgiveness for rent in April from GTI, and artists and galleries at SoWa are getting a break on half of their rental payments.

“We’re trying to do our part,” said Bradley St. Amand of GTI. “Mario really wanted to do this right away and he has always supported small business. We gave all the retail tenants free rent in April, which is about 60 or 70 of them. We did half rental payments for all of the studios and there are about 125 of those studios...We’re trying to do what we can. I probably cost GTI a lot. We’re taking a hit like everyone else and we still have mortgages and maintenance and staff to pay.”

St. Amand said they hoped that giving tenants a break would take the stress off of them for a month when some retail operations have been forcibly shut down by the order of Gov. Charlie Baker.

“It was good to help and take some stress off of them,” he said.

Taking the stress off is exactly what happened for Megan and Moria Flynn at M.Flynn Jewelry on Waltham Street in one of GTI’s buildings. As things began to get worse, Megan said they started sending staff home and then began cost-cutting measures. Soon enough, they found themselves on a list of non-essential businesses that had to close.

“It was a huge relief when Mario told us,” said Megan. “We were preparing. Moriah and I

looked at all of our expenses and looked to see what we could do. There is so much uncertainty with the next several weeks. We did a lot of things proactively to try to help the situation, but we never imagined he would do something like that for us in April. We often forget that people who rent us our businesses and apartments also have mortgages and property tax – and property taxes in Boston are outrageous. I hope landlords like that get a break. Everyone has to give a little bit.”

Megan said they do go in to fill some online orders each day, but for the most part they are closed down and revenues are small. They are hoping that the peak of the virus can pass by May so they hit a lucrative time in their business year.

“We’re coming up on one of our busiest times of the year,” she said. “Graduations and Mother’s Day is like a second holiday season for us. We’re just hoping it is May 7 when we can re-open. That is such an important time for us...It’s so hard though to anticipate what consumer sentiment will be at that time. Will it be like everything is great and people will flock to the restaurants and stores to celebrate, or will they stay inside and still be hesitant to come out and resume their lives?”

Meanwhile, at the Urban Grape on Columbus Avenue, they are an essential business and have been open throughout the COVID-19 response. She said that customer safety has been paramount and they are pushing pick-up, curbside sales as much as possible.

“Our priority is keeping our employees and customers safe,”

said Hadley Douglas. “We are constantly adjusting our procedures to make sure exposure is low. We have drastically limited access to the store. We have pushed more people to do pickup. That gives everyone a greater sense of safety...Even though we’re open, I can’t say it feels as good as it used to. Selling beer, wine and spirits is a fun job, but it just doesn’t have that aspect now.”

When it comes to business, Douglas said they are doing okay, but a recent pitch to their landlord to help with April 1 payments didn’t go well.

“We are okay economically for the time being, but there’s a sense that we’re a hair’s breadth away from having to close due to more regulations, or someone gets sick or it just gets too dangerous,” she said. “We have worries about our rent because it is high like all rents in the South End. We have been told we are expected to pay for April and we will. We offered to pay half rent and then make it up later in the year, but they couldn’t do that. They said they had businesses that were hit harder they needed to help first. I’m totally fine with that and understand it.”

Through it all, she said, people are drinking wine and spirits. She said with people not being able to go out to dinner, they are making dinner special and buying nice bottles of wine or focusing on white wines. She said many people share photos with her of them opening a great bottle of wine for dinner.

“That’s what keeps me going now, seeing people open these great bottles of wine to enjoy and then sending me pictures of it,” she said. “That’s what makes my day.”

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

The Massachusetts State Treasurer’s Office of Economic Empowerment has launched a new digital tool for residents in Massachusetts experiencing financial changes due to the COVID-19 outbreak. With the goal of providing relevant financial education for families, the Office of Economic Empowerment created a new page on Mass.gov with timely free resources available to the general public.

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

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

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

The Office of Economic Empowerment is dedicated to providing financial education for

residents of Massachusetts. In 2017, the Office launched MyFinancialLifeMA.org, a first-of-its-kind website providing money management strategies and tools that can help guide users through each stage of life.

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

Baker administration starts online portal for equipment

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

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

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

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

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

The initiative announced today bolsters current efforts to leverage traditional and emergency supply chain channels.

