





# DiDomenico, McGonagle annouce new law to help vulnerable residents and support schools

Sen. Sal DiDomenico and Rep. Joseph McGonagle recently announced that the state Senate and House of Representatives passed legislation to support those experiencing homelessness and provide testing and budgetary flexibility to school districts. The bill, which is the latest action by the Legislature to address the COVID-19 public health crisis and its effects on Massachusetts, has now been signed into law by Governor Baker.

“This legislation is the latest step from my colleagues and I in the Legislature to provide much needed relief to our Commonwealth’s families and most vulnerable residents,” said DiDomenico. “I am particularly pleased to report that this bill includes a MCAS waiver for the current academic year. Our students and educators are facing enough stress and educational disruptions due to COVID-19 without the added pressure of having to prepare for the MCAS. This was absolutely the right course of action during this unprecedented time, and I

was proud to support this change for our students.”

Said McGonagle, “Too often, major crises unfairly harm our most vulnerable populations, such as children and the homeless. This legislation, which comes from a great partnership of the House and Senate, proves collectively how we are working to protect those vulnerable people.”

This latest relief package known as An Act to Further Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities, School Districts and State authorities Resulting from COVID-19, includes the following components.

- Student Requirements and District Operations. To address disruptions caused by the closure of K-12 schools due to COVID-19, the legislation waives the MCAS requirements for the 2019-2020 academic year and allows DESE to modify or waive competency determination requirements related to high school graduation.
- In order to comply with measures under the newly implemented Student Opportunity Act, the leg-

islation would require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner to extend the deadlines for school districts to submit their three-year plans to address educational disparities in student subgroups. This deadline shall be extended to May 15, 2020, or later, as determined by the Commissioner.

The legislation also provides budgetary flexibility for regional schools as a result of COVID-19.

- Helping Vulnerable Populations. In keeping with the Legislature’s commitment to protecting vulnerable populations, the legislation repurposes existing homelessness funds that currently support services that can’t be provided due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The legislation redirects funding to address immediate and critical homelessness needs resulting from the public health emergency.
- MBTA Budget Flexibility. The legislation also provides the MBTA additional budgetary flexibility amid the COVID-19 emergency.

# Birthday // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

his 6th birthday.

“Everything happened so fast,” said Anthony’s mother, Nayara Fernandes. “My sister-in-law told me she was going to do some kind of surprise for Anthony on his birthday. She told me Saturday she was going to call the Fire Department and ask if they could come over and drive by in the fire trucks for his birthday because he loves fire trucks. She called and I sent a message and they called back and said they would be over in 30 minutes. I was getting ready and then I heard that and told him we had to go out by the door for a surprise. He kept asking me what was going to happen.”

A few minutes later, Everett Fire came rolling down the street under the direction of Capt. Steve Shembri, with Firefighter Adam Ragucci and Private Kevin Devanna – along with the rest of the crew.

It was magical for the little boy.

“They came down the street and put on the lights and sirens and everything,” said Fernandes. “One of the firefighters come over and gave him a hat and Everett Fire patch. Anthony loves to go to school, and he always asks if we are going to have to stay home forever. I always tell him we won’t be here forever, but I don’t know how long either. Saturday was his birthday and I didn’t know what we could do. We couldn’t go anywhere. So my sister-in-law had this idea.”

Chief Tony Carli said he got the message on Facebook from the family on Saturday asking if the fire trucks could swing by the street for Anthony’s birthday because they were in the house and wanted something special.

“I contacted the guys at the Ferry Street Station and they were more than excited and happy to do it,” said the chief. “They guys didn’t miss a beat and they

brought him a hat and a fire patch too. They brought both pieces of apparatus. Capt. Shembri really went above and beyond.

“We’re happy to accommodate because it means so much to a little boy’s life on his birthday,” continued the chief. “We appreciate doing it because we’re part of the community.”

Little Anthony now has his hat and patch placed carefully on the dresser in his room, his mother said, and it has become very special to him.

In unprecedented times, birthdays aren’t the same, but last Saturday, Anthony Fernandes had one of the best birthdays of his six long years despite the lockdown.

“My husband and I and our family just want to say thank you very much because Anthony was so happy,” she said. “It was the best birthday he ever had I think.”

# Cases // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stantially lower than Revere’s 454 cases reported on April 13, and Chelsea’s 541 cases reported on April 13. No one is known to have died of COVID-19 in Everett either.

Firicano said there is a good chance numbers have been lower because of the quick action taken by Everett to be the first to shut down schools and City buildings – as well as being early to shut down non-essential services.

“I think the mayor and superintendent made a bold statement in quickly shutting down the schools, City Hall and non-essential businesses,” she said. “I’m not sure what Revere and Chelsea did, but I think in Everett we made a bold statement doing things right away...Our inspectors have also been very good about going around to businesses and making a big effort to let non-essential businesses know they cannot be open. I think all of that does play a big role in cases. It could also be testing or some other factor, but I can say shutting everything down quickly is probably why we are where we’re at now.”

She said the City has also been very vigorously enforcing social distancing and taking many measures to get that message out to all audiences.

That said, the numbers coming out of Chelsea – which is just next door – are alarming. That city has one of the highest rates of infection in the state, and there has always been a lot of cross-over between Everett and Chelsea.

Firicano said it is a concern, and they are monitoring that closely.

“The cases in Chelsea are a concern,” she said. “The Chelsea public health nurse and I have spoken regularly because we do he residents that work in Chelsea and live in Everett – and vice versa. We’ve been talking about that and watching the numbers and educating the patients that are confirmed – telling them they can’t go back to work until they’ve been cleared. We watched everyone in the house too so the first positive case in a house doesn’t infect everyone else and drive our numbers up.

“It is definitely a concern because they are right next

door,” she continued.

Right now, Firicano and a team of School Nurses are monitoring patients in Everett remotely, quickly reaching out to them once confirmed and if they return from treatment at a hospital. They trace their contacts and try to help them limit exposure to others. Though the cases are growing, she said they are keeping up with the demand and assisting patients who might need extra help.

As things do begin to trend towards an opening, it isn’t likely that will be at the May 4 date will be the time to ‘flip the switch.’ Firicano said any opening would likely be gradual and would come after a great deal of assessment.

It will also be done with care.

“It really depends on what gets opened up and when,” she said. “You can’t turn on the switch and say everyone can go back to normal activities. When you open, it will be the appropriate time and still practicing social distancing and hand hygiene. It’s not a light switch you’ll just turn on and go back to before.”

# CHA // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

health officials, patients and the general public. Almost weekly there seems to be some sort of breakthrough, but each test seems to have its own set of positives and negatives. Keeping track of just how one can be tested is next to impossible. However, Dr. Osgood clarified exactly how it’s being done at CHA.

The new quick-test that is now being offered is the Cepheid Analyzer Xpert Xpress system – which is compatible with lab equipment at the CHA campuses. It takes just 4-6 hours to get a result, and is done with a nasal swab. It was developed, like most tests, very quickly and only given emergency authorization from the federal government on March 22.

CHA Everett has also been using three other real-time PCR tests that have to be sent out for lab analysis. They are using a COC Assay test that goes out to the State Lab in Jamaica Plain and takes 2.1 days on average for a result. They also partner with Labcorp on testing, which uses the Roche Analyzer test and has a turnaround time of 1.8 days. Meanwhile, their clinical affiliate Beth Israel has been working with CHA Everett to do testing using the Abbott quick-test, which is sent out to Beth Israel for analysis and returned on average in 0.93 days.

She said they are doing about 140 to 160 tests per day and, as of mid-day April 13, had completed 3,071 tests since around March 11.

“All of these tests are pretty rapidly produced, but when you send them out to another lab, it’s a lot of transportation time,” she said. “It’s really a breakthrough to have testing done here in our own lab. It means a result in 4 to 6 hours...The other tests are all about one or two days, so being able to do it in-house is a much better situation. Time is very important to our patients.”

Dr. Osgood said they hope to be able to radically expand testing soon in Everett to help with the next stage of treating and detecting the sickness. However, that is hampered by one thing – a lack of swabs.

“Our plan is really to expand testing throughout the communities we’re involved in I believe,” she said. “That is something to expect, but what’s holding us back is the swab availability and the inability to get in new swabs. I’ve tried and tried to order more, but we can’t get them in.”

She said, as a pathologist, not having swabs to use – a standard and plentiful piece of equipment in normal times for any medical lab – would have never occurred to her.

“Absolutely never,” she said. “Who would have ever believed that I would have asked a colleague at the MIT Labs if they can 3-D print a swab? No one could have predicted that, but we have asked.”

**New Testing Coming**

While all of the testing right now is being done through nasal or oral swabs

with what is known as rapid-time PCR testing, a new test is coming online known as serology – which tests for antibodies in the blood.

Rather than taking a sample from the nose, the test is done by taking blood. Lab workers then analyze the blood for antibodies from the immune system, which helps them to know if one has had the COVID-19 virus and has recovered.

She said within a week, they hope to be able to do such testing with their partner, Labcorp. Within two weeks, she said they hope to be able to have the testing in their in-house lab. She said it is this testing that has been on the news a lot lately, and particularly the one that is talked about a lot in presidential press conferences.

“When you get a test in-house like that, we can’t start it right away,” she said. “That’s hard to understand, even for doctors. We have to go through a quality control process and make sure it meets the standards.”

Once that is up and running, it will prevent needing to use swabs, but it will also be able to likely tell if you have had the virus and recovered. It is not a new concept, she said, and has been used for years to detect if one has had the mumps or any other such disease.

“It is simply measuring the immune system anti-body response to the organism,” she said. “In this case, testing will look at your anti-body response to COVID-19. If you have a good enough response, we’ll know you had the virus. Those patients are going to be important for the Red Cross because the Red Cross is looking for donors who have recovered after a certain period of time. They will be able to donate their plasma to help our patients who are struggling with COVID-19.”

There has already been great work and research done on treating sick patients with anti-bodies in the blood of recovered patients, and it does seem to have good results. Once those serology tests are performed, the Red Cross is hoping to be able to provide this therapy more often on patients who are sick.

It will also be an important part of figuring out if there is natural immunity to the COVID-19 virus, and whether or not someone can get it more than once. If the serology test shows that someone has had the virus, and then they show up sick again – it will raise many new questions that have not been posed just yet.

**False Negatives**

There are also many concerns with testing for COVID-19 due to potential false negatives – where a test shows that a person doesn’t have the virus, but they actually do have it.

It does happen, Dr. Osgood said.

The real-time PCR tests use a nasal or oral swab to collect viral material from the upper respiratory system. Detecting the virus depends on timing and the success of the test collection

– a collection that is very uncomfortable and requires the swab to be inserted far into the sinuses for up to 30 seconds.

In that method, only about 60 to 70 percent of those with the virus had a positive test, according to data released from testing in China. A lower respiratory test was more accurate, around 90 to 100 percent. However, that requires a timely, invasive procedure to gather samples from the lungs.

Some of the restrictions on the upper respiratory test are whether or not the sample was done correctly, and whether the patient has come in too early.

“You actually might have a falsely negative specimen at the beginning,” she said. “There is no perfect test. We’re taught in medical school there are always tests with false positives and false negatives. In this test, false positives are very rare, but false negatives can happen...It could be the testing wasn’t done as vigorously as it should have been. You’re supposed to be in there 15 to 30 seconds and it is uncomfortable. It could be you came in too early and your virus level isn’t as high.”

She said that is one reason they use the test as just one piece of data to diagnose the virus. CHA Everett is tending to look at the whole patient picture, including what kinds of symptoms they have. If they test negative, but have all of the correct symptoms of COVID-19, there is an assumption that the patient is probably sick.

Right now, at the CHA network, they are testing positive at a rate of 31.9 percent. That is 10 percent higher than the state average of 21.9 percent. Overall, employees at CHA are testing a lot lower than both averages – around 10 to 15 percent positive, which is good news.

“That is consistent with other hospitals in the area,” she said.

**Overall Challenges For Testing**

The challenge overall for increased testing of more people in Everett, Chelsea and Revere will be materials. As Dr. Osgood said above, swabs are in short supply, but testing kits are also in short supply, as well as equipment.

While they have the Cepheid machinery, they have also tried to procure the Abbott ID Now machinery which helps process the Abbott quick-tests.

