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# THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## Walsh urges people to continue social distancing, expands outreach

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Walsh continues to urge Bostonians to abide by the guidelines set forth by the City and state in order to continue to control the spread of COVID-19.

As of April 21, Boston had 6,010 confirmed cases of the virus, and 196 people had died.

“The good news is that what we’re doing is making a differ-

ence,” Walsh said on Wednesday. He said that social distancing, wearing face coverings, and the added care capacity have helped to not overwhelm the city’s hospital system.

“It’s important right now more than ever to be vigilant about face covering, distancing, and cleaning,” Walsh said. He stressed the importance of wearing face coverings, especially when in closer

proximity with others such as when riding the MBTA and shopping for groceries.

Governor Charlie Baker announced at the beginning of the week that all Massachusetts schools would remain closed until the end of the school year.

“Don’t let this pandemic take away this moment and this sense

(WALSH UPDATE, Pg. 4)



PHOTO COURTESY ISABEL LEON/ MAYOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Mayor Walsh speaks at one of the daily press briefings on information related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Emerald Necklace Conservancy, local composer to connect Bostonians to nature through music

By Lauren Bennett

While exploration of parks is still permitted under social distancing guidelines provided people stay six feet apart, some are not able to go outside and enjoy all that Boston’s parks have to offer.

But Andrew List, a Boston-based composer, has composed a three-movement chamber symphony—available online now—that honors the Emerald Necklace parks and

(EMERALD NECKLACE, Pg. 9)

## South End cases remain high while Downtown-area stay below average

By Seth Daniel

The numbers of cases and the infection rates in the South End continue to remain high based on increased testing with the homeless population, but overall the downtown neighborhoods have remained below the city average in cases and infection rates.

According to neighborhood data released on Friday, as of 2:43 p.m. on April 16, the South End had the second highest infection rate at 104 per 10,000 in the city, which amounted to 372 confirmed cases. That was buoyed by the testing of

(NEIGHBORHOOD INFECTION RATES, Pg. 6)

## South End researcher helping team look for unique treatments, vaccines

By Seth Daniel

When a new N95 surgical mask decontamination unit came rolling into Boston from the federal government, all of the paperwork and studies accompanying it said it worked as advertised, but for medical professionals, they turned to researchers in the National Emerging and Infectious Disease Lab (NEIDL) to make sure it was absolutely true.

In such matters when health care professionals are dealing with the COVID-19, there is no room for error.

Southender Anna Honko was one of the researchers who

(ANNA HONKO, Pg. 7)



Vic Leon Sr. with Mayor Martin Walsh and Randi Lathrop during an awards ceremony for the Main Street program in 2017. Leon Sr. passed away suddenly at his home, and had been one of the earliest retailers to take a chance on the South End in the late 1990s.

## Foodie’s Urban Market owner Vic Leon, Sr. has passed away

Took a chance on the neighborhood years ago, remained loyal to the end

By Lauren Bennett

Vic Leon Sr, who owned Foodie’s Market with his son Vic Leon, Jr., passed away suddenly on Monday due to an ongoing health condition that was not related to COVID-19.

Leon Sr., is survived by his wife, Gloria, his son Victor Jr., his daughter Danielle, and five grandchildren. His cousin, Arthur Leon, is the owner of American Crane & Hoist Company on Washington Street in the South End. Foodie’s has been in the South

End for more than 20 years, after taking over ABC Market’s building, and also has a location in South Boston.

Leon Sr.’s family has always been in the South End, owning businesses in the neighborhood for more than 60 years. Leon Sr. had told the Boston Sun in 2017 that his grandfather kept horses on Albany Street before the stables burned down and would bring back supplies from the market with a cart—and said, “that’s probably where the grocery business began.”

Since it opened, Foodie’s has remained a local staple in the neighborhood, with many Southenders relying on it for fresh foods and supplies—and a neighborly feel that can’t be found at national chains. Leon also exclusively hired from the neighborhood and had a loyal base of employees that had been with him at the store for decades. This has been especially true in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, when many national chains were not able to keep up

(FOODIES, Pg. 2)

# EDITORIAL

## ONCE AGAIN, MASS. IS SHOWING THE WAY

With the launch this past week of the COVID-19 Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC) to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus in Massachusetts, our state once again is taking a leading role at this critical time for our nation.

Massachusetts is the first state to invest in an ambitious contact-tracing program, budgeting \$44 million to hire 1,000 people. Gov. Charlie Baker said the goal of the program is to enable state health officials to identify pockets of infection as they emerge and thereby prevent infected people from spreading the virus further.

If successful, the program will provide government leaders in the coming weeks with the data they need to make meaningful decisions about relaxing our current strict social-distancing measures in order to reopen our economy.

The collaborative effort with Partners In Health will focus on tracing the contacts of confirmed positive COVID-19 patients and supporting individuals who are in quarantine. It will augment the efforts already underway from the state's COVID-19 Response Command Center to assist the contact tracing being done by local boards of health.

Partners In Health will provide staff and contribute technical expertise in community tracing. The Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority will provide a virtual support center and maintain connectivity, while the Massachusetts Department of Health will manage data. Accenture, a professional services company, and Salesforce, a global leader in customer relationship management, are implementing support center capabilities.

We applaud this extraordinary joint effort between state government and private entities. In addition, we urge all of our residents who receive a call from CTC workers to cooperate fully with the program so that our communities can begin to take the offensive against this terrible pandemic.

## THE BOSTON SUN

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## Water break on Harrison Avenue was more severe than reported

### Residents still frustrated more than a week later

By Seth Daniel

The fallout from the massive water break on Harrison Avenue in the SoWa area on April 14 proved to be much larger and more destructive for residents than commonly reported, with nearly 300 people displaced for more than a week from two large residential buildings.

Though they understood a pandemic was raging, some of those displaced residents were left feeling that their emergency wasn't getting the attention it should.

It was commonly reported that 30 people were impacted, but City officials and Ken Smith, president of the East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA), said it was much more than that.

"They kept reporting it was 30 people," he said late last week. "No, our entire 98 units at Laconia Lofts were displaced and that's about 150 people. The GTI building was more than 100 people.

You had easily 250 or 300 people who are displaced and continue to be displaced. We're being told more than a week because our electricity is gone."

Smith said they have needed to get a generator for their place, but hadn't been able to make that happen as late as last weekend.

"There's a little bit of an inequity going on here," Smith said. "We're all still displaced because there's no power in the building. We need a generator. We appreciate everything the City is doing

(WATER BREAK, Pg. 3)

### FOODIES (from pg. 1)

stock of highly sought-after items.

The Sun recently spoke with Leon Sr. and his son about the pandemic and how Foodie's is keeping employees and shoppers safe, as well as making sure the store was stocked with essentials. Leon Sr. cared a great deal about his employees and made sure they were taken care of and remained safe while continuing to serve the South End.

"Foodies has remained a vitally important part of this community for decades, playing a particularly critical role during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," Jamie Fox of the Union Park Neighborhood Association said in a newsletter on April 22. "We cannot thank the staff at Foodies enough for their unselfish service during these challenging months. By continuing to support Foodies as our everyday shopping choice, we will help Victor, Jr., who has been the store's general manager, carry on his father's imprint and legacy in terms of this neighborhood."

Fox said that a private funeral will be held, however, "Gloria Leon has expressed the desire to hold a celebration of her husband's life, open to all, once it becomes safe for such a special event."

Leon Sr. opened Foodie's Markets in 1998 at its current location when the area had seven acres of vacant parcels and little retail stores or restaurants.

"He was such a cheerleader for the South End and was one of the first independent, family owned and local retailers that took a chance opening up a new super-market selling organic foods, specialty meats and prepared foods

on Washington Street," said Randi Lathrop, who got to know him first as part of the Washington Gateway Main Street. "His family was Lebanese and he was born on Shawmut Avenue in the South Cove area. Vic also owned Washington Mall on MLK Boulevard in Roxbury and also had ownership in many food related businesses, restaurants and bakeries in Boston

and Portland, ME."

Lathrop said his commitment to the community and his employees was unmatched, and he often did many acts of kindness without seeking notoriety or attention.

"Vic always considered his Foodies employees his 'family' and his generosity and wonderful spirit will be truly missed," she said.



Vic Leon Sr. in front of Foodie's with his long-time employees in 2017.

# Huntington Wine & Spirits's guide to "great values"

By Lauren Bennett

With businesses slowing down across the city as many people remain inside their homes to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Huntington Wine & Spirits owner Steven Rubin has offered some value beverage options.

Huntington Wine & Spirits is still offering delivery Monday through Saturday from 12-6pm with a minimum purchase of \$35, and curbside pickup is also available. Rubin continues to run his special of 20 percent off of any six bottles of wine storewide, excluding sale items.

For current values in the beverage industry, Rubin provided some suggestions in all categories of beer, wine, and spirits.

## WINE

"Some of the best wine values in the world right now are from Argentina, Chile, Spain, and Portugal," Rubin said. "There's nothing like a great Malbec from the Mendoza Valley, anywhere from \$9-\$15."

He also said a Rioja wine would run anywhere from \$11 to \$15, and a Chilean cabernet, pinot noir, or carmenere "are still great values anywhere from \$7-\$12." Additionally, Portuguese reds offer "quality and value" for \$8-\$12, and Italian wines run in the \$15 range.

Boxed wine is another affordable option, and Rubin recommended Bota Box, which will give you three liters of wine in the \$20

range, and come in many varieties.

"Sparkling wines are still the best value in the world," Rubin said, adding that any sparkling wine produced in France right next to the champagne region will offer the same quality for a lower price ranging from \$10-\$15.

