



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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Courtesy photo

Aerial view of the Old North Church with lanterns lit in the steeple.

Lanterns lit in Old North Church Steeple

By Phil Orlandella

Last weekend, the Old North Church and Historic Site, on the 245th anniversary of two signal lanterns shining in the dark of its steeple, were lit for inspiration in times of challenge.

Two ceremonial lanterns were lit to mark the beginning of

Patriots weekend and to honor shared history.

For the first time, the lanterns remained lit for three full nights and days marking the anniversary of the legendary midnight ride, acknowledgment to the heroes of the COVID-19 pandemic and to observe Patriots Day commemorating the bravery, sacrifice and perseverance of those who

charged into battle for a better future according to the church.

“We did this to provide hope, inspiration and solidarity,” the Church said.

Last month, the church reached out asking for help to observe this important anniversary and expressed their appreciation that helped sustain the site until it can be open safely.

North End’s Bricco now open for take out

DePasquale Ventures announced that Bricco Restaurant, 241 Hanover Street, Boston, is now open for take-out. From noon until 8 p.m. daily. Bricco will be offering take-out specific menus which can be found on their website, www.Bricco.com and can be made by calling the restaurant at 617-248-6800. Food will be delivered curbside from the restaurant.

Signature Appetizers and Pastas:

- Caesar, blue sky bibb lettuce & radicchio 13
- Mozzarella di Bufala Caprese, vine-ripe tomatoes and basil pesto 18

- Meatballs, served with fresh ricotta & crostini 16
- Shrimp Scampi, seared with lemon, cherry tomatoes, spinach 19

- Bricco’s Artisanal Pasta Gnocchetti Sorrentina, 24

- Risotto, sausage, wild mushrooms, mascarpone cheese 26

Secondi:

- 7-Spice Murray’s Brick Chicken roasted “under the brick,” swiss chard timbale with potato purée, prosciutto & roasted red peppers 29

- Alaskan King Salmon, roasted fennel & shallots, white bean purée 29

- Braised Beef Short Ribs, creamy parmigiano polenta, roasted chestnuts, red wine reduction, sweet Italian glaze 37

- Grilled Veal Chop, marcho farm, milk fed 52

- Painted Hills Burger, cabot clouthbound, bibb lettuce, pepperdew relish, smoked bacon, parmigiano aioli 18 Margherita Pizza

Please note that Bricco is offering take-out only, with curbside pick-up at the restaurant. Bricco orders can be placed by calling 617-248-6800. For the full menu, please visit www.bricco.com.

Boston Fund Steering Committee awards more emergency grants

By Phil Orlandella

An additional \$3 million in funds have been approved to support 29 organizations that provide essential services to front-line workers, healthcare providers and Boston families well-being is most immediately impacted by the COVID-19 health emergency according to the Boston Resiliency Fund Steering Committee.

Early in March the Resiliency

Fun distributed \$5.4 million in emergency grants to eight organizations.

“Many people are out of work and many are dealing with illness themselves or their family,” Mayor Martin Walsh said. “During these stressful times, people should not have to worry about accessing food in meeting their basic needs,” he added.

Boston Resiliency Funds (BRF)

(GRANTS Pg. 4)

Columbus Park open, new game in place, playground closed

By Phil Orlandella

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) have advised that while the park remains open, the playground is closed for social distancing programs related to COVID-19.

However, throughout the medical crisis the blue lighted trelis also remains open and a new hopscotch game is in place at the public park, designed by FOCCP

Board Member and Art Curator Robyn Reed.

A second game is planned, on the sidewalk closer to the fountain, with a slightly different variation. It may already have been completed.

Reed has also created several other fun and welcoming arts installations in the park like the Tunnel of Love last February.

(PARK Pg. 5)

NEWNC community election in jeopardy

By Phil Orlandella

For the first time since the inception of the North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC) the community organization had to postpone its annual May election of board members until possible other options can be determined, if any are plausible.

