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50 CENTS

COVID-19

Protecting our community.
Keeping you informed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS



THURSDAY,
March 19, 2020

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INDEPENDENT



Newspaper Group

TAKING STEPS TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

EBNHC offers advice amid Coronavirus pandemic

Special to the Journal

Community health centers like the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) are among America's first responders in public health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. It is essential that we play a role in educating the community and above all else, work together to ensure the safety of our staff, patients, and members of the communities we serve. It is with

this in mind that EBNHC is partnering with Independent Newspaper Group and other media to regularly communicate directly with residents about the ongoing efforts to provide care to our community and help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

As you know, the situation is changing every day. Like other health care organizations, we have enacted Emergency Operations Planning and are prepared should there be a rise in

cases. We will be there for all who need us, regardless of age, income, insurance status, language, culture, or social circumstances. Our mission has not changed in 50 years and will guide us through this crisis.

EBNHC patients who believe they may be infected with COVID-19 should not come to the health center, but rather, should call us. We have implemented a thorough phone screening process for any patient exhibiting a fever and flu-like

symptoms or who has had a possible exposure. If testing is deemed necessary, arrangements will be made.

Of particular focus for us is making special provisions for the many elderly we care for in our community. Our Neighborhood PACE program cares for hundreds of seniors and the health center sees thousands of others who depend on us for their care. Given that the elderly population is at the highest risk, we are focused on taking every step

possible to continue giving high-quality care at our PACE Centers, in homes, and within the primary care setting without exacerbating risk.

To minimize potential exposure to otherwise healthy patients, we are asking all EBNHC patients to postpone any routine or preventive healthcare. However, for patients in need of appointments, we can help

See EBNHC Page 4

Town alerted to first positive COVID-19 case

By Kate Anslinger

One confirmed case and no presumptive cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Winthrop as of Tuesday night. According to Town Nurse, Meredith Hurley, more testing over the coming days and weeks could see a rise in positive cases.

"This means that public health practices are working and allows us better opportunities to stop the spread by conducting investigations," said Hurley, who has partnered with the Town Manager's Office, Winthrop Fire, Winthrop Police and Winthrop Public Schools to conduct contact tracing of each case, identifying potential exposure and alerting patients of the need to self-quarantine.

"Though a time consuming process, we have a strong leadership team and we are all working vigilantly to address all safety and health concerns in the community," Hurley said. "We have the Emergency Operations Center open and staffed to respond rapidly as the situation evolves."

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated on Monday, March 16, at 8 a.m., ensuring the continued delivery of services to residents. The EOC will remain operational until further notice.

Hurley urges residents to contact the EOC info line from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at 617-539-5848 or via the dedicated email at: COVID-19info@town.winthrop.ma.us.

Federal officials have advised the public to limit gatherings of no more than ten people at one time, in one place. The Town is advising residents to practice social distancing by keeping six feet between people. The Winthrop Police and Fire departments are temporarily suspending all non-emergency walk-in services and encouraging residents to contact the police business line at 617-846-1212 or the fire business line at 617-539-5813 with inquiries and non-emergency reports. Residents are reminded to always call 911 in an emergency, and po-

See COVID-19 Page 3



A sign is posted on the door of the Robert A. DeLeo Senior Center informing residents of its closure due to the Coronavirus.

Changes and closings announced following Coronavirus emergency

Special to the Transcript

The Town of Winthrop, after meeting with its leadership team and consulting with a consortium of mayors and municipal managers from around the metropolitan Boston area, has made the decision to close the Winthrop Public Schools through April 6. The town has also decided to suspend most nonessential town services and cancel board and committee meetings until further notice.

Additionally, the Winthrop Public Library, Winthrop Parks and Recreation

Department and Larsen Rink will be closed through March 27th. The Winthrop Council on Aging will be open for lunch Monday through Friday and senior transportation will continue from Monday through Thursday. All Council on Aging programs and events are cancelled.

All town committee and board meetings will be canceled through March 27.

The town is advising its residents to practice social distancing and avoid group activities and events. Social

See CLOSINGS Page 3

Council meeting reviews COVID-19 preparedness

By Laura Plummer

When the Winthrop Town Council last met on March 10, it broached many subjects affecting residents, including the town's readiness to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak.

-Emergency Plan

Meredith Hurley of the Emergency Planning Committee spoke about the town's preparations for tackling the ongoing health crisis. She assured Council she is in constant contact with the Department of Public Health (DPH), the schools, the fire department and area medical facilities in order to form the most robust and collaborative response.

Hurley also said she is getting guidance from the World Health Organiza-

tion (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on how to manage this global pandemic on a local scale. She is working closely with Town Manager Austin Faison to keep the public informed and to ensure the continuity of government in these unprecedented times.

-Future Meetings

As of the deadline for this publication, the next regularly scheduled meet-

ing of Council was March 24. Council is currently exploring options for meeting remotely over the next several weeks. Updates will be provided on its website. The Spring Forum, originally scheduled for March 24, has been cancelled and has not yet been rescheduled.

-Committee Reports

The Public Safety Com-

mittee is seeking alternative routes in and out of the Gorman Fort Banks School. In addition, it is exploring the possibility of increasing the cross times for crosswalks.

The Rules and Ordinance Committee met to discuss the topic of the town fee schedule. Its first step is to highlight areas for improvement. An intern at

See COUNCIL Page 3

Neighbors, customers and friends,

With our lives being changed on a daily basis by the Covid-19 pandemic, we want to update you on some changes that we are making at the Independent Newspaper Group.

Our office will remain open during regular business hours, Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Customers can contact us at 781-485-0588 or by the emails listed on the editorial page.

The full print edition will be available online every Thursday at winthroptranscript.com Our web page will be updated with the latest new regulations and news from our elected leaders as soon as the news is made public.

We urge everyone to adhere to the rules and recommendations of our elected officials and the CDC in fighting this pandemic.

Stay safe

Your friends at the Winthrop Sun Transcript

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WINTHROP MARKETPLACE

Starting Monday, Mar. 23 we will be opened from 8am-7pm

Winthrop Marketplace would like to thank all our Customers for their support. At this time we are experiencing many items that will be out of stock. We may need to limit certain items. Currently we are unable to issue rainchecks on sale items. Thank you for your patience.

See our Ad on Page 7

www.winthropmktplace.com • 35 Revere St. Winthrop

WINTHROP POLICE BLOTTER

Monday, March 2

Motor vehicle hit and run, party pulled over and the vehicle that hit her was a white SUV that took off. Person flagged down officer who was on a detail.

Officer on detail was approached by a party who stated he hit another vehicle, very minor.

Caller from West Roxbury hospital stated their patient had an appointment and never showed up. He was talking to the nurse the day before and stated he didn't feel well and was dizzy. They want to make sure he is ok. Police requesting fire. Male being transported to MGH.

SJC issues order restricting municipal court matters

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) on Tuesday ordered that, because of the public health emergency arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning March 18 and at least until April 6, the only matters that will be heard in-person in Massachusetts state courthouses are emergency matters that cannot be held by videoconference or telephonic hearing.

Each of the seven Trial Court departments, in new Standing orders, in new Standing orders to be issued March 17, will define emergency matters for their departments.

As a result of the SJC order, courthouses will be closed to the public except to conduct emergency hearings that cannot be resolved through a videoconference or telephonic hearing.

Clerks' offices shall remain open to the public to accept pleadings and other documents in emergency matters only.

All trials in both criminal and civil cases scheduled

Party came into police headquarters to report that somebody had stolen her handicap placard from her parked motor vehicle.

Caller reported seeing a syringe behind Cummings School. Officer retrieved the syringe and will dispose of it.

Officer flagged down by a male party that looked injured. Male party is someone police have been dealing with over the past couple of days; party was transported to the Whidden Intoxicated.

Call in by AAA 2011 Ford Escape in the middle of the road. Brakes gave out while driving using their e-brake blocking traffic.

to commence in Massachusetts state courts between today and April 17 are continued to a date no earlier than April 21, unless the trial is a civil case where the parties and the court agree that the case can be decided without the need for in-person appearance in court. Where a jury trial has commenced, the trial will end based on the manifest necessity arising from the pandemic and a new trial may commence after the public health emergency ends.

Courts, to the best of their ability, will attempt to address matters that can be resolved or advanced without in-person proceedings through communication by telephone, videoconferencing, email, or other comparable means.

The SJC and the Appeals Court in the coming days will offer guidance with regard to oral arguments scheduled in April in these appellate courts.

Unit arrived vehicle was pushed off to the side of the road.

Assault and battery with a dangerous weapon on Morris Street in East Boston.

