

# WEST ROXBURY ~ ROSLINDALE BULLETIN

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APRIL 16, 2020



## Shopping while social distancing



Residents of West Roxbury have to line up almost to the United States Post Office to properly social distance themselves and shop for groceries.

PHOTO BY CHRIS LANG

**Ariane Komyati**  
Staff Reporter

With the number of COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts growing by the day, many local grocery stores are taking extra steps to ensure social distancing while customers shop. Some of these new rules include wearing a facemask in the store, a limited number of people in the store at once, dedicated hours for the elderly and immunocompromised, and no contact deliveries.

Roche Bros. in West

Roxbury is one of many stores following these precautions. Last month, the supermarket announced their new hours: 7AM-8AM for the elderly and those with disabilities, and 8AM-6PM for all other customers. Roche Bros. also announced that they would be closed on Easter and Easter Monday to give all their hard working staff time to decompress and relax during these difficult times.

On Friday, Apr. 10, many senior customers rushed to

**Social Distancing**  
Continued on page 6

## Council looks at housing stability, stopping evictions

**Jeff Sullivan**  
Staff Reporter

Last Thursday, April 9, the Boston City Council met for a hearing to discuss those facing eviction and displacement.

The hearing was a combination of two hearing orders, one from District 2 City Councilor Edward Flynn looking to support tenants facing eviction and displacement, called for before the current outbreak of COVID-19.

Flynn's order called for looking at methods the city could utilize to support those facing eviction by helping to provide legal counsel (which in New York allowed 84 percent of those facing eviction

to stay in their homes between 2017 and 2018), increasing notice to quit periods, increasing affordable housing and others.

The other hearing order, headed by District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards, is a response to the recent COVID-19 outbreak. Her hearing order focused on more short-term and emergency rental assistance.

Office of Housing Stability (OHS) Deputy Director Domonique Williams discussed measures the city had been taking before the outbreak to help tenants stay in their homes. She said tenant protections, like legal repre-

**Housing Stability**  
Continued on page 8

## Steward Health Care pauses 401(k) contributions



Any Steward worker who joined their local union will be safe at St. Elizabeth's from losing their 401(k) matched contributions.

COURTESY PHOTO

**Jeff Sullivan**  
Staff Reporter

Steward Health Care System announced last week that where it can, it will be pausing its matching contributions to employee 401(k) accounts.

For any union workers whose union has negotiated 401(k) contributions as part of their contract, Steward stated it will not be changing its contributions in any way.

"They ceased all employer 401(k) contributions for all staff all over Massachusetts

and all over the United States for all employees who do not have the benefit of a union contract that locks in the employer's retirement contributions," said Director of Public Communications at the Massachusetts Nurses Association David Schildmeier. "So all non-union workers in Mass including RNs at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Norwood Hospital and St. Anne's Hospital, are impacted by this decision. Our members at Steward Hospitals have a union contract so they are not impacted by the decision."

A spokesperson for Steward Health Care, Darren Grubb, said he wanted to emphasize that this is a temporary measure, born of the necessity of the current COVID-19 outbreak, which he said has caused significant disruptions within the company's business practices.

"Like many other health care systems and companies around the country, this unprecedented moment is forcing us to make some difficult

**Steward Health**  
Continued on page 7

## Pierce St. Neighborhood Watch meets via Zoom to coordinate aid efforts

**Mary Ellen Gambon**  
Staff Reporter

The Pierce St. Neighborhood Watch became Hyde Park's first community group to hold its monthly meeting virtually, as 12 people participated in a Zoom meeting on Tues., April 7 at 6 p.m. to discuss how to bring resources to neighbors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting, organized by co-chairs Melanie Daye and James Michel, was attended by Area E-18 police officers, residents, and members of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) and the West

**Pierce Street**  
Continued on page 14



Pierce Street Neighborhood Watch Leader Melanie Daye, left, recently delivered tulips to her neighbor Martin Concannon, right, in recognition of his dedication to the neighborhood. They said they have known each other since 1999, when Daye moved there. He has lived there since 1979. The two often make each other meals, and he does things like shoveling and snow blowing for Daye. Daye called Concannon her "neighborhood hero."

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Dear Friend,  
I hope you had a good, and safe, weekend. Easter Sunday was a different experience for me, as I'm sure it was for you. It was hard to not spend it in person with my mother and extended family—we did a video call instead. It was important that we still connected with each other and we continued to look out for each other in this very difficult time.

Easter and Passover are times of gratitude. I was thinking about how thankful I am for our healthcare workers, first responders, public employees, essential workers in grocery stores, pharmacies, delivery drivers—everyone working hard, many of them over the weekend, to keep us safe and healthy. This week is also National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, so I'd like to thank our 911 call takers and dispatch workers during this critical time.

I also want to thank everyone who practiced physical distancing, and wore a face covering outside, over the holiday and every day. These sacrifices will make sure we don't need too many more holidays separated from ones we love.

Every day now is critical to achieving that goal. The surge I've been talking about—it's in motion. As of April 13, Mas-

sachusetts has 26,867 cases of coronavirus and 844 deaths. In Boston, we are up to 4086 cases and 69 deaths, with 489 documented recoveries. Our prayers are with the loved ones of those we lost and all those struggling with this illness.

It's important to understand we are still in the early days of this surge. 52% of total cases in Boston came between April 5 to April 12—that means our cases more than doubled in a week. According to some models, the peak is now projected to arrive at the end of April. Distancing in the next two weeks is critical to flattening the curve and saving lives.

For that reason, we are going to stay focused on meeting this challenge together—our priority must be public health. So please: stay home and avoid contact with others, respect the recommended curfew from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., wear a face covering whenever you leave home, stay at least six feet from other people at all times, wash your hands and clean and sanitize surfaces frequently. And let other people know what it means to you that they do the right thing.

Here are some more updates about what the City and our partners are doing to support Boston residents and take care of our vulnerable neighbors.

Boston Hope Medical Center at BCEC opened on Friday. It has a total of 1,000 beds, including 500 to add capacity for our hospitals, and 500 specifically for homeless patients. As of Sunday evening, there are 45 patients at the Boston Hope Medical Center—including 16 individuals experiencing homelessness. I'm asking everyone to look out for homeless people who remain on the streets, especially during bad weather like we had today. City agencies and nonprofit partners are doing street outreach and daytime programs remain open. Call 3-1-1 if you need to help someone get resources and 911 if someone appears to need emergency help.

We are addressing disparities in the way the virus is impacting different communities. This weekend, I hosted the first meeting of Boston's COVID-19 Health Inequities Task Force. And starting today, Whittier Street Health Center in Roxbury will be offering

scheduled rapid result testing, one of several community health centers we'll be working with. You can also use Buoy Health as a free online screening resource.

We have made swift progress making financial assistance available to residents and small businesses who are struggling. Our \$3 million Rental Relief Fund for tenants is holding a lottery for over 5,500 applicants who qualified in the first round of applications. The City's Small Business Relief Fund is for local businesses at risk of shutting down received almost 3,000 applicants.

The Boston Resiliency Fund keeps growing—and I want to thank once again everyone who donated for my birthday on Friday. Since March 16, we've raised over \$24.4 million, from more than 3,500 donors. So far, the City has distributed \$10.4 million to 38 organizations that help vulnerable people and front-line responders. You can still donate at [Boston.gov/BostonResiliencyFund](http://Boston.gov/BostonResiliencyFund).

Finally: this Wednesday, April 15, is the seventh anniversary of the 2013 Boston Marathon. That means it is the 6th annual One Boston Day, a tradition we created to honor the victims and commemorate Boston's response to those tragic events.

Due to the coronavirus, we won't be able to host in-person events or volunteer projects for One Boston Day this year. But One Boston Day this year is more important than ever. I'll be proclaiming April 15, 2020, a Citywide day of reflection, prayer, and unity. We'll share opportunities to connect online with Boston's faith community, with secular organizations, and with our local arts community so that everyone has a chance to slow down, reflect, and share some meaningful time with their fellow Bostonians. We invite you to get involved on social media with the hashtag #OneBostonDay.

We need the One Boston Day spirit now more than ever. So I hope you will join us and help show what our city stands for. We will get through this difficult time, together, as one Boston.

Thanks for doing your part,

Marty



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# COVID-19 Restrictions Hit Egleston Square Businesses

**Richard Heath**  
Staff Reporter

When Mayor Marty Walsh gives his frequent COVID -19 updates on the steps of City Hall, behind him is usually John Barros, chief of economic development.

There's a reason.

When Governor Baker issued his stay-at home order on March 31 and extended his ban on non-essential businesses from April 20 to May 4, the hardest hit were the small businesses in shopping districts like Egleston Square.

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (NDC) has long been helping small merchants and one senior staff member, who asked not to be identified, spoke to The Bulletin the next day.

"I'm very concerned for small business owners in Egleston Square," he said. "I'm afraid that they will not reopen in the near future, especially if their landlords don't provide some flexibility."

On the sunny Saturday afternoon before Palm Sunday the sidewalks were empty and the traffic light.

"It's a lot easier to cross the street, that's for sure," said resident Carolyn Royce in an email.

Among the hardest hit are the four barbershops, three beauty salons and two nail shops that



The usually busy Micky's Barbershop is closed on Saturday afternoon, like many businesses along Egleston Square.

