



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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NEWNC community elections could be cancelled

By Phil Orlandella

It appears that the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC), due to the ongoing virus situation, will most likely cancel the 2020 public election for members of the community Council.

“It’s not finalized at the moment but we plan to provide an additional update in the near future regarding officially postponing the election as well as any and all scheduling changes regarding the nomination process,” NEWNC president Brett Roman said.

The 2020 elections have six seats open for the twelve person Council.

Candidates were required to secure 40 signatures from residents living in Ward III, Precincts 1, 2, 3 and 4, and age 18 years old or older.

Since the Nazzaro Community Center, the original poll site, is close, could be one reason the election may be canceled.

All ballots would have been counted on the spot at the Center and when is would have been notified at the polling site.

The election is scheduled for Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

City develops plan for homeless during virus crisis

By Phil Orlandella

Dealing with helping the homeless population in Boston during the current COVID-19 public health emergency is an important part of stopping the spreading of the virus while providing care and health services to those in need.

A comprehensive plan for homeless individuals has been cre-



Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway

Greenway Conservancy offers activities during difficult times

By Phil Orlandella

The Greenway Conservancy, for over a decade, has manage and cared for The Greenway has been providing green space essential to everyone who visits the popular destination site.

In these difficult times when the public is urged to stay home, The Greenway continues to provide activities for the general public.

Since Governor Charlie Baker’s order “does not prohibit gatherings of more than 10 people in an outdoor space, like a park or athletic field” and she reiterated that time spent safely outside is

important for public health, The Greenway invites the general public to:

- Stretch your legs with a walk or run along our 1.5 miles.
- Explore the Conservancy’s online plant list to identify the first spring belongs.
- Discover our current public art, including their Augmented Reality installation throughout the park.
- Unwind with a good book on organically maintained lawns.
- In the evening, control the color of our Light Blades through The Greenway Color Commons

(GREENWAY Pg. 5)

ated by the City of Boston to deal with the public health emergency.

The City will coordinated network of shelter providers and under the clinical leadership of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) has implemented screening protocols for shelter uses and created facilities for testing, isolation in quarantine of individuals exposed, sus-

pected or diagnosed with COVID-19.

The City has apparently secured over 240 beds to increase social distancing and existing shelters and aid those in need of the home to safely quarantine or isolate themselves and reduce further spread of the virus.

(HOMELESS Pg. 4)

City offers rental housing guidance and assistance

By Phil Orlandella

Boston, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, has made plans to assist residents that are in the risk of losing their rental housing due to the virus.

City funds of \$3 million have been dedicated by the City to help eligible residents to remain in their homes.

Mayor Martin Walsh noted, “It is imperative that all levels of government exercise all possible tools to ensure the health and safety of our residents and keep them stably housed.”

Additional funding relief, to residents, is geared toward helping those unable to make their rent payment, due to financial strain placed on them by reduced

or no employment income.

Apparently, estimates generated by Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), thousands of renter households were in the first wave of unemployment applications filed during the week ending March 21. That number is expected to increase.

“This program will go a long way to help residents who are struggling and are at risk of losing their homes because of the current health situation,” said Chris Norris, Executive Director of Metro Housing Boston.

“These funds will make a difference for families with the greatest need, those with very low incomes and extremely low

(ASSISTANCE Pg. 4)

City updates parking regulations

By Phil Orlandella

Updated parking enforcement, for food take out and transportation during the current COVID-19 health emergency, has been put in place by the Boston Transportation Department.

“These updated policies will help everyone during the ongoing public health crisis,” Mayor Martin Walsh said.

The parking enforcement policies will be in effect until further notice.

The following updates to parking enforcement policies are in effect until further notice in the City of Boston:

Resident Parking

Residents with a valid resident permit sticker will be allowed to park in a metered or two-hour parking space, without having to adhere to the time limit or pay a meter fee, within their specific neighborhood.

For cars without the relevant resident permit parking sticker, standard time limit and meter requirements remain in place.

Street Cleaning

BTD has not been ticketing and towing for street cleaning, given challenges to finding alternative places to park in neighborhoods.

Inspection Stickers and Registration

BTD will not ticket for expired inspection stickers or registrations, given potential challenges for people to renew inspections and registrations at this time.

