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VIGIL IN SUPPORT OF BLACK LIVES



The September Vigil in Support of Black Lives was held on September 3 at the First Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain. In the top photo Mary Lenihan addresses some of the more than 30 people who attended the event to show their support for social change. In the photo below left, guest speakers of the night, Toiell Washington and Hodan Hashi, two of the co-founders of Black Boston are shown with JP resident Penny Wells at the vigil. In the bottom photo right, residents hold their signs. After the speaking program concluded, people proceeded to line both sides of Centre St. in front of the Church holding their signs. Many motorists honked their horns to show their support for this movement.



Will Councilor Wu run for mayor? Walsh says 'yes'

BY SETH DANIEL

Though Councilor at-Large Michelle Wu has said nothing definitive about running for mayor, Mayor Martin Walsh has announced this week that she is running against him.

Sound a little odd?

It is.

Wu, of Roslindale, has been suspected of being a candidate for some time, along with District 4 Councilor Andrea Campbell – whom many said will also run even if Wu does run – but has not made any comments about it. Rumors last weekend indicated that Wu had phoned Mayor Walsh to tell him she was indeed going to run against him for mayor in the 2021 City Election. The Globe contacted the mayor, who oddly enough made the official announcement that his challenger would be running.

Mayor Walsh told the Globe he wasn't focused on that right now, that he was working to help



Councilor at-Large
Michelle Wu.

get Presidential Candidate Joe Biden elected this fall, to fight COVID-19 in the city, and that there would be time to talk about running for mayor next year.

In a statement on Monday shared with the media, Councilor Wu did not say she was running, but neither did she say she was

“Councilor Wu believes that in this moment of hardship in our city, each one of us should be asking ourselves how we can

Continued on page 2

District E-13 police talk August crime stats

BY LAURA PLUMMER

On Thursday, Sept. 3, District E-13 of the Boston Police Department (BPD) hosted its monthly virtual police and community relations meeting. The meeting is an opportunity for members of the

public to ask questions of local law enforcement.

At every meeting, officers provide copies of local crime statistics. One chart examines Part One crime data for the previous month. Part One crimes are those that are more serious in nature,

and don't include lesser crimes such as vandalism, drug dealing or illegal possession of firearms.

According to the summary, Part One crime is down four percent

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La policía del Distrito E-13 presenta las estadísticas de delincuencia de agosto

BY LAURA PLUMMER

El jueves 3 de septiembre, el Distrito E-13 del Departamento de Policía de Boston (BPD) organizó su reunión virtual mensual de relaciones policiales y comunitarias. La reunión es una oportunidad para que los miembros del público hagan preguntas a las autoridades locales.

En cada reunión, los oficiales comparten las estadísticas de delincuencia locales. Un cuadro

examina los datos de delitos de la Primera Parte del mes anterior. Los delitos de la Primera Parte son los más graves y no incluyen crímenes menores como el vandalismo, el tráfico de drogas o la posesión ilegal de armas.

Según el resumen, el crimen de la Primera Parte ha bajado un cuatro por ciento en la ciudad de Boston en comparación con esta época el año pasado. Jamaica

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What's in a name? Kennedy name no longer enough to best veteran politician Markey in Boston

BY SETH DANIEL

Political pundits will be scratching their heads for weeks as they analyze the numbers and trends that propelled U.S. Senator Ed Markey – once labelled dead in the water last fall – to a clock-cleaning victory over Congressman Joe Kennedy III.

That was particularly the case in Boston, and JP voters handed Markey one of his most lop-sided victories over Kennedy in all of Boston's voting neighborhoods.

In JP, Markey won all 21 precincts and beat Kennedy 11,083 to 3,271 – a landslide victory – without really campaigning that much in the neighborhood. Markey and Kennedy had made a some appearances in JP in the last few weeks, but both candidates largely hit other spots in Boston and statewide down the stretch.

Overall, Markey pulled out a big win statewide, citywide and in JP on Tuesday, Sept. 1, over Kennedy.

Kennedy kicked off his campaign more than a year ago and his star seemed to be rising without limit, and Markey had yet to even enter the race. But political contests are not sprints, but rather long-distance runs, and Markey and his Nike shoes were not to be counted out – prevailing in the long haul.

In JP, Markey claimed every precincts, most of them by several hundred votes. Some, like 10-7 at the Julia Martin House on Bickford Street were close, with Markey winning by only 27 votes – 268 to 241 – but that was as close as Kennedy got in any precinct of JP. The most lopsided victories was a 570 vote margin (748 to 178) at 10-9 in Jamaica Plain, and a 686 vote victory (833 to 147) at the Bowditch School in 19-6. The one-sided tally was likely bolstered by massive support for Markey by JP residents attached to New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, both of whom backed

Markey heavily.

Markey pulled out the statewide win with 55 percent of the vote to Kennedy's 44.6 percent of the vote. In Boston citywide, it was even more lopsided as Markey collected 59 percent of the vote (77,518) to Kennedy's 40 percent (52,485).

Markey enjoyed strong support in Boston, western Massachusetts, and also on Cape Ann. Kennedy showed strength in southeast Massachusetts and central Massachusetts – as well as in Chelsea, Revere, and Lynn.

In his concession speech on the night of Sept. 1, Kennedy said his coalition will continue.

"The Senator is a good man," he said of Markey. "You've never heard me say otherwise. I know it was difficult between us at times -- good elections get heated -- but I am grateful for our debates, for his commitment to this Commonwealth, and for the energy and enthusiasm that he brought to this race. Obviously, these results are not the ones we were

hoping for... We built a campaign for the people that our politics too often locks out and leaves behind. We built a campaign for Lawrence and Chelsea and New Bedford and Roxbury and Brockton and Springfield and Lowell and Worcester. We built a campaign for working folks -- of every color and creed -- who carry the economic injustice of this country on their backs. This campaign's coalition will endure."

• UNOPPOSED RACES

In several races locally, state leaders were unopposed, making for no high-profile local elections, but votes were cast nonetheless.

*State Rep. Nika Elugardo got 7,908 votes.

*State Sen. Sonia Chang Diaz won her unopposed race with 31,173 votes.

*Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley collected 82,581 votes in the Boston portions of her sprawling district (which also encompasses other communities north and south of the city).



U.S. Senator Ed Markey made a campaign stop in Boston with Registrar of Probate Felix Arroyo Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 26. Markey touted his long record in the House and Senate, and his experience growing up as a working class kid in Malden. Though he faced rising star Joe Kennedy III, the veteran politician scored a decisive win statewide on Tuesday, and did extremely well in JP – winning all 21 precincts very decisively.

Jamaica Plain Ward and Precinct Results:

Jamaica Plain Result:	ter, 3297 Washington St.)	Kennedy – 113
Markey – 11,083	Markey – 472	
Kennedy – 3,271	Kennedy – 110	
Ward & Precinct Results for JP:	11-7 (English High, 144 McBride St.)	19-4 (Nate Smith House, 155 Lamartine St.)
10-6 (JFK Elementary, 7 Bolster St.)	Markey – 514	Markey – 744
Markey – 261	Kennedy – 162	Kennedy – 132
Kennedy – 157	11-8 (English High, 144 McBride St.)	19-5 (Collins Apts., 29 Pond St.)
10-7 (Julia Martin House, 90 Bickford St.)	Markey – 803	Markey – 574
Markey – 268	Kennedy – 213	Kennedy – 123
Kennedy – 241	11-9 (Muniz Academy, 20 Child St.)	19-6 (Bowditch School, 82 Green St.)
10-8 (Back of the Hill Apts., 100 S. Huntington)	Markey – 473	Markey – 833
Markey – 521	Kennedy – 96	Kennedy – 147
Kennedy – 223	11-10 (Muniz Academy, 20 Child St.)	19-7 (Woodbourne Apts., 6 Southbourne Rd.)
10-9 (Curley K-8, 493 Centre St.)	Markey – 583	Markey – 656
Markey – 748	Kennedy – 86	Kennedy – 164
Kennedy – 178	19-1 (Curley K-8, 493 Centre St.)	19-8 (Muniz Academy, 20 Child St.)
11-4 (Amory St. Apts., 125 Amory St.)	Markey – 599	Markey – 398
Markey – 430	Kennedy – 103	Kennedy – 86
Kennedy – 218	19-2 (Manning Elementary, 130 Louder's Lane)	19-9 (Muniz Academy, 20 Child St.)
11-5 (Walnut Park Apts., 1990 Columbus Ave.)	Markey – 557	Markey – 384
Markey – 344	Kennedy – 229	Kennedy – 93
Kennedy – 248	19-3 (Curley K-8, 493 Centre St.)	19-12 (Woodbourne Apts., 6 Southbourne Rd.)
11-6 (Brookside Family Life Cen-	Markey – 495	Markey – 426
		Kennedy – 149

won't be any less ground breaking or inspiring."

Some years ago, JP's Maura Hennigan put her hat in the ring and ran for mayor – one of the few women to have done so aside from Louise Day Hicks and Peggy Davis Mullen. Dorchester's Charlotte Golar Richie ran in a crowded Preliminary Election in 2013, but didn't make the final election.

The mayor's race is more than a year away, but unseating an incumbent as Wu is potentially trying to do requires a great deal of time and fundraising. According to Campaign Finance Reports, Walsh has nearly \$5 million more in his campaign coffers than Wu. So, getting an early start would be critical.

There is also the potential of other candidates getting involved, such as Campbell, who some are saying will announce this fall for mayor as well. Campbell is the former Council President and represents Mattapan and part of Dorchester.

Councilor Wu did not return a request for an interview from the newspaper, but is likely to speak about her intentions in the coming weeks.

Wu

Continued from page 1

make a difference in strengthening our communities and fighting for change that matches the scale and urgency of our current challenges," said Jessicah Pierre wrote in a statement for Councilor Wu.

Meanwhile, the move by Walsh to announce his competitor's intentions is being analyzed by many in City politics. Some say it's old school Boston, hard-nosed politics, while others have said it was a betrayal of trust between two elected officials.

District 1 Councilor Lydia Edwards said it should have been left for Councilor Wu to announce, not Mayor Walsh. She said if it were announced, it would still be groundbreaking in that she would be one of only a handful of women who have officially run for mayor of Boston.

"Being able to say whether you are in or out is something that should be reserved for the candidate," said Edwards. "When or if she announces it

JP OBSERVER

Popular, much-needed housing here should not be held up

BY SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The final and most important in a series of wonderful votes occurred to benefit Jamaica Plain and the Boston area just as the covid 19 pandemic was first arriving here this spring.

At a hearing on March 10, the Boston Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) unanimously approved 202 much-needed living units—140 for formerly homeless individuals and 62 units for low and moderate income people at 3368 Washington St. near the Green Street intersection.

The development—by Pine Street Inn (PSI), the largest homeless services provider in New England, and The Community Builders (TCB), “a mission-driven real estate development corporation committed to quality, diversity and prosperity”—had overwhelming backing from residents and businesses in the neighborhood.

The positive regard for the development of the site, owned by Pine Street Inn and currently used as offices, came just in time to help one of the most vulnerable groups in our society—people without permanent, supportive housing.

“This supportive housing model has proven extremely effective,” according to Pine Street Inn’s website. Reflecting on 30 years’ experience, it goes on to say that “more than 91 percent of chronically homeless individuals placed in housing remain long-term” and “moving someone from the streets/shelter to housing saves roughly \$10,000 per person, per year in emergency healthcare, public safety and shelter costs.”

In addition to housing, 3368 Washington will continue to include offices and add community meeting space and 39 off-street below-grade parking spaces.

The ZBA vote of approval was the culmination of a year of a community process that resulted in the development team agreeing to reduce the number of units from 236 to 202 and the height of the building from six to five floors. An Impact Advisory Group (IAG) worked with them. In December, 2019 the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) voted its approval, followed by Mayor Marty Walsh

praising the development. After a unanimous vote of its Zoning Committee, the JP Neighborhood Council (JPNC) had also unanimously approved it, with no one speaking against it.

The mayor’s office and the offices of city councilors Matt O’Malley, Annissa Essaibi George and Michael Flaherty all supported the proposal at the ZBA hearing—as did the owner of neighboring BMS Paper.

Jamaica Plain and the City of Boston know a good thing when they see it. This planned development is a good idea in every sense of the word. It will be a great addition to the neighborhood.

