

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON MAIN STREETS P. 7

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MAY 1, 2020 – JUNE 4, 2020

CIRCULATION 7,000

COVID-19 in Mission Hill

475 confirmed cases in Mission Hill/Roxbury area, 1,290 tested

By JOHN LYNDS

Since the city ramped up COVID-19 testing last week the number of those infected with the COVID-19 virus in Mission Hill/Roxbury has become more clear.

Since last week 1,290 residents in Mission Hill/Roxbury have been tested and 36.6 percent of those tested have found to be COVID-19 positive.

Mission Hill/Roxbury was

also found to have the fourth highest percentage of COVID-19 positive cases among those tested followed after East Boston, Mattapan and Dorchester. Mission Hill/Roxbury was followed by Hyde Park, Roslindale, West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began to hit Mission Hill/Roxbury in mid-March the numbers of those with COVID-19 and the neighborhood's infection rate

continues to rise.

In Mission Hill/Roxbury the COVID-19 infection rate rose to 110.1 cases per 10,000 residents as of last Friday.

As of Friday there were 475 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Mission Hill/Roxbury.

The stats released by the Boston Public Health Commission

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Officers and family members of Officer Omar Borges – who is assigned to the citywide drug unit – gathered last week to celebrate his touch-and-go recovery from COVID-19. Commissioner William Gross said it was a victory for everyone during an uncharted time for police officers.v

Walsh announces antibody testing, allows restaurants to sell groceries

By LAUREN BENNETT

Mayor Walsh made several announcements over the weekend, including a partnership with Massachusetts General Hospital on randomized antibody testing for 1,000 residents, as well as allowing restaurants to sell grocery items. The public health

emergency declaration for the City of Boston that was issued on March 15 has also been extended "until rescinded by the Interim Executive Director," according to the Boston Public Health Commission.

In response to Governor Baker's extension of the stay-at-home advisory and closure of

non-essential businesses to May 18 as well as the announcement of a 17-member advisory board for a phased reopening of the state, Walsh said on Wednesday that he is "pleased to pledge our full participation in the governor's process."

Walsh continued to remind

Continued on page 2

'We can't shelter in Place': Commissioner Gross says police will not run from the fight

By SETH DANIEL

The Boston Police Department (BPD) has a tremendous legacy and history of working through just about every situation – from terrorist bombings in 2013 to urban rioting in the 1960s – but there are no officers still on the rolls that have worked through a pandemic.

For the BPD, Commissioner William Gross said they are entering uncharted territory as a police force – responding to regular criminal activity and COVID-19 situations as well, while also trying to protect the officers and staff in the department so as to be able to keep operating full-force.

Bottom line, they will not run from the fight, he said.

"We haven't gone through anything like this since 1918 in terms of working in an environment where there's a pandemic," he said in an interview on Tuesday. "We have had no delays of terms in service during this pandemic. The officers have been performing exceptionally... It's not joke though. I think the morale is great and work ethic is great, but certainly there is a concern out there about how this virus can affect you. When you're getting updated and getting information on this, there are so many opinions it can be confusing. But we can't run from it. We have to work through it."

Gross's message to the public is that the officers are filling gaps

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City Council discusses equitable recovery from COVID-19

By LAUREN BENNETT

The City Council Committee on Planning, Development & Transportation held a hearing via Zoom regarding planning for an equitable recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 on April 23.

The hearing was one of several conversations to come about

how the City will reopen more equitably than it was before the crisis began, as COVID-19 has shined a light on many existing injustices.

"In pre-COVID times, communities of color were really struggling in Boston already," City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo said. He and several other councilors

expressed their disappointment that members of the administration who were invited to speak at the hearing did not attend.

"We need their voice," Arroyo said.

City Councilor Michelle Wu said the administration's re-

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# Walsh Updates

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people to wear a face covering when outside the home, and to keep practicing social distancing. He had a special message for runners on Wednesday, telling them it was especially important for them to cover their faces when near others outside as heavy breathing can spread the virus.

## ANTIBODY TESTING

Walsh announced on Sunday that 1,000 randomly chosen residents in the neighborhoods of East Boston, Roslindale, and Dorchester in zip codes 02121 and 02145.

"It is our hope that by conducting this testing, we as a collective City will get a better understanding of the true prevalence of COVID-19 in our community," Mayor Walsh said in a statement. "The more we can expand our testing, the more we can learn how to use our medical resources more efficiently, and how we need to focus our current efforts to contain the virus. I want to thank MGH for being an excellent partner on this effort that we hope will be a step forward towards the path to recovery."

The testing will "give us important information about how

different populations are being affected," he added at a press conference on Monday, as well as learn more about the virus.

He said that antibodies are important, as they are proteins that are present in the blood to fight an infection, and remain in the blood after a person has recovered from an illness. Walsh said that doing this kind of testing will provide a better idea of how widespread the outbreak is in the City of Boston. "This antibody testing initiative is certainly a big step forward," he said.

## RESTAURANTS GIVEN PERMISSION TO SELL GROCERIES

On Friday, April 24, Mayor Walsh announced that permitted restaurants would be allowed to sell grocery items like paper goods, produce, and more via delivery, curbside pickup, and takeout.

"This is an unprecedented time for all of us in the City of Boston, and our administration is prioritizing how best to keep our residents safe and healthy, while also supporting our businesses and some of our City's most vulnerable residents," Walsh said in a statement. "By allowing restaurants to also sell grocery and other essential items, we can help address social distancing concerns in grocery stores while

supporting restaurants and food businesses during these unprecedented times."

Participating restaurants are required to follow specific procedures such as including product information available in relation to safe handling instructions and information about what the item is. Additionally, "an ingredient statement, the name and place of business of the food manufacturer, packer, or distributor, net quantity of contents, and allergen information required by the Food Allergen Labeling & Consumer Protection Act" must be made available as well, according to the City.

"In addition, businesses must submit an operational plan to the Boston Licensing Board detailing plans of implementing safe handling procedures and how they will comply with guidance from ISD. The Licensing Board will review each plan and issue correspondence allowing the sale of grocery items by the licensee on a temporary basis given the COVID-19 health emergency. Restaurants are not permitted to sell grocery items before receiving approval from the Boston Licensing Board," the City said.

Walsh thanked the City of Somerville and Mayor Joseph Curtatone for his guidance on this, as Somerville implemented the program earlier. "We should

all be grateful for the people supporting our efforts here in Boston," he said.

## OTHER UPDATES

On April 27, Mayor Walsh announced the death of Booby Joe Leaster, a BCYF streetworker, who died from injuries from a house fire.

"We are devastated by his loss," Walsh said. "We will never forget the impact he made."

Walsh also said that a South End resident in his 70s passed away due to COVID-19, a few days after marrying his long time partner, whom he had proposed to while in the hospital.

As of April 28, the City of Boston had 8,613 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 333 people had died.

Walsh also said that at-home instruction will be ramping up again this week after last week's April vacation. He said that more than 2100 WiFi hotspots had been set up for homes that did not already have access, so students would be able to continue their learning at home.

Last week, Governor Baker announced that Massachusetts schools would be closed for the remainder of the year, and Walsh said that the City of Boston is "staying in close contact with school leaders about how distance learning has gone so far." He also said that superintendent Brenda Cassellius is also working on plans for the rest of the academic year to make sure that no student falls behind.

"It's important to remember that our schools are more than classrooms; they're communities," Walsh said. He added that free breakfast and lunch continue to be served to students across the City each day at 65 youth oriented sites. He said that half a million meals have been served so far, and they will continue to

be served as long as schools remain closed.

Food is also being delivered to the homes of students with severe special needs, and going forward, every school will have a student support team to monitor things like student engagement, well-being, and progress.

More than \$27 million has been raised so far for the Boston Resiliency Fund, and Walsh announced on Wednesday an additional \$1.4 million will be awarded to an additional 19 organizations.

Walsh also said that \$3 million in relief for housing payments was made available to those who are unable to get unemployment benefits and have no other income coming in. The City is processing about 800 applications for this money, he added, and \$2 million was allotted for a small business relief fund, of which 83 percent has been distributed to over 500 businesses in the City.

He added that more than \$10 million in federal funding will be used to replenish these programs.

Walsh also said that testing has increased across the city, including universal testing for the homeless population after securing an additional 1000 tests last week.

Walsh, like Baker, advised people to "call 911 immediately" if they are experiencing any kind of medical emergency. "We absolutely have the capacity to treat everyone who needs care," he said.

He also thanked the people who are answering 311 calls, as well as his neighborhood liaisons for making sure residents in every neighborhood are kept informed about the most up-to-date information regarding the virus.



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- Place barrels, bags, and branches curbside by 6 a.m.



- No plastic bags
- Don't put branches in barrels
- No dirt



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HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

JUNE 20   SOUTH BOSTON Central DPW facility 400 Frontage Rd.	JULY 25   WEST ROXBURY West Roxbury DPW 315 Gardner St.	AUGUST 1   DORCHESTER John W. McCormick middle school 315 Mt. Vernon St.	AUGUST 22   SOUTH BOSTON Central DPW facility 400 Frontage Rd.	OCTOBER 31   SOUTH BOSTON Central DPW facility 400 Frontage Rd.
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# Hill Happenings

By MOSSY MARTIN

I hope you are healthy and keeping a positive attitude during these trying times.

Hopefully at this printing the country will be about to reopen. Our Mission Hill businesses have been struggling during these arduous times, and I've been supporting the local restaurants that have been offering take-out service. Hopefully they'll survive, aided by our renewed support when this crisis ends.

One Mission Hill business for sale is AC Hardware at 1562 Tremont St. That place understandably hasn't been the same since the murder of its beloved owner, Andres Cruz, in July of 2017 during a robbery attempt at the store, after which three suspects were captured.

A tip of the hat to my friend, Mary "Mabs" Burns, a retired nurse, who used her sewing skill to make dozens of masks for her Mission Hill neighbors to help combat the virus.

With all the down time I searched for some books that were dispersed around my house. I sampled a few, but none of them were first-rate books. I didn't realize how much I'd miss the Parker Hill Library, where the wonderful librarians order my books. Being a choosy reader, I'm reminded of the great philosopher, Francis Bacon who said: "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed and some few to be chewed and digested."

Condolences to the family of Eileen Sheehan, an extraordi-

nary woman who passed away last month. Eileen had a sparkling smile and I always enjoyed chatting with her at Mike's Donuts. Eileen, a '53 Mission High School graduate, loved Mission Church, where she worked for many years. RIP Eileen.