Parking Garages

To support the medical community, BTD has identified facilities offering free, reduced rate or reserved parking for medical professionals. To receive discounted parking, medical staff will need to present a hospital ID. To see the list of participating facilities, please visit: <https://www.boston.gov/>

(PARKING Pg. 4)

Happy Easter - Stay Home & Stay Healthy

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Forum

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ONE DAY AT A TIME: IT'S "GROUNDHOG DAY" FOR EVERYBODY

Here's one way to view the current situation in which we all find ourselves:

Prior to the pandemic sweeping the nation and the world, our lives were such that each day truly was a new day, filled with new challenges and the possibility of new excitement, albeit to varying degrees.

Today however, with most of us locked down in our homes, our daily routines have taken on a stunning sameness that is bereft of any sense of the usual moments of joy that form the essence of our humanity.

Similar to the classic Bill Murray movie "Groundhog Day" from 1993 (wow, has it really been 27 years?), each day seems to be a repeat of the day before.

The daily news in particular has a feeling of being in "Groundhog Day" mode. The headlines, politicians, and talking heads basically tell us the same thing, day after day after day, to the point where most of us now are tuning it out.

And yet, unlike the movie, there is nothing humorous about the real-life Groundhog Day in which we find ourselves.

The COVID-19 pandemic by far is the most tragic, far-reaching, and life-changing event that every American has faced since the end of World War II 75 years ago.

The phrase, "One day at a time," which is meant both as an inspiration and an admonition to those among us who struggle with substance abuse and other issues, now applies to every person, in every corner of the globe, regardless of fame, wealth, power, or any other status that differentiates us from anyone else.

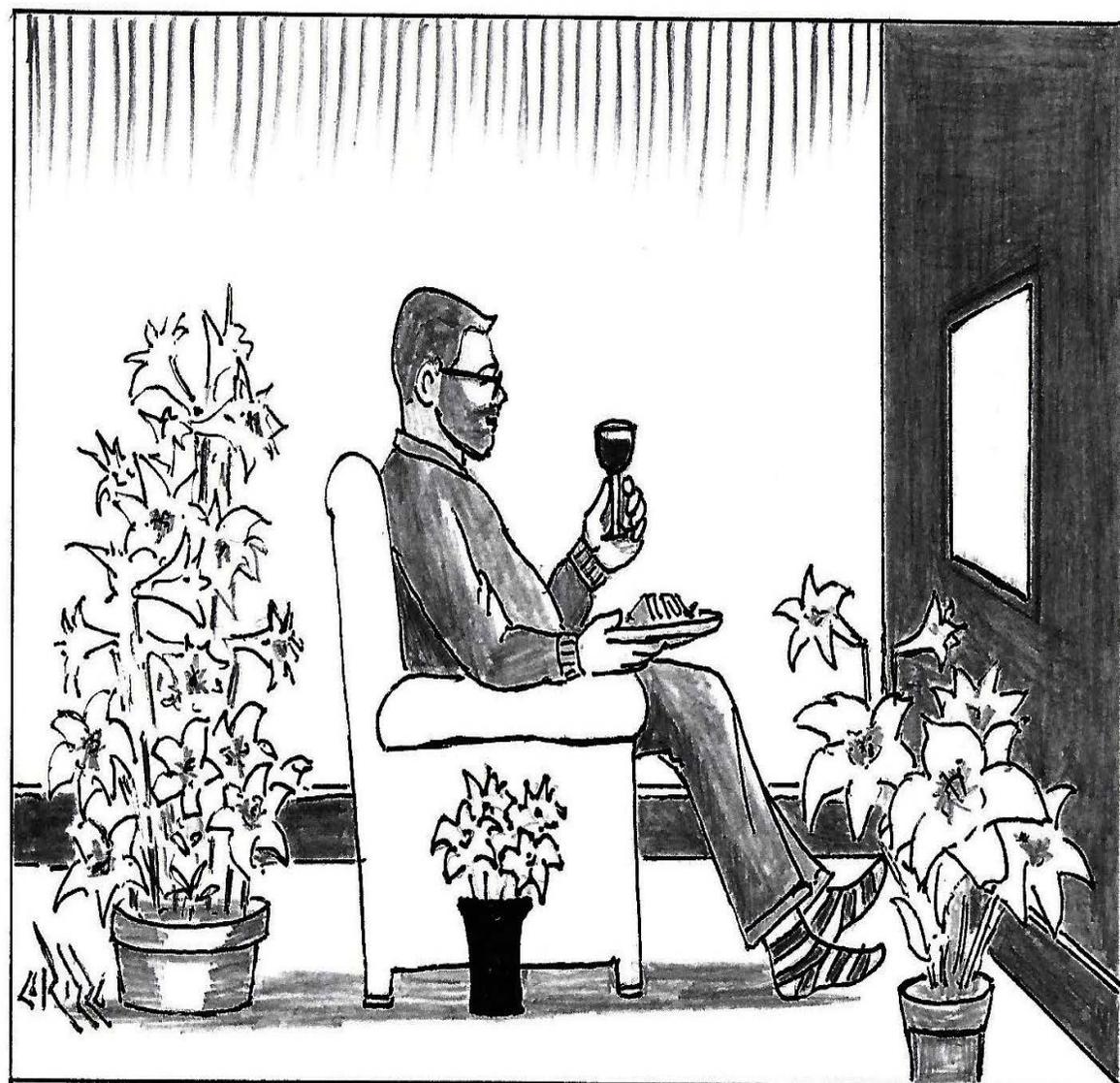
The news that public figures as disparate as the actor Tom Hanks, Boris Johnson (the Prime Minister of England), and James Dolan (the billionaire owner of the New York Knicks and Comcast) have contracted COVID-19 -- on three different continents -- makes it clear that the coronavirus does not discriminate and is world-wide in scope.