“I’ve asked for that machine and they think it will be months,” she said. “They can’t even tell me when I’ll be able to be put on a wait list for an instrument.”

She said other testing kits are also in short supply right now.

“Just like masks goggles, gowns and gloves, testing is in really short supply,” she said. “We try to get an order in...The pandemic has really shown how important it is to have all these supplies ready at any time. It’s really been an interesting experience.”

# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Fernandes, Tomas	Tran Management LLC	35 Alfred St	\$605,000
Gattu, Tejaswi	24 Beacon Street LLC	24 Beacon St #2	\$625,000
David, Donald	Derosa, Gregory E	35 Dunster Rd	\$630,000
Pineda Property Mgmt LLC	Genuvaldo, Philip A	301 Elm St	\$900,000
Jia, Yifan	Dejesus, Carlos O	421 Ferry St	\$940,000
Cambridge Fortunes LLC	Maldonado, Luciano	44 Glendale St	\$805,000
Zou, Lei	26 Plymouth Everett RT	20 Plymouth St	\$685,000
Yuen, Yui F	Bozic, Zdravko	120 Wyllis Ave #320	\$455,000

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# Online learning gets started officially this week, ChromeBooks mostly delivered

By Seth Daniel

After delivering more than 4,100 ChromeBooks to students in a drive-thru operation last week, the official distance learning initiative for Everett Public Schools started on Monday.

While there are slightly more than 600 ChromeBooks that need to be hand delivered to homes, but Supt. Priya Tahiliani said they estimate 54 percent of the district had computer access now, and they believe a good percentage of those remaining already have a home computer they can use.

“The transition to distance learning has been consistent across the board,” she said. “Families that have already been doing work online have wondered why one child has a lot of work posted and the other doesn’t have very much. Families didn’t know what the expectation was. This gives every school the ability to work everything out consistently across the board so families will know what to expect.”

She said they are already getting positive feedback, and the work is being post-

ed more consistently. The goals she said were to have coherent, cohesive and consistent work for kids across each school. The distance learning plan give students the ability to work on their individual grade level classroom, by their school or using the district’s umbrella assignments.

Teachers have been worried, however, that the start has shown spotty participation. Work is serious, but it is enrichment, and many families are having trouble adjusting to having to work inside or outside the home while students are home expected to be learning at the same time.

“We have heard from teachers that participation is spotty,” she said. “Some days have huge participation and other day less. I even see this at my own home in my household. We’re all working at home, and some are still going to work. Everyone is on their devices, and parents are in meetings... We’re trying to remember this is a difficult and challenging time for everyone and for the teachers not to get discouraged. If there are days of great participation, families

know it’s there and that’s great.”

The goal for each teacher is to post one activity every day, Monday through Friday, for their students in Google classroom.

She said they fully intend to pick up hand deliveries of the remaining 662 ChromeBooks on Tuesday, April 21.

• **Meal Distiribution To Likley Change**

School meal distributions were postponed last week due to more restrictive in-person restrictions, but there is a good chance they will resume on Tuesday, April 21.

If so, Tahiliani said they would likely change some things up, including the numbers of days they distribute meals. That could change to twice a week with multiple meals passed out during longer hours.

“We’re just trying to figure out what the need is now,” she said. “It may be different than it was before.”

• **MCAS Testing Cancelled**

The state legislature voted late last week to waive the MCAS testing requirement at all schools in the

state. The legislation also allowed the state to modify or waive the MCAS requirements related to high school graduation.

The move was applauded by Tahiliani, who said she cannot recall a time when the MCAS test had to be cancelled.

“However, if there ever was a time that it should be canceled, that time is most definitely now,” she said. “Right now, our collective priorities as a state and a country supersede standardized testing, and I am happy that our legislators and leaders agree. As educators, we are most concerned about keeping our students engaged in learning and ensuring their social, emotional and physical well-being.”

She also said the schools will need to have drastic in-

terventions when school returns to help students catch up on the things they’ve missed – with most collectively falling behind one year. That, she said, will impact communities like Everett differently than others. She said it is hoped that MCAS testing will take that into consideration next year when tests are given again.

“I just hope the state and test-makers are forethinking and make adjustments to next year’s test or to our overall accountability system, as the ramifications of this will impact communities differently and that needs to be taken into consideration,” she said.

• **AP Classes Still Conducting Exams**

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP)

classes are certainly feeling the heat this month as they have to continue to prepare for the onerous AP exams that are given in May.

That will be a challenge, Tahiliani said, without traditional instruction.

However, the College Board – which conducts AP programs – said the testing for this year will only go up to what was learned before March 13. The test will be 45 minutes and will be online.

However, students will have to prepare despite not having traditional classes for two months.

“At the end of the day, it’s still a lot of stress for our seniors and juniors who want to get themselves prepared, get the credit and pass,” she said.

## DiDomenico votes to protect renters, homeowners and small businesses

Last week, Sen. Sal DiDomenico and his colleagues in the Massachusetts State Senate passed An Act providing for a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures during the COVID-19 emergency to provide a critical safety net for renters, homeowners and small businesses grappling with the immediate economic fallout of the current public health pandemic.

“I am proud of the action the Senate has taken with this legislation to place a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures during the COVID-19 emergency,” said Sen. DiDomenico. “Many people are facing financial hardship right now, and we simply cannot have people, especially our most vulnerable residents, vacating their residences during this public health emergency. I have heard from many constituents regarding this legislation, and I am confident this bill strikes the right balance between protecting struggling tenants and landlords during these difficult times.”

To address the COVID-19 public health crisis and its adverse impacts on renters, homeowners and small businesses, the bill includes the following components:

- A moratorium on all stages of the eviction and foreclosure processes. The bill extends eviction protections to renters and small businesses during the state’s COVID-19 state of emergency and places a moratorium on all stages

of the eviction process for non-essential evictions for a period of 120 days after the bill becomes law. The bill authorizes the governor to extend the moratorium beyond 120 days, if the crisis continues. The moratorium on evictions prohibits, for non-essential evictions, a landlord or property owner from terminating a tenancy or sending a notice to quit, prohibits a court from entering a default judgement, prevents the scheduling of court hearings, and prohibits the enforcement of an execution to forcibly remove a tenant.

In addition to a moratorium on the eviction process, the bill extends protections to homeowners and halts the foreclosure process for a period of 120 days after the bill becomes law to ensure homeowners and residential property owners are protected throughout this public health crisis.

- Mortgage forbearance for homeowners experiencing financial hardship from COVID-19. The Senate bill protects homeowners by requiring mortgage lenders to grant a forbearance of up to 180-days on required mortgage payments, if a homeowner submits a forbearance request demonstrating a financial impact from COVID-19. In addition, the bill protects homeowners by prohibiting mortgage lenders from furnishing negative mortgage payment information to a consumer reporting agency and prohibits the accrual of fees, penalties or interest during the life of the for-

bearance granted.

- A prohibition on late fees and negative credit reporting. The Senate bill also provides renters and homeowners struggling financially with additional protections during this uncertain time and prohibits landlords from imposing late fees for non-payment of rent for a residential dwelling or small business. Similarly, the bill prohibits landlords from sending payment data to credit reporting agencies related to the non-payment of rent. These protections are available to a tenant if the tenant provides notice and documentation to the landlord within 30 days of the missed rent payment that the non-payment was related to a financial impact from COVID-19.
- The use of video conferencing or phone for reverse mortgage real-time counseling. To promote strict adherence to social distance measures during this public health crisis, the bill allows a person applying for a reverse mortgage to receive counseling conducted virtually through real-time video conference or by phone in lieu of in-person counseling until the COVID-19 state of emergency is lifted by the Governor.

An Act providing for a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures during the COVID-19 emergency now moves to conference committee to be reconciled with a similar version drafted by the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

## Meals // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hot meals every weekday to those in need prior to getting on with their normal work.

It’s all been a part of City departments and their workers transforming how they deliver City services during what has been an unprecedented pandemic and one that has created a huge need for food and groceries among older adults and families losing jobs and incomes.

“Honestly, I have no problem doing it at all,” said DiPietro. “We have to do what we have to do right now. We just pick up when the mayor calls us. I have no problem doing that. It’s helping so many people too. When you see all the people grateful for food and you’re helping to make that happen, it’s really worth it.”

Added Lane, “It’s definitely a bright spot in troubled times.”

DiPietro has made several trips into the Food Bank to take food deliveries, having to hand-load several tons of food even on his day off. After picking it up in the City’s truck, he returns to the Connolly Center where he also unloads it with the help of others. On Monday, they were bringing pasta, beans, pears, raisins, corn, beef, soups apples and other such goods.

Once at the Connolly Center, it goes into the hands of Dale Palma and his crew of volunteers.

Palma typically provides about 40 meals per day to the senior citizen community at the Center, as well as a vigorous programming and exercise regimen. Now, however, he has become an impromptu drive-thru grocery store for those in need, and has also coordinated the procurement and delivery of nearly 400 prepared hot meals every weekday.

“It’s eye opening to see the need and the City’s immediate response to the need,” he said. “As I talk to other Elder Services in other cities... Everett is by far ahead of the curve. Other cities have already shut down operations or have never started going.”

At the new grad n’ go, Palma’s crew of City workers, and volunteers from the Council on Aging take in the food delivered by DiPietro and others. With bags waiting, they organize the massive amounts of food into single servings and then have them ready at the curb once per week. Families and senior citizens – with no one turned away – drive up, get their grocery bag put in the



The Everett Public Schools freight truck parked outside the Greater Boston Food Bank on Monday waiting for delivery of 2.5 tons of food.



Mike DiPietro is typically in charge of all custodial services for City buildings, but since the pandemic hit and the need for food has surged in Everett, he has become a delivery driver – going into Boston to collect many tons of food at the Greater Boston Food Bank to be distributed to senior citizens and families in need. Many City workers have pivoted from their normal jobs over recent weeks to take on the responsibility of helping to keep the City fed.

car, and drive away so there is minimal contact exposure.

They have been serving several hundred households with the grab n’ go each week, he said, and it has been full on nearly every day.

“There are no off hours in this situation,” he said. “You’re on and you have to be. It’s a crisis. We had Easter Sunday off, but before that most of us had worked 15 days straight.”

Soper said he and three of his ISD inspectors, including Steffieri, report to Palma most every weekday. Working with several Everett caterers, Palma has ramped up the meals program from about 40 a day to 400 a day. Those meals are delivered and prepped at the Connolly Center.

Then Soper and his crew begin to distribute them to set addresses provided from calls to the 3-1-1 system.

“After Dale makes the food, we pick it up in our ISD vehicles,” he said. “We have three guys making deliveries five days a week. We’re delivering approximately 400 meals a day. That’s 2,000 meals a week. We’re not going one week on and one week off. It’s every weekday working our 35 hour shifts. We stay out of City Hall as much as possible. And we’re still taking enforcement calls and going out for those inspections in between deliveries.”

Most days, they pick up everything around 10:30 a.m. so they can have lunch on the table for residents by noon. They wear masks and gloves and deliver to many of the senior buildings, including 66 Main St. and Whitney-Lorenti House.

“What I know from the guys that are doing this is

they are very happy to make people so happy,” he said. “They all enjoy doing it. Your heart gives a little bit during these times.”

Mayor Carlo DeMaria said he has really appreciated how all of the above have stepped up and gone beyond their typical jobs. He pointed out that each of those working to get food in the hands of residents every day are putting their health and safety in jeopardy to be able to help.

Added Jerry Navarro, director of Health and Human Services, “Everyone is just pitching in and doing their part to try to help everyone get through this pandemic safely. Obviously, the mayor asked us to do what we have to do to make sure people are fed and to get them food. Everyone has come together at a critical time.”

## Progressive Massachusetts members endorses Ed Markey for U.S. Senate

Progressive Massachusetts (Progressive Mass) has announced its endorsement of Ed Markey for re-election to the United States Senate.

Senator Markey received the support of 96 percent of Progressive Mass members.

“Progressive Mass is an incredible group of grassroots organizers who understand that the 2020 election is among the most important elections of our lifetime,” said Senator Markey. “Access to affordable health care, clean energy, public health, and social and economic justice are all on the ballot this fall and we must act together to make real, structural change. Their progressive values are my values, and I am proud to have earned their endorsement in this race.”

