



THE NORTH END

REGIONAL REVIEW

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The Eliot School in the North has ramped up its virtual learning this week after Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley released new guidance to school.

BPS, Mayor share new policies for the rest of the school year

By John Lynds

Boston Public School (BPS) Superintendent Brenda Cassellius and Mayor Martin Walsh last week shared new policies with families and schools for remote learning that went into effect Monday.

This updated learning plan gives more guidance for students and teachers around attendance, assignments, grading, and scheduling. It also provides predictability for families with routine class schedules and contact between students and teachers.

“Since Governor Baker announced that all Massachusetts schools will remain closed through this academic year, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley recent-

(SCHOOLS Pg. 8)

Baker signs order requiring face coverings in public

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker on May 1 signed an order requiring face masks or coverings for everyone when six feet of distance cannot be maintained. The order went into effect on May 6, and children under the age of two and those unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition are exempt.

Face coverings must be worn inside pharmacies, grocery stores,

and other retail stores, and “also when providing or using the services of any taxi, car, livery, ride-sharing, or similar service or any means of mass public transit, or while within an enclosed or semi-enclosed transit stop or waiting area,” the order states.

The order also states that people are “strongly discouraged” from wearing medical-grade masks, as those are in limited supply and should be saved for first respond-

ers and healthcare workers.

“This is going to be basically a way of life, okay, there’s no ifs, no ands, no buts, no doubts,” Baker said at a recent press conference, “and I certainly think for the most part if you can’t distance inside or outside, you’re going to be expected to wear a face covering or a mask.”

Businesses are allowed to deny

(BAKER Pg. 5)

Michlewitz facing unforeseen challenges in state budget

By Dan Murphy

This year has brought a set of unique and unforeseen challenges for Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, who is charged with managing the state’s annual fiscal budget in his role as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

“Because of the shelter-in-place advisory and the number of businesses now closed, the revenue shortfalls could be unprecedented,” said Rep. Michlewitz, adding that traditionally the House would be finished with the budget by this time of year. “A consensus was reached between the House, the Senate and the governor in January at the start of the budget process, but a lot changed once the pandemic hit.”

Now, the state must consider when and how businesses will be able to open back up, and what restrictions will then be in place due to social distancing and other measure taken to contain



Rep. Aaron Michlewitz.

the spread of COVID-19 in reevaluating its fiscal ’21 budget, he said.

“Unlike other recessions and the Great Depression, which were the results of the real estate market going bust or the country going to war, because of this public health situation, we’re in a ‘self-induced coma,’ as some have said, and how we wake up from that coma is anybody’s guess,” Rep.

(BUDGET Pg. 5)

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THIS SUNDAY IS MOTHER'S DAY

During this time of unprecedented upheaval because of the novel coronavirus pandemic, the rituals that most of us traditionally follow either have been eliminated or drastically changed because of the need to practice physical distancing.

So too, the manner in which we observe Mother's Day, which is this Sunday, May 10, will be different from all others before it. The traditional family get-togethers that we usually observe will be cancelled or modified to a great extent because of the situation in which we find ourselves.

However, it often is said that necessity is the mother of invention (no pun intended) and in that spirit we're sure that all of our readers will find a way to honor their mothers in some fashion, whether it be something as simple as a phone call or by a family gathering via Zoom.

Oftentimes, the smallest of gestures can mean the most.

We hope too, that Mother's Day this year will serve as a way for all of us to think about what is most important in our lives -- our family, friends, and loved ones -- as we struggle to make sense of these turbulent times amidst a pandemic.

We know we join with all of our readers in wishing all of our moms a happy Mother's Day.

THIS IS NO TIME FOR HOOVERISM

Herbert Hoover had been President for about seven months when the stock market crashed in October, 1929. Although there have been many causes attributed to the onset of the Great Depression, the crash generally is viewed as the trigger point for what still rates as the greatest economic downturn in our nation's history.

However, even as the economy continued to sink in the aftermath of the crash, Hoover adopted a hands-off policy toward the economy. Although Herbert Hoover was a good man with lots of government experience prior to becoming president, he refused to take action of any kind, held back by a combination of a lack of imagination and his rigid, free-market view of the U.S. economy.

Hoover failed to recognize the severity of the situation or leverage the power of the federal government to address it. He was widely viewed as callous and insensitive toward the suffering of millions of desperate Americans.

By the time Hoover left office in early 1933, unemployment in the U.S. had reached 25% and millions of Americans literally were starving. The iconic photos from that era of Americans lined up for handouts from the soup kitchens that were operated by private charities still are seared into our collective memory even today.

What brought to mind the inaction of Herbert Hoover during the Great Depression were comments made this past Sunday by Lawrence Kudlow, the former TV personality who now is one of the chief economic advisers to President Trump.

Basically, Kudlow said the Trump administration is taking a wait-and-see approach before committing to more federal support for Americans as the United States continues to weather the coronavirus crisis and the accompanying economic damage.

"Well, I don't want to get too far ahead of the story, Jake," Kudlow said to CNN's Jake Tapper. "There may well be additional legislation. There's a kind of pause period right now."

But "getting ahead" of this crisis precisely is what policymakers need to do. While it certainly is true that the federal government has spent trillions of dollars in various ways to assist Americans, it also is true that the degree of economic assistance -- as well as a coordinated plan -- that will be necessary simply to keep Americans fed during the ongoing crisis will require additional trillions of dollars as the economy plunges into free-fall without a parachute in the months ahead.

The lesson of the Great Depression is that a national government cannot be a passive bystander during a time of economic collapse. Speedy, forceful, and creative action is required today to prevent an already-calamitous situation from becoming worse tomorrow.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY... MAY 10.

GUEST OP-ED

Boston pets and COVID-19

By Martha Smith-Blackmore, DVM,

The National Veterinary Services Laboratory of the USDA announced on April 22, 2020 that two pet cats from different households in the United States were confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection. These are the first pets in the U.S. with positive tests for the virus that causes COVID-19 in people. Subsequently, a family dog from Chapel Hill, North Carolina tested positive. It appears that cats and dogs can become infected, but currently we have no information that suggests the virus can go from pets to people.

If you are sick with symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, difficulty breathing, tiredness, nasal congestion or runny nose, sore throat, diarrhea, aches and pains) you should limit contact with pets and other animals, just as you would restrict your contact

with other people. When possible, have another family or household member care for the animals while you are sick. If you have a service animal or you must care for pets, wear a face mask or covering; don't share food, kiss, or hug animals; and wash your hands before and after any contact with your pet, service animal, or other animals. If you are sick, you should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people or pets in your home.

Good general safety practice includes not allowing pets to interact with people or other animals outside the household; keeping cats indoors to prevent them from interacting with other animals or people; walking dogs on a leash, maintaining at least 6 feet from other people and animals; avoiding public places where large numbers of people and dogs gather. Keeping pets indoors or under

close supervised conditions not only protects them against COVID-19 infection, it prevents them from suffering other harms commonly encountered outside.

Now is a great time to practice teaching your pets skills and tricks with positive reinforcement, and to spend extra time at home grooming your pets. Walking your dog is important for both animal and human health and well-being. Love your animals, keep them close to you (unless you are sick!), away from other people and together all of us, whether we have two legs or four, will get through this together!

For more information about COVID-19 and pets, visit the CDC and the AVMA.

For additional information on resources and COVID-19, visit boston.gov/coronavirus.

Martha Smith-Blackmore, DVM, Boston Animal Care and Control

GUEST OP-ED

Emergency care has not been put on hold if you need medical assistance, seek help

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

During this public health emergency, many of us are feeling stressed and anxious. Days are uncertain and our routines have shifted. Many people are working remotely, or have lost their jobs. Students are learning online. Many of our favorite events have been canceled. For some time now, I have urged you to follow many precautions like staying home, covering your face when outside, and not visiting friends and family. But, one thing has not changed and should not change: if you are experiencing an emergency, please call 9-1-1 for help. Boston EMS and our emergency rooms are ready to help you.

In anticipation of Boston's surge in COVID-19 cases, we have been doing our part to not overwhelm

our emergency departments. We are asking individuals to call their primary care provider or 3-1-1 if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have any health-related questions. You can also visit [HYPERLINK "http://buoyhealth.com/mass"](http://buoyhealth.com/mass) at ["blank" buoyhealth.com/mass](http://buoyhealth.com/mass) for an online screening of COVID-19 symptoms. But, life-threatening emergencies like difficulty breathing or pain or pressure in the chest should be addressed immediately by calling 9-1-1.