PHOTO BY: RICHARD HEATH

closed on March 20.

There are five bodegas in Egleston Square: Sandy's and Pina's on Columbus Avenue; Papi's across from the Y, Compadres and La Paraviana.

Wilda Pena is co owner of La Paraviana at 3099 Washington St.

"We don't have enough supplies," she told The Bulletin by phone. "My brother is looking

around for toilet paper right now. We don't have any. Hand sanitizer. Lysol. We can't get that. Business is slow." "We're family owned. Three people. My brother, my dad and myself."

"It's difficult to find products," Pena said. "We go twice a week to the market. We place an order with Goya and they come a week later with half of what we ordered. Same thing

with other supplies. Two cases of dried beans, I couldn't get any more."

"I haven't applied for city assistance," Pena said. "Denise [Delgado, Egleston Main Streets director] sent me the information, but I have to check with my accountant." "It's a difficult time. I have no idea what's next." Pena said. Pena is one of the few business owners, like

Lawson's Barbershop on Columbus Avenue, who own their building, so rent is at least not an issue. But The Throne barbershop, Pena's tenant, has been closed since March 20.

Bob Harrington, owner of BMS paper, took a big breath when he answered the phone.

"It's crazy," he said. His substantial restaurant and hotel business has been replaced with more retail.

"Commercial business tanked," he said. "I had five trucks [delivering] now that's down to one."

"But I'm keeping everyone on. I've cut some hours, but I want to do the right thing... I have a full supply of toilet paper. Bleach, gloves. Paper towels. Plenty of those," Harrington said. "I've got masks on order."

Harrington said he is cautious about hoarders.

"If I see a big panel truck drive in, I'll limit the sale," he said. "I don't want them selling paper towels down at the corner. I'm trying to make sure nobody capitalizes on this."

He said he's expanded his retail business.

"I've had a great response for my Sunday hours," he said. "I open 11 to 3 p.m." "People are coming in asking for food. So I'm trying to meet that need with fresh produce, frozen meats and

**COVID-19 Restrictions**  
Continued on page 7

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## consolations during a pandemic

Sometimes adages are expected to provide stamina and consolation for tough times, such as “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” Then there is, “This, too shall pass.” Or, as the late running back Bobby Mitchell for the Browns and Redskins is to have said, “Tough times don’t remain; tough people do.”

Depending on the day of the week—actually all the days for me now merge to be the same, except for trash day, on which to put the barrel out—the following hymns provide some consolation. On some days the melancholy is more than others; on other days less. But I try to focus on the meaning of the songs.



My Kind  
of Town/  
Joe Galeota

There is a balm in Gilead  
To make the wounded whole.  
There is a balm in Gilead  
To heal the sin sick soul.

With the first line of the opening stanza providing the title, the hymn speaks about making the wounded whole. Even though there is no fatality in my family nor anyone in any ICU, the emotional effects of job and school loss are there. True, nothing can equate with a death in the family, but other “wounds” still await and need healing.

Another song to offer sustenance is, “The Storm Is Passing Over.” For virtually all of us, the question is, when will it pass? Unlike the traditional meteorological storms, such as thunderstorms and hurricanes enduring for several hours and blizzards lasting, at the most, two days, this pandemic will not end, as politicians have stressed, with a mere “clicking off as a switch”: undoubtedly it will be a gradual process although the all-clear to return to school will be a major step.

Courage, my soul, and let us journey on,  
Tho’ the night is dark it won’t be very long.  
Thanks be to God, the morning light appears,  
And the storm is passing over, Hallelujah!

The third song that resonates with me, even in my darkest hours, is “One Day at a Time.” The number “one” is significant, as is the unit of time, “day.”

One day at a time, sweet Jesus,  
That’s all I’m asking from you.  
Just give me the strength  
To do every day what I have to do.  
Yesterday’s gone, sweet Jesus,  
And tomorrow may never be mine.  
Lord help me today, show me the way  
One day at a time.

All of us have to agree now with T.S. Eliot’s reference to the fourth calendar month: “April is the cruelest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain.” But people all over the world, in both hemispheres, in 2020 have their own reasons from digressing from Eliot’s justification why this April is so despised.

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## Letters to the Editor

### ROE WOULD INSTITUTE A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF NATURAL PARENTAL RIGHTS

*To the Editor:*

Supporters of a bill entitled the Roe Act have pressed the Joint Committee on the Judiciary of the Massachusetts legislature to bring out the bill for legislative enactment by May 12. Members of the democratic leadership of the legislature and Planned Parenthood and NARAL (formerly the National Abortion Rights Action League) are prominent among Roe’s supporters. Opponents include groups such as the Massachusetts Citizens for Life and the Massachusetts Family Institute.

The Roe Act is presented as a codification in Massachusetts Law of the content of the abortion policy put in place by the U.S. Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade in 1971, but this contention is misleading. Within what might be called the jurisprudence of Roe v. Wade it is possible for States to enact sensible regulations governing access to abortion in minor, but not insignificant, ways. Some states have done so. The proposed Roe Act would eliminate many sensible regulations in Massachusetts.

Roe would remove all requirements that medical personnel give life saving care to infants born alive in botched abortions. Letting such children die after birth can be likened to infanticide. Roe would make it legal to move even late term abortions after 24 weeks out of hospitals to office style clinics. Late term abortions are more dangerous for women and medical assistance if needed may not be available in a clinic.

Roe would institute a serious violation of natural parental rights by allowing a pregnant young woman under 18 to abort her child without informing her parents. It treats parents as if they have no essential role in their young daughters’ lives on the matter of abortion. Roe also will expand taxpayer funding for abortion to women whose income is not low enough to qualify for Mass Health by allowing the funds of the Healthy Start Program to be used for abortions. Healthy Start was established for low income uninsured women to provide early continuous comprehensive maternity care to ensure their children’s lives have healthy starts. Is it right that Healthy Start funds be diverted to providing abortions? It’s an unreasonable stretch to call abortion funding maternity care.

I’ve been a registered

Democrat for 70 years. I urge my fellow Democrats to inform themselves on the Roe Act, and then contact their Senators and Representatives and members of the Judiciary Committee, and urge them all to oppose the Roe Act vigorously.

*Francis M. McLaughlin  
West Roxbury*

### BAKER NEEDS TO SIGN OFF ON MCAS WAIVER

*To the Editor:*

Statement from Boston Teachers Union President Jessica Tang on MCAS Waiver Legislation

“We appreciate that legislators have recognized the urgency of the moment by waiving the 2020 requirement to administer the MCAS. This crucial step will enable educators and communities to fully focus on providing our students with the best and healthiest possible remote learning environments as we weather the COVID-19 pandemic. As we work to address the many pressing needs confronting educators, our communities, and most importantly our students and their families, MCAS cancellation is an important part of mitigating the pandemic’s impact on home learning challenges faced by Boston students, which are exacerbating inequities that already existed. We hope that Governor Baker will sign this bill soon.”

*Jessica Tang President,  
Boston Teachers Union*

### STATE SHOULD WAIVE SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

*To the Editor:*

With the COVID-19 threat hanging over our heads and after recently seeing former Vice President Joe Biden support the idea of a virtual National Democratic Convention this summer due to the coronavirus, I believe governments on all levels need to look at current announced candidates for public office trying to get certified for ballot status by collecting nomination signatures.

I read that even US Senator Edward Markey has of yet not collected enough signatures to make ballot status in the primary but hopes to get enough by the May deadline for signatures. If Markey’s having trouble, you know this virus has pushed us out of standard operation political procedures.

I saw where one candidate running for office set up a table with nomination papers on it, standing about a good ten feet away asking for voters to help her make the ballot but it seems nearly impossible for

anyone running to collect enough signatures as most people won’t be real happy sharing pens with strangers.

It is time for the state secretary to step forward and direct town and city halls to certify all candidates who took out papers to be placed automatically on the September ballot.

We are living in unusual times and candidates for federal, state and county offices cannot realistically collect enough signatures for the fall elections.

*Sal Giarratani  
Boston*

### POST OFFICE NEEDS YOUR HELP

*To the Editor:*

During these challenging times, postal employees are working hard to ensure residents stay connected with their world through the mail. Whether it’s medications, a package, a paycheck, benefits or pension check, a bill or letter from a family member, postal workers understand that every piece of mail is important. While service like this is nothing new to us, we need our communities’ help with social distancing. For everyone’s safety, our employees are following the social distancing precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health officials. We are asking people to not approach our carriers to accept delivery. Let the carrier leave the mailbox before collecting the mail. With schools not in session, children should also be encouraged to not approach a postal vehicle or carrier. If a delivery requires a signature, carriers will knock on the door rather than touching the bell. They will maintain a safe distance, and instead of asking for a signature on their mobile device, they’ll ask for the resident’s name. The carrier will leave the mail or package in a safe place for retrieval. We are proud of the role all our employees play in processing, transporting, and delivering mail and packages for the American public. The CDC, World Health Organization, as well as the Surgeon General indicate there is currently no evidence that COVID-19 is being spread through the mail. With social distancing, we can keep the mail moving while keeping our employees, and the public, safe.

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

# Council passes measure urging property owners to rent with vouchers

Mary Ellen Gambon  
Staff Reporter

The Boston City Council passed a measure at its meeting on Wed., April 8 that would encourage property owners to immediately rent to homeless families with housing choice vouchers.