“Both candidates in the United States Senate race participated in the Progressive Mass endorsement

process. Member after member cited the powerful combination of both the vision and experience of Senator Markey. As the lead sponsor of policies like the Green New Deal, Ed Markey has articulated a bold and clear vision to address one of the most existential crises we face in a way that leaves no one behind. He has a track record of fighting for progressive causes, as well as years of experience in translating his vision into results,” said Progressive Mass Chair of Election Committees Jon Cohn.

The organization’s endorsement follows the recent announcements of support from several major groups, including UNITE Here Local 26 labor union workers, the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, NARAL Pro-Choice, the NRDC Action Fund, and Peace Action.

Progressive Massachusetts (“Progressive Mass”)

is a statewide, member-driven grassroots organization with activists from across Massachusetts who advocate for progressive policy. Progressive Mass has 16 chapters across the Commonwealth including Boston, Lowell, Needham, the South Shore, and Woburn.

Senator Markey has served in the United States Senate since winning the special election in 2013 and has amassed a deep record on environmental, climate, gun safety, and consumer protection issues. His leadership has led to legislation to address the humanitarian crisis on the southern border, protect LGBTQ+ rights, and ensure that Donald Trump cannot launch a nuclear first strike without Congressional approval. Raised in Malden, Ed Markey has always stood up for the priorities of Massachusetts.



# Everett Independent

President: Stephen Quigley

Editor in Chief: Cary Shuman

## A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

The United States now is the official epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic. We have more deaths and more cases of disease than anywhere else in the world.

However, this past weekend the experts began to give us a glimmer of hope that we are turning the tide against this dreaded foe and the possibility that our lives may return to some semblance of normality in incremental steps within 30-60 days.

We are the first to concede that there are many “ifs” to any discussion of ending the shutdown of the U.S. economy and the present lockdown mandates currently in place throughout most of the nation. A vast increase in testing in order to identify both virus carriers and those who may have immunity will be essential before we can begin to emerge meaningfully from our life of quarantine.

It also is clear that even with some sort easing of the lockdowns, life still will be far from normal: Schools most likely will remain closed for the rest of this school year, professional sports will not take place anytime soon, public gatherings of all kinds will be banned, and the travel industry will continue to be in a state of non-existence indefinitely.

But the experts’ insights about the possibility of some degree of easing of our current situation brought to mind the famous words of Winston Churchill amidst the worst days of World War II when Nazi Germany’s advance had been stopped by England with the defeat of Rommel at El Alamein:

“Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”

Our war against the coronavirus still has a long way to go. But with the outbreaks and death toll dropping in many places around the world, including New York City, perhaps we can see a pinhole of light in the long, dark tunnel in which we find ourselves.

## SO LET’S TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER

The weather this April has been full of irony. We had mild months for January, February, and March, with above-average temperatures (among the warmest on record) and few storms of any consequence.

However, April has been anything but spring-like. Temperatures have been below normal and two fierce storms, including this past Monday’s, left many of us without power.

So although April thus far has ranged from seasonably unpleasant to rather ferocious, weather-wise, at least it has provided us with a diversion from our preoccupation with the coronavirus.

### Your opinions, please

The Everett Independent welcomes letters to the editor. Our mailing address is 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151. Our fax number is 781-485-1403. Letters may also be e-mailed to [editor@everettindependent.com](mailto:editor@everettindependent.com). Letters must be signed.

We reserve the right to edit for length and content.

### SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Everett Independent encourages residents to submit birth and engagement announcements, news releases, business briefs, honor rolls, social news, sports stories, and photographs for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at **385 Broadway, Citizens Bank Building, Revere, MA 02151**. Items can also be faxed to 781-485-1403. The Independent also encourages readers to e-mail news releases to [editor@everettindependent.com](mailto:editor@everettindependent.com).

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# Everett Independent

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# Independent Forum

## GUEST OP-ED

## Easter is about being surprised by Joy, it’s also about sharing the good news and the joy

By Cardinal Seán Patrick O’Malley

There is a Franciscan tradition that the risen Christ appeared first of all to his mother. It would’ve been a very private, intimate setting, not documented in the Gospels. The Gospels do not record every incident in Jesus’s life. His encounter with Mary is a tradition supported by the logic of love and devotion. Hence in many Spanish-speaking countries the Easter procession is called the Encuentro, the meeting of Jesus and Mary. Typically, the men accompany the statue of the risen Christ and in another procession the women accompany the statue of the sorrowful mother. When the two processions meet the black mantle covering the sorrowful mother is removed and underneath Mary is wearing a beautiful white raiment that the betokens the joy of Easter. The same mystery, or event, the meeting of Jesus and Mary after the Resurrection is the sixth joyful mystery of the Franciscan rosary.

However, in the Gospels when they want to record Jesus first meeting, they chose to cast Mary Magdalene in that role. Jesus said he came to call sinners and so it is very fitting that the first apparition recorded in the gospel is to a woman who had been possessed by seven devils. Likewise, the last apparition of the risen Christ in the New Testament is to a sinner called to conversion, Saul. The risen Christ appears to the Pharisee Saul who is persecuting the Christians in Damascus. The risen Christ says to Saul who was later St. Paul the apostle, “, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” These words were an invitation to St. Paul to realize that when you persecute the church you are persecuting Christ, because the Church and Christ are one. Later on, Paul in his epistles describes the church is the body of Christ. Paul is converted by this encounter with the risen Christ, and because he has seen the risen Christ Paul becomes himself an apostle in a community of forgiven sinners.

Mary Magdalene is also been called an apostle because of her encounter with the risen Lord. When Peter the and the apostles fled into the witness protection program, Mary Magdalene followed Jesus all the way to Calvary. It is interesting to note that so often when artist depict the crucifixion scene, they show the blessed mother standing on one side of the cross, John the beloved disciple standing on the other side of the cross, and in the center, kneeling clinging to Jesus’s feet is the figure of Mary Magdalene. When Lazarus sister Mary sat at Jesus feet listening to his words while Martha prepared the meal.

Martha complained but Jesus said Mary has chosen the best part it will not be taken away from her. The best part for the disciple is to be at the feet of the master, always learning, always attentive, always near.

Today’s gospel begins with Mary Magdalene setting out before dawn to visit the tomb of Jesus. She had to wait until the Sabbath was over to be able to walk that distance. When she gets there she discovers that the tomb has been opened and the body is gone. She is distressed, surely thinking that the tomb has been desecrated by enemies of Jesus. Overcome with grief she runs to the city to tell Peter and John what she has found. I hate to say this, but I don’t think Peter and John would’ve gone to the tomb on Easter Sunday had they not been shamed into it by Mary Magdalene and her report that the tomb was empty. They were too busy practicing social distancing and were so frightened of the possibility of being discovered that I’m sure they would gladly have worn facemasks.

The three of them rush back to the tomb. It was a journey of faith for the three of them. When they saw the borrowed tomb where Joseph of Arimathea had buried Jesus, they were experiencing the first signs of the Resurrection that come with the new light of day as they move out of darkness and unbelief. We see Peter and John entering the tomb with Mary Magdalene. In my office I have a photograph of the holy sepulcher, that very same tomb where I celebrated mass with the group a Boston priest, packed in there like sardines. It was a thrilling experience to enter the empty tomb and know that our Redeemer lives. He has conquered sin and death. In the photograph you can see that the tomb is crowded with joyful disciples because the master is risen and is alive.

Today’s Gospel says that when John saw the burial cloth and the cloth that covered Jesus’s head folded in a separate place, he begins to believe, even though the disciples did not yet understand the Scripture that Christ had to rise from the dead. After this, the gospel records that John and Peter returned to the city where later that same day, the risen Lord will seek them out with the other apostles in their hiding place.

But Mary Magdalene who followed Jesus through the way of the cross, who clung to the foot of the cross on Calvary, who participated in his burial, who was the first to arrive on Easter morning at the tomb, she did not leave. She was not going anywhere. It was then that the risen Christ appeared to her, to Mary Magdalene, his first official apparition

on Easter Sunday. He called her by name, and immediately she threw herself at his feet and cling to his feet, just as she had done at Calvary. Always the posture of the faithful disciple. But having seen the risen Christ and heard his words, she becomes his apostle sent to take the good news to the other apostles that the tomb is empty because Jesus is alive, risen from the dead. No one stole His body.

The power of the Resurrection changes one’s prospective and how we see life. We no longer need to fear death. Knowing the Resurrection means receiving a mission to live the life of the Resurrection and witness to the world that Christ lives, he loves us, he forgives us, he redeems us. The church exists to witness this great truth of Easter. Without Easter there is no church.

Easter is the most important event in the history of the world. Other events are marked by annual observances, both civic and religious. Hence, once a year we celebrate Christmas, once a year we celebrate Fourth of July, our Independence Day. But Easter is different, we have a weekly observance, we celebrate the Lord’s Resurrection each Sunday as a reminder that it is the most important event in our history and in our lives. If the whole Bible were lost but the Easter Gospel were saved, we would still have the Good News. We might ask ourselves how 12 uneducated fishermen did this. A tax collector and peasants from backwater villages in a conquered country, without smartphones, they established a religion that embrace billions of people, one third of the inhabitants of the world. The answer is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. His Resurrection has changed everything. The Resurrection has divided history, not just our calendar into BC and AD.

On Easter, the Lord is inviting us to emerge from the tomb to walk in the light to know that the world can never be the same because he has conquered sin and death for all of us. In our own lives no matter how far we are from the Lord, Easter is an invitation, to draw near to gaze into the empty tomb, to put our fingers in the place of the nails, to renew our baptismal vows and know that we are part of Christ’s family. Easter is an invitation to new life, to a new beginning, Easter means that life and love are forever, nothing else matters.

When the risen Lord meets anyone in the Gospels they are given a task, the task is to join the announcement, to be witnesses to the new life that is offered by Jesus Christ, even when persecuted the Church bears

witness in its joy, overcoming fear in worship, in the midst of war, in famine, and during a pandemic. In Haiti after the earthquake I was so moved by the faith of those thousands of Haitians living in refugee camps where for hours into the night the people could be heard singing God’s praises and lifting their voice in prayer because in the face of death and destruction their faith in the risen Lord gave them hope and joy.

At Easter we celebrate that new life that Jesus gives us. We witness to it when we insist that money isn’t our ruler, that self-promotion isn’t our King, that pleasure isn’t a fulfilling aim and that the ruthless individualism of our age can never bring happiness. The new life of Christ is broken into our world, it cannot be contained, nor restricted nor managed.

In Goethe’s book Faust there is a dramatic scene where Faust is overcome with depression and sadness, he is contemplating suicide when suddenly he hears the Easter bells, the community of faith celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The sound pulls him back from the edge and gives him hope. Today in Massachusetts all of the Christian churches are ringing their bells as a sign of the hope and joy that Easter brings us.

Today as we hear the Easter bells as a call to solidarity among all the members of our community so that in the face of the pandemic, we might respond to witness to the power of the Resurrection, the power of love that is stronger than death, and faith in a provident God who can always bring good out of evil.

To know the risen Lord, is to know his love, and his invitation to lead a better life, to treat each other with greater respect and concern. To know Jesus’ Resurrection is to begin to understand that we too are going to live forever. In the light of the Resurrection, our lives must change. We must move beyond the materialism and individualism of our culture and embrace our mission to witness to the good news and make God’s kingdom more visible by the way that we love, forgive, care for each other and serve one another especially those who are sick and suffering. The Resurrection assures us that there is life beyond the cross, there is meaning to suffering, that love is stronger than death. If Easter is about being surprised by Joy, it’s also about sharing the good news and the joy that our Redeemer lives. Mary Magdalene ran to tell the people, let’s stop dragging our feet, we must share the good news.

**Cardinal Seán Patrick O’Malley is the Archbishop of Boston.**

## LETTERS to the Editor

every piece of mail is important. While service like this is nothing new to us, we need our communities’ help with social distancing.

For everyone’s safety, our employees are following the social distancing precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health officials. We are asking people to not approach our carriers

to accept delivery. Let the carrier leave the mailbox before collecting the mail. With schools not in session, children should also be encouraged to not approach a postal vehicle or carrier.