Funders agree. Funding for the \$96 million development includes \$5 million in linkage from a development at One Congress Street, \$1.5 million from the city’s Community Preservation Act fund, debt, other city and state funds and private equity. In addition, \$5 million from Boston’s Way Home Fund of \$10 million will fund a services reserve for Pine Street Inn for residents of 3368 Washington St. that will be supplemented each year.

Groundbreaking for the sorely needed housing was and is still planned for this coming December, according to Bart Mitchell of TCB, followed by two years of construction, despite a lawsuit against the development filed in Suffolk Superior Court on May 14 by the owner of one of the buildings across the street.

Monty Gold of 3377 Washington Street LLC filed suit against the City of Boston Zoning Board of Appeal and The Community Builders. His attorney was the only person who spoke against the development at the ZBA hearing. Gold was a member of the IAG.

News of the lawsuit has brought about another outpouring of support for the development and some upset comments from the neighborhood.

In a strongly worded letter to the Editor published in the Jamaica Plain Gazette on Aug. 28, the JPNC wrote, “We hope that Mr. Gold will withdraw the lawsuit so that this desperately needed housing can be built as soon as possible. In a pandemic and an economic crisis that

has devastated communities of color and working-class communities in particular, this project can offer hope and home for our neighbors.”

“Pine Street Inn and The Community Builders are proud to have gained the support of many leaders and residents in Jamaica Plain and know how concerned they are that one party is seeking to stand in the way of the project,” the 3368 Washington St. development partners responded in a written statement. “The two organizations are in discussion to try and resolve the issues with the party who brought the lawsuit,” the statement said.

Thank goodness.

Bowditch House, which opened in 1991 with 50 units of housing for formerly homeless people, was created from a surplused historic City of Boston elementary school on Green Street in JP and has been a positive part of the neighborhood ever since.

The building at 3368 Washington will join Bowditch House and others in the Greater Boston area belonging to Pine Street Inn as permanent, supportive housing for formerly homeless people.

The specific concern expressed in Gold’s lawsuit—that parking and traffic on the street would be adversely affected by the development, and that would negatively affect his tenant, Turtle Swamp Brewing—seems to have little basis in real experience with other Pine Street Inn housing or with housing and businesses close to public transportation.

Bowditch House residents don’t have cars, and “it is highly unlikely” that any of the 140 formerly homeless residents will have a car, Lyndia Downie, executive director of Pine Street Inn, said in a written statement.

A happy Bowditch House neighbor agrees—and more. “We lived next to Pine Street Inn’s facility on Green Street for 14 years, and they have been great neighbors,” Jeffrey Jacobson wrote on Facebook in August. “Importantly, they generally don’t own cars,” he said. “The facility next to us has a tiny little parking lot they don’t even fill. Traffic won’t be a problem.” The comment drew 17 “likes.”

Fortunately, the Washington Street area where 3368 and 3377 are located are served by the #42 bus, which goes right by frequently, and Green Street Station on the Orange Line, a short walk away.

In his complaint Gold says he is “aggrieved.” Under Massachusetts zoning law, only parties that are substantially and specifically injured have standing to appeal a zoning board decision.

Gold’s complaint claims the 3368 Washington Street ZBA decision—made following lengthy review and considered approvals by other highly respected bodies—was somehow “arbitrary and capricious.” His lawsuit also says the building will be six stories tall, failing to note that the number was brought down to five well before it was approved by the ZBA.

Turtle Swamp owners made it clear on their Facebook page in August that they are not a party to their landlord’s suit, but they added that they are concerned about the possible negative impact of construction at 3368 and other major Washington Street developments planned for that area will have on their brewing

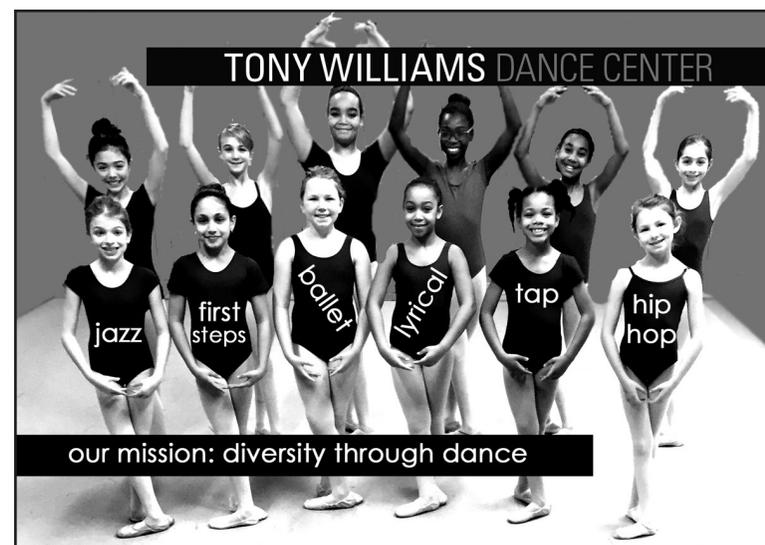
and food service enterprise at 3377 Washington St.

In an interview on Aug. 17, Bart Mitchell of TCB said the developers will be holding a community meeting soon to talk about mitigation during 3368 construction. He pointed out that, if the 3368 work schedule is not delayed by the lawsuit, the development will become an early “committed long-term stakeholder” in the neighborhood and help make sure subsequent construction projects will “get done well.”

The sooner issues are resolved and the lawsuit is taken off the table, the better for everyone, not only for formerly homeless and limited income folks, but also the surrounding neighborhood.

“Housing for vulnerable and low-income individuals and families is more critical than ever, and any project delays will have a significant impact on the lives of those who depend on this housing. We look forward to continuing to partner with our neighbors to bring this project to fruition,” the development partners’ written statement went on to say.

Continued on page 4



Our Jamaica Plain dance studio is ready to reopen. We have researched the necessary steps to offer COVID-19 safety protocols to our dance studio environment. We have reduced class sizes, added social distancing, and made some classes available online. Come back to dance with us!

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Observer

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“It made me feel so good to move in.”

That’s what Christine, a formerly homeless person, said in January, 2018 about moving into her home the Bowditch House on Green Street 10 years before. Christine is just one of hundreds of people living in Pine Street Inn housing, like the planned development at 3368 Washington Street. From the Pine Street Inn website that includes quite

a few “Stories of Hope” similar to Christine’s:

Christine has spent her entire life in Boston. She grew up in Fidelis Projects in Brighton. After graduating high school, she maintained a job in a mail room for 13 years, until she fell in with a bad crowd. Drugs took over her life and her sole focus became her next high. She lost her job and couch-surfed with friends, until she eventually ended up on the street.

“Pine Street’s Outreach team met Christine there and talked to her at length about coming in to the shelter and getting off the streets. They told her about

the Bowditch House in Jamaica Plain, where she could live if she worked to get herself sober. Finally, she said yes.

Christine came to Pine Street with nothing. She was given clothing, food and the support in getting sober. Staff connected her with a doctor to address her health issues.

“All of the staff are so supportive—they do whatever they need to do to help you,” she reflects. “If you want to go to school or work or volunteer or whatever, staff is behind you 100 percent.

As a resident at Green Street for more than 10 years now, Christine has built a network of

support. “Moving into Pine Street got me off the streets,” she said. “More than ever I have a sense of community, and I have more love for myself. It made me feel so good to move in. I finally had my feet on the ground because I could call this place home. No more drugs or running around.”

That’s the problem with lawsuits against developments for the public good like this one, as the development team pointed out. One lawsuit by one individual can do harm to many just by its existence, even if the lawsuit gets dismissed later. JP has seen this before. The longer construction has to be put off, the more

expensive construction becomes.

In this case, the lawsuit filed by just one building owner could postpone and add costs to housing designed to help hundreds of limited income people survive and thrive that is strongly supported by the community around it.

No one—hopefully, including the plaintiff—wants that to happen. It’s been said a lot, and in this case it’s certainly true: We’re all in this together.

Sandra Storey is Founder/Publisher Emerita of the Jamaica Plain Gazette

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PLEASE RECYCLE

Police

Continued from page 1

in the city of Boston compared to this time last year. Jamaica Plain is beating the citywide reduction in Part One crime. So far this year, there have been 543 reported crimes, compared to 652 last year, a decrease of 17 percent.

“Our crime is still trending downward,” Officer William Jones told the Gazette. “If we continue, we could possibly have the best

reduction in Part One crime in the last ten years.”

Crimes that saw a decrease so far this year include homicide, rape and attempted, non-domestic aggravated assault, residential and other burglary, other larceny and auto theft. Crimes that saw an uptick compared to 2019 include robbery and attempted, domestic aggravated assault, commercial burglary, and larceny from a motor vehicle.

“Some of the crimes could be possibly reflective of our societal dealings with COVID-19,” said

Officer Jones.

The decrease in residential burglaries and larcenies could be because more people are at home than last year. The reduction in nondomestic assault is possibly due to social distancing measures that keep would-be rivals from encountering each other in public.

On the other hand, the spike in thefts from vehicles may be due to people not securing their vehicles when running quick errands around town. The rise in commercial burglaries could be

because many places of business are closed. Finally, the increase in domestic assault could be linked to more couples in social isolation and dealing with economic pressures.

“More people are at home than before,” Officer Jones said. “People are stressed with job concerns.”

A second chart compared the statistics of fatal and nonfatal shootings from 2019 to 2020. Jamaica Plain saw 15 shootings so far this year, up from 14 in 2019. However, it accounted for just

7.6 percent of citywide shootings this year, down from 9.5 percent in 2019.

The police and community relations meeting is held on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 4. To join the meeting, go to meet.google.com and enter the meeting code hgf-fdqj-cui. You can also join the meeting by phone by dialing 1-720-507-3856 and entering the code 724 468 894 followed by the pound or hashtag sign.

Policía

Continued from page 1

Plain está superando la reducción de la delincuencia de Primera Parte en toda la ciudad. En lo que va del año, se han denunciado 543 delitos, en comparación con los 652 del año pasado, una disminución del 17 por ciento.

“Nuestro crimen todavía tiene una tendencia a la baja”, dijo el oficial William Jones a la Gazette. “Si continuamos, posiblemente podríamos tener la mejor reduc-

ción en el crimen de la Primera Parte en los últimos diez años”.

Los delitos que experimentaron una disminución en lo que va del año incluyen el homicidio, la violación, el asalto agravado no doméstico, el robo residencial y de otro tipo, otro hurto, y el robo de automóviles. Los delitos que experimentaron un repunte incluyen el atraco, el asalto agravado doméstico, el robo comercial, y el hurto de vehículos.

“Algunos de los delitos posiblemente reflejen nuestra situación social con COVID-19”, dijo el oficial Jones.

La disminución de robos y hurtos residencias podría deberse a que hay más personas en casa que el año pasado. La reducción del asalto no doméstico se debe posiblemente a las medidas de distanciamiento social que evitan que los posibles rivales se encuentren en público.

Por otro lado, el aumento en el hurto de vehículos puede deberse a que las personas no aseguran sus vehículos cuando van de compras en la ciudad. El aumento de los robos comerciales podría deberse a que muchos lugares de negocios están cerrados. Final-

mente, el aumento de las agresiones domésticas podría estar relacionado con más parejas en aislamiento social y enfrentando presiones económicas.

“Hay más personas en casa que antes”, dijo el oficial Jones. “La gente está estresada con preocupaciones laborales”.

Otro gráfico comparó las estadísticas de tiroteos fatales y no fatales de 2019 a 2020. Jamaica Plain registró 15 tiroteos en lo que va de año, frente a los 14 de 2019. Sin embargo, representó sólo el 7.6 por ciento de tiroteos en toda la ciudad este año, por

debajo del 9.5 por ciento en 2019.

La reunión de relaciones policiales y comunitarias se lleva a cabo el primer jueves del mes a las 6:30 pm. La próxima reunión está programada para el jueves 4 de octubre. Para unirse a la reunión, vaya a meet.google.com e ingrese el código de reunión hgf-fdqj-cui. También puede unirse a la reunión por teléfono marcando el 1-720-507-3856 e ingresando el código 724 468 894 seguido del símbolo de hashtag.