Sponsored by District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok and At-Large Councilor Annessa Essaibi-George, the resolution was created in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and the urgent need to house homeless families. Bok said she had met with the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) the previous week to see what measures could be taken to address this concern.

“This COVID-19 crisis has really put a spotlight on all of the weaknesses and injustices of our society,” Bok said. “And I think one thing that it has shown us, which we already knew, is that everyone needs a home to be safe.”

She spoke of the previous release of 1,000 housing vouchers through a partnership with the BHA and the Boston Public Schools (BPS) for homeless families. But that didn’t address the need that existed before the pandemic.

“The reality is that we have 500 families right now – in shelter – with housing vouchers who have not found permanent housing,” Bok said. “I think we really need to seize this moment to

solve that problem and to get these families housed. It’s a public health emergency for them.”

There are vacant units available to house these families, she added, noting that college students have returned home and previous renters may have moved to other locations. This is a way for property owners to fill their units and receive government funding to guarantee a substantial portion of the rent rather than let them sit vacant in an uncertain market.

“The intention of this resolution is really to echo and amplify an appeal that I worked on with the Boston Housing Authority last week to really ask any landlord in the City who is sitting with a vacant unit right now to try to get one of our families housed with a voucher in that unit,” she said.

“Under normal circumstances, finding affordable, family-sized housing in this city is incredibly difficult,” Essaibi-George said. “It is even harder, we know, for low-income families because there are many misconceptions and stereotypes about voucher holders. These stereotypes need to be done away with now more than ever.”

She added that she actively has been working on the BHA-BPS partnership and said that it “casts a much wider net and creates more awareness” of this plight.

District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards said that, while

part of the problem is the perception of voucher holders as not being ideal tenants, another issue is the administrative hurdles that property owners have to go through with a government agency in order to rent out their property to them.

“I wish that it was as easy as the maker had said to deal with Section 8, to deal with the standards for that, and the ability and the checklists and all those different things, but it’s not,” she said.

Edwards added that she supports the voucher program and also believes in creating a voucher program for the City of Boston. She also mentioned that there can be an issue with some properties with lead paint in older homes, which can keep homeowners from renting out units.

Bok said the coronavirus presented “a strange opportunity” where people are holding vouchers, landlords have vacancies and the BHA has shown a commitment to expedite the process. Some landlords already reached out, and she encouraged more to do so.

Also on the agenda was an order by At-Large Councilor Michelle Wu calling for a hearing to discuss rent relief for commercial and residential tenants in properties owned by the City and the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA).

Wu said that, at the last meeting, the Council sent a message to the State House calling for rent

relief, which the City does not have the power to do.

“What we do have the authority to accomplish at the City level is to issue rent relief for City-owned and BPDA-owned buildings,” she explained. She cited the Bolling Building as an example.

“There are several amazing community businesses that are struggling right now that may or may not be able to survive economically this pandemic,” Wu said, “and to which rent relief would make a big difference.”

“This is a great opportunity for the City of Boston to lead and demonstrate what we are calling for other landlords and other property owners to do, that the City of Boston lead and demonstrate that it can do as well,” Edwards added.

She explained that the BPDA owns land, and that their operating expenses are funded by the rental income from their property, not the City budget. Edwards said discussions should continue to see whether the rents would be forgiven or paid back on a plan, as well as a plan for commercial rent arrearage.

District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn said he has received calls from small business owners in Faneuil Hall, which is a BPDA-owned building.

“Many of those small business owners are women, communities of color, finding it very difficult



District 8 City Councilor  
Kenzie Bok

to continue in business at that site,” he said. “There should be some type of payment plan. There should be some type of assistance to ensure that these small business owners are able to continue selling their products in Faneuil Hall.”

At-Large Councilor Michael Flaherty stressed that there should be means testing for businesses, so that those capable of paying their rents do so.

“For some businesses and some companies, they may not miss a beat,” he said. “We really need those types of companies, those businesses, to continue to pay because it’s going to help us in the long run and help us get out of a downturn in the economy.”

This will allow banks and insurance companies the means to lend money and adjust mortgages for those who need assistance, he added.

The order will be referred to the Committee on Housing and Community Development for a hearing.

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## Social Distancing *continued from page 1*

Roche Bros. at 7am. Since only a limited amount of people could be in the store at one time, a long line stretched outside the door and past the parking lot (those waiting in line were encouraged to stay six feet apart from one another).

"I think all grocery stores are trying their best. Roche Brothers is in a tough position. They have a small layout, narrow aisles, and a produce/bakery section that isn't laid out in straight lines, all of which make it very difficult for customers to maintain social distancing. I think also the large number of high school students working there are, just due to their age, less likely to follow social distancing than older employees," remarked Roche Bros. customer and Parkway community member Chris Lang.

Star Market in West Roxbury has also added social distancing policies to their store. Checkout lines have stickers on the floor to ensure customers are standing six feet apart while waiting in line.

One community member noted that she thinks that Star Market needs to remove their free standing displays since it makes it more diffi-

cult to social distance and walk around other customers.

Many community members are happy with the amount of social distancing at Star Market. "I went to Star Market, maybe last Friday, and felt like 98 percent of people were good at social distancing. Sometimes you have to lurk a little bit while someone is trying to make a decision," stated West Roxbury resident Erin Kelly. "However, most people tried to be considerate of each other - patiently waiting, smiling at each other, taking only what they needed. The distancing was working until I was at the register and the couple behind came in real close. The whole time I was also overly aware of how many items we touch and then put back in shelves. Kept hearing my mom's voice from when I was a kid, 'we look with our eyes, not with our hands'."

During these difficult and challenging times, many neighbors hope that shoppers remember to treat grocery stores employees with respect and gratitude. "We must remember to have patience, not push by others in haste so as to get our shopping done without too much

exposure, to continue to use manners and be polite, and maintain respect for all those shopping and working in each market," remarked one West Roxbury community member.

"I want to say how amazing all of the staff are at Star. They were all so patient with customers, helping them find items or solve problems and still friendly during what must be exhausting shifts!" Kelly stated.

While shopping at grocery stores, it is important to remember these health and safety tips: Wash your hands before and after going to the store, shop at off-peak hours so it's easier to keep a distance from others, if you're over 60, see if stores in your neighborhood are offering shopping exclusively for seniors an hour before opening to all, do not touch something at the store and then touch your face, use a sanitizing wipe to disinfect the shopping cart or basket handle (many stores now provide wipes, but you might want to come with your own supply just in case they're out).

For more information on Roche Bros.' new policies regarding COVID-19, visit their website at <https://www.rochebros.com/>.

For up to date information regarding COVID-19, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-cases-quarantine-and-monitoring> or <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

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## WR students donate PPE to WR police



The Boston Police Department officers over at District E-5 in the Parkway announced they'd like to extend their special thanks to Ursuline Academy students, Hannah and Fiona Daly, both of West Roxbury for making and then hand-delivering a box of protective masks for E-5 officers in West Roxbury. Said Captain Darrin Greeley, "Wonderful kids. Wonderful gesture. We honestly can't thank them enough. During these difficult times, every bit of help makes a difference. And, I hope these girls understand how much we appreciate them."

PHOTO BY BPDNEWS.COM

## Project Bread and partners ensure uninterrupted food access

As Massachusetts grapples with the shuttering of public buildings, schools, and businesses due to coronavirus, the one in 11 households and 1 in 9 children experiencing food insecurity before this crisis can depend on uninterrupted access to a critical child nutrition resource: school meals. Project Bread, in partnership with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, is leveraging decades of experience with federal nutrition programs and school meals in particular, to support community partners and school districts operationalizing grab & go meals at more than 1,295 alternative meal sites throughout the state.

As the Commonwealth adjusts to social distancing and a stay-at-home advisory, Project Bread and critical partners are quickly adapting existing programs and innovating to ensure continuity of school meal service in the context of a global pandemic. There is no one-size-fits-all school meals model during a public health crisis. In that context, Project Bread provides school districts with essential resources, expertise, grants and technical assistance.

"We know firsthand how important these meals are to so many families trying to stay healthy right now, so we are constantly optimizing - evaluating gaps and barriers and adapting as we go," says Erin McAleer, President of Project Bread. Some districts offer "drive-up meals" to families through car windows to reduce exposure, others use bus routes to drop meals close to students' homes. Organizations that provide free, federally-reimbursed meals in summer months are opening sites in many communities.

Project Bread is the central hub, connecting people to available food resources. Requests for assistance are met with compassionate and personalized support by Project Bread's FoodSource hotline. Counselors connect people to a wide range of food resources such as SNAP (formerly food stamps), food pantries, the alternative school meal sites, and more.

"We're looking at unprecedented demand in the coming weeks and months, so scale and efficiency are essential," McAleer explains. Even now, school meals achieve both. Free to-go meals are available at more than 1,200 meal sites to youth 18 and under across Massachusetts. "We're seeing communities, legislators, school districts, families, and government agencies come together in new ways. Collaboration and agility are paramount to effective crisis response and I think everyone involved understands how high the stakes are now."

Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline (1-800-645-8333) operates Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10a.m. to 2 p.m. Assistance is offered in 160 languages and a dedicated line is available to those who are hearing impaired. The most up to date meal site information is available through the hotline or at [www.projectbread.org/covid19](http://www.projectbread.org/covid19). Strict safety protocols and best practices for social distancing are being closely adhered to across distribution models and locations for maximum safety. No registration or ID is required to receive a meal. Project Bread is designated essential by the government and will continue for duration of this crisis. the nonprofit's COVID-19 Resources pages in English and Spanish.