Boston EMS will provide you the necessary pre-hospital care and transport you to the nearest emergency department if needed. Hospitals have seen dramatic decreases in health emergencies, like heart attacks, strokes and appendicitis. Even though coronavirus is a new challenge, that

does not mean other health challenges are less present. Please do not delay getting life-saving care because of fear of getting coronavirus. Go to the emergency room if you think you are in need of emergency care. Our hospitals in Boston have been taking many steps to ensure safety and cleanliness, and they have space for you.

Every day we are planning and responding to reduce the further spread of coronavirus. One piece of this has been increasing hospital capacity. We know it is important to be ready to treat as many people as possible, and not just for COVID-19. We must also help front line workers, like our medical professionals, first responders, grocery store employees, public servants and sanitation workers, stay healthy by practicing our guidelines: staying home as much

as possible, covering your face when outside your home, keeping at least 6 feet of distance from other people, washing your hands frequently, and disinfecting frequently-touched surfaces.

I know it's a hard adjustment, and it seems like this has been going on for much longer than it has. But this virus will not stop spreading if everyone follows our guidelines. I want to thank everyone who has been avoiding gatherings and wearing a face covering when they go outside. I know it's not always comfortable or easy to do, especially as we move into warmer weather. Your actions will directly help save lives. To those of you ignoring these guidelines, I urge you to reflect on the consequences of your actions. Is ignoring these guidelines worth risking the lives of your friends, family

and neighbors? We can overcome this, but we have to work together.

The City of Boston will continue to take the proper steps to respond to this crisis in a comprehensive way. This is a difficult time for everyone around the world. It's okay to feel stressed. We will get through this together by following the public health guidelines, working together and supporting each other, one day at a time.

For more information on Boston's COVID-19 response, please visit [HYPERLINK "http://boston.gov/coronavirus"](http://boston.gov/coronavirus) at ["blank" boston.gov/coronavirus](http://boston.gov/coronavirus) or text BOSCOVID to 888-777 to receive text alerts on a regular basis, available in 11 languages. For non-emergency questions, please call 3-1-1.

Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.

GUEST OP-ED

Covid-19 and Mother's Day

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

I wish mom were still here so I could take her out to Sunday dinner. The problem with Sunday dinner this Mother's Day is that most of the restaurants either won't be open yet or operating under new guidelines. Restaurants make their biggest payday of the year typically on Mother's Day. Even in states that are wide open for dining there is the problem of social distancing. Can you imagine this week going to a restaurant that only is allowed 25% occupancy or maybe 50% occupancy at best? Many states will still be closed tight this Sunday adding further pain to the

economic dilemma of business owners across America. For some restaurants being closed this Sunday will be the nail in the coffin of their business.

This year to celebrate mom's day you still can patronize your favorite restaurant by ordering from them and bringing the food back home. This will still take some pressure off mom. Also, insist on cleaning up the mess when it's over. Mom shouldn't have to do this on Mother's Day,

Overall this is the toughest Mother's Day we've had in America during my lifetime. So many millions are struggling financially. Buying a nice meal from a restaurant to take home to feed everyone is a stretch for

many. With 70,000 or more deaths now due to Covid-19 this Mother's Day will be the hardest day ever for a lot of families. There will be an empty chair at the table. Millions of Americans have moms in nursing homes. Their moms are in danger of being exposed to Covid-19. People will probably not be able to visit mother because she is in the nursing home. This is painful. There are just so many distressing scenarios being played out around the world. From health care workers who are at risk, to unemployment and a new era of poverty hitting out country, to people just going crazy over social distancing.

The way to celebrate Moth-

er's Day this year is don't forget. Don't distance yourself from this celebration. Honor mom while you have her. Honor some other mothers too who have been special to you.

When I was a child, I had \$5 my dad gave me for being "brave" to have my tonsils removed. The only thing I wanted to do as a child was to take mom and dad to the local G.C. Murphy's grill. We sat at the bar and we all had hotdogs and cokes that cost me about \$3. My mom didn't want me to spend my \$5 but she smiled when I bought

lunch that day as a 7-year-old kid. I would love to have mom back this Sunday and do anything that might make her smile. This Sunday, it could be the simplest thing but give it a try. Mom is worth the effort.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist - American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

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Walsh provides testing, Boston Public Schools updates

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Walsh said on May 4 that while Boston “may be on the verge of a downward slope,” it’s “not time to ease up” on social distancing and other protective measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

He said that as the Commonwealth and the City plan for a phased reopening, “we all have to stay the course right now so we can save lives. If we don’t, we’re even dealing with a second and even worse wave of the virus.”

He said that “there’s still too many people not wearing masks,” and urged people to provide more distance between each other when outdoors. “Be cautious and mindful,” he said.

Walsh said that the City continues to rely on the Boston Hope field hospital at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, and as of Monday there were 161 patients being served there, 63 on the shelter side and 98 on the hospital side.

With a weekend of nice weather, Walsh thanked “everyone who did their part this weekend; keeping up with social distancing and covering their faces.”

He also thanked his neighborhood liaisons, who distributed more than 70,000 booklets to convenience stores, banks and food distribution sites across the city over the weekend. The booklets include information on how to stay safe, make face coverings,

and practice social distancing.

After Governor Baker announced last week an order for everyone over the age of two to wear face covering in public when six feet of distance between people cannot be maintained, Walsh emphasized the importance of wearing a face covering while walking on the street, while riding the MBTA, while in the grocery store or pharmacy, and “anytime you are outside your home when you cannot ensure enough distance between yourself and others.”

Testing Update

As of May 4, Boston had 10,077 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 442 people had died.

Walsh said on May 4 that 28,000 people have been tested in Boston, which is four percent of the City’s population. Last week, the City was able to increase testing by 44 percent, and Walsh said that the positive rate is at 32 percent and “trending down.” He said that numbers of positive tests were lower in Mattapan, Hyde Park, and West Roxbury, but they were higher in the Fenway after testing late last week. The percentage of positive tests was lower last week in East Boston as well, but the neighborhood still has the highest number of positive tests in all of Boston, Walsh said.

By the end of this week there will be 19 total testing sites across the City, Walsh said, including more sites in Jamaica Plain and Charlestown. He told residents that if they think they need a test,

they should contact their local health center ahead of time as “you cannot show up and just get a test.”

More than 1800 homeless individuals have also been tested so far, and two have passed away.

“The antibody testing initiative is also wrapping up,” Walsh said on Monday, which will give the City “a bit of a snapshot of where we stand with people.” He said a summary of these results will also be made publicly available.

Distribution Of Grants To Over 500 Small Businesses

Mayor Walsh announced on May 5 that the City’s Small Business Relief Fund will be “distributing \$2 million in grants to 561 small businesses most directly impacted by closures, policies, or general loss of revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” according to a release from the City.

The businesses are located in every neighborhood of the city, and the most affected industries include hospitality, personal care, arts and recreation, retail, and healthcare and social assistance, according to the City, and more than 75 percent of businesses who were awarded funding have fewer than five employees, many of which had trouble accessing federal assistance.

“The Small Business Relief Fund grants are critical to help struggling small businesses across the city address challenges brought on by COVID-19,” said Mayor Walsh. “These businesses are the

backbone of our economy, and the lifeblood of our communities. I’m proud we are able to assist them during this time, and am grateful to our partners who have stepped up in a big way to support Boston’s neighborhood business community.”

BPS Update

Walsh announced that an updated learning plan around attendance, grading, assignments, and scheduling went into effect on May 4.

“We did this because when we shut schools down, we hoped we’d be closed through the end of April, but then we had to change the way we do learning,” he said.

Walsh also said that no student will be held back this year and all will move onto the next grade, but if parents or guardians feel that their child would benefit from repeating a grade, that can be discussed.

A plan to honor graduating seniors is also in development, Walsh said. “We’re working on some special ways to celebrate them and their achievements.”

He also thanked all teachers “for stepping up in this crisis,” as this week is National Teachers Week. He also thanked students and parents for their “continued cooperation” as remote learning continues for the rest of the school year.

Walsh also talked about a special benefit authorized by the federal CARES Act, the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Card, or P-EBT, which is available for all

BPS and charter school students, he said. If a family is currently receiving SNAP benefits, it will automatically be added to their cards in the amount of \$5.70 per child per school day for as long as schools are closed, which comes out to \$28.50 per child per week.

