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Michelle Wu stood with some of her supporters at an event at Jamaica Pond on September 18. Wu announced her candidacy for mayor last Tuesday.

Michelle Wu holds events following her mayoral campaign announcement

By LAUREN BENNETT

Days after announcing her candidacy for mayor, City Councilor Michelle Wu held events in communities around Boston where she discussed issues with constituents.

If elected, Wu would be the first Boston mayor with small children in about 30 years.

"Being a mom shapes every second of my day," she told the Gazette. "It is having a real stake in our school system, in the way

that our transportation system works, in just how urgent it is for us to think about what city we're leaving for the next generation...I am a daughter of immigrants; I grew up really seeing through my parents' eyes the barriers that exist for various communities, and now as a mom myself just waking up and going to bed every day with the responsibility of how we are going to take the bold, urgent actions that we need so that my kids and all of our kids have the city that they deserve."

On September 18, Wu and her supporters gathered at Jamaica Pond for a socially distanced event. Supporters held purple "Michelle for Mayor" signs and listened to Wu explain her platform for running.

"My name is Michelle Wu, and I'm running for mayor of Boston because Boston should be a city for everyone," she announced at the beginning of her remarks.

Wu explained that as a daugh-

Continued on page 2

Councilor Andrea Campbell launches campaign for Mayor of Boston

By SETH DANIEL

Councilor Andrea Joy Campbell announced her candidacy for Mayor of Boston on Thursday morning, adding a third candidate to the 2021 mayoral race and the second former Council President to enter the race.

Campbell has long been rumored to be running for mayor, and she was pegged almost immediately in 2015 after first being elected for District 4 as a potential candidate some day.

That day is now, as she kicked off her campaign with a video very early in the morning on



District 4 Councilor Andrea Campbell, a former Council president who represents part of Jamaica Plain, announced she will run for mayor in the 2021 City Election.

Continued on page 11

Consejera Andrea Campbell lanza campaña para alcalde de Boston

SETH DANIEL

La Consejera Municipal del Distrito 4, Andrew Campbell, anunció su candidatura para alcalde de Boston el 24 sept., agregando un tercer candidato (y el segundo ex presidente del consejo) a la carrera.

Se rumorea que Campbell se postularía para alcalde, y fue considerada una futura candidata después de ser elegida para el Distrito 4, que incluye parte de Jamaica Plain.

Campbell inició su campaña

Continued on page 11

Mildred Hailey Apts. redevelopment hits major milestone with BPDA filing

By SETH DANIEL

In what many are describing as a major milestone in a "game-changing" project to redevelop about half of the Mildred Hailey Public Housing Apartments (formerly known as Bromley-Health), a trio of JP-based developers in partnership

filed their long-awaited Project Notification Form (PNF) with the City late last week that triggers an official review process for the massive redevelopment.

Centre Street Partners – which is made up of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development

Continued on page 7

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Wu

Continued from page 1

ter of immigrants, she never expected to run for office. “My parents actively kept me away from politics,” she said. “In my family’s multigenerational immigration history, politics meant fear.”

After finding out that her mother struggled with mental health issues, she became the caretaker for her younger sisters.

When she decided to go to Harvard Law School, Wu had a particular professor that helped to push her into a political career: Elizabeth Warren. When Warren announced her campaign for US Senate, Wu said she went to her office hours and asked to help out on the campaign in any way possible.

“She put me to work right here in our city, making phone calls, knocking on doors; my first political experience,” Wu said. “In that experience, I saw that you can have amazing people in government, you can have great ideas; but unless you are changing the politics, unless you are bringing people into the process of deciding what the vision is to begin with, we will not get to that systemic change that we need.”

She said that once Warren was elected in 2012, the next goal was to double the number of women from one to two on the Boston

City Council when Wu ran in 2013.

“When I was able to join then councilor Ayanna Pressley...I saw that on the Boston City Council, we could transform how people thought about city government,” Wu said.

Wu said that while it is important for the City Council to ensure that things like potholes are fixed and trash pickup runs smoothly, “cities can lead on policy too.” She spoke about pieces of legislation that the Council has passed during her seven years as a member, including the Airbnb ordinance and a local wetlands ordinance.

Wu has been an ardent supporter of free public transportation, and when the MBTA announced that fares would be raised, “we changed the conversation,” she said. “We mobilized, protested; we were at every single MBTA station,” and “rolled back some of those fare hikes. She said that the result was no fare hikes for bus riders, seniors, or youth.

“Transportation should be fare free, accessible to all, reliable, safe, convenient, and now, more than ever, when our systems are broken down to the very core of it, we need Boston to recognize that our true legacy as a city, our history, is one of investing in that common good,” Wu said.

Wu also mentioned other issues that are important to her, such as making sure every single student in Boston has a “great

school” to attend, ensuring a strong public health system, and closing the racial wealth gap in Boston by investing in Black and Latinx communities.

She also believes that the conversation around housing needs to change. “Housing is a fundamental human right and in a city of tremendous wealth, where, over the last seven, eight years we have seen a building boom unlike any other,” Wu said. “The fact that people are still being displaced across every neighborhood of our city and struggling to find a safe, healthy place to lay their head at night is unconscionable. We can do better, and we are going to do that for this city.”

Wu said that “these are big ideas,” and “we can only get this done when there is partnership with community.” She said that her announcement is earlier than typical campaign announcements “because we need this time to organize.” She also stressed the importance of talking about the issues over and over again over a period of time.

After her remarks, Wu took questions from the audience. One resident wanted to know what Wu’s plans for public restrooms are, as this has become more of an issue during the COVID-19 pandemic as many places are closed to the public.

“That issue has come up again and again,” Wu said, especially in the downtown area that drew many tourists in pre-COVID times, as well as homeless folks who need restrooms to use.

She said that “absolutely” needs to be a focus, and welcomed suggestions on how and where would be best to implement restrooms.

Another resident asked Wu about how she would tackle homelessness in the City.

“We’ve been talking about

homelessness mostly in terms of secondary impacts: how do we clean up the streets, what do we do about needles, how do we push people away?” she said. “It is unacceptable that we have been using a law enforcement response as the first way that we are handling this.”

She said that she believes that this issue cannot be solved until the “underlying public health issue” and housing issue is solved first.

She added that she believes services should not all be concentrated in one area, and should be easily accessible to people across the entire city. More supportive housing is also needed, she said.

“We think about public safety and public health as two different things,” Wu said, “when in that it should be one and the same.”

She also addressed a topic of conversation that is at the forefront in many cities right now: discussions on limiting law enforcement. She said that she has received many emails from constituents saying that they would like to see their taxpayer dollars “reflect safety for everyone, health for everyone.”

Wu did not support the budget proposed by Mayor Walsh, as she felt it “did not go far enough” in reallocating in actuality \$10 million of the police overtime budget to other departments. She also called this “not quite real,” as overtime must be paid no matter what the budget line says, according to collective bargaining contracts. She also said that there were “no specific commitments on what those dollars would go to,” so the “scale of it was far below what was demanded,” she said.

Violence and public safety have also been hot topics in the City recently, with an increase in shootings and other violence throughout the City.

“I am for completely rethinking and reimagining our system of public safety and public health,” Wu said. She said the first step would be to restructure systems like 911 to divert some calls away from law enforcement and direct them towards trained unarmed people who could help with certain issues.

“We put a proposal on the table for how to start restructuring government by diverting emergency crisis response calls away from law enforcement to an unarmed community response force that would be trained and have a background in social work and mental health counseling and substance use counseling to ensure that we are meeting the needs of residents in the community and doing so in a way that keeps everyone safe,” Wu told the Gazette. “This is a moment, more important than ever, to rethink all of our systems and for our public safety system, to be grounded in public health.”

Wu has also fervently supports green energy and a sustainable future for the City. She recently released a municipal Green New Deal vision for Boston, which includes housing justice, transportation goals, green jobs, and faster decarbonization of buildings.

Wu told the Gazette that “the burden shouldn’t live on individuals or organizations to be the only ones carrying this burden. City government needs to step up and be a leader as well.”

She said that right now, most of Boston’s carbon emissions come from buildings, and 29 percent comes from transportation. She said that it is important to ensure that new buildings are decarbonized from the beginning, as they shouldn’t have to be retrofitted years later to comply.

Additionally, new subsidized housing should either meet passive house standards or be “extremely energy efficient,” Wu said, to help keep costs down for families so they will not have to worry about not being able to pay their utility bills.

“I’m so grateful for this moment that we have,” Wu said. “This is truly a once in a generation moment; a moment where everybody’s awareness is together and everybody realizes what those who have always been left out and left behind have always known: that we are strongest when we are together, and that we have the resources to make sure that we can delivery opportunity for every single one of our families.”



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More delays on Shattuck Hospital lead to call for interim solutions

By SETH DANIEL

The process to continue forward movement on the Shattuck Hospital in JP and Newton Pavilion in the South End projects hasn't stopped during COVID-19, but it also isn't going anywhere fast – at least that's what South End residents learned Tuesday night at the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA).

The projects work in tandem and would have major effects on Jamaica Plain and the South End – as the relocation of the hospital to the South End triggers a process to redevelop the Shattuck into a recovery campus vision – which will be detailed in a forthcoming RFP process this winter, state officials told WSANA.

Even with the news of slowness, members of WSANA and other South End advocates left the meeting somewhat hearted as Health and Human Services Undersecretary Lauren Peters agreed to take a message of urgency back to Secretary Marylou Sudders and Gov. Charlie Baker on potential interim uses at the Shattuck that would help the current situation of homelessness and open drug use at Mass/Cass.

"That feeling of urgency you have is not lost on any of us," Peters said at the end of her portion of Tuesday's meeting, which at times was a bit contentious. "I can take back this message about whether there are some additional short-term measures we can take. I can bring back a message of whether we can stand up services in a temporary fashion on Shattuck Campus or another property we control. I can take back the message about whether there are lessons learned from COVID-19 about standing up facilities in short order that can be applied to this issue."

That was a bit of relief for South End residents who are ham-hocked in between the fight over Long Island Bridge and the long, ongoing process to get Shattuck Campus up and running as a potential "Recovery Campus." With both things way over the horizon, and a crisis of massive proportions on the streets of the South End right now – many resi-

dents are looking for a short-term plan to bridge the gap between now and the future. And given the speed with which the Newton Pavilion and the South Boston Convention Center were put in place for COVID-19 treatment, many in the neighborhood would like to see the same urgency applied to the opiate epidemic that has been exacerbated by COVID-19.

"We would ask that you call on other hospitals to help, maybe being able to move out the med-surge beds to meet a need here and now," said South End Forum Moderator Steve Fox. "We have a crisis now and what we are hearing at this point is there is an RFP to be issued in January or February. For most of the people in the South End, that's not a timely response from the state."

Responded Peters, "I understand...but there is a process; we can't kick out the people in the hospital now receiving services and flip it to something else tomorrow."

Project Manager Frank Doyle said the Shattuck Hospital is nearly full right now, and there isn't empty space that can be reused for the sake of relieving the situation on Mass/Cass.

"The building's pretty full and as full as it should be at this time," he said.

That said, Peters did agree to take back the message to the state administration about some sort of interim measure to relieve the Mass/Cass problem.

Peters' appearance was supposed to be a simple update, which was going well until the report began and neighbors did the math and realized any sort of relief from the Shattuck was years away.

Two years ago, the state announced it had brokered a deal to buy the Newton Pavilion from Boston Medical Center in the South End, and planned to move the 160-bed hospital facility from Jamaica Plain to the South End. As an agreement with neighbors, there was a promise to keep the Shattuck for a public health use, and to push for a "recovery campus" on the site that would also serve as a place to relocate some services from the South End. The Shattuck move to the

Newton Pavilion was supposed to happen originally in 2021, with the recovery campus portion happening soon after, but then last year that was delayed until 2022. On Tuesday night, Peters said it would be 2024 before the Shattuck move would happen. No recovery campus construction and programming would occur at the Shattuck site until after the move – so around 2025.

An RFP to the development community for a type of recovery campus program, she said, has been slightly delayed but is on track to be released in early 2021.

"The hospital relocation is probably likely not to occur until 2024 at this point," she said.

"That is delayed because the Newton Pavilion building was re-purposed to serve some of the homeless population in the area during COVID-19...That COVID-19 response has delayed both of the projects a couple of months, but not much more than that."

With the news of the RFP not going out until early 2021, and the Shattuck not moving to the South End until 2024 now, it set up a timeline that didn't seem to offer the help many Southenders originally hoped it would.

Major construction on the Newton Pavilion isn't expected until June 2021, Doyle said, but they have been working to take

soil samples and do other preliminary work this month.

