

THE BOSTON SUN

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A CITY IN CRISIS: BOSTON COPING WITH THE CORONAVIRUS



PHOTOS BY KATY ROGERS AND KEIKO HIROMI

Shelves were increasingly empty at a supermarket in South End over last weekend, as people rushed in a panic to buy food and supplies as the COVID-19 response unfolded. Meanwhile, Rideshare drivers continue to work amidst the beginning of the crisis, serving a prominent role in delivering food to those isolating or quarantining in their downtown homes.



PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROMI

Women's Lunch Place Chef Sherry Hughes pushing a cart of food donations through an empty dining hall where Women's Lunch Place usually serves meals in restaurant style. What is usually a bustling lunchroom on weekdays has become mostly vacant as the Back Bay non-profit had to suspend its normal lunch and meals program due to the COVID-19 response. Instead, they are offering take-out meals and hygiene/clothing packages. The COVID-19 responses to helping vulnerable populations is just one of many items on the minds of those coordinating the responses.

Walsh, Baker announce measures to combat COVID-19

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Marty Walsh and Governor Charlie Baker have spoken to residents via live-streamed and televised addresses over the past several days as the coronavirus situation continues to unfold. As information related to the virus is constantly evolving, city and state officials are regularly updating the

public with new facts and regulations.

On Wednesday afternoon, Governor Charlie Baker announced that all Massachusetts childcare and early education centers would close beginning next Monday, March 23. Some programs will be allowed to remain open for the care of children of first responders and medical personnel.

Baker also signed an order

waiving the one-week waiting period for people to receive unemployment assistance, as well as announced the postponement of tax payments for some small businesses.

As of press time, 2,054 state residents are subject to quarantine, 886 individuals have completed monitoring and are no longer in quarantine, and 1168 individuals are currently undergoing moni-

No plans to shelter in place

toring or are under quarantine, according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

As of press time, the Mayor said that 218 Massachusetts residents have tested positive for the virus, with 45 of those cases in Boston. "Public health officials expect these numbers to increase in the

near future," he said in a video message on the evening of March 17.

He said that many people have wondered what is next for the City, as the San Francisco Bay Area has been ordered to shelter in place,

(COVID-19 UPDATE, Pg. 5)

City Council holds historic meeting using Zoom

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston City Council held an unprecedented weekly meeting on March 18, where half of the Council appeared in the Chamber, and the other half participated in the meeting via the remote conferencing program, Zoom, in an attempt to follow social distancing guidelines.

According to the council meeting agenda, "in accordance with Governor Charlie Baker's March 12 Executive Order modifying certain requirements of Open Meeting Law to enable public bodies to carry out responsibilities while adhering to public health recommendations regarding social distancing, the City Council will be limiting in-person attendance for...hearings to Councilors and staff."

Council President Kim Janey said that this meeting was "probably" the last time the Council would come to City

(COUNCIL, Pg. 3)

The Learning Project School first to 'flatten the curve'

By Seth Daniel

Last Wednesday evening, as the COVID-19 situation began to feel very real for Boston, one Back Bay school decided it was their moral responsibility to close and suspend classes – and became one of the first organizations to begin talking about closure as a civic duty.

The Learning Project on Marlborough Street in the Back Bay announced to its families on March 11 that the K-6 private school would be closed in order to help lessen the potential load on medical professionals.

At that early date in the response, most schools hadn't entertained closure yet, and the only ones that did had done so because of specific virus exposure situations.

The Learning Project's Head of School Michael McCord said it was ironic because it is a school known to never close.

(THE LEARNING PROJECT., Pg. 10)

Boston Marathon to be run on Sept. 14 as part of festival

By Seth Daniel

Boston Mayor Martin Walsh, Gov. Charlie Baker and Boston Marathon officials announced they would postpone the 2020 Boston Marathon until Sept. 14, proposing to have a complete weekend-long festival that would support local businesses in the Back Bay, Fenway and all along the race-course.

The move came on Friday, March 13, and was in response to the measures taken to curtail the spread of the COVID-19. It was also a measure that was seemingly out of the question just three weeks ago.

Last Friday, all had changed.

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Information on what to do if you believe you may be infected with COVID-19 — Page 13

EDITORIAL

THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC: A WAKE-UP CALL FOR THE U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Americans forever were forced to change the manner in which we traveled. The strikes on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon made clear that the screening system we had in place at airports at that time was inadequate for meeting the threat posed by a determined international terrorist organization.

Long security lines at every airport in this country, as well as around the world, soon became the norm, as new protocols were put into place for our protection against future attacks. Americans didn't -- and still don't -- like them, but all of us understand that the inconvenience and expense of the enhanced security measures are essential for our safety.

Similar to the issue of inadequate airport security before 9/11, the onset of the world-wide, COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the gross shortcomings of the American health care system's ability to confront a major health emergency of the magnitude we are facing today.

The U.S. is far less capable of dealing with an influx of patients afflicted with coronavirus than every other industrialized nation in the world (as well as many poorer nations). Relative to our population, we have far fewer doctors, nurses, hospital beds, and acute care capabilities than countries all across the globe that already are struggling with the onslaught of COVID-19.

With our emergency rooms already at 75-90 percent of capacity at any given time, it will not take much to overwhelm every hospital in every city in every state if this pandemic comes even close to a worst-case scenario.

In addition, a huge percentage of our population has no direct access to quality health care that could identify early exposure to the virus. For example, federal emergency officials have urged every citizen to call their doctor first, rather than just reflexively coming into the doctor's office, if they suspect they are becoming ill. However, about 25 percent of our fellow Americans -- about 75 million of us -- do not have a primary care physician either because they do not have health insurance or are underinsured. So what are those people supposed to do -- other than flood into emergency rooms?

The bottom line is this: America's healthcare system is under stress even in the best of circumstances. It is neither designed nor capable of ensuring the optimum health outcomes for most of our citizenry and excludes a large percentage of our population altogether even in ordinary circumstances. And ironically, we spend more on our healthcare by far -- and get less for it -- than any other nation on earth.

Hopefully, the current crisis will serve as the equivalent of a 9/11 wake-up call so that we can make significant changes to our healthcare system in order to ensure that every American has access to quality healthcare for the protection of our people, both individually and collectively.



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In a time of need, Southenders band together on Facebook

By Lauren Bennett

While the practice of social distancing due to the coronavirus pandemic has prevented neighbors all over the city from gathering for community events, many have creatively figured out how to come together in other ways to help and support each other through these challenging times.

The South End Community Board, a Facebook group moderated by the South End Forum's Steve Fox, has been a place for Southenders to connect and provide ideas and suggestions to provide assistance to one another, as well as to local businesses. The page is typically used by residents to share information or concerns within the neighborhood, but lately it has turned into a place for people to ask for or deliver help in regards to the pandemic.

Several people on the page have offers on the table for things like running errands, getting groceries, and helping with the housebound or those with particular special needs, Fox told the Sun.

"Those offers have been seen as one of the great unifiers for the South End community," he said. He added that it is still early and groceries are still available and people are not yet running out of essential items, but people are ready to help when it becomes necessary.

Others on the page have offered things like prepaying hair stylists for future appointments and dropping off tips to restaurant workers. Take-out menus, resources for small business owners and sug-

gestions for working out at home after many gyms have closed their doors are also topics of conversation on the page. There are even daily sing-a-longs scheduled for 7 p.m., where residents sing together from their windows—much like videos that have circulated of people quarantined in Italy.

"I think the real measure of the community coming together will be when this becomes a little more acute," he said, adding that a more strict organization of who needs help and who is willing to help should be implemented.

"I was asking for how we can create a format or a website or a Facebook page or something that would be a one-stop shop," Fox said. "That, I think, is what we need to be prepping for at this time."

Fox said that a South End support site will be created "that can act as a bridge between those who are willing to provide and those who are willing to ask." The site would allow people to volunteer to do things at no cost, as well as offer their services for a fee, such as kitchen or hotel staff who have been downsized. Fox said this would be an opportunity for outreach for people who have excess time on their hands to assist with particular projects or needs within the community.

"Given the number of requests I've been getting to join the South End Facebook page, people are seeing it as an opportunity," Fox said, adding that it's a chance to "create a greater sense of cohesion and a greater sense of resources by putting tasks and people together."

Restaurants and other small

businesses are taking an especially hard hit, and Fox said that Southenders specifically want to support South End restaurants. With more restaurants starting to bring their menus online for pickup and/or delivery service, such as the South End Buttery and Stella, "we're going to be seeing more and more of us encouraging to order delivery or to do pickup and this will be a really effective way to support the restaurants," Fox said.

He said they will push for residents to support local restaurants who are struggling. "Anything we can do to make it happen is something that all Southenders are going to be willing to do," Fox said.

"I think we're in the place right now where we're still reacting to the fact that this is happening to us," he continued. "There's still a little bit of disbelief that we're actually in the position that we're in."

Until another site or group page gets set up, Fox said he is continually monitoring the South End Community board postings for abuse and scams to keep the South End community safe.

"I feel really, really positive about the response that I've seen from my fellow Southenders," he said, as many have expressed wanting to help and support others rather than keeping to themselves.

"My sense is I'm seeing an opportunity that we fundamentally change the way that we as a neighborhood interact with one another," Fox said. "It's a different kind of respect."

Time Out Market Boston closes indefinitely

Staff Report

As Boston businesses make choices about the best decision to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, many are choosing to close their doors. Below is a statement from Time Out Market:

Time Out Market Boston in the Fenway is closed temporarily as of Monday morning, March 16. The market will be closed for as long as required to fully support the local and global efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. After closely monitoring the latest developments, this very difficult decision was taken following updates from both health authorities and local government. More importantly, the decision was

taken in the best interests of public health and in order to prioritize the wellbeing and safety of our guests, employees, their families, concessionaires and their teams, as well as the wider community.

