
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

May 20, 2020



ADMINISTRATION:

- Town Administrator (TA) Greg Johnson, Assistant Town Administrator (ATA) Megan Zammuto, Human Resources (HR) Coordinator Stephanie Duggan, Public Health Agent Kelly Pawluczonek, and Public Health Nurse Katherine Castle continue to be in nearly constant communication regarding the conditions and communications surrounding the current public health crisis.

Please visit the [town's webpage devoted to COVID-19 information](#):

- Town offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, in recognition of Memorial Day holiday.
- Town staff and Town Moderator Dick Downey continued development of Town Meeting planning. Plans now focus on outdoor setting, potentially via “drive-in movie” approach and potentially considering the Mill and Main parking lot.
- Town staff are developing re-opening procedures for town facilities, pending the Governor’s guidance state-wide.
- TA Johnson thanks Michael Denault of the Maker’s Workshop, Main Street, for this work in supplying masks to the town hall (as shown below).



- TA Johnson congratulates Jerry Beck, Executive Director of Art Space Maynard, for his recognition on the front page of the Boston Globe for May 15, 2020 (as shown below). The TA staff is grateful for his enthusiasm and morale during these troubled times.

A STATE OF EMERGENCY

■ WHITE HOUSE OPEN TO MORE STATE AID A4 ■ JOB LOSSES CONTINUE C1 ■ A DIFFERENT CASTLE ISLAND B1

TRANSPORTATION

Making space by sharing the roads

Boston eyes cutting back car lanes to help T, bikes, walkers, businesses

By Adam Vaccaro
GLOBE STAFF WRITER

More commuters biking to work downtown. Pedestrians giving one another a wide berth on city sidewalks. More travel lanes dedicated exclusively to buses. Restaurant to blue quilting and past the sidewalks and into the street.

To accommodate even the tanks as the economy bounces back, business districts are going to need a lot more room

while city planners see an opportunity to make biking, walking, and riding the bus safer before Boston's soul-crushing traffic returns.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh is hoping at least such a makeover for parts of the city, largely by taking some street space away from car traffic and redevelop-



As the city begins to come back to life, it's expected that many more people will be commuting by bike.

Baker wants more tests, as cases persist

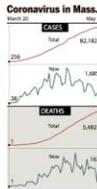
Aims for 75,000 a day by year end

By Danny McDermald and Jocelyn Reiss
GLOBE STAFF WRITERS

Facing an economy gut-punched by the pandemic and a death toll that continues to rise, Governor Charlie Baker said Thursday that the state plans to significantly bolster testing for COVID-19 in coming months to the point where Massachusetts would have the highest testing rate for the disease in the world.

The announcement came as authorities said more than 1 million unemployment claims have been filed since March 15, an astonishing figure in a state with a labor force of 2.7 million.

And just days before Baker's administration is set to announce more details for reopening, other local leaders outlined aspirations for a slow thaw. The court system said Thursday that courthouses are expected to physically reopen this summer, with caveats. Judicial authorities hoped that jury trials could resume in September.



Spreading at a State House news conference, Baker said he wants to boost the state's overall testing capacity to 45,000 daily tests by the end of July and 75,000 daily tests by the end of December, with the goal of decreasing the positive case rate to less than 1 percent.



A WAY TO CONNECT — "The Corona/Crown Project," two vehicles covered with inspirational messages, is traveling through areas hit hard by coronavirus. On Thursday, the artwork, a collaboration by the Revolving Museum and ArtSpace Museum, rolled through Chelsea, where Jerry Beck got back on the road after running out of gas.

TREATMENTS

Drug cocktail may be the key, scientists say

By Jonathan Saltzman
GLOBE STAFF WRITER

More than a dozen drug firms in Massachusetts are urgently searching for a medicine to treat COVID-19, but the most potent therapy may not end up being a single medication. Instead, medical experts say, the most effective way to battle the disease will likely be a combination of drugs taken together.

Two weeks after the federal government allowed hospitalized coronavirus patients to receive an experimental drug that provided only modest benefits, scientists say it increasingly appears the best treatment will be a cocktail of medicines similar to those used for other deadly infectious diseases, from tuberculosis to AIDS.

The need to develop drugs that can dramatically lessen symptoms of COVID-19 is especially crucial because a vaccine that could prevent the disease likely remains a year or more away.

Dr. Barry Rosen, a professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, said he's optimistic that one or more medicines better than



At The Falls at Courtingly Falls, resident Judith Rosen was joined by her son Daniel for Friday night prayers.

Video calls a tricky but vital tie to residents of nursing homes

By Shelley Murphy
GLOBE STAFF WRITER

When Marie MacDonald was dying from the coronavirus in April, her family could not be by her side. The Norwell nursing home where she lived had stopped allowing visitors, to protect residents from the pandemic, but her five children and eight grandchildren wanted desperately to see her.

As her condition declined, the

Ousted vaccine chief says government still has no virus plan

By Liz Goodwin
GLOBE STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON — The nation's former top vaccine official warned Thursday that dysfunction in the federal government may lead to the "darkest winter in history" if the Trump administration does not quickly implement a comprehensive plan to combat coronavirus.

"The window is closing to address this pandemic because we will do either have a standard, centralized, coordinated plan to take this nation through this response," said Dr. Rick Bright, the former director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, who was removed from his post last month and has filed a whistleblower complaint.

Testifying at a House hearing, Bright also questioned the 13 to 18 month timeline for a



Dr. Rick Bright warned of the "darkest winter in history" as he testified, vaccine proposed by the Trump administration, which would require everything to go "perfectly." He noted that vaccines can take up to 10 years to develop. "Only corner is if we rush too quickly, and consider cutting out critical steps, we may not have a full assessment of the

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A COURT REVIEWED A LAWSUIT SEEKING TO BLOCK PRESIDENT TRUMP'S AID TO WASHINGTON

... courtney payments from foreign and state governments. A2

THE MECHANIC

A SHOT IN THE DARK
BY BEN MEZRICH
Talking on Pages A6-67
Chapter 18
ON AN EAGLE'S WINGS
Chapter 18
A SHOT IN THE DARK

A tough fit for the times, summer camps in limbo

By Andy Rosen
GLOBE STAFF WRITER

There probably won't be any relay races at summer camp this year. No sharing of tanned merchandise around the fire. And hanging around in the pool will be banned under strict social distancing rules.

And that if summer camp even happens.

The typical experience — marked by group activities, communal dining, and carefree fellowship — is in jeopardy because of the COVID-19 pandemic. While some camps around New England are trying

to figure out how to balance safety and fun, others have already thrown in the towel, deciding that the many precautions needed to keep everyone healthy will make it impossible to operate.

"In the last week or so, it's become clear to us that the likelihood of our being able to have any sort of camp is very slim," said Sharon McNally, president of Camp Harbor View, a free day-camp program that usually draws more than 1,000 children from Boston's underserved neighborhoods.