Neighbor Jacob Oppenheim wanted to ensure that the problem in the South End wasn't going to simply be relocated to the Forest Hills area of JP and into Franklin Park.

"The goal is not to put a Band-Aid on the situation and hope it goes away," said Peters. "The goal is to solve the problem and hopefully with the right set of circumstances it will help solve the problem and not just move folks to another part of town. The goal is to create a programmatic model with integrated physical and behavioral health services."

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JP OBSERVER

Copious Trump emails, texts to supporters dish up flattery and fear

By SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

When I was involved in reporting and editing at the Gazette, I was always interested in finding out how candidates for office were managing their campaigns. Along with learning about their relevant experience and policy stands, we looked at their campaign literature and asked them about their strategies. How a person runs for election and what they say and do to persuade peo-

ple are strong indicators of how they will govern. President Donald Trump's campaign emails and texts, which I started saving in 2017, are very different from most other candidates' communications with their supporters. Not surprising. He was the farthest outlying person to run for president on a major party ticket and one of the strangest to run for any national

office at all. Now, late in this term as president, he's moving farther out there every day. And so are his digital messages to fans. Trump campaign communications with voters are usually sent over the signature and headshot of the president or just a few others, mostly family—his son Eric, Eric's wife Lara, his son Donald, Jr., and his girlfriend Kimberly Guilfoyle. The exact wording is

different in each of them, but the styles are remarkably similar. Rage and Hoax, two of a string of critical books that have come out during his presidency, reveal Trump's incompetence and dishonesty in governing the country. And we've all seen clips of him performing on stage at his raucous rallies and seen his nasty tweets. His campaign's texts and

emails to supporters offer yet another perspective on his style of bombastic persuasion. Trump emails and texts have overwhelmed my accounts the past year, increasing this summer. They are addressed to a pseudonym I gave the campaign with my contact information in 2017. As a result, the Trump cam-

Continued on page 5

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PLEASE RECYCLE

Observer

Continued from page 4

campaign sent me—a person who has never donated a penny to his election under my name or my pseudonym’s—1001 emails this year as of Sept. 17. I’ve received 1,357 emails from the campaign totally over time. They only started sending me texts on July 6, but I received 260 of them by Sept. 17. This month I have been getting an average of 10-12 emails and four texts over the name of Trump or someone in his inner circle every day of the week.

Has his campaign never considered they may be irritating supporters!? Marketing experts don’t recommend sending so many messages in such a short time. Aren’t his campaign staffers afraid of looking and sounding desperate? Apparently, they think swamping supporters’ inboxes will work in this special case.

I’m sure experts also don’t recommend telling untruths that would be instantly obvious to recipients. But the Trump campaign doesn’t mind.

Excessive, nonfactual flattery with offers of “rewards” will get you everywhere with individuals seems to be one of the Trump campaign’s beliefs. The campaign doesn’t seem to respect recipients, lavishing gratitude on them no matter what they may (or may not) have done for him. Maybe making supporters feel important and undeserving at the same time is a special tactic.

The emails compliment me—someone who has also never bought anything, gone anywhere, or uttered a word of support, unless you count ordering free tickets to a rally I didn’t attend in early 2017—for my loyalty.

I have even answered their surveys over the last year by suggesting Trump appoint Barack Obama to the Supreme Court and saying, among other many contrary positions, that I don’t approve of his immigration policies or his attitude toward racial justice and Black Lives Matter. My opinions (like other supporters’, no doubt) don’t matter, or nobody at the campaign reads people’s responses—or both.

The messages the campaign sends make the recipient sound completely devoted and emphasize the importance of my pleasing Trump personally. They ask for money, but seldom directly, right near the start, as most can-

didates do. Standard campaign emails frequently talk directly about the need for funds and deadlines. Not his.

The texts and emails reflect his way of governing. According to the Washington Post, he made 20,000 false or misleading claims while in office as of July this year, and the rate of falsehoods issued has been increasing throughout his term.

“President Trump knows you’re a good supporter,” a typical email begins. Who says Trump watches a lot of TV or takes a lot of time off? Trump either spends 24/7 memorizing the content of databases, or he is omniscient. But, then, I’m not a good supporter, am I?

A fondness for quid pro quo shows clearly.

“Wow. We just checked your donor file, and according to our records, you only need ONE MORE donation to qualify for the Trump Donor Hall of Fame. You’ve been such an incredible part of our movement. All you need to do is take the next step to cement your name in history...” The next step is always a donation..

“We’re reaching out because we noticed you STILL haven’t claimed your PERSONALIZED SIGNED photo from President Trump. This is one of the ONLY official photos the President has ever signed AND personalized, and as one of his TOP supporters, we wanted to make sure you don’t miss out on the chance to own a piece of history.”

Oh, and there’s the Personalized Platinum Card 2020 that would have Trump’s and the donor’s name on it. “President Trump REALLY wants YOU to get your PERSONALIZED Platinum Card and we know you don’t want to let him down.”

Becoming “a part of history” is frequently mentioned as motivation. They show the “signed” photo at the bottom of the emails. It’s the standard headshot with gold letters in a boxy serif font, including his signature, stamped in the corner with a spot for the recipient’s name left blank.

Other special things supporters can be are an Official Text Member (“one of the President’s most trusted advisors”), or they can be “an excellent addition to the Trump 1000 Club” and get one of “the President’s OFFICIAL Trump 1000 Dollar Bills.”

In another email: “You’ve been identified as one of President Trump’s fiercest and most dedicated supporters, and according

to your donor file, you’d make an excellent addition to the Trump 1000 Club.”

“I’m pleased to present to you this invitation to become a member of the Official First Family’s Circle. This is a brand new membership program that’s exclusively for our TOP supporters like YOU... I’ve only selected a few Patriots in the entire Nation to join this prestigious group, and YOU are one of them.”

“President Trump wants to do something special for you to show you how much your steadfast support means to him. He’s asked us to give you EXCLUSIVE ACCESS to get our BRAND-NEW Official 2020 Make America Great Again Pint Glasses.” A follow-up text a few days later congratulated me on “winning” the pint glasses. Said if I paid \$35 soon I could have them. Never says how many glasses.

Some letters ask for help with the campaign from supporters who are willing to pay to give it. Just before the Republican National Convention, an email with a red, underlined all-caps headline appeared: “CONFIDENTIAL CONVENTION SPEECH DETAILS, DO NOT SHARE. ... before I get on that stage, I want to get your input. I’m requesting the help of Patriots across the Nation to help me prepare for my

Presidential Acceptance speech.”

No convention speech content was there, of course—just the usual “survey.”

In early September, they asked recipients to join an unnamed person in nominating Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize by clicking on a red box to sign a petition and donating. This kind of nominations for the prize are not accepted by the Nobel committee.

“The Democrats hate you” one recent text proclaimed, followed by my pseudonym. I involuntarily pulled back from my phone.

Most of the texts also flatter, and all ask for money. At least half of them feature grandiose threats they claim are posed by Trump’s opponent.

“Biden would gut the middle class with taxes.” “Do you stand against Biden & ANTI-FA?” “BIDEN WOULD LET ANTIFA DESTROY OUR NATION.” “ANTIFA ALERT THEY’LL ATTACK YOUR HOMES IF JOE’S ELECTED.” “Biden will increase taxes by \$4 TRILLION & let ANTIFA run wild. Defend America!” The most recent one I got leads with this serious (not!) allegation: “BIDEN IS A FRAUD! He uses a teleprompter for TV interviews!” Then it asks me to give \$45 in the next hour.

Recently the “Biden hates you” message has increased with

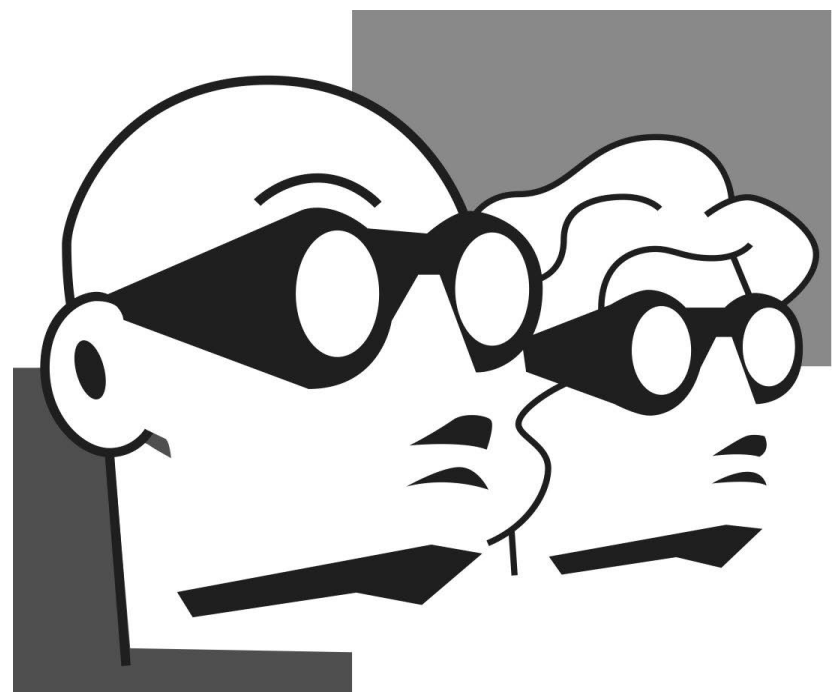
“These Radicals HATE President Trump and they HATE you, [my pseudonym], and everything you stand for” underlined in an email.

“Congratulations, (pseudonym)! You won our brand new “FILL THAT SEAT” shirt. Pres. Trump will hold it for 1 HOUR! Donate \$30 & claim NOW,” said a campaign text on the Sunday morning after the Friday Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg died.

Trump has been compared to many types of leaders. After being barraged with his communications to followers on my computer and phone daily for months, I would say (as at least one book does, apparently) he’s most like a cult leader. The frequency, hyperbole, and personal nature of his campaign’s digital communications with individuals feel like attempted brainwashing.

I’m sorry for his actual followers. I hope they save themselves from the dangerous combination of false flattery and fabricated fear his campaign is blasting out by unsubscribing to the strange emails and texts and then not voting for him this fall. In case it’s too difficult for most of them to leave the cult, people who prefer a sincere, trustworthy leader need to turn out to vote this fall like never before.

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JPA hears presentation about Section 8 Rental Assistance Program

By Lauren Bennett

The Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) met virtually on September 14, where they heard a presentation from business owner Nicole Gunn about her proposal to open a smoothie and energizing tea cafe called Cada Dia Nutrition at 7 Burroughs Street. The group also heard from Rachel Nagin, Director of Policy and Research in City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George's office, about the Section 8 rental assistance program.

This proposal was previously heard at the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC)

Public Service Committee meeting and reported on by the Gazette.

Concerns from the JPA regarding this proposal included ensuring that trash will be properly disposed of, as well as environmental concerns about cups and straws.

Gunn said that her cups will be clear with a blue sticker that says "Cada Dia" on it. She ensured that there would be "multiple phases of cleaning up" out side the location, as is currently done at the South Boston location of this business.

"It is my cup, even if it goes all the way to another neighbor-

hood," Gunn said. "I will always feel responsible for where that ends up." She said she is working out which waste company to use to make sure trash gets taken away from the building an appropriate number of times per week. Someone also suggested that the city include more trash receptacles on Centre St. that would benefit every business as it can be hard to find a place to throw trash away while walking down the street, they said.

She also said she will look into a biodegradable cup, and while she said she does feel that she needs a straw, she is looking into paper straws, though she doesn't believe that will be the answer as they disintegrate too quickly once placed in liquid. Instead, she said she might do a promotion where people can bring their own reusable straws and she could sell them in the store as well.

The JPA voted not to oppose this proposal.

SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Nagin and David Gleich of the Boston Housing Authority (BHA)

provided some information about the Section 8 program, as well as how landlords can become more involved in renting to Section 8 voucher holders.

Nagin said that 5,000 BPS students are currently homeless, and that only 23 percent of homeless children in Boston end up in a shelter, and those who do, stay there for an average of 18 months.

She said that most of the kids who are homeless or housing insecure are doubled up, meaning there are more people in a unit than there are rooms, which has become a "big problem" in the face of COVID-19, she said. She said that more funding is needed, especially at the federal level, but Mayor Walsh is working on getting more funding.

"Section 8" refers to the eighth section of the Housing Act of 1937, Nagin said, and although it is illegal to not rent to a Section 8 holder, it is still happening across the city and beyond.