Everyone at Time Out Market hopes to reopen soon, and the team will constantly monitor and evaluate the situation and share updates as they become available. However, timings will be highly dependent on the duration and severity of the virus outbreak as well as the response by both government and consumers.

Right now, no takeout or delivery service is being offered by the vendors at the market.

Didier Souillat, CEO of Time Out Market, said: "These are

unprecedented times and nothing matters more than the health and safety of our guests, teams, concessionaires and the local community as a whole. We have decided to temporarily close, as it is our responsibility to do our part to protect everybody - we are looking forward to reopening when it is safe and to once again welcome guests to Time Out Market.

"We would like to encourage everyone to support those local businesses that are able to remain open, in particular the venues of our Time Out Market chefs and restaurateurs which are amongst the best of the city. Many offer home deliveries and gift cards - now is the time to support them," he said.

The world in self-quarantine all about staying busy, engaged

Still room for binge-watching Star Trek, some say

An Italian ski vacation has led to a very solitary 18 days and a lot of “Star Trek”-binge watching says one South End resident who began to self-quarantine in the earliest stages of the COVID-19 outbreak in Boston.

Mark Carrig said he went under self-quarantine March 1 after a disastrous Italian ski trip in February. He reported he has no symptoms, and is feeling fine – but is glad he took the precautionary step to protect his friends just in case.

“I’m semi-retired so I’m not relying on my work,” he said. “I’ve been in kitchen design 30 or 40 years, and I love it. I’m involved in four projects right now, and I’ve been working on those at home. I had a concussion so I wasn’t able to read, and I usually read a lot. Frankly, much of my self-quarantine time has been spent binge watching ‘Star Trek.’ I’ve been in self-quarantine for two weeks, and I’ve only been out a couple of times briefly. I decided it was a good idea when I heard about all

of the concerns.”

Carrig is an experienced skier who took his annual trip to Italy for skiing in February with the Boston Ski and Sports Club – a group of about 70 from the Boston area. However, during the trip Carrig said he took a nasty fall that he doesn’t even remember. He woke up in an Italian emergency room with a horrible headache and doctors struggling to communicate with him. He spent five days there in February when the COVID-19 outbreak was beginning to spread

heavily throughout Italy.

Through it all, he knew nothing about it.

“It was very difficult there because there weren’t any of the doctors that could communicate with me,” he said. “Only one doctor spoke any English. I didn’t know what was going on. I went for CAT scans, and I never really knew the results. I had no idea about anything at the hospital. I knew about the Coronavirus in China, but had no inkling about it in Italy. No one mentioned it there. When I came back, I realized it was quite an issue.”

After a trip to the hospital in Boston upon returning the last weekend in February, Carrig said he learned from doctors in Boston that a trip to the ER in Italy was a risky situation. He was advised to self-quarantine, monitor his symptoms and check back later.

He followed the advice.

“Fortunately I was well stocked, and having a concussion, I didn’t really want to go out,” he said. “I have some great friends who brought me over some fresh Irish Soda Bread that I was able to enjoy for St. Patrick’s weekend. That was really great.”

Without meetings, Neighborhood Associations take a walk

By Seth Daniel

Staying inside, avoiding close contact with people and a ban on having community meetings has left many neighborhood associations in the South End without much to do.

So, some decided to simply take a walk.

To get some fresh air, to catch up with one another (at a safe distance) and kill the cabin fever, some members of the Chester Square Neighbors decided to hold fresh-air walks. This past Monday at 3 p.m., those without any symp-

toms or exposure to COVID-19 were invited on the first walk.

“It was so good to be out in the sun and wind,” said President Carol Blair. “I was surprised to find such flowering goodness - and many trees beginning to leaf out. I also noticed it is hard to keep distance from passersby on our narrow sidewalks.”

The first walk included a mile hike around Chester Square and the surrounding streets. They found forsythia, crocus and hearty Evergreen trees.

The Chester Square Neighbors intend to have more walks in the

coming days as circumstances permit.

For more information, reply to info@chestersquareneighbors.org

or just show up at an announced walk.

COUNCIL (from pg. 1)

Hall for a while, and they will henceforth work to do as many things remotely as possible.

Though there were some technical difficulties at times, the hybrid meeting mostly went off without a hitch, and the Council members were able to tackle their regular agenda, as well as make comments about the ongoing public health crisis. Councilors expressed their pride and gratitude for all those in Boston who are helping during these challenging times.

“This is unlike anything we’ve ever had to deal with,” said Councilor Matt O’Malley. “The response of Boston has been remarkable and unsurprising.”

Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George thanked the staff and school communities who have come together to support Boston’s students as “teachers are looking for new ways to communicate and instruct their kids.” She said that having her own boys at home has “created a very different rhythm for us.”

Councilor Ed Flynn said he wanted to “highlight the tremendous work of our first-responders

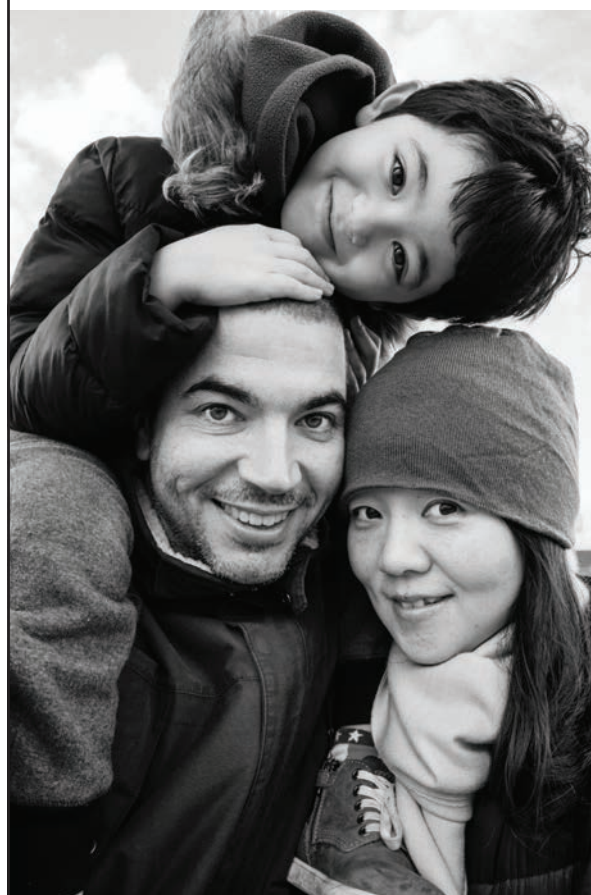
and city employees,” calling them “unsung heroes.” He also stressed the importance of treating every resident with respect and empathy, especially “our immigrant neighbors.”

City Councilor Julia Mejia echoed Councilor Essaibi-George’s sentiments about educators in the city, saying that as a mom who now has to help instruct her kids from home, adding it has helped her to realize that Boston teachers “are doing a really good job at educating our students.” She also said she is looking forward to supporting “those that are the most vulnerable” in the city, which includes undocumented workers who may be struggling right now.

“These are times we have not seen before,” said Councilor Janey. “Folks are fighting hard to get the resources they need. It’s important that we continue to advocate and lift up those who have been left behind.”

Janey said that residents can reach out to any council member for support, and reminded everyone to “please be kind to each other.”

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MARATHON (from pg. 1)

“We’re here today to announce the 2020 Boston Marathon will be postponed until Monday, Sept. 14, of this year,” said Mayor Martin Walsh on the portico outside City Hall. “Our expectation and our hope right now is this date will get us to a safer place in the spread of the Coronavirus. It’s a date the [Boston Athletic Association] can make work for its runners, and there’s been a lot of conversations about what date could work... Our priority right now is for the safety and the health of the runners and the fans, the medical personnel, residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and visitors from across the country and the world. We want to make sure we keep people safe.”

Mayor Walsh said they believe they can create a festival throughout the weekend, culminating in a new Marathon Monday holiday, Sept. 14. That effort is hoped to help businesses that are suffering through the measures taken to curb COVID-19, including the Marathon date change.

“The Marathon plays a major



Mayor Martin Walsh announces the postponement of the Boston Marathon to Sept. 14 during a press conference on the City Hall portico last Friday, March 13. He said he hopes it can be a weekend-long festival to help businesses to rebound from the hurt caused by the COVID-19 situation.

our local economy,” he said. “Our plan is to make the weekend of September 14 a cornerstone campaign to help local businesses recover from this entire episode... You have the chance to run in an historic, once-in-a-lifetime race in September, and I hope all the runners and people will embrace it.”

Mayor Walsh said the regional economy could stand to lose \$211 million if the race were canceled, while local charities could lose nearly \$40 million through cancellation. That’s why it was decided a postponement would be ideal.

“We hope the economic consequences are just pushed to September and not lost altogether,” said Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller.

Gov. Charlie Baker said he would be filing a bill with the State Legislature to officially make Sept. 14 the temporary Marathon Monday event. He said there is wide support in the Legislature for the change, and leadership there was unanimous in their support of moving the date instead of canceling it.

“While it may be hard to believe I’ll be filing a bill to make September 14 this year’s Marathon Monday, I think it’s important to



House Ways & Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito.

point out that after conversations with House and Senate leadership, there was an immediate desire that we preserve this very special day,” he said. “I know this is a change and it probably won’t look right on the calendar, but it’s certainly the right thing to do. We have seen before this Boston Marathon does define resilience, and I think everybody once we get there will feel the same way we always feel on Marathon Day.”

The effort also included input from other racecourse communities such as Hopkinton, Ashland, Framingham, Natick, Wellesley, Newton and Brookline.