White male, black hair, black sweatshirt, and jeans, looking into people's houses. Officers requesting medical. Intoxicated male party transported to Whidden. Units Clear

Tuesday, March 3

Caller states a black motor vehicle hit a stop sign, did a "burnout" and took off.

Person states dead animal in the middle of street, will notify ALC1 and DPW. Animal was picked up and placed on the sidewalk.

Called in by a passerby reporting a two-car motor vehicle accident with air bag deployment. G&J notified. Unit reports while doing inventory on the vehicle he found a glass of red wine by the driver's seat, he will be mailing her a citation for opened container. Units clear.

Wednesday, March 4

Caller states he is at work in Boston, but saw a man on his home camera walk into his backyard. Older man with blondish hair, partially bald. Clear,

nothing is showing.

Thursday, March 5

White male wearing a Roof King black shirt, red hat, he's slamming things, screaming located on the side of house that's under construction on Underhill Street. Male party in question was located at Twist and Shake. Male party has disabilities; there is another male party with him now.

Male party reporting illegal dumping in front of his house on sidewalk in a large bio paper bag. Older female left the area. No illegal dumping, bag blew onto person's property. Clear

40-foot truck SYSCO truck, bottom of Pearl Avenue blocking the roadway. Unit speaking to the driver. Truck is leaving.

Multiple parties fighting on Shirley Street. Two witnesses said all parties left the scene.

Party wearing sweatshirt ringing doorbell to sell, nobody has registered at the station to do so. Green Peace Organization.

Friday, March 6

DPW worker at Winthrop Cemetery on scene reporting finding three syringes located in the middle of the road and on Bowden Street near a bush. Officer has those items in a container.

Clear

Police assist Fire Department for a person having a seizure. Male party being transported to MGH.

Unit was flagged down by a bus driver. Possible breaking and entering to the Little League Field. The SRO came out also. Three young parties came out and identified themselves and stated they were inside. Units doing a walk-through to make sure there is no damage. The parties will point out the area they entered to the SRO.

Anonymous party called stated that party driving around town unwell. Check in well-being.

Called in by a passerby by stating that there is a tree down in the middle of the road on Revere Street going towards Crest Avenue. DPW being notified.

Saturday, March 7

Motor vehicle stop for Hands Free Law.

Unit radioed into control to advise that he spoke to the owner of the car wash on Main Street. He understands that it is out of his control, but there is a mass of cars overflowing onto the road, and he was inquiring on how to divert traffic.

Reporting party came to station to report a possible scam. He stated a male party in a Dodge truck sold him

a surround-sound system that was of far greater value than he paid for it. Wanted incident documented.

Female party came in to report package thefts from her porch on Shirley Street.

Sunday, March 8

Male party came in to return unused ammunition.

Caller states two males, carrying a black bag and walking towards the cliffs. Caller stated the two males possibly arrived in a gray/blue Volkswagen with a third male sitting in the car. Apparently the caller found all this suspicious. Units checked area and found nothing out of the ordinary.

Caller says drunk male won't leave building on Shore Drive. Party has been removed from the area. Landlord is worried he might come back. Unit checking area to locate the subject to make the party aware he is not welcomed back. Party called back and stated that the party was hiding in the bathroom. Medical was requested by the units. Party being transported to the Whidden for alcohol-related issues.

Monday, March 9

Injured raccoon limping behind the EB Newton School. Revere ALC1 has raccoon. Clear.

Residents' questions answered at forum on Center reconstruction

By Transcript Staff

The long-overdue work to replace an aging and decaying infrastructure in the Winthrop Center Business District will cause disruptions for the next year and half for both businesses and residents. That was the message that both town officials and the contractors told more than 30 residents who attended a public hearing last Thursday night at the Robert DeLeo Senior Center.

"We are here tonight to go through the timeline and to get the impacts out there. We are listening to you and we want to know when issues come up," Town Manager Austin Faison told the crowd.

The project will replace the failing sewer and water mains, as well as the sidewalks, roadways, and streetscapes. The sidewalks will be worked on one side at a time so that pedestrians will always be able to access a finished sidewalk. The scope of the project will require streets in the Center at different times to be closed during certain times of the day in order for the contractor to put down new sewer pipes and paving.

However, at the end of each workday, all the streets will be open to traffic.

The project will be accomplished in nine phases with a starting date of April 6 and a final completion date in November, 2021.

Arthur Leventis, Project Manager from Woodard and Curran, an engineering firm outlined the work to be done in each phase by the contracting firm of P. Gioioso and Sons.

Phase 1

The first part of the multi-million dollar project will be the removal of French Square. Under the plan, the trees and grass will be removed and paved over for 24 temporary parking spaces. The work will take place from April 6 to 8.

Phase 2

Sewer, water, and drain improvements will be constructed on Pauline Street between Walden Street and Woodside Avenue and on Woodside Avenue between Pauline Street and Bart-

lett Road. Contaminated soil and groundwater are expected during construction of the infrastructure improvements on Pauline Street and Woodside Avenue. The staging area at the Larsen Rink will be utilized during this construction phase to manage soil. The work will take place from April 20 to June 16.

Phase 3

Storm drain improvements on Pauline Street (Woodside Avenue to Hagman Road), Hagman Road, French Square, and Jefferson Street (French Square to Putnam Street) will be constructed. Contaminated soil and groundwater are expected during construction on Pauline Street and Hagman Road. The staging area at the Larsen Rink will be utilized during this construction to manage soils.

Hagman Road is also an area of environmental concern. An archaeologist will be on site monitoring construction as a precautionary measure. The work will take place from June 27 to July 14.

Phase 4

Sewer, water, and drain improvements will be constructed on Woodside Avenue (French Square to Pleasant Street), Adams Street, Williams Street and Bartlett Road (French Square to Pleasant Street). The work will take place July 15 to Sept. 10.

Phase 5

Sewer, water, and drain improvements will be constructed on Somerset Avenue (Woodside Avenue to Pleasant Street) and Cottage Park Road (Somerset Avenue to Pleasant Street). The work will take place Sept. 11 to Nov. 13.

Phase 6

Sidewalk, landscaping, and electrical improvements will be constructed on Pauline Street (Walden Street to Woodside Avenue) and Woodside Avenue (Pauline Street to French Square). The work will take place from April 1 to May 10, 2021.

Phase 7

Sidewalk, landscaping, and electrical improvements will be constructed on Hagman Road, Putnam

Street (Pauline Street to Jefferson Street), Jefferson Street (Putnam Street to French Square), and French Square. This phase does not include the reconstruction of French Square. The work will take place from May 11 to June 28, 2021.

Phase 8

Sidewalk, landscaping, and electrical improvements will be constructed on Woodside Avenue (French Square to Pleasant Street), Adams Street, and Bartlett Road (French Square to Pleasant Street). The work will take place June 29 to Aug. 3, 2021.

Phase 9

Sidewalk, landscaping, and electrical improvements will be constructed on Somerset Avenue (Woodside Avenue to Pleasant Street) and Cottage Park Road (Somerset Avenue to Pleasant Street). The work will take place Aug. 4 to Aug. 27, 2021.

Leventis mentioned that there will be noise and dust during the time period that the dirt is being removed by heavy trucks. The work will be performed Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be no work on weekends or holidays. He also mentioned that there will be temporary water hoses going into buildings during the construction. These hoses will be covered to avoid people tripping over them.

A staging area is planned for both behind Larsen Rink for materials and an area to the side of the parking lot for management of what might be termed "contaminated soil." Leventis said the soil probably contains very small traces of fuels that have accumulated over the decades.

The lot will be used only during the construction season that lasts from April to no later than December. There will also be police details on the job site to make sure that traffic problems are minimized.

The question of using the parking lot at Larsen Rink as a staging area was questioned by Councilor Jim Letterie. "Why not use the parking lot at E.B. Newton School. Wouldn't that be a better site?" he asked.

Superintendent of Public Works Steve Calla said that they had looked into using the E.B. Newton parking lot on Walden St., but noted that the town had spent more than \$90,000 only a few years ago to redo that lot, and that using the site as a staging and storage area could damage the surface and would mean the lot would have to be redone. "The rink will only be affected for two months," Calla said.

Jeanne Maggio questioned the paving-over of French Square and the destruction of the trees. "I moved to Winthrop more than 55 years ago and to me, French Square is the heart of Winthrop. There has not been a lot of conversation about the new design of French Square. We should at least find a way to save the area where trees are located," she said.

Calla said that he understood her concerns and noted that the project was started in 2013 and has evolved over the last seven years. The design of the Square was approved by the Council a few years back. As far as the trees, he noted that the birch tree is about 10 years old and to transplant the tree would cost more than \$60,000, with no guarantee of it being successful, as it is in poor health condition.

Donna Segreti Reilly queried about the the possibility of rodents, who generally scurry to find a new home during an excavation project of this magnitude.

