



**MAXFIELD  
& COMPANY**  
(617) 293-8003

**REAL ESTATE**  
EXPERIENCE • EXCELLENCE

**ROSLINDALE NEIGHBORS SPECIAL SECTION P. 12 - 15**

Vol. 29 No. 20  
24 Pages • Free Delivery  
25 Cents at Stores



Printed on  
Recycled Paper

# Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

**Lantern  
Parade  
postponed**  
see page 11

617-524-2626

OCTOBER 23, 2020

WWW.JAMAICAPLAINGAZETTE.COM

## LOOKING FOR SOME SPOOKY, SOCIALY-DISTANCED FUN?

### Local JP band to play Halloween concert

BY LAUREN BENNETT

JP-based band Dred Buffalo hasn't played in front of an audience in months, but they will finally get a chance to put on a show next Saturday evening, complete with fog machines to set the spooky mood.

The band, which got together in January of last year, will be playing a small, socially-distanced concert on Halloween at Wenham Street Cinema, which operates out of JP resident Matt

*Continued on page 8*



*Dred Buffalo members Alerisa Rose, Chase Cavacco, Davey Dreyer, and Paul Curran playing some tunes to celebrate Dreyer's birthday in July.*

## Exam School seat access in JP likely to decline at both Latin schools

BY SETH DANIEL

In a meeting stretching well past midnight, the Boston School Committee voted 7-0 on Thursday morning in the wee hours for a plan that would – for one year at least – scrap the exam school test and institute a new way of apportioning seats and choice for 80 percent of the seats at the City's three exam schools.

The plan also awards seats citywide to the top 20 percent

of students by Grade Point Average (GPA) right off the bat, with the remaining 80 percent falling into the new zip code and income-based process.

For Jamaica Plain families, the plan will likely mean less access to exam school seats at two of the three public exam schools as the plan looks to be more equitable in offering seats to lower-income neighborhoods with large numbers of children and away from higher-income

neighborhoods like JP that have a low school-age population.

Hundreds spoke on the plan at the online School Committee meeting Wednesday – some for and some against – in the hours and hours of testimony and discussion. The plan was laid out earlier this month, and due to COVID-19, suspends the use of the exam school test this fall for 6th, 8th and some 9th graders

*Continued on page 9*

## Police at crime scene say Wednesday murder likely was targeted act

STAFF REPORT

At about 6:51 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21, officers assigned to District E-13 (Jamaica Plain) responded to a radio call for shot spotter activation in the area of 950 Parker St. in the Mildred Hailey Apartments public housing development.

Upon arrival, officers observed an adult male in his mid-40s suffering from apparent gunshot

wounds. Boston EMS responded to the scene and transported the victim to a local area hospital where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.

Social media site Live617 reported that initial suspects included known members of the Heath Street gang.

Police Superior Officers at the

*Continued on page 2*

## JP's September crime overview

BY LAURA PLUMMER

On Thursday, Oct. 1, District E13 of the Boston Police Department (BPD) hosted its monthly virtual police and community relations meeting. The meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of local law enforcement.

At every meeting, officers provide copies of year-to-date crime

statistics. One chart examines Part One crime data. Part One crimes are more serious in nature, and don't include lesser crimes such as vandalism, drug dealing or illegal possession of firearms.

According to the summary, Part One crime is down four percent in the city of Boston compared to

*Continued on page 2*

## Resumen de los datos de delincuencia

BY LAURA PLUMMER

El jueves 1 de octubre, el Distrito E-13 del Departamento de Policía de Boston (BPD) organizó su reunión virtual mensual de relaciones policiales y comunitarias. La reunión es una oportunidad para que los miembros del público hagan preguntas a las autoridades locales.

En cada reunión, los oficiales comparten las estadísticas de delincuencia hasta la fecha. Un cuadro examina los datos de delitos de la Primera Parte. Los delitos de la Primera Parte son los más graves y no incluyen crímenes menores como el vandalismo, el tráfico de drogas o la

*Continued on page 9*

**For the latest news in JP, check [jamaicaplaingazette.com](http://jamaicaplaingazette.com)**

Email [stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com](mailto:stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com) or  
[patricia@jamaicaplaingazette.com](mailto:patricia@jamaicaplaingazette.com) or call 781-485-0588



# BPS suspends all in-person learning; every BPS student will switch to 'remote' learning

BY JOHN LYND'S

A week after the Suffolk Superior Court rejected the Boston Teachers Union (BTU) request for an emergency injunction so teachers won't be forced to teach in-person until the positive test rate in Boston goes below 4 percent, Boston Public School (BPS) Superintendent Dr. Brenda Cassellius announced all 'in-person' learning has been suspended until further notice.

While most BPS students have started off the school year with ‘remote’ learning there were still 1,300 ‘high-needs’ students attending schools each day along with teachers and support staff.

"This morning, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) released data showing the citywide seven-day COVID-19 positivity rate increased to 5.7%," said Cassellius in a letter to parents Wednesday morning. "This is an increase from 4.5% last week and from 4.1% two weeks before. Current data are showing a concerning upward trend of COVID-19 activity in the City of Boston and, out of an abundance of caution, Mayor Walsh and I have decided to suspend in-person learning for all students. Effective tomorrow, Thursday, October 22, all BPS

students will learn remotely until public health data shows a downward trend in positive COVID-19 cases.”

Cassellius said BPS remains committed to providing in-person learning opportunities to students as soon as it is safe to do so, and will continue to prioritize students with the highest needs for in-person learning.

“Once the citywide seven-day COVID-19 positivity rate is below 5% for two consecutive weeks, we will begin to welcome our students with the highest needs back for in-person learning,” said Cassellius. “When the citywide seven-day COVID-19 positivity rate is below 4% for two consecutive weeks, we will restart the phase-in of in-person learning beginning with our youngest students.”

Some families received communication within the last week notifying them of their child's in-person start date but Cassellius said that information has now unfortunately changed due to the spike in COVID.

“All BPS students will learn remotely effective Thursday, October 22,” said Cassellius. “We will provide you with any update to our plans as soon as they develop. In addition, schools will work with families who may

need to pick up technology or other personal items students may have left at school. We are also exploring options for providing services for our students with complex disabilities and will update families with more information in the coming days.”

The City of Boston has increased testing efforts and

outreach to impacted neighborhoods. More information about COVID-19, including testing sites and community resources, is available [boston.gov/coronavirus](https://www.boston.gov/coronavirus). For more information about remote learning, technology resources and free meal sites, visit [bostonpublicschools.org/reopening](https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/reopening).

"I understand that these are uncertain times," said Casselli to us. "I thank you again for your patience, flexibility, and collaboration as we all work to provide enriching learning experiences for our students during this challenging time. Stay safe and healthy."

# Murder

Continued from page 1

scene indicated it was a targeted shooting and not a random act – occurring the playground inside the development.

The Boston Police Department is actively reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident and is asking any-

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

Community members wishing to assist this investigation anonymously can do so by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word "TIP" to CRIME (27463). The Boston Police Department will stringently guard and pro-

protect the identities of all those who wish to assist this investigation in an anonymous manner.

To those who find themselves in need of emotional support or simply needing to talk to someone about distressing events in our community, the Boston Neighborhood Trauma Team (NTT) provides free, private support 24/7 at (617) 431-0125 or by visiting [BPHC.org/trauma](http://BPHC.org/trauma).

# Crime

Continued from page 1

this time last year. Jamaica Plain is beating the citywide reduction in Part One crime. So far this year, there have been 613 reported crimes, compared to 721 last year, a decrease of 15 percent. Of the 12 BPD districts, only Districts A1 (Downtown) and E18 (Hyde Park) saw a greater year-to-year decrease.

Crimes that saw a decrease so far this year include homicide,

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

A second chart compared the statistics of fatal and nonfatal shootings from 2019 to 2020. Jamaica Plain saw 15 shootings so far this year, up from 14 in 2019. That is almost a quarter of the shootings in Districts B2 (Roxbury) and B3 (Mattapan).

However, it accounted for just 6.85 percent of citywide shootings this year, down from 8.8 percent in 2019.

The police and community relations meeting is held on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 5. To join the meeting, go to [meet.google.com](https://www.google.com) and enter the meeting code **hgf-fdjq-cui**. You can also join the meeting by phone by dialing 1-720-507-3856 and entering the code 724 468 894 followed by the pound or hashtag sign.

# Delincuencia

Continued from page 1

posesión ilegal de armas.

Según el resumen, el crimen de la Primera Parte ha bajado un cuatro por ciento en la ciudad de Boston en comparación con esta época el año pasado. Jamaica Plain está superando la reducción de la delincuencia de Primera Parte en toda la ciudad. En lo que va del año, se han denunciado 613 delitos, en comparación con los 721 del año pasado, una disminución del 15 por ciento. De los 12 distritos de BPD, sólo los distritos A1 (centro)

y E18 (Hyde Park) experimentaron una mayor disminución de año en año.

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

Otro gráfico comparó las estadísticas de tiroteos fatales y no fatales de 2019 a 2020. Jamaica Plain registró 15 tiroteos en lo que va de año, frente a los 14 de 2019. Eso es casi una cuarta par-

te de los tiroteos en los distritos B2 (Roxbury) y B3 (Mattapan). Sin embargo, representó sólo el 6.85 por ciento de tiroteos en toda la ciudad este año, por debajo del 8.8 por ciento en 2019.

La reunión de relaciones policiales y comunitarias se lleva a cabo el primer jueves del mes a las 6:30 pm. La próxima reunión está programada para el jueves 5 de noviembre. Para unirse a la reunión, vaya a [meet.google.com/hgf-fdj-qcu](https://meet.google.com/hgf-fdj-qcu) e ingrese el código de reunión hgf-fdj-qcu. También puede unirse a la reunión por teléfono marcando el 1-720-507-3856 e ingresando el código 724 468 894 seguido del símbolo de hashtag.



**RESEARCH PROGRAM**



**Receive \$25\***

## Why have some communities not been a part of medical research?

You can help researchers develop new and better treatments that benefit all of us.

Many groups of people have been left out of research in the past. That means we know less about their health. When you join the *All of Us* Research Program, you'll help researchers learn more about what makes people sick or keeps them healthy.

**JoinAll of Us.org/NewEngland**  
**(617) 768-8300**

\*All participants will receive \$25 after completion of their visit. To complete the visit, participants must create an account, give consent, agree to share their electronic health records, answer health surveys, and have their measurements taken (height, weight, blood pressure, etc.), and give blood and urine samples, if asked.

*All of Us* and the *All of Us* logo are service marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



BRIGHAM HEALTH  
 BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

MASSACHUSETTS  
 MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER  


# JPNC Housing and Development Committee hears Mildred Hailey Phase One proposal

By LAUREN BENNETT

The Housing & Development Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council met virtually on October 20, where members and residents heard a presentation from the proponents of the Mildred Hailey Phase One Redevelopment project, which includes a one to one replacement of the 253 public housing units that exist at the site.

The project, which will be a partnership between The Community Builders (TCB), the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPND), and Urban Edge, will ultimately create a total of 690 apartments “at a range of income tiers,” according to the Project Notification Form.

Giovanny Valencia of the JPND and Laura Martin of TCB presented the proposal for Phase One of the development, and explained how the project is going to work.

“This project will take several years,” Valencia said, adding that it will help to improve the quality of life for residents who live in the existing apartments.

To date, there have been

several meetings with existing residents over the past three years, as well as focus groups, stakeholder meetings, and community meetings more recently, Valencia said.

He said that community feedback from residents so far has been that they would like to see “improved security and safety,” an “accessible and universal design, provide indoor and outdoor community spaces, create safe pedestrian connections across streets and keep vehicles at slow speeds, [and] use inclusive design for an integrated mixed-income community,” according to a slide presented at the meeting.

Martin explained some of the Master Plan goals of the project, which include the one to one replacement of the existing deeply affordable units, as well as the creation of new affordable apartments to create a “mixed-income community” with “robust community services and programming,” and a new Anna Mae Cole Center.

Other goals of the project include better connecting Mildred Hailey and the surrounding neighborhood, building new apartments first to minimize the

number of times residents have to move, and a “sustainable and resilient design,” according to the presentation.

Martin explained that the buildings will happen on a “phased-in” approach, meaning that vacant land will be built on first and then move residents into those to minimize displacement.

When the entire project is complete, there will be seven new residential buildings, the new Anna Mae Cole Center, 8,300 square feet of retail or community programming/nonprofit space, and garage as well as street parking space.

Some urban design elements include the addition of street and pedestrian connections with “active uses along Centre St.” and a “variety of building forms,” the presentation stated. Additionally, all new sidewalks and buildings will be fully accessible, and building entrances will be on main streets to improve safety.

Martin said that there would be five subphases, and construction is expected to begin in 2022 and end in 2030.

She said that buildings 1A and 1B will be the first two to

be built, and will include courtyards in the middle that will be accessible to all Mildred Hailey residents, and there will be a community garden as well. Additionally, there will be a new plaza in between the two new buildings with the Anna Mae Cole Center entrance through the plaza.

The buildings will be built with all electric heating and cooling, and gas hot water with the ability to convert to electric in the future, Martin said. Buildings 1A and 1B will also “utilize passive house design principles,” the presentation said.

“We have been working hard with residents,” Valencia said. He said that at the beginning of the process, residents were concerned about displacement and whether or not they would be able to return once new units were ready, but the plan has been explained to residents and they have been involved in the process, he said.

Different buildings will be managed by different groups; some will be TCB, some Urban Edge, and some JPND.

The three largest buildings: 1A, 1B, and 4, will be a mixture

of deeply affordable, middle income, and upper income units, and the remaining four buildings will be 100 percent affordable units, Martin said.

Overall, residents seemed excited about the proposal and asked some questions about parking and the affordability of the units. Other people had concerns about transportation as well as the design of the bike corridor on Centre St.

Carolyn Royce, Chair of the Housing & Development Committee, said that the project “meets a lot of what we would like to see.” The committee has a checklist they use to review different development projects that include factors like affordability and sustainability.

Valencia said that the proponents would be “happy to share the presentation,” and more information about the project can be found on the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) website for this project.

Discussion on this project will continue at future meetings and will eventually make its way to the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council.



**The Hidden Hair Salon**

is now located at  
**Miss Laura's Beauty Culture**  
 46 South St. J.P.  
 email- thehiddenhairsalon@gmail.com  
 call or text  
**617-983-2816**

JAMAICAPLAINGAZETTE.COM

**EYE Q OPTICAL**



**LOCAL - INDEPENDENT**  
 most insurances accepted  
**617.983.3937**



# JP OBSERVER

## Better electric supplier just around the corner

By SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Nervous and excited as Nov. 3 approaches? After we cast our ballots and while we wait for results will be a good time to take a minute to look at a recent electric bill and see what it says under “Total Charges for Electricity.”

Sounds silly, but what people in Jamaica Plain and all Bostonians see will turn out to be important to them and the entire community in the next few months—and then for years to come.

The two categories of charges on the bills are 1) “Supplier” for the actual generation of electricity and 2) “Delivery” of the electricity and maintenance of the account by Eversource for Boston electricity customers. Amounts for each added together make the total monthly bill.

No matter the Supplier, Eversource provides Delivery. Most customers have Eversource also as the Supplier, and it says “Basic Service” there on the bill in that case,

Customers who see another Supplier named may well want to switch back to Eversource Basic Service soon for several very good reasons, according to the City of Boston and the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office (AGO), as presented by the City of Boston Office of Environment, Energy and Open Space (EEOS) on its website and in a

series of recent webinars.

Most important, the long awaited City implemented Community Choice Electricity (CCE)—which aims to make renewable electricity available to Boston electricity consumers at an affordable price—will be officially announced to the about 250,000 electricity customers near the end of this November. Then, CCE, with all its benefits, is scheduled to launch in February.