Boston Athletic Association CEO Tom Grilk said he supports the decision and the BAA would answer detailed questions about logistics in the coming weeks.



John Hancock CEO Marianne Harrison. John Hancock is the lead sponsor of the Boston Marathon.



Gov. Charlie Baker will file a bill to make Sept. 14 Marathon Monday.

economy. The BAA will take every step possible to support this effort. We could not be more impressed by the immense amount of work by the City of Boston and the Commonwealth to not just cancel the Marathon, but instead take the less drastic step of postponing it even amidst a crisis of incredible proportions.”

Mayor Walsh and Gov. Baker said there were many discussions about the date, and Walsh said the new day jumped around “like a pinball.”

In August, it would have been too hot. Meanwhile, Labor Day weekend is also Student Move-in weekend in Boston and Newton, which ended that proposition. Columbus Day weekend in October also features college celebrations like Family Weekend. In the end, Sept. 14 proved to be the best option for everyone.

Mayor Walsh concluded by invoking the Boston Strong moniker – harkening back to another citywide crisis with the Marathon Bombing.

“The Marathon is Boston...The Marathon connects us, it reflects us and it strengthens our community spirit and resilience he said. “We’ve shown before no matter what the challenge is to our Marathon and our city, we are Boston Strong. That’s what we will be again this year in the face of this crisis. On Marathon Monday, we are going to continue to lead the country.”



Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller talked about the heartbreak of having to change the date. role for our local charities and

STAY IN AND TAKE OUT HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES WHILE STAYING IN

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

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COVID-19 UPDATE (from pg. 1)

place, and other cities are considering the same. “We are not currently at the shelter-in-place point,” Walsh said, but city officials are “monitoring the situation closely” and are in conversation with the Governor and state officials as well. The Governor has also said he has no plans to shelter in place at this time.

“Make no mistake, this is a serious situation,” Walsh said. “We are not powerless and you are not alone.”

Walsh and city officials have taken several measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the City of Boston, including closing all Boston Public Schools through April 27, closing all Boston Public Library branches and Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) centers, reducing service on the MBTA, and, per Governor Baker’s emergency order, prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants. Walsh also declared a public health emergency in Boston, and all city events with more than 25 people have been cancelled.

Starting on March 17, Mayor Walsh halted all regular activity at construction sites in Boston. “Employers should maintain the necessary crews to keep their sites safe and secure, keep any materials from blowing away, and prevent trespassing,” according to a press release from the City. This work needs to be completed by March 23, and after sites have been secured, skeleton crews will be allowed on the sites to make sure the safety measures remain in place. The only permitted work will be emergency work that has been approved by the Inspectional Services Department.

Additionally, street cleaning is on a normal schedule, however

ticketing and towing is suspended. Trash and recycling pickup remains on a normal schedule.

After hearing that reduced service on the MBTA was causing more crowds to gather on trains and buses, Walsh announced on March 18 that additionally capacity has been added to allow for more social distancing on public transit.

Walsh also announced the Boston Resiliency Fund, which will provide food for children and seniors, as well as technology for students to learn remotely, and support for first responders and healthcare workers in the city.

The City has come up with a plan to make sure that BPS students will receive meals and will be engaged with learning activities for six weeks, and the Boston Public Library will provide thousands of e-books, audiobooks, and more online. Additionally, 20,000 Chromebooks have been purchased for BPS students to use while learning from home.

The Mayor has also set up resources for businesses to get set up with delivery services if need be. He said the City will also continue to reach out to veterans, immigrant communities, and the homeless population.

“Safety is our top priority,” Walsh said, especially for the seniors. “We’re thinking of you,” he said to the city’s seniors. He said the City’s Age Strong Commission will be reaching out to senior buildings and working to continue the in-home service that many seniors rely on.

“The actions all of us take now will save lives,” Walsh said in his March 17 address. He advised residents to keep washing their hands, wiping down surfaces, covering coughs and sneezes, avoiding

crowds, and to stay at home as much as possible. He did say, however, that although everyone needs to limit contact with each other, it is okay to go outside for a walk.

He stressed the importance of social distancing, and said that it is “not only for at-risk communities,” and is “especially important for younger and healthier people” as they have a responsibility to protect the older and more vulnerable people. In doing this, “we can prevent the kind of spike that would cause our health system to be overwhelmed,” Walsh said.

Additionally, there are plans in place for staggered hours for City Hall employees, and as much as possible, city services will be offered online.

“Our goal is to practice social distancing,” he said, and said that there is extra cleaning going on at City Hall. City parks will continue to be cleaned as well, and the election and procurement departments will remain open.

Walsh urged Bostonians to follow recommended precautions, and told residents that he realizes “none of this is easy,” as people’s plans are put on hold, people are feeling lonely, and many are worried about paychecks, bills, and struggling to find childcare.

He said that the city has identified safe sites where people can be tested and treated for symptoms of COVID-19, and is also in talks with lenders and landlords to prevent faults for business owners. He said that grocery stores will continue to be open and home delivery will continue.

He praised Stop and Shop for holding special hours for individuals over the age of 60 to shop in order to reduce their exposure to crowds, and encouraged all stores to do the same.

“These experiences present unique challenges,” Walsh said. “Bostonians are coming together in thousands of ways.” He said that choosing to practice social distancing shows care and concern for neighbors.

“We’re going to keep relying on each other,” Mayor Walsh said. “Bostonians are resilient. We are being tested again but just look at who we are and the strength we possess. There’s nothing we can’t do when we stand together.”

The most up-to-date information can be found at boston.gov/coronavirus, and to sign up for the City’s daily text service to receive information, text BOSCOVID to 99411.



Attractions, including the New England Aquarium, close to the public.



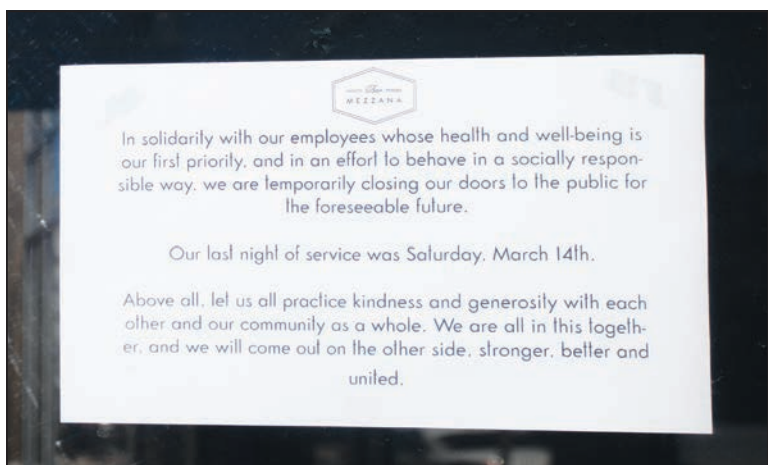
Like many businesses, the “We Deliver” sign at Brix wine shop in South End showed up Monday as businesses moved to adjust to the response.



Boston construction workers break for lunch on Monday, uncertain how long they will continue to work amidst the pandemic.



A Coronavirus sign on Washington Street by Blackstone Park.



South End restaurant Bar Mezzana was one of many restaurants in the neighborhoods that were called to close during the response to COVID-19 last weekend. A sign on the door indicated they were closed for the foreseeable future.

BBAC approves temporary vestibule for restaurant on Newbury Street

By Lauren Bennett

The Back Bay Architectural Commission met for its monthly meeting on March 11, just days before restrictions on group gatherings due to the coronavirus were implemented.

Several concerned neighbors showed up for what turned out to be a contentious proposal for Grand Tour bistro at 314 Newbury St.

Architect Tom Trykowski presented a proposal for an outdoor dining area, including six tables, 12 chairs, three umbrellas and string lighting, as well as the installation of a seasonal entry enclosure.

Trykowski said that the umbrellas would be custom-designed as half-umbrellas with an offset base and pole, and the string lights

would be hanging below the railing line of the installed fence around the patio area and removed in the off-season. He added that the umbrellas “wouldn’t really stick up past the handrail line.”

The temporary entrance proposed would be used for the coldest months—January and February—and would consist of a rectangular frame covered in matte black canvas with windows. The purpose of the structure is to create a barrier between the cold and the restaurant. Trykowski said they tried to make the design as see-through as possible.

Commissioner John Christian-sen said he believes curtains seem more appropriate, as he was not a fan of the design of the temporary entrance. “Part of the reason I don’t like it there...it masks what’s inside,” he said.

Other commissioners commented that since the temporary entrance would be up in the winter when there are no umbrellas on the patio, the obstruction of view into the restaurant would be minimal.

“There’s not a lot of space inside to get a curtain to work successfully,” Trykowski said. The owner of the restaurant also said that the Boston Fire Department “dislikes” the curtains, even if they are fireproof, as there are concerns with egress.

Commissioner David Eisen asked Trykowski if there are any “better looking alternatives” to the enclosure, as he felt “it’s just particularly ugly.”

Trykowski said that there could be a discussion on the canvas being some made of another type of material.

BBAC Chair Kathleen Connor said she is worried that the structure “diminishes the entrance” to the restaurant, and suggested that something like topiaries with white lights.

Trykowski said they also looked at different shapes for the enclosure, such as an arced top. “But I

felt with the banding on the building it was better to hold a straight line on the band,” he said. It is slightly sloped on the top so that water can come off of it. “I wanted it to be as simple of a structure as possible,” he added.

The public had a lot to say about this proposal, especially abutters. Connor read two letters from neighbors for the record, both in objection against the plan.

Rachel Walsh, who owns a business on the lower level of 306 Newbury St., said that she and several other businesses have been impacted by the construction of the patio, and prior to the architectural changes to the site at 314 Newbury St., “the line of sight [to her business] was uninhibited. The addition of the patio has permanently affected our visibility by the installation of the railing system,” she said. She said that though the railing is transparent, it still resulted in a “significant” reduction of visibility. She added that she believes the seasonal vestibule will create further obstruction.