In short, there is no escape -- no way out -- for every human being on the planet.

Moreover, with public health authorities informing us that the ongoing lack of testing in the United States continues to leave our nation flying blind in the face of the pandemic, we truly will have reason to fear every interaction with another human being (even if we and they are fully-masked and we space ourselves six feet apart) for the foreseeable future.

Without any understanding of the true extent of the spread of the disease in the United States, no one can predict when we will begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

"One day at a time" will be our mantra for many days to come.



CELEBRATE EASTER - APRIL 12TH

Heritage Park announces cancellations of events

By Phil Orlandella

American Heritage Park on The Greenway has canceled two of its April events, Commemoration of the Park (24th) and Walk Against Genocide (26th) and the May 2 Celebrate Public Art during Art

Week.

However, during these challenging times, preliminary planning is underway for Celebrating Contributions of Our Nations Immigrants to benefit the Park's Endowed Fund for Care to be held during September.

The gala event will recognize Stephen Kurkjian, distinguished citizen, leader, Pulitzer Prize Journalist and Author, and also honor organizations serving immigrants and refugees. Confirmation of this special event will be posted.

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OPINION By Phil Orlandella

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING BILL RIGHT ON TRACK

A House of Representatives Bill to invest up to \$600 million annually statewide in the transportation system will help get the system in good shape before it gets worse.

The benefits of this revenue for roadways, bridges and the public transit system is totally necessary for safety, better service and it is estimated that the investment will bring in millions of dollars in annual revenue.

It has become obvious the transportation system is not up to par and needs a boost to provide a better and reliable source of transportation in Massachusetts.

ELECTED OFFICIALS TACKLING THE VIRUS EPIDEMIC

Everyone holding political office is attempting to control the spread of COVID-19 and eventually ratifying the dangerous and deadly virus.

Protecting the general public is also their own family and friends from this unhealthy situation sweeping the globe.

Elected officials are taking a front row position on this matter and are willing and ready to do whatever is needed to end this nasty situation once and for all.

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE ENGINES OF COMMUNITIES

Essential small businesses that can provide delivery or take-out services are still open to the public, conditionally.

The City of Boston is compiling a list of these businesses that contains information regarding their services and operating hours.

Small businesses are a lifeline to the community under the current conditions that exist, they are actually a blessing in disguise.

Shop at local small businesses.

MBTA CLEARLY DEALING WITH VIRUS CONTROL

Many measures furthering the MBTA's support for social distancing aligned with Governor Charlie Baker's state of the emergency declaration to service revisions implemented to protect the health and safety of the T's workforce and

customers have been put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The Carmen's Union working closely with the T have implemented the necessary mandates to ensure the protection for its membership and the transportation system riders.

Changes and adjustments to the T are imperative to aggressively deal with the dangers posed by this virus.

In addition to encouraging hygiene and social distancing, the T is continuing its enhanced cleaning and disinfecting all its vehicles and customer business locations every twenty-four hours.