If a delivery requires a signature, carriers will knock on the door rather than touching the bell. They will maintain a safe distance, and instead of asking for a signature on their

mobile device, they’ll ask for the resident’s name. The carrier will leave the mail or package in a safe place for retrieval.

We are proud of the role all our employees play in processing, transporting, and delivering mail and packages for the American public. The CDC, World Health Organization, as



Letters // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

well as the Surgeon General indicate there is currently no evidence that COVID-19 is being spread through the mail.

With social distancing, we can keep the mail moving while keeping our employees, and the public, safe.

**Mike Rakes  
District Manager  
U.S. Postal Service –  
Greater Boston District**

PROTECT NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

*The following letter was sent April 7 from AARP Massachusetts to Governor Baker regarding nursing home and long-term care regulations during COVID-19:*

**Dear Governor Baker:**

On behalf of 775,000 AARP members in Massachusetts, we are writing regarding the Massachusetts Department of Public Health order dated March 10, 2020 providing guidance on MassHealth regulations for transfers and discharge of long-term care facility residents, 130 CMR 456.701 through 456.704. In addition, we are writing regarding 610.028 through 610.032, for the limited purpose of safely transferring and discharging all residents living in a long-term care facility that is intended to be used as a designated COVID-19 facility.

We deeply appreciate the state’s focus on protecting the health and safety of our state’s older population, nursing home residents and LTSS recipients, which is paramount. We are, however, very concerned that current state guidance does not adequately protect nursing

home residents during this public health emergency.

**Release of Information on Facilities with Covid-19 Positive Cases**

We urge Massachusetts’ Department of Public Health to release publicly the names of nursing facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases. Contrary to concerns that such disclosures would violate a patient’s health privacy, we do not believe HIPAA precludes a state health agency from releasing the names of facilities because a facility is not a covered entity as defined by federal law. We believe transparency and notice to the public is critical for public health. Moreover, caregivers and family members need and deserve to have this information for their own health decisions and as they consider possible next steps and interventions for their loved ones.

To be clear, we are not advocating for the disclosure of any HIPAA protected patient information. However, we do believe that disclosure of the names of nursing facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases would benefit the health of Massachusetts residents by allowing people to make informed choices.

**Transfer Of Residents**

Nursing home residents are some of the most vulnerable members of our society. Many residents need assistance with activities of daily living due to physical and/or cognitive limitations. Moving these residents from their nursing homes can be unsafe and/or traumatic for them and their families, particularly when a move is involuntary and sudden.

Transfer from a facility

can have both immediate and longer term negative impacts on a resident’s health. Many nursing home residents, especially those who are cognitively impaired, develop a physical, psychological and emotional dependence upon their surroundings and any disruption to this environment can cause serious emotional and psychological damage and physical stress.

Moreover, transfer without offering appropriate and effective counseling and planning can lead to isolation and despair and the lack of predictability maximizes fear and anxiety.

**Proactive Communication With Caregivers**

During these times of great uncertainty, when families are prevented from visiting their loved ones in a facility, we believe nursing homes should be required to provide proactive communications to the primary caregiver(s) of nursing home residents regarding their physical and emotional health and more general updates with information for families. We urge the state to modify its guidance to reflect that nursing homes must also create additional or increase listserv communications; assign staff as primary

contact for families; offer a phone hotline for family members to get information about their loved one’s care, and establish other opportunities to maintain communication between residents and their families.

We urge the state to adopt similarly strong language with regards to residents and their family members and family caregivers residing in other long term supportive service settings and

residential settings, such as assisted living facilities and rest homes.

**Virtual Visitation**

In addition, we are concerned that nursing home residents going weeks or even months without any visits from loved ones is extremely serious, and the state directives should reflect this by requiring nursing homes to prioritize virtual visits and caregiver communications.

The Department of Public Health ordered that skilled nursing facilities should “restrict all non-essential visitors”, but didn’t make an allowance for virtual visitation. CMS guidance also contains a restriction on visitation, but only advises that facilities “should consider” offering “alternative means of communication for people who would otherwise visit, such as virtual communications (phone, video-communication, etc.).”

During this stressful and difficult time when in-person visitation is very restricted, we strongly recommend that Massachusetts immediately modify its guidance to require nursing homes to offer and facilitate reasonable and practicable alternative means of communication for individuals who would otherwise visit, such as virtual communications. Such virtual visits can be essential to the emotional, mental, physical, and social well-being of nursing home residents. For some residents, these virtual visits may be the difference between life and death.

Given the widespread adoption of video-chat options (from FaceTime to Skype to Zoom and so on), AARP Massachusetts believes these virtual visita-

tions must include the ability to communicate on video, not only for the emotional well-being of the resident, but also so family caregivers can ensure their loved ones are being well cared for. If funding is needed to ensure video-chat options, we encourage the provision of such funding and consideration of how such communications could be part of telehealth.

**Conclusion**

We appreciate the efforts of you and your Administration to ensure the health and safety of older Massachusetts residents living in the community and in residential settings such as nursing homes, rest homes and assisted living facilities. We urge you to address the above-listed concerns immediately.

**AARP Massachusetts**

THANK YOU TO THE UNSUNG HEROES

**Dear Editor,**

It gives me great pride to write this thank you about some of Everett’s unsung heroes. For the past 10 years I have had the pleasure of enjoying my golden years at the Connolly Center in the community. Almost every day of that time, I have enjoyed spending time with many friends and taking part in countless activities and trips. We have seen many changes over the years but one person who has been a trusted face and leader to myself and countless others is Mr. Dale Palma. Dale is always available with a smile and a kind word for everyone who he comes in contact with.

Dale has always gone

above and beyond to help and welcome any senior who comes to the center. He is warm, thoughtful and always sincere. He is truly a gem for my circle of daily friends and countless others. A few weeks ago this gem really stepped up to the plate. As we all know, we are living daily in one of the most unimaginable times our country has ever seen. Each one of us have had our lives turned upside-down overnight due to the Coronavirus. What was our normal day-to-day life became no more. Thankfully for the seniors in the city Dale Palma didn’t change. In fact he became even more active and showed great leadership, love and concern for all at the center. Dale has stayed in contact by phone with countless seniors including myself. He is always making sure we got our lunch that for many have been a blessing. I would also like to thank ISD inspection John Sullivan and others for bringing daily to our homes. I know in talking with many of my friends we all share in this common feeling. We have more days ahead of great uncertainty, but with leaders like Dale Palma, he makes them much more manageable. I would like to thank the Everett Council on Aging and Dale for being true rays of sunlight on these dark days. I would also like to send positive thoughts and prayers to all of my friends and community in the coming days and weeks. Together we will all get past this time and it gives me some rest knowing Dale Palma is in leadership watching out for my friends and I during it.

**Rita Way  
Everett Resident**

# East Boston Savings Bank is here for you.

As a 172-year old Boston Bank, East Boston Savings Bank has a rich history of servicing the City of Boston and its surrounding communities. The foundation that we honor are integrity, strength and hard work for all our customers. It is our tradition to be responsive to the needs of people like you and businesses like yours during good times and challenging times.

We have seen and been through past events that have affected the country and the world. As we navigate through this pandemic together, please know that we are here for you. I assure you that East Boston Savings Bank remains your strong neighborhood bank, supporting you, your family, your business and your community. It’s because of your trust in us - and our faith in you – we will make it through these events together.

Trust that we are in this for the long-haul, right by your side. Our branch office doors will remain open as long as we can assure the safety of you and our employees. Online Banking, Mobile Banking, ATMs and our Automated 24-Hour Telephone Banking System (866-774-7705) are always an alternative banking option for you – visit ebsb.com for more information. As always, your deposits are 100% guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund.

I understand there are a bunch of unknowns with this pandemic but know this; East Boston Savings Bank has endured many devastating events in the past and has come through each of these stronger and more committed to our customers than ever.

Thank you for trusting in East Boston Savings Bank. Stay safe and we look forward to continuing working hard for you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Gavegnano  
President, CEO and Chairman  
East Boston Savings Bank



**East Boston Savings Bank**  
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# Stay Home // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

young people and young adults congregating in the parks and in public spaces – hanging out and playing ball – despite the advisories to social distance and stay home, City and school officials reached out to young people two weeks ago for help. Choosing an array of leaders from the community, Mayor Carlo DeMaria deputized Everett High Senior Class President Ashley Yebba to get the message out. Using social media, specifically Tik Tok, they produced a video last week with the hashtag call to “#StayHomeEverett.”

While many young people appeared in the video for a variety of reasons, few were as poignant as Lorena Corbelli – who said she stays home for her father who is battling COVID-19 in the hospital right now.

“My dad tested positive for the Coronavirus two weeks ago,” she said. “We never really thought the virus would closely affect us – right in our immediate family. So, I joined the effort for him and I’m staying home so none of us gets the virus and none of us are exposed to it so when my dad comes home, he will be coming home to a healthy home free of any sickness.”

Corbelli got involved when her volleyball coach asked if she and a friend would be the representatives in the video for the team. It was a message she thought was very important and she hopes that other young people will understand how the virus can spread fast and into their own families.

“After we released the video and even before, I saw younger kids and even kids in my grade still going out and hanging out and going around in large groups,” she said. I knew that this could help and let them know the dangers of being in public in large groups. I thought explaining my situation and how

the virus particularly affected me would show the virus is serious and can affect their families too. I thought by telling my story, they would really start taking it seriously.”

Corbelli, 18, and a member of National Honor Society and the Italian Honor Society president, is one of a dozen students that appeared on the video. Some were seniors who were headed towards graduation, and others were underclassmen who wanted to be able to return in the fall for football or soccer.

Having those diverse voices was important to the mayor, who made the unique effort of reaching out to them on Zoom for a first meeting in late March. That has led to a weekly online gathering, which has been important to help shape the City’s responses to COVID-19.

“It was important for me to reach out to the leaders of the school because their voices matter,” said the mayor, who appears on the video with his wife, Stacy. “While I’ve been urging students and Everett residents to stay home I wanted them to hear it from their peers, their sons and daughters. That way, it resonates more and encourages people to stay home as we try to mitigate the spread of the virus.”

The same was true for Supt. Tahiliani, who has participated in the Zoom meetings every week and also did a cameo on the video.

“I think the video was a great collaboration between the students, City Hall and the School Department,” she said. “It was led by the students. They are more tech savvy and they choreographed it and organized it. Many of them have expressed they are concerned about the people hanging out still, maybe in a car close together or at the park or playing ball. They want to get back to school



Mayor Carlo DeMaria and Stacy DeMaria kicked off the video saying they are staying home to protect their family, friends and neighbors.

sooner than later and want to encourage other young people to practice social distancing and stay home.”

Ismael Zamor, a 16-year-old sophomore, said he didn’t realize how serious the virus was at first until he realized it could affect his family members and potentially jeopardize his junior football season. The talented wide receiver has a big season coming up, and he said he stays home for his family and football.

“I’m staying home for my two younger brothers and my parents,” he said. “I want them to stay safe and I want to keep them safe. Second, I have a big football season coming up in the fall. I want to get this over with so we can have our season.”

“At first, I didn’t think the virus was that serious,” he continued. “When I saw the numbers go up and up, and a friend of mine told me how it was spreading throughout Everett. I realized I could be out with my friends and we’re fine, but we don’t know if they’ve been exposed and they expose us to it. My parents are still working so they need to be protected. If everyone stays home, we can stop the spread.”

He said he is really looking forward to avenging a football loss to Central

Catholic this coming fall, as well as making a big impact for recruiting purposes. To lose out on those two major goals would be crushing, he said.

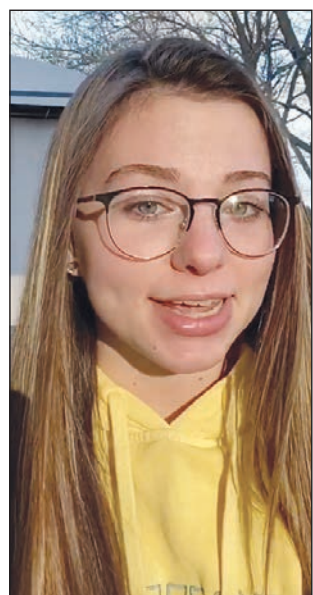
Jason Portillo, a senior, said he had been going out regularly to work out and exercise in preparation for playing college football at Stone Hill College. He said he got a wake-up call when he learned that he could be affecting the health of his little sister, Brianna, and his mother.

