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DECEMBER 6, 2019

CIRCULATION 16,000

‘Everything we wanted’ City, state leaders hail education bill

By Seth Daniel

Budget issues in the Boston Public Schools look to be something of the past after Gov. Charlie Baker signed off on a landmark education funding bill last week at Jamaica Plain in English High School – legislation officially known as the Student Opportunity Act.

This week, education leaders and elected officials like JP Sen. Sonia Chiang Diaz – who has personally labored tirelessly to pass some form of education funding reform over the past five years – hailed the bill as historic and would be everything the City needed to address its budget

problems.

Sen. Chang Diaz was front and center, with Mayor Martin Walsh, at the Nov. 26 signing ceremony in JP. The new Act is heavily based on the PROMISE Act that Chang Diaz filed in a previous attempt to reform education funding in the state. Having sat on the Foundation Budget Review Commission almost five years ago, Chang Diaz had taken the issue on as her number one legislative platform – even after being removed from a state education committee earlier this year. She said after the signing

Continued on page 9

JAMAICA POND PATHWAYS PROJECT CELEBRATION



PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Christine Cooper's siblings Bill Cooper, Gerry Donlan, Theresa Vино, and Patrick Cooper. The celebration of the Jamaica Pond Pathways rehabilitation project also featured a tribute to the late community advocate, Christine Cooper. The boathouse at the Pond was named in her honor by Mayor Martin Walsh. The overall improvements to Jamaica Pond include increased accessibility, new benches, newly planted trees, exercise equipment, upgrades to pathways and entrances, and improved drainage to project water quality.

PIE IN THE SKY AT MIKE'S FITNESS



PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Omar Argote, Mike's Fitness owner, and Hannah Sobel, Development and Policy Program Manager at Community Servings, were pleased to collaborate on the 27th Pie in the Sky charity event at the gym on Nov. 23. Each pie purchased at the gym during the fundraiser provided a week's worth of meals to a Community Servings client. Also seen here, Josh Ruman, member of the pie committee at Community Servings, takes fresh sweet potato pies out of an oven for the fundraiser.



JPNC discusses zoning, development issues

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) met for its monthly meeting on November 26. On the agenda was committee reports, as well as discussions about an issue with 701 Centre St.

After a presentation from Sage Tvizer from the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPNDC) regarding the 2020 Census, Max Glikman kicked off the committee updates with a report from the Zoning Committee. At 135 School Street, the proposed project is to convert

the existing single family home into a two-family one. There are two applications for 48 St. John St., one to create a curb cut and off-street parking on the Rockview side of the property, and another

to extend the living space into the basement. At 71 and 71R May St. Glikman said the owner of the house wants to create a

Continued on page 4

JPNC discute informes de comités, proyecto 701 Centre St.

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) se reunió el 26 de noviembre donde discutió los informes de los comités y un proyecto en 701 Centre St.

Comité de Zonificación

En 135 School Street, un proyecto convertiría una casa unifamiliar en una casa bifamiliar.

Continued on page 2

JPNC

Continued from page 1

Hay dos aplicaciones para 48 St. John Street, una para crear una rampa de acera y estacionamiento fuera de la calle, y otra para extender el espacio habitable al sótano. El dueño de 71 y 71R May St. quiere cambiar la ocupación del garaje a una casa unifamiliar, una petición ya aprobada por la Junta de Zonificación. En 10 Burr St., la propuesta es construir un garaje aislado para un coche.

JPNC aprobó todos los proyectos anteriores.

Una propuesta construiría tres casas con ocho unidades residenciales en 73 Sheridan Street. JPNC presentó sugerencias de diseño, incluso más espacio verde, miradores, una entrada común y adornos exteriores.

-Comité de Servicio Público

JPNC aprobó un quinto Dunkin 'en Jamaica Plain en 37 South Huntington Avenue. Los propietarios solicitan una licencia de vender comida entre las horas de 5am y 9pm.

El comité también habló sobre las bicicletas y la seguridad, contenedores de cigarrillo, y el plan de transporte del Hospital Faulkner.

-Comité de Vivienda y Desarrollo

Con respecto a las renovaciones de los departamentos Mildred Hailey, habrá casi 700 unidades y la construcción comenzará en 2022. Defensores del proyecto van a solicitar un área de desarrollo planeado para obtener una variación de zonificación para todo el distrito.

El comité también redactó una carta a la Asociación de Planificación y Desarrollo sobre una propuesta de un edificio de

cuatro pisos con 45 unidades de alquiler en 10 Stonley Street. JPNC votó para enviar la carta explicando sus preocupaciones con el proyecto, que incluyen el proceso comunitario, la estructura tridimensional, la distancia de la acera, y la falta de espacios verdes.

-El Comité de Parques y El Comité de Educación

El Comité de Parques informó que más de 35 personas asistieron a su reunión comunitaria sobre el esfuerzo de planificación del Campus Shattuck.

El Comité de Educación, que actualmente está buscando nuevos miembros, informó que 125 personas asistieron al evento de

la superintendente Brenda Casellius el 25 de noviembre. El objetivo de su gira es recoger las opiniones de la comunidad e incorporarlas al borrador final del plan estratégico. La próxima reunión el 7 de diciembre explorará el proceso de registro de BPS.

-701 Centre Street

Un propuesto para construir un Chase Bank en 701 Centre Street ha causado frustración para algunos residentes debido al hecho de que no hubo un proceso comunitario antes de sus nuevas ventanas se instalaran. JPNC votó para enviar una carta con sugerencias y una solicitud de revisión de diseño.

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The Lenny Zakim Fund appoints Eric Esteves to succeed Jude Goldman as Executive Director

The Lenny Zakim Fund (LZF) recently announced that they have hired Eric Esteves to succeed Jude Goldman as their Executive Director. Ms. Goldman, who will retire in December after a 14-year tenure, collaborated closely with leaders from nearly 300 grassroots organizations and oversaw the allocation of over \$7 million in grants to nonprofits in eastern Massachusetts.

"I am thrilled that The Lenny Zakim Fund will be helmed by Eric Esteves," said Jude Gold-

man. "Eric's authentic and deep commitment to justice, equity, and community at the grassroots make him the perfect leader for the Fund as we enter our second quarter century."

Mr. Esteves, who previously served as Director of the Social Innovation Fund at The Boston Foundation, has been serving as a consultant for Root Cause, Harvard Business School's Interpersonal Skills Development Lab, and the Boston Impact Initiative, where he identified investing,

lending and grant-making opportunities for entrepreneurs of color. He has also been co-directing LeadBoston, an experiential professional development program focused on socially responsible leadership, based at YW Boston. Esteves received both his undergraduate degree in Business Administration and his graduate degree in Information Systems from Northeastern University. A resident of Roxbury, he spent the early part of his career in educational technology, including leadership roles at Lesley University and Boston Public Schools.

"I am humbled and excited by this opportunity to lead The Lenny Zakim Fund and I appreciate the confidence the board of directors has placed in me," Esteves said. "It will be a tremendous privilege to continue the bridge building legacy set by Jude and Lenny to advance social, racial, and economic justice.

Jude's vision and personal touch have strengthened LZF in many ways and I hope to sustain and continue that philanthropic work with an intentional focus on grassroots leadership and responsiveness to those communities most impacted by inequities."

LZF Board Chair, Suzi Kaitz, said "As a result of Jude's guidance and relationships, The Lenny Zakim Fund has found a unique place among funders in the region. She has helped the Fund to earn widespread

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Continued on page 7

Hyde Square Task Force's Celina Miranda honored as one of state's top Latino leaders

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Milton resident and non-profit leader Celina Miranda was recently recognized by the Massachusetts House of Representatives as one of the state's most accomplished Latino leaders for her work developing leadership and advocacy skills in youths in Boston's Jamaica Plain neighborhood.

Miranda, the executive director of the Hyde Square Task force, was honored in the State House at the 2019 Latinx Excellence on the Hill ceremony, hosted by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus.

"Miranda has spent her career engaged in work that enables underserved communities to access the resources and opportunities they need for a better

future," the Caucus noted. "With more than a decade of experience in philanthropy, she has helped numerous Boston nonprofits secure funding in the service of their mission."

The event marked a celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month and community leaders making a difference across the Commonwealth.

Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Robert DeLeo attended the Oct. 3 event, where they recognized Latino community leaders for their contributions to the Commonwealth.

Miranda was presented with a House of Representatives' citation, signed by DeLeo, that recognized Miranda's "mastery in developing culturally relevant and powerful leaders, especially

among our youth, even in the midst of adversity, in good times and in bad."

Since 2016, Miranda has led the Hyde Square Task Force, a non-profit organization based in the Latin Quarter of Boston, which engages over 800 youth through its various cultural, educational and community action programs. She manages a budget of \$1.8 million and 19 full- and part-time staff members. Prior to that, she was a senior program officer with the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation. Miranda received her bachelor's degree from Smith College and holds a PhD in sociology and social work from Boston Univer-

sity.

Miranda's was nominated by State Representative Nika Elu-gardo, who represents parts of Boston and Brookline.

The annual award ceremony is hosted by the Black and Latino

Legislative Caucus. The group of legislators on the caucus work throughout the session to help people of color living in Massachusetts succeed, whether it's in business, education, or politics.




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JPNC

Continued from page 1

living space for her child's caretaker. The proposal is to change the occupancy of the rear of the building from a garage to a single-family residence and expand and renovate the rear building. Glikman said there was opposition from the Jamaica Hills Association, as they are worried about setting a precedent for future development in the neighborhood. This was already approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals, but the JPNC Zoning Committee also voted to support it.

At 10 Burr St., the proposal is to build a detached one car garage, and after working out concerns with the neighbors about the insufficiency of the front yard, they are now satisfied, Glikman said. All of the above projects were approved by the JPNC.

Glikman also talked about 73 Sheridan St., which was heard at the last zoning committee meeting. The project is to build three townhouses with eight residential units on the lot at 73 Sheridan St., which includes tearing down the existing home. Though there was no vote taken on this project, the JPNC came up with design comments that they wanted to submit to the city, which include the consideration of more green space, a consideration for the design of the bay windows, approval of the decision for a common driveway, and a consideration to add more details over the windows and doors of the units.

Public Service Committee

The JPNC decided to approve what will be the fifth Dunkin' in Jamaica Plain. JPNC member Michael Reiskind reported that the owners of a proposed Dunkin' at 37 South Huntington Ave. are requesting a seven-day common

victualer license to operate the store from 5:00am to 9:00pm. These particular owners also run two other Dunkin's, one in Mission Hill on Tremont St., and the other by the Roxbury Crossing Orange Line station. The owners' daughter, Jjanel Silveira, will be the manager of the new location.

Resikind also reported that the Public Service Committee talked about bicycles and bicycle safety, cigarette containers, and the Faulkner Hospital transportation plan.

Housing & Development Committee

JPNC member Carolyn Royce reported that at the last committee meeting, the JPNC provided an update on the Mildred Hailey renovations. Royce said "it's going to be a long process," and there will be almost 700 units when the project is complete. She said they are hoping to begin construction in 2022, and will take extra time because the

project will happen in phases: people have to be moved out of their buildings and into another one while construction is happening.

