





# State construction projects will continue through COVID-19

By Seth Daniel

Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollack said last Monday that state bridge and roadway work – such as the North Washington Street Bridge project or the Mystic/Tobin rehabilitation work – will continue on through the COVID-19 response while using protective measures on the job sites.

“On the one hand, we have to address health and safety first, but on the other hand it is construction season and we have a limited construction season here,” she said. “In any case we can continue safely with construction, we hope to do so.”

Critical infrastructure and repair work has been deemed essential since the beginning of the COVID-19 response, as has most construction, but some have opted to shut down for worker safety anyhow. Pol-

lack said completing projects can be done as long as it is done with care.

She said they have new job site protocols and are requiring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with a zero tolerance policy towards those that don’t follow their explicit direction.

Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver said they have been taking precautions with their own staff that investigates sites for compliance, and also a set of precautions for the contractor community.

All sites must practice social distancing first and foremost, he said. When that’s not possible, they turn to protective equipment.

“When social distancing isn’t possible as part of construction, such as working inside a mechanical room or placing a beam when two people have to be in close quarters with one another, in these situations contractors are expected to imple-

ment protections by supplying masks and eyewear and other PPE that is necessary to do that operation in a safe way,” he said. “We’ve been really clear with contractors and our staff that to be prepared with PPE is as essential as having a hard hat on the job.”

Gulliver said they are prepared to shut down job sites that don’t comply, but so far they haven’t had to.

“There have been no occurrences where we’ve had to do a full shutdown, but we’ve had to ask contractors to modify their work in several important ways,” he said.

•In news from the Registry, it was reported that the federal government has given the state an extension to comply with the Real ID requirement.

Everyone with a license was supposed to have a new Real ID by October. Now, that has been continued to next year.

# DiDomenico, McGonagle announce new legal protections for health care workers

Sen. Sal DiDomenico and Rep. Joseph McGonagle have announced that the State Senate and House of Representatives passed legislation to provide legal protection to health care personnel and facilities to rapidly respond to the COVID-19 emergency.

“Our health care workers are on the front lines of this public health emergency, and it is critical we do everything we can to protect them as they confront the pandemic and provide treatment for our residents,” said Senator DiDomenico. “As Massachusetts enters the midst of its COVID-19 surge, this legislation is key to ensuring our health care system

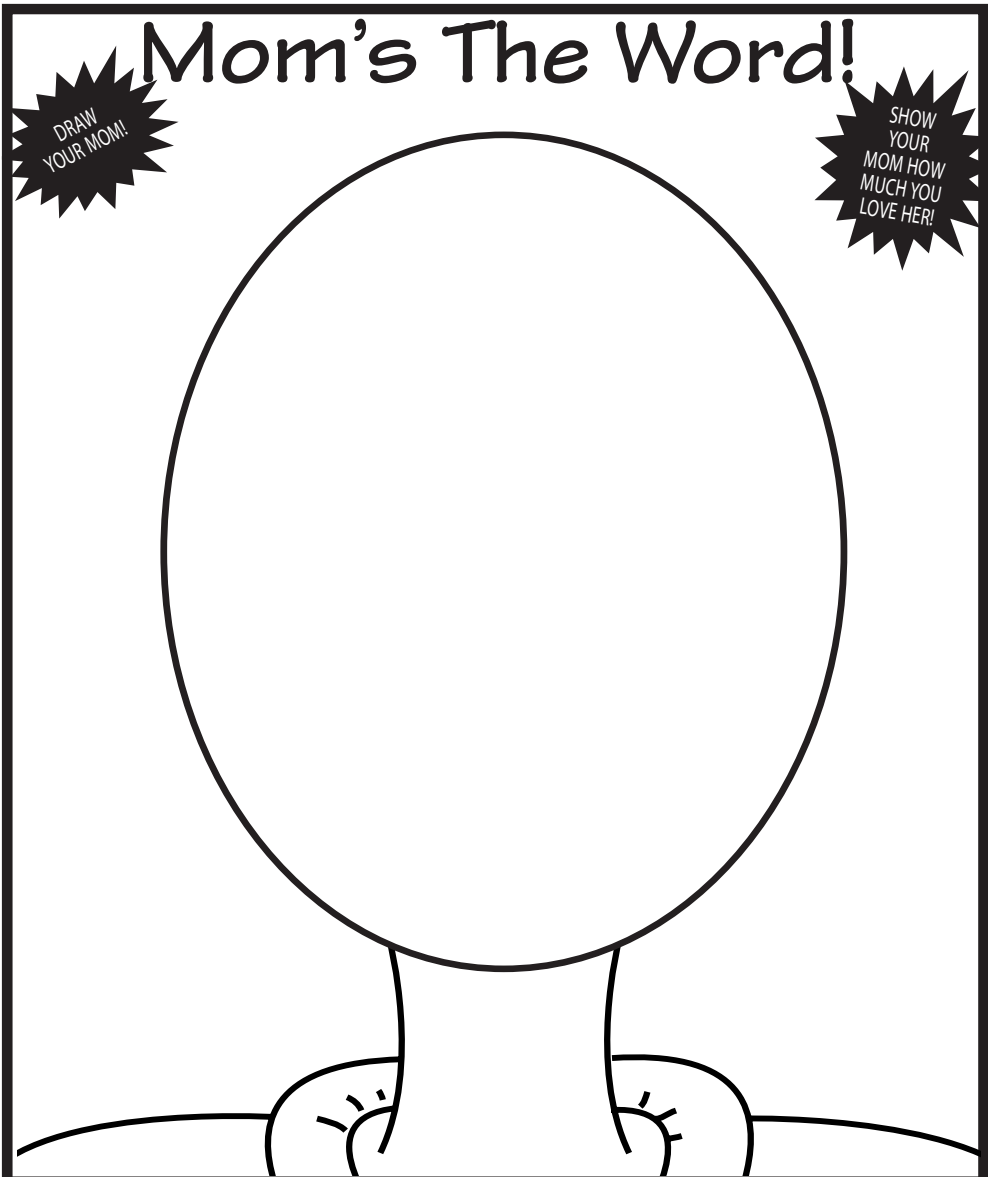
can quickly respond to the crisis and our brave medical personnel can continue providing critical care for patients.”

“Healthcare workers need to know that their state officials have their backs and will do what’s necessary to aide them,” said Representative McGonagle. “These days it is hard to carry out ‘business as usual’ so we need to give our frontline workers the flexibility they deserve.”

Under the legislation, health care professionals, facilities and volunteer organizations assisting in the state’s efforts to respond and treat COVID-19 would be protected from suit and civil liability for alleged

damages related to the virus. Health care facilities and professionals would still be subject to consumer complaints brought by the Attorney General and protections would not extend to acts of negligence, recklessness, or intent to harm or acts of discrimination. These protections would apply retroactively to March 10, 2020, and remain in effect for the duration of the State of Emergency.

The bill, which is the latest action by the Legislature to address the COVID-19 public health crisis and its effects on Massachusetts, has been signed by the Governor.



This is my mother - Mother’s name \_\_\_\_\_

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- Complete the picture by creating a picture of your mother
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Please mail to: The Independent Newspaper Group, Citizens Bank Building, 385 Broadway, Revere or email: [promo@reverejournal.com](mailto:promo@reverejournal.com)

Deadline for entries will be Friday, May 1st.

Entries will be published in the May 6th, & 7th issues of the Revere Journal, Chelsea Record, Everett Independent, East Boston Times, Winthrop Sun Transcript, The Lynn Journal and The Charlestown Patriot Bridge

# Masks // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and workers. You can go in, but you have to wear a mask, social distance and you have to install a shield. It was a balance.”

Councilor Michael McLaughlin said he wanted to see if the City could use its Rainy Day Fund to be able to purchase masks and such for people who want to go out – particularly for the older adults in the community.

“I have spoken with many residents who are unaware of how to get a face covering with their lack of social media it is not as commonly known as for others who are making these items available,” he said. “They have gone to numerous stores and can’t find a mask. I have shared the thought of using household items with them and offered my limited number of masks to residents. For a younger generation it sounds easier than for someone in their golden years to make a face coverings.”