Customers that have Eversource Basic Service as the Supplier will automatically be enrolled in CCE, unless they choose to opt out for some reason. Anyone with another supplier can and will probably want to opt in to CCE instead.

The City is making it clear that cost savings with CCE cannot be guaranteed compared to Eversource Basic Service. There will be no contracts, however, and no penalties for changing suppliers.

A combination of factors—everyone who has been working so hard on this hopes and expects—will make having CCE as one’s Supplier a very good thing. Since CCE was established by the state, more than 100 other cities and towns have adopted it.

The next big news for Jamaica Plain and Boston is due to

come this fall. Renewable energy suppliers will have responded to a request for proposals that went out from the City with the rates they would offer to CCE customers. Given Boston’s buying power, it is hoped that the City can select a supplier with advantageous rates that’s also as local as possible. Selection of a supplier is expected to take place by mid-November, so pricing will be known when CCE notices go out to customers at the end of the month.

After the election Nov. 3, the City will begin specific outreach efforts to let people, including immigrants and people who speak other languages, know about the coming CCE. They will also reach out to Main Streets programs and other organizations to spread the word, according to Taylor Connolly, Director of Communications and Community Engagement for the City’s Department of the Environment.

The Boston City Council voted to adopt the state CCE program, and Mayor Marty Walsh signed the resolution in fall, 2017. In the City of Boston Climate Action Plan 2019, the mayor set a goal of the city becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

A group made up of Boston residents, advocates and local leaders, working with EEOS since 2018, established a total of six guiding principles that the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU) approved. The admirable principles are to: “strengthen consumer protection; offer affordable and stable electric rates; reduce carbon

emissions; increase the share of renewable energy on the grid; support local renewable energy; and commit to environmental justice,” according to the City.

“BCAN is thrilled we are so close to the launch date of CCE,” said Loie Hayes in a recent interview. She is a member of the working group and a member of the board of BCAN (Boston Climate Action Network, or Boston-CAN), an organization of Boston residents that has advocated for and supported CCE since the beginning.

“CCE will greatly increase the amount of renewable energy available to Boston customers,” she said, adding that she is glad the City will pay close attention to local sources of the energy “in order to shut down dirty energy sources here.”

DPU approved Boston’s plan for its municipal community CCE program in July this year. Consultants hired by the City are a key part of CCE. Boston hired two consultants. Colonial Power Group helps cities and towns put together their CCE programs. Community Paradigm Associates specializes in putting together decision-making processes that include community. For more information about CCE go to: [boston.gov/community-choice-electricity](http://boston.gov/community-choice-electricity).

In a directly related troublesome consumer issue, lots of us have been contacted over recent years by phone, in person, and/or by mail by representatives of companies who want us to sign on with them as our supplier

instead of Eversource. [I got a robo call from a marketer while I was writing this “congratulating” me on being “eligible” for “new discounted electric rates” and was told to “stay on the line” for more information. I didn’t.]

These companies often enthusiastically promise energy that is better for the climate and has lower costs, according to the City and the AGO. The companies try to appeal to Boston people with the same motives—renewable, affordable energy—as those who truly support and promote the meaningful CCE program.

The problem is, according to the City and the AGO, the “competitive electric suppliers” (called CES for short in this column) are private for-profits whose promises often don’t pan out. And they ask customers to lock themselves into contracts. A supplier other than Eversource Basic Service appears on those customers’ Eversource bills, along with the supplier’s phone number.

BCAN has recently been soliciting people to tell their stories of signing up with a CES.

An unnamed BCAN member who lives in JP near Franklin Park is quoted on a BCAN flyer, saying, “One day a young guy rang out doorbell and asked me if I want to switch to an electricity supply company that would provide more climate friendly sources of energy. I was very interested.”

The member said the guy said his company would provide “greener” energy than Eversource, and they might have to pay a bit more for it. “We signed up and for years paid more than the regular Eversource monthly amount, but I felt good that we were reducing greenhouse gas in the atmosphere.” Down the road the BCAN member did more research and found out that the supply was mainly nuclear energy and half of the rest was natural gas, a greenhouse gas source.

“So, on top of paying extra over the years, we also kept right on contributing to greenhouse gases and encouraged nuclear power, which I detest! Be warned: Get informed before signing up



**FOR YOUR  
HEALTH  
MIND & BODY**

### FITNESS TRAINING

**PRIVATE 25 & 40-MINUTE FITNESS SESSIONS  
FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES NO CONTRACTS**

**WikidFit PERSONAL TRAINING**

**2 Porter St, JP Info@WikidFit.com 617-620-8155**

### MASSAGE



**Imani ~ a relaxation place**  
Christine Rose, LMT  
Trained in Lymphatic Drainage, Deep Tissue/Sports and Swedish Massage  
3464 Washington Street JP.  
[www.imanimassage.com](http://www.imanimassage.com) • 617.821.2875!

**Fall Special**  
Oil, Filter & Lube, Rotate Tires, Inspect Brakes,  
Suspension, Cooling System & Exhaust  
Only \$59.95  
Most cars & light trucks. Please present this advertisement at time of check-in. Cannot be combined with other offers.

**Morrison's Auto-Rite**  
475 Centre St  
Jamaica Plain  
on the 39 bus line and  
convenient to the Orange Line

**617-522-4444**  
[www.MorrisonsAutoRite.com](http://www.MorrisonsAutoRite.com)  
Outstanding Service since 1969

**Call for an appointment**

Continued on page 5



# Officials announce Mayor's pumpkin carving contest

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department has announced that it will be celebrating Halloween with Mayor Walsh's Pumpkin Carving Contest featuring a grand prize provided by Xfinity.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Parks Department recognize the effort that Boston residents of all ages put into carving their jack-o'-lanterns and want to give everyone the chance to display their artistry. In keeping with current social distancing guidelines, the City of Boston is hosting an online pumpkin carving contest with photo submissions welcomed from October 14 until midnight on Halloween (11:59 p.m. on October 31). Complete rules and submission instructions are available at

[boston.gov/pumpkins](http://boston.gov/pumpkins).

Enter your jack-o'-lantern into the contest and you will be eligible for the chance to win one of three iPads provided by Xfinity. Winners will be selected from three categories: Most Creative; Scariest; and Boston Parks themed.

Need inspiration? We have downloadable stencils available for use as a guide to help you carve your pumpkin. Stencil images include the Parks Department logo, a death's head from a historic gravestone, George Washington, Mrs. Mallard, and a Boston Park Ranger silhouette. Visit [boston.gov/pumpkins](http://boston.gov/pumpkins) to download and print the stencils.

Share your work with us and we will publish our favorites on

social media. Feel free to tag @Xfinity and @BostonParksDept on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Hashtag your posts with #BosPumpkinDept and you may see your pumpkin.

After Halloween, be sure to compost your pumpkin. Keep an eye out for dates, times, and locations where you can "Feed the Monster," a pumpkin composting event hosted by the Parks Department working in partnership with the Boston Environment Department that will be featured in parks across the city. If you can't make it to "Feed the Monster," you can compost your pumpkin during the Leaf and Yard Waste pick up dates provided by the Department of Public Works.

**Thank you to the community for voting Blue Nile best business in Hyde Jackson Square. In addition, I want to say thank you to Mayor Marty Walsh, for allowing our business to take advantage of the outdoor patio seating!**

**Open from Tuesday-Friday 4:00 pm-11:00 pm  
and Saturday-Sunday 12:00 pm-11:00 pm**

**389 Centre St., JP  
617-522-6453 • [bluenileincjp.com](http://bluenileincjp.com)**

**PICK UP Available**

**the Blue Nile**

## Observer

*Continued from page 4*

for any independent electric energy supply company."

On its website at "Protect Your Electric Account," the City of Boston says of the CES deals in bold: Avoiding these contracts may be in your best interest." At a webinar on Oct. 8, Aidan Smith, City of Boston Community Choice Electricity Outreach Coordinator, listed some of the problems people have found with CES, including high costs, false statements of utility affiliation, aggressive marketing, targeting of vulnerable populations, contracts that are difficult to cancel, high terminations fees, and misleading information about energy sources and amount of renewable energy.

At the series of multilingual "Energy Justice Webinars," the City of Boston spelled out what electricity consumers should do to protect themselves, including: being aware of "imposter scams" where the marketer pretends to be from or associated with a utility company; decline to talk to them, because Eversource will never reach out to discuss electric supply options; be careful not to get "slammed" where a company signs you up without your permission; ask door-to-door marketers for ID, and don't provide information about your electric account before you sign up for something.

The AGO's office has logged more than 3,000 complaints about CES companies since

2015 and has identified CES as a major consumer issue. On average, the office says, from July 2016 through June 2017, CES cost customers \$226 more per year than Basic Service would have cost, with low income and minority household communities in Boston being hardest hit. AGO estimates are that \$340 million was lost to the Boston economy because of the higher electric rates paid by people who switched to CES that year.

What about people who signed up with a CES and now want out, either because they don't like the deal or they want to automatically qualify for CCE—or, more likely, both?

First, the City advises, people have three days to cancel any signed contract. Then, if it's been longer, they should call the supplier on the Eversource bill. "If there is no early termination fee, instruct them to switch back to Eversource Basic Service. If there is an early contract termination fee, ask them to waive it. If they refuse to waive the fee, you have three options: Switch once the contract ends. End the contract but be aware you have to pay an early termination fee. Seek further help."

Customers can contact the AGO at 617-727-8400 if they feel there were deceptive, misleading practices or other violations. They can call the DPU at 877-866-5066 if they have problems with unauthorized or mysterious changes to their electrical accounts.

For more information about protecting an electricity account, go to [boston.gov/electric-bill](http://boston.gov/electric-bill).

## EVERYONE NEEDS SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM THEIR CHECKING ACCOUNT.

### OPEN ANY NEW CHECKING ACCOUNT AND YOU'LL RECEIVE FREE:

- Instant issue ATM/VISA® check card with access to Allpoint® ATM network
- Online Banking, Bill Pay and e-Statements
- Mobile Banking, People Pay and Mobile Check Deposit
- Plus, get your **FREE GIFT** when you open any new checking account!

Simply Free Checking

• Interest Checking

• Premier Checking



NMLS # 457291  
Member FDIC | Member DIF



**East Boston Savings Bank**  
Home of Respectful Banking<sup>SM</sup>



[Facebook.com/EastBostonSavingsBank](https://www.facebook.com/EastBostonSavingsBank)

800.657.3272 [EBSB.com](http://EBSB.com)

\$50 minimum deposit required to open any checking account. Fees may reduce earnings. Other fees may apply, see schedule of fees for details. Gift is awarded when account is opened. Please note, in the event the value of the free gift exceeds \$10, the bank is required to report the gift value on form 1099-INT. The recipient is responsible for all applicable taxes. Bank rules and regulations apply. Ask a representative for details.



# 'An Emerald Evening In' raises more than \$75,000 for the Emerald Necklace Conservancy

By Lauren Bennett

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy (ENC) held its first ever "Emerald Evening In," a virtual fundraiser to support the organization's work in Boston's Emerald Necklace parks.

Hosted by Jared Bowen of GBH news, the event brought in more than 100 people from across the country as well as right here in Boston, who enjoyed wine and cheese delivered to their home by The Urban Grape and Curds & Co. The event raised more than \$75,000 for the ENC.

Mayor Marty Walsh was honored with the 2020 Olmsted Award of Excellence for his continued leadership and investment in Boston Parks. The ENC reported that "historical capital investments" have been made by Walsh, including over \$60 million for just the Emerald Necklace, and include projects like the Muddy River Restoration project and the Franklin Park Action Plan.

ENC President Karen Mauney-Brodek talked about the Emerald Necklace and its importance to the city. "The Emerald Necklace is the nation's first example of green infrastructure," she said. She said that side from providing homes for many "thousands" of species of plants and animals, it is a "shared space"

for humans too, and "a place to practice our democratic ideals."

Mauney-Brodek explained that during the COVID-19 pandemic, when so many things remain uncertain and places like schools and museums are either closed or "less available to us," she said that "our parks have been in a unique position to service us; welcome us..."

The Emerald Necklace was a 20 year project created by Frederick Law Olmsted to "connect Bostonians to nature in the middle of their city," and was created to help remedy a public health problem in the city, as access to green space has many health benefits, she said.

"Green space matters to us as people, citizens, and as individuals," Mauney-Brodek said.

Peter James, an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School, spoke briefly about the health benefits of green space. He said that long-term studies have shown that living in areas where green space is easily accessible lead to "lower risk of anxiety, depression, improved sleep, better immune function, lower mortality rates," and more.

In some recent research, James said that in areas where there is more green space, there were less incidents of COVID-19. The preprint for his new article can be found here: [https://www.](https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.08.26.20181644v1)



Emerald Necklace Conservancy President Karen Mauney-Brodek presents Mayor Walsh with his 2020 Olmsted Award of Excellence.

medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.08.26.20181644v1.

Host Jared Bowen asked some trivia questions about the Emerald Necklace, and attendees learned that 423,000 people can fit inside the Emerald Necklace parks at the same time while still social distancing, which is half the population of Boston, Bowen said. The Emerald Necklace parks take up 1100 acres of land altogether.

Mayor Walsh was then presented with the 2020 Olmsted Award of Excellence, which is

awarded every two years to someone who "demonstrates an unwavering commitment and service to carrying out Frederick Law Olmsted's vision for urban parks through exemplary and enduring work on behalf of our local parks and the Emerald Necklace in particular," according to the ENC website.

Walsh said that he believes it's important to continue investing in green space in the City to ensure that people have a safe place for exercising, playing, and gathering safely. He thanked

the Parks Department for their contributions to the parks.

"They, quite honestly, are the folks who do amazing work," Walsh said.

He also said he was appreciative of the ENC and their work in preserving Frederick Law Olmsted's vision for the parks, as he "became a national leader here in accessibility and climate resiliency."

Walsh said that he is "honored to receive an award named after him."

Attendees also heard from members of community organizations such as the Charlesgate Alliance, the Fenway Civic Association, the Arborway Coalition, the Friends of Jamaica Pond, and the Franklin Park Coalition.

Pam Beale of the Charlesgate Alliance thanked Mayor Walsh for his investments in the park that allowed the Charlesgate redesign project to secure full funding. The project will restore water quality and tree canopy, as well as make numerous improvements to the park so it can be accessed and enjoyed safely by all.

Marie Fukuda of the Fenway Civic Association reported that the Muddy River Restoration Project is now in its final phase, which will improve flood management for the Muddy River. Fukuda said that it is "more critical for our city to be prepared than ever before."

Sarah Freeman of the Arbor-

Angell is Open!  
Providing Essential  
Veterinary Services

**EMERGENCY SERVICES & URGENT CARE** Boston & Waltham are open 24/7. Our primary care & specialty services are available for patients with non-life threatening but urgent issues. **617-522-7282**

**ON-SITE SPECIALTY CONSULTS & TELEMEDICINE** Most of Angell's specialists are available to consult on your pet's case while your pet is at Angell or to facilitate phone or video appointments. Visit [angell.org](http://angell.org).

**PHARMACY** Prescriptions for Angell patients are available by curbside pick-up or mail (shipping fees apply). Submit prescription requests at [angell.org/pharmacy](http://angell.org/pharmacy) or call **617-524-5700**.

**REFERRAL SERVICES** We are now welcoming a limited number of referral cases in Boston & Waltham.

For more information, please visit [angell.org/COVID](http://angell.org/COVID) or call **617-522-7282**.