"This led the mayor to announce in January at the State of the City the creation of 1000 new vouchers," she said, adding that the pandemic "prompted" her office, along with the Boston Housing Authority and others "to team up to find more landlords who would be willing to rent to Section 8 holders."

Gleich said that BHA is currently looking to recruit more landlords, as the "discrimination that tenants are facing is really a tremendous burden."

He said that a result of the discrimination is a high concentration of our voucher holders in only a few neighborhoods in the city. There are about "14,000 tenant based families that use our program," he said.

He said that through the Leading the Way Home program and the integration of technology during the COVID-19 pandemic, the BHA committed to leasing 1000 families with children in the Boston Public Schools over the course of the year.

"Right now, it looks like we're on target to do that," he said. Not all families are leasing in Boston, but they were either from the area or had children enrolled

in the Boston Public Schools He said that so far, "well over 700 vouchers" have been issued so far.

He explained the process that tenants go through to receive housing through the Section 8 program. He said that a tenant receives paperwork from the BHA once they are determined to be eligible, and once they find an apartment, the landlord files out the paperwork and returns it to the BHA, where a direct deposit account is set up. There is an inspection that "ensures safety and security for the family," he said, and then once the apartment is approved, the landlord can use their own lease and 30 percent of the tenant's monthly adjusted income is used for rent and utilities, and BHA will pay the rest of the rent.

He said that landlords should know that the "majority of families who are voucher holders are coming from supportive housing programs," and a shelter would typically provide stabilization services.

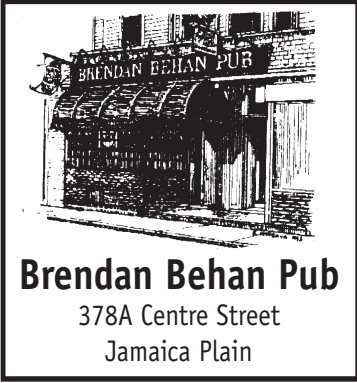
He said that due to the need for housing in Boston and across the country, there are not enough vouchers available for every eligible family.

He said that the BHA tries "our best to reduce barriers for landlords during the process."

If a tenant has a decrease in income, they are required to report that decrease, and families are also required to come in annually for a recertification. He said that if someone has an increase in income between their annual certification, the rent is not adjusted, so it gives people time to save up some money.

JPA Chair Rosemary Jones asked if there was any support for things like furniture, moving trucks, and security deposits for Section 8 holders.

Nagin said that the program is "not perfect and we can always use more funding for those kinds of programs," but the City's Department of Neighborhood Development and other departments have programs to help out families who need it, especially families that were previously homeless.



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The City of Boston's BCYF (the City), acting by its Commissioner, hereinafter referred to as the Official, is requesting price quotes from qualified vendors for the performance of the work generally described above.

The bid documents will be accessible online from Monday, September 21, 2020 through Friday, October 2nd, 2020 by visiting the City of Boston Public Procurement website at the following link:

<http://www.cityofboston.gov/procurement/> and accessing the following event number: **EV00008420**.

Contact Varnie Jules, Finance Unit Manager @ 617-635-4920 x 2149 if you have questions.

All sealed bids shall be filed electronically no later than Friday, October 2nd, 2020 at 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time.

Bidders are being provided with 3 MS Excel Spreadsheets in which to list their rental, refill, and delivery costs for each of the 16 locations listed. This contract is a 3-year contract. A Price quote is being requested for each contract year separately: Year1-[07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021]; Year2-[07/01/2021 to 06/30/2022]; and Year3-[07/01/2022 to 06/30/2023].

Sealed bids will be opened electronically by the Official on Friday, October 2nd, 2020 at 4:30pm. The contract awarded pursuant to this invitation to bid will commence on or about November 2nd, 2020 and will end on June 30, 2023. This is a rebid of the services.

The award of any contract shall be subject to the approval of the Mayor of Boston and the Awarding Authority. The maximum time for bid acceptance by the City after the opening of bids shall be ninety days (90 days). The City/ County and the Official reserve the right to reject any or all bids, or any item or items thereof.

The City/County and the Official reserve the right to reject any or all bids, or any item or items thereof if found to be not in the best interest of the public.

William Morales, Commissioner
Boston Centers for Youth & Families
(Sept 21, 2020 – Sep 28, 2020)

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Mildred Hailey

Continued from page 1

Corp. (JPND), Urban Edge, and The Community Builders (TCB) – filed their PNF with the Boston Planning and Development Agency on Friday for the project that looks to replace seven public housing buildings on Centre and Heath Streets and 253 public housing units, with brand new buildings and brand new units, while adding a mix of new affordable and market rate units as well. Developers said it would create a vibrant, mixed income community with new construction, retail opportunities and a new Anna Mae Cole Community Center.

There would be 690 units built in seven new buildings, which is known as Phase One of the redevelopment – though there hasn't been any further phases planned or identified as of yet for the rest of the expansive public housing stock on the site. Phase One would redevelop about 7 acres of the 25-acre Hailey site.

"The Project will advance the City of Boston's housing production goals by proposing to create a variety of affordable and middle-income housing in a highly desirable and transit-oriented location, providing affordable housing opportunities in close proximity to job centers, healthcare providers, and other valuable community amenities," read the filing to the BPDA. "As a mixed-use Project with residential units being affordable to a mix of incomes, the Project provides a public benefit considering the need for housing in Boston. The Project proposes approximately 690 residential units within seven new buildings that will include a range of approximately 53 to 225 residential units each. The Project will showcase new, high-quality design and neighborhood amenities, while adding much needed affordable housing to the area. In addition, the Proponent will deliver a community space of approximately 6,800 sf on the ground level of Building 1A that will become a prominent gathering space in the Mildred Hailey Apartments complex."

The proposal is not new to the community, and the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) started the ball rolling in 2017 when they named the development team as the designated developer for the

7-acre parcel redevelopment in a competitive bidding process that also included development opportunities at other public housing sites around the City. It was a push by the BHA to get their older developments refurbished by leveraging the private market to build mixed income communities and replace their existing units at the same time. In JP, residents at the affected Hailey buildings have been in discussions with the developers for some time and there have been scores of informal meetings with them, and one with the general community. The filing of the PNF, though, triggers something much more official and begins the Article 80 review process – which is expected to play out in online meetings this fall.

BHA Director Kate Bennett said the filing was a milestone and the overall project will be a huge change for the area – looping in the existing development with much of the private and affordable-housing developments that have been built around it over the last several years through a BPDA planning initiative.

"I think it's a huge game-changer for the site and for Jackson Square," said Bennett this week. "It's really exciting to be at this point. We've had a lot of process at the site itself already, and now we'll have a broader neighborhood process as well. This has been in the works for a few years...This is a site that really, really needs investment. In particular, the Centre Street buildings need investment. They are difficult to manage and are not in good condition...I think it will change the dynamic with the site and the neighborhood. It's been kind of an island in the neighborhood and I think this will change that."

Councilor Matt O'Malley said he's been involved in the tenant discussions and said it is an exciting moment to get going on the official reviews of the project after so much discussion informally.

"It's obviously a very exciting milestone," he said. "The envisioning part has been going on for a number of years and now...It's been great to see the leadership of JPND, Community Builders and Urban Edge working with the residents and now on a thorough review process...All three organizations have a great track record of building. I'm excited and I'm very excited for the residents and the re-development that will provide the deeply affordable

units and also add more affordable units to the site and some market rate...The project is going to take many years to build out – probably 10 years – but when it's done, it will be tremendous for the residents of Mildred Hailey and JP at large."

Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz said one part of the project that stands out to her is the replacement of public housing units with brand new units for existing residents, and also the addition of a variety of affordable housing opportunities.

"The Mildred Hailey redevelopment project has made an important commitment to residents by providing one-to-one replacements for all current households," she said. "It will also benefit the neighborhood more broadly through the creation of much-needed new housing for a variety of income levels, including low-income, and a variety of family sizes--as well as the development of more community space and job creation for local residents and contractors of color. I'm excited to see these plans to expand safe, secure, and affordable housing move forward."

State Rep. Nika Elugardo was contacted by the Gazette for comment, but did not respond.

The construction plan would work out, Bennett and the filing iterated, to build first on the site of the Anna Mae Cole Center – which also has a lot of vacant land and that would eliminate a lot of the relocation issues for existing residents. The first buildings to be demolished would likely be the 24-34 Heath St. building on the northeast corner of the Hailey site.

The first two buildings constructed would be Buildings 1A and 1B, which would be adjacent to the basketball and tennis courts and the Southwest Corridor Park. In all seven buildings would be demolished, with the Centre Street buildings all coming down only after the first of the new buildings are constructed and residents of Centre Street can move into new units in the new buildings. Relocation issues in such public-private BHA developments are always a major issue, as there are many children currently living in the affected buildings, and moving families to other parts of the city temporarily can disrupt schooling and neighborhood life. That will not be the case in this project, Bennett said.

"The planning of this is such



A view of the Mildred Hailey Apartments from Centre Street, as existing today.

that the first building will be constructed where the Anna Mae Cole Center is located," she said. "The new building will replace the Community Center as well. The building of that building first will make sure all relocation will be on the site – one way moves. Once that is built, residents will move into the new building and then the Centre Street buildings would come down. We're really happy that none of the residents have to go off-site."

Another key – as Chang-Diaz mentioned – is the addition of affordable units to complement the replaced public housing units. In addition to the 253 public housing units (which are project-based Section 8 vouchers), there will be new affordable housing created for a variety of income levels, including 50 percent, 60 percent, 80 percent and 100 percent of the Average Median Income (AMI). That encompasses the sphere of low-income affordable housing to workforce affordable housing. In addition, upper middle-income market rate units will also be built out in the unit mix.

Parking will like be an issue, however, as there are 309 parking spots to be available – with 76 of them being street parking spots. That, however, is an increase of 168 spots over the current totals on the site, and the development is also being touted as a Transit Oriented Development spot being only steps from the Jackson Square T Station.

A rundown of all of the buildings would be as follows:

- Building 1A – a six-story building located on the northern side of the Project Site adjacent to Southwest Corridor Park. The building is proposed to include approximately 110 residential units and approximately 6,800 sf of community space (for the Anna Mae Cole community cen-

ter). Approximately 1,500 sf of space at the ground level at the intersection of Heath Street and the Lamartine Street extension (a new roadway) is planned to be devoted to a non-residential use, such as a community space, office space, or other use that will activate the corner streetscape. The building will include approximately 60 below-grade parking spaces accessed from Heath Street.

- Building 1B: A six-story building immediately south of Building 1A adjacent to Southwest Corridor Park. The building is proposed to include approximately 124 residential units and associated residential amenities including a first floor lobby, a lounge and fitness area. The building will include approximately 78 below-grade parking spaces in a garage that connects to the garage beneath Building 1A and can be accessed from Heath Street.

- Building 2: A six-story building immediately south of Building 1B, adjacent to Jackson Square Station and Southwest Corridor Park, and bordered by Centre Street to the south. The building is proposed to include approximately 65 residential units and associated amenities. Approximately 2,300 sf of the ground floor is planned to be devoted to a nonresidential use, such as retail space, office space, or other uses that will activate the streetscape on Centre Street.

- Building 3: A six-story building located across Lamartine Street extension from Building 1B and bordered by Bickford Street extension (a new roadway) to the south. The building is proposed to include approximately 60 residential units and associated residential amenities

Continued on page 9

A.O. Flats in Forest Hills officially opens

By JOHN LYNDIS

The highly anticipated housing development that brings affordable and workforce housing, as well as housing for homeless families, to Jamaica Plain officially opened last week.

A.O. Flats at Forest Hills, which adds 78 new low to moderate-income units and 1,500 square feet of commercial space inside a five story building, is already being hailed as a great addition to the neighborhood by residents who recently moved in.

“I chose A.O. Flats for the opportunity to live in income-restricted housing and the community of folks that fill the building,” said resident Samantha Montano. “I love the energy efficiency of the building and the light that comes in from my windows each day. We need more mixed-income housing like this all over the city.”

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) approved project was built on a once-vacant MBTA parcel in Jamaica Plain within walking distance of Forest Hills MBTA Station, the Arnold Arboretum, the Southwest Corridor Park, local restaurants, and cultural venues.

Mayor Martin Walsh said

the grand opening of A.O. Flats at Forest Hills follows years of community planning efforts by the City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development (DND), the BPDA, local residents, and the MBTA.

“Housing opportunities like this one create a stronger community and are a model for creating affordable green development all across the City of Boston,” said Mayor Walsh. “I want to thank The Community Builders, our partners, and the Forest Hills community for continuing to work with us to create this needed new affordable housing and retail space here in Jamaica Plain.”

