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MARCH 27, 2020

CIRCULATION 16,000

Community Servings prepared to keep delivering meals during COVID-19 crisis

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Nonprofit organization Community Servings has an important job on a normal basis, but it has become increasingly vital in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

Community Servings provides nutritious, medically-tailored meals to people with critical and chronic illnesses, and the organi-

zation's team has ramped up its efforts to continue providing this service to its clients.

In a letter posted on the community Servings website, CEO David Waters said, "As a production facility that prepares food for critically and chronically ill neighbors across Massachusetts, we are already operating under the most stringent health and safety measures. Our normal op-

erational guidelines include following the CDC's recommended handwashing instructions, and requiring employees and kitchen volunteers to stay home when feeling unwell.

Our kitchen team and volunteers already wear and change protective gloves throughout the day when preparing and packaging

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

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Throughout the week, Governor Charlie Baker and Mayor Marty Walsh provided updates to the public regarding the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. At press time, Boston had 1838 cases of the virus, and the state has 1159. Fifteen people have died statewide, two of which were Boston residents. Mayor Walsh said that 21 people have made full recoveries.

After several states have issued what they call "shelter in place" or "stay at home" orders, Governor Baker directed the Department of Public Health to issue a stay at home advisory that began Tuesday, March 24th at noon and will

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

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

"This includes community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based events, and any similar event or activity that brings together more than 10 per-

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JP OBSERVER

Needed by local businesses: Gift card buyers!

Financial help!!

BY SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Local businesses, as well as their owners and staff members, are being decimated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Without an influx of financial help, some favorite places in Jamaica Plain that are key parts of our community could be lost this year.

"If ever there were a time

to spend your money locally it would be now," Mary Wallace Collins, recently elected president of the Jamaica Plain Business and Professional Association, wrote last week. "Shuttering a store or business for a couple of days is hard enough, but this amount of time is unprecedented," she said.

Many segments of our society are suffering economically in these days of constant, drastic cutbacks. The federal govern-

ment is trying to address that. And, properly, local government and nonprofits are taking donations to help some of them in well-publicized fundraising campaigns.

Less clear is how to help our local stores, restaurants, and service places—especially when the situation keeps many from

Continued on page 2

Three Squares Main Street's new director ready to tackle business challenges

BY LAUREN BENNETT

At the beginning of March, Three Squares Main Street welcomed Warren Williams as its new Executive Director, a position formerly held by Gerald Robbins. As a nonprofit organization serving more than 140 businesses in Jackson, Hyde, and Canary Squares, Three Squares Main Street is an important entity in Jamaica Plain as the coronavirus outbreak continues and businesses are struggling.

Warren said he is no stranger to the area, and has worked in the community for about 20 years.

"The effect is devastating," Warren said of the virus. "A lot of small businesses are suffering." He said the best thing Three Squares Main Street can do is to provide resources to businesses.

"We've been connecting most of the businesses to other resources and working with them, making sure they're educated on

Continued on page 3

Pequeñas empresas locales necesitan su ayuda

BY SANDRA STOREY

Algunas empresas locales están sufriendo por la pandemia de COVID-19. Sin flujo de dinero, lugares clave en nuestra comunidad podrían hundirse.

"Si hubiera un momento para gastar su dinero localmente, sería ahora", dijo Mary Collins, presidenta de la Asociación de Empresas y Profesionales de Jamaica

Plain (BAPA).

Nuestra sociedad está sufriendo económicamente en estos días de constantes y drásticos recortes. Los gobiernos locales y las organizaciones sin fines de lucro están tomando donaciones y lanzando campañas de recaudación de fondos.

Menos claro es cómo ayudar a nuestras tiendas locales, restaurantes y lugares de servicio. La

distancia social ha creado una brecha entre ellos y sus clientes. De repente, las empresas y sus empleados se encuentran con problemas financieros.

Una forma en que las personas pueden ayudar es comprar tarjetas de regalo de lugares locales para usar cuando los negocios vuelvan a funcionar. El sitio

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Observer

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being open in a usual way. Social distancing creates a gap between them and their customers. Suddenly, the businesses and their employees are in some degree financial trouble.

One way regular people can help is by buying gift cards. We can buy gift cards from local places to use later, when the neighborhood and business are humming again. Or never use them, if possible. Consider them an investment in the neighborhood. Gift cards may not be the total solution, but if a lot of people buy them, they could really help.

For most businesses, we only have to go to the phone or cyberspace to buy them. JP Centre/South Main Streets (JP CSMS,) website (<https://jpcentsouth.com/coronavirus/>) has posted an updated list that includes all types of businesses along the Centre/South corridor with contact information.

Businesses in the district

may continue to submit their information for the online directory, set up by JP CSMS executive director Ginger Brown since the covid-19 crisis began.

“We are in a severe situation that will have long-term repercussions on our local economy,” Brown wrote. She invites business people to email her to sign up for the directory, be on the newsletter list or just to ask a question at director@jpcentsouth.com.

Buying gift cards for yourself or for someone else to be redeemed a long time from now will help businesses. Where might you have spent money in JP if you weren't social distancing? Buy gift cards from those places. Where did you spend money this past year? Gift cards. What businesses would you mourn if they closed? Gift cards. What businesses did you mean to go to but didn't make it yet? Gift cards.

JP residents are already pitching in. “It has been affirming to see our residents support our local businesses with gift card purchases and online sharing of resources/information,” Brown said. “This continues to

be the best course of action at the moment.”

Local resident and owner of Clutter Queen, a professional organizing company, Rhea Becker is recommending what she is calling “Cancel and Pay,” inspired by people on line saying they regret to have to cancel something. If you can't do something or use a service due to social distancing, consider paying anyway, she suggests. Good idea!

More help is needed than gift cards and paying anyway, if many local places are to survive. JP residents can also support calls for financial assistance from government sources.

If any place could use an onslaught of gift card purchases, plus other substantial help, it's Taylor House Bed and Breakfast on Burroughs Street. The 24-year-old mainstay in the community, like every travel and entertainment business, has been very hard hit.