Teresa Clune (Walsh) passed away last month. She also volunteered her time at Mission Church and was a graduate of Mission High Class of '73. Teresa livened up the parishioners when she called out the numbers at the Mission Church bingo games. Teresa will be missed by family and her many friends from where she lived at Mission Park.

It was a downhearted month with several deaths of the past and present Mission Hill populace. We also lost the great hoopster, George Schlehuber, Mission High Class of '57. George is unanimously regarded as the best basketball player basketball from the Hill. More importantly, he was a good guy and a terrific family man.

Condolences to the family of Tom Cosby, who recently passed away. Tom, a former Hillside Street resident, was a World War II veteran. Thank you, Tom, for your service when our country needed you most.

David Payne, who interned for U.S. Sen. Ed Brooks in the '70s, passed away last month. I didn't know David, but I'm friends with members of his nice family.

Great news for Mike Young and Jill Young (Moynihan) on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Callie Rose, 9 pounds, 14 ounces, on April 23. Mike Young



The photo of the Memorial Day Breakfast at St. Alphonsus Hall was taken in May, 1946.

was a great running back at Norwood High, who earned All Scholastic honors in 2005. Callie Rose's proud grandfather is Tom Moynihan from the Hill at Tobin Court. Tom's brother is "Big Jim" Moynihan, known as the Mission Hill marathon man. Big Jim completed seven Boston Marathons during the '80s.

On May 25, we'll commemorate Memorial Day, a day to honor and mourn our military veterans who were killed in the line of duty. Started shortly after the Civil War, it became a national holiday in 1971. Every

year at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day, there is a national moment of remembrance.

Yet another thing I miss during the shutdown is going to the Encore Casino in Everett. I was playing Texas hold 'em at Encore on March 14 when word spread throughout the Casino

that the place was closing indefinitely at 6 a.m. the following Sunday morning. It reminded me of the great movie "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," so I quoted Robert Redford and told the Pit Boss: "I'm not leaving this card game until I'm asked to stay."

## Lights out for maintenance in Ted Williams Tunnel

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing that there will be reduced lighting in the Ted Williams Tunnel (TWT) eastbound and westbound in Boston. This essential work began on Sunday, April 26, at 11 p.m., and will continue through to Saturday, May 2, at 11 p.m. This is critical lighting maintenance in preparation of an extensive lighting replacement to begin later this month.

Lights in the left lane, eastbound and westbound, will be turned off during this time frame. Lighting in the right lanes will function as usual. Drivers are advised to keep lights on for

safety.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and advanced message boards will be in place to guide drivers through the work area.

Drivers who are traveling through the area should use caution.

All scheduled work may be impacted due to an emergency or other unplanned situations.

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## What's Happening on Main Streets

BY ELLEN WALKER  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

First and foremost, Mission Hill Main Streets wants to thank both Governor Baker and Mayor Walsh for their extraordinary efforts in striving to blend both positive and supportive dialog in this unprecedented time. There are many out there who deserve our gratitude – the EMTs, health care professionals, police and firefighters and the everyday person who steps in to help a neighbor.

As our focus remains on being healthy and safe as we all follow the guidelines and criteria set for by our local government, the

CDC (Center for Disease Control), NIH (National Institute of Health) and BPHC (Boston Public Health Commission) among others. Our hearts go out to all residents, business owners and institutions as everyone practices their “Boston Strong” spirit.

In walking around Mission Hill, I stopped in to talk with a couple of the small business owners to get a sense of how they are handling these difficult times. Keith and Lucia Patrick, the owners of Solid Ground Café at 742 Huntington Avenue, spoke to how hard it was cutting back on staff while trying to find ways to support them (this included a go-fund-me campaign) and

handling the fluctuating numbers of customers. On the day I stopped in, a local florist had donated bouquets of flowers to share with customers – a great perk if you are one of the lucky ones who stopped in! Also, a local church group dropped in and offered their support. Lucia and Keith remain upbeat and flexible. Keith’s parting words were “stay positive!”

Next, I stopped in to speak with Matt Postal owner of Lily’s Gourmet Pasta at 1528 Tremont Street. He has been in the neighborhood for 10 years and is as passionate about his work and his staff as he was the first day. Like other small businesses,



Lucia and Keith Patrick, Solid Ground Cafe owners



Aaron Schleifer from OED/City of Boston, Matt Postal, owner Lily's Gourmet Pasta and Marta Zuk, staff at Lily's Gourmet Pasta



Photo of Valkyrie Mumbet courtesy of MAAM - image is supplied by S.Stockwell, MAAM Marketing and Communications.

he is adjusting hours, staffing and finding ways to meet clientele needs. Matt’s love for his business and staff is obvious and keeps him going every day. “When this is over, I will be hiring more great staff!” A positive look to the future by each of these owners as they graciously move through each day.

A big shout out to the Brigham and Women’s Hospital as they recently gave away many, many gift cards from local businesses that were placed in the care kits they distributed at the Mission Hill testing sites for COVID-19. Thank you BWH for investing in the community!

On another note, as the warmer season is approaching, Mission Hill Main Streets has chosen recipients for this year’s annual community appreciation event that is held in June. The next time you are in Penguin Pizza at 735 Huntington Avenue, congratulate Dermot Doynne as Mission Hill’s Business of the Year. An honor well-deserved! The Volunteer of the Year is Dan Weldon who has managed the Mission Hill Little League for years! Highly regarded by everyone and especially little league fans! There are more awards and recipients to celebrate as we hope you join us at our 23rd annual event. This will be a fun, joyful celebration when we can all come together again and celebrate the spirit of our neighborhood!

On February 22nd, the Massachusetts College of Art & Design

opened the MassArt Art Museum (MAAM) at 621 Huntington Avenue with a stunning exhibit by artist Johanna Vasconcelos. Over 2,600 people attended the opening day and, if you were waiting in line to be a part of this celebration, you would have noticed the upbeat, excited and fun tone that permeated the air!

Chloe Zaug, Associate Director of MAAM expressed her excitement over the exhibit space that works for major installations to be suspended from the exposed ceiling and beams. This will allow for big, bold art to be displayed unlike anywhere else in Boston. Students from the college assist with the exhibition installation, gaining practical experience. Joana Vasconcelos, the artist currently on exhibit, was selected last year and spent months creating a spectacular sculpture with her 60 helpers that incorporated sculpture, fibers and textiles into her piece “Valkyrie Mumbet.” If you have not seen this exhibit yet, watch for MAAM’s re-opening as it is something not to be missed – the colors exert energy and vibrancy!

Until next month, Mission Hill Main Streets wishes you stay healthy and safe! Visit us on our webpage – [www.missionhill-mainstreet.com](http://www.missionhill-mainstreet.com) and “like” us on Facebook!

*“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is more people who have come alive.”*

HOWARD THURMAN

## Police

Continued from page 1

wherever possible in helping deliver food and in supporting the schools, while also fighting crime, taking guns off the streets and protecting older adults from a rising amount of scams and targeted crime.

The work has not stopped, he said, even as officers are getting sick, and even having Jamaica Plain Officer Jose Fontanez pass away from COVID-19 two weeks ago.

“We can’t shelter in place,” he said. “Not only do we have to respond to calls for service that report criminal activity, but also we have to respond to calls for mental health issues and we cannot forget our unhoused population and those people with substance abuse disorders. The first responders fighting through this cannot shelter in place.”

COVID-19 has hit the department in several ways.

On Tuesday, Gross said they had 81 sworn officers and civilians in the department who have tested positive for the disease, and at the moment there are 46

still out fighting COVID. However, several others have recovered and returned to work.

“We have people that are so committed - they go through COVID and heal and get back to work because they know it will take everyone to defeat this disease,” he said. “That’s inspiring.”

One of those inspirations was Officer Omar Borges, who works the citywide drug unit, who recovered from a very serious case of COVID-19 last week. In a very emotional moment, he was reunited with his family and fellow officers outside Beth Israel Hospital. It was a victory, said Gross.

“He almost died, he really almost died,” said Gross. “For him to fight through that, to be there with his friends, family and the medical staff, it was a victory for everyone. It shows everyone to never give up...It sends a great message to do everything we can to remain healthy and even if you’re in the hospital battling this disease, you can come out of it.”

At the same time, they remember Officer Fontanez who did not win his battle with COVID-19, and that’s a reminder for officers to be safe and to do things to help

them in the field.

Gross said at the outset of the response, Mayor Martin Walsh met with the Police Command Staff, Boston EMS and Boston Fire to review all of the guidelines and protocols and systems recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). That resulted in two videos put out to those in the field on how to approach many situations, and the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) they would need.

Gross said officers now report to calls in masks, and are advised to wear them when off-duty as well when they cannot socially distance themselves. Having a mask on, though, can present a problem when trying to communicate with others in critical situations.

“It’s very much kind of standard for us,” he said. “Every call we go to now, we have out masks

and make sure everybody is clearly communicating. It’s tough to talk though the masks and people cannot always hear you.”

There are a lot of precautions also taken on calls. Police officers are one group that is discreetly given the addresses of those who have tested positive for COVID-19 so they can be aware of that if they are called to such an address. The information doesn’t go out over the police radio, and no names are attached to the warning.

Meanwhile, they’ve also brought out an old practice known as ‘Call Screening.’ If someone calls 9-1-1 and only needs a police report for the matter - not a response - calltakers can do the report over the phone. It’s something that used to be done years ago, and was brought back to limit unnecessary interactions in person. That has been one change in response, and has been working successfully so far.

Gross said another thing the public can do is to wear a mask when officers show up at a home, and also be as forthcoming and honest as possible with the 9-1-1 operators. Give good information, and if one is sick with COVID-19, let responding officers know so they can be prepared to safely offer services.

The Commissioner concluded by expressing his thanks to all of the officers and civilians in the department - as well as first responders in the Fire Department and Boston EMS. He also had a heartfelt thank you to the health care workers - who the Boston Police and other first responders thanked with a rolling rally two weeks ago.

“We know what it is to bust your butt working and get no thanks for it,” he said. “This was a sincere thank you to them. Like us, they cannot shelter in place... It was a public display to say thank you.”

## SJC issues updated order regarding State Court operations

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) on Monday issued an updated order, which will be effective May 4, 2020, regarding the operation of Massachusetts state courts and courthouses during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the new order, until at least June 1, 2020, all courts of the Commonwealth will continue to be open to conduct court business, but courthouses will continue to be closed to the general public, except where entry is required to address emergency matters that cannot be addressed virtually (by telephone, video-conference, email, or comparable means, or through the electronic filing system).

Jury trials in both criminal and civil cases in state courts are postponed to a date no earlier than July 1, 2020. All bench trials, in both criminal and civil cases are postponed to a date no earlier than June 1, unless they may be conducted virtually by agreement of the parties and of the court. The new order also extends various deadlines.