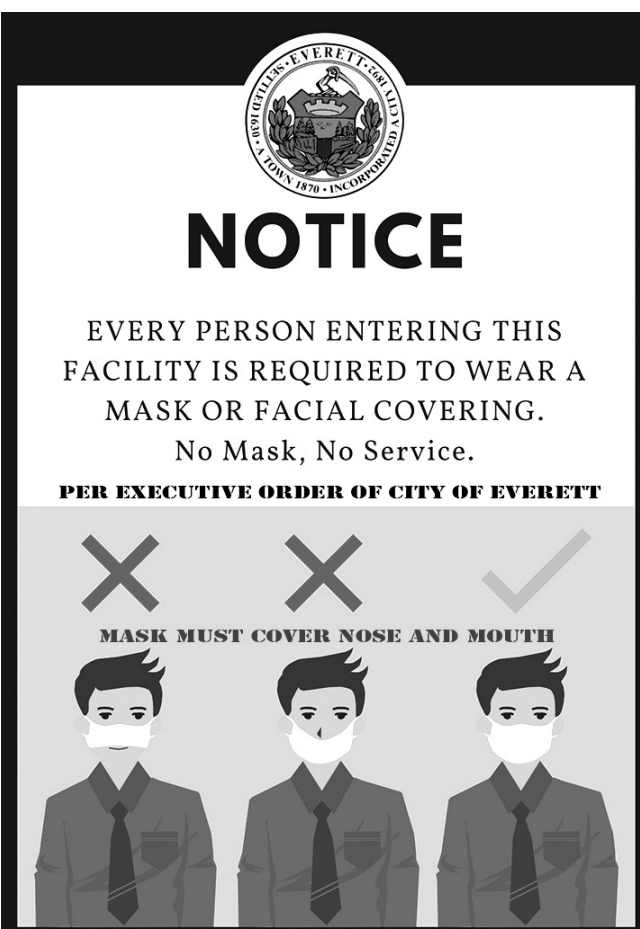
He said by purchasing the masks and distributing them to residents, it can make the new order more easily followed.

# Update // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to our patients during the COVID-19 pandemic while minimizing exposures. This is especially important if you have a chronic or a behavioral health condition. Call 617-569-5800 to schedule.

As of April 20, Massachusetts had more than 38,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 1,706 deaths. According to the Boston Globe, more than 3,700 residents with confirmed or likely cases of COVID-19 have been hospitalized. Chelsea, which is part of EBNHC’s service area, continues to have the state’s highest coronavirus rate. The majority of EBNHC’s COVID-19 patients are Latinx, which is a reflection of our community as well as the health disparities that are intensifying the pandemic’s impact. EBNHC president and CEO, Manny Lopes, has been appointed to Mayor Walsh’s COVID-19 Health Inequities Task Force, which is responding to the racial and ethnic disparities that are emphasized by this pandemic.

Latinx and African Americans have greater



“As many have said for years, the Rainy Day Fund is a fund set aside of public money that can be used for unforeseen catastrophic situations that affect residents,” he said. “If this situation is not a rainy day, then I’m not quite sure what the

purpose of this fund is for.”

The City also produced a poster that will be widely distributed to all businesses and public areas of Everett. The poster explains the policy and what needs to be done to follow it.

rates of obesity, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and diabetes—all of which are likely risk factors for COVID-19. Minority groups also tend to have higher rates of poverty, which is associated with less healthy lifestyles, lower rates of health insurance, and increased morbidity. Many minorities work in service jobs that can’t be done from home, which puts them at higher risk of novel coronavirus infection. Residents who are concerned about immigration status can be leery of governmental agencies and are less likely to seek medical care. Population density also plays a role in COVID-19 transmission rates—and East Boston and Chelsea are among Boston’s most populous neighborhoods.

Minorities will not only suffer worse health outcomes; they will also suffer economically. Poverty, unemployment, and underemployment are daunting factors in our community that are already worsening.

Business leaders and economists predict that the economic downturn in

Massachusetts will be particularly painful and our recovery will be slow. In the greater East Boston area, a high rate of food insecurity is worsening as our residents lose jobs and income. Last week, in partnership with the American Red Cross, EBNHC staff and volunteers stocked our new Community Resource Center at 282 Meridian Street with emergency canned and dry goods, providing our most vulnerable population with 300 bags of food. We are now delivering food to our high-risk patients and will continue to work aggressively to address local food insecurity. Community members in need can contact EBNHC’s Community Resource and Wellness Center at 617-568-4845.

Massachusetts is bracing for a peak in COVID-19 cases at the end of April. We ask every person who lives or works in our community to practice social distancing, wash their hands, and wear a facial covering when outside. The physical, emotional, and financial health of every resident is at stake. Please do your part.

# School Committee keeping up with business during quarantine

By Seth Daniel

The School Committee has been up and running throughout the pandemic, hosting two public meetings online through this month – including a meeting that was to take place on Tuesday night, April 21.

School Committee meetings have been operating under the City’s new online platform and has found that there seem to be many more participants looking in on the meetings than typically attended the in-person meetings. The City’s IT Department reported the April 6 meeting had about 2,000 to 3,000 people involved during the meeting.

Now, the School Committee is taking its cues from the state and trying to get back to business.

Vice Chair Frank Parker said he and those on the Committee have been very pleased with new Supt. Priya Tahiliani’s trial by fire introduction to the district – getting hit with a pandemic nine days into her new job.

“I think overall everyone is pleased with her performance,” he said. “First and

foremost the membership is really, really happy with her communications skills and ability to provide updates, using Facebook, Twitter and access to the media. She has been decisive and collaborative at the same time... She’s the new face of the Everett Public Schools.”

One thing the school district has done on the fast track is to get computer devices – in this case ChromeBooks – into the hands of each student in the district over a period of two months. While most of the ChromeBooks have been delivered to students, the final 600 or so will be delivered to homes in about a week or so, it is estimated. That is a drastic jump for the district and a priority that Tahiliani had expressed in her interviews for the job and in her 100-day entry plan.

Prior to the pandemic, students were not allowed to take their school computers home, and not every student had a ChromeBook either. That has virtually changed overnight.

“Having one ChromeBook per student was a goal and she’s achieved that or

will in 30 days,” said Parker. “It wasn’t the plan to do it this quickly, but after things settle, I think it will be a great achievement...I like the 1-to-1 ChromeBooks especially over the last six months. Being part of the superintendent search put me in contact with a lot of other communities and I was able to see what they’re doing.”

Parker had put an agenda item on the calendar for the April 21 online meeting that had been a bit controversial earlier in the year. At that time, it was a request to do an audit of the district, but now he’s re-submitted it as a review of the district.

“This will give Priya the ability as a new person to the district to bring other people in and look at our policies and procedures and look at what we have challenges in doing,” he said. “There have been things we’ve been doing here the same way for decades and it’s inefficient.”

That piece was scheduled to be heard at the meeting on April 21, which came beyond Independent deadlines.



## EnVision // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have, once again, responded by opening the Envision Hotel and providing all the necessary staffing, supplies and food for patients. This will allow our residents at home to stay healthy and for members of our community to have a place to recover from this virus.”

The hotel facility reportedly opened on Monday night, and sources indicated there were already 15 people there recovering in the hotel’s rooms. Everett had been part of the effort with Revere and Chelsea at the Quality Inn on Rt. 1, but reportedly pulled out of that deal this week as it required a substantial payment from the City. This facility, reportedly, would have more expenses covered by the state rather than the City –

making it closer than the Quality Inn and less expensive, sources said.

The Baker Administration has opened a total of five state-operated isolation and recovery sites across the state. The medical component of EnVision is being run by Beth Israel/Lahey Health. When an individual is brought to Envision, they are transported by the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department. There are multiple medical providers on staff and each individual is screened by a medical professional prior to entry.

Guests of the facility are having their vital signs checked twice a day and receive the necessary medical care based on their distinct needs. The facility is equip with Narcan and

an AED to ensure that the safety and welfare of the guests is paramount.

“I think it’s really important that the City utilize all its’ resources during this pandemic to protect and prevent the spread of the disease. I’m very grateful to the Envision Hotel for allowing its building to perform such a crucial service. Moments like this prove Everett is strong, united and continuing to fight this disease,” said State Rep. Joseph McGonagle.

The facility is equipped with a security guard on each floor and the Everett Police Department will be on premises at all times. Additionally, all meals will be provided to guests.

## Schools // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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

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

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

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

Everett School and City leaders weren’t immediately available for comment, but said they would address the new announcement in the coming days. They have rolled out a substantive and vast online learning program, and they said they would return to that on Monday following this week’s Spring Break.

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

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

•Additionally, Baker announced that all non-emergency childcare will be closed until June 29. Baker said he recognizes this puts a strain on families, but the state will work towards “slowly restoring childcare capacity once it can be done safely.”

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

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

### Contact Tracing, PPE. Homelessness Efforts

As of April 20, there were 39,643 positive cases in Massachusetts, and there were 1,809 deaths. On April 16, Baker talked more about contact tracing in the Commonwealth. He said that Massachusetts is the “first state in the nation” to trace individuals who are COVID-19 positive.

Baker said that 176 em-

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

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

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

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

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

The Administration announced new steps to address homelessness during the pandemic last last week.