Royce also said the project proponents are going to apply for a Planned Development Area to get a zoning variance for the entire district so they don't have to keep going back for separate approvals for each portion of the project. "It'll make a big difference down there," Royce said of the project.

Royce also discussed a draft comment letter to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) regarding the proposed project at 10 Stonley Road. The proposal is a four story building with 45 rental units, and the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) has been very involved in this particular project. Ten of the units are affordable, with five of them being artist live/work spaces.

The project area sits right on the edge of the Arborway bus yard, and calls for the creation of a residential area in an industrial zone. "We support the residential use of this formerly industrial space," Royce said, adding that the affordability component meets PLAN: JP/Rox guidelines.

She did mention that there was an issue with the community process surrounding this proposal, and the SNA in particular has concerns about massing and setbacks. Royce said she does not want to see the project move forward until the SNA come to more of an agreement on the project.

Jennifer Uhrhane of the SNA said that "the main core issue has not been addressed" by the team, which she said is the "oversized footprint of the building," which "causes a domino effect of other issues." The SNA has concerns about setbacks, stepbacks, height, green space, and shadow issues.

"We're trying to get them to shrink the footprint which would take care of a number of the issues as well as increase green space," Uhrhane said. "They conform to the affordability numbers but they don't really check off any of the other categories."

The JPNC voted to send the letter to the BPDA, which addresses what was discussed above.

Parks + and Education Committees

Robin Cheung reported that the Parks + Committee held a

community meeting about the Shattuck Campus planning effort, which garnered over 35 attendees.

Trevor Wissink-Adams reported that Superintendent Brenda Cassellius' listening tour at the English High School on November 25 brought about 125 people to the school for the event. "BPS wanted to share their aspirations and priorities," he said, adding that the goal is to take feedback from the community from these events and incorporate it into the final draft of the strategic plan by 2020, when it will then be shared.

"I think the event went well," Wissink-Adams said, "and we will continue to build out the Education Committee." He said there are more spaces on the committee if others would like to be involved. There will also be a meeting on December 7 at the Connolly Branch of the Boston Public Library for families to learn about the BPS registration process.

701 Centre St.

JPNC member Gert Thorn talked about a project at 701 Centre St., which has upset several people in the community. Formerly Bukhara's Restaurant, the building at 701 Centre St. is soon to be a Chase Bank. New windows were installed, and though the building is not landmarked, it is in a neighborhood design overlay district. Many in the community have expressed their dissatisfaction and frustration with the fact that there was no community process before these windows were installed.

"We live here because of the amenities we have here, the parks, the library, the churches, the stores, the mix of people," Thorn said. "This building is in a neighborhood design overlay district. Many of us expected to see a historical facade here."

He said that he and several others contacted the Inspectional Services Department (ISD), and was told that "Chase will have to get a signage review but no discussion of the design."

"We are supposed to be involved in these conversations," Thorn said. He said he would like to get the Jamaica Pond Association to sign onto their letter to the city, as well as JP Centre/South Main Streets. The JPNC voted to approve the sending of the letter outlining concerns and a request for a design review.

Please note that the photos for the "Families Creating Together" photo spread published in the November 22 issue were from

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Lindsey Santana named new JP liaison

BY JOHN LYNDIS

Mayor Martin Walsh has appointed Lindsey Santana as the neighborhood liaison for Jamaica Plain within the Mayor's Civic Engagement Cabinet. Santana will replace Enrique Pepen who left his post to become a special advisor on U.S. Congressman Joseph Kennedy III's U.S. Senate campaign.

Santana began serving as the new liaison on Nov. 15.

"I am very excited to have Lindsey join the team as our Jamaica Plain liaison," said Mayor Walsh. "She understands the importance of bringing people together and facilitating city services to make the City a better place for its residents."

As the Jamaica Plain liaison, Santana will serve as the primary contact for constituents and businesses looking to connect with the Mayor's Office, and will facilitate the delivery of services in collaboration with City departments.

"I am very excited to be appointed as the Jamaica Plain

liaison by Mayor Walsh," said Santana. "We are both passionate about helping people and I cannot think of a better way to help the people of Jamaica Plain than by serving as their neighborhood liaison. Their sense of community and dedication to making the City a better place is what drives them and I look forward to working with them."

Santana was born in Boston and lived in the Dominican Republic for six years before returning to the City at the age of 16. She graduated from West Roxbury Academy and was a recipient of the Posse Scholarship. She received a bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from Bucknell University.

Santana most recently held the title of Community Project and Marketing Coordinator for the Mayor's Love Your Block Initiative, a program which aims to bring neighbors together through acts of service.

In her spare time she enjoys dancing, going to Red Sox games and supporting her sorority, Mu Sigma Upsilon Incorporated, as they empower women across the



Lindsey Santana named new Jamaica Plain liaison

country.

She currently lives in Hyde Park.

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) encourages, facilitates and maximizes citizen input and participation through service requests, neighborhood meetings, mailings, and emergency responses. To report non-emergency issues to the City, residents are encouraged to connect with BOS:311 by dialing 3-1-1 or by downloading the free BOS:311 app on iOS or Android platforms.

Council at-large recount slated

STAFF REPORT

The official recount effort for the City Council at-large race on the final seat – contested between winner Julie Mejia and challenger Alejandra St. Guillen – has begun on Thursday, Dec. 5, at City Hall.

In the citywide Council race, most of the seats came out in a non-controversial way, but the final seat was decided by only 10 votes. Mejia came out the winner on election night, but St. Guillen quickly moved to challenge the vote.

This Thursday and Friday, the ballot boxes will be opened ward

by ward and precinct by precinct. On Saturday, Dec. 7, the actual recount of ballots will begin for Councilor at-large. That will continue on Sunday, Dec. 8, and if needed, into Monday, Dec. 9, and Tuesday, Dec. 10.

The recount will be performed by the Election Department, and once final, a winner will be declared.

There are likely to be plenty of attorneys from either side watching the proceedings and, potentially, contesting votes and counts of votes.

Local Post Offices host extended holiday hours

Everyone knows the holidays can be a stressful time, with gifts to buy, wrap and ship to loved ones, and to help ease some of the holiday stress, some local Post Offices will be offering extended hours for the next three weekends.

One of those post offices will be the branch on Centre Street in JP.

The following offices will be open Saturdays, December 14 and 21, until 3 p.m.: Arlington, Belmont, Central Square Cam-

bridge, Jamaica Plain, Lexington, Milton, Needham, Newtonville, Roslindale, Wellesley and West Roxbury. Medford and Quincy will remain open until 4 p.m.

The Post Offices in Quincy and Central Square Cambridge will also be open on Sundays, December 8, 15 and 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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MIKE'S FITNESS THANKSGIVING CHARITY PIE SALE

PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA

Mike's Fitness partnered with Community Servings, a non-profit food and nutrition program, to participate in the 27th Pie in the Sky event on Saturday, November 23. Every pie bought by a participant during the fundraiser provides a week's worth of meals to a Community Servings client. More than 25,000 pies were prepared this year!



Dan DaCosta, of Jamaica Plain, bought a pie and signed up for a 6-month membership at Mike's Fitness.



Stephanie Chubb, who bought a pie and signed up for a 6-month membership at Mike's Fitness, with Tom Blain, an existing member at the gym.



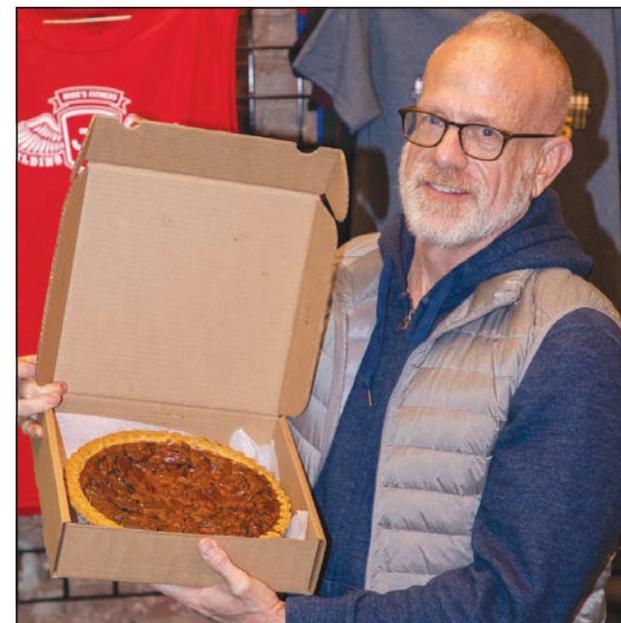
Mary Lou Ferguson, who bought a pie and signed up for a 6-month membership at Mike's Fitness, and Maxwell Oberlander.



Existing Mike's Fitness member Molly Paone holding her pecan pie.



Leah Abrams, who signed up for a 6-month membership at Mike's Fitness, holds her apple pie.



Existing Mike's Fitness member John Donnelly holding his pecan pie.

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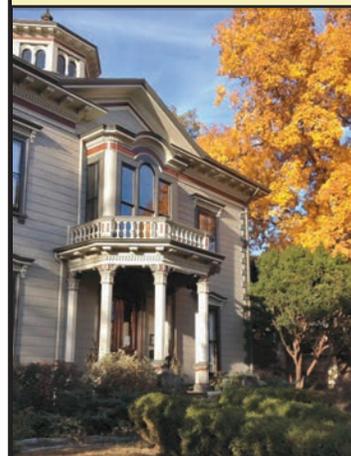
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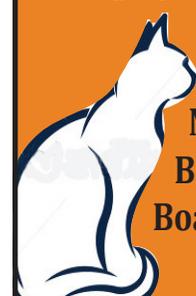
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ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY



St. Thomas Aquinas Parish celebrated its 150th anniversary this past month with two big events: Mass with Cardinal Sean O'Malley on Sunday, Nov. 24, and a dinner/dance in the parish hall on Saturday, Nov. 30. Both events were well attended and brought former and current parishioners together to celebrate the 150th anniversary. The Parish was founded in January, 1869.

Zakim Fund

Continued from page 2

recognition for helping grassroots organizations build strong foundations to create change in their communities. We are so deeply grateful for her steadfast commitment to LZF's mission and community." Kaitz said, "I'm also confident that the future is in good hands. The board of directors has worked hard to strengthen LZF's foundation during this transitional time and we're very excited that Eric Esteves will bring strong, experienced leadership to guide us toward ongoing success. He has a proven commitment to social justice and a deep understanding of the issues and communities that have always been at the center of LZF's work."

The Lenny Zakim Fund provides resources and training to grassroots community leaders and organizations that work to effectively address racial, social, and economic injustice in eastern Massachusetts. It nurtures grassroots organizations toward

growth and sustainability by providing training, grants, coaching, legal assistance, and more, all at

no cost. Such resources are often inaccessible to small and emerging grassroots organizations and

programs.