"Keep in mind we're almost into rosé season," Rubin said. "There's nothing like a nice, dry French rosé for flavor and a food friendly wine."

## HARD SELTZER AND BEER

"As we all know, seltzers are one of the most popular beverages right now," Rubin said, "and they are reasonably priced for a 12 pack averaging \$15-\$17." He said that best sellers include White Claw, Truly, and Bud Light.

He said that while the store does offer some values on beer, many craft beers are still on the more expensive side.

Pabst Blue Ribbon can be found at Huntington Wine & Spirits in a 16 pack of 16 oz. cans for \$8. Yuengling, Stella Artois, and Naragansett are all good value options as well, Rubin added.

He said that 18 packs are still popular, including Natural Light, Natural Ice, and Rolling Rock.

## SPIRITS

Rubin said that O'Mara's Irish Country Cream is a good choice, running in the \$15-\$17 range. For rums, Rubin suggested Ron Roberto, which is \$19.99 for all flavors in a 1.75 liter bottle, and Ron Virgin, which is around \$10

for a 750ml bottle.

For tequila, Rubin said that one of the best values include Camarena and Lunazul, averaging around \$28. As for vodkas, Rubin said that Svekda and Burnett's run about \$11 for a 750ml bottle.

Rubin also said that Bourbon remains popular, and rye and Canadian whiskeys are "expected to be more popular this year," due to their affordability and value.

"The cocktail craze is back," Rubin added. He said to keep in mind bitters and Aperol, as those are popular to mix with liquors for cocktails.

"Support your Boston stores," Rubin said, as many remain open and are looking for business. "There is plenty of parking, and many are offering curbside delivery."

## WATER BREAK (from pg. 2)

a Faisa as well, but it doesn't feel we have a concerted effort from City Hall – the mayor and City Council...This was a major flood caused by a City water main."

Smith said that Mayoral Liaison Faiza Sharif had been on the scene and had been helpful, and Councilor Ed Flynn responded and helped neighbors, but few others responded to their cries for help.

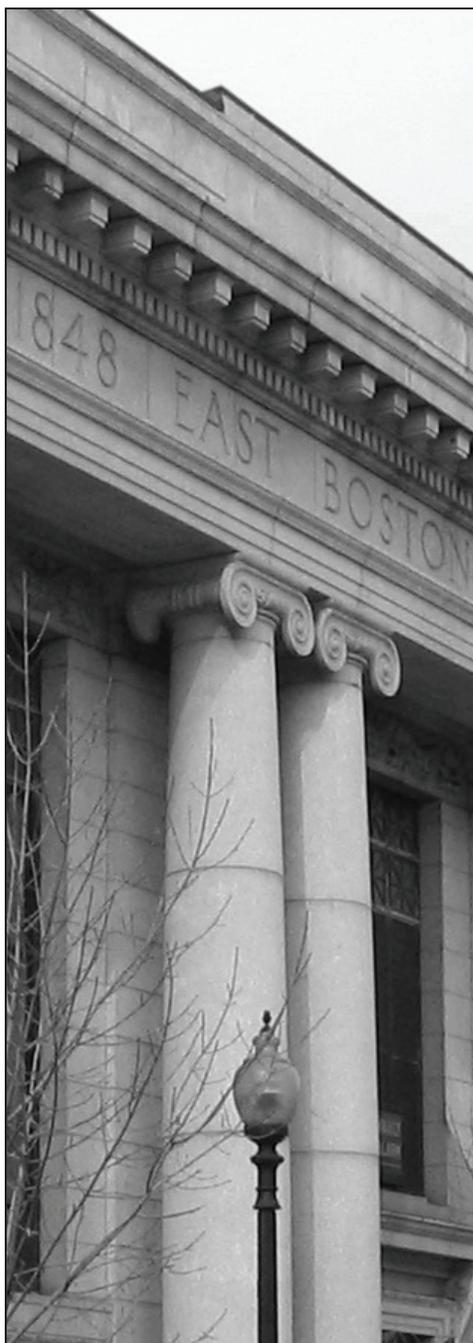
City officials said Neighborhood Services representatives were on scene during the flooding event on April 14 around 10:30. They gave owners, residents and management accommodation plans and confirmed the AC Hotel at Ink Block would be able to provide rooms.

"Due to the significant electrical damage, the management companies are expecting at least another week or so before residents can return to the units," said City officials. "The management companies were also provided with contact info for the Office of Housing Stability, and were asked to share this with any residents who need help finding accommodations."

Smith said one particular event on the night of the flooding left many neighbors upset. While the AC Hotel tried to check everyone in that night, they only allowed a few people inside at a time to abide by social distancing regulations. Everyone else waited outside. That attracted the ire of some sort of inspector who was trying to enforce social distancing measures and, apparently, gave the hotel a hard time for hosting a large event.

"They were more concerned about catching the hotel doing something wrong than helping all of the residents who were stranded and displaced and waiting outside," he said. "The optics weren't good."

City officials said they did not send inspectors to the AC Hotel that night, so they said it wasn't one of their employees. They did say the state had inspectors out in Boston doing random inspections of hotels since the governor ordered lodging establishments only to house people for essential reasons. So, it might have been a state inspector that was encountered, they said.



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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.

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President, CEO and Chairman  
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## GLOBAL HEALTH ALERT: Protect Yourself and Others



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# City of Boston and Nesterly announce launch of Good Neighbors platform

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Walsh on April 18 announced a partnership with the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND), the Age Strong Commission, and Nesterly, on a platform called Good Neighbors, which pairs seniors with volunteers to help with tasks like food deliveries.

Nesterly is a platform for intergenerational housing, where older people can house students looking for an affordable place to live in spare bedrooms. But Mayor Walsh said at a press on Sunday that because of COVID-19, now is

not a good time to continue that program, so Good Neighbors was created to continue to provide people with that intergenerational relationship in a safe way.

“We are seeing the best of Boston with residents looking for ways to volunteer and support those in need,” Mayor Walsh said in a statement. “This new volunteer platform will help organize and activate volunteers looking to help seniors who need things like groceries, medication, or just a good old fashioned phone call check-in.”

“The City of Boston has received an overwhelming amount of outreach from older adults in

need of services such as home-deliveries and social support as well as, from volunteers looking to assist with daily tasks,” according to a statement from Nesterly. “However, managing these volunteers and matching them with at-risk individuals had become a larger undertaking.”

According to the City, through Good Neighbors, an older Boston resident can submit a request for delivery of groceries, a prepared meal, a wellness check-in call, or a written correspondence via phone, online, or email. Volunteers must go through a background check and are given guidance for things like personal protective equipment

(PPE) and other safety measures when making deliveries.

Once a request is submitted, Good Neighbors will find a volunteer compatible with each request, and the volunteer will contact the person directly to set up a time for the check-in or delivery.

The Good Neighbors site, [nesterlygoodneighbors.com](http://nesterlygoodneighbors.com), is available in more than 80 languages. Requests can be set up on that website, or by phone at (877) 958-8785. A request can also be submitted on behalf of someone else. Volunteers who deliver groceries can either be reimbursed for them with cash, a check, or a service like Venmo or Paypal, or orders can be

paid for over the phone ahead of time, according to Nesterly.

“At a time like this, we are especially grateful for the responsive and innovative team at the City of Boston, in particular the Department of Neighborhood Development, Age Strong, and MONUM, who partnered with us to build Good Neighbors, a timely and much-needed platform,” said Noelle Marcus, Founder and CEO of Nesterly in a release from the City. “We are proud to continue to connect generations and shine light on the incredible generosity and resiliency of our communities.”

# Michlewitz says new foreclosure/eviction bill will provide relief immediately

By Seth Daniel

A bill championed by State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz meant to protect renters, homeowners and commercial tenants – such as small businesses – has been signed into law this week by Gov. Charlie Baker and took effect immediately.

“We will figure out a lot of things after the pandemic, and we have to put the public health component first and foremost, but this bill keeps people and businesses in their homes and store locations

while we all deal with the public health crisis,” Michlewitz told the Sun.

The bill prevents evictions for people in residential apartments, foreclosure proceedings on property owners and evictions for businesses in commercial locations for four months or 45 days after the Massachusetts State of Emergency is lifted, whichever comes first.

“You can’t even send out a notice of eviction to get the process started,” he said. “A lot of housing advocates wanted that in there.

This prevents landlords from sending the notice of eviction while the State of Emergency is in play.”

The bill also prevents landlords from charging late fees for unpaid rent, and also requires 180 days of forbearance on those with mortgages. Landlords can also use the last month’s rent deposit as payment during the State of Emergency.

One part of the bill that Michlewitz fought for is adding the commercial evictions to the bill – helping small businesses to be able to stay in their locations despite

having to close and having no revenues.

That was something he spoke about extensively with small business owners in the South End during a Webinar with SEBA on April 11 – following the bill’s passage in the House.

“The eviction protections is also for commercial spaces and that will protect our most vulnerable residents and businesses,” he said. “It wasn’t part of the initial conversation. We added it because of the large amount of small businesses I was hearing from such as

with SEBA. The idea is not just to protect residents, but also small businesses that are in dire straits as well.”

Michlewitz added that Massachusetts is the first to pass and sign legislation to protect residents from eviction or foreclosure during the emergency. He said that is something he is proud of and they will continue to look for other ways to provide relief.

“I’m very proud of this Legislation and I think it shows the Commonwealth as a leader in the nation,” he said.

## WALSH UPDATES (from pg. 1)

of achievement you have for yourself,” Mayor Walsh said to high school seniors who will have to miss out on prom, senior week events, and graduation. “You’re going to do amazing things in the future.”