“We have a constant demand and need for personal protective equipment (PPE) available to our medical, first responder and essential service communities. Over the past week, hundreds of deliveries of PPE have been made to front line health care providers, and first responders, but we need so much

more,” said Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, the Commonwealth’s COVID-19 Command Center Director. “Last week more than 28,000 masks, and 120,000 pairs of gloves were distributed, and we’ve placed more than \$50 million in orders for additional supplies. We are also waiting on our third delivery from the Strategic National Stockpile.”

The program also provides an entry point for local manufacturers to get more information on adapting their businesses to produce more equipment here in Massachusetts, an effort being led by the administration’s recently established Manufacturing Emergency Response Team, cochaired by Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy, and Mike Tamasi, President and CEO of AccuRounds, a precision components manufacturer located in Avon.

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

A call for volunteers:

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

For more information on COVID-19, visit [Mass.gov/covid19](https://www.mass.gov/covid19). Get notifications to your phone or other mobile device by texting COVIDMA to 888-777.

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 BACK BAY

Mone, Nell B
Zhou, Ming
Zhang, Yanli
Roostaie, Mehrdad

SELLER 1

Mone, Thomas J
VanResandt-Plujim, M W
Meetinghouse Dev LLC
Chia Management LLC

ADDRESS

38-40 Saint Botolph St #47
110 Stuart St #22B
306 Commonwealth Ave #5
466 Commonwealth Ave #806

PRICE

\$345,800
\$2,050,000
\$1,360,000
\$605,000

BEACON HILL

Joy Street IRT
Cimochowski, Lindsey M
Isaacson, Neal
Isaacson, Adam M

Mccaffrey, Maureen
Wilzbach, Brett
Wayne, Susan
Wayne, Susan

19 Joy St #D
106 Myrtle St #9
81 Phillips St #2B
81 Phillips St #2C

\$1,425,000
\$824,500
\$625,000
\$670,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Zeitoun, Sami
Fattoum, Shady
Hammond, Matthew D
Gearhart, James I
Kong, Ronald
Steffensen, Carrie L
10 Claremont Park LLC
Liu, Yan
Poole, Robert A
Cai, Xunjun
Hess, Joseph B
Wong, Alan
Svanikier, Johanna
Pan, Yue
Pan, Lixing
Union Park NT
Shapiro, Ellen
Willoughby, Brian L

Finish Line RT
Encarnacao, Anthony J
Relihan RET
Newman, Benjamin
Washburn, Kyle A
Malesky, Kimberly A
New England Conservatory
55 E Springfield LLC
Rodday, Christopher B
Katherine E Perrelli
Moulton, Daniel
Conners, William
Quail Brook Boston Hldgs
Exchange NT 17
Clarke, Maria A
Cai, Xunjun
Thorne, Ladd M
Becker, Timothy

647 Boylston St #3A
32 Braddock Park #2
28 Fayette St
19 Holyoke St #1
12 Isabella St #5
181 Warren Ave #4
10 Claremont Park
55 E Springfield St #4
21 Father Francis Gilday St
21 Father Francis Gilday St
114 Fenway #4
80 Fenway #1005
111 Gainsborough St #208
59 Hemenway St #4
183-185A Mass. Ave #504
22 Union Park #3
39 Upton St #2
1721 Washington St #111

\$1,715,000
\$1,407,000
\$2,450,000
\$772,000
\$441,000
\$710,000
\$3,600,000
\$720,000
\$1,072,500
\$1,430,000
\$936,000
\$699,000
\$785,000
\$869,000
\$1,155,000
\$975,000
\$920,000
\$996,250

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Cole, Andrew
Modak-Sivaraman RT
Nugent, Alyssa
CP 75-101 Federal LLC
Chen, Alice L
Siotia, Sanjeev

PH2B LLC
ICSA USA Real Estate Inc
Merson RT
75-101 Fed Owner LLC
Yazbak, Darlene
Marcus, Stephen B

1 Avery St #PH2B
2 Avery St #35D
33 Commercial Wharf #33
101 Federal St
210 South St #8-2
580 Washington St #10B

\$3,500,000
\$2,275,000
\$710,000
\$242,500,000
\$917,000
\$2,600,000

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

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

“We strongly encourage anyone who is unable to make a payment on their loan, needs access to funds in a certificate of deposit or other relief to contact their financial institution for options to help them through this unprecedented situation,” said Daniel J. Forte, MBA President & CEO. “Local banks are ready and willing to help during these challenging times, but it is important that you reach out as soon as possible.”