LZF's mission is to listen to those most impacted by inequity and provide the funding, essen-

tial resources, and support they need to work against systemic oppression and create lasting change.

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Sights & Sounds

The deadline for listings is noon, December 17 for the December 20 issue. Send listings to reporter@jamaicaplaingazette.com. Note: 617 should be dialed before numbers below, unless another area code is given.

Special events

The annual Holiday Trolley Tour and Tree Lighting at the Soldier's Monument will start at 2:00pm on Saturday, December 7.

Book Talk: Moxie This book chronicles Moxie's rich history. Moxie's World Headquarters (Moxieland) was located in Jamaica Plain (at 79 Heath Street) from 1928 to 1953. Sunday, December 8, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Farnsworth House, 90 South Street. Sponsored by the Jamaica Plain Historical Society.

JP Toastmasters meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at The Footlight Club in Jamaica Plain. The meeting will feature free food and drinks, introductions, and opportunities to practice speaking. As always, meetings are free for guests. JP Toastmasters is known for providing a warm, welcoming environment where members help each other improve their public speaking and leadership skills

ELLIOT SCHOOL will have the following events:

Holiday Ornament-Making, family fun, all ages welcome. December 15, 10am-12:30pm, Eliot School, 24 Eliot St.

Arts, music, & culture

BalletRox class registration is now open: <https://balletrox.info/dance-with-us/register>. Classes for kids, ages 4 to 18, at Spontaneous Celebrations. info@balletrox.info for more information.

JESUS DRINKS FREE! 1950s-70s country, gospel, soul and RnB spun by 2 atheists (and guests) @ Jeanie Johnston 9pm-Close FREE SOUL music & COUNTRY music. Foundational sounds of the American experience spun monthly with love, admiration, and a deep want to create fun. Throw in a non-believer's true lust for spinning GOSPEL music and you have JESUS DRINKS FREE. The music comes from the 1950s thru the 1970s. We're @ The Jeanie Johnston Pub every first Thursday night of every month. Good times in Jamaica Plain."

The Haven, HOOTENANNY - JP's OPEN MIC EVERY WEDNESDAY, hosted by Tom Dowd. Sign up is 9.30pm and we have prizes every Wednesday for the most interest-

ing acts.

Midway Café, All shows 21+ - Doors at 8:00 PM unless otherwise noted

EVERY THURSDAY 9:30 PM - 2:00 AM: QUEERAOKE (Drink - Sing - Dance - Repeat!)

Boston's very best lesbian night (but everyone is welcome and all are invited!)

EVERY FRIDAY 6:00 - 8:30 PM (FREE!): HIPPIE HOUR with Mystical Misfits and Uncle Johnny's Band (alternating weeks) and their friends playing the music of The Grateful Dead, Bob Dylan and more!

EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT 8:00 PM - 2:00 AM (FREE!): OPEN MIC AT THE MIDWAY Hosted by Angela Sawyer and Gabe Stoddard. Come one, come all! More info: <http://midwayorthehighway.com/>

December 2019:

Friday 12/6 (after Hippie Hour) 8:30pm (\$8.00): Daniel Miller and the High Life, Christa Joy and the Honeybees, Bill Dwyer Band

Saturday 12/7 (Night Show) \$8.00: T And The Wrecks, TIP

Saturday 12/7 (Day Show) 3pm (\$8.00): 3rd Annual Tunes for Tots Benefit with Loser's Circle, The Bad Reminders, C.O.B., C.E. Skidmore

Sunday 12/8 (Day Show) 3pm (\$7.00): The Bind, DnA's Evolution, Rivers & Plains, Medical Maps

Monday 12/9 (\$10.00): Punk Rockin' And Pastie Poppin'

Tuesday 12/10 (\$5.00): Still, Freaking, Chelsey Meyer & The Attic, Rogozo, Koogler

Wednesday 12/11 (\$5.00): Fully Celebrated Orchestra with special guests Hilken Mancini & Friends

Thursday 12/12 (before Queeraoke) \$5.00: Britt Walsh (monthly residency)

Friday 12/13 (after Hippie Hour) 8:30pm (\$10.00): Stop Calling Me Frank, The Dirty Truckers, Ex-Avenue, The Grommets

Saturday 12/14 (Night Show) \$10.00: Unnamed Colors, They Got Frank, Trailer Swift, Connor Storms & his Boys

Saturday 12/14 (Day Show) 3pm (\$7.00): Baabes, The Chelsea Curve, The Hi-End, The Stigmatics

Sunday 12/15 (Day Show) 3pm (\$5.00): Thrash N Bang's 8th Annual Punk Pizza Party! with Neighborhood Shit, Fast Times, The Ratz, The Hangovers, Disco Rice

Monday 12/16 (\$5.00): Minx, The Modern Voice, Tony Savarino & The Savtones

Tuesday 12/17 (\$5.00): Johnny Moon and The Rockets, Vague Perception, VAT, Any Way Forward

Wednesday 12/18 (\$5.00): AdapterAdapter, Gasoline Virgins, Glowbox, Mike Morrissey

Jeanie Johnston Pub, 144 South St. Open Mic hosted by Tony Bluze, Sundays at 8 pm. More events at jeaniejohnstonpub.com.

Bella Luna & The Milky Way Weekly events include: Radio Mamba's Family Rumba, every Sunday 5pm-8pm, live Latin music. Every Monday Stump Trivia from 8 - 10 p.m., Teacher Tuesdays and Dirty Water Saloon line dancing for queer folks and allies at 7PM. Every Wednesday live music from 6:30 - 9:30 PM. Throwback Thursday from 6-8pm with rotating DJ's barside. Visit www.milkywayjp.com for more late night events Thu-Sun.

Old time music, Southern/roots music, second and fourth Wednesdays, 7.30pm, back room at Doyle's Cafe, 3484 Washington St. Info: peggyconant@gmail.com.

First Fridays Youth Open Mic with renowned feature artists, first Friday of every month, 7pm at First Baptist Church, 633 Centre St. Free for performers and those under 25, \$10 suggested donation for those 25 and over.

Dance and comedy

Dance JP Revival! Free your mind, body, and soul, and lift your spirits with high-energy, feel-good, socially conscious music from around the world! All ages. Wheelchair accessible. Nov. 16, 7:30-9:30pm, First Baptist Church JP, 633 Centre St. \$5-\$15 (No one turned away for lack of funds). More info: <https://tinyurl.com/DanceJPRevival>, DanceJP-Dance@gmail.com

Gender-Free/English Country Dance, beginners welcome and encouraged. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (5th Tuesdays: experienced) of the month, 7:30-11:30pm, First Church, 6 Eliot St. Info: www.lcdf.org/bgfe/512-5554.

Learn to stiltwalk with Spontaneous Celebrations, 45 Danforth St. Sundays, 11am-1pm, \$5. Info: 857-498-2438.

Egleston Square Branch Library, 2044 Columbus Ave.

Free Drop-In Homework Help Mondays-Thursdays, 3:30-5:30pm The library provides free, drop-in afterschool homework help for students in grades K-8 throughout the school year. Spanish assistance is available Mondays and Thursdays. Help is provided by trained, high-achieving high school students. This program is available at locations across Boston on days that Boston Public Schools are in session. The full list

of locations is online at www.bpl.org/homework.

Jamaica Plain Branch Library Jamaica Plain Branch Library, 30 South Street, Jamaica Plain (617) 524-2053 will be hosting the following events:

Dawnland Film Showing. Thursday, December 12 at 6pm. Learn about the first government-sanctioned Truth and Reconciliation commission in the United States in Maine, focused on the Wabanaki Indians.

Fixit Clinic. Saturday, December 14, from 9:30 to 1:30. Repeats in March.

Local Voices Network (LVN) Facilitators Training. Saturday, December 14, at 2 pm. Call Laura at the JP Branch to learn more about Local Voices Network. We will also host an LVN climate discussion in January.

ESL Conversation Group. Every Tuesday, 2-3:30 p.m.

Spanish Conversation Group. Every Saturday, 11:30-12:30. Sponsored by Roslindale Branch.

STEM Workshops for Kids in 4th-8th grade. Every Saturday through Dec. 7, 10-11:30 a.m. (will restart again next year!)

Saturday Family Storytimes. Saturday, 12/21, 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Booksale! Saturday, December 7. The Friends of the JP Branch Library will hold a booksale to support the programs and services of the JP Branch Library.

Dawnland Film Showing. Thursday, December 12 at 6pm. Learn about the first government-sanctioned Truth and Reconciliation commission in the United States in Maine, focused on the Wabanaki Indians.

Fixit Clinic. Saturday, December 14 in the morning.

Salary Negotiation Workshop. Thursday, 12/19, at 5:30. Please call the JP Branch to sign up 617-524-2503.

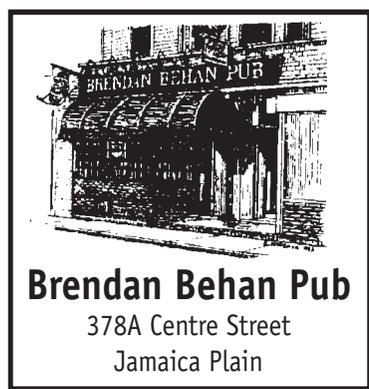
Community Gaming. Saturday 12/21, at 12 noon

Connolly Branch Library 433 Centre St., 522-1960, www.bpl.org.

Stonybrook Fine Arts, Make Your Own Wedding Rings workshop and teen & adult classes in welding, foundry and mold-making, ongoing, 24 Porter St. Info: stonybrookfinearts.com.

Woodworking, sewing, art classes, fiber arts, photography, book arts. Children, teens, adults, year round. Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts, 24 Eliot St. Info: eliotsschool.org or 524-3313.

Shim Gum Do (Mind Sword Path), zen sword, karate and meditation classes, scholarships available.



Education Bill

Continued from page 1

that the Foundation Committee had recommended five key changes, and the Act passed on Nov. 26 addressed all five.

“This is a monumental moment for the future of our Commonwealth,” she said. “A diverse coalition of families, educators, organizers, and legislators held this bill high for years, never wavering on the path to this day. Now, generations of Bay Staters will taste the fruit of their efforts: a public education to create the society we want to live in and support every child as they reach for their dreams.”

Also sitting on that Foundation Committee with Chang Diaz was State Sen. Sal DiDomenico – who represents Charlestown, Cambridge, Everett and Chelsea. He agreed with Chang Diaz at the signing on Nov. 26 that it was an historic day.

“It’s a home run; it’s everything we were looking for and wanted and the timeline is good because it ramps up to over a seven-year period for funding,” he said. “The commitment financially is significant. These numbers that will be coming are game-changing for Everett, Boston and Chelsea. The signing of this bill will be a day we look back on and say it was a day that all children were guaranteed an opportunity to succeed. This was historic. It really was. It’s something that we’ve all been wanting for a very, very long time...After today, no longer will your zip code be a hindrance to getting the resources you need to get a great education.”