Monday’s SJC order also directs Trial Court departments to identify categories of non-emergency matters that they will attempt to address virtually, where

it is practicable to do so, and to provide clear guidance to the public and members of the bar regarding what those categories will be by posting periodic notices to the judiciary’s COVID-19 webpage. The SJC and Appeals Court will continue to conduct oral arguments virtually in non-emergency matters.

All court clerks', registers', and recorder's offices shall continue to conduct court business -- to accept the filing of pleadings and other documents in emergency and identified non-emergency matters, to schedule and facilitate hearings, to issue orders, to answer questions from attorneys, litigants, and the general public, and to conduct other necessary business of the respective court. All such business will be conducted virtually, except when the filing of pleadings and other documents in emergency matters cannot be accomplished virtually.

All orders, standing orders, guidelines, and notices issued by any court department or appellate court in response to the pandemic, as well as all amendments, modifications, and supplements are posted upon issuance on the judiciary’s COVID-19 webpage.



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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

# MSPCA Angell finds ways to care for animals while protecting humans

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The MSPCA-Angell Adoption Center and Angell Animal Medical Center in Jamaica Plain remain open for animal care and adoptions during the COVID-19 pandemic, but some changes and adjustments have been made to ensure the safety of MSPCA employees and visitors.

The Gazette spoke with Michael Keiley, Director of Adoption Centers and Programs at MSPCA-Angell, about some of these changes.

On the adoption side, Keiley said one of the most challenging things they have faced is not having the ability to have people walk through the center to view the animals, as people are allowed in only by appointment so as to comply with social distancing guidelines.

He said that appointment-on-

ly is “not our typical approach. There was still a strong desire for people to still come in and see the animals.” So the MSPCA decided to do a live video tour on Facebook each day so interested people can see what animals were available for adoption, in an effort to recreate the typical experience of people coming in to the center to interact with the animals.

“People can see the animals each day; people could ask questions,” he said of the live video. “It worked really well compared to our normal advertisement, which is usually just pictures and descriptions. That live tour component really made it so people were still well connected.”

He said that there have been “a lot of adoptions”—over 300 since March 14, which is when he said they marked the start of the outbreak. “Because we have gotten so much success, there are

a smaller number of animals in our building,” he added.

He said that the number of surrenders is also down, which he attributed to the large number of people staying inside. He said that this number is likely to increase.

“We’re doing everything we can in advance,” he said of the adoption process: “interviewing people by phone, telling them background information and sharing information electronically, and limiting the interaction to the point where it is just meeting the animal directly” and figuring out if it’s a good match.

Once a good match is found, the adoption process is completely by phone, where the MSPCA will go over the animal’s medical history with the new owner, as well as address any questions they may have about care.

The MSPCA is requiring ev-

eryone coming into the building to wear a mask, and Keiley said that all staff are using PPE available to the MSPCA.

On the Angell Animal Medical Center side, Keiley said that the emergency room remains open, and primary care appointments must be arranged over the phone. There is also a community outreach program providing affordable access to care. All care given at the medical center is contactless, so owners are not allowed to accompany their pet into the hospital.

Aside from adoptions and medical care, the MSPCA has partnered with several nonprofits and food pantries near its locations to provide food and supplies to owners who are having trouble finding the means to provide them during this time “to make sure that no pets go hungry,” Keiley said.

Over 65,000 meals have been delivered to food pantries and doorsteps so far, Keiley said.

In Jamaica Plain, the MSPCA has partnered with several nonprofits and other groups, including the Mildred Hailey housing complex, to provide pet food.

Additionally, “each of our adoption centers has opened its doors to providing temporary housing for animals whose owners are sick with COVID-19,” Keiley said.

A major focus right now for the MSPCA is to “innovate and adapt as quickly as we possibly can to care for homeless animals and be able to find new homes [for them] during this,” Keiley said “The main mission within the community is to help keep pets safe and keep them with their families as best we can, and to constantly reevaluate and provide services to help maintain that mission.”

## MBTA's RIDE offering transit services to personal care attendants

STAFF REPORT

The MBTA announced that the RIDE paratransit service will temporarily allow customers to book trips for their personal care

attendants (PCAs) in an effort to best support their ADA-eligible customers during the COVID-19 situation.

“This change will allow the MBTA to maintain a vital link between RIDE customers and their PCAs,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. “As we actively monitor the COVID-19 situation, we will continue to make necessary service changes that meet the travel needs of both those who are essential to combating this virus, and, where we can, the needs of those who are the most vulnerable among us.”

A PCA is defined as an individual that provides assistance in performing Activities of Daily

Living (ADLs). ADLs include, but are not limited to, mobility, bathing/grooming, dressing/undressing, passive range-of-motion exercises, taking medications, eating, and toileting. Allowing these bookings ensures that RIDE customers continue to receive the same level of daily support they need to live independent and safe lives.

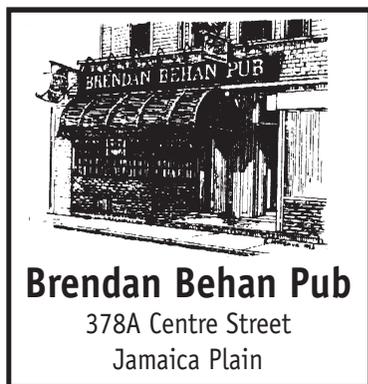
This update is in addition to other temporary RIDE measures already in effect meant to protect the health and safety of T workers and customers, and preserve services for those who must travel for essential purposes. Other temporary RIDE updates include the elimination

of shared RIDE trips, temporarily extending RIDE eligibility and postponing eligibility appointments, adjustments to booking windows, updates to subscriptions, and a reduction in transfer trips. More information on these temporary updates can be found at [mbta.com/theride](http://mbta.com/theride).

In order to book travel for their PCA, RIDE customers should call the RIDE Access Center (TRAC) at 844-427-7433 and inform the agent that the trip is for their PCA. RIDE customers will need to provide the PCA’s name, address, and service needs. PCA trips may only be to or from the RIDE customer’s home address. RIDE customers can pay

for the PCA trip out of the RIDE customer’s account with PCAs also able to deposit funds into a RIDE customer’s account by calling 888-844-0355. The cost of the PCA trip is equal to traditional RIDE fares. Customers will receive their night-prior call back from the RIDE and customers should let their PCAs know of their pick-up time. Arrival notifications will also go to the customer’s phone number.

RIDE service for customer trips will remain the priority. As such, trips for PCAs will be fulfilled only as capacity allows.



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# Equitable Recovery

Continued from page 1

sponse was that they were “too busy” to attend the hearing, but submitted a letter outlining the things they are working on, which Wu read into the record.

“For me, it’s personal,” said City Councilor Julia Mejia. She said she sees these injustices in her family and in her community every day. “It’s not a new conversation. COVID-19 didn’t create these inequalities; they already existed,” she said. She said that families are having trouble accessing culturally appropriate foods, and language barriers have also made it difficult for some families to get access to important information.

“We need to make sure the City of Boston’s recovery efforts are very, very intentional,” Wu said.

Jose Duarte, owner of Taranta restaurant in the North End, testified about how difficult applying for aid has been for his business.

“We went from having a restaurant that was employing 25 employees to shut down completely,” he said, which left him with many bills to still pay. He said he is having “a really hard time going through the unemployment system.”

He said he is “here to think forward,” as employees are afraid and he is worried about reopening and maintaining social distancing in an already tight restaurant space.

“The whole process of applying for the [Paycheck Protection Program] has been a disaster for me,” he said. “I can’t imagine how the other small businesses are finding this help.”

He said that there won’t be much tourism this summer with losing sporting events and the marathon a few weeks ago, so he asked the City Council what could be done to “bring that consumer confidence back to go back to a restaurant.”

Paul Wanatabe, a professor at the University of Massachusetts

Boston, said that “in terms of health care access,” he recognized that Black and Latino communities have been disproportionately impacted, but the Asian American community has been impacted heavily as well.

“Asian-Americans represent only three percent of positive tests in the City of Boston,” he said, but 11 percent of the total deaths in Boston were Asian American people, “almost four times the percentage of positive,” he said. He said this suggests that this points to problems with access to testing in the Asian-American community and are “heading towards death more quickly.”

He also said that the Asian-American community relies heavily on small businesses, and suggested that money be earmarked or targeted for minority businesses, because if it isn’t, “they don’t get any access to it.”

Wanatabe added that many Asian-Americans across the globe and right here in Boston are the subject of Anti-Asian sentiments and violence. “We need to have ways to respond to systematic oppression, systematic injustice, and inequality,” he said.

Segun Idowu, Executive Director of the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, said that “when we invest in Black and minority-owned businesses, the entire economy is saved. If action is not taken, we could see the deepest growth of racial inequity in our time.”

The City Councilors agreed that the pandemic has made more apparent the existing injustices in the City, and want to “double down” on building a stronger infrastructure coming out.

Heather White, CEO and founder of TrillFit studio in Mission Hill, is another small business owner facing financial challenges in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the pandemic, she said that her studio was “welcoming over 1200 people” each month. She has now been able to bring her fitness programs to more than 10,000

people through Zoom since the closing of her studio due to the governor’s order, but she does not charge for any of the content.

This has led to a 40 percent revenue loss, she said, but she felt the need to provide the programs for free so all “Bostonians who need access to health and wellness programming can get it,” she said. “We need Mission Hill to survive. The City needs to invest heavily in small businesses. First come first serve is

not going to work for these minority-owned small businesses.”

Former Senator Dianne Wilkerson said that by holding this hearing, the City Council has demonstrated its “focus and commitment” to an equitable reopening of the City, and also suggested a dedicated fund directed at minority-owned businesses who will not get money through he state or federal processes.

The councilors again addressed their wish for the admin-

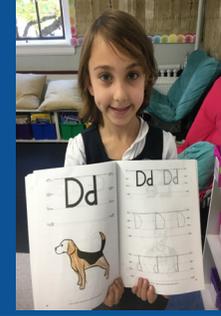
istration to be a part of the conversation, saying that they were preaching to the choir at this hearing about the importance of supporting minority owned businesses. “Their absence was felt in a real way,” Councilor Arroyo said of the administration. Councilor Mejia added, “the people who need to hear it are not here.”

“I feel like we’ve already talked enough,” said Councilor Mejia. “I’m really looking forward to the action pieces of this work.”