Many reasons compelled the NEWNC Election Committee to cancel the May 16 public election starting with the COVID-19 pandemic, the closing of the election polling site (Nazzaro Center), social distancing and because candidates were unable to secure the 40 signatures of residents from

Ward III, Precincts 1, 2, 3 and 4 to be placed on the ballot.

The Committee waited as long as possible to postpone the election but has indicated to the Review that some sort of decision on the status of the election will be made this week.

NEWNC President Brett Roman said, “Once a decision or plan is determined, NEWNC will make all the public notices available.”

Each year, 6 of the 12 seats on the Council become available for two-year terms. The other 6 members retain a one-year term.

Candidates must file nomina-

(NEWNC Pg. 6)

Stay Home & Stay Healthy

Email stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com or deb@bostonsun.com or call 781-485-0588 for your Regional Review information



Forum

'Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.'

BILL OF RIGHTS, Amendment I

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.



CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY APR. 24TH AT A DISTANCE

GUEST OP-ED

We are a resilient city of resilient people

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

The coronavirus is unlike anything we've experienced in living memory, and it's testing our city in a way that it's never been tested before. It has required a major, all-hands-on-deck response, and it has affected every aspect of daily life in Boston. Every day, we are sending our love, our support, and our prayers to everyone who's battling this terrible illness, and our hearts break for the families who have lost loved ones.

The grief I feel for these families is coupled with an immense sense of pride for our city. The people of Boston have shown bravery, strength, and solidarity with one another since this crisis began. We've had to close our schools, postpone some of our most beloved traditions, and ask residents to keep their distance from the people they love the most.

I know that these changes have been very difficult for many people. But I'm not hearing complaints; the overwhelming reaction has been support and cooperation.

People are focused on protecting their fellow Bostonians, especially the most vulnerable among us. People understand that the measures we're taking, no matter how drastic they may feel, will save lives. That is our top priority, and the people of Boston have rallied around it. I've seen people, businesses, and organizations stepping up and doing the right thing. I've seen wonderful acts of kindness. And I've seen people of all ages showing what it means to be Boston strong.

In the face of challenges like this one, our city shows its true colors. We are a resilient city of resilient people. That's reflected in our strong neighborhoods, in our enduring traditions, and in the way we govern at the local level.

The fact is, we've been strengthening Boston's ability to respond to a crisis like this for years. We've built deep connections between city government, neighborhood leaders, community groups, and the faith community. We've built up one of the strongest shelter and healthcare networks for homeless

individuals in the country. We've made city services more accessible, in more languages, across a variety of platforms.

We've helped more people get connected with affordable internet. And we've worked to close equity gaps to make sure that more people have access to stable housing and financial safety nets. All of these things have allowed us to act swiftly, get people the information they need, and soften the blow that this public health crisis is having on our communities, our economy, and people's lives. To me, this is the definition of resilience. It means planning ahead, and building connections before we need them, so that we can adapt to any challenge that we face.

We've got a long road ahead of us. Even after we overcome the immediate threat to people's health, there will be a long economic recovery, to get our local businesses and their hard-working employees back on their feet. We

(OP-ED Pg. 3)

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OPINION BY PHIL ORLANDELLA

TOGETHER COVID-19 WILL BE ERADICATED

Elected officials, businesses, the medical community, volunteers, public service agencies and the general public throughout the United States have shown why this country stands above and beyond during the COVID-19 crisis sweeping the country.

The federal government, states, cities, towns and counties are stepping up to the plate implementing necessary measures to combat the pandemic that is creating havoc and unfortunately deaths.

Many small and large businesses are chipping in to help curb this devastating virus.

It is extremely important that this united effort continues to control and ratify this dreadful situa-

tion once and for all.

It has already been noted a thousand times during this dangerous situation but it is very important that everyone continue to strictly abide by all the suggestive measures put in place for health purposes.