Owner and JP resident Dave Elliott wrote recently, “Including the Marathon now, Taylor House has cancelled over \$50,000 in reservations over the past two weeks for just the next two months, and I will see many more coming as I look at our many reservations coming from Europe and abroad for graduations and weddings in May and June.”

Some of these large room blocks had ordered dinners from Daryl Bichel's Persimmon Catering, he added.

Elliott, who is the treasurer of JP BAPA, like many business

owners, is seeking financial assistance. Without it Taylor House might have to be sold. “It's been a great 24 years,” he wrote, “but I'm very concerned for 2020.”

Bars and restaurants, ordered closed to all but take-out food in mid-March, are really hurting.

Local restaurateur David Doyle, a JP resident, addressed a change.org petition (<https://www.change.org/p/governor-baker-government-support-for-restaurants-during-mandatory-shut-down?>) to Boston City Councilors, Mayor Marty Walsh and Gov. Charlie Baker last week that began, “On behalf of my Boston Restaurant colleagues, I urge you to offer immediate assistance to the MA restaurant community. If such support is not sufficient or rapidly deployed, many of our restaurants may not be able to survive the gauntlet of a closure, especially if that extends beyond several weeks.”

It was quickly signed by more than 3,000 people.

The petition from Doyle—owner of Tres Gatos and co-owner of both Little Dipper and Casa Verde—wisely asks officials to expedite applications for unemployment; expedite processing of SBA applications; rent and loan abatements for restaurant workers; and creation of a general relief fund, among other things.

The JP CSMS website is bursting with information for residents and local businesses in this period of crisis, including an entire section called Coro-

navirus/COVID-19 Resources. Links for businesses are there for: information on: emergency loan funds, Small Business Administration guidance; tips on handling a crisis; info for bars and restaurants; info for retail and food service workers on help that is available for them, including filing for unemployment, etc.

State Rep. Liz Malia announced on March 18 that the state has created a Small Business Recovery Loan Fund (<https://www.empoweringsmall-business.org>) to provide emergency loans up to \$75,000, no payments due for the first six months.

For residents, JP CSMS has partnered with resident volunteers to create the JP/Roxbury Mutual Aid Google Form (<https://bit.ly/jpmutualaid>), set up for people to help each other out at this time. It is also publicizing The United Way of Mass Bay's COVID-19 Family Support Fund (https://unitedwaymassbay.org/get-involved/covid-19-family-fund/?&utm_source=andar-mb&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=covid-19).

The Boston Resiliency Fund (<https://www.boston.gov/departments/treasury/boston-resiliency-fund>) will use donations to provide food for children and seniors, technology for remote learning for students, and support to first responders and healthcare workers in the City of Boston during this difficult time.

“This virus is a live-or-die virus for many of us in more ways than one, BAPA's Collins observed in an email. “We need our local economic support (residents) as well as federal and state aid to ensure we can reopen our doors when this crisis is over.”

Sandra Storey is on the board of the Jamaica Plain Business and Professional Association as a self-employed writer.

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Three Squares

Continued from page 1

what is happening” Warren said.

He said that employers are looking for ways to connect their employees to unemployment resources and transitional services. Three Squares Main Street is reaching out to property owners and business owners to see

what they can do. “There’s a lot of communication right now and education,” Warren said.

He said that while businesses in the district have been trying to stay open as much as possible, there have been “huge hits.”

As someone who has worked in human services, including with community centers in Jamaica Plain as well as helping people with housing and home-

lessness, Warren said he believes he has the skills to lead this organization and help people during this time of crisis.

“It doesn’t matter if it’s business or if it’s recreation or education when you’re in the business of helping the community,” Warren said. “Even with the barriers that small businesses are suffering right now, it’s about finding the resources to be able to con-



Warren Williams has taken over as the new director of the Three Squares Main Street in Jamaica Plain this month. He was formerly a community engagement officer at Urban Edge in JP, and also a former director at the City’s Jamaica Plain Community Centers.

the closing of doors, it’s going to be tougher.”

He said that as a main streets organization, “we’ve been really good at galvanizing our resources and keep people coming together.”

Three Squares Main Street is trying to think outside the box about what it does have control over, so that “when this does move on, we can get people back out to the community,” Warren said. “it’s taking a different shape every day.”

He said that they are going to continue to reach out to business owners and property owners “to keep some of that momentum going and be able to help rebuild” the district.

Warren said he’s excited to take on the role of Executive Director at a time like this, and sees it as an opportunity to learn how to support the community.

“It’s a great job and it’s rewarding,” Warren said. “I came in at a time where I’m in the thick of things, meeting with businesses owners and having conversations with employees and getting an understanding of how things are going.”

Delivery

Continued from page 1

food, and prepping meal bags for delivery. We know firsthand that for people whose immune system is working overtime due to an illness like HIV/AIDS, cancer, heart failure, kidney disease and more, colds and viruses – while inconveniences for most of us – can be life-threatening.”

Waters told the Gazette that in addition to distributing its cooked meals to clients, pantry boxes of a week’s worth of shelf-stable foods are being delivered to clients to cover them if the organization is unable to make and deliver regular meals in the case of a possible shut-down order.

These boxes include things like canned and packaged goods that represent the same amount of calories required for each client. Though the boxes are not

Community Servings’ first option, they are “a good option in a crisis,” Waters said. “We are working with our team to redesign our prepared meals to be as efficient as possible because we see a drop in both volunteers and staff due to the crisis.”

Additionally, Community Servings has state a rapid response fund that is trying to raise \$2 million over the next couple of weeks, Waters said, which will allow the organization to feed more people and hire more staff.

Waters said they want to have enough staff in kitchens and delivery trucks to have two separate teams running concurrently—in case one team gets infected, the other can still continue to operate. “Donations are the most important thing to get us the resources to make it happen,” he said.

In about a week, they will have a better idea of what they need in terms of volunteers, he said, but right now they are trying to limit

the number of people to limit the risk of infection.

Community Servings’ Communications Manager Ryan Levasseur said he wants clients and supporters to know that the organization remains open, as it is an essential business. “It’s so important that our clients and supporters know that we’re going to continue to be there with them.”