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City Council holds hearing regarding establishment of a Civilian Review Board

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The City Council Committee on Government Operations held a hearing on September 8 regarding an ordinance establishing a Civilian Review Board in the City.

Sponsored by Councilors Andrea Campbell, Ricardo Arroyo, and Julia Mejia, the ordinance calls for the creation of this kind of board to increase transparency and accountability within the Boston Police Department (BPD).

Committee Chair Councilor Lydia Edwards said that the administration wrote a letter to the committee saying that the ordinance “requires significant discussion and analysis,” and that they would be present at the hearing taking notes but would not be an active participant during the hearing, which upset some councilors.

Councilor Campbell said that “for decades,” many attempts to create a Civilian Review Board have been made but nothing has ever come to fruition.

While she applauded the work of the new Boston Police Reform Task Force, she said that the “mayor has had numerous opportunities to work with me and this body. This legislation would be a big step in the City of Boston...” She said that the proposed ordinance would establish a board to replace the existing Community Ombudsman Oversight Panel (CO-OP) “to make it stronger and more effective” and give it “independence from the Police Department.”

The City’s existing CO-OP “reviews appeals made with the Boston Police over internal investigations cases” through a group of civilians who “have experience in law and criminal justice,” according to the City’s website. But many people have expressed that they feel this panel does not go far enough in terms of efficacy and transparency in responding to complaints.

Councilor Mejia said her goal is to “focus on the process. Unless we get this right and we lead with

the people, this is just going to be another layer of government that people will fight to get attention from or just flat out ignore.”

Several panelists were invited to the hearing to provide their perspective on the situation, including Jonathan Darsche and Yojaira Alvarez of the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB).

Darsche is the CCRB’s Executive Director, and provided some insight on how this board operates with the nation’s largest police force.

He said that the CCRB has existed in New York in its current form as an independent agency in 1993, and is comprised of 15 board members appointed by different entities. “The city charter gives us our jurisdiction,” which includes investigating allegations of excessive force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, and obscene and offensive language. He said the body also has subpoena power, and receives around 5000 complaints per year.

Darsche also mentioned a Youth Advisory Council, which was established in 2018 and is a “source of insight about issues representing youth,” he said.

Yojaira Alvarez, Director of Outreach and Intergovernmental Affairs for the CCRB, added that the CCRB is the “only civilian oversight agency in the US with its own Administrative Persecution Unit (APU).”

She said there are three ways for people to report police misconduct: call the CCRB, visit its office, or file a complaint online.

After conducting a thorough investigation, there are four possible case dispositions: substantiated, unsubstantiated, unfounded, and exonerated. If a complaint is found to be substantiated, Alvarez said that discipline ranges from instructions to formalized training to command discipline to charges. “NYC is lightyears ahead of us in terms of where we should be with respect to police accountability and oversight,” said Ivan Espinoza-Madriral of Lawyers for

Civil Rights. He said that Lawyers for Civil Rights has been “fielding calls for more transparency for the CO-OP in Boston.

“I urge you to move in this direction,” he told the Council, referencing the Civilian Review Board. “We cannot wait for police officers to police themselves.”

Rep. Russell Holmes said he would like to reinforce that the CO-OP does not have “teeth.” He said “if this can be done in such a large police staff in New York... then certainly we can get it done in Boston.”

Larry Mayes, who served on the COP-OP, said that a factor of the proposed ordinance that he likes is having a clear process of when a citizen makes a complaint to coming to a resolution.

“I think that is a critical process piece that cannot be ignored,” he said. He said that in his experience on the CO-OP, it was often two years after a complaint had been filed that a person was ac-

Continued on page 7

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Hearing

Continued from page 6

tually provided with a resolution. “Memories fade on both the police side and the citizen making the complaint,” he said. The “point of complaint to when a citizen gets an answer is critical.”

He said that having a separate place to make a complaint where a person can feel safe and be heard, such as a community center or a place at City Hall, would be beneficial to the community. “The police department is not the only place to go to make a complaint,” he said.

BPD Sgt. Eddy Chrispin said that he has “heard a lot of conversation around police legislative reform, and we’re not part of the conversation.”

He said he believes it is “crucial that people have context and insight into our job and why we do the things we do,” and stressed the importance of impartiality on the Civilian Review Board. He said it is “important that we don’t allow people who have clearly expressed wide ranging dislike; disdain for police to be on this board.”

He said that as a police officer and “also as a Black man who is the father of two Black sons, I think I understand the need for reform in policing. We are very happy to be part of the conversation because...all too often not

only are we left out of the conversation as police officers but as Black men who walk through life primarily as Black men. All too often people see police officers as being anti-reform. We welcome reform, [and] want to deal with the issues that we see as problematic in policing.”

BPD officer David Hernandez said that “for generations, there has been a lot of mistrust of police in communities of color which is why we are where we are right now. We want to be part of the change...”

He said that as a person of color, “we felt voiceless as people of color inside of the department,” but he said he was grateful to be able to speak at the hearing.

“We are clearly behind the times,” he said. “I know that we have these issues.” He said that there is a concern about “officers’ due process rights and their ability to appeal the findings from the Civilian Review Board,” and doesn’t believe that police officers “should be entitled to any less due process.”

Darwin Saravia, a student in Boston, testified at the hearing and represented the youth of Boston, saying that it’s “hard to speak up when you feel like the whole world is against you. This ordinance creates opportunities for these injustices to be heard.”

Councilor Edwards finished the hearing by saying that “this is not

a question of good or bad police. This is a question of open and transparent process. For many people, the current process is not bringing that.”

She said that gaining public trust “when police officers don’t do their job” and creating a process of transparency to make sure that “the system will actually work to protect people” is her vision for the Civilian Review Board.

She said many topics discussed at this hearing will be further discussed in a working session, including subpoena powers, independent structure, independent access, disciplinary recommendations, language access, appointment powers, “constant and consistent data collection,” how much this will cost and where the money will come from, audit powers, and how to include young people who

have complaints about police conduct.

She agreed with Sgt. Chrispin that having a board of people who come from a “perspective that is not solely anti-police” will be im-

portant.

“There will be a working session that comes up and looks at these points,” Edwards said. “We are accepting testimony all the time.”

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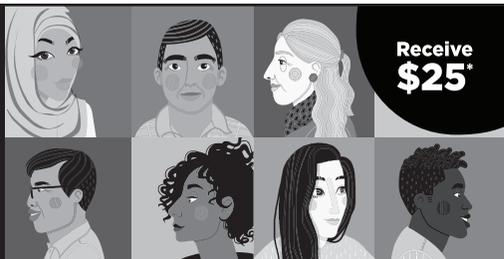
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Walsh gives COVID-19 update; addresses weekend violence

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Mayor Marty Walsh held a press conference on September

8—his first one in nearly two weeks—to update the public on COVID-19 and other happenings in the city, including the uptick

in shootings over the Labor Day weekend.

Walsh reported that as of Tuesday afternoon, there were 25 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Boston, and no new deaths have been reported for a full week, which he called “very encouraging.”

He said that testing went from about 1500 people a day to about 3000 people per day, and that much of the increase can be attributed to students coming back to campus for the fall semester.

He said that colleges and universities in the City are repeatedly testing students and monitoring the results to help prevent outbreaks of COVID-19 in the neighborhoods. He said that the City will “continue to maintain increased testing capacity” at places like community health centers and mobile testing sites across the City.

Walsh also continued to warn against large gatherings, calling them “dangerous.” He urged college students to follow the guidelines of their schools, and for households with multiple generations to be “extra cautious.”

He said that while he “understands the need to socialize,” he

stressed the importance of staying six feet away from others and wearing a face covering.

“If you’ve been to a party or gathering of any kind, I want you to assume you’ve been exposed to the virus,” he said, and to get tested. “COVID-19 is still very much with us.”

He said that the economic impacts of the virus are also still being felt by the community, and the City will continue to provide free meals to youth, families, and seniors as well as other other investments in the communities.

He said that the Boston Public Library (BPL) has “been an essential source of support for residents,” with the recent reopening of safe computer access at the Copley branch, and the BPL to go program. He said that 94,000 physical items have been reserved through the program, and around 9,400 people are making use of library services daily.

He announced that the moratorium on late fees for adult library card holders that was put in place in March has been extended through the end of the calendar year.

He also talked about the importance of responding to the US Census, as the last day to respond is September 30. He said that so far, 57 percent of Boston households have responded, which he said he attributes to the pandemic. He stressed the importance of responding, as it only takes a few minutes, and will help provide adequate funding and legislators to the City’s districts.

President Trump has cut the count short by a month, and Walsh said he has signed onto an amicus brief challenging the decision.

“It’s been estimated that for every resident who doesn’t fill out the Census, we’ll lose \$2400 in Boston in funding every year for the next ten years,” Walsh said. “Those are the resources our community needs and deserves.” To fill out the Census, visit my2020census.gov.

Walsh and Boston Police Commissioner William Gross addressed the shootings over the long weekend.

“One act of violence at any time is unacceptable,” Walsh said. “Our goal is always to get to zero.” He said that 15 mental health clinicians have been added to respond to mental health calls across the City, and that the City is “dedicated to eliminating the root cause of violence, including poverty and systemic racism.”

Commissioner Gross said that there were 12 “independent shootings” in the City over the Labor Day weekend. “At tis time, our investigating reveals that none of the 12 shootings are connected art this time,” he said. He said that they have seen the “Same repeat violent offenders committing the crimes” in recent months.

“These individuals causing violence in our neighborhoods should be locked up,” he said. He also said that the courts should open back up, even if virtually. “That’s why you have two shootings within three days—it’s the same individuals. There has to be some accountability,” he said.

Walsh said that there has been an uptick in shootings and homicides this year, and that he wants to send the message that “if you do something bad in the city you will be brought to court and prosecuted by the appropriate authorities.”

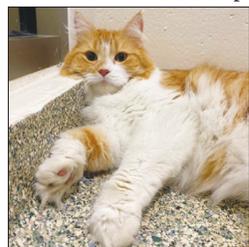
Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



MAX

Max is an affectionate, laid-back dude looking for a special home! This handsome, 3-year-old tabby loves people and could live with older kids and potentially a cat-savvy dog or cat. While he’s a pretty easy-going guy, Max has a history of FLUTD. FLUTD stands for “feline lower urinary tract disease” and can cause issues with a cat’s bladder and urethra. The scary part of this condition is that it can prevent cats from being able to pee, which is potentially life-threatening and requires medical intervention. It’s going to be very important that Max’s adopter closely monitors his water intake and litter box use, and have a close relationship with a vet. Max is on a special food to keep things running smoothly.

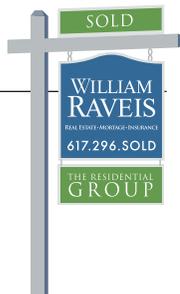


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Baker, MBTA celebrate completed Green Line work on E branch and others

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Governor Baker, along with MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak and Massachusetts Department of Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollack announced on September 1 the completion of 28 days of accelerated work on the E branch of the Green Line.

The work is part of the MBTA's \$8 billion capital investment to "build a better T," Poftak said, and also thanked the Fenway Alliance for their work on this project.

The plan was intended to "quicken the pace of the work on the MBTA," he said, and also took advantage of lower ridership due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The acceleration of work allowed the MBTA to avoid a year's worth of weekend and nighttime shutdowns in service to complete the work.

In August, the E branch of the Green Line was replaced with shuttle buses for 28 days, and service was increased on the 39 bus

to allow the work to be completed faster, he said.

The work consisted of the replacement of more than three miles of track that was over 30 years old and "at the end of its service life," Poftak said. Additionally, seven road crossings and five individual pedestrian track crossings were upgraded, and station improvements, such as power washing and vegetation management, were made to E branch stops. Work was also completed on the C branch, as well as two nine day diversions on the D branch, he said.

Governor Charlie Baker gave his press conference from the Museum of Fine Arts stop on the E branch, where he got to see upgrades made to the station.

"These upgrades replace thousands of feet of track, upgraded intersections, and removed thousands of feet of what we call slow zones," Baker said. He said that the shutdowns have saved the

MBTA 30 percent on construction costs compared to having to set up and break down of night and weekend work.

"That means these improvements will give green line riders faster and more reliable service," Baker said. "By shutting down parts of the system for longer periods, the T obviously has the ability to stage differently and make progress much more quickly."