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# MISSION HILL MAIN STREETS

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# William Chan receives scholarship from Ace-Mentor program

By DAN MURPHY

A Mission Hill teen was an “easy sell” to receive a scholarship after showing and displaying a strong interest in an after-school program that focuses on the architecture, construction, and engineering fields, according

to the program’s leader.

William Chan, a senior at the John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science in Roxbury, was among 30 high school students awarded a financial scholarship that will be awarded over four years during a March 11 “student showcase” sponsored



Courtesy of DPA Communications  
William Chan accompanied by Michael Tecci of Simpson Gumpertz & Heger and president of ACE Mentor Program of Greater Boston.



William Chan and the other 29 recipients of a scholarship this year from the Ace Mentor Program of Greater Boston.

by the Ace Mentor Program of Greater Boston, a local nonprofit that that sponsors an after-school program that provides students in Grades 9 through 12 with an introduction into the industries of architecture, construction and engineering. Through the program, students work with mentors to development a “hypothetical but realistic” building project.

“William really enjoyed being there and taking part in the program so he was an easy sell for a scholarship,” said Mike Tecci, president of the program.

Most recently, Chan completed the Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Engineering program under the tutelage of George Yonke, lead mentor for MEP Group, but he joined the Ace program as a sophomore.

“Not many students participate in the program for three years, and it’s 16 weeks a year, so he probably showed up for 40 sessions,” Tecci said. “That’s a lot of after-school activity.”

Yet throughout this time, Chan’s dedication to and enthusiasm for the program never wa-

vered, according to Tecci.

“William is a really good kid with a deep understanding of the subject matter and someone who digs in, shows up every week, and is dedicated,” Tecci said. “He was always happy to be there and really enjoyed the program.”

“It’s a free after-school program that exposes high school students to things they might not otherwise be ordinarily exposed to, and it’s all stuff that can lead to a rewarding career, whether it’s in the trades or on the design or management side,” said.

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Recycled newspapers can be made into cereal boxes, egg cartons, pencil barrels, grocery bags, tissue paper and many other products, including new newspapers!

# COVID-19 Update

Continued from page 1

(BPHC) as part of its weekly COVID-19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race. Updated results are released on

the BPHC's website on Friday afternoons.

Last week Mayor Martin Walsh announced that residents from Boston neighborhood 'hotspots', who do not have symptoms, will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies in order to evaluate community exposure as part of a Mass General Hospital study.

"We are at war with COVID-19, and overcoming this viral enemy demands knowledge, strategy and intelligence gathering," Dr. Peter Slavin, president of MGH. "A growing body of evidence suggests that many people who have been infected with COVID-19 are asymptomatic, but we don't yet know how prevalent the disease is in our city, in our communities and in our society. Data from this testing in Boston will provide vital clues into the spread of the virus and will help us develop strategies to slow down or stop this invisible foe."

Also, Governor Charlie Baker announced last week an initiative to expand COVID-19 testing at Community Health Centers throughout the city and state.

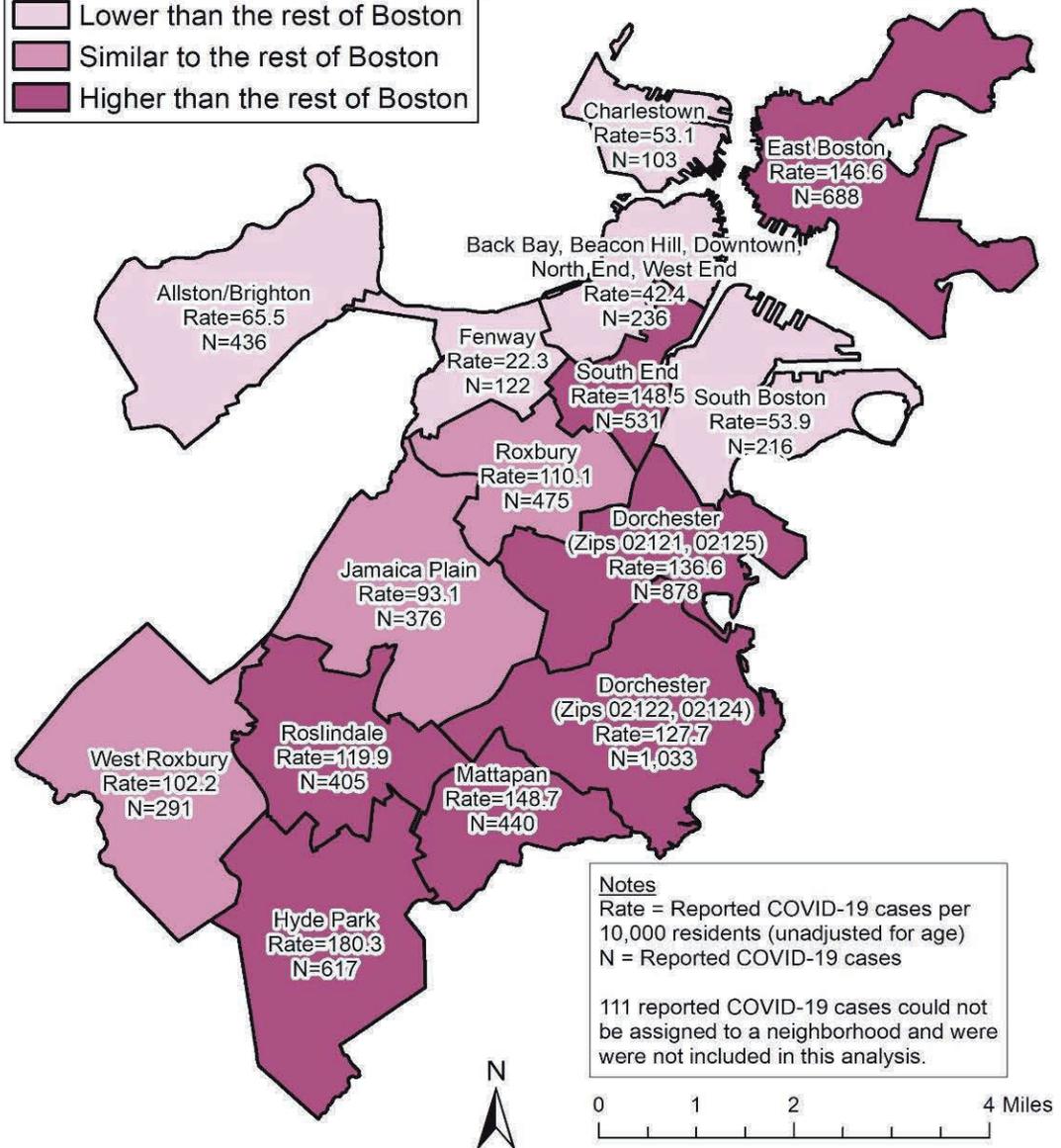
*Shown to the right: A breakdown of COVID-19 testing in Boston.*

NEIGHBORHOOD	NUMBER TESTED	OF TESTED, % POSITIVE
East Boston	1,171	46.8%
Mattapan	873	46.4%
Dorchester - 02121, 02125	1,897	42.4%
Dorchester - 02122, 02124	2,400	39.3%
Roxbury	1,290	36.6%
Hyde Park	1,599	36.3%
Roslindale	1,208	32.9%
West Roxbury	761	32.5%
Jamaica Plain	1,181	30.8%

## COVID-19 rate (unadjusted for age)

- Lower than the rest of Boston
- Similar to the rest of Boston
- Higher than the rest of Boston

**Boston**  
Rate = 102.4 reported cases per 10,000 residents  
N = 6,958 reported cases



DATA SOURCE: Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Surveillance System (January 1, 2020 to April 23, 2020, 4:06pm); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 5-yr estimates (2014-2018)  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research and Evaluation Office

Stats released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) as part of its weekly COVID-19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood.

The announcement will expand this effort in partnership with Quest Diagnostics and the Mass League of Community Health Centers.

Baker said in rolling out increased testing community health centers in areas of high need that have the ability to increase their testing capacities will be prioritized.

Since Friday, Quest Diagnostics has sent over 2,255 kits to community health centers in Boston and Brockton. Quest Diagnostics has committed to ship an additional 5,000 COVID-19 test kits to 12 other community health centers in Boston, Brockton, Lowell, Quincy, Fall River, Provincetown, and Worcester.

# Two men arrested in connection with Halleck Street shooting

By JOHN LYND

Boston police arrested two men last Thursday for allegedly trying to gun down two other men on Halleck Street in Mission Hill.

Dominick Whitlow Douglas, 28, and Tevin Abercrombie, 25, arrested and charged with unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition, carrying a loaded firearm on a public way and possession of a firearm with an altered or defaced serial number.

The incident occurred around 6 p.m. last Thursday when police received reports of shots fired in the area of Halleck Street.

Officers spoke to witnesses on Halleck Street who said the gunshots had come from the area of Station Street, which intersects Halleck.

Witnesses also told police that two suspects, later identified as Douglas and Abercrombie, al-

legedly exited a dark sedan and began shooting at two unknown male victims who were walking on Halleck Street before returning to their vehicle and fleeing the area. Officers searched the area and located ballistic evidence on Station Street, but were unable to locate the suspects or any victims.

Officers continued to canvas the area when they saw a black sedan exit a parking lot on Gurney Street in Mission--two blocks from where the ballistic evidence was found by police. The car matched the description of the vehicle the suspects were allegedly operating before fleeing the area.

Officers activated their emergency equipment and initiated a traffic stop in the area of Smith Street and Parker Street.

Officers removed Douglas and Abercrombie from the vehicle and subsequently located a firearm under the passenger's seat.

## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



### CLIFFORD AND TORY

If you have room in your heart and your home for two buns, you'll know that two is better than one! Clifford is a GIGANTIC chunk of a rabbit who tends to steal the limelight from Tory, who is simply trying to live her best life. They are super sweet and mellow, and looking for a home where they can



have lots of space to hop around and hopefully work off some of those extra pounds! Sound like your kind of colony? Call the shelter to make an adoption appointment today! Email adoption@mspca.com for more information on Clifford and Tory!

For more information about Clifford and Tory and other animals in need of adoption, please contact:



"Gazette Pet of the Week" is a biweekly submission sponsored by Sarah Carroll, Sales Associate of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage  
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# Virtual events coming up at the Boston Public Library

**WHAT:** The Boston Public Library (BPL) is offering the following online events for audiences ranging from babies to seniors. Some events are purely for enjoyment; others are educational or career-oriented; still others are designed for health and fitness.

**WHO:** Established in 1848, the BPL provides educational, cultural, and civic enrichment free to all through its collections, services, programs, and spaces. The BPL hosts thousands of free educational programs and provides free library services online and in-person to millions of people each year. To learn more, visit [bpl.org](http://bpl.org).