Waters said that one shipment of 1000 shelf-stable meal boxes went out last week, and 1000 are set to go out at the end of this week. He said the boxed meals have been approved “but they are not what we’d prefer,” he said.

Waters said in the letter, “I am confident that these extra steps, combined with our already strict approach to health and safety, will allow us to continue serving our clients as we closely monitor and navigate this developing situation.”

To make a donation to Community Servings, visit servings.org.

Ayuda

Continued from page 1

web de JP Center/South Main Streets (JP CSMS) tiene una lista de negocios locales.

“Estamos en una situación grave que tendrá repercusiones a largo plazo en nuestra economía local”, dijo la directora ejecutiva Ginger Brown, y agregó que comprar tarjetas de regalo era el “mejor curso de acción” para apoyar la economía local.

Rhea Becker, la propietaria de Clutter Queen, recomienda a las personas que paguen por cosas en las que hubieran invertido si no fuera por la distancia social, una medida que se llama “Cancele y pague”.

Taylor House Bed and Breakfast en Burroughs Street ha sido duramente golpeado.

“Taylor House ha cancelado más de \$50.000 en reservas

en las últimas dos semanas”, dijo el propietario Dave Elliott.

Elliott está buscando asistencia financiera mientras se enfrenta a la posibilidad de vender.

Los bares y restaurantes han cerrado. Más de 3.000 personas firmaron una petición de change.org al gobierno local, instándolo a rescatar los restaurantes al acelerar el alivio de pequeñas empresas y los beneficios de desempleo.

La representante estatal Liz Malia anunció el 18 de marzo que el estado ha creado un Fondo de Recuperación de Pequeñas Empresas para proporcionar préstamos de \$75.000, sin pagos durante los primeros seis meses.

“Este es una situación de vida o muerte para muchos”, dijo Collins. “Necesitamos la ayuda de nuestros residentes y el estado para garantizar que podamos reabrir nuestras puertas cuando esta crisis haya terminado”.

Sandra Storey está en la junta de BAPA como escritora independiente.

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La temporada es de 8 semanas, con “practicar” de una hora para todos los equipos, que se reúnen los Miercoles a las 4PM o los Sabados a las 9, 10 y 11AM. Algo para recordar y que es sumamente importante para nosotros en todas las temporadas, es tener voluntarios para ser tecnicos y equipos de padres. Nosotros siempre necesitamos tecnicos de equipos, especialmente, para los equipos de los dias Miercoles. Por favor considere formar partes en estas posiciones.

Local storyteller keeps stories alive using technology

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Storyteller Diane Edgecomb is known for her lively story-

telling experiences in Jamaica Plain, notably her always sold out summer and winter solstice events.

Edgecomb said she believes in the power of the spoken word,

especially when it is spoken in person, but with Governor Baker's stay at home advisory in effect to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, larger events have come to a halt.

That's why Edgecomb has decided to develop a YouTube channel with what she calls "Occasional Stories"—stories for different occasions and seasons. Though Edgecomb usually tells stories to adults, with this new channel, she said she hopes to place a special focus on families who are staying inside together.

Last week, Edgecomb posted a St. Patrick's Day video full of Irish Fairy Legends accompanied by Margot Chamberlain on the Celtic harp, which she created as a treat for children and their families who could not otherwise go out to celebrate the holiday due to the virus.

"Story radio used to be such a time for people that they remembered it with fondness," Edgecomb said, and "there is an advantage of listening to stories without having a picture component." The St. Patrick's Day video does not have a visual component—it was created just for listening.

"I wondered what it was going to take to get me to digitize myself," she said. "I'm a person who lives in the present." She admits that using technology is new to her and she was reluctant to use it at first, but she wants to bring joy and something different to people as they stay inside to prevent the spread of the virus.

"This time can be a blessing as well as a curse," she said. "We have to look for those silver linings."

Edgecomb said her next big focus is on Earth Day, where she will post a different story each weekday of Earth Week, beginning on April 20. The stories will have to do with things like planting, bird nesting, and other nature topics and will each feature an activity that can be done no matter where people are and will give them a chance to do something away from technology but still maintain distance from others. She describes the stories as "a little surprise every day to celebrate Earth Day's 50th anniversary."

The channel will also feature content for her typical audience of adults, but "for families I really feel a special obligation." She said she will be posting stories at least every week, and also has a few other plans up her sleeve.

She is considering offering some online courses in reading with expression for parents who are home with young children and librarians using the video-conferencing program Zoom. The class would be interactive and people would be able to ask Edgecomb questions as she shares tips for making storytelling more engaging.

Additionally, Edgecomb said she wants to create an online storytelling circle lesson as well for people to learn story sharing games and ideas for creating spontaneous stories. "This is the perfect time to dig up family stories," she said. "The point is they will be able to do it in the moment with whoever they're present with."

She also said that she wants the virtual part of storytelling to go so far—she really hopes people will use the skills learned in her lessons inside their homes to bring the in-person aspect of storytelling alive.

"I know the power of the voice in the room," she said. "It's a real comforting, beautiful presence. I want others to be able to really use that. It's different when it's recorded."

Another idea Edgecomb had is creating Zoom birthday parties for children whose birthdays fall in these next few weeks when everyone is urged to stay inside and away from others. Kids can invite their friends to the video-conference and have story telling time. Edgecomb said she realizes it can be a sad and distressing time for kids who can't celebrate their birthdays with a traditional party, so she wants to try and make it a little brighter for them.

Edgecomb will also be including updates on some of the YouTube posts and directing people to her upcoming courses on her website, livingmyth.com, where people can also sign up for her e-newsletter. Her YouTube channel can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/dianeedgecomb>.

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Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council to hold virtual meetings

BY LAUREN BENNETT

As neighborhood associations and organizations across the city figure out how to adjust to a rapidly evolving environment, the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) is no exception.

The Council offers numerous committee meetings along with a full council meeting each month, and acts as a resource as well a source of information and discussion about issues in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood. With the uncertainty of what will happen with the virus outbreak, adaptation had to happen to keep the Council's mission going while residents do their part to stay inside and away from others.