## Steward Health *continued from page 1*

decisions,” he said. “As a result, Steward has suspended the company’s 401(k)-matching contribution for all employees, except for those we are contractually obligated to continue. We expect this to be a temporary measure and when conditions allow, we plan to resume the 401(k) matching contributions.”

And Steward has been changing its entire business model because of COVID-19 in a “System-Wide” approach, which included turning all of Carney Hospital in Dorchester into a COVID-19 response and treatment center. Grubb added that Steward did not decide to cut 401(k) on a whim, either.

“This was not an easy decision, but a necessary one given the current economic environment,” he said. “We believe this will also allow us to continue providing other critical benefits for our employees, including company-sponsored health insurance plans.”

Schildmeier said he felt that the company may have acted prematurely, and felt it was not a necessary decision.

“Particularly when Steward and all other hospitals in the state will be receiving more than \$800 million in funding to ensure their financial viability during this crisis,” he said. And Steward nationally will have access to the billions of dollars

of funding being allocated to hospitals nationwide as part of the pandemic response. People are putting their lives and those of their families on the line every day. They need to be valued and supported.”

1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East spokesperson Marlishia Aho also said that the union’s workers will keep their benefits.

“1199SEIU represents more than 6,000 workers across 9 Steward Facilities in the state including more than 800 at Norwood Hospital,” she said. With our new five year contract, we do have 401(k) employer contributions that will remain in effect.”

## BNN hosting education programs, bedtime stories, with BPS

Jeff Sullivan  
Staff Reporter

The Boston Neighborhood News Network (BNN) announced recently that it has teamed up with the Boston Public Schools District (BPS) to provide parents with a bit of help during this semester.

BNN General Manager Glenn Williams said the network will now be dedicating time for Boston Public School students during the COVID-19 crisis to help carry the load parents are now carrying.

“Boston Public Schools and Boston Neighborhood Network have developed a partnership where BNN has dedicated 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday to programming created by the teachers of the BPS for their students,” he said. “Not only is there pre-recorded classroom-like shows, but live remote programs where students can call in with questions for interactive learning with educators teaching from home.”

Williams said this could mean anything from math lessons and workshops to arts and crafts projects.

“We have teachers send us videos explaining or doing different projects with the kids, and one of the things I did was create a live in-studio program students and parents can call into and ask for extra help with math or history or English learning,” he said. “It’s been a very successful program.”

Williams said they are also broadcasting Zoom classes for students who might have missed the initial broadcast.

“I mean there are kids who are, possibly, taking the SAT’s in a couple of weeks and they’re getting help live on BNN for those tests,” he said.



*New England Patriots star Julian Edelman read Flying High for his Scholar Storytime segment on BNN, a book he also wrote.*

COURTESY PHOTO

“I’m very proud of the people here and at BPS who are stepping up and showing their dedication to the mission of getting the people in the community educated and informed and to give people an opportunity to voice their opinions.”

Williams said some of their most popular programming are craft projects for younger children.

“They’re all small segments of teachers doing a project with a kid. Then we combine five or six of them together in a 55-minute show for the kids to watch,” he said, adding that according to their on-demand analytics, it’s some of the most popular programming they have. “We know they’re watching it because the preschool project is reaching over 600 on demand watches in the last two weeks, which is unprecedented... The kids are at home and they’re putting on these programs and watching them, and we’re really happy with that.”

One other notable program-

ing option BNN released is Good Night Scholars, in which local Boston Public figures use television to try to put you, or your youngsters, to sleep. While it’s not what a TV executive might want to see in a prime-time slot, Williams said they’ve been able to get some pretty big names to help them help parents during this uncertain time.

“They’re just perfect,” he said with a laugh. “These people are incredibly busy but they’re doing good work out there to make sure our community members are safe,” he said. “Boston Mayor Marty Walsh taking a couple of minutes out of his day to do a bedtime story is just amazing. If there’s one bedtime story you have to see, you have to see Marty Walsh. It’s just a charming thing. And Julian Edelman, it’s been a pleasure to be involved with him.”

The names of readers at this point include Boston Public

**Bedtime Stories**  
*Continued on page 9*

## COVID-19 Restrictions

*continued from page 3*

fresh vegetables. Apples. That surprised me.”

“I want to be retail friendly,” Harrington said. “I didn’t realize that produce and fresh vegetables would sell. Food is selling very big.”

“I have 30 feet of refrigeration. I’m going to buy a couple more units. I’ll install them at night so I can keep people safe.”

Harrington said he is going to try senior hours.

“We’ll open up early on Wednesdays,” he said. “7:30 to 8 a.m.”

As reported in The Bulletin, Harrington has plans to redevelop his property to include housing and a market.

“I had the concept of opening a market,” he said. “This has reaffirmed my goal of a market. Vegetables, fruit. Packaged meats. I was not sure if he concept would work. I am now.”

Another example of lemons-to-lemonade is Rey Pimental who owns Designs by Rey Sastreria at 3161 Washington St., which has been closed since March 20.

Rey went from creating bridesmaid dresses to making face masks.

“It was actually an idea from Kim Szeto of Montebello Rd.,” said Delgado of Main Streets. “She saw an article about people making face masks and she thought that Designs by Rey could do that. I sent the idea to Rey on March 27 and the next day he made 100 and soon sold 300.”

Customers pick them up at the door. Yancario Fernandez owns the popular PikoloX restaurant at 3160 Washington St.

“Business has gone down,” he said. “People are holding their money, Schools closed. A lot of people not working, not ordering.”

“I’ve had to reduce staff,” Fernandez said. “Uber and Lyft offer free delivery, so I’ve cut down on the hours of the drivers. I’m trying to keep everybody on. I have four people.”

“Getting supplies so far is ok,” he said. “But these no foot traffic. Rey’s is closed. Flaco [the barber], the nail shops, construction. No lunch business. I’m working on an application for city assistance.”

Saki Manazis is the manager of Egleston House of Pizza at the busy corner of Columbus and Washington.

“It started of really bad with all the schools closed,” he said. “Then construction stopped. This affected all the lunch business. But the take-out picked up.”

“Everything just dropped about ten days ago, but it picked up again. It’s down substantial, but it’s better than expected.”

“There’s no layoffs,” Manazis said. “I’ve cut down some hours to lower the payroll and save a couple people’s jobs. I’m putting in more hours.”

On April 4. Mayor Walsh announced a curfew from 9 p.m. until 6 a.m. and this had an immediate affect.

“The curfew will affect us. I think so,” Manazis said. “After 7 p.m. [Sunday] it was a ghost town here. It’s tough to sell after 8 p.m.”

Solomon Lemma who owns Egleston Liquors also saw the curfew hurting his business.

“After 8:30 [pm] the square was abandoned,” he said. “I didn’t see anybody.” “I’m a small business,” Lemma said. “I don’t know how I’m going to continue to keep things the way they are.”

“I’ve cut back my hours to 8 p.m. Cut back three hours. We survive now but I have to reassess.”

Bravo Pharmacy is owned by Dimitri Linkov, who is very upbeat.

“Here’s what’s happening,” he said. “Here’s the reason things have to change. There’s greater need to provide service. That’s the key. The key is to make more deliveries. Less walk-ins. We do that.”

The sign on Bravo’s door states this clearly.

“There will be no access inside the store. Please call the pharmacy to refill prescriptions. Wait in your car or discuss delivery options.”

“We are more focused on service than ever before,” Linkov said. “We help the elderly. The disabled. This is where we get to shine. The service aspect.”

Linkov said he has a strong market in the Springfield, Brockton and Boston areas.

Most merchants in the Square rent and a lot have been closed since March 20.

The City of Boston created a \$2 million Small Business Relief Program managed by Barros. It covers business with fewer than 35 employees and merchants began to apply on April 6.

A relief grant of \$2,500 can go to a business with up to five employees and annual sales of \$250,000.

A business with 5 to 15 employees and an annual income of up to \$500,000 can qualify for \$5,000.

On April 1, Carlos Espinoza-Toro, the Small Business Manager at JPNDC began an on-line session called Emergency Funds Step by Step for area businesses, including sole proprietors.

According to Espinoza, as of April 8 there have been 14 applications but no grants received yet.

Rainbow Nails at 3112 Washington St. closed on March 23 and taped a sign to its door stating it was closed.

“We look forward to brighter times,” it added.

# Housing Stability

continued from page 1

sentation, are most needed. She said the council and OHS should support two bills currently sitting at the Massachusetts State House. One was known in the House as House Bill 3456, An Act to Ensure Right to Counsel in Eviction Proceedings. It was called Senate Bill 913 in the Massachusetts Senate.

“There were three separate bills proposed in the State House in this regard and OHS has been working with a coalition of more than 150 organizations to submit a combined bill that brings together the best of what was already proposed,” Williams said. “The reconciled bill would provide for full legal representation of tenants and owner occupants of two-family homes during an eviction process or foreclosure proceeding.”

Williams said they are working to push this bill more than ever during the current COVID-19 crisis.

“We know that people will need representation to defend their right to maintain a safe and stable housing environment, so we’re committed to helping those pieces of legislation,” Williams said.