Marco Gioioso from Gioioso Constarctors agreed that they are expecting rodent migration, as is the case in any construction site. He said that before they excavate, they will check for rodent activity and bait the area. If any residents or business owners see an increase in rodents, he said they should let him know.

Faison closed the meeting saying, "Don't stop asking questions, we want to know as much as possible, The time to answer is now."

A timeline of the project is available at <https://tinyurl.com/CBDProject-timeline>.

Project updates will be posted regularly at <https://tinyurl.com/CBDinfrastructure>.

Marketplace // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and his staff take their job of providing food for the community's needs very seriously. His staff has been wonderful, and they are grateful to the community for supporting them.

"Our customers are wonderful," Waller said. "I also am very lucky to have a great staff," he added.

Marc Waller is no stranger to the food business, as owner of the Winthrop Marketplace for 20 years.

"This current situation is worse than a snowstorm. With a snowstorm, there is an end in sight, but this virus does not have an end yet," said Waller, who also pointed out that he has his floors and surfaces cleaned daily.


His view of the current crisis is that people are scared. "They just want to make sure that they have

food and water," he said.

He urged people to heed the advice of Gov. Charlie Baker and President Donald Trump not to hoard. "Every day, we have plenty of products coming in," Waller said. He noted that there are more regular-type products, such as canned and frozen foods, as opposed to the unique products, in this time of a national emergency.

Waller added that he and his staff welcome questions about products from their customers, especially from the elderly.

Waller said the best advice that he can give to his customers is to come in and be patient. "Take what you need, and if you do not see something, please ask our staff. We are still getting deliveries every day with essential items."



Holy Week at St John's Parish

The Episcopal Church in Winthrop, Massachusetts
(corner of Bowdoin and Buchanan Streets)

Maundy Thursday Liturgy (04/09) – 7 PM
Good Friday Liturgy (04/10) – 7 AM & 7 PM
Good Friday – Stations of the Cross – Noon
Great Vigil of Easter (Sat - 04/11) – 5:30 PM
Easter Vigil Potluck Feast – 7 PM
Sunrise Service at Beach (04/12) – 6:00 AM
(Highland end at the green rails)
Easter Day Mass – 8 & 10 AM

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Small Business Administration to provide small businesses impacted by COVID-19

Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Jovita Carranza issued the following statement last Friday in response to the President’s address to the nation:

“The President took bold, decisive action to make our 30 million small businesses more resilient to Coronavirus-related economic disruptions. Small businesses are vital economic engines in every community and state, and they have helped make our economy the strongest in the world. Our Agency will work directly with state Governors to provide targeted, low-interest disaster recovery loans to small businesses that have been severely impacted by the situation. Additionally, the SBA continues to assist small businesses with counseling and navigating their own preparedness plans through our network of 68 District Offices and nu-

merous Resource Partners located around the country. The SBA will continue to provide every small business with the most effective and customer-focused response possible during these times of uncertainty.”

Process for Accessing SBA’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disaster Relief Lending

- The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Upon a request received from a state’s or territory’s Governor, SBA will issue under its own authority, as provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act that was recently signed by the President, an

Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration.

- Any such Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration issued by the SBA makes loans available to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated areas of a state or territory to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

- SBA’s Office of Disaster Assistance will coordinate with the state’s or territory’s Governor to submit the request for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance.

- Once a declaration is made for designated areas within a state, the information on the application process for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance will be made available to all affected communities.

- SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance and

can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.

- These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact. The interest rate is 3.75 percent for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses

with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75 percent.

- SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower’s ability to repay.

- SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans are just one

piece of the expanded focus of the federal government’s coordinated response, and the SBA is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible.

For additional information, contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center. Call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

School district solidifies a plan for closure

By Kate Anslinger

The statewide closure of all K-12 public schools, through April 6, has evoked school district administrators to put a plan in place, acting fast to ensure the health and safety of students, staff and families.

“We are asking all [Winthrop Public Schools] families and staff to please put forth your best effort to keep our students and families safe by implementing social distancing (keeping a six-foot distance between individuals), practice increased handwashing and limit participating in social gatherings and play

dates,” said School Superintendent, Lisa Howard. “The WPS will continue to provide food service to any one in need.”

Beginning Wednesday, March 18 until Friday, March 27, Grab and Go meals will be prepared by the district’s Food Service Staff and available for any WPS student in need. The pickup location is at Winthrop High School, at the rear of the parking lot next to the baseball field and at the loading dock area. Hours of pickup are between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and there is no cost.

Howard said the Food Service Staff will be available and on site during dis-

tribution times to support the nutritional needs of our families.

“Let’s all work together, as our community consistently does, to do whatever it takes to keep our students and families safe and healthy. There will be a hotline/email on the school district website (<https://www.winthrop.k12.ma.us/>), for families who may need additional support related to food services.”

The administration is currently putting together distance learning opportunities and principals will be in contact with parents and students via email in the upcoming days.

COVID-19 //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lice, fire and EMS personnel will respond as normal.

If anyone displays symptoms of COVID-19, including a fever, cough or shortness of breath, they should contact their primary care physician.

Other updates include:

- Meals on Wheels for seniors will continue to

operate, and residents who are in need and are not currently on the list to receive meals through the program can email Kdixon@town.winthrop.ma.us or call 617-539-5848, with their name, phone number and address to be included in the program.

- Massachusetts General Hospital has confirmed

their shuttle is still operating as scheduled, however; it’s important to check for any changes at: <https://www.massgeneral.org/visit/parking-and-shuttles/shuttle-service>.

- The MBTA has made reduction to its schedule. To view the changes, see: <https://www.mbta.com/schedules>

Council //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Town Hall has compiled a recommended schedule, and the committee wants to explore how much permits and services are costing the town.

The Miller Field Committee met on March 9, when it discussed the completion of the fieldhouse. Construction is 95 percent complete, with windows, bathroom partitions and fencing slated to be installed next. Of course, it is unclear how the current health situation will affect ongoing construction. Boston recently declared a moratorium on construction projects in the city, and neighboring municipalities are likely to follow suit. Council praised the vocational students who have volunteered on the project, saying they saved the town \$300,000 to \$400,000 in labor costs.

-Schools Update

The School Committee met on March 2 to discuss its budget. It passed a mo-

tion to increase the cost of preschool for the first time in five years due to rising expenses. The cost will increase by \$100 to \$200. The slide at the Fort Banks School had to be closed and construction on its playground may be delayed due to COVID-19. The superintendent was putting together a list of items needed to complete the project, but priorities have obviously shifted in the wake of the pandemic.

-Speeding Concerns

Councilors are looking into reducing the speed limit to 20 miles per hour. It was previously reduced to 30 miles per hour after months of complaints from constituents about speeding. Council recognized that speed limits are only effective when they can actually be enforced. The matter was referred to the Town’s Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC).

-Appointments

Council approved the

appointments of Rich Cifuni as the Head of Facilities and Brian Curley as Principal at the Middle School.

-Citation

Council honored Norman Hyatt, Chairman of the Conservation Committee, who recently submitted his resignation.

“We extend our sincere gratitude and we wish you the best in all of your future endeavors,” said Council President Phil Boncore.

-Dog Park

“It took less time to write the Constitution of the United States than to get a dog park in this town,” said a resident of Precinct 4. “We have over 2,000 dogs. Our dogs need a place they can go. Let’s stop putting it on the back-burner.”

Council President Boncore responded that Council is currently working on a proposed site for the park, and updates should be available soon.

Closings //CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vent the spread of infection which also includes handshaking, hugging and the like.

The decision was made after reviewing the facts and circumstances of the rapidly unfolding novel coronavirus crisis, which has been designated a global pandemic by the World Health Organization.

Superintendent Lisa Howard will be reaching out to all Winthrop Public School families with a follow up notice containing detailed information related to public schools.

The Winthrop leadership team met Thursday after Town Manager Austin Faison, Assistant Town Manager Anna Freedman and Public Health Director Meredith Hurley met with a group of mayors and municipal managers in Greater Boston to review the latest information about the COVID-19 outbreak.

Winthrop’s Town administrative offices will operate with minimal staff in order

to maintain core municipal services and reachable by phone. The hours of operation will be Monday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. & Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 4 p.m.

“Although Winthrop does not have a confirmed case of COVID-19, we have to act out of an abundance of caution. The information that has been provided to my office has been sobering and necessitates immediate action,” Town Manager Faison said. “I hope that everyone in the community can be patient as we work through this situation. We look forward to resuming operations.”

The Town of Winthrop is coordinating efforts to provide support to the vulnerable populations in town, including school-age children on free and reduced lunches, seniors needing food and medical support as well as transportation to medical appointments.