**angell**  
animal medical center  
[angell.org](http://angell.org)

Angell Animal Medical Center | 350 S. Huntington Ave, Boston | 617-522-7282  
MSPCA-Angell West | 293 Second Ave, Waltham | 781-902-8400

## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll

### CYRANO

Sweet man Cyrano has a regular-sized nose, but he has a huge heart (and adorable vampire teeth that are so appropriate for Halloween)! This 11-year-old man was feeling a bit overwhelmed in the shelter, so we moved him to an office and his personality has truly begun to shine! He loves his lap time and will gentle paw you to get pets if you aren't paying enough attention to him. Cyrano would do best in a quiet home without other cats. Might that be you? Come meet this goofy guy!

Email [adoption@mspca.com](mailto:adoption@mspca.com) today for more information on Cyrano!

**(617) 522-5055**  
[www.mspca.org](http://www.mspca.org)

For more information about Cyrano and or other animals in need of adoption, please contact:

**mspca**  
Kindness and Care for Animals®  
350 South Huntington Avenue

Sponsored by:

**Sarah Carroll, REALTOR®**  
The Residential Group  
at William Raveis Real Estate  
16 Clarendon St., Boston MA 02116  
781-820-0280 or  
[sarah@residentialgroup.com](mailto:sarah@residentialgroup.com)

**WILLIAM RAVEIS**  
REAL ESTATE  
617.296.SOLD  
THE RESIDENTIAL GROUP

Continued on Page 7



# COVID-19 positive test-rates up in Jamaica Plain

By JOHN LYND

The recent spike of COVID-19 infections throughout Boston is troubling and Jamaica Plain is not immune to the newest wave of infections sweeping the city.

Those testing positive for the virus in Jamaica Plain increased by 22 percent according to data

released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday.

Last week the BPHC reported that of the 19,720 Jamaica Plain residents tested for COVID 5.5 percent were found to be positive--an increase of 22 percent from the 4.5 percent reported on Oct. 9. The citywide average is

5.7 percent of those tested and that number forced Boston Public School to suspend all in-person learning until further notice.

Since testing began in the neighborhood 4.9 percent of Jamaica Plain residents have been found to be COVID positive.

According to the BPHC data, Jamaica Plain's infection rate also increased.

Jamaica Plain went from 211.7 cases per 10,000 residents to 227.8 cases per 10,000 residents--or a 22 percent increase.

However, Jamaica Plain remains several points under the citywide infection rate average which is now at 271.5 cases per 10,000 residents.

Sixty-five more Jamaica Plain residents became infected with COVID-19 in the past two weeks and the number of total cases here went from 855 cases two weeks ago to 920 cases last week.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 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 by 7 percent

last week from 17,937 cases to 19,029 confirmed cases. So far 16,212 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus and 8 additional Boston residents died last week--bringing the total number of fatalities in the city remains to 771.

At his daily press briefing last week Mayor Martin Walsh said parts of Dorchester, Hyde Park and Mattapan are emerging as new COVID hotspots.

"Among neighborhoods, the 02121 and 02125 zip codes of Dorchester, as well as Hyde Park and Mattapan, were the neighborhoods with the highest positive rates," said Walsh. "East

Boston and the 02122 and 02124 zip codes of Dorchester saw their rates go down, but remain above the citywide average. Roxbury remains above the citywide average as well."

The Mayor said that, overall, the numbers we are seeing in positive tests and hospital admissions are numbers the city has not seen since June, when Boston was coming down from the peak of COVID-19 cases.

"In response, we are strengthening our focus on prevention, community outreach, and support while also developing enforcement strategies for COVID guidelines," he said.

## Emerald

*Continued from page 6*

way Coalition said that there has been an "unprecedented" number of visitors to the Emerald Necklace this year, and that the Arborway Coalition is grateful for the support of the ENC in ensuring that the tree canopy is cared for.

Kent Jackson, the Director of Education for the ENC, concluded the program with words about some of the ways funds raised for the ENC will be put into use, including ENC's youth education programs.

"These programs, made possible by your support tonight

at year-round, connect Boston's youth to nature and its many benefits," he said. He said it is "important to restore, maintain, and protect" green space for today's youth as well as future generations."

He thanked the ENC's public partners as well as Mayor Walsh and his team for their support.

The night was rounded out by a musical performance by Highland Street, who played Serenade a Tre by Franz Xaver Süssmayr. The performance included Greta Myatieva on violin, Mira Williams on viola, and Roy Femenella on French horn.

To learn more about the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and its work and program offerings, visit [emeraldnecklace.org](http://emeraldnecklace.org).

## VOTE EARLY BOSTON 2020

LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULES SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

Registered Boston voters can vote at any early voting location in the City, including City Hall. Pick a time and place that is best for you.

Los votantes registrados en Boston pueden votar en cualquier centro de votación adelantada en la ciudad, incluyendo en la Alcaldía de Boston. Elija la hora y el lugar que sea más conveniente para usted.

DROPBOXES FOR VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS AVAILABLE UNTIL NOVEMBER 3 (WILL BE UNDER 24HR SURVEILLANCE) for more information visit: [boston.gov/early-voting](http://boston.gov/early-voting)

### OCT 19-23 & OCT 26-30

MON, WED, FRI, 9AM - 5PM & TUE & THRS, 9AM - 8PM

Boston City Hall,  
One City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201

### SAT & SUN, OCT. 17 & 18, 11AM - 7PM

BCYF Paris Street Gymnasium  
112 Paris Street, East Boston, MA 02128  
BCYF Quincy  
885 Washington Street, Chinatown, MA 02111  
District Hall  
75 Northern Avenue, Boston, MA 02210 (Seaport)

Richard J. Murphy K-8 School Cafeteria  
1 Worrell Street, Dorchester, MA 02122  
Thelma Burns Building  
575 Warren Street, Roxbury, MA 02121

Another Course to College Cafeteria  
612 Metropolitan Avenue, Hyde Park, MA 02136  
BCYF Roche Gymnasium  
1716 Centre Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132

Dewitt Center  
122 Dewitt Drive, Roxbury, MA 02120  
Fenway Park (Gate A)  
4 Jersey Street, Fenway, MA 02215  
Jackson Mann School Auditorium  
500 Cambridge Street, Allston MA 02135

### TUESDAY OCTOBER 20 12PM - 8PM

BCYF Paris Street Gymnasium  
112 Paris Street, East Boston, MA 02128  
BCYF Tobin (Lower Level)  
1481 Tremont Street, Roxbury, MA 02120

### THURSDAY OCTOBER 22 12PM - 8PM

BCYF Shelburne Gymnasium  
2730 Washington Street, Roxbury, MA 02119  
Strand Theatre  
543 Columbia Road, Dorchester, MA 02125

### SAT & SUN, OCT. 24 & 25, 11AM - 7PM

Harvard/Kent Elementary School Gymnasium  
50 Bunker Hill Street, Charlestown, MA 02129  
James F. Condon School Cafeteria  
200 D Street, South Boston, MA 02127  
BCYF Perkins Gymnasium  
155 Talbot Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02124  
Mildred Avenue K-8 School Gymnasium

5 Mildred Avenue, Mattapan, MA 02126  
Saint Nectarios Greek Church Banquet Hall  
39 Belgrade Avenue, Roslindale, MA 02131

Margarita Muñoz Academy Gymnasium  
20 Child Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
BCYF Shelburne Gymnasium  
2730 Washington Street, Roxbury, MA 02119  
The Salvation Army Kroc Center  
650 Dudley Street, Dorchester, MA 02125  
Boston Public Library - Central Branch (McKim Building)  
700 Boylston Street, Back Bay, MA 02116  
Honan Allston Branch Library (Community Room)  
300 North Harvard Street, Allston, MA 02134

### TUESDAY OCTOBER 27 12 PM - 8PM

St. George Orthodox Church of Boston  
55 Emmonsdale Road, West Roxbury, MA 02132  
BCYF Hyde Park  
1179 River Street, Hyde Park, MA 02136

### THURSDAY OCTOBER 29 12PM - 8PM

Florian Hall  
55 Hallett Street, Dorchester, MA 02122  
Boys and Girls Club Mattapan Teen Center  
10 Hazelton Street, Mattapan, MA 02126

If you miss the early voting period, you can still vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3.

Si decide no votar por adelantado, todavía puede ir a votar en persona el día de las elecciones, que es el martes, 3 de noviembre.

In order to vote early or on Election Day, you must register to vote by October 24. Check your voter status at [boston.gov/election](http://boston.gov/election)

Para poder votar por adelantado o el día de las elecciones, debe registrarse para votar antes del 24 de octubre. Consulte su estatus como votante en [boston.gov/election](http://boston.gov/election)

Learn more at [boston.gov/early-voting](http://boston.gov/early-voting)  
Call 311 • [election@boston.gov](mailto:election@boston.gov)

#VoteEarlyBoston  
Llamar 311 • [election@boston.gov](mailto:election@boston.gov)



City of Boston  
Mayor Martin J. Walsh

## A HAUNTED HOUSE

BUT IT'S NOT FOR SALE

A fun, safe Halloween activity for the whole family!

Stop by our storefront at 34 South Street in JP  
Take photos in front of our Haunted House mural  
Post on social for friends and family to enjoy!

Tag #focusreboston. Prizes for best costume.

Covid-safe outdoor activity. Please observe social distancing.

FOCUSRE.COM

**FOCUS**  
REAL ESTATE

VOTED BEST OF JP  
2016, 2018, 2019, 2020

34 South Street, Jamaica Plain

617.676.4082

# Concert

Continued from page 1

Shuman's garage.

The band consists of bassist Paul Curran, who is also the letter carrier for the Forest Hills area, Alerisa Rose on vocals, Chase Cavacco on guitar, and Davey Dreyer on percussion and backup vocals.

Curran told the Gazette that he describes the band as "a bog rock band influenced by intrinsic blues and new age funk, just doing what we feel in the moment."

While the band plays covers of songs by classic rock artists such as Led Zeppelin and Jefferson Airplane, as well as the Beatles and even Elvis, lately, they have been really focusing on original songs as well.

After going through several band member changes over the past two years, they have finally settled on these members and have been working hard rehears-

ing new tunes.

The band said that while the pandemic has put a damper on playing many live shows, it has also helped them focus on their repertoire and creating new music.

Curran said that Dred Buffalo has been building a "silent momentum" while in quarantine and have been able to write new songs that they can't wait to share once it's safe to play shows regularly again.

The four members live together in Jamaica Plain, which they say has been immensely helpful in being able to rehearse. They even have their self-titled debut album set to release next month, with nine original tracks.

Curran said that there are eight more "on the board, and even more in our heads."

The name Dred Buffalo comes from a dream of a friend of Rose's. She explained that her friend had a dream that he was running and being chased by a witch doctor in a mine shaft with a big

rock falling behind him. Written in neon lights behind the smoke were the words "Dred Buffalo," which she immediately thought would make a great band name.

Curran explained that the concert came to be because he noticed on his mail route that Shuman has chalk available for people to write on the garage door. The prompt was something to effect of "what do you like most about JP?" and he wrote "Dred Buffalo" on it one day.

Shuman said that he didn't know what that meant, but he and his partner were out to dinner one day and their waitress mentioned she was in a band called "Dred Buffalo," so he decided he had to look them up on Instagram.

"Everyone in our neighborhood already knows him," Shuman said of Curran. Shuman, who operates the Wenham Street Cinema out of his garage area at 23 Wenham St. said he was concerned about holding a concert in his neighborhood for several

reasons, including safety issues due to the pandemic, as well as noise concerns from neighbors.

He said that he spoke with the neighbors about having the concert, "and the response was overwhelmingly positive." Dred Buffalo will be playing on top of the garage on Halloween from 6:00pm-7:30pm, a time he felt would not be too disturbing to neighbors. Masks and distancing will be required for attendance. There's "lots of support" for the concert, and "everyone is so desperate to get out," he said.

Kendra Hicks, who is running against City Councilor Matt O'Malley in next year's council race, will be announcing the band, Shuman said.

"It's going to be wonderful," Rose said. "Please wear a costume." Since people will be required to wear masks, the most creative masks will be awarded a free download of Dred Buffalo's new album, a t-shirt, and other merch, she said.

"We're just really excited to

play again," Rose said. "Kids don't have much of a Halloween this year," and she said that the band is "excited to promote ourselves to the community; to get to know people."

Curran said that some people along his mail route know he's in the band, and he might even drop a CD in some mailboxes once the album comes out.

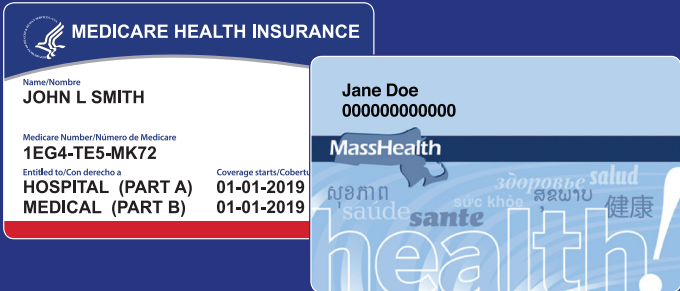
"We're really excited to play," Rose said, adding that the only person they've played for recently is the occasional friend who comes to the apartment.

"I'm excited to be a part of this ongoing art renaissance that is coming out of the whole world right now...Dreyer said.

Curran added, "this Halloween show, we hope to bring jams and good times through rock and fog machines."

Dred Buffalo's website is still in the works but you can follow them on Instagram @dredbuffalo.

## Got these cards? Get more of the help you need now



UnitedHealthcare® Senior Care Options (HMO D-SNP) includes extra benefits to help you get care and services you may be missing today. If you have MassHealth Standard only or MassHealth Standard and Medicare, that could be a big help in these uncertain times.

### Get extra benefits for a \$0 plan premium

Senior Care Options is a Medicare plan. It works with your MassHealth Standard plan. You'll keep all your MassHealth Standard benefits and add more. You could get extra benefits like:



**Health and wellness products card**  
Up to \$600 loaded onto your card to buy health-related items you may need.



**Dental coverage**  
\$0 copay for routine exams, cleanings, fillings, dentures, implants and more.

**Get the plan that gives you more**  
Call today. **1-888-804-9439, TTY 711**  
**UHCPC.com/MADual**



UnitedHealthcare SCO is a Coordinated Care plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Medicaid program. Enrollment in the plan depends on the plan's contract renewal with Medicare. This plan is a voluntary program that is available to anyone 65 and older who qualifies for MassHealth Standard and Original Medicare. If you have MassHealth Standard, but you do not qualify for Original Medicare, you may still be eligible to enroll in our MassHealth Senior Care Option plan and receive all of your MassHealth benefits through our SCO program.

© 2020 United HealthCare Services, Inc. All rights reserved.  
Y0066\_200409\_104906\_M  
UHCSCO\_200409\_104906\_M

CST29261A\_H2226-001



# Exam School

*Continued from page 1*

looking for entrance into Boston Latin School (BLS), Boston Latin Academy (BLA) and John D. O'Bryant High School. The second piece of the plan – and one that will affect Jamaica Plain the most – is that the plan will make seats available by zip code based on school-age population from the US Census. In JP, the school-age population is low, and the percentages of seats by JP students outsizes that number – meaning that the neighborhood stands to lose availability to exam school seats this coming year.

The plan had wide-spread support from City leaders, and from education reform organizations and social justice organizations – a measure of support that has been solidified well before COVID-19 when the Exam School Admissions Working Group was formed over a year ago to devise a more equitable way to admit students to the three schools.

The Working Group's plan also received major support from Civil Rights and racial justice organizations in the city, 13 of which signed on to a letter Oct. 21 that endorsed the plan eventually voted in by the Committee.

"Amidst these trying times, the exam school admissions proposal is a sensible and equitable way to recognize our highest performing students," read a portion of the letter. "For the last 20 years, invitations to Boston's exam schools

have been awarded based on a combination of students' grades and performance on a test. With coronavirus infection rates increasing and few students allowed to return to schools, now is simply not the time to administer an in-person examination to thousands of students. Nor would an examination be an accurate measure of a student's worth given the trauma caused by the pandemic."