He said the work was done at a time before students returned to the city, which he said "dramatically enhances the quality of work done and limits the impact and disruption. The transportation landscape obviously looks a lot different than it did in March, but we're still committed to improving the core infrastructure of the T to make the system more reliable and safer," he said.

Baker said that the five year, \$8 billion capital investment plan includes a "record level of spending and updates" for the T system.

"The T and its team have continued to work enormously hard through this whole period beginning in March to make sure they were there to serve the riders who rely on the system," Baker said. "They dramatically enhanced their cleaning protocols, created a new rider safe program campaign, and continue, day after day, to make sure people have the system they need to take them where they need to go."

Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollack said that these improvements, among others, will "dig the T out of its maintenance and backlog" and that the "MBTA has transformed itself into an agency that is capable of delivering."

This work has minimized passenger disruption and managed closures of weekday service, she said.

"After we experienced the damage to the Red Line, we owed our passengers and the people of

Massachusetts a faster and more efficient plan for fixing the T," she said.

Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) director Matthew Teitelbaum said that the museum has been in its current location since 1909.

"The T has gone in front of us for more than 80 years," he said. "We have been connected all that time. We are a public institution serving the public; the T is a public amenity serving the public. We both do more than that—we create community through connectedness."

Teitelbaum said he looks forward to the reopening of the museum in the near future and having museum staff use the T to return to work.

"In our root cause, we do what all great public institutions must do, and that is create community, connectedness, and make people feel as though they belong together regardless of their background," Teitelbaum said.

COVID-19 updates for Jamaica Plain

BY JOHN LYNDIS

Jamaica Plain saw a six percent increase in the COVID-19 infection rate in the past two weeks but is still below the citywide average.

According to Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) data released last Friday, Jamaica Plain's infection rate went from 186 cases per 10,000 residents to 197 cases per 10,000 residents. Two weeks ago Jamaica Plain reported an infection rate increase of only 2 percent in the final weeks of August.

However, Jamaica Plain remains several points under the citywide infection rate average which is now at 231.5.

Forty-five more Jamaica Plain residents became infected with COVID-19 in the past two weeks and the number of total cases here went from 751 cases two weeks ago to 796 cases last week. Previous data two weeks ago showed just 15 new infections

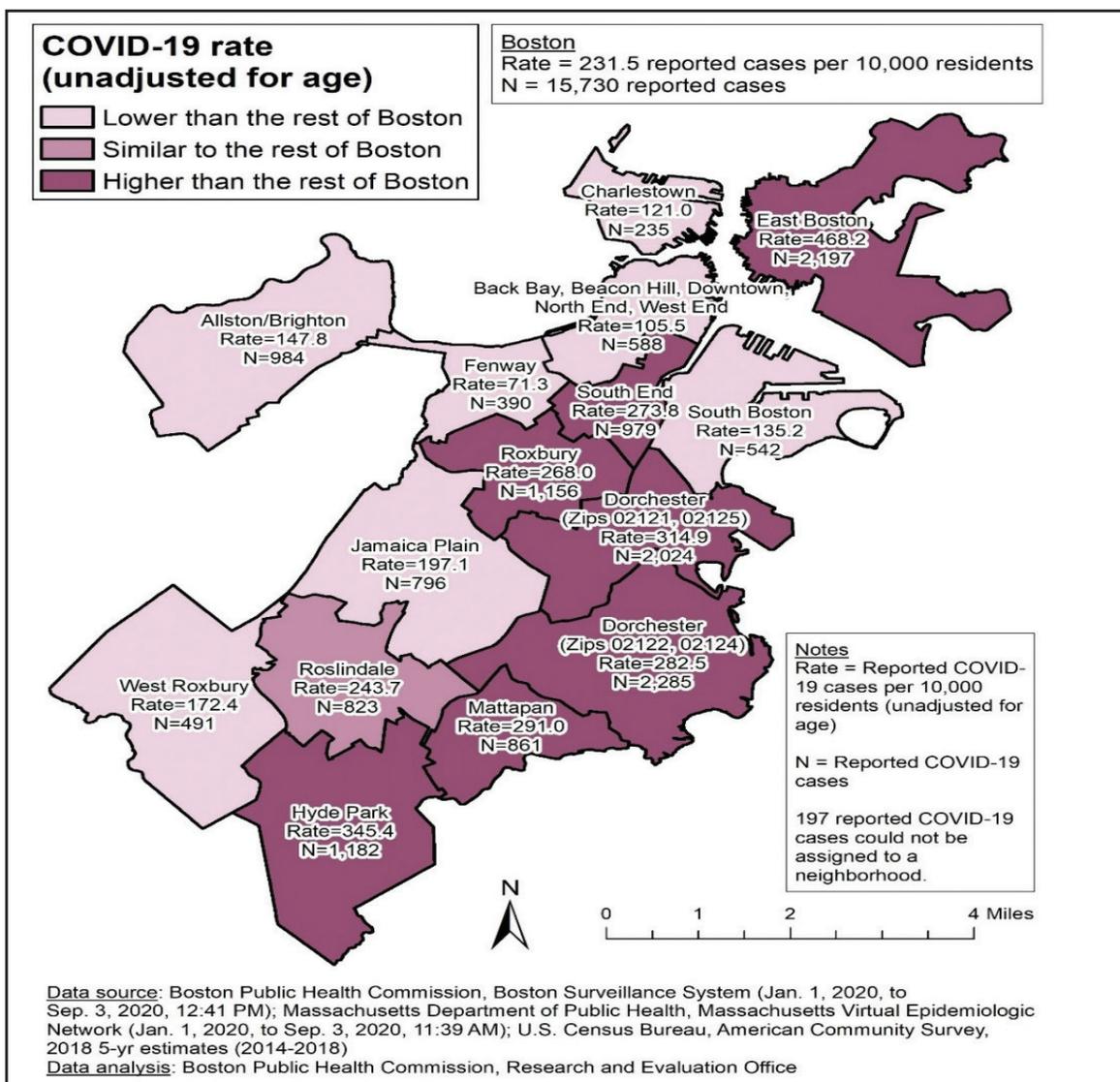
over a two week period.

Those testing positive for the virus in Jamaica Plains also decreased last week.

Of the 14,373 Jamaica Plain residents tested 2.6 percent were found to be COVID positive, up from the 0.6 percent reported two weeks ago. Since testing began in the neighborhood 5.8 percent of Jamaica Plain residents have been found to be COVID positive. This number has crept above the citywide positive test average of 1.7 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 2.4 percent last week from 15,625 cases to 16,001 cases. So far 12,431 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus and the deaths from COVID remain at 754.



On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



Youngsters who received the Sacrament of Confirmation get together for a group photo on Saturday, August 29 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church at 97 South St, Jamaica Plain. Rev. Brian McHugh, pastor in Somerville presided at the ceremony.

Boston Public Library extends moratorium on late fines

The Boston Public Library announced that it is extending its moratorium on assessing late fines through the end of the year. BPL instituted the moratorium in March in the wake of the pandemic, originally planning to reinstate fines in September, but has decided to continue the practice in the coming months. This extension applies to all adult library card holders at all BPL branches. Patrons across the library system under the age of 18 are already exempt from late fines.

“The Boston Public Library has been an essential source of support for our residents, and has worked hard throughout this pandemic to ensure residents have access to the services they need,” said Mayor Martin J. Walsh. “Thank you to the Boston Public Library for extending the moratorium on late fines for borrowed items to

ensure patrons can continue to safely access materials.”

“The Boston Public Library believes that, as the pandemic and its economic impacts continue, halting fines offers patrons maximum flexibility, supports safe behavior, and removes additional barriers to our collections at a time when access to free resources is more important than ever,” said BPL President David Leonard. “We are dedicating ourselves anew to delivering digital services and providing physical access for our patrons; knowledge, information and resources should be free to all, and free of barriers to equitable access.”

Since the pandemic began, BPL has been committed to providing patrons accessible, equitable services, both digitally and physically. On the digital side, BPL recently announced two

new initiatives: The Outdoor Wi-Fi program, which offers 24-hour outdoor internet access at nine branch locations across the city; and The Public Computer Access programs, which allows patrons to use Library computers in a socially distanced space within the Central Library in Copley Square.

Physically, the library has rolled out the BPL To Go program to all BPL locations not under construction, allowing patrons to place holds, check out, and return books, CDs, and DVDs. Since launching the BPL To Go program in June, over 94,000 holds have been placed on physical items, and over 131,200 items have been circulated, including audiobooks and e-books. Since March, roughly 9,400 patrons are using library services each day.

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Guide to Jamaica Plain

SPECIAL SECTION OF THE JAMAICA PLAIN GAZETTE

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6 PAGES

What Makes JP Unique

JP boasts a diverse population of about 38,000, according to the last census: 54 percent white; 25 percent Hispanic/Latino; 13 percent African-American; and 4 percent Asian. JP has a large gay and lesbian population and

is home to several prominent LGBT rights activists.

Once called “The Eden of America” by a visitor, according to an 1800s chronicle, Jamaica Plain is nearly surrounded on the west, south and east sides by

green space: Arnold Arboretum, Forest Hills Cemetery, Franklin Park, Jamaica Pond Park and Olmsted Park.

While boasting a wide array of businesses, JP is especially known across the city for its variety of prominent restaurants. Bella Luna on Amory Street, El Oriental de Cuba in Hyde Square, Star Fish Market in Eggleston Square and Ten Tables in central JP are just a few of the longtime landmark dining spots.

JP has a rich arts and cultural scene that includes such major annual festivals as Wake Up the Earth, the Jamaica Plain Music Festival and the Jamaica Pond Lantern Parade.

JP has housing stock as diverse as the population, with

three-deckers, ranch houses, Victorians, colonials, Capes, condos and more.

JP has a rich history and several historic landmarks, with many from Colonial times clustered around the Civil War Soldier’s Monument where South and Centre streets intersect.

JP is home to Boston’s Latin Quarter, centered in Hyde/Jackson Squares.

JP is the base for a phenomenal number of nonprofit organizations—more than 250.

JP has been the subject of several books, including: “A Home in the Heart of a City” by JP resident Kathleen Hirsch; “Local Attachments” by Alexander von Hoffman; and “Images of America: Jamaica Plain” and “Jamaica

Plain: Then & Now” by Anthony Mitchell Sammarco. It also recently served as the setting for the hard-boiled crime novel “Jamaica Plain” by Colin Campbell.

The phone numbers of many longtime JP businesses and residents—including the Gazette—begin with “522” or “524.” The “52” comes from the letters “JA” on the telephone dial, which is short for “Jamaica.” In the early days of telephones, cities and neighborhoods had phone numbers that began with an abbreviation of the place name. Decades ago, people calling here would tell an operator, for example: “Jamaica 4-2626.”

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A brief history of JP

Once referred to as “the Eden of America,” Jamaica Plain is a unique section of the City of Boston. It was part of the Town of Roxbury until 1848. It was then part of West Roxbury, until it finally became Jamaica Plain.

Legend has it that the name Jamaica Plain came from the fondness of the residents for Jamaica rum and that they preferred it “plain.” More likely, the neighborhood got its name from Kutchamaiken, chief of an Indian tribe at Jamaica Pond more than two centuries ago.

Jamaica Pond, the only extensive natural body of fresh water in Boston, covers an area of nearly 70 acres and is as deep as 70 feet. Until the introduction of Cochituate reservoir water into Boston in 1848, the pond

supplied the city with water by an underground aqueduct.

During the 19th century, the population increased rapidly. As breweries and factories located here, the fine estates, lush gardens and farms of the original well-to-do residents gave way to more modest and affordable houses. The growth and crowding of the city led to the expansion of the livable Boston neighborhood of Jamaica Plain.

For more information and publications about Jamaica Plain history, as well as membership information, see the Jamaica Plain Historical Society website at jphs.org.

Gazette Staff

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JP is Green

Though Jamaica Plain is part of the city of Boston, the parks, urban wilds, playgrounds and community gardens, many supported by the city and state, allow an escape from an overdose of urban life. JP is bordered on three sides by green space, including several jewels of the Emerald Necklace, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. With hundreds of acres of parks, squares and gardens, JP has plenty of places to spend the day. Here are some favorites:

Arnold Arboretum at 225 Arborway: This beautifully landscaped, 265-acre botanical garden contains over 14,000 woody plants, flowers and trees. The Arboretum is now a national historic landmark administered by Harvard University and the Boston Parks Department. It is free and open to the public. The Arboretum offers classes, exhibits, walks and other activities. Info: 617-524-1718 or arboretum.harvard.edu.