Winthrop has also activated its Emergency Op-

erations Center, ensuring interoperability and seamless logistics and delivery of vital town services with representatives from multiple town agencies and departments in constant communication. As part of this activation, the town will staff a hotline from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily until further notice. That number, for Winthrop residents only, is 617-539-5848. Residents can also email the Emergency Operations Center team at COVID19info@town.winthrop.ma.us.

Local information will be posted at:

<https://www.town.winthrop.ma.us/covid-19-updates>

Town social media: <https://www.facebook.com/winthropma/> and on Twitter @townofwinthrop

Local media (WCAT and the Winthrop Transcript)

Additional updates will be provided as information becomes available.

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Winthrop

SUN TRANSCRIPT

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OUR Opinions

THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC: A WAKE-UP CALL FOR THE U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Americans forever were forced to change the manner in which we traveled. The strikes on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon made clear that the screening system we had in place at airports at that time was inadequate for meeting the threat posed by a determined international terrorist organization.

Long security lines at every airport in this country, as well as around the world, soon became the norm, as new protocols were put into place for our protection against future attacks. Americans didn't -- and still don't -- like them, but all of us understand that the inconvenience and expense of the enhanced security measures are essential for our safety.

Similar to the issue of inadequate airport security before 9/11, the onset of the world-wide, COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the gross shortcomings of the American health care system's ability to confront a major health emergency of the magnitude we are facing today.

The U.S. is far less capable of dealing with an influx of patients afflicted with coronavirus than every other industrialized nation in the world (as well as many poorer nations). Relative to our population, we have far fewer doctors, nurses, hospital beds, and acute care capabilities than countries all across the globe that already are struggling with the onslaught of COVID-19.

With our emergency rooms already at 75-90 percent of capacity at any given time, it will not take much to overwhelm every hospital in every city in every state if this pandemic comes even close to a worst-case scenario.

In addition, a huge percentage of our population has no direct access to quality health care that could identify early exposure to the virus. For example, federal emergency officials have urged every citizen to call their doctor first, rather than just reflexively coming into the doctor's office, if they suspect they are becoming ill. However, about 25 percent of our fellow Americans -- about 75 million of us -- do not have a primary care physician either because they do not have health insurance or are underinsured. So what are those people supposed to do -- other than flood into emergency rooms?

The bottom line is this: America's healthcare system is under stress even in the best of circumstances. It is neither designed nor capable of ensuring the optimum health outcomes for most of our citizenry and excludes a large percentage of our population altogether even in ordinary circumstances. And ironically, we spend more on our healthcare by far -- and get less for it -- than any other nation on earth.

Hopefully, the current crisis will serve as the equivalent of a 9/11 wake-up call so that we can make significant changes to our healthcare system in order to ensure that every American has access to quality healthcare for the protection of our people, both individually and collectively.

Independent Newspaper Group

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

The Winthrop Sun Transcript is published every Thursday by the Revere-based Independent Newspaper Group. Periodical postage rates paid at Boston Ma. Subscription rates are \$30 per year in Winthrop, and \$60 per year outside the city. Postmaster, send change of address information to Independent Newspaper Group, 385 Broadway, Suite 105, Revere, MA 02151.

The Transcript assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements, but will reprint that part of the advertisement in which the error occurs. Advertisers will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur. USPS NO. 526-560

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— MARCH 19, 2020 —

LETTERS to the Editor

CORONAVIRUS PROVES NECESSITY FOR BORDER WALL

The striking panic over the Coronavirus proves the need to immediately secure our borders. This single germ from across the globe displays how fragile the safety of the American public, our elderly and our children are. This threat appears so severe that our leaders have responded

with suspensions of our civil rights, reducing our social movement, and suspending economic activity. In the short term, this is going to have a staggering personal and economic impact on every American, and the impact will ripple throughout our economic fibers over the long term. This is crippling to all people and business, including our small businesses, and those most financially vulnerable in the lower income groups, our elderly and our

children.

Our borders are porous. Daily hundreds and thousands of people amass at our borders awaiting the opportunity to enter illegally. These people from all over the globe are medically untested and undocumented. Their presence puts us all at risk for the next new pandemic, and it diverts the resources necessary for the health, safety and economic survival of our citizens. After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and the Coronavirus,

we cannot ignore this imminent threat to our life, safety and economic survival. Call our elected leaders and tell them to keep us safe by closing our borders immediately - Congresswoman Katharine Clark at 617-354-0292, Congressman Ed Markey at 617-565-8519 and Sen. Elizabeth Warren at 617-565-3170.

Respectfully,
Paul Caruccio
concerned citizen

A Time to Recall

Teacher calls on students to keep a diary of time spent out of school

By Seth Daniel

When Winthrop resident Neil Plotnick and his fellow Everett High teachers left school on Thursday afternoon, March 12, they had no idea they wouldn't be coming back for more than a month -- as they were the first school district in the area to pull the plug on schools last week.

The ramifications of the closure became clear soon after leaving school, and like many teachers, Plotnick began to worry about his students and how he could help keep them stay engaged during a time of crisis when they would be out of school for a prolonged period of time.

By 8:30 p.m. that evening, he had what has become a celebrated idea -- keeping a diary of daily events, feelings and observations.

"By 5:30 p.m. I had posted some notes on C-programming for my computer class, as it was something we were going to learn about later in the year," he said. "Then about three or four hours later, I thought about it and felt like it was also important that students have something that will help them catalog their ideas and emotions that they go through as this goes on. I had a feeling this was going to be a big deal as the days went on. I decided that they needed something they



Winthrop resident and Everett High School teacher Neil Plotnick got a great reaction from students and the general public when he called on his charges to keep a diary of what happens to them and how they feel during the prolonged school closure for COVID-19.

could write in every day and they could look back on 10, 20 or 30 years and read about what they experienced and see what they did and felt firsthand. The diary idea was something that creates a timeline to catalog what they're going through each day."

Plotnick was formerly an IT worker and cybersecurity expert, but embarked on a second career in teaching more than 10 years ago. In 2008, he began working in Everett and has enjoyed teaching computers and special education classes.

His most recent -- and maybe most important -- assignment came over the Internet with his students. It

was a heartfelt call for them to put together a memoir that they can show their grandchildren and children in the future.

"The next few weeks are going to be something that you will remember for the rest of your lives," he wrote to students last Thursday evening.

"There will be a time in the years to come when your children and grandchildren will ask you questions.

It may be important that you take some time to share your thoughts by writing them down. Clip some newspaper articles.

Record some videos. Draw, paint and sketch.

You can look back at the memories in 10, 20 and more years from now. I'm certain that you will look back and understand things differently than today. It's a great advantage of age and experience."

Plotnick said it was simply grasping at a way to engage the students when they weren't in front of him.

"When we left the building, there was no mechanism and no announcements for people to get ready to set up distance learning or online classes," he said. "We were like a boat dropped in the ocean without any navigation. I know students' first reactions would be that they are excited not to have to do

anything. Then, I knew they would realize they're bored because there's nowhere to go and nothing to do. You can only give them a prompt like this. You can lead them. Hopefully, this will engage them and they'll be excited to carry it through."

He said he believes it will be a good exercise over the weeks for students to keep busy and note the new things that happen every day. Beyond that, he said it's something they can share with one another in online classroom platforms daily. Then, later in life, they can look back on it with a sober lens at how they experienced this unique time in history.

"Hopefully it gives them a lens to look back at themselves in 20 or 30 years and they can understand themselves better," he said. "I hope it will be a great gift to them."

The idea and the assignment were quickly picked up by members of the media, and praised by educators. So far, he has done several television interviews, and has sparked an interest in journaling current events for more than Everett High students.

"If I'm not remembered for anything else, maybe this is one gift I can give to people," he said. "You feel helpless now and maybe it is something you can do to help other people as they also go through this trying time."

EBNHC // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

you with telephone visits or if absolutely needed, we can see you in person. The goal is to minimize transmission of coronavirus by social distancing.

At EBNHC, we are fortunate to have a deeply

committed team that always rises to the occasion and we will be here for our community during and long after this public health crisis. We will continue to work closely with Department of Public Health, the Boston Department of

Public Health, and both state and federal government as every day brings forth new information and recommended guidelines. Throughout the duration of this public health emergency, we will maintain open

lines of communication and will continue to educate the public through this regular column as well as in social media and our website. We wish the best for you and your family at this very difficult time.

The Winthrop Sun Transcript reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Transcript publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Transcript. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

WINTHROP HISTORY WEBSITE: WIHAONLINE.ORG

WINTHROP Then and Now

Winthrop Improvement and Historical Association

By G. David Hubbard • Photos courtesy of Stephen F. Moran

ART 922 – NEAR WATER TOWER HILL IN THE 1950s



Last week’s article reviewed life at Fort Dawes during the late 1950s as described by Robert Higgins a young serviceman who was stationed there at the time.