PHOTOS COURTESY MAYOR MARTIN WALSH'S OFFICE

Gov. Charlie Baker, with JP Sen. Sonia Chang Diaz prominently behind him, signing the landmark Student Opportunity Act, which is predicted to solve many of the budgetary issues that have troubled the Boston Public Schools for the past few years. City and state leaders are applauding the bill and calling it “historic.”

Mayor Walsh emphasized that the bill was reached with togetherness and unity, and that is rare on such a major spending bill.

“This bill marks the culmination of years of advocacy and hard work from so many people who came together to say that students in all school districts across Massachusetts deserve a high-quality education,” said Walsh. “It is an incredible and historic moment that we have reached together as we celebrate the signing of this bill which treats every district and student with equity, recognizing the different challenges our students face and empowering schools to help our students rise up and reach their dreams.”

Supt. Brenda Cassellius said the Boston schools look forward to the implementation and making sure the schools are accountable under the new rules.

“I’m grateful for the dedication and foresight of Mayor Walsh, our state leaders and BPS students, parents and teachers who worked to make public education a priority with this bill’s passage,” she said. “I look forward to working with our leaders and holding ourselves accountable so that the goal of this funding- better outcomes for our neediest children- is fully realized.”

The bill was signed at English High School on Nov. 26 with numerous dignitaries and elected officials in attendance. After the bill passed both the House and Senate last month, there was quite a question mark as to whether Baker would sign it. That all changed last week when he made the plans to sign



Teachers from English High, with Boston Teacher’s Union President Jessica Tang, celebrate the signing of the landmark Student Opportunity Act at English High School.

it at English High.

“I am pleased to sign legislation aimed at providing students across the Commonwealth with the opportunities and resources they need to succeed including accountability measures that are essential to supporting underperforming schools,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “This funding builds on the over half a billion dollars in new Chapter 70 funding our Administration has supported since taking office. We thank our partners in the Legislature for their hard work and we look forward to implementing this legislation for every child in every school district in Massachusetts.”

The bill has had many attempts at passage, but failed on a number of occasions for various reasons, with many now saying it was because some legislators would have had to vote against the best interests of their communities. This was especially true of those in the Boston delegation because while the previous bills solved problems for Gateway Cities like Chelsea and Brockton, they didn’t provide a lot of help to Boston – particularly with full Charter School reimbursements.

Over the next seven years, the state has committed to investing \$1.5 billion into public education, and with inflation factored in, about \$2 billion. The plan will roll out with increases in the Chapter 70 education formula increasing – in addition to other things within the bill that will increase funding.

In Boston, it is estimated that by year seven, more than \$100 million will be coming into the

district due to the landmark legislation. The numbers are not yet fixed, and they will be incremental, but eclipsing \$100 million is expected.

A good amount of that comes due to the fix of fully funding the Charter School reimbursements to the district.

By state law, a district is reimbursed for any student that leaves the public school for a charter school. Those reimbursements are 100 percent funding in the first year, and then 25 percent of the funding for five years after. The state had been reimbursing districts, but not at the full level required by the law.

“Boston is going to see big increases in funding year over year, and that will help the Charlestown schools a lot,” said DiDomenico. “The Charter School reimbursement for Boston was really huge...In the last few go-arounds of the bill, Boston wasn’t seeing these kinds of benefits, but now they will. They are included now and they will get what they deserve.”

Additionally, school districts will see increased reimbursements for transporting students to out-of-district special education placements. It also raises a cap on state funding for school building projects by \$150 million from \$600 million to \$750 million; and creates a grant fund for innovative educational approaches.

Money is expected to start coming down to the districts next year in the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, which Gov Baker is expected to file sometime in late January or early February. Each year will see things grow incrementally

until year seven hits the full amount promised.

That said, the education funding money doesn’t just roll in come what may. There are strict accountability measurements that are required to get the full funding. If students don’t perform well, not all of the funding will be delivered.

The bill requires school districts to develop three-year plans to close achievement gaps using evidence-based programs and supports, such as expanded learning time, increased counseling and psychological services, professional development, expanded early learning and pre-kindergarten, early college and career readiness pathways, and a more diverse teacher workforce.

The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education will establish statewide targets for addressing persistent achievement gaps among student groups, and will review each district’s plan to ensure it sets measurable goals for student improvement, with credible strategies for achieving them. Districts must amend any plan deemed by the Commissioner not to conform with these standards.

The bill also requires the Secretary of Education to collect data on student preparedness for college and career success by school district and high school, including student participation rates in college and career readiness programs, college acceptance and graduation rates, as well as the percentage of students in internships and earning industry-recognized credentials.

JP's Barricklo speaks at BAA reception

Jamaica Plain resident Jonah Barricklo, Boston Arts Academy (BAA) alum and Emerson College student, spoke at an event this week with celebrity event planner Bryan Rafanelli hosted by Emerson President Lee Pelton and the Boston Arts Academy

Foundation.

Lee Pelton hosted a reception at Emerson College's Paramount Center on behalf of the Boston Arts Academy Foundation with a fireside chat with special guest Bryan Rafanelli. The BAA Foundation supports Boston Arts Academy, the city's only public high school for the visual and performing arts, through its-Building Our Future campaign with a goal of raising \$30 million in five years to keep the "arts" in Boston Arts Academy. BAA alum and Emerson student Jonah Barricklo shared remarks about how his experiences at BAA helped shape his future – specifically receiving a full scholarship to Emerson.



PHOTOS BY DAVID FOX PHOTOGRAPHY

Shown left to right : Bryan Rafanelli, founder and chief creative officer of Rafanelli Events; Lee Pelton, president of Emerson College, BAA Foundation Board of Directors chair and Building Our Future Campaign co-chair; Jonah Barricklo, BAA '19, Emerson '23; Anne Clark, headmaster of Boston Arts Academy; and Denella Clark, president of BAA Foundation



Headmaster of BAA Anne Clark and Jonah Barricklo.

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NOTICE OF CLOSING OF WAITING LIST
Farnsworth House
90 South Street
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Effective December 31, 2019 at 5:00 PM EST
Farnsworth House will close its waiting list. This closure is necessary due to the current waiting period exceeding 12 months. The current waiting list is over 36 months.

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, s 5-304
Docket No. SU19P2677GD
In the matter of: Jeremy Otuga RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
Of: Jamaica Plain, MA
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Boston Medical Center of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Jeremy Otuga is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Boston Medical Center of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 12/26/2019. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division
24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU19P2442EA
Estate of: John Gamble
Date of Death: 10/01/2019
To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Brenda S. Diana of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Brenda S. Diana of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in an unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/26/2019. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 22, 2019
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
12/06/19 JP

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The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor.

Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com. Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

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A Winter Solstice tradition returns to Loring-Greenough

Save the dates! Storytelling, Celtic harp and Song returns to the 18th century Loring-Greenough House in Jamaica Plain to welcome the Solstice again

this year. Stop by Friday Dec 20 through Sunday Dec 22 to join in the festivities. Friday, Dec. 20 and Saturday, Dec. 21 will have performances from 7:30 - 9:30

p.m.; two acts and an intermission with traditional refreshments.

Sunday, Dec. 22 will feature a special Matinee performance, from 2 - 3:30 p.m., with refreshments after in the elegant Loring-Greenough House dining room. Early bird pricing is available until December 10.

Celebrate the longest nights with Solstice stories and songs evoking the warmth of the season. Oracle award-winning storyteller Diane Edgecomb, accompanied by Celtic harper Margot Chamberlain and multi-instrumentalist Tom Megan, weaves together a tapestry of ancient tales and tunes revealing the deep meaning behind winter holiday traditions. This theatrical storytelling features the Scandinavian "Legend of the Mistletoe," evergreen myths and legends of light all complemented by folkloric music and songs from many lands. Complimentary seasonal refreshments including a traditional Wassail bowl of mulled cider are included in the price of admission.

The Winter Solstice in Story and Song is soon to be a new double-CD!

Tickets available at <https://wintersolstice2019.eventbrite.com/>.



PHOTO BY PAMELA RUBY RUSSELL

Shown are Diane Edgecomb with Margot Chamberlain and Tom Megan (Diane and Tom are JP residents).

JP Jubilee

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CONCERT

Elizabeth Anker
conductor

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Voluntary donations are gratefully accepted to keep the chorus free to participants. www.jpjubilee.com www.stjohns-jp.org/contact

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ETHOS' JP@HOME PROGRAM CELEBRATES 5TH ANNIVERSARY



More than 150 business and community members joined Ethos on Thursday, November 7th, at the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Center in Jamaica Plain, to support the organization's JP@Home program and celebrate the initiative's 5th Anniversary.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Ray Santos, the chief development & community relations officer for Ethos, who oversees the JP@Home program; Rhonda Glyman, the executive director for the Center Communities of Brookline, who was representing Hebrew SeniorLife, the event's lead sponsor; and Nick Favorito, president of the board of directors for Ethos.

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THROUGH DECEMBER WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

SALE STARTS NOVEMBER 30

Ethos' JP@Home program just celebrated its 5th anniversary, with over 150 guests, at a business and community breakfast in Jamaica Plain. JP@Home is a membership-based program of Ethos for middle income older adults who reside in Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Mission Hill, Roxbury and Brookline and want to age in place. Members subscribe to JP@Home to receive access to numerous social, health and wellness services and activities activities.

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City Council holds hearing on pedestrian safety

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Boston City Council held a hearing regarding pedestrian safety on November 18. Sponsored by Councilor Ed Flynn, the hearing was focused on pedestrian safety and vision zero, which is a plan to reach zero serious or fatal crashes. The hearing also covered topics like traffic lights, crossing signals for pedestrians, and infrastructure improvements to roads such as speed humps, raised crosswalks, and pedestrian signals.

Flynn has said many times that pedestrian safety is of top priority for him as a councilor, and that “we need to do everything we can and prioritize safety for pedestrians,” especially for children, seniors, and those with disabilities.

Several members of the public as well as city officials were invited to testify at the hearing. Scott Burke, Managing Partner of Morrison Mahoney, said that his office building is right outside the crosswalk where a woman was fatally hit this past September. Burke said that last February, he and several others emailed the city warning them that there were issues with the light sequence at the intersection.

This past June, he said additional reports were filed to 311, and that “the death of Diane [Ly] was absolutely preventable if anybody listened to us...we have

local knowledge that I think is important.”

Gilbert Ho, a longtime Chinatown community activist, also said that he is “very concerned” about the safety of pedestrians, as there are many senior citizens and families with young children who cross the street in Chinatown. He said he has mentioned to Councilor Flynn that traffic lights should be delayed green for cars turning and pedestrians crossing, as “people and cars are fighting to get across.” Additionally, he said the city should “further look into slowing down the right or left turn arrow for pedestrian crossing.”

Ho said that another issue is with cars turning right on red. He said he recognizes that cars are allowed to do this in some places, but “I see a lot of cars not really yielding for pedestrians when they are making the right turn,” he said. “It’s very dangerous for pedestrians.”