According to DND the new development creates 40 new affordable apartments for households earning at or below 60 percent of area median income. Eight of these units are set-aside for formerly homeless families who earn at or below 30 percent area median income (AMI). HomeStart provided direct referrals for the formerly homeless households that now occupy these eight units.

A.O. Flats also includes 38 units of workforce housing financed by MassHousing intended for households earning at or

below 120 percent AMI.

“We are proud to partner with the City of Boston to make quality housing affordable to more Boston families,” said Andy Waxman, regional vice president for The Community Builders. “A.O. Flats offer beautiful rental homes with easy access to transit in a vibrant neighborhood that people at a range of incomes can afford.”

A.O. Flats at Forest Hills includes 8 studios, 37 one-bedroom units, 25 two-bedroom family units, and 8 three-bedroom family units, an elevator for accessibility, central air, on-site laundry facilities, a large community space for programming for residents on the ground floor, a fitness room, top floor lounging deck, and a rear courtyard. A lobby fronting on Hyde Park Ave provides pedestrian access to the 78 residential apartments and associated amenities, including two community rooms. A second egress from the first floor opens into a new pocket park that is available to the public. The approximately 1,500 square foot retail space has its own entrance at the corner of Hyde Park Ave and Ukraine Way. Construction of the new building generated more than 250 construction jobs.

In accordance with the City of



The outside of the new mixed-use, transit-oriented project that opened last week in Jamaica Plain near Forest Hills station.

Boston’s Green Affordable Housing Program, A.O. Flats at Forest Hills utilizes high-efficiency heating and cooling systems and Energy Star rated appliances and materials. The development employs environmentally friendly design features throughout as a LEED-Homes Platinum certifiable building that includes PV solar panels. These residences also meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Energy Star standards. The project team includes The Community Builders as the developer, The Architectural Team as the architect, and Bilt Rite Construction as the general contractor.

“MassHousing was very pleased to be part of this transformative project that has created new, energy-efficient housing and economic opportunity for households of varying incomes within steps of public transportation who can now live and work in the city,” said MassHousing Executive Director Chrystal Kornegay. “Congratulations to TCB and the city of Boston for taking a vacant MBTA lot and creating new, vibrant housing opportunities for working families in Boston.”

A.O. Flats at Forest Hills have been made possible by a contribution of \$2.25 million in the Department of Neighborhood Development funding and \$750,000 in Neighborhood Housing Trust Funds. Furthermore, sources included \$8.1 million in MassHousing Workforce funding, \$13.09 million MassHousing permanent funding, \$8.84 in Equity (Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and Solar), and a \$2.6 million sponsor loan from The Community Builders.

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Alex Gray to launch candidacy for Boston At-Large City Councilor

STAFF REPORT

Democrat Alex Gray will launched his campaign for Boston At-Large City Council on September 24, pledging to bring the voices and stories of all Bostonians directly to the City Council chamber. Motivated by his lived experience as someone with a disability and his work fighting for marginalized communities, Gray will run aggressively on core progressive priorities such as ensuring an equitable recovery from COVID-19, creating more affordable housing options, expanding educational opportunities, and fighting for good jobs that both pay living wages and provide benefits.

“At a time that is testing our city’s resilience unlike ever before, we need to come together to build back a city that truly belongs to everyone,” said Gray. “Every person in every corner of Boston deserves an At-Large City Councilor who will hear their stories and fight for them, every day. My life has made me a listener, and I have a track record of tackling complicated problems with successful, progressive, solutions.”

Gray would be the first-ever blind City Councilor in Boston and the only blind elected official in Massachusetts. Born with a genetic condition that caused him to begin to lose his vision at age eight, Gray learned to adapt to places and systems not designed for all people. As a middle school student, Gray overcame the initial protests of administrators to remain and thrive within a traditional public school classroom. He knows personally what it means to be on an individualized education plan and the crucial role that a special education system plays in the lives of a student and their family.

“I am thrilled that Alex is running for an At-Large City Council position” said Carol Steinberg, an attorney, disability activist, and Jamaica Plain resident. “Not only is he an articulate, accomplished attorney experienced in dealing with policy matters crucial to the governance of the City of Boston, and not only does he share the progressive views of so many Boston residents, but he is a person with a disability—a visual impairment—and as such, will be a voice for equal rights for people with disabilities in leadership—a



JP resident Alex Gray announced his candidacy for Boston At-Large City Council on September 24. If elected, Gray would be the first-ever blind Boston City Councilor, and has worked to increase equity for all during his career.

voice that has been absent for so long” said Steinberg. Steinberg added “I have worked with him on advocacy issues outside of government—and I look forward to working with him when he is an At-Large City Councilor.”

Motivated by the community that lifted him up as a child, Gray has dedicated his entire career to public service and has a history of fighting for progressive causes and succeeding. Currently a policy analyst in the City of Boston, Gray worked to start Boston’s first-ever Tuition Free Community College plan, which has now provided a pathway to higher education affordability for over 500 Boston Public School graduates.

His work in city government also includes creating and expanding a program providing children’s savings accounts for Boston Public School students; leading City efforts to advocate for an increase to the earned income tax credit; and expanding job training options for Boston residents including apprenticeships in the culinary and construction trades.

“I have known Alex for over fifteen years and I have seen him grow into the leader that he is today through his tremendous work ethic and his incredible ability to listen to and connect with others” said Rosemary Powers, former Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Patrick and Dorchester resident. “Alex does not just listen to people; he truly hears them.”

Gray served as an advisor for Governor Patrick during two key years of his time in office, including the period during and after the Boston Marathon bombings. While in this role, Gray worked to design, plan and implement the Fairmount Line commuter rail which has brought more transit equity and environmental justice to Dorchester, Mattapan, and Hyde Park. He also advised Governor Patrick on public safety policy including work on the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, a multifaceted, community-based strategy that combines public health and public safety approaches to deal with serious violence among high-risk, urban youth.

Gray is an attorney who graduated from Suffolk Law School and Boston College. He lives in Jamaica Plain with his wife, Lauren. More information on Gray can be found at www.vote-alexgray.com.

Mildred Hailey

Continued from page 7

including a first-floor lobby.

•Building 4: A six-story building located south of Building 3 and bordered by Bickford Street extension to the north, Lamartine Street extension to the east, a new open space to the west, and Centre Street to the south. The building is proposed to include approximately 225 residential units and associated residential amenities including a first-floor lobby, lounge and fitness area, as well as approximately 4,500 sf of non-residential space that could be retail space or another use that will activate the streetscape along Centre Street. The building will include approximately 95 garage parking spaces accessed from Lamartine Street.

•Building 5A: A six-story building located in the southwest portion of the Project Site. The building is proposed to include approximately 53 residential units and associated

residential amenities including a first-floor lobby.

•Building 5B: A six-story building located in the southwest portion of the Project Site, immediately south of Building

5A and at the intersection of Centre Street and Bickford

Street. The building is proposed to include approximately 53 residential units and

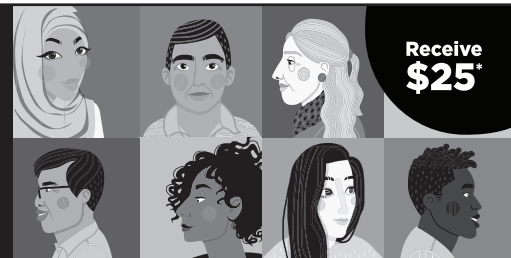
associated residential amenities including a first-floor lobby.

In addition to the buildings, the project will include two new roadways to improve circulation in and around the development. An extension of Lamartine Street will run north and south through the development from the existing stoplight, and Bickford Street Extension will be created to run east and west through the development between existing Bickford Street and the new Lamartine Street.

The redevelopment of part of the Hailey is also in context with several buildings that have been built in recent years – and are proposed to be built in the coming years – just around the site.

There have been no meetings yet scheduled for the project with the BPDA, but overall public meetings and Impact Advisory Group (IAG) meetings are likely to commence in the coming months – and it is likely they will be online so access to technology will be critical for the community at-large, O’Malley and Bennett said.

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Baker urges Massachusetts residents to get a flu shot this year

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Governor Charlie Baker held a press conference at the CVS on Washington St. in Roslindale on September 17 to urge Massachusetts residents to get a flu shot this year.

Baker received his flu shot as well.

“With respect to the flu, every fall, public health officials urge people to get the flu vaccine,” Baker said. “This year, that mission is more important than ever. As we continue to fight COVID-19, it’s critical that we do everything we can to minimize the impact of the flu and other respiratory illnesses. This will keep people healthy and help maintain capacity in hospitals in other healthcare facilities in case there is another surge associated with COVID-19.”

He said that about a month

ago, healthcare workers in the state began having discussions with the Baker-Polito administration about “what it would mean to have the flu land at exactly the same time as a second surge for COVID-19,” he said.

He explained that it would be “incredibly difficult” for healthcare workers to manage large cases of the flu with a potential surge in COVID-19 cases, so the state is requiring that all children attending school or college get a flu vaccine. Those who are homeschooled or are exempt for religious or medical reasons do not have to be vaccinated, but everyone else is highly encouraged to.

“We have an 81 percent positive vaccination rate for elementary school kids,” Baker said. “We can do better and we should.”

He said that precautions such as social distancing, washing

hands, and wearing masks has “had a noticeably positive impact” on the number of traditional respiratory illnesses such as strep throat and ear infections.

Baker stressed the importance of remaining vigilant as the weather gets colder and people start to be inside more.

“First and foremost, it is easy to get a flu shot and we are here to remind everyone that it is a very good thing to do this year to get a flu shot,” Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders said. “Every year, thousands of people of all ages are affected by the flu and it results in many hospitalizations and some deaths.”

She said that there were more than 40,000 positive cases of influenza reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health during the 2019-2020 flu season, as well as 55,000 hospital

emergency department visits and 6600 deaths.

“Vaccines save lives and this is more important than ever as we head into a flu season that overlaps with a potential COVID-19 resurgence in the ongoing pandemic,” Sudders said. “...Many flu symptoms are very similar to those of COVID-19, and preventing the flu will not only save lives, but it is good public health as it preserves critical hospital medical resources to deal with the COVID pandemic.”

Sudders said that Massachusetts has the highest rate of pediatric flu immunization in the country—81 percent, and this year, it is the first state to require the immunization for K-12 and college students.

“As students return to in-person learning, whether that is now or in the future, ...this vaccine requirement provides an additional

and necessary layer of protection and safety for teachers, students, staff, and families,” Sudders said.

She added that the state has worked to ensure there will be enough vaccine for residents. During the past few years, the state has purchased around 900,000 doses annually, but this year, the Department of Public Health will receive 1.156 million doses of the influenza vaccine, which she said is a 28 percent increase.

There is also a new public awareness campaign that will inform people about the importance of getting a flu shot that will be rolled out next week in English and Spanish across a variety of platforms.

“Our goal,” Sudders said, “is to remind you to protect yourself and your family from illness this season by getting a flu shot today.”

Walsh provides COVID-19 update; announces testing program for BPS teachers

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Mayor Walsh held a press conference on September 23, where he gave an update on COVID-19 and made an announcement regarding testing for teachers in the Boston Teachers Union.

He said that as of Wednesday, there were 63 new cases of COVID-19 in Boston and no new deaths on Wednesday. He said that the seven day average positive test rate in the City for the week ending September 19, which was about the same as the week prior. He said that the City has seen a slight uptick in hospitalizations, and Boston is “very close to moving into the red category” on the state’s map of cases, as it is “seeing roughly eight new cases per 100,000 people.

He said that testing and resources need to continue to be brought where they are needed most, and the City will continue working with colleges and universities on keeping the number of cases down.

Walsh also said that he would be accepting Governor Charlie Baker’s new changes for dining, including permission to eat socially distanced meals at bars in restaurants, but he will not allow the maximum number of people at a restaurant table to be ten, as the governor is allowing in the state. Walsh said that Boston’s maximum will remain at six.

He said that he wants “to make sure we do everything we can to keep those numbers down,” and decisions made for the City will “continue to be guided by public

health data,” he said, while continuing to support restaurants and other small businesses in the City.

Walsh said that most neighborhoods remain at a positive rest rate under three percent, and while there is a slight upward trend in cases overall in the City, he said that “it is within our control.” He stressed the importance of continuing to social distance, wearing masks, continuing to wash hands, cleaning frequently touched surfaces, and avoiding large gatherings.

He also called on the City’s young adults to spread this message to their peers, and to make sure they are aware of the dangers of going to parties and gathering indoors in large numbers. “We need you to be our

messengers here in the City of Boston,” Walsh said.