Another abutter from a nearby residential building said that they were concerned about light pollu-

tion from the string lights affecting their building.

“I think the lights make sense as the temporary vestibule makes sense,” said Tom High of backbayhouses.org. He did add that the vestibule “should be as transparent as possible,” but he thinks this is a “reasonable solution.”

Sue Prindle, a NABB member, agreed that the vestibule is a good solution, but she was concerned that the umbrellas block the view into the restaurant.

Alex Mancebo, a resident at 308 Newbury St., said that it “would be an injustice to not listen to the neighbors. We are clamoring for recourse here and we don’t see it.”

The BBAC ultimately voted to approve the vestibule with the proviso that it does not set a precedent for the district. Staff will approve the final design of both the vestibule and the umbrellas, but they said they would like to see shorter umbrellas and more plexiglass on the vestibule for more visibility into the restaurant. The string lights were not approved.

“It’s important to have a good neighbor moment,” Connor said to the applicants.

ADVERTISEMENT

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Marty Martinez

Chief of Health & Human Services

(March 23—April 06)

Boylston Street retail bears brunt of coronavirus

By Dan Murphy

While many retail stores on Boylston Street near the Boston Marathon finish line have typically come to expect to do peak business in the weeks leading up to and during the event, growing fears over the coronavirus, which has resulted in postponing the footrace, as well as putting strict limits on other public gatherings, has seemingly ground commerce in the area to a halt.

“I know from working here that the Marathon draws people in,” said Brandon Wells, an employee at GameStop, a chain of retail stores specializing in video games with a Back Bay location at 647 Boylston St., who hasn’t worked there during the footrace. “People are here celebrating, and maybe a family will come to watch Mommy cross the finish line, and Daddy buys the kids a video game because there here. But instead it’ll be just like an ordinary day, and you don’t want every day to be just an ordinary day.”

On Monday afternoon, many area businesses, including the Apple Store at 815 Boylston St.; Crate and Barrel at 777 Boylston St.; Free People, a women’s clothing store at 899 Boylston St.; and the New Balance store at 583 Boylston St., were temporarily shuttered on account of the coronavirus.

While Marathon Sports and the Adidas store, located at 671 and 855 Boylston St., respectively, were both open, employees at both businesses referred requests for interviews to corporate. (A representative from Marathon Sports did return this reporter’s email Tuesday afternoon and offered to facilitate an interview with staff from the Boylston Store after deadline for this week’s edition of the Sun).

At Frette at 776B Boylston St., Kate Downey, a sales specialist, said while the store that sells high-end bedding traditionally doesn’t see a high volume of business on the day of the Marathon itself, she said fallout from the coronavirus

could potentially hurt sales during what is usually one of their busiest times – graduation season.

Nancy Ong, a salesperson at the Lindt Chocolate Shop in the Lenox Hotel, who worked during last year’s Marathon, said the footrace also doesn’t typically result in a boon in their business, but the coronavirus is already adversely impacting their sales during one of their most profitable times – the weeks leading up to Easter.

“During this time, we usually do a really good business, but not now,” Ong said. “[Ordinarily], I wouldn’t even have time to talk to people.”



Kate Downey, a sales specialist at Frette at 776B Boylston St.

Councilor Wu holds live stream with Boston Health Care for the homeless

By Lauren Bennett

In a second video of a series of Facebook live streams by City Councilor Michelle Wu, the councilor spoke with Dr. Denise De Las Nueces, Medical Director at Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, to disperse more information about what is being done to help the homeless population during the global pandemic of COVID-19, or coronavirus.

Boston Health Care for the Homeless is a “federally qualified community health center that has been in existence for more than 30 years, De Las Nueces said during the live stream, which happened at noon on March 17. She said the program’s main purpose is to “provide the highest-quality care equitably for all homeless individuals and families in Boston.” With its main headquarters on the South End/Roxbury border, the program provides primary and urgent care to homeless individuals and families, as well as specialty services, such as dentistry.

“We have really been incredibly, incredibly thoughtful over the past few weeks around our response to COVID-19,” De Las Nueces said, “because we recognize based on our work and for the past decades with our population that individuals experiencing homelessness are at really increased risk in general but also in terms of exposure to and complications of infectious diseases.” Boston Health Care for the Homeless officials have been working “nonstop” for the past few weeks to shift the focus of services to COVID-19 prevention and response.

“I will say, to date, there have not been any cases of COVID-19 among residents experiencing homelessness here in Boston,” De Las Nueces said. “Despite that though, we recognize that if there were to be a case, that the repercussions for this population would be really significant.”

She said that since homeless individuals do not have homes to stay put in, they are at risk of more easily spreading it.

De Las Nueces said that steps Health Care for the Homeless are taking include: promoting social distancing in the population, not only at the health center but at shelter partners as well. They are also stripping down services to only those most crucial, and having less primary-care appointments and more urgent-care appointments in

order to get people the essentials they need. De Las Nueces also said that limiting exposure of people coming to and from the health center and shelters is important.

Additionally, De Las Nueces said that the program is increasing telemedicine capacity as there are some instances where support services can still be provided remotely.

“I will say, to date, there have not been any cases of COVID-19 among residents experiencing homelessness here in Boston....Despite that though, we recognize that if there were to be a case, that the repercussions for this population would be really significant.”

— Dr. Denise De Las Nueces

She said she advised the homeless community on preventative measures, including hand washing more than might be thought necessary and using hand sanitizer if soap and water are unavailable, not sharing utensils or cigarettes, and practicing good cough etiquette.

She said if someone feels like they may have some of the symptoms of coronavirus, they should call the 24/7 hotline number at 781-221-6565 if they are a Health Care for the Homeless patient.

She also recommended that if people have a shelter to go to, they should stay there. If they are out on the street, there are clinics at all the city shelters where people can go in and be seen.

“The city and state have been working nonstop to identify spaces for isolation and quarantine for homeless individuals,” De Las Nueces said.

Boston Health Care for the Homeless is one of many organizations in the city that is projected to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not more. It’s losses like these that are “deeply impactful” on services that thousands of people rely on.

De Las Nueces said what they need most is unrestricted donations to the program so they can continue to be able to provide these services. Those interested in donating can find more information on the Boston Health Care for the Homeless website. Additionally, she said they could use a donation of technology like tablets for people to use for entertainment, as often times they don’t have the

means to provide televisions or tablets for their patients.

Councilor Wu asked De Las Nueces about whether or not there would be increased access to hand-washing and showers during this time. “Access to hand-washing and showers has always been an issue, unfortunately,” De Las Nueces said, adding that she doesn’t necessarily see an increase in the availability of these things at the moment.

Additionally, Councilor Wu asked what the impact will be on the ability to get treatment for patients struggling with substance abuse. De Las Nueces said that “we are working with the city and state on identifying spaces...how to better meet the needs of individuals and meet their needs from a substance abuse perspective.”

Right now, the program is keeping the needs of all homeless individuals who are exposed to or may contract COVID-19 at the forefront.

Councilor Wu said her takeaways from the conversation were for folks to wash their hands with soap if they have access to soap and water, for people to not share utensils or cigarettes, for people to keep a distance from others, and if they feel sick, to call the hotline at Boston Healthcare for the Homeless.

State RMV re-opened seven locations

Special to the Sun

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) announced on Wednesday, March 18, it would reopen seven of its 30 customer-service-center locations, while asking that customers who do not have immediate needs for required in-person services delay their visits.

The RMV facilities that are being reopened prioritize regional availability, accessibility and facility size and capacity. To assist with “social-distancing” and reducing facility volume, customers are asked to not bring multiple individuals with them. Meanwhile, AAA locations will continue to offer select RMV services to AAA members and road tests will be suspended indefinitely.

These steps are being taken following Gov. Charlie Baker’s declaration of a State of Emergency the week of March 9 to complement the work that has been underway for weeks across state government to keep residents safe and healthy.

Only the following seven RMV centers will be open effective March 18 until further notice: Boston/Haymarket, Brockton, Fall River, Lawrence, Pittsfield, Plymouth and Worcester. Hearings will be conducted at Boston/Haymarket, Brockton, Fall River, Lawrence and Worcester.

Road tests for permit holders are postponed at all locations

through at least Friday, March 20. Road testing will resume only after cleaning, personal protective equipment and social distancing protocols have been put in place to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission for permit holders, road test examiners and others who accompany permit holders for their tests. Because the Governor’s Executive Order provides that Learner’s Permits dated between March 1 and April 30 will continue to have an active status until 60 days after their printed expiration date.

“While we are re-opening seven Registry of Motor Vehicles Service Centers to address the needs of residents and business customers, we strongly encourage those who can, to conduct their business online, by phone, by mail or to postpone a visit to the RMV and take advantage of the extension of expiration dates for licenses,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack. “Customers should expect longer waits as we will need to limit any crowding in the centers to comply with social distancing protocols. We will be limiting the number of people allowed inside Service Centers and once those limits are reached, customers will have to either leave and come back or wait outside until it is possible to let them in while still maintaining social distancing.”



Community Meeting

PLAN: Nubian Square

Monday, March 23
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM

Boston Water & Sewer Commission
2nd Floor Training Room
980 Harrison Ave
Roxbury, MA 02119

Event Description

The March PLAN: Nubian Square workshop will build upon previous PLAN: Nubian workshops and will focus on reviewing draft RFPs for Crescent Parcel and Malcolm X Parcel. We will review comments from previous meetings and how they are or are not incorporated into the RFPs. Throughout the evening there will be opportunity for attendees to engage in productive dialogue with City/BPDA team members and each other on evaluation criteria and development objectives detailed in the Draft RFPs.