When this crisis is finally over, this country can stand tall claiming, together the battle against COVID-19 has been won.

CITY FUNDING AVAILABLE TO HELP RENTERS

Providing funding for the needy low-income families in Boston, to help pay the rent during the crisis created by COVID-19, has been adopted by the City.

Many renters are out of jobs and are collecting or have filed for

unemployment benefits that may help cover rental costs.

There are many guidelines and qualifications in order to receive funding assistance through the City during this nasty pandemic.

Funding will help eligible Bostonians, that are at risk of losing rental housing to maintain a roof over their heads.

CENSUS FORMS NEED TO BE FILED

Take time to file the 2020 Census Form which is important for the state, cities and towns because it would determine the number of US House Representative seats in Massachusetts.

Based on the popular number, it includes redistricting, define congressional districts, state legislative districts, and City Council

districts.

The Census also directs more than \$675 billion in Federal funds to the state and cities.

Responding to the Census endeavor is extremely important as it will determine all the above mentioned for many years to come.

ONCE THE CURRENT HEALTH CONDITIONS DISSIPATES/ SUPPORT A COMMUNITY AGENCY

When the COVID-19 pandemic finally comes to an end, there are a lot of North End nonprofit agencies that could possibly use some financial assistance along with volunteer help a few days a

week, or a couple of hours each day.

There is no question that it is going to take a significant amount of time for things to return to normal and additional funding and personal help is most likely going to be needed.

Community agencies and organizations do a terrific job for the neighborhood.

When the time comes, pick up the phone or send an email asking if any of these groups can use a little help or some funding.

These organizations provide many valuable services, programs, events, education and much more to the community.

Supporting neighborhood groups will help ramp up the neighborhood to its normal status.

Do whatever you can. It will make a huge difference.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

NSC Open Letter

Dear Editor

What a difference a month makes. First and foremost, as you read this, I hope that you are safe and well, and adjusting to life and a new normal under the stay-at-home orders. I wanted to write to our readers to say how much all of us at the ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center (NE/WE NSC) truly miss our clients, volunteers, friends and colleagues around the neighborhood, not to mention the day-to-day interaction with staff at our site and our ABCD Central offices.

The NE/WE NSC remains closed at present, so I am sharing again with this correspondence the listing of all ABCD open sites.

In the meantime, we continue to conduct wellness checks and referrals for our clientele. We have been in touch with our donors, community partners, and other stakeholders, and remain grateful for their support and collaboration. ABCD's website bostonabcd.org also has updated information regarding services during this time.

We hope to have more updates in the future, but our goal is to work towards reopening our site when it is safe to do so, and coordinating responsive services, especially around the needs for meals, food pantry services, and human interaction. We plan to be transparent throughout this process and are proactively taking every necessary precaution to maintain a safe center for seniors, staff, vol-

unteers, and visitors.

For those who celebrate, I send joyous Passover and warm Easter greetings, and best wishes for a time to connect (virtually!) with family.

None of this is easy, and like all of us, I hope for better days ahead. Boston is a strong, resilient city, and our neighborhoods brim with stories for those who remember times of war, conflict, the Great Depression, recessions, the threat of polio and scarlet fever, and more. We survived those and will get through this better and stronger for it. We are all in this together.

Maria Stella Gulla
Director ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center

OP-ED (from pg. 2)

will need to be flexible, and work together to get daily life back to normal. And we will continue to grieve, together as a City, for the lives lost. Many families are experiencing incredible shock and sadness right now. We all need to give them the time and the space to mourn their loved ones, with the full support of their city behind them.

My hope is that when we get through this, we will have a new appreciation for all the things we hold dear. I hope that we will never again take simple joys and

freedoms for granted.