Brendan Kearney of Walk-Boston said that crashes, fatalities, and injuries can be prevented through fixing signal timing, among other things. “that design is to influence [driver] behavior,” he said. Kearney referenced page 140 of the GoBoston 2030 plan, which he said contains “great recommendations” that he believes the city should be putting into practice. “The city has already done the research on this,” he said.

Chief of Streets Chris Osgood

highlighted some of the work that his team is doing, including a focus on maintenance and education, major roads and corridors, the Neighborhood Slow Streets Program, and the bike network across the city.

Osgood said the citywide efforts in legislation, education, and maintenance include a bill that is “likely to succeed this week in pushing forward a distracted driving bill to be signed at the state house,” as well as lowering the default speed limit in the city of Boston. The City is also focused on ensuring that safe driver behaviors are practiced by all drivers.

As far as maintenance goes, Osgood said that the city has doubled its investment in things like pavement markings and has restriped about 2,600 crosswalks over the past couple fiscal years. Additionally, the city is working on engineering changes with a focus on major corridors, which will lead to safer driving. According to Osgood, there are “dozens of projects on the move on these key corridors.”

The Neighborhood Slow Streets program, which is focused on contiguous blocks, is prioritized for streets with “high numbers of vulnerable road users,” Osgood said, as well as areas where there are “key links” in the transportation network, such as bus routes and MBTA train stations. Areas where there are high percentages of crashes are also considered for the Slow Streets Program. The city is also focused on redesigning streets for 20 miles per hour, as was discussed in a previous Council hearing about lowering the city speed limit.

Bike lanes are another focus, and the city is making it a priority goal to have roughly four times as many people com-

muting to work by bike by 2030, and there are several more miles of protected bike lane to come, with eight miles already in place throughout the city.

The city has also installed about 85 speed feedback signs across the city, Osgood said, and is focused on improving crosswalks by doing things like daylighting intersections.

City Councilor Matt O’Malley inquired about things like raised crosswalks, photo enforcement, and feedback regarding the Slow Streets program with the only complaint being that certain neighborhoods did not receive Slow Streets benefits.

Osgood said that city engineers do support raised crosswalks in areas where they make sense, but they don’t work in every situation. By state law, photo enforcement is not allowed, though there are bills out there pushing for things like stop arm cameras mounted to stop signs on school buses.

Osgood added that they are trying to “find the right mix of staff and capital” for the Slow Streets program, and taking a look at it for the upcoming fiscal year’s budget to see how the program might be able to be broadened. “It’s a prioritization,” Osgood said of the program. “We are looking at where do you have seniors, youth, persons with disabilities...those are places we look at first.”

City Councilor Kim Janey said that there should be a citywide plan in place to make these improvements, because right now, “we have neighborhoods fighting over Slow Streets initiatives.”

Osgood said that the city will take 311 requests for problem areas, and recommended describing the situation through 311 to be reviewed by the city.

City Councilor Michelle Wu said she hopes that “even one person flagging something as unsafe” will warrant the city checking it out, as she’s concerned that the city waits for several complaints about the same issue to come in before they address it.

Another community member mentioned that crosswalk times should be extended, as many crosswalks do not allow enough time for elderly or people with disabilities to get across the street. Additionally, he said that bikers who blow through crosswalks are dangerous, as well as bikers who go the wrong way down a one-way street. He said he would like to see bike rules enforced, as he does not believe they currently are.

Community activist Alison Pultinas said the design issue with the conflict between turning vehicles and pedestrians is an important one. “The issue of cars that have the right to turn on red or cars that have a green light and are allowed to turn while pedestrians have a walk signal is very complicated and deserves a lot of analysis,” she said. “There has to be a criteria looking at the speed on these corridors and that has to be one of the determining factors whether it’s going to be an all-way stop.” She added that she hopes the public can be more involved when discussing these intersections.

As this conversation continues to move forward, “we have a lot of work to do,” O’Malley said, adding that he believes it’s a good thing to see that everyone wants safer roads for pedestrians, cars, and bikers.

Councilor Flynn said that pedestrian safety is probably the issue he works the most on within his district, and is glad to see that residents want to be active and involved, and “have some great ideas for how we can improve pedestrian safety.”

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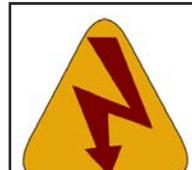
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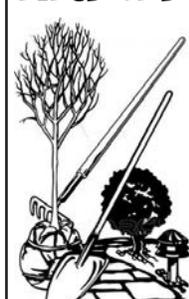


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JP Agenda

The deadline for listings is noon, Tues. December 17 for the December 20 issue. Send listings to reporter@jamaicaplainingazette.com. Note: 617 should be dialed before numbers below, unless another area code is given.

Meetings

Stonybrook Neighborhood Association. Next meeting is a Holiday Potluck. Date/location TBD. More/latest info: www.sna-jp.org

The Jamaica Pond Association will meet from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Monday, January 6, in the community room at the Jamaicaway Tower, 111 Perkins Street, Jamaica Plain. This is an open public meeting; Pondsiders who would like to take an active role in this neighborhood organization are encouraged to attend and consider joining the association. There is limited guest parking to the right of the main entrance; the site is a five-minute walk from the #39 bus stop at South Huntington Ave. and Perkins Street.

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council Outreach Committee: Monday, Dec. 9 at 6:00 at JP Licks, 659 Centre Street. **JPNC Parks + Committee:** Monday, Dec. 9 at 8:30 at JP Licks, 659 Centre Street. On the agenda will be a follow up of the Oct. 24 meeting.

JPNC Housing & Development Committee: Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 6:30 pm, Location TBA: On the agenda will be an Article 80 project, 3326 Washington Street. The proposed project calls for the construction of a five (5)-story, approximately 40,450 gross square foot, green, transit-oriented, mixed-use, mixed-income building.

JPNC Education Committee: Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019 at 7:00 pm at JP Licks, 659 Centre Street. On the agenda will be a follow-up of the Superintendent's community meeting. Executive Committee: Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7:00 pm at JP Licks, 659 Centre Street.

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (due to holiday the meeting will be held on the

3rd Tuesday) Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 7:00 pm, at Farnsworth House 90 South Street. On the agenda will be reports and updates from the committees. **JPNC The Zoning Committee's** next regularly-scheduled meeting will be December 18 at Farnsworth House. The agenda for that meeting will include 79 Moss Hill Road (add second story to existing single-family residence on existing footprint) and 91 Green Street (construct an addition on the rear of the existing house to create an additional dwelling unit and a garage). After Dec. 18, the Committee's next upcoming meetings will be January 8th and January 22nd. Please note that the January dates are the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, as the first Wednesday is New Year's Day.

JPNC The Public Service Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00pm at Curtis Hall, 20 South Street. On the agenda will be a request of City Feed and Supply, Inc., doing business as "City Feed and Supply" at 672 Centre Street in Jamaica Plain for a transfer of their Beer & Wine Package Store License to Equal Exchange, Inc., doing business as "Equal Exchange" at the same location.

All interested residents are invited to attend.

JPNC Police Community Relations Meeting will take place on Thursday, January 2 at 6:30pm at Curtis Hall, 20 South Street. Commanders from Boston Police Area E, MBTA Police and State Police will deal with all issues of public safety raised by the community. All interested residents are invited to attend.

Vacancy on the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council: People who are interested in the available seats on the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council can contact Kevin Rainsford, chair of the Council at (617) 866-7672 or kprainsford@gmail.com or come to the monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 26 at

7:00pm at Farnsworth House, 90 South Street.

There is one vacancy At-large. The area map is available at <http://www.jpnc.org/jpnc-map/>.

Please visit our website JPNC.org for updates

The Egleston Square Neighborhood Association will meet on Monday, January 6 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The meeting is in the YMCA Building at 3134 Washington St. Agenda to be determined.

JP Problem Properties Committee, first Thursday of the month, 10:30am, Egleston Library, 2044 Columbus Ave. Info: Office of Rep. Malia, 617-722-2380

Youth/Families

Ornament in a Box! with Lisa Lee, Artist/Facilitator, on Saturday, December 14, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry, 10 Putnam St., Roxbury, \$5 per participant or \$10 per family for materials. Provided by Families Creating Together. Come join us to create an amazing honeycomb ornament and a neat gift box to nestle it in! Artists can choose to take a traditional holiday approach or design their ornament and box to celebrate the richness of their cultural roots. At the end of the workshop, each family of artists will have created a spectacular symbol of celebration that they are proud to hang in their home. This is an accessible workshop for children of all abilities and their families. FCT is a program of Community Service Care/Tree of Life Coalition. To register and for more information email mfcabrera53@gmail.com or call 617-522-4833. www.familiescreatingtogether.org.

Children Dance Classes: JP Dance Co-op is hosting two new classes this Fall: Parent & Child: Intro to Movement for ages ~3-4 on Sundays, 10-11 a.m., to Dec. 8 (Full course: \$100 / Drop in: \$15); and Pre-Ballet & Modern: Dance Basics for ages ~5-6 on Sundays, 11am-12pm, Oct. 6- Dec. 8 (Full course: \$100). Classes held at Spontaneous

Celebrations (FYI: no classes December 1 for holidays). Email Caitlin Fisher to register: JPDanceCoop@gmail.com.

Kids on Wheels: Play and learn, every Sunday, 3 to 5 pm – Ferris Wheels Bike Shop helps kids learn and practice safe riding skills while having lots of fun at the South Street Mall and tennis courts! Free helmet adjustments and free bike adjustments available. Heavy rain cancels. At the tennis courts at South Street and Carolina Avenue. 617-524-2453.

Tuesday & Thursday a.m. bike training rides: Pacerline ride, great for training for charity rides or general conditioning. Leaves from Ferris Wheels Bike Shop, 66 South St. (1/2 mile from Forest Hills) at 7:00 a.m. sharp. Rain cancels. Call 617-524-2453.

The Roberto Clemente 21 Sports program is now accepting applications (boys and girls ages 6-16). Location: The Hennigan Community Center, 200 Heath St., Jamaica Plain. Info: 617-828-9524 or alliriano@yahoo.com.

Spanish-English Language Exchange / Intercambio de Idiomas en Inglés y Español, Saturdays / sábados, 12 – 1:45 p.m. Connolly Branch Library. **Support Group for Young Parents,** a program of Jewish Family and Children's Services, open to all faiths, for parents with children from birth to one-year, registration not required. Thursdays, 10:30am-noon. Info: 781-647- 5327/info@jfcs-boston.org.

Tiny Tots World Music and Movement, music classes for kids age 2-5 by Helder Tsinine, Mondays 11-11:45am; Saturdays, 10-10:45am, \$17 per class or \$90 for 6 weeks, Egleston YMCA, 3134 Washington St. Info: htsinine@gmail.com.

Family art class, wheelchair accessible, Tuesdays 10:30am-11:30am, ages 3-5. Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m., ages 5+. Family Resource Center, 1542 Columbus Ave. Info: 522-1018.

Egleston Square Library, free homework help, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, ongoing throughout the school year, 3:30-5:30 p.m., 2044 Columbus Ave, Roxbury.