Draft RFPs will be available for review March 18.

As with all previous workshops, feedback provided will be taken into consideration for incorporation into the RFP documents.

PLAN: Nubian Square is an initiative to think strategically about the types of uses and the scale of development best suited for the future of Nubian Square and Roxbury. PLAN: Nubian Square builds on the visions presented in both the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan and Dudley Vision.

Contact:

Muge Undemir
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201
617.918.4488 | mugzy.undemir@boston.gov

WOMENS LUNCH PLACE SHIFTS TO TAKE-OUT AND TO-GO AMID CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Photos by Keiko Hiromi

Back Bay's non-profit organization, Women's Lunch Place (WLP), which serves women who are experiencing homelessness or poverty by providing a day shelter community with nutritious food and personal care, suspended their community setting services and restaurant-style meal programs due to coronavirus pandemic.



Shown above: Sam King of WLP handing a scarf to a guest after a guest put a hat on. The Back Bay non-profit has been providing take-out winter wear as well as meals.

Shown to the right: Rachel Kline of WLP preparing take out breakfast meal boxes in the kitchen. Women's Lunch Place suspended their community meal sitting services, but have done take-out for women in need this week.

Instead, they are still serving take-out meals, providing toiletries and personal care items (including socks, hat and scarf for cold weather) to women who need them. Food Service manager Chef Sherry Hughes of Women's Lunch Place says that they are receiving a lot of food donations.

"My storage is full now," she said.

Donations came from many restaurants and companies such as Liberty Mutual, Starbucks, Flour Bakery, Trade restaurant and University Club to name a few.

"This is our fundraising season," says Jennifer Hanlon Wigon, executive director of Women's Lunch Place. Wigon says that what they needed last week were hygiene products, but now the greater need is financial support.

Hughes says she is working as long she can to serve the community.

"Our ladies have nowhere to go," she said.



Bonnie Zamparelli and Rachel Kline of WLP preparing peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for take-out breakfast.



Guest Cathy B. accepts a take-out lunch and hygiene/clothing package from a WLP employee with the dining room closed.



Shown above: Jennifer Hanlon Wigon, executive director of Women's Lunch Place, putting take-out breakfast meal packs on a cart to carry outside.

Shown left: WLP Chef Sherry Hughes (R) working with Rachel Kline (front left) and Stacey Zellen (back) while preparing peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

BBAC, public provide feedback on Harvard Club proposal

By Lauren Bennett

The project team for the proposed development project at the Harvard Club at 415 Newbury St. came before the Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC) for an advisory review on March 11. An advisory review lets the Commission, and sometimes the public, provide feedback on a proposal, but there is no vote taken.

The project consists of the demolition of the existing rear addition and the construction of a new addition, as well as another building on the existing parking lot.

Abby Goldenfarb of Trinity Financial said the purpose of the project is to upgrade the Harvard Club's athletic facilities.

"We have had conversations with the community about our initial concept," she said, "and we have changed our concept since that time and today want to get a sense of feedback on the demolition of the squash building."

Architect Alfred Wojciechowski of CBT Architects said that the surface parking lot along Newbury Street would be infilled with a 120-foot building and a 36-foot building along the edge, but access to the current alley would remain in place. The existing squash courts would also be removed.

"The massing that we have here," Wojciechowski said, has been discussed in a series of meetings with the immediate abutters to the project. He said there is an interest in having a lower building along the surface parking lot to allow light and air to permeate into the buildings on Commonwealth Avenue.

The proposed mixed-use building would replace the fitness and squash courts and be accessible with a front door on Newbury Street. It would also include a residential piece. The taller building will be 11 stories, while the shorter one would be three stories. Park-

ing would be in the three-story building.

Wojciechowski said that the masonry would be complementary to the brick within the rest of the neighborhood. Additionally, he said the team hopes to create "a nice pedestrian walking situation along Newbury Street."

Commissioner John Christianen said of the taller building, "My gut reaction massing-wise is that it's too high. I see it more like the Somerset at more like 90 feet."

Commissioner Robert Weintraub said he agrees with the three-story building, as "this is kind of a dead area," and this development "could bring it back to life." He did say, however, that he would like the monotony of the buildings to be downgraded.

BBAC Chair Kathleen Connor said she agrees that the design is somewhat monolithic. She said the historic reference and heritage of the Harvard Club is significant, and "something could be brought

to that level on the exterior" of the new buildings.

"I want to emphasize that this is a very important project because of the zoning implication," Sue Prindle of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay said. "There has not been any kind of variance within the historic district since the zoning was created." She also said the depth of the tower was an issue for her as well.

"I think it's wonderful that this area is going to be filled with some buildings," said Tom High of backbayhouses.org. He said it was both a good idea and a mistake to look at the proposed development for Parcel 12 in relation to this project. "It's very important to look at this building and its impact without Parcel 12 behind it, and none of these drawings do that," he said.

Jim Berkman, who is soon to be sworn into the BBAC, suggested that the architects might play with height variations to have step

downs and have the building be more than one height to make it more interesting.

An abutter said that light is important to the neighbors, and they would like to see no light blocking their building. Margaret Pokorny, a member of several local groups, including the Friends of the Public Garden and the Charlesgate Alliance, said she is very excited about the reactivation of the street, as it will become one of the new entrances to Charlesgate Park.

Wojciechowski said that they would be following Boston's Complete Streets guidelines.

BBAC Chair Kathleen Connor read letters into the record, many in opposition of the development, but some in support of the ongoing public process.

Additionally, the project is not as-of-right, so they team will need zoning approval before coming back to the BBAC for an official vote.

Blackstone's and KitchenWares to consolidate under one roof

By Dan Murphy

Blackstone's of Beacon Hill and its sister establishment, KitchenWares by Blackstones, will soon consolidate their respective businesses under one roof at 46 Charles St.

"KitchenWares physical location at 215 Newbury St. is disappearing at the end of the month, but both brands will still be represented by their names," said Jennifer Hill, owner of both businesses.

Blackstone's of Beacon Hill is scheduled to temporarily close its Charles Street storefront on March 22, for renovations, and when it reopens the weekend of March 28, one half of the 520 square-foot retail space will be dedicated to Blackstone's while the other half

of the store will serve as KitchenWares' new location. Exterior and window signage will reflect the change by representing both brands as well.

"We'll be closed, but we'll still be open for neighborhood needs," Hill said. "Just knock on the door, call or email, and I'll be there to provide items from both stores."

Hill said the consolidation of Blackstone's and KitchenWares was somewhat inevitable considering how well the two businesses complement each other.

"Customers will get a better experience in a more-enhanced storefront," Hill said.

For instance, the Charles Street location would soon offer the high-quality brands knives now found at KitchenWares, including

cutlery by Wusthof, Henkel, Mac, Global and other top brands.

In addition, the Charles Street store will offer a quicker turnaround for knife sharpening, and long-term plans for 2020 include offering delivery services via Uber Eats.

Hill said the Charles Street store would also offer wedding registry and online ordering for all items.

"We want the new store to be a referral spot for people with cooking questions," Hill said. "We'll also offer cooking classes and demos once we're up and running. It's all about the in-store experience."

Moreover, Hill hopes that the faithful customers who have patronized KitchenWares since it opened in April of 2010 will make

the trek to the new Charles Street location.

"It's a pleasant walk through the Esplanade and the Public Garden and not really too far from

Newbury Street," Hill said.

For more information, call 617-227-4646, email jennifer@blackstonesbeaconhill.com or visit blackstonesbeaconhill.com.



Jennifer Hill, owner of Blackstone's of Beacon Hill and its sister establishment KitchenWares by Blackstones.

Boston Public Libraries, Community Centers close down for COVID-19

Special to the Sun

As of 6 p.m. on Monday, March 16, all branches of the Boston Public Library (BPL) system were closed until further notice including the Central Library in Copley Square and the Charlestown Branch Library. During this time, BPL will expand automatic renewals, and allow people to keep their books and other materials for an additional 15 weeks, instead of the standard three weeks.

All late fines will be waived until May 1, and library patrons will have until October to renew their library card if it is set to expire. In the coming days and weeks, BPL will increase online

services, including e-books, downloadable movies, audio books, and other information resources.

As a part of the City's school closure plan, Chromebooks are being distributed to every student who needs one. Students will be encouraged to make use of the BPL's vast collection of resources during this time.

In addition, all events, classes, concerts and talks taking place at all locations of the BPL are at this time either cancelled or postponed.

"We are committed to the health, safety, and well-being of our visitors and staff," read a statement from the BPL. "We will continue to closely monitor the developing Coronavirus situation. Further updates to our oper-

ating hours will be announced on our website, on our social media platforms, and through email."

BOSTON CENTERS FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

All BCYF pools, gyms and fitness centers are closed. By Wednesday, March 18, all BCYF programming was suspended. Only select BCYF centers will be open for youth meal distribution during school closures. For a list of meal distribution locations, go to boston.gov/coronavirus.

To protect Bostonians and their families from the spread of the virus, residents are reminded to practice caution: wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; use an

alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol; avoid shaking hands; cover your coughs and sneezes; clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces; and avoid close contact with people who are sick. If you think you might be sick, please call your doctor or 311 to be connected to the Mayor's Health Line. Residents are also reminded to practice social distancing: keep your distance from others (at least six feet apart); avoid crowded places.

Residents are asked to not call 9-1-1 unless you are experiencing a medical emergency. The City and BPHC will continue to provide updated information on bphc.org and boston.gov/coronavirus.