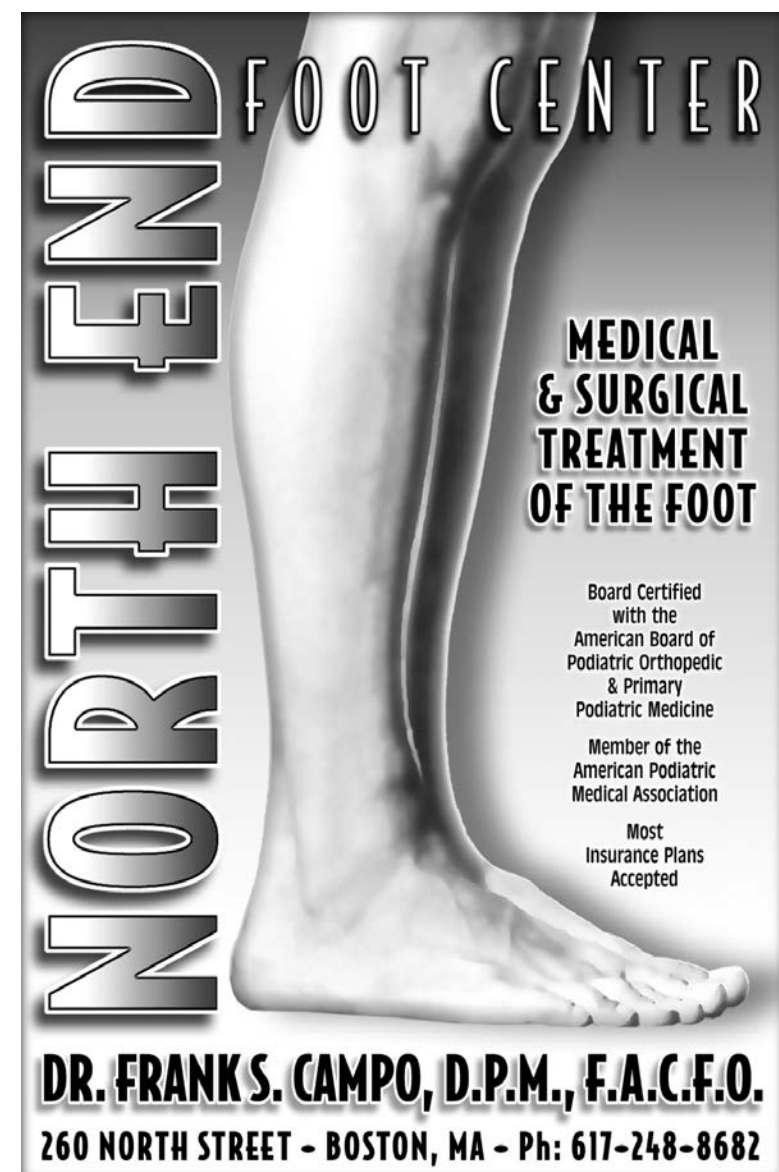
Normally, this is one of the best times of the year in Boston. Any other year, we'd be getting ready to welcome athletes and fans from all over the world for the Boston Marathon. We'd be celebrating the home opener at Fenway Park.

We'd be holding the first of our annual coffee hours in neighborhood parks across the city. Kids and families would be enjoying the warm weather and all the festivities that come with the end of the school year.

When we get through this, and

return to these traditions, it will be a cause for celebration. Each of us will have a renewed opportunity to embrace the things that make Boston the greatest city in the world. This is a defining moment in our history that will inspire new strength and resilience. I think it will inspire a new sense of what makes us Bostonians, and what makes us all family. That's what gives me hope, and that's what drives me, every day, to lead our City through this.

Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston



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NEAD REMEMBERS BOBBY D

By John Romano, President of NEAD

Ten years ago, on April 19, 2010 our dear friend Robert "Bobby D" DeCristoforo was taken away from us totally unexpectedly.

It was a shock to all of us that someone so kind, so caring and so loving like Bobby D could be gone so young.