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

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

Additionally, the Baker-Polito administration also announced an addi-

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

### Unemployment Benefits

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

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

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

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

“All approved PUA applications will initially receive the minimum weekly benefit amount, plus the additional \$600 FPUC weekly benefit,” the state said. “Once a worker’s wages are verified, weekly benefit amounts may increase.”

The benefits are retroactive to January 27 of this year or the date at which an individual became unemployed, whichever is more recent, as long as the unemployment reason is due to COVID-19.

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

# Whose Zooming Who?

Planning Board gets a lesson in ups and downs of Zoom meetings

By Seth Daniel

The Planning Board can rarely be described as sexy deliberations, but for a short window of time during last Tuesday’s first-ever Zoom meeting of the Board, the point could have been successfully argued.

In what was otherwise a rather successful first online public meeting for the Planning Board Tuesday, the meeting got a little wide-eyed for about 10 or 20 seconds – maybe longer – when hard-core pornography suddenly blasted across everyone’s screens complete with all of the accompany sounds.

“This is incredibly inappropriate,” said Planner Shane O’Brien over the increasingly louder inappropriate sounds and sights.

“We got hacked!” yelled one member. “I’ve read about this stuff. I can’t believe it happened here.”

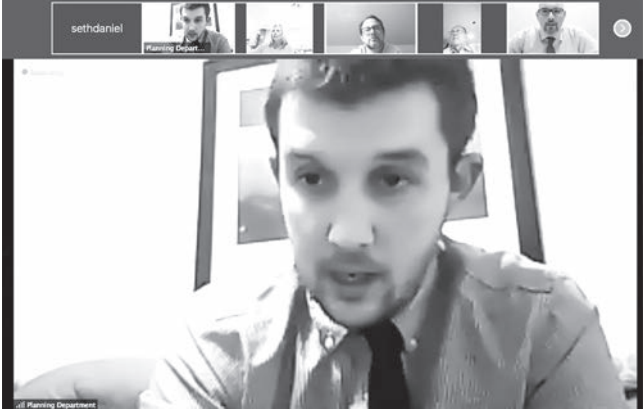
The screams and yells of disbelief echoed for some time before everyone got back on track.

It was a jolt, no doubt. “Can we make sure to edit that out if this is going to be re-broadcast on cable TV,” said Member Leo Pizano.

At the end of the meeting, O’Brien – who led the meeting, which was successful for two hours minus the 25 second interlude – apologized and recognized it’s a new technology.

“It’s a process that is new and not perfect,” he said. “We apologize for what happened and are working on it so the cable broadcast will be edited. With any public meeting, we deal with the public interfering at times. We’ll continue working on the process as we move forward meeting remotely and we will edit out that situation that occurred.”

The scene has been edited out of the official meeting, but for those tuning in live, it was an example of what can happen to online public meetings if the proper precautions are not taken, said City IT Director



Planner Shane O'Brien leads the first Everett Planning Board Zoom meeting on April 14.


Kevin Dorgan.

Dorgan said the Planning Board meeting was done on an account that wasn’t regulated by his department, which is partly why it happened. He said he has investigated it, but there is no telling who actually pulled the prank on the unsuspecting Board. He said two things were done mistakenly, that being putting out an open Zoom link for everyone, and also enabling ‘screen sharing’ for everyone – which is how the pornography video made its way onto everyone’s screen.

He said he has been working hard to make sure online City meetings are protected a little better, and had the Planning Board taken his advice and used his set-up, that wouldn’t have happened. It was, he said, a lesson in how the Internet can at times perform at the lowest common denominator if careful planning isn’t executed.

“This has happened to quite a few people in the last several weeks as people move to online meetings,” he said. “It happened to the U.S. Congress. I believe they got Zoom-bombed. We have heard of other cities and other City meetings getting interrupted by organized protests. That’s why we were putting so much work into this beforehand. That Planning Board meeting, though, was completely ad hoc and done separately from what we’ve worked on in the City’s IT Department.”

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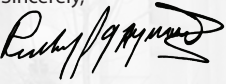
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# Everett Independent

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## ONCE AGAIN, MASS. IS SHOWING THE WAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 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.

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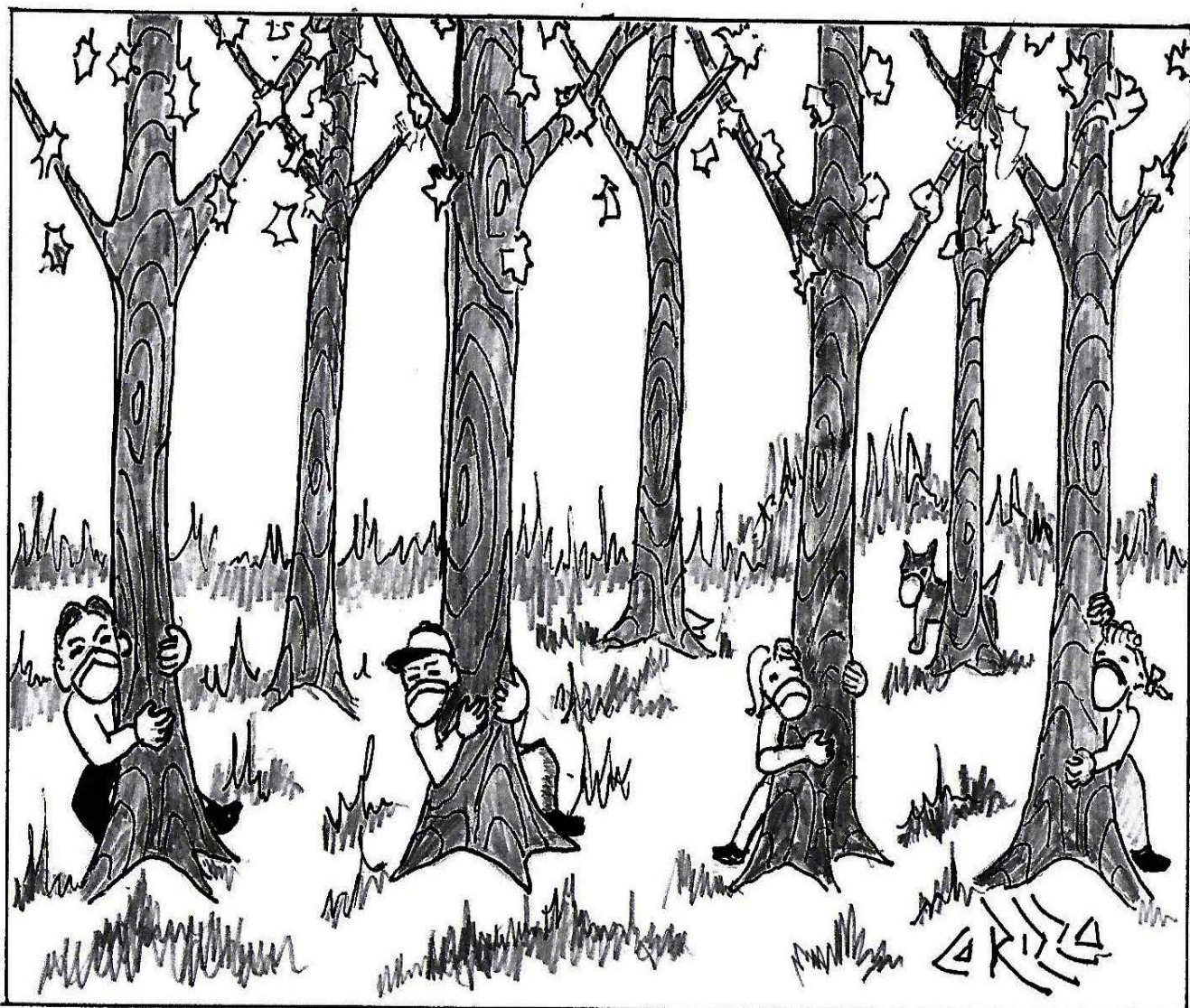
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# Independent Forum



CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY APR. 24TH AT A DISTANCE

## Rep. McGonagle announces he will be on the ballot for Sept. 1 Primary

Staff Report

Rep. Joseph McGonagle of Everett announced he has officially submitted his papers to run for re-election for the position of State Representative for the 28th Middlesex District, which consists of the City of Everett.

McGonagle announced on social media, saying:

"When I pulled my papers for re-election two months ago, I did not expect us to be in the situation we are today," he said. "Yet, here we are, still strong and still pushing forward. I know it is a scary and uncertain time, but I want to take this moment to thank all of you who have supported me over the years. I am honored to report that I will officially be on the ballot for re-election for State Representative in Everett."

McGonagle said he is

excited to working with everyone on the campaign and asked for voters to consider him in the Sept. 1 Democratic Primary Election.

"Another huge thank you to everyone who helped to get signatures and ensure my nomination despite the unusual circumstances," he added.