MEAL SERVICE SITES

There are four meal service sites set up near the South End, Bay Village and Lower Roxbury include the following:

- YMCA at Wang — 8 Oak St. 8 a.m.-noon

- BCYF Quincy Community Center — 885 Washington St. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

- Blackstone Elementary School — 380 Shawmut Ave. 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

- Vibrant Boston Community Center at Lenox/Camden —136 Lenox St. 8 a.m.-noon.

- YMCA at Huntington Ave. — 316 Huntington Ave. 8 a.m.-noon.

SBA to provide small businesses impacted by Coronavirus up to \$2 Million in disaster assistance loans

Special to the Sun

SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza issued the following statement last Friday in response to the President's address to the nation: "The President took bold, decisive action to make our 30 million small businesses more resilient to Coronavirus-related economic disruptions. Small businesses are vital economic engines in every community and state, and they have helped make our economy the strongest in the world. Our Agency will work directly with state Governors to provide targeted, low-interest disaster recovery loans to small businesses

that have been severely impacted by the situation. Additionally, the SBA continues to assist small businesses with counseling and navigating their own preparedness plans through our network of 68 District Offices and numerous Resource Partners located around the country. The SBA will continue to provide every small business with the most effective and customer-focused response possible during these times of uncertainty."

Process for Accessing SBA's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disaster Relief Lending

•The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for

working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Upon a request received from a state's or territory's Governor, SBA will issue under its own authority, as provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act that was recently signed by the President, an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration.

•Any such Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration issued by the SBA makes loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state or territory to help alleviate

economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

•SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance will coordinate with the state's or territory's Governor to submit the request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance.

•Once a declaration is made for designated areas within a state, the information on the application process for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance will be made available to all affected communities.

•SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.

•These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75 percent for small businesses with-

out credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75 percent.

•SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower's ability to repay.

•SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans are just one piece of the expanded focus of the federal government's coordinated response, and the SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible.

For additional information, contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

SJC issues order restricting court appearances to emergency matters

Special to the Sun

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) on Tuesday ordered that, because of the public health emergency arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning March 18 and until at least April 6, the only matters that will be heard in-person in Massachusetts state courthouses are emergency matters that cannot be held by videoconference or telephone.

Each of the seven Trial Court departments, in new standing orders to be issued March 17, will define emergency matters for their departments.

As a result of the SJC order, courthouses will be closed to the public except to conduct emergency hearings that cannot be resolved through a videoconference or telephonic hearing. Clerk's offices shall remain open to the public to accept pleadings and other documents in emergency matters only.

All trials in both criminal and civil cases scheduled to commence in Massachusetts state courts between today and April 17 are continued to a date no earlier than April 21, unless the trial is a civil case where the parties and the court agree that the case can be decided without the need for in-person

appearance in court. Where a jury trial has commenced, the trial will end based on the manifest necessity arising from the pandemic and a new trial may commence after the public health emergency ends.

Courts, to the best of their ability, will attempt to address matters that can be resolved or advanced without in-person proceedings through communication by telephone, videoconferencing, email, or other comparable means.

The SJC and the Appeals Court in the coming days will offer guidance with regard to oral arguments scheduled in April in these appellate courts.



The Learning Project in the Back Bay was the first school in the Boston area to close out of a concern for social responsibility last Wednesday, March 11. School leaders said they felt the virus was closing in and they didn't want to overwhelm the health care system.

THE LEARNING PROJECT (from pg. 1)

"We're often open during snowstorms," he said. "I think people kind of enjoyed the irony of that. We told everyone to treat the first day like a snow day, and then the children really needed to get to work."

McCord said there was no immediate concern at The Learning Project last Wednesday, but they felt it was the right thing to do as a part of social responsibility – something everyone is talking about now, but something few spoke of last week.

"We were just feeling that it was closing in and getting closer and closer," he said. "I was hearing the concerns expressed by many people that we needed to close for the greater good. The people dealing with this on the frontlines – our doctors and nurses and medical professionals – could be helped by us closing. This was one way we could protect ourselves and

our healthcare system. By staying open, that could make things harder for people we know and don't know.

"I think it was a clear message of social responsibility for us in the end," he said.

The school was ordered closed for two weeks, but that decision will likely be revisited as one week has already elapsed and things are continuing to intensify.

The school is heavily invested already in technology, McCord said, and all students have iPads. In the normal course of schooling, students at The Learning Project use those iPads for work. That said, it is expected to be a smooth transition to an all-home-learning environment.

They plan to use online instruction techniques and, perhaps, other innovative ways of teaching children online.



Public Meeting

Boston University 540 Commonwealth Ave

Thursday, March 26
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Questrom School of Business, Room 418
595 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

Project Proponent:
Boston University

Project Description:

Boston University is requesting to amend their Institutional Master Plan to include approximately 16,280 square feet of leased space at 540 Commonwealth Avenue in Kenmore Square. This meeting will serve as an update on this new space as well as other BU development activity. The public is encouraged to attend.

mail to: **Edward Carmody**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4422
email: edward.carmody@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
4/13/2020

ER Docs, major hospitals preparing for potential surge of patients

By Seth Daniel

Numerous public gatherings, meetings and conferences were abruptly cancelled over the last 10 days, and at the same time, major hospitals in the area were preparing for a potential surge of Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases – all this while financial markets in the United States and abroad show instability and unprecedented travel restrictions took effect last weekend.

At Boston Medical Center (BMC), numerous precautions were implemented in the past week to prepare for a surge of patients from Greater Boston neighborhoods and elsewhere – it being one of the few Trauma 1 medical facilities in New England.

Outside the emergency room at BMC on Albany Street, a temporary medical tent was set up in preparation for triage – if need be.

“BMC is planning for a surge in patients, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve rapidly,” said David Kibbe, a spokesman for BMC. “BMC has set up a tent outside the hospital to prepare for potential scenarios related to COVID-19. While the tent is currently only being used for drills, it could be used as a testing location or additional Emergency Department space should we get a

large number of patients requiring screening and testing for COVID-19.”

While those preparations are playing out, there is also concern in the medical community for adequate supplies at hospitals like BMC.

“We have adequate personal protective equipment supplies on hand for our staff,” said Kibbe. “Given the worldwide impact of this outbreak, we share the concern across health care about potential shortages of medical supplies, including N95 respirators. To ensure that we are able to protect our staff and provide safe care for patients, BMC has taken steps to conserve personal protective equipment, including N95 respirators, surgical masks and precaution gowns.”

Already, two weeks ago, the hospital had restricted employee travel.

Patients at BMC or its health centers, under federal guidelines, are being asked if they have had a fever or cough or having traveled in the last 30 days. They are also asked if they have had any close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case. These questions are asked during a phone call or during an appointment.

“For any patient considered at risk for COVID-19, clinicians will undertake actions to protect the

patient, hospital staff, and other hospital patients,” read their website. “This includes putting the patient in a private room and providing masks for both the patient and care team. Staff has undergone training for possible cases of COVID-19, and BMC regularly conducts staff drills and training for infectious diseases.”

State Rep. (and doctor) Jon Santiago works in the BMC emergency room (ER) and also serves in the legislature representing the South End and Lower Roxbury.

He worked in the ER last weekend, and will continue to work shifts every weekend in March. Uniquely, he will be treating patients on the frontlines in the ER, and also thinking about legislation to address the emerging, multiple challenges associated with what is now a medical pandemic.

“As an ER doctor and an elected official, my oaths to protect the public is no more important than now,” he said.

“I do know it’s going to get significantly worse before it gets better,” he said. “We’ve had a sluggish federal response. Medically, right now we really have to summon out the best in each of us and empower our neighbors and communities and let them know there are things you can do to protect yourself. It can be things like washing your hands. If you’re sick, please stay home. If you’re an older person with chronic diseases like diabetes or lung problems, you should be particularly cautious. Likewise, if you are a young, healthy person and have especially mild symptoms or no symptoms, it would behoove you to take precautions also because it will be those folks who will be transmitting the disease, maybe in a careless fashion.”

From a public policy perspective, Santiago said he and others are working on several measures. One is how to legislate in a safe fashion so that the virus isn’t transmitted during lawmaking sessions.

“I am sitting on an internal working group right now,” he said. “We are looking at our approach to legislating in these trying times.”

He noted the State Legislature approved a \$15 million bill to provide more emergency funding for coronavirus responses statewide late last week.

The federal government announced a second round of emergency funding by the Cen-



Major hospitals like Boston Medical Center (BMC), are preparing this week for a potential surge in patients with coronavirus. Here, outside the emergency room, they have set up a triage and testing tent to aid in any potential surge. Right now, it is being used for drills, but is being prepared for real use.

ters for Disease Control (CDC) on March 11. While Massachusetts already received \$500,000 in federal funding, the state will also receive an additional \$11.46 million in federal funds from the CDC. The CDC has instructed state health officers to move forward with distributing that money immediately to those on the frontlines.

“Our state, local, tribal and territorial public health partners are on the front lines of the COVID-19 response. The action we are taking today will continue to support their efforts to increase public health capacity where it’s needed most,” said CDC Director Robert R. Redfield, M.D. “These funds will allow public health leaders to implement critical steps necessary to contain and mitigate spread of the virus in communities across the country.”

Like that, seemingly, everything was on hold or in a holding pattern.

For those looking to stay healthy, BMC indicated a few sim-

ple things everyone can do:

- Cover your sneezes and coughs with your sleeve, not your hand.
- Wash your hands frequently to reduce the spread of germs. Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- If you feel sick, stay home, and avoid travel.
- Avoid close contact with people with flu-like symptoms whenever possible.

Vulnerable populations need to be considered as Outbreak Spreads

While many are thinking about schools, public gathers and civic meetings when it comes to the spread of the coronavirus, some medical professionals are beginning to be concerned about precautions in the homeless community, the jails and homeless shelters.