“I go next year to play football at Stone Hill and I wanted to be ready, but my sister’s health and my mother’s health was more important to me,” he said. “I feel like playing football is something that doesn’t last forever. I have another four years of it. I love it, but my family’s health is more valuable. My sister is on the younger side, she’s 4, and I don’t want to bring something home to her.”

He said he really enjoyed the video and hopes that it does make a difference as this message spreads across Everett on social media and word of mouth.

“There are people who don’t need to be out and still choose to go out and aren’t thinking about the virus at all,” he said. “I think the video helps a lot, but still more needs to be done to let these people know the Coronavirus is spreading more and more in Everett.”

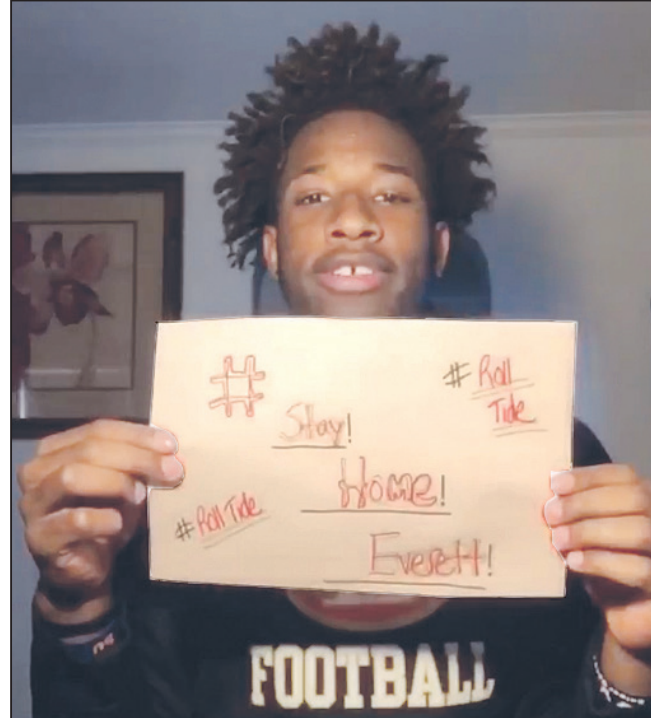
The video can be seen at [www.everettindependent.com](http://www.everettindependent.com) or on Twitter @EverettIndy.



Senior Class President Ashley Yebba is leading the effort behind #StayHomeEverett.



Senior Carolann Cardinale said she stays home to protect first responders like the police, fire and ambulance crews in Everett.



Ismael Zamor said he wanted everyone to know he is staying home to protect his brothers and parents – as well as to be able to take the football field this fall for his junior season.



Jason Portillo said he is staying home – forgoing workouts to prepare for college football – so that his sister, Brianna, can stay healthy.

## DeMaria uses executive order to postpone tax bill payments

By Seth Daniel

Mayor Carlo DeMaria used an executive order to extend property tax and water bill deadlines for the current bills.

The order was announced last Thursday afternoon, and are now in effect.

Due dates for the real estate and personal property taxes has been extended to June 1, and the due date for submitting exemption applications has been extended to June 1 also.

Additionally, any water and sewer bill issued after March 10 will not incur a penalty or accrue interest if payment is made by June 30.

The extensions and waiving of fees are consistent with what has happened in other cities and towns across the Commonwealth. Last Monday, the Chelsea City Council implemented the same program for its tax and water bills.

The Administration also

shared several bits of good, heartwarming news along with the announcement of the tax extensions.

•When responding to a call, an unnamed Lieutenant with the Everett Fire Department selflessly performed CPR on an elderly resident who was COVID-19 positive. This unquestionably saved their life. Thank you, Lt. for your dedication and bravery.

•Everett Department of Public Works unloaded and delivered more than 6,000 plants to Everett Seniors across the City. These plants were donated by Encore Boston Harbor. This teamwork led to a lot of positivity across the City. Thank you Encore, and DPW.

•The City’s Finance Department has been working overtime during tax season. This week BJ Deveroux, the City Assessor, hand delivered an elderly tax exemption to a Senior Citizen who

See TAX Page 7

Parents of infants:  
You are focused  
on keeping your  
baby safe right now.  
We are too.

We know you are worried, but it is important to bring your baby to the health center for regular vaccines. Vaccines are more important now than ever, and without them, your baby is at risk for serious and sometimes fatal diseases. **We are safely seeing babies in a separate building that is only being used for healthy babies.** These visits are limited to one healthy infant and one healthy parent or caregiver. If you are unwell, please do not come to the health center yourself. If you have questions, please call us at 617-569-5800.

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HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES WHILE STAYING IN

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During this crisis, here are some Everett resources.

Consider taking out an ad to and to promote your business at this time, there are many people in Everett who do not go online and use the newspaper for most of their neighborhood information.

WE'RE OFFERING THIS SPECIAL PAGE AS A RESOURCE FOR ALL SERVICES IN TOWN THAT PEOPLE MIGHT NEED WHILE STAYING IN.

FULL-PRINT EDITION WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE WEDNESDAY

THE SPECIAL IS A 2-COLUMN-BY-3-INCH AD FOR 2 WEEKS FOR \$80

Please reach out with any questions, deadline for **Wednesday April 22** is **Monday April 20 at noon**

Call 781-485-0588 or reply to this email for more information



# New Balance repurposes factory to make masks, donates to EBNHC

By John Lynds

Boston based New Balance, the manufacturer of popular running sneakers and other athletic footwear, recently repurposed its factories to produce a general-use face mask.

With an urgent demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) that continues to intensify across the country, New Balance produced its first face mask prototype less than a week ago and donated some of these masks to the staff at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC).

“By mid-April, our goal is to make up to 100,000 units weekly at our Lawrence, MA and Norridge-wock, ME factories combined,” said New Balance Owner and Chairman Jim Davis in a statement. “We are simultaneously advancing our current face mask design and materials specifications to ideally meet FDA requirements and achieve a product that can be confidently used by frontline medical staff who require those criteria.”

EBNHC Vice President Steve Snyder said once he caught word that New Balance was producing masks he reached out to the company immediately and was sent thousands of masks.

“New Balance and in particular, the New Bal-



EBNHC Vice President Steve Snyder wearing one of the newly created masks produced by Boston based New Balance. The sneaker company has repurposed its factories to produce masks for hospitals and clinics like the Health Center.

ance Foundation has been a strong supporter of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center for several years,” said Snyder. “When I heard about them retooling their factory to make masks I contacted them right away and they gave us access to over a couple of thousand masks. We are really proud of the actions they are taking supporting health care providers during this crisis - they are a first class organization and true friends of EBNHC.”

New Balance is approaching distribution through a combination of direct medical facility coordination and communi-

cation at the Massachusetts and Maine state levels, where its factories are located, to help the company best understand where our current face mask design fits their supply and demand needs.

“This is not a commercial opportunity,” stressed Davis. “NB is pursuing break-even pricing and/or donations for the face mask. This initiative has kept many of our associates proudly engaged during this economic and public health crisis while our traditional retail customers are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Davis said New Balance is also quickly responding to calls for other PPE including gowns and foot coverings, among other items, with its Sports Lab production teams. This includes working toward prototypes and exploring collaborative opportunities that optimize U.S.-based 3D printing capabilities.

“We are proud to combine the industrial research and development expertise and innovative thinking of our associates with our domestic manufacturing resources to work to solve new and extraordinary product challenges, reflecting our brand’s purpose-driven culture and leveraging our skilled American workers in our New England factories,” he said.

# MIAA plans for shortened season

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) last week announced plans for a shortened spring athletic season in the event that Gov. Charlie Baker allows schools to go back into session on May 4.

The MIAA’s plans compress the 2020 spring season into a regular season of 8-12 games and then an abbreviated post-season that would feature only sectional playoff tournaments. There would be no state tournaments.

School presumably would play only other schools within their own

conferences, a move that would necessitate a reconfiguration of the existing schedules for every school.

If schools do in fact reopen on May 4, the MIAA also established guidelines for the pre-season for each sport. The pre-season, including tryouts, would be shortened to a week for most sports. Rugby programs would be required to have a nine-day pre-season, though spring golf programs would be required to have only a three-day pre-season.

Of course, the MIAA’s plans are predicated on a big “if,” that being wheth-

er schools are allowed to reopen on May 4, which is an increasingly-unlikely scenario.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still rampaging through the state, the chances of schools being reopened -- which would expose students, teachers, coaches, and all of their families to infection -- appears to be remote.

The MIAA Board of Directors met Monday to discuss further plans and options, but no announcements have been forthcoming as of press time.

Virtual Online Class Schedule							
April 5th- May 2nd 2020							
Time	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
9AM		Barre With Lexi Meeting ID # 196 929 546	HIIT With Keri Meeting ID # 471 945 4797	HIIT With Lexi Meeting ID # 205 775 327	Body Blast With Kahlea Meeting ID # 640 621 648	Adult Yoga With Jacqui Meeting ID # 391 835 9180	Rock Bottom With Lucy Meeting ID # 932 448 0028
9:30AM	Adult Zumba With Lauren Meeting ID # 683 496 3720						
10:00AM							Kids Yoga With Jacqui Meeting ID # 391 835 9180
11:00AM	KidFit With Keri Meeting ID # 471 945 4797						Strong With Tanya Meeting ID # 308 933 360
12PM		Youth Soccer Conditioning With Coach John Meeting ID # 982 344 290	KidFit With Keri Meeting ID # 471 945 4797	Kids Yoga With Jacqui Meeting ID # 391 835 9180	KidFit With Keri Meeting ID # 471 945 4797	Kids Yoga With Jacqui Meeting ID # 391 835 9180	
4PM				Kids Art Class With Elisabeth Meeting ID # 520 827 3423		Kids Art Class With Elisabeth Meeting ID # 520 827 3423	
5:30PM		Kids Zumba With Lauren Meeting ID # 683 496 3720			Youth Soccer Conditioning With Coach John Meeting ID # 453 783 875		
6:00PM		Strong With Tanya Meeting ID # 308 933 360	Step It Up With Kahlea Meeting ID # 558 078 919	Adult Yoga With Jacqui Meeting ID # 391 835 9180	Top It Off With Keri Meeting ID # 471 945 4797	Core & More With Lucy Meeting ID # 932 448 0028	

All our Virtual classes will be done through the ZOOM app. This app is FREE & can be downloaded on any computer and on IPHONES & Andriods. Once you have downloaded ZOOM, it is time to create an account by adding your personal information. Once that is set up, go to “join a meeting” at the designated class time, and put in your MEETING ID NUMBER listed on the schedule. If you do NOT want your camera to record you during the meeting, you can disable it, but still be able to see the instructor. Once the class is over, simply “leave the meeting.”

**Adult Classes:**

**Barre:** This class will lead you through a workout that combines the best elements of ballet barre, Pilates, functional training and stretching.

**Body Blast:** A calorie burning workout that incorporates interval cardio and body sculpting. A total-body workout targeting muscles from head to toe to build strength & endurance while improving flexibility. This class will help shape and tone refining body alignment and posture.

**Core & More:** A 30 min class targeting your entire torso, including back and core muscles. A strong core leads to strong, fit body that will be less prone to injury. This class is a wonderful complement to all group fitness classes.

**HIIT:** High Intensity Interval

Training also known as Tabata, or Burst Training, takes an interval style approach. This workout is designed to train the total body and is super intense. This class is 30 minutes of nonstop Core & Cardio training

**Step It Up** This class combines the classic, medium to high intensity, step cardio workout with basic step aerobics choreographed routines, but takes standard hi/lo aerobics moves and gives them a bit of an upbeat style. Set to the latest music, this class will give you a work-out.

**Strong:** a high intensity interval training workout driven by the science of Synced Music Motivation. STRONG crafts & reverse engineers the songs to match every move, driving the intensity and provides a total body workout. It incorporates body weight, kick boxing, and boot camp style movements throughout the class.

**Top it Off:** A 45 min nonstop free weight workout catering to your upper body. Shape your arms, shoulders and back and helping your upper body get stronger.