Numerous parents, however, spoke against the plan – which uses Grade Point Average (GPA), zip code, area median income by zip code – to determine available seats and the order of selection (lower income zip code students would have first pick of the schools and higher income zip codes the last pick in a 10-round selection process for those accepted). Families around the city often employ tutors years in advance at a great expense to prepare for the material on the exam school test, most of which is not covered in the regular BPS curriculum. Those parents' investment and preparations are now null and void, many said.

Supt. Brenda Cassellius and Mayor Martin Walsh favored the plan, along with all members of the School Committee.

"It would not be fair or just to ask a child to come to compete on an exam whose life has been turned upside down due to the parents losing their home, losing their jobs, or close family members losing their life," said the mayor in the online meeting.

The approved plan has a caveat

at of just being for this year due to the inequities that have surfaced in the student population due to COVID-19. However, the Working Group continues its inquiry into the process and some aspects of this plan will likely endure in a future, permanent recommendation, members have told the Gazette in the past.

While some neighborhoods will gain access to many more seats in the exam schools this coming year, JP will stand to lose access to seats at BLS and BLA, which likely gaining seats to O'Bryant.

One of the key aspects of the approved plan is to allot seats this year by zip code according to the percentage of the school-age population. That would mean the percentage of available seats to JP students would be at around 5.1 percent, as the latest Census data shows the Town has a school-age population of 5.1 percent.

In looking at data for exam school enrollment provided to the Gazette by BPS, JP students disproportionately occupy seats in BLS and BLA above their school-age population. BLS has a JP population of 7.7 percent – 2.6 percent above what would be allotted by the new zip code process. At BLA, JP students occupy 6.8 percent of the seats – so 1.7 percent higher than the school-age population. In total at both Latin Schools, JP would stand to lose 4.3 percent of the seats currently occupied by JP students in this year's enrollment figures.

That isn't true, however, of O'Bryant, and JP students would gain access to seats there. JP students make up 3.1 percent of the enrollment at O'Bryant, and so the neighborhood would gain 2 percent more seats than currently held.

JP, however, is by no means the neighborhood most affected either way by the decision.

In fact, the neighborhood with the biggest losses would be West Roxbury, which would lose large amounts of seats to the proposed program.

West Roxbury has 4.8 percent school-age population, but has 18.9 percent of the seats in BLS, and 9.1 percent of the seats in BLA. They register below the threshold at O'Bryant, where they have 3 percent. Under the proposal, West Roxbury students would lose access to 14.1 percent of its current allotment of seats at BLS.

Some parts of Dorchester would benefit, but not as much as has been cited anecdotally, according to the BPS statistics. For the Codman Square (02124) area of Dorchester, there is a school-age population of 13 percent – the largest in the city. Only 8 percent of children there go to BLS, so there would be a gain of seats for that school. However, 12.3 percent go to BLA, and 14.8 percent go to O'Bryant. So, there would be a minimal gain of seats there to BLA and a loss of seats there to O'Bryant.

The largest gains tend to be in

Percentage of total seats occupied by JP students at the three exam schools in 2020:

- School-age Population – 5.1%
- Boston Latin School – 7.7%
- Boston Latin Academy – 6.8%
- O'Bryant High School – 3.1%

neighborhoods like East Boston.

There is a 9 percent school-age population in Eastie, but the neighborhood is largely under-represented in the exam schools.

At BLS, Eastie students make up only 4.8 percent of the enrollment, and only 6.1 percent at BLA. At O'Bryant, they come closer at 8.2 percent, but still fall below the school-age population. Eastie, under the plan, would gain seats in all three exam schools.

The second piece of the plan is the order in which students get to pick their school invitation, and Jamaica Plain is likely to see a difference there as that process is down according to median income per zip code. The lowest income picks first each round, and the highest last. Jamaica Plain has the 11th highest median income by zip code in the City, just behind South Boston and parts of the Back Bay, at \$90,813 per year.

## School Committee Chair questioned over comments during hearing

Several community members and one City Councilor are calling out the comments made by School Committee Chair Michael Loconto at the eight-hour hearing Wednesday and into Thursday morning regarding some of the speakers calling on the Committee not to approve the plan.

When three speakers against the plan were announced, two of them with Asian names, Loconto appeared to allegedly mock their names in introducing them – though he disputed that later in the meeting saying he was referring to a children's book character in a light moment.

"So, that was Shinya Shan Shan na and boo boo and David," he said according to the live transcript – which was almost immediately taken Umbridge to by those watching.

Loconto wasn't immediately available for comment on the matter.

However, Councilor Annissa Essaibi George indicated she heard it and issued a statement saying the comments were disrespectful and inappropriate. She asked for his resignation from the Committee.

"Mr. Loconto's behavior last night was unacceptable," said Essaibi George. "I'm deeply appalled, personally offended, by his words. I watched and heard it live. It is unconscionable that he would mock and disparage our families. Our school communities and our City deserve more. It's time for his resignation."

The comments came at around 11:30 p.m. in a meeting that began at 5 p.m.



## Virtual Public Meeting

# 632 - 638 Centre Street

**Tuesday, November 10**  
6:00 PM

**Zoom Link:** [bit.ly/2HlBngP](https://bit.ly/2HlBngP)  
**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864  
**Meeting ID:** 160 309 8649

### Project Description:

BPDA-hosted Article 80 Public Meeting in connection with the Proposed Project at 632 - 638 Centre Street in Jamaica Plain, for which a Small Project Review Application was filed with the BPDA on October 21st.

Please pre-register for this Virtual Public Meeting using the registration link provided above.

mail to: **Aisling Kerr**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
phone: 617.918.4212  
email: [aisling.kerr@boston.gov](mailto:aisling.kerr@boston.gov)

**Close of Comment Period:**  
11/20/20

# Walsh continues to warn residents about the dangers of large gatherings

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Mayor Marty Walsh held a press conference on October 15, where he continued to warn residents of the dangers of COVID-19 and the importance of following the guidelines set forth by the city and state.

“We are looking to strengthen COVID restrictions,” he said. With the continued reports of parties and other large gatherings that are contributing to increased cases in the city, Walsh said he is looking at “efforts to tighten enforcement and gathering limits” as well as “unsanctioned activities.”

He said that there are a total of 30 testing sites in the city. To find one, visit [boston.gov/coronavirus](https://boston.gov/coronavirus).

“I urge anyone and every-

one; if you have been out of the house at a gathering or at all concerned about exposure, get a test,” Walsh said.

He said the city is continuing to help restaurants abide by the guidelines, specifically regarding physical distancing, masks, and table size.

Walsh also said he is paying “special attention to house parties that are putting people at risk,” adding that he has spoken with several elected officials who had concerns. “We are tracing locations where house parties continue to happen,” Walsh said, and the city is working with the Inspectional Services Department to help restrict these gatherings. He also said he is “working with different agencies” on a fine for parties, possi-

bly for both the landlord and the tenant for rentals.

He said that “roughly half” of the city’s most recent new cases of COVID-19 were in people under the age of 30. He urged party-goers to think about everyone they come in contact with at a party, and everyone they will come in contact with after the party.

“We need to take this virus seriously,” Walsh said. He warned that if “we don’t do what we need to do and start to take responsibility as individuals...” he could shut down the city again.

“Not going to a party is a small sacrifice to pay for later on down the road for larger gain,” he said, adding that people can one day attend parties and large group events again.

But “right now, we’re at a very critical point with coronavirus,” he said. “We can’t get this virus under control without everyone’s cooperation.”

## VOTING

Walsh also talked about early voting, which began on October 17 in Boston. There are 27 early voting locations throughout the city, and residents can also vote by mail. He said the city has received “more than 130,000 requests for mail in ballots,” and reminded residents that the last day to request a ballot is October 28.

Ballots can either be mailed back, dropped at an early voting location, or dropped at one of the 17 drop boxes located throughout the city. For more information on voting and voting locations, visit

[boston.gov/election](https://boston.gov/election).

## FALL ACTIVITIES

Walsh also talked about the new fall drive-in movie series, following the “success” of the summer drive in-movie series. He said admission is free, but registration is required. The movies will be shown in the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center parking lot. For a full list of dates and movies, as well as to register, visit [boston.gov/driveinmovies](https://boston.gov/driveinmovies).

Additionally, the Parks Department will be hosting a virtual pumpkin carving contest, where winners will be chosen from three different categories, and the winners will receive an iPad from Xfinity. Photos can be submitted up to and including October 31. For more information, visit [boston.gov/pumpkins](https://boston.gov/pumpkins).

# DCR holds community meeting regarding Arborway Parkway Improvements project

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) held a community meeting on October 21 regarding the Arborway Parkway Improvements project.

The project, which is now being carried out by design engineer Howard Stein Hudson, has been in the works for several years, but has never come to fruition.

More than 200 people registered to be a part of this community meeting, and three alternative design proposals were presented for the Arborway.

Before delving into the design alternatives, DCR Deputy Chief Engineer Jeff Parenti talked a little bit about some short-term improvements that are currently in the works for the corridor, including sidewalk repairs, which is said are now “winding down,” as well as pavement marking plan, which he said has been revised based on feedback. Once the edited plan is approved, he said the hope is to have that project completed before the winter.

Nate Lash of Howard Stein Hudson gave an overview of the timeline for the larger project, saying that in the spring of this year, the team met with elected officials and community stakeholders, then in the summer, there was a virtual public meeting where public comment was collected, and site walks with

community stakeholders were completed.

In June and July, the project team received 515 public comments related to the project, and learned what people like and do not like about the Arborway as it exists now. He reported that people like the existing mature trees and green space, as well as the Arborway’s connection to parks and other desirable areas. People were concerned about speeding, the safety of cyclists, and the lack of crosswalks in certain areas.

He said that the comments received largely matched the shared goals of the design team as well.

Bob Stathopoulos of Howard Stein Hudson said that there were other safety issues on the Arborway, such as “short merging and weaving areas, multi-lane pedestrian crossings with no signals or beacons, unmarked travel lanes for Murray Circle, confusing geometry,” and others, according to a slide presented at the meeting.

He also said a road safety audit was completed in 2019 that outlined safety issues along the corridor.

Amy Ingles of Howard Stein Hudson gave some examples of “potential crossing treatments” that could be used on the corridor, including raised crosswalks, rapid flashing beacons, bicycle conflict/intersection markings, refuge islands, and more.

She also explained that the landscape plan is similar for all three alternatives.

Matt Jasmin of Howard Stein Hudson went through each of the proposed alternatives, and explained that Alternative A included two circles, Alternative B included two, and Alternative C has no circles.

According to the presentation, all three design alternatives would have things like “speed management, channeling through traffic into the Main Barrel and away from the carriageways, maintained access for carriageway abutters, overall increases in green space and street trees, safe, comfortable, and convenient bike and pedestrian facilities and connections, easy access to two-way separated bike lanes and/or shared use paths, enhanced pedestrian and bicycle crossings, [and] new lighting and signal equipment for all facilities and users.”

He then explained the details of each of the proposals, and talked about public feedback that had been received about each section of the corridor. People support the historic nature and the trees and green space that the Arborway offers, but speeding and unsafe conditions for pedestrians and bikers were common concerns at each portion of the Arborway.

More details about each alternative and what it would achieve can be found at [https://](https://www.mass.gov/doc/arborway-design-alternatives-flyer/download)

[www.mass.gov/doc/arborway-design-alternatives-flyer/download](https://www.mass.gov/doc/arborway-design-alternatives-flyer/download).

Many people were wondering if elements of a certain alternative could be merged with another, which the team said was definitely possible. They are looking for very specific feedback from residents about which elements they think would work best, so they can create a solution that works for the most people.

Residents then asked questions about specific parts of the proposal as well as made suggestions. One resident advocated for separated bike lanes instead of shared pathways, because she said that “cyclists do not prefer to bike right next to traffic,” and instead, prefer to ride near trees and pedestrians. She also suggested good lighting over the pedestrian/cyclist corridor.

Jasmin said that the team is planning on updating the lighting for both pedestrians/cyclists and motorists along the entire corridor, while still making sure it is appropriate for the surrounding residential area.

Another resident said he was “grateful” for a proposed raised crosswalk at St. Rose St., as he believes that area is currently unsafe with gravity pulling vehicles down the hill at faster speeds.

Questions about parking also came up, and Jasmin said that parking will remain on the western side of the Arborway.

Trees are also a huge consid-

eration for many neighbors, and Jasmin said that with construction to happen so close to mature trees, it is important to not injure them, and he said the team is “trying to limit the stress and hazard to existing green space.”

Following the public meeting will be a public comment period, and Jasmin explained the rest of the project timeline moving forward, which involves presenting the preferred alternative and selecting the final design, with construction to begin in 2021 and last two years, pending coordination with utilities.

The public comment period will last until Friday, November 6, and the team is in search of very specific feedback from residents about all aspects of the project, including feedback about what would work best for cyclists along the corridor.

Feedback can be shared in several ways: by using the interactive online map at [hsh.mysocialpinpoint.com/arborway](https://hsh.mysocialpinpoint.com/arborway), by submitting a written comment online at [www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment](https://www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment), or by submitting a written comment by mail to Arborway Parkway Improvements, c/o Howard Stein Hudson, 11 Beacon Street, Suite 1010 Boston, MA, 02108.

More information about the project as a whole can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/arborway-parkways-improvement-project>.



# Early voting and ballot dropbox locations around the area

You can drop off your mail-in ballot at any early voting location during the early voting period. For a full list of ballot dropbox locations, visit [boston.gov/election](http://boston.gov/election).

## Jamaica Plain Branch Library

30 South Street, Jamaica Plain

The dropbox will be available seven days a week until 8pm on Election Day, November 3

## BYCF Menino

125 Brookway Road, Roslindale

The dropbox will be available seven days a week until 8pm on Election Day, November 3

## Boston City Hall

Available seven days a week through 8pm on November 3

Two dropboxes available, one at the Congress Street entrance and one at the City Hall Plaza entrance. The dropbox at the City Hall Plaza entrance is currently available.

## Early Voting

To vote early, you must be a registered Boston voter. Any registered Boston voter can vote at any early voting location. You don't need an excuse or reason to vote early. Not sure if you're registered? Find out your voter registration status.

For the State Election on Tuesday, November 3, the early voting period takes place from Saturday, October 17, through Friday, October 30. The deadline to register to vote is Saturday, October 24, 2020. Our office will stay open that day until 8 p.m. for voter registrations, but you

can also register on the state's website.

## Early Voting Locations: Margarita Muniz Academy Gymnasium

20 Child Street, Jamaica Plain  
Saturday, October 24, 11am-7pm

Sunday, October 25 11am-7pm

## Saint Necarios Greek Church Banquet Hall

39 Belgrade Avenue, Roslindale

Saturday, October 24, 11am-7pm

Sunday, October 25, 11am-7pm

## Central Library at Copley Square:

700 Boylston St. Back Bay  
Saturday, October 24 11am-7pm

Sunday, October 25 11am-7pm

## Boston City Hall

1 Congress St.

Friday, October 23, 9am-5pm

Monday, October 26, 9am-5pm

Tuesday, October 27 9am-8pm

Wednesday, October 28, 9am-5pm

Thursday, October 29, 9am-8pm

Friday, October 30, 9am-5pm

For more locations, visit [boston.gov/election](http://boston.gov/election).

The Election Department is reminding residents that Saturday, October 24 is the last day to register to vote and Wednesday, October 28 is the last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot.

The election includes races for: Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress, Governor's Councilors, Senator in General Court, Representative in Gen-

eral Court, Register of Probate, and Office of the President of the United States. In addition to the races, there are two ballot questions: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition Motor Vehicle Mechanical Data & Law Proposed by Initiative Petition Ranked-Choice Voting, and two public policy questions in State Representative Districts 11, 15, 17 and 18.