Emergency Room doctor and State Rep. Jon Santiago said he is concerned about how hospitals like Boston Medical Center (BMC) might be able to help those populations if there is an outbreak.

“BMC Emergency Room is the largest ER in town,” he said. “We see a number of disproportionately impacted communities and homeless folks. As a physician, we need to be extremely cognizant of how we educate these patients and making sure they have safe places to go. I would like to know what our homeless shelters are doing. What about the jails? I wonder if undocumented immigrants feel safe enough to seek care, or if they might be scared ICE will pick them up.”

Right now, the response is very new, and what is happening with vulnerable populations is not necessarily being discussed yet.

“These are people that live in close quarters,” said Santiago. “They are also people who are already suffering from a whole host of diseases. It’s going to be challenging for sure. I do have faith in our doctors and nurses and public health officials.”

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Sally Brewster
Ron Berkowitz

Betsey Barrett
Toni Doggett

St. Cecilia Parish holds historic Mass using video streaming

By Lauren Bennett

As many people adjust to working and learning from home, religious services across the city also have to adapt to the social distancing that can help flatten the curve of the coronavirus.

Until further notice, Cardinal Sean O'Malley has temporarily suspended all daily and Sunday Masses and religious services in the Archdiocese of Boston. Additionally, he has also issued a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass.

But that didn't stop more than 1,500 people from watching a taped Mass from St. Cecilia Parish in the Back Bay this past Sunday, a first for the church, said Pastoral Director of Operations Mary Kaye.

She said the closest the church has come to something like this is recording some of Father John Unni's homilies and putting them on the parish's Facebook page. They, too, have been well-received, she said.

St. Cecilia holds more than 700 people, and even before the current restrictions on gatherings, the church staff knew that holding Mass was not a good idea as more and more information came out about the importance of social distancing.

The virtual Mass that was held this past Sunday was "bare bones," Kaye said, with a few musicians and lectors joining Fr. Unni while maintaining social distance. She said that even though they only put out one email saying this was going to happen, more than 15,000

tuned in during the stream, and since then, more than 2,500 people have viewed the Mass.

"We were floored by the number of people who watched this," she said. "To us, after Catholics have already received dispensation, you do not need to go to Mass. We were amazed that people wanted to connect."

Fr. Unni told the Sun it was "different not having anybody in the room when we were used to having [500 to 700]." He said he was aware of the camera in the church with him and said it was a "different experience, but I think it went fine, and we got positive feedback on it."

He also said he hopes for this coming week's Mass to not have glitches, and that everyone who wants to connect will be able to do so.

Fr. Unni said that having Mass even when it's not required is "important for a time like this when there's so much uncertainty," as it provides a sense of familiarity in very unfamiliar circumstances, as well as helps people stick to their routines when everything else is turned upside down.

St. Cecilia Parish is also trying to find other ways that people can connect, she said, as the parish has 3,000 households and adds between 300 and 325 new households a year. Kaye said a large number of parishioners are young adults.

"We are blessed to have a lot of young people who are internet savvy and want something like a live-streamed Mass," Kaye said.

Additionally, St. Cecilia has plans to do its "Pastries with a Pastor" program—which takes place

every other month—virtually. Typically, people gather with Fr. Unni in person over coffee and donuts to have a conversation about just about anything. But now, Kaye said about a dozen people at a time will be able grab a cup of coffee—each from the comfort of their own homes—and chat with Fr. Unni via Zoom or another videoconferencing program in an attempt to retain some sort of normalcy with the programs offered by the parish.

Fr. Unni said he hopes the virtual Masses and other online efforts from the church can instill that sense of familiarity in his parishioners.

"I do think we need to be more conscious and aware that it is not business as usual," Fr. Unni said. "People are losing their jobs. That affects people's spirits."

NEWS BRIEFS

SOUTH END STREET SWEEPING CLARITY

Street sweeping is still on in the South End, and the City encourages residents to move their cars to allow for Public Works to properly clean the streets. However, the City said it understands that given the current situation with COVID-19 in Boston, moving a car might be difficult at this time. As a result, the City is suspending ticketing and towing for the time being. That said, the City does highly encourage those who are able to move on street cleaning day, to do so. Street sweeping in the South End began on March 1.

MCKINLEY SOUTH END CASE TESTS NEGATIVE

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

That person was tested over the weekend, and it was reported Monday night that the person tested negative for the virus. Those worries, in fact, were abated in the South End.

BPDA MEETINGS CANCELED

Following guidance issued by Mayor Walsh recommending the postponement or cancellation of public meetings, the Boston Planning and Development Agency is postponing all BPDA-hosted public meetings regarding Article 80 development projects and planning studies until further notice.

COUNCILOR ED FLYNN WORKING REMOTELY

Please note on Mon March 16, Councilor Ed Flynn and his team began working remotely from home. In addition, the Boston City Council facilities will be closed indefinitely following the regular meeting on Wednesday, March 18. However, they will continue to work on City Hall matters, constituent services, and quality-of-life issues in District 2. At this time, the aim is to help mitigate the threat of community spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) to employees, family and friends, and neighbors, as it may pose serious risks to those with underlying health issues, including our seniors. For all constituent service requests, continue to contact Councilor Flynn's office at Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov or 617-635-3203, and his staff will continue to provide updates on social media. For health concerns, contact a health provider, or Healthy Boston at (617) 534-5050 and 9-1-1.

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

THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE/WERE CANCELLED:

- Housing Expo March 14;
- Tremont Design Open House March 16;

- BU Medical Campus Task Force March 19;
- Tremont Design Open House March 21;
- Blackstone Family Gym March 21;
- BCYF Blackstone Spelling Bee March 21;
- Mayor's Youth and Jobs Resource Fair March 28
- Bay Village Neighborhood Association meetings

BOSTON WARD 4 DEMS CAUCUS: POSTPONED

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

FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN CANCELS ALL EVENTS

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

CONNECT DOWNTOWN OPEN HOUSES

Connect Downtown creates a network of comfortable, on-street walking and bicycling routes from Columbus Avenue in the South End to key locations in Bay Village, Downtown, Beacon

Hill and beyond. Boston Transportation Department (BTD) plans to design the project in a way that allows for faster construction. Below are upcoming open houses in the South End. Open Houses at the BPL South End Branch Library - 685 Tremont St.

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

SOUTH END DATES

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

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

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

•The Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) has postponed its March 24 meeting in the Boston

Medical Center's Menino Pavilion.

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

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

•The BPDA cancelled the South End Urban Renewal meeting that was to be on Wednesday, March 18, 6 p.m., in the AC Hotel. The meeting is expected to be re-scheduled for a later date.

FENWAY TIMES

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

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

•LOVE, FENWAY

Love, Fenway, scheduled for March 19, has been postponed to an undetermined date. For those who have already purchased tickets, all tickets will be transferred to the rescheduled date and will be honored.

•Construction Update: MGM Music Hall at Fenway

Debris removal and materials delivery are ongoing at the Ipswich and Lansdowne streets, while over at the 189 Ipswich lot, contractors expect to begin paving in the next week.



What to do if you are sick with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Stay home except to get medical care

You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home

People: As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

Animals: Do not handle pets or other animals while sick. See [COVID-19 and Animals](#) for more information.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider’s office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) or pets and before you enter a healthcare provider’s office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not stay in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can; immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.

Avoid sharing personal household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people or pets in your home. After using these items, they should be washed thoroughly with soap and water.

Clean your hands often

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Clean all “high-touch” surfaces every day

High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

Monitor your symptoms

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., difficulty breathing). **Before** seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, COVID-19. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider’s office to keep other people in the office or waiting room from getting infected or exposed.

Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department. Persons who are placed under active monitoring or facilitated self-monitoring should follow instructions provided by their local health department or occupational health professionals, as appropriate. When working with your local health department check their available hours.

If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, notify the dispatch personnel that you have, or are being evaluated for COVID-19. If possible, put on a facemask before emergency medical services arrive.

Discontinuing home isolation

Patients with confirmed COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low. The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.

COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts as of March 18

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 256

Total Number of Cases by County

Barnstable	2
Berkshire	17
Bristol	5
Essex	14

Franklin	1
Hampden	2
Middlesex	100
Norfolk	45
Plymouth	5
Suffolk	51
Worcester	10
Unknown	4

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The building with the elaborate rounded corner windows in the last clue is at 1140 Boylston Street. Boston atlases show this as a vacant lot in 1899 and as the Carlton Chambers in 1900. Over the years, it was also identified as the Ritz Carlton Hotel. Today the property belongs to Berklee College of Music.