He also recognized the effect this pandemic has had on college seniors. “Colleges are essential to our city’s identity and economy,” Walsh said. He said he had a conversation with college presidents this week about what reopening would look like, as “they have to consider public health and safety measures they haven’t thought about before.” He said this work and discussion would continue in the coming weeks and could serve as a model for other sectors in the city.

Walsh also announced a fourth round of funding for the Boston Resiliency Fund. This new round is \$1.7 million, and he said that \$13.8 million total has been distributed so far to 135 organizations in the city.

Walsh also spoke about the importance of immigrants to Boston, especially right now as so many are essential workers providing health care and food to Boston residents. He said that immigrants are 35 percent of the city’s health

care workers.

“Boston and the region’s economy depends on immigrants,” Walsh said. “In Boston, we will continue to stand with our immigrant community no matter what.”

### GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

Walsh announced on April 17 that more efforts are being made to get the message across to all Boston residents. “We have nearly 200 digital and print billboards across the city,” he said. The City is also calling 80,000 seniors twice a week in six different languages, he added.

Over the weekend, sound trucks also broadcasted information about the importance of staying at home and other COVID-19 related information in seven different languages throughout Boston’s hardest hit communities—Hyde Park, Mattapan, Dorchester, East Boston, Roxbury, and Roslindale. The Mayor also said that the City is planning another literature delivery.

“We are in a public health emergency,” Walsh said. “We need you to do your part.” The Mayor reminded residents to cover their faces outside their homes, practice social and physical distancing, and

“avoiding all crowded situations.”

Mayor Walsh also said that the City is prioritizing getting food to people each day, with 65 youth oriented food sites across the city—and several others for adults as well in East Boston, Dorchester, South Boston, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Brighton.

“Those sites have fed over 400,000 meals to students across the city,” Walsh said.

Walsh also addressed questions and concerns about colleges starting up again in the fall. He said that he will be setting up a call with Boston’s college presidents this week to see what the programs might look like this fall.

“Colleges have an advantage to have social distancing if need be,” he said. He said the issue might lie within the dormitories, where students are in notoriously close contact and able to easily spread germs. He said he will report more information about this as he gets it.

As for elementary, middle and high schools, Walsh said it’s “too early to tell” what summer school would look like, and he thinks that any decisions regarding schools should be a statewide one.

Over the weekend, Mayor Walsh said he observed many

people following social distancing guidelines in the nice weather, but he also saw people playing golf and soccer. He said that the Boston Police Department had to break up golf games and tell people to leave the course.

“We need to stop the spread of the virus,” Walsh said.

He also said that the Boston Athletic Association reported “very little activity” along the marathon route on Monday after Walsh asked over the weekend that people not run the marathon on the 20th, as the time will come in September to run the race.

### BOSTON HOPE, PPE, AND TESTING UPDATE

The Boston Hope field hospital at the Boston Convention Exhibition Center has served over 250 patients so far. The City of Boston will also now be participating in the mask decontamination that is happening in Somerville, which Walsh said will “take some pressure off finding more supplies,” as each mask can be reused up to 20 times if properly decontamination is used.

The City has also created a mobile testing app that shows where testing sites are across the city, and it can be found at [bphc](http://bphc).

org. It includes things like locations, hours, and phone numbers for the different test sites. Walsh said the goal is to have every community health center be able to provide testing to the residents in their neighborhoods.

Additionally, information about the number of people tested and the rates of positive tests in each community will now be available online.

People can still text the word BOSCOVID to 888777 to receive text updates from the city, and codes for ten other languages can be found at [boston.gov/coronavirus](http://boston.gov/coronavirus).

Walsh said that once the virus passes, things are “going to be very different” in the city for a while as everyone adapts to a new normal. He said plans will have to be in place for reopening and thinking about what the operation of places like restaurants will look like moving forward.

“We do have to get back at some point to some type of normalcy,” Walsh said, but for now, people should continue to follow social distancing guidelines and other precautions to prevent the spread of the virus.

# City uses mobile loud-speakers to get COVID-19 message out to residents

Staff Report

On Saturday at noon, the City deployed seven Boston Public Works trucks with sound equipment to broadcast a message about COVID-19: stay home as much as you can, wash your hands often, cover your face when out, and keep your distance from others.

The message was broadcast in seven languages, depending on the community, including: English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, Arabic, Somali, and Cabo Verdean Creole.

“This weekend we are launching new tactics to get the message out in the places that we know are hardest hit,” said Mayor Walsh on Saturday morning. “We need everyone to know that we are in

a public health emergency and we need everyone to do their part. We also continue to work on expanding access to testing for our residents, because every community deserves full access to the level of testing and communication that meets the needs they have.”

The trucks will be deployed to the neighborhoods that have COVID-19 rates higher than the rest of Boston, including Hyde Park, Mattapan, Dorchester, East Boston, Roxbury and Roslindale. According to the latest data from the Boston Public Health Commission, Hyde Park had 413 reported cases of COVID-19, Mattapan had 298, Dorchester had 1,274, East Boston had 410, Roxbury had 335, and Roslindale had 302.

The City is phone banking

essential small businesses and will be providing posters in multiple languages that ask customers to cover their faces and practice distancing. The City is also putting up on street signs and other infrastructure.

During the weekend of March 21, a thousand City of Boston employees and volunteers delivered printed information on COVID-19 to all homes in Boston. The pamphlet outlined details about the virus, a list of preventative measures to mitigate the spread, and a compilation of city resources, including food access sites, in: English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Vietnamese, Cabo Verdean Creole and Russian. The City has been delivering literature in multiple languages to essential



City workers outfitting Public Works trucks with sound speakers. The trucks began driving through neighborhoods considered ‘hot spots’ over the weekend and will continue this week.

businesses.

Residents who have questions are encouraged to call 311 to be connected with a telephonic interpreter, or through the Mayor’s

Health Line at (617) 534-5050. Updates in 10 languages can additionally be accessed through [boston.gov/coronavirus#multilingual-help](http://boston.gov/coronavirus#multilingual-help).

## City Council holds hearing to discuss rent relief for residents, businesses

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston City Council Committee on Housing and Community Development held a hearing on April 17 to discuss rent relief for both residential and commercial tenants in properties owned by the City and the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA). As many residents and commercial tenants face financial hardships due to COVID-19, the Council is hosting a series of meetings to discuss how they can help.

The hearing was held virtually via Zoom, and representatives from the BPDA and the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) were on hand to testify and answer questions from the Council.

BPDA Director of Real Estate Devin Quirk said that the BPDA

has launched a program that allows its tenants to defer payment to the BPDA, as “many commercial tenants have suffered revenue loss,” he said. The BPDA’s largest holdings are in the neighborhoods of Charlestown and South Boston.

He said that the “majority” of BPDA owned properties are ground-leased and owners often have subleases. Tenants range from small local businesses to multi national companies, he said, and the BPDA’s form will “offer immediate rent relief” to those who fill out the form and are qualified.

“Each application is being reviewed by a committee of staff,” he said, and the BPDA is prioritizing small, local women and minority owned businesses.

The need-based form asks tenants to “document the hardship”

they are facing, as well as provide information about things like tax returns and revenue impact. Tenants are also asked to propose what they think they need in terms of help.

“Right now, the application is for rent due in April, May, and June,” Quirk said. “We’re trying to make sure that those who really need the help get it.” He said that there would be a possible new application beyond June should it be necessary.

At minimum, the deferred payments would be due in Fiscal Year 2021 “spread across the whole 12 months.” He said that all tenants have multi-year leases “so we would entertain a multi-year deferral as well,” he added.

Quirk said that so far, 24 tenants have asked for applications, but the BPDA has not received all

24 forms back yet. The BPDA has 142 leases in all. “There are maybe 10 of those 142 that are multi-family residential buildings,” he said.

He added that the BPDA is also looking to offer assistance filling out the form for those who need it.

Donald Wright, Deputy Director of Real Estate Management and Sales for the DND said that the DND “will not be evicting or moving any of our licensees from DND property during this stop order.”

He said that when a request comes in, “we will make an immediate decision to defer payments with the only requirement to continue to carry liability insurance.”

To date, DND “has not had one request related to the current pandemic, and please know that the DND is committed to doing what we can to help businesses as

stewards of these properties,” he added.

DND Housing Policy Manager Tim Davis said that only 13 of DND’s properties have commercial entities. Out of the 13 properties, they are a mix of small contractors, real estate developers, and some nonprofits.

The City Council, after asking questions of the panelists related to things like subtenants and clarifying questions to help them better understand the situation said they look forward to working with the BPDA and the DND on getting people the resources they need during this difficult time.

“We do have a lot of follow-up,” said Councilor Edwards, “and I do trust that we will be able to work with the DND and the BPDA to get the answers to those questions.”

## Northeastern providing dorm rooms to first responders

Staff Report

As the coronavirus pandemic continues in Boston, many health care workers do not want to go home to their families and risk spreading the virus to them. Several colleges and hotels in the City have offered rooms to these workers to provide them a safe place to go after their shifts.

Northeastern University is one of those colleges, and has provided 135 single rooms with private bathrooms in kitchenettes in its West Village dormitory for “first responders who live with someone who might be at higher risk

for severe illness from COVID-19, such as older adults and people who have serious underlying medical conditions,” according to a recent News @ Northeastern article.

“In times of crisis, we must join together as one community and offer each other support an assistance,” Joseph E. Aoun, president of Northeastern University, told News @ Northeastern. “We are honored to provide safe space for first responders, and we stand ready to offer additional help to the state and city as needed. I applaud Mayor Walsh for his leadership through this difficult time.” Northeastern has prepared the

rooms by sanitizing and cleaning them, and storing any remaining items that belong to students.

