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JP HISTORY SECTION P. 12 + 13

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Then and Now: Master Inkwon Jang is shown here with his daughter, Julianne Jang, 10 years ago and this month. Master Jang opened his studio 10 years ago above what is now City Feed on Centre Street. In this Gazette photo from 10 years ago, Julianne is shown at 18 months practicing with her father in the new school. Now, at age 11, she and her father recreate the scene once again for their 10th anniversary.

JP Taekwondo weaves a strong community after 10 years

BY SETH DANIEL

Time flies, even for a Taekwondo master.

Master Inkwon Jang opened his renowned studio, JP Tae-

kwondo, 10 years ago this past spring above what is now City Feed on Centre Street. In that time, he and his wife, Soo Kwon, and their family have built up a community of children and adults

who have not only learned this martial arts technique, but also have developed long-lasting relationships.

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BTD updates community on Columbus Ave. bus lanes project; work to commence this summer

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Boston Transportation Department (BTD) held a series of public meetings this week to provide updates on the Columbus Ave. bus lanes project, as well as to briefly talk about the Egleston Square redesign project that ties into it.

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Desarrollo de Columbus Ave. y Egleston Square

BY LAUREN BENNETT

El Departamento de Transporte de Boston (BTD) publicó actualizaciones sobre el proyecto de Columbus Ave. y el proyecto de rediseño de Egleston Square.

El proyecto de Columbus Ave. se extiende por 0.8 millas desde Walnut Ave. y Sever St. hasta Center

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Hyde Square Task Force to sell Blessed Sacrament Church building

BY LAUREN BENNETT

To help ensure the longevity of its programming for youth in the City, the Hyde Square Task Force (HSTF) Board of Directors has announced it will be selling the former Blessed Sacrament Church—a building the organization has owned since 2014.

HSTF Executive Director Celina Miranda told the Gazette that the original plans

for the building were to create an arts and cultural center “where the community could come together for performances; to gather.” She said a full plan had never been formed, but the organization had purchased the building because they saw it as a gathering space and a place where HSTF’s work with youth could be amplified.

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The Chicken & Rice Guys Food Truck will take part in a pilot program in Jamaica Plain to bring more safe dining options to residents while supporting small restaurant owners hit hard by the pandemic.

Summer food truck pilot program kicks off in Jamaica Plain

BY JOHN LYNDIS

With the list of culinary mainstays in Boston closing due to the economic fallout created by the COVID-19 pandemic growing weekly, it’s fairly obvious restaurants are some of the hardest hit businesses during these uncertain times.

Many restaurants were forced to close or change to take out and delivery services during the height of the pandemic only to reopen with limited capacity.

Each week, more and more popular eateries are closing simply because they can no longer

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Bus lanes

Continued from page 1

William Moose, a neighborhood transportation planner at BTDD, gave the presentation and was available for public comment and questions, along with BTDD Transit Director Matt Moran and Andrew McFarland from the MBTA.

The Columbus Ave. bus lanes and pedestrian safety improvement project spans 0.8 miles from Walnut Ave./Sever St. to Centre St./Ritchie St., and the corridor currently “serves three high ridership bus routes,” Moose said.

Moose explained the planning background for the project, which he said is based on the Go Boston 2030 plan to cut driving down by half, increase public transit by 1/3, increase walking by half, and increase cycling fourfold by the year 2030.

This project and the Egleston Square redesign project are also a part of the JP/ROX Transportation Action Plan, Moose said.

Several community outreach events were held regarding the bus lanes project, the majority of which Moose said took place before the COVID-19 shut down in March.

At these outreach events, BTDD heard concerns regarding the Columbus Ave. corridor. Three major areas of concern include traffic delays along the corridor as congestion creates delays on the buses; “uncomfortable conditions” for people walking, biking,

or waiting for the bus; and that parking is an important feature along the corridor for residents and businesses and people would like to see it retained wherever possible.

Right now, the corridor features two lanes of traffic in either direction with a narrow median.

The proposed improvements to the corridor include center-running bus lanes in both directions with eight new bus stop platforms. There will be one lane of traffic in either direction. The center lane will be for buses only, and passengers will board buses by crossing to the platform using marked and signalized crosswalks.

“Overall the impact to parking is not null, but it’s fairly modest along the corridor,” Moose explained, as there will be four bus stops along the corridor.

He said that the center running option was chosen because “the City and the MBTA came to this project with a lot of lessons learned from bus lanes” in other areas of the city and in the Greater Boston area.

Moose said that while “side running buses have been successful” in running faster and more reliable service, they “face challenges with enforcement” and people try to double park or “cheat” into the bus lanes, “creating friction.” He said that they wanted the bus lanes in this project “to be self-enforcing,” removing what Moose described as “conflicts” at the curb.

He said this is especially important during the COVID era, as efficient, reliable bus service

is necessary to prevent crowding on buses due to traffic and congestion on the roads.

By reducing the travel lanes from two to one in either direction, Moose said it makes the street safer to cross, and he also believes this will help with issues of speeding as well.

On the bus platforms themselves, which are about nine inches high, passengers will be able to board buses more easily. Each stop will have a large shelter that is about the size of three standard length bus shelters and will be fully ADA accessible.

Aside from the large shelters, the bus stops will include seating, signage, lighting, trash cans, countdown clocks, emergency call boxes, and will be wired to include fare vending machines for the eventual implementation of the MBTA’s Fare Transformation Program.

Moose also showed a map of the corridor and the project area, and explained what would happen at each stop.

At the Walnut St. stop, there will be a right only lane onto Walnut Ave., which he said was one of a “few key intersections with a turn lane.” The crosswalk will also be wider in this location, with the addition of a rectangular rapid flashing beacon to help with visibility and the safety of pedestrians.

At the Egleston Square stop, where many seniors board the bus, the stop remains in the same location, just shifted to the center lane, and a dedicated right turn lane will be put in right after the Egleston Square stop.

At the Bray St. stop, Moose said that they will be “bumping out the corners on Walnut Park and Bancroft St.,” as “those meet the intersection of Columbus as a really sharp angle,” he said. “By doing this, it will help shorten the crossing for pedestrians and make drivers take that turn at a safer speed.”

In between Bray and Dimock Streets, an additional crosswalk will also be added, he said.

The Dimock St. stop serves “important” locations like the Dimock Center and Horizons for Homeless Children, and Moose said that by being in the center lane, buses are already in the position needed to enter the Jackson Square busway, and will receive priority to leave the intersection to do so in order to speed up travel time for bus riders.

The bus lane project is expected to start in late summer of this year, or in the spring of 2021 if absolutely necessary, Moose said.

Moose said that while this project aims to increase reliability and speed of existing bus service, there is no additional service planned for the corridor as of right now.

“This is a first step for getting even more frequent service on this corridor,” he said, but adding additional service is “certainly a conversation we want to have with the T.”

Matt Moran of the BTDD said that the City is working with the MBTA on surge capacity, especially during COVID, and has reserved 30 percent of the bus fleet to be sent to a specific

location if there is crowding on a particular route.

Moose then explained a little bit about the Egleston Square redesign project, which has design goals of “prioritizing bicycle safety and comfort; prioritizing walking, pedestrian safety, and accessibility; manage traffic flows; and other public realm improvements,” Moose said.

This project will kick off with a planning, design, and community process later this summer and continue into the winter, Moose said.

Many residents were concerned about the lack of consideration for cyclists in the Columbus Ave. bus lanes project, but Moose said that bicycle connections are a heavy focus of the Egleston Square redesign project.

“It’s a very high priority for us to be providing good and safe connections for people who bike as well,” Moose said. “Bicycle accommodations will be top priority.”

He said that not including dedicated bike facilities on Columbus Ave. was a “very difficult tradeoff made here,” and they had previously considered options that would have included it. He said that it was a “real challenge” accommodating parking along with bus priority and the bus stop platforms.

For a map of the project and more information, visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/columbus-avenue-bus-lanes>.

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Desarrollo

Continued from page 1

St. y Ritchie St. El corredor se encuentra a lo largo de tres rutas de autobuses.

El proyecto se basa en el plan Go Boston 2030 de reducir la conducción en un 50 por ciento, aumentar el transporte público en un 30 por ciento, aumentar la marcha en un 50 por ciento y aumentar el ciclismo en un 400 por ciento.

Actualmente el corredor tiene dos carriles de tráfico en cada dirección con una mediana es-

trecha. La propuesta incluye los carriles bus en el centro de la calle, con ocho nuevas paradas de autobús. Habrá un carril de tráfico en cada dirección. El carril central será solo para autobuses, y los pasajeros abordarán cruzando hacia la plataforma.

En las plataformas de autobuses, los pasajeros podrán abordar los autobuses con mayor facilidad. Cada parada tendrá un gran refugio del tamaño de tres refugios de autobuses y será totalmente accesible para la ADA.

Aparte de los refugios, las paradas de autobús incluirán asientos, señalización, iluminación, botes de basura, re-

lojes, teléfonos de emergencia, y máquinas expendedoras de tarifas.

Se espera que el proyecto comience a finales del verano o en la primavera.

El proyecto de rediseño de Egleston Square prioriza la seguridad peatonal y ciclista, la accesibilidad y el flujo de tráfico. Este proyecto comenzará con un proceso de planificación, diseño y comunidad a finales del verano y continuará hasta el invierno.

Para más información visite [boston.gov/departments/transportation/columbus-avenue-bus-lanes](https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/columbus-avenue-bus-lanes).

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Taekwondo

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It is that aspect over the last 10 years that actually brought out quite an emotional moment for Master Jang and his family during an interview last week – as they expressed how grateful they are to everyone in JP for welcoming them and helping to make a dream come true.

“Even though it’s been 10 years – and the time has flown by – it’s always a new beginning,” said Jang. “I’m always going back to the beginning anew every day. Every day I start with the beginner’s mind. When we started, it was originally our dream, but now there are many people who share this dream whether for physical health or some other aspect. This has become a community of people living and breathing and working together. We want to continue to nurture the school and help it to progress further.

“I also want to express how grateful I am to have this family of students,” he continued. “I emphasize that word ‘family’ to share in building this community.”

It has been an incredible journey for Master Jang, whose skills and accolades could have qualified him to open a successful school almost anywhere. He is now an 8th degree black belt in Taekwondo, having earned the 8th degree in 2017 after a rigorous review process in Korea. He is also a 4th degree black belt in Hapkido. Master Jang has practiced Taekwondo since he was 5 in Korea. However, at one point he quit around middle school age. It was then – once it was gone – he realized how much he loved it. He took it back up and discovered that when he practiced, he

was getting much better – and others were taking note too. He eventually went to Kyunghee University – a school for promising Taekwondo practitioners in Korea – and was the valedictorian of the class. That set him up for a professional career, and he was the World Champion in 1997. Later, in 1999, he competed and won the World Taekwondo Hanmadang – which is the coming together of all world champions to compete for the ultimate top spot. He also trained other professional athletes in Taekwondo, and prepared them for rigorous competition as the Technical Expert at the World Taekwondo Headquarters in Korea.

Then he made a turn and decided to open up a school for all levels in JP.

“I love the community and I love nature and JP has both,” he said. “There is the Arboretum and the Pond and the community here is very unique compared to other cities and places... One thing I really appreciate about JP is everyone has their own unique character, but at the same time people know how to respect and work with others.”

Master Jang’s school teaches children as young as 3.5 and he has classes all the way up to adult levels. The younger kids he focuses on movement and helping them learn to have fun while doing Taekwondo. With the older kids and adults, it’s a different method of teaching mind, body and spirit. That’s where the close relationships have been formed, and they are something Jang cherishes more than the passing on of technique or skill.

“There are so many students that came in as a child and stayed with us until they went on to college and earned their black belts,” he said. “To share

this time and relationship with them, especially at such a critical time in their development, has been a blessing and a gift to us... The most important thing for me is to form a positive and lasting relationship, and that’s been an amazing thing. There are countless people in the world who have this opportunity and to form that bond is special. Forming that relationship has been the most important thing I cherish. Passing on technical skills comes second.”

Celebrating 10 years was something Master Jang had hoped to do all along, but COVID-19 forced the school to close down in March. After a crash course in Zoom and outfitting his teaching area with cameras, he has been teaching online for four months now. He said he had never heard of Zoom

before last March, but he said the technology is something he has embraced and hopes to use moving forward to reach out to his students and families.

“I had to adapt and move forward and take care of my family and JP Taekwondo,” he said. “That was a very strong motivation for me. The main thing that motivated me when COVID-19 hit and we had to close was to keep those relationships with students. Moving on to a new technology and using that for teaching was different, but I accepted it as an opportunity and not an obstacle. I am now excited there is this new platform to communicate.”

He said he sees it in the future as a way to help people live less complicated and stressful lives, helping them to achieve

more rich and emotionally fulfilling life.

The hope is to be able to open in-person classes again this fall, but Master Jang said that will all be up to the data and the state restrictions. They have already prepared the school for such an opportunity. As well, he said they will have a 10th anniversary celebration when it is safe and appropriate, but he isn’t sure when that will be.

One thing he said he is certain of is that time has flown by for him, but it has been a fulfilling 10 years.