Most local banks have already announced programs to assist con-

sumers. For example, Greenfield Cooperative Bank is offering a “payment holiday” for residential and commercial loan customers; Berkshire Bank has established special relief programs for the LGBTQ and minority-owned business communities while Rockland Trust Company, Eastern Bank, Bank of America and many others have announced significant initiatives to support local residents and small businesses. MBA has created a COVID-19 Resource page on our website with additional information. We encourage you to visit www.massbankers.org.

In addition to relief on mortgages and other loans, banks are working with customers who may need access to funds in Certificates of Deposit (CDs), waiving fees for certain products or transactions, and increasing daily debit or ATM limits where appropriate. We anticipate that additional programs will

be developed in the coming days and weeks to assist individuals and businesses as Congress considers a major economic stimulus package in Washington, D.C.

It is also important that consumers beware of scams and fraud, which tend to increase in uncertain times. MBA reminds consumers that the safest place for money is in their bank, where all accounts are insured up to \$250,000. Many Massachusetts banks also have excess insurance to protect your funds. Large cash withdrawals are uninsured and at risk for loss; 95% of all transactions can be done on mobile/online banking, debit/credit cards or at an ATM, without the health risks of in-lobby visits.

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

Lottery sales down nearly 30 percent since beginning of March

Steep decline could affect local aid payments to cities and towns

By Seth Daniel

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

That news comes just as worried municipalities begin to put together City or Town Budgets in one of the most uncertain times on record. Budgets always have relied on Local Aid payments from the

state, which come from a variety of sources. However, lottery disbursements were always a steady and reliable stream within the Local Aid formula – even in tough times.

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

"The health and well-being of Lottery employees and residents

of the Commonwealth are our top priority and the Lottery will continue to follow the guidance and orders of state and federal officials regarding public health and safety," said Michael Sweeney, executive director of the Massachusetts State Lottery, on Tuesday. "Representative of the whole economy, Lottery revenues have decreased significantly over the last three weeks. This will affect the revenue returned to the state and could potentially impact unrestricted local aid returned to cities and towns. The decreased

sales and revenue production will also negatively impact the small business owners who are increasingly under financial duress. As an in-store cash-only business, with a stay-at-home advisory currently in place and many of our retail partners being closed, we anticipate that these figures will continue to be drastically lower than usual."

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

to \$78.9 million the week beginning March 22.

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

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

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

State announces Command Center Advisory Board of medical experts, infectious disease specialists

On Weds., March 25, the state announced the COVID-19 Advisory Board, a group of medical experts that will support the Response Command Center as the Commonwealth continues to respond to COVID-19.

The Response Command Center, under the leadership of Secretary Marylou Sudders and reporting to Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, is the Commonwealth's single point of strategic decision making and coordination for the Administration's comprehensive COVID-19 response.

The COVID-19 Advisory Board, which first met on Wednesday, March 19, will advise the COVID-19 Response Command Center on key decision points in the state's response, including expanding access to test-

ing and planning for medical surge, and will formally meet weekly for updates. Advisory Board members include:

•Scott Gottlieb, MD, American Enterprise Institute – Scott Gottlieb, M.D., is a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). He returned to AEI in 2019 after serving as the 23rd commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). At AEI, he continues his work on improving public health through entrepreneurship and medical innovation and on expanding regulatory approaches to maintain patient and physician autonomy.

•Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH, Massachusetts General Hospital – Dr. Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH, is Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a practicing Infectious Disease

physician at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr. Walensky's research interests focus on model-based analyses of the cost-effectiveness of HIV testing, care, and prevention strategies to inform HIV/AIDS policy internationally and domestically.

•Paul Biddinger, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital – Dr. Paul Biddinger holds the MGH Endowed Chair in Emergency Preparedness and is the Director of the Center for Disaster Medicine, and Vice Chairman for Emergency Preparedness in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Mass General. He is also the Director for Emergency Preparedness at Partners Healthcare. Dr. Biddinger additionally serves as the Director of the Emergency Preparedness Research, Evaluation and Prac-

tice (EPREP) Program at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, and holds appointments at Harvard Medical School and at the Chan School. Dr. Biddinger serves as a special advisor to the Massachusetts Medical Society's Committee on Preparedness and serves as a medical officer for the MA-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) in the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) in the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

•Michael Wagner, MD, FACP, Wellforce – Dr. Michael Wagner is a physician leader who combines his unique experience as a primary care physician, hospitalist, entrepreneur and CEO to transform health care. Dr. Wagner has worked with caregivers in academic and community health care settings throughout the country.