During this crazy time of COVID-19, the world needs people like Bobby D to help us all get through this crucial time.

Bobby would not be asking why this was happening, he would be looking to see what he could do to help those that are in need.

To honor our friend's spirit, take a few minutes each day and find a way to do something nice to help someone, even if it is just a phone call to say hello.

Let a friend, a relative or a neighbor no they are not alone and that you care. That is what Bobby D would do for all of us.

Bobby, a life-long North End resident, touched many lives and took us many places with North End Against Drugs (NEAD) where he was extremely active.

These photos capture some of the people and places that Bobby was personally involved with.



Scenes of Robert "Bobby D" DeCristoforo with family and friends throughout the community.



Visit www.northendregionalreview.com

City proposes operating Budget and Capital Plan

By Phil Orlandella

Mayor Martin Walsh is proposing a fiscally responsible operating budget and Capital Plan to meet the needs of Boston.

Recommendations call for \$3.65 billion Fiscal Year 2021 operating budget and \$3 billion Fiscal Year 2021-2025 Capital Plan, building on years of bracket investments in high-quality and

equitable services and programs for Boston residents.

"Through these unprecedented times, the work we do every day in serving our residents has been more important," the Mayor said.

Proposed investments take into account the short and long-term fiscal impact of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, and are made possible due to six consecutive years of proactive fiscal man-

agement that has well-positioned the city to continue investing in core city services and resident needs at a time of global economic uncertainty.

"In the proposed budget and capital plan, we are putting forth small and strategic investments in the areas that we know will have the most impact for our residents," the Mayor said.

North End feasts unveil special edition All Saints T-Shirt

The North End Feast Societies Unite to Address Food Insecurity During Covid-19 Crisis.

Proceeds from the online sale of the special edition shirt will benefit the neighborhood's food insecurity programs run by the ABCD and NEW/Health Center and other local charities. The programs ensure fresh groceries and prepared meals will be avail-

able to lower income families and seniors in the North End and Boston neighborhoods during the ongoing public health crisis. Both the ABCD and NEW/Health Center organize year long food programs to benefit our neighbors.

Our festivals celebrate the lives and good works of our patron Saints and our Blessed Mother, who have exemplified faith and

hope for generations. We look to them now for inspiration and optimism during these uncertain times.

Sales of the All Saints shirts will be sold online only and shipped directly to you. Please visit the Bonfire website to purchase your special edition shirts: <https://www.bonfire.com/northendfeasts>.

PARKS (from pg. 1)

FOCCP welcomes everyone to enjoy Reed's latest creation with family but encourages physical distancing for safety reasons.

Reed designed the "HOP" to look like an old analog computer screen display, making it look dated on purpose. "I wanted it to look like retro," she said.

She made the "HOP" grid out of cardboard template in five different colors of spray paint. FOCCP member Meredith Piscitelli helped Reed map out the grid and held the template while it was spray-painted.

Other FOCCP news, At-Large Board members Patricia Thiboutet and Rita Pagliuca are stepping down. "They have been invaluable members of the team," the community group noted.

The 10th annual membership

drive Social planned for Tia's Restaurant had to be canceled, but support through membership can be completed online at www.foccp.org/membership or by mail at FOCCP, PO Box 130285, Boston, MA 02113.

Nomination papers for FOCCP's election for Officers or Board of Directors At Large must be submitted by April 28, fourteen days prior to the May 12 monthly meeting.

Positions include: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Clerk.

Paper should include name, address and could have a statement about his or her candidacy.

The April monthly meeting was canceled and rescheduled for Tuesday, May 12. Subject to change.

The May 12 Playground Celebration has been canceled. No rescheduled date has been set at this time.

Several events are still scheduled in the park. List is as follows:

- June 3 - August 26 - Croquet.
- June 27 - Independence Celebration.
- July 18 - September 12 - Lawn Games.
- July 19 - August 23 - Sunday Night Movies.
- August 18 - Sunset Harbor Cruise.
- October 3 - Fall Festival.
- November 23 - Trellis Lighting Ceremony.