Among the material he sent me, from his home in California, were a number of photographs he had taken in Winthrop when he was off duty and explored the area near Water Tower Hill, which we felt would bring back memories to those of us who were living here then.

Picture One shows the ice cream store known as Hams at Delby’s Corner, which was the intersection of Shirley Street and Washington Avenue. This was a favorite hangout for many of the people who were enjoying a day on Winthrop beaches. This building is now an apartment house and Hams is long gone.

Picture Two was taken from the same spot, which is now in front of the Hi Tide restaurant, looking north up Shirley Street

where one can see Myer Brill’s Television Store in the building where D’Parma Restaurant is today. The large brick building further up the street was the Winthrop Beach Casino built circa 1912, which initially had a large dance hall on the second floor. In 1934, the 12 bowling alleys from the New Winthrop Hotel on Sturgis Street, where the All Inclusive Care for the Elderly Center is today, were moved into the first floor where they were operated by the brothers Ernest and Robert Lessard. This building was razed in 1962 to make way for the Crystal Cove Apartments that are now there across the street from the old Shirley Street School, which has been converted into the Chase Condominium.

Picture Three is of the Governor Winthrop Hotel, which still stands at 600 Shirley St., and is known today as the Inn at Crystal Cove. It was originally constructed about 1895 as the Colonial Inn. During

the 1940-to-1960 period, it was known as the Governor Winthrop Motel and Apartments. The cannon in the front yard is reportedly identical to those brought from Fort Ticonderoga by Revolutionary War Patriots to Dorchester Heights to fight the British in Boston. Today, there is a swimming pool in the yard.

Picture Four shows the beach along Shirley Street looking north toward Water Tower Hill before the tower was painted red, white and blue. This beach was named “Yirrell Beach” after Frederick W. Yirrell who died in the South China Sea during World War II. As you can see, this beach was being enjoyed then by many people just as it is today.

We appreciate Bob Higgins kindness in sending this material to us. If anyone else that reads these Then and Now articles has any old pictures or historical information that might be useful in the future, please call me at 617-846-2901.



THE MORE Things Change ...

Items selected from past issues of the Winthrop Sun, The Winthrop Review, The Winthrop Visitor, The Transcript and The Sun-Transcript

10 years ago
March 19, 2010

Like most of eastern Massachusetts, Winthrop was hit hard by a storm last weekend and into Monday, as a late season Nor’easter set up just to the south of Cape Cod and churned wind, rain and waves into the region beginning late Friday. “We were very lucky, that we had an astronomically low tide,” explained Fire Chief Paul Flanagan. The low tide helped control the flooding problems around the town, but the length of the storm, coupled with the amount of rainfall – Winthrop got around 8.5 inches of rain over the three days – still resulted in the flooding of many homeowners’ basements.

The Winthrop Town Council and Town Manager James McKenna discussed several topics during a three-hour session Tuesday night at the Winthrop Senior Center Topics included ongoing construction projects (Dalrymple School, Winthrop Hospital); re-locating of the school administrative offices from the E.B. Newton School to town hall; casino construction (at Suffolk Downs) and its financial impact on Winthrop; the renovation of the high school; and the goal of making Winthrop a clean and picturesque destination that tourists will want to come and enjoy. Revenue-generating ideas were presented at the meeting, with McKenna taking the lead on vehicle parking revenues.

“*The Bounty Hunter*,” “*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*” and “*Green Zone*” are playing at the Revere Showcase Cinemas.

20 years ago
March 9, 2000

Winthrop Democrats favored Vice President Al Gore in Tuesday’s Presidential primary, while Republicans gave their nod of approval to Arizona Sen. John McCain with 1,000 votes, easily defeating Texas Gov. George W. Bush, who received 425 votes locally. In the races for Democratic and Republican State Committeemen from the Suffolk/Middlesex District, Revere residents Jeff Turco and George Anzuoni won their respective party’s contests.

The Winthrop Playmakers presented *Nunsense* this past weekend.

Groundbreaking for the new elementary school at Ft. Banks is expected to take place within the next two weeks.

“*Mission to Mars*,” “*Drowning Mona*” and “*What Planet Are You From?*” are playing at the Revere Showcase Cinemas.

40 years ago
March 16, 1980

Winthrop is facing the prospect of three, sludge-burning incinerators being located on Deer Island unless a new study to be funded by the federal EPA turns up new information to dissuade the MDC from going forward with its proposal.

House Speaker Thomas McGee has chosen Rep. Alfred Saggese to be the state’s attendant at the National Juvenile Justice Conference in Orlando, Fla.

An armed robber made off with a small amount of cash in a holdup at the launderette at 132 Crest Ave.

John Belushi stars in “*1941*” at the Kincade Theatre.

50 years ago
March 19, 1970

Advisory Committee

Secretary G. David Hubbard told Town Meeting that the adoption of the committee’s recommendation of a proposed budget of \$5.7 million for 1970 will add \$7.46 onto the tax rate for a new rate of \$46.60.

The article calling for the appropriation of \$4,000 for the town’s eight military organizations typically does not draw much controversy, but Town Meeting member Milton Band pointed out that each of the groups now has a liquor license and therefore no longer need the town’s financial support. Band said the \$4,000 would be better spent to provide a living wage for town employees. Conal Foley and Rev. William Bene also opposed the article on the basis of the political positions on national issues in support of the Vietnam War that have been taken by the organizations. However, the article passed on a voice vote.

The Winthrop Police defeated their Fire Department counterparts, 35-11, in a charity basketball game to benefit the Winthrop Association for Retarded Children.

Kirk Douglas and Faye Dunaway star in Elia Kazan’s “*The Arrangement*” at the Winthrop Cinema.

60 years ago
March 17, 1960

The Advisory Committee is predicting a tax increase of \$4.50 to \$69.70 if Town Meeting adopts its recommended budget of \$2,630,350 plus appropriations of \$208,296. The committee’s annual report provided a bit of a shock to local residents by listing the names and salaries of every town employee.

U.S. Sen. Leverett Saltonstall has informed the selectmen that the federal government has approved the town’s urban renewal plan for the redevelopment of certain blighted areas in the town.

Howard Keel stars in “*The Big Fisherman*” at the Winthrop Theatre.

70 years ago
March 16, 1950

The Advisory Committee reports that if its budget recommendation of \$1,593,605 is adopted by Town Meeting, the tax rate will drop by \$2 to \$42. The budget for 1950 is just \$505 above that for 1949, but is \$229,079 less than what the town departments have requested.

Local pharmacist Barnett Samuels was honored with the outstanding community service award by *American Druggist Magazine* at a dinner attended by 350 persons at the Dorothy Quincy Suite in John Hancock Hall last Wednesday evening.

Merle Oberon and Laurence Olivier star in “*Withering Heights*”; Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant star in “*Holiday*”; and Gregory Peck and Dean Jagger star in “*12 O’Clock High*” at the Winthrop and State theatres.

80 years ago
March 16, 1940

The transportation question still is in a muddle, with East Boston residents objecting to the new buses from Winthrop going through their neighborhoods to Maverick Square station. The State DPU granted a license to Rapid Transit Inc. to operate buses in Winthrop and East Boston, but on the condition that the Boston Licensing Board approve a permit for operation in Boston. Winthrop residents also are unhappy with the present arrangement because they

would prefer that buses take them directly to downtown Boston.

How times have changed! Timothy Mahaney, the newly-elected Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, who served on that board 20 years ago, made note that with the selectmen meeting every day this week, including Saturday, with various local groups and state officials, town affairs and the job of selectman are far different today.

Laurel and Hardy star in “*The Flying Deuces*” at the Winthrop and State theatres.

90 years ago
March 22, 1930

Town Meeting approved a budget of \$806,370 plus appropriations of \$86,376, for 1930. Moderator Joseph Davison, who was re-elected for a 26th straight year, was exceptionally systematic and efficient in his handling of matters. All 62 articles were dispatched within a few hours without any hint of the usual rancor. Town Meeting postponed several items, including the articles concerning the proposed Shirley Street Playground and erection of a monument for those who served in the Spanish-American War.

The selectmen have asked the Chief of Police to assign an officer to make sure that no illegal dumping of debris is taking place on Shirley Street, and that no fire hazards exist in any basements or buildings.

The selectmen have asked the MDC to construct four rip-rap jetties at Winthrop Beach that would break up the waves before they reach the seawall. They also have asked the MDC to replenish the sand at the beach.

100 years ago
March 20, 1920

A large crowd was in attendance for the presentation by the committee on increased school accommodations with regard to the proposed new school at the Highlands on Crest Avenue. Slides and maps of the town, showing the number of pupils to be served by the new school, were presented and well-received.