No applications are required to receive this extra benefit, and P-EBT cards can be used anywhere where SNAP cards are currently used, he added. Cards will be mailed to families who are not currently enrolled in the SNAP program, and the use of these cards does not impact immigration status.

Additionally, over 58,000 meals were delivered to seniors through Meals on Wheels last week, Walsh said.

Traffic And Public Safety

Walsh has advised Bostonians and others driving in the city that empty roads are not a reason to speed, and the City speed limit is 25 mph. Two people were killed in motor vehicle related accidents in the month of April, and he also said there has been an uptick in shootings throughout the city.

With the weather warming up, more kids are outside playing, and Walsh said that motorists need to slow down and be aware of their surroundings. He said that if speed traps are necessary, they will be set out in the City.

“Be very careful,” Walsh said. “We don’t want any of our little ones hurt.”

Eliot K-8 preparing for Phase 2 of the virtual learning program

By Seth Daniel

Though it seems tame now, when the Eliot K-8 announced on March 11 it was closing for a week because of COVID-19 concerns, few could believe such a thing could happen – and even more, few could figure out what they would do with their children for a whole week.

That all seems like a distant memory as time has simply melted away and a one-week school closure is now nothing compared to school sessions now being done for the entire year. However, the drum continues to beat at the popular North End school that accommodates hundreds of Charlestown students.

“Parents have been great about wanting to share the bright spots, but we know we need to get better and kids need to be at the center,” said Principal Traci Griffith. “That’s been difficult as I’m used

to having to watch over 730 kids going between three buildings every day and now I’m trying to work from home and continue doing this work.”

This week, Principal Griffith – a Charlestown resident – said they have continued to evolve and change over the past eight weeks to figure out a new way of learning, and to prepare for what is coming.

“We are now figuring out how to go deeper with online learning and we are preparing for Phase 2 now,” she said. “That will start for students on May 4. This week, we’re ramping up... We need to work at the content and figure out how to get students back where they need to be at the end of a grade. We want to make sure a first grader is where they need to be at the end of first grade.”

Griffith said the Eliot was the first school to begin virtual learning and they have ramped up

quickly, but it was a huge learning curve. After closing suddenly on March 11, she said they had to clean the building and sanitize it. While they were doing that, teachers were preparing quickly for how to conduct Phase 1 of online learning, which they thought would last one week, maybe a little longer. At the same time, they ramped up a quick food service program at a couple of locations in Charlestown and the North End.

Now, with all of the other schools closed for a long time with them, the pack has seemingly caught up and all of the energy of the district is focused on creating a quality online learning experience for the remainder of the year.

Griffith has installed a family feedback survey for each of the five weeks of virtual learning that has occurred at the school. By week five, participation was way up and most every respondent had

rated the effort a 4 or 5 out of five. That has gone up significantly since the first week, she said.

The big thing is to be consistent, she said, because it can be scary to have so many unknowns as well as long-time routines broken.

“The unknown is scary,” she said. “It’s scary for us as educators. We’re trying to see into the future, but none of us can really know. We have to provide consistency and routines.”

One thing they are preparing for right now in Phase 2 is to get to a point of synchronous learning – which in common terms would mean teachers instructing students live on the computer. So, a 10 a.m. math class would be done live at 10 a.m. and students would be expected to be present to participate in the class. Along with that, they are trying to figure out how to differentiate learning, so that teachers can focus more on some students that need help, and less

on other students that understand the concepts.

That will happen, she said, by using the information teachers already know about their students.

“The teachers had their students from September to March,” she said. “Teachers have data on how students were doing up to March 11.”

And there have been other bright spots outside the classroom, she said, which has kept her positive.

Students were planning to put on the play ‘Julius Caesar’ this spring. When schools were closed at first, the students starting rehearsing online with the idea they would be able to come back to perform the play. Now, that’s off the table, but she said the students haven’t given up.

“They have been rehearsing every day at 10 a.m. online and are excited to start figuring out the choreography,” she said.

BAKER (from pg. 1)

entry of any person who refuses to wear a mask and does not have a valid medical reason not to, the order says.

"The Department of Public Health, local boards of health and authorized agents...are authorized to enforce this Order and if necessary may do so with the assistance of State or municipal police," according to the order, and while there is no standard fee implemented across the board, Baker is enabling municipalities to charge up to \$300 per violation of the order or guidance from the Department of Public Health.

"One of the major issues associated with this particular virus," Baker said, is that a "very significant portion of the people who contract this virus will never show symptoms at all. I can't stress that one enough."

He said this is why masks are especially important, as their "main purpose is to protect [others] from you as much as it is to protect you from [others]."

Reopening Advisory

Board Last week, the Baker-Polito administration announced the creation of a 17 person reopening advisory board that has been working over the past week and over the weekend on a phased plan to reopen the state

Reopening is "certainly something that I think is at the forefront of everyone's mind," Baker said at a press conference on April 20. "The advisory board has hit the ground running," he added, and has met with business organizations and leaders from municipalities across the Commonwealth. He said the goal for the board is to "hear from employers from across the Commonwealth," and to "gather as much data as they possibly can to make sure that we can offer up specific guidance."

So far, the board has met virtually with stakeholders from "23 different industry associations and community coalitions," Baker said, which represent more than 100,000 businesses and over 1.4 million employees in retail, life sciences, restaurants, tourism, construction, recreation, and more.

He said that the "best way to handle the reopening" is to "do it in a way consistent with data and recommendations" that come from other countries and different levels of government.

"This work is obviously going to be critical to make sure a smart, phased reopening will take place in Massachusetts," Baker said on April 30.

He said in the coming weeks, more "concrete" plans will be

available about what each phase will look like, and "where certain activities and industries fit into which phase." Baker also said information for businesses, such as guidance for social distancing and cleaning, will also be made available.

Baker said he was "very grateful to the many people across industries that have had to close their doors and adjust their work styles" during this crisis. "I think everybody's anxious to find a way to safely move forward."

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito reminded residents on May 4 that when May 18 comes, it "doesn't mean the economy across the Commonwealth will just open," she said. Governor Baker has reiterated several times throughout the past couple weeks that they must rely on testing and hospital data to make the safest decision for what can open when.

"When the public health data indicates that COVID-19 is on that sustained downward trend that's been discussed by so many previously, we'll be able to resume more and more activities going forward," Baker said.

Contact Tracing Update

On April 30, Baker said that about 1000 people are working on the contact tracing collaborative,

and so far, the average number of contacts for infected people is two.

He said that this "means that the work that all of you and we have done here in Massachusetts to stay at home, separate, and socially distance has made a big difference."

He said the conversations that contact tracing callers have had with people has heavily leaned towards providing people with guidance and support and answering their questions and concerns around the virus and isolation practices.

Baker said that calls from an 833 or 857 area code or a Caller ID of MA COVID TEAM should be answered, as they are important for providing vital information to stop the spread of the virus.

Testing, Hospitalization Rate Update

Baker said on May 4 that May 3 was the "single highest" number of tests conducted in a single day in the Commonwealth, and it's "good to see the total test numbers continue to increase."

He said that as of May 3, 3,617 patients were hospitalized due to COVID-19, which is five percent of the total cases in the state.

"COVID hospitalizations have actually been decreasing in the past several days, with very few spikes

in new admissions," he said.

He added the number of patients in the ICU has dropped as well.

He said that while there are "obviously still thousands of people" who are sick, "the numbers have started to trend in the right direction" and different parts of the state are in different stages.

He added that the state has had "tremendous success" with the Telehealth program, and people should continue using it to communicate with health care providers, but if people are experiencing a medical emergency, they should call 911 or go to the emergency room, as hospitals have plenty of room and are prepared to care for non-COVID related conditions.

Baker said that he will "continue to ramp up testing for months to come," and will continue to invest in the contact tracing program. He also said that it's "important to remember that as long as there is no vaccine," the state will have to continue discussions about how to operate the state in the most safe way.

"The threat of future transmission and illness will be with us for a very long time and we can't forget that," Baker said.

BUDGET (from pg. 1)

Michlewitz said. "It could be a really fast comeback, but it's more likely to be a slow recovery. We don't want to project too high or too low, so the process will be flexible because of the uncertainty."

But despite this uncertainty, the FY '21 budget must be finalized by July 1, and unlike the federal government, the state doesn't have the luxury of going into a deficit. "They can print their own money whereas we at the state have different circumstances," Rep. Michlewitz said.