Dates to be announced: Gardening Wednesdays and Sundays. Visit FOCCP's website as dates may change.

NEMPAC host first free open mic community night

By Phil Orlandella

North End Music and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) held its first Free Open Mic Community Night with 17 talented acts involving 20 performances from the North End, West End, Charlestown, Malden, Somerville, Nashua, NH and Ponferrada, Spain, with strong family ties to Italy, Ireland and Spain.

Participants showcase their skills for an audience of over 70 that connected beyond the local neighborhood, from different parts of the world, making them feel closer to family and friends, according to the Center.

The program was such a success, NEMPAC hosted its second Open Mic Community Night, on Friday, April 10 at 6 PM via Zoom. This initiative was led by Allie Meek-Carufel, Education Programs Director and Music.

The other instructor, was Josaphat Contreras, NEMPAC Program Coordinator via Zoom.

Talents of every skill levels were welcomed. Some participants were new to the stage with no performance experience, others performed to hone their skills, NEMPAC noted.

It was everything from classical, folk, pop and heavy metal, to singers and instrument players.

Performers represented a wide array of ages and capabilities from children through adults, from students, to faculty, to simply friends of NEMPAC Community.

NEMPAC noted, "Everybody connected and participated as a performer or as an audience to virtually come together, showing support for each other through music and to have a light moment during daunting times."

For additional updates visit www.nempacboston.org and follow NEMPAC's social media @nempacboston.

Fire regulations in the City of Boston PROHIBIT open fires and charcoal and gas grills on roofs, fire balconies and fire escapes.

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NEWS AND NOTES By Phil Orlandella

CITY ANNOUNCES MORTGAGE RELIEF

Mortgage relief partnerships have been established with 12 lenders which will provide homeowners with at least three months of deferred payments, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh announced.

Housing leaders will offer three months of deferred mortgage payments for homeowners who contact them and demonstrate they have been financially impacted by the public health crisis.

Lenders have also committed not to charge late fees, or report non-payments to the credit bureaus.

"No person should have to

worry about losing their homes right now," the Mayor said.

DEDICATED BEDS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Boston has secured many dedicated beds and various locations to facilitate social distancing and reduce the further spread of COVID-19 among first responders, shelter staff and veterans living in group homes.

"We're entering the most critical point of the outbreak and the beginning of a surge in cases that will be very difficult for our city," Mayor Martin Walsh said. "That's why we are doing everything possible to be prepared," He added.

NEW COVID-19 TASK FORCE FORMED

A new COVID-19 Health Inequities Task Force, to provide guidance, to the City of Boston addressing current inequities and data analysis, testing sites and health care services for Blacks, Asians and immigrants.

"We know that there are significant inequities that put our communities of color and immigrant population at higher risk for contracting coronavirus, developing severe illness and impeding them from access care, Mayo Walsh said.

The new task force will focus especially on increasing access based on data that will be collected.

U.S. Attorney urges health care sector to report fraud related to the COVID-19 pandemic

As part of the comprehensive federal response to the COVID-19 outbreak, United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling is urging leadership at Massachusetts hospitals to report individuals and companies that may be engaged in wrongdoing related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a letter to leadership at Massachusetts hospitals, U.S. Attorney Lelling encouraged

health care facilities to report to federal authorities individuals and companies that may have acquired vital medical supplies in excess of what they would reasonably use, or for the purpose of charging exorbitant prices. This includes 15 categories of health and medical supplies designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) as "scarce," thus triggering civil and criminal

enforcement remedies that the U.S. Attorney's Office will pursue. In addition, the U.S. Attorney's Office will investigate any other fraudulent conduct designed to benefit from the pandemic (e.g., false treatments, tests, and/or vaccinations for COVID-19).