The other was H3373 An Act Relative to Just Cause Eviction of Elderly Lessees.

“The bill seeks to end no-fault evictions for tenants over the age of 75, and to prevent rent increases on those tenants of more than 5 percent year-over-year,” she said. “Because we know that elders are generally unable to increase their income and they’re more at-risk for eviction if rent is increased and we know that they would ultimately be displaced from neighborhoods they know or love, we’ve really been pushing for this protection to be enacted.”

She said these protections would only start when a landlord owns more than six buildings, and she said more than 8,000 households in the City of Boston would fall under this bill.

Williams also discussed the formation of the City of Boston Rental Relief Fund, which was launched last week. The first application process, which will distribute \$3 million in funds, has already closed. To stay up to date and have a notification sent to you when the next round becomes available, go to <https://bit.ly/3c7IBij>.

“We have already seen 4,467 households apply as of close of business yesterday (April 8),” she said. “We’re targeting those relief funds to tenants who are either not eligible to receive unemployment assistance or their job type means they may not receive sufficient unemployment benefits to replace their lost income. Qualified residents will earn less than 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) which is approximately \$73,000 for a two-person household.”

Williams said eligible households can receive up to \$4,000 in small rent payments.

Boston Home Center (BMC) Housing Policy Research Deputy Director Tim Davis discussed the U.S. Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) for rental support for housing voucher holders and local housing authorities like the Boston Housing Authority. He said they are expecting about \$25 million for Community Development Block Grants and about \$20 million for emergency shelter grants.

“We are also aware of how this crisis is disproportionately affecting people of color,” he said. “Black and Latino Bostonians are more likely to be in jobs where we have seen the most layoffs, chief among them accommodation food services, retail trade, construction, transportation and warehousing.”

Davis said he is concerned that unemployment benefits will not do enough to support households with mostly cash incomes, i.e., incomes that might not show up completely on tax returns.

“So that’s one reason why we moved forward with the \$3 million fund, but we are working to add additional funds,” he said. “On Monday (April 6) the Boston Neighborhood Housing Trust, of which Councilor Edwards is a member, took an important vote to provide up to \$5 in funding for the affordable housing projects we have in our pipeline so it could keep those projects moving while shifting up to \$5 million from our more flexible funding sources to the rental relief funds.”

For more information on what the Office of Housing Stability is doing during this crisis, go to <https://www.boston.gov/departments/neighborhood-development/office-housing-stability>

## Easter Parade brings joy to Southie



The Boston Fire Department and the Boston Police Department joined Pathfinder Tree Service on Sunday to bring the Easter Bunny down Broadway in South Boston. The event was part of a socially distant Easter Celebration for the city and the neighborhood.

COURTESY PHOTO



### Miracle Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked You for many favours. This time, I ask you this very special one (mention favour). Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within Your own broken heart where Your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes, it will become Your favour, not mine. Amen. Say for three days, promise publication and favour will be granted.

—S.G.H.

### DEAR HEART OF JESUS!

In the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask for this special favor. (Mention favor). Take it dear heart of Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart where your father will see it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favor not mine. Amen.

Say for 3 days, promise publication and favours will be granted.

Grateful Thanks —M.D.A.

### Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail!)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you.

—S.G.H.

### Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail!)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you.

—M.D.A.

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 Olutoyin O. Fayemi, M.D. • Carolyn O. Walsh, M.D.  
 Fellows of the American Academy of Pediatrics



# Bedtime Stories

continued from page 7



Boston Mayor Marty Walsh read for the storytime segment as well.

COURTESY PHOTO

Schools Superintendent Brenda Cassellius, Boston Schools Committee Chair Person Mike Loconto, At-Large City Councilor Annessa Essaibi-George, Secretary of Education under Barack Obama John King, BPS Foreign Language Teacher YingLing Hsu (In Mandarin) and Miss Massachusetts U.S.A. Sabrina Victor.

And Williams said he thinks this could be just the beginning. He said while no one likes this crisis – especially he and the skeleton crew that still have to go into the studio these days – it’s opened up an opportunity for the network to help out in times of need, which Williams said is what they’re there for in the first place.

“Some of the things we’re discussing now, every day it seems like, are the new developments, and the fact that we don’t know what’s going to happen,” he said. “We’re moving ahead like they’re not going to have kids back in school this year. Well, we’ve got to make sure these kids are getting what they need so when they do go back online and do their classroom stuff that it’s all still relevant.”

Williams added that BNN may switch one of its four channels to strictly educational programming.

“There’s a real possibility,” he said.

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## Ask The Doctor

Junior Damato began servicing vehicles in 1969. He owns an 8-bay center in Middleboro, MA. Junior is an ASE-certified Master Technician, ASE-certified L-1 and ASE-certified Natural Gas.

Q) Dear Doctor: A close friend of mine has a 2011 Audi A5 cabriolet with the four-cylinder 2.0T engine. From the time the vehicle was purchased it has had an oil consumption issue. As I recall reading Audi became aware of this issue and offered owners to “top off” their oil for free anytime low oil occurred between scheduled oil changes. What is causing this oil usage problem? Where is the oil going as there is no smoke being emitted that would traditionally indicate oil burning? Please shed some light on the problem that seems to be inherent with early versions of the Audi 2.0T engine that is still used extensively today. —Howie

A) The cause of oil consumption can be caused by many things including a worn turbo charger, worn valve guides, and piston rings getting clogged with carbon and actually not sealing against the cylinder walls. Seldom will you see any smoke out the tail pipe and in some cases there is not a noticeable loss of power. The oil consumption will not set any check engine light either. I would not suggest spending any money in repairs, I would just add oil as needed. High mileage oil has made a difference for many of my customers.

Q) Dear Doctor: I have a 2003 Chevrolet Silverado with 28,000 miles. The instrument cluster failed & the GM dealer tech replaced it with a new one. However during the process the odometer was reset to 0 miles. The tech tried to reprogram it to the actual 28K miles, but was unsuccessful. Is there a solution for this reset? —Mark

A) I remove many dash clusters and send them out to have them repaired. The dealer can also send out the new cluster and have the mileage set. This is not a big deal. The cluster comes out in 1/2 hour or less. The outside service charge is around \$100.00 or less for mileage correction or repair. Turn around time is 24 hours once the dash cluster is received at the repair center.

Junior Damato, the “Auto Doctor,” has agreed to field auto repair questions from Bulletin and Record readers. Please send your questions to [news@bulletinnewspapers.com](mailto:news@bulletinnewspapers.com) and we will do our best to get them answered.

# Keeping up with COVID-19 City, BPHC address race and ethnicity

**Matt MacDonald**  
Staff Reporter

As the anticipated COVID-19 surge looms ever closer to the city, state, and country as a whole, there has been no shortage of politicians, public health officials, and others advising the general public on the fast developing situation and how best to deal with it.

Their policies and advisories – at each level of government – are based on the interpretation of data collected by state and municipal public health departments.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) has been responsible for tracking and controlling the disease in the city by following up on individual cases reported to it by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Follow-up involves BPHC nurses engaging in contact tracing: the process of determining the group of people in close proximity to the reported case and their level of risk for contracting COVID-19. These nurses also advise contacts of strategies (self-isolation, monitoring symptoms) to avoid spreading the virus and to protect themselves against it.

Due to the highly contagious nature of the coronavirus (as of April 14, there were 4286 confirmed cases in the city, up from 2848 confirmed cases on April 9), measures are being taken to assist the 10 BPHC staff nurses in containing the disease.

According to Interim Ex-

ecutive Director Rita Nieves, nurses have been reassigned to the Public Health Commission from the Boston Public Schools. Additionally, community health care non-profit Partners In Health – participating in a statewide assistance agreement with Governor Charlie Baker – is being integrated into the BPHC network.

Nieves – in a Tuesday, April 14 phone call – commented on this. “We are literally in the process of working with the Mass League of Community Health Centers because, locally, they have been hired by the Partners In Health group to participate in contact tracing.”

Nieves anticipated that – by taking advantage of this arrangement – 20 more contact tracers will be added by the end of this week, and explained the division of labor:

“We have enough people to be able to concentrate on the high risk [contacts living in highly populated residences and/or with higher risk conditions], and then the Partners In Health/Health Centers collaboration is going to help us with the ones that are low risk.”

The BPHC has been releasing a COVID-19 report since the week ending March 28. In the three that have been sent out so far, the incidence rates of laboratory confirmed cases of the coronavirus have been broken down by gender, age, and neighborhood.

In the latest report – for the week ending April 9 – the COVID-19 incidence rate for Hyde Park was the second highest of any neighborhood (the South End ranked highest, due – as Nieves said – to a spike because of a large scale test in a shelter located there).

Back Bay (including the North End), South Boston, Allston/Brighton, Jamaica Plain, and West Roxbury all demonstrated lower incidence rates than other Boston neighborhoods.

Over the past week and a half, incoming data from across the country has shown a high incidence rate of COVID-19 in the African-American community. This trend is showing in Boston, as well, with African-Americans accounting for the vast majority – 41 percent – of the known cases in the city as of April 14 (per BPHC statistics).

“Mattapan and Hyde Park definitely are race and ethnicity related,” Nieves said of the high incidence rates in the two neighboring commu-

nities. “These two neighborhoods we know have a very high percentage of black and African-American residents, so we’re not surprised that that fact is driving these numbers.”