“It’s just the right thing to do,” John Tobin, vice president of city and community affairs for Northeastern, said in the article. “Northeastern’s an integral part of the City of Boston, and we’re partners with the City of Boston. That means in good times, and that means in bad times.”

In the article, the Boston Police Department expressed its gratitude to Northeastern for offering this housing for its officers so they do not have to expose their at-risk family members to this virus.

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### NEIGHBORHOOD INFECTION RATES (from pg. 1)

the homeless and Mass/Cass population in the South End, with those cases being assigned to addresses at Boston Medical Center and Pine Street Inn. Based on those numbers and those of the rest of the neighborhood, it made it a hot spot in the city – only behind Hyde Park which had 413 cases and a rate of 120.7 per 10,000.

Elsewhere, the Downtown/Back Bay/Beacon Hill was quite low with 33.2 per 10,000 (185 cases) and Fenway at 16.6 per 10,000 (91 cases).

There has been extensive test-

ing in the South End, with 1,342 persons tested and a positive rate of 29.4 percent. The Downtown/Back Bay/Beacon Hill neighborhood has 1,210 people tested and a positive rate of 17.7 percent. Fenway had 556 people tested and a 17.3 percent positive rate.

The highest positive rates were in Mattapan, with 48.2 percent out of 645 testing positive, and East Boston, with 47.2 percent out of 907 testing positive. There were 687 tests on Boston residents that were not assigned to a neighborhood. The average positive testing

rate citywide was 33.5 percent.

The downtown rates were a welcome sign to most as people continued to social distance and wear masks in public. Many have been able to transition to working from home, and fewer of those living in the neighborhoods are essential workers who have to report to a job or take public transit – two major factors in communities where cases tend to spike.

The hot spots in the City were Hyde Park, the South End, Mattapan and East Boston. The South End is explained through the extensive testing of homeless and drug-dependent in that neighborhood, whose positive tests are attributed to Boston Medical Center or Pine Street Inn. However, those in Hyde Park (120.7 per 10,000), Mattapan (100.7 per 10,000) and East Boston (87.4 per 10,000) were attributed to the fact that many essential workers live in those neighborhoods, are low-income, communities of color and are required to report to work – largely taking public transit.

Citywide, as of April 21, there were 6,010 confirmed cases, with 1,142 having recovered and 196 resident having died.

The most recent neighborhood numbers were different in that it broke out confirmed cases and deaths by race, exposing a huge contrast between communities of color and white and Asian communities. The difference was particularly noticeable in confirmed cases amongst African Americans and blacks. The numbers were only citywide, not by neighborhood, for race, and were a bit flawed because 30 percent of the confirmed cases in Boston had an unknown race.

That said the Black/African American confirmed case rate was 41 percent of the total cases, while Whites made up 27 percent and Latinos 17 percent. Asian residents accounted for just 3 percent, and Other was at 10 percent. The 41 percent for Black/African Americans far outpaced their actual percentage of the population.

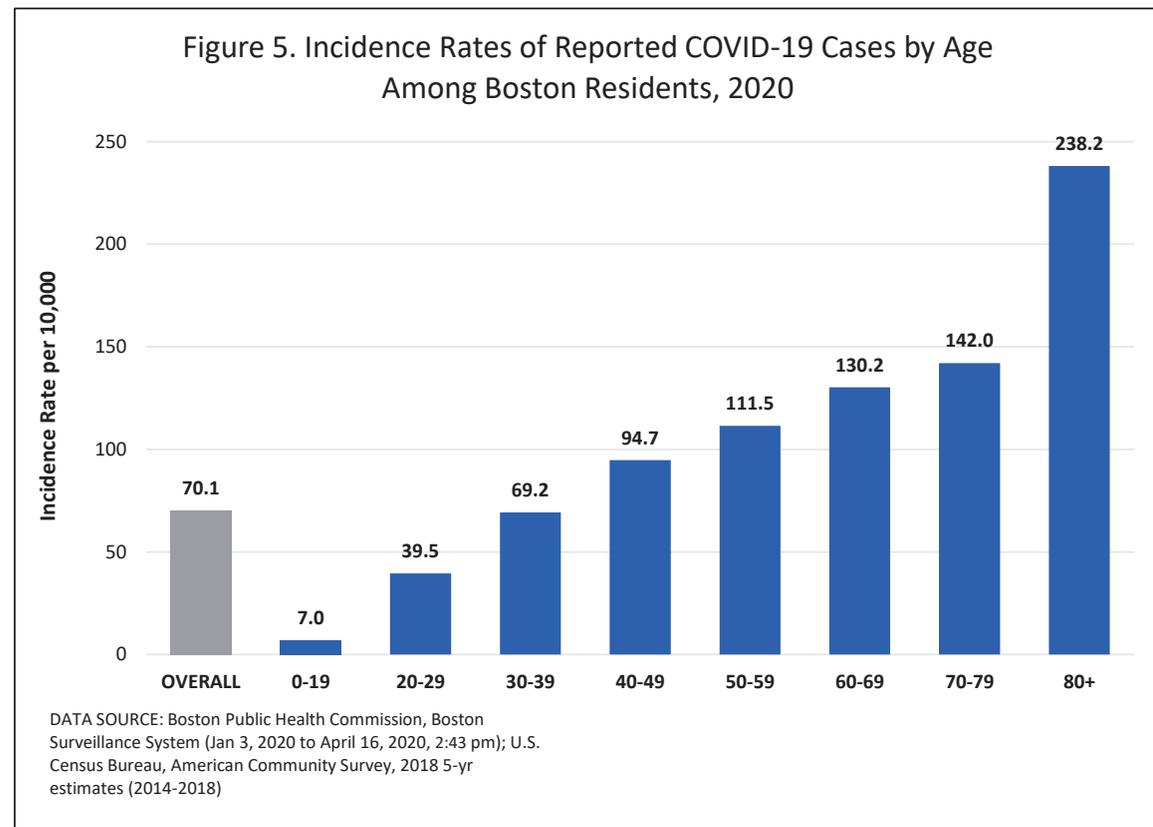
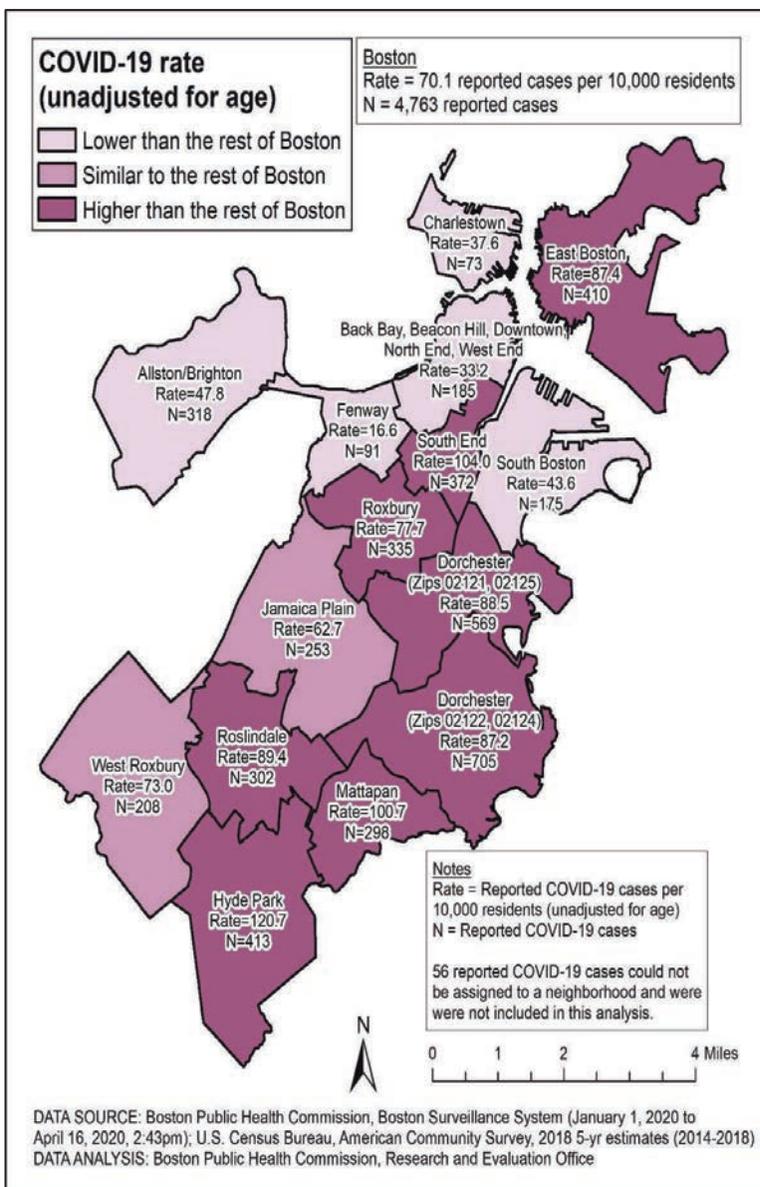
For deaths, though, the num-

bers were a little more balanced, though still 20 percent of deaths in Boston had no known race.

Whites made up 41 percent (65) of the deaths in Boston, while Black/African Americans made up 31 percent (49). Latino residents had 12 percent of the deaths (19) and Asian residents were at 13 percent (20). There were a total of 196 deaths and 159 of them had a known race or ethnicity.

Particularly concerning was the surging infection rate for those age 80 and over in Boston. That rate nearly doubled in one week and is now at 238.2 per 10,000 residents. The infection rate is above 111.5 per 10,000 for everyone over 50, and the virus seems to be particularly active in those 60 and above.

“There continues to be a low percentage of Boston resident COVID-19 cases under 20 years of age,” read the report. “Nearly 35 percent of COVID-19 cases were in persons age 60 years and above. In general, COVID-19 rates increase with age.”