"In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, my office is prioritizing the investigation and prosecution of wrongdoing related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including those engaged in hoarding and/or price-gouging with regard to critical medical supplies," said United States Attorney Lelling. "These practices are not only morally repugnant in light of the pandemic but also, if left unchecked, will inhibit hospitals, physicians, other health care professionals, and government agencies from fully implementing measures designed to save lives and mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus."

U.S. Attorney Lelling named Amanda Strachan, Chief of the Health Care Fraud Unit, as the COVID-19 Fraud Coordinator for the District of Massachusetts.

Massachusetts residents who believe they are victims of fraud or other criminal activity related to the pandemic should contact the United States Attorney's Office at USAMA.victimassistance@usdoj.gov or call 1-888-221-6023 and leave a message. Members of the public can also contact the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) by visiting www.IC3.gov. If you or someone you know are in immediate danger, please call 911.

RUFF closes North End dog parks

By Phil Orlandella

Responsible Urbanites for Fido (RUFF) has sent out emails to pet owners regarding the abuse of guidelines not being followed, so both parks have been closed until further notice.

Because of the numerous violations the Prince Street Dog Park

and the Richmond Street Dog Run have been closed since Wednesday, April 16.

RUFF plans to reopen the parks when the City of Boston reopens playgrounds and courts.

When things return to normal, RUFF hopes to have one heck of the reopening party.

NEAA benefit Golf Tournament scheduled

By Phil Orlandella

The annual North End Athletic Association (NEAA) has scheduled its benefit Golf Tournament at the Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury Street for Monday, August 3 starting at 7:30 AM (shotgun start).

Over 144 golfers usually participate in this sold-out tournament,

so the NEAA suggest early registration.

The tournament features golf, lunch and raffle prizes.

Funds raised from the event allows the NEAA to provide athletic, social, educational and civic activities within the community and the City of Boston.

For more information contact Louis Cavagnaro at 617-523-7410.

Public tax payment extended to June 4

By Phil Orlandella

Payment of property tax bills in Boston have been extended until June 4, providing residents with more flexibility during the ongoing public health crisis, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh announced.

Property tax bills were previously due on May 1.

The City is also wavering interest on late property taxes and motor vehicle excise tax payments

until June 30, if the bill was due after March 10.

Residents facing a late fine for not paying their excise bill on time have a grace period of late fees until June 30.

"Providing residents with more flexibility and options during these difficult times is crucial," Mayor Martin Walsh said. He encourages all residents to access the resources the City has available.

GRANTS *(from pg. 1)*

have three basic initial priorities ensuring children, families and seniors have access to food, supporting first responders, front-line workers and healthcare workers to promote public health and providing technology to Boston students for remote learning.

BRF has raised over \$22 million since it was created on March 16, 2020 and is still accepting donations from individuals, organizations and philanthropic partners.

One hundred percent of donations are donated to local organizations. BRF encourages organizations to complete a statement of interest to be considered for future grants.

Twenty-nine organizations will receive grants to expand their capacity or adjust their service model to meet the immediate need of city residents during this public health emergency. Grants range in size.

NEWNC *(from pg. 1)*

tion papers with the election committee verifying the signatures.

Ballots will be counted by the committee publicly at the polling site and announce once the total has been determined.

The public, including the candidates can be present when the ballots are counted and tabulated.

In case of a tie, a close result

or a challenge by any candidate is requested, a recount will be taken for only the contested seats.

If there are not enough candidates that qualify for the number of seats available, all those that meet the requirements will automatically be placed as official members of the Council.

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First Come - First Served

Walsh urges people to continue social distancing, expands outreach for information

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Walsh continues to urge Bostonians to abide by the guidelines set forth by the City and state in order to continue to control the spread of COVID-19.

As of April 20, Boston had 5,749 confirmed cases of the virus, and 187 people had died.