Boston Nature Center, owned and managed by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, is at 500 Walk Hill St., on the JP/Mattapan/Roslindale border. The 67 acres of the former Boston State Hospital Property have been converted into a wildlife sanctuary

and outdoor classroom. The site features 30 acres of freshwater wetlands, the largest community gardens in Boston, and such wildlife as red-tailed hawks, deer, pheasants and wild turkeys. Low-cost environmental and science programs are offered year-round for adults, children and families. More than two miles of trails and boardwalks. Info: 617-983-8500 or massaudubon.org.

Jamaica Pond Park lies between Perkins Street, Park Drive and Prince Street along the Jamaica way. This natural "kettle hole" pond once hosted a reservoir and commercial ice-cutting, and its banks held the country estates of prominent Bostonians. Today this is one of Boston's most popular parks for strolling, running, biking and to see and be seen. Rowboats and sailboats are available to rent at the boathouse in season.

Forest Hills Cemetery at 95 Forest Hills Ave. is considered to be one of the most beautiful spots in Boston, with sculpture by famous artists. It was designed after a European burial park, with an artificial lake. Interesting and famous people laid to rest there include Boston Celtics star Reggie

Lewis, poet E.E. Cummings, abolitionists and some Massachusetts governors. Tours are sponsored by the Forest Hills Educational Trust. Info: 617-524-0128 or foresthillscemetery.com.

Franklin Park and Zoo. The park extends south from Seaver and Walnut Streets to Forest Hills and is the largest gem in the Emerald Necklace. The 527-acre park offers hiking, picnicking and an 18-hole public golf course. Info: Franklin Park Zoo, 617-541-5466 or zoonewengland.org; Franklin Park Coalition, 617-442-4141 or franklinparkcoalition.org.

Olmsted Park extends along the Jamaica way between Huntington Avenue and Perkins Street. It includes Leverett Pond and Daisy Field. It is also a part of the Emerald Necklace.

Southwest Corridor Park is a linear park from downtown Boston to Forest Hills running alongside the MBTA's Orange Line. Twenty-seven out of the 52 acres that make up this park are found in Jamaica Plain. There are basketball courts, bike paths, tennis courts and tot lots. The temporary home of Kelly ice skating rink is near Stony Brook T Station.

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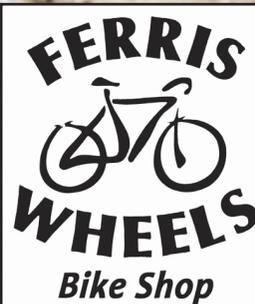
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Over a dozen Jamaica Plain organizations receives Art and Culture Grant

By JOHN LYNDS

Last week, Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture announced that 17 Jamaica Plain organizations were among the 146 local arts and cultural organizations to receive grant money as part of the Arts and Culture COVID-19 Fund.

The Jamaica Plain nonprofits will share in \$815,000 in grant money from the City of Boston's CARES Act funding. The CARES Act funding was established earlier this summer to support small and mid-sized arts and culture nonprofits in adapting their programs, spaces, and operating models as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In Jamaica Plain Chameleon Arts Ensemble of Boston; America Scores New England; Trustees of Eliot School; Shef-

field Chamber Players; JazzBoston; Non-Event; Boston Opera Collaborative; A Far Cry, Inc.; Girls Rock Campaign Boston; BalletRox; Jamaica Plain Arts Council; Balagan Films, Inc.; The Footlight Club; Boston Cyberarts; Boston Theater Company, Inc.; Rehearsal for Life; and City Ballet of Boston all received the grant.

"Supporting the organizations that bring transformative arts programming to every neighborhood in our city is imperative during this unprecedented time," said Mayor Walsh. "These organizations have put a tremendous amount of effort into making sure Bostonians can still participate in the arts and express themselves creatively, and it's important that we do what we can to ensure they remain a part of Boston's arts community in the future."

Like many community programs, the COVID-19 pandemic has halted many in-person programs and forced organizations like the Jamaica Plain Arts Council, the Footlight Club and the other neighborhood organizations listed to adapt and change how they operate. Some have been forced to close and ride out the pandemic but need extra financial support until they reopen.

For example the Jamaica Plain Arts Council was forced to cancel their signature event, the Open Studios 2020, due to public safety concerns during this continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

"We will continue to meet virtually and discuss possibilities to safely share the creativity, vibrancy and artistry in our community," they said in a statement. "We celebrate the strength and scope of this creative energy. It is what inspires and fuels us to make Jamaica Plain Open Studios the annual celebration of art for the past 27 years."

The Jamaica Plain Arts Council hopes to hold the cancelled event next year on September 25th-26th, 2021.

Over at the Footlight Club, America's oldest community theater and has produced performances every year since 1877, the Board of Directors decided to suspend all activity in the building until further notice.

"We are committed to the health and safety of our audiences, artists, volunteers, rental clients, and neighbors and feel that taking this proactive measure is the most responsible thing to do based on recommendations from the CDC and government," said said President Amanda Bedford back in mid-June. "We are not accepting any rentals at least through the end of the calendar year due to upcoming construction of our accessibility project. We hope that you stay well; take care of yourself and your loved ones, and we will see you at Eliot Hall again soon."

The City's Chief of Arts and

Culture Kara Elliott-Ortega said COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the arts and culture sector, particularly performing arts organizations. As organizations and cultural facilities begin reopening, the Arts and Culture COVID-19 Fund aims to mitigate costs for finding new safe spaces for performance and rehearsal, adapting existing facilities to comply with public health standards, developing new capacities in streaming and virtual engagement, addressing issues of equitable access on digital programs, retraining staff, and other costs associated with physically distanced program delivery.

"Providing ongoing support to Boston's arts organizations is critical during this time," said Elliott-Ortega. "We hope this will encourage Boston residents to do what they can to make sure these organizations are able to continue providing valuable programming to our communities in the future."



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Jamaica Plain's Curtis Hall Pool reopens for lap swimming

By JOHN LYNDS

The COVID-19 pandemic forced all of BCYF's indoor pools to close while the city's outdoor pools provided some cooling off for residents throughout the summer because the spread of the virus was less likely in sunny outdoor situations.

However, with summer drawing to a close, fall weather on its way and the city's outdoor pools closed for the season the city has decided to reopen the Curtis Hall Pool in Jamaica Plain and three other pools in Boston so residents can enjoy lap swimming.

The Curtis Hall Pool at 20 South St reopened on Sept. 2 and will remain open unless there's a spike in virus numbers from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"As we head towards the end of summer, I am pleased we are able to open up indoor swimming options for our residents," said Mayor Walsh. "BCYF has spent a lot of time making sure that safety protocols are in place so that we can open these additional recreational facilities within the current COVID-19 guide-

lines. I encourage residents to take advantage of these options and continue to take all the precautions: wearing face coverings when out, keeping your distance from others, and washing your hands."

As of now, the Curtis Hall pool will offer only lap swim to the public. Additional aquatics programming will be added as it's finalized.

The Mayor said due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, there are several new protocols in place at all BCYF pools.

Visitors must register for a swim time slot at Boston.gov/BCYF-registration as walk-ins will not be allowed. Pool capacity has been reduced to one swimmer per lane for lap swim and roughly 10 percent capacity for youth programming.

Registration will go live 24 hours before the following day's sessions and will remain open until all spots are taken or until the session begins, whichever comes first.

Lap swim sessions of 45 minutes each and sessions where youth can register for various aquatics programming will be

offered.

When registering for a session, visitors will be asked COVID-19 screening questions. The screening questions will be asked again when checking to the pool for the registered session.

Cleaning and disinfecting will occur at opening and closing and between each swim session.

Visitors must come dressed to swim as locker rooms/changing areas will be closed. Restrooms (if access is required) can be accessed through a locker room, but visitors cannot use the lockers or changing area.

Face coverings (covering the nose and mouth) must be worn at all times when not in the water.

Swimming lessons, which would require close physical contact, will not be offered.

Social distancing of at least 6 feet is required for all individuals outside of a household group and applies to deck areas, bathrooms, wading areas, the water, and the pool deck.

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Three children under 12 are allowed per adult.

MassDevelopment awards commonwealth places grant to Egleston Square Main Street

STAFF REPORT

MassDevelopment has awarded a \$10,000 Commonwealth Places COVID-19 Response Round: Resurgent Places grant to Egleston Square Main Street for Neighborhood Outdoor Dining + Cultural Commons in the Egleston Square Peace Garden, an outdoor dining project at a community-maintained pocket park in Boston's Jamaica Plain and Roxbury neighborhoods.

The organization will use funds to buy and install weather-resistant picnic seating at the park, as well as domino tables, temporary art installations, COVID-19 spacing controls, barriers, and markers, hand washing and sanitation stations, planters and decorative plantings, and lighting. The organization will also use funds to repair various elements of the park, and will engage youth workers, neighborhood artists, and area small businesses to play a role in maintaining and activating the space. Egleston Square Main Street will also launch a crowdfunding campaign; if the organization reaches its \$5,000 goal, it will receive an additional matching grant from MassDevel-

opment. The grant was awarded through MassDevelopment's special Commonwealth Places COVID-19 Response Round: Resurgent Places, which was made available specifically to assist local economic recovery efforts as community partners prepare public spaces and commercial districts to serve residents and visitors.

"MassDevelopment's Commonwealth Places program is a resource to help communities implement placemaking projects that improve public spaces, create foot traffic, and stimulate economic activity," said MassDevelopment President and CEO Lauren Liss. "During this challenging economic climate, we're pleased to help Egleston Square Main Street activate its local pocket park and draw residents

and visitors to this corner of Boston's Jamaica Plain and Roxbury neighborhoods."

Created in 2016, Commonwealth Places aims to engage and mobilize community members to make individual contributions for placemaking projects, with the incentive of a funding match from MassDevelopment if the crowdfunding goal is reached. In June 2020, MassDevelopment announced the availability of \$225,000 in funding for the Commonwealth Places COVID-19 Response Round: Resurgent Places. For this round, nonprofits and other community groups could apply to MassDevelopment for grants of up to \$25,000. Up to \$10,000 per project could be awarded as an unmatched grant; awards greater than \$10,000 must be matched

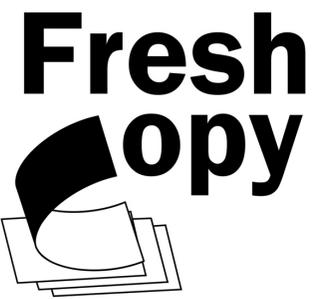
with crowdfunding donations. All grantees and projects will be required to follow the mandatory safety standards and protocols of the Commonwealth's Reopening Massachusetts plan.

MassDevelopment, the state's finance and development agency, works with businesses, nonprofits, banks, and communities

to stimulate economic growth. During FY2019, MassDevelopment financed or managed 316 projects generating investment of more than \$2 billion in the Massachusetts economy. These projects are estimated to create or support 9,743 jobs and build or preserve 1,992 housing units.



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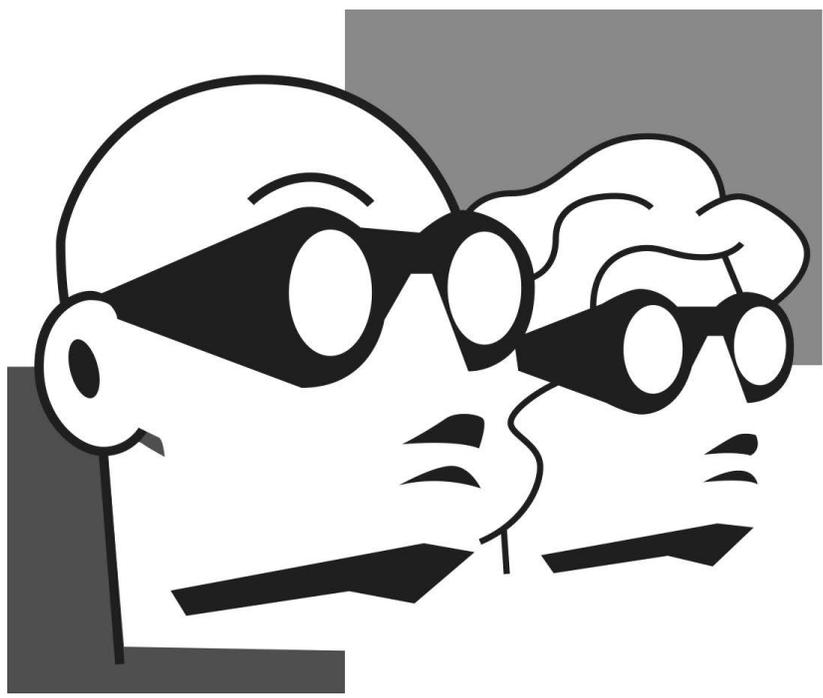
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Best of JP 2020 Winners

The following are the “Best of JP 2019” as chosen by Gazette readers. In the 19th annual Best of JP survey, hundreds of ballots were submitted containing thousands of votes.