Winthrop firefighters managed to contain a menacing blaze at 387 Shirley St. in the heart of the danger zone at the Beach despite the high winds.

110 years ago
March 19, 1910

With the stormy town election now over, the annual Town Meeting looms as likely to be a big one.

It will be Winthrop’s turn to elect a State Representative from this district in the fall. Channing Howard is the candidate from Winthrop most mentioned.

Police Chief Burrill once again is back in command after being appointed by the new Board of Selectmen.

120 years ago
March 17, 1900

The public hearing held before the selectmen at the request of two members of the Board of Fire Engineers to look into the affairs of the Fire Department over the past two years has turned into one of the most exciting events of a public nature to be held in Winthrop in many years. The two members who sought the hearing stated that their third member had been guilty of acts not in conformity with the conduct of a public official, that he had ignored them on divers times, and had not consulted them in regard to management of the Fire Department.

FIRST CHURCH ST. PATRICK’S DAY DINNER

Photos by Marianne Salza

First Church of Winthrop, United Methodist, welcomed parishioners and members of the community to their St. Patrick’s Day Dinner on March 14. Many braved the uncertainty of the pandemic and closely gathered with friends for this food.”



Shown above: Pat Russo, Andrea Catizone, JoAnn Troisi, Alice Costello, Susan Caylo, Fanny Massa, Florence Catizone, Jean Barry, and Cynthia Steg celebrated St. Patrick’s Day in trying times on Saturday, March 14, at the First Church. Shown to the left: Earl Richards, and Valerie and Cullen Millar.



Christine Loring and Tim McCarthy.



Aubrey DiPasquale, Marie Greenlaw, Susan Delehanty, Judy Anderson, Barbara Fronduto, and Mary Vitale.



Ruth Hopkins presenting Carol Gay with packaged dinners to bring home.



Pastor Sunjae Lee blessing the St. Patrick’s Day meal.



Jim Corkhum, Jim Nelson, and Ron Richard.



Frank Goodwin, Joe Pike, and Joanne Maggio-Como.



Cullen Millar and his mother, Valerie, serving dinner to parishioners.



Parishioners and neighbors lining the First Church hall for a St. Patrick’s Day dinner on March 14.

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- Tropicana Orange Juice 52 oz 2/ \$6.00
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- Claussen Pickles..... 2/ \$7.00

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- Our Own in Store Antipasto Salad.... \$5.99/lb

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- Family Pack Bone in Chicken Thighs... \$1.09/lb
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New York Strip Steaks \$7.99/lb
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GROCERY

- Best Yet Bagged Coffee \$2.99
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- Pepsi 2 Liter..... 4/ \$5.00 + deposit

COVID19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

What to do if you are sick with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, follow the steps below to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community.

Stay home except to get medical care

You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home

People: As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

Animals: Do not handle pets or other animals while sick. See [COVID-19 and Animals](#) for more information.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider’s office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) or pets and before you enter a healthcare provider’s office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not stay in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can; immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.

Avoid sharing personal household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people or pets in your home. After using these items, they should be washed thoroughly with soap and water.

Clean your hands often

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Clean all “high-touch” surfaces every day

High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

Monitor your symptoms

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., difficulty breathing). **Before** seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, COVID-19. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider’s office to keep other people in the office or waiting room from getting infected or exposed.

Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department. Persons who are placed under active monitoring or facilitated self-monitoring should follow instructions provided by their local health department or occupational health professionals, as appropriate. When working with your local health department check their available hours.

If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, notify the dispatch personnel that you have, or are being evaluated for COVID-19. If possible, put on a facemask before emergency medical services arrive.

Discontinuing home isolation

Patients with confirmed COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low. The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19



CS 314937-D 02/29/2020

Statistics for Massachusetts

COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts as of March 17

Confirmed cases of COVID-19	218
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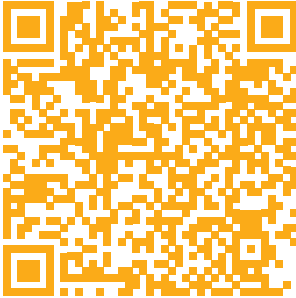
Massachusetts residents subject to COVID-19 quarantine by current status as of March 10

Total of individuals subject to quarantine	1083
Total of individuals who have completed monitoring (no longer in quarantine)	638
Total of individuals currently undergoing monitoring/under quarantine	445

Total Number of Cases by County

Barnstable	2
Berkshire	14
Bristol	5
Essex	8
Hampden	1
Middlesex	89
Norfolk	43
Plymouth	5
Suffolk	42
Worcester	8
Unknown	1

For the most up to date information scan this with your smartphone at any time to visit the State’s website for all information related to the virus.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

RESIDENTS ATTEND MBTA MEETING

CHELSEA - The MBTA held a public meeting at City Hall seeking input on its public engagement plan that at times became an opportunity for T customers to speak up on the variety of issues they see with transit service.

The meeting on Thursday, March 5, was part of the public input period for the MBTA Public Engagement Plan.

“The Public Engagement Plan is an opportunity for riders to influence what happens at the MBTA by delivering better services to customers,” said MBTA Assistant General Manager for Policy Laurel Paget-Seekins.

Paget-Seekins said the engagement plan will help the MBTA make better decisions and strengthen projects by getting input from the public earlier in the process.

Public input for the draft of the public engagement plan is still being accepted through March 20. Those who were unable to attend one of the five public meetings (including the one in Chelsea) can provide feedback online at HYPERLINK “http://mbta.com/public-engagement” \t “_blank” mbta.com/public-engagement or email HYPERLINK “mailto:engagement@mbta.com” \t “_blank” engagement@mbta.com. Paget-Seekins said the online comments will be cataloged and carry just as much weight as any input from the public meetings.

Paget-Seekins pointed to several recent examples of public outreach to highlight what the MBTA is trying to accomplish, including the Green Line extension from Lechmere to Union Square in Somerville and the Better Bus network redesign project.

Outreach efforts for both projects have included community meetings, website and email updates, door-to-door canvassing, and automated phone calls.

“Our public engagement plan is meant to guide future engagements,” Paget-Seekins said.

She said there are five suggested principles that will help guide that process, including developing strong community partners; strategic outreach to voices that have not always been traditionally heard; building inclusive, diverse, and accessible environments; having respectful and solutions-based dialogue; and being transparent with the process.

During the question and answer session, Paget-Seekins was asked why only one of the five public hearings on the plan were held in Boston. A number of those who attended the Chelsea meeting last week traveled to Chelsea after being unable to make it to the Boston hearing.

“We serve 175 towns, but the most ridership is in Boston,” said Paget-Seekins. “The question is how we reach as many people outside of meetings, as well.”

Several members of the Boston-based Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE), a transportation justice community organization, raised their concerns about how the MBTA has handled past engagement efforts.

Some of those concerns included a lack of using existing MBTA resources, such as advertising and video messaging, to spread the word about upcoming projects. Several riders also said that the messaging of the Better Bus project did not clearly state that the project

would include the rerouting of bus stops, and that there has sometimes been less community engagement for projects that impact more minority-based communities.

Paget-Seekins said the MBTA is taking into consideration ways it can reach out to people and neighborhoods that are impacted by MBTA projects, including going directly to housing complexes or community centers. She was also asked about the possibility of the MBTA holding affinity-group based meetings for people of different backgrounds, pointing out that there is one group already for people with disabilities.

Chelsea resident Susan Backstrom said the disability group meetings are effective, but could go further.

“The only issue is that it is in English,” said Backstrom. “Chelsea has more than 50 percent of its population that is Spanish speaking, that is a difference.”

While there was a focus on ways to improve the engagement of the MBTA, there were also several questions raised about other service issues and fare increases during the meeting.

While not directly related to the goal of the meeting, Paget-Seekins and several other MBTA officials did take time to answer as many questions as they could.

Paget-Seekins also said it was a great point raised by several residents that the MBTA could increase its transparency by more effectively communicating its financial data to the public.

CHARTER COMMISSION RAISE SOME ISSUES

CHELSEA - The City’s new Charter Review Committee is in place, although some questioned the representative makeup of that committee at Monday night’s City Council meeting.

Once every 10 years, the City Council establishes a special committee to review the charter and to make a report, with recommendations, to the City Council concerning any proposed amendments which the committee may deem necessary. The review committee, appointed by City Council President Roy Avellaneda, includes five City Councillors, three School Committee members, and five members from the community at large.

Tensions were high before the committee’s names were even read into the record on Monday night, and things got no better afterward either.

During the public speaking portion of the Council meeting, School Committeewoman Marisol Santiago questioned how representative the review committee is of the community. She also took exception to District 1 Councillor Todd Taylor’s appointment to the review committee. Taylor is the lone Republican on the 11-member Council, and was recently elected Chelsea’s Republican State Committeeman.