"The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council, like everyone, is trying to quickly adapt to a changing landscape while also trying to fulfill our purpose to 'to facilitate communication between our neighborhood, the Commonwealth, the City of Boston, and elected officials; to enhance our neighborhood; to discuss issues and to formulate progress of action,'" JPNC Chair Kevin Rainsford told the Gazette.

He said to accomplish this, the Council is using its website, Twitter account (@jpcouncil), and Facebook page to provide information and updates to JP residents. Neighbors who have

questions can reach the Council directly at info.jpnc@gmail.com.

"In talking with the members of the JPNC, I think I can speak for everyone and offer that we want to do everything we can to preserve the sense of community that makes Jamaica Plain unique," he said.

Rainsford also said that the Council will be switching to virtual meetings "for the time being." He said that while the Public Service, Education, and Parks+Committees will not be meeting in April, the Housing and Development Committee will have a virtual meeting using video-conferencing program Zoom on Tuesday, April 21, at 7 p.m.

He added that the Zoning Committee is also hoping to hold virtual meetings, but "these meetings will be dependent upon the petitioner's willingness to have their issue heard in this format and the petitioner's ability to notify abutters either through leafletting or emails," Rainsford

said.

All virtual meetings will be open to the public and the links will be posted on the JPNC website at www.jpnc.org for the public to access. Rainsford also said that he wants residents to be able to participate and have their questions answered, so any questions or comments may be submitted to the Council at info.jpnc@gmail.com up until the full Zoom Council meeting on April 28 at 7 p.m.

This year's JPNC election was originally scheduled for April 25, but it has been postponed until October 3. The deadline for submitting nomination forms has been extended to September 11. Revised forms will be made available at the Jamaica Plain, Connolly, and Egleston Square branches of the Boston Public Libraries as well as Curtis Hall in early August. Rainsford said that signatures obtained before this new date will still be accepted.

Rosemary Jones, Chair of the

Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) also told the Gazette that the JPA is looking at ways it might be able to have its monthly board meeting virtually, as "discussing

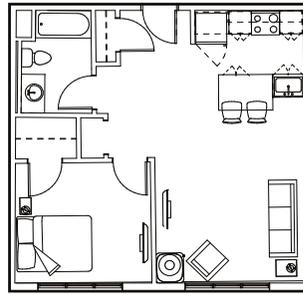
an issue and attempting to reach consensus by email does not allow for the interplay of ideas that is one of the strong points of the group."

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Walsh temporarily approves use of plastic bags

STAFF REPORT

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

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

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Eliot School cancelled spring semester; will hold virtual fundraiser

BY LAUREN BENNETT

As the coronavirus outbreak continues to take its toll on businesses and other organizations across the city, the Eliot School of Fine and Applied Arts has also taken a devastating hit.

"We are really badly affected by the financial fallout from the pandemic," said Executive Director Abigail Norman. "Obviously, the most important thing is public health, so we totally support all of the measures to contain the virus."

However, the virus has caused the school to cancel all of its classes from mid-March through June, and they are hoping to open in mid-June for children's summer programs.

"That was devastating for us," Norman said. "That is a quarter of our earned income for the year."

Those who were enrolled in the courses were given three options: they could donate their tuition money back to the school, which Norman said several people have done plus added more, they could use it as credit for future classes, or they could receive

a refund.

"We opted to pay all of our teachers through the month of April for the classes they would have taught," Norman said, but the school took a financial hit in doing so.

To try and offset some of the financial impact, the Eliot School will be hosting its first ever virtual fundraising part on April 26. "Every year we hold a fundraiser at the home of a neighbor," Norman said, but this year it will be held via a videoconferencing program. This year's theme will honor four teachers who have each taught at the school for over 20 years.

Though the event is still in planning stages, Norman said she hopes to have those teachers speak, as well as some teens from the school's teen program. She

also hopes for people to show some artwork, have live music, and an interactive piece where people can participate in some activity. "We're trying to make it really fun," she said

Norman said they also want to possibly have an auction to auction off art supplies for a class.

"Eliot School is 344 years old this year," she said. "We can't let it close now." She really hopes people will participate to support the longevity of the school.

This is not the school's first rodeo with hardship. The school offered woodworking to returning soldiers from World War I, where they learned to make furniture. The 1918 flu pandemic, also known as the Spanish flu, happened around this time.

"We lived through the Spanish flu and we're going to live through this," Norman said.

Norman said that they are also looking to see how the Eliot School can continue participating in some capacity with its woodworking and art programs in the Boston Public Schools, as they are now closed until at least May 4. The school's intensive teen art program has been moved online as well.

"We're trying to carry through as much of our work as we can even though our current classes are cancelled," Norman said. "Our staff is still working just as hard as we've always worked."

Norman said that offering online versions of their mainstream classes is something they have considered, but she said she is not sure that it is financially viable right now.

"We're all in this together," she said. "JP has a very high number of nonprofits and ones that really, really, contribute to the vibrancy of our city and region. In addition to our small businesses and restaurants, we don't have a big industry in JP. We have small businesses that really keep us going. Everybody is pulling together to make sure that we survive."

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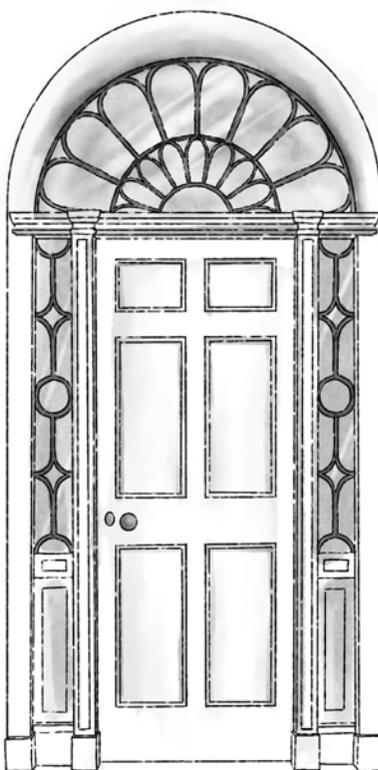
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City Council holds first virtual meeting regarding coronavirus

BY LAUREN BENNETT

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

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

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

The hearing's first guest, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health's Dr. Marc Lipsitch, provided a presentation. An epidemiologist, Lipsitch said that a large fraction of the transmission from the virus is from close contact—when droplets from the

cough or sneeze of an infected person land on someone else. He said that there is probably some airborne transmission as well, though it is less likely if you are outdoors.