Walsh also talked about the first day of remote learning in Boston Public Schools, which happened on September 21 and happened “very successfully,” he said, thanking everyone who played a part in making that happen.

He said that more than 400,000 Chromebooks were distributed to students, and internet access was expanded to families who did not have it.

He said that in all Boston Public Schools, dividers and distancing materials will be provided for the gradual return of students in a hybrid model, as well as fixes to help ensure healthy, clean air, sanitization stations and hygiene materials, and electronic foggers

in all schools for sanitization of surfaces.

Walsh also announced that the Red Sox and the MLB will help to provide COVID testing for teachers in the Boston Teachers Union. Testing will begin near Fenway Park, and then will move into other neighborhoods. A “random sampling of teachers will be tested across the City,” Walsh said. “This testing program is an important way to support our teachers.”

He said the Red Sox, along with Jet Blue and Boston Pride have donated more than 60,000 reusable masks to BPS students and teachers, and Boston Public Schools students will receive a mask when they return to school as part of the hybrid model.

Zoning Board of Appeal approves body piercing shop on Centre Street

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) approved on Tuesday afternoon a proposal to convert the existing beauty salon at 387-399 Centre St. to a body piercing studio called Rockstar Body Piercing.

This project came before the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council Zoning Committee twice, and both times there were legal

issues presented by the beauty salon owner and the landlord of the building. Some expressed that they did not want to see the beauty salon leave and did not support the body piercing studio taking its place.

Attorney Mike Ross explained that this project was before the ZBA because that use is conditional in that location. He also said that the applicant appeared before the ZBA in June, where a

deferral was granted to include more community process.

The applicant currently operates a body piercing studio in Providence, RI, and this location will have three piercing rooms and will also sell body jewelry. The applicant has agreed to remove the grates from the building.

Lindsey Santana from the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services said that an abutters

meeting was held December 12, 2019 and that the Mayor’s Office is in Support. City Councilor Matt O’Malley is also in support of this project.

The ZBA voted to approve this project with BPDA design review.

The ZBA was also supposed to hear the proposal for 3305-3307 Washington St. to combine two existing lots into one and erect a four story, mixed use building. The project came before the ZBA

in March with a proposal for 15 units, but the ZBA said that was too dense, so another proposal with 10 units plus a commercial space was proposed, but the applicant said that last Thursday, the Mayor’s office asked for there to be more community process, so the project was deferred to the December 8 hearing at 1 p.m.

Campbell

Continued from page 1

Thursday, and then scheduled a kick off in the South End later on Thursday – beyond Gazette deadlines. Campbell currently represents part of Jamaica Plain as the District 4 councilor.

“In this profound moment of reckoning for our country and our city, as people rise up to demand change, Boston needs leadership that not only understands, but has lived the systemic inequities facing our residents every day,” she said. “I’m running for Mayor to be that leader, to bring our city together to confront inequities head-on, and finally make Boston a City that works for everyone.”

A native Bostonian, Campbell is running to bring the city together to break cycles of inequity and injustice, and to give every Bostonian a chance to succeed.

As a City Councilor representing District 4, which includes large sections of Dorchester and Mattapan, as well as pieces of Jamaica Plain and Roslindale, Campbell has focused on closing generational inequities in our City, whether in a criminal justice system that is unjust, a school system that under-serves communities of color, or one of the worst racial wealth gaps in America.

Campbell is running on an equity agenda with a record of leadership and vision to deliver effective and impactful solutions in public health and safety, criminal justice, housing, public education, economic development, environmental justice, and racial equity. Throughout the course of the campaign, Campbell’s cam-

paign said they will be releasing in-depth policy platforms around these issue-areas and more to demonstrate a path to a more equitable, inclusive Boston.

Campbell’s vision for Boston is driven by her life story, she said on the kick-off video. Born and raised in Roxbury and the South End, she and her twin brother Andre lost their mother in a car accident when they were just eight months old, and their father was incarcerated for the first eight years of their lives. For those eight years, Campbell and her siblings grew up with relatives and in foster care, often in public housing and on food assistance.

As they grew older, Campbell and Andre’s lives went in very different directions. While Campbell’s academic gifts were recognized - putting her on a path to Boston Latin School, Princeton University, and a promising legal career - Andre’s were not. Like too many young Black men in our society, Andre was over-disciplined and under-supported by adults who failed to recognize his potential. He cycled in and out of the criminal justice system and died at age 29 while awaiting trial. Campbell’s family has never been given a full accounting of Andre’s death.

Campbell said her career has been driven by the pain of Andre’s loss and a fundamental question: How can two twins born and raised in Boston have such different life outcomes? That was a question she posed on the campaign trail in 2015 when she ran against long-time incumbent Charles Yancey, and one she said she continues to ask to this day.

“Boston is where I was born and raised; where I went to five

excellent Boston Public Schools, where I started my career in Roxbury, and started my own family in Mattapan; and where I have proudly served my community of District 4 for the past five years,” she said. “But it’s also where I’ve suffered tremendous pain and loss, and experienced how Boston is a city divided by access to opportunity.

“The inequities in access to education, housing that is affordable, good jobs, health care, parks and green space, streets that are clean, and neighborhoods that feel safe are all too familiar to me,” she continued. “But I also know what is possible in Boston, because, by the Grace of God and the opportunities this City afforded me, I stand here today -- as a girl who grew up in public housing in Roxbury and the South End, with a family torn apart by incarceration and loss, who could be elected the first Black woman President of the Boston City Council, and today launch a campaign to be the first Black mayor and first woman mayor of the City of Boston.”

Campbell served as Deputy Legal Counsel in Governor Deval Patrick’s administration, working to create more equitable systems and deliver progressive change to communities across the Commonwealth. In 2015, Campbell challenged a 32-year incumbent to represent Mattapan, Dorchester, and parts of Jamaica Plain and Roslindale on the City Council.

Since then, Campbell has been a leader for equity, justice, and opportunity for all in Boston, she said. As the first Black woman to serve as Boston City Council President, she championed an agenda that put racial equity at

the top of Boston’s priority list. For years, she’s led the fight to reform police and criminal legal systems and pushed the City and

school leaders to act urgently to provide a quality public education to every student.

Campbell

Continued from page 1

con un vídeo y un evento programado en South End.

“En este momento de rendición de cuentas por nuestro país, mientras la gente exige cambios, Boston necesita un líder que no sólo comprenda, sino que haya vivido las desigualdades sistémicas que enfrentan nuestros residentes todos los días”, dijo.

Como consejera, Campbell se ha centrado en cerrar las desigualdades generacionales en nuestra ciudad. Ella está ejecutando una agenda de equidad con un historial de liderazgo y visión para ofrecer soluciones efectivas e impactantes en salud y seguridad públicas, justicia penal, vivienda, educación pública, desarrollo económico, justicia ambiental y equidad racial.

Desde el comienzo de su carrera en la administración de Patrick, Campbell ha sido una líder en equidad, justicia y oportunidades para todos. Como presidenta del consejo, defendió una agenda que coloca la equidad racial en la lista de prioridades de

la Ciudad. Ha liderado la lucha por la reforma de los sistemas de educación y justicia penal.

La visión de Campbell para Boston está impulsada por su vida. Nacida y criada en Roxbury y South End, perdió a su madre en un accidente cuando tenía ocho meses y su padre fue encarcelado. Campbell creció con parientes y en hogares de acogida, a menudo en viviendas públicas y con asistencia alimentaria.

Los dones académicos de Campbell la encaminaron hacia Boston Latin School, la Universidad de Princeton y una prometedora carrera legal. Su hermano gemelo, Andre, no tuvo tanta suerte. Como tantos hombres negros, quedó atrapado en el sistema de justicia penal y finalmente murió a la edad de 29 años.

“Boston es donde he sufrido un tremendo dolor y pérdidas, y he experimentado cómo Boston es una ciudad dividida por el acceso a las oportunidades,” ella dijo. “Pero sé lo que es posible en Boston porque estoy aquí hoy como la primera mujer negra Presidenta del Consejo que podría ser la primera alcaldesa negra de Boston”.

Community meeting for Doyle’s project set for October 1

Watermark Development and Scales Architecture are proposing a mixed-use development that hopes to bring back Doyle’s Cafe.

A post on the Save Doyle’s Cafe Facebook page says:

“Priorities have shifted these past few months as we struggle through this pandemic and all of us take stock of what is dear. While we know there are more pressing issues at this time, we also know that our community will recover and life will resume some day. When that day comes, we hope that our beloved pub will be once again part of our community. And on this front, there is a

glimmer of hope and possibility...

There is a proposal on the table for a revived Doyle’s which would include a pub/restaurant and a community room. We’ve even heard that the road race would some day be revived. Hard to imagine at this particular moment in time, but certainly a ritual that would be great to resume.”

The socially distanced community meeting is set for October 1 at 6:00pm in the Doyle’s parking lot at 3484 Washington St., where the development team will be present to share the proposal and address community questions and concerns.

Lee Goodman of Watermark

Development told the Gazette that “the project will be a modest, mixed-use development that seeks to restore Doyle’s. Unlike some of the larger box buildings along Washington Street, we are proposing to make the renovated Doyle’s the focal point of the design with the housing component a smaller aspect of the overall project.”

For any questions related to the proposal, call Lee Goodman at 617-212-8583, and for questions relating to the community meeting, contact Lindsey Santana of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services at lindsey.santana@boston.gov.

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



TEDDY

Teddy is one half of a bonded pair of degu brothers looking for a home where they can be together! Teddy and his bro Bernard are about 4 months old and they’re both super sweet. Degus are fun, social, energetic little rodents and would do well in enclosures that allow them room to climb, burrow, and otherwise thrive. They would love to add a little excitement to your home!



We are doing adoptions by appointment, so if you are interested in adopting, call the shelter!

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COVID-19 Updates for Jamaica Plain, Walsh warns Boston heading into the “red”

By JOHN LYNDIS

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

According to Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) data released last Friday, Jamaica Plain’s infection rate went from 197 cases per 10,000 residents to 204.8 cases per 10,000 residents.

However, Jamaica Plain remains several points under the citywide infection rate average which is now at 241.8.

Thirty-one more Jamaica Plain residents became infected with COVID-19 in the past two weeks and the number of total cases here went from 796 cases two weeks ago to 827 cases last week.

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

Of the 15,919 Jamaica Plain residents tested 2 percent were found to be COVID positive, down from the 2.6 percent reported two weeks ago. Since testing began in the neighborhood 5.4 percent of Jamaica Plain residents have been found to be COVID positive.

On Wednesday Mayor Martin Walsh provided an update on the overall COVID-19 trends in Boston.

For the week ending Saturday, September 19, the positive test rate was 2.7 percent, which was roughly level with the week before. The cumulative positive test rate since March is now 7.3 percent.

“We have seen a slight increase in our hospitalization numbers, so there is an uptick in COVID-19 activity,” said Walsh. “It has not crossed the threshold for major concern, but we will continue to monitor it carefully. The City will continue to bring resources where they are needed, and urge everyone to take this virus as seriously as ever.”

However, as far as the State metrics go, Walsh said that Boston is very close to moving into the “red” category on their map.

“That could happen today or

next week,” said Walsh. “This means we are seeing eight new cases per day, per 100,000 people.”

Walsh added that the City will keep monitoring all our metrics and responding with targeted strategies.

“We’ll bring testing and resources where they are needed and address health inequities, as well as keep working with employers, colleges and universities, and with the community to keep taking precautions,” he said. “And we will continue our cautious approach to reopening.”

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus rose only 2.7 percent last week from 16,310 cases to 16,766 cases. So far 13,605 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus and two additional residents died last week bringing the total of fatalities in the city to 761.

During his press briefing on the virus, Walsh did highlight one notable trend.

“Forty-eight percent of new cases in the last two weeks of data are in people under the age of 30,” said Walsh.

Walsh stressed that young people must be especially cautious, in order to protect themselves and the rest of the community as well, including older populations who tend to experience more severe symptoms if they contract the virus.

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REAL ESTATE TODAY

Knowing when you're already to buy your first home

(StatePoint) For many Americans, making the jump to buying that first house is a significant achievement that allows them to put their mark on their own space, while creating room for family and pets.

But how do you know you're ready?

Americans see homeownership as an investment in their future, yet they are concerned about the steps they need to take to put themselves into a position to buy, according to the "How Americans View Homeownership" survey conducted by The Harris Poll April 17-29, 2019, among 1,004 U.S. adults 21 and older on behalf of Wells Fargo. The study showed that 44 percent of non-homeowners identified saving for a down payment as a top barrier to buying, more

so than any other obstacle.