“It is true that 10 years flew by,” he said. “Sometimes we’ll look at photos of past students and looking at these photos and having these memories of so many people makes it so worthwhile.”

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JPNC Public Service Committee talks Arborway Parkway improvements, police

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Public Service Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) met virtually via Zoom on July 7, where they discussed the Arborway Parkway Improvements Project and began a discussion on police accountability in Boston.

The Arborway Parkway Improvements Project, led by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), has been proposed several times before and has never come to fruition. The project has now been restarted, and a public meeting was recently held to update the public on the status.

Public Service Committee Chair Michael Reiskind said that no formal proposal has been made by the DCR yet. "It's an open book," he said. "Anybody can comment on it and they are asking everyone what they'd like to see."

Reiskind added that the Public Service Committee should be involved in this project because "one of our written initiatives is to advocate for expeditious

implementation of the pending DCR projects."

He said that the most dangerous section of the road is between Murray Circle and Kelley Circle, and a previous proposal included moving all traffic onto four lanes in the center barrel. "Murray Circle would have been a double rotary," Reiskind said, and there would have been additional improvements at Kelley Circle.

Sarah Freeman, a resident who has been active on this project, said that the public is encouraged to make comments through several different channels. There is an online interactive map of the area where specific parts can be commented on, and more traditional online or physically mailed comments are accepted as well. More information can be found on mass.gov.

"Bicyclists are especially disadvantaged here," Freeman said of the Arborway. "There is no real space where they belong in this corridor."

She also said that "right now, it's a speedway most of the time."

With no formal proposal on the table, "we're only limited

by our imagination," she said. Freeman added that the DCR has said they will do short term improvements to the area, which she said contributes to the DCR showing that they are "serious" about completing the project this time around.

Several other community organizations have been involved in this process over the years and recently, including the Jamaica Hills Association, which Reiskind said is "worried about traffic coming through their streets."

He said that the Jamaica Pond Association on the east side of the pond, which he is also a member of, "wants more [work] done and isn't as worried about the traffic on the streets," while the west side (Jamaica Hills) "is leaning towards less done and strongly opposing traffic on the streets."

Reiskind said that in his own personal comments, he said he would like to see Parkman Drive be added to this project.

Freeman also said the plan should incorporate how to accommodate "multiple users without having excess pavement" as

well as possibly plant some more trees.

The public comment period for the project ends on July 10.

POLICE DISCUSSION

The committee and members of the public in attendance then shifted gears to begin a discussion about policing in Boston and what needs to change.

Reiskind said that there has "always been a lot of distrust [of police] in the community," especially from black and brown people.

"A lot of times reforms are an excuse for more funding," a resident who identified as Annie on the Zoom platform said. She said that the police is "not a good concept to begin with," and that defunding the police rather than reforming them is the direction to go in.

Resident Paige Sparks said she is "particularly concerned about the egregious amount of money that we were spending on overtime. The folks who are making the most money often times have the most shady records...what we have right now is not working."

Reiskind said that the "overtime is high because there are fewer and fewer police officers over the last few years. They can't hire enough people." He said that the cost of overtime would be lower if there were more officers, and "cutting down on overtime could result in more police officers."

Colin Turner suggested in the chat that the City could "implement civilian flagger programs to pay community members to do the jobs police have been doing during overtime."

The group also discussed two municipal initiatives that have been laid out in the Massachu-

setts Elected Officials of Color Ten Point Plan, which include declaring racism a public health crisis, and the creation of a Civil Review Board/Commission that would "investigate allegations of law enforcement wrongdoing."

"I would feel comfortable signing onto these two," Reiskind said. Other state level initiatives from the plan were brought up, but it was decided that they could be discussed at a later meeting.

They also discussed the national "8 Can't Wait" Campaign and the Ethical Policing Is Courageous (EPIC) program, both of which have been implemented in the City of Boston. Reiskind said that of the eight initiatives, four of them had already been written into the Boston Police Department's rules.

JPNC member Carolyn Royce thanked everyone for having this discussion, and reminded everyone that there is a time limit to respond to the legislation. Others also brought up their viewpoints on the topic of policing, and Reiskind said that further discussion of this issue will continue at next month's Public Service Committee meeting, as this was just the beginning of the discussion for the committee.

LICENSING UPDATES

Reiskind reported that Meadowlark Grocer and Butcher, which is seeking a package store license for beer and wine, was slated to appear before the committee but Reiskind said that the owner, Max Gitlen, was "waiting to finalize his zoning" before doing so.

Jamaica Mi Hungry across the street from Jackson Square Station will go before the Licensing Board next week for their all alcohol license, Reiskind said.

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Walsh addresses COVID-19, equity, violence in the City

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Mayor Marty Walsh held a press conference on July 16 to give an update on COVID-19 and talk about the City's continued work on equity, as well as address the increase in violence in the City in recent weeks.

Walsh said that COVID-19 testing "remains one of our most essential weapons in this fight," and urged everyone to get a test, which he said is covered by insurance if you have symptoms or have been exposed. There are also several sites around the city that offer free testing for everyone.

He said that getting tested benefits not only an individual, but their family and the city and state as well.

Walsh said testing has been expanded in black and immigrant communities, as has language and communication access. He also talked about the COVID-19 Immigrant Collaborative that has been created. "Any outbreak that occurs ultimately impacts everyone," Walsh said. "Equity has been a significant reason for our success in containing the virus to the extent that we have."

There has been an increase in positive test rates among Latinx communities, Walsh said. He said that more than \$400,000 from the Boston Resiliency Fund will be invested in an equity plan for more testing in the Latinx com-

munity. This money will help get "testing to where it's needed" and help "families facing barriers," Walsh said. He said the "best way to do this" is through grassroots organizations like IBA in the South End and Hyde Square Task Force in Jamaica Plain, who are already working on the ground with the communities.

Samuel Acevedo, Executive Director of the Boston Higher Education Resource Center, said that "many families reported having symptoms but were afraid of getting tested because of their status."

He said that prior to COVID-19, Massachusetts was already the number one state for Latinx inequalities, and the pandemic has exacerbated that. "Some don't have health insurance or a dedicated health care provider," Acevedo said.

He said that working with the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, the goal is to strengthen the work the health center is doing among the Latinx community. He said that they are going to "embark on a bilingual campaign to promote mask wearing among the Latino community," and thanked Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez for his "leadership early on."

Walsh also called out City Councilor Michelle Wu for speaking on the radio about the Boston Resiliency Fund.

"Normally I would not confront something I hear on the radio, but an hour ago, there was a city councilor talking about the

Resiliency Fund and I think the ineffectiveness of it," Walsh said last Thursday. "And if the city councilor took time out of her schedule just to give me a call or maybe go on a call to talk to us about the Resiliency Fund, she would understand what the resiliency fund has done. And I want it to be very clear: the Resiliency Fund has raised \$33 million, all privately raised by 1700 different donors."

Walsh added that to date, \$24 million has been distributed from the fund, and 53 percent of grants have gone to organizations led by people of color. The Fund has provided grants for things like expanding testing, making sure people have food, expanding Telehealth medicine, buying Chromebooks for Boston Public Schools students for online learning purposes, and donations to places like the Greater Boston Food Bank and Project Bread, among others.

"I am proud and I want to thank the thousand plus people who have donated to the Boston Resiliency Fund," Walsh said.

On July 21, Walsh held another press conference where he addressed the previous weekend's heat wave. Several Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) were open at 40 percent capacity as cooling centers. He said that while they did not see heavy use, they "encourage people to not be out in the middle of the day during the heat wave," especially those who are elderly. He called on residents to check on their elderly neighbors or oth-

ers who are housebound, and to call 911 immediately if they see someone experiencing difficulty in the heat.

He also said that outdoor spaces are essential to getting fresh air and staying healthy, so the City is working on expanding outdoor opportunities. He reminded everyone to continue wearing face coverings and "do not become part of a crowd," as was seen over the weekend at beaches in South Boston.

He also talked about the City's Healthy Street Initiative, which has allowed for the creation of temporary bike lanes connecting several locations in downtown and the Back Bay, extended bus stops, created more outdoor dining locations, food truck locations, and pickup spots. It has also allowed for the distribution of mobility ramps for outdoor dining to ensure it is accessible for all.

"This is the work of many different partners," Walsh said, including the Boston Transportation Department, the Public Works Department, the Office of Economic Development, and other local community and small businesses.

Walsh and Boston Police Commissioner William Gross also addressed the ongoing increase in violence in the City last Thursday.

Last Tuesday night, a 21-year-old store clerk was shot in Roxbury during a robbery. Walsh said the victim was an immigrant from Bangladesh, and was in the hospital "fighting for his

life" as of Thursday afternoon.

"We've seen too many homicides this summer," Walsh said. "We've seen too many shootings this summer. The violence in our city needs to stop. There's no excuses for violence in Boston."

Commissioner Gross said that the man working at the convenience store is an "innocent young man." He continued: "the mayor's right: we're tired of this. The mentality in the streets is you can do what you want because the courts are closed. Repeat violent offenders should be held accountable."

He said that the Boston Police Department (BPD) will continue working with the community. He also said he has met with the store owner and will talk with others about how all convenience stores should be equipped with security cameras.

On July 21, Walsh said that the previous weekend had been a "tough weekend" in the City, with the death of a 16 year old and a 17 year old due to gun violence. He said the Boston Police Department is continuing to ask for the public's help, and tips can be given anonymously.

"Violence of any kind is certainly unacceptable in our communities," Walsh said, adding that resources are being focused on "our most highly impacted communities in the city. This is a coordinated strategy."

"Our communities are not desensitized to violence; they do care," Gross said on July 16. "Let's continue to stick together and work together."

Food Trucks

Continued from page 1

make their margins through phased reopenings and limited capacities.

On Friday, Mayor Walsh kicked off a new pilot program in Jamaica Plain aimed at helping struggling restaurant owners reach more customers during the ongoing COVID crisis.

According to Mayor Walsh the summer pilot program announced last Friday for the City of Boston's Food Truck Program will support valuable small businesses that have been greatly impacted by COVID-19. The program will also provide residents throughout the City's neighborhoods with additional accessible

and safe food options.

"Small businesses and restaurants employ our neighbors and add to the vibrancy of our community, but have suffered greatly due to our COVID-19 response," said Mayor Walsh. "This summer Food Truck pilot will provide additional dining options for residents and visitors across our City, while also adhering to public health guidelines in order to slow the spread of COVID-19."

So far Rolling Gyros, Wing Gawdz and the Chicken & Rice Guys will be at the Arboretum on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturdays.

Rolling Gyros will be the Arboretum serving up some Greek fare on Wednesdays while Wing Gawdz will be at the Park on Thursdays and the Chicken & Rice Guys will

be there Saturdays.

The food trucks in Jamaica Plain will vend from 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Walsh said while food trucks have been able to operate as "food take-out businesses" throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, Streets Cabinet, and the Inspectional Services Department collaborated to create new spaces in local commercial districts and adapt to changing commuter and workplace conditions.

"The City of Boston has waived all site permit fees for this summer pilot," said Walsh.

However, all food trucks must be approved to operate, have up-to-date certifications and permits, and are required to continue following all public health

guidance by properly marking 6 feet spacing between customers and maintaining social distancing. All food trucks that have not signed up yet but are interested in participating in the pilot are encouraged to fill out an eligibility form.

Walsh said earlier this year, an interdepartmental effort created a new online application portal which allows food truck owners seeking to vend in the city an option to submit all approved licenses, certifications, and required documents digitally.

This new online method, provided in addition to in person, email, and by mail application options, provides food truck owners with a more transparent and streamlined permitting process.

The City of Boston has also

created a number of useful guides and resources for small businesses impacted by COVID-19, including a new platform to advertise and purchase PPE and cleaning supplies, Open Businesses in Boston and Support Boston Restaurants, platforms which helped businesses to publicly share that they are open and direct residents to support local establishments.

To assist businesses in industries impacted most by COVID-19, the City of Boston launched the Small Business Relief Fund, which to date has distributed \$6.1 million in debt-free grants to 1,685 small businesses in every neighborhood in order to address rent, fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, lost sales, lost opportunities, and other working capital expenses.

Blessed Sacrament

Continued from page 1

Since the purchase six years ago, HSTF has been trying to figure out how to make the idea come to life, and last year a Request For Proposal was issued with the hope of finding a partner to help redevelop the site into the space they envisioned, Miranda said.

“We did not get a viable response,” she added.

The building, which is not up to code, has been vacant except for one event that was held some time ago with special permission, Miranda said. A press release from HSTF states that according to records, “the property has been in disrepair since as far

back as 1991 and data gathered by the organization have developed a cost estimate of multiple millions of dollars to restore the structural integrity of the building for the end use of a community and cultural center.”

Miranda explained that expenses for upkeep of the building total more than \$100,000 each year, and owning the building has put HSTF \$500,000 in debt since the purchase.

The costs include mortgage and insurance costs, as well as condo and maintenance fees.

After not being able to find a partner, “we were left with three options,” Miranda said: either demolish the building, renovate the building themselves, or sell the building.



The Blessed Sacrament Church

She said they crossed demolition off the list because the church is a “very important building in the neighborhood, so we realized that’s not an option.”