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

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

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

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

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

the capacity to do what people are strongly advocating for," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

information as we can out."

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

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

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU19P2783EA
Estate of: James Doyle
Date of Death 09/12/2016

To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Joan M. Doyle of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Joan M. Doyle of Jamaica Plain, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/09/2020.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 13, 2020
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

3/27/20
JP

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT

TO G.L. C. 190B, §5-304
Docket No. SU20P0224GD
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
PO Box 9667
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
In the matter of: Jonathan Morin
Of: Jamaica Plain, MA

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Correction of Jamaica Plain, MA, in the above captioned matter alleging that Jonathan Morin is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 04/06/2020. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 02, 2020
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

3/27/20
JP

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

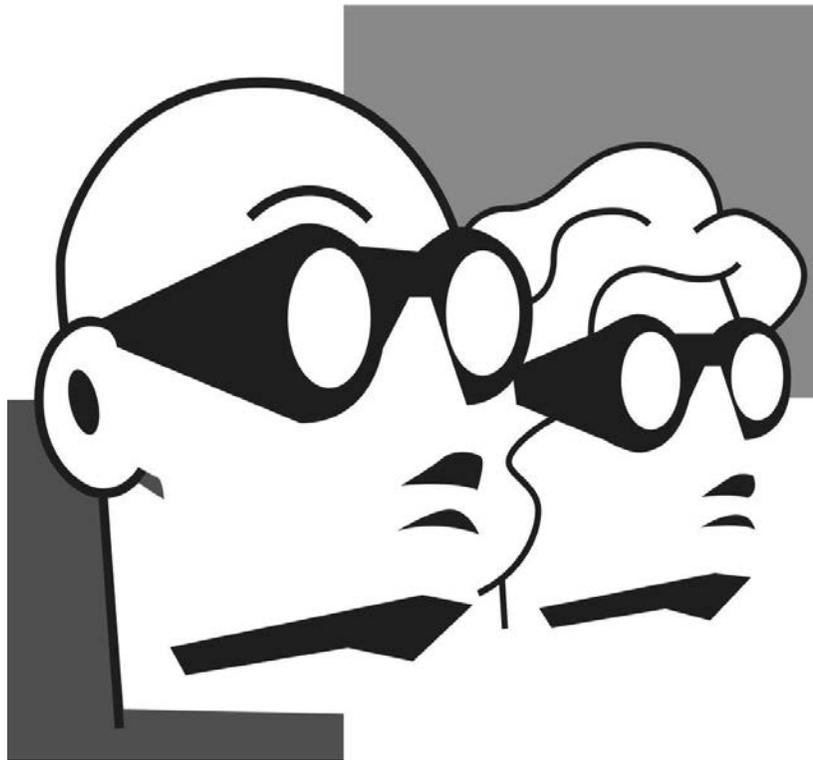
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon St,
Boston, MA 02114
617-788-8300
Docket No. SU18P1643EA
Estate of: Mildred M. Pasek
Date of Death: 08/08/2017

A petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Susan Stephenson of Weymouth, MA, Laurence Traiman of Lynn, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a first account, Amended on the First and Final Account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/07/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court
Date: March 19, 2020
Felix Arroyo
Register of Probate

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Updates

Continued from page 1

sons in any confined indoor or outdoor space,” according to a release from the state. Gatherings of 10 or more people in an outdoor space such as a park or athletic field are not prohibited by the order.

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

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

Businesses that are not on this list are encouraged to

continue their work remotely, the governor said. Restaurants are permitted to continue offering food for takeout and delivery as long as social distancing protocols are followed.

“People will not lose access to food or medicine,” Baker assured residents. Additionally, he said a goal for the state is to be testing people for the virus “at a significantly higher level.” On Tuesday afternoon, Baker announced that the state is continuing to ramp up testing capabilities, including adding 10 additional labs in addition to the state lab and other private labs that have been processing COVID-19 tests

BAKER ANNOUNCES EXTENSION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES STATEWIDE

Governor Baker on Wednesday issued an emergency order that extends the closures of all public and private schools as well as all non-emergency childcare programs until May 4. He previously ordered schools closed until April 6. The order does not apply to residential special education schools, and will allow administrators and educators extra time to

plan and prepare for students to complete course requirements remotely.

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

Baker also announced that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and WGBH are partnering to offer educational resources that will be posted on the department’s website and viewed on WGBH and WGBY channels from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

HOUSING STABILITY FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Baker announced steps that will help protect vulnerable families as well as preserve the health of low-income renters and owners and prevent homelessness. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will temporarily suspend terminations of federal and state rental vouchers under their purview and \$5 million will be transferred to the DHCD from MassHousing for a COVID-19 Rental Assistance for Families in Transition fund to assist families who are dealing with rent insecurity, as well as other steps, which can be found on mass.gov.

PHARMACIES AND GROCERY STORES

Baker also announced that grocery stores will now be required to provide at least one hour of shopping per day for those over the age of 60, provide sanitization options like hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes for customers to use, close self-serve food stations, enforce social distancing and create a “Social Distancing Line” that begins six feet away from all check-out counters, and instruct ill employees to stay home, as well as provide alternative assignments to employees

who fall in the high-risk category that would limit their exposure to the public.

MAYOR WALSH UPDATES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Walsh also announced that he has lifted the ban on plastic bags, and essential

businesses that remain open will be allowed to distribute goods and food in plastic bags without charging people the typical five cents.

“Our businesses need flexibility right now to serve their customers,” Walsh said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He is also looking for donations of gloves and masks from nail salons, construction

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workers, and other businesses who use that equipment, as hospitals are in dire need of these supplies.

“These are extraordinarily difficult times,” Walsh said. “We’re going to see numbers increase because of testing made available.”