This influx of nationwide and BPHC race and ethnicity data has prompted Mayor Martin Walsh to institute the COVID-19 Health Inequities Task Force, a group of 24 minority community leaders charged with providing guidance to the City as it addresses inequities in data analysis, testing sites, and health care services for minorities living in Boston.

At the April 9 press conference during which he announced its establishment, Walsh added that, “what the Task Force is going to do is look at the disparity and look at ways of resolving that, but also see if there’s an issue on testing and on access to these tests.”

Commenting on ways the City is trying to flatten the curve of the coronavirus in high incidence neighborhoods, both Walsh and Nieves brought up as strategies targeted messaging as well as increasing the testing levels in those communities.

Related to this, Walsh announced on April 13 that the Whittier Street Health Center (1290 Tremont St., Roxbury) would be offering rapid COVID-19 testing as of that date, while Nieves commented on April 14 that an official announcement was pending regarding Brigham and Women’s Hospital setting up a testing site in Hyde Park.

These measures being put in place, both Nieves and Walsh reiterated familiar advice regarding the virus, with the Mayor doing so as part of his response to an April 9 question:

“It’s not increasing in a neighborhood because of the neighborhood, or because of who lives there, or because of the color of your skin. What’s happening is that a lot of it comes down to practicing social distancing. It comes down to the stay at home order that the Governor put in place. It comes down to all of the different things you’re doing to take care of yourself. At the end of the day, that’s what we have to continue to do.”

For COVID-19 information and assistance, visit the City of Boston website at [www.boston.gov](http://www.boston.gov) and the Boston Public Health Commission website at [www.bphc.org](http://www.bphc.org).

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## Deaths

### ANDERSON

Kenneth S. Of West Roxbury, at age 76. Beloved son of the late Karl and Katherine (Thornton) Anderson. Born January 19, 1944, dear brother of Gerald Anderson and his wife Hannah of Plymouth, and Lawrence Anderson and his wife Sharon of Carlsbad, Ken also leaves several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He was a graduate of Roxbury Latin School, MIT and a member of Westwood Bridge Club. At this time burial will be private. Memorial services to be held at a later date. Donations in Ken's memory may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children or a charity of your choice. Guestbook available at [www.KfouryFuneral.com](http://www.KfouryFuneral.com) Kfoury Keefe Funeral Home West Roxbury 617-325-3600

### BOUTILIER



Mary M. Age 95 of Cocoa Beach, Fl. and formerly West Roxbury, Ma. passed away on April 6, 2020. Daughter of Charles Gravelle and Maude(Dicker). She leaves behind 3 sons: Bruce and Debbie(Florida), Glenn(Florida), Edward and Linda(Illinois) and grandson Thomas and Kate(Illinois). Also, her late brother Charles(1930-1956), decorated Korean War veteran. Family matriarch, devoted mother and wife, old movie aficionado, traveler, and gardener. Wife of the late George E. Boutilier, Superintendent of Boston Parks and Recreation, Scoutmaster of Troop 5 West Roxbury, and president of USS Spencer WW2 Association. Ashes to be placed in Key West, Fl.,

columbarium next to her late husband. A private family memorial at Key West Cemetery TBA.

### BROWN

Francis J. Brown Francis J. (Ret.Lt.BFD.) April 8, of Roslindale, Dennisport and formerly of South Boston. Beloved Husband of Elizabeth Betty (Dagle) Brown. Devoted son of Jacqueline "Jackie" Brown and the late James "Buddy" Brown. Dear brother of Jacqueline "Lynn" Glaze and her husband John and the late Elizabeth "Lisa" Brown. Godson of Adeline Callan. Nephew of Gerard Shea (Ret. BFD) and Sr. Marilyn Shea SCN of Kentucky. Also survived by 9 nieces and nephews, 5 great-nieces and nephews and his beloved dog, Gizmo. Due to the health crisis, private services will be held, a Memorial Mass to follow. Interment Blue Hill Cemetery, Braintree. Late member local # 718, Boston Firefighters and Marine Corps. Veteran, Vietnam era. In lieu of flowers, donation's in his memory may be made to the City of Boston Resiliency Fund, <https://www.boston.gov> [www.spencerfuneralservice.com](http://www.spencerfuneralservice.com)

### CAHALANE

Cornelius "Connie" Of West Roxbury, passed away unexpectedly on April 2, 2020. Born October 31, 1924, the son of the late John and Annie (Bowen) Cahalane. Beloved husband of Rita M. (Murphy) Cahalane. Connie was a bricklayer and proud member of the Bricklayer's Union. He was a loyal New England sports fan. He had a passion for Irish music and dancing at different Irish venues in the Boston area. Connie could be found walking Castle Island or seen popping into the Corrib Pub in West Roxbury for a good meal. Connie was a longtime parishioner of St. Theresa Parish in Everett. In addition to his wife, Connie is survived by his sister-in-law Lucy. His nieces: Kathleen, Ann Marie and Rita, 3 grandnieces: Lucy, Amanda and Ana. Cousins: Dennis, Martin and Tim and his longtime friend Guido. Connie was predeceased

by many loving family members. Connie's family would like to thank the Parent Care Team for the care they provided to him. Due to circumstances of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and guidelines put in place by Gov. Charles Baker, Funeral Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Connie's memory may be made to The Irish Cultural Center, 200 New Boston Drive, Canton, MA 02021 or The Dogmother, LLC, 558 Lowell Street, Peabody, MA 01960. Late Veteran USAF. For guestbook, please visit [gormleyfuneral.com](http://gormleyfuneral.com) William J. Gormley Funeral Service 617-323-8600

### HAND

Mary (Campbell). Of West Roxbury and Mission Hill on April 10, 2020. Beloved wife of the late Thomas M. Hand. Loving mother of Mary Cait Foley and her husband Mark, Deirdre Rourke and her husband Timothy & the late Mary Ellen Hand. Adored grandmother of Korey Foley and Katherine, Thomas and Mary Rourke. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, guidelines put in place by Gov. Baker and the Archdiocese of Boston, Funeral Services will be private. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to Franciscan Children's, 30 Warren St., Brighton, MA 02135. William J. Gormley Funeral Service (617) 323-8600

### MARTIN

Edmund Joseph "Eddie" Of West Roxbury, April 11, 2020, after a lingering respiratory illness. Age 77. Loving son of the late Thomas J. and Mary A. Martin. Beloved brother of Mary Buckley and her husband Bernard of Dedham, Thomas Martin and his wife Mary of Norwood, Paul Martin and his wife Barbara of Canton, John Martin and his wife Christine of Quincy and the late Ann Scannell, James Martin, and Kathleen Woods. Beloved uncle, great-uncle and great-great-uncle of many nieces and nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at a later date. Funeral Services and Burial at New Calvary Cemetery will be private. Late employee of the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital. Donations in his memory may be made to Bay Cove Human Services, 66 Canal St., Boston, MA 02114. [www.lawlerfuneralhome.com](http://www.lawlerfuneralhome.com) Lawler & Crosby Funeral Home 617-323-5600

### MURPHY

Cornelius P. Boston Police Retired Sgt. of West Roxbury,

**Deaths**

Continued on page 11

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# Deaths *continued from page 10*

died at the age of 91 on April 5, 2020 after a brief illness with COVID-19. Cornelius was born in Jamaica Plain, son of BPD LT Det. Patrick J. Murphy and Christina Mueller (deceased). Widower to Janet H. Murphy (deceased), survived by his only son Michael S. Murphy, MD and daughter-in-law Lori Farnan, MD. Loving grandfather of Michael, Jr. and Matthew Murphy of Chestnut Hill. Also survived by his brother Sgt. Joseph Robert (BPD ret.) and younger brother Patrick Joseph, and his nieces and nephews including Patricia (Murphy) Campbell, Timothy Murphy, Paul Cannata, Stephen Cannata and Diane Cannata.

A WWII Army Veteran serving in Korea, Connie was a lifetime member of the Boston Young Mens Christian Union, where he was an avid handball player. He served the citizens of Boston on BPD for 43 years and retired as a Sergeant. He dedicated a lifelong career to the BPD and its true mission to help people. His police career included working as a detective on the Boston Strangler case, serving in District 16, 4, 1, and he ended his career at Suffolk Superior Court.

Dedicated to family, Connie worked diligently to assist his only son achieve the goals of graduating from college and medical school. He continued with the next generation being active with his grandsons participating in long card games, laser tag and sledding (coasting), among other activities. He was known for his infectious smile and sense of humor and loved to tell stories. He was a storyteller! He enjoyed family celebrations and holidays, many dinners at Legal Seafoods, and would often take his grandsons for an afternoon outing to IHOP. An enthusiastic sports fan, he would cheer for his grandsons from the sidelines or from the front row at the rink. As a child he once dreamed of being a sportscaster and loved all sports activities, especially our Boston home teams and the Red Sox. Always an optimist, regardless of the score of a Red Sox baseball game, he would always say "Don't worry they are going to win!" He was also a disciplined walker and would often be seen walking on the VFW Parkway, or doing his shopping at Roche Bros.