Health/Fitness

parkrun is a grassroots, community running event, run by volunteers for the local running and walking community. We hold free timed 5k events every week. Everyone is invited to run, jog or walk for 5k (two laps around the pond). We are very proud to be the first parkrun in Boston, MA. It's been a very successful initiative for getting people of all ages outside to exercise, and to meet members of their local community. We meet on Saturdays at 8:45 a.m. at the top of the Sugarbowl. Run starts at 9:00am. All welcome, all ages, all abilities.

Yoga, meditation and stress reduction classes at the MindBody Center (SJPHC-HPC) @ 10 Green Street. Low cost or free, in English and Spanish. For more information call 983-4226.

Care to Care, a support group for family caregivers of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, second Wednesdays of the month, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Springhouse, 44 Allandale St. Info: Meredith Griffiths, 522-0043/mgriffiths@springhouse-boston.org.

Seniors

Jamaica Plain Branch Library, 30 South St., Jamaica Plain, (617) 524-2053

Monthly Memory Cafe. December 30. 10:30-noon. Please join us for conversations that allow time to share memories, laughter and concerns. Participants experiencing memory lapses are welcome to attend –and anyone requiring special assistance should be accompanied by a caretaker. We will be working with collages. Refreshments will be provided by Laurel Ridge Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center. The Memory Cafe is held the last Monday of every month so plan on, Jan. 27 and Feb. 24.

MEDICARE: How does it work? Wednesday, January 8, 10:15-11:15 a.m. If you are approaching Medicare and have questions, please RSVP to 617-522-9270 and mention this event, along with your name and phone number. Get your questions answered at this Ethos SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) program. Program will be repeated in January.



PHOTOS BY MIKE MEIJA

Gerry Wright, who is sometimes disguised as Frederick Law Olmsted, was celebrated for his efforts in being a strong advocate for public health, social justice, and environmental conservation. Left to right: Representative Nika Elugardo, City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George, City Councilor Michael Flaherty, Gerry Wright, Mayor Martin Walsh, and Councilor Matt O'Malley.

Mayor Walsh, Boston Parks Department celebrate completion of Jamaica Pond Pathways renovation

STAFF REPORT

Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Boston Parks and Recreation Commissioner Ryan Woods, residents, and park advocates today unveiled renovations around Jamaica Pond, including new and improved pathways, repairs to entrances, increased seating, newly-planted trees and accessibility improvements. This \$4.7 million capital investment builds on Mayor Walsh's commitment to ensuring Bostonians in every neighborhood live in close proximity to clean, fully inclusive green spaces.

"This project is a great example of our mission to preserve, maintain, and improve a park system that is so rich in history," said Mayor Walsh. "I can think of no better example of our commitment to parks than this project, through which Frederick Law



Mayor Martin Walsh speaking at the Jamaica Pond Pathways Project celebration.

Olmsted's vision is honored and respected with these exciting new improvements to the park. At the same time we are honoring the work of Christine Cooper whose tireless advocacy laid the foundation for the amazing park we see today."

The \$4,770,000 project, fund-

ed through Mayor Walsh's \$2.79 billion five-year capital plan, was completed in two phases. The first focused on the area around Pinebank Promontory and the ball field and included new paving of pathways, repairs to entrances, a new water bottle filler, new rules and bike signage, new benches, and new trees.

The second phase involved renovating pathways surrounding the pond and the Department of Conservation and Recreation multi-use path along the Jamaicaway and included the same scope of improvements along with water bottle fillers, new exercise equipment, and a new accessible fishing platform. Additional upgrades included accessibility upgrades to the boathouse plaza, addition of a runner's path, and drainage improvements to help pond water quality.



Rep. Liz Malia, Christine Poff, and Haskell Werlin.



Corey Stallings and Rep. Nika Elugardo.



JP resident Sarah Freeman, Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space for the City of Boston Chris Cook, and JP resident Celeste Walker.

"Jamaica Pond has long been called the jewel of the Emerald Necklace," said Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods. "These improvements make it shine even brighter, making the park even more user-friendly while serving the thousands of people who cycle, walk, jog, and stroll along its shoreline."

At the unveiling, Mayor Walsh renamed the boathouse in honor of Christine Cooper, a long-time supporter of restoring and revitalizing the park.

"Having worked with Christine for over 30 years at Jamaica Pond, her recognition is an extremely important dynamic of the deeply rooted partnership between the City of Boston and nonprofit community organizations," said Gerry Wright, coordinator for The Friends of

Jamaica Pond and Olmsted 2022. "The Friends of Jamaica Pond and Olmsted 2022 are gratefully thankful along with hundreds of other citizens in Jamaica Plain and beyond for Christine's life and work which embodied the pristine beauty of the natural wonders of the waters of the pond, the hill, and surrounding park lands."

The pathways project has produced major accessibility upgrades to the park. As a result of this investment, 100 percent of the entrances now meet ADA guidelines, including the boathouse plaza and 95 percent of the pathways throughout the park, an increase from 65 percent. Additional seating was also added along the pathways, half



Members of the Cooper family.

Continued on page 19



Mayor Martin Walsh gets some help from a few young folks to cut the ribbon and unveil the new pathways at Jamaica Pond.

Jamaica Pond

Continued from page 18

of which have an adjacent companion seat. The three drinking fountain/bottle fillers throughout the park are now ADA compliant as well.

"The Boston Parks and Recreation Department has created ideal accessibility throughout the Pond's built environment," said Boston Disability Commissioner Kristen McCosh. "Visitors with disabilities can now enjoy all of the public open spaces that had been previously inaccessible. Visitors will also have the opportunity to participate in the various programs and activities offered at the Pond now that all of the recreational facilities have been upgraded."

The project was designed to help water quality through drainage improvements by adding swales on the uphill side of the pathway to retain and infiltrate stormwater before crossing over the path into the pond. Sediment catchment was also added to the top of each cobble swale to allow sediment to settle prior to water flowing over the swale into the pond, and the runner's path was designed to funnel water to the cobble swales in order to avoid erosion along the pond edges.

The improvement project upgraded signage in the park by adding place identification signage, new "no swimming/no skating" and "no feeding the wildlife" signs, and signs and pavement markings with bike rules.

The improvements to the pathways are part of the over



Nancy Sableski, Anne Rousseau, Councilor Matt O'Malley, and Kathryn Niforos.

\$60.6 million allocated specifically to the Emerald Necklace in the Mayor's latest capital budget, the largest-ever capital funding for Boston parks.

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INVITACIÓN

Plazo para la sección de eventos: martes, 17 dic para la edición 20 dic. Mande eventos a reporter@jamaicaplain-gazette.com. Los números telefónicos que siguen empiezan con 617.

Reuniones

Comité de casas abandonadas en JP, primer jueves del mes, 10.30, Egleston Library, 2044 Columbus Ave. 722-2060.

JP Problem Properties Committee, primer jueves del mes, 10.30am, comisaría E-13, 3347 Washington St. 722-2060.

Asociación de Vecinos Stonybrook, olla común, fecha a publicar.

ESNA, lunes, 6 enero, 6.30-8.30pm. YMCA, 3134 Washington St.

Asociación de Jamaica Pond, lunes, 6 enero, 7-9pm, 111 Perkins St.

JPNC, Comité de alcance, lunes, 9 dic, 6pm, JP Licks; Comité de parques, lunes, 9 dic, 8.30pm, JP Licks; Comité de vivienda y desarrollo, martes, 10 dic, 6.30pm; comité de educación, miércoles, 11 dic, 7pm, JP Licks; Comité ejecutivo, jueves, 12 dic, 7pm, JP Licks; Comité de zonificación, miércoles, 18 dic, 7pm, Farnsworth House; Comité de servicio público, martes, 7 enero, 7pm, Curtis Hall.

Noticias publicas

Programa de comida comunitaria, comidas gratuitas, con

opciones veganas. Comida casera sana. Cena cada miércoles, 6.30pm. Almuerzo, Crossroads Café cada sábado, 12pm. 524-3992, Churchoffice@firstbaptistjp.org

Just Cookin' Kitchen es una colaboración entre servicios de catering que necesitan acceso a una cocina. Ofrecemos una cocina económica, para pequeñas empresas de catering, preparación de comida para camiones de comida, y experiencias culinarias educativas. Kennia: 524-3992, Churchoffice@firstbaptistjp.org.

Buscamos a pequeños empresarios para nuevo programa de tutoría, para ofrecer una red de interconexión para pequeños empresarios. Con oportunidades de hacer conexiones con asociaciones de negocios. Con Renee Wong, una consultante económica de JP. Renee Wong: w.renee@gmail.com. Ginger Brown: directorjpcsms@gmail.com.

Línea de quejas sobre el ruido del aeropuerto, línea de quejas de Massport sobre el ruido, abierta 6 am to 6 pm. Llame cuando le molesta el ruido de aviones de la pista 27 de Logan: 561-3333. Los Congresistas Mike Capuano (621-6208) y Steven Lynch (428-2000) también quiere que la gente llame sobre ruido de aviones.

La eliminación de agujas, Las agujas/jeringas no se pueden tirar en la basura normal de la casa. Lugar para depositar: AIDS Action Committee, 75 Amory St.

Programa de intercambio de agujas para los usuarios de drogas inyectables disponible en AHOPE Boston en 534-3963. Si ha encontrado una aguja en un área público, llame a la línea directa del alcalde: 635-4500.

Compostaje comunal, sábados, 10am-2pm, mercado de agricultores de Egleston Square, 45 Brookside Ave. greenovateboston.gov.

Spotholes, herramienta para reportar hoyos, 635-4500, con la aplicación móvil Citizens Connect, cityofboston.gov/mayor/24, y usando #spotholes en twitter.

Niños/familias

Servicio de adoración, día de acción, 10am, 351 Centre Street.

Clases de baile para niños, introducción al movimiento para niños y padres, los domingos 10-11am; básicos de baile, los domingos 11a.m.-12pm. Spontaneous Celebrations. Registración: jpdancecoop@gmail.com.

Noches de Perros Calientes, todos los miércoles, 4.30-6.30pm, 42 Horan Way. Con música y comida.

Clases de música y movimiento para niños edades 2-5, con Helder Tsinine, los lunes, 11 – 11.45 am; los sábados, 10-10.45 am. \$17/clase o \$90/seis semanas, Egleston YMCA, 3134 Washington St. htsinine@gmail.com.

Clase de arte para la familia, accesible a las sillas de ruedas, los martes, 10.30 – 11.30 am, edades 3-5. Los martes, 3.30 – 4.30 pm, 5+. Family Resource Center, 1542 Columbus Ave. 522-1018.

Programa de Deportes Roberto Clemente acepta aplicaciones para niños y niñas 6-16. El centro comunitario, 200 Heath St. 828-9524 o alliriano@yahoo.com.

Intercambio de idioma inglés-español, sábados, 12-1:45pm, Connolly Branch Library.