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

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

as possible.

**OTHER UPDATES:
SUPPLY DELIVERIES
AND PROPOSED
LEGISLATION**

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

As of Tuesday morning, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has made 89 deliveries of personal protection supplies, including over 750,000 masks, face shields, masks, and pairs of gloves from the strategic national stockpile. He also said that

the dental community has donated masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer as well, and similar outreach to other communities like the construction community have gone out too.

all businesses and organizations that do not provide ‘COVID-19 Essential Services’ to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public

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

The state has also announced its own text alert

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

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

“It’s a great way to stay in touch with the Commonwealth,” Baker said.

When asked about relief for rent and mortgage payments, Baker said that it is hard for the state to know what to do without clarity from the federal government. He said that it is not possible to foreclose or evict without going to court, and courts are currently closed. He said they are talking about what the

state could do on this matter, but he said in MA, under existing state law, it takes 90 days to cure on mortgages and 60 days on rent, and this law will be enforced.

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

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

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

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Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

MBTA tweaks reduced service schedule; three bus drivers test positive for COVID-19

BY JOHN LYNDIS

In an effort to stem the spread of COVID-19 the MBTA announced it would be reducing frequency in service to help facilitate social distancing.

However, following last week's implementation of service reductions that led to crowded trains on some lines, the MBTA announced Wednesday additional revisions to service to reflect demand at specific times of day. This change applies to select rapid transit lines and bus routes.

In response to reports of heavy passenger volumes on the Green Line E branch and to further support workforce access to area hospitals in the Longwood Medical Area, service will be added to the E branch specifically with more frequency seen between Prudential and Heath Street Stations. Green Line B, C, and D branch trolleys will continue to run every seven to thirteen minutes with more frequent service on the trunk.

On Saturday, March 21, the MBTA implemented rear-door boarding on all MBTA buses and trolleys at street-level stops on the Green Line. Anyone needing to use the front door, including seniors and people with disabilities, may continue to do so.

These new measures further the T's support for social distancing and are aligned with Governor Baker's State of Emergency declaration.

This comes after three MBTA

bus operators tested positive for COVID-19. The MBTA took immediate steps to protect its workforce and riders by enacting its facility maintenance protocols to clean and disinfect all exposed work areas, vehicles, and equipment at the T's Cabot bus facility.

"We ask the public to keep our employees in their thoughts, and I continue to express my deep gratitude to the women and men of the MBTA workforce who are serving a vital purpose in combatting COVID-19," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "To ensure we can protect the health and safety of our workforce, we strongly urge essential travel only, and we will continue our enhanced protocols for cleaning and disinfecting all vehicles, equipment, and surfaces."

Consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the MBTA has enacted its COVID-19 outbreak plan. We are disinfecting the employees' workspace, vehicles, and equipment that they may have come into contact with.

"The MBTA is undertaking these measures to protect our frontline employees while maintaining regional mobility for essential trips by healthcare workers and emergency responders," said Poftak. "As we continue monitoring the situation, we are making adjustments to ensure we can provide service for essential trips in the safest manner possible," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "We recognize that some employees in key industries, including those in the medical community, rely on the MBTA to get to their places of work and we're committed to providing service to those folks who rely on the T. That said, service continues to operate at reduced levels in an effort to maintain a responsible balance between protecting our workforce and operating safe service."

Boston Carmen's Union President Jim Evers said working together, the Carmen's Union and the MBTA are ensuring that the necessary precautions are put in place to protect its members and riders.

"We take our responsibility as essential employees tasked with moving Massachusetts seriously," said Evers. "The men and women taking the MBTA every day are trusting us to get them where they need to go, and to do so safely. I'm proud that our Union and the T were able to work together to ensure the right steps are being taken to protect employees and riders during this time."

The MBTA will continue to track customer volumes and make service adjustments accordingly while continuing to meet the needs of customer demand and supporting social distancing.

On the Red Line between Alewife and JFK/UMass Stations, trains continue to be expected to arrive approximately every seven minutes. Red Line trains on the Ashmont and Braintree branches will run approximately every fourteen minutes.



A MBTA Green Line train.

The MBTA urges members of the public to travel only if absolutely necessary in keeping with Governor Baker's declaration of a State of Emergency and efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 by engaging in social distancing.

These changes are being made based on guidance from public health professionals with the principal goal of protecting the health and safety of MBTA employees and customers. The MBTA will continue to monitor and assess ridership needs as this situation evolves, with a particular focus on workforce access for hospitals and food distribution locations operated by the City of Boston.

The MBTA also said it continues to ramp up its cleaning and sanitation work in stations and across vehicles.

"We are continuing to take necessary steps to protect the health and safety of riders and MBTA employees with increased cleaning and sanitation at stations and on vehicles," said Poftak. "This includes Cleaning and disinfecting vehicles. All MBTA fleet vehicles (buses, trolleys, subway cars, Commuter

Rail coaches, ferries, and RIDE vehicles) are being disinfected on a daily basis."

The MBTA is also cleaning and disinfecting MBTA property.

"All business locations, including the RIDE Eligibility Center and CharlieCard store, are being disinfected every 24 hours," he said. "All high-contact areas at subway stations (handrails, fare gates, and fare vending machines) are being cleaned every 4 hours."

The MBTA is also adding more sanitation equipment like hand sanitizing dispensers, disinfectant wipes, and cleaning sprays. These will be deployed at MBTA facilities and stations throughout the system.

The MBTA is also encouraging all riders to:

Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds

Cover coughs and sneezes in elbows

Stay home if sick

Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth

Clean areas that are frequently touched with sanitizing spray or wipes.

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Jamaica Plain Funeral Homes adapt to COVID-19 pandemic

By JOHN LYNDIS

While Gov. Charlie Baker listed businesses performing funeral and memorial services as ‘essential’ businesses that can remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic and statewide shutdown of other non-essential businesses, local Funeral Homes have had to adapt accordingly.

With churches closed for Mass, cemeteries and crematoriums drastically changed how loved ones are laid to rest and health officials urging social distancing Funeral Homes in Jamaica Plain, like Brady & Fallon Funeral Home and Man & Rogers Funeral Home have had to become more creative.