All high contact surfaces, such as handrails, fare gates and fare vending machines in subway stations are being cleaned every 4 hours.

T employees and all residents are being encouraged to wash their hands, cover coughs and sneezes, stay-at-home if sick, avoid touching eyes, noses and mouths and clean areas that are frequently touched with sanitizing spray on wipes.

On many occasions, the MBTA receives negative attention but, it is clear that the T is doing an effective job of attempting to control the spread of the virus and should be recognized for the major effort to keep workers and riders healthy and safe.

KEEP USING VIRUS PREVENTION SUGGESTIONS

As the dangers of COVID-19 continues to be a problem, all residents must keep on practicing recommended help suggestions. It makes a real difference in the battle to eradicate this virus.

Washing hands frequently, distancing practices, cleaning areas that are frequently touched with sanitizers, covering coughs and sneezes and staying home when sick are methods that will help keep everyone healthy by not spreading the virus.

CLEANING SIDEWALKS AND GUTTERS IS STILL IMPORTANT

Cleaning sidewalks and street gutters in the community has become more important than normal since the attack of the Coronavirus.

It takes only a few minutes to get the job done to make the community cleaner and totally healthier.

A little effort will contribute to the welfare of the neighborhood.

GIVING BLOOD SAVES LIVES

Blood donations in Massachusetts and elsewhere are down, creating a not so good situation that can quickly be fixed by making an effort to visit a Red Cross Center.

Each donation of blood can reportedly save three lives. This should inspire people to make the move.

Giving blood is safe and truly helpful.

MAYOR ENCOURAGES CENSUS PARTICIPATION

Boston along with other cities and towns have made a major effort to ensure all residents are counted in the 2020 Census.

The number of US House of Representatives is determined by the data collected by the Census. It also involves redistricting, define congressional districts, state legislative districts and local City Council districts for the next 10 years and directs more than \$675 billion in federal funding to states and cities.

During these trying times Boston Mayor Martin Walsh has highlighted the importance of participating in the National Census, encouraging all city residents to participate.

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NEAA soccer clinic pending

The very popular North End Athletic Association (NEAA) Youth Soccer Clinic held at Puopolo Park is still in limbo pending if the City can complete the Puopolo Park renovations and the COVID-19 situation is over.

Director John Romano said, "It appears that there may be a chance of conducting a soccer clinic late summer or early fall but a decision has not been officially made but it will be coming soon."

NEAA cancels start of baseball season, hopes to start in June

By Phil Orlandella

For over five centuries the North End Athletic Association (NEAA) has conducted a series of baseball programs for all ages of competition.

Now, with the virus situation creating havoc and unhealthy serious problems, the NEAA, like everyone else has canceled the start up its baseball season, while hoping to conduct a shorter season in June if possible.

Programs affected are: Major League, Minor League and Clinic baseball. Status on the older players traveling team has yet to be determined.

Baseball Commissioner Ralph Martignetti said, "Like everyone else, it's a wait and see situation. The NEAA would love to play baseball in 2020, however, there is too much of a health risk."

If a shot season is possible, the NEAA will make the necessary announcement to play ball.

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ASSISTANCE (from pg. 1)

incomes," he added. Up to \$4,000 in financial assistance will be provided to be used for rent. To qualify for the financial assistance, residents must either not be eligible for the new extended unemployment benefits that they will receive represent a significant reduction in their actual annual income. Funding will only be available to households earning less than 80 percent of Area Median Income

(AMI) which is \$72,000 for a two-person household. A significant portion of these funds are reserved for households with extremely low incomes including under \$25,000 for a single person household and very low incomes or less than \$42,000 for a single person (50 percent AMI). According to Philip Giffie Executive Director of Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, Inc./NOAH, "The need

for rent relief as soon as possible for Bostonians, especially low-income families and woman heads of households is enormous. NOAH applauded the Mayor and the City for stepping up and providing some real help to these desperate families. Residents that are eligible should apply to the Rental Relief Fund.