Renovating the building would cost multi millions of dollars, which would not be viable for the organization, especially after the pandemic hit and there is a “lot of uncertainty around philanthropy,” Miranda said. “The pandemic has brought a different sort of urgency. It’s not feasible to carry the cost.”

That left selling the building as the only option. HSTF made the difficult decision with the “understanding that we needed to make sure we keep in mind that we want to continue to be in existence

and serve our young people,” Miranda said.

She said that while the pandemic did speed up the decision making process about the building, it “affirmed probably where we would have landed anyway.”

The release states: “The need among the Boston youth served by the HSTF programs remains as great as ever and will likely increase in scope as community organizations respond to the disruptions in education and enrichment for youths inside and outside of Boston.”

Miranda added, “Unquestionably, times like these have made our mission-based work more critical and important than ever. The HSTF youth depend upon our programs and services to

foster their intellectual, creative and academic capabilities, and we believe this need will only grow.”

Miranda said that when looking for a buyer, the organization would “look favorably to any group that would make some community space available,” but it would not be a requirement of the sale.

“This was a heart wrenching decision,” Miranda said. “It was difficult to come to this point. It’s a beautiful structure, it’s a beautiful building.”

She said that despite that, HSTF had to keep its eye on its mission to engage youth in ways that build their voices and creativity, working towards a more equitable city.

She said the decision was not an easy one, but “we want to continue to see residents come together. We’ve been around for 30 years and we want to be around for a lot more.”

On August 6 at 6pm, a virtual community meeting will be held, “where members of the HSTF and other key stakeholders will share information and explain the process that resulted in the HSTF Board’s recent decision to sell the property,” HSTF said in the release. More information can be found at hydesquare.org.

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



‘CALVIN’

Calvin is a gentle soul looking to take flight into his new home! This cute little dove was brought to us by our friends at Boston Animal Control, who cared for him after he was found stray. He’s all settled in and ready to blow this coop! His favorite hobbies include foraging for food and



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AAMARP artists locked out of 76 Atherton St.

BY LAUREN BENNETT

After being locked out of their studios at 76 Atherton St. for the second time since 2018, artists who are part of the African American Master Artists in Residents Program (AAMARP) held a protest in front of the studios on June 27.

The artists in the program, which is associated with Northeastern University and has been in negotiations with the university's administration for two years, were not given notice that the locks would be changed, according to L'Merchie Frazier, who has been one of the program's artists for more than ten years.

"The lock out has been very stressful for the artists considering that we are in a COVID Pandemic and that this nation has been nationally and globally crying out against institutional racism," Frazier said in a recent press release.

AAMARP was founded in 1973 by artist Dana Chandler, who "was a part of the Northeastern family," Frazier said. The aim was "to be a program that would represent art of the black world

and provide connection to community locally, nationally, and globally," she said.

Throughout its years, AAMARP has been given space by the university for up to 14 artists to operate. "We have been functioning as a community cultural arm for Northeastern University and have maintained that throughout our existence," Frazier said. But she said that "there has been a distancing process occurring" from the university.

"This lock out denies artists who critically need access to their art supplies, materials, tools and artworks, much on which their livelihood depends," the release states.

"This is absolutely ridiculous. We have to work in order for us to eat. Black Artists Matter. They must open these doors. Now," Gloretta Baynes, Director of AAMARP, said in the release. The release also noted that the lock out has taken place "When the State has also called on non-evictions during this unprecedented COVID-19 crisis."

Frazier said the rally on June 27 included artists, people from

the community, and the press.

"Our demand is for peace," she said.

As a result of the protest, Frazier said that Northeastern University has allowed the artists to go inside the studios for 30 minutes—escorted by someone from the university—to remove items only. Artists are not permitted to work in their studios, even though "other functional units are in the same building," she said.

Northeastern University provided the following statement to the Gazette: "Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and in compliance with public health guidelines, Northeastern University closed its Boston campus beginning on March 17. As a result, all university buildings were closed and key cards to electronic locks on exterior doors across the entire campus have been deactivated. Only essential employees, including researchers, have been given key card access to campus buildings. Everyone else has had to request temporary access. The university's warehouse at 76 Atherton Street was treated the same as all other university buildings.

After years of discussions between AAMARP and the university, the artists requested time to move to alternative space, which was scheduled for early September. The artists have been occupying space rent free at Northeastern for more than three decades, largely without any connection to the university. However, due to the effects of the pandemic—including the fact that discussions were largely on hold for months—the university will extend its plans to relocate the artists until the end of the 2020 calendar year.

We are grateful to the artists—and all in the Northeastern community—for adhering to public health guidance and moving to remote work. By doing so, they have helped combat the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, and enhanced the safety and well-being of the entire community."

Frazier said that AAMARP has "listed our demands," and that there are still ongoing negotiations with the university. "We will be joining with our community and making sure that we are sustainable," she said.

"Northeastern's action against some of Boston's prominent Black artists is happening when NEU's President Aoun announced in an open letter to the NEU Community that a part of their "mission" is to 'build community,' Aoun's letter said that in addition to initiating 'actionable steps' the University is developing "Cultural Competency and Anti-Racist Training," the release states.

Susan Thompson, an AAMARP artist, responded to Aoun's letter by saying, "NEU says one thing and then does another. The reality is we (AAMARP artists) are the poster children for institutional racism on their campus. NEU has demonstrated to us that they are not being a good community partner."

AAMARP also announced a new series, "Justice on the Stoop," in which a different AAMARP artist is featured each Saturday from 3:00-5:00pm outside the studio at 76 Atherton St. The artists are also asking the community to support access to their studio space by contacting Northeastern University, City Councilor Kim Janey, and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley.

COVID-19 Updates for JP

BY JOHN LYNDS

After another two weeks Jamaica Plain's COVID-19 infection rate remains steady.

According to Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) data released last Friday, Jamaica Plain's infection rate rose only 1.75 percent in two weeks from 170.9 cases per 10,000 residents to 173.9 cases per 10,000 residents.

Twelve more Jamaica Plain residents became infected with COVID-19 in the past two weeks and the number of total cases here went from 690 cases two weeks ago to 702 cases last week.

Boston's average infection rate is at 203 cases per 10,000 residents citywide and last Friday's data showed Jamaica Plain's infection rate is still low-

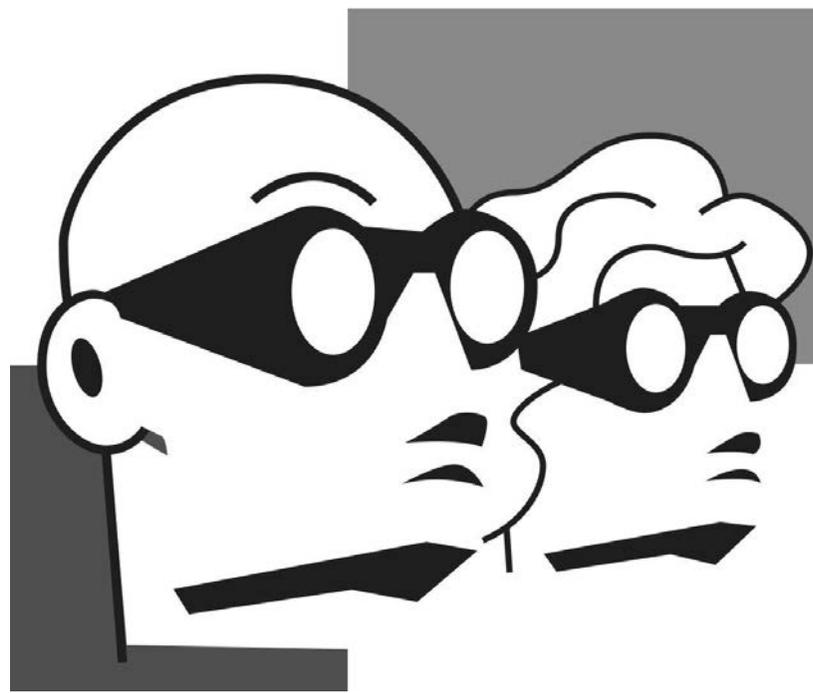
er than the city-wide average.

Of the 8,336 Jamaica Plain residents tested 1.6 percent were found to be COVID positive, up from 0.6 percent. Since treating began in the neighborhood 8.8 percent of Jamaica Plain residents have been found to be COVID positive, down from 10.5 percent.

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus rose only 2.2 percent from 13,556 cases to 13,856 cases in a week. So far 9,898 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus and 722 residents have died.

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JPNC Housing and Development Committee talks about eviction moratorium, equity in housing

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council Housing and Development Committee met virtually on July 21, where they briefly discussed the status of the state's eviction and foreclosure moratorium, and discussed how the committee can contribute to addressing issues raised by the Black Lives Matter Protests relating to housing and development in Jamaica Plain.

Committee member Samantha Montano talked about Governor Baker's 60 day extension on the current moratorium, which will now expire on October 17.

She also brought up a bill filed by State Representatives Mike Connolly and Kevin Honan called "An act to guarantee housing stability during the COVID-19 emergency and recovery," which she said will "provide more lasting security for tenants," as well as a fund for small landlords and provisions

for non-profit landlords and lenders.

"Right now, the moratorium doesn't carry anything else with it," Montano said, besides preventing eviction for non-payment of rent, but people will eventually still have to pay their back rent.

There is a push to get this legislation passed before the end of the legislative session on July 31, and while representatives and senators in the JP area are in favor of the legislation, neighbor Kathy Brown said it is "good to call them even though they're supportive."

On the topic of Black Lives Matter protests and advocating for more equitable housing in Jamaica Plain, Sarah Horsley of the Boston Tenant Coalition brought up the effort to strengthen the Inclusionary Development Policy in the City, as it "certainly has equity and racial justice implications," she said. "We want to make sure that the inclusionary

units are more deeply affordable," and that there are enough affordable units. She said that this summer, more research is being done to gather updated data on the demand for affordable units.

She said that City Council support for this is necessary, and the Coalition is trying to work with them to hold a hearing at some point, as well as continuing to mobilize its grassroots efforts to advocate for permanently affordable housing.

Kathy Brown mentioned that some of the City Councilors, including Kenzie Bok, have been talking a look at areas of the City that have been segregated, and there is a push for a sort of "anti-displacement checklist," where developers who want to build housing will have to take a look at the displacement impact of any particular project.

"We're going to be responsible for making sure that projects that come up are affirmatively

furthering fair housing," Brown said.

Samantha Montano talked about Section 8 vouchers and the need for fairness surrounding the program.

"Contrary to fair housing law, a lot of folks don't respond to folks who reach out with Section 8 vouchers," she said. She said the City Council "is going to be reviewing how to create more equity in that process and how to handle landlords who don't provide housing to folks who qualify for it."

She mentioned a study by Suffolk University that found that real estate agents and landlords in the Greater Boston area do not provide the same opportunities to renters with Section 8 housing vouchers as they do to those without.

Brown said that education of realtors and landlords and putting "public awareness or pressure:" on them with regards to this issue could be a start to

ending the discrimination.

Committee Chair Carolyn Royce said the group could start with realtors in Jamaica Plain, since they make up a fairly small group.

Montano also brought up the issue of homeownership as a gateway to wealth, and how that can be problematic for some families for whom this is unachievable. She said discussions have been started in the city around figuring out other ways for people to have more stability with something like a co-op or land trust but still have something to pass along to future generations, even if it is not a home owned solely by the family.

The committee said they would continue this discussion at a future meeting, and the August meeting will feature an update from the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPND) about its housing and retail project at 3371 Washington Street.

ZBA approves 35 Brookley proposal, but says community concerns need to be addressed

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) on July 21 approved (with provisos) the project proposed for 35 Brookley/10 Stonley Road, which has caused some controversy within the surrounding community. The project was originally set to come before the ZBA on March 10, but the developers deferred at the request of Lindsey Santana, the Mayor's liaison for Jamaica Plain.

The ZBA had not been holding meetings for a while due to COVID-19, but has now begun holding virtual meetings to address some of the backlog that has accumulated over the past several months.

Attorney John Pulgini told the ZBA on Tuesday that the proposed plan was to build a four story, 45 unit building on the lot, which is zoned for local/industrial. The current building, which is a warehouse and offices for Northeastern Petroleum Service and Supply, abuts the

Arborway bus yard.

The proposed height for the building is a little over 49 feet, and 10 affordable units were proposed, making the building 23 percent affordable. "For a privately developed project I think this is the first time we've seen those kinds of numbers," Pulgini said.

The building also incorporates five artist live/work spaces on the ground floor, which Pulgini said will help neighbors engage with artists and their work.

On the third floor, stepped back from the residential neighborhood (in compliance with PLAN: JP/ROX, according to Pulgini), is a roof deck.

Pulgini said that the project is PLAN: JP/ROX compliant, but several neighbors have pushed back claiming this is not true. Pulgini said that the plan allows for increased height and density in exchange for more affordability.

The ZBA reported that they received three letters of support for the project.

Lindsey Santana of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services said that this project went through an "extensive community process," but the community still has "concerns pertaining to height and density." She said the mayor's office is "excited" about the amount of affordability and the artist live/work spaces, and that the office is in support of the project.