**Rock Bottom:** A 45 min intense workout zoned to target your lower half. Working on leaning& strengthening leg muscles while lifting and toning your bottom.

**Yoga All levels...** yoga at a faster paced, and the assanas

(postures) are linked together in a series of movements from one pose to another, gives you an added cardiovascular benefit. The practice of yoga can increase muscle strength, endurance and flexibility, and reduce levels of stress.

**Kids Classes:**

**Kids Art Class:** Miss Elisabeth will teach you how to draw objects around the house with materials you use every day. It is an interesting way to learn new & creative ways to have fun with everyday things around you.

**KidFit:** This class will get your kids active. Ms. Keri will do some basic at home exercise moves to some music. It is fun & it will get your kids moving.

**Kids Yoga:** Hop on your yoga Mat and join Ms. Jacqui for a fun kids yoga class. You will explore the basics of yoga.

**Kids Zumba:** Join Ms. Lauren for a dance fitness class just like adult Zumba, but with age-appropriate music and moves, and an emphasis on “feeling fearless on the dance floor.”

**Youth Soccer Conditioning:** Join Coach John for a soccer conditioning class that will show you to perfect a complete soccer at home workout using a soccer ball, agility skills, calisthenics, and plyometrics exercises. He will help you how to stay active while at home.

# Spring Break will continue as planned

By Seth Daniel

Break out the lawn chairs, get the beach towels ready and place them all in the living room as Spring Break will continue as planned next week – though in the era of social distancing, staying home and COVID-19 school building closures.

Supt. Priya Tahiliani said this week that after meeting with the Everett Teachers’ Association (ETA), they have made a decision to go forward with Spring Break next week as planned – sticking to the existing school calendar.

“We have decided jointly with the ETA that we will carry on the calendar as originally drafted, meaning we will have vacation next week,” said Tahiliani. “Some school systems have decided to go ahead with school and get out earlier and continue online learning. Our thought was we were fine with going to

June 19. If we do go back to school, it’s more days face-to-face with our students.

“If we don’t go back, it will be a good bread from screen time for everyone,” she continued. “Families are stressed and stretched, so it might be good to have a break next week.”

Spring Break comes at a time when the Everett Public Schools were just now getting their online learning program in place officially, though it has been ongoing really for many since the first day school was out on March 13.

Other districts, like Newton, who decided not to take a Spring Break cited the fact that they were just getting up to speed with online learning and didn’t want to break the momentum.

However, on the flip side, many of the seniors and underclassman want to be able to go back to school this year to say good-bye and finish up potentially shortened spring sports seasons. Having the last day stay at

June 19 gives greater potential to being able to come back for those last days – particularly for the seniors.

That said, Tahiliani said it will also be up to individual families.

They will continue to post materials on the school district website and in virtual classrooms for parents to use if they choose not to give their children the time off.

“If there are some families that want to continue the enrichment activities during the break, they can pull up materials from one of their calendars,” she said.

The schools will also continue to take Memorial Day off in May – even if school is still canceled – and they did take of Good Friday last week as well.

“For those that had been doing the distance learning this whole time, many needed a break after starting at a screen for so many hours every day,” she said. “It does get exhausting.”

# Tax //

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

is homebound in a wheelchair so that he could continue to receive his exemption. This is truly above and beyond. Thank you BJ and the Finance team.

Teddie Peanut Butter donated multiple cases of their famous peanut butter to residents.

•City Hall is open and working remotely. Residents may call 3-1-1 during normal business hours or email any Department for a response within 24 hours.

•Street Sweeping will follow its normal schedule. The City will not be ticketing/towing for the month of April and will reassess in May.

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## Baker provides update on hospital surge capacity

•11,000 beds could be available for ICU and acute care in the existing hospital system. This represents a breakdown of roughly

**Field Hospitals:** In the coming days, hundreds of new beds will come online

that will help the Commonwealth significantly ramp up care capacity ahead of the surge to support existing hospitals. The Command Center is targeting five alternate care sites. These field hospitals will serve as an alternative site for hospitals to treat patients, particularly individuals who need acute care. They are being built all around the state to ensure all residents have access to this emergency care. The field hospital at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center opened late last week. Field hospitals at the DCU Center in Worcester and Newton Pavilion in Boston started accepting patients April 8. Over the coming week, additional facilities will open up in Cape Cod, Springfield, and Lowell. All in all, these facilities will provide approximately 1,000 additional beds for patients who do not require ICU-level care.

## State to now provide COVID-19 Text Alerts in Spanish

“Throughout the COVID-19 outbreak, we have consistently reminded residents to get their information from trusted sources, and with the expansion of the AlertsMA text alert system, we are making it easier for Spanish-speaking residents to access important updates from the Commonwealth,” said Gover-

The Spanish-language text alerts are the latest effort from the Commonwealth to deliver crucial COVID-19 information to non-English speakers. All of Mass.Gov (including formation” \t “\_blank” Mass.Gov/COVID19) is available in 13 different languages, and the Commonwealth’s non-emergency help line, 2-1-1 is available in over 150 languages. Several agencies, including the Department of Public

The Commonwealth will continue to promote the service on Mass.gov, through digital displays and billboards at the MBTA, via MassDOT, and through social media.

## The extra \$600: State offers first guidance on new unemployment claim process under CARES Act

**Next Steps For Claimants:** Eligible claimants who are already receiving UI do not need to do anything for

PUA will provide up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals who are not working as a result of COVID-19 and are self-employed, independent contractors, gig economy workers, and others who otherwise would not qualify for regular UC or EB under state or federal law or PEUC. These individuals will not be able to claim benefits directly through the UI Online System in Massachusetts, as of this time. The Department of Unemployment Assistance has engaged a vendor to build a new platform to disburse PUA benefits. The platform is expected to begin accepting PUA claims by April 30, 2020. Eligible claimants under PUA will be retroactively compensated with this benefit beginning February 2, 2020, or the first week a claimant was unable to work as a result of COVID-19, whichever date is later. The

**Next Steps for Claimants:** No action at this time. Eligible claimants should continue to check for updates, which will be made available as soon as the state receives information from the federal government.



The new, secure application for Spanish speakers is available through [mass.gov/desempleo](http://mass.gov/desempleo), the Spanish

- Legislation proposed and signed by Governor Baker waiving the one-week waiting period to collect an unemployment claim payment.

**Mary Gerace – Chairman**  
**Roberta Suppa - Clerk**  
**Board of Appeals**  
**April 15, 2020**  
**April 22, 2020**

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# Baker keeps residents informed as state prepares for surge

By Lauren Bennett

As Massachusetts begins to enter a surge in coronavirus cases, Governor Charlie Baker continues to provide updates and make new announcements to keep the people of the Commonwealth safe and informed.

As of April 13, Massachusetts had 26,867 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 844 people have died statewide.

“We think testing is a big part of dealing with people who have COVID-19,” Baker said on April 14. “Testing and tracing are a big part of how we actually push back over time.” He said that Massachusetts is “either the third or fourth largest tester in the country,” and is now conducting testing at 28 sites statewide. The state also offers testing through mobile units at places like nursing homes.

Governor Baker on April 9 spoke about executive orders that would make it easier for foreign educated doctors to become licensed in Massachusetts, as well as expedited licensure of nursing students and graduates.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito also discussed resources available for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, including the expansion of the state’s

24/7 toll-free confidential domestic violence hotline, SafeLink, which is now available through 211. The SafeLink number is (877) 785-2020, and the TTY number is (877) 421-2601.

Baker also talked about the first implementation of federal unemployment benefits as part of the CARES Act. Last week, Baker said that nearly 140,000 new individuals filed for unemployment in the state, and nearly 470,000 have filed over the past three weeks.

“These numbers are obviously staggering,” Baker said. “We know several people have had trouble getting through the website. The administration is working hard on this one.” He said the online system that the state utilizes “has been able to withstand the volume without crashing,” which he said has not been the cases for many states.

“The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has been working nonstop,” he said. More than 600 people are working remotely at the unemployment call center making over 6000 calls per day, “and that number will continue to trend up as we go forward,” he said.

New federal unemployment benefits include an additional \$600 a week

for regular unemployment compensation, which is happening now. This applies to “all eligible claimants,” both those who currently receive unemployment and those who are applying now. It is retroactive to March 29 and will run until the end of July, the governor said.

Additionally, the DUA is currently working on a way to implement expanded support for people who are not typically eligible for unemployment benefits, such as gig workers or those who are self-employed. The governor said that those interested in applying for this program should check the DUA website.

The third program includes a “13 week extension of benefits for people who have exhausted their previous unemployment benefits,” Baker said. “We are still waiting on guidance from the federal government for how to do this.”

A Spanish-language unemployment application is also now available online. “The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) will make language applications available in Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Vietnamese and additional languages in the coming days,” according to a release from the state.

“The new Spanish language UI form is the latest effort from the Commonwealth to deliver crucial COVID-19 information to non-English speakers...” Additionally, the COVID-19 text message system is also now available in Spanish, all of mass.gov is available in 13 different language, 211 is available in over 150 languages, and several agencies have fact sheets in multiple languages to help keep the Commonwealth informed.

On April 10, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that the Department of Public Health will issue a Public Health Advisory that recommends people wear a face covering in public “when they cannot safely socially distance” in order to protect themselves and others from the virus.

He also announced that the state has around 15,900 usable beds available as it heads towards the surge. “Projections have indicated

that we need more beds and more staff to beds,” he said last week. He said that right now, half of the state’s beds are available for “varying levels of care.”

The field hospital at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center opened on April 10 with a total of 1000 beds, 500 for hospital capacity and 500 for homeless COVID-19 patients. Field hospitals are also open at the DCU Center in Worcester and the Newton Pavilion. Other locations to come include Cape Cod, Springfield, and Lowell to provide beds for patients who do not need care at the ICU level.

On April 13, Baker also announced that mobile testing has been expanded, and in places like Chelsea where the per capita cases are extremely high, there are “several state agencies ready to provide resources,” including increasing testing capacity fourfold in the

Chelsea area. Additionally, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is implementing a food plan to increase production of meal kits. He said by the end of this week, there will be 750 kits produced with about 35 meals in each kit, totaling 26,000 meals.

Baker also announced that he was funding a program for local businesses to make personal protection equipment (PPE) even if it isn’t what they normally manufacture. Called the Manufacturing Emergency Response Team (MERT), the program launched on April 2 and will pivot operations of some businesses to PPE like gowns, face shields, swabs, and hand sanitizers.

The governor emphasized that the next few weeks will be difficult, but “we continue to make progress” in testing capacity and availability of beds.

## Planning Board schedules first Zoom online meeting

Staff Report

The Everett Planning Board took the first step into the Zoom world on Tuesday night, calling for the City’s first online public meeting with no one in attendance.

The Planning Board had several key matters on the agenda, including a review of the massive Market

Forge project on the Parkway. Most of the agenda items were scheduled to be continued due to the online format, but there was plenty of presenting and input expected to be given.

The City’s IT Department has been carefully creating a new online format over the last few weeks using Zoom and other platforms so that City

business could continue in some fashion through the closures caused by the pandemic.

Gov. Charlie Baker issued a new regulation amending the open meeting law temporarily last month, which allowed for online meetings to take place without anyone actually being present.

## Mass Bankers: Operative word is ‘patience’ with large federal loan programs

By Seth Daniel

The Massachusetts Bankers Association (MBA) reported varying degrees of success over their membership banks with the rollout of the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EDIL) – two key parts of the federal CARES Act that look to help prop up small businesses across the nation.

The PPP was the big story going into effect by taking applications at most banks starting Friday, April 3, and the rush was certainly on for small businesses with under 500 employees to participate in the \$350 billion program administered by banks and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

“The approval process and the money should start happening I think by the end of the week, at the latest, barring any unforeseen circumstances,” said Daniel Forte, president and CEO of Mass Bankers. “There was \$30 billion of the \$350 billion submitted and approved nationally by Sunday. From Friday to Sunday the SBA did a year’s worth of lending nationwide. That’s amazing in one respect, as that’s about what they do in one year, but it’s also a good reminder that patience is going to be required here. I think the industry feels it’s a win-win.”

Forte said none of the 135 banks in his membership had any loans approved over the first weekend, but he did say several had good experiences with the application process and successfully submitted complete applications for customers.