"Homeownership is very much a part of the American Dream, yet too many first-time buyers don't know where to start," says Liz Bryant, Wells Fargo Home Lending's national retail sales leader. "We find that a great way to get moving down the path to homeownership is with a conversation. By reaching out to your mortgage lender, your banker or even a housing counselor, you can start putting together a plan that will help get you on your way."

Here are some steps to consider:

- Research lenders and loan options. Identify a lender who has a breadth of home loan options,

Continued on page 17

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REAL ESTATE TODAY

Ways to master a move

(StatePoint) While real estate agents report that far fewer people than normal have been moving during the COVID-19 pandemic, that may soon change. A recent Harris Poll found that nearly a third of U.S. adults living in urban areas are considering a move to less densely populated cities in the wake of the pandemic. Others may not be fleeing the pandemic but simply want or need to move, either for a job change or other reason.

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If you find yourself preparing to move during these uncertain times, here are some tips to help it go more smoothly.

1. Make a checklist: Set a timeline for completing such tasks as packing, cleaning and registering the kids for school. Staying ahead of the process can help avoid last-minute headaches and make your to-do list seem more manageable. There are even free apps available to help.
2. Organize and purge: Moving is the perfect opportunity to decide what you really want and need in your new home. To lessen the load on moving day, hold a garage sale – following proper social distancing guidelines – or donate unwanted items to charity. You can make the unpacking process simpler by arranging similar items together and labeling each box accordingly, such as kitchen utensils with cups or clothing of a particular season. You can even label a box as “open me first” for items you’ll need immediately.
3. Notify those who need to know: Let your insurance agent



know that you’re moving as soon as possible to be sure you’re covered. You’ll also want to discuss how your needs will change. For example, if this is your first time buying a house, you’ll need a homeowners policy versus renters insurance. On the other hand, if you’re downsizing from a house to an apartment, you’ll still want to ensure your belongings are covered, which you can do with renters insurance. Be sure to also call your utility providers to cancel or transfer service and fill out a change of address form with the United States Post Office. You’ll also want to update your address with your bank and credit card companies.

4. Consider what’s covered: You may want to consider moving insurance. Some companies, like Erie Insurance, will cover you during the move and say it’s usually not necessary to purchase an additional policy. Keep in mind

there are limits for certain kinds of misplaced, lost or stolen personal property. Your insurance agent can walk through that with you.

5. DIY or hire a pro. While during “normal” times you might recruit family and friends to help you with the move, given ongoing social distancing guidelines, now may not be the right time to ask. If it’s a small move, you may be able to handle it on your own or with the help of just a few immediate family members. Otherwise, consider hiring moving professionals who know the proper safety protocols and will be better equipped to protect your possessions and make sure they’re transported safely.

While moving can seem overwhelming, a bit of prep and planning go a long way. By mastering your move, you’ll be sitting down and relaxing in your new home in no time.

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REAL ESTATE TODAY

Real estate market strong heading into fall; many looking for more space for remote learning and working

BY LAUREN BENNETT

As the fall season rapidly approaches, the status of the real estate market remains good, despite the belief held by many that the lull created by the COVID-19 pandemic would continue.

The Gazette spoke with three local real estate professionals to get their opinions and outlook on the market coming out of the COVID shutdown as people move towards a new normal.

Back in March, when the pandemic first hit and many businesses and organizations shut down, real estate followed suit.

At the beginning of the shutdown, there was “a lot of virtual renting,” said Rachael Kulik, a broker at Insight Realty Group. People were exclusively renting apartments after watching a virtual video tour, but as people became more comfortable with in-person tours as the summer

went on, she said she allowed in-person tours, but only after a potential renter was still seriously interested after viewing a virtual tour.

Randal Engelmann, an owner and realtor at FOCUS Real Estate, said that he and his team have been “trying to react to the comfort and safety of both our clients and the community, and understanding how they wanted us to react.”

He said that there were about “six weeks of dead time” starting the last week of March, but after that, “people came back in a vengeance.”

On the rental side of things, Kulik said that “September turned into an awkward August,” and there is still a lot of inventory in JP.

“A lot of it is because someone is moving home to help family or they’re buying because the rates are low,” she said. September

is typically a very busy move in month in the City of Boston, but “not so much this year,” she said, adding that “a lot of people didn’t need September this year,” as many programs that bring people to Boston have been either pushed back or have become remote.

Kulik said that this leads people to ask why they would spend money on an apartment when they wouldn’t be leaving it much.

While she said there is definitely still a need for rental properties “because people don’t know exactly when they need to be here, it’s made things confusing.”

Kulik also said that when it comes to college students, “JP is seeing less and less college students over the year in general,” as many are focused on living in Mission Hill where they can be closer to schools like Northeastern University and Boston University.

She said that she personally has not gotten any college students within the past few months, but a few had rented apartments virtually a few months ago who had a September move in date.

Mike McGuire, also a broker and President at Insight Realty Group, said that the virus has had “zero negative impact from a real estate sales point.” He said that the number of single families sold this year was up six percent from last year, and there was a seven percent increase in price as well. He said that the number of condos purchased is also up 29 percent, and saw an eight percent increase in price.

“People want outdoor space; they want home offices,” McGuire said. He said he’s seen a trend towards larger spaces from the “more vertical living you see in downtown Boston.” With so many people working from home and kids learning remotely, a home

has never been more important to many people, Engelmann said.

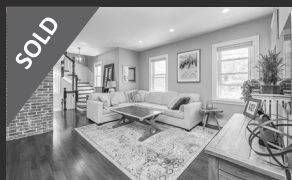
McGuire said that Jamaica Plain has been a popular location for people because of its availability of green space and proximity to public transit, while still only being 10-15 minutes away from downtown.

McGuire said that entering into this fall, the market seems to be mimicking that of a typical spring. “The fall market is going to be very active with buyers and sellers moving forward,” he said.

He said that safety is still key even though a lot of business has cropped up in the real estate world. He said that instead of a traditional open house that could bring crowds to a particular property, interested parties are given 15 minute time slots to check out the home by themselves, while “being sensitive to PPE” and still

Continued on page 18

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REAL ESTATE TODAY

Home projects that don't require a professional

(StatePoint) While spending more time at home, you may have noticed the little things that need to be fixed, and small ways you can improve the appearance and functionality of your home. So

why not use this time to test your skills with a few DIY projects?

Here are some easy, affordable tips to fix those items that have been nagging at you, as well as check off small projects that will

boost your home's aesthetic.

1. First impressions are everything. From your family and friends to the mail carrier, your front door greets everyone who comes to your home. But it can take a beating from weather and constant use, so revitalize it with a fresh coat of paint. Once the paint has dried, accent it with a new door knocker, hardware or address plate. Worried about drilling into the door? Secure these items with T-Rex Mounting Tape. Mounting tape is a



strong, weather-resistant tape for heavy-duty projects that replaces nails, screws and staples.

2. Trim the walls. Accenting a room with wood trim is a quick way to add another level of depth and detail to the interior of your home, and it won't cost a lot. Your local home improvement store can provide the best trim to fit your budget. For a smooth installation, ditch the nail gun and runny glues, and opt for a fast-adhering super glue tape, which sticks on contact and works just as well as traditional nails.

3. Bolster your security. Feeling safe at home is important, and security cameras are a quick and easy solution to deter unwanted visitors and offer you peace of mind. If you've been toying with the idea of adding smart devices and cameras to the exterior of your home, look to install them above high-risk

entry points, such as the front door, back and side doors, and the garage. There are many great security cameras that can be easily mounted to the exterior of your home without professional installation.

4. Effortless gutter repair. One project to check off your list is fixing that leaky gutter you've been ignoring. Don't worry, it's not as daunting a task as it might seem. Simply wrap waterproof tape around the leak and smooth it around all of the gutter ridges for a tight seal. Formulated to withstand extreme temperatures from -70 to 200 degrees, the UV-resistant formulation will prevent the tape from breaking down under harsh sunlight. Now how simple was that?

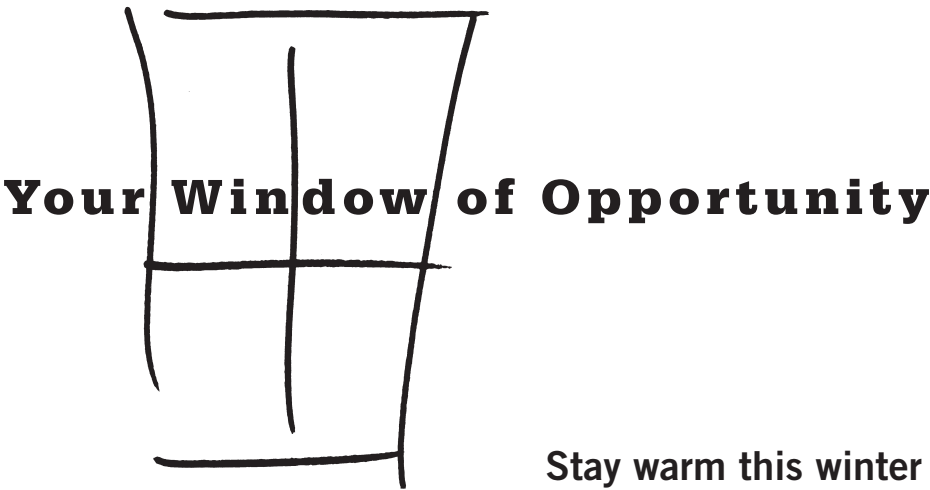
During these uncertain times, staying active and checking those to-dos off your list will give both you and your home a much needed refresher.



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First Home

Continued from page 13

including low down payment mortgages, and who is willing to provide you with personalized guidance. Then just start the conversation.

- Know your goal. Your mortgage consultant can help, and so can a financial health banker or a housing counselor. A discussion about spending, saving, debt and credit will help you make decisions about what you can afford, how much you need to save and whether you need to do work to improve your credit score.

- Get your down payment ready. If you don't already have one, create a budget for your monthly spending, so you can identify areas where you can save. Set aside unexpected windfalls, such as tax refunds, to grow savings.
- Keep an eye on overall debt. While there's room for student

loans and credit card debt, a good rule of thumb is to keep your overall debt level -- including your new mortgage -- at or below 36 percent of gross monthly income.

- Think beyond the down payment. Consider setting aside 1-2 percent of the purchase price of your home each year for maintenance projects. If that seems like too much, start with less and work your way up.

More readiness tips can be found at wellsfargo.com/financial-education/homeownership/.

"Too many first-time buyers get intimidated by the down payment or the work they might need to do around credit," says Bryant. "Many don't realize that there are lending options available for homebuyers with a range of credit scores, and programs that require buyers to put as little as three percent down. It's important to explore your options, take it step by step and work toward your homeownership goals."

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REAL ESTATE TODAY

Home maintenance tips to keep the outdoors outside

(StatePoint) Even avid nature lovers will agree that not all aspects of the outdoors belong inside one's home. While bugs, mud and allergens will sneak their way into interior spaces, the steps you take to manage these elements can keep your home more comfortable.

Contain Allergens

Your home should provide a respite from outdoor allergens. Unfortunately, pollen has a tendency to stick to skin, hair, shoes and clothes. Contain allergens by removing outerwear when you get home. If you spent the day in a grassy or forested area, you may also want to change your clothes or even take a shower before sitting on furniture. As far as cleaning is concerned, regularly shake out your welcome mat outside and away

from the front door. Also, make a habit of regularly laundering items that touch your eyes, ears and nose most frequently, such as bedding and towels.

Combat Insect Invaders

According to the Smithsonian Institution, there are over 200 million insects for each human on the planet! That's a lot of critters, and despite your best efforts, some of them are going to enter your home, especially during peak bug season. With the National Pest Management Association's bug barometer calling for high pest pressure from ants, roaches, mosquitoes and more this season, having a smart way to deal with insect invaders is a good idea.

The majority of people are concerned with the ingredients found in conventional bug

killer sprays. If that describes you, look for effective solutions made without harsh chemicals. For example, Zevo Insect Killer Sprays with BioSelective Technology work on a broad range of household insects, including ants, roaches, flies, fruit flies, gnats and spiders. The active essential oils in Zevo target nerve receptors vital to insects, not people or pets. Easy to use, just spray on pests, then wipe up the dead bugs, as well as any excess product. Leaving only a light scent of essential oils, Zevo lets you get on with your day after use, and is available online or in-store at Target and Home Depots nationwide. To learn more, visit zevoinsect.com.