Any registered Boston voter can vote at any early voting location from Saturday, October 17, 2020 through Friday, October 30, 2020. Due to COVID-19, the Election Department is implementing health and safety protocols for in-person voting during the early voting period and on Election Day. All poll workers will receive face shields, face masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes, disinfectant spray and hand sanitizer. Cleaning will take place at each site every two to three hours. Voters waiting in line will be instructed to stand six feet away from others and wear a face covering. More information about COVID-19 safety at the polls can be found at <https://www.boston.gov/news/how-we-are-ensuring-health-and-safety-our-polling-locations>.

## Voting by mail

All Massachusetts registered voters have received a vote-by-

mail application in their mail boxes for the State Primary and the State Election. The application is in a postcard format. To receive a ballot, voters must first complete, sign and return the prepaid postcard application to the Election Department by Wednesday, October 28, 2020.

If residents never received or lost this application, they can now request a vote-by-mail ballot online at [www.mailmyballotma.com](http://www.mailmyballotma.com). They can also request a new ballot application by completing this form at <https://www.boston.gov/news/mail-voting-information-city-boston> and return it to the City of Boston's Election Department, via mail, email, fax or by dropping it off in person at Boston City Hall room 241, or in the drop box on the third floor entrance of City Hall.

Email: [absenteevoter@boston.gov](mailto:absenteevoter@boston.gov)

Fax: 617-635-4483

## Returning completed ballots

Once a voter receives their ballot, they are encouraged to complete and return it to the Election Department as soon as possible. Completed ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by November 3 and received by the Election Department by November 6 to be counted. Massachusetts voters

can track their ballot request, whether requested by mail or online, through [trackmyballot-MA.com](http://trackmyballot-MA.com). The Boston Election Department started mailing out ballots this week, and will continue to mail ballots as applications arrive, until the application deadline of October 28, 2020.

Voters may also return their ballot using one of the 17 dropboxes which will be available 24/7 through 8 p.m. on November 3, 2020, as well as at an early voting location during the early voting period. Voters may additionally return their ballot to City Hall, which is currently open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Voting in person on Election Day

Voters are reminded there are 20 precinct polling location changes this cycle that can be found here. Polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Individuals can find their polling location for Election Day at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/bal/myelectioninfo.aspx>.

For more information on how to participate in this year's elections, please visit [boston.gov/election](http://boston.gov/election).

## NEWS BRIEFS

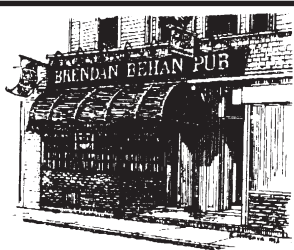
### LANTERN PARADE NEWS

Sadly this year, the Friends of Jamaica Pond will not be organizing a Lantern Parade around Jamaica Pond.

In this time of darkness light is needed more than ever!

Let's keep our tradition lit.

Walk when, where and with whom you want with a lantern and let your light shine!



**Brendan Behan Pub**  
378A Centre Street  
Jamaica Plain



## CITY OF BOSTON MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

Thermometers

Button-Cell Batteries

Thermostats

Mercury Switches

Elemental Mercury

Fluorescent Lamps

Sphygmomanometers (Blood Pressure Units)

PLEASE BRING THESE PRODUCTS CONTAINING MERCURY TO:

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2020**

**9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Central DPW Facility**  
400 Frontage Road, Boston

Boston Residents Only - Proof of Residency Required

Find a full list of acceptable items at: [Boston.gov/hazardous-waste](http://Boston.gov/hazardous-waste)

ADVERTISEMENT  
SPONSORED BY



**Wheelabrator**  
S A U G U S



# RoslindaleNeighbors

## Roslindale resident Councilor Wu campaigning for issues affecting the neighborhood and beyond

By Lauren Bennett

It has been a little over a month since City Councilor Michelle Wu announced her candidacy for mayor, and she has been out and about in the neighborhoods campaigning on various issues.

As a Roslindale resident, Wu has a unique perspective on the neighborhood, and the Gazette spoke with her to learn more about certain issues in Rozzie and beyond.

“It’s been incredible energy around the city,” she said of her campaign efforts so far. “I’ve spent time in every neighborhood of the city really talking about the urgent changes that we need and can do together with bold leadership for Boston.”

She said that right now, the focus remains on the November election, but the national issues are “very much connected” to those right in the city, she said.

Wu said she has done several campaign events in Roslindale, including some greeting of shoppers at the farmers market, including passing out flyers and talking to families.

She also held a socially distant backyard party on South Street, and said that it was “still really nice to be able to see people face to face.”

Wu is “always out and about in the neighborhood” with her two young sons, and said that “it’s always fun to be able to connect the chance to advocate for my neighborhood with needs we see all across the city.”

Roslindale, like many other

neighborhoods in the city, is “a community that is struggling with affordability,” Wu said. “We have seen the housing crisis go up and up and up.” She said that she and her family were able to buy a home in the neighborhood just a few months before prices skyrocketed and would have been unaffordable for them to purchase a home in the same area.

“I see a lot of climate advocacy coming out of our neighborhood as well,” she said, from organizations like GreeningRozzie to Boston Climate Action Network, there “are really strong ties to climate justice in this community.” She said that there are also many young families who are interested in a quality education for their children and have a stake in the Boston Public Schools (BPS).

Wu also said that it is “tough right now for our local small businesses” in Roslindale and beyond. She said she has spent some time talking to owners of restaurants and other food businesses, as well as grocery stores and food trucks. She said that workers in this industry, especially those who are undocumented or are ineligible for state or federal aid, have been hit very hard by the pandemic.

On Tuesday, Wu released a food justice agenda for Boston that she said “shows how food justice could lead the way,” and offers five different areas with specific policies in each.

She said that there is a “need

to direct resources to lifting up small, locally owned businesses.”

Also on Tuesday, Boston Public Schools announced that all students will learn remotely until the city’s positive test rate goes below four percent again.

“It is extremely difficult for Boston to be in this position, especially for families who are juggling so much right now,” Wu said. “I am watching the COVID rates go up across the state and city, [and] realizing that my five year old likely won’t go back to in-person learning” this year, she said. “It’s a huge stressor on my family and so many other families.”

She also said that the burden of this is “falling disproportionately on Black and Brown residents,” and that she has long advocated for a reopening process for schools that involves “resources and priority from outside the school department as well.”

She added that “unless we are driving down the COVID infection rates, there’s no way we can have safe in-person learning.” She said that the rates have been trending upwards, which means that in-person learning is not safe.

She said that while she understands why in-person learning was halted, “that shouldn’t be the reactive end to the conversation. The city should be working to do all we can to drive down infection rates.”

As for Halloween, she said it’s been tough as a parent to try and explain to her three and five year old sons that Halloween is “going to be very different” this year. She said a family member makes simple homemade costumes for the boys each year, and they had picked out this year’s costumes a while back: a cat and a car. She said that as young kids, they “kind of go with the flow,” but it’s still difficult for kids to have to make changes to things they have looked forward to.

“Everyone has to take personal responsibility and realize that we are dependent...” on the actions and health of those around us. She said that “the government needs to take action,” as it’s been “months now, and we still don’t have reliable, free testing everywhere in the City of Boston,” nor is there adequate access to PPE for many childcare providers, she said.

“We haven’t been creating enough safe spaces for people who need to quarantine but may not have stable housing to do so safely,” she said. She also said that there is more work to be done on fixing ventilation in BPS school buildings so kids can learn safely in-person when the public health numbers allow them to do so again.

“I agree we need to be mindful and encourage everyone to be responsible in how we’re spending our social time,” Wu said, adding that she recognizes the difficulty in not being able to spend time with friends and family in the way we are used to, “but the burden shouldn’t be just calling out these parties, it should be taking specific action so people can safely interact with each other again.”

Wu and her campaign team will be making some stops at early voting locations in the coming weeks, as the November election is at the top of the list in terms of focus right now. Wu also said that she and the team are “looking to do lots of organizing events, especially after the November election.” She said that since the weather is getting colder, more and more events will be virtual.

For more information about events and Councilor Wu’s campaign platform, visit [michelleforboston.com](http://michelleforboston.com).



See You In  
The Village Square

HAIR • SKIN • NAILS • MASSAGE  
GIFT CARDS

AVEDA CONCEPT SALON  
[www.centrecuts.com](http://www.centrecuts.com)

6 Belgrade Ave. Roslindale, Ma.  
617-325-0002

Tuesday-Sunday



**Thank you!**

I'M INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. WE ARE BACK OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, PRACTICING SAFE, SOCIALLY DISTANCED, IN-PERSON SHOPPING, OR ONLINE - [BIRCHSTHOUSEANDGARDEN.COM](http://BIRCHSTHOUSEANDGARDEN.COM)

~ ELIZABETH & BSHG TEAM

760 South St. Roslindale - 617.323.3269 - [www.birchsthhouseandgarden.com](http://www.birchsthhouseandgarden.com)

## RACHAEL 'RAE' KULIK

REAL ESTATE BROKER

(978) 514-2018



[RACHAELKULIK.COM](http://RACHAELKULIK.COM)  
[RACHAEL@RACHAELKULIK.COM](mailto:RACHAEL@RACHAELKULIK.COM)

INSIGHT REALTY GROUP, INC.  
1429 CENTRE ST  
WEST ROXBURY, MA 02132



# RoslindaleNeighbors

## Charles Sumner Elementary School is finalist for prestigious EdVestors prize

By JOHN LYNDIS

For the past 13 years EdVestors, a school improvement organization in Boston, has awarded its \$100,000 Thomas W. Payzant School on the Move Prize to recognize rapidly improving schools that have made exemplary progress in advancing the academic achievement of all students.

Last week it was announced that the Charles Sumner Elementary School in Roslindale is a finalist for the prestigious EdVestors Prize. The other two schools are the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers in Mission Hill and the F. Lyman Winship Elementary School in Brighton.

The winning school will be an-

nounced at a virtual ceremony on Wednesday, October 28 that will be streamed live from 3-4pm on Zoom. Other finalist schools will each receive \$10,000 awards.

"I think being nominated for the School on the Move prize encourages the Sumner community to keep striving and achieving for all of our students," said Sumner Principal Meghan Welch. "We are thrilled to be recognized for our improvement efforts that required the brainpower and efforts of our whole community. Our teachers, paraprofessionals, cafeteria staff, parents, community partners, central office partners and more make the Sumner a special place. The School on the Move award truly recognizes what is working in our public

schools and we are proud to share our story."

Welch said a few years back, the school decided it wanted to include all kids whether they made a bad choice at the moment or struggled with their learning. Historically, schools had excluded some kids for bad behavior or not exhausted all resources to serve the student in their current classroom.

"As one of the largest and most diverse elementary schools (550 students, sometimes 600 across 30 classrooms that include General Education, Sheltered English Instruction- Spanish, specialized Learning Disabled strand and Inclusion ), the Sumner stepped up and took an approach to know and reach all students," said Welch. "For instance, each week, students have 1 hour of social skills taught by a trained social worker. Our students concretely learn how to make friends, solve conflicts, assert themselves and use self-talk. In our upper grades, we find this class gives students a platform to talk about how they see the world or issues they are worried about

like racism, violence, immigration law and beyond."

Welch said the Sumner teachers received training on how to reward students and de-escalate situations so students could return to learning.

"We place a heavy emphasis on what students are doing right and we tell them frequently how their actions benefit themselves or the community," she said. "Students of all ages get excited to receive our pom-poms which they can turn in for prizes! The pom-poms are a symbol to every Sumner student that you contributed, you made a good choice, you made your family proud by growing. Each of our 30 classrooms has a Settling Space where students can take a break or reset themselves. Each of our 30 classrooms has a Buddy Room or neighboring classroom where a student can take a break from their current classroom. This allows students to rebound quickly and get back to learning versus dwelling on the struggle or bad choice."

Lastly, Welch said one key part of the school's improvement is its

faculty collaboration.

"We are not competitive with each other, we work together to solve problems and share resources," said Welch. "We have hired faculty who have a track record of success and who go above and beyond to reach each and every child."

No one will know which school will be awarded the \$100,000 grand prize until the announcement is made live at the event next week.

"These three schools represent the critical work schools across the city are doing to improve educational outcomes for Boston children," said Marinell Rousmaniere, President and CEO of EdVestors. "Each of them has employed a variety of innovative strategies to meet the needs of their students from engaging, student-centered instructional practices to addressing the unique social emotional and academic challenges of new immigrant families. We recognize all of them for their work and look forward to announcing the winning school later this month."



www.studiomroslindale.com

617-477-9267

4182 Washington Street  
Roslindale, MA 02131

What's the value of your home?

go to:

JamaicaPlainValues.com  
RoslindaleValues.com

Powered by

Maxfield & Company Real Estate  
EXPERIENCE. EXCELLENCE.

24/7 Emergency Vet Care | Weekend Appointments | Free On-site Parking

Change  
in your  
pet's  
diet?

Pets eat some strange things. Isn't it comforting to know you have a place to turn when the unexpected happens?

Angell Animal Medical Center's compassionate team provides state-of-the-art care for your best friend. From wellness checkups to allergies, from cancer treatment to neurosurgery, our specialists work together to provide services tailored to your pet's individual needs.

- 24/7 Emergency & Critical Care
- Anesthesiology
- Avian & Exotic Medicine
- Behavior
- Cardiology
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Imaging
- General Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Pathology
- Physical Rehabilitation
- Surgery



angell®

animal medical center

angell.org | 350 South Huntington Ave | Boston, MA | 617-522-7282

RoslindaleNeighbors

RVMS looks toward helping businesses during holiday shopping season

By Lauren Bennett

As businesses continue to navigate uncharted waters due to the pandemic, organizations like Roslindale Village Main Street (RVMS) provide assistance in any way they can.

After a successful summer season, local businesses are looking towards the colder months and how to adapt holiday shopping to the circumstances.

The Gazette spoke with RVMS Executive Director Alia Hamada Forrest to learn more about what the organization has been doing to help out small businesses, as well as what Halloween will look like on Roslindale's main streets.

At the beginning of the pan-

demic, Forrest said RVMS' "first instinct is, 'how do we help?'" She said that businesses were looking for money to help pay rent and utilities to help keep them from having to permanently close.

"In the very beginning that's what we kept hearing from businesses," she said. Aside from grants from the City, RVMS was able to hold a Spring Appeal in April and May to raise money for a mini grant program for small businesses.

Roslindale businesses could apply for up to \$1000 through an application where they had to specify how the money could be used.

"That was a major way we were able to help financially," Forrest

said. She said that \$25,000 was given to more than 25 businesses.

"We also support and guide businesses who are interested in outdoor seating," she said, including purchasing some bistro sets for Shaking Seafood, who had outdoor seating at their Poplar St. location this summer.

"For other businesses who are still using outdoor seating," Forrest said, RVMS is "helping to spread the word" that they are open and have heaters in place.

RVMS shares this sort of information, as well as information about virtual events, specials, promotions, and more, via its weekly e-newsletters that are circulated to more than 5,000 Roslindale residents.

"I think people, especially Roslindale residents, are looking to see how they can support and keep businesses here," she said.

"I see a lot of creativity these days," she said, including at Birch St. House and Garden, which holds virtual live shopping events every Thursday evening to help more customers be able to shop in the store.

RVMS is also working with businesses on planning for the colder months as they rapidly approach.

"Right now, we're brainstorming with businesses on how to have outdoor seating in the winter," she said, and asking questions like "what does holiday shopping look like right now?"

She said that the organization is working on a potential campaign for the holiday shopping season to help get people out shopping safely.

She said she has also noticed a different trend in shopping patterns in the neighborhood.