“We are just like every other Funeral Home in the aerea,” said Brady & Fallon Funeral Director Michael West. “All services are private for now and we are certainly limiting services to less than ten people.”

While it’s hard to not be able to provide the type of full-services families expect, West said all his clients have been very understanding.

“The families have been very good and very understanding in our experience,” said West. “There has been no resistance and even before they even come in to make arrangements they know what sort of limitations

there’s going to be.”

At his funeral home West said he encourages family and friends to visit the funeral home’s website and pay tribute to the deceased by signing the online guest book and tribute page.

It’s pretty much the same story over at Man & Rogers Funeral Home on Perkins Street where everything has been limited to private services.

“It’s not easy but here to help,” said Funeral Director and owner Jerry Rogers. “We’ve been pretty busy and going by all the state and CDC. We had a funeral this week where we just met the family at the cemetery. A few people said some words and that was it. While we are frustrated that we can’t provide our usual full services we are doing the best we can under the circumstances and the families understand that we must protect them and ourselves.”

Rogers said he is updating the funeral home’s website to reflect the new guidelines and keep families informed.

Archbishop of Boston Cardinal Sean O’Malley made the painful decision recently to suspend Funeral Masses and other services within the church.

“We recommend that the bereaved be offered the opportunity for a graveside committal service during this time and a

Memorial Mass when we are able to again offer the celebration of Mass and religious services at our parishes and churches,” he said. “Thank you for your understanding of the ongoing unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 public health crisis and the importance of doing all that is possible in support of the health and well being of the people we serve and the wider community.”

Cemeteries have even suspended some usual services that are part of a funeral.

Over at Woodlawn Cemetery, in order to protect its staff from being exposed to the COVID-19, immediately implemented new procedures.

The following was implemented and will last until at least April;

- No Chapel Services will take place.
- Mausoleum Services will take place on the patio outside Versailles Mausoleum. After committal services, families will disburse. They will not be allowed to view the entombment.
- Columbarium Services will take place outside in the garden area. Families will disburse after the committal service and will not be allowed to witness the inurnment.
- Graveside services will take place as normal, but families

cannot witness the lowering of the casket. They must disburse after the committal service is

finished.

• No cremation witnessing will take place.

House passes legislation to support workers effected by the public health emergency

STAFF REPORT

Last week House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo and Rep. Joseph McGonagle, along with their colleagues in the House of Representatives, passed legislation to waive the one-week waiting period for workers seeking unemployment insurance benefits related to, or resulting from, the COVID-19 pandemic or the effects of the State of Emergency declared by Governor Baker on March 10.

“Massachusetts workers drive our economy, and the action we took today will help thousands of individuals and families as we confront the economic effects of this public health crisis,” said Speaker DeLeo (D-Winthrop). “I am grateful to my colleagues in the House for their work to addressing the urgent needs relating to the outbreak. I am proud of the work Chair Michlewitz did to move this legislation so quickly.”

“I am very proud to be a part of the Legislature for prioritizing such a profound piece of legislation,” said McGonagle. “In these uncertain times, we need all of our residents to be certain

that we are doing our best to protect them, and waiving the unemployment waiting period is a huge step for that. Thank you to Speaker DeLeo and Chair Michlewitz for their leadership in passing this.”

“Ensuring that workers have immediate access to unemployment benefits is critical,” said Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means (D-Boston). “I want to thank my colleagues in the House and our partners in the Senate and the Baker administration for moving this legislation along so quickly so that people can receive expedited benefits.”

On March 18, the bill passed in the Senate, and the Governor signed it into law.

The following list is a summary of House action taken in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis since the State of Emergency declaration on March 10.

• On March 12, the House and Senate approved a \$15 million fund in response to the coronavirus outbreak. One March 13, the Governor signed it into law.




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For more information regarding this change to services, please visit angell.org/COVID




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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



BELLY

Sweet, energetic Belly has an announcement to make! As a result of COVID-19 precautions, adoptions (and surrenders) will be by APPOINTMENT ONLY for the foreseeable future! Take a peek on our website to see our adoptable animals and give us a call to learn more and schedule a time to come in and adopt! Belly, who has trouble with social distancing and HATES being isolated, can’t wait to see you!



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EDITORIAL

THANK GOODNESS FOR DR. FAUCI

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

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

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

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

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, TOM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thanks for the memories, Tom.

LETTERS

Don't forget to complete your census questionnaire

Dear Editor,

In the midst of the health and economic disaster we're currently living through, people would be forgiven for overlooking a simple piece of mail.

So we in the #JPCounts coalition are writing to urge Gazette readers: PLEASE don't forget to complete your US Census questionnaire!

The Census is extremely relevant to what's going on today. An accurate count provides critical data for emergency management professionals at the federal, state and local levels. It helps make sure Massachusetts gets its fair, proportionate share of federal dollars. We're a small state anyway, and we need to count everyone we can.

And the more residents we report, the more political representation we get. Think Congressional representatives don't make that much difference? Tell that to someone from Puerto Rico or the District of Columbia, where people do not receive full congressional representation. Our Massachusetts representatives take an interest in the spending decisions that affect health care, universities, museums, established and start-up businesses.

Many other issues people care about are tied to Census data in some way. Investments in affordable housing, for example, are in part based on population changes.

For months, the #JPCounts coalition has planned and prepared for a massive outreach campaign during March and April. The Coronavirus outbreak has made most of this planning irrelevant. But we are still making every effort to get out the count. And we need everyone's help.

Here's what you can do:

- Do the Census! (yes, from home)

- Share on social media! The U.S. Census Bureau and their partners have got you covered with quality content.

- Check in with your neighbors and networks. After you're through asking how people are holding up, make sure they are helping themselves for the next decade by completing their Census form.

We know many people are wondering if census data is private. It is. You can read the Census Bureau's commitment to your privacy at 2020census.gov/en/data-protection.html.

Please reach out to Sagie

at stvizier@jpnpc.org with any questions. Anyone interested in getting involved, please sign up at jpnpc.org/taking-on-census-2020/.