“This is a once in a decade opportunity where the city is able to look at what is called our City’s constitution,” said Santiago.

On diversity of the commission, Santiago said she found that the appointments willfully excluded the diverse living experiences of people living in the city, specifically pointing out a dearth of single mothers, tenants, and people who work in immigrant services.

OBITUARIES

Tara Eschbach Moynahan

IT Professional

Tara L. Eschbach Moynahan of Revere passed away unexpectedly at the Massachusetts General Hospital on March 2. She was 48 years old.

Born in Pompton Plains, N.J., she was the loving daughter of Darla (Roeger) and James C. Eschbach. She grew up in New Jersey before moving to Salem and then residing in Revere. She was employed as a IT professional at MFS.

She was the devoted wife of James Moynahan and the dear sister of the late Todd Eschbach.

Family and friends are cordially invited to attend the visitation from the Caggiano-O’Maley-Fraier Funeral Home, Winthrop, on Friday, March 20, from 3 to 7 p.m. A celebration of life service will be held in the funeral home immediately following the visitation at 7 p.m.

Following the service in the funeral home, family



and friends are invited to The Beach House Apartments, 540 Revere Beach Blvd., Revere in the second-floor community room for a collation.

For directions or to sign the online guestbook go to www.caggianofuneralhome.com.

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Winthrop Senior Center News

www.town.winthrop.ma.us/council-aging

All programs, activities and trips at the Robert A. DeLeo Senior Center are canceled through April.

Lunch will still be served (Monday-Friday) and the Senior Van will still be operating (Monday-Thursday) to provide transportation for grocery shopping, medical appointments and for picking up prescriptions.

This preventative action is being taken to ensure the safety and well-being of our seniors. Anyone with questions can contact the Senior Center at 617-846-8538.



Any additional announcements regarding the Senior Center will be posted online, at www.town.winthrop.ma.us/council-aging.

Applications for the 2020 Senior Citizens Property Tax Work-Off Program can be picked up at the Senior Center Monday-Friday between 9am-1pm. Applications are also available online at: www.town.winthrop.ma.us/council-aging. Applications are due back to the Senior Center by 2pm on Wednesday, April 15th. For more information on the program, please visit our website, or contact the Senior Center at 617-846-8538.

Senior Lunch: If you would like to come for lunch, please call the day before by 11:00am so that your order is counted for the next day. Menus are available at the Senior Center and on our website.

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Metro News // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

“Upon looking at the Council members selected, diversity is not just race and ethnicity, diversity is voice and representation,” said Santiago.

In addition to Taylor, the Council members appointed to the review committee were Judith Garcia, who will be the chairperson; Leo Robinson, Calvin Brown, and Melinda-Vega Maldonado. The School Committee members are Rosemarie Carlisle, Yesenia Alfaro, and Henry Wilson; and the Chelsea residents are Alex Balcarcel, Jason Stocker, Mary Bourque, Mimi Rancatore, and Sharlene McLean. The School Committee representatives were selected by School Committee Chair Kelly Garcia.

“Per the charter, the City Council President is responsible for the decision for what the process was,” said Santiago. “It was in your authority and your discretion, but it is the responsibility of the City Council to make sure (the committee)

tee) is inclusive and representative of the City population.”

Taylor was singled out by Santiago for his inclusion on the review committee as she cited his recent Republican State Committee campaign literature which she said advocated against illegal immigration and sanctuary city status.

She said these views were not in line with the City’s ideals and asked Avellaneda to consider either replacing Taylor on the review committee, or looking at its overall composition.

“I’m concerned about that rhetoric and concerned about someone trying to represent the City in a charter review that will determine what the city is going to look like for the next 10 years,” said Santiago.

Avellaneda gave Taylor the opportunity to respond to Santiago, since she brought him up by name during the public speaking portion of the Council

meeting.

“I have never brought national politics to this body, but they are being brought here tonight, but that is being brought here tonight where it seems I am being asked to step down for my views,” said Taylor.

Taylor said there is a diversity of not just race, but also opinion in Chelsea, and he said he supported people’s right to be critical. He added that immigration and sanctuary city status are complicated issues he would be happy to discuss with anyone who wants to.

“If someone called me to discuss it, I’d be happy to do it, rather than coming to give public speeches to condemn me,” said Taylor. “It is a dialogue that I am happy to have, but I don’t appreciate people coming up and attacking me for something I had not brought to the Council. I have never brought national problems to this board; I was elected to solve the problems of Chelsea and that is what I am going to do.”

Later in the meeting, Councillor-At-Large

Damali Vidot also criticized the representative makeup of the Charter Review Commission. Both Santiago and Vidot had applied to be on the Committee, but were not chosen.

“I’m extremely disappointed with this Charter Review Committee,” said Vidot, adding she felt the commission was one-sided in terms of the Council members selected, and that it lacked adequate representation of the City’s Latino population, tenants, single mothers, and mothers of school-aged children.

“We have the opportunity to reflect the charter as being more reflective of our new community,” said Vidot. “It needs to be more multi-dimensional, and not just perpetuating the same crap that always happens.”

District 4 Councillor Enio Lopez also said that he did not believe he saw enough Latino representation on the Charter Review Committee.

Robinson said he took offense at Vidot’s characterization of the committee, stating that all those named

would be fair and above reproach.

Avellaneda also defended the process of appointing the committee, pointing out that it is both a majority-minority committee and a majority female committee.

“There was a question about the diversity and the makeup, if someone was to look at this and see there are seven women on this committee, six men; seven (of the committee) are majority minority,” said Avellaneda. “On the resident side we have a business background, health and service, and as we just saw, a range of ideology and opinions and parties on the issue.”

The Council President said he did his best to make the committee as diverse as possible.

“Of course, any time you have a committee like this, of course there is going to be some public comments and criticism, but I did my best based on the submissions that were from the residents themselves,” said Avellaneda. “I hope the people will be a little more satisfied once they see the

process.”

Avellaneda also stated that any member of the Council, School Committee, or the public can attend meetings and make suggestions to the Charter Review Committee as the process gets underway.

McGONAGLE SEEKS RE-ELECTION TO HOUSE

EVERETT - It seems like only a short time ago that State Rep. Joe McGonagle prevailed in Everett to become the new state representative, but McGonagle is now seeking his fourth term, having pulled papers in February, and he’s running on the experience and strong reputation he has built up over those last three terms.

McGonagle said in an interview with the Independent that he feels like he is in the right place with his committee assignments and the reputation he and his staff have built at the State House. He said he will be touting that on the campaign trail this coming spring and summer – preparing for the September Primary Election.

“With secretaries and commissioners, it takes time,” he said. “It doesn’t happen quickly. It’s really starts happening now, at this point in my service. It’s the respect you get and who you are. It’s funny how things work at the State House, but it’s really about building relationships.”

McGonagle first took office in January 2015, and has been working over the last five years to climb his way into more leadership positions at the State House. He is now the Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Housing, and also sits on the Joint Committees on Health Care Finance and Transportation.

WINTHROP MARKETPLACE

SLOW COOKER POT ROAST

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 onion, sliced
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 (2 1/2 pound) boneless beef chuck roast
- 1 pinch salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 1 (1.2 ounce) package dry beef

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1: Spray the inside of a slow cooker with cooking spray. Spread the onion slices out into the bottom of the cooker.

STEP 2: Spread the flour out onto a work surface. Sprinkle the chuck roast with salt and black pepper, and roll the roast in the flour to coat all sides. Using the edge of a small, sturdy plate, pound the flour into the meat. Place the floured roast into the cooker on top of the onions. Whisk together beef gravy mix, ranch dressing mix, and Italian dressing mix in a bowl, and whisk the mixes with water until smooth. Pour over the chuck roast. Distribute carrots around the meat

STEP 3: Cover the cooker, set to Low, and cook until the roast is tender and the gravy has thickened, about 8 hours.

gravy mix

- 1 (1 ounce) package ranch dressing mix
- 1 (.7 ounce) package dry Italian-style salad dressing mix
- 1/2 cup water, or as needed
- 5 whole peeled carrots (optional)

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Metro News // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Those issues are all connected, he said, and they are the perfect blend of committees for Everett.

“Housing, Transportation and Health Care Committees are very good committees for me and that’s because they affect the daily lives of Everett residents,” he said. “Housing is the number one issue I face, whether low-income, workforce, and even market rate housing. There just is not enough of it. We’re losing young people that are moving out. There’s no room for them. We have plenty of jobs, but there’s nowhere to live. I feel like in a lot of ways transportation and housing coincide. Transportation has changed. It’s changed how people get to work. It’s generational. Young people don’t want to own a car. They want to use public transportation.”