"A lot of people are getting their shopping done during the day; during the week," she said, and "Saturday and Sunday have the slowest days" when they used to be the most busy.

She said that since more people seem to be coming out during the week, this holiday season, RVMS is hoping to have a campaign for shopping early or shopping during the week.

This was something that "we never really thought about promoting," she said, as they usually have one big holiday shopping event or a few scattered throughout the month of December.

"We're trying to be creative and figure out what will actually help out businesses right now," Forrest said. "It's been a really challenging balancing act, but we've seen some businesses really figure out ways to be safe and still be successful."

FARMERS MARKET

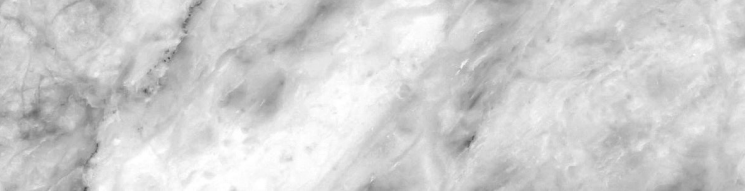
The RVMS summer market in Adams Park has become a grab-and-go market, which will extend into mid-November. Forrest said that the winter farmers market at the beginning of the pandemic had to be cancelled, and as they were contemplating what to do about the summer farmers market, she said that one question kept popping up: "should we just not do it?"

But RVMS ended up allowing the summer farmers market with specific safety guidelines in place. There are now 15 vendors instead of the usual 30, and "we had to really focus on food and farms this summer," instead of specialty food, crafts, and other art. "Food access is high priority right now," she said.

She said that RVMS is encouraging people who want to visit the farmers market to preorder with the vendors they would like to shop with, though this is not required. A link to each week's vendors can be found at roslindale.net.

Attendees must wear a mask and wash or sanitize their hands before shopping. Only 45 people are allowed into the market at a time, and Forrest said there is

Continued on page 15



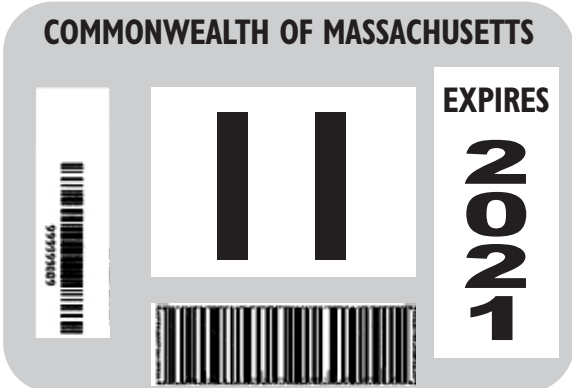
Counter Intelligence

Give your kitchen a fresh look without a complete remodel by replacing your countertops. At Boston Building Resources, we offer quartz, granite, laminate, butcher block, and more. Our knowledgeable and friendly staff will go beneath the surface to educate you about the properties of these different materials as well as costs and maintenance, so you know what you're getting into. And because we're a consumer co-op, you won't get a hard sell—just the information you need to make your decision. Contact us today for a full briefing.



100 Terrace Street, Boston, 02120  
(near Roxbury Community College)  
M-F 8:30-4:30 ■ Saturday 9:30-3:00 ■ 617-442-2262  
bostonbuildingresources.com  
a member-owned co-op

Arborway Auto Service Center



State Inspections No Appointment needed.  
8:30am to 4:30pm Mon thru Friday.

617-524-4505

Conveniently located one block from  
Forest Hills T station, 207 South St., Jamaica Plain

See us on yelp.com



# RoslindaleNeighbors

## COVID-19 positive test-rates up in Roslindale

By JOHN LYNDIS

The recent spike of COVID-19 infections throughout Boston is troubling and Roslindale is not immune to the newest wave of infections sweeping the city.

Those testing positive for the virus in Jamaica Plain increased according to data released by the Last week the BPHC reported that of the 12,005 Roslindale residents tested for COVID, 5.9 percent were found to be positive. The citywide average is 5.7 percent of those tested and that number forced Boston Public School to suspend all in-person learning until further notice.

Since testing began in the neighborhood 8.2 percent of

Roslindale residents have been found to be COVID positive.

According to the BPHC data, Roslindale's infection rate also increased.

Roslindale went from 273 cases per 10,000 residents to 281.9 cases per 10,000 residents--or a 3.2 percent increase. Roslindale is now several points higher than the citywide infection rate average which is now at 271.5 cases per 10,000 residents.

Twenty more Roslindale residents became infected with COVID-19 in the past week and the number of total cases here went from 932 cases two weeks ago to 952 cases last week.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly

COVID19 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 by 7 percent last week from 17,937 cases to 19,029 confirmed cases. So far 16,212 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus and 8 additional Boston residents died last week--bringing the total number of fatalities in the city remains to 771.

At his daily press briefing last week Mayor Martin Walsh said parts of Dorchester, Hyde Park and Mattapan are emerging as new COVID hotspots.

"Among neighborhoods, the

02121 and 02125 zip codes of Dorchester, as well as Hyde Park and Mattapan, were the neighborhoods with the highest positive rates," said Walsh. "East Boston and the 02122 and 02124 zip codes of Dorchester saw their rates go down, but remain above the citywide average. Roxbury remains above the citywide average as well."

The Mayor said that, overall,

the numbers we are seeing in positive tests and hospital admissions are numbers the city has not seen since June, when Boston was coming down from the peak of COVID-19 cases.

"In response, we are strengthening our focus on prevention, community outreach, and support while also developing enforcement strategies for COVID guidelines," he said.

## RVMS

*Continued from page 14*

"typically a line," but it moves quickly and people can expect to wait between five and 10 minutes.

She said that people are also encouraged to look at the vendor list before arrival, as they ask that attendees only stay in the park for 15 minutes.

"It's not a mingle and lingering experience anymore," she said. She said eating is no longer allowed at the market either, which she said "has been sad. People have always come to our farmers market and it's always been a community experience," with dogs, babies, live music, and free children's activities, which are no longer happening.

"I think people are very grateful to have something to do on a Saturday still," she said, and people are still coming out to the market. She also said that the first half hour of the market is for seniors and people who are at high risk for the virus.

"That could be something we could continue," Forrest said, even after the virus is under control, as she feels there is a "benefit for older folks who don't want to deal with crowds."

### HALLOWEEN

Halloween is on a Saturday this year, and many families are looking for fun, safe things to do with their kids.

The RVMS farmers market will be open that day and "we will have it all decked out" in a Halloween theme with vendors wearing costumes and pumpkins, corn stalks, and hay bales will be placed around the mar-

ket as well as some spiderwebs and other spooky items.

She also said that RVMS will have a virtual costume contest, and people can either arrive at the market in their costumes, or take pictures of themselves or their kids and tag RVMS on Instagram to be added to their story for a sort of virtual costume parade.

She also said that RVMS is partnering with the Roslindale library as it does every year for a Day of the Dead celebration, but this year it will be virtual. On Halloween, the virtual event

will start at 11am, and participants will receive a custom Zoom background.

Visit <https://friendsofrosindalelibrary.org/events/> for more information about the virtual event.

Forrest said that overall, RVMS is "asking a lot of questions right now," and trying to be supportive to local businesses as they head into the holiday shopping season. "Our role...has to be totally reimagined," she said. "It's become a learning culture, which is not bad, it's just new."

## TONY WILLIAMS DANCE CENTER

### Come dance with us!

- \*professional ballet training
- \*dance styles for ages 3-18
- \*ask about our apprentice training programs

## OPEN NOW!



In-Person with Safety Precautions or Online-at-Home

284 Amory Street | Jamaica Plain | 617.524.4381  
twdcinfo@gmail.com | www.TWDANCE.com

It's almost November.



Clocks can "fall back,"  
but not our kids!

Keep their skills moving forward.

Reading and Vocabulary Development  
Writing Skills  
Study Skills  
Grades K-8

[untiredteacher@gmail.com](mailto:untiredteacher@gmail.com)

A retired teacher who's not tired of teaching!

# IMANI MASSAGE

[www.ImaniMassage.com](http://www.ImaniMassage.com)  
617.821.2875

Massages  
and Gift  
Certificates  
now  
available!



[www.3RMessages.com](http://www.3RMessages.com)  
617.681.7719

Located at  
The Meeting Point,  
3464 Washington St.





LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

JAFFER RECOGNIZED IN NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Benjamin Jaffer of Jamaica Plain has been recognized as a National Merit Semifinalist. Benjamin joins a nationwide pool of approximately 16,000 students, representing less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors and including the highest-scoring en-

trants in each state. In total, eighteen members of the class of 2021 have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program. More than 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Finalists will be announced in February of 2021, and National Merit Scholarship winners will

be announced between April and July. SCHEELE ADMITTED TO INTERNATIONAL NURSING HONOR SOCIETY The College of Nursing and Health Sciences Department of Nursing will induct Nina Scheele of Jamaica Plain into the Kappa Tau Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor

Society on October 19, 2020. To receive this honor, students must have completed at least half of the nursing curriculum with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher; rank in the top 35% of their graduating class; and meet expectations of academic integrity. About UVM Since 1791, the University of Vermont has worked to move humankind forward. Committed to both research and teaching, UVM professors -- world-class re-

searchers, scholars, and artists -- bring their discoveries into the classroom and their students into the field. Located in Burlington, Vermont, one of the nation's most vibrant small cities and top college towns, UVM is a Public Ivy and top 100 national research university educating 10,700 undergraduate students, 1,627 graduate students, 776 certificate and non-degree students, and 478 M.D. students in the Larner College of Medicine.

HOME SERVICE GUIDE

PAINTING & CARPENTRY

PAINTING  
INT. **JP** EXT.  
CARPENTRY

617-852-7409 JP resident

LANDSCAPE DESIGN & INSTALLATION

 **earthen stoneworks**  
Design and Construction

Rich Gargiulo  
617-821-4701  
earthenstoneworks@gmail.com  
www.earthenstone.works

Creating Unique Landscape Solutions

LANDSCAPING/LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION

**VALENTIN**  
LANDSCAPING & CONSTRUCTION, INC.



Call for Estimates

- Landscape maintenance
- Hydroseeding
- Seed • Sod
- Tree service
- Commercial & Residential
- Free estimates
- Fence installation
- Paving

 **617-590-2510**  
FULLY INSURED & BONDED


ASBESTOS AND MOLD

Asbestos & Mold issues?

Call  & 

For removal of Asbestos and Mold Office: 781.817.6146 erieenviro@gmail.com

For a Licensed Inspector Neal's #: 617.970.2572

 Partners with over 25 years of experience!

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

**MSS ELECTRICAL**

LICENSED, INSURED IN COMM OF MASS 

Serving Jamaica Plain and Surrounding Communities

DARK SKY INITIATIVE AND CPTED PRACTITIONER WITH A GREENER APPROACH TO THE ENVIRONMENT

 **781-727-3694**

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

**SULA VALLEY**

Additions kitchens bathrooms  
New construction - General remodeling

**617-981-9456**

60 Amory St, Boston, MA 02119 info@sulavalley.com  
Res. Comm. Insured Licenses: HIC 185545 CS-113672

ROOF REPAIR

**Roof Repairs**  
Gutters ▲ Roofing ▲ Skylights

**Alexander Doyle**  
617-522-6116  
All Work Guaranteed  
Fully Insured  
Free Estimates  
CSL 99361 - HIC 127365  
alexanderdoyleconstruction.com

ROOF REPAIR

 **ROOF LEAKING?**

- Emergency Leak Repair 24/7 • Ice & Snow Removal
- Asphalt Shingles • Rubber Roof Systems
- Flat Roof of all kinds
- Gutters - Downspouts • Chimney - Dormers - Skylights

Senior & Vets **20% Discount** (617) 888-8058 Family owned & operated. 28 years in business  
Licenced Free Estimates Insured

Finely Detailed Interior & Exterior Painting

**Kares Painting**

Female owned & operated. 20+ years experience. Honest & affordable. No job too big. Free estimates. NO RIP-OFFS! Ask about our LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEE. Cynthia "Kare" Shephard 617-930-0582(cell) • karespainting@aol.com

HANDYMAN

**ACE HANDYMAN**

 Gutter cleaning, fences, sheetrock, roof leaks, brick pointing, carpet inst. & removal, masonry, carpentry, painting, & odd jobs. Doors and Windows. Fast & reasonable. Call Phil at 617-868-1578 • 857-312-0543 (cell)

PLUMBING

**Karem Plumbing**  
Plumbing, heating & gas work

No job too small (617) 361-6532 Free estimates  
Member Better Business Bureau Licensed & Insured Mass lic # 9290

HOME IMPROVEMENT

 **Thomas Murray Home Improvement**  
Carpentry • Painting • General Home Repairs  
Remodeling (Interior & Exterior) (617) 549-6029 Free estimates  
Licensed Contractor (lic #CS 088319)

Advertise in the Guide 617-524-7662



# English High Alumni Association planning 200th Anniversary

BY SETH DANIEL

When members of the English High School Alumni Association heard the call some years ago by former Supt. Carol Johnson to close the JP high school down – the oldest public high school in America – they immediately called a meeting with her.

To their surprise, Johnson was a little astonished that anyone cared so much for English – and through the advocacy of that small group at the time, tragedy was averted.

However, Alumni President Michael Thomas and a number of other dedicated alums realized they needed to light a spark in the organization and gather more graduates – from long ago and from recent times – to be able to spring into action at any moment in case the school is ever again threatened with closure.

“The former Supt. Carol Johnson had been talking about closing EHS and had a plan in place,”

said Thomas. “It was a six-month proposal to close it down or turn it around. We had a meeting with her and voiced our opposition to closing the school and she told us she was surprised because she didn’t expect any pushback. When you look at that, you need to start thinking about what we will do if we need to quickly mobilize more graduates and activate our extensive alumni base quickly. That started our work to build up the Association again.”

That effort, which began a few years ago, has resulted in a lively new organization with a newly-compiled database of thousands of graduates and their contact information – rivalling the noteworthy Boston Latin School database of graduates.

“In the big scheme of things, a school like BLS has an alumni database of 24,000 people,” he said. “Our database is now not that far behind them right now. If we can rally the troops and get them in the fold and com-

municate with them regularly, then we’ll really have made great progress.”

Thomas said they have upped their game in creating a new website rich with information on the past and present of English High, and they have a very active Instagram and social media presence.

At the moment, the big push is to start planning for the 200th anniversary of English High, an anniversary that is planned for October 2021 and to be held at the JFK Library. Already committed are Gov. Charlie Baker and numerous of the prestigious former alums.

“The 200th Planning Committee, is focused on ways to increase awareness about the storied history of America’s oldest public high school”, said Thomas. “Our purposes, are to increase participation of alumnus for this Gala event and to get more of EHS graduates involved with our on-going effort to help support

the school’s tradition of producing ‘Men & Women of Honor and Achievement.’”

All EHS alumni, friends and family are invited to join the Association at the virtual presentation on October 28, (Zoom Meeting 6:55 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.), to hear more about the high school and the transitions it has gone through over the years from 1821 to the present. Much will also be said about the 200th anniversary celebration and building up the alumni base over the coming year.