The state is now looking at a number of different financial forecasts that predict budget shortfalls between \$2 billion and \$6 billion.

"Six Billion is more severe, so obviously we're hoping it turns out to be closer to two billion," he said. "Either way, it's going to be tough to manage the budget."

Moreover, between \$14 billion and \$16 billion has already been earmarked, such as for funding Mass Health, leaving the state around \$29 billion for discretionary spending.

"Hypothetically, we're looking at about one-fifth of the budget being cut, and that will have a drastic impact on social ser-

vices and state agencies like [the Department of Conservation and Recreation] that are going to have severe shortfalls and severe cuts being made," Rep. Michlewitz said. "It could also trickle down into the schools and a number of other places as well."

Still, Rep. Michlewitz said how this all plays out is now largely dependent on the course that the novel coronavirus takes.

"The virus dictates a lot of that, since the sooner we flatten the curve, the sooner we can open the economy up, but right now, I'd say that's a ways off," he said. "And will the pandemic have a second wave later in the year? That obviously is a huge factor in how we operate the state budget."

On top of trying to manage the budget, Rep. Michlewitz has been instrumental in several new measures taken by the state to provide some relief to its residents and businesses during the ongoing pandemic.

Besides devising a "new scenario" where restaurants can also offer beer and wine for takeout and delivery, the legislature was also successful in cancelling MCAS testing requirements for the school year because of students' inability

to take the test or study properly, he said.

Also, Rep. Michlewitz said the state now allows electronic notarization for real estate closings and other services while a "mechanism" was also put into place that provides immediate funding to homeless shelters for their COVID-19 response.

"A number of bills have been passed to extend unemployment benefits," he added. "We worked with the federal government to extend those benefits to as much of population as possible."

Rep. Michlewitz and his colleagues at the State House also passed a moratorium on evictions and foreclosure for residents and commercial businesses.

And yet another bill he helped champion delays the due date of state income-tax payments until July 15.

"There's a huge amount of revenue we usually depend on not coming in while we allow people to delay paying their income tax," Rep. Michlewitz said. "Because of that, we created a bill to allow the state treasurer to borrow money to pay for Fiscal Year '20 responsibilities."

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COVID-19 Updates for North End

By John Lynds

With a dramatic increase in testing for COVID-19 among Boston residents, the number of those infected with the COVID-19 virus has increased in some neighborhoods while places like the North End seem relatively stable.

According to Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) data the infection rate in the North End, West End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay and Downtown remains low.

In BPHC data released last Friday North End, West End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay and Downtown had an infection rate of 53.7 cases per 10,000 residents with only 299 confirmed cases reported.

When compared to neighboring neighborhoods like East Boston, which reported 971 confirmed COVID-19 cases last week and an infection rate of 206.9 cases per 10,000 residents, the North End, West End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay and Downtown has the second lowest infection rates among resi-

dents second to only Charlestown. The stats released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID-19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

According to the BPHC data Eastie, Mattapan and Dorchester experienced elevated levels of testing positive at or above 33 percent during the past week suggesting a need for increased testing relative to other Boston neighborhoods.

Citywide there are currently 10,077 positive cases of coronavirus—confirmed and presumptive. So far, 2,384 of these 10,077 residents have fully recovered. There have been 442 COVID-19 related deaths among Boston residents. Massachusetts has 69,087 positive cases of coronavirus and 4,090 deaths reported at this time.

At the mayor's daily press briefing on Monday Mayor Martin Walsh provided some additional data to illustrate the current state of the coronavirus outbreak in

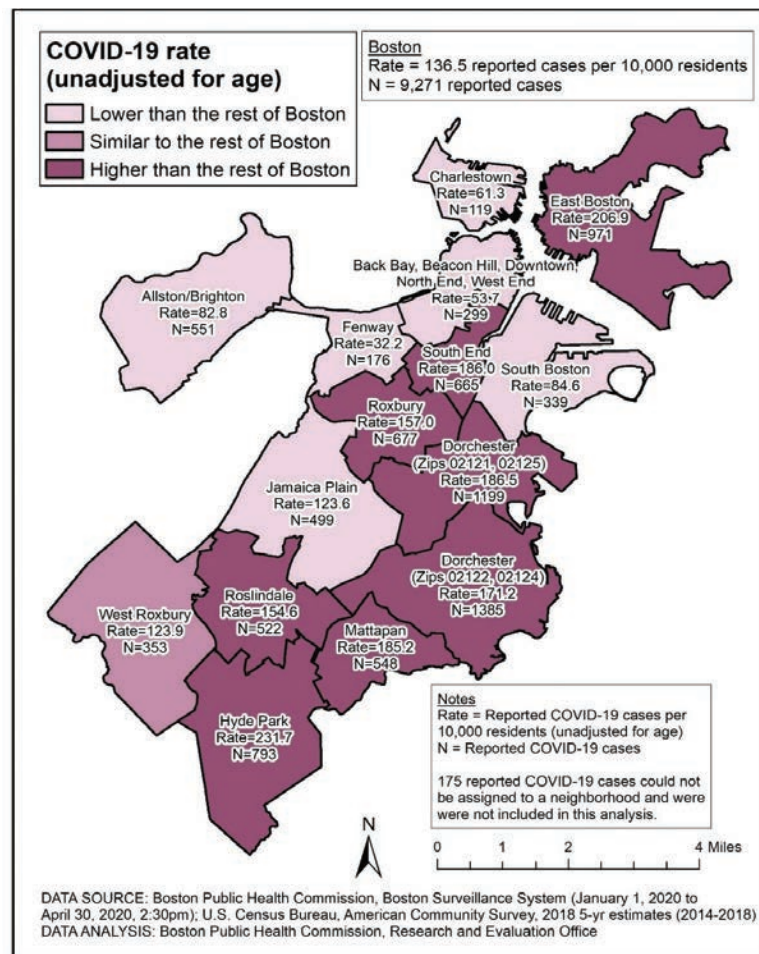
Boston.

"The number of people in ICU care for COVID-19 at Boston hospitals has been gradually going down," he said. "At the same time, Boston hospitals are still operating at around 120 percent of normal ICU capacity."

Mayor Walsh expressed that Boston is moving in the right direction, but that this is not a time to ease up on the precautions we are taking to prevent the spread of the virus.

Over the weekend the city began distributing new COVID-19 information booklets with information on how to stay safe during the coronavirus outbreak.

Walsh also reminded residents of Governor Baker's executive order requiring all Massachusetts residents over the age of 2 to wear face coverings in public and wherever physical distancing is a challenge. This order goes into effect on Wednesday, May 6 (today) and includes wearing a mask at grocery stores, retail stores, and on public transit.



The BPHC's latest breakdown of COVID-19 cases and infection rates for Boston that was released Friday.

Due to COVID-19, Suffolk County Register of Probate Felix Arroyo hosts online fundraiser for re-election

By John Lynds

For years, Suffolk County Register of Probate Felix Arroyo normally hosts a birthday fundraiser in April but the COVID-19 pandemic has cancelled those plans.

However, his son, District 5 Boston City Councilor Rocardo Arroyo has launched an online fundraising effort for his dad.

Arroyo was born on April 30, 1948 and established himself as a mainstay in Boston politics.

"Not only is my dad an amazing father to me and my siblings, he also spent his entire career serving others and fighting for justice," said Councilor Arroyo. "In April, we normally host a birthday fundraiser to support my father's campaign and work but, due to COVID-19, that was not possible this year. I ask that you please join me in making a donation to his re-election campaign and in honor of his birthday today. Donations are especially needed now because he will be on the ballot seeking re-election in just a few months."

Arroyo was raised in a public housing project in Puerto Rico by his late father, Felicito Arroyo, a World War II veteran and police detective, and his late mother, Elisa Arroyo, a garment seamstress and an ILGWU member.

Arroyo completed his under-



Suffolk County Register of Probate Felix Arroyo.

net of Mayor of Boston Raymond Flynn from 1985 until 1992. In 1992, Arroyo resigned his salaried position as the Director of Personnel for the City of Boston, in order to take an unpaid position as a member of the Boston School Committee. He would later serve as Vice President and President of the Boston School Committee, where he served from 1992 until 1999.

Prior to being elected Suffolk County Register of Probate Arroyo was elected as one of four at-large City Councilors in 2003, Arroyo was re-elected in November 2003 and November 2005.

In 2014 Arroyo announced he was running for Register of Probate for Suffolk County. He won the Democratic nomination with over 53% of the vote on September 9, 2014, and won an uncontested general election in November 2014.