Justin McClarey from City Councilor Matt O'Malley's office said that the councilor "appreciates" the PLAN: JP/ROX compliance and that he is also in support of the project, but he would like to see the developers continue to work with the surrounding community on mitigation measures to address their ongoing concerns.

Many neighbors, including some from the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) who live near the site, have been trying to work with the developer for some time now on reducing the density of the building, as they do not feel it is the right size

for the area. Many agree that something should be built on the site to activate the area, but this particular proposal is too large and too dense.

One of those neighbors, Emma Wright, is co-chair of the SNA's committee for the project and said at the ZBA hearing that the "setbacks are sort of unacceptable especially in the rear yard." She said they will "create a real alley-like effect."

Jennifer Uhrhane is the other co-chair of the subcommittee, and has been outspoken about the proposal since it was first proposed.

Uhrhane told the ZBA that the project "has not significantly changed since the developer has requested deferral."

She added that she does not believe the project is in compliance with PLAN: JP/ROX, "the worst of" the non-compliance being the rear yard setback. She said the building will only be seven and a half feet from the property line "as opposed to the required 20 foot setback line."

She also said the lack of green space is an issue, and she said the building takes up "so much space" in the area.

"I would like the Board to take into account the overwhelming... opposition, including the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association and the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council," she said. "It's a good project, just not for this parcel,"

The ZBA ultimately voted to approve the project with BPDA design review focused on density, massing, and setback. They also said they would like to see the project as Board Final Arbiter "if there is any misunderstanding about what our intent is."

ZBA member Mark Erlich said that "I think overall, the project is wroth proceeding but it needs to be downsized to reflect some of the community concerns."

ZBA Chair Christine Araujo agreed: "This has merits to it, however, it is too dense and the rear yard setback and open space requirements need to be met."

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Jamaica Plain's Mike's Fitness reopens

By John Lynds

Boston was a week behind the rest of the state when it came to Governor Charlie Baker's Phase III of Massachusetts's phased COVID-19 reopening strategy. In Boston, businesses that were eligible to reopen in Step One of Phase III but subject to industry-specific rules concerning capacity and operations, included movie theaters and outdoor performance venues; museums, cultural and historical sites; fitness centers and health clubs limited to 40 percent occupancy; as well as certain indoor recreational activities with low potential for contact, according to Mayor Martin Walsh.

"Boston is taking this step one week later because of the size of its population, density, and the size of our commercial, hospitality, and other sectors," said Mayor Walsh.

While Jamaica Plain doesn't have movie theaters many in the neighborhood were excited that Mike's Fitness on Amory Street has reopened its doors.

Many stuck at home have complained about the so-called "COVID-15" a play on the virus's name and the 15 lbs many claim they gained during quarantine. Ahead of their opening, Mike's Fitness invited the Boston Public

Health Commission for a walk through the gym. Gym management thought it was important to do this before reopening.

"As we start to reopen the gym our first priority is to keep all our members and staff safe and healthy," said the gym in a letter to members. "We will be following the guidelines the state provides for gyms to start to open. This will include social distancing, the wearing of masks or face coverings and disinfecting. Please bear with us as we navigate the reopening process. We will have new and different rules than we did before the shut down."

Gym management said members should be prepared for changes and new protocols on a regular basis like capacity limits and limited hours of operation.

"The building is requiring that only two people be in the elevator at any given time," the letter continues. "The front entrance will be open for use of the back stairwell. When entering the building a mask/face-covering is required. If you do not have one, masks will be available for sale. You will not be allowed to work out in our facility without a mask. Masks are mandatory."

When members check in to the gym a temperature must be taken. If your temperature is 100 or above, you will

not be allowed in the gym. "We understand that it is summertime and the walk into the gym might make your temperature rise and can retake it within 10 minutes," said the letter.

Gym capacity will follow the state recommendations on how many members can be in the facility at one time.

"If required by the state, we will implement appointment only workouts," said the letter. "We are exploring opportunities to schedule times for people to be in the gym which would help address gym capacity and contact tracing should it be needed."

All areas in the gym will have disinfecting wipe dispensers strategically placed so members can wipe down equipment once they finish using it. All benches, free weights, plates, weight stacks, dumbbells and barbells must be wiped down.

"Basically, if you touch it you need to wipe it down," said the letter.

Mike's Fitness has added a night cleaning crew working to help ensure that the facility is kept clean and safe.

"We are aware that Mike's Fitness is a place for friends to come



Mike's Fitness in Jamaica Plain reopened as part of Phase III of the state's COVID recovery plan. Here, Mike's Fitness staff poses with members of the Boston Public Health Commission after BPHC staff did a walk through of the gym and gave it a thumbs up ahead of reopening.

and catch up while they work out, however, during this unprecedented time, we are asking each person to complete their workout within a 90 minute timeframe," said the letter. "This is a temporary measure as we phase into our reopening."

Mike's Fitness has also purchased a fogger machine to deep clean the facility on a daily basis

during the off or closed hours.

"This is an unprecedented time and our goal is to offer our members a safe environment with rules and regulations put in place to protect everyone's health and well being," said the letter. "We must all do our part and be diligent in maintaining a safe environment for everyone."

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JP HISTORY

Leonard “Mr. Spock” Nimoy never forgot his roots in Boston

By JOHN LYNDS

Leonard Nimoy, the celebrated actor best known for his portrayal of Spock on Star Trek, was always proud of his Boston roots. Nimoy, who died in February 2015 at the age of 83, grew up in Boston’s West End and was a graduate of English High School in Jamaica Plain long

before portraying the mixed human-Vulcan First Officer of the USS Enterprise.

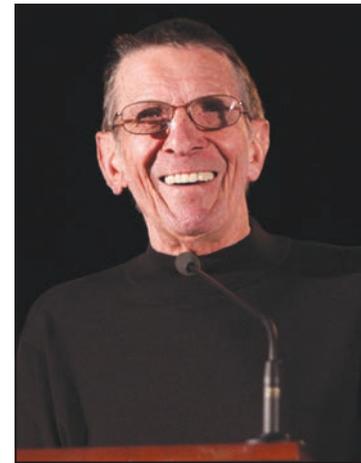
In 2012, Nimoy delivered the commencement speech at Boston University where he told graduates, “I saw Ted Williams hit home runs at Fenway Park. I learned to sail on the Charles River. I sold newspapers at the corner of Boylston and Arlington

at the corner of the Arlington Street Church in the winter,” he told the graduating class. “From where I lived it was a 10-minute walk to Boston Garden where I watched the Celtics, the Bruins and the Ringling Brothers Circus.”

The son of Jewish immigrants Nimoy grew up in the West End, a working class Jewish and Irish

enclave that was razed by the former BRA as part of a Boston urban renewal program. Nimoy’s family was one of thousands of families displaced by the project.

However, before he saved up \$600 and split for the West Coast to pursue a career as an actor in Hollywood, Nimoy was just another student roaming the halls of English High School in



Leonard Nimoy, best known for his portrayal of USS Enterprise First Officer Mr. Spock on Star Trek, was an English High School graduate.

Jamaica Plain. Years later he would say he started acting when he was eight years old and continued throughout his years at English High. His legacy as both an English High alum and Mr. Spock has lasted for generations.

At the time of his death five years ago English High Headmaster Ligia Noriega-Murphy said the news of Nimoy’s death quickly spread through the school.

“It’s so sad. All the kids are talking about it,” Murphy told the Gazette at the time. “They want to sign a card and send it to the family. Even though the kids are not so familiar with ‘Star Trek,’ they still know Spock.”

Nimoy left Boston for L.A in 1949, though he wouldn’t land his first movie parts until 1951.

“With the passing of Leonard Nimoy, we have not only lost a talented actor, but a proud product of Boston’s neighborhoods and English High School,” said Mayor Martin Walsh when Nimoy died. “Mr. Nimoy never forgot his Boston roots and the spirit of his work lives on in the future generations of children who continue to be inspired by his iconic portrayal of Mr. Spock.”

Like his Star Trek co-star William Shatner, Nimoy appeared in a “The Twilight Zone” episode in 1961, before “Star Trek” launched in 1966.

After “Trek’s” three-year television run, Nimoy directed movies, including two from the “Trek” franchise—“Star Trek III: The Search for Spock” (1984) and

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JP HISTORY

Get outside and see history with JP Historical Society and their walking tours

The Jamaica Plain Historical Society will be holding several walks during the coming weeks. The walks will include some of Jamaica Plain's most significant historic sites. We would encourage as many residents — old and new — to take part in some or all of these walks and learn about the interesting history of Jamaica Plain, and also the important work of this organization in keeping the history of the neighborhood alive.

The following items are found on the Jamaica Plain Historical Society website at www.jpshs.org.

WALKING TOUR OF JAMAICA POND

- Saturday, July 25, 2020
- 11:00 AM 12:30 PM
- Jamaica Pond (map)

Travel around the Pond with the Jamaica Plain Historical Society. Once a district that only included the houses of Boston's elite, the Pond later was put to industrial use as tons of ice were harvested there each winter. Learn about the movers and shakers such as Francis Parkman and James Michael Curley who made their homes on the Pond's shores. Discover how the Pond was transformed from private estates and warehouses into the parkland we

know today. All tours are free to the public and are offered on dates shown. Tours last between 60 and 90 minutes and are canceled in case of heavy rain. No reservations are required, just meet the guide at the bandstand.

Please follow all COVID 19 directives (wear a mask). You can sign up ahead of time using this form - to help us plan the number of guides we need.

WALKING TOUR OF MONUMENT SQUARE

- Saturday, August 1, 2020
- 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- Loring-Greenough House (map)

Join the JPISH to tour this part of the neighborhood that includes a National Historic District. View architecture that spans three centuries; the oldest community theater company in the United States; and an elegant 18th-century mansion that once served as the country's first military hospital. Learn about the monument that commemorates fallen Civil War soldiers from West Roxbury and about Pauline Agassiz Shaw who established the class that became the model for continuous free kindergarten education. We will visit a house dating to 1716 that once served as a tavern, the



Take advantage of these walking tours to learn the history around the neighborhood! The Monument commemorated to fallen Civil War soldiers (left) and the Loring-Greenough House are each featured in their own tour.

Eliot School dating back to 1689, the home of the first woman to graduate from MIT and the First Church Burial Ground. All tours are free to the public and are offered on dates shown. Tours last between 60 and 90 minutes and are canceled in case of heavy rain. No reservations are required, just meet the guide at the starting location. Please follow all COVID 19 directives (wear a mask). You can sign up ahead of time using this form - to help us plan the number of guides we need.

WALKING TOUR OF SUMNER HILL

- Saturday, August 8, 2020
- 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- Loring-Greenough House (map)

This National Historic District includes one of the finest collections of Victorian houses in the area. The district includes the ancestral home of the Dole Pineapple Company founder and the homes of progressives who were active as abolitionists and women suffragists. All tours are free to the public and are offered on dates shown. Tours last between 60 and 90 minutes and are canceled in case of heavy rain. No reservations are required, just meet the guide

at the starting location. Please follow all COVID 19 directives (wear a mask). You can sign up ahead of time using this form - to help us plan the number of guides we need.

WALKING TOUR OF STONY BROOK

- Saturday, August 15, 2020
- 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- Stony Brook T Stop (map)

Explore a fascinating industrial area at the geographic heart of Boston that includes 19th-century tannery and brewery buildings, the homes of early German settlers, and today's Boston Beer Company, the brewers of Samuel Adams. In the 1970s, a coalition of community groups joined together to block construction of the Southwest Expressway through Jamaica Plain and other Boston neighborhoods. Today, the Southwest Corridor Park that runs through the Stony Brook neighborhood stands as a testament to the power of community activism.

All tours are free to the public and are offered on dates shown. Tours last between 60 and 90 minutes and are canceled in case of heavy rain. No reservations are required, just meet the guide outside the T Stop.

Please follow all COVID 19 directives (wear a mask). You can sign up ahead of time using this form - to help us plan the number of guides we need. This tour will also be offered in Spanish.

WALKING TOUR OF HYDE PARK

- Saturday, August 22, 2020
- 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- Brendan Behan Pub (map)

Learn about Hyde Square, an area of Jamaica Plain that has been continually transformed by the various immigrant groups who have called it home over the years. See how in the early 1960s, Hyde Square changed again when Cuban, Puerto Rican, and Dominican immigrants transformed it into Boston's first predominantly Hispanic neighborhood. This tour also takes us to the home of Maud Cuney Hare, a prominent music historian and one of only two black women students at the New England Conservatory of Music in 1890. You will also learn about the property currently housing the MSPCA's Angell Animal Medical Center

Continued on Page 15

Nimoy

Continued from page 12

"Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home" (1986)—and others, including the hit comedy "Three Men and a Baby" (1987).

Nimoy also wrote poetry, published books of photography, and

released albums of music and spoken word performances. His first album was called, "Leonard Nimoy Presents Mr. Spock's Music From Outer Space." He also performed onstage, notably as Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof."

For decades Nimoy's voice has greeted visitors to the Boston Museum of Science's Mugar Omni Theater.

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SNA votes not to oppose development at 34-36 Rossmore Rd.

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) met virtually on July 13, where the group discussed and voted not to oppose the proposed development at 34-36 Rossmore Rd.

Developer Liam Lydon and architect Elaine Scales, who have previously presented proposals for this lot, presented the latest design to the SNA.