Grupo de apoyo para padres/madres jóvenes, un programa de Jewish Family and Children's Services, para gente de todas religiones, para padres/madres de niños con menos de un año, no se requiere inscribirse. Los jueves, 10.30am-noon. 781-647-5327, info@jfcbsboston.org.

Intercambio de idiomas inglés-español, los sábados, 12-1.45pm. Connolly Branch Library.

Egleston Square Library, ayuda con la tarea gratuita, los lunes, martes, miércoles y jueves, durante el año escolar, 3.30-5.30pm, 2044 Columbus Ave, Roxbury.

Niños en ruedas, cada domingo, seguridad de bicicleta 3-5pm, en las canchas de tenis en South y Carolina.

Paseos en bici, martes y jueves,

7am, Ferris Wheels, 66 South St.

Salud/Bienestar físico

parkrun, evento comunitario de correo, con eventos de 5 kilómetros cada fin de semana. Todos los sábados, 8.45am, Sugarbowl. Carrera: 9.00am.

Paseo para el bienestar, los sábados, 8-9am, Lote de estacionamiento del club de golf de Franklin Park. alison.g.m.brown@gmail.com.

Clases de yoga, meditación y la reducción del estrés, bajo costo, algunas gratis, inglés y español, MindBody/Health Promotion Center, 10 Green St. 983-4226.

Care to Care, un grupo de apoyo para la familia de personas con Alzheimer y otras demencias, segundo miércoles del mes, 6.30-7.30pm. 44 Allandale St. Meredith Griffiths: 522-0043, mgriffiths@springhouseboston.org.

Corredores de Forest Hills, varias corridas en grupo semanales, info/horario: foresthillsrunners.org.

Adultos Mayores

Medicare, ¿cómo funciona?, miércoles, 8 enero, 10.15-11.15am. 522-9270. Jamaica Plain Branch Library, 30 South Street.

Café mensual de la memoria, 30 dic, 27 ene, 24 feb. 10.30am-12pm. Jamaica Plain Branch Library, 30 South Street.

Café mensual de la memoria, para la gente que sufre de la pérdida de la memoria y los que les cuiden, Amory Street Housing Development, 125 Amory St., El último jueves de cada mes de 1.30 – 3pm. Gratuito para todos. 440-1615 / bmclaren@uphams.org.

Programa de música para los ancianos, Curtis Hall, 20 South St., los viernes, 10.30-12. 983-3638.

La Vida Buena Club para la Vida Sana de ABCD, sesiones mensuales del bienestar, para los adultos con más de 50 años, los miércoles, 10am. Mi Vida, Mi Salud, clase para adultos 50+ con condiciones de salud crónicas, clases semanales, jueves, 2pm. Clases de computadora para adultos 50+, los lunes, 3pm. 30 Bickford St. 522-4251.

Talleres de Ethos para el envejecimiento sano, el mantenimiento de las enfermedades crónicas los martes, 10am, SJPHC, 640 Centre St., herramientas poderosas los miércoles, 4.30pm, 555 Amory St. ethoscare.org.

Programa de auto-mantenimiento de diabetes, 1179 River St., los miércoles, 9.30am-12. Ann Gloria, 477-6616.

Crossroads Café, almuerzo gratis y evento social para ancianos y

sus invitados, con música en vivo y presentaciones educacionales. Comida de ingredientes locales. Pan, vegetales, leche y comida para llevar disponibles. Los sábados, 633 Centre St., 12.00-2pm. 524-3992, firstbaptistjp.org.

Trabajo Voluntario

Programa de aprendizaje para adultos, se busca voluntarios para enseñar inglés a adultos, orientación gratuita. jpcctutor@gmail.com o 635-5201.

The Boston Teachers Union School busca voluntarios para tutelar a alumnos de la secundaria, los martes y/o miércoles, 3-4.30pm. David Weinstein, maestro de matemáticas: dweinstein@bostonpublicschools.org, 857-334-9855.

Mentor o tutor, matemáticas, ciencia, historia, inglés, idiomas extranjeros, SAT, y más. Los martes, miércoles, jueves, 3-8pm, sábado 10am-2.30pm. hidesquare.org/get-involved/your-programs.

Chelsea Jewish Hospice & Palliative Care (CJHPC) busca voluntarios para ayudar a las personas con enfermedades terminales en JP, 1-2 horas/semana. Formación gratis. Aimee: 889-0779, afarrell@chelseajewish.org.

Coalición de Franklin Park busca miembros para la junta directiva, miembros del comité y voluntarios. admin@franklinparkcoalition.org (junta directiva y comité); volunteer@franklinparkcoalition.org, 442-4141.

Ethos busca compañeros para visitar ancianos en casa. Se requieren una orientación y un compromiso de una hora por semana. JP, Hyde Park, West Roxbury, Roslindale y Mattapan. ethocare.org/volunteer/application, 522-6700.

Cuidado hospicio de VNA, una organización sin fines de lucro, busca voluntarios para proveer amistad a los pacientes. Ninguna experiencia requerida, ofrecemos entrenamiento continuo y apoyo para todos los voluntarios. vna-hospicecare.org, 781-569-2811.

Inglés para nuevos bostonianos, se buscan voluntarios para servir como tutores de inglés. 982-6864, fmartinez@englishfornewbostonians.org.

Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital en 1153 Centre St. se buscan voluntarios para la tienda de regalos, la mesa de información, radiología, centro ortopédico y más. 983-7424, brighamandwomensfaulkner.org.

Programa de música Friendship Works, ¿Le gusta la música? Se buscan voluntarios para compartir la música y la amistad con los ancianos en JP. 277-5248.

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Special Issues 2020

JAMAICA PLAIN SPECIAL ISSUES

January 24	JP History; Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 20)
March 13	Senior Life; St. Patrick's Day (March 17)
March 27	Real Estate Today
April 10	Easter (April 12)
April 24	JP Kids;
May 8	Roslindale Neighbors; Mother's Day (May 10)
June 26	JP Pets; Congratulations to Graduates
July 24	JP History
August 14	Best of JP Ballot
September 11	Guide to JP; JP Open Studios
September 25	Real Estate Today
October 9	JP Kids; Columbus Day (Oct. 12)
October 23	Roslindale Neighbors; Halloween (Oct. 31)
December 4	Holidays in JP

*The two issues containing "Roslindale Neighbors" have a circulation of 16,420 in Jamaica Plain with an additional 3,000 distributed in Roslindale

February 14	MH History
April 3	Senior Life
September 4	Student Welcome Guide; Best of MH Ballot
October 2	Best of MH Winners

Space reservations and rough copy deadline: Friday 3pm the week before Friday publication Weeks with holidays: please inquire

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Frank Guerra receives Friends of Education Award

On Wednesday, October 2, Frank Guerra, headmaster at Boston Trinity Academy, was honored by the Harvard Club of Boston Foundation with their annual Friends of Education Award.

According to the foundation, this award is given “to individuals who have made significant contributions towards the education of secondary students.” Past recipients of this award include Mayor Tom Menino, Governor Charlie Baker, and Boston Public Schools Superintendents Tom Payzant and Mike Contompasis.

In their accommodation, the Harvard Club mentioned that Mr. Guerra was chosen for this award based on the tremendous accomplishments the school has made in 17 years. Boston Trinity Academy was founded in 2002 with only 54 students. Today, the school has over 240 students of diverse backgrounds. This year marks Mr. Guerra’s 10-year anniversary as Boston Trinity’s headmaster.

During the school’s recent accreditation process, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges remarked, “In a

relatively brief span of its institutional life, Boston Trinity has grown and continues to prosper... its hundreds of graduates give testimony to the value it has brought into the world.” Boston Trinity Academy is a unique, mission-driven school. It is the only non-denominational Christian secondary school in the city of Boston, and it is ranked the most diverse private high school in Massachusetts by Niche.com. Last year, the school gave \$1.8 million in scholarships to 60% of its students. The school promotes academic excellence, which is reflected in the students’ 99% college acceptance rate. At the same time, it promotes educational opportunities to low income and minority students.

The Harvard Club awards ceremony took place at their annual breakfast. In addition to Mr. Guerra’s award, Lucy Fulco, chair of BTA’s Math department, received the Harvard Club’s Teaching Excellence Award. BTA senior Phoebe Linnell was awarded the Harvard Club Book Prize in May, and she was also recognized at the breakfast.

MULCHCAPE IN JAMAICA PLAIN



Shown above is the volunteer group for the October 26 Mulchcapade where 25 volunteers spread mulch on 90 street trees, planted 450 daffodil bulbs and perennial plants, picked up litter, and beautified spaces at Welcome Mural at Jackson Square, Mozart Park, Municipal Parking Lot, and along Centre Street.



Headmaster of Boston Trinity Academy, Frank Guerra talks with some students.

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A public service message from the U.S. General Services Administration.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

December 2019 Events
Connolly Branch of the Boston Public Library



LEGO Builders Club
Fun building with LEGOs for ages 4 and up.
Monday, December 2, 6 p.m.

Baby Story Time
Stories and songs for babies up to 18 months old.
Friday, December 6 & 13, 10:30 a.m.

Bilingual Story Time/ Hora de Cuentos Bilingües
Join us for stories and songs in English & Spanish. For children 2-4, with an adult.
Acompáñanos para cuentos y canciones en inglés y español. Para niños/as de 2-4, con un adulto.
Tuesday, December 3 & 10, 10:30 a.m. / martes, 3 & 10 diciembre, 10:30 a.m.

Children's Films
Short, fun films for preschoolers.
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Spanish-English Language Exchange/Intercambio de Idiomas en Inglés y Español
Saturdays/sábados, 12-1:45 p.m.

ESL Conversation Groups
Thursdays at 10:30 am and 3 pm

Homework Help Program
Boston Public School Teacher Mondays, 4-6 p.m.
High School mentors for grades K-8 Tuesday & Wednesday, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
No homework help during BPS vacations.

BPS School Registration Information Night
Monday, December 9 at 6 p.m.
Come and learn more about School Registration. How does it work? How do you learn about school choices? What do you need to register for school? A BPS Representative will be present to answer questions.

Winter Crafts
Monday, December 16, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Join us for an all ages craft. We will be making seasonal cards for a variety of December holidays.

Adult Book Discussion
Monday, December 30 at 7 p.m.
We will be discussing *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison. Copies are available at the branch.

The Library will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 31. The Library will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1.
La biblioteca estará abierta de 9 a.m. a 5 p.m. el martes 24 de diciembre y el martes 31 de diciembre. La Biblioteca estará cerrada el miércoles 25 de diciembre y el miércoles 1 de enero.

433 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain 617.522.1960 www.bpl.org

EDITORIAL

We are drinking, drugging, eating and stressing ourselves to death

Okay, we know it is the holiday season -- a time for good cheer and all that.

But the results of a report issued last week by the Centers for Disease Control reveal a disturbing and dangerous pattern in the United States: The life expectancy of the average American has declined in the past few years, reversing the general trend of the past 130 years of an increase in our collective longevity.

Although the decline in life expectancy has been most acute in poorer parts of the country, it cuts across all socio-economic groups.