Make Floors Mud-Free

Setting up a mudroom near the entrance of your home can

help you combat footprints once and for all. If you don't like being barefoot or want extra sole support, keep a pair of shoes nearby that you can swap into indoors. Just be sure that this pair never leaves the house. Have a dog? Wipe paws clean when you get home from walks, or better yet, try dog boots, which have the added bonus of protecting paws from sharp objects, hot pavement and other road hazards.

Banish Excess Moisture

Too much moisture indoors is bad news. Damp spaces can promote growth and spread of viruses, bacteria and bugs, according to the American Lung Association. To keep your home's interiors dry, fix up any leaks and keep humidity levels at 50 percent or less by adjusting controls on your air con-



ditioner and/or by running a dehumidifier. The Institute of Medicine cites good ventilation and moisture control as ways to help limit both mold and bug problems.

With a few simple measures, you can manage all those peskier aspects of nature you'd rather not have indoors.

Market

Continued from page 15

utilizing 3D tours and professional photography.

Through the use of those technological tools, "buyers can really pare down what they're looking for without having to see every property," he said.

Kulik said that she has noticed that people have adapted to the technology well and are willing to learn how to use it in order to ensure they are getting the best experience when looking for a new home.

Engelmann said that FOCUS Real Estate has been working towards advancing their technological offerings, so it was easy for them to adapt to the pandemic by offering virtual and 3D tours, as well as paperless open houses, which they have been doing for some time now.

McGuire said that in terms of who is looking to purchase homes in the JP area, it's a "complete melting pot. We get families; young professionals, empty nesters that want to come back in." He said it's a "really wide appeal here."

Many thought that the market would "bottom out" when COVID first started, McGuire said, but

he said that the "exact opposite" has happened. "Sales are up, prices are up, people are moving," he said, and "doing it safely. It's astonishing that this was able to happen with COVID-19. I don't think any of us could have predicted this."

Kulik added that "people are also being more conscious of their decision," and she said she has more and more people asking if they should rent or sell their properties. "To me, it is really nice for people to evaluate those options."

On the sales front, Engelmann said that the market is now mostly "driven by buyers," as there are a lot of sellers because of the volume of people who have decided to move.

He said that while he has seen a "surge" in the purchase of single family homes, there are so few of them available and they are very expensive. He agreed with McGuire that open space is very important to buyers in the face of the pandemic, as people want a place where they can get some fresh air and possibly have some people over for a socially distanced, safe outdoor gathering. He said that even for buyers seeking to purchase a condo, outdoor space is a must for many.

"We're seeing much bugger

trends in our market than just what is happening through COVID," he said. "COVID is really forcing people to think about whether they're in their dream home."

He said with the increase in people working from home and kids learning remotely, there are "lots of people moving around for a little more space," he said, as McGuire had mentioned as well. He added that with many people being told to not return to an in-person work environment until at least the middle of next year, he has seen many people move to New Hampshire, Cape Cod, the Berkshires, or from downtown to towns right outside the city.

"The city location has become less important as we're remote working," Engelmann said.

But he said that leaves many people wondering, "where does it leave the small homes?"

He said that rents continue to go up, while mortgage interest rates are close to 2.5 percent.

"The largest buying population in two generations is now gainfully employed and buying homes," he said—millennials. "They want a foothold in the community somewhere," he said, and are purchasing some of the smaller homes left behind by

those who have left the City. He said that millennials still want to live in the city because there is a "certain lifestyle to urban living that appeals to many, many people."

Agents and brokers have been extremely busy as of late, trying to help people find a home that will work with their changing schedules as everyone learns to adapt to a new normal as the

pandemic continues.

"A lot of people hid when they saw the pandemic coming, and disappeared, really," Engelmann said. "I find it fascinating that this has happened the way it has. It's been kind of fun because we've been able to help so many people...realize their dreams. We've actually had a really good time with it, helping people move around."

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First Come - First Served

Time is running out to participate in the U.S. 2020 Census

By JOHN LYNDIS

With the help of local organizations and volunteers the City of Boston is making a final push to get an accurate census count ahead of the Sept. 30 deadline.

"This once-in-a-decade opportunity will determine the amount of elected representatives Boston will have, how legislative districts will be formed, and the amount of federal funding we will receive for crucial services and programs for the next 10 years," said Mayor Martin Walsh last week. "Only 57.4 percent of Boston's households have self-responded. We are now less than

two weeks away from the last day to be counted (September 30). This is an urgent call to all of Boston's communities to make sure they've completed the U.S. 2020 Census. On this day and throughout the month of September."

Mayor Walsh reminded residents they can fill out the 2020 Census online or by phone, and either of these options is available in 13 languages.

"If you already have done so, make sure to ask your friends, family, and networks to do the same," he said. "Spread the message digitally. Use the city's outreach toolkit to amplify that

responding is not only crucial, but it is also quick, easy, and confidential."

Walsh is also encouraging residents to volunteer to census phone banks with the City of Boston. "We are hosting daily phone banks to reach out and encourage households in some of our lowest response neighborhoods," said Walsh.

For all Boston-related Census information and how to help Walsh said to visit the city's "Boston Counts 2020" website at www.boston.gov/departments/intergovernmental-relations/boston-counts-2020.

This year the United States

will conduct its decennial census. In Boston there's been a huge push to ensure a fair and complete count in the 2020 U.S. Census because it determines everything from representation in Congress, to federal funds for schools, affordable housing, infrastructure and health care programs.

MCEF used real-time census response rate data and knowledge of the impacts of the pandemic to make rapid-response grants between \$500 to \$5,000 for additional outreach activities. Organizations in these regions, who work with hard-to-count populations including commu-

nities of color, are struggling to increase Census response rates while simultaneously responding to communities' needs, which have been increasing in the wake of COVID-19.

Historically, certain populations are "hard-to-count" in the census. Urban and rural areas with large low-income populations, people of color, immigrants, non-English speakers, migrant workers, ex-offenders, young children, the elderly, those who are disabled, renters, the homeless, and those living in mobile homes or multi-unit residences are historically hard-to-count.

HOME SERVICE GUIDE

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JPNC hears about Parcel Priority Plan; update from Rep. Nika Elugardo

By Lauren Bennett

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) met virtually on September 22, where Maggie Owens of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department presented information about the new Parcel Priority Plan, and Representative Nika Elugardo gave a quick update on what's been happening at the State House.

PARCEL PRIORITY PLAN

Maggie Owens, Planner for the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, stopped into the JPNC meeting to present on the City's Parcel Priority Plan, which will help the city plan for protecting or acquiring open space in the future.

A virtual open house launched earlier this week, which includes a survey for residents to take about how they envision the use of open space in the City.

"The park system hasn't kept pace with current and future needs," Owens said, so this a "deliberate plan to expand open space needs to be in place."

The website includes a map of the city for people to pinpoint where they'd like to see open space. Owens said that it doesn't have to be vacant space; anything that is currently occupied that people feel would make for good open space will be considered.

"We need survey responses," she said. The survey closes on November 2.

"This is a long term process and we hope that it's a living document," she said.

JPNC member Gert Thorn praised the virtual open house and the amount of information it presents to the public. "I'm absolutely full of admiration for your team overall," he said. "This is very, very good."

JPNC member Michael Reiskind suggested the protection of Forest Hills Cemetery. He said that while he recognizes it is privately owned land, he has "always felt" like it was part of the Emerald Necklace, "even though it predates Olmsted." He said he believes it is "more of an access issue" for residents, and he feels that it should be preserved in some fashion.

Owens said that the Parks Department has heard from several residents about the same issue, and it is something they are going to look into.

The survey and virtual open house can be accessed at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/parcel-priority-plan>.

NIKA ELUGARDO UPDATE

State Rep. Nika Elugardo also stopped by the Zoom call to provide an update and talk about some of her recent work. She said that there is a "holding pattern" happening in the House right now, "with conference committees 'trying to work out the details' of legislation relating to things like climate, policing, healthcare, economic development, and transportation revenue."

She said that it is not anticipated that the budget will be voted on until after the election, but this "means it will be difficult to have revenue conversations."

She also said that it is "very unlikely" that the state will receive aid from the federal government, so moving forward, the state will have to raise its own revenue, but the legislature "won't do any revenue work before we do the budget," she said.

She said that it is rumored that Fiscal Year 2021 "should be much stronger for revenue."

She also said that much of the legislation around COVID-19 is on hold, and the budget discussion includes conversations like who will be prioritized with a limited amount of money. She said that while there will not be increases to education like many wanted, no cuts will be made either. She also said that there is a push for investments in small businesses and communities of color.

She also talked about her Tools for Schools program, which provides headsets and other school supplies for remote learning. She said that in homes with multiple children and parents trying to work remotely, the noise can get to be too much so headsets are "really critical" to ensuring that kids can focus and stay on track with their education.

The Tools for Schools wishlist can be found at <https://www.amazon.com>.

Elugardo also said that in-

terns from local universities will be checking in with families and reporting back to her about the challenges of remote learning and what they think might work better.

FOLLOW UP ON LETTER OF LIMITED NON-OPPOSITION TO APOTHC A DISPENSARY PROPOSAL

Last month, Joseph Lekach of Apothca, Inc. returned before the JPNC with more information about his proposed recreational cannabis dispensary at 54 Hyde Park Ave. After discussion, the JPNC voted to draft a letter of limited non-opposition to the project, and they discussed the letter at this month's hearing.

JPNC Chair Kevin Rainsford said that the purpose of this letter is "to begin the process," and it is "not an endorsement of whether we think it's a good use or not." There were several comments and concerns from both the Council and neighbors, such as issues with whether abutters were given sufficient information and opportunity for feedback once Lekach proposed recreational use for the site. The original proposal only included medical.

Others, including JPNC member Gert Thorn, were concerned about the lack of a traffic study at the last meeting. Since that meeting, a traffic study has been provided to the Council, but Thorn expressed his issues with it.

He said that while the study "talks about comparative situations," in Lynn and Arlington, where Apothca has existing locations, he said "it has an overtone

of salesmanship" and "omits something really desperate: it does not talk about parking in either of the comparative situations," he said, adding that it "goes out of its way" to not address the parking situation in the newly proposed location.

JPNC member Bernie Doherty agreed with Thorn.

The Council voted to submit the letter of limited non-opposition "to at least allow [Apothca] to begin the process with the expectation that they will be back before is for zoning and/or licensing," Rainsford said.

PUBLIC SERVICE, HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT, AND ZONING COMMITTEES

The JPNC voted not to oppose the change in hours from 8:00am-9:00pm to 8:00am-1:00am for Mangú Dominican Bistro at 264 Hyde Park Ave., as well as voted not to oppose the change of occupancy at 7 Burroughs St. to include a smoothie and tea cafe called Cada Dia Nutrition.

Housing and Development Committee Chair Carolyn Royce discussed a proposed letter supporting The Community Builders in finding funding for the first phase of the proposed Mildred Hailey apartment redevelopment.

Rainsford said the letter was "not necessarily a support of the plan or the pacing of it," as the proponents are expected to submit their Article 80 application by the end of the month, and will return to the JPNC with a proposal as part of that process.

"This is just an introduction so they can begin seeking funding," he said.

After some discussion, the Council voted to approve the sending of the letter.

JPNC member Max Glikman reported on the two Zoning Committee meetings from this past month, and the Council ultimately voted to approve the conversion of the existing beauty salon at 387-399 Centre St. to a body piercing studio, with the proviso that it is for this applicant only and that the JPNC would not be commenting on the ongoing legal issues between the landlord and the current tenant.

They also approved a tattoo studio at 68 South St., with the proviso that it is for this applicant only, and approved the conversion of an existing two family residence to a four family residence with interior and exterior renovations at 3227 Washington St. with the proviso that the exterior mechanical are either hidden or screened from view from the street.

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CITY PAWS

Pet photo pointers

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

With smartphone cameras always at the ready, most of us take hundreds of photos of our pets. We can snap away and choose the best of what we shoot to keep and share. It's easier if your dog or cat either ignores the camera or is a ham who loves to be the center of attention. With camera-shy critters, you have to use a full bag of tricks to capture a great photo.

Planning the Photo

If you hope to take a special photo, say for your pet's birthday or a holiday card, plan ahead. A second person might help. They can distract the animal with a toy or treat or keep it safe while you sit or lie on the ground to get an eye level view.

Background is important. Find a light colored background for a dark dog. Our little white dog shows up best on a dark background. Look at the photos you already have of your pets to see what background works best for them.

Have treats, toys, and some-

thing that makes a funny noise on hand to capture your pet's attention when you are ready to shoot. We've used squeakers, giggle toys, and made funny sounds the dog doesn't usually hear, or say a favorite word like treat or cheese. Be sure to have that cheese or treat on hand to reward your model. This will help train your dog or cat to look forward to and cooperate with photos.