**WHY:** "Free to All," the BPL is committed to providing as many resources and as much programming as possible while its locations are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**WHO CAN ATTEND:** Many events are accessible by anyone, anywhere. Some require a library card and/or a personal email account. People who do not have a BPL card can register for one at [www.bpl.org/ecard](http://www.bpl.org/ecard). The events below are categorized by intended audience.

**WHEN:** Friday, May 1 through Thursday, May 7, 2020 as specified below.

**WHERE:** All events can be accessed from the safety and comfort of home. They occur via various online platforms and applications, such as Facebook Live, YouTube, Zoom, Discord, and Twitch. Specifics appear below.

## FOR KIDS

May 4

**Story Time Live on Facebook; 11-11:30AM; Ages 0-5**

Join your favorite librarians from the comfort of your home as we sing, rhyme, move, and read.

[www.facebook.com/BPLchildren](http://www.facebook.com/BPLchildren)

**Livestream Preschool Story Time; 4-4:30PM; Ages 2-5**

Join your favorite librarians from the comfort of your home as we sing, rhyme, move, and read.

[www.facebook.com/bplproslindale](http://www.facebook.com/bplproslindale)

May 5

**Story Time Live on Facebook; 10:30-11AM; Ages 0-5**

Join your favorite librarians from the comfort of your home as we sing, rhyme, move, and read.

[www.facebook.com/BPLchildren](http://www.facebook.com/BPLchildren)

**Toddler Story Time; 11-11:30AM; Ages 1-3**

Join your favorite librarians from the comfort of your home as we

sing, rhyme, move, and read. [www.facebook.com/bplcharles-town](http://www.facebook.com/bplcharles-town)

May 6

**Facebook Live Story Time; 10:30-11AM; Ages 0-5**

Join Ms. Barbara from the comfort of your own home for stories, songs, and finger plays.

[www.facebook.com/bpljamaicainplain](http://www.facebook.com/bpljamaicainplain)

**Sing and Dance with Matt Heaton and Librarian Maija; 11-11:30AM; Ages 0-5**

It's Family Dance Party time. Join us for live music from Matt Heaton and dance moves by Librarian Maija.

[www.facebook.com/BPLchildren](http://www.facebook.com/BPLchildren)

May 7

**Online Story Time; 10:30-11AM; Ages 1-5**

Join children's librarian Caitlin for stories, songs, and movement from the comfort of your own home. You may want a scarf, small towel, or piece of cloth to use for certain songs.

[www.facebook.com/bpleastboston](http://www.facebook.com/bpleastboston)

**Facebook Live: Reader's Corner; 3-3:30PM; Ages 6-12**

Join us for librarian recommendations of e-books and e-audio-books for children and families to enjoy. Ask us questions in the comments, and we may answer them in our next episode.

[www.facebook.com/BPLchildren](http://www.facebook.com/BPLchildren)

**Facebook Live Story Time: PJ Story Time; 6-6:30PM; Ages 1-5**

Let's have a pajama party! Join Librarian Rebecca for a live-streamed Pajama Story Time for toddlers and preschoolers.

[www.facebook.com/BPLchildren](http://www.facebook.com/BPLchildren)

## FOR TEENS

May 4

**Maker Mondays: Part of the BPL's Virtual Teen Room; 2-5PM; Ages 13-18**

Need help scratching that Mak-

er itch during quarantine? Join our Teen Librarians and other teens to take a look at projects of our own design, get ideas for at-home crafts, and learn how to make stuff online. This drop-in event is hosted on the online chat platform Discord, downloadable for free at [discordapp.com](http://discordapp.com). Teens must email [VirtualTeenRoom@bpl.org](mailto:VirtualTeenRoom@bpl.org) before joining the program for the first time.

**Contact Tracing & Privacy for Teens; 3-4PM; Ages 13-18**

What is contact tracing? How does it slow the spread of COVID-19? How does it impact our privacy and security? Teens in grades 6-12 are welcome to join Teen Librarian Maty to learn the answers to these questions and more in our workshop on privacy during a pandemic. The Zoom link will be sent to registered teens prior to the event. Registration required at [bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5e-9f24285ac6772f00102270](http://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5e-9f24285ac6772f00102270).

May 5

**Gamer Tuesdays: Part of the BPL's Virtual Teen Room; 2-5PM; Ages 13-18**

Looking to get good games, or to just get good? Join our Teen Librarians and other teens to discuss the latest releases, trends, and strategies for every system on the map, or participate in some light online gaming. This drop-in event is hosted on the online chat platform Discord, downloadable for free at [discordapp.com](http://discordapp.com). Teens must email [VirtualTeenRoom@bpl.org](mailto:VirtualTeenRoom@bpl.org) before joining the program for the first time.

**The Grimm Escape: A Virtual Escape Room for Teens presented by Puzzle Break;**

4-5:30PM; Ages 13-18

The Boston Public Library has partnered with the escape room company Puzzle Break to transport teens to The Grimm Escape, a 100% virtual escape room experience. Up to 12 teen partic-

ipants will venture together to a fantastic land under a witch's spell. Only by banding together can they hope to break the curse before the land is forever hexed. Designed for novice and experienced escape room enthusiasts alike. The Zoom link will be sent to registered teens prior to the event. Registration required at [bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5ea07b0f2b699a45005bfc2](http://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5ea07b0f2b699a45005bfc2).

May 6

**Anime Wednesdays: Part of the BPL's Virtual Teen Room; 2-5PM; Ages 13-18**

Nande koto da! Iku zo! Join our Teen Librarians and other teens to discuss and share tastes, trends, and experiences with all things anime and manga with certified otaku. This drop-in event is hosted on the online chat platform Discord, downloadable for free at [discordapp.com](http://discordapp.com). Teens must email [VirtualTeenRoom@bpl.org](mailto:VirtualTeenRoom@bpl.org) before joining the program for the first time.

May 7

**Jackbox Thursdays: Part of the BPL's Virtual Teen Room; 2-5PM; Ages 13-18**

Want a little more funny in your bones? Join our Teen Librarians and other teens live during BPL Teen Service's weekly Jackbox Twitch stream. Come laugh with us from the comfort and safety of your home.

[www.twitch.tv/BPLts](http://www.twitch.tv/BPLts)

**JP Teen Tarot Online; 3-4:30PM; Ages 13-18**

Join JP Teens online for Tarot 101 with Jenn M. We'll discuss the different cards in a 101 workshop, followed by a group reading. Space is limited to 10 teens in grades 6 through 12. Meeting details will be shared with confirmed participants. Registration required at [bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5ea73d2e9aad-373a0089b630](http://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5ea73d2e9aad-373a0089b630).

Continued on page 11

## Angell is Open! Providing Essential Veterinary Services



**EMERGENCY SERVICES & URGENT CARE** Boston & Waltham are open 24/7. Our primary care & specialty services are available for patients with non-life threatening but urgent issues. **617-522-7282**

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**PHARMACY** Prescriptions for Angell patients are available by curbside pick-up or mail (shipping fees apply). Submit prescription requests at [angell.org/pharmacy](http://angell.org/pharmacy) or call **617-524-5700**.

**REFERRAL SERVICES** We are now welcoming a limited number of referral cases in Boston & Waltham.

For more information, please visit [angell.org/COVID](http://angell.org/COVID) or call **617-522-7282**.

**angell**  
animal medical center

[angell.org](http://angell.org)

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# Emerald Necklace Conservancy, local composer look 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 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 Neck-

lace 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 creation of the Jamaica Pond, 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."

## BPL events

Continued from page 10

### ADULT PROGRAMS

May 5

**Lunch Break Yoga; 12-12:30PM; Ages 18+ (Ages 13-18 also welcome)**

Join us for a live-streamed gentle yoga class from Hands to Heart Center (HTHC). You can expect a beginner-level 30-minute yoga flow, with plenty of options and modifications for all bodies and ability levels. If you're unable to tune in live, visit HTHC's YouTube channel for recorded sessions.

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCs-J5vreTeNxQ86s7fZtwbJQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs-J5vreTeNxQ86s7fZtwbJQ)

May 6

**Ask a Pediatrician: Parenting in the COVID Era; 3-3:45PM; Ages 20+**

Modern parenting is difficult enough, but COVID-19 presents new and difficult barriers to child education, health, and safety. This forum allows families to talk with pediatricians from local hospitals through an interactive online session. This session will focus on positive parenting, behavioral issues, and media use during the pandemic. Email your related questions or concerns in advance to [lkoenig@bpl.org](mailto:lkoenig@bpl.org).

ADULT LEARNING

May 4

**Envisioning The Route: On Poetic Imagination; 6:30-8PM; Ages 20+**

City of Boston Poet Laureate Porsha Olayiwola leads this playful and generative writing workshop inspired by Italo Calvino's lecture on visibility and using work from Kevah Akbar, Sarah Borjas, and Brigit Pegeen Kelly. The session will call for participants to exercise their imaginations to find the route to a poem, its content and its form. Registration required at [bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5e9094d-7d77e552400928831](http://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5e9094d-7d77e552400928831).

May 6

**Online Intermediate ESL Class; 1-2PM; Ages 20+**

This class will provide time to practice speaking and listening. Each week, participants will discuss a new topic, and the teacher will provide instruction on the reading, vocabulary, and writing parts of the lesson to do at home. For more information and to register for the class, contact the instructor at [jyoung@bpl.org](mailto:jyoung@bpl.org), or call 617-859-2446.

May 7

**Online ESL Reading and Discussion Class; 11AM-12PM; Ages 20+**

This class is designed for adult English Language Learners with

some English experience. We will read aloud a news article or short story, review new vocabulary from the reading, and discuss the

article/story content. To register, please email [mtheroux@bpl.org](mailto:mtheroux@bpl.org) or [literacyservices@bpl.org](mailto:literacyservices@bpl.org), or leave a message at 617-859-2446.

For the full list of events, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/BPLvirtualevents>



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# Women's Lunch Place Mother's Day cards support healthy meals for women

By LAUREN BENNETT

Women's Lunch Place is offering to make this Mother's Day a little brighter, while gathering much-needed funds to support meals for its guests.

Women's Lunch Place, a day shelter located on Newbury St. for women experiencing poverty and homelessness, provides women with freshly prepared meals, hot showers, laundry, and a place to nap.

Each year for the past ten years, Women's Lunch Place has offered Mother's Day cards with a design by one of its guests in the Creative Expressions program—all with a floral theme. For a \$25 donation, cards can be

sent to a recipient of your choice with a personalized handwritten message, and blank cards are also available.