McGonagle said if family, neighbors or friends need ANY assistance during this time, please don't hesitate to reach out to his office at [joseph.mcgonagle@mahouse.gov](mailto:joseph.mcgonagle@mahouse.gov).

McGonagle was first elected in 2012 and will be running for his fourth term in the House of Representatives. Currently he serves as the vice-chair on the Housing Committee and also sits on the Transportation and Healthcare Financing Committees. The state Democratic primary is set to be held Tuesday, September 1.



State Rep. Joe McGonagle turning in his Nomination Papers last week at the State House in Boston. Rep. McGonagle will officially be on the ballot this coming Sept. 1.

## Encore Boston Harbor to make missed payment by June 30

By Seth Daniel

Encore Boston Harbor has not made its quarterly Host Community Agreement (HCA) payment on March 31 to the City, but it has assured City leaders it would make two quarterly payments of \$12.5 million by at least June 30.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria and Chief Financial Officer Eric Demas said they continue to meet with Encore every Tuesday remotely - as they have done for years now - and have agreed to allow the company leeway as they focus on paying their employees a full salary while they bring in no revenue due to the COVID-19 casino closures (in Boston and Las Vegas).

"They did not make the payment on March 31," said Demas. "They are in transition right now. I think they are one of the first companies to say they would pay their employees, and that includes tipped employees... They said they will be making payments soon and they told the City not to worry and would be fulfilling all of their obligations. They always have done what they said, so we support that... We understand their focus is on their employees right

now and are 100 percent committed they will make good by June 30."

Payments are due on the last day of each quarter, with the first payment in the current fiscal year coming last September. That payment was also late, but the Dec. 31 payment came early. Because of the COVID-19 situation, they will miss the March 31 payment, but have promised to make up the final two payments before the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

Quarterly payments come in two separate sums, one of \$5 million and another of \$1.25 million, for a total of \$6.25 million per quarter.

"They've been an excellent business partner in the city," said Demas. "Our liquidity remains strong so as long as their payment comes in by June 30, we'll be fine."

The payment, also, is subject to the Mayor's extension on excise and property tax payments - as the HCA payment is technically both of those. So, like other taxpayers, Encore was officially granted the extension to June 30.

RETHINKING THE BUDGET

Right now, City finances all over the region are at a standstill, and with Fis-

cal Year 2021 looking to be very difficult, Everett is no exception though its financial position is stronger than some neighboring communities, Demas said. "Fiscal Year 2021 is going to be tough," he said. "Unfortunately, there not a lot that is known. It's a waiting game. Right now the states are waiting to see what the federal government will do with Stimulus 4. They already will get 75 percent reimbursement for COVID-related expenses, so we know that. Until the federal government takes action, the states can't take action. Once that happens, cities and towns across the country will know what to expect and what resources will be available."

Everett is in a good position, however, because the City isn't as dependent on revenue streams like meals taxes and hotel excise taxes. For year, Everett got little to no revenue from those sources. With the opening of Encore, that was going to be a new, and lucrative, stream of revenue. However, this being the first year of those revenues, Demas said the City was very conservative in its expectations.

The City budgeted to collect \$3.2 million for both revenue streams this year, and as of March 31, they

collected \$3.7 million with one more quarter - albeit a very light quarter - to go.

That said, there are a lot of questions about real estate taxes and personal property taxes and this coming year's budget.

"We had our budget together and nearly complete five or six weeks ago," he said. "We were ready to start polishing it when this broke out... We are in the process of completely re-starting our budget process again... What I'm hoping is the state can get together as a group and put out one budget and streamline that state process so cities and towns will know what to expect."

He said, for the City, they won't have full numbers until two or three weeks from now, especially with deadlines being extended on most bills.

He said that despite the extension and the complications from the pandemic, Everett residents are doing a great job of paying online and dropping payments in the City Hall drop box.

"With the uncertain times we're in, it's important to realize all the positive things we have here in Everett," he said. "We're fortunate compared to a lot of other places."



# Uncertain Unemployment: New claims face uncertainty, inconsistency and no answers

By Seth Daniel

Those filing new unemployment claims with the state Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) are facing great inconsistencies with their regular payment and the extra \$600 promised from the federal government as part of the CARES Act - and getting through to the state for answers to those questions is increasingly a fool's errand.

This at the same time that the state is running through the Unemployment Trust Fund that pays out the claims at a faster rate than any state in the nation, according to the U.S. Treasury Department figures.

Most new claims began during the last week of March, and those new claims started getting their payments on April 7 for their first week of unemployment (for week ending April 4). Unilaterally, readers of the paper reported they got the \$600 federal bonus in total on April 9 or 10 - two days later. Last week, however, things seemed to change without

explanation. Some still got their regular unemployment payment on April 14, but never got the \$600 bonus. Those who did get it reported that taxes were taken out of it, making it \$510, and the understanding was it was tax-free money.

It has left a tremendous amount of questions - and some still haven't even gotten their first \$600 payment, with notes on their accounts saying they will get it on April 24.

The situation, most say, lacks any consistency or explanation. Those who have tried to call the DUA have gotten nowhere. Those who filled out online request for information/call forms also got no response.

What those frustrated folks did was flock to the Independent News Group's websites - particularly the Chelsea Record and Everett Independent where more than 350 original comments were registered under a story posted on April 9 about the initial procedures for signing up for unemployment - a story that was mostly made up of clear information relayed to

the paper from state government. (A typical story on the paper's website would normally get two or three comments a week).

Most of the comments were related to the extra \$600 and why it was taxed one week and not the other, why it didn't arrive in one payment and why it came on random days. Many, many readers were upset about the inability to contact anyone.

"Thank you Chelsea Record and Everett Independent!" wrote reader Robin Vachon. "This is the only article I could find with issues related to receiving both Massachusetts state Unemployment Insurance (UI) and the additional \$600 FPUC. Like many here, I received no notification either by mail or on my UI account before \$600 was deposited to my regular UI prepaid debit account furnished by the state on Thursday, April 9. However I did not receive my next weekly \$600 boost which I assumed would hit my account by Thursday, April 16 or the 17 at the latest. As far as I could tell there is no

updated information on any glitches with payments on the DUA website, or anywhere else in the media. This is not only frustrating, but added stress at a time when we don't need it. The least Massachusetts officials could do is acknowledge the problem for people like us who might have families that rely on our financial support. Thank you again to any reporters who are working on finding some answers."

The newspaper did try to get questions answered about the unemployment issues, particularly because there were so many readers that responded to the stories. Reaching out to the Governor's Office, a spokesperson put the paper in touch with a spokesman for the Department of Labor, Charles Pearce.

He first referred that reporter to a general website, which offered no new information.

Then he denied the paper an opportunity for an interview, saying they would try to answer written questions on the matter. The e-mail exchange went like this.

"Information related to the CARES act and other COVID-19 related unemployment issues can be found at HYPERLINK "http://mass.gov/unemployment/covid-19" Pearce wrote.

"I understand that," the paper wrote back. "I've looked there. I was hoping to do an interview with someone whom I could ask questions of and write a story on. People would really appreciate that and it would go a long way in all of our papers for giving clarity. Let me know."

"If you could send along your questions I will work to get you responses as soon as possible," Pearce replied.

"Is there no one there that can speak to a reporter?" asked the paper.

"Not at this time," wrote Pearce.

The paper did submit a list of about 10 questions that were most frequently asked on its websites, but by press time, neither Pearce nor the Governor's Office had responded to any of the questions.

Pearce, however, did have time to grant an interview to the Wall Street Journal on Tuesday, and it appeared the answers were clearer as to the confusion. The issue seems to be because Massachusetts is running through its Unemployment Trust Fund at a faster rate than any state in the

nation - likely needing to ask the federal government soon for a loan to cover future claims.

States typically pay regular benefits out of a trust fund that is supposed to be supplied to handle a one-year recession. However, more than 100,000 people apparently applied for unemployment two weeks ago, and since February, the state has used up nearly 55 percent of its trust fund for regular UI payments (not the extra \$600 though that is paid by the federal government). That was a much faster rate than any other state in the nation, with New York the closest in going through about 45 percent of its trust fund, according to the U.S. Treasury Department.

The only remedy for the state, according to the Wall Street Journal article, if it runs out of money in the trust fund is to seek a no-interest loan from the federal government to pay out claims.

Pearce told the Wall Street Journal on Tuesday the state "will continue to take any steps necessary to ensure the solvency of the trust fund, including seeking support from the federal government."

## In tight credit markets, City gets glowing review, ready for short-term bond sale this week

By Seth Daniel

After getting a glowing financial review in the midst of most having a financial meltdown, the City of Everett is preparing to go out and sell Capital Improvement Project (CIP) short-term bonds at a very favorable rate this week.