Lydon explained that there is an existing two family home at 34 Rossmore Rd., which will be torn down and replaced with a three family building. Another three family will also be erected at 36 Rossmore, similar to the one at 41 Rossmore Rd., which was also designed by Scales.

Lydon said that the team has

made some changes to the proposal over the past year, including the addition of more green space, pushing the building back, and a few other design elements. He said that within the next month, 34 Rossmore Rd. will be taken down.

Scales said that for both new buildings, “all of the primary living spaces are facing southeast and overlooking the open space of the tot lot, and are very visible as you drive up Rossmore Rd.”

She said that 36 Rossmore Road is on the corner and will have a sloped roof, while 34 Rossmore will have a flat roof. She said that she felt it would be “too much” if both roofs were sloped, but she said that 36 Rossmore should have the sloped roof because it is diagonally across from

41 Rossmore and will create “a nice dynamic with it.”

Each unit will have its own front porch (with a solid roof over the third floor) as well, she said, and each building is set back nine feet from Rossmore Rd. Each unit is around 1,060 square feet.

“Initially, we had a setback that matched 41 Rossmore Rd. exactly,” Scales said, which is slightly under six feet. “Discussion came up about providing extra green space up front,” which she said was “achieved by removing two of the parking spaces in the back. On one hand, two buyers would not get a parking space, but on the other hand, there is more green space in the front and in the back of the property,” she said.

The zoning violations for the project include an open space violation, insufficient off street parking, parking design maneuverability, insufficient lot area, the Floor Area Ratio is excessive, and insufficient front and side yards. Scales said this lot and these violations are similar to those of 41 Rossmore Rd.

The issue of trees had been brought up by neighbors in the past, and Lydon said that an arborist “suggested most trees should come down,” but he said he is “willing to revisit that after the demo is done.” He said he believes that two of the trees are able to be saved. The arborist suggested planting river birch or maples in the place of the trees that are cut down, he added.

“We don’t have a full land-

scape plan, but as soon as we do, I’ll submit it and we can tweak that any which way we like,” he said.

SNA member Jennifer Uhrhane said that “one of the big worries for the abutters is the loss of tree canopy. She said she wanted to “acknowledge Liam for making the effort” of getting an arborist out to the site to see which trees would work best to replace the canopy in the long run. She said she appreciates the suggestion of river birch and maple trees, as they will eventually get tall and fill out the canopy.

Lydon was asked how much the units will sell for, to which he replied “hard to say.” He said he initially thought they would sell

Continued on page 15

Baker-Polito administration announces new Housing Choice Communities

STAFF REPORT

On July 16, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the inclusion of eight new communities in the Housing Choice Communities program and the re-designation of 56 Housing Choice Communities.

Included in the designation were Everett, Chelsea and Boston.

This brings the total number of current Housing Choice Communities to 74 across the Commonwealth. This program is designed to recognize communities who have made substantial progress towards housing development goals and for the implementation of housing best practices to encourage sustainable development. The Housing Choice Designation is part of the Baker-Polito Administration’s strategy to produce 135,000 new housing units by 2025 to meet the high demand of housing across the state.

The newly designated communities are: Amesbury, Belchertown, Medfield, Middleborough, Newburyport, North Attleborough, Salem, and Sunderland.

Between 2015 and 2019, this year’s 64 Housing Choice Communities built 73 percent of all new housing units in Massachusetts. This designation affords Housing Choice Communities access to an exclusive, compet-

itive capital grant program, and points on applications to nine other state capital grants, including MassWorks, MassDOT Complete Streets, EEA Community Investment Grants, and more.

Communities that receive this designation have either produced at least 500 new housing units or saw an increase of 5 percent or more in new housing units from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019, or, alternatively, produced at least 300 new housing units or saw an increase of 3 percent or more new housing units from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2019 and met 7 of 14 Housing Choice Best Practices, two of which must be related to affordability. Most communities in today’s announcement have increased their housing production by 5 percent or more or have built over 500 new units since 2015.

Many of the Housing Choice Communities are implementing best practices to produce new housing. Over 70 percent of the 2020 Housing Choice Communities now make it easier to build new multi-family housing through by-right zoning or a robust special permit pipeline of approved projects. Many others have invested Community Preservation Act funds in local projects, often in combination with local Affordable Housing Trusts to support new affordable hous-

ing development in the future.

The administration’s Housing Choice Initiative, which was announced in December 2017, is a package of technical assistance for communities, the Housing Choice Communities (HCC) designation, new capital grant funding, and pending legislation, An Act to Promote Housing Choices. This initiative complements the investments made by the Department of Housing and Community Development in affordable housing production across the state, and supports local government actions to meet the demands of a growing and aging population in Massachusetts.

The legislative proposal An Act to Promote Housing Choices, which was also filed as part of the Administration’s economic development legislation in March, will advance new housing production and promote equitable access to opportunity by enabling cities and towns to adopt certain zoning best practices related to housing production by a simple majority vote, rather than the current two-thirds supermajority. While this legislation will lower the voting threshold to change zoning for communities in the Commonwealth, it does not require cities and towns to make any of these changes. With the proposed simple majority threshold, municipalities that pursue re-zoning efforts, including those enabling transit-ori-

ented or downtown-oriented new housing, would gain approval if they achieve more than 50 percent of the vote, as opposed to the current supermajority of more than 66 percent. Massachusetts is currently one of only a few states to require a supermajority to change local zoning. The legislation does not apply to the City of Boston, which has its own zoning regulations.

Zoning changes that promote best practices for housing growth that would qualify for the simple majority threshold include:

- Building mixed-use, multi-family, and starter homes, and adopting 40R “Smart Growth” zoning in town centers and near transit.
- Allowing the development of accessory dwelling units, or “in-law” apartments.
- Approving Smart Growth or Starter Home districts that put housing near existing activity centers.
- Granting increased density through a special permit process.
- Allowing for the transfer of development rights and enacting natural resource protection zoning.
- Reducing parking requirements and dimensional requirements, such as minimum lot sizes.
- This legislation also includes a provision, added by the Joint Committee on Housing last session, that would reduce the vot-

ing threshold for a special permit issued by a local permit granting authority to a simple majority vote, for certain multi-family or mixed-use projects with at least 10 percent affordable units in locations near transit, or in centers of commercial activity within a municipality.

The Baker-Polito Administration has shown a deep commitment to increasing the production of housing across income levels. Since 2015, the administration has invested more than \$1.1 billion in affordable housing, resulting in the production and preservation of more than 18,000 housing units, including 16,000 affordable units. In 2018, Governor Baker signed the largest housing bond bill in Massachusetts history, committing more than \$1.8 billion to the future of affordable housing production and preservation. The Baker-Polito Administration has also advanced the development of more than 14,000 mixed-income housing units through the successful MassWorks Infrastructure Program, reformed the Housing Development Incentive Program, and worked with communities to implement smart-growth development and planning efforts.

The 2020 Housing Choice Communities are Boston, Chelsea and Everett.

Walking Tours

Continued from page 13

which was once a site of the Perkins School for the Blind. The tour will also walk through the Sunnyside neighborhood, the site of homes built by philanthropist Robert Treat Paine from 1889 to 1899 as a “worker’s utopia” for working families.

All tours are free to the public and are offered on dates shown. Tours last between 60 and 90 minutes and are canceled in case of heavy rain. No reservations are required, just meet the guide at the starting location.

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form - to help us plan the number of guides we need.

This tour will also be given in Spanish.

WALKING TOUR OF GREEN STREET

- Saturday, August 29, 2020
- 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center (map)

Laid out in 1836, the street played a key role in Jamaica Plain’s development, functioning as a residential, commercial, and transportation conduit in the lives of the district’s residents.

Although Green Street was subdivided as early as 1851 for stores, factories and houses, it was not extensively developed until the late 1870s with con-

struction continuing until the early 1900s. The Bowditch School was completed in 1892, and early in the 20th century the United States Post Office moved from its location on Call Street at Woolsey Square to its new location at the corner of Green and Cheshire Streets.

All tours are free to the public and are offered on dates shown. Tours last between 60 and 90 minutes and are canceled in case of heavy rain. No reservations are required, just meet the guide at the starting location.

Please follow all COVID 19 directives (wear a mask). You can sign up ahead of time using this form - to help us plan the number of guides we need.

Baker announces new funding, first round of food insecurity grant recipients

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Governor Charlie Baker provided an update on COVID-19 and announced new funding at a press conference on July 16. He said that face coverings continue to be the “best and most important thing we can all do here in the Commonwealth,” as well as distancing whenever possible, to be outdoors instead of indoors, practicing good hygiene, and disinfecting surfaces.

On July 1, a \$20 million fund was launched for rental and mortgage assistance for low income households from a mix of federal funding from the Cares Act and federal reserves, Baker said. He said that the money “will invest in more access to emergency housing resources for families who need it.”

Additionally, another \$20 million in rental assistance and support is currently in a supplemental before the legislature, he added.

On July 16, he said that an additional \$20 million was added on top of the other money, and will be distributed across 181 communities in Massachusetts for food assistance, homelessness prevention, and for hard-hit small businesses through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs.

“This funding is for non-entitlement communities as defined by [the Department of Housing and Urban Development] as municipalities with less than 50,000 people and is an important part of how we’re leveraging state and federal assets to meet this moment,” Baker said.

“This new funding will also help micro-enterprises; very small businesses that have five or less employees with up to \$10,000 in grants,” he added. Some communities will also be able to use the funds for job training in areas such as health care.

“Funding will help communities support households who have lost employment, households who are struggling to access food, homebound seniors who are unable to get to the

grocery store, and much, much more,” Baker said.

He added that he is “pleased that in addition to the funding the state received, our 37 federally designated entitlement cities and towns and general communities that exceed 50,000 people in population that receive funding directly from HUD also received another \$40 million. Those communities are using these resources in many of the same ways that today’s funding will be used to support small businesses, community services, and people in need.”

On July 22, Baker held a press conference at the the Salvation Army in Lynn, where he announced that the first round of grant applicants for the \$36 million Food Insecurity Infrastructure Grant Program has been selected.

Nearly \$3 million will be awarded to 26 organizations such as farms, school meal programs, food pantries, and organizations that work on food sourcing and distribution, the governor said.

The grant program is a part of \$56 million in investments to implement recommendations of the state’s Food Security Task Force, which was announced this May.

Applications for the grant funds opened in June, and Baker said they will be “evaluated on a rolling basis through September 15.”

Baker said that “other investments include increased investments for the Healthy Incentives Program, \$3 million in funding for immediate relief for food banks, and \$12 million for the provision of 25,000 family food boxes per week through a regional food supply system.” Each of these food boxes contains between 30 and 35 meals.

“That work will continue throughout the summer as needed,” Baker said, and he said the state and its partners will continue to bring resources to where they are needed to help with the effects of COVID-19, “and at the same time do the work we need to do to help people who are dealing with food security issues.”

parking to increase the green space, as well as build a new concrete sidewalk around the project and install new fencing along the west and north sides of the lot. He also worked with the group on increasing the front setback.

“Elaine did not want to put a roof on the [3rd floor] front porch at 34 Rossmore,” Cibulsky said, but the “majority” of the subcommittee felt there should be one there, so the team agreed to put one. The project will also use dark sky compliant lighting, Cibulsky added.

As a result of negotiations with the project team, “we ended up with a building that I can say pretty much everybody is happy with,” she said. “It fits in with the neighborhood.”

SNA Steering Committee member Trevyn Langsford said that he was pleased with the increase in green space and that the permeable surface proposed for the driveway “is really cool.”

Jonathan McCurdy, another Steering Committee member, agreed with Cibulsky that Lydon has been “easy to work with” and willing to listen to different ideas from members of the community,

which he said is “very different than what we usually see. I appreciate that.”

Larry and Wendy McCarthy, who live across the street from 41 Rossmore Rd., mentioned that when 41 Rossmore was being built, they were “impressed” with how the construction went and said that the construction was “not disruptive at all to the neighborhood.”

A brief discussion of affordability was also brought up, and Langsford said that it is “hard to push for affordability in a project like this. SNA does demand affordable housing conditions be met or exceeded in larger projects.” He added that he would like to be a “more forceful voice on affordability in new projects.”

Uhrhane agreed: “it’s very hard to do small, privately funded projects affordable,” she said. “Generally it’s a larger project getting federal, state or city funds doing affordable.” She said that it is possible to ask Lydon to sell the units without a parking space for less money.

The SNA voted not to oppose this development, and will write a letter to the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council saying so, ahead of their vote on the project.

Rossmore Road

Continued from page 14

for “somewhere in the \$600,000 range,” as “that allows us to put in a good finish and do a nice job.”

SNA member Fred Vetterlein said that “the work Liam has done is the highest level.” He said that “the design that Elaine brought in for 41 [Rossmore Rd.] and where this corner building is—it’s just great. The neighborhood needed that balance. I think it’s a tremendous addition to the neighborhood and I’m fully in support of it.”

The SNA continued to discuss the proposal once the development team left the Zoom call.