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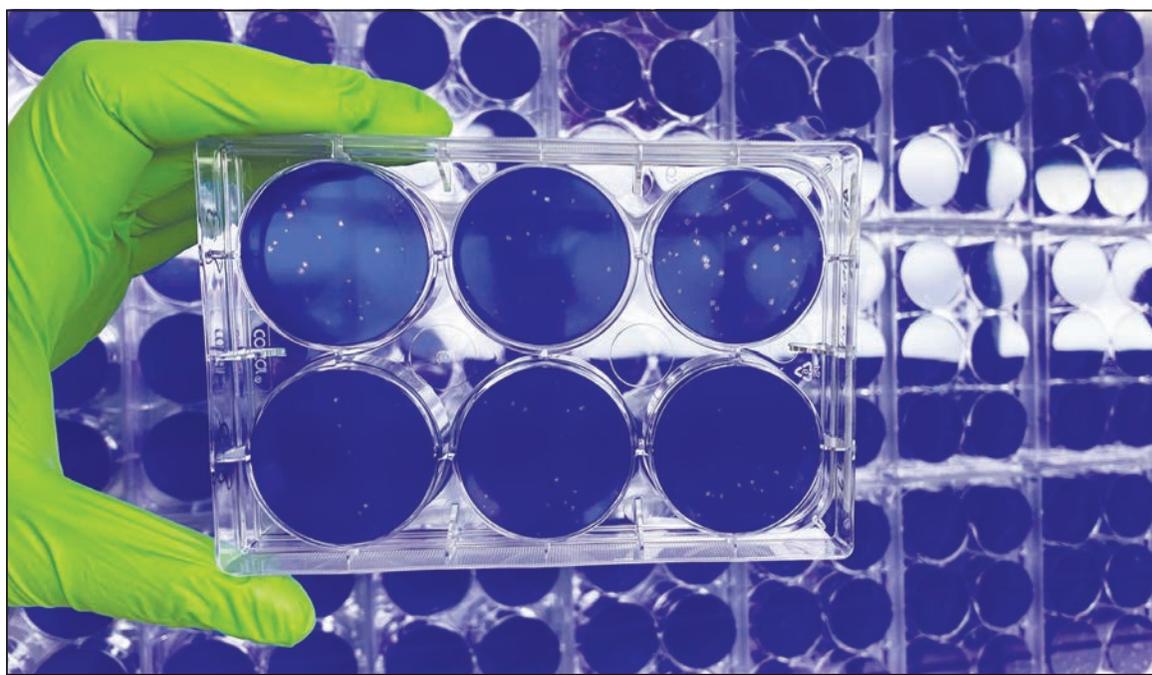
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**Table 1: Race/Ethnicity Distribution of COVID-19 Cases, Boston Residents, 2020**

Race/Ethnicity <sup>1</sup>	# of Cases	% of All Cases	% of Cases with Known Race/Ethnicity <sup>2</sup>
Asian, nL/nH	118	2.5%	3.7%
Black, nL/nH	1308	27.5%	41.3%
Latinx/Hispanic	535	11.2%	16.9%
Other, nL/nH <sup>3</sup>	327	6.9%	10.3%
White, nL/nH	881	18.5%	27.8%
Unknown/Missing Data	1594	33.5%	

<sup>1</sup>nL/nH=non-Latinx/non-Hispanic  
<sup>2</sup>Total with Known Race/Ethnicity=3169 cases  
<sup>3</sup>Other, nL/nH includes American Indian/Alaska Native and multiracial

DATA SOURCE: Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Surveillance System (Jan 3, 2020 to April 16, 2020, 2:43 pm); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 5-yr estimates (2014-2018)



*Southender Anna Honko is on a team at the NEIDL on Albany Street that is testing unique treatments and vaccines for about 20 collaborators around the country looking for answers in treating COVID-19 – such as the examples shown here. Living and working in the South End is a great experience, she said, and right now has been an invigorating time to work in the scientific community.*

**ANNA HONKO** (from pg. 1)

worked on the team to test out the new machine.

“They received this new decontamination unit and our staff was called to verify it with tests,” she said. “We took supplies of different N95 masks and contaminated them with the virus and then ran them through the machine to see if it did kill the virus on the mask and it did. I think it was great to have that confidence in the product from someone here in Boston. All of the paperwork said it decontaminated them, but I think it’s better when you have scientists here doing the tests and understanding it.”

It’s just one of the many things Honko is doing at the NEIDL, where she has worked for the last few years while living at the Girard on Harrison Avenue – walking distance from her work. Honko has been involved in immunology and virology for many years, and came to the South End specifically to work at the NEIDL. She began in her field because she wanted to help underprivileged populations and started researching tuberculosis and malaria. Soon, a mentor suggested she work on infectious diseases and she was able to do field work in Africa and around the work to help solve crises surrounding viruses.

“I’ve often thought it so fasci-

nating that these tiny things with so few genes can wreak such havoc on us, who have so many genes,” she said.

At the moment, Honko is on a team that is working in conjunction with Dr. Robert Davey, who is searching for new treatments for COVID-19. Honko is working with about 20 collaborators across the country who have unique or different proposals for treatments and vaccines to address COVID-19.

“While Dr. Davey is focusing on small molecules, we’re focusing on the other therapeutics and drugs that might not be common – things that aren’t small molecules,” she said. “We’ve been testing unique drugs and screening to see how it might be effective in restricting the virus...We are planning on doing testing on different vaccines and therapies to see what kind of immune responses we get and if they are effective.”

Part of the work is taking in therapies and vaccines that are being worked on by many of their collaborators around the world and in Boston. Using the COVID-19 samples they have in the NEIDL, they can test how the therapies and vaccines work, or what parts work and what parts don’t. The goal is to have real-time feedback from the testing provid-

ed to the collaborators so they can home in on a potential cure or treatment.

“We want to see if there are particular things about a vaccine that are working and if we can understand why,” she said. “We’ll look to see if there is a particular feature about a vaccine that makes it a good vaccine or a less effective vaccine...It’s been a race. Everyone is rallying to do whatever we can. It seems like a gimmick to say we’re all working 150 percent, but really we are doing anything we can to help.”

That has been invigorating, and while there is a lot of pain and suffering associated with COVID-19, the race to help find treatment and vaccines has united the scientific community, she said. It is why they all became scientists – for this particular moment in time – and Honko said people are working so well together.

“Boston is such a great city with universities and great people,” she said. “I haven’t seen anything like this before. I was on a conference call with 10 universities today and they were talking and sharing things they learned. I think it’s brought a lot of people together for the good of science and gets these products out there...It is invigorating and it’s why you get into science.”

# City publishes mapping tool, chart for testing sites in Boston

Staff Report

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) on Monday launched a new mapping tool to help Boston residents find locations offering COVID-19 testing. The City of Boston is partnering with community health centers to increase access to testing, particularly in neighborhoods experiencing higher rates of COVID-19.

“Every community deserves full access to COVID-19 testing. We will continue to work to expand access to testing for all residents across Boston, particularly our hardest hit communities,” said Mayor Walsh. “Access to neighborhood-based testing will help us quickly identify cases, and get people the care and support needed to recover and prevent the further spread of COVID-19.”

According to the latest data from the Boston Public Health Commission, Hyde Park had 413 reported cases of COVID-19, Mattapan had 298, Dorchester had 1,274, East Boston had 410, Roxbury had 335, Roslindale had 302, and the South End had 372.

The map is available on [boston.gov/coronavirus](http://boston.gov/coronavirus) and [bphc.org/coronavirus](http://bphc.org/coronavirus). Residents are asked to call ahead for pre-screening and to schedule an appointment. Residents can click on the interactive map to find the testing center with hours, address and contact infor-

mation. It will be updated as new sites become available for testing.

Testing is free regardless of insurance or immigration status. Residents are encouraged to call the Mayor’s Health Line at (617) 534-5050 to help with health insurance applications, navigating Boston’s health care system, and with COVID-19 questions.

Last week, Mayor Walsh and the Resiliency Fund Steering Committee announced additional funds for organizations that provide critical services and support to residents, vulnerable populations and Boston families whose wellbeing is most immediately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The East Boston Community Health Center received funding in the first round of fund distribution and will be expanding their testing to East Boston clients, in addition to first responders. Six community health centers in neighborhoods seeing higher incidences of COVID-19 to expand their testing capabilities for residents, including:

- Bowdoin Street Community Health Center
- Codman Square Community Health Center
- DotHouse Health
- Mattapan Community Health Center
- Uphams Corner Community Health Center
- Whittier Street Community Health Center

TESTING FACILITY	ADDRESS	CONTACT
Codman Square Health Center	637 Washington Street Dorchester, MA 02124	(617) 822-8271
The Dimock Center	55 Dimock Street Roxbury, MA 02119	(617) 442-8800
DotHouse Health	1353 Dorchester Avenue Dorchester, MA 02122	(617) 740-2292
Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center	632 Blue Hill Avenue Dorchester, MA 02121	(617) 825-3400
Mattapan Community Health Center	1575 Blue Hill Avenue Mattapan, MA 02126	(617) 296-0061
Whittier Street Health Center	1290 Tremont Street Roxbury, MA 02120	(617) 427-1000
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center	10 Gove Street East Boston, MA 02128	(617) 569-5800
Upham's Corner Health Center	415 Columbia Road Dorchester, MA 02125	(617) 388-5007
Bowdoin Street Health Center	230 Bowdoin Street Dorchester, MA 02122	(617) 754-0100
Brigham and Women's Faulkner Community Physicians at Hyde Park	1337 Hyde Park Avenue Hyde Park, MA 02136	(617) 364-9880
Brigham and Women's Hospital (Boston main campus)	75 Francis Street Boston, MA 02115	(617) 732-5500
Carney Hospital	2100 Dorchester Avenue Dorchester, MA 02124	(617) 296-4000
Massachusetts General Hospital	55 Fruit Street Boston, MA 02114	(617) 726-2000
St. Elizabeth Medical Center	736 Cambridge Street Brighton, MA 02135	(617) 789-3000
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# Baker announces closure of schools for the remainder of the school year

By Lauren Bennett

Over the weekend and early this week, Governor Charlie Baker made several announcements regarding COVID-19 in the state.