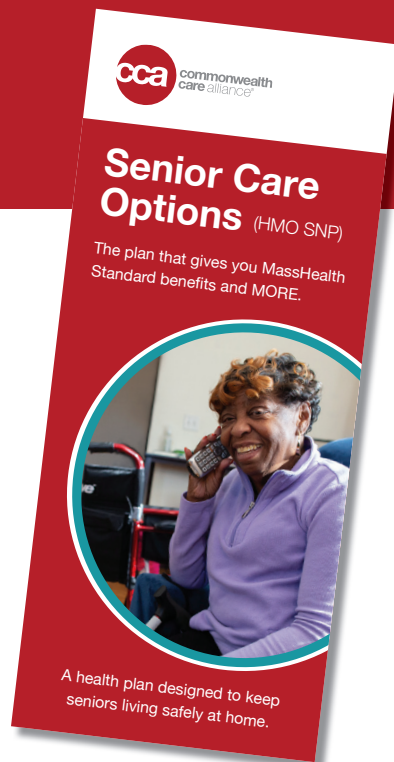
Famous English High School alumni include: J.P. Morgan, Charles Hayden, Global Business Leaders; Leonard Nimoy, Dr. Spock from Star Trek; Lt. Col. Enoch Woodhouse II, Tuskegee Airman; Robert Prince, Former GM of MBTA; Bruce Bolling, Bos-

ton City Councilor; Owen Wells, NBA Player; Herb Chambers, self-made Auto Magnate; Jordan Knight, New Kids On The Block fame; Walter Prince, One of 100 most influential lawyers of color in Boston; Ken Clark, NFL Veteran; Andrew Boch, Founder of Boch Motors; Harry Kraft, Father of Robert Kraft; Gen. Mathew Ridgeway, Supreme Allied Commander Europe; Gen. Paul X Kelly, U. S. Marine Commandant; Louis Sullivan, Father of Skyscrapers; and Samuel Pierpont Langley, American Engineer.

“The Alumni Committee is excited about creating an informative event, not only for Boston, but for the whole country,” Thomas added.

For more information, call 781-956-4774, or visit [www.englishhighalumni.org](http://www.englishhighalumni.org).

**TO ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE  
PLEASE CALL 617-524-7662**



## Nursing home or your home? Know your options.

**If you're 65+ and eligible for MassHealth Standard, call now for this free brochure about an important health plan option.**

Commonwealth Care Alliance® is dedicated to helping you live safely in your own home for as long as possible. Over 68% of CCA Senior Care Options members actually qualify for a nursing home, but continue living independently at home with our comprehensive care and support. When you enroll in our plan, you will choose doctors from our large network, including many right in your community that you may already know and trust. And then, you will receive all the MassHealth Standard benefits you deserve and much more – at \$0 to you.

Learn more today.

**Toll-Free: 855-213-0015 (TTY 711)**

9 am – 5 pm, Monday – Friday

FAX: 617-830-0534

CCASCO.org

30 Winter Street, Boston MA 02108



Commonwealth Care Alliance (CCA) Senior Care Options Program (HMO SNP) is a coordinated care plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts/EOHHS Medicaid program. Enrollment in the CCA Senior Care Options plan depends on contract renewal. CCA complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of medical condition, health status, receipt of health services, claims experience, medical history, disability (including mental impairment), marital status, age, sex (including sex stereotypes and gender identity), sexual orientation, national origin, race, color, religion, creed, or public assistance. Commonwealth Care Alliance does not exclude people or treat them differently because of medical condition, health status, receipt of health services, claims experience, medical history, disability (including mental impairment), marital status, age, sex (including sex stereotypes and gender identity), sexual orientation, national origin, race, color, religion, creed, or public assistance. ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 866-610-2273 (TTY 711). ATENÇÃO: Se fala português, encontram-se disponíveis serviços linguísticos, grátis. Ligue para 866-610-2273 (TTY 711).



# Hadland named Emerging Leader Awardee

The American Academy of Pediatrics has named Scott Hadland, MD, MPH, MS, FAAP, their 2020 Emerging Leader Awardee in the area of adolescent health. Hadland, a resident of Jamaica Plain, is a pediatrician at Boston Medical Center's Grayken Center for Addiction and an assistant professor of pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine. He specializes in treating adolescents and young adults with or at risk for developing substance use disorders at BMC's Center for Addiction Treatment for Adolescents/Young adults who use Substances (CATALYST) clinic, and his clinical and research focus areas include improving the care



Scott Hadland, MD, MPH, MS, FAAP.

of young people who use heroin and prescription opioids.

# Programming study for Egleston Square Library starts

Programming study for Egleston Square Branch of Boston Public Library kicks off with community meeting

Meeting to be held virtually on October 29 to discuss opportunities and needs for the branch  
Staff Report

The first community meeting for the programming study for the Boston Public Library's Egleston Square Branch will be held October 29, 2020 at 6:30pm, via Zoom.

The City of Boston is currently conducting a programming study at the Egleston Square Branch to review the existing conditions of the library, as well as its areas of opportunity. The meeting will be hosted by representatives from the City of Boston's Public Facilities Department, the Boston Public Library, the City of Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.

The 12-15 month study phase is the first step in the upcoming capital project for the Egleston Square Branch. The City will hold a series of community meetings to solicit feedback and provide updates on the project to Egleston Square residents, Jamaica Plain

and Roxbury neighbors, patrons, and community organizations. The study phase will be led by the City of Boston's Public Facilities Department, in concert with the Boston Public Library and the design firm, Ann Beha Architects. A subsequent 12-16 month design phase is expected to follow the programming phase, which will include additional opportunities for community input, prior to a groundbreaking.

- WHAT: The first community meeting for the Egleston Square Branch programming study

- WHO: Egleston Square and Jamaica Plain and Roxbury neighbors, patrons, and community organizations interested in the Egleston Square Branch of the Boston Public Library are invited to join via Zoom

- WHEN: October 29, 2020 at 6:30pm

- WHERE: <https://boston-public-library.zoom.us/j/86806362320>

If you are not able to attend the Community Meeting, you may submit questions or feedback at, [bpl.org/eglestone-square-project](https://bpl.org/eglestone-square-project).

# LEGAL NOTICES

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

TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU20P1802GD

In the matter of: Norman Marsh RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person

Of: Dorchester, MA

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass. Dept. Of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Norman Marsh is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 11/12/2020. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

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

Date: September 30, 2020  
Felix D. Arroyo,  
Register of Probate  
10/23/20  
JP

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT

TO G.L. c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405

Docket No. SU20P1789GD

In the matter of:

Adil Taha Of: Jamaica Plain, MA

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Sara Taha of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Adil Taha is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and request-

ing that Sara Taha of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 11/12/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the

above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: September 30, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

10/23/20  
JP

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK DIVISION INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Docket No. SU20P1340EA

Estate of: Francis W. McGonagle

Date of Death: 11/12/2019

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Mary-Fran McGonagle of Jamaica Plain, MA.

A Will has been admitted to informal probate. Mary-Fran McGonagle of Jamaica Plain, 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.

10/23/20  
JP

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

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

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU20P1680EA

Estate of: Salvatore Tristanno Calvi

Date of Death: 09/11/2019

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Anne Marie C. Celcala of Westwood, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Anne Marie C. Celcala of Westwood, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration. **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/17/2020.

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

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 05, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

10/23/20  
JP

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT

TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU20P1611

In the matter of: Khalik L. Coaston

RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person

Of: Jamaica Plain, MA

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Keothea L. Coaston Gilmore of Jamaica Plain, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Khalik L. Coaston is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Luz Barrera of East Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 10/21/2020. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: September 09, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

10/23/20  
JP

# PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to [letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com](mailto:letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com).

Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

*Do You need to run a legal?*  
Don't forget to check at the court to see if you qualify for a fee-waiver!



## Milmore new Grant Manager at NBP

National Braille Press (NBP) announced that it has promoted Chris Milmore from Development Associate to Grant Manager. In his new role, Milmore will be responsible for writing grants and implementing fundraising plans as they pertain to foundations and corporations. The position heads a program that raises over \$300,000 annually to contribute to the overall fundraising strategy of NBP.

"We are excited to have Chris as our new Grant Manager here at NBP," said Brian Mac Donald, President of NBP. "Throughout his time at NBP, Chris has established an accord with our readers and individual donors. He shows a deep understanding of our mission."

Milmore joined NBP in 2019 as a Development Associate where he managed the company's database, coordinated mail campaigns, and represented NBP at conferences.

Milmore attended the University of New Hampshire. He grew up in Watertown, MA and current-



Chris Milmore.

ly resides in Jamaica Plain, MA.

About National Braille Press

National Braille Press is a non-profit braille publisher and producer of braille products. NBP creates products and programs to support braille literacy in the blind community and to provide access to information that empower blind people to actively engage in work, family, and community. For more information visit [www.nbp.org](http://www.nbp.org).

## JP Centre/South Main Streets awards grants for reopening

JP Centre/South Main Streets has awarded grants to nine businesses in the JP Centre/South district to assist with their reopening expenses and outdoor seating. Grants of \$1000 were awarded to the following businesses:

- Casa Verde at 711 Centre Street
  - Jeanie Johnston at 144 South Street
  - JPizle Kitchen at 536 Centre street
  - Little Dipper at 669 Centre Street
  - Monumental Market at 36 South Street
  - Same Old Place at 662 Centre Street
  - Soup Shack at 779 Centre Street
  - Tres Gatos at 470 Centre Street
  - Vee Vee at 763 Centre Street
- Funds for the grants were raised through our crowdfunding campaign, Adapting, Reopening, and Thriving in JP Centre/South, through the Patronicity platform.

The selection process prioritized businesses that undertook extensive additional expenses in reopening after the state-mandated shutdown due to COVID-19. Particular attention was given to businesses that added outdoor dining or retail, as these were measures that served to promote the district as a whole. The intent of the crowdfunding campaign

was to help "businesses adapt and thrive in our Main Streets district and community as we recover and reopen." JP Centre/South Main Streets is proud to recognize our small businesses that undertook the extra steps to help our customers and community during this difficult time.

JP Centre/South Main Streets has been working since the declaration of the state of emergency in Massachusetts on March 10, 2020, to assist our district businesses. We continue to advocate for government assistance, policies, and extensions that will benefit the businesses and residents of Jamaica Plain in a safe way. Some of our other projects include:

- JP Main Streets Relief Fund,
- Orange Means Open Campaign,
- Explore JP Campaign, and
- Boston Main Streets Foundation Grants.

JP Centre/South Main Streets is a volunteer-driven, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks to guide the growth of Jamaica Plain's Centre and South Streets' business district through the active collaboration of residents, business owners, and others committed to a community-led initiative. In partnership with Boston Main Streets, we provide a direct conduit to the City of Boston and can provide technical assistance to help new businesses succeed.

BOSTON'S NEIGHBORHOOD BANK™

# Now Open in JP

## 3531 Washington Street

[thecooperativebank.com](http://thecooperativebank.com)

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER MEMBER FDIC

**tcb** | THE COOPERATIVE BANK

ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE

FOR RATES AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 617-524-7662

# MOUNT PLEASANT HOME

Since 1901

Quality, Affordable Residential Care for Seniors 62+



- Private bedrooms with full bath
- 24-hour personal care assistance
- Medication administration
- 3 Home-style meals daily
- Laundry and housekeeping services
- Leisure and wellness activities
- Lovely common areas
- 100% accessible



NO entrance fee  
income or asset  
restrictions!

301 South Huntington Avenue, Jamaica Plain  
www.MountPleasantHome.org  
617-522-7600



GUEST OP-ED

Halloween is coming and Americans are scared

DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

Halloween is typically a relaxed day for America’s kids to fill their coffers with candy. Children and adults often don their favorite wacky attire for a day of comic relief.

America needs a day of some kind of relief and maybe Halloween will provide some insanity or terror relief. Because nothing about Halloween is as scary as what America and the world has been experiencing.

We have buried over 220,000 Americans from Covid-19. Over eight million have been sick. Nursing homes and Intensive Care Units have become horror wards. The projections for more sickness and death scare most Americans. We are afraid to go to church, out to eat, and to the grocery store. The airplane, hotel and restaurant industries are in peril as many have already closed or are on the verge of closing. Over 12 Million Americans are now un-

employed and many in financial devastation because of Covid-19.

Congress continues to haggle over what and how much the government can further indebt our nation to keep us afloat for the present. With an approximate 28 trillion-dollar deficit and growing when will America file for bankruptcy? What will it take to keep Social Security and Medicare going? More taxes for a broader range of Americans and increased payroll taxes are on the near horizon, most Americans fear. It’s more than a little scary.


On top of Covid-19, job loss, business failures and increasing poverty Americans are masked fatigued. Children are tired of being home from school. Adults miss the camaraderie and social dynamics of their workmates. Working at home first felt good and welcomed but has become old for many Americans. The thought of this going on for another six months or even a year or longer is more than scary - it’s terrifying.

On top of all this we have a major election in front of us. Americans are terrified about the election. We are frightened about who will be elected. Trump being reelected terrifies millions while millions are terrified Joe Biden will be elected. We are horrified of what may come as the result of this election and what either of the candidates may bring to America the next four years.


We are further scared by each other. The hostility of Americans toward people with different views is out of hand. Hurting people, cursing people, destroying property are not hallmark qualities of a civilized society. We have sadly stopped being civil in America. Rude and crude are no longer shy in this nation. Pushing, shoving and outright fighting with people is becoming too normal. This is not what the average American wants and is disdained by most of us. Let’s face it, people who act

Continued on page 21


## Caring for you in your neighborhood—it’s what we do best




Dental care at no cost to you




\$305 towards eyeglass frames




YMCA membership or \$55 per month for gym membership



Nurse Care Manager to coordinate your care



Up to \$400 a year for health-related items



Transportation to and from your doctor appointments\*

S

W

H

Senior Whole Health.  
A MAGELLAN COMPANY

We speak your language

Join today! Call 1-888-566-3526 (TTY 711)  
www.seniorwholehealth.com/SNP

Senior Whole Health complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Senior Whole Health (HMO SNP) and Senior Whole Health NHC (HMO SNP) are Coordinated Care Plans with a Medicare Advantage contract and a contract with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts/EOHHS MassHealth program. Enrollment depends on annual contract renewal. H2224\_2019\_77906\_M Accepted 9/24/2019 \*Limitations may apply



## Op-Ed

Continued from page 20

this way scare most Americans.

It's Halloween time in America and there is plenty of fright to go around. The best treat we can give our country is treating each other the way we would like to be treated.

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.

## CLASSIFIEDS

## SERVICES

**David at kNURD on Kall:** can help with PC computers, networks, audio/video/multimedia, phone solutions. \$Reasonable\$. House calls. 617-676-5676 or 617-522-6090.

## CLASSIFIED INFO:

Fax your ad to 617-524-3921 or mail it to Gazette Publications, Inc.,

P.O. Box 301119, JP, MA 02130. Or e-mail it to classifieds@JamaicaPlain-Gazette.com. For more info. call 617-524-2626, ext. 225.

## APARTMENT/SHARE

## APARTMENT TO SHARE IN STONYBROOK

2BR, 2 OFFICE, LAUNDRY, PARKING, 900+ UTIL  
CALL THANO 508-360-9247

## GUITAR LESSONS

**JP Guitar Studio** - Classical, Acoustic and Rock Guitar Lessons by Erik Puslys. Over 20 years teaching experience. Special: Five lessons for the price of four. Info: www.jamaicaplain-guitarstudio.com 617-306-3208

## HELP WANTED -Constitution Marina

## Full Time Marine Maintenance &amp; Construction

**Skills:** Construction, Carpentry, Reading & Building from mechanical drawings, Welding & Cutting. Boat Operator, Crane license/Rigging experience a plus.