"The City's financial state is sturdy in lieu of the COVID19 pandemic," said Mayor Carlo DeMaria. "I am proud of the hard work by the Administration, specifically CFO Eric Demas and the entire financial team for keeping the City's financial state as strong as they have."

Mayor Carlo DeMaria and CFO Eric Demas announced the positive news this week, noting that Standard & Poor's Credit Agency reviewed the City's COVID-19 response and its financial situation last week. That thorough process allowed them to re-affirm an AA+ credit rating - the second highest rating for a municipality. For short-term borrowing, the City was able to receive an SP-1+ rating - which has spurred their decision to take their bond sale to the short-term markets this week.

Because long-term municipal bonds are not selling on the market, and the rare ones that do get interest rates over 4 percent, Demas said they plan to hit the short-term markets with Bond Anticipation Notes (called BANs). Everett will sell those nine-month BANs on the market this week, with the expectation of using their re-affirmed AA+ rating later this year for a large long-term bond

sale.

"We're very pleased to announce on Friday they re-affirmed the City's AA+, which is the second highest rating," he said. "We've actually decided to switch from long-term and just go short-term BANs. Those are coming in and starting to produce good results. We're actually scheduled for a sale this week...We're anticipating very, very good rates as well as some significant interest and competition in issuing our bonds. We'll be looking at doing that later this week - nine months on a short-term - and see what comes in and buys some time. We'll wait for the markets to settle down and look for the long-term bond market to come back. The crediting agencies have been impressed with how Everett is weathering this storm."

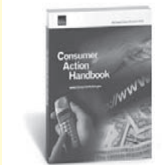
Cities like Everett typically pay for park renovations, public safety facilities, infrastructure upgrades and any number of projects through long-term borrowing on the municipal bond market. Most of the projects are specified in the City's CIP - which is approved yearly by the City Council. However, recently, the municipal bond market has been looked at very unfavorably by the investment community as cities and towns get swamped in debt and expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many are also worried that revenues from meals taxes, hotel excise taxes and real estate taxes could plummet when jobless residents and closed businesses cannot pay those bills. If that were to happen, financiers worry that cities could go bankrupt and not pay

their long-term bonds. So, few are taking the chance to bid on any bonding sales and many sales this month have brought no customers. However, the short-term market is still showing promise, and Demas said it was supported by the mayor to take that path so that important projects in the works don't get stalled out.

Some of Standard and Poor's highlights in the credit ratings affirmed for Everett included:

- Strong budgetary performance, with operating results that we expect could improve in the near-term relative to fiscal 2019, which closed with operating deficits in the general fund and at the total governmental fund level in fiscal 2019;
- Very strong budgetary flexibility, with an available fund balance in fiscal 2019 of 15 percent of operating expenditures;
- Very strong liquidity, with total government available cash at 23.9 percent of total; governmental fund expenditures and 4.1x governmental debt service, and access to external liquidity that we consider strong;
- Very strong debt and contingent liability profile, with debt service carrying charges at 5.8 percent of expenditures and net direct debt that is 46.3 percent of total governmental fund revenue, as well as low overall net debt at less than 3 percent of market value and rapid amortization, with 66.5 percent of debt scheduled to be retired in 10 years, but a large pension and other post-employment benefits (OPEB) obligation.

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# Support // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ered up meals for her nurses busy inside caring for critical COVID-19 patients in the ICU, and said it was a move for which words could not express gratitude.

“They are so grateful, just really thankful,” she said. “There aren’t really words for it. They’re grateful.”

Mayor DeMaria, along with his wife Stacy, organized the “Day of Gratitude” to thank first responders and health care workers risking their own lives working on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic.

“We simply want to say thank you to those who run towards danger and selflessly go to work every day to save people’s lives,” said the mayor. “We can never do enough to recognize and thank them for their courageous service.”

The day began at 6:45 a.m. with Department of Public Works employees delivering thousands of flowers, donated by Encore Boston Harbor, to CHA employees at Everett Hospital during their morning shift change.

Brian Gullbrants, President of Encore Boston Harbor, said, “We are pleased that we are able to bring Everett residents a little joy during this otherwise difficult time.”

Throughout the day city employees installed banners and lawn signs thanking health care workers at

multiple locations, including municipal buildings, parks, businesses, and private residences.

At 12:30 p.m., Richard O’ Neil, Jr., president and CEO of the Everett Co-operative Bank, provided lunches made by Square Deli for police, fire, and 911 first responders on duty.

“I want to thank the Mayor and Stacy for coming up with this great idea and allowing Everett Bank to participate,” said O’Neil. “I also want to thank my Board of Directors for this generous donation. It is just a small gesture to thank those who put their lives at risk every day...These folks run into a tsunami of this virus every day and they don’t blink while in the storm. We need to thank them for that.”

At 2:30 p.m., as Everett Hospital employees were coming and going for their 3 p.m. shift change, they were greeted by a crowd of masked well-wishers practicing social distancing while cheering and clapping for employees. Again, meals were provided along with flowers while a stream of emergency vehicles acknowledged the workers with lights, sirens and shouts of encouragement.

“Our staff greatly appreciated the tremendous turnout from the City of Everett - from Mayor DeMaria, Representative Joe McGonagle, many city council-



Council President Rosa DiFlorio.



Hospital personnel were invited outside the facility for a hot meal to take in with them.

ors, and both the Police and Fire Departments - your energy and kindness were felt by all,” said Christian Lanphere, site administrator for CHA Everett Hospital and Director of Safety and Emergency Planning. “This ‘thank you’ event demonstrated the strength and unity of the city, and we are truly grateful for the opportunity to serve and care for Everett residents.”



Nurses from CHA Everett enjoy the flowers donated by Encore Boston Harbor.



Mayor Carlo DeMaria and First Lady Stacy DeMaria among the many of the health care workers from CHA Everett.



Councilor Michael McLaughlin speaks with Christian Lanphere of CHA Everett.



Nurse Pam McCabe and Staffer Rodney Landaverde take in the scene as police and fire vehicles arrive with sirens blaring.



Police and Fire vehicles from Everett rallied up Garland Street outside the hospital.



Councilors Jimmy Tri Le and Stephanie Martins showed their support.



Human Services Director Jerry Navarra waves to one of the hospital staffers from a safe distance.



ICU Nurse Manager Kim Hartman-Poulin gathered up several meals to take to the nurses in the ICU – which has been full for weeks with COVID-19 patients.

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Police Chief Steve Mazzeo helps direct the rally.



Mayor Carlo DeMaria and First Lady Stacy DeMaria greeted Nurse Ellen Thomas.

## Revolutionary Clinics celebrates 4/20 by giving back

Revolutionary Clinics, one of the state’s leading providers of medical marijuana, has designated April 20th as a day of giving. Commonly referred to as 4/20, the day is traditionally cause for celebration in the marijuana community, but in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it serves as an opportunity to reinforce the notion of unity and lend support to affected neighbors. The efforts will focus on some of the most



Workers at Revolutionary Clinics load meals from Cambridge’s Aceituna Grill onto a truck to be delivered to area hospitals, including CHA Everett.



# Everett Little League President Vega hopes for a 2020 season

By Cary Shuman

Everett Little League was supposed to begin its 2020 season this Saturday but the COVID-19 global pandemic has put Opening Day on hold just as the crisis has affected every other sports league in the U.S.A. and beyond.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria would have been throwing out the first ball after teams had marched in to Sacramone Park for the festivities. And new Everett Little League President Oscar Vega, a man who loves baseball very much, would have been smiling while welcoming upwards of 300 boys and girls to the youth baseball organization.

Vega was elected president in October, succeeding highly respected and long-time Everett youth sports official George Castiello.

Vega was set to confer with the District 12 league presidents Tuesday night to discuss ideas and review the latest directive from the Little League International organization that is headquartered in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Vega will meet via zoom teleconference with his own board of directors Sunday.

The 41-year-old Vega remains hopeful that ELL will get at least a portion of the season played this summer. Vega said any decision would depend on Mayor DeMaria reopening the fields in the city.

Vega has been a coach in ELL since 2010 and has two sons, Enrico and Santino, who play baseball. Enrico is an ELL graduate and plays in the Premier League for the Everett Show team. He will enter Everett High School in the fall. Santino, 11, plays on the ELL Major

League Red Sox.

Vega said he's happy to have such youth sports stalwarts as Mike Vitkevich on his leadership team. Vega said he has been building a relationship between the league and new Everett High baseball coach Joel Levine.

"We had been talking with Coach Levine to see if there was anything we could do during the year, such as instructional clinics, so we could try to build baseball and bring it back to the city," said Vega, who coaches his son Enrico's AAU 14-under team.