Baker announced that all Massachusetts public and private schools will remain closed for the remainder of the school year. He said that he understands that “school closures put a tremendous strain on parents,” and “we know it’s a lot to ask,” but the state will be helping to boost remote learning for the rest of the school year.

“It’s the right thing to do, considering the facts on the ground associated with the COVID-19 pandemic,” Baker said. He said that due to the lack of “authoritative guidance” about how to safely get kids to and from school and safely operate schools, “we believe students therefore cannot safely return to school and void the risk of transmitting the virus to others.”

To all high school seniors who were looking forward to end of

year activities like trips and the prom, Baker said: “Keep your heads up...we’ll get through this pandemic together.”

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito also had a message for high school seniors.

“You lived a lot, you’ve had great times, you’ve learned a lot and you’re ready to that the next step in your life,” she said, “and there’s no doubt in my mind that the creativity of your superintendent, your principal, and your parents will make sure that the milestone that you’ve achieved will be celebrated and will be honored.”

She thanked the superintendents, parents, principals, educators, and students for helping the administration “arrive at what we know is the right decision at this point in time.”

Polito urged students to continue learning using the remote tools provided to them by their teachers, and to not take this announcement as meaning that “school’s out for summer.” She also encouraged them to stay in touch with their friends via technology, and continue to exercise and participate in hobbies from home.

She also said that “now is the time” to “lean in, embrace it, and do the best you can, not only for yourself, but to encourage your peers, and, to when the last day of the school year arrives, feel like you’ve accomplished something...”

Additionally, Baker announced that all non-emergency childcare will be closed until June 29. Baker said he recognizes this puts a strain

on families, but the state will work towards “slowly restoring childcare capacity once it can be done safely.”

He also said there will be a partnership with WGBH to provide “resources and activities” for parents to do with their young children at home.

As of right now, the closure of non-essential businesses and the stay at home advisory are still in place until May 4.

## CONTACT TRACING, PPE, HOMELESSNESS EFFORTS

As of April 21, there were 41,199 positive cases in Massachusetts, and there were 1,961 deaths.

On April 16, Baker talked more about contact tracing in the Commonwealth. He said that Massachusetts is the “first state in the nation” to trace individuals who are COVID-19 positive.

Baker said that 176 employees were hired to do contact tracing through phone calls, and he told residents that they should answer these calls if they get one, because this information is a “key” to stopping the spread of the virus and saving lives.

The state also remains a top tester in the nation, and personal protective equipment (PPE) continues to be distributed. Self testing kits have been sent out to 103 facilities in the Commonwealth, according to secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders.

Testing has also been increased at health centers across the state in an effort to ramp up testing and

continue being a leading state per capita for testing,

On April 17, Baker announced the distribution of PPE in the form of around 200,000 respirator masks to local law enforcement officers and firefighters, including university police.

*As a Commonwealth, we are committed to doing everything in our power, and moving as urgently as possible to get workers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis the benefits they deserve...*

— Gov. Charlie Baker

“To facilitate quick distribution of these masks, MEMA [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency] is employing a regional point of distribution (POD) model where communities can pick up their supply of masks at their designated MEMA POD,” the state said on April 17. “These POD sites are open today and have already distributed tens of thousands of masks to first responders in the first few hours.”

Law enforcement officers and firefighters will now have a one-month supply of respirator masks, which comes to five masks each.

As of April 21, over 5.3 million pieces of PPE had been distributed in the Commonwealth.

The Baker-Polito Administration also announced new steps to address homelessness during the pandemic.

“Massachusetts was among the first states to create designated isolation sites for COVID-positive homeless individuals, the result of a partnership between the Commonwealth, homeless shelters and municipalities that has been underway for weeks,” the state said on April 17.

The state announced “five key initiatives” in this effort, including the establishment of isolation and recovery sites for homeless individuals who have tested positive, providing supplies such as tents, beds, and portable showers to local quarantine sites, supporting families who are in domestic violence and emergency assistance shelters, expediting the distribution of PPE to shelters, and providing technical assistance to organizations and municipalities who request funding through FEMA.

Additionally, the Baker-Polito

administration also announced an additional \$100 reimbursement for each child who is placed in foster care, and issued an emergency order that creates emergency sites for children living in homes that have tested positive for the virus and need care in an isolated setting.

## UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

On April 20, the Baker-Polito administration announced that “Massachusetts residents who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits can now apply online for the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program,” according to a release from the state.

This new program provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to those who are “unable to work because of a COVID-19 related reason but are not eligible for regular or extended unemployment benefits,” such as gig economy workers, those who are self-employed, independent contractors, or those who have limited work history.

“As a Commonwealth, we are committed to doing everything in our power, and moving as urgently as possible to get workers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis the benefits they deserve,” Governor Baker said in a statement. “With the implementation of this new federal benefit program, we can better support workers not normally covered by the unemployment system like those who are self-employed or work in the gig economy.”

PUA was created by the federal CARES Act, as was the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), which provides an additional \$600 weekly for those receiving PUE or other unemployment benefits, the state said. This additional money will run through July 25.

“All approved PUA applications will initially receive the minimum weekly benefit amount, plus the additional \$600 FPUC weekly benefit,” the state said. “Once a worker’s wages are verified, weekly benefit amounts may increase.” The benefits are retroactive to January 27 of this year or the date at which an individual became unemployed, whichever is more recent, as long as the unemployment reason is due to COVID-19.

For more information and to apply, visit [mass.gov/pua](http://mass.gov/pua).

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# Local arts education nonprofit keeps lessons going online

By Lauren Bennett

When Sara Demeter's son started kindergarten at the Josiah Quincy elementary school in 2010, she said she was "shocked" to find out there was no arts instruction due to budget cuts.

Originally from Jordan, Demeter loved art as a child but arts education was nowhere to be found in public schools there, either. So she recycled tools and toys to make her own art, and her love and interest continued on as she got older.

"You find therapeutic calming and focus and there's also this underlining of this academic benefit which I always knew about from doing so much research and finding facts," she said.

Demeter decided to do something about the lack of arts education at her son's school, and she put together a cohort of local artists, parents, and teachers at the school and created what later became known as the Art Resource

Collaborative for Kids (ARCK), which infuses art with Boston Public School's K-8 curriculum. ARCK as an official nonprofit began in 2012.

"I found my passion and my voice and I wanted to be useful and give something back to my community," Demeter said. "I felt so grateful to be in America, safe and respected and go to school and get a great education. I took that as not for granted."

Demeter said she really felt the need for this type of program in Boston Public Schools when she realized just how many didn't have art instruction. "This is where these kids need me," she said. "This was the spark for ARCK. All the kids deserve an equitable and fair and diverse, rich education."

When school is in session, ARCK brings art teachers into the schools for art activities based on something a particular class or grade level is reading or learning, and the activity is based off of

three modules: leadership, civic engagement, and social justice.

Demeter said that the modules are visualized in a donut shape with three rings. The innermost ring is leadership, which helps the kids ask: "who am I?", civic engagement is the next ring, asking "what is my role in the community?", and the outermost ring, social justice, asks "how am I an agent of change?" and promotes critical thinking and empathy.

"Our lessons promote empathy towards themselves, people, children, and also towards the environment," Demeter said.

ARCK's lessons align with academic standards and take a universal approach to learning, so every child is able to participate. ARCK also works with students on a community and social justice model project each year. A recent project was a water mural which outlined why water is important. This year, she said that students wanted to work on the roof top garden at the

Josiah Quincy School, where they would learn about decomposers, consumers, and composting—but this has been adapted now that kids are out of school.

Since Governor Charlie Baker announced that Massachusetts schools will be closed for the remainder of the school year, children are now learning remotely from home. But Demeter didn't want them to miss out on the creative collaborations ARCK offers, so she has figured out ways to keep bringing the lessons to kids as they learn from home.

ARCK looks to "give them the tools to navigate this crisis while they're anxious, fearful, and their normal environment has been disrupted," Demeter said. "Art itself offers that therapeutic means of stress release and a calming effect and helps them focus."

Demeter said that ARCK and its teaching artists have been communicating with Boston Public Schools about integrating these

lessons into students' remote learning lessons. "We now share a lot of these lessons remotely," she said. "A lot of schools responded quickly to the lessons."

Additionally, ARCK will also be making videos as well to really do as much as it can to keep some semblance of normalcy in the students' lives.

"I stopped paying myself and I'm paying my teachers because I want to keep them on board," Demeter said. "They're doing great work. The lessons they're coming up with are a quick version of our regular lessons but they still meet the mission."

Demeter said that ARCK and other nonprofits allow "the hard hit families and kids to be equal to other people and to contribute to the social fabric," especially during a crisis like this.

"We need all of us together," she said. "Now is the time for nonprofits to lead the way. Our communities need us."

## EMERALD NECKLACE (from pg. 1)

Frederick Law Olmsted's vision for them. Titled "The Emerald Necklace," the symphony "celebrates the connection between nature and humanity that has occurred for thousands of years in Jamaica Plain," according to program notes.