**Customer service focused.**

**Benefits include:** Medical, IRA & Vacation.

**Send Resume to:** Peter@Bosport.com

or to 28 Constitution Road, Charlestown, MA 02129

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

Give Us a Call!! 617-524-2626

## PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

## REAL ESTATE



**Karen McCormack  
& Paula Callaghan**



#617-306-7804

#857-205-6945

loveliveboston@gmail.com

Realtors with Experience

**Love Where You Live**

## REAL ESTATE

**FOCUS**  
REAL ESTATE

focusre.com • 617.453.3620 • 34 South St, Jamaica Plain

## REAL ESTATE

## Jamaica Hill Realty

726 Centre Street  
Jamaica Plain

**Maureen McElroy**  
Broker Owner

cell: 617.407.3638

fax: 617.524.0390

email: mcelroy55@rcn.com

jamaicahillrealty.com



To advertise, Call the Gazette at  
617.524.7662 or email  
ads@jamaicaplaingazette.com

## REAL ESTATE RENTALS &amp; SALES

**FAYE SIMON**  
REAL ESTATE  
Rentals & Sales

Tel: 617-524-0243

Cell: 617-438-1472

FayeSimonRealEstate.com

frmcSimon@hotmail.com

Your Personal Real Estate Professional



Faye R. Simon  
Real Estate Broker

## REAL ESTATE

COMPASS



Building  
community  
together.

**EJ ELLEN+JANIS**  
REAL ESTATE TEAM

617.971.8940

ellenandjanisteam@compass.com

ellenandjanisteam.com

ELLEN + JANIS REAL ESTATE TEAM IS A REAL ESTATE BROKER  
AFFILIATED WITH COMPASS, A LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER AND  
ABIDES BY EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY LAWS.

## REAL ESTATE



Colleen Scanlan

Professional Real Estate Guidance.  
Specializing in residential sales.  
Estate Sales. Downsizing.

**"Call Colleen"**

617-529-5012

jamaicaplain@gmail.com



McCormack & Scanlan Real Estate  
68 South Street JP

## REAL ESTATE

## Working for YOUR BEST RESULT



Joe Fallon

New digs for me, and even better  
service for my clients and YOU!

Contact me, and be sure to ask for Joe!

617-594-0761

jpfallon@gmail.com



PLEASE RECYCLE

## REAL ESTATE

## CLIENT CENTERED. RESULTS DRIVEN.



A better way  
to do real estate

**NEATHERY BRENZEL**

617-462-4628

YourBostonAgent@gmail.com



McCormack and Scanlan Real Estate  
Realtors with Experience  
Local and Independent  
68 South Street, JP



EDITORIAL

Voting has begun!

Thanks to the early voting laws, every registered voter in Massachusetts has the opportunity to cast their ballot for the upcoming Presidential election in the two weeks prior to Election Day itself, Tuesday, November 3.

Although the exact locations and times for early voting will vary in each municipality, the bottom line is that every city and town across the state will offer early voting through Friday, October 30, including this upcoming weekend.

Every voter should check their local clerk’s web site for the locations and voting hours because they will vary in each city and town. However, every city and town will offer multiple opportunities to vote in person through October 30 without the hassles of long lines, bad weather, or inconvenient times, which are especially important considerations for all of us amidst the pandemic.

We would note that even if you requested and received a ballot in the mail, you still can vote early in-person if you feel uncomfortable about dropping your ballot in a mailbox.

In short: There is no excuse for failing to vote -- so do it!

Voter registration deadline  
is October 24

With all of the excitement (for lack of a better word) being generated by the upcoming election, a record turnout of voters is being predicted both in Massachusetts and across the country.

Americans are voting early and in huge numbers that far exceed any previous election.

However, you can’t participate in the fun if you aren’t registered to vote.

The good news is that there still is time to do so and the deadline to register is this coming Friday, October 24.

So if you are not registered to vote, or unsure if you are, check with your local clerk’s office. Don’t be left out of what is the most consequential election of our lifetimes that will have ramifications for all of us for years to come.



LETTERS

We need legislative action

To the Editor:

I’m writing in response to “Hybrid in-person learning plan put on hold at BPS.” This article quotes Mayor Martin Walsh as stating that increases in positive test rates are “coming mostly from those under 29 attending parties and large gatherings.”

Walsh’s attribution of rising infection rates to young people’s irresponsible behavior is completely wrong. If it were true, we would see higher rates in student-rich neighborhoods like Allston. In reality, the highest transmission rates continue to be in majority Black and immigrant communities like Dorchester, Mattapan and East Boston. These are the same communities in which evictions already were concentrated before the pandemic, as a joint research project between MIT and City Life highlighted in June of this year. They are the neighborhoods where skyrocketing rents and lagging wages have caused the most crowding. They are the neighborhoods of frontline workers who are most exposed to unsafe work

environments, given Gov. Baker’s refusal to endorse mandatory workplace safety standards.

The Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MASSCOSH) documented the deadly impact of our governor’s failure to protect frontline workers in their September 10 report, “Dying for Work: Documenting the Pandemic’s Deadly Toll on Massachusetts Workers.” If you are grappling with why our state is still the third worst in the country for COVID deaths, look no further. Combine the inability of frontline workers, many of whom are undocumented, to protect themselves from infection at work, with their crowding at home in order to try to make rent, and the stark COVID rates in Black and immigrant communities come into focus.

Our legislature’s failure, to date, to pass the Housing Stability Act (H. 5018) as the governor’s extension of their foreclosure and eviction moratorium is expiring in the midst of an accelerating pandemic, is like standing by and

watching a jet fuel depot combust. The consequent catastrophe of homelessness and exploding viral transmission will impact all of us, whether or not we have homes in which we can safely shelter.

The work of young people like Shane Fowler in the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, author of the recent op-ed “Something needs to be done about evictions,” to give legal support to the low-income families now targeted for eviction, is heroic. But, as he points out, they have the capacity for 60 cases concomitantly, while housing court estimates are 20,000 – 200,000 eviction cases, now. We need legislative action.

City Life/Vida Urbana says, we are in a situation now where Eviction=Death. As an Infectious Disease specialist, I agree. Our JP Rep. Elugardo supports H. 5018, the Housing Stability Act. I call on our Rep. Liz Malia to use her position as House Ways and Means Vice Chair to prioritize bill H. 5018 for passage - now.

JULIA KOEHLER, MD

The opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

Jamaica Plain  
GAZETTE

Circulation 16,400

Published 26 times a year in Jamaica Plain by Independent Newspaper Group

Patricia DeOliveira  
Advertising Manager

Sandra Storey  
Founder/Publisher Emerita 1990-2011

Seth Daniel, Reporter  
seth@reverejournal.com

Lauren Bennett, Reporter  
lauren@thebostonsun.com

©INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP

Stephen Quigley, President [stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com](mailto:stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com)  
Debra DiGregorio, Director of Marketing [ads@jamaicaplaingazette.com](mailto:ads@jamaicaplaingazette.com)

The Jamaica Plain Gazette is delivered free to households and businesses in the neighborhood 26 times a year on Friday and Saturday. It is for sale in stores for 25¢. Subscriptions: \$75 for First Class Mail. Independent Newspaper Group will not assume financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements. Questions or complaints regarding advertising must be sent in writing to the billing department within seven days of publication in order for adjustments to be made to the account. We reserve the right to use our discretion in accepting or rejecting advertising copy.

Telephone: (617) 524-2626 • Fax: (617) 524-3921  
7 Harris Avenue, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
[JamaicaPlainGazette.com](http://JamaicaPlainGazette.com)



## LETTERS

## Leaf blower problems

**To the Editor:**

To Dennis Almada on behalf of the Board of Sumner Hill Condominiums:

As a member of Living Place: JP, an organization formed to advocate for the eco-health of our community, I request that you ask your landscape company NOT to use leaf blowers on your property. The practices of your landscaping company are affecting the health not only of those who live in the spaces you manage but everyone in the vicinity; and not just while leaf blowing is going on, but for a number of days thereafter. Leaf blowers are a well-documented source of airborne particulate pollution. Raking leaves, rather than blowing them, would prevent dislodging soil and other pollutants into the air where they are breathed in, and would keep some of the soil strata intact. The health of our community depends on choices like yours.

I site more information including an executive summary of a 'white paper' on leaf blowers and an article from the National Wildlife Federation. Scientific data shows that all living things in the neighborhood are affected by the dust and debris, some containing lead and other toxins, released by the use of leaf blowers. Elders and children, especially, may suffer severe symptoms from leaf blower use.

As for other issues, the extreme decibel level of these devices is above the limit set by law in the City of Boston. It is invasive, disturbing, and compromises peace in our neighborhood.

There is also concern for the landscape crews.

Leaf blowers cause extreme degradation of our ecosystem. They are a major contributor to the headlong rush to extinction about which nature organizations have been raising an alarm. Aggressively managing fall leaves deprives wildlife of sustenance. Leaves protect the earth through the winter, feed the roots of trees, nourish the soil, and provide habitat to beneficial insects that in turn support biodiversity, a hallmark of a healthy ecosystem (see the enclosed National Wildlife Federation article). Germany has banned all leaf blowers after studies proved them in large part responsible for the decline of insects worldwide. Migrating birds depend on these insects, and Jamaica Plain is a major migration flyway.

Living Place: JP advocates for a city-wide ban on leaf blowers. Since you are my neighbor. The health and environmental needs of our community depend on your response.

Thanks for your attention,

PAM KRISTAN

**To the Editor:**

I am writing today about the importance of fair and open elections, and an easy way to improve the process here in Massachusetts. Voter suppression, gerrymandering, and other election problems have received a lot of attention, and rightly so. However, another big issue, our pluralist voting system, isn't discussed very much. This issue is very important because it waters down the opinions of average voters like me, and allows a minority of voters to elect our leaders.

In primary elections, or general elections with third party candidates, we often have to worry about "splitting the vote" among similar candidates, or we are

forced to pick between extremes. If you vote third party, your vote is considered wasted, at best. Worse, the additional candidate is considered a "spoiler." This is a big issue for both potential candidates and voters who do not align with either party. It does not have to be that way.

Massachusetts Question 2, Ranked Choice Voting, is on the ballot this election. If voters say YES and implement ranked choice in this state, it will allow voters to rank political candidates in order of preference, rather than just picking your one favorite candidate. If a candidate gets a majority (more than 50%) of the vote, they win, and the election is over. But if no candidate gets a majority, the

candidate with the least votes is dropped and their votes are assigned to the voters' second choice. It repeats until someone wins a majority.

The results are impressive. Votes are never wasted, elections are always decided by a majority, voter power is increased, voter apathy could be reduced to increase turnout, and we are an important step closer to making our democracy more inclusive and more fair. Democrats, Republicans, and Independents have endorsed ranked choice voting, including both our senators and most of our representatives. Please join me in voting YES on Question 2 by November 3rd.

SKY BAUER-ROWE

## A fair and open election

## Your vote is important

**To the Editor:**

JP residents your vote this year is extremely important! Unfortunately not because of any of the offices on our ballot -- from President to Register of Probate not one of them is competitive. But because of the opportunity to dramatically improve state and federal elections through the use of ranked choice voting (RCN).

RCV will make elections fairer and less rancorous, since candidates compete for the second and third choices of their opponents' fans. Under RCV, you can sincerely pick your first choice without worrying that by doing so you will help to elect your last choice.

Just last month the winner of the 4th Congressional District Democratic primary received only

22% of the vote. With RCV we would not declare a winner without checking the backup choices of the 78% who picked someone else. Typically the winner of an "open seat" primary for Congress or the state legislature is easily elected in the general election, and may never face serious competition for a decade or two. That's not the way to run a democracy.

RCV is supported by Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, Attorney General Maura Healy, and Secretary of State Bill Galvin, among many others. See the full list of supporters, and sign up to help out, on [www.YESon2RCV.com](http://www.YESon2RCV.com).

Many people will vote no because they haven't taken the time to understand RCV. Or because

they think it's complicated--it's not, just rank your choices, 1, 2, 3, etc. Or because they think you will be voting twice--not so: if your vote would be wasted on a candidate that no one else wants, it goes instead to your next choice where it can be used to pick the winner.

Voters in Australia have successfully used the system for 100 years. Maine voters have used it since 2018. Surely voters in our state are as skillful.

We can make our elections better, but only if we turn out in large numbers to overcome the bias against change. Please tell everyone you know to vote YES on Question 2!

PAUL SCHIMEK

## New help to quit menthol tobacco products available

**To the Editor:**

Smoking and vaping may put people at higher risk of complications from COVID-19, especially because they can weaken the immune system and damage the lungs. So, this is an especially good time for those who smoke or vape to try to quit.

In addition, as a result of a new law, menthol tobacco products have been removed from regular stores in Massachusetts. With menthol tobacco products unavailable and COVID-19 risks continuing, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has

found a new way to help people quit. The Massachusetts Smokers' Helpline is now offering up to three gift cards totaling \$50 to people who use menthol tobacco products and the Helpline's free coaching services. Residents can call the Helpline at 1-800-QUIT NOW (1-800-784-8669) about the program and for free coaching and support 24 hours each day, seven days a week. They can also enroll online at [makesmokinghistory.org](http://makesmokinghistory.org).

Helping people who use menthol products quit is especially important because the tobacco industry has strategically and suc-

cessfully targeted Black, Latinx and LGBTQ+ people with menthol products. As a result of aggressive marketing practices and pressures related to discrimination and daily stressors, menthol tobacco use is high in these communities.

Massachusetts residents who use menthol tobacco products who speak with the Helpline's supportive coaches can receive a \$10 gift card after completing the first coaching call, a \$15 gift card after the second and a \$25 gift card after the third coaching call. In addition, up to 8 weeks of FREE nicotine patches, gum or lozenges

are also available to residents who speak with a coach (with medical eligibility).

While supplies last, the offer of gift cards can motivate smokers and vapers to call the Helpline. For more information contact Edgar Duran Elmudesi at the Metro Boston Tobacco-Free Community Partnership at 617-451-0049 x549 or [edurand@hria.org](mailto:edurand@hria.org).

Edgar Duran Elmudesi, MSW  
Metro Boston Tobacco-Free Community Partnership.

EDGAR DURAN ELMUDESI, MSW  
METRO BOSTON TOBACCO-FREE  
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

PLEASE  
WRITE...

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

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

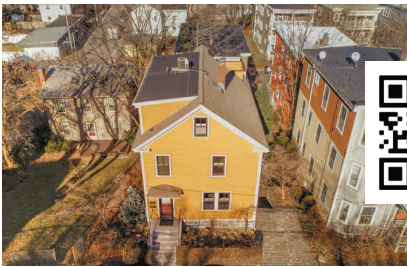


Unlimited

Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Featured Homes for Sale

Virtually or in-person, our local real estate professionals are here for you.



41 Jamaica Street - JP  
Offered at \$1,350,000  
4 Bed | 3 Bath | 2601 Sq.Ft.



131 School Street - JP  
Offered at \$1,225,000  
6 Bed | 3 Bath | 2592 Sq.Ft.



8 Greenley Place - JP  
Offered at \$950,000  
3 Bed | 3 Bath | 2346 Sq.Ft.



96 Seaverns Avenue, Unit 1 - JP  
Offered at \$800,000  
3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1673 Sq.Ft.



251 Heath Street, Unit 225 - JP  
Offered at \$799,000  
1 Bed | 1.5 Bath | 1319 Sq.Ft.



25 Southbourne Road - JP  
Offered at \$749,900  
4 Bed | 1.5 Bath | 1396 Sq.Ft.



31 Ardale Street - Roslindale  
Offered at \$738,000  
3 Bed | 3 Bath | 2073 Sq.Ft.



30 Beaufort Road, Unit 2 - JP  
Offered at \$675,000  
2 Bed | 1 Bath | 1271 Sq.Ft.



4281 Washington Street - Roslindale  
8 Units Available  
Units Starting at \$599,000  
2 Beds | 2 Baths | 1100+ Sq.Ft



44 Rockview Street, Unit 2 - JP  
Offered at \$585,000  
1 Bed | 1 Bath | 1020 Sq.Ft.



26 Wenham Street, Unit 1 - JP  
Offered at \$569,000  
2 Bed | 1 Bath | 1184 Sq.Ft.



26 Wenham Street, Unit 3 - JP  
Offered at \$560,000  
2 Bed | 1 Bath | 1385 Sq.Ft.