"Each card supports one week of meals for guests," said Chloe Kimball, Development Coordinator for Women's Lunch Place. Another option is to sponsor a breakfast for \$150 or lunch for \$300 "in honor or memory of a meaningful person in your life," according to the Women's Lunch Place website.

This year's design features a yellow background with a blue vase full of brightly colored flowers on long stems, drawn by guest Donna.

Kimball said that each card comes with the designer's story

printed on the back, so recipients can "hear who designed it and what struggles they've had to overcome."

Kimball said that Donna had recently started coming to Women's Lunch Place when she was staying in a nearby shelter and had heard about the healthy, fresh meals that Women's Lunch Place provides.

She said that Donna became really involved in the Creative Expressions program, which gives women the opportunity to express themselves through things like art, painting, photography, and more. Donna is also part of the Women's Lunch Place Women's Chorus.

Each year, women in the Cre-



The 2020 Women's Lunch Place Mother's Day card

ative Expressions program are invited to submit a design for the Mother's Day Cards. Kimball said that about 20 submissions were received this year, and the final decision is made by the Arts Director and some of Women's Lunch Place's administrative staff.

She said they look for a design that is "new and fun," and while the design is floral themed, it doesn't always have to include a vase full of flowers.

"Right now, this campaign is really important because a lot of our other fundraisers have been cancelled," Kimball said. "It's a great way for people to support us during these times."

She said that implementing programs like these to do more outreach is imperative for Women's Lunch Place to be able to

continue to provide these important services to women experiencing homelessness.

Women's Lunch Place continues to provide its healthy meals to guests, but it has switched from its typical sit down dining experience to a take-out meal process due to COVID-19.

"Each day we are providing a nutritious breakfast and lunch with extra snacks to sustain our guests," the Women's Lunch Place website states. "Toiletries, underwear and basic necessities are available. Our advocates are checking in with elderly and shut in guests and delivering pantry baskets of food and supplies."

The deadline for ordering cards for delivery by Mother's Day is May 4, but e-cards are also available. To place an order, visit [womenslunchplace.org/mothers-day](http://womenslunchplace.org/mothers-day).

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## Critical resources on COVID-19 available in Spanish for construction workers

Critical resources for construction workers who are confronting the coronavirus pandemic at work are now available in Spanish on a new website created by the state's largest construction labor union group.

Construction is the sixth largest employment sector in the U.S. economy and many job sites remain active during the pandemic. The Massachusetts Building Trades Council (MBTC) has made its COVID-19 Resource Center available in Spanish to ensure even more workers and their families have the information they need to mitigate chances of getting infected or spreading the virus while at work. The Council had previously called for a moratorium on all non-essential statewide construction, but feels it is critical for workers who do continue laboring on construction sites to have the knowledge needed to protect themselves

to the greatest degree possible. "There are many tradesmen and tradeswomen whose primary language is Spanish, and it's crucial that the same information is available to them as it is to everyone else," said MBTC President Frank Callahan. "We want to ensure that everyone who makes a living on a construction site learns how to stay safe and how to protect themselves and their families during this time of uncertainty." The global pandemic has disproportionately impacted communities of color, including communities with a high percentage of residents whose primary language is Spanish, such as Chelsea. The Spanish-language Coronavirus Resource Center created by the Massachusetts Building Trades Council can be found at: <https://massbuildingtrades.org/coronavirus-best-practices-for-building-trades-unions-esp/>.

# As revenues drop, city budget leaders adjust to losses

BY SETH DANIEL

One of the bread and butter cash flow generators for cities and towns throughout Massachusetts – including the City of Boston – is local excise taxes on things like hotel rooms and meals, but with the crash of those industries due to COVID-19, City Budget team members are keeping a close eye on what money is coming in.

Boston by and large is the big-

gest benefactor for excise taxes in the state, bringing in many millions of dollars every quarter towards the City's General Fund – making up about 5 percent of the total revenues annually.

This week, the state Department of Revenue (DOR) released third quarter numbers – which featured the most recent local taxes from January to March 31, capturing only a portion of the COVID-19 hit.

For Boston's hotels, there was a drop of nearly \$20 million be-

tween the second quarter and third quarter – going from \$38.8 million to \$19.68 million. Meals Taxes were down about \$1 million between quarters.

However, City Budget Director Justin Skerritt said those numbers aren't really off as revenues are cyclical and the third quarter is usually slow. So it is that this year's third quarter is actually higher than the third quarter in 2019 by \$3 million.

That said, it is the current months the City is worried about,

and they can already see that with restaurants, hotels, airport flights and car purchases shuttered or slowed tremendously – they can expect a major hit come June 30 (when the fourth quarter ends).

"We're clearly seeing a decrease in excise taxes," said Skerritt this week. "Meals, motor vehicles, hotels and the biggest one is aircraft fuel. Fuel taxes on flights in and out of Logan Airport are way down. These areas are all hitting us hard right now. Losing tens of millions of dollars between March and June, that is something we are monitoring and it's a significant decline in our revenue projections."

For the Fiscal Year 2021 budget, he said they have already downgraded their revenue predictions in this area by \$30 million. That said, he said Boston is fortunate in that they were in a very good financial position before COVID-19, allowing much more of a cushion than for cities and towns on less certain footing.

Going forward, there is significant revenue that will not be there. Already, they have lost usual tax revenues from surges of visitors for the Boston Marathon, NCAA sports games, and the numerous college graduations. Coming up after June, it will be uncertain as to whether tourists will vacation here as they normally do, and how restaurants and the airport will operate in a new normal.

"Two questions we'll have is when do the public health restrictions lift, and what does business as usual mean now," he said. "What will businesses and hotels and restaurants be able to do post COVID-19. It's definitely one of the things on our minds."

Those revenues for all excise

taxes, he said, make up about \$200 million per year and 5 percent of the budget – but it's money that is predictable and that had been on the increase before mid-March.

"It's a small, but important, piece," he said.

Budget officials aren't as concerned about Real Estate taxes as other communities in the Commonwealth have been, Skerritt said. Tax bills for the third quarter have already been extended to June 1. Property taxes, in general, are relatively low compared to other municipalities, and they have been predictable since the 1980s.

"We're definitely watching it, but we're not concerned," he said. "We have a 99 percent collection rate on property taxes. We think it will continue. Property taxes in Boston are relatively low compared to Greater Boston."

One thing that will change is borrowing on the open markets.

Typically, the City goes out to the open market in the spring to sell General Obligation Bonds, with the proceeds of those sales paying for the Capital Budget. That includes park renovations, and infrastructure improvements and other amenities. This year, COVID-19 has rendered the long-term municipal bond market essentially closed.

Skerritt said they would likely be holding off on their usual spring bonding because of the instability of the markets.

"The long-term market is definitely in flux and liquid," he said. "We have not moved forward with our next bond issuance, but we are going to look at it later on. We will go to market some time in calendar year 2020, but we'll watch how things go and won't go out until the market has rebounded."

## Moratorium on evictions and foreclosures signed into law

STAFF REPORT

On Monday, April 20th, Beacon Hill established a full moratorium on evictions and foreclosures, providing some of the strongest protections in the nation for renters, homeowners, and small business owners who have been harmed by the COVID-19 crisis. The legislation, which prohibits all non-essential evictions and foreclosures and provides mortgage forbearance and additional tenant protections, was passed by the Massachusetts House of Representatives and State Senate Friday afternoon and signed by Governor Baker on Monday.

"Ensuring people have safe, reliable housing throughout this crisis is one of the most important things we can do to flatten the curve and save lives right now," said Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz (D-Boston). "This bill will help keep renters, small businesses, and homeowners alike safe and healthy during this crisis. A huge thank you to the dedicated coalition of advocates, including CityLife/Vida Urbana, Massachusetts Communities Action Network, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, and many others, who fought for such a strong, comprehensive bill. This was also the result of a lot of hard work from many throughout the Legislature, especially Speaker Robert DeLeo, Senate President Karen Spilka, Rep. Kevin Honan, Rep. Mike Connolly, Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Rep. Nika Elugardo, Rep. Liz Malia, Sen. Brendan Crighton, and Sen. Jo Comerford."

"An Act Providing for a Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures During the COVID-19 Emergency launches Massachusetts to the forefront of COVID-19 housing justice response," said Representative Nika Elugardo (D-Boston).

"I am so proud of my House and Senate colleagues and leadership for fighting on behalf of both residential and commercial tenants, as well as homeowners, to help ensure no one will be evicted or foreclosed upon as a result of this crisis. While this bill goes far, protecting against negative credit reporting and providing forbearance for COVID-impacted mortgages, we have so much more to do to help everyone stay in their homes after the crisis transitions. This bill and the advocacy surrounding it form a foundation for the next bold steps required by the Massachusetts Legislature to ensure housing justice for all residents. Our delegation is committed to continuing the fight for housing justice for all. Thank you to the advocates in our district and across the state who will continue the struggle with us."

"These strengthened tenant and small landlord protections were a necessary buffer in the middle of a public health emergency and unprecedented economic crisis," said Representative Liz Malia (D-Boston). "Thanks to our community partners; legislative leaders, especially Chair Honan, Rep. Connolly; and colleagues in the Administration for their work on this. It is one small step of many that we will take together to help keep people safe and sheltered during the course of this disastrous disease."

"Community groups led by City Life and other community, housing, and union groups did a major organizing effort to help move the Legislature to pass the Eviction and Foreclosure Moratorium bill," said Lew Finfer, Co-Director of Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN). "We thank the Legislature for stepping up on this. It will give people at least 4 months protection from eviction and foreclosure and also protects

small businesses from foreclosure. Next step is another bill on helping tenants with rent subsidies so they can afford their rents after the moratorium ends."

Since Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency on March 10, over 600 eviction cases have been filed in Massachusetts housing courts. This law will block eviction proceedings at every stage of the process, including preventing those cases from proceeding and barring future filings. The moratorium prohibits landlords from sending tenants a Notice to Quit, prevents courts from hearing eviction cases or entering judgements, and prevents the enforcement of any judgements by sheriffs or constables. Small business owners are included in those protected from non-essential evictions.

The law also provides additional protections for tenants and homeowners. It prevents landlords from issuing late fees to tenants and negative reports to credit agencies if rent is not paid on time, provided that the missed payment stemmed from a COVID-19-related financial hardship and the tenant notifies the landlord of such within 30 days. For homeowners, mortgage lenders must provide mortgage forbearance for up to 180 days if they submit a request demonstrating financial hardship as result of COVID-19.

The moratorium does not apply to evictions involving allegations of criminal activity or in situations where a tenant has violated the lease in a way that is harmful to public health or public safety. It also does not constitute a rent or mortgage freeze.