He became the first Latino to win a county-wide political race in Massachusetts.

"Whether it was by being the first Latino on the Boston School Committee and the Boston City Council, the first Latino elected County Wide in Massachusetts, the Director of the Department of Transitional Assistance or the Executive Director of various

(ARROYO Pg. 8)

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Costa offers online ordering of produce and specialty foods for next-day pickup

Staff report

Consumers can now order a self-described "chef's selection" of fresh fruit, vegetables and specialty food online for next-day pickup from a Charlestown-based company.

Located at 18 Bunker Hill Industrial Park, Costa Fruit & Produce is offering its selection of the highest quality produce, artisan cheese, meats and ingredients for online ordering at <https://costafarmersmarket.com/> Monday through Thursday from noon to 4 p.m.

Selections include the 8.5-pound Savor's Market Meat

Box for \$50, with one pound of Savor's ground sirloin, two Choice 8-ounce New York strip steaks, a 3.5-pound whole Giannone chicken, one pound of bacon, one pound of boneless skinless chicken breast and one pound of boneless skinless chicken thighs; the Fresh Fruit Box for \$25, with one pineapple or melon, six pieces of stone fruit, six apples, six oranges, one container of berries, two pieces of topical fruit and one bag of grapes; the Fresh Veggie Box for \$25, with lettuce or greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, broccoli, two onions, one pound of carrots, two avocados, four squash or zucchini, two peppers and five pounds of potatoes; and

the Fresh Produce Box for \$40, with one order of lettuce or baby greens, two onions, tomatoes, broccoli, two peppers, two cucumbers, one pineapple or melon, six pieces of stone fruit, six apples, six oranges, one container of berries and one bag of grapes, among other options.

"We hope that by providing an alternative to shopping at a traditional market, we will make it easier for communities to maintain social distancing and still obtain delicious fresh foods," Manny Costa, the company's CEO and president said in a press release.

And Costa is also showing its appreciation for the healthcare profession by donating Fresh

Nutra-Snack kits to local hospital workers in the Boston area. The kits are produced at Costa's onsite, SQF certified processing facility and contain fresh fruit, juice and yogurt - all washed, sealed and ready to eat for workers on the go.

"Healthcare workers are putting themselves at risk every day fighting the COVID-19 virus. In appreciation of their heroic selfless effort we are happy to help where we can," Costa said in a press release.

Costa is also providing their drivers with the snack kits as they service essential workers throughout New England.



Costa Fruit & Produce's Fresh Nutra-Snack kits, which the Charlestown company distributed to local hospital workers in the Boston area.

Residents warned of scammers looking to hijack COVID-19 stimulus checks

With millions of people out of work and hoping to receive COVID-19 stimulus checks, the BPD and FBI are warning community members to be leery and wary of scammers seeking personal information either through email or phone calls as a precondition for any federal aid. To be clear, the US government is not sending emails or making phone calls asking for any individual's personal information in exchange for federal aid. Sadly, while the large majority of law-abiding citizens are looking for ways to help, scammers are looking for ways to use the COVID-19 pandemic to steal your money, your personal information, or both. Don't let them. Protect yourself and do your research before clicking on links purporting to provide information on the virus; donating to a charity online or through social media; contributing to a crowdfunding campaign; purchasing products online; or giving up your personal information in order to receive money or other benefits.

In addition to the above, the

FBI advises you to be on the lookout for the following:

•Fake CDC Emails:

Watch out for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or other organizations claiming to offer information on the virus. Do not click links or open attachments you do not recognize. Fraudsters can use links in emails to deliver malware to your computer to steal personal information or to lock your computer and demand payment. Be wary of websites and apps claiming to track COVID-19

cases worldwide. Criminals are using malicious websites to infect and lock devices until payment is received.

•Phishing Emails:

Look out for phishing emails asking you to verify your personal information in order to receive an economic stimulus check from the government. While talk of economic stimulus checks has been in the news cycle, government agencies are not sending unsolicited emails seeking your private information in order to send you money. Phishing emails may also

claim to be related to:

- *Charitable contributions
- *General financial relief
- *Airline carrier refunds
- *Fake cures and vaccines
- *Fake testing kits
- Counterfeit Treatments or Equipment:

Be cautious of anyone selling products that claim to prevent, treat, diagnose, or cure COVID-19. Be alert to counterfeit products such as sanitizing products and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including N95 respirator masks, goggles, full face shields,

protective gowns, and gloves.

More info on unapproved or counterfeit PPE can be found at www.cdc.gov/niosh.

In addition to filing a report with the Boston Police Department, victims are also encouraged to report suspicious activity through the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

Lastly, if someone knocks on your door or rings your bell claiming a need to enter your home or see personal information, do not allow them entry and call 9-1-1 immediately.

<p>DO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place leaves and yard debris in large paper bags or open barrels labeled "yard waste." • Tie branches with string 3 feet max length and 1 inch max diameter • Place barrels, bags, and branches curbside by 6 a.m. 	<p>DON'T:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No plastic bags • Don't put branches in barrels • No dirt 	<p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have two recycling days per week, collection is on your first recycling day of the week • We don't collect leaf and yard waste curbside on non-scheduled weeks • We collect Christmas trees from January 4 - 15, 2021 	<p>COMPOST AT HOME:</p> <p>You can buy backyard compost bins and kitchen-scrap buckets at:</p> <p>Boston Building Resources 100 Terrace St. Mission Hill, Roxbury</p> <p>For more information, go to: boston.gov/trash</p>
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■ Leaf and yard waste curbside collection
 ■ Household hazardous waste drop-off
 ■ 2021 Tree collection
 ■ Yard Waste drop off
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APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
SU M TU W TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	SU M TU W TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	SU M TU W TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	SU M TU W TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	SU M TU W TH FR SA 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY 2021
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Unemployment data shows new claims are overwhelmingly from white residents

Staff Report

For the fourth week in a row, new unemployment claims were lower than the previous week, and new data from the state shows that more than 80 percent of new claims since March 15 came from residents describing themselves as white.

Of the 722,552 new claims since March 15, some 82 percent – or 459,511 claims – were from white residents, with the next highest racial group being Hispanic residents at 15 percent (91,779 claims). That did not include the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims, which is a new type of unemployment for self-employed, gig workers and other workers that don't typically qualify for unemployment.

Of the other groups represented, Black/African Americans made up 10 percent of the new claims (54,584 claims) and Asian residents made up 8 percent (44,018).

The state Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) did not give any reasons as to the large numbers of white residents claiming unemployment since March 15. The sectors of the economy with the most new claims included Retail Trade, Food & Accommodations, and Healthcare & Social Assistance.

From April 19 to April 25, Massachusetts had 70,552 individuals file an initial claim for standard Unemployment Insurance (UI), the fourth consecutive week of fewer initial claims filed over the previous week. Since March 15, a total of 722,009 initial claims were filed. As the number of initial claims continues to decrease, the number of claimants filing for their weekly benefit each week continues to grow. For the week of April 19 to April 25, there were a total of 527,538 claimants, an increase of 13.8% over the previous week, who filed for their weekly unemployment benefits. Food and Accommodation with 93,168, Retail Trade at 69,333 and

Health and Social Assistance with 66,202 showed the largest number of claimants who filed for their weekly unemployment benefits.

The Cares Act created a new temporary federal program called Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), which provides unemployment benefits to individuals who are self-employed, gig workers and those not covered by regular unemployment compensation. In the week of April 19 to April 25, there were a total of 171,598 PUA claims.

From March 15 to April 25, combining UI and PUA, Massachusetts had a total of 893,607 claims filed for unemployment insurance.

Currently, the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is paying standard Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits to around 450,000 claimants and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance to around 150,000 claimants. Since March 15, nearly 700,000 Massachusetts total claims have been paid amounting to more than \$2.3 Billion in disbursements to beneficiaries of both programs.

Over the last month, the customer service staff at DUA has grown from around 50 employees to more than 1,200. The remote customer service operation is now making more than 25,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host daily unemployment town halls, held in both English and Spanish, which have been attended by more than 200,000 constituents. Massachusetts was one of the first states to successfully launch the PUA program. Due to DUA's previous efforts to migrate their systems to the cloud, the first unemployment agency in the country to do so, the unemployment online platforms for both regular UI and PUA has maintained functionality throughout the surge in demand.

*Below data and graphs relate to standard Unemployment Insurance (UI) only Initial Claims Filed.