BEST PLACE TO...

Enjoy the Outdoors
Arnold Arboretum

Work
Mount Pleasant Home

Enjoy Live Entertainment
Midway Cafe

See Art
JP Open Studios

CONSUMER FAVORITES

Friendliest Business
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Breakfast
Evergreen Eatery

Lunch
Little Dipper

Dinner
Vee Vee

Latin American Food
Chilacates

Asian Food
JP Seafood

Bakery
**TIE - Fiore's Bakery,
Blue Frog Bakery**

Pub/Bar
Galway House

Pizza
Same Old Place

Cup of Coffee
**TIE - Ula' Cafe,
Dunkin' Donuts,
7 Pound Coffee Bar**

Retail Store
On Centre

Convenience Store
7-Eleven

Personal Service
**TIE - We are Hair,
station8salon**

Real Estate Service
Focus Real Estate

Bank
Eastern Bank

Professional Service
**Brookside Community
Health Center**

Home Service
Ace Hardware

Auto Shop
West Cork Auto

BEST AREA BUSINESSES

South Street
Happy Market

Egleston Square
**TIE - Star Fish Market,
Pikalo,
Video Underground**

Hyde/Jackson Squares
Blue Nile

Centre Street
City Feed

Forest Hills
Brassica Kitchen and Café

Washington Street
Turtle Swamp Brewery

THE REST OF THE BEST

Community Event
Wake Up the Earth Festival

Playground
Jefferson Park

Mural
Purple Cactus building

Children's Activity
**TIE - JP Library,
Commonwealth
Circus Center**

Health Service
**Brookside Community
Health Center**

Local School
Mary E. Curley School

*Neighborhood
association/group*
**TIE - Hyde Square
Task Force,
Friends of Jamaica Pond**

Nonprofit agency
TIE - JPNDC, 826 Boston

Gay/Lesbian Hang-out
Midway Cafe

Storefront
Boomerangs

Government Service
U.S. Postal Service

Environmental group
Bikes not Bombs

JPNC approves body piercing and tattoo studios; 34-36 Rossmore Rd. project

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) Zoning Committee met on September 2, where three different projects in the neighborhood were approved: a proposal for a body studio at 387-399 Centre St, a tattoo studio at 68 South St., and the construction of two new three-family residences at 34-36 Rossmore Rd.

387-399 CENTRE ST.

Proponents from Rockstar Body Piercing proposed to convert the existing beauty salon at 387-399 Centre St. into a body piercing studio. Attorney Mike Ross said that the owners of Rockstar Body Piercing have been operating a studio in Providence, RI since 2002. He said that this proposal is “consistent” with existing body art and tattoo shops open in the city, and that Jamaica Plain currently does not have a body piercing shop.

The shop will create around 10 jobs for the neighborhood, and the owners will upgrade the storefront and remove the existing metal grates, Ross said.

This project has come before the Committee before, but they were told to come back after working out legal issues between the landlord and the owners of the beauty salon and the body piercing studio.

Ross said that there continues to be ongoing legal issues.

JP resident Adiely Rashell, daughter of the owner at 397 Centre St., said there has been less business recently due to COVID-19, and “there has not been a date set to move out from that place,” she said.

She said that the owner has a family to provide for, so “that is something to keep in mind as well.” She said she wants to see the beauty salon remain where it is. “I do not want this business to come into place,” she said of the body piercing studio.

“This is not the job of this Committee to settle the existing dispute between the existing tenant and the landlord,” Committee member Jerry O’Connor said. “This is not a vote on whether the hair salon should stay,” added Committee member Peg Preble, and O’Connor said that “this is not a vote against the hair salon.”

Committee Chair Dave Baron said that he would like to “ex-

press no opinion on the current dispute.”

Some people had questions about the proposed space for the body piercing studio. Committee member Kyle Smith asked if there was any security for the sale of precious metals.

“I want to use the term precious metals loosely,” Ross said, as there is some higher end jewelry available but “we’re not stocked with diamonds,” said owner Rob Murphy. There will be video cameras and alarms on the premises, and the store will be designed in such a way that it fits in with the rest of the neighborhood, he added, which includes no use of neon signage in the windows.

After further discussion, the Committee recommended approval of the body piercing studio with the proviso that the approval is limited to this application only.

68 SOUTH ST.

A tattoo studio was proposed by Gabrielle and Chirstina Hahn for the space at 68 South St., next door to McCormack and Scanlan Real Estate.

The space is currently vacant, the proponents said, and the studio will be set up with individual rooms using office cubicle sliding glass doors, they said.

Christina said that a “big advantage” of this location is that it is on a bus line, so people could easily access it.

Neighbor Sara Wemiel, who said she lives behind the building, said she has concerns with sound coming from the building. She said that the realty company has air conditioners on the roof that they turn off at night, so she wanted to make sure that no extra noise would come from having the tattoo studio there as well.

Christina said that the studio would share an HVAC system with McCormack and Scanlan, and “currently, noise from that system would not change significantly.” The space would also share a bathroom with McCormack and Scanlan, she said.

She said that the projected hours for the beginning of operation would be from 10am to 6pm Tuesday through Saturday, and after that they anticipate being open seven days a week.

“We don’t anticipate bringing any additional noise or crowds or creating any disruptive en-

vironments,” she said. The “motivation for opening a shop is to create a really mellow environment where we can kind of exist. [We’re] looking for a relaxing, chill space to work in,” she said.

Resident Starr Wilson said she had a tattoo done by Gabrielle, and said that she was “very professional,” and there was not group gathering at the location where she went. She also pointed out that people will be able to park their cars at the Forest Hills T stop and take the 39 bus right to the studio so there wouldn’t be a need to worry about parking.

The Committee voted to approve this application for this petitioner only.

36-36 ROSSMORE RD.

At 34-36 Rossmore Rd. Developer Liam Lydon and architect Elaine Scales proposed the demolition of the existing building at 34 Rossmore Rd., and the construction of two new three family

residences, one at 34 Rossmore and one on the adjacent lot at 36 Rossmore.

Lydon said that he and Scales had “quite a few meetings with the [Stonybrook Neighborhood Association] (SNA),” and “had a pretty good rapport with them and came up to a pretty good result.”

They received a “fairly supportive letter” from the SNA, and made changes like pushing the building back from the sidewalk, covered the front porch on the third floor, and reduced the parking from six spaces to four to increase the floor space in the area, Lydon said. They are also going to try to save some of the existing trees as well as plant others that will eventually replace the tree canopy in the area. Two abutters also requested fences, Lydon said.

Sue Cibulsky, chair of the subcommittee on this project for the SNA, said that “we worked for

several weeks with Liam and Elaine,” and worked on solutions to problems the committee had. She added that the sidewalk around the entire project will be improved by the proponents.

Committee member Kendra Halliwell said that whole “the buildings are beautiful,” she would like to see the mechanicals shifted to a different location for the building on the corner so they are not as visible.

The team said they will make every effort to hide the mechanical units.

SNA member Jennifer Uhrhane spoke positively about the tree canopy replacement.

The Committee voted to approve the project with the proviso that a “best effort” should be made to locate the mechanicals behind the building face or screen them on the rooftop.

All of these projects will be before the full JPNC at its meeting on September 22 for a final vote.



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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

ALLEGRO NAMED TO WPI SPRING DEAN'S LIST

- Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced that Remy Allegro of Jamaica Plain, Mass., a member of the class of 2021 majoring in robotics engineering, was named to the university's Dean's List for academic excellence for the spring 2020 semester.

A total of 1,749 undergraduate students achieved the criteria required for WPI's spring 2020 Dean's List. The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on open-ended problems for communities around the world. The problems are important and the impact is real" said dean of undergradu-

ate studies Arthur C. Heinricher. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering and science and business and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

WPI, the global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 50 bachelor's, master's, and doc-

toral degree programs across 14 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM BATES COLLEGE

Bates College graduated 463 students from 37 states and 52 countries on May 31, 2020. Cumulatively, the Class of 2019 performed 80,000 hours of community service, exemplifying Bates' commitment to community learning and civic action.

Though we have been delayed in sharing this news due to our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please know that our pride in our graduates is as strong as ever. Congratulations to the class of 2020!

Amanda Brea of Jamaica Plain, graduated after majoring in politics and minoring in women and gender studies. Brea, the child of Santa M. Lara of Jamaica Plain, Mass., is a 2016 graduate of John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

in their first year at Bates, Brea received the Charles Dana Award, the highest honor Bates bestows on students in their first year.

Eha Joshi of Jamaica Plain., graduated after majoring in economics and English. Joshi, the child of Shiva L. Joshi and Leela Joshi of Jamaica Plain, Mass., is a 2016 graduate of Rato Bangala School.

Located in Lewiston, Maine, Bates is internationally recognized as a leading liberal arts college, attracting 2,000 students from across the U.S. and around the world. Since 1855, Bates has been dedicated to educating the whole person through creative and rigorous scholarship in a collaborative residential community. Committed to opportunity and excellence, Bates has always admitted students without regard to gender, race, religion, or national origin. Cultivating in-

tellectual discovery and informed civic action, Bates prepares leaders sustained by a love of learning and zeal for responsible stewardship of the wider world.

STUDENTS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT BATES COLLEGE

The following students have been named to the dean's list at Bates College for the winter semester ending in April 2020. This is a distinction earned by students whose cumulative grade point average is 3.8 or higher.

Eha Joshi of Jamaica Plain, Joshi, the child of Shiva L. Joshi and Leela Joshi of Jamaica Plain, Mass., is a 2016 graduate of Rato Bangala School. They are majoring in economics and English at Bates.

Adam Banks of Jamaica Plain. Banks, the child of Richard L. Banks Jr. and Ann G. Banks of Jamaica Plain, Mass., is a 2017 graduate of Roxbury Latin School. They are majoring in environmental studies and minoring in anthropology at Bates.

Megan Krieger of Jamaica Plain. Krieger, the child of Joel Krieger and Carol L. Dougherty of Jamaica Plain, Mass., is a 2018 graduate of Boston Latin School. They are majoring in politics and minoring in education and German at Bates.

Amanda Brea of Jamaica Plain. Brea, the child of Santa M. Lara of Jamaica Plain, Mass., is a 2016 graduate of John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science. They are majoring in politics and minoring in women and gender studies at Bates.

Sadie Murray of Jamaica Plain. Murray, the child of Terrence J. Murray and Nicole S. Murray of Jamaica Plain, Mass., is a 2018 graduate of Milton Academy.

HILLIARD GRADUATES FROM RIT

Holly Hilliard of Jamaica Plain graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a BS in industrial engineering. Some 4,000 degrees were conferred in the 2019-2020 academic year at all of RIT's campuses. A virtual celebration was held May 8 at rit.edu/classof2020.

Rochester Institute of Technology is home to leading creators, entrepreneurs, innovators and researchers. Founded in 1829, RIT enrolls about 19,000 students in more than 200 career-oriented and professional programs, making it among the largest private universities in the U.S.

The university is internationally recognized and ranked for academic leadership in business, computing, engineering, imaging science, liberal arts, sustainability, and fine and applied arts. RIT also offers unparalleled support services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The cooperative education program is one of the oldest and largest in the nation. Global partnerships include campuses in China, Croatia, Dubai and Kosovo.