PARKING (from pg. 1)

news/discounted-garages-available-hospital-staff-boston
BlueBikes
 The City of Boston and its municipal partners of Brookline, Cambridge, Everett, and Somerville are offering all hospital staff a free 30-day pass for our public bike share, Bluebikes. To learn more about how to sign up for the program, visit boston.gov.
Pick Up/Drop Off Zones for Small Businesses
 To help small businesses that have been impacted by COVID-

19, BTD is creating temporary pick up zones in front of restaurants that have transitioned to takeout and delivery only. Takeout food pickup zones restrict parking to five minutes to increase convenience for the quick pickup and delivery of takeout food from restaurants, and provide adequate room for social distancing of six feet or more. Restaurants that would like to request a temporary pick up zone can do so on boston.gov. Requests will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

With the exception of those changes noted above, BTD will continue to enforce parking violations, with a focus on public safety violations, such as blocking a hydrant, sidewalk or handicap ramp. For additional questions or programs, please visit boston.gov/coronavirus or call 3-1-1, Boston's 24-hour constituent hotline. Text BOSCOVID to 99411 to receive text alerts on a regular basis, available in six languages.

HOMELESS (from pg. 1)

Boston Mayor Martin Walsh has committed to protect all residents including those experiencing homelessness and working closely with city partners has developed a plan to protect the homeless population and will also provide help safety for the entire city. "Together with our partners, we have spent the last several years strengthening our ability to protect the health of our homeless population, no matter what

challenges come our way," Mayor Martin Walsh said. "We will continue to ramp up resources as necessary to serve everyone in our City with the key and equity they deserve. We are fully committed to protect all of our residents, including those experiencing homelessness, because life is worth protecting," Mayor Martin Walsh said. Boston Health Care for the Homeless Cheap Executive Officer

Barry Bock said, "We appreciate the Mayor's leadership in this time of crisis and are grateful for the joint partnership to combat this pandemic." The City, with support from Suffolk Construction has built an isolation and quarantine facility with the capacity of 38 beds next to the 112 Southampton Shelter for people to receive much needed medical attention. Suffolk Chairman and CEO John Fish said, "We must care for one another and never forget the individuals and families in our community who need us most, especially during these unprecedented times."



Happy Easter



State Representative
AARON
MICHELEWITZ

Suffolk University will be repurposing a dormitory to provide 172 beds, helping to reduce congestion and increase social distancing and existing shelters in Boston, according to President Marisa Kelly. These sites will enable shelters to get some vulnerable guests especially the elderly out of crowded facilities, according to Pine Street Inn President and Executive Director Lyndia Downie.

PLEASE RECYCLE

RMV strict walk-in policy in place

By Phil Orlandella

A strict no walk in policy at eight Service Centers open to the general public, has been issued by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicle (RMV).

Appointment reservations can be made online at www.Mass.Gov/RMV in the my/RMV Online

Service Center under "Make or Cancel Reservation".

Customers that make an appointment will be sent a confirmation email advising them to be prepared to on arrival show their designated time at the specific Service Center.

Many other services are offered online by RMV at www.Mass.Gov/RMV. More than 40 other

transactions can be conducted online, over the phone or by mail.

These and other measures are being implemented by RMV to prioritize reducing customer volumes in physical locations, maintaining proper social distancing and keeping the public safe and healthy under Governor Charlie Baker's declaration of a State of Emergency.

GREENWAY (from pg. 1)

program.

• Take a deep breath and the time you need to connect with nature and the world around you.

The Greenway team has begun actively sharing its story on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

channels to provide needed information relating to the popular Park in the North End/Waterfront/Chinatown area.

While current events continue to change daily, the Conservancy suggests everyone follow the City

of Boston recommendations for keeping healthy.

The Conservancy reminds everyone to keep a minimum distance of 6 feet from others and to carry out all trash when visiting the parks.




Happy Easter

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NEAA**

Happy Easter

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COMMUNITY NEWS

NEWRA MEETING CANCELED

North End/Waterfront Residents' Association (NEWRA) April 9 public meeting has been canceled. However, Thursday, May 14 meeting scheduled for 7 PM at the Nazzaro Community Center has not been canceled. Notifications will be made.

NEWNC MEETING CANCELED

The North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) April 13 meeting has been canceled. The May 13 meeting has

not been canceled. Notifications will be sent out.

NEAA BASEBALL CANCELED

The North End Athletic Association (NEAA) baseball programs have been canceled. The NEAA will attempt to start up in June if possible.

NO IN PERSON REGISTRATION

Customers seeking to renew registrations with the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) can continue to do so online at www.Mass.Gov/RMV at this time.

Those seeking to do so in person will not be able to make an appointment and should delay visiting a service Center as well.