ARROYO (from pg. 6)

community based organizations, he has opened doors that were sealed shut. He has made a lasting impact for all of us," said his son, Councilor Arroyo. "As the Suffolk County Register of Probate, representing all of Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop, he continues his life's work of fighting for justice and equity for all. That is why, not only as his son, but as his constituent, I am proud to stand with him as he runs for re-election this year. I ask that you join me."

Supporters can make a donation to <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/felix-arroyo-2>.

"While the maximum donation per person is \$1,000, there is no donation too small or unappreciated," said Councilor Arroyo. "Please give as much as you can so that his campaign will have the resources needed to win so my father can continue fighting for justice and equity as our Suffolk County Register of Probate."

Industry	Week Ending 4/18	Week Ending 4/25	Change	% Change
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	281	208	-73	-26.0%
Mining	13	12	-1	-7.7%
Utilities	82	50	-32	-39.0%
Construction	4,754	3,155	-1,599	-33.6%
Manufacturing	5,065	3,798	-1,267	-25.0%
Wholesale Trade	3,709	2,452	-1,257	-33.9%
Retail Trade	12,669	10,085	-2,584	-20.4%
Transportation & Warehouse	3,292	3,289	-3	-0.1%
Information	1,336	1,200	-136	-10.2%
Finance & Insurance	536	592	56	10.4%
Real Estate	1,040	977	-63	-6.1%
Professional and Technical Services	4,359	3,775	-584	-13.4%
Management of Companies	486	421	-65	-13.4%
Administrative & Waste Services	4,956	4,788	-168	-3.4%
Education	1,653	2,140	487	29.5%
Health & Social Assistance	9,249	9,271	22	0.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1,777	1,889	112	6.3%
Food & Accommodation	9,564	7,515	-2,049	-21.4%
Other Services	5,383	4,833	-550	-10.2%
Public Administration	1,244	1,604	360	28.9%
Information Not Available	8,705	8,498	-207	-2.4%

SCHOOLS (from pg. 1)

ly released guidance to schools, underscoring that student

learning will continue, while keeping health and safety as our top priority," said Cassellius. "We understand that this is a challenging time for all of us as we balance work, home life, caring for loved ones, and the education of our children while also working to remain safe during this health crisis."

As part of the new policies, no student will be held back in their grade. All students will advance to the next grade and have opportunities for summer learning and additional support in the fall. If parents believe their child would benefit from repeating their grade, they can request a meeting with their teacher to discuss further.

"Every school will share a class schedule with families and students," said Cassellius. "Teachers will record daily attendance each week. Attendance includes completing learning activities or interaction with teachers/staff. Teachers in grades K0-5 will record daily attendance. Teachers in grades 6-12 will record daily attendance by course."

Cassellius said students will receive grades and feedback on their assigned projects and tasks.

Elementary students (grades K0-5) will receive a Term 3 grade of Meets Expectations,

Approaching Expectations, or Not Yet Meeting Expectations. Secondary students (grades 6-12) will receive a Term 3 letter grade if it is above their average grade from Terms 1 and 2.

Otherwise, secondary students will earn a grade of Pass or Incomplete and that grade will not be factored into their final grade.

"Each school schedule will include class times, and a school

staff member will contact each student at least every three days," said Cassellius.

Students with disabilities will receive services that can reasonably be provided in a remote learning environment by their assigned team of educators in relation to the goals

identified in the student's IEP and ELS students will receive ESL instruction based on their English Development Level.

As for graduation for seniors Cassellius said graduation is a celebration of students, their families, and their school communities and BPS is working on several opportunities to celebrate this year's graduations citywide and with each school.

At the Eliot School in the North End, Principal Tracy Griffith said as the school begins to celebrate National Teacher Appreciation week she couldn't be more proud of her staff.

"We have an outstanding faculty of committed, energetic educators who work tirelessly with our students and families to ensure our students are critical thinkers and problem solvers," said Griffith. "Please join me in saying 'Thank you to the best faculty in Boston!' Eliot Teachers rock."

Griffith said the Eliot is excited to launch the new updated virtual learning schedule that went into effect on Monday, May 4.

"Students will have increased live Zoom learning with their teachers and classmates. Throughout the day, students will have many opportunities to experience whole class instruction in both content and enrichment," said Griffith. "All students will also have time to work with their teacher and peers in small groups or one-one con-

ferences for more targeted instruction. As a learning organization, we will continue to make adjustments based on feedback from our entire school community. We are thinking about you everyday and your children are at the center of every decision we make as a school community."

Griffith said the Eliot will continue to collaborate with families and students to provide continuity, coherence and connection in our virtual learning journey.

"At The Eliot and in Boston we know we are always stronger together," she said.

Both Cassellius and Mayor Walsh thanked Boston's teachers and staff for their continued cooperation during this difficult time, acknowledging that this week is Teachers Appreciation Week.

The Mayor stated that throughout the final weeks of the school year, BPS will continue distributing free meals for students and other resources; connecting with students on a routine basis; and collaborating with school communities, non-profit partners, and parent groups, to ensure that students are getting the support they need.

"We are so grateful to our teachers, food workers, technology staff, and other frontline workers

who are working tirelessly to get our children what they need to learn and stay healthy," said Cassellius. "We care deeply for our students and families and look forward to continuing to build meaningful connections with all of you as we close out our school year over the next several weeks. If you have any questions about this information please contact your school principal."

‘We can not shelter in Place’

Commissioner Gross says police will not run from the fight

By Seth Daniel

The Boston Police Department (BPD) has a tremendous legacy and history of working through just about every situation – from terrorist bombings in 2013 to urban rioting in the 1960s – but there are no officers still on the rolls that have worked through a pandemic.

For the BPD, Commissioner William Gross said they are entering uncharted territory as a police force – responding to regular criminal activity and COVID-19 situations as well, while also trying to protect the officers and staff in the department so as to be able to keep operating full-force.

Bottom line, they will not run from the fight, he said.

“We haven’t gone through anything like this since 1918 in terms of working in an environment where there’s a pandemic,” he said in an interview on Tuesday. “We have had no delays of terms in service during this pandemic. The officers have been performing exceptionally...It’s not joke though. I think the morale is great and work ethic is great, but certainly there is a concern out there about how this virus can affect you. When you’re getting updated and getting information on this, there are so many opinions it can be confusing. But we can’t run from it. We have to work through it.”

Gross’s message to the public is that the officers are filling gaps wherever possible in helping deliver food and in supporting the schools, while also fighting crime,

taking guns off the streets and protecting older adults from a rising amount of scams and targeted crime.

The work has not stopped, he said, even as officers are getting sick, and even having Jamaica Plain Officer Jose Fontanez pass away from COVID-19 two weeks ago.

“We can’t shelter in place,” he said. “Not only do we have to respond to calls for service that report criminal activity, but also we have to respond to calls for mental health issues and we cannot forget our unhoused population and those people with substance abuse disorders. The first responders fighting through this cannot shelter in place.”

COVID-19 has hit the department in several ways.

On Tuesday, Gross said they had 81 sworn officers and civilians in the department who have tested positive for the disease, and at the moment there are 46 still out fighting COVID. However, several others have recovered and returned to work.

“We have people that are so committed - they go through COVID and heal and get back to work because they know it will take everyone to defeat this disease,” he said. “That’s inspiring.”

One of those inspirations was Officer Omar Borges, who works the citywide drug unit, who recovered from a very serious case of COVID-19 last week. In a very emotional moment, he was reunited with his family and fellow officers outside Beth Israel Hospital. It was a victory, said Gross.



Officers and family members of Officer Omar Borges – who is assigned to the citywide drug unit – gathered last week to celebrate his touch-and-go recovery from COVID-19. Commissioner William Gross said it was a victory for everyone during an uncharted time for police officers.



“He almost died, he really almost died,” said Gross. “For him to fight through that, to be there with his friends, family and the medical staff, it was a victory for everyone. It shows everyone to never give up...It sends a great message to do everything we can to remain healthy and even if you’re in the hospital battling this disease, you can come out of it.”

At the same time, they remember Officer Fontanez who did not win his battle with COVID-19, and that’s a reminder for officers to be safe and to do things to help them in the field.

Gross said at the outset of the response, Mayor Martin Walsh met with the Police Command Staff, Boston EMS and Boston Fire to review all of the guidelines and protocols and systems recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). That resulted in two videos put out to those in the field on how to approach many situations, and the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) they would need.