“We spent a lot of time working with Liam and the subcommittee going over several issues,” Sue Cibulsky, chair of the subcommittee for this project, said. “Liam was easy to work with; very willing to negotiate with us.” She said that there are currently no outstanding issues from the subcommittee, as Lydon agreed to reduce the off-street

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Upcoming Events Around Jamaica Plain

VIGIL FOR BLM ON AUGUST 6

The August Vigil in Support of Black Lives Matter (BLM) will be held Thursday, August 6, from 5:30-6:30pm on the lawn of the First Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain, 633 Centre St. Everyone is invited to participate in this monthly stand out for racial justice and human rights. For further information, contact Mary Lenihan at maryfranleny@gmail.com or Penny Wells at pwells222@gmail.com.

TAKE A STROLL WITH CONNOLLY BRANCH STAFF

The Connolly Branch of the BPL invites you to take a stroll down Centre Street and enjoy reading the pages from the children's book A is for Activist by Innosanto Nagara. This is our fifth story walk in as many years! Story walk maps/activity sheets are located at the Connolly

Branch, JP Laundry Centre, and the Blessed Sacrament Church Plaza, and the program will run until July 31, 2020.

Some instructions/information:

- Start at the branch and grab a map/activity sheet
- Follow the pages of the book, read the book, and complete the activity sheet while reading it
- Remember to maintain social distancing and follow Boston Public Health Commission guidelines
- Make sure to take and gather pictures and thoughts, and share them with us on our FB page or via email to Sujei Lugo, the children's librarian at slugo@bpl.org
- Once you share this with us, kids have the opportunity to pick up a prize (activity/care packages, books, and more!). Coordinate pick-up with the children's librarian or when you pick-up your holds.

Hope you enjoy reading the story, strolling around the neigh-

borhood, and also supporting local businesses!

RETURNING BOOKS TO THE CONNOLLY LIBRARY

FYI! You can return your books without an appointment. You may need to wait if there is a line. Returns are accepted M-Th, 2-6 p.m., and on Fridays from 1-4 p.m. Email us at connolly@bpl.org or call 617-522-1960 and press 0 if you need help returning books or have a question.

JPNC TO MEET ON JULY 28

The next Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) meeting will be on Tuesday, July 28 at 7:00pm and will be held as a virtual meeting, and will utilize Zoom. On the agenda will be a request from Apothca, Inc. for a change to a retail marijuana sales facility at 54A Hyde Park

Avenue.

Also on the agenda will be updates from the committees. All meetings will remain open to the public and are accessible either from a computer or telephone. The link to access the meeting can be obtained at www.jpnc.org. We want to ensure that our neighbors have an opportunity to respond to all upcoming issues and comments will be accepted by email at info.jpnc@gmail.com up until the JPNC Meeting on July 28. Additional Information about community events and future virtual meetings are also being posted at www.jpnc.org.

JPNA PUBLIC SERVICE TO MEET ON AUG. 4

The Public Service Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 4 at 7:00pm and will utilize Zoom.

On the agenda will be continued discussion on how to reform the police. Also on the agenda will be an update on the proposed Columbus Avenue bus lane that will run from Walnut Avenue to Jackson Square.

All meetings will remain open to the public and are accessible either from a computer or telephone. The link to access the meeting can be obtained at www.jpnc.org or by email at psc.jpnc@gmail.com.

All interested residents are invited to attend via Zoom.

POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMM. TO MEET AUGUST 6

Police Community Relations Meeting will take place on Thursday, August 6 at 6:30pm via Google Meet.

To obtain the link to the meeting, please call the Boston Police E-13 station at (617) 343-5623.

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 via Google Meet.

JP CENTRE/SOUTH MAIN STREET FUNDRAISER

Join us for our ONLINE Zoom fundraiser with a Wine Tasting and Art Auction on July 30 from 8 - 9:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit JP Centre/South Main Streets.

Join us on Zoom as we sample wines from Streetcar Wines in Jamaica Plain and share the finer notes of their wine selection, while you taste along with us at home. Wines will be available from Streetcar PRIOR to the event, and ready for pick-up or delivery. A portion of their sales of these wines will go to JP Centre/South Main Streets.

Celebrity host Matt O'Malley will start off our online Zoom fundraiser! We will feature also an art auction of local artists and vintage photographs of Jamaica Plain. Enjoy the wine, see a review of our year, and bid on art, all from the safety of your own home. You won't need to worry about who is driving!

Purchase your ticket to receive the Zoom link (zoom-cocktail-hour.eventbrite.com) AND a list of wines for tasting from Streetcar Wines. You can choose to purchase as many or as few wines as you want. We will include instructions on ordering your wine in your confirmation email. REMEMBER: a portion of the Streetcar Wines sales will go to JP Centre/South Main Streets.

CONOLLY FRIENDS BOOK SALE CANCELLED

We will not be holding our annual book sale in September of 2020. Instead, we will continue to accumulate books and look forward to September 2021. If you have books to donate, I will be happy to accept them at my house. E-mail me and I will give you my address. I will e-mail again when the library is able to accept donations. At this time, we are unable to pick up books.

Many thanks to the people who have already dropped off books!

To-go cocktail bill signed by Gov. Baker

BY JOHN LYNDS

Bar owners in Jamaica Plain were growing tired of seeing local liquor stores receive daily deliveries while their expensive inventory sat collecting dust on shelves.

Many bars here were forced to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic only to recently reopen with limited capacity or outdoor seating.

Many bar owners in Jamaica Plain were frustrated because they couldn't order liquor and sell it in any profitable volume nor could they move already stocked inventory.

Many bar owners here became vocal proponents of the state legislature's 'to-go cocktail' bill.

The bill is designed to allow bars to start moving inventory of expensive liquor that has been sitting on shelves since the pandemic began.

The bill, which sat on Gov. Charlie Baker's desk since last week, was finally signed by the Governor Monday.

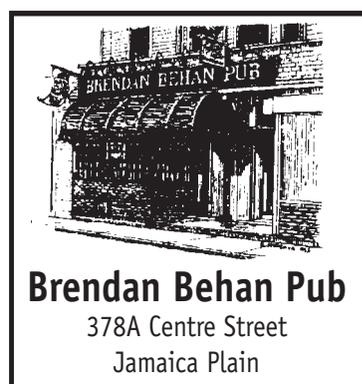
The bill, which was passed by the House back in June and the Senate last week, will let bars and restaurants sell to-go cocktails with takeout only or delivery food orders until Gov. Baker lifts the state emergency

order that was given back in March.

Customers of bars in restaurants in Jamaica Plain can now order two cocktails per entree. However, the total volume of liquor being sold can not exceed 64 ounces.

All cocktails must be sold in a sealed container, and the volume of alcohol-to-mixer must be the same as for on-premises consumption.

State Sen. Diana Dizoglio, a Meuthen Democrat that filed the bill, said, "While many mom and pop establishments have been able to slowly reopen in recent weeks, they still face significant challenges in their efforts to retain employees and pay their bills. According to our local, family owned and operated restaurants, these measures could help them generate thousands of dollars a month and would greatly assist them in paying utility bills and rent. I am grateful to my colleagues in the legislature for their support and continued advocacy on the issue and to Governor Baker for signing it into law."



Police staffing costs top \$5 million for responses to summer protests

BY SETH DANIEL

The additional costs for Boston Police staffing for the many protests that have unfolded in Boston – mostly in the downtown areas and on large on in Jamaica Plain – since late May are close to \$6 million over and above normal police staffing costs for this time of year.

As of this week, Boston Police reported to the newspaper that police costs over and above normal costs for responding to protests since May 29 now run

at \$5,795,518.21. Much of that comes from overtime costs, and there have been some “Full Call Up” situations where all officers on the force were called to respond if protests became large enough or violence was anticipated.

That comes as there is currently a debate about the use of overtime within the Police Department, and after the Police budget was diverted within the current Fiscal Year 2021 budget to reflect calls for restructuring police response.

A City Council Ways and

Means hearing on police overtime expenditures is scheduled for July 28 at 10 a.m. under Chair Kenzie Bok and Jamaica Plain Councilor Matt O’Malley. It is likely that the costs of responding to protests this year will be included in that conversation.

Several City Councilors and some community activists were asked to respond to the expenditure with their own thoughts on it, but none who were asked gave comment except District 2 Councilor Ed Flynn.

Flynn said he believes it is

important to maintain such expenditures when people exercise their rights to free speech.

“I believe that when we have protests and demonstrations, it’s also important that we have a police presence to maintain public safety for all, including our protestors exercising their rights, our neighbors, residents, businesses and institutions - so that the city is able to respond quickly to any emergencies or incidents,” he said.

Mayor Martin Walsh did also comment on the matter, and he said spending that money was a

primary function of government – giving people their Constitutional right to peaceably voice their opinion and also making sure they were protected by police in doing so.

“Protests in Boston have been centered on the fundamental issue of racial justice, and I support the residents who have been making their voices heard peacefully throughout our City, and the public safety officials who have been protecting residents’ right to assemble and advocate for change,” he said.

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PLEASE RECYCLE

BJEP Jewish Sunday School announces new Community Director

After a nationwide search, Boston-area Jewish Education Program's (BJEP's) Board of Directors is excited to announce the appointment of Rabbi Myra Meskin as our new Community Director. In this role, Rabbi Myra will draw on her experience to strengthen our community and lead our core Brandeis student teaching team, with increased involvement and support from Brandeis students, our parent cooperative, and BJEP's community partners.

Rabbi Myra is a newly ordained rabbi by the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the American Jewish University. Myra discovered her passion for Jewish education while working at Camp Ramah in California as

a counselor, educator and unit head. After graduating with a Masters in Experiential Jewish Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary, Myra spent a year in Jerusalem studying in the Pardes Experiential Educators Program.

Rabbi Myra has served as the Assistant Director at the Brandeis Collegiate Institute, a 4-week immersive summer program for Jewish young adults, and as a spiritual counselor at Beit T'Shuvah, a residential addiction treatment center. She most recently worked as the West Coast Regional Jewish Educator for Moishe House.

Rabbi Myra plans to build on BJEP's current program,

leading our dynamic Brandeis student teachers, developing innovative programming, and keeping the all-favorite electives model. We will soon announce plans to support supplemental Hebrew learning, ramp up our B'nai Mitzvah preparation offerings, and strengthen the teen program for our Madrichim students who support our Brandeis teachers.

Board Chair Jodi Ekelchik explains, "BJEP is first and foremost a community of families who have found a welcoming and inclusive program that builds a Jewish identity for our kids. On behalf of our Board and families, we feel extremely fortunate to have Rabbi Myra as our new

community leader, and will look forward to her guiding, teaching, and inspiring our children and families in the Boston-metro area in the years to come."

About BJEP: The Boston-area Jewish Education Program (BJEP, pronounced Bee-jep), located on the campus of Brandeis University, is an independent Jewish learning community for children from Pre-K to Grade 7. Our families seek a positive experience with substantive content and culture that reflects our Jewish values, morals and social responsibility. Through community-wide events, family programs, and adult learning, our families enjoy an innovative and fun program that provides the tools needed to guide our kids and support each other, while



Rabbi Myra Meskin.

recognizing that we are part of a larger Jewish community in the Boston-area and around the globe. BJEP meets once a week on Sunday mornings.

Learn more about the Boston-area Jewish Education Program: Website: <http://bjep.org>.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

LOPEZ RECEIVES A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEGREE FROM NICHOLS COLLEGE

Nichols College graduated over 300 students this spring. Virtual celebrations were held for both undergraduate and graduate recipients on May 2, 2020 with an in person commencement ceremony promised

for a date to be determined.

Oscar Lopez, of Jamaica Plain, Mass., graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, majoring in Sports Management.

Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a

learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow's leaders. Nichols also offers master's degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today's professionals.

BARRICKLO MAKES PRESIDENT'S LIST AT SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY

Jenna Barricklo of Jamaica Plain is one of nearly 500 stu-

dents to make the President's List at Shenandoah University for the spring 2020 semester.

Students who have achieved this prestigious academic recognition attained a grade point average of at least 3.90.

Shenandoah University was established in 1875, and is headquartered in Winchester, Virginia, with additional educational sites in Clarke, Fairfax and Loudoun counties. Shenandoah is a private, nationally recognized university that blends professional career experiences with liberal education. With nearly 4,000 students in more than 200+ areas of study in seven different schools, Shenandoah

promotes a close-knit community rich in creative energy and intellectual challenge. Shenandoah students collaborate with accomplished professors who provide focused, individual attention, all the while leading several programs to be highly nationally ranked. Through innovative partnerships and programs at both the local and global level, there are exceptional opportunities for students to learn in and out of the classroom. Shenandoah empowers its students to improve the human condition and to be principled professionals and leaders wherever they go. For more information, visit su.edu.

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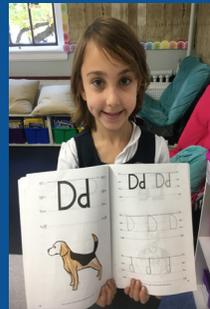
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BETTER LATE THAN NEVER! LOCAL CHURCHES HOLD FIRST COMMUNIONS



PHOTOS BY PATRICK O'CONNOR

Like most major moments that occurred last spring, First Communion were postponed this year in May, but several took place this month at local churches in Jamaica Plain. Here, the class at Our Lady of Lourdes on Montebello Road (left) is shown on July 11. Then, the class at St. Thomas Aquinas on South Street celebrated First Communion on July 18.