Summers were spent in Humarock with family and friends. Connie frequently enjoyed holidays with his brothers and their families. After the death of his wife Janet to a brain tumor in 2004, Connie initiated an annual scholarship in West Roxbury in conjunction with the Art Association for graduating seniors in memory of Janet. Dur-

ing the last few months of his life, Connie and the Murphy family were indebted to the love and kindness of those caregivers who assisted him.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis, and with genuine concern for the people we love, a private family Burial will take place at this time. A gathering to celebrate his life and true love of family and friends will take place at a future date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Brain Tumor Society, the Boston Police Relief Association, or the MA COVID-19 Relief Fund. Lawler and Crosby Funeral Home [www.lawlerfuneralhome.com](http://www.lawlerfuneralhome.com) 617-323-5600

### NOWAK

Michael A. Age 66, passed away Monday, April 6, 2020, at West Roxbury's VA. Born and raised in Medford, MA, he was a proud Navy Vet and a talented musician. He will be dearly missed by his two daughters and remaining siblings. A private burial will be held this week in Massachusetts National Cemetery. [www.lawlerfuneralhome.com](http://www.lawlerfuneralhome.com)

### PAGANO

Lena Marie Of West Roxbury, passed away suddenly on April 5, 2020. Lena was born March 10, 1965, the loving and devoted daughter of Joanna A. (Micci) and the late Anthony J. Pagano. Cherished granddaughter of the late Lena Pagano Lodsie, Joseph Lodsie, John Pagano and Gaetano and Eva (Mazzei) Micci. Dear niece of Marie and David Alden of Burlington and Eva and Gerald Kelleher of South Carolina. Lena is survived by her cousins Margaret St. Onge, Sharon Miller, Davida Alden, Kathryn Czerwinski, Krystine Kelly, Michael Kelleher and Gerald Kelleher. In addition to her many loving family members, she leaves her best friends Lisa and James Blake and their son Kyle and Evelyn and Marshall and family. Lena worked for over 30 years as a Business and Intelligence Specialist at Tufts Health Plan in Watertown. She was friendly, well respected, loving, always happy and always giving of herself, never hesitating to put others first. Lena touched the heart of her family, friends and colleagues as well others she met throughout her life. She was a loyal friend. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, guidelines put in place by Gov. Charles Baker and the Archdiocese of Boston, Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Lena's Memory may be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 450 Brookline Ave., SW 120, Boston, MA

02215 or at [dana-farber.org](http://dana-farber.org) or the charity of your choice. To leave a condolence message for Lena's family, please visit [gormleyfuneral.com](http://gormleyfuneral.com) William J. Gormley Funeral Service 617-323-8600

### TZIGIZIS



Nikolaos of Roslindale, formerly of Doxato, Drama, Greece, passed away surrounded by his loving family on April 12, 2020. Beloved husband of Eleftheria (Gavoutsikos) Tzigizis. Devoted father of Ioannis Tzigizis and his wife Maria, Konstantinos Tzigizis and his wife Dimitra, and Mirsini Tzigizis and her husband Christos Gerontidis. Loving grandfather of Eleftheria Tzigizis Rossu and her husband Andreas, Nikolaos Tzigizis, Ioanna Tzigizis, Christodoulos Gerontidis and Nafsika Anna Gerontidis. Proud great-grandfather of Constantine Rossu. He said what he meant. He loved life. Never gave up. Always wanted more, only to share it with everyone. A private family funeral service will take place at St. Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church. Burial will follow at Gardens Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be made in Nikolaos' memory to St. Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church 39 Belgrade Ave. Roslindale, MA 02131. For online [guestbook pemurrayfuneral.com](http://www.guestbookpemurrayfuneral.com). Arrangements by P.E. Murray - F.J. Higgins, George F. Doherty & Sons Funeral Home, West Roxbury.

### Z Aidan

Alice (Salamie) Of West Roxbury, April 7, 2020. Loving mother of June Zaidan of West Roxbury and the late Samuel and Anthony Zaidan. Beloved Grandma of Jeremy, Christopher and Aaron Zaidan and great-grandmother of Sireea, James and Jovie. Funeral Services will be private. Contributions in Alice's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Guestbook available at [www.KfouryFuneral.com](http://www.KfouryFuneral.com) Kfoury Keefe Funeral Home West Roxbury 617-325-3600

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The Bulletin Newspapers  
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# Mejia and Breadon want more food on the table

**Jeff Sullivan**  
Staff Reporter

At-Large City Councilor Julia Mejia and District 9 City Councilor Liz Breadon sponsored a hearing to increase food distribution for residents facing food insecurity during the COVID-19 crisis in the City of Boston.

Mejia pointed out that eastern Massachusetts already has some of the highest concentrations of residents experiencing food insecurity in the state before the outbreak, and that has not improved.

“Before the outbreak, one in 11 eastern Massachusetts families did not have enough food to feed themselves, and while 61 percent of these families live in poverty, 34 percent are working class, meaning that they make too much money to qualify for government assistance, but too little money to adequately feed themselves,” she said.

Mejia said local food pantries are trying their best, but she said some neighborhoods only have one food pantry for the whole of their community, which means that some families have to travel outside their neighborhoods, on public transportation most likely, for potentially long periods of time to get the food they need.

“Even when families do get to food pantries, the food available is set aside in a box and often contains food that they don’t even know how to cook,” she said. “This is dangerous and it is unfair that in times of crisis we tell poor people to suck it up and take what they can get.”

Mejia said the more time people spend on public transportation or outside trying to obtain food and necessary items, the more risk there is for transmission of COVID-19. She said while some residents are calling her office saying they are afraid to go outside because they do not understand the stay at-home orders from the city or they are not clear on how the virus can spread, many others are being forced to travel

long distances to obtain food they may not even be able to safely eat.

“We have an opportunity with this COVID-19 to really redesign our systems and figure out how we’re going to address the issues of poverty in the City of Boston and food insecurity is one of those things,” she said.

Co-Sponsor Breadon said she is concerned with food insecurity in the city, but also specifically in the Allston Brighton neighborhoods.

“We have a huge numbers of elders, but also immigrant elders who are living on very low incomes in our neighborhoods,” she said. “They are frequent visitors to our food pantries historically, but in this crisis, they’re finding it increasingly difficult to access the food pantry. Public transit is very reduced, they’re being advised to stay in their apartments and some of their buildings are on lock down, because they’ve had an identified case of COVID-19, so it’s a very stressful and challenging time.”

District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok said delivery to residents might be an option, provided drivers and residents take common sense precautions. At-Large City Councilor Michelle Wu echoed Bok’s sentiment.

“We are hearing it from all across the city, from every community, every demographic,” she said.

At-Large City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George said she met with family shelter providers (virtually) about a week previous and she said family shelter providers are also very concerned for their access to food.

“Both as organizations distributing food to our families, but also making sure that their own staff is able to access food, and so I think this is an excellent hearing order and I hope to be able to participate in it and I hope we can elevate the voices of many in the city and the region who have extra difficulty accessing food,” she said.

# The Cooperative Bank Supports Boston Food Pantries During COVID -19 Pandemic

In response to increased demand on local food pantries as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Cooperative Bank (TCB) will donate \$10,000 to Boston food pantries. The funds will be distributed in \$2,500 increments to the food pantries in each of the Boston communities in which TCB serves. Those pantries include Harvest On Vine in Charlestown, Roses Bounty in West Roxbury, the Roslindale Food Pantry and the Jamaica Plain Food Pantry.

“We would like to commend all the community workers who are on the front lines protecting citizens who are more vulnerable during this pandemic,” said President and CEO John Battaglia. “This donation is in appreciation and support for all their hard work during this stressful time. We know that food pantries are in dire need of donations now in the wake of COVID -19’s impact.”

“Rose’s Bounty, like all food pantries and social service agencies, is experiencing a spike in requests for assistance during the coronavirus

outbreak,” said Judy Jose-Roddy, Chair of the Board of Directors at Rose Bounty. “We are relying on our community partners and volunteers to help us meet those needs. TCB was one of the first to step up with a very generous donation recognizing the need and reaching out to help. TCB’s generosity has helped Rose’s Bounty to purchase additional food and the means to transport that food to where it is needed. Our community of volunteers and clients is very grateful,” continued Jose-Roddy.

“The Cooperative Bank in Charlestown is a community leader, thanks to branch manager Tom Coots,” said Tom MacDonald, Director of food pantry Harvest on Vine. “Tom always champions the Harvest on Vine. TCB even buys a table for our annual fundraiser and fills it with ten employees. This spring we couldn’t have a fundraiser due to COVID-19, and TCB donated \$2,500 to us. The Charlestown branch also serves as a drop-off point for people donating food. We at Harvest on Vine are most grateful to branch manager Tom Coots and all at TCB,” said

MacDonald.

For many years The Cooperative Bank has supported local community groups in which it serves. In addition, TCB volunteers as a team at many charitable events held in the community throughout the year.

Founded in 1898, The Cooperative Bank (TCB) is a full-service community bank committed to meeting the financial needs of individuals, families and small businesses. Offering up-to-date products, competitive interest rates and the highest quality personalized service TCB has assets totaling \$439 million and provides banking services to over 8,400 customers.

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### Novena to St. Jude

Oh Holy St. Jude Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near Kinsman of Jesus Christ faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depths of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and three Glorias. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. *This must be said for nine consecutive days. This Novena has never been known to fail.*

—S.G.H.