Gross said officers now report to calls in masks, and are advised to

wear them when off-duty as well when they cannot socially distance themselves. Having a mask on, though, can present a problem when trying to communicate with others in critical situations.

“It’s very much kind of standard for us,” he said. “Every call we go to now, we have our masks on and make sure everybody is clearly communicating. It’s tough to talk though the masks and people cannot always hear you.”

There are a lot of precautions also taken on calls. Police officers are one group that is discreetly given the addresses of those who have tested positive for COVID-19 so they can be aware of that if they are called to such an address. The information doesn’t go out over the police radio, and no names are attached to the warning.

Meanwhile, they’ve also brought out an old practice known as ‘Call Screening.’ If someone calls 9-1-1 and only needs a police report for the matter – not a response – call-takers can do the report over the phone. It’s something that used to be done years ago, and was brought back to limit unnecessary

interactions in person. That has been one change in response, and has been working successfully so far.

Gross said another thing the public can do is to wear a mask when officers show up at a home, and also be as forthcoming and honest as possible with the 9-1-1 operators. Give good information, and if one is sick with COVID-19, let responding officers know so they can be prepared to safely offer services.

The Commissioner concluded by expressing his thanks to all of the officers and civilians in the department – as well as first responders in the Fire Department and Boston EMS. He also had a heartfelt thank you to the health care workers – who the Boston Police and other first responders thanked with a rolling rally two weeks ago.

“We know what it is to bust your butt working and get no thanks for it,” he said. “This was a sincere thank you to them. Like us, they cannot shelter in place...It was a public display to say thank you.”

Justice Department committed to investigating predatory practices in housing amid pandemic

The Attorney General has directed U.S. Attorney’s Offices across the country to investigate reports of housing-related sexual harassment resulting from the current COVID-19 pandemic.

As the country adopts drastic measures to slow the spread of COVID-19, many Americans have lost their jobs and many more have seen their wages curtailed. These losses have forced some to seek abatements or suspensions of their rent. According to a recent memo from the Attorney General, there

have been reports of landlords who have responded to requests to defer rent payments with demands for sexual favors and other acts of unwelcome sexual conduct. Such behavior is illegal under the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin and disability. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by the Act. Sexual harassment by landlords, property managers, maintenance workers, and others

with power over housing often impacts society’s most vulnerable populations.

“Sexual harassment in housing is illegal and despicable,” said United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling. “No person should have to tolerate this behavior in order to keep a roof over his or her head. This conduct is unacceptable in normal times, and certainly will not be tolerated in the midst of a pandemic. My office will aggressively investigate these cases.”

The Attorney’s General’s directive reaffirms the commitment that the Department of Justice made when it launched the Sexual Harassment Initiative in October 2017. The initiative seeks to identify barriers to reporting sexual harassment in housing, increase awareness of its enforcement efforts – both among survivors and those they may report to – and collaborate with federal, state, and local partners to increase reporting and help survivors quickly and easily connect with federal

resources.

If you think you are a victim of sexual harassment by a landlord, or other person who has control over housing, resulting from the COVID-19 crisis, contact the U.S. Attorney’s Office by calling 888-221-6023 or emailing USAMA.VictimAssistance@usdoj.gov. For more information, visit www.justice.gov/crt/sexual-harassment-housing-initiative.

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Courtesy photo

Lanterns lit in Old North Church Steeple

By Phil Orlandella

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.

Two ceremonial lanterns were lit to mark the beginning of

North End's Bricco now open for take out

By Phil Orlandella

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 Fund 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 nomination. (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

FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY MEETINGS NOT CONFIRMED

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the May monthly schedule for NEWRA, NEWNC and FOCCP have not been confirmed or canceled. Interested parties should contact the organization (s) for more information.

FILE CENSUS FORMS

The 2020 Federal Census is being conducted online and residents are encouraged to participate in the movement, which has an impact on the State and City.

PLAYGROUND CLOSED

The children's playground at Columbus Park has been closed until further notice.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park (FOCCP) is currently conducting its annual membership drive. For more info visit www.foccp.org.

DOG PARKS CLOSED

Due to non-compliance with the rules, RUFF has closed both dog parks in the North End indefinitely.

RMV MAY EXTENSIONS

Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has implemented further extensions to renewal timelines for the month of May to 60 days.

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.

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.

STAR MARKET SHUTTLE

For a Star Market Shuttle schedule call Crystal Transportation at 1-800-879-7433.

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.

BPL EXPANDS SERVICES

Boston Public Library (BPL) has expanded statewide remote services and online events.

City Council holds hearing on coronavirus relief grant

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Ways and Means held a hearing on Monday regarding a grant from the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

The Council discussed a "message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of \$120,853,359 in the form of a grant awarded by the United States Department of the Treasury to be administered by the City of Boston from the Coronavirus Relief Fund established by section 5001 of the CARES Act," according to City Councilor and Chair of the Ways and Means Committee Kenzie Bok.

The City's budget director, Justin Sterritt, was on hand to give an overview of the Federal CARES Act and explain how Boston plans on using this grant awarded by the federal government.

Sterritt said that the CARES Act was passed and signed on March 27, and consists of a stimulus package in the amount of \$2 million to "address the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19."

He said that Boston's allotment is up to \$121 million, and is restricted in what it can be used for. "It must be a necessary expenditure incurred due to the public health emergency," he said, and for expenditures incurred during the period beginning March 1, 2020 and ending December 30, 2020.

"We will need very detailed accounting" on how the money will be spent he said. "This fund-

ing cannot be used as a revenue replacement," he added, as the money can only be used for "public health and public safety expenditures directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Sterritt said he anticipates the funding being used for "unanticipated and necessary City costs related to COVID-19," including personal protective gear for City staff, cleaning and disinfection of public areas and city facilities, technology to allow public employees to work remotely, Chromebooks and software for distance learning, and public health and medical expenditures, such as the Boston Hope facility at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

He said the money can also be used for "ongoing public health measures" related to the pandemic, such as testing and contact tracing, disease containment, quarantine and isolation, communication and community engagement, and more. It can also be used for payroll expenses for City employees in public safety, public health, health care, and human services.

Other expenses that this money qualifies for include food delivery to senior citizens and other vulnerable residents, care for the homeless population, and support for youth and education, Sterritt said. These allotted funds must last until December 2020 to address these ongoing concerns.

Sterritt was asked how this money relates to money distributed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"We know that FEMA is not going to be here forever," he

responded. He said that the City qualifies money from FEMA as the first bucket of money that the city would use for things like emergency food money, and then this grant money would be a "secondary plot of money."

He also added that if something the grant money is spent on is "deemed ineligible for use by the federal government," the City will have to reimburse the federal government.

"The goal is to maximize the federal relief money," Sterritt said.

The City Council then asked questions and raised concerns about this money and how it can be best spent. The councilors thanked the administration for their partnership on this issue, as well as stated the fact the discussion around this grant money and other funds will be ongoing as the coronavirus situation continues to unfold in the City.

"I think that we're all cognizant of the fact that this is just a really moving, evolving target," Councilor Bok said. "I certainly want to stress how important I think it is for us to move in every way we can to maximize our federal funds that we have access to."

She added that the Council's budget process looks very different this year, and "is going to have to be a more continual thing this year than we're used to it being in the sense that we can expect rolling stimuli and impacts both positive and negative at the federal and state level that are not going to track our fiscal year deadline," she said. "We're all looking forward to that continuing to be a very active conversation."

North Washington Street Bridge (Charlestown Bridge) Construction Look-Ahead:

North Washington Street Bridge (Charlestown Bridge) Construction Look-Ahead: May 3 - 16

TRAVEL IMPACTS

• **OVERNIGHT LANE REDUCTIONS:** Overnight lane reductions in both directions will continue during weeknights from 9 p.m. - 5 a.m. At least one lane across the bridge and all turn movements will be available.

• **N. WASHINGTON STREET INBOUND:** Off-peak daytime lane reductions across the bridge and additional lane reductions at Keany Square will continue. One lane across the bridge and all turn movements will be available from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on weekdays.

• **N. WASHINGTON STREET OUTBOUND:** Off-peak daytime lane reductions will continue across the bridge to City Square. One lane across the bridge and all turn movements will be available from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. on weekdays.

DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

• Construction of the temporary pedestrian and vehicle bridge includes installing, bridge assembly, lead abatement, drainage work, and welding of bridge spans, supports, guard rails, and light poles.