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Dorchester man arrested in violent struggle with police in Jamaica Plain

BY JOHN LYNDIS

A Dorchester man threw punches at police during an arrest in Jamaica Plain earlier this month and now he's behind bars.

Officers arrested Kajeem Brown, 28, of Dorchester and charged him with Larceny from a Building, Threats, Assault and Battery on a Police Officer, and Receiving Stolen Property.

The incident happened on

Thursday, July 9 when officers assigned to District E-13 in Jamaica Plain responded to a radio call for a larceny in progress in the area of Columbus Avenue. He was arraigned at West Roxbury District Court.

A description of the suspect was broadcast over the radio and an additional unit saw a male matching the suspect's description in the area of 3089 Washington Street in Jamaica Plain.

When police arrived on the scene they immediately identified the suspect from the prior larceny at 1926 Columbus Ave. The suspect was accused by a business owner of reaching over the counter and taking the tip jar.

According to BPD officers approached the male within the parking lot and were immediately met with hostility.

"The male told officers that he was going to punch them in

the face and spit on them," said the BPD in a statement. "The male repeated these statements multiple times, cursing at officers while they were attempting to ascertain what had occurred prior to their arrival."

As officers walked toward the aggressive male, he suddenly lunged forward and punched one of the officers in the face, causing injury to his right eye. A struggle ensued in which the officers' body

cameras were knocked off. The male repeatedly stated he was on probation, actively resisting while he shouted. The male was eventually taken into custody. Upon arrest, officers observed an anti-theft device placed on the waist of his shorts.

Two officers suffered injuries during this arrest, one of whom was transported to a local hospital for additional treatment.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU20P1101EA Estate of: Clara P. Sztucinski Date of Death: 04/16/2020

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Sara A.W. Blais 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 Sara A.W. Blais of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/10/2020.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration

directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 06, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

7/24/20 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU20P1129EA Estate of: Frances L. D'Amato Date of Death: 08/29/2019

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Hector J. D'Amato of Englewood, FL requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Hector J. D'Amato of Englewood, FL be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/26/2020.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without

further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 15, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

7/24/20 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU20P0582EA Estate of: George J. Keefe, Jr. Date of Death: 01/26/2011

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Kevin J. Keefe of Jamaica Plain, 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: Kevin J. Keefe of Jamaica Plain, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must

file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/1e/2020.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 08, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

7/24/20 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU20P0866EA Estate of: Jean Hess Date of Death: 03/11/2020

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Lorna Gibson of Jamaica Plain, 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

Lorna Gibson of Jamaica Plain, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection 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: July 25, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

7/24/20 JP

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, §5-304 Docket No. SU20P0914GD Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667 Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 In the matter of: Jonathan Ruiz Dominguez Of: Jamaica Plain, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Romita Dominguez of Jamaica Plain, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Jonathan Ruiz Dominguez is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Romita Dominguez of Jamaica Plain, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety 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 08/06/2020. 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 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 08, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

7/24/2020

LEGAL NOTICE

TRIAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Municipal Court West Roxbury Division 445 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 Docket No. 202006R00280 ABUSE PREVENTION ORDER (G.L. c. 209A) VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE punishable by imprisonment or fine or both.

Plaintiff's Name: Rochelle Lopes Defendant's Name: Rakeem Baker THIS COURT HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING ORDERS TO THE DEFENDANT

This order was issued without advance notice because the Court determines that there is a substantial likelihood of immediate danger of abuse. 1. YOU ARE ORDERED NOT TO ABUSE THE PLAINTIFF by harming, threatening or attempting to harm the Plaintiff physically or by placing the Plaintiff in fear of imminent serious harm, or by using force, threat or duress to make the Plaintiff engage in sexual relations. 2. YOU ARE ORDERED NOT TO CONTACT THE PLAINTIFF, in person, by telephone, in writing, electronically or otherwise, either directly or through someone else, and to stay at least 100 yards from the Plaintiff even if the Plaintiff seems to allow or request contact. The only exceptions to this order are: 1) contact is permitted in Sections 8,9,10 and 11 below; or b) by sending the Plaintiff, by mail, by sheriff or by other authorized office, copies of papers filed with the court that is required by statute or court rule. 3. YOU ARE ORDERED TO IMMEDIATELY LEAVE AND STAY AWAY FROM THE PLAINTIFF'S RESIDENCE, except by permitted in Sections 8 and 10 below, located at 84 Georgetown Drive #84, Hyde Park, MA or wherever else you may have reason to know the Plaintiff may reside. The Court also ORDERS you (a)

to surrender any keys to that residence to the Police; (b) not to damage any belongings of the Plaintiff or any other occupant, (c) not to shut off or cause to be shut off any utilities or mail delivery to the Plaintiff; and (d) not to interfere in any way with the Plaintiff's right to possess that residence, except by appropriate legal proceedings. The Court also ORDERS you to immediately leave and remain away from the entire apartment building or other multiple family dwelling in which the Plaintiff's residence is located. 6. CUSTODY OF THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN IS AWARDED TO THE PLAINTIFF: Kahmia Lopes age 1 and Rakeem Baker, Jr. age 4. 11. YOU ARE ORDERED TO COMPENSATE THE PLAINTIFF for losses suffered as a direct result of the abuse, to be paid in full. 1. An appropriate law enforcement officer shall serve upon the Defendant in hand a copy of the Complaint and a certified copy of this Order (and Summons), and make return of service to this Court. If this box is checked, the following alternative service may instead be made, but only if the officer is unable to deliver such copies in hand to the Defendant: 2. Defendant Information Form accompanies this Order. DATE OF ORDER - 6/17/20 TIME OF ORDER: 4:05 p.m. EXPIRATION DATE OF ORDER: 12/30/19 at 4 p.m. NEXT HEARING DATE: 7/1/20 - 9:00 a.m. - West Roxbury Courthouse C. MODIFICATION/EXTENSION This order was issued after a hearing at which the Plaintiff appeared and the Defendant did not participate. The Court has ORDERED that the prior order issued 6/17/20 be EXTENDED as follows: Firearm surrender order continued. The items surrendered under paragraph 12 will NOT be returned since doing so would present a likelihood of abuse to the Plaintiff. DATE OF EXTENSION: 7/1/20 AT 10:30 A.M. EXPIRATION DATE OF ORDER: 7/5/20 AT 4 P.M. NEXT HEARING DATE: 8/5/20 at 9:00 a.m. WITNESS, FIRST OR CHIEF JUSTICE Hon. Kathleen Coffey

7/24/20 JP

BUILDING A BETTER T

Green Line E branch track improvements and intersection upgrades accelerated, Prudential – Heath Street work begins Aug. 2

With the goal of expediting safety and reliability improvements through core infrastructure investments, the MBTA is reminding customers of the acceleration of essential track and intersection work on the entirety of the Green Line E Branch as part of the MBTA's \$8 billion Building a Better T program. During this accelerated work, Green Line E Branch trolleys will not operate beginning at the start of service on Sunday, August 2, through Saturday, August 29, including both weekdays and weekends. Riders are instead encouraged to utilize Route 39 bus service, which will be free for the duration of the E Branch diversion. The Route 39 mirrors E Branch service along Huntington Avenue, operating between Forest Hills and Back Bay. Free accessible shuttle buses will also supplement Route 39 service and operate between Prudential and Heath Street Stations. During this diversion in E Branch service, crews will improve accessibility and the customer experience through upgrades to grade crossings and intersections, and improve reliability and remove a longstanding speed restriction through the replacement of 2.7 miles of track.

"The E Branch work taking place during August is the equivalent of about a year's worth of weekend and evening diversions in E Branch service," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "Safety continues to be our first priority, and our shuttle plans

include measures that promote physical distancing. Face coverings are also required on shuttle buses and throughout the T system. Though we recognize that these shutdowns can be inconvenient, we appreciate our E Branch customers' patience as we complete this work at a faster pace and deliver these improvements more quickly."

Customers and the public should also note that the MBTA will hold a virtual public meeting to outline the details of this upcoming Green Line E Branch track and intersection work on tonight, June 23, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. More information about this public meeting and how to join is at mbta.com/GLE-meeting.

More Information about The Work:

This suspension in Green Line E Branch service during from Aug. 2 through Aug. 29 is part of the MBTA's \$8 billion Building a Better T program to quicken the pace of infrastructure projects in 2020 as well as the MBTA's Green Line Transformation program. Completion of this work will result in improved safety and reliability, fewer unplanned service disruptions, and improved travel times for riders. During this extended diversion in E Branch service, crews will:

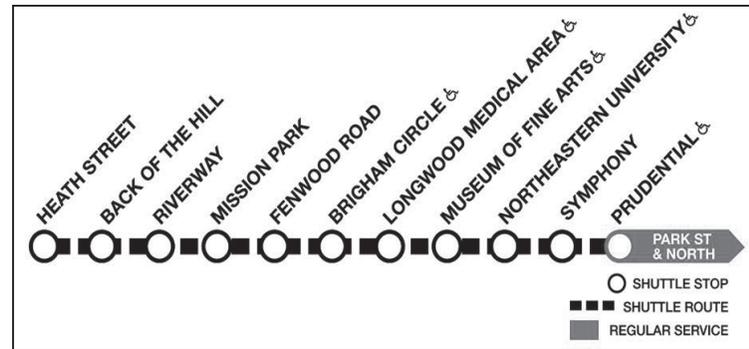
- Allow for a more reliable trip and the removal of longstanding speed restrictions through the replacement of 2.7 miles (over

14,300 feet) of track that, in some areas, is over thirty years old and has reached the end of its service life;

- Allow for improvements to safety, accessibility, and the rider experience through the restoration of six road crossings and five individual pedestrian track crossings, including the replacement of uneven pavement and the installation of accessible ramps where needed; and
- Perform additional customer improvements that include upgrades to system maps, walkways, station brightening, and yellow tactile edging at E Branch stations.

This nearly month-long closure is equivalent to about one full year of weekend and night closures on the E Branch. Though this work was previously announced and planned during the summer when ridership is historically lower, doing this work now also allows its completion at a time when ridership on the Green Line is significantly decreased due to the pandemic. The MBTA recognizes that riders do continue to take essential trips as the Commonwealth moves through its reopening plan. The MBTA's shuttle plan includes measures to promote social distancing that protect MBTA riders and workers. The MBTA will carefully monitor ridership levels on buses, adjusting service levels if needed.

Green Line E Branch Replacement Service and



Graphic of Shuttle Route during August 2-29 E Branch Diversion.

Shuttle Bus Information:

Riders are encouraged to utilize free Route 39 bus service during the month of August while this accelerated work takes place. Free, accessible shuttle buses will also supplement Route 39 service and operate between Prudential and Heath Street Stations.

Information on Previous Accelerated Work and More:

The MBTA continues to assess whether other projects can be further accelerated. Previous and current accelerated work in 2020 includes:

- Track work, harbor tunnel repairs, and additional infrastructure improvements during a fourteen-day shutdown of the Blue Line from Bowdoin to Airport in May 2020;
- Tie replacement work, concrete repairs, Quincy Adams elevator work, track replacement, and bridge inspection work during a fourteen-day shutdown of the Red Line from Braintree to Quincy Center in June 2020;
- Track and signal replacement work during two nine-day shutdowns of the Green Line D Branch from Kenmore to Riverside in June 2020;
- Infrastructure work in the area known as the Beacon Junction

during a nine-day shutdown of the C Branch from Kenmore to St. Mary's in June 2020;

- Track and intersection work during a nearly month-long shutdown of the Green Line C Branch from Kenmore to Cleveland Circle, which began July 5 and is currently taking place through August 1.

Riders are also reminded that face coverings are required while onboard any MBTA service, including shuttle buses. Additionally, in an effort to promote social distancing and protect the health and safety of MBTA riders and bus operators, ridership on shuttle buses is limited to twenty passengers.

Following track work, the MBTA typically implements speed restrictions as a safety precaution, and customers should expect these to last for several days while the T monitors the proper settlement and consolidation of new track and stone ballast. Speed restrictions are lifted once engineers have confirmed proper settlement has occurred.

For more information, please visit mbta.com/GLEwork, www.mbta.com/GLT, www.mbta.com/BBT2020, or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook / TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA.

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EDITORIAL

Change military base names immediately

If you're like us, then it truly has been a revelation in these past few weeks to learn that U.S. military installations throughout the South were named in "honor" of Confederate heroes in the Civil War.

Whenever we would hear the name, "Ft. Benning, Georgia," for example, we never gave it a second thought. However, it turns out that Henry Benning was a general in the Civil War who led a number of campaigns against the North.

In short, he sought to destroy the United States -- so how does a guy like that get a U.S. military base named after him?

Well, the short answer is that Benning was an avowed racist who wanted to destroy the Union so that the South could maintain slavery.

Here's what he said at the Secession Convention in Virginia in February, 1861: "If things are allowed to go on as they are, it is certain that slavery is to be abolished. By the time the North shall have attained the power, the black race will be in a large majority, and then we will have black governors, black legislatures, black juries, black everything. Is it to be supposed that the white race will stand for that?"