"We're really thrilled that Andrew was interested in this project," said Karen Mauney-Brodek, President of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. "Andrew came over and approached us in 2019," Mauney-Brodek said, and asked the Conservancy for insight into composing a piece about the Emerald Necklace.

"We were really, really honored to get the chance to talk with a composer about the park," she said.

The virtual world premiere of this piece can be listened to at [emeraldnecklace.org](http://emeraldnecklace.org). Right now, only MIDI recordings are available, which use virtual instruments to play the composition.

Evan Bradley, Marketing and Communications Coordinator for the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, said that the piece has not yet been recorded by a real chamber orchestra, but the Lowell Chamber Orchestra will be recording it under the direction of Orlando Cela.

The symphony is "centered in portions of the Necklace around Jamaica Plain," Bradley said. The first movement, Compression, is based on the construction and cre-

ation of the Jamaicaaway, the second movement, Release, depicts an evening at Jamaica Pond, and the third movement, Surprise, was inspired by artifacts found at Spring Brook Village, which is now a part of the Arnold Arboretum.

Bradley also said that the Conservancy hopes to debut the symphony in the Emerald Necklace "some time in the coming months when we are able to hold events in the parks."

But for right now, the online recordings help provide some respite from everything going on surrounding the pandemic. "I love that there's an experience of the park that can function on so many levels," Mauney-Brodek said. "Some people might not be able to safely leave their homes, but they can experience the joy of the park in their homes at the moment no matter where they live."

She also said that for those who are able to go out and spend some time in the parks (at a safe distance from one another), they should listen to the recordings while actually in the parks to get the complete experience.

"We've really been focusing on connecting people to their park," Mauney-Brodek said. She also suggested playing the music on a smart phone and using the Conservancy's mobile guided tour, which can be accessed at [www.emeraldnecklace.tours](http://www.emeraldnecklace.tours).

"Why not walk through the

biggest piece of art in Boston—the land of the Emerald Necklace?" Mauney-Brodek said. "We think it's tremendous. There are 1100 acres of the Emerald Necklace to visit, and we encourage people to visit all of them this year. Perhaps find a corner you haven't visited before."

Bradley said that "offering this symphony is just one of the resources and connections to the parks the Conservancy is providing during this time. We want people either accessing the parks responsibly or people who cannot to have an opportunity to continue being connected."

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is also providing a number of resources, such as lessons, scavenger hunts, and a variety of activities for folks to take part in while social distancing, which can be found at [emeraldnecklace.org/hereforyou](http://emeraldnecklace.org/hereforyou).

"There is no cure for this disease right now," Mauney-Brodek said, but what people can do is strengthen their immune systems and boost morale by connecting to nature. She said there is immense value in something as simple as looking at a photo of trees, looking out the window, or even listening to some birds.

"It's important to keep people connected with their green spaces," Bradley said. "That has been a lot of our focus over the past couple of weeks."



Congressman Joe Kennedy III signing the final nomination paper sheet on the porch of his home last week. He was notified he will appear on the September Primary Election ballot for U.S. Senate.

## Congressman Kennedy officially on Sept. ballot

Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin's office confirmed April 15 that Congressman Joe Kennedy III will appear on the ballot for U.S. Senate in September.

After months of collecting signatures across the Commonwealth, the Kennedy for MA campaign received final confirmation

that they had reached the 10,000 signature requirement to get on the ballot. The campaign had submitted more than 15,000 signatures to local town and city clerks.

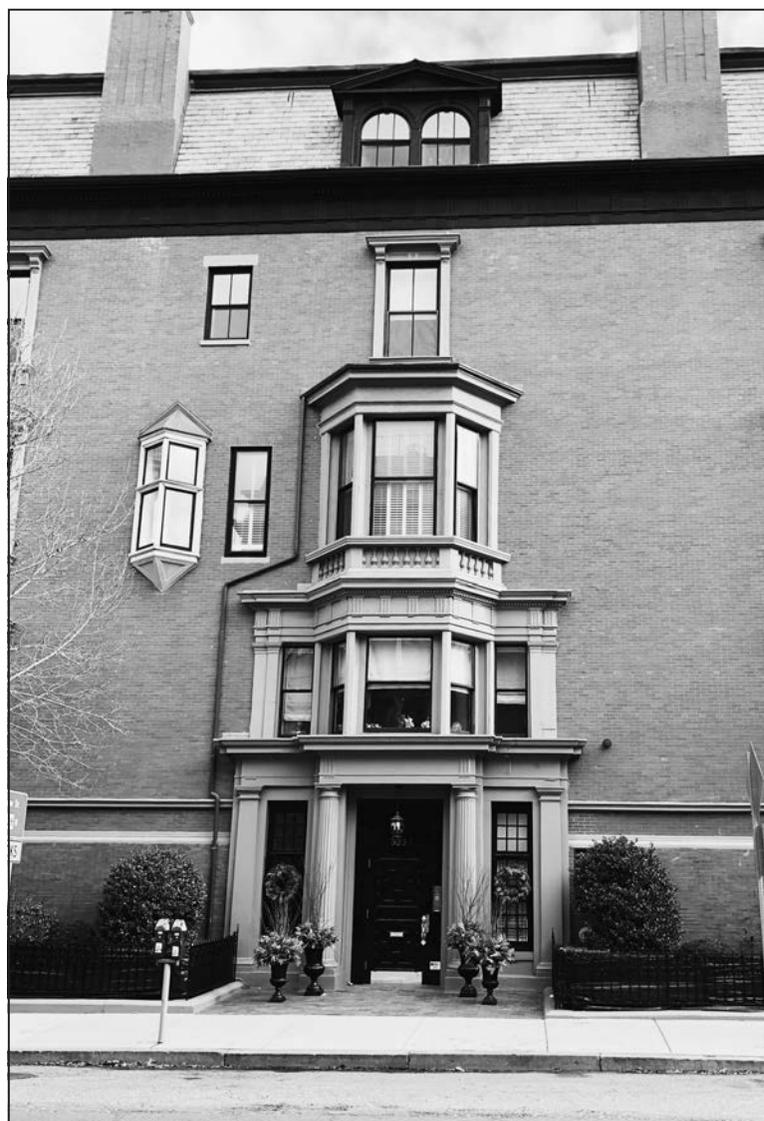
Kennedy signed the final nomination sheet from his home in Newton on Wednesday.

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# ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The arched windows and medallion in the last clue are on 42-44 St Botolph Street which was built in 1886 to a design by architects Cabot and Chandler. Perhaps that decorative medallion and two similar pieces with building numbers came from the time when this building was the Vesper George School of Art.

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](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE



# U.S. Attorney urges health care sector to report fraud related to the COVID-19 Pandemic

As part of the comprehensive federal response to the COVID-19 outbreak, United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling is urging leadership at Massachusetts hospitals to report individuals and companies that may be engaged in wrongdoing related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a letter to leadership at Massachusetts hospitals, U.S. Attorney Lelling encouraged health care facilities to report to federal authorities individuals and companies that may have acquired vital medical supplies in excess of what they would reasonably use, or for the purpose of charging exorbitant prices. This includes 15 categories of health and medical supplies designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) as "scarce," thus triggering civil and

criminal enforcement remedies that the U.S. Attorney's Office will pursue. In addition, the U.S. Attorney's Office will investigate any other fraudulent conduct designed to benefit from the pandemic (e.g., false treatments, tests, and/or vaccinations for COVID-19).

"In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, my office is prioritizing the investigation and prosecution of wrongdoing related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including those engaged in hoarding and/or price-gouging with regard to critical medical supplies," said United States Attorney Lelling. "These practices are not only morally repugnant in light of the pandemic but also, if left unchecked, will inhibit hospitals, physicians, other health care professionals, and gov-

ernment agencies from fully implementing measures designed to save lives and mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus."

U.S. Attorney Lelling named Amanda Strachan, Chief of the Health Care Fraud Unit, as the COVID-19 Fraud Coordinator for the District of Massachusetts.

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](mailto: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](http://www.IC3.gov). If you or someone you know are in immediate danger, please call 911.

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
Guillermo, Enrique C	Dringenberg, Jessica	169 Beacon St #B4	\$595,000
Knez, Jessica	Botsford, Alan C	303 Berkeley St #5	\$3,045,000
Vohr, Neal	Koontz, Jill A	111 Marlborough St #B	\$975,000
Ratimex LLC	Spasic, Daniel	28 Marlborough St #4	\$1,470,000
Harvey, Timothy P	Hsu, Philip S	390 Commonwealth Ave #501	\$920,000
Kim, Eun J	Fruehan, Mark	464 Commonwealth Ave #43	\$890,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
62 Chestnut Street NT	Lee, James R	62 Chestnut St	\$4,300,000
Mccaffrey, Maureen A	JDJ Rentals LLC	32 Derne St #3C	\$1,775,000
Staples, Jennie M	Barber Pole LLC	20 Joy St #2	\$640,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Nassab, Ali A	2012 Newman FT	400 Stuart St #19B	\$2,085,000
Lesaffre, Luke	Goldie, Jason	77 Warren Ave	\$4,500,000
Mcauliff, Robert	Donovan, Erin	12 Piedmont St #3	\$1,725,000
Gu, Ruoxi	Salem, Munal S	4 Charlesgate E #304	\$1,200,000
Graziose, David A	Heiss, Michael	60 Charlesgate W #BA	\$585,000
Mikuckis, Tomas E	Hughes, Jessica C	30 Dwight St #1	\$1,400,000
Yazawa, Akira	James E Scott LT	21 Father Francis Gilday St	\$1,269,000
Jung, Myong S	Ali, Faisal	79 Gainsborough St #406	\$753,000
Kehoe, Jonathan	Urbanista RT	1 Saint George St #3A	\$1,049,000
Miao, Jilang	Cronin, Gregory	25 Saint Stephen St #1	\$680,000
Laprade, Sara E	Chevrier, Colette	656 Tremont St #5	\$545,000
Merrill, Jakefield B	Waywood, Richard J	20 Upton St #1	\$1,925,000
Trousil, Sebastian	JP Property 1 LLC	3531 Washington St #205	\$800,000
Calderon, Ana	JP Property 1 LLC	3531 Washington St #209	\$184,400
Hanrahan, Kristen L	JP Property 1 LLC	3531 Washington St #323	\$288,700
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Harrist, Terence J	Strecker, William D	2 Avery St #26F	\$1,105,000
Spalluto, Caitlin F	Doyle, William	9-15 Battery St #7	\$767,000
Quesada, Michael	Blackburn, Brian J	80 Broad St #306	\$720,000
Talwar, Karan	Macintyre, James D	65 E India Row #29F	\$1,625,000
Lockhart, Jeffrey	Doshi, Paras	37 Fleet St #2	\$755,000
El-Hariry, Iman	MP MTB Units LLC	1 Franklin St #4001	\$2,875,000
Leary, Timothy J	Pereira, Paula	134-136 Fulton St #2	\$1,315,000

# RCN Boston, iHeartMedia Boston partner to honor community heroes

RCN Boston, an award-winning and leading provider of fiber and broadband services, announced a partnership with iHeartMedia Boston to honor local community heroes of the coronavirus pandemic.