As enacted, the moratorium will last for 120 days, or 45 days past the end of the State of Emergency, whichever comes first.

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## EDITORIAL

# Allowing the states to go bankrupt is a really bad idea

One of the most glaring shortcomings thus far of the stimulus and disaster packages that have been passed by Congress in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been the failure to provide assistance to the states.

Every state in the nation is seeing its revenues plummet to never-before-experienced depths. However, of the trillions of dollars thus far appropriated by Congress, there is barely a penny for state government operations -- and by extension, municipalities -- which are carrying the battle against the pandemic on the front lines.

The states thus are caught in an ever-tightening vise of plunging tax revenues on the one hand and skyrocketing costs on the other.

Despite the obvious squeeze on state budgets, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell last week commented, in response to a question about whether the Congress soon would be aiding the states, that he believed it would be preferable for states and municipalities to declare bankruptcy than for the federal government to provide needed funding to close their budget gaps.

It is hard to fathom why somebody of McConnell's stature would make such a statement, other than to give voice to the general Republican creed that disdains government operations at all levels. In particular, the GOP has immense dislike for what it considers to be overly-generous pension plans for state and municipal union employees.

However, the reason why states are in such desperate fiscal trouble these days has nothing to do with their pension or budget policies, but specifically is linked to the coronavirus, which has had a devastating financial impact on every facet of commerce, including state budgets.

Questions regarding the pension plans of the states as a contributor to their overall fiscal soundness certainly can be debated, but this is not the time to do so amidst this unprecedented crisis.

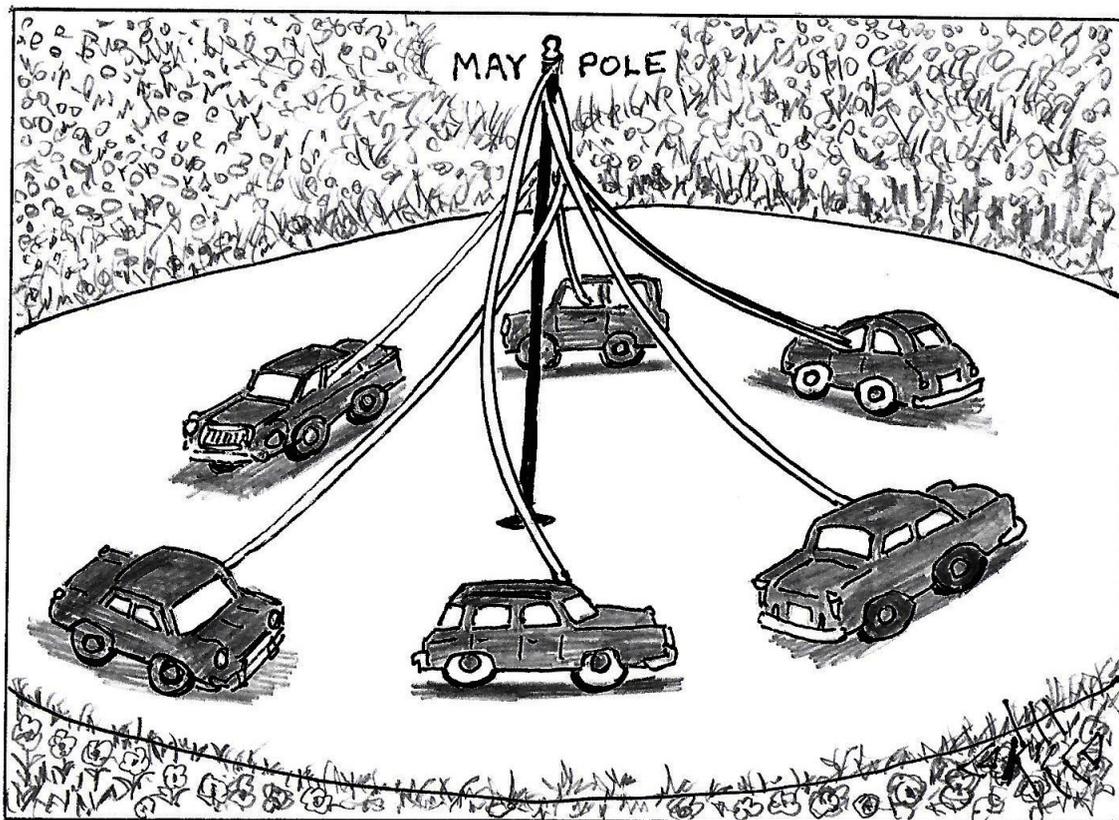
State and municipal governments across the country provide the first line of response for every American in protecting our health and welfare, so it makes no sense to allow states and municipalities to fail in this mission at this critical juncture amidst a pandemic that threatens to extend for many months.

In addition, without funding from the federal government, state and local governments will be forced to make layoffs of police, firefighters, teachers, and others in order to balance their budgets, a situation that will exacerbate even further the national unemployment rate.

Finally, the effect on the bond market from a plethora of state and municipal bankruptcies could have far-reaching and long-lasting negative effects for the country and the economy.

In short, there is nothing good that can come out of state and municipal bankruptcies at this time; but there is a lot that is bad.

Mitch McConnell's opinions are a grotesque perversion of responsible government. Hopefully, the rest of the Congress will not go along with his extreme and destructive ideas.



THE SAFE WAY...TO CELEBRATE MAY DAY

## OP-ED

# Emergency care has not been put on hold; if you need medical assistance, seek help

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

During this public health emergency, many of us are feeling stressed and anxious. Days are uncertain and our routines have shifted. Many people are working remotely, or have lost their jobs. Students are learning online. Many of our favorite events have been canceled. For some time now, I have urged you to follow many precautions like staying home, covering your face when outside, and not visiting friends and family. But, one thing has not changed and should not change: if you are experiencing an emergency, please call 9-1-1 for help. Boston EMS and our emergency rooms are ready to help you.

In anticipation of Boston's surge in COVID-19 cases, we have been doing our part to not overwhelm our emergency departments. We are asking individuals to call their primary care provider or 3-1-1 if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have any health-related questions. You can also visit [buoyhealth.com/mass](http://buoyhealth.com/mass) for an online screening of COVID-19 symptoms. But, life-threatening emergencies like difficulty breathing or pain or pressure in the chest should be addressed immediately by calling 9-1-1.

Boston EMS will provide you the necessary pre-hospital care

and transport you to the nearest emergency department if needed. Hospitals have seen dramatic decreases in health emergencies, like heart attacks, strokes and appendicitis. Even though coronavirus is a new challenge, that does not mean other health challenges are less present. Please do not delay getting life-saving care because of fear of getting coronavirus. Go to the emergency room if you think you are in need of emergency care. Our hospitals in Boston have been taking many steps to ensure safety and cleanliness, and they have space for you.

Every day we are planning and responding to reduce the further spread of coronavirus. One piece of this has been increasing hospital capacity. We know it is important to be ready to treat as many people as possible, and not just for COVID-19. We must also help front line workers, like our medical professionals, first responders, grocery store employees, public servants and sanitation workers, stay healthy by practicing our guidelines: staying home as much as possible, covering your face when outside your home, keeping at least 6 feet of distance from other people, washing your hands frequently, and disinfecting frequently-touched surfaces.

I know it's a hard adjustment, and it seems like this has been

going on for much longer than it has. But this virus will not stop spreading if everyone follows our guidelines. I want to thank everyone who has been avoiding gatherings and wearing a face covering when they go outside. I know it's not always comfortable or easy to do, especially as we move into warmer weather. Your actions will directly help save lives. To those of you ignoring these guidelines, I urge you to reflect on the consequences of your actions. Is ignoring these guidelines worth risking the lives of your friends, family and neighbors? We can overcome this, but we have to work together.

The City of Boston will continue to take the proper steps to respond to this crisis in a comprehensive way. This is a difficult time for everyone around the world. It's okay to feel stressed. We will get through this together by following the public health guidelines, working together and supporting each other, one day at a time.

For more information on Boston's COVID-19 response, please visit [boston.gov/coronavirus](http://boston.gov/coronavirus) or text BOSCOVID to 888-777 to receive text alerts on a regular basis, available in 11 languages. For non-emergency questions, please call 3-1-1.

Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.

The opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

## Mission Hill GAZETTE

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Patricia DeOliveira  
Advertising Manager

Sandra Storey  
Founder/Publisher Emerita 1993-2011

Seth Daniel, Reporter  
[seth@reverejournal.com](mailto:seth@reverejournal.com)

Lauren Bennett, Reporter  
[lauren@thebostonsun.com](mailto:lauren@thebostonsun.com)

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Stephen Quigley, President [stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com](mailto:stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com)

Debra DiGregorio, Director of Marketing [ads@jamaicaplaingazette.com](mailto:ads@jamaicaplaingazette.com)

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## OP-ED

### Science matters

By JACK CLARKE

Either science matters or it doesn't. Policy makers can't have it both ways and selectively apply it only when it advances a political agenda.

Science should inform and drive public policy not the other way around - this is especially true when it comes to the health of the American people.

In the case of the coronavirus pandemic and the climate change crisis, nowhere is the advancement of science more important. Lives depend on its accuracy, use and availability.

According to NASA scientists, 97 percent or more of published climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are "likely due to human activities." Yet the President calls it a hoax and, along with many in Congress, refuses to believe the science. On the national level, denying what science teaches us about the short and long-term consequences of climate change will have dire consequences for this and future

generations.

Scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) tell us that failure to take the climate emergency seriously now will result in lives lost as sea level rise accelerates, storms get stronger, droughts and fires increase, and the days get hotter. This fact is also acknowledged by scientists in many other federal agencies, including the Defense Department.

While America and the world grapples with the coronavirus, climate scientists and health experts forecast threats from additional infectious diseases spurred on by rising temperatures.

Mosquito-driven illnesses like dengue fever, West Nile, and Zika will become more common this century, they warn us, as the insects that transmit them expand their habitat range.

The World Health Organization (WHO) predicts that between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately a-quarter-million additional deaths per year world-wide from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea

and heat stress. And, as we are seeing from the coronavirus, no one is immune from illnesses once thought of as exotic.

With the prospect of those diseases appearing in the US, we need to start addressing the public health emergency of climate change and limit the spread of these afflictions - and we're not.

Dr. Kristie Ebi, a climate and public health scientist at the University of Washington and an IPCC contributor says she's "worried we're not prepared" - She's not the only one.

"The Lancet," a journal that "make(s) science widely available so that medicine can serve, and transform society," recently launched its "Countdown" project to provide an independent, global scientific monitoring system tracking the health dimensions of climate change. It views climate change as this century's "biggest public health threat."