The next clue will be found in the South End.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1

SELLER 1

ADDRESS

PRICE

BACK BAY

Shek, Yuanfu
Menzin, Joseph
Lemle, Jake
Heritage Unit 1202 NT
Yoder, Maureen B
Krusser, Kevin R
Shields, William M
Hollingsworth, Sophie H
Balafas, Georgia

Shapiro, Janice
Beacon Mainsail 4 LLC
Brian T Carty RET
1202 Heritage LLC
Kreidie, Abdul R
Hudson Holland Jr T
Ostrow, Steven A
Pope, Gregory S
13-3 Gloucester St LLC

124 Beacon St #6F \$860,000
142 Beacon St #2 \$6,375,000
193 Beacon St #1 \$2,900,000
300 Boylston St #1202 \$6,250,000
1 Charles St S #PH104 \$2,395,000
167 Commonwealth Ave #1 \$1,150,000
191 Commonwealth Ave #33 \$2,225,000
34 Commonwealth Ave #4 \$1,476,000
13 Gloucester St #3 \$1,000,000

BEACON HILL

Bond, Matthew P
Reid, Thomas A
6 Louisburg Square NT
Allen, David G
Li, John
Oppelt, Drew
Kelly, Brian
Swan, Joan H

Allison, Ali M
Lighthouse RT
Wait Linda L Est
Lallas James C Est
Topic, Savo
Knopf, Claude C
Qu, Ning
Blair, Wesley K

18 Garden St #4 \$890,000
9 Hawthorne Pl #5M \$740,000
6 Louisburg Sq \$9,500,000
26 Mount Vernon St #5F \$589,000
55 Phillips St #1 \$567,500
79 W Cedar St \$2,500,000
43 Westland Ave #401 \$810,000
8 Whittier Pl #14A \$605,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Freeman, Hannah H
Tomovski, Filip
Garvey, Harold J
Shaw-Olofson, Hayes
Shrivastava, Alok
Lonbiz LLC
Sathappan, Venkatachalam
Davidson, Robert
Wisbach, John
Harper, Michael A
Singh, Satish K
Singer, Hannah M
Wheeler, Alistair
Lantsman, Stan
Velichkov, Vessel
Amos, Jason M
Cobos, Camilio J
Thakur, Mrudangi
Schoeller, Richard
Tavener, Jordan
Cao, Senhao
Rohatgi, Ankit

Britt, Adam D
Celona, Jennie M
Nevin FT
Hendrix, Meredith
Nesbit, Peter T
Rabbony, Farhan
Qiao, Wen
Macculloch, Brad
Dipiro, Theresa A
Wagner, David
JP Property 1 LLC
JP Property 1 LLC
JP Property 1 LLC
JP Property 1 LLC
JP Property 1 LLC
JP Property 1 LLC
JP Property 1 LLC
JP Property 1 LLC
JP Property 1 LLC
JP Property 1 LLC
JP Property 1 LLC
JP Property 1 LLC
JP Property 1 LLC
JP Property 1 LLC

3 Lawrence St \$2,995,000
50 Fenway #2 \$815,000
39 Hemenway St #4 \$399,000
47 Milford St #3 \$2,150,000
16 Miner St #505 \$850,000
108 Peterborough St #4H \$446,500
137 Peterborough St #21 \$645,000
291 Shawmut Ave #3 \$1,770,000
94 Waltham St #2 \$875,000
1313 Washington St #323 \$909,188
3521 Washington St #417 \$790,000
3531 Washington St #218 \$479,000
3531 Washington St #226 \$870,000
3531 Washington St #313 \$450,000
3531 Washington St #322 \$760,000
3531 Washington St #324 \$675,000
3531 Washington St #403 \$770,000
3531 Washington St #509 \$665,000
3531 Washington St #511 \$1,293,500
3531 Washington St #513 \$785,000
3531 Washington St #517 \$1,050,000
3531 Washington St #519 \$980,000

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Sper, Emily
Jackson LLC
Deborah B Taylor T
Park, Andrew S
T&T Millennium LLC
Nfsre 1 Winthrop LLC

Ward, Lisa
Douglas C&K B Gribbel
Larose, Cynthia J
15 Linden LLC
Mueller, Mark
MM Real Estate LLC

717 Atlantic Ave #5D \$782,000
99-105 Broad St #2D \$680,000
142 Commercial St #506 \$745,500
1 Franklin St #1704 \$2,090,000
1 Franklin St #PH3D \$4,880,000
1 Winthrop Sq \$75,000,000



D - 4 POLICE NEWS

HEADS WILL ROLL

On March 9, at around 12:25 a.m., police responded to 770 Boylston St. on a call for a reported threat.

On arrival, the officer spoke to the victim said less an hour earlier, he received a message via the What's Up app from an known number, and the caller threatened to "put a gun to [the victim's] head" if the victim didn't text back.

After the victim blocked the caller's number, he received a message from another number with pictures of decapitated heads and bodies, as well as a text message in Spanish threatening to kill the girls in the victim's family.

Police advised the victim to notify his family members living in Spain of the incident, and to

not send any money to the caller because this is likely a scam.

MADE IN THE SHADE

On Monday, March 9, at approximately 3:57 p.m., officers responded to a call for a larceny in progress at the Sunglass Hut at 86 Newbury St.

Upon arrival, police spoke to the store manager, who said five suspects entered the store and attempted to steal multiple pairs of sunglasses.

One male suspect left the store with a pair of sunglasses valued at \$400 as a female suspect attempted to conceal another pair of sunglasses in her sweatshirt. When employees confronted the female suspect, she handed the sunglasses over to them before exiting the store.

The other three suspects, who

were all holding sunglasses, then attempted to distract employees in order to get away, but they all left the store empty-handed once an employee called the police.

The suspects were seen headed towards the Boston Common, but a search of the area for them was to no avail.

HAZARDS OF SMOKING

On Friday, March 13, police responded to a radio call for a female suspect with a knife at the 7-Eleven at 717 Boylston St.

On arrival, officers located the suspect at 699 Boylston St. and attempted to take her into custody. The suspect was eventually placed in handcuffs, and a search of her person didn't turn up a knife, but instead she was found in possession of six packages of Newport cigarettes. Additional officers

responded to the scene because of the suspect's combative nature, and police were able to transport her to police headquarters for booking.

Police also responded to the 7-Eleven and interviewed three victims, who said the suspect, who had caused previous problems at the store and was consequently barred from the premises by management, followed two friends inside. While her friends purchased some goods, the suspect began arguing with employees, and when her friends tried to convince the suspect to exit the store, she grew increasingly more belligerent, throwing items around the store and knocking over a sales display.

The manager then came out of his office and attempted to calm

the suspect down, at which time the suspect brandished a container of pepper spray and sprayed it in his face.

The suspect then went behind the counter, and when employees tried to stop her, she pulled a knife and waved it at them before stealing several packages of cigarettes and fleeing the store.

While the police couldn't find a knife on the suspect's person, they did locate a container of pepper spray on her, which they seized as evidence.

Officers also confiscated the stolen cigarettes from her, which they subsequently returned to the store.

Meanwhile, EMTs responded to the store and treated the manager on the scene, but declined transportation to the hospital for further evaluation.

Peterborough Senior Center closed until March 27

By Lauren Bennett

During times like these, the health and safety of Boston's seniors are at the forefront of the minds of many.

Operation PEACE, which runs

the Peterborough Senior Center in the Fenway, has decided to close all programming for two weeks, according to Program Director Mallory Rohrig. Aside from senior programming, Operation PEACE also offers programs for youth and adults. After the two weeks, which

will be March 27, the team will re-evaluate the situation.

"At Operation PEACE, our first concern is keeping seniors safe and doing our part to limit exposure to and the spread of the coronavirus," Rohrig said. "During these two weeks, our plan is to stay in

contact with our seniors as much as possible—including making regular wellness-check phone calls."

Operation PEACE is also teaming up with the Fenway Community Center to see how they can help in other ways as well.

"Please remember to practice social distancing, good hand-washing, and frequent hand-washing," Rohrig reminded email subscribers on March 16. "We hope everyone stays safe and well!"

For the Record

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

(CANCELED) From the March 19 CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS HEARING:

Reason for cancellation: Postponed until further notice. Order for a hearing addressing civil rights in the creation of sanctuary safe spaces in Boston. The hearing was to be at the St. Stephen's Church in the South End.

(CANCELED) From the March 23 COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND TRANSPORTATION HEARING:

- The meeting was to have discussed the appointments of the following.
•Appointment of Susan Trowbridge as a member of the St. Botolph Architectural Conservation District Commission for a term expiring on June 30, 2022.
•Appointment of Douglas Miller as an alternate member of the St. Botolph Architectural Conservation District Commission for a term expiring on June 30, 2021.
•Reappointment of Barbara Wennerholm as a member of the St. Botolph Architectural Conservation District Commission for a term expiring on June 30, 2020.
•Appointment of Paul Wright as an alternate member of the South End Landmark District Commission for a term expiring on June 30, 2021.
•Appointment of David Shepperd as a member of the South End Landmark District Commission for a term expiring on June 30, 2022.
•Appointment of Catherine Hunt as a member of the South End Landmark District Commission for a term expiring on June 30, 2022.
•Appointment of Fabian D'Souza as a member of the South End Landmark District Commission for a term expiring on June 30, 2021.

(MOVED TO ONLINE ONLY) From the March 23, 1 p.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH HEARING: Order for a hearing to evalu-

ate the City of Boston's preparedness for the coronavirus strain COVID-19.

This matter was sponsored by Councilors Matt O'Malley, Michelle Wu, and Ed Flynn and was referred to the Committee on March 4. This hearing was previously scheduled for two in-person sessions on March 16 and March 17.

Written testimony may be sent to the Committee or staff emails (below) and will be made a part of the record and available to all Councilors. Members of the public are invited to attend and testify via Zoom Meeting. Please email shane.pac@boston.gov for the Zoom link. A comprehensive list of ways to view and participate in this hearing will be posted online prior to the start of the hearing.

Mail Address: Docket #0458, City Council, City Hall, 5th Floor, Boston MA 02201
Fax Number: 617-635-4203 Attn: Michelle A. Goldberg, Docket #0458
Committee Email: ccc.health@boston.gov
Staff Email: shane.pac@boston.gov Staff Telephone: 617-635-4645

From the March 24 Boston Landmarks Commission hearing, City Hall, 4 p.m.: DESIGN REVIEW

- Commonwealth Avenue Mall (Between Arlington Street and Kenmore Street): Landscape and lighting improvements at the Collins statue and Garrison Statue.
•Back Bay Fens: Planting of 52 trees along Park Drive and the Fenway.
•Charles River Esplanade - Lower Basin Barracks Modernization Project: Revised designed details requested by the Commission as part of its 2018 Certificate of Design Approval including: garage door details; new addition's brick cladding; base planter details; fencing details; and landscape details.

•HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

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



LOUISBURG SQUARE

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



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



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



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



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