The partnership was developed to show appreciation during these uncertain times to the people who are working tirelessly to keep the community safe and comfortable.

These heroes include medical professionals, first responders, delivery service workers, cleaning staff, cooks, teachers, stock clerks and others.

"We are all in this together," said Jeff Carlson, VP and General Manager of RCN Boston. "Highlighting these heroes in the communities in which we live and work is our way of showing our support and appreciation."

iHeartMedia Boston Region President, Alan Chartrand adds, "There are so many selfless people doing amazing things to help their neighbors. Our hope is to spotlight as many of them as possible. We're thankful that RCN has partnered with iHeartMedia Boston to honor our Community Heroes."

RCN and iHeartMedia Boston are asking for nominations of individuals or organizations who are

going above and beyond during these unprecedented times. Nominations will be accepted through Friday, April 24.

Ten heroes will be selected to receive a \$250 gift card to continue their amazing work for which they are being recognized. The 10 heroes will also be acknowledged on-air on iHeartMedia Boston's eight radio stations and will be highlighted on social media plat-

forms of iHeartMedia Boston and RCN Boston. In addition, four winners who are located in the RCN Boston service area will be gifted with a six months free Internet, Digital TV and Phone package and accompanying equipment of their choice with a value of up to \$300 per month.

To nominate a community hero, visit [tinyurl.com/kiss108heroes](https://tinyurl.com/kiss108heroes)

## 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.

### •CONSTRUCTION

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

**From the April 22, 10 a.m., Council Committee on Government Operations meeting, virtual meeting via Zoom:**

The Committee on Government Operations will hold a working session on Docket #0232, order regarding a text amendment for the Boston Zoning Code Relative to Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing. The Chair of the Committee and Sponsor of the docket is Councilor Lydia Edwards.

**From the April 22 License Board meeting, 10 a.m., Zoom online (VIRTUAL HEARING ZOOM LINK: [HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/855037058?pwd=BWNARFVFA3BQUGLHSXHEWNFLOVB6ZZ09](https://zoom.us/j/855037058?pwd=BWNARFVFA3BQUGLHSXHEWNFLOVB6ZZ09))**

•The Bittersweet Shoppe, 257 NEWBURY St., Back Bay. Has applied for a Common Victualler License to be exercised on the above - Approximately 900 sq. ft. of restaurant space consisting of lower garden level & lower patio open annually on private property for 8 people same hours as restaurant. Manager: Tracy Casavant. Hours of Operation: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

•THE COLLEGE CLUB OF BOSTON, INC.; D/B/A: THE COLLEGE CLUB OF BOSTON, 44 COMMONWEALTH Ave., Back Bay. Holder of a Club Wines and Malt Beverages License has petitioned to change the classification of its license to Wines Malt Beverages and Liqueurs. Lastly, has petitioned the change the manager of the licensed business From: Remy Steele To: Christopher Bussell.

**From the 2 p.m. CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH HEARING (via Zoom online meeting):** A hearing on the proposed guidelines for ventilator distribution and ICU beds in the event of a shortage and ensuring that health inequities do not dictate medical care during the COVID-19 pandemic. This matter was sponsored by Councilors Ricardo Arroyo and Andrea Campbell and was referred to the Committee on April 15, 2020.

**From the April 23 Council Ways and Means Committee Budget Working Session (via Zoom online meeting):**

•10 a.m. Public Facilities Department.  
•1 p.m. Law Department, the Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports & Entertainment, and the Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture.

**From the April 23 Public Improvement Commission, 10 a.m., City Hall: (Members of the public: 26 Court Street, 1st floor - Winter Chambers)**

•Commonwealth Avenue, Beacon Street; Boston Proper - Widening/Relocation/Extension, Specific Repairs - On a set of petitions by Mark Kenmore LLC.

•110 Fenway, Hemenway Street, Public Alley No. 807; Roxbury - Grant of Location - On a petition by Crown Castle Fiber.

•396 Northampton Street, Camden Street; Boston Proper - Grant of Location - On a petition by Crown Castle Fiber.

•380 Shawmut Avenue, West Dedham Street, Washington Street; Boston Proper - Grant of Location - On a petition by Crown Castle Fiber.

**From the April 28 Council Ways and Means Committee Budget Working Session (via Zoom online meeting):**

•11a.m. The focus of this working session is the Public Works Department (PWD), the Transportation Department (BTD), the Library Department (BPL), Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF), Youth Engagement & Employment, and the BCYF revolving fund.

**From the April 28 Boston Landmarks Commission hearing, 4 p.m., Zoom online meeting ([HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/95582118901](https://zoom.us/j/95582118901)):**

### ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL

• ARMORY OF 1st CORPS CADETS - 101 ARLINGTON STREET: At east

elevation replace four double-hung wood windows in-kind.

•1 MELROSE STREET, Bay Village: At front façade replace three second-story one-over-one wood windows with six-over-six vinyl-clad windows; and at side elevation replace one six-over-six wood window with a six-over-six vinyl-clad window.

•33 MELROSE STREET, Bay Village: At front façade replace eight six-over-six wood windows in-kind and two one-over-one wood windows in-kind.

•31 WINCHESTER STREET, Bay Village: At front façade replace three six-over-six wood windows with six-over-six aluminum-clad windows, and at side elevation replace one four-over-four wood window with a four-over-four aluminum-clad window.

•11 BRADFORD STREET, South End: At the front façade basement through second levels, replace seven (7) one-over-one aluminum-clad windows with two-over-two aluminum-clad windows.

•26 CHANDLER STREET, South End: At the Chandler Street ground level, replace commercial recessed entry doors with new single door and sidelights.

•70 CHANDLER STREET, South End: Repoint brick joints throughout the front and rear façade (which faces a public street) with a soft mortar mix to match historic mortar.

•9 CUMSTON STREET, South End: At the Cumston Place elevation rebuild gable chimney in kind and replace flashing and cap.

•69-71 DARTMOUTH STREET, South End: At the roof rebuild chimney in kind utilizing existing brick and new brick to match historic, and replace flue liners.

•22 EAST SPRINGFIELD STREET, South End: At the front façade parlor level, replace one (1) two-over-two and two (2) one-over-one wood windows in kind.

•EAST SPRINGFIELD STREET, South End: Resurface brownstone stoop treads with new mortar tinted to match the color of brownstone.

•60 RUTLAND STREET, South End: Repair wood double leaf front doors.

•416 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, South End: At the front façade stoop, patch and restore brownstone stoop with mortar tinted to match the color of brownstone

•219-225 SHAWMUT AVENUE, South End: At the front façade mansard levels, replace wood trim in kind.

•81 WALTHAM STREET, South End: Replace select area of asphalt roof shingles in-kind.

•22 WORCESTER SQUARE, South End: At the front façade stoop, chip back deteriorated brownstone and install new brownstone-tinted treads

•25 WORCESTER STREET, South End: At the front façade stoop, remove silicon caulking and repoint granite joints.

•144 WORCESTER STREET, South End: At the front façade, repoint selective areas with new mortar to match historic mortar.

**From the April 30 Council Ways and Means Committee Budget Working Session (via Zoom online meeting):**

•11 a.m. The focus of this working session is the Office of Economic Development (OED) and the Boston Equity Fund.

### HELP COVID19 EFFORTS

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

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

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

•If you think you might be sick, please call your doctor or 311 to be connected to the Mayor's Health Line 617-534-5050. Buoy Health has created a free online diagnostic tool which screens for COVID19 at [buoy.com/mass](https://buoy.com/mass).

•Donate supplies to first responders.

•Donate to the City of Boston Resiliency Fund.

•Volunteer with the City of Boston.

•Fill out the 2020 Census. The Census informs how billions of dollars in federal funds will be allocated by state, local and federal lawmakers annually for the next 10 years. It's more critical than ever to ensure that all Bostonians are counted.

### •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



**385 BEACON STREET**  
 4 BEDS | 3F 2H BATHS | 5,165 SQFT  
 \$7,900,000



**73 MOUNT VERNON STREET #1**  
 3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,082 SQFT  
 \$4,295,000



**20 ROWES WHARF #707**  
 2 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,188 SQFT  
 \$2,100,000



**1 AVERY STREET #30B**  
 3 BEDS | 4.5 BATHS | 2,667 SQFT  
 \$4,250,000