Don't forget the lighting. Outside, try for the golden hour. That's the time shortly after sunrise or before sunset, when daylight is redder, softer, and more flattering to man or beast. Days with clouds and flat light create fewer shadows and are better for photography than bright sunny days.

Inside, try to dim or raise room lights and use shades or a piece of cloth to adjust the daylight coming through windows. We never use a flash because it can scare the animal and seldom results in a good photo.

Portrait or Action

Great portraits of dogs and cats are often those taken at eye

level. This means that either the photographer has to get down or the animal has to get up. We've used comfy chairs, park benches, stairs and stone walls to raise up small subjects.

For action photos practice taking high speed bursts on your camera or phone. These will give you more choices as you edit photos of your cat at play or your dog running on the beach.

Safety and Comfort First

Any time you are photographing an animal, try to be aware of both their comfort level and safety. Back when most of our photos were taken with big Nikon DSLR cameras with three inch lenses focused on a pup's face, we had many dogs afraid of our camera. With research we learned that some dogs see the lens as a big, threatening eye staring at them. Phones are less scary.

You won't see photos of our dog Poppy without a leash attached to us or a solid object unless she is inside. She's a terrier and can never be trusted off leash in the open. While you are concentrating on taking a photo, your dog



Stairs are one way to take a photo at a dog's eye level. This pup is named Farmer and his attention was captured by the photographer behind his photographer.

may spot a squirrel, another dog, or a favorite person and be gone in a flash.

If you think through the photo you hope to capture and have all the treats, toys, and camera set-

tings ready, you'll be able to take a great photo quickly and safely.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Docket No. SU20P1670EA

Estate of: Mary Ellen Cantabene Date of Death: July 18, 2020 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Ronald Akie of Fort Lauderdale, FL. A Will has been admitted to informal probate. Ronald Akie of Fort Lauderdale, FL 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.

9/25/20 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT Docket No. SU16P1683EA

Estate of: Robert Burchmore Fraser Date of Death: 06/23/2016 A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Diane L. Currier of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account on the second and final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition. 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 10/27/2020. 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 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. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: September 08, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

9/25/20 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION

NOTICE Docket No. SU20P11095EA

Estate of: Varian L. Woolfork Date of Death: June 23, 2018 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Terrance D. Woolfork of Boston, MA. Terrance D. Woolfork of Boston, 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.

9/25/20 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Docket No. SU20P0102EA

Estate of: Warren Carl Morgan Date of Death: 12/27/2007 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Pe-

itioner Nancy M. Kivel of Natick, MA. Nancy M. Kivel of Natick, 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.

9/25/20 JP

Do You need to run a legal?

Don't forget to check at the court to see if you qualify for a fee-waiver!

EDITORIAL

Winter survival: Masks and flu shots

The testimony of Dr. Robert Redfield, the head of the Centers for Disease Control, before a U.S. Senate subcommittee last week regarding the need for every American to wear a face mask in public to thwart the spread of Covid-19 was stunning for its sheer simplicity.

“A face mask is the most important and powerful public health tool we have,” said Redfield. “If we did it for six, eight, or 10 weeks, we could bring the pandemic under control. We have clear scientific evidence they work, and they are our best defense. I might even go so far as to say that this face mask is more guaranteed to protect me against Covid than when I take a Covid vaccine.”

Dr. Redfield’s statement provided Americans with the most direct and easiest-to-understand medical advice that we have heard in our lifetime from any health professional regarding any illness or disease.

Face masks have been shown in the past to be effective against the spread of airborne illnesses. During the 1918 flu pandemic, American cities that required their citizenry to wear face masks in public had much lower incidences of the flu and much lower death rates from that deadly disease than cities that did not require the use of masks.

The other significant thing we can do for our individual and collective health this winter season is to get a flu shot as soon as possible. Although flu shots typically do not have 100% effectiveness, they nonetheless can provide significant protection against the flu for most Americans, thereby reducing to a large extent the number of persons who might require medical treatment and hospitalization.

We also would note that there is substantial evidence that flu shots also provide protection for the heart, although it still is not completely understood why.

Together, masks and flu shots offer our best chance to avoid the so-called “twin-demic” this coming winter. Indeed, if everyone masks up and gets vaccinated (as well as stays home when they are sick), this could be the healthiest winter our nation ever has experienced.

Covid is the leading killer of first responders

Recently-revealed statistics have brought into sharp focus the deadly and tragic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic upon our nation’s police and firefighters.

At least 101 police officers have died from Covid-19, and it is estimated that this figure represents only half of the Covid-19 deaths among police officers. This compares to 70 officers who have died in the line of duty from accidents and felonious attacks.

For firefighters, deaths from Covid-19 likewise have exceeded fatalities from other service-related causes.

These statistics clearly demonstrate that our public safety personnel put their lives and health on the line just by showing up for their jobs. They do not have the luxury of working remotely from the comfort of their home, as so many of us are able to do these days.

The work of first responders always has been difficult enough, but the added layer of the risks posed by Covid-19 has increased their line-of-duty danger exponentially -- and makes us even more grateful for the job they do in our communities each and every day, 24/7/365.



AUTUMN NOW IS HERE, LEAF PEEPERS WILL APPEAR

GUEST OP-ED

Turn the page

DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

Fall season officially begins September 22 this year. For every season there is a change. Most of us like the seasons especially if we can have four of them.

I like the fall as the weather seems more stable in our part of the country. For our neighbors in California they are desperate for anything that will bring rain and an end to the devastating fires. This has been a cruel, harsh time that we pray passes by and ends very quickly for California.

On the east and gulf coast there is always another looming hurricane this time of year. Flooding and devastation have already occurred in Louisiana with the potential of more to come.

Every season brings the possibilities of pleasant weather but also severe weather. Very much like our lives every season brings change because we have no choice but to deal with the change. When snow comes, we adapt and enjoy the change.

Our lives are like seasons - change comes. If we are for-

tunate, aging occurs. Children grow up. Our vocational lives and dreams change, mature, flourish or become a distant memory. Our lives are like an interesting book. Your life is probably very interesting if you were able to write out the whole story. Maybe you should write about your life? Write it out for someone later to read about. If you decide to do so write about the hard times as well as what you want everyone else to know.

Whenever you read or write a book it requires turning the page or writing a new page. You can’t finish the book if you stay on the same page. When our parents die, we have to turn the page. When we bury a spouse or loved one, we have to turn the page. When we change jobs or careers that require transition it’s tough but we have to turn the page. When children grow up and move away or no longer have time to be with us then we must turn the page.

A good friend is selling his lovely home. I can see that’s it a tough time emotionally as he has invested so many years into where he lives. He and his wife

are moving into a smaller condominium. He loves his beautiful yard but he knows it’s time to turn the page as their age and health have changed.

The one difference between reading a book and life is that you may not finish reading the book but we all finish life. You either turn the pages of life or in time they are turned for you. The worst decisions we make are no decisions. We procrastinate. We delay paying into retirement. We delay a health test. We put off what we dread and it doesn’t make it better.

Live a good life. Make decisions. Turn the page and keep going. Don’t get stuck on the same page in the same chapter. Run your race. Finish your course. Turn the page.

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

District E-13 crime down 15 percent but Domestic Aggravated Assault and car breaks are up 73 and 30 percent respectively

By JOHN LYNDIS

The Boston Police Department released the third quarter crime stats for District E-13 and much like the first quarter report released back in May car breaks continue to be a problem in the area.

While Part One Crimes are down 15 percent when comparing January 1, 2019 through September 13, 2019 with the same time period this year, Domestic Aggravated Assault is up 73 percent and Larceny from Motor Vehicles is up 30 percent.

Part One Crimes are the more serious crimes the Boston Police track.

By the third quarter of 2019 there were only 26 Domestic Aggravated Assault but that number has increased to 45 so far this year.

"There is no excuse for domestic violence," said the BPD in a statement. "With community members encouraged to stay home to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, the Boston Police Department recognizes the impact that COVID-19 is having on families in our community and the fact that some may find themselves confined with an abuser. This isolation can mean danger for some members of our City. Make no mistake, you are not alone and no one deserves to be abused. To those in need of help, there are resources available to you. Please reach out if you, or someone you know, is in

need of help or safety planning. In the case of an emergency, CALL 9-1-1."

Police said residents can also contact Domersitc Violence organizations like the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence; Association of Haitian Women in Boston/ Asosiyasyon Fanm Ayisyen nan Boston (AFAB); Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC); Casa Myrna Vasquez; or the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS).

By the third quarter of 2019 there were only 114 motor vehicle larcenies but that number has increased to 147 so far this year. It seems the number of motor vehicle largencies, an opportunistic crime that only takes seconds to pull off, is up all over Boston.

Citywide the number has gone from 1,891 in the third quarter of 2019 to 2,377 so far in 2020, a 25 percent increase.

"The Department obviously takes great pride in the fact that arrests were made in all three incidents, we would, nevertheless, like to take this opportunity to remind community members to employ common sense preventative measures to protect items of value when exiting their vehicles," said the statement. "As simple as it may sound, protecting your motor vehicle from a break-in starts with locking the doors and closing windows. Simple? Yes. But, highly effective."

In fact, simple steps can of-

ten spell the difference between your car being broken into and the would-be thief moving on to another, more desirable target.

"More than anything else, thieves look for the easy score," said the police. "So, don't make it easy. If you have items of value, be it a cell phone, charger, money or iPad, take them with you when you exit your car. Because if a thief can see it, you can be sure he or she will do everything they can to steal it."

As for other Part One Crimes in District E-13 there have been one reported Homicides for 2020, down from 3; Rape or Attempted Rape is down from 7 to 5; Robbery or Attempted Robbery is up from 32 to 50; Non-Domestic Aggravated Assault is down from 80 to 53; Residential Burglaries are down from 84 to 24; Commercial Burglaries are up 11 to 14; other Larcenies are down from 266 to 193; and Auto Theft down from 29 to 24.

So far this year there has been a total of 664 Part One Crimes, down from the 562 reported by the third quarter of 2019.

Again, police are reminding residents that of the 117 additional reported Part One Crimes reported so far in 2020, 104 of those crimes have been traced back to motor vehicle larcenies.

As always, if you observe any unusual activity or observe a car theft or a break-in in progress, don't hesitate to call 9-1-1.

LETTERS

We were there working hard

Dear Editor:

In the article that Seth Daniel published "What's in a name? Kennedy name no longer enough to best veteran politician Makey in Boston," left the impression that there was not a real Jamaica Plain effort to re-elect Senator Markey. The article stated that Markey's landslide victory happened "without really campaigning that much in the neighborhood." As the volunteer Community Captain for the Markey

Campaign, I want the readers to know that nothing could be further from the truth. We had an amazing group of volunteers, including precinct captains who made phone calls for months to registered voters in all 20 precincts in Jamaica Plain. In addition to on-going state-wide phone banks, JP Progressives, hosted Monday for Markey phone banks. On August 2, Senator Markey hosted an event that was very well attended. Candidates do not

win elections without a strong and well executed field plan. Although it was not safe to canvass in the pandemic, so volunteers might not have been as visible as they were on previous campaigns, we were there, working to return the nation's leader in the fight for climate action and clean energy to the Senate.

ANNE ROUSSEAU,

CO-CHAIR JP PROGRESSIVES

NEWS BRIEFS

5K WALK SET FOR OCT. 3

The now-Covid safe annual 5k Walk will be held on Saturday, October 3. Register today: southst.org/walk2020.

Due to pandemic we encourage folks to register early so we can manage appropriate social distancing in the AM. Register and sign-in tables on 10/3, will be safely spaced, and start times staggered. Many thanks to the organizing sponsor, Sazama Real Estate, and our early community sponsors. For further information please contact Mary Lenihan at maryfranlenny@gmail.com.

BLM VIGIL SET FOR OCT. 1

The October Vigil in Support of Black Lives Matter will be held Thursday, October 1, from

5:30-6:30 p.m. on the lawn of the First Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain, 633 Centre St. The speaker is one of our local leaders in youth work, Corey Stallings, Program Director of the South Street Youth Center.

Corey started the South Street Clubhouse where youths have learned and experimented with a large selection of digital media and computer skills. Also he connected to local and regional youth development organizations and politicians to keep the center alive and well. As he would say the real story is the center has been going for 25 years and has a large impact on the community. Everyone is invited to participate in this monthly stand out for racial justice and human rights. For further information, contact Mary Lenihan at maryfranlenny@gmail.com or Penny Wells at pwells222@gmail.com.

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