Vega, who is originally from Brighton, said he maintains a simple philosophy as a coach: teach the game well and make it a fun experience.

"I look at success not as a winning record, but having the kids come back to play every year and con-



ELL President and then-Player Agent Oscar Vega speaks at the league's Opening Day ceremonies for the 2018 season.



Mayor Carlo DeMaria is pictured on Everett Little League Opening Day in 2018 with current President Oscar Vega and his sons, Enrico Vega, and Santino Vega.

tinuing to play baseball – that's my goal," said Vega. "Little League is to educate these kids how to play. Of course, winning is fun, but that's not always the end result."



ELL President Oscar Vega is pictured with his sons, Enrico and Santino, at the league's awards banquet.



Oscar Vega (far left) joined other Everett Little League board members at the 2019 awards banquet in presenting a plaque to outgoing president George Castiello, recognizing his many years of outstanding service to the youth baseball organization.

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# Encore employees volunteer time away from work to check on Everett senior citizens

By Seth Daniel

Most employees at Encore Boston Harbor have been out of work since March, and though they are still getting paid, they have a lot of free time on their hands.

Instead of killing that time in an unproductive manner, many of the Encore employees are using their time to connect with senior citizens in Everett. It is just one of many volunteer opportunities that employees are signing up for to help the community while they wait for the resort casino to re-open.

Public Relations Director Rosie Salisbury said many employees have been taking advantage of the time to serve the community, whether at food banks or by working the phones. Personally, she said she has gotten a great deal of satisfaction from checking in regularly on a list of senior citizens provided by the City of Everett.

“One of the great volunteer opportunities that Encore has made available to employees is calling and checking in on a list of more than 6,000 senior residents of Everett,” she said. “I personally find it fulfilling and uplifting to be able to volunteer from the safety of my home and spark a little joy during an otherwise challenging time. When I speak to the residents of Everett, you can

hear the happiness that it brings them and how appreciative they are knowing that they have neighbors who care. It’s been really gratifying to connect with them and bring a sense of hope and unity to the most vulnerable members of our community.”

Late last week, Wynn Resorts announced it was expanding its approach to community service at its Everett and Las Vegas locations – both of which are closed due to COVID-19 responses. The company launched its new Virtual Volunteer program last week, a digital platform for employees to give back through national and local online volunteer opportunities. From assisting the visually impaired to mentoring high school students to building websites for small businesses, employees can choose from hundreds of ways to offer their personal and professional skills to help people in need.

“Wynn employees volunteer more than 50,000 hours every year at Company-sponsored events in support of our vital nonprofit partners,” said Wynn Resorts CEO Matt Maddox. “This commitment to service doesn’t stop just because it can’t be done in person. The Virtual Volunteer program is an innovative new way to think about volunteering and keeps our employees close to the causes they care about

most.”

Virtual volunteer opportunities are available in dozens of cause areas including crisis relief, mental health, technology, business services, the arts, childhood and continuing education, assisting veterans, and many more. National and local partners in Boston will continue to be added, and currently include:

- 7Cups
- American Corporate Partners
- Be My Eyes
- Bookshare
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
- Bread of Life
- Career Village
- Catchafire
- Cradles to Crayons
- City of Everett
- Heart
- iCouldBe
- LibriVox
- Message of Hope
- Missing Maps Mapathon
- Smithsonian Digital Volunteers
- Strive For College
- Tech Soup
- Translators Without Borders

Nonprofit organizations can request participation in the Virtual Volunteer program by completing the assessment survey on the Wynn Employee Foundation website at [wef.wynnresorts.com](http://wef.wynnresorts.com).

Additionally, the Wynn Employee Foundation, a charitable giving foundation funded and managed by Wynn employees, is providing \$50,000 in grants



As a show of visual support for the communities around them, Encore Boston Harbor has displayed a number of different messages and pictures of hope during the last several weeks using the lights of their hotel tower to spell out words like ‘Be Strong’ or to create a heart. The company has been encouraging volunteer activities among its employees during the closure, and has also donated \$2.8 million worth of financial aid, PPE, food, and cleaning/hygiene supplies.

this week to two Boston area domestic violence shelters. The Elizabeth Stone House and Casa Myrna will each receive \$25,000 to help support a recent rise in demand for

their services that is linked to Covid-19 stay-at-home orders.

The donation and volunteer strategies follow an extensive financial protection plan implemented by Mad-

dox that ensures all Wynn employees in North America will continue to receive their full wage, including their average tip, through May 15, 2020.

# Cases continue to be on the upswing, but City hopes to see decrease next week

By Seth Daniel

The City’s number of confirmed COVID-19 cases hasn’t slowed down as public health officials had hoped early last week, growing by 122 cases between Friday, April 17 and Tuesday morning.

The total numbers of cases now sits at 617 as of the morning of April 21, with about 30 to 40 news cases coming in each day from the state Department of Public Health (DPH). That was in contrast to a small

decrease over a few days at the beginning of last week that had some thinking the curve in Everett had flattened.

Though the City is still well-behind neighboring Chelsea (939 as of April 20) and Revere (694 as of April 19) in its number of confirmed cases, the numbers are steadily on the incline each day.

However, it is hoped that the curve will flatten by next week, said Public Health Nurse Sabrina Firicano.

“I think as far as our caseload, we’re around the same,” she said. “I think in terms of decreasing the numbers of cases coming in, we’ll look for that next week. We think by next week we’ll see declining numbers here. We’ll keep monitoring it and staying in touch with our patients and hopefully see our numbers come down.”

There are no specific age groups in Everett that have been affected more than others, she said. While many older adults from

nursing homes have been adversely affected, Firicano said it wasn’t a situation where those cases outpaced others.

“It’s a mixed age group that we’re still seeing and some are from nursing homes, but we don’t see one particular kind of age group,” she said.

As is consistent with statistics from the Greater Boston area, she did say they are seeing quite a few cases within the Latino community. That has been a sharp point of interest for

many in diverse communities as black and Latino residents appear to have a much greater infection rate than other groups. More data is certainly needed to confirm that, she said, but she did report the Latino community in Everett has been affected.

Meanwhile, she did report she and the school nurses continue to work on monitoring their local pa-

tients who are COVID-19 positive, using remote check-ins on a regular basis. They are also working closely with public health officials in Chelsea and Revere.

“The Chelsea nurse and Revere nurse are one call away if I or they have an issue,” she said. “We work well together to make sure everyone remains as safe as possible.”

# RCN Boston, iHeartMedia Boston to honor community heroes

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

The partnership was developed to show appreciation during these uncertain times to the people who are working tirelessly to keep the community safe and comfortable. These heroes include medical professionals, first responders, delivery service workers, cleaning staff, cooks, teachers, stock clerks and others.

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

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

Heroes.”

RCN and iHeartMedia Boston are asking for nominations of individuals or organizations who are going above and beyond during these unprecedented times. Nominations will be accepted through Friday, April 24.

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

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

To nominate a community hero, visit <https://kiss108.iheart.com/contests/help-us-honor-our-community-heroes-816880/>.

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Canton, MA 02021  
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING  
Docket No. NO19D1168DR  
Matthew Johnson Plaintiff vs. Christina Cameron-Johnson Defendant

To the Defendant:  
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court.  
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.  
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Matthew Johnson 2 Pheasant Circle #6, Milford, MA 01757 your answer, if any on or before 06/11/2020. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of his action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.  
Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 17, 2020  
Patrick W. McDermott  
Register of Probate  
4/22/20 EV

TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL 781-485-0588

**- LEGAL NOTICE -**  
**CITY OF EVERETT**



**BOARD OF APPEALS**  
**484 Broadway**  
**Everett, Massachusetts 02149**  
**(617) 381-7445**

To Whom It May Concern:

This notice is to inform you that a public hearing will be held on Monday, May 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM in regards to an application for zoning relief. In response to Governor Baker’s declaration of a public health emergency and the related Emergency Executive Order dated March 12, 2020, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be meeting remotely until further notice. The audioconferencing application Zoom will be used for this purpose. An online link and telephone access number will be provided on all meeting agendas and also on the Board’s website. This application will permit the public to access and participate in future Board meetings and hearings. Instructions for joining meetings in this manner will be provided on the City and City Clerk’s website. In addition, Everett Community TV (ECTV) may provide coverage of these meetings. We extend our thanks for your understanding and participation in this manner, which is intended to keep members of the Board and the public safe.

**Whereas a petition has been presented by:**  
**Property Address: 302 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149**  
**Map/Parcel: E0-03-000140**  
**Person Requesting: Mr. Eric Kenworthy**  
**49 Marmion Rd, Melrose, MA 02176**

Applicant currently has a building permit # B-19-668 to construct a ten (10) unit residential structure containing fifteen (15) parking spaces at the above-mentioned property. The Board of Appeals issued a parking variance on June 5, 2017, allowing for the shortage of five (5) parking spaces. Applicant now seeks to increase the residential unit count to fifteen (15) without change to the existing structure dimensions, while providing fifteen (15) parking spaces.