# Thank You Novenas

## For Favors or Prayers Answered

### Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

*(Never known to fail!)*  
Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you.  
*Grateful thanks. —K.B.*

### St. Jude’s Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 9<sup>th</sup> day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude. My Prayers were answered.  
*In gratitude for helping me. —J.H.*

### Miracle Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked You for many favours. This time, I ask you this very special one (mention favour). Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within Your own broken heart where Your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes, it will become Your favour, not mine. Amen. *Say for three days, promise publication and favour will be granted.*  
—D.J.

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—S.G.H.

### Novena to St. Jude

Oh Holy St. Jude Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near Kinsman of Jesus Christ faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depths of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and three Glorias. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. *This must be said for nine consecutive days. This Novena has never been known to fail.*

—M.D.A.

## Legals

*Pierce Street* continued from page 1

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court – Probate and Family Court Department  
SUFFOLK Division Docket No. **SU20C0120CA**  
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME **Suffolk Probate and Family Court**  
**24 New Chardon St.**  
**Boston, MA 02114**  
**617-788-8300**

**In the Matter of:** Jayden Giovanni Figueroa Gomes  
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by  
**Jayden Giovanni Figueroa Gomes of Roslindale**  
requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:  
**Jayden Giovanni Pereira**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Suffolk Probate and Family Court** before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/30/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

**WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court**  
Date: March 06, 2020  
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate  
*West Roxbury/Roslindale Bulletin: 04/16/2020*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court Probate and Family Court  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION DOCKET No. **SU20P0367EA**  
**Estate of:** Richard Edward Fraser **Suffolk Probate and Family Court**  
**24 New Chardon St.**  
**Boston, MA 02114**  
**617-788-8300**

**Date of Death:** 01/20/2019

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for S/A **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by:  
**Richard F. Fraser of Abington, MA**  
requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:  
**Richard F. Fraser of Abington, MA**  
be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Personal Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/20/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court**  
Date: March 18, 2020  
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate  
*Boston Bulletin: 04/16/2020*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court Probate and Family Court  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION DOCKET No. **SU20P0557EA**  
**Estate of: Frances Miller** **Suffolk Probate and Family Court**  
**24 New Chardon St.**  
**Boston, MA 02114**  
**617-788-8300**

**Date of Death:** 12/29/2019

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by:  
**Michelle Miller O'Leary of Albertville, MN**  
requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:  
**Michelle Miller O'Leary of Albertville, MN**  
be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **05/08/2020**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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**WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: March 27, 2020  
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate  
*Boston Bulletin: 04/16/2020*

Fairmount Hill Neighborhood Group. (WFHNG). It was an opportunity to share mutual goals, help others during the crisis and talk about potential ways to celebrate once the pandemic ends.

“For so long, we’ve been talking about this ability for people who want to attend and can’t,” Maria Esdale Farrell of the WFHNG said of Zoom. “But now people will be more comfortable doing this stuff live.”

Esdale Farrell, the education aide to former District 5 City Councilor Tim McCarthy and a candidate for the seat in the last election, complimented Daye for reaching out to other groups and community leaders for this effort. During the meeting, she offered to gather resource information from the City to distribute to those in attendance.

Ramona Desire, a servant at the Family Life Foursquare Church at 28 Arlington St., where the meetings usually are held, asked if she could offer the church as a potential food distribution site or COVID-19 testing location, if allowed. She also wanted to donate sanitizer and masks, but was unsure how to do so.

“There are elderly, mentally challenged people, disabled people, and people who are in need who are so anxious and nervous with the pandemic,” she said. “The church is there to help the people.”

Esdale Farrell offered to connect Desire with City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo’s office, the City’s Age Strong office, and create a resource list.

Michel suggested creating a mutual aid society with all of the groups, noting that Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Somerville, and Allston-Brighton have them.

“Why not Hyde Park?” Michel said, adding that he has a template. “That’s not incredibly heavy lifting. It does require someone with computer skills to set up a shared document. You need an honest broker, but I think that’s what this moment calls for, don’t you?”

Some of the services he suggested would be for grocery shopping, dog walking, errands and financial donations. People who need resources could be added to the database and linked with volunteers. Esdale Farrell recommended the Next Door app as a resource for local neighborhoods, but noted there is no way to link groups.

“It’s a great sharing tool to get neighbors together,” she said. “I definitely want to get more of a reach than email.”

Daye noted that she attended a meeting with District 4 City Councilor Andrea Campbell via Zoom earlier that day so that the councilor could learn about how

communities were coping with the COVID-19 crisis. Mental health was one key component stressed.

“One person at the meeting had the virus,” she said. “He spoke about being in the hospital, and what he went through.”

Members offered to check on neighbors on Davison, Pierce, and West Streets as well as Riverside Square.

Local artist Diane Hendershott has been making masks, which she has been selling for \$10. She said she is using the proceeds to pay for the materials and for masks she is donating for nurses. She has been involved with events at The Switch.

Kirker asked if there was any movement on the heads of the various neighborhood organizations joining forces on community-wide issues or to organize an event. An idea that was floated was the creation of a Hyde Park Neighborhood Council.

“Once this gets over, we need to have a big celebration,” Daye added. “We need to march out in the streets with signs and have dancing in the streets.”

“We need to have one party that is all of Hyde Park,” Kirker added.

Esdale Farrell said she would compile contacts from the successful HP 150 event.

The next Pierce St. Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held via Zoom on Tues., April 21 at 6 p.m. Kirker added he planned on holding the next HPNA meeting via Zoom on Thurs., May 7 at 7 p.m. He updated the participants on recent developments with the ongoing 11 Dana Ave. zoning issue, which is well into its second year.

“There were some incidents where they were doing work they weren’t supposed to do,” Kirker said. “They got a violation notice. I’m still not clear whether they were fined or not. Somebody said they were, and then I heard they weren’t.”

He added that there had been construction work done on the property after Mayor Marty Walsh had given the citywide order to halt anything but non-essential construction projects.

“An inspector went down, and they had actually gotten permission to do what they were doing,” Kirker explained. “They were covering up a rebar with cement and filling in the holes where they had excavated with backfill.”

Another issue is that the 48-unit development slated for the former Dempsey’s restaurant next to the Hyde Park Community Center, which is using the 11 Dana Ave. plan as a template, had filed for a permit before the pandemic.

“People ask me why you are

keying in on 11 Dana Ave.,” Kirker said. “If 11 Dana Ave. goes as of right, you can say goodbye to Hyde Park as we know it.”

At the last HPNA meeting, an abutter filed an appeal with the Zoning Board of Appeal.

“We do have two lawyers interested in representing us if it does go to court,” Kirker added.

Officer Paul Broderick said the police station is open if people need to make reports. Sgt. Daniel Keane and community service Officer Matt Conley participated in the call.

He gave the police report over the past several weeks. He noted that, because people have basically been confined to their homes, there has been an uptick in domestic violence since the COVID-19 outbreak.

“Domestics citywide are up,” he said, “but other crimes are a little down.”

For example, on March 17, a 17-year-old was arrested for assault and battery on his mother at 650 Metropolitan Ave. Four days later, at 690 Metropolitan Ave., an 18-year-old was arrested for assault and battery on his mother at 10:30 p.m. On March 23, at 7 p.m. at 50 Lexington Ave., a mother assaulted her 15-year-old son with a metal pipe because the son refused to get off his mother’s bed.

On the positive side, there were zero vandalism, zero auto thefts and zero drug arrests in the police report.

Other incidents of note included the following:

Police received a radio call on April 4 at 10:30 p.m. regarding a stabbing at 77 Harvard Ave. A 17-year-old black male was found in his motor vehicle with a stab wound to the chest.

On March 25, there was a report of shots fired at 293 Huntington Ave. at 7:30 p.m., and ballistics were found at the scene. The victim drove to 90 River St. and suffered a leg injury, but was uncooperative with police, according to Broderick.

The Santander Bank at 860 River St. at the Shops at Riverwood was robbed on March 19 of \$13,000 in cash.

“A black male entered the bank and stated he had a gun – didn’t show one,” Broderick said. “He said, ‘Follow my demands, or I’m gonna shoot everyone.’”

Police arrested a suspect in the process of breaking into a house on March 10 at 1115 Hyde Park Ave. at 11:30 p.m. The suspect had kicked in the front door. The victim fled into the house and contacted the police.

The Bulletin has printed a list of resource numbers. For more information on items mentioned, please call District 5 City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo’s office at 617-635-4210 and Age Strong at 617-635-4366.

# Community Service Directory

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# INSIGHT

## Dear Neighbors,

We are all adapting to difficulties that would have been unimaginable only a few weeks ago. Few of us can remember a time when families, businesses and private and public services, all over the world, were under such pressure. Our thoughts are with everyone who has been affected by the Coronavirus.

At times like this, we often contemplate how we can help one another. At Insight Realty Group, we have an amazing team that believes helping locally is the best approach.

At Insight we've stepped up to volunteer for wellness check-ins on the phone, with our most vulnerable neighbors, made contributions to Boston-based food banks and pantries, offered guidance to assistance programs for those affected financially, and we will continue to support the Boston Resiliency Fund.

We are always here to help our clients, our neighbors, our community. Boston has faced other challenges. Now, as before, we all are selflessly there for one another – friends helping friends; and friends helping strangers.

While our current situation is unprecedented, we know that down the street, throughout the community and across this great city, we will emerge standing side by side as neighbors again.

Join us in thanking those that continue to care for us and support our needs during this time.

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