Our community is not represented until everyone is counted.

The #JPCounts Complete Count Committee:

Boston Children's Hospital at Martha Eliot

Boston Housing Authority

Boston Public Library

City Life/Vida Urbana

City of Boston Mayor Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Egleston Square Main Street

State Rep. Nika Elugardo

Hyde Square Task Force

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation

JP Centre/South Main Streets

JP Progressives

State Rep. Liz Malia

Massachusetts Voter Table

MassCounts

City Councilor Julia Mejia

North American Indian Center of Boston

City Councilor Matt O'Malley

South Street Youth Center

Southern Jamaica Plain

Health Center

Three Squares Main Street

U.S. Census Bureau

OP-ED

Look into other investments

Dear Matt O'Malley

I took notice of some of your Jamaica Pond Association monthly meeting ideas. Though I have questions about "textile recycling" and just who might be privy to your curbside composting, I was mostly taken aback from your suggestion of holding a "...celebration of the JP neighborhood...with foodtrucks and other activities". I first pinched myself to make sure I was awake. Then, I re-

called that this already happens. Each and every year for the last 9 years, in fact. Perhaps you've heard of the "JP Music Fest", which draws upon the spirit and celebration of this neighborhood... with foodtrucks, ta boot.

In fact, I might even suggest that instead of investing the time and money into a festival that already exists-many thanks to Rick, Shamus, et al-that perhaps this could be an opportunity to

reinvest in the public schools, local arts, public transportation, or create some subsidies for lower-income residents to open businesses and/or afford to stay in their neighborhood.

I appreciate the love for JP, I have it too, but it just seems that you're 9 years late on the official celebration, the good folks at JP Music Fest provide that.

BEN DRISCOLL
JP RESIDENT

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication.

Letters may be emailed to letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com. Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes.

Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

OP-ED

Through every challenge, Boston stands together

BY MAYOR MARTIN WALSH

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

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

boston.gov/coronavirus.

Here are the preventative measures that public health officials and healthcare workers have been recommending: Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Wipe down surfaces that you frequently touch with disinfectant. Practice social distancing by avoiding crowded places, staying at least six feet away from others, and staying home as much as possible.

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

able, I encourage you to donate to the Boston Resiliency Fund, a new resource we created for local families in need. You can donate or learn more at BostonResiliencyFund.gov.

As a City government, we have taken bold and aggressive action to protect all residents. We closed the Boston Public Schools, with plans to re-open on April 27. If it is safe to re-open our schools sooner, we will do so. And we created a plan to keep all 53,000 students fed and engaged with learning activities for up to six weeks out of school. To protect our families, we closed all our City gyms, pools, and community centers. We closed all Boston Public Library locations. The BPL offers thousands of ebooks, audio books, and movies that you can access for free online. Visit BPL.org to learn more. To protect workers, we've ordered a pause to construction, with the exception of essential safety related projects. Restaurants are closed for dining-in, but we are lifting regulations to allow all restaurants to offer take-out and delivery. And we're ready to help any establishment get set up with a delivery service. We have worked with the Boston Housing Authority and private property owners to stop eviction proceedings until the crisis is over.

At City Hall, we will only have employees on-site who are critical to the operations of the City.

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

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

Martin Walsh is the Mayor of the City of Boston.

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Money tips to stay safe from Coronavirus

COURTESY WALLET HUB
BY JILL GONZALEZ, WALLET HUB ANALYST

Ask Your Bank for Help

"Many banks and credit unions have stated they are willing to offer assistance to people who face temporary financial hardship due to the coronavirus," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "These might include measures like being able to skip a payment, having temporarily lower rates, getting fees waived or having a credit line increase. If you find yourself struggling financially, call customer service to make your case. Make sure to clearly and politely articulate the reasons for your hardship."

Focus on Maximizing Savings

"Most people's jobs aren't immune to the coronavirus. So, it's a good idea to set aside as much money as you can from

each paycheck in case coronavirus impacts your ability to work or causes you to have additional medical expenses," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "Even beyond the current situation, it's always good to have an emergency fund. Avoid panicking about stocks, too, and just remember that it's only a matter of time until the virus runs its course."

Take Advantage of Travel Insurance but Know the Limits

"If your travel provider cancels a trip because of the coronavirus, a 'trip cancellation or interruption' policy might help you get your money back," said Jill Gonzalez, WalletHub analyst. "Some credit cards offer this benefit for free, though issuers have been cutting back in recent years. Keep in mind that if you cancel your own trip out of fear of the virus, your insurance policy probably won't cover you unless

you have coverage for canceling 'for any reason' or doctor's orders to quarantine yourself."

Use Credit Cards, Not Cash

"Though there's not much evidence to show that touching cash spreads coronavirus, it's theoretically possible, and the Federal Reserve has been quarantining bank notes from Asia. China also burned some of its currency that had been circulated through the Wuhan area," said Jill Gonzalez, "Using a credit card's contactless capability may help give consumers more peace of mind. Plus, credit cards can be used for online purchases, allowing consumers to avoid shopping at crowded stores. In addition, consumers that decide to stock up on essential items and spend more than usual in the coming months can recoup some of that expense, and get some extra time to pay, by using a rewards credit card."

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

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**A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY.
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.**

We hope you and your families are healthy and safe. As we face an unprecedented time and a new reality, staying connected, while keeping a distance, becomes so important. We are here for you. Online, Skype, Whatsapp, Facetime...whatever it takes.

Gratitude comes to mind even while we've had to temporarily close our office doors. Our people, our agents, our community remain constants. And within our own backyard, and around the world, to the selfless medical professionals, first responders and those on the front line to combat this pandemic, we're grateful.

We are all community builders. And the idea of "home" takes on a greater meaning with the statewide stay-at-home order in place. We will come out of this, and we look forward to that day. In the meantime, we are fully prepared to move our business online and leverage technology to continue to serve you.

Thank you for your good spirit and for allowing us to help serve and build our Jamaica Plain community as we navigate the coming weeks together.

Sincerely, Jon Ufland, Principal & Managing Broker



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