Walsh announced on April 17 that more efforts are being made to get the message across to all Boston residents. "We have nearly 200 digital and print billboards across the city," he said. The City is also calling 80,000 seniors twice a week in six different languages, he added.

Over the weekend, sound trucks also broadcasted information about the importance of staying at home and other COVID-19 related information in seven different languages throughout Boston's hardest hit communities—Hyde Park, Mattapan, Dorchester, East Boston, Roxbury, and Roslindale.

The Mayor also said that the City is planning another literature delivery.

"We are in a public health emergency," Walsh said. "We need you to do your part." The Mayor reminded residents to cover their faces outside their homes, practice social and physical distancing, and "avoiding all crowded situations."

Mayor Walsh also said that the City is prioritizing getting food to people each day, with 65 youth oriented food sites across the city—and several others for adults as well in East Boston, Dorchester, South Boston, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Brighton.

"Those sites have fed over 400,000 meals to students across the city," Walsh said.

Walsh also addressed questions and concerns about colleges starting up again in the fall. He said that he will be setting up a call with Boston's college presidents this week to see what the programs might look like this fall.

"Colleges have an advantage to

have social distancing if need be," he said. He said the issue might lie within the dormitories, where students are in notoriously close contact and able to easily spread germs. He said he will report more information about this as he gets it.

As for elementary, middle and high schools, Walsh said it's "too early to tell" what summer school would look like, and he thinks that any decisions regarding schools should be a statewide one.

Over the weekend, Mayor Walsh said he observed many people following social distancing guidelines in the nice weather, but he also saw people playing golf and soccer. He said that the Boston Police Department had to break up golf games and tell people to leave the course.

"We need to stop the spread of the virus," Walsh said.

He also said that the Boston Athletic Association reported "very little activity" along the marathon route on Monday after

Walsh asked over the weekend that people not run the marathon on the 20th, as the time will come in September to run the race.

Boston Hope, PPE, And Testing Update

The Boston Hope field hospital at the Boston Convention Exhibition Center had 162 total patients as of April 19, 86 on the hospital side and 76 on the homeless shelter side. Boston will also now be participating in the mask decontamination that is happening in Somerville, which he said will "take some pressure off finding more supplies," as each mask can be reused up to 20 times if properly decontamination is used.

The City has also created a mobile testing app that shows where testing sites are across the city, and it can be found at bphc.org. It includes things like locations, hours, and phone numbers for the different test sites. Walsh said the goal is to have every community health center be able to provide testing to the residents in

their neighborhoods.

Additionally, information about the number of people tested and the rates of positive tests in each community will now be available online.

People can still text the word BOSCOVID to 888777 to receive text updates from the city, and codes for ten other languages can be found at boston.gov/coronavirus.

Walsh said that once the virus passes, things are "going to be very different" in the city for a while as everyone adapts to a new normal. He said plans will have to be in place for reopening and thinking about what the operation of places like restaurants will look like moving forward.

"We do have to get back at some point to some type of normalcy," Walsh said, but for now, people should continue to follow social distancing guidelines and other precautions to prevent the spread of the virus.

Baker announces closure of schools for the remainder of the school year

By Lauren Bennett

Over the weekend and early this week, Governor Charlie Baker made several announcements regarding COVID-19 in the state.

Baker announced that all Massachusetts public and private schools will remain closed for the remainder of the school year. He said that he understands that "school closures put a tremendous strain on parents," and "we know it's a lot to ask," but the state will be helping to boost remote learning for the rest of the school year.

"It's the right thing to do, considering the facts on the ground associated with the COVID-19 pandemic," Baker said. He said that due to the lack of "authoritative guidance" about how to safely get kids to and from school and safely operate schools, "we believe students therefore cannot safely return to school and void the risk of transmitting the virus to others."

To all high school seniors who were looking forward 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."

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 do 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 employees 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 Baker-Polito Administration also announced new steps to address homelessness during the pandemic.

"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 additional \$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

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