That’s where McGonagle said experience locally and at the State House are invaluable. Already, McGonagle has been able to expand his staff so that Staffer Dianne Lees keeps office hours at Everett City Hall. That allows McGonagle and his staff to be able to bring information back and forth between the State House.

Having a positive relationship with Mayor Carlo DeMaria, he said, has helped to coordinate support for things involving the MBTA – including the innovative dedicated bus lane and other pilot programs championed in Everett. Having that relationship also helps in advocating in a unified way with the mayor, State Sen. Sal DiDomenico and Gov. Charlie Baker on things like the Housing Choice Bill proposed by the governor. That’s a bill that most everyone believes will help Everett unlock

more housing production, but also a bill that is bogged down in the Legislature due to pieces in it regarding local approvals, McGonagle said.

Right now, he said his organization is getting energized for the campaign season, and he is preparing organizing meetings and fundraising times.

More than anything, he said he believes his record and experience is going to speak to voters.

“I was sitting with Rep. Kevin Honan with members of the Senate on a Conference Committee not long ago and just seeing how it all works,” he said. “I did a lot of listening because it was my first Conference Committee, but when you’re in the room and seeing it happening, you get that experience. That kind of experience is invaluable and it takes a lot of time and effort to get into that room.”

MAYOR, SUPERINTENDENT PROPOSING CHANGES TO POLICY

EAST BOSTON -Mayor Martin Walsh and BPS Superintendent Brenda Cassellius proposed a new Boston School Committee policy following a lawsuit that stems from an incident at East Boston High School (EBHS) involving reports generated by Boston Public Schools and made available to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

The proposed policy further clarifies the protocols that are to be followed when receiving requests for student education records. Under the policy, all Boston Public Schools employees, including Boston School

Police officers, will be trained annually in all relevant laws regarding the privacy of student education records. The proposal will be presented to the School Committee on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, followed by a vote tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2020.

“As a City, our job is to make sure all of our residents feel safe everywhere, whether they are in their schools or in their homes,” said Walsh. “As the national rhetoric on immigration has unfortunately taken a dangerous turn, we have taken the steps necessary to strengthen municipal policies that we believe will bolster trust in our communities and protect public safety. Providing safe spaces for everyone who is part of our community is our number one priority.”

While ICE maintains that the agency does not have access to student incident records except in extreme circumstances such as “gang-related homicides or possible threats to public safety” Matt Gregor of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice (LCR) accused school police of making unsubstantiated gang allegation on reports about immigrant students allows these reports to enter into the Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC)--an information-sharing network of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies--and later by ICE. Gregor argues that school police may be overusing the word ‘gang’ or ‘gang-related’ on these reports to ensure the reports find their way to federal authorities.

The incident and subsequent police report at EBHS was used as evidence against the student

in his deportation proceedings. The student was sent back to El Salvador after the incident.

“There is nothing more important than ensuring Boston Public Schools’ children and families feel safe and welcome in our schools,” said Superintendent Cassellius. “Since coming to Boston, I’ve been working with my team to strengthen our efforts to protect private student information while also maintaining the safety of our students and communities. The shared commitment of Mayor Walsh and Commissioner Gross demonstrate a collaboration that will help our students do what is most important -- to focus on their learning and achieving their dreams.”

The proposed policy will be issued with a corresponding Superintendent’s Circular that explains step-by-step the procedures employees must take if they receive a request for student education records, which are protected by state and federal laws.

In an effort to strike a balance to maintain the safety of students while abiding by state and federal laws regarding the confidentiality of student records, this corresponding Circular will assist school leaders, administrators, teachers, and staff in responding to various types of requests from law enforcement. The superintendent issues guidelines and regulations, that are updated and reissued annually, about policy implementation to schools and departments through Superintendent’s Circulars. The current Superintendent’s Circular defines what student records are and explains the circumstances in which Boston Public Schools can disclose them. BPS will issue an updated Superintendent’s Circular on how the new policy being proposed will be implemented, and the relevant laws and internal procedures to student information sharing.

“As the Boston Police Department, it is our duty to protect everyone in the City of Boston, and this is especially true for students, teachers, and staff of our schools,” said Boston Police Commissioner William Gross. “Our police officers do their level best to do their jobs correctly, professionally and with compassion. I commend Mayor Walsh and Superintendent Cassellius for looking at ways that we can strengthen our policies to make everyone who is part of our

school communities safer.”

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and state regulations, only parents, guardians or students older than 14 or who have entered the ninth grade, have the legal right to control access to their student’s education record. BPS annually notifies all students and parents of their rights through a guide which includes the types of information that may be legally released without their consent, and the information that cannot be released without their prior consent. Only the student, parent, and authorized school personnel are allowed to have access to information in the student record unless there is an existing legal exception, such as a subpoena or a health or safety emergency. This new policy honors these rights.

BPS will develop an internal protocol for approving the disclosure of Boston School Police records to law enforcement entities. Under the law, Boston School Police records are not considered student education records if they are created and maintained by them for a law enforcement purpose. However, creating and sharing law enforcement unit records with external parties requires established protocols to ensure that such records do not contain protected student education information and that they are shared only after review and approval by appropriate individuals.

EXCEL ACADEMY TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

EAST BOSTON -Excel Academy Charter School’s plan to construct a middle school to the already existing high school on Bremen Street got a boost from MassDevelopment.

Last week, MassDevelopment issued a \$12 million tax-exempt bond on behalf of Friends of Excel Academy Charter Schools, Inc., a nonprofit affiliate of Excel Academy Charter Schools. The organization will use bond proceeds to build and equip the three-story, approximately 19,500-square-foot middle school building next to the existing Excel Academy High School.

Excel Academy Orient Heights will relocate from its current rented space to the new building, rebranding as Excel Academy Greenway. Boston Private Bank purchased the bond, which MassDevelopment enhanced with a charter school loan guarantee.

“We are proud to team

up with Boston Private Bank once again to offer cost-effective tax-exempt financing for Excel Academy Charter Schools,” said MassDevelopment President and CEO Lauren Liss. “The organization’s new middle school will offer a unique and welcoming space for East Boston learners to be supported, to be challenged, and to thrive.”

The new Excel Academy Greenway will serve students in grades five through eight, and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020. The building’s first floor will include reception, administrative offices, a small child-care center, and meeting space for Community Circle, the school’s social and emotional learning program. The second and third floors will include classrooms, support space, administrative offices, and a teacher work room. The new facility will also feature 32 parking spaces and a vehicle queuing area to accommodate student pickup and drop-off.

MassDevelopment and Boston Private Bank have previously partnered to support Excel Academy Charter School. In 2011, MassDevelopment issued a \$5 million tax-exempt bond, purchased by Boston Private Bank, to help the organization buy, renovate, and expand the former St. Mary Star of the Sea school that now houses Excel Academy’s East Boston elementary school.

“Excel Academy was founded 17 years ago in a strip mall next to a CVS,” said Excel Academy Charter Schools CEO Owen Stearns. “While we have a lot of nostalgia for that space, it has a number of significant challenges as a place of learning. The new building will be elevated above our high school parking lot and will include large classrooms and updated classroom technology, a Community Circle meeting space, enhanced learning spaces for supporting students with special needs and English Language Learners, and a daycare for staff members’ children.”

Founded in 2003, Excel Academy Charter Schools is a network of four charter public schools – three middle schools and one high school – serving approximately 1,400 students from East Boston and Chelsea. Excel Academy’s mission is to prepare students for the future, help them apply their learning to solve relevant problems, and encourage them to engage productively in their communities.

STAY IN AND TAKE OUT

HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES WHILE STAYING IN

Deliveries ★ Takeouts ★ Home Services

During this crisis, here are some Winthrop resources.

Consider taking out an ad to and to promote your business at this time, there are many people in Winthrop who do not go online and use the newspaper for most of their neighborhood information.

WE'RE OFFERING THIS SPECIAL PAGE AS A RESOURCE FOR ALL SERVICES IN TOWN THAT PEOPLE MIGHT NEED WHILE STAYING IN.

FULL-PRINT EDITION WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE THURSDAY

THE SPECIAL IS A BUSINESS CARD AD FOR 2 WEEKS FOR \$80

Please reach out with any questions, deadline for *Thursday Mar 26* is *Tuesday the 24 at noon*
Call **781-485-0588** for more information

JWs will be waiving their delivery fee indefinitely

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We also promise to **ONLY USE LOCAL** Delivery Drivers and will never outsource to on-demand food delivery services during this time of uncertainty.

If you prefer, our delivery drivers will ring the doorbell and leave the food on your doorstep. For this service, leave a note on your door. You can pay with a credit card over the phone, or leave cash in an envelope.

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