On Monday, April 13, Federal Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin said more than \$200 billion had been approved over the first week of the program, and he predicted that money would be in the hands of approved businesses by the end of this week. He is also working with Congress to get an additional \$250 billion in funding for the PPP to fortify the program as it has seen a flood of applicants.

“Every dollar we spend on this keeps people off unemployment and keeps business intact for when we open back up,” he said. “We don’t want these businesses to fall apart.”

The funding was predicted even sooner than the end of this week, and for most small business owners, it can’t come soon enough. Forte said the first week showed there were also hiccups and the system was a little on-the-fly and “clunky.”

First, he said, the regulations of the program weren’t submitted in final form until Thursday night, April 2, the night before the launch of the PPP, and there was also still no formal application.

A lot of the existing SBA lender banks, he said – which is about 1,000 of 5,200 banks in the state, got a jump start on the program. Many of them moved quickly to have online webinars and instructional calls for existing customers, but for those without those existing banking relationships, things moved slower.

In all, he said things would likely also move slower because many banks are not physically open, and they’re being flooded with so many applications.

“An example is one regional bank of ours had 25,000 applications on Wednesday and Thursday already and they had eight people to process them and they were all working out of their houses,” he said. “So you have to be sympathetic to that and those issues. The operative word, again, should be patience. The banks want to get moving and small business owners want to get in the queue.”

Many of the banks also reported that the portal to process applications was jammed as banks and customers tried to apply all at once Friday, April 3, and into the weekend, a problem he said likely would work its way out as time goes on.

“There were banks that started at midnight Thursday into Friday processing applications,” he said. “Many were not able to immediately put those through because

the portal can only accept so many hits at a time, and things get stuck. Lenders had applications, but could not access the portal because it was jammed.”

He said if there is a second round or a tweak of the program, he can see there being a way for others to process the applications and the banks to disperse the money, having a second market liquidity platform created.

“It’s just not in the current business model of banks so be able to process this many loans in a week,” he said.

He also said many banks have already been busy working with customers, especially borrowers looking to modify their loans or mortgages. His membership has been rushing to do those things the last three weeks, adding to the workload.

“The banks have been working with customers for three weeks now,” he said. “It’s not like the PPP is the only things they’ve done. For the customers who have been impacted by business with the COVID virus... they have already been working with banks to modify their business loans or mortgages.”

In all, the programs are in great need, and Forte said the SBA is trying to pull off an amazing feat to help with the assistance of banks in every region of the country. That will happen, but it may not be instant.

“There will be hiccups,” he said. “It’s nobody’s fault. It’s not the lenders fault, the SBA’s fault, or the Administration’s fault. Everyone is trying to do what they can do within current situation. We want to be part of it, but there are going to be logjams.”

Business owners wishing to apply should review the information available at: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/top-priorities/cares-act/assistance-for-small-businesses>. Borrowers will need payroll records for the past year, Tax ID numbers, and information on each individual with more than a 20 percent ownership stake in the company.

## How to mail and ship without leaving the safety of your home

You don’t have to go to the Post Office to use many postal products and services. In fact, most simple tasks can be done from the convenience and safety of your home with or without a computer.

Like purchasing stamps. Using your computer, you can go to the Postal Store on usps.com and select different stamp denominations. USPS will deliver them right to your home.

No computer? No problem! Ask your local Post Office or carrier to bring you a Stamps by Mail order form, complete it and put it in your mailbox with a check. Again, USPS will

bring you your stamps.

What if you need to send a package? You can order free Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express boxes, or other package supplies at usps.com. Again, USPS will deliver items to your address. And at usps.com, using Click-N-Ship, you can print a mailing label with the appropriate postage right from your computer.

Need that package picked-up? Go to usps.com and schedule a free carrier pick-up. In your request, let your local Post Office know where they can find the package or packages and the carrier

will retrieve them when he or she delivers your mail.

USPS postal employees are working around the clock to ensure you get your important letters and packages. Skip the trip to the Post Office by ordering stamps, package supplies, and printing package postage from your home. We’ll pick up your packages too.

It’s the most effective type of social distancing around!

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

## EBSB // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

EBSB has been taking.

“We are working hard to do everything we can to be prepared and the safety of our employees and customers is the most important thing,” said Gavegnano. “We are providing gloves, masks, sanitizer, and practicing social distancing. Any employee feeling that they cannot work due to any medical issues or family needs can work from home and we are paying all these employees.”

To protect both staff and customers, Gavegnano said EBSB branches with drive thru service are open and branches that don’t are open by appointment.

“We have the branches staffed to handle all regular business,” said Gavegnano. “If any branch has no drive thru they can call and get in to see the manager, but for safety of our staff and customers only one person is let into the branch at a time.”

Gavegnano said the bank is also monitoring all its employees for signs or

symptoms of illness and has a constant open line of communications with branch staff.

“We are also responding to the needs of the communities we serve,” he said. “We are taking deposits, opening checking accounts and processing loans. We have a long rich history of surviving many significant world events starting with the Civil War, World War I, the Great Depression and World War II. We will emerge as a stronger bank and continue being a provider of banking needs of Boston citizens.”

According to Gavegnano EBSB’s responsive steps have included:

- Preventive programs in place to reduce the likelihood that our operations would be significantly affected by the COVID-19, including:
- Educating employees
- Monitoring of potential outbreaks
- Communicating and coordinating with critical service providers and sup-

pliers

- Providing appropriate hygiene training and tools to employees

- The bank will continue to monitor our employee population and take appropriate action to reduce exposure to other colleagues and customers if an employee is exhibiting flu like symptoms. As always, the bank has instructed all colleagues exhibiting any signs of illness to stay home.

- Have asked cleaning companies to be even more vigilant in disinfecting frequently touched areas. In addition, the bank has made hand sanitizer available for use at all locations.


- The bank has implemented internal “social distancing” techniques to minimize the typical face-to-face contact by utilizing teleconference calls, video conferencing, and flexible workspaces. In addition, the bank asks all of its customers to help maintain a handshake-free zone at all EBSB locations.



# OBITUARIES

## Albert Browne

US Air Force veteran

 Albert H. Browne, 83, passed away on April 11 at the Katzman Family Center for Living in Chelsea. A US Air Force veteran, he is survived by his wife, Judith (Wool), his children, Winniefred Waldrup, Gwendolyn Orfan, Albert W and his wife, Angela; his grandchildren: Albert, Brendan, Joshua and Gabriel Browne, Elias and Emmet Orfan and Daniel Waldrup and his great granddaughter, Emily Waldrup. He is also survived by his sister, Diane Helsel and her husband, Richard and his sons-in law, Nick Orfan and Adam Waldrup.

Services are private with a memorial to be held at a later date. Donations in his memory may be made to The Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund, website <https://www.mascovid19relieffund.org>, or mail to MA COVID-19 Relief Fund c/o Foundation for Business Equity 265 Franklin Street, BOX 304, Boston MA 02110.

## Patricia Cecere

Of Revere

Patricia (Hardick) Cecere of Revere died on April 2 at the age of 87. Born in Chelsea on August 18, 1932 to the late Charles Hardick and Naomi (Reynolds) Hardick, she was the beloved wife of the late John Cecere, devoted mother of Patricia Sutherland of Revere, Leonard Cecere of Malden, Robert Cecere of Chelsea, and the late Mary Cecere; cherished grandmother of Richard Sr, Krista, Stephen, Nicole, Elizabeth and the late Kevin and Matthew;

adored great grandmother of John, Richard Jr, Christopher, James and Briana and dear sister of the late Florence “Teeney” and Charlotte. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

In accordance with the gatherings and congregations due to COVID-19, CDC, Mass. Department of Public Health, Archdiocese of Boston guidelines and local restrictions, all services will be privately held. For guest book, please visit [www.buonfiglio.com](http://www.buonfiglio.com).

## Paul Harrington

Boston Herald retiree

Paul J. Harrington of Everett entered into eternal rest on Sunday, April 12, 2020 in the Dexter House Healthcare in Malden after a period of failing health. Paul was 79 years old, just one week shy of his 80th birthday.

Born in Everett, Paul had been a lifelong resident. He retired from the Boston Herald newspaper as a printer working for over 49 years. Paul was a member of the Everett Council, Knights of Columbus #97 and the C.W.A. Local # 8 Boston.

He was the son of the late John Harrington and Emma (Giannone), beloved husband of Carol M. (Beauregard) Harrington for over 57 years, dear and devoted father of Linda Cerra and her husband, Paul of Lexington, Paul J. Harrington, Jr. and his wife, Daisy of Florida and Karen Smith and her husband, Chris of Medford; brother of Wil-



liam Harrington and his wife, Beth of Florida and the late John Harrington; loving grandfather of Patrick Harrington, Paula Cowen and her husband, Brad, Michael Cerra, Kaleigh Smith, Connor Smith and Meghan Smith and loving great-grandfather of Faith Cowen and Denver Cowen. Due to the current restrictions place on all of us because of COVID-19, all services will be held privately for the immediate family and a memorial service will be held when it becomes possible. Arrangements by the Cafasso & Sons Funeral Home, Everett, 617.387.3120.

To place a memoriam in the Independent, please call 617-387-9600

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Please send to [obits@reverejournal.com](mailto:obits@reverejournal.com) or call 781-485-0588

# MVES starts COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency Response Fund

With the emergence of the COVID-19 virus, Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) continues to create contingency plans for service continuity and has established a COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency Response Fund so MVES consumers will continue receiving critical assistance such as food, personal care and other essential items on either a short-term or one-time basis.

“Donations to this fund will help provide essential support so that we will have the immediate and substantial resources needed to adjust and continue to operate during these incredibly difficult times for so many,” says Daniel O’Leary, CEO of MVES.

MVES would like to

thank the following organizations for their recent generous donations to the fund.

The Boston Foundation presented a \$25,000 general operating support grant to help provide support for MVES’ efforts to support older adults with home meal deliveries and other vital programs such as home care and medication services.

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation gave a generous gift of \$10,000 towards this emergency fund. Their funds will make certain MVES has funding needed to provide Meals on Wheels and meet food security needs for more of our vulnerable older adults during the pandemic.

The Savings Bank of

Wakefield and Winchester Savings Bank donated gifts of \$3,000 each that will be used towards the MVES’ Money Management Program. This program provides financial assistance to nearly 100 consumers who are living in our 11 community service area helping them with bill paying, budgeting and banking tasks. Seventy-nine Money Management volunteers service these consumers by helping them with their financial tasks.

Donated goods are also coming in and welcomed. Short Path Distillery in Everett donated 50 bottles of hand sanitizer to MVES for front-line employees.

Generosity to the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency Response Fund

will provide the funding MVES needs to cover the costs of urgently needed, unbudgeted resources, including the surge in demand for home-delivered meals and added costs of preparation and delivery, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers.

To support the Mystic Valley Elder Services COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency Response Fund, you can donate online by visiting [mves.org](http://mves.org) or by sending a check to the attention of Mystic Valley Elder Services, 300 Commercial St, #19, Malden, MA 02148. For more information on the fund, please email [development@mves.org](mailto:development@mves.org).

## CHURCH News

### Zion Church - Everett

News and Notes

Senior Pastor Bishop Robert G. Brown will be hosting Virtual Masses to bring the people together, spiritually while they can’t physically. Their virtual sanctuaries can be accessed

via their facebook page, “Zion Church Ministries.”

For more information, they can be reached online at [zionchurchministries.com](http://zionchurchministries.com) or via email at [office@zionchurchministries.com](mailto:office@zionchurchministries.com)

### Immaculate Conception Parish

News and Notes

Our Parish Staff: Father Joseph Chacha Marwa, S.M.A. Administrator; Father Ernest Egbedike, S.M.A. Parochial Vicar; Secretary Barbara Cannon

Weekly Mass Schedule at Immaculate Conception is as follows:

Saturday (Sunday Vigil) 4:00 p.m., Sunday 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Family Mass), 11:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.

12:15 p.m. Spanish Community

4:00 p.m. Haitian Community

Masses are being held in the Chapel.

Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Thursday from 7:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Each Thursdays’ adoration will conclude the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to spend a few moments with Our Blessed Lord

Bring a Book-Buy a Book - We have a new Fundraiser Program in the back of the Church. It’s called Bring a Book-Buy a Book. All books are a dollar and any money collected will go towards our Stain Glass Fund. Brink a Book and Buy a Book and make a donation. Our selections are great and varied. Please stop by the table and see what we have. Thank you

**Immaculate Conception Parish**  
**489 Broadway**  
**Everett, Mass 02149**  
**Phone 617-389-5660**

### Glendale United Methodist Church

News and Notes

Glendale United Methodist Church is open to all and we welcome people of all faiths, race, nationalities and sexual preference. No one is ever turned away. If you are looking for a new home church, we would like you to check us out and let us know what we can do to make church a better fit in your life.

Bible Study: Consider joining us for Bible study on Sunday. We meet in the Church Parlor off the Chapel from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Sponsor the bulletin! For a \$5 donation, you can dedicate the Sunday bulletin to recognize family, friends, or special occasions. There is a sign-up sheet in the Pastor’s study. Feel free to choose your particular week and leave a copy of your dedication in the mail in that is on the Pastor’s door. Please contact the Pastor if you have any questions.

Boy Scout Troop 814: Meet in Cooper Hall on Tuesday evenings from 6-9 p.m. Cub Pack 11 meets on Saturday mornings.

NA Meetings – Mon. Bring Your Own Book 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.; Thurs. I Can’t

But We Can, 8:00 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

AA Meeting – Saturday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Pastor’s Office Hours: Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Other times by appointment.

Bread of Life Donations – This outreach is being done to honor the United Methodist Women’s Group, who for so many years were our outreach source. Please bring any food item(s) to church and place in the box located on the altar.

**We are on the Internet**  
**<http://www.glendaleumc-everett.org>**  
**Glendale United Methodist Church**  
**Pastor David Jackson**  
**392 Ferry Street**  
**(across from Glendale Towers)**

**Please enter the church by the driveway on Walnut Street**  
**617-387-2916**  
**PastorDavidJackson58@gmail.com**  
**Pastor’s Office Hours: Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM. Other times by appointment.**

### Glendale Christian Lighthouse Church

News and Notes

Adult Sunday School at 9:30 AM. Teaching about Holiness .

Sunday 10:30 AM Worship service.

Wednesday hour of Power, worship, prayer and Bible Study. We are studying about God, come join us.

Come join us in prayer every Friday at 6 am.

Saturday, 12-3, Women’s Fellowship. Join our sisters in worship, fellowship and prayer.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,” Colossians 3:23

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• Domingo 9:30 am Escuela Dominical de Adultos. (en inglés)

Servicio de Alabanza y Adoracion a las 10 am (en inglés)

• Miercoles Hora de Poder, Oración, alabanza y Estudio de la Palabra de Dios a las 7 pm (en inglés)

### Mystic Side Congregational Church

News and Notes

Mystic Side Congregational Church is located in Everett, on Malden-Everett border, at 422 Main Street. We offer a warm, inviting atmosphere, and all are welcome. Our Sunday Church service starts at 10:30 a.m. and Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month. A very pleasant coffee hour and socializing follow our services. Parking is available in our lot next to the church on Wyllis Ave. (one way off Main Street). We look forward to welcoming you this Sunday.

**Mystic Side Congregational Church**  
**422 Main Street**  
**Everett, MA**

• Ven unete a nosotros para orar todos los viernes a las 6 am

• Domingo Servicio de alabanza y adoracion a las 4pm (Servicio en español)

Mayores informes de los servicios en español (617) 306-3518

“No temas, porque yo estoy contigo; no desmayes, porque yo soy tu Dios que te esfuerzo; siempre te ayudaré, siempre te sustentaré con la diestra de mi justicia.”

Isaias 41:10

“En busca de la excelencia espiritual

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**Rev. Larry Russi, Sr. Pastor**  
**[pastorlarry@thelighthousechurch701.net](mailto:pastorlarry@thelighthousechurch701.net)**

### Grace Episcopal Church

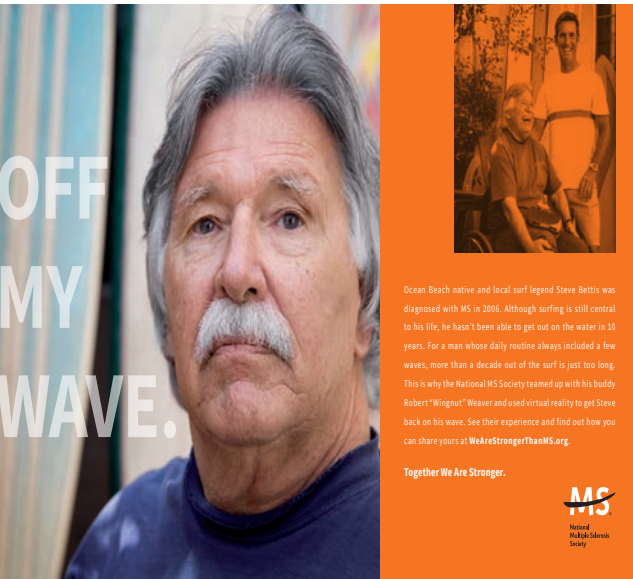
News and Notes

Grace Anglican Episcopal Church is open & welcoming to all.

There are 3 services on Sundays: 10am English, 1pm South Sudanese (Dinka) and 3pm Haitian Creole. We have Sunday school during the 1pm service in the Children’s Room. Coffee Hour starts after the 10am service in the Parish Hall (entrance on 11 Liberty St.)

Come all and let us walk together in this season of hope, renewal and new beginnings.

**Grace Anglican Episcopal Church**  
**67 Norwood Street, Everett, MA**  
**Church Phone 617-387-7526 or 617-389-5765 or 617-381-9367**



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# Public health groups file to stop proposed ballot question on alcohol licensing

The Massachusetts Prevention Alliance (MAPA), along with the HYPER-LINK “https://hfc.com.org/”\t “\_blank” Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts, has announced the filing of a brief asking the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to stop the Cumberland Farms’ proposed ballot initiative that would lift the cap on alcohol licenses in the state of Massachusetts. The organizations are raising alarm about the impact on the health of the state’s communities due to deregulation that will vastly expand alcohol outlet density and lead to significantly more addiction and social harms across the Commonwealth. “Our sole concern is

the potential impact on the health of our families and communities,” said Heidi Heilman, president of MAPA. “Limits on the number of licenses for retail sales is the cornerstone of our measured, balanced approach to alcohol regulation. It’s arguably the most critical public health standard of our alcohol system, is the template upon which our adult use marijuana law is based, and is strongly supported by the World Health Organization, United States Surgeon General and Centers for Disease Control. Alcohol is addictive and harmful when misused, and death due to alcohol poisoning is pervasive and preventable. The research makes clear

that deregulation will lead to increased health inequities and social harms that will be close to impossible to reverse.” In the brief, MAPA and the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts have asked the high court to intervene and prevent the complicated, confusing measure from being placed on the ballot in November. They cite a number of issues, including: •Increase in Alcohol Availability: Alcohol is an addictive substance, which is why it is closely regulated at the state and federal level. Unlimited sales of beer and wine at all food stores will substantially increase the number of alcohol retail outlets in every

community. •Public Health & Safety Concerns: Increased alcohol outlet density directly contributes to health inequity, Alcohol Use Disorders and associated harms, greater youth diversion, and disproportionately burdens socioeconomically disadvantaged communities. •Simultaneous Increase in Retail Marijuana Outlets: A significant, though perhaps unintended, consequence of the petition is that it will increase retail marijuana outlets in communities. Currently, marijuana licenses are calibrated to the number of off-premise alcohol licenses in a municipality. “This petition will al-

low 3,279 convenience stores in Massachusetts to be automatically eligible to sell beer and wine, and four years later be eligible to transition into selling hard liquor, too,” said John Scheft, the attorney who wrote the brief. “The problems are extensive and far-reaching and adequate oversight of such a system is unlikely. Although Cumberland Farms claims that the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission will receive more funding, they recently acknowledged in a court filing that there is no guarantee that increased oversight will be funded by the legislature. Furthermore, there are no plans to increase funding for the Cannabis Control Commis-

sion even if more marijuana stores open as a result.” Initiative Petition 19-14 proposes (1) unlimited licenses by a single entity for beer and wine sales (not spirits) by retail establishments that sell food; (2) unlimited licenses by a single entity for beer, wine and spirit sales in any municipality and across the Commonwealth; (3) a point-of-sale ID checking requirement for all off-premises alcohol retailers (not on-premises bars and restaurants); and (4) diversion of alcohol excise taxes to fund the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) and a ratio of one inspector for every 250 licenses.

# Malden Catholic participates in multi-school iPad donation drive for Tufts Medical Center

Part of the devastating aspect of testing positive with a COVID-19 diagnosis is the isolation it causes for the victim and the sense of helplessness for their family. Tufts Medical Center has decided to work directly with the schools in the Catholic Conference including Malden Catholic High School, Boston College High School, Catholic Memorial, St. John’s Prep and Xaverian Brothers High School to provide these patients and their families with a way to connect.

Malden Catholic and the other schools in the Catholic Conference Connects have asked families, friends and alumni to donate fully functioning iPads to Tufts Medical Center between Tuesday, April 7 through Friday April 17. The iPads must be able to run a FaceTime call as this is the goal to provide these patients with interaction of their loved ones. Tufts Medical Center will be accepting donations at Tufts Medical Center located on 830 Washington Street in Boston, MA. Individuals are asked to drop off the iPads to the security officer at the Tufts Medical Center Emergency Room Monday through Friday from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

In addition to the iPad donations, anyone dropping off an iPad has been asked to do their part by practicing social distancing, staying home whenever possible, and washing our hands frequently.

Since 1932, Malden Catholic High School has shaped emerging leaders in our community, claiming a Nobel Laureate, a Senator, two ambassadors and countless community and business heads among its alumni. Annually, graduates attend some of the nation’s most renowned universities including Harvard, Georgetown, Brown, Cornell, Tufts, Georgia Tech, Boston College and Amherst College. Foundational to student success is Malden Catholic’s codivisional model which offers the best of both

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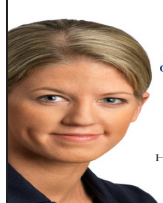
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Elisabeth's experience caused her to redirect her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.


We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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# EAST BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTER ON THE FRONTLINES FIGHTING COVID-19

With East Boston having one of the highest COVID-19 infection rates in the City of Boston the doctors, nurses and staff at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center have been working around the clock on the frontlines combating the viral outbreak.

These photos are a glimpse into how much our world has changed in the past few weeks as doctors, nurses and staff at the Health Center risk their health each day to provide topnotch health-care to Eastie's vulnerable residents.



A EBNHC doctor inside the emergency room prepares to examine a patient.



Nurses and healthcare workers are covered head to toe in protective gear inside the Health Center's Gove Street emergency room.



The COVID-19 virus affects the body's respiratory system and can lead to pneumonia, or worse, Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome or ARDS. Here a healthcare worker at the Health Center checks on lung x rays.



Taking no chances, the staff working inside EBNHC's emergency room practice every precaution to avoid catching COVID-19.



A patient being wheeled out to an awaiting ambulance after being stabilized by EBNHC's medical staff.



Like many emergency rooms across the country the staff at EBNHC is asking residents to stay home to protect not only the public but healthcare workers.



EBNHC staff thank donors that recently contributed food for the emergency room staff.

We want to see you....  
at home!

Telemedicine allows health care professionals to evaluate, diagnose, and treat patients at a distance using telecommunications technology, such as a smart phone or computer. Telemedicine allows us to continue to provide high-quality care to our patients during the COVID-19 pandemic while minimizing exposures.

Telemedicine appointments are being scheduled in Pediatrics, Adult Medicine, Family Medicine, Women's Health (OB/GYN), Behavioral Health, Neighborhood PACE, and other departments. We use certified medical interpreters during telemedicine appointments for languages other than English.

**Do you need to schedule a telemedicine appointment with your primary care provider? Did you miss an appointment that needs to be rescheduled? If so, call 617-569-5800 to schedule a telemedicine appointment.** This is especially important if you have a chronic or a behavioral health condition. You should be treated if needed, especially during this public health crisis. We're here to keep you healthy!

[www.ebnhc.org](http://www.ebnhc.org)

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