UNION COLLEGE ANNOUNCES DEAN'S LIST

Union College has announced its Dean's List for the 2019-2020 academic year. Students with at least a 3.50 grade point average for the entire academic year were honored with the academic achievement.

Elena Ruiz, of Jamaica Plain; Ruiz is a member of the Class of 2020 majoring in Anthropology.

Angela Guerra, of Jamaica Plain; Guerra is a member of the Class of 2021 majoring in Economics.

Carlos Piedad, of Jamaica Plain; Piedad is a member of the Class of 2020 majoring in Environmental Policy.

Bernadine Conklin, of Boston, MA; Conklin is a member of the Class of 2020 majoring in Political Science and Russian & Eastern European Studies.

Union College, founded in 1795 as the first college chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, offers programs in the liberal arts and engineering to 2,100 undergraduates of high academic promise and strong personal motivation. Union, with its long history of blending disciplines, is a leader in educating students to be engaged, innovative and ethical contributors to an increasingly diverse, global and technologically complex society.

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JPNC Public Service Committee approves two requests from business owners

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council Public Service Committee met virtually on September 8, where it heard and approved two requests from local business owners.

7 BURROUGHS ST.

The first proposal was from Nicole Gunn, owner of Cada Dia Nutrition, who wants to open a healthy smoothie and tea shop at 7 Burroughs Ave. with operating hours of 6:00am to 6:00pm.

Gunn explained that in February, she and her business partner opened On The Edge Nutrition, or OTEN, in South Boston, which offers energizing tea, smoothies, and other pre and post workout products. She said that the concept “worked so well in South Boston” that she wanted to open her own nutrition club in Jamaica Plain, a place she said she is very familiar with, as she used to live in the neighborhood and still has connections with neighbors.

“Cada Dia” means “every day” in Spanish, so she said she wants to bring healthy beverages to the JP community with her own version of the concept. She is the sole owner of the location. Her smoothies are powder-based and are blended with water and ice only. No dairy products or dairy substitutes will be used on the premises. The teas are instant herbal teas mixed with flavoring and coloring that dissolve in water.

She said that many of the or-

ders at the South End location are done online, and then people come to pick up their drink.

“Each place we plan to open up is going to be themed different,” Gunn said. “OTEN caters to the younger crowd,” while her vision for Cada Dia is “cultural” and “inclusive,” she said.

She said she plans on having six seats inside the cafe and no outdoor seating. She said that especially with COVID-19 restrictions, people generally come to get their order and leave quickly and she does not anticipate lingering at the location. “The takeout model works perfect,” she said.

Gunn said she does not believe that Cada Dia would be a competitor with nearby Carrot Flower or Juicygreens, as they sell different types of products.

She said she would probably just place a decal on the windows and the door identifying the shop, and as of right now isn’t really considering putting signage directly on the building. She is also figuring out how she can accommodate dog owners with an outdoor water bowl and a potential place to tie up dogs outside while people run in to grab their drinks. She said she will look into offering the menu descriptions in both Spanish and English, but many of the products will already have names in other languages, such as Papiamento, which is an homage to Gunn’s Aruban heritage.

JP resident Peter Elmutts said that this proposal “sounds great” and welcomed Gunn’s business to

JP. Another neighbor praised the fact that Gunn is an independent business owner.

She is looking to open the shop by the end of September, and she said she is trying to figure out how to have a socially distanced grand opening.

The Committee recommended approval of the request for a 7-day common victualler license with the hours of 6:00am to 8:00pm.

264 HYDE PARK AVE.

Ernis De Los Santos, owner of Mangú Dominican Bistro at 264 Hyde Park Ave., requested a change in hours at his location. Currently, his 7-day common victualler license allows him to operate from 8:00am to 9:00pm, but he would like to extend those hours to be open until 1:00am in order to try and drum up more business to stay afloat as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

He said that the restaurant, which has been in business since late 2017, is “facing tough times now,” as the restaurant was closed for four months beginning in March to protect the health of employees and customers.

He said the main reason for wanting to expand the hours is because “we have the potential to increase sales at night” using food delivery services such as GrubHub, DoorDash, and Uber Eats.

“We’re trying to extend our hours to increase our sales to keep the business open,” he said. “The purpose is only for take out.” He stressed that he does not want to extend the hours for dine in. The

restaurant does not serve alcohol, and De Los Santos said he does not anticipate a lot of noise or people gathering near the restaurant.

He said there are two hour parking spots in the front and on the side of the building, as well as a lot across the street by the laundromat with parking spaces.

There were several comments in favor and against the extension to 1:00am. Some residents were concerned about parking and about the potential for people to sit in their cars with loud music blaring while they eat their food. Others were concerned about traffic and availability of parking as well.

“This is something that we’re going to try,” De Los Santos said. “I’m trying to be positive that we’re not going to have any issues.” He said he will ensure that no noise is created because of the extension in hours.

Neighbor Rob Langevin had concerns surrounding the proposal. He said that other businesses in the area are not open that late, and he wondered if De Los Santos would be “really gaining that much by staying open those two to three extra hours.” He said it would be “hard to avoid an increase in noise” with the restaurant being open that late. He said he would support the business staying open until 10:00pm rather than 9:00pm “during COVID as long as the pandemic continues,”

but “I think 1:00am is too late for the neighborhood,” he said.

De Los Santos stressed that this would be a pilot to see how it would turn out, and said that if a significant amount of business is not drawn from having the later hours, then he would close earlier again.

Other neighbors said they were strongly in favor of the later hours and would appreciate being able to get food later on in the night.

Committee member Omer Hecht said that “unfortunately, we all live in the city; this is part of the deal. There are businesses here that are open until 1am.” He said that they could demand of De Los Santos that a manager is always in charge and that a phone number is available to the community for neighbors to call with any complaints.

De Los Santos said that he has no problem sharing his cell phone number with the neighborhood, and people can also call the restaurant number with any complaints.

Another suggestion was made for a midnight closing rather than a 1:00am closing, but after further discussion the Committee voted seven to one to approve of the 1:00am closing time for takeout and delivery only.

“If you guys see an issue, you’re more than welcome to let me know,” De Los Santos said.

POLICE BRIEFS

WOMAN FOUND IN FRANKLIN PARK CONSIDERED A HOMICIDE

Investigation Update: At about 2:47 p.m. on Sunday, June 14, officers assigned to District B-2 (Roxbury) responded to a radio call for a found body in the area of 17 Jewish War Veterans Drive at Franklin Park. Upon arrival, officers were directed to a wooded area where they observed the body of a female victim who was declared nonviable at the scene. The victim’s death has since been ruled a homicide by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. The victim has been identified as Leslie Atkins, 52, of Springfield.

The Boston Police Department is actively reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident and is asking anyone with

information relative to this investigation to contact Boston Police Homicide Detectives at (617) 343-4470.

FISHERMEN FIND GUN IN FRANKLIN PARK

At 7:42 p.m. on Saturday, August 29, officers assigned to District B-2 (Roxbury) responded to a radio call for a found firearm at 102 Jewish War Veterans Drive, Jamaica Plain.

Upon arrival, an officer met with Park Rangers and two concerned parties on a bridge behind the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital. The callers stated that they were magnet fishing off the bridge when their magnet made contact with something heavy. Upon removal, they discovered that they recovered a firearm. The firearm, a black snub nose revolver, was loaded and

covered in muddy gunk. Due to the mud, the make and model were not immediately identified. Firearm turned over to the Ballistics Unit for further investigation.

SHOTS FIRED CALL IN JP NETS ILLEGAL GUN

At about 4:43 p.m. on Saturday Aug. 22, officers assigned to District E-13 (Jamaica Plain) recovered a partially loaded 9mm Smith & Wesson after responding to a call for shots fired in the area of 11 Woodlawn St. in Jamaica Plain. The recovered firearm, which had previously been reported stolen out of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has since been turned over to the BPD Firearms Analysis Unit for processing. District detectives are continuing their investigation into this incident.

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JP's Kendra Hicks announces bid for District 6 City Council seat next year

BY SETH DANIEL

One long-time Jamaica Plain resident has announced this month she will be mounting a campaign for the District 6 City Council seat to be voted on in the 2021 City Election.

Kendra Hicks confirmed this week she will be running against Councilor Matt O'Malley, of Roslindale, who was re-elected in 2019 in an unopposed race and has served 10 years on the Council. She has already started a website and a social media presence, and said her campaign team would begin pushing out much more information in later this month.

"Kendra has been shaped by her community," read her bio on the campaign site. "And she has, in return, helped shape its long history of fighting for what's

right. Whether it be organizing against a highway, fending off the construction of a Kmart, or calling for the city to prioritize Youth First in Jackson Square, the story of District 6 is the story of ordinary people coming together to make their neighborhoods better for everyone. Kendra Hicks is a part of that story."

According to her website, Hicks is a proud first-generation Black Dominican woman, a mother, a wife, and artist. Born in the Bronx to a working-class, immigrant mother, she wrote that her family relocated to Jamaica Plain in 1990 and she has since called it home.

At 13, she wrote, her curiosity about, and desire for a more equitable world, was supported by the Jamaica Plain artistic and activist institutions, Spontaneous Celebrations, and Hyde

Square Task Force. She participated at Wake Up the Earth Festival, where she learned of Jamaica Plain's people-powered, art-filled battle to stop a highway from cutting through their neighborhoods. Among the art encouraging young people to express their stories, she found her calling to become a community organizer, artist, and a champion for her community. As a first-year high school student, Kendra co-founded and later became the director of the influential and celebrated "by-youth, for-youth" organization Beantown Society. At the age of 19, Hicks became one of a handful of women and the youngest in the city to provide trauma-informed support to young people as a StreetWorker with the StreetSafe Boston Initiative.

For the last five years, Kendra



JP resident Kendra Hicks confirmed this week she would be running for the District 6 City Council seat in the 2021 City Election. She said she came to JP from the Bronx in 1990, grew up in the neighborhood, and is now raising her own family here.

has been the Director of Radical Philanthropy at the historic Boston-based organization Resist.

Resist was founded by world-renowned activist Noam Chomsky just over 50 years ago.

Company pays \$75,000 to resolve investigation into prohibited contributions to Boston office-holders

A New Hampshire-based business has made a civil forfeiture payment of \$75,000 to the Massachusetts general fund to resolve an investigation into prohibited contributions to candidates, according to a disposition agreement between OCPF and the company.

Select Demo, a speciality contracting company, made \$21,000 in prohibited corporate contributions to two candidates in 2019 by reimbursing employees for their contributions, according to the

disposition agreement.

OCPF began an investigation after an initial review of campaign finance reports filed by Boston Mayor Martin Walsh and Boston City Councilor Michael Flaherty. Based on a review of bank records and other information obtained by OCPF, the office determined that several Select Demo employees, as well as other individuals affiliated with the company, deposited funds from the business into their personal checking accounts shortly

before or after making contributions to candidates.

The specific transactions occurred in late 2019.

In early December, 20 Select Demo employees and others affiliated with the company made \$1,000 contributions to Walsh's committee. Select Demo issued \$1,000 checks as reimbursements to each contributor in December.

Three months earlier, in September, one Select Demo employee made a \$1,000 contribution to

Flaherty. The employee was then reimbursed by the company with corporate funds.

The campaign finance law prohibits contributions to candidates from corporations, and prohibits disguising the true source of funds.

Select Demo also agreed to require campaign finance training for each employee.

The Flaherty and Walsh committees, which were not aware of the alleged violations, are re-

quired to disgorge the prohibited funds.

The disposition agreement, available here, was signed by Ryan Denver, Select Demo's president, and Michael Sullivan, OCPF's director pro tem.

A disposition agreement is a voluntary written agreement entered into between the subject of a review and OCPF, in which the subject agrees to take certain specific actions.



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OBITUARIES

Dorothy Connell

Retired School Lunch Hour Monitor

Dorothy F. Connell, 96, of Roslindale, formerly of Jamaica Plain, passed away on August 23. A retired Lunch Hour Monitor at the Mozart School in Roslindale, she was an avid Red Sox and Bruins fan.