FOCCP MEETING CANCELED

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) April 14 meeting held at the Paul Revere House has been canceled. Status on the May 12 meeting is not yet been determined. Notifications will be made.

RMV DEALS WITH COVID-19

Since Governor Charlie Baker

declared a State of Emergency the week of March 19, the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has implemented measures to reduce the number of people gathering on a daily basis at their sites.

For more information call the Registry go online at www.Mass.Gov/RMV.

NEAD TO RESCHEDULE FAMILY DINNER

North End Against Drugs (NEAD) plans to reschedule the Monday, March 23 Family Dinner/Family Talk which was canceled due to the Coronavirus situation. NEAD will make notifications of the new date.

CENTER ONLY OPEN FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Nazzaro Community Center, 30 North Bennet Street will only be open as a food distribution site. All other program suspended until further notice.

SEALED BIDS FOR MIRABELLA POOL AND BATHHOUSE WORK

City of Boston, Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) is seeking sealed bids for repairs, maintenance and painting work at the Marabella Pool and Bathhouse

on Commercial Street. Deadline Friday, April 10. Work will commence on or about Monday, April 20.

TONY "C" STORY AT LIBRARY

With baseball season about to begin the North End Library will highlight the amazing story and tragic career of Red Sox player Tony "Tony C" Conigliaro on Wednesday, April 29.

GALA ON THE GREENWAY

The Gala on The Greenway is the Conservancy's signature fundraising event. Mingle with the Greenway Conserancy's top supporters, including elected officials, business and other community leaders, and Greenway neighbors while enjoying cocktails and hors d'oeuvres under a festive tent on The Greenway, June 4, 6 to 9 p.m.

FOCCP MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) holds monthly meetings the second Tuesday of every month at the Mariners House, 11 North Square at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are as follows: April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, there will be no meeting in December.

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OBITUARIES

Florence Capozzi

Of Revere, formerly of the North End

Florence "Flo" C. (Sarno) Capozzi, 84, of Revere, formerly of Boston's North End, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, March 28.

The cherished daughter of the late Clara (Mangiante) Sarno, she was the beloved wife of the late Louis "Gigi" Capozzi, loving mother of Claire A. Marrone and her husband, Dennis and the late Priscilla A. Capozzi, adored grandmother of Dennis J. Marrone and his wife, Melissa and cherished great-grandmother of Giavanna Pearl Marrone. She is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and the family pet, Rocco.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all services are private. In



lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Flo's name to the Mass General Hospital, Covid-19 Fund, 125 Nashua St. Suite 540, Boston, MA 02114 or online at www.giving.massgeneral.org/donate.

State, non-profit to deploy 1,000 case workers to trace contacts of COVID-19 patients

Working with a non-profit partner, Gov. Charlie Baker late last week called for 1,000 case workers to deploy throughout the state to track the people who had been in contact with patients who are positive for the COVID-19 virus.

In his daily update on Thursday, Baker announced the creation of the COVID-19 Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC) to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. The state will work in collaboration with Partners In Health. It is the first effort of its kind nationwide.

The initiative will focus on tracing the contacts of confirmed positive COVID-19 patients, and sup-

porting individuals in quarantine, and builds on the efforts already underway from the Command Center to leverage public health college students to augment the contact tracing being done by local boards of health.

The Collaborative will deploy nearly 1,000 contact tracers throughout the state to connect with COVID-19 patients and their contacts to support Massachusetts' efforts to track and contain the virus.

Led by the administration's COVID-19 Response Command Center, Partners In Health will coordinate closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Executive

Office of Health and Human Services. Contact tracing will be combined with the state's efforts to increase testing and will provide support to people in quarantine in order to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.

"Enhanced contact tracing capability is another powerful tool for public health officials and health care providers in the battle against COVID-19," said Governor Charlie Baker. "Massachusetts is the only state in the nation implementing this type of programming, and this collaborative tracing initiative will break new ground as we work together to slow the spread of COVID-19."

Partners In Health will provide staff and contribute technical expertise in community tracing. The Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority (CCA) will stand up a virtual support center and maintain connectivity, while the Massachusetts Department of Health (DPH) will maintain data, guides and processes. Accenture, a leading global professional services company, and Salesforce, a global leader in CRM, are implementing support center capabilities for the CTC's tracing purposes.