As with the coronavirus, we are all vulnerable to the public health impacts of climate change. Some, however, are more vulnerable than others and minority communities, pregnant women,

children and the elderly will suffer disproportionately.

Unfortunately, as with climate change, the White House disregarded the science of medical experts from at home and around the world who predicted the current pandemic and it wasted January and February playing down the threat from the new virus.

Like the science of climate change, the President called the pandemic a political hoax, even though medical science informed the WHO's decision to declare the outbreak a global public health emergency at the end of January. The White House was informed of its potential consequences on January 5th.

Now, America's confirmed cases of Covid-19 are unnecessarily the highest in the world with nearly 800,000 infected and 42,500 dead - thousands of which could likely have been prevented if the science was taken seriously.

The World Economic Forum recently recognized the relationship between the climate change crisis and coronavirus and reported that a "global-to-local re-

sponse and long-term thinking" is needed with responses guided by science and "the political will to make fundamental changes when faced with (these) risks."

"The Nation" magazine recently referred to the pandemic as a "dress rehearsal" for what we can expect with the impending impacts of climate change.

Climate author David Wallace-Wells calls it a "sobering preview" of what is to come if we continue to ignore the science of climate change.

Whatever it is, we're not prepared for it.

Believing or not believing the science can be a life or death situation, as we see now. We ignore and downplay its legitimacy and conclusions, at our own and our children's peril.

When it comes to climate change and the public's health, it's time to act.

*Jack Clarke is the director of public policy and government relations at Mass Audubon.*

## OP-ED

### Fighting for the frontline

By MAURA HEALEY

More than 300,000 health care workers and first responders in Massachusetts have stepped up to the frontlines in the battle against COVID-19. They suit up in scrubs or uniforms, leave the comfort of their homes, and put their lives at risk to keep us, our families, friends, and neighbors safe. We have an obligation to do everything we can to make sure they have access to the support they need during a time when they are sacrificing so much. That's why my office has launched FrontlineMA.org—a one-stop shop for frontline workers to get the information on resources they need during this crisis.

From Pittsfield to Provincetown, and from Newburyport to New Bedford, our frontline workers are putting in countless hours to combat this pandemic. Thankfully, many businesses, state agencies, and individuals have stepped up to help pro-

vide housing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and meals to make lives easier for them. This website provides a centralized place to get information on those resources.

For health care workers who may be exposed and can't be with their families, we've compiled resources for alternative housing so they can have a place to stay and minimize the risks for their families in case they become infected.

For parents who are working essential jobs and are struggling to find a safe place for their kids, we've put everything in one place to ensure they can continue to access childcare.

And to protect our heroes and honor people like Officer Jose Fontanez, who lost his life to COVID-19 while keeping our communities safe, we're working with stakeholders to secure PPE. I encourage health care facilities and providers, police and fire departments, and state and county agencies to consult the

resources we've put together to get first responders and frontline workers the protective gear and information they need.

We've also compiled details on priority testing sites, tips for self-care, guidance on self-isolation and quarantine, and a list of free and discounted meals so that our health care workers, first responders, and their families can stay informed, safe, and healthy.

In addition to providing frontline workers with essential information, we want to make sure they know how much our communities appreciate and support them. That's why we created a Hero Wall where people can post pictures and send messages to thank our heroes and our frontline workers can share their own messages. I encourage everyone to post pictures of their sidewalk chalk or window art, or just a kind note, to say thank you to our nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders. Throughout the site, you'll see

opportunities to chip in, by providing a meal or two, providing a safe place for workers to stay in between shifts, volunteering, or donating PPE.

Just like all of us, I'm thankful for our frontline workers who bravely show up and risk their lives every day to combat this pandemic and keep us safe.

We're grateful for our partners at HubSpot and IDEO who helped make this website possible, and for the invaluable input from healthcare providers and police and fire associations in making sure this website is the most effective for our frontline. We'll continue to update it as new information becomes available.

To our frontline workers, please use FrontlineMA.org as a resource during this battle. And to everyone else, stay home, stay safe, and thank a hero.

MAURA HEALEY IS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MASSACHUSETTS.

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# Baker extends stay at home advisory, closure of non-essential businesses until May 18

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Governor Charlie Baker on Tuesday afternoon extended the stay at home advisory and closure of non-essential businesses until May 18. The original order was set to expire on May 4.

Additionally, Baker extended the ban on gatherings of 10 or more people until May 18.

"I know pushing these dates back a couple of weeks is probably not what many people want to hear," Baker said at Tuesday's press conference, but he said that there are "risks associated with going back too soon."

He said that the measures the state has taken so far with the stay at home advisory and increased testing, among other things, have helped to flatten the curve in the Commonwealth. He added that while hospitalization rates have begun to plateau, they have not yet started to fall with the intensity that would suggest a serious decrease in cases. In order to reopen the state, Baker said the data has to be looked at closely.

"We're moving in the right

direction with respect to the virus, but we are not where we need to be," Baker said. "These mechanisms all need to remain in place."

He thanked the people of Massachusetts for "playing their part" in limiting the spread of the virus. He said he recognizes how difficult the state's decisions have been on people and families. "People have lost jobs, their careers, and in some cases businesses they have worked on for years," he said.

But "since we've acted, we've avoided the humanitarian crisis we've seen...elsewhere around the world," he said.

The Baker-Polito administration also announced the creation of a 17-member reopening advisory board that will work together on a plan to reopen the state.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito said that government officials, industry employees, and customers "will need to work together for this to be successful." She said that Massachusetts is "recognized as a leader in people taking personal responsibility" for social distancing.

"The board will bring a range of perspectives, including an understanding of workplaces and workforces, including insights" into things like education, local governance, manufacturing, and transportation.

She said it will be "a lot of listening" to main streets businesses and other small businesses, as well as metro mayors and local government officials statewide, and the 17 member board will be comprised of three public health officials, 11 leaders from businesses, including transportation secretary Stephanie Pollock.

"Their insight is key," Polito said. "A lot of the decisions we will make need to be enforced and implemented at the local level."

Baker said the first meeting of the advisory board took place on April 28.

## TESTING INCREASES AND REGULAR HOSPITAL CAPACITY

As of April 28, Massachusetts had 58,302 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 3,153 people had died.

Governor Baker also made several announcements late last week and early this week regarding increases in testing across the state. He said he was "ramping up" a program for testing with Quest Diagnostics in a number of community health centers across the state.

He also said that important factors when analyzing test results are how many people are tested, how many come up positive, and what the ratio between those two numbers looks like.

Baker also talked about the importance of seeking medical care if people are experiencing serious symptoms like chest pain or difficulty breathing. He said that hospitals across the state are equipped to deal with illnesses and conditions not related to COVID-19, such as stroke, cancer, and injuries, and people should not be afraid to go to the hospital if it is necessary to do so.

"If you're not feeling well, if you have an ongoing medical condition, stay in touch with your clinicians," Baker said on April 24. "If you need to go to the hospital, go."

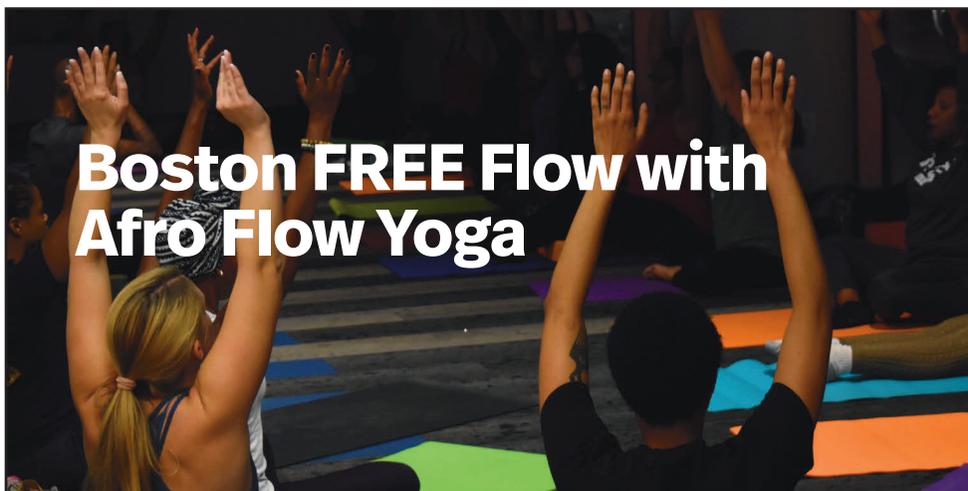
On April 24, Department of Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel returned to Baker's daily press conference to speak about her personal experience with COVID-19. Now recovered, she described her battle with the virus as including fever and muscle aches, but she still worked from home when she felt up to it.

## UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE UPDATE

He said that the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program, which can help people who are self-employed, "gig workers," contractors, or consultants, is up and running.

He said that this system has processed "well over 100,000 claims" as of April 24.

"The platform for traditional unemployment continues to process claims," he added, and checks include the extra \$600 a week from the federal CARES Act. Baker said there were over 650,000 new claims filed since March 15, and the state is paying around 400,000 people so far and is "working through the rest of the claims."



## Boston FREE Flow with Afro Flow Yoga

Northeastern City and Community Engagement and Afro Flow Yoga® invites Boston residents, organizations and groups to join us for a unique experience that includes live music, meditation, yoga and dance, and a unique opportunity to connect with Earth, Sky, and Heart in an inclusive and diverse circle of non-judgement.

Six FREE yoga classes will be held on April 15, April 29, May 13, May 27, June 10 and June 24 at 6pm. Currently, classes will be offered virtually until further notice. All levels and ages are welcome.

Participants must complete a registration, then create a one-time Namastream account.

For more information, visit [northeastern.edu/crossing](http://northeastern.edu/crossing)

## WRITERS' WEEK

MAY 11 - 16, 2020

For Northeastern Writers' Week 2020, join us on the video conference platform Zoom for a week-long virtual celebration of writers from across the globe. This year we will focus on anti-racism and writing as a form of community building.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### One Week, One Goal

May 11 - 16 | 9:00AM - 9:00PM

#### Writing/Righting the World Virtual Mixer

Monday | 6:00 - 8:00PM

#### Revamp Your Career Advancing Tools

Tuesday | 6:00 - 8:00PM

#### Writing as an Act of Service

Wednesday | 6:00 - 8:00PM

#### Peotry as a Lyric Device

Thursday | 6:00 - 8:00PM

#### Language Pieces

Friday | 6:00 - 8:00PM

For more info: [northeastern.edu/crossing](http://northeastern.edu/crossing)

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