Reason for Denial:

Applicant currently has a building permit # B-19-668 to construct a ten (10) unit residential structure containing fifteen (15) parking spaces at the above-mentioned property. The Board of Appeals issued a parking variance on June 5, 2017, allowing for the shortage of five (5) parking spaces. Applicant now seeks to increase the residential unit count to fifteen (15) without change to the existing structure dimensions, while providing fifteen (15) parking spaces.

Zoning Ordinance:

Appendix A Section 17 (A) 2 Off-Street Parking: Requires two (2) spaces for each dwelling unit. Parking requirements are for a total of thirty (30) spaces where fifteen (15) are being provided. A parking variance for 15 spaces must be requested.


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



# OBITUARIES

## Dan Gritti

AKA “World’s Best Big Brother”

 Dan Gritti, a North Andover resident and a native of Everett, formerly of Naples, Florida, was born on July 5, 1949 and passed on April 16, 2020.

Dan graduated from Everett High School, North Shore Community College and Boston College. He was the proud father of Dan Gritti, Jr. of Illinois and Stephen Gritti of Connecticut.

As a teenager, Dan volunteered at the Everett Rec. and was a “Big Brother” to special needs children. To serve our country, Dan joined the US Air Force immediately after graduating from Everett High School, Class of 1967. Early on, Dan discovered his true passion – helping others.

Dan managed to fit a lot into a 24-hour day. To spend more time with his sons, Dan coached ad volunteered for their football and hockey teams. He earned his Bachelor’s Degree with honors in Business Administration at Boston College.

Dan retired from the US Post Office. During his tenure, he served as a union shop steward, tirelessly helping his co-workers resolve issues and obtain their earned benefits.

For a while, Dan owned an ice-skate shop at the Burlington Ice Palace. Dan picked up a love of golf and moved to Naples, Fl. He joined the Italian-American Club-Naples and offered to help and was asked to serve on the board as well as to organize fundraisers and events. Dan excelled in these roles and served on multiple boards over the next 15 years. He brought his event skills to North Andover and organized social activities there. No matter where Dan lived, he was a die-hard fan of the Patriots, Red Sox, Celtics, Bruins and Boston College Eagles.

While Dan loved his life in Naples, he loved his granddaughters even more and he returned to Massachusetts to be closer to his family. Dan enthusiastically attended dance recitals and school events. He LOVED being a grandpa. Both of Dan’s sons coach



football. If he could not attend a game in person, Dan would listen online to every play, never missing a game and boast for the rest of the week. TO anyone who ever met Dan, there is no doubt that he enjoyed sharing his pride in his family.

Dan joined the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) as Commander of North Andover’s DAV Chapter 37 and helped other veterans obtain benefits. Dan lived the DAV motto of helping to build better lives for American disabled veterans and their families.

Dan was a big guy, a true gentle giant – and every bit of him was filled with heart. He has countless friends scattered around the country. And, as busy as Dan was, he always had time for his 101-year old mother and his sisters. Dan proudly wore his title of “World’s Best Big Brother.”

Dan is survived by his sons, Dan Griffi, Jr. and Stephen Griffi, daughter-in-law, Kara Fox Griffi, granddaughters, Harper and Nealy, mother, Mary, sisters, Theresa and Lisa, nephew, Adam Lattanzi and brother-in-law, Tom Divilio.

Dan will be interred at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contribution checks may be mailed to Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 37, 45 Heywood Road, Acton, MA 01720 – please add “in memory of Dan Griffi” in the memo of your check.

A memorial service will be held later this year. The family is monitoring Dan’s Facebook page and invites posts of photos and great stories.

Dan’s spirit will always be present. He is loved and missed.

## Fredy Alberto Ramirez

Great chef who will be sorely missed by all who knew him

Fredy Alberto Ramirez of Revere, formerly of Colombia, passed away unexpectedly on April 10 at the age of 50.

Fredy was a great chef who enjoyed cooking for his family and friends. He was an avid Barcelona futbol fan who never missed a match. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Goodbye hurts the most when the story wasn’t finished.

Born in Santa Rosa De Osos, Colombia to Maria (Gomez) and the late Gonzalo Ramirez, he was the devoted father of Christopher and Brian Ramirez and cherished step father to Duvan Lopera and Mateo Tobon; adored brother of Luz Ramirez, Jader Ramirez and Astrid Ramirez, all of Colombia and Sandra




Ramirez of Revere. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

In accordance with the CDC’s current restrictions on gatherings due to Covid-19, all services will be held privately. For guest book please visit [www.buonfiglio.com](http://www.buonfiglio.com).

## Nicholas James Forrestall

US Postal Service retiree

 Nicholas James “Uncle Jim” Forrestall of Everett, 90, passed away on April 15.

A US Army Korean War veteran, he was a longtime US Postal Clerk.

He was the son of the late Nicholas Forrestall and Margaret (King), loving brother of the late Katherine Pizzano, Lucy Furman, Marion O’Hare, Cecelia Forrestall, Michael Forrestall, Francis Forrestall, Margaret Kotkowski, Helen DeSantis, Dennis Forrestall and Carole Julian. Uncle Jim leaves behind many loving nieces, nephews and caring family members and friends.



In light of the recent development with the COVID-19, all funeral services will be private. Donations may be made to the Northeast Animal Shelter, 347 Highland Ave, Salem, MA 01970. For more information: <http://www.rockfuneralhomes.com>.

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

## 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.

### 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

“In Pursuit of Spiritual Excellence”

Righteousness, Godliness, Faith, Love, Truth

• 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)

• 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

Rectitud, Divinidad, Fe, Amor, Verdad”

**GLENDALE CHRISTIAN LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH**  
**701 BROADWAY EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS 02149**  
**617-387-7458**

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

### Grace Episcopal Church

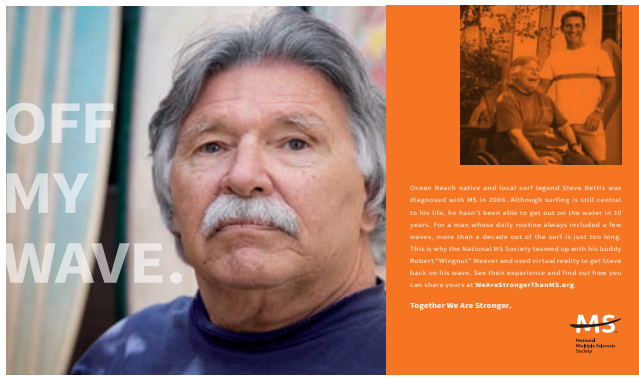
News and Notes

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**



# OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices

will be at a cost of \$100.00 per paper.

That includes photo.

Please send to

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# Market Forge owners acquire Colonial Marble property for parking

By Seth Daniel

The owners of the Market Forge property on the Parkway appeared in an online Planning Board meeting last Tuesday, April 14, to discuss several new pieces of the large residential project – including the acquisition of the abutting Colonial Marble building that will be used for a parking garage.

Peter Bartosh of Capital Hall Partners told the Planning Board they have expanded the site to include 25 Garvey St., which is the Colonial Marble building adjacent to the Market Forge property.

“Our new plan filed in February shows, there is the addition of 25 Garvey St. currently occupied by Colonial Marble Company,” he said. “We will use that as a parking garage that we discussed in our last meeting.”

That makes the project go from having 774 spaces to 1,006 spaces on site, and takes parking out of the residential buildings – al-

lowing the units to be bigger and more spacious than they were before. It has not changed the unit count – which is still 591 units in seven-story buildings – and has not increased the amount of retail or amenity space either. Bartosh said market feedback in the area clearly indicated that bigger units were desirable, making the purchase of Colonial something that made sense.

The garage will be aesthetically screened as the garages are at the Batch Yard, he said, noting that they didn’t want an ugly parking garage to shout out from the rest of their well-designed development.

“We do have more parking that we need from a zoning perspective,” he said. “We understand right now that the site as it is today doesn’t have great public transit access. From the beginning, our residents will need a car here on day one. That will change I the future as access increases to public transportation and



the Silver Line comes by us. We have retained the option to free up unused parking capacity for rent by other developments in the area when the time comes.”

One of the key pieces, said City Planner Tony Sousa, is that the Market Forge folks have agreed to relinquish an easement on Second Street in front of their development to be used for a dedicated bus lane when the planned Silver Line extension from Chelsea gets built. The state Department

of Transportation (MassDOT) has identified that as a priority project to take the line from Market Basket into Everett, but a public bid on the project has not yet been issued – though it is expected this spring.