WORK HOURS

• Daytime (6 a.m.-4 p.m.) on

weekdays and overnight (9 p.m.-5 a.m.)

• From 5/14 - 5/16, crews will work 24 hours a day, to install the temporary bridge fender system in the Charles River. The period of 24-hour work on the fender system is anticipated to run approximately 30 days.

WORK THAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED

• Further construction of the temporary pedestrian and vehicle bridge. Completion of the utility bridge.

PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS:

The bridge's eastern sidewalk is open and available to all pedestrians and cyclists with crossings at both Keany and City Squares. Please be advised that the DCR-controlled Charlestown locks can provide another alternate route but may close without warning. Closures are beyond control of this project. During Tudor Wharf walkway closures, pedestrian access will be provided via the Water Street underpass and guidance signage will be provided.

The contractor is coordinating with the TD Garden and local police to provide awareness and manage traffic impacts during events. For your awareness, there will be no events at the TD Garden during this look ahead schedule.



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Local restaurants find unique ways to celebrate Mother's Day

By Dan Murphy

While a traditional meal out with Mom to celebrate Mother's Day is out of the question this year, some local restaurants offering takeout and delivery are thinking of other ways to mark the occasion.

Bin 26 Enoteca at 26 Charles St., which is available for delivery via Uber Eats, as well as takeout, is offering "Bubbles and Brunch," a brunch special that comes with the option of a couple of different sparkling wines and an à la carte menu that includes classic brunch dishes, as well as lunch items. Details are available at Bin26.com.

For lunch and dinner on Mother's Day, Bin 26's sister establishment - jm Curley in Downtown Crossing - is offering partially cooked meals for \$35, including farfalle Bolognese-style, which comes with three cups of sauce; one 8.8-ounce package of Pappardelle Nest pasta; four ounces of parmesan cheese; two salads (your choice of house or Caesar); bread for two; and two desserts.

The restaurant also has a filet mignon special for \$35 per person, which comes with one individually CryoSealed cut of filet; two ounces of bordelaise; one tablespoon of herb butter; one twice-baked potato; one-half bunch of broccoli rabe; olive oil, minced garlic, parmesan and chili flakes; and chocolate lava cake for dessert. All filet orders must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 8, by calling 617-338-5333 or emailing info@jmcurlieboston.com for prepara-

tion by Mother's Day.

For more information, visit jmcurliey.com or check out jm Curley on social media.

Frank Depasquale, who owns several restaurants in the North End, has a number of options available for mothers on their special day.

Trattoria il Panino at 11 Parmenter St./280 Hanover St. is now offering its entire menu for takeout, including pasta, appetizers and all the main courses, such as Chicken Parmigiana, Bistecca (a grilled rib-eye steak with hand-cut Italian fries) and Mom's Quattro Carni Ragu, with homemade meatball, sausage, braciolo and pork short-ribs in the restaurant's old recipe Ragu sauce.

"The whole reason we're opening is for Mother's Day," said Depasquale, adding that the restaurant only began offering takeout service on Thursday, May 7.

Quattro at 264 Hanover St. (617-720-0944) offers brick-oven pizza, as well as Panini and appetizers, while Dolce at 272 Hanover St. (617-720-4243) has a wide selection of gelato, pastries and what Depasquale describes as "the best espresso around."

"We also have homemade cannoli filled at the moment with six different flavors, as well as sandwiches and Sicilian-style pizza," Depasquale also said of Dolce.

Bricco Ristorante & Enoteca at 241 Hanover St. (617-248-6800) offers Neapolitan brick-oven pizza, along with a full menu featuring steak tips, burgers and appetizers, as well as a wide selec-

tion of high-end wines now at a 50-percent discount.

And what Depasquale describes as "our hidden secret," Bricco Salumeria + Pasta Shop at 11 Broad Alley has a full selection of breads, baguettes, Italian meat and olive oil, as well as pasta made on the premises.

"It's a simple little pasta shop, but you can get everything there to make a whole meal at home," Depasquale said.

Besides grocery items, the store also offers made-to-order deli sandwiches, which are available for delivery on UberEats, DoorDash and Postmates.

While Antonio's Cucina Italiano at 288 Cambridge St. is closed on Sundays, including Mother's Day, the restaurant is offering its regular and catering menus, which include many easy-to-reheat dishes such as eggplant parmesan, baked ziti, manicotti and meatballs, for takeout on Saturday.

"They hold up easy and you can just slide them in the oven," said Steven Colarusso, the restaurant's owner.

Antonio's offers takeout Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 a.m. by calling ahead to 617-367-3310, and the restaurant provides a 20-percent discount on all dinner orders.

Although no vendors from the Boston Public Market are offering any specials for Mother's Day this year, several have items available for delivery through the Mercato delivery service (www.mercato.com) that Chelsea Renaud Doliner, director of marketing and commu-



Bricco Salumeria + Pasta Shop at 11 Broad Alley offers all the necessary ingredients to cook a Mother's Day feast at home.

nications for the Boston Public Market Association, said "would be perfect brunch/breakfast in bed offerings."

These include four popovers for \$10 from the Popover Lady; a package of smoked salmon pâté, smoked bluefish pâté and simply smoked salmon fillet for \$30 from Boston Smoked Fish; Make your Own Edible Arrangements and Decorate your Own Fudge Boxes, for \$20 and \$18 each, respectively, from Red Apple Farm; and an Around the World Spice Kit for \$90 from Soluna Garden.

For Mother's Day, Harvard Gardens at 316 Cambridge St. plans to expand its regular menu, which includes nacho and taco

kits to take home, to offer some specials "that will be elevated to celebrate Moms," said Luke Beardslee, the restaurant's acting chef.

Joe Hicks, acting manager of Harvard Gardens, added these specials were still a "moving target" as of Tuesday afternoon, but said they are likely to include steak and salmon offerings.

Harvard Gardens, which is available for delivery via Grubhub, as well as takeout (call 617-523-2727 to place an order), also wants to be there for any mothers who are employed at neighboring Mass General Hospital and get stuck working on Sunday.

"We just want to be here for them," Hicks said.

Walsh appoints John Dempsey as Commissioner of the Boston Fire Department

Mayor Martin J. Walsh last week announced the appointment of longtime Boston firefighter John (Jack) Dempsey as Commissioner of the Boston Fire Department. Commissioner Dempsey has served in the interim role of Commissioner since the retirement of former Commissioner Joe Finn last month.

"I am proud to name Firefighter Jack Dempsey as the Commissioner of the Boston Fire Department," said Mayor Walsh. "He has dedicated his life in his professional career and personal capacity to promoting safety and wellness for firefighters, and I look forward to his continued leadership in this critically important department."

Since taking leadership of the Boston Fire Department in March, Commissioner Dempsey has pro-

actively prioritized the health and safety of firefighters during the COVID-19 pandemic by supplying firefighters with personal protective equipment, ensuring the frequent sanitation of firehouses, adjusting staffing levels to ensure social distancing, implementing mandatory training for infectious disease response, and more.

Commissioner Dempsey has been a member of the Boston Fire Department for 35 years, having served in multiple leadership capacities including most recently as Chief of Operations for the department, where he oversaw all division of the Boston Fire Department, including the engine company, fire prevention, ladder company, rescue company, safety and special operations, emergency

planning and preparedness, training and personnel. In this role, he was the highest ranking uniformed firefighter in the force.

He also previously served for four years as the Boston Fire Marshal, where he managed the Fire Prevention Division which is responsible for all fire code and regulation enforcement. In that role, he also oversaw the operation of the fire investigation unit, construction safety unit and all inspections required by Massachusetts General Laws.

"I am proud to be named the Commissioner of the Boston Fire Department, and want to thank Mayor Walsh for the opportunity to serve the residents of Boston in this role," said Commissioner Jack Dempsey. "As a lifelong member

of the department, this is a tremendous honor for me, and I look forward to building on the strong foundations set to ensure the safety and well-being of our firefighters and our community."

Commissioner Dempsey has previously served in several other capacities including on the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations for four years, the Automatic Sprinkler Appeals Board for four years, the Walsh-Kennedy Commission on Hot Work, and the Construction Fire Safety Partnership. He is a current member of the Fire Service Advisory Council, and was instrumental in the development and implementation of the National Fire Protection Association's Hot Work Safety Certification Program.



New Fire Commissioner John Dempsey was appointed by Mayor Martin Walsh last week. Former Commissioner Joe Finn retired in March just prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.

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