It was not a coincidence that almost all of the military bases in the South are named after Confederate war heroes who, like Benning, also were notable for the roles they played in advocating for slavery before the Civil War and for white supremacy after the Civil War, including one general who was a founder of the Ku Klux Klan.

Almost all of these military installations came into existence during WWI and WWII when the U.S. was mobilizing millions of Americans from all around the country. The naming of the bases for Confederate war heroes was a concession to southern political leaders, who wanted to send the message that although the South had lost the Civil War, their belief in white supremacy nonetheless had prevailed.

And why did the military and Northern political leaders placidly go along with such a disgraceful tactic? The short answer is that racism was (and is) endemic in our country from North to South and East to West. During both WWI and WWII, the entire U.S. military was segregated, something that did not change until 1948 when President Harry S. Truman desegregated our armed forces.

These military base names are not merely a vestige of slavery, they also represent the entire history of our country's racist past.

The sooner they go, the better.

A depressing thought – summer is half over

The summer of our discontent -- the summer that hasn't been -- is just about half over. June has come and gone and we are just past the midway point of July, which means that there are only seven weekends left until Labor Day.

The arrival of summer has been a blessing for just about all of us during this pandemic. We can go outside and enjoy the fresh air (which, by the way, has been the cleanest it has been in decades in our area thanks to the reductions of emissions from automobile, jet aircraft, and cruise ship traffic).

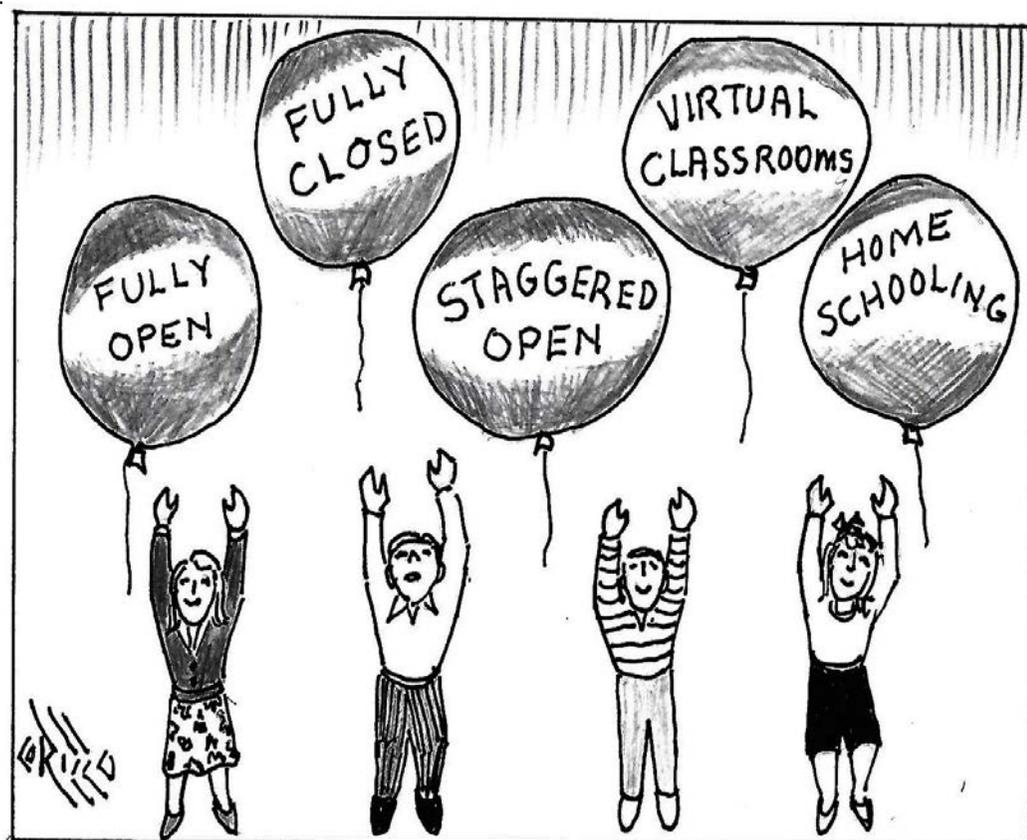
Although our gyms have been closed, we can run, walk, bicycle, and swim for exercise. Our children can go outside and be children. And for those who simply like to relax, the beaches and our boats have been a welcome respite from our months of lockdown.

But if we look beyond these next seven weeks, the future does not seem to be very pleasant.

The lockdowns and quarantines that first began in mid-March were ameliorated by the imminent arrival of spring weather. But as the weather soon begins to turn colder and stormier after Labor Day, and the days grow shorter, our outdoor activities will be limited.

The phased reopenings this summer have been difficult enough, but as the weather turns for the worse, we fear that so too, will our mental and physical health worsen. The winter of 2020-21 promises to be the most challenging of our lifetimes on many levels.

So as we enter the second half of the summer season, let's make the most of the weeks we have left -- always with masks and social distancing -- to create memories for ourselves and our children that will bolster us for the difficult days to come.



SCHOOL CHOICES ARE STILL UP IN THE AIR

OP-ED

How many friends do you have?

BY DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

How many friends do you have? Thousands? If you are on Facebook you may have close to 5000 friends and tens of thousands of more "friends" via Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat or various other social media connections. Are you really connected? Can you really call these social media friends, "friends?"

How many of these people do you talk to or have ever had a verbal conversation, in person or on the telephone? How many of them have you met or would like to meet? In most cases if your social media "friends" wanted to meet you and visit you it would scare you to death. Although, I know a little bit about most of mine and in most cases I think I would probably enjoy it. If I wouldn't enjoy it then why have that person in my circle of "friends?" The larger the number of people you have in your social media circle the less likely you are to know much if anything about them and then you have to ask yourself "why?" Most people would never have that much time

to talk on the phone with all their social media friends.

I receive friend requests everyday but seldom accept many because often they are from people who I'm clueless about. Why do I want to know what they are doing or what I'm doing if I don't even know anything at all about the person?

There is a verse from scripture that says "A friend sticks closer than a brother." Often in life you discover your friends aren't who you thought they were but often are the people you might never imagined. A true friend steps in when the others have walked away. All you need to do is fall on your face, make some mistakes in life and you'll lose the majority of your "friends." They'll disappear. The handful of people who stay with you or show up to help you will become the greatest people in your life.

I once heard someone say, "The person who loves God most is at his post when all the others have walked away." It's true with a friend. A real friend will be there regardless. How many people do you have in your life who will come to you if you are 200 miles away

and your car is broke down? Who will try to wire \$500 to you if you are in a distant town and lose your wallet?

What if your business fails, you file bankruptcy, divorce, get a terminal illness or do some stupid things in your life? You may have already found out how people shy away from you during life upheaval. Often, they don't know what to say or do and so they walk away or become distant. They aren't real friends. A real friend doesn't walk away. A real friend doesn't tell you what you want to hear but may tell you their thoughts without trying to wound you. They talk to you in love and in friendship.

How many friends do you really have?

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

OP-ED

The other public health crisis: Gun violence in Mexico

BY MARIA TERMINI

Countries around the world are wrestling with one of the worst public health crises of modern times, as the coronavirus continues on its ravaging course. Many have died, many are experiencing the painful effects of this disease, and many are living in fear. Unprecedented measures have been taken to control the spread of this virus. Yet, there is another serious public health problem, right across our border, one that cannot be ignored and continues to kill in ever-increasing numbers. This is the epidemic of gun violence in Mexico, a country which is now experiencing its highest homicide rate in record history.

Last November, I worked in a border shelter and met many Mexican families forced to leave their homes. Many had lost family members who were killed, tortured or disappeared; many had experienced death threats, rape or robbery of everything they owned. Because of a corrupt and broken justice system, the Mexican government cannot protect its citizens from organized criminal groups and even the military and the police.

All these entities are heavily armed, thanks to the weapons coming to them from the United States. The vigorous gun trade, legal and illegal, between Mexico and the U.S. is a big factor in the escalating violence that Mexico is experiencing. Mexico is the main importer of U.S. firearms.

The overall statistics of gun violence in Mexico are chilling. According to Aljazeera more than 61,000 people are known to have been forcibly disappeared in Mexico, many of them migrants. Firearms were used in more than 68,000 homicides in the last three years. In 2006, the U.S. and Mexico declared war on drugs and implemented a military aid package called Plan Merida which provided Mexico with large quantities of weapons that got into the hands of the wrong people. Having more guns than ever in Mexico has created more crime than ever. More and more guns are not the solution. In Mexico 99.3% of crimes are not investigated. Mexico is the Latin American country with the

highest impunity rate. Killers are free from sentencing and making reparations to victims.

The U.S. plays a primary role in this violence as the principal source of arms flowing legally and illegally to Mexico. U.S. Census Bureau data show that the U.S. exported more than \$33 million of firearms, ammunition and gun parts to Mexico last year, far more than to any other Latin American country. Unfortunately, this massive transfer of weapons entering Mexico has no system to effectively control and track the end users. Often these weapons wind up in the hands of police or military units that have committed gross human rights abuses or are in collusion with criminal groups.

Mexican army information indicates that more than 20,000 firearms sold to state and federal agencies in Mexico were reported as lost or stolen between 2006 and 2017. As a result of this lack of control, U.S. firearms exported to Mexico with the purpose of combating crime and establishing security do just the opposite.

Guns exported to Mexico are sold to the Mexican army, which is empowered to legally distribute them to local and state police, security companies, and private non-military individuals. The Mexican army spent more than \$1.4 billion between 2007 and 2017 for weapons, including grenades, assault rifles and bullets. The 2018 budget for the Mexican army greatly increased to \$3.6 billion. The illegal gun trade also continues to flourish from gun shops and gun shows from which it is easy to smuggle them across the border into Mexico.

Firearms from the U.S. have been used in some of the worst human rights violations in Mexico. In September of 2014, the local police in Iguala, Guerrero caused the disappearance and murder of over forty-three students from the Ayotzinapa agricultural college. The police were armed with rifles, legally supplied through licensed shipments from Colt. In the state of Veracruz, the police are responsible for at least fifteen death squad murders, using firearms exported by three U.S. arms companies: Colt, Bushmaster, and Combined Systems.

The northern Mexico state of Tamaulipas clearly shows the

deadly result of gun trafficking, militarization, impunity, and corruption. Here some 6,128 people have been forcibly disappeared. From 2010 and including 2019, more than 23,000 illegal firearms were recovered in Tamaulipas, more than in any other Mexican state. In 2018, the largest seizure of crime guns occurred as authorities recovered 220 high-powered rifles and 185,000 cartridges here. Tamaulipas is across the border from Texas and is a most active corridor of gun trafficking. Large numbers of weapons sold to the Tamaulipas police were lost or stolen. Last November, three women and six children were ambushed and shot to death along a mountain road in northwest Mexico and gun murders are on the rise in Juarez.

We must do all we can to call attention to this epidemic of gun violence in Mexico and urge Congress to reduce legal firearms exports to Mexico to levels before the war on drugs, support a federal ban on the sale of all assault weapons and high capacity magazines, and require tighter control of gun exports. Guns should not be sold to those credibly involved with human rights abuses. We must make these demands clear to our legislators. Together we can work to stop policies of warfare and violence and instead focus on development, fighting poverty, and community investment. We have clearly seen how more guns creates more deaths and suffering. We know that the war on drugs will not be won with violence. The many deaths from guns have made this clear. We can stand together for values of peace and justice in all places and oppose this gun trade which has been shown to only increase violence.

Maria Termini is an artist, author and musician who has traveled extensively in Latin America. She is a member of Massachusetts Peace Action. She can be contacted at: mariatermini2013@gmail.com

MBTA to resume fare collection on buses, trolleys and commuter rail

The MBTA has resumed fare collection on buses, on trolleys at street-level stops on the Green Line and Mattapan Line, and on the Commuter Rail beginning Monday, July 20.

Customers are encouraged to pay with a preloaded CharlieCard or CharlieTicket on buses and trolleys. Customers may also pay with cash. Commuter Rail customers are encouraged to use the mTicket app for payment or purchase the new Five-day Flex Pass on the mTicket app. The Five-day Flex Pass is a bundled fare good for any five days of travel within a thirty-day period. Fairmont Line customers also have the option to pay fares with CharlieCards at Zone 1A

stations.

On MBTA buses, to avoid overcrowding, operators have the discretion to bypass a stop. If a customer with a disability is able to be identified while waiting at a stop to be bypassed, the bus operator alerts the Control Center, will notify that individual that the stop is being passed due to crowding, and will alert the customer to the approximate time of the next available bus that can accommodate them.

For more information, please visit mbta.com/coronavirus, mass.gov/COVID19, or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, or Instagram@theMBTA.

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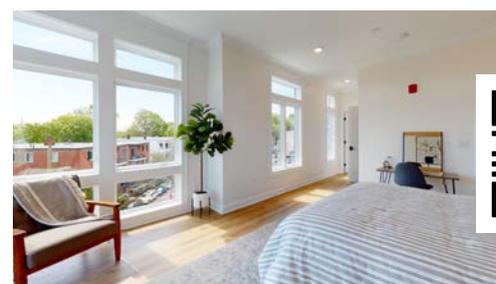
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