There are many specific causes that the researchers point to as contributing to the downward trend, such as the opioid crisis, which tragically has cut short the lives of tens of thousands of our fellow Americans in the past decade.

There also has been an increase in the use -- and abuse -- of alcoholic beverages, which have been labeled a Class 1 carcinogen by the World Health Organization.

Our poor eating habits also play a large role in shortening our lives.

As a recent article in The New York Times noted, "Obesity is a significant part of the story. The average woman in America today weighs as much as the average man half a century ago, and men now weigh about 30 pounds more. Most people in the United States are overweight -- an estimated 71.6% of the population ages 20 and older, according to the CDC. That figure includes the 39.8% who are obese, defined as having a body mass index of 30 or higher in adults (18.5 to 25 is the normal range). Obesity is also rising in children; nearly 19% of the population ages 2 to 19 is obese."

The ads for fast-food restaurants, primarily shown during college football games, that show those close-up photos of tantalizing double-bacon cheeseburgers topped with onion rings, are an open invitation to heart disease, cancer, and diabetes.

Although the researchers note these cause-specific reasons for many early deaths in the U.S., the statistics suggest that there is something more going on that is not readily-apparent.

Depression and loneliness have risen at alarming rates. It is said that loneliness is as bad for our physical health as smoking two packs of cigarettes per day.

The national suicide rate -- the ultimate expression of depression and despair -- has risen alarmingly by 30 percent in the past decade. Even if we do not commit that ultimate act of ending our lives quickly, our lifestyles are contributing to our shorter national life span.

So here's our holiday message:

Don't drink -- and certainly don't do drugs -- and watch what you eat.

But most important, get together with your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. Isolation is bad for our health, and just as we have to make an effort to exercise and eat right, we also have to make an effort to get out of our homes and socialize.

It truly is a matter of life -- or death.



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE...

LETTERS

Thank you from FCT!

Dear Editor,

Families Creating Together would like to thank all members of the community for their unwavering support of our 10th Anniversary FCT Awards Dinner on November 9 at 1st Baptist Church. We particularly want to

thank photographer Carla Osberg for her generous donation of time and talent in providing the outstanding photographs of the event which ran in the JP Gazette on November 22! Due to the wonderful generosity of so many supporters, FCT continues

with strength and joy in our mission of providing expressive arts opportunities for children of all abilities and their families.

Best wishes,

EDWARD PAZZANESE

DIRECTOR

FAMILIES CREATING TOGETHER

Regarding youth vaping

Dear editor,

Vaping by youth has become what the U.S. Surgeon General calls an epidemic and many people are working to find solutions. I'm asked frequently what can be done to turn the tide, and now new resources are available to educate youth and help those who want to quit vaping.

Sadly, many youth are unaware of the facts about and the dangers of vaping. To help, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health developed a campaign designed for youth found at mass.gov/vaping. It provides facts and materials for young people that compare vapes and cigarettes: both put nicotine and cancer-causing chemicals in their body and both are highly addictive and dangerous for young people.

The vaping epidemic has led parents, schools and youth-serv-

ing organizations to struggle with how to help youth who are addicted to nicotine and want to quit. Now, two new free programs, This is Quitting powered by truth@and My Life, My Quit™, are available to help Massachusetts youth become nicotine- and tobacco-free.

Quitting vapes or other tobacco products can be hard. Here are some ways you can help young people get the support they need:

- This is Quitting powered by truth@ is a free and confidential texting program for young people who vape. Text "VapeFreeMass" to 88709. In partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

- My Life, My Quit™ has youth coach specialists trained to help young people by phone or text. Young people can call or text "Start My Quit" to 855-891-9989 for free and confidential help. or

sign up online at mylifemyquit.com.

- Visit teen.smokefree.gov for tools and tips.

- Encourage young people to ask their school nurse or counselor, athletic coach, doctor, parent or other trusted adult for help.

- For more information, young people can visit mass.gov/vaping.

- More information for parents/adults is available at GetOutraged.org.

Talking with young people about vaping is essential—youth need to know that vaping is harmful and that help is available for those who want to quit. Visit GetOutraged.org to learn more or contact me at eduran@hria.org.

EDGAR DURAN ELMUDESÍ

METRO BOSTON TOBACCO-FREE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

LETTER

73 Sheridan St. façade suggestion

Dear Editor,

As a neighbor (and architect in practice for more than thirty years) who lives diagonally across the street from the proposed development, I am submitting this letter to offer my strong support for the As-of-Right development at 71-75 Sheridan Street. I welcome the proposed scale and density of the project.

In general, I believe that the overall design responsibly blends historic and contemporary architectural themes. Nonetheless, knowing that my neighbors worry that the development ought to be even more contextual, I offer a few minor aesthetic tweaks to the front façade of the units. In the illustration below, I have overlaid a few ideas that are depicted on the left-most unit:

Suggested modification and Current Proposal

Specifically:

1. Remove the triangle transom

window over the third floor window

2. Create a horizontal head over the deck opening so that the gable end of the front façade is more compositionally complete

3. Consider canting (in plan) side walls of the window bay so that it reads as slightly more "historical" in appearance.

4. Consider large double windows in the bay, rather than the tryptic – again, in an effort to give the bay a more historical character.

5. Perhaps a hexagonal wall vent at the gable end could be added – another historic reference

6. Consider adding an overhang roof above the front doors of the units. Doing so will add practical weather protection and further add a residential feel to the front façade.

In terms of the overall massing of the project, I applaud the "stepped-back" front and rear

facades because doing so successfully scales down the over mass and composition of the development.

I do understand that public commentary regarding the unit plans is no longer part of the permitting process, but I do want to mention how much I appreciate the fact that the upper-level units are elevator-accessed and all the units have entry access from grade level. Age-in-place living is an increasingly important social need and I am very glad that this project will address that need.

I am aware that on Nov. 20 there was a somewhat contentious Article 80 Public Meeting. Had I not been out-of-state working on a project for a university client, I would have attended and strongly countered the aesthetic, density, and massing objections to the development from a group of my neighbors.

In closing, I hope that the BPDA will hold strong on the As-of-Right development standing of this project. I am trusting that specious complaints suggesting the illegality of the development will not be given further consideration.

If further design review meetings are planned for 71-75 Sheridan, I look forward to attending and contributing in a positive and helpful manner.

PETER HERMAN, AIA



A rendering of the suggested improvements at 73 Sheridan St.



Maggie and Kathy Clair-Hayes with puppy Keefe.

Keefe II, the canine companion, receives his training in Jamaica Plain

Canine Companions for Independence – a national non-profit organization providing highly trained assistance dogs for children, adults and veterans with disabilities, is proud to announce that Kathy Clair-Hayes and her family of Jamaica Plain recently began raising an assistance dog in-training for Canine Companions for Independence.

Puppy Keefe II is a Lab/Golden Retriever cross who will one-day know over 40 professional commands, and be matched with a person with disabilities.

Volunteer Puppy Raisers are critically important to the work of Canine Companions for Independence. Puppy Raisers take the pups into their home at eight weeks of age, raising them, teaching them basic commands

and socialization skills. The socialization is perhaps the most important, because the dogs need to be exposed to any and all types of surroundings. With the special yellow capes they wear, these dogs are permitted to go to many public areas that family pets aren't allowed. When the dogs reach about a year and a half old, they are returned to the Canine Companions for Independence regional headquarters in Medford, New York. They begin 6 months of professional training with the organizations nationally renowned instructors, before they are matched with a child, adult or veteran with disabilities.

For more information about becoming a Puppy Raiser, visit cci.org or call 1-800-572-BARK.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Ronnie Dial golf tournament still a staple in the community

BY LAUREN BENNETT

For 23 years, the Brendan Behan Pub on Centre St. has been holding a golf tournament fundraiser in memory of former pub worker Ronnie Dial. Called the Ronnie Dial Golf Tournament, the event raises thousands of dollars each year for a person or organization in need.

This year's tournament was held in September, but the check for this year's participant, Samara Amaral, was presented a few weeks ago, totaling \$13,000. Michelle Flynn, General Manager of the Brendan Behan Pub, said she's been involved in the fundraiser for the past seven years, and while she did not personally know Ronnie Dial, she said his spirit is what brings so many people together each year to make this event a reality. Dial's family is still as involved as they were from the beginning. "It's a pretty remarkable thing," she said. Dial's father still plays in the tournament every year—and almost always wins.

"The pub is not just a bar," Flynn said. "It's a place where friends become family and family becomes friends." Everyone who worked at the pub with Dial be-

came very close, and he became a really important figure in the pub's community, she added.

Flynn said that all who knew Dial said that he was "someone who lit up the room and would do anything for anybody," so when he passed away, people wanted to do something in his honor that would help others, and the Ronnie Dial Golf Tournament was born.

Having just completed its 23rd run, the tournament is "a collective effort between so many groups of people," Flynn said, including people who were friends with the family and pub customers and staff. Over the course of its existence, the fundraiser has garnered over \$250,000 that has been donated to charities like Home for Little Wanderers, Jamaica Plain Regan Youth Baseball League, Mission Hill Health Movement, and Boston Breakers in Wheelchairs, just to name a few, as well as several individuals.

The event could not happen without many volunteers lending a hand, including Dial's good friend Donnie O'Mahoney, Mike O'Rourke, Lyndon Fuller, John Higgins, Jim MacLean, Gerry Brennan, Harry Walsh,

Michel Soltani, Patsie Long, Jess Murtha, and Adam Wells, among others, Flynn said.

"We try to pick local organizations," Flynn said, and originally the money was raised solely for youth organizations within the JP community. "We want to try to get back into that," Flynn said. "We want thus to continue where we support our local community." She said there is always some group or individual in need of money, so they discuss who they might want to give the money to about six months in advance of the tournament.

She said the event is bittersweet every year, as it's sad to reflect on someone who has passed, but she said that Dial's family is proud that it is still going strong after all these years.

This year's recipient, Samara Amaral, is a former employee of the Mission Bar and Grill, which, along with the Puddingstone Tavern, worked together with the Brendan Behan pub on this fundraiser. Amaral found out she had triple negative breast cancer when she was 16 weeks pregnant with her second child. This type of breast cancer is more aggressive and is more likely to spread and recur after treatment.



Samara Amaral (center), who has been battling breast cancer, was presented with a \$13,000 check from this year's Ronnie Dial golf tournament

After several rounds of treatment and surgery and the birth of her daughter, Amaral still has to take chemotherapy in the form of a pill for six months and another pill daily for the next two years. She has since had to quit her job at the Mission Bar and Grill due to her treatments, so it was decided that the money raised from this year's tournament should go to Amaral and her family. As one of her former

employees, Flynn said that Amaral was a "great worker" and a "very kind soul," and she wishes the best for her and her family.

Flynn said she's looking forward to next year's tournament. "For me, it's been a great thing to be a part of," Flynn said. "I only wish I knew Ronnie. It's about Ronnie and his family and the longevity of the tournament and how we've helped the community and those in need throughout the years."

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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



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