When that happens, it is believed that the Market Forge project would become very desirable for those who want to access public transit and not have a car.

In some investigation, the developers have dis-



Views of the new parking garage that goes with the development on Garvey Street. The Developers announced they have added the Colonial Marble building to their site plan.

covered additional contamination that had not been discovered previously. They said it would mean an Activity Use Limitation (AUL) would be required with the project, and they plan to remediate the site as mandated and return that corner of the district to a vibrant and productive use once again.

There will be other traffic mitigations suggested in the Site Plan Review, including trying to help with drainage and traffic flow on Second Street.

They will also be including 30 units of affordable housing on site in the development.

At the moment, it isn’t believed that the developers need any variances or special permits from the Zoning Board, so the matter likely will not need to go through that review process as it conforms to zoning in the Commercial Triangle District. A final decision on the Site Plan is expected at the April 28 meeting, with public comment continuing by e-mail until then.

# Tobin Bridge traffic plummets, toll revenues down in March

By Seth Daniel

Trips across the Mystic/Tobin Bridge have plummeted over the last month, reducing toll revenues and creating much less congestion over the Bridge that drivers have become used to over the years.

For the most recent data available, which is the week ending April 3, trips in both directions on the Bridge are down 55.4 percent, according to data released from MassDOT on Tuesday. That includes an average weekday decrease of 45,639 trips over the Bridge compared to the same week in 2019.

The number of trips over the Bridge on Monday, April 1, 2019 was 87,299, while on Monday, March 30, 2020, it was 35,509.

For the month, going from March 2 to April 7, use of the Bridge has gone down from about 80,000 trips per day on March 3 to about 22,000 trips per day (both ways) on April 5. There was an uptick in usage between April 5 and

April 7, which has been a bit of a pattern emerging for weekend and weekday differences.

That decrease over the Bridge and throughout the highway network all over Greater Boston has led to dramatically cleaner air. NASA has grown very popular online lately in posting its satellite photos of nitrogen and particulate matter releases from previous years compared to the months of March and April this year.

The differences are astounding throughout the northeast and Ohio Valley – where red-colored emissions in previous years have given away to blue colored clear air pockets. This is very noticeable in Boston.

The decreases also lead to major losses in toll revenues too.

However, at the MassDOT Board meeting on Monday, Secretary Stephanie Pollack said despite loss of revenue on the Bridge, tunnels and Mass Pike, they will be able to use reserves to make up the losses.

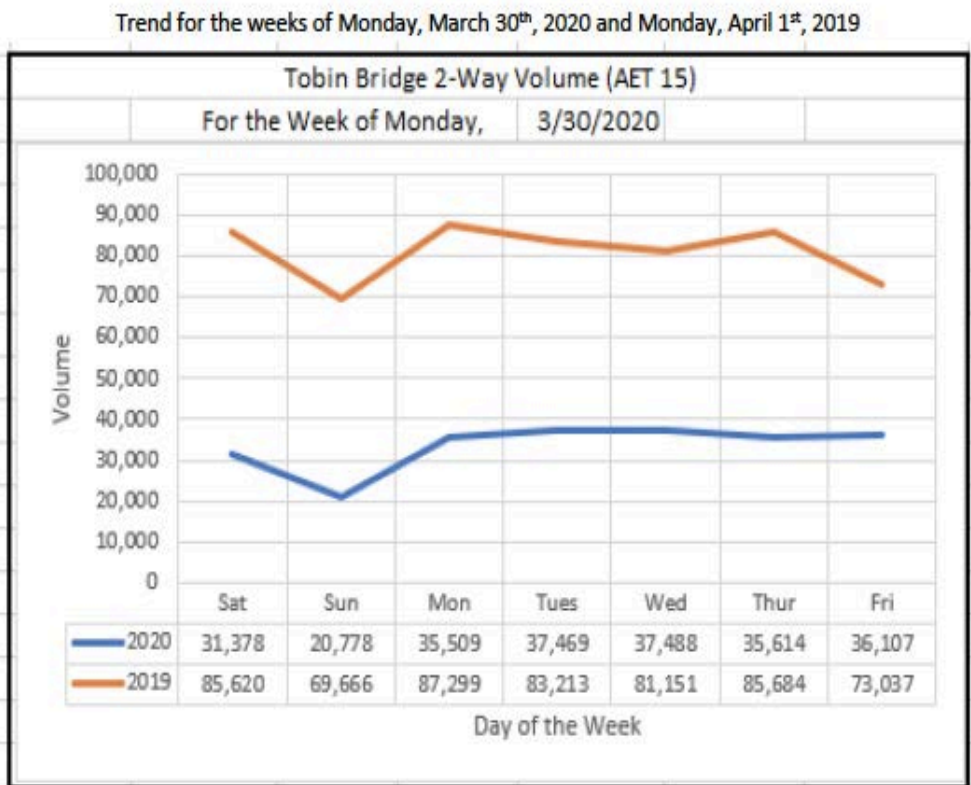
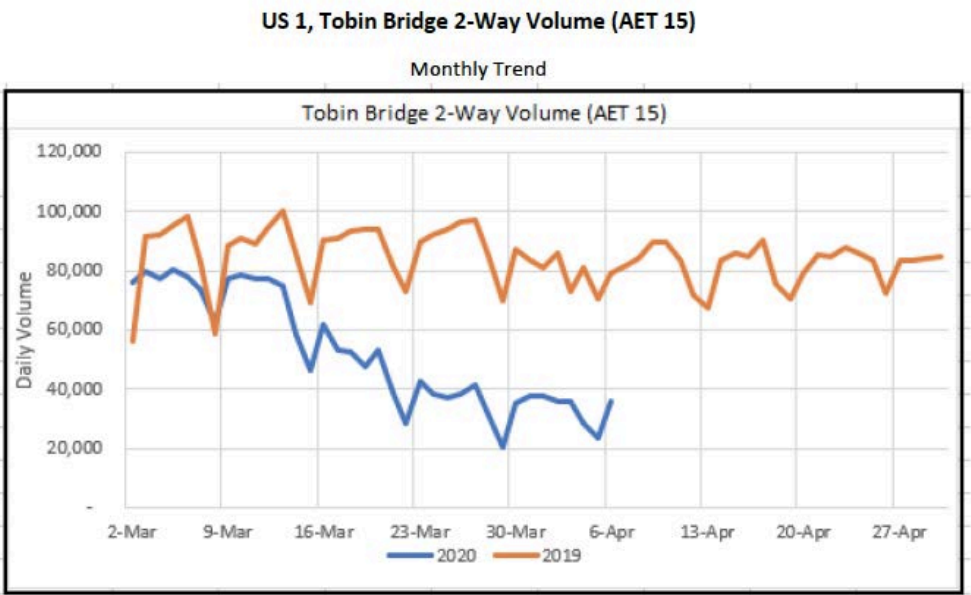
“Even with the prepon-

derance of lost toll revenue through FY 2020, we are in good shape,” she said. “We even have reserves to cover construction projects... We do have reserves to get through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2020... We are not putting specific restrictions to keep expenses down or putting on things like hiring freezes or anything like that.”

Pollack said toll revenues had been tracking ahead of budget for the first eight months of the fiscal year, which is helpful now. The year-end projection, however, will be substantially impacted by COVID-19 losses. She said they expect toll revenues to be below projections by 8 percent.

MassDOT said it expected to have operating reserves of \$625 million available to cover any shortfalls to cover capital projects on July 1, 2020 (the beginning of FY 2021).

Toll revenues pay for improvement and construction projects on things like the MassPike and the Mystic/Tobin Bridge.



2020 Traffic Volumes			2019 Traffic Volumes			Volume Change (# / %)	
Sat	3/28/2020	31378	Sat	3/30/2019	85620	-54242	-63.35%
Sun	3/29/2020	20778	Sun	3/31/2019	69666	-48888	-70.17%
Mon	3/30/2020	35509	Mon	4/1/2019	87299	-51790	-59.32%
Tues	3/31/2020	37469	Tues	4/2/2019	83213	-45744	-54.97%
Wed	4/1/2020	37488	Wed	4/3/2019	81151	-43663	-53.80%
Thur	4/2/2020	35614	Thur	4/4/2019	85684	-50070	-58.44%
Fri	4/3/2020	36107	Fri	4/5/2019	73037	-36930	-50.56%
AVG Weekday		36,437			82,077	-45639	-55.4%

## Kennedy officially on September ballot for U.S. Senate

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

After months of collecting signatures across the Commonwealth, the Kennedy for MA campaign received final confirmation that they had reached the 10,000 signature requirement to get on the ballot. The campaign had submitted more than 15,000 signatures to local town and city clerks.

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



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

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