Today, he is the Interim CEO and Chief Physician Executive of Wellforce, a \$2B and growing health system in Eastern Massachusetts that has been recognized for its high quality, lower cost value position and its commitment to keeping care in the community.

•Eric Lander, PhD, Broad Institute – Eric Lander is president and founding director of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. A geneticist, molecular biologist, and mathematician, he has played a pioneering role in all aspects of the reading, understanding, and biomedical application of the human genome. He was a principal leader of the Human Genome Project.

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the creation of a new COVID-19 Response Command Center on March 14, 2020.

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 April 1 Conservation Commission Meeting, Via online Zoom only, 6 p.m. (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.

(CANCELED) 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 accessary uses) to warehousing and storage of food stuff and grocery items.

•The April 7 South End Landmarks District Commission meeting has been canceled.

•The April 8 Back Bay Architectural District Commission meeting has been canceled.

•From the April 7, noon, CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS HEARING: (Online via Zoom) Petition for a special law re: An Act Authorizing Additional Licenses for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to be Drunk on the Premises in Boston (sponsored by Mayor Martin J. Walsh); and, Docket #0281, petition for a special law re: An Act Authorizing Additional Licenses for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to be Drunk on the Premises in Boston (sponsored by City Councilor Frank Baker). These matters were referred to the Committee on January 29, 2020.

•HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

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



FLAT OF BEACON HILL

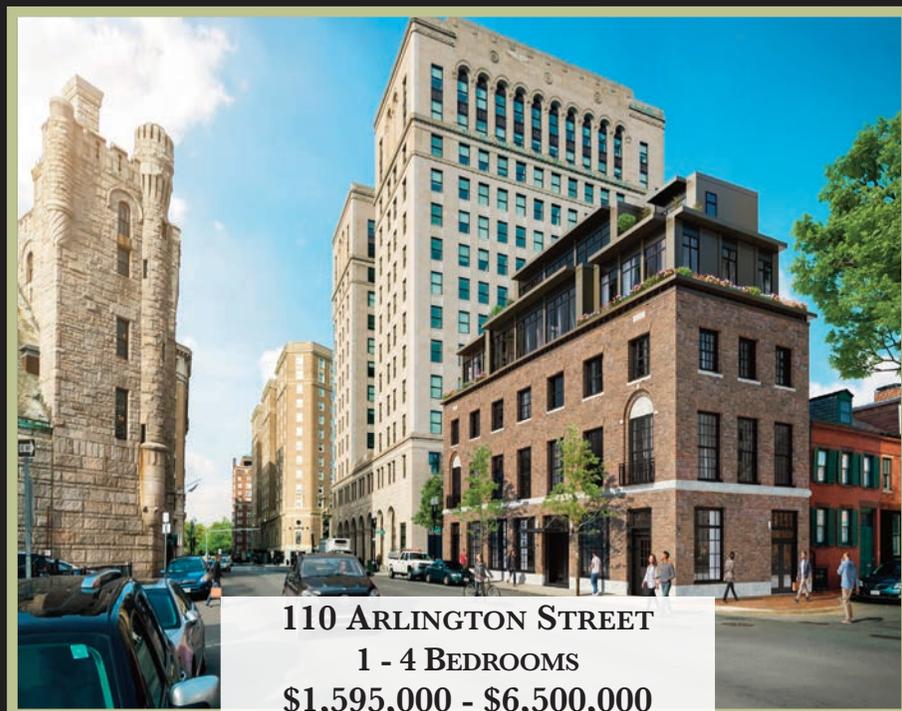
33 BEAVER PLACE
 4 Beds | 4.5 Baths | 4,664 SQFT
 \$8,490,000



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



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



110 ARLINGTON STREET
 1 - 4 BEDROOMS
 \$1,595,000 - \$6,500,000



285 COLUMBUS AVENUE #803
 2 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,011 SQFT
 \$1,650,000