The beloved wife of the late Michael J. Connell Jr., she was the loving mother of James Connell of Norwood, Leo Connell of Roslindale, Jane Bielenda and her husband, Thomas, of West Roxbury and the late Joseph Con-

nell. Sister of the late William Kerrigan, Mary Reardon Hopkins and her twin sister of Edith Beck, mother-in-law of Judy Connell of Randolph grandmother of Stephanie, David, Jeremiah and Danielle and great-grandmother of Erik, Josiah, Declan, Ohana, Caden and Josephine.

Special thank you to Herta Jean and the staff of VNA Hospice and Palliative Care for the wonderful care they provided to Dorothy.

While respecting social distancing guidelines, a Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. John Chrysostom Church, 4750 Washington St., West Roxbury, on Thursday, August 27. Interment was at St. Joseph Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to VNA Care, Fund Development Office, 199 Rosewood Drive, Suite 180, Danvers, MA 01923. For guest-book condolences, please visit www.bradlyfallon.com



LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT

TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU20P1484GD In the matter of: Clinton Forbes RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person Of: Jamaica Plain, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass. Dept. Of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging Clinton Forbes is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Brenton Forbes of Boston, MA and Leonie Forbes-Sanderson of Roslindale, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 10/01/2020. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of

your objection within 30 days after the return date. 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: August 20, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

9/11/20 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 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU20C0167CA In the matter of: Elizabeth Ann Abdullah A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Elizabeth Ann Abdullah of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Elizabeth Ann Temple Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/01/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: September 01, 2020

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

9/11/20 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. SU20P1436EA Estate of: Eloise Winfred Gross Date of Death: 06/22/2020 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Vonda Gross 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: Vonda Gross 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 at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/05/2020. 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: August 24, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

9/11/20 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 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU20C0208CA In the matter of: Jamessa Renee Hagan A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Jamessa Renee Hagan of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Jamessa Cooper Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/21/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 31, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

9/11/20 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 APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE Docket No. SU471892 Estate of: Josephine B. Terranova Date of Death: 11/05/1971 To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: Nancy C. Allen of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that Nancy C. Allen of Boston, MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition 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 09/22/2020. 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 date,

action may be taken without further notice to you. The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 11, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

9/11/20 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 TO CHANGE NAME Docket No. SU20C0258CA In the matter of: Roseanne Catherine Strott A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Roseanne Catherine Strott of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the court enter a Raleigh Rose Strott Important Notice Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/08/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 02, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

9/11/20 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Docket No. SU20P0954EA Estate of: Beryl Eversleigh Smith Also Known As: Beryl S. Bradshaw Date of Death: April 28, 2020 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Elliott J. Bradshaw of Somerville, MA. A Will has been admitted to informal probate. Elliott J. Bradshaw of Somerville, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 9/11/20 JP

EDITORIAL

Do not litter your masks

For those of us who take note of the problem of litter (and who often bring along a bag to pick up litter when we are walking along a beach), we are accustomed to the plethora of styrofoam cups and single-use plastic bottles that have been discarded carelessly by our fellow citizens, some of whom seem to treat the environment as their personal trash bin.

But in the past few months we have noticed a new kind of litter that has become prevalent along our roads and on our beaches: Discarded face masks.

The masks that comprise most of the littering problem are the light-blue, layered masks with elastic bands for the ears. These are lightweight, single-use masks that blow easily in the wind and often end up along the shoreline and eventually in our waterways.

If the stuff that comprises litter is representative of our disposable society, then it is a good thing to see that people are using face masks, an indication that we are heeding public health warnings about the best way to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

However, being a good citizen in that regard does not absolve mask-users of the obligation to dispose of their masks properly, let alone give them the right to toss them onto public property.

So please be sure to toss those masks into a trash-bin -- that's as simple as it gets.

College sports has serious risks for athletes

When President Trump was in New Hampshire for a campaign rally two weeks ago, he implored the Big 10 athletic directors to reconsider their recent decision to postpone their college football season from fall until the spring.

"Big Ten, get with it! Open up your season, Big Ten. These are young strong guys -- they're not gonna' be affected by the virus... These are big, strong guys. They will be just fine," Trump said.

However, as with so many comments made by Trump these past seven months concerning the coronavirus, the reality is the opposite of Trump's pronouncements.

At least 10 Big 10 football players have been diagnosed with myocarditis, a viral infection of the heart muscle caused by a Covid-19 infection. This is the same condition that has afflicted Red Sox star starting pitcher Eduardo Rodriguez, who contracted Covid-19 on August 1 and who now suffers from myocarditis, forcing him to end his season.

Rodriguez is 27 years old and was an otherwise healthy young man who won 19 games for the Sox in 2019. However, the virus invaded his heart, as it has with so many others who have contracted this dreaded disease, and forced him to rest and recuperate.

We are learning more and more every day about the damage that Covid-19 does to just about every human organ, but one thing that has become clear is that the heart muscle is a favorite site for it to attack. A recent study in Germany showed that of 100 otherwise-healthy persons under the age of 49, 76 percent suffered damage consistent with the effects of a heart attack.

Another study recently demonstrated that there are certain, long-stringed cells unique to the heart that the virus attacks, chopping them up into tiny pieces. It is not clear whether the heart can repair this damage or whether it is permanent.

Further, as to football players in particular, while it may be true, as Trump proclaimed, that as a group they are "big strong guys," many of them are, to put it bluntly, grossly obese, weighing upwards of 350 pounds if they are linemen.

One thing we definitely know about the virus is that the single-biggest risk factor for a serious outcome from Covid-19 is being overweight -- and that would seem to place many college football players at serious jeopardy if they contract the disease.

If college football can put into place procedures that isolate football players from their campuses (where Covid-19 has been running wild in some places since schools reopened), then perhaps football can be played without risk to the young athletes.

But to encourage them to play as things stand now is simply reckless behavior that places them in jeopardy of serious, lifelong consequences affecting their health.



PATRIOT DAY 9-11 WE WILL NEVER FORGET

Op-Ed

Our fall school plans are guided by health, safety, and equity

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Superintendent Brenda Caselli

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, keeping Boston's families safe, healthy, and equitably supported has been our top priority. That's why we made the tough but necessary decision to close Boston Public Schools buildings in March. In a matter of days, we began distributing Chromebooks and WiFi hotspots to students, we set up meal sites to continue feeding tens of thousands of students and families, and we transitioned to fully remote learning. It was an all-hands-on-deck effort, and one we kept up while planning the upcoming school year.

We are still facing uncertainty from coronavirus, but the values that guide us are unchanged. Our plans for the upcoming school year put health, safety, and the needs of our most vulnerable students at the center of our plans.

After conducting an equity analysis and incorporating the feedback of thousands of stakeholders, we have decided to move forward with a cautious, responsible, phased-in hybrid model for the school year. In the optional hybrid model, students learn at home three days a week and attend school in-person two days a week.

This is our plan:

- We pushed the first day of school back to September 21, to give schools and teachers extra time to prepare.

- On September 21, all students will start with all-remote learning.

- No sooner than October 1, the option of hybrid learning will begin for students with the highest needs.

- No sooner than October 15, optional hybrid learning may begin for the three grades of kindergarten: K0, K1, and K2.

- No sooner than October 22, opt-in hybrid learning may begin for grades 1-3.

- No sooner than November 5, opt-in hybrid learning may begin for grades 4-8. That will include grades 6-8 in the high schools that include those grades.

- And no sooner than November 16, opt-in hybrid learning may begin for grades 9-12.

In every step, families have the choice of whether to opt in to hybrid learning or stay fully remote. BPS is surveying families about their learning environment and transportation preferences for the fall. We know that many families want and need their children to be in school, but many other families are not yet comfortable with in-person learning. That's why we are honoring family choice.

We've learned a lot from the spring remote learning period. This plan is an opportunity to make remote learning more robust, inclusive, and creative. We are expanding technology and internet access; creating new outreach and support plans for families; developing solutions for special education students and English learners; and talking with childcare providers.

We have also spent months preparing our school buildings and training staff to protect students' and teachers' health. We are working with school leaders and facilities professionals to make sure every school is safe and in compliance with DESE recommendations. We will not send students, teachers, or staff into buildings that are not safe.

We are focusing on equity and meeting the needs of our students. Our plan responds to the significant opportunity gaps facing students from low-income households, students of color, immigrants, and English language learners. Many parents are essential workers who must return to work, and cannot leave their young children home alone. For these families, opportunity gaps grow with every day students are out of school. It's also important to remember that school is about

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LETTERS

Journalism's first obligation is to the truth

Dear Editors:

We are dismayed that the Aug. 28 Gazette chose to publish the report, "USPS Board of Governors announced bipartisan election mail committee." (p. 14) This "staff report" (no byline) reads more like a press release. The person or people who wrote this didn't practice due diligence.

*The writers didn't provide the source of their information (from USPS website?), as did another staff report about Massachusetts jobs and unemployment on p. 16.

*The piece provided the names of only three people (only Board of Governors members) on the bipartisan election mail committee, not giving total number of Republicans and Democrats.

*The report states that "Postmaster General Luis DeJoy has the full support of the Governors." Of course he does. Of the

9 possible members, 5/6 of USPS Board of Governors are Republican (the sole Democrat is Ron A. Bloom) and all 5 were appointed by Trump with confirmation from Mitch McConnell's Senate. The Board of Governors' job is to choose the Postmaster General, in this case, recommended by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

In March 2015 Obama nominated 5 men to the Board of Governors, 3 Democrats and 2 Republicans. As with Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland, Mitch McConnell decided not to bring these nominations to Senate vote until after the 2016 election, assuming that Trump would win.

* Report didn't address the fact that August Congressional hearings in both the Senate and the House revealed that Louis DeJoy had conflicts of interest

because of his transportation company XPO Logistics had previous relationship with USPS and still does. And William D. Zollars, CEO of a large global transportation service, was the last Governor appointed on July 18. He is being investigated by the Dept. of Justice for fraud involving his freight company's relationship with the Pentagon.

According to the Washington Post and Forbes magazine, Democrats leaders in the House and Senate are on record as saying that they don't trust what DeJoy and his Board of Director say.

Journalism's first obligation is to the truth. Truth would have best been served by never publishing this so-called "report." in the first place.

LAURA FONER,
MAUREEN O'CONNOR,
FRAN PERKINS

Keep families connected: No Cost Phone Calls in Prisons

Dear Editor:

It is imperative for Massachusetts State legislators to pass No Cost Calls legislation (S2846) this session. This bill removes the cost barrier to phone calls for incarcerated people and their families. This bill is common sense, pro-family legislation that improves material conditions and social-emotional wellness for incarcerated people and their loved ones. This is vital to helping people heal from trauma and keeping our communities safe. Many prison facilities throughout Massachusetts are already planning to roll back or eliminate the free calls provided to prisoners during the pandemic, even while families are still struggling with unemployment

and financial insecurity. This is a racial justice issue and an economic justice issue. According to Families for Justice as Healing's findings from the Listening Tour conducted with 150 women impacted by incarceration in MA, about 25% of families with incarcerated loved ones pay over \$100 a month for prison phone calls. This is a tremendous burden considering that almost half of these families are struggling to survive on annual incomes of less than \$25,000.

I hope the State legislators in Boston and across the state pass this legislation. And that their constituents keep their feet to the fire on this important issue.

ELIZA KAPLAN

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Op-Ed

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much more than learning. For many students, it's their place of safety, support, and social development.

Supporting students with special needs is a big focus of this plan. We are prioritizing high needs special education students by giving them the option of in-person learning, up to four days per week, starting October 1. This is the right thing to do. We are committed to meeting the

requirements of every student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

We need to keep our communities safe, get kids back to school, and provide quality education. That's what this plan makes possible. At every step, we will follow public health data. Every family will have the choice about when to send their children into school buildings. And we will continue the work that began long before COVID-19: to close opportunity and achievement gaps, and give every single child the quality education that they deserve.

We are deeply grateful to all of the teachers, school leaders, staff, families, students, and public health experts who lent their time and expertise, and helped us consider all aspects of our plan. This is the most difficult chapter in our city's recent history, and time and time again the Boston community rises to the challenge with solidarity and compassion.

To see the full BPS reopening plan, and for more information about how to submit feedback, visit bostonpublicschools.org/reopening.

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication.

Letters may be emailed to letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com. Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

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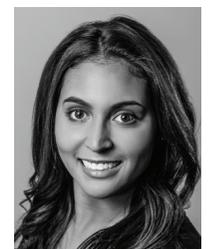
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