"This is a key effort in the Commonwealth's work to slow the spread of the virus by adding capacity to reach individuals who

have come in close contact with individuals are confirmed positive for COVID-19," said Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders. "I encourage residents to cooperate with the operation so that we can further slow the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts."

Contact tracing through the CTC will support the Baker-Polito Administration's ongoing efforts to expand bed capacity, increase personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies and provide resources for health care providers and patients.

Baker says more ICU beds are needed; COVID death rate in Mass. is lower than other states

Gov. Charlie Baker announced good and bad news on Thursday requiring the anticipated surge of COVID-19 cases in the coming 20 days - with the good news being there are ample Acute beds and the state's death rate from COVID-19 is lower than other states, and the bad news being that even with an expansion of ICU beds at existing hospitals the state will likely be short up to 500 beds.

State officials, in response, are looking to build Field Hospitals to take the stress off of medical centers - including hiring a contractor that can quickly begin to build out places like the South Boston Convention Center if need be. The plan to build up to 1,000 beds in this fashion around the state.

Gov. Baker's COVID-19 Response Command Center today (April 2) outlined projections related to the anticipated

surge of COVID-19 cases in the Commonwealth, which they believe will come between April 10-20.

The projections are the result of the Command Center's work with medical experts to complete modeling of the outbreak in Massachusetts. The Administration also detailed its efforts to respond to this surge, including a significant increase in hospital capacity, staffing, and equipment.

COVID-19 Surge Planning:

• Modeling and Projections:

The Administration's COVID-19 Response Command Center has been working with its Advisory Board of medical experts and epidemiologists from Harvard University, University of Guelph and Northeastern University to refine models related to the expected surge of COVID-19

cases. These efforts include modeling the surge's timing, number of cases, necessary bed capacity, and work to find facilities that will meet overflow capacity. The model's projections are based on the experience of Wuhan, China, but Massachusetts' trajectory could differ due to lower population density, lower smoking rates, and earlier social distancing measures. The Command Center has also been comparing to experience in other states and around the world.

The model's latest projections estimate that the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts could range from 47,000 to 172,000 (or 0.7% to 2.5% of the total population of Massachusetts). The models show hospitalizations would potentially peak between April 10-20. The current fatality rate in Massachusetts is lower than

other areas - it is approximately 1.5 percent of those infected. The Command Center is monitoring this statistic closely.

The COVID-19 Response Command Center is working with hospitals to provide them with flexibility to expand ICU capacity. The Commonwealth is asking academic medical centers and teaching hospitals to work to significantly expand their ICU capacity. But after hospitals execute on their surge plans, the model estimates there could be a remaining gap in ICU capacity of more than 500 beds.

• Response Efforts:

In response, the Administration is aiming to find or build an additional 750 - 1,000 beds in field medical hospitals and other alternate care sites to reduce strain on hospitals as much as possible. Gov. Baker and Lt. Gov. Polito visited

the first of these Field Medical Stations at the DCU Center yesterday.

The Administration has identified additional possible sites for Field Medical Stations including the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Joint Base Cape Cod, Springfield's Mass Mutual Building and other smaller locations. The Administration has secured a contractor who can build out sites once a healthcare partner has been finalized.

The Command Center is also securing 1,000 beds in capacity for step-down care options in nursing facilities for stabilized COVID-19 positive patients who can be transferred out of the hospital to make room for those with higher medical need.

Trial court launches help line to assist court users

The Trial Court announced this week the establishment of a Help Line that began on April 2 that the public can call to ask general questions about their civil and criminal cases and help them navigate the court system while the court system remains closed to the public except for emergency matters.

The Help Line will be staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and can be reached by calling 833-91COURT.

For emergency matters, court users should first call their local court Clerk's or Register's Offices. Contact numbers for individual courts and offices can be found online.

Emergency matters include: emergency protection and harassment prevention orders; arraignments of new arrests; bail reviews;

dangerousness hearings; mental health commitment orders; care and protection orders; and other matters. Each department of the Trial Court issued Standing Orders that contain full lists of emergency matters.

"In light of the Supreme Judicial Court Order issued April 1 that extends the previous order limiting courts to emergency matters until May 4, the Help Line is an important resource for people who need information on their court cases, who have questions regarding non-emergency matters, and who may not know where to go for answers to their questions," said Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey. "It will also serve as a backup resource in the event a Clerk's or Register's office is closed or otherwise unable to assist in an emergency."

If a member of the public is unable to reach a Clerk's Office or Register's Office, Help Line staff will serve as a backup resource and will be able to look up case information and assist callers. The following Trial Court Departments will have representatives on the Help Line: District Court, Boston Municipal Court, Superior Court, Probate and Family Court, Juvenile Court, Housing Court, and Land Court. The Massachusetts Probation Service will also have representatives available on the Help Line. Callers to the Help Line will be prompted to select the Trial Court Department they wish to reach and then be connected to a knowledgeable representative who can access the main court case database.

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP CLASSIFIED SECTION

• 123
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CITY PAWSL

Reservations for summer and fall travel

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The prospect of traveling seems like a distant promise right now. Yet here we are reminding you to think about reservations for traveling this summer, fall, and right into the holidays.

When you have dependent creatures in your life, travel plans have some added requirements. If your furry family members are going with you, there are restrictions on where you can stay and how they may travel. If they are remaining behind, you have to arrange for their care.

Pet-Friendly Accommodations

We do travel with our dog Poppy. This puts some serious restrictions on the places where we are welcome. Once you find a pet-friendly hotel or rental, you may learn that not all the accommodations within that property are available to travelers with animals. We understand this since some rooms are reserved for people with allergies or special needs.

Over the years we've discovered that some rentals are only

available to specific people whose animals have proven themselves to be well-behaved and whose guardians have left the property in the condition that they found it. If you have built this kind of reputation with certain hosts, ask those people for references to use when they have no vacancies or you are traveling to a different area.

On the other hand, those who have broken the house rules, whose animals have disturbed other guests, or have left a mess for the staff to clean up, find there are never any vacancies when they call.

Planes, Boats, and Trains

If your animal is small enough to fit in a carrier as required by the airlines and Amtrak, you will still need to reserve earlier. The number of pets on a plane may be restricted and the length of a trip when your dog or cat must remain in the carrier without a potty break may determine which trips you can and can't make.

Ferries around New England have proven to be very open to companion animals. You can hop

onto a ferry to the very pet-friendly town of Provincetown. Boston Harbor Cruises is our usual choice. Their Provincetown ferry website says, "Well behaved, leashed pets are welcome aboard." The Casco Bay Lines ferry in Portland ME says, "... please be aware that dogs need their own tickets, unless they are in a pet carrier or are a service animal. All dogs need to be on a leash. Dog tickets are \$4.10."

Stay-at-Homes

There are times when your cat or dog must stay behind and you must find someone to care for them while you are away. If you have a regular dog walker or cat sitter, you may be able to extend their service to longer-term care. This is more likely to happen if you are the first person to ask for specific dates.

Some doggie daycare centers also offer to board their regular customers. And, of course, there are cat and/or dog boarding facilities that are set up just for longer visits. Be certain the facility you opt for always has a responsible person on-site with the animals.



We try to be good guests when we travel. Poppy is sitting in a chair that is protected with one of our own furniture covers brought from home.

Finally, friends and family are another way to provide trustworthy care for your animals while you travel. We know a couple who have a friend move into their city condo or beach house to stay with their dogs. They gain peace of mind while they are away and their friend has the oppor-

tunity to have a lovely home, all to herself, away from her usual housemates. That is her favorite kind of vacation!

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

HEY BOSTON, STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY

Message from Mayor Martin J. Walsh

CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS:

- Fever (100.4F / 38C or higher)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Call ahead before going to your doctor's office or the ER. Call 311 for the Mayor's Health Line.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Stay at least six feet away from others
- Do not socialize in person
- Wear a face covering when you are in public
- Wash your hands, use hand sanitizer, cover your cough and sneezes, and avoid others when sick

There is a Public Health Advisory for everyone in Boston except essential workers to stay home from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily. As a reminder, please stay home when you can during the day.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED:

- Sign up for text alerts in six languages: Text BOSCOVID, BOSEspanol, BOSFrancais, BOSKreyol, BOSKriolu or BOSPortugues to 99411 for daily updates
- Visit boston.gov/coronavirus or call 311 for guidance and information from the City of Boston

By doing the right thing, we can slow the spread of coronavirus in Boston and save lives. Thank you for all you have done already: for staying safe, staying inside your home, and staying Boston